



'India shapes global agenda with growing influence'

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Sanju Samson Opens Up On Heartbreak



Preventing paper leaks a national responsibility: PM

Saying the govt stands with students, PM Modi stressed the need to punish the guilty and collaboratively establish a foolproof exam system.

NEW DELHI

In his first remarks on NEET irregularities after protesters stormed the heart of Delhi over the raging issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said strong action was taken against those involved in the "grave sin" of paper leaks so that no one plays with the future of the youth.

He emphasised that preventing such paper leaks was a national responsibility and urged states to work with the Union government to tackle the menace.

Modi made the remarks at the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Parliamentary Party meeting 'Mangal Milan', a day after thousands of students led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the PM told MPs that the government acted immediately after reports of the paper leak surfaced, and 13 people were arrested and sent to jail.

"The PM also said to ensure that students' future was not affected, the NEET re-examination was given priority, conducted successfully, and the results were declared without delay." "To ensure that no future paper leaks take place, state and Central government must join hands irrespective of party. This is not a matter of party politics but matter of national interests," Rijiju informed.



'Rise above differences to safeguard students'

PM Modi urged all political factions to rise above differences to safeguard student futures. His remarks come amid the ongoing NEET-UG controversy and protests.

Actions assured & appeal

STRICTEST PUNISHMENT: PM stressed that orchestrators of paper leaks and examination irregularities face the harshest possible penalties to protect the aspirations of India's youth.

SWIFT GOVERNMENT ACTION: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju noted that authorities acted immediately upon receiving reports of irregularities in the medical entrance exams. 13 individuals have been arrested and remanded.

SYSTEMIC OVERHAUL: The govt committed to building a fool-proof, transparent, and credible exam mechanism, with structural reforms designed to prevent future breaches.

POLITICAL APPEAL: PM Modi urged both NDA allies and opposition parties to work constructively in Parliament to ensure the integrity of the country's education and youth welfare, rather than politicizing the crisis.



RaGa protests outside PM's residence, removed

New Delhi: High-drama unfolded in New Delhi on Tuesday when Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi led a Congress protest against paper leaks and the "attack" on students to PM Modi's residence at Lok Kalyan Marg, only to be dragged away hours later. Seeking to pile on the pressure on the Centre a day after the Cockroach Janta Party-led march to Parliament, Rahul, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi gathered outside the Congress president's house at 10, Rajaji Marg on Tuesday afternoon and marched to the PM's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, just over a kilometre away. In an unprecedented development, Union Minister Jitendra Singh visited the protest site and spoke to Rahul. The protest was broken up hours later and Rahul, Priyanka and other leaders were detained and taken away in a police bus.



The government is ready to discuss in Parliament all issues related to NEET and the associated movement... Shri Rahul Gandhi's behaviour does not align with the principles of democracy.

—Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for PMO

leged that Gandhi "backtracked" from his earlier demand for a debate and said it does not befit a leader of his stature. Singh said Rahul did not agree to his request and instead demanded that Union

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must also resign. For a senior leader like Rahul Gandhi and the LoP to go back on his word is unfortunate and contrary to every norm of democracy.

"The government is ready to discuss in Parliament all issues related to NEET and the associated movement... Shri Rahul Gandhi's behaviour does not align with the principles of democracy," he said in an X post.

Congress leaders led by Gandhi and Kharge sat on a dharna outside PM's residence on Tuesday and demanded his resignation over the police action against students protesting on the NEET paper leak issue.



Youth deserve answers, justice: Shivakumar

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said the pain of every student who has been beaten, intimidated or silenced for peacefully raising their voice is a pain felt by all of us who believe in democracy.

Taking part in a protest along with Congress central leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, G Venugopal, near Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi, the CM said he strongly condemn the Union Government's brutal use of force against students who were peacefully seeking answers and justice.

"Our students are not criminals. They are the hopes and dreams of millions of families. They are the future of our country. When young people

The Congress Party will continue to stand firmly with every student and every young Indian whose constitutional and democratic rights are under attack.

—DK Shivakumar, CM

and brutality," he said.

He further said a democracy becomes weaker when questions are suppressed and dissent is punished. Yet, the Union Government continues to evade accountability and refuses to permit a meaningful discussion in Parliament.

"The youth of India deserve answers. They deserve justice. Above all, they deserve to be heard with empathy and dignity, not silenced with lathis."

He demanded that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister must accept responsibility for this grave failure of governance and morality. The Congress party will continue to stand firmly with every student and every young Indian whose constitutional and democratic rights are under attack, Shivakumar added.

KARNATAKA CABINET EXPANSION

DKS likely to induct more young faces: GP

The DyCM said he has learned that certain "parameters" are being discussed and higher representation for youngsters is among them.



Key details of cabinet strategy

■ **High command discussions:** Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, alongside former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state Congress chief BK Hariprasad, are currently holding meetings in New Delhi to finalize the candidates.

■ **Prioritizing youth:** Senior leaders have indicated that new entry parameters are being set to specifically accommodate younger emerging functionaries.

■ **The 'problem of plenty':** The administration faces a massive challenge with 20 vacant ministerial berths but more than 80 Congress MLAs actively lobbying for a position.

In a significant development, the Karnataka cabinet expansion is likely to be held once the Congress high command clears the list of proposed names and gives the go ahead, and young faces may be given priority, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara indicated. Several aspects, including opportunities for fresh and young faces are under consideration during discussions with the party leadership, the senior leader said.

Amid buzz that the Cabinet expansion is likely soon, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, his predecessor Siddaramaiah and state Congress chief BK Hariprasad are in Delhi for discussions with the Congress high command. "They (CM, Siddaramaiah and Hariprasad) have gone to Delhi, if the high command approves following the discussion, the cabinet expansion will happen," Parameshwara told reporters here.

When asked whether the cabinet expansion would happen before the Assembly session early next month, he said, after discussions if the high command permits, the exercise will be done immediately. "Once the high command says yes and clears the list, the Governor will be informed and considering his availability, his time will be sought (for the swearing-in of new ministers)," he added.

To a question about the high command considering fresh faces instead of seniors, the deputy CM said that he has learned that certain "parameters" are being discussed and higher representation for youngsters is among them. "They may consider it."

Responding to a question about whether the expansion is being done with the 2028 Assembly polls in mind, he said, "I'm not directly aware of the parameters being considered,

as I have not been called for discussions."

"I think all these parameters will be considered during discussions because when I was the party president, the high command used to tell us to nurture fresh leadership. I think the same will apply even now."

There is intense lobbying by ministerial aspirants — both seniors and young legislators — seeking induction into the cabinet.

Shivakumar was sworn in as the chief minister along with 13 Ministers on June 3, following Siddaramaiah's resignation as CM on May 28.

With the sanctioned strength of Karnataka's ministry being 34, including the CM, 20 berths are still vacant, and pressure is mounting on Shivakumar to expand his cabinet.

With many ministerial aspirants and limited berths available, Shivakumar walks a tightrope, risking large-scale disgruntlement among those left out, according to party sources.

K'taka govt forms SIT to probe 'land encroachment' by AoL

BENGALURU

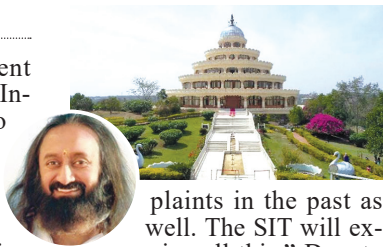
The Karnataka government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations that Art of Living, founded by spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, and its affiliates have encroached upon public lands.

The 11-member SIT, headed by Bengaluru Regional Commissioner Amlan Aditya Biswas, has been given three months to submit its report.

The Art of Living, Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth (VVM-VP), Sumeru Global Support Solutions Pvt Ltd and Sumeru Realty Pvt Ltd will be subjected to the SIT probe, the government said in an order.

The SIT will look into 290 acres of land held by the Art of Living, which apparently includes government land reserved for pasture (gomala), a lake and non-cultivable public land (kharab).

"We have also received a petition that the Art of Living is in possession of 150 acres of land belonging to SC/STs. We had received several com-



plaints in the past as well. The SIT will examine all this," Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara, who is also the revenue minister, said after meeting Dalit forums on Tuesday.

As per the order, a revenue survey done in October 2025 revealed "systematic, direct and indirect encroachment of government gomala land through lease and suspicious documents". The survey was done based on a court direction in September that year.

The allegations relate to lands in Kaggalipura, BM Kaval and Agara villages in Utarahalli hobli of Bengaluru South taluk.

At Kaggalipura, 41 acres of gomala land was leased to the Art of Living in February 1985 for a 40-year period for Rs 500 a year. "For decades, the lease amount wasn't revised. While the lease period

Core charges being evaluated

Public land encroachment
Systematic, unauthorized occupation of government lands reserved for pasture (gomala), lakes, and non-cultivable commons (kharab).

Allegations involving SC/ST land
Petitions claiming that nearly 150 acres belonging to SC/ST communities were improperly absorbed into the campus.

Document fraud
Investigation into potential forged grants, fraudulent land records, and violations of original lease conditions.

ended, various organisations under this group hold possession of valuable land on which large structures have been built. Besides continuing to use this land illegally, the organisation has encroached government and private lands on the basis of this (lease)," the order stated.

The SIT will look at the possession of 290.38 acres of land, the manner in which they were acquired, violations of legal and lease conditions and other irregularities.

Woman's body in stuffed suitcase found floating in B'luru lake

BENGALURU

In a shocking development, a woman's body stuffed inside a suitcase was found floating in a lake in Kumbalgodu of West Bengaluru.

The suitcase containing the body was recovered from Ramohalli Lake, which falls under the jurisdiction of Kumbalgodu Police Station in Bengaluru's South West division.

According to preliminary information, local residents spotted the suitcase floating in the lake and alerted the police. A police team immediately rushed to the spot and initiated efforts to retrieve the body from the water. The deceased has been identified as Jayamma (61), a resident of Kengeri.

According to police, Jayamma's family filed a missing person case on July 16, stating that she disappeared after 3.35 pm the previous day when she left home. Her phone was later found switched off. The family inquired with friends, family and neighbours but failed to find her, according to the FIR.

10 held for attacking civic officials during B'luru footpath eviction drive

BENGALURU

Violence erupted during an anti-footpath encroachment drive in Bengaluru's Shivajinagar after street vendors allegedly attacked Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, who had arrived to clear encroachments from public footpaths, on Tuesday.

The anti-encroachment drive has been underway across Bengaluru since July 1. However, this is the first major incident of violence reported against officials involved in the exercise.

The officials injured in the attack are Assistant Executive Engineer Madhav Rao and Assistant Engineers Gautham and Ruchita.

Police have registered a case and arrested 10 people in connection with the assault. Those arrested have been identified as Rangaswamy (49), Kiran (34), Ranjit (19), Muzahid Ahmad (39), Kottresh (26), Raghu (28), Parasuram (27), Parthiban (23), Basavaraj (28), and Barath (24). More arrests are likely as the investigation progresses. Joint Commissioner of Police (East) Ramesh Banoth said the



officials were attacked while carrying out the eviction of illegal encroachments.

"They came to evict illegal encroachments and were suddenly attacked. A complaint has been lodged, and we have arrested 10 people. We are examining CCTV footage to identify others involved, and they too will be arrested. We have also provided additional protection to GBA employees," he said.

Reacting to the incident, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda strongly condemned the attack and warned of strict action against those involved.

They are anti-social elements. Assaulting government representatives while implementing Hon Supreme Court direction is a serious violation of law. We stand solidly with officers and will not spare anyone assaulting officers while on duty.

—Krishna byre Gowda, Minister

Drive to continue: Min

The footpath clearance drive, undertaken in the larger public interest, will continue without yielding to pressure, intimidation, or violence. No individual or group is above the law. The government will firmly protect its officials in the discharge of their lawful duties and remain unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding the rights and safety of every citizen.

QUICK READ



Power outage: Metro services suspended

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Metro traffic were suspended between Yeshwantpur-Nagasandra due to a power outage on the Namma Metro Green Line metro track. There has been a power outage since 8:00 a.m. Metro trains are running in a short-loop only between Silk Institute and Yeshwanthpur stations. Our technical teams are working urgently to resume metro services as soon as possible. We regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers, BMRCL officials said.

Niti Aayog flags B'luru gridlock, pushes rail, ring road

Terming the city traffic “challenging”, Niti Aayog has urged Karnataka to fast-track the PRR, suburban rail and airport metro, warning that without rapid mass-transit expansion the city’s mobility and economy will suffer.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Niti Aayog’s latest report, released early this month, has recommended fast-tracking three key infrastructure projects: Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), Metro connectivity to Bengaluru airport, and Suburban Rail Project (BSRP).

The report, Investment Friendliness Index, evaluated states based on readiness to attract, facilitate and sustain investments. It said there was a dire need for speedy development of the pending projects to improve Bengaluru’s overall quality of life and business operations.

Interestingly, PRR and Metro projects have been running behind schedule by several months despite deadlines being extended multiple times.



Niti Aayog advised that the suburban rail project should be prioritised to reduce traffic and improve connectivity. The joint project between the Centre and the state was approved in 2020, and not even one of the four corridors has been commissioned yet.

The report said the city’s infrastructure, if improved,

can positively uplift the perception of global companies and visitors, attracting more investment and talent to the region.

City-based rail expert Sanjeev Dyamanavar said that while PRR helps in reaching from satellite towns to the airport without cutting through the city, suburban rail serves

a different purpose since traffic comes from either Byappanahalli or Yeshwantpur. According to Dyamanavar, a Metro line to the airport will not guarantee a reduction in traffic. Congestion will still continue since passengers and associated activities will increase at the airport. In the past 2-3 years, traffic on KIA road has increased.

For 10 years, we’ve been demanding that these projects be completed. Thanks to delays, the financial burden has ballooned since these projects are funded partially through loans, said Rajesh Bhat, a mobility activist. Despite having existing tracks, there is no provisional suburban rail system. The govt is focused on unscientific flyovers and tunnels, he added.

Gridlock a major friction point for business

Flagging Bengaluru’s gridlock as a major friction point for business, Niti Aayog’s recent Investment Friendliness Index urges Karnataka to fast-track three key infrastructural projects: the Peripheral Ring Road, the Airport Metro, and the long-delayed Suburban Rail Project. The Niti Aayog report notes that poor mobility and infrastructure stifle economic growth.

Proposed solutions

The three targeted solutions aim to decongest the city’s overflowing arteries by rerouting freight traffic and offering robust public transit options:

■ **PERIPHERAL RING ROAD (PRR):** Now designated as the Bengaluru Business Corridor, this 73-km stretch aims to create an outer loop for the city, allowing heavy and commercial vehicles to bypass central hubs entirely.

■ **Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP):** The much-awaited commuter rail network aims to link the city center to satellite towns and industrial areas (like Whitefield and Devanahalli), taking thousands of private vehicles off major roadways.

■ **Airport Metro Extension:** Fast-tracking the 58-km Blue Line will provide high-speed, direct transit from the Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport.

NEET fiasco: Students, parents demand answers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Testing Agency high has been accused of leaking question papers. The protesters, gathered at Freedom Park under the banner of All-India Students Association (AISA), included teachers and elderly citizens seeking accountability and transparency in the country’s education system.

They alleged the Union government hasn’t been engaging in a dialogue with students, who have been at the receiving end of troubles because of question paper leaks and non-availability of jobs. Coming in the backdrop of student-led protests in Delhi, the demonstrators here expressed solidarity with innovator and educationist Sonam Wangchuk, who was on a hunger strike demanding educational reforms before being hospitalised.

Several students raised placards, demanding answers and invoking satirical cartoons. A placard raised by a protester read, “Ee sala justice namde”,



Hundreds of students and parents hit streets demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the backdrop of the NEET paper leak and demanding scrapping of NTA.

while another one representing Gen Z shouted, Baddies want corruption-free education system. Collectively, protesters recited Bob Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind”.

Drawing inspiration from the iconic song, a young protester screamed, How many student suicides must it take for government to open its eyes, I’ve gathered here to demand answers for the lives of innocent students lost due to paper leak.

Even when I studied a few years ago, there were paper leaks; my own exam paper was

leaked and there was no accountability. I don’t think much will change after this protest also, but I feel we, as youth, should express ourselves, said Yamini Sathavalli, a former medical aspirant.

Parents who gathered at the protest said the hard work put in by students has gone unrecognised. Exams do not concern students alone, it affects the entire family. As parents, we have high hopes for our children, both my kids are engineers and till date, they are struggling to find employment. The system needs to address these challenges, said Yashodhara Nandana, a homemaker.

Gaurav Sen, a young online educator, pointed out that only on-ground action will solve the problems of students. Until now I was active on social media and in my friends’ circle, but coming to the protest site tells those in power that we are here. The limit of patience has been tested, for almost 10 years, we have been put through systems that are failing, he claimed.

Probe against Sahukar’s daughter: HC issues notice to CBI

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has issued notices to the state government and the CBI on a petition seeking a CBI investigation into a criminal case registered at the Vidhana Soudha police station against Suma S Sahukar, daughter of Shivashankarappa Sahukar, who was the chairman of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), for allegedly defrauding government employees by submitting false caste and income certificates.

Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Akhal Karnataka State Students’ Association President R Kantakumar filed a petition, and a bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, which heard the petition, issued notices to the respondents, the Chief Secretary to the state government, the CBI and the Vidhana Soudha Police Station Inspector, and adjourned the hearing to July 29.

GBA officials, JCB driver assaulted during footpath clearance in Shivajinagar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Safe Footpath Campaign drive in Shivajinagar turned violent after unidentified persons allegedly attacked GBA officials and a JCB driver during an encroachment removal operation on Day 21 of the city-wide campaign.

A footpath encroachment removal drive under Bengaluru’s Safe Footpath Campaign turned violent in Shivajinagar after a group of unidentified persons allegedly attacked officials carrying out the operation. The incident took place on Day 21 of the city-wide campaign launched by Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

The operation was being conducted around the Shivajinagar Bus Stand, where officials were removing illegal encroachments from the footpaths to restore space for pedestrians. During the drive, a group of unidentified persons allegedly objected to the clearance work and suddenly as-



saulted the officials on duty.

Among those injured was GBA Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Madhav Rao, who was reportedly attacked during the operation. The JCB driver engaged in the demolition work was also assaulted and sustained injuries. It is learned that the officials were sprayed pepper spray too. A number of officials were reportedly attacked on the spot while carrying out their official duties.

According to the information available, the attackers questioned the encroachment removal drive before physically assaulting the officials. Eyewitness accounts indicate that the officials and staff were

chased and attacked on the road by unidentified local persons.

The incident has raised serious concerns over the safety of civic officials conducting enforcement drives. Questions are also being raised over whether adequate police personnel were deployed for the operation, especially in a sensitive area such as Shivajinagar. Despite the possibility of resistance during such drives, the available security on the ground was reportedly insufficient to prevent the attack. The assault has also sparked concerns over law enforcement during civic operations. The incident has prompted questions about whether those obstructing official duties believe they can act without fear of legal consequences, and whether the same rules are being enforced uniformly across all parts of Bengaluru.

The Safe Footpath Campaign has already led to the removal of hundreds of encroachments across the city over the past three weeks.

Edu dept proposes to shield teachers from poll, survey duties



Teachers are mandatory to be taken like any other govt servant for election purposes under the Representation of the People Act and the Disaster Management Act. Nevertheless, we are proposing to insulate some teachers from mandatory deployment in the larger public interest.

—Rashmi V Mahesh, Additional Chief Secretary

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The proposal, which is being prepared, seeks to ensure that teachers are deployed for non-academic duties only after exhausting personnel from other government departments.

The education department is expected to circulate the proposal to various departments for their views before placing it before the cabinet. Under the proposed framework, teachers from single-teacher schools will not be deployed for such duties. In schools with two teachers, neither teacher will be taken away. In primary schools with a larger number of teachers, not more than 50 percent of the teaching staff would be deployed for non-academic duties.

The department has proposed to completely insulate

teachers handling classes 9 to 12 from such deployment, citing the importance of preparing students for public examinations. While classes 9 to 12 are outside the ambit of the Right to Education Act, the department believes that the critical nature of the responsibilities handled by teachers at these levels warrants their exclusion.

The deployment of teachers would be coordinated with the assistance of deputy directors of public instruction (DDPIs) and Block-level Education Officers (BEOs), who would be given a separate charter for the purpose. The proposal also envisages obtaining a non-availability certificate from other govt departments before seeking teachers. The proposal is being drawn up against the backdrop of concerns over

learning loss caused by the deployment of teachers for the current Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The education department is also examining whether the proposed framework would withstand legal scrutiny, given the provisions of the Representation of the People Act and the Disaster Management Act, under which govt employees, including teachers, can be requisitioned for specific duties.

The main concern for us now is whether an act like this will stand the test of law or scrutiny. But we are going with it in the larger public interest. It is the economically most vulnerable sections who access our schools.

These activities could cause a huge learning loss, Additional Chief Secretary Rashmi V Mahesh said.

GBA to plant 64K saplings from Aug 15

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will launch a month-long plantation drive from August 15, with plans to plant 64,000 saplings across the city’s five municipal corporations.

Announcing Bengaluru Hasirooru Green City campaign as a public-private planting programme, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the initiative aims at increasing the city’s green cover amid concerns over deteriorating air quality. Over 9.6 crore has been earmarked in the budgets of the five corporations for the programme.

The Minister said the number of trees planted in the city over the past two decades did not match the figures reflected in



GBA’s tree census, highlighting the need for systematic plantation and monitoring. GBA has invited applications from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to participate in the drive. RWAs with sufficient space to accommodate at least

30 saplings, with spacing of 12 feet between trees, can register through GBA’s plantation portal or by email. Applications will be accepted till Aug 10. The remaining saplings will be planted on lake premises, along roads and in other public spaces. The plantation work will be taken up through contractors following a tendering process.

Species including mahogany, Tabebuia rosea, honge (Indian beech), neem and jamun have been shortlisted for the drive. GBA is also considering including fruit-bearing species.

Many of the vehicles parked near police stations and on footpaths are involved in police cases, with around 80% linked to serious offences and the remaining 20 percent to minor cases, the Minister said.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING

Govt high schools to introduce AI as vocational subject

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and literacy has introduced artificial intelligence (AI) as a vocational subject for classes 9 and 10 under the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), allowing students to opt for it instead of a third language.

Following approval from the Project Approval Board, AI will be introduced in 1,642 government high schools across Karnataka, including 1,180 newly approved high schools, 381 NSQF schools, and 81 existing single-sector schools. In the 81



schools, existing vocational subjects such as beauty and wellness, retail, and apparel will be replaced by AI.

The programme, to be implemented by Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK), aims to equip

students with 21st-century skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, technical knowledge, and employability. To support the rollout, SSK has directed each school to appoint one AI guest teacher for the

2026-27 academic year at an honorarium of Rs 20,000 a month.

Recruitment will be carried out by a selection committee headed by the school development and monitoring committee, with appointments to be completed by July 28. Eligible candidates must possess a bachelor’s degree in computer applications, computer science or information technology, a diploma in computer science or information technology, or a postgraduate diploma in computer applications.

They should also have at least one year of work experience and proficiency in the local lan-

guage and English. Applications will be invited publicly, with selections made as per govt-prescribed eligibility criteria. An SSK circular has also directed authorities to redeploy third-language teachers from schools implementing AI to nearby govt schools facing teacher shortage.

Responding to the concerns, Additional Chief Secretary Rashmi V Mahesh said, third language will be taught in flagship schools in the lower classes. In flagship schools like KPS, there is a huge demand for future-aligned skill education among students. We are bringing AI into school curricu-

lum as a vocational/skill subject, which is NSQF-aligned.

Future-aligned skill education programme is one of our eight education guarantees. As per already existing rules, students can take either an NSQF subject or third language. Here, we are facilitating students to develop emerging skill competencies, which can also be continued in I and II PU through AI NSQF-aligned course. The concern of teachers was the transfers, we’ve assured them there will be no transfers. She also said private unaided schools could offer NSQF-recognised AI as a vocational course.

Leopard warning board installed in front of house

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

It is common to put up a warning board in front of the house saying that there is a dog in front of the house. However, a warning poster has been put up in Bharat Nagar. Residents have been pasting posters on the streets and in front of their houses to warn others not to move around at night.

The forest department staff will come and go. I’m not trying to find it seriously. Residents who have been posting satirical posts have tried to warn them.

QUICK READ

Aradhana Mahotsav on July 26

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The 5th year worship celebration of Mudradi Abhayastha Adi Shakti and Dharmayogi Mohana Swamiji of Nandikeshwara Temple will be held at the temple on July 26. Various religious rituals will be held from 6.30 am. Bhajans will be performed by various bhajan groups, and a Yakshagana rhythm 'Shri Krishna Sandhana' will be performed by the Bhagavata Patla Satish Shetty group. Kaushik Rao will assist in the chende and Guruprasad Bollinjadka will assist in the maddale. Prof. Pawan Kirankere will play the role of Krishna, while Permude Jayaprakash Shetty will play the role of Kaurava. Later, a public meeting will be held under the chairmanship of MLA Sunil Kumar. Temple President Dr Ravindra Shetty Bajagoli will preside. Karkala Congress leader Muniyalu Udaya Kumar Shetty, Udupi Urban Development Authority president Dinakar Heroor, Mudradi Gram Panchayat member Ganapathi M Mudradi will participate, said Dharmayogi Sukumar Mohan, the temple religious officer.

24th Annual Yakshollasa programme on July 26

UDUPI
The 24th annual Yakshollasa program of the Yaksha Temple in Kantavara, taluk, will be held on July 26 from 10 am in the Kantavara. Baradibeedu Sumati R. Ballal will inaugurate. Kantavara Yuva Sangam President Vijay Salyan, Beladi Vishnumurthy Bhajana Mandal President Prabhakar Kulal, Kemar Yuva Enyasagi Balagaya President Chandrahass Jain, and the chief priest of the area Krishnamurthy Bhat will participate. Later, 'Chandravali Vilas' Yakshagana will be performed in the company of famous artists. Sudhanvarjuna talamaddale will be performed by famous artists, and Matsyavatar, Varahaavatar, and Maranadhvara yakshagana performances will be performed by Kantavara Yakshabalakas, said the organisation's CEO Mahavir Pandi in a statement.

HOPCOMS General Manager killed in Mantralayam road accident

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
The Vaikunta Samaradhane ceremony for the late Niranjan Rai Matanthabettu was held at the Sabha hall of the Sahasralingeshwara Devasthanam in Uppinangady. He had been widely recognized as a prominent Kambala observer and commentator. He had also served as a member of the Puttur Bhu Nyayamandal.

Kasturba docs remove live worm from 4-yr-old girl's eye

A team of doctors led by Dr Yogish S Kamath successfully performed the surgery by performing an excision biopsy under general anesthesia.

MANIPAL

Ophthalmologists at Kasturba Hospital have successfully surgically removed a live parasitic worm from the eye of a 4-year-old girl who was suffering from persistent redness and irritation in her right eye. The child has fully recovered and has been discharged from the hospital after treatment. The parents had brought the child to the hospital after he noticed persistent redness in his eyes. During the examination, a small movement was observed under the conjunctiva membrane of the eye, and the doctors suspected the presence of a live parasite during the slit-lamp biomicroscopy examination.



Dr Priyal Agarwal, Dr Aparna and the surgical team, led by Dr Yogish S Kamath, Head of the Ophthalmology Department, performed an excision biopsy under general anesthesia and successfully removed the live worm. Later, Dr Vinay Khanna, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, KMC Manipal, identified it as *Dirofilaria*

This case is a testament to the success of coordinated treatment across multiple departments of the hospital. It also reminds society of the need for mosquito control and regular veterinary care for pets, said Dr Sudhakar Kantipudi, Chief Executive Officer, Teaching Hospitals, Mahe, Manipal.

prompt diagnosis and timely surgery, a complete recovery is possible. It is a matter of joy that our little patient is now healthy, said Dr Yogish S Kamath.

Steps taken to establish Bharat Jodo Youth Associations in the district, DC

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

As per the state government guidelines, it is intended to form associations in urban, town and rural areas of the district, said Deputy Commissioner Prabhulinga Kavalikatti. He was speaking while chairing a preparatory meeting organized in his office hall on Tuesday regarding the formation of "Bharat Jodo Youth Associations". Youth between the ages of minimum 16 and maximum 35 are eligible to become members of the association, and each association will have at least 100 to 250 youth members. He said that one association can be formed at each gram panchayat level and one for every 4,000 to 10,000 people in urban areas, and the government will deposit a grant of ₹10 lakh annually in three installments into the bank account of each association. This scheme is being implemented by the Youth Empowerment and Sports De-



partment, with the support of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Urban Development Department, Revenue Department and Education Department. The Deputy Chief Minister said that our aim is to develop leadership qualities in the youth through Bharat Jodo youth associations, empower them and make them good citizens of the country. The grant money can be used only for sports materials, equipment for sports and cultural activities, computers, internet facilities, libraries or basic infrastructure for the association's office. There is an honorarium for trainers. He said that youth in each association are allowed to hire trainers. District Superintendent of

The association will have an internal executive committee of 15 members. This committee will have a president, vice president, treasurer and 12 executive members. Women's representation and reservation are mandatory. The term of office of the committee formed as per the rules is fixed at 2 years. These members cannot be re-elected for the next term.

Police B Nikhil, Additional Deputy Commissioner V Abhishek, Assistant Director of Youth Empowerment and Sports Department Rekhyanaik, Kuvempu University NSS Coordinator Shubha Maravanthe, Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department Umesh Haladi and other district level senior officers of various departments were present in the meeting.

9-year-old son Nandan saves father who was floating in river

CH NEWS SHIVAMOGGA

A 9-year-old boy went to a nearby house and asked for help after his father fell into the stream after he had a fit. The locals immediately arrived and rescued the man who had fallen into the stream. The incident took place near Gorugudu in Hosanagar taluk of district.

Nandan and his father had gone to the Chandra stream. Chandru had a fit and slipped and fell into the stream, floating away with the flowing water. Nandan, unfazed, ran to the nearby houses, shouting, 'My father has been swept away in the stream, come and save him.'

Locals immediately arrived and searched the river. Nandan identified the boy floating in the river and said that his father might be there. Locals pulled Chandru to the shore, rescued him, and administered first aid, saving his life.

Agumbe has scenic beauty and biodiversity

CH NEWS SHIVAMOGGA

Known for its lush greenery, rolling hills, dense forests, breathtaking sunsets, and rain-soaked viewpoints, Agumbe attracts thousands of visitors every monsoon. However, this year, the absence of continuous rain and thick fog has taken away much of the destination's signature charm, according to tourists visiting the hill station.

Many visitors who had planned their trips expecting the region's famous monsoon experience said they were surprised to find relatively dry weather and clear skies instead of the dense mist and heavy rain for which Agumbe is renowned.

Gangakot Reddy, a tourist, said he and his childhood friends regularly travel together to explore different destinations across the country. "We are all childhood friends and keep visiting different places once every two or three months.

This time, all my friends came to Karnataka from Andhra Pradesh. From Hubballi, we travelled to Gokarna, Murudeshwara, the Kollur Mookambika Temple, and now we are in Agumbe. Unfortunately, our luck has not favoured us this time because the rainfall is quite low. Even my friends are disappointed. If there had been proper rainfall, Agumbe would have looked much more beautiful,

Agumbe is internationally recognised for its rich biodiversity, evergreen rainforests, and as a natural habitat of the king cobra. It also gained immense popularity as the filming location for the iconic television serial 'Malgudi Days'. Every monsoon, the hill station draws nature lovers, photographers, trekkers, and wildlife enthusiasts from across the country who come to experience its unique blend of rain, mist, and pristine wilderness.

he said. Local tourism stakeholders believe that while Agumbe continues to attract visitors because of its scenic beauty and biodiversity, the reduced intensity of rainfall has affected the overall monsoon experience that many tourists travel long distances to witness. Despite the rainfall deficit, visitors continued to enjoy the panoramic views of the Western Ghats, lush green forests, and winding ghat roads. However, many expressed hope that the coming weeks would bring heavier showers, restoring Agumbe's misty landscapes and enhancing its appeal as one of Karnataka's premier monsoon destinations.

Lady cheated businessman of Rs 87 lakhs by introducing herself on matrimony app

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A case has come to light in Belthangady where a woman, who was introduced through a matrimony app, allegedly cheated a businessman of over 87 lakh rupees.

A criminal case has been registered at Belthangady police station against a dangerous woman who has gradually transferred an amount close to a crore of rupees to her various bank accounts and is currently absconding with her mobile switched off.

A businessman, a resident of Belthangady taluk, met a woman named Anisha Palan (35) through a matrimony app in May 2024. Initially, she was in constant contact with the businessman through mobile calls and WhatsApp messages and had gained his trust, the businessman who was cheated said in his complaint.

After gaining the complete trust of the businessman, Anisha, who started her real game, started extorting money

on various pretexts including urgent needs and difficult situations between September 26, 2024 and January 20, 2025. Believing her words to be true, the businessman transferred a total of Rs 87.22 lakh online in stages to the various bank accounts she gave him.

As lakhs of rupees were being received, the accused Anisha Palan switched off her mobile number and went into hiding. When she could not be reached despite many attempts to contact her and it became clear that she had been cheated without returning the money received, the cheated businessman approached the Belthangady police station.

Based on the complaint filed by the businessman, the Belthangady police station immediately took action and registered a case of cheating under Crime No. 78/2026, Section 318(4) BNS 2023 (Indian Penal Code) against the accused Anisha Palan.

Auto-rickshaw driver held in POCSO case after minor student found pregnant

CH NEWS MANGALURU

Belthangady police have arrested a 28-year-old auto-rickshaw driver in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a 16-year-old college student, who was later found to be pregnant.

The accused has been identified as Shubharaj (28), a resident of Uppinangady. According to the police, the accused allegedly lured the minor student and sexual-

ly assaulted her. He is also accused of threatening the victim to prevent her from revealing the incident.

The case came to light after the girl complained of stomach pain. When her mother took her to a hospital for a medical examination, doctors confirmed that the 16-year-old was pregnant.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's mother, Belthangady police registered a case under the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on July 18.

During the investigation, police traced the accused to Putrabailu in Laila village and arrested him on the evening of July 19.

He was produced before the Special POCSO Court in Mangaluru on July 20, which remanded him to judicial custody. Police said the investigation into the case is continuing.

Padubidri police arrest lorry driver absconding for 23 years in fatal accident case

CH NEWS, UDUPI

In a successful operation, the Padubidri police have arrested a lorry driver from Pune, Maharashtra, who had been evading the law for 23 years

after being convicted in a fatal road accident case that occurred in 2002.

The arrested convict has been identified as Vilas Shinde, a resident of Bhor in Pune, Maharashtra.

The fatal accident took place on the morning of September 7, 2002, near the Mulloor mosque in Bada village under the Padubidri police station limits on National Highway 66.

MU declares degree results within 2 days of evaluation

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Mangalore University has created a record in the academic field this time. The results of the 6th semester and BHM 8th semester examinations of various degree courses conducted in the months of June and July have been officially announced just two days after the evaluation process was completed.

In the interest of students' higher studies and employment, the examination department acted very quickly and released the results online on July 20.



Results of more than 13 thousand students declared: Various degree examinations of the 6th semester under Mangalore University began on June 12, 2026 and ended on July 10. The evaluation

process for these began on June 29 and was completed on July 18. Out of the total 17,347 students who appeared for the examination, the results of 13,286 students who completed the evaluation in the

first phase have been confirmed and released now.

The main courses for which results have been declared are, B.Sc, B.Com, B.S.W, B.CA, B.Sc (FND), B.Sc (Animation and Visual Effects), B.Sc (Food Technology), B.Sc (Home Science), B.A (HRD), B.Sc (Fashion Design), B.Sc (ID&D), B.Sc (HS), B.VA programmes for 6th semester and B.HM programme for 8th semester. The university said that it will soon announce the results of non-NEP repeaters including B.A (SLP), B.A and B.B.A 6th semester and 2nd and 4th semester of all de-

grees.

Viewing on Online Portal: Students who have appeared for the examination can view their results directly on the official UUCMS Portal using their personal Login ID. The results were officially released in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Registrar (Examinations) and the Director, College Development Board.

This time, the university had completely computerized the process of professors directly entering the marks through the online system at the evaluation centers themselves.



Amrutha Prakash Newspaper Marks 13 Years with Special Edition Release

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Celebrations for the 13th anniversary of Amrutha Prakash newspaper featured the release of its special edition at the Press Club in Mangaluru on July 21.

Anand Shetty Adyar, president of the Kavoor Buntara Sangha, presided over the proceedings. He explained that newspapers fulfill purposes far beyond reporting current events alone. They serve as the voice of society, reflect cultural identity, and generate greater awareness among citizens.

Over the past 13 years the publication has brought topics on social concerns, women's empowerment, education, literature, culture, and social values to readers.

Dr Harikrishna Punaroor,

former state President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, released the special edition. He commended the praiseworthy efforts of Dr Malati Shetty in consistently supplying society with a high-quality, value-driven newspaper across those 13 years while maintaining continuous literary service. He extended good wishes to the newspaper.

Lion Asha Rao Arur, a social worker and entrepreneur, attended as chief guest. Dr Malati Shetty, Managing Editor of Amrutha Prakash newspaper, Surekha Yalavar, a writer and teacher were present.

SATISH JARKIHOLI URGES YOUTH TO AVOID DRUGS

JARKIHOLI SAID YOUTH ARE THE NATION'S STRENGTH AND URGED STUDENTS TO DEVELOP VALUES, SKILLS, AND AVOID FALLING INTO DRUG NETWORKS

BELAGAVI

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi urged students and young people to stay away from drug addiction and focus on education, discipline and building a better future. He was speaking after inaugurating the 'Beda Bro' anti-drug awareness programme at Sangolli Rayanna College in Belagavi.

The programme was organised jointly by the Police Department and district administration to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The Minister said drug addiction affects health, education, families and society, and called for joint efforts from police, educational institutions, parents and the public to control the issue.

Jarkiholi said youth are the valuable strength of the country and their energy should be used for positive activities. He advised students to develop good habits, moral values and skills instead of falling into the



Satish Jarkiholi hints new minister for Belagavi

Karnataka's PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said one more minister may be selected for Belagavi district after the Congress high command reviews names of senior leaders. He said he has no personal choice among aspirants and will support anyone chosen by the party leadership. Jarkiholi said the final decision will consider experience, regional balance and other factors before cabinet expansion. He added that a Muslim leader from Belagavi may get an opportunity depending on the high command's decision. He said the selection process would benefit the district and strengthen representation in the state government after the new appointment.

trap of drug networks.

Police Commissioner Borase Bhusan Gulbarao said drug addiction has become a serious concern and the government's awareness campaign aims to protect young people from its harmful impact. He said similar programmes would be expanded to taluk-level areas to reach more students.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan advised youngsters to follow a healthy lifestyle and avoid habits like smoking and other harmful activities. Superintendent of Police K. Ramarajan said preventing drug abuse is not only the duty of police but also requires support from parents, teachers, students and society.

Awareness documentaries from the 'Beda Bro' and 'Rise' campaigns were screened during the programme. MLA Asif (Raju) Sait, Channamma University Vice-Chancellor C.M. Thyagaraja, lecturers, students and officials attended the event.

BJP accused of voter deletion during revision

HUBBALLI

AICC secretary Anjali Nimbalkar alleged that BJP was attempting to remove names of pro-Congress voters from electoral rolls through the Special Intensive Revision process. She made the statement while addressing reporters in Hubballi on Tuesday and said the issue required serious attention.

She claimed that minority, SC, ST and OBC voters in Hubballi-Dharwad East and Central Assembly segments were being targeted during the revision exercise. Nimbalkar said Congress workers and booth level agents had been instructed to verify voter details carefully and help citizens check their names in the lists. She urged people to report missing names to officials and submit required documents for correction.

The Congress leader said voters whose names were absent from previous electoral rolls should complete the necessary forms before the deadline to restore their registration. She also advised citizens to remain alert and protect their voting rights.

The party leader further



Voters missing from previous electoral rolls should complete necessary forms before the deadline to restore their registration.

—Anjali Nimbalkar, AICC Secretary

Nimbalkar criticized police action against NEET protesters, raised question paper leak concerns, and announced statewide NSUI protests demanding accountability from officials

criticized police action against students protesting at Jantar Mantar over NEET issues and called it unacceptable. She accused the Union government of ignoring concerns related to alleged question paper leaks and demanded action against responsible officials. Nimbalkar announced that NSUI units would hold statewide protests against the treatment of protesting students in Delhi.

She said democratic rights of students and voters must be respected by authorities at all levels. Congress representa-

tives stated that they would continue supporting affected voters during the revision process and encourage public participation. The party also requested officials to ensure transparency and fairness while updating electoral records so every eligible citizen could exercise their voting rights without any unnecessary difficulty.

QUICK READ

Magadi launches 100 day dengue control drive

MAGADI

A special 100-day larval survey drive has started in Magadi to control dengue and chikungunya diseases during monsoon season. Health officials said workers will visit homes regularly to identify mosquito breeding places and remove stagnant water sources. Taluk Health Officer Dr. Ramachandraya urged people to keep surroundings clean and follow preventive measures every week. Authorities advised citizens to empty water containers and cooperate with health teams during the campaign. Officials warned that Aedes mosquitoes spread infections and asked residents to seek medical help for symptoms like fever and body pain immediately. The initiative aims to prevent outbreaks.

Stray Dog Attacks Leave Boy Critical, 4 Injured

Authorities are expected to review the recent incidents as demands grow for stronger preventive action to avoid further attacks

CH NEWS RAICHUR/CHITRADURGA

Fresh incidents of stray dog attacks have once again raised alarm in Karnataka after a four-year-old boy sustained critical injuries in Raichur, while four young children were attacked in separate incidents in Chitradurga on the same day. The attacks come just days after the death of a one-and-a-half-year-old girl in Raichur following a stray dog attack, intensifying public concern over the growing menace and prompting renewed demands for immediate action by civic authorities.

According to officials, the latest incident occurred in the Maliyabar area on the outskirts of Raichur, where four-year-old Gopal was playing near his house when a group of stray dogs allegedly at-

tacked him.

The dogs reportedly inflicted severe injuries to the child's head, causing extensive damage to his scalp. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital in Raichur city, where he is undergoing treatment.

Doctors are continuing to monitor his condition, which has been described as critical. The latest attack has sparked anger among local residents, who accused the authorities of failing to address the growing stray dog population despite recent incidents.

Residents have urged the concerned civic bodies to immediately capture aggressive stray dogs and implement effective measures to prevent further attacks, particularly in residential areas where children frequently play.



In a separate development, stray dogs attacked four children in different parts of Chitradurga city on the same day.

The incidents were reported from Chelagudda and Nehru Nagar, where children aged between five and six years were allegedly attacked while playing near their homes.

Among those injured are Aleena, Adil, and Manvith, along with another child. All four were admitted to the district hospital for treatment.

Several residents alleged that the municipal authorities and district administration have failed to control the stray dog population despite

Residents Demand Better Stray Animal Control

Residents have urged the government, municipal corporations, and local administrations to strengthen stray animal control programmes, ensure timely availability of anti-rabies vaccines in government hospitals, and implement long-term measures to improve public safety, particularly for children.

repeated complaints. Some parents also claimed that the district hospital did not have sufficient anti-rabies injections readily available, forcing families to purchase the vaccines from outside pharmacies.

BNCC Reclaims 2.70 Km Of Footpath In Major Encroachment Drive

BENGALURU

Under the explicit directives of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the leadership of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Poommala Sunil Kumar, an extensive anti-encroachment drive was carried out across multiple divisions on Tuesday to guarantee safe, smooth, and unhindered movement for pedestrians.

The enforcement team targeted key public stretches, including a 0.70 km section along Rajkumar Park Road (from Kulappa Circle to 7th Main Road, HRBR 1st Block) in the Sarvagnanagar division and a 2.00 km stretch along Koommegowdanahalli Main Road in the Dasarahalli division. Through these coordinated operations, civic officials successfully freed a total of 2.70 km of footpaths from ille-

gal encroachments.

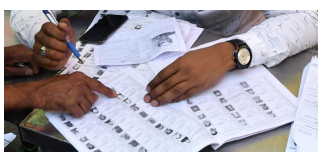
During the intensive drive, task forces removed 13 unauthorized shops and petty vendor stalls, 21 sheet canopies and temporary overhead roofs, 36 illegal concrete steps and ramps, and 20 advertisement signboards obstructing pedestrian flow. Furthermore, sanitation teams cleared 86 tons of accumulated construction waste, soil, and debris to fully restore the footpaths for public use.

To execute the drive efficiently, BNCC deployed 34 dedicated staff members and workers equipped with heavy machinery, including two JCB excavators, seven tractors, two tippers, and an additional operational vehicle. Civic authorities emphasized that continuous enforcement operations will be conducted across all zones to protect public property and ensure walker safety throughout North Bengaluru.

Voter list revision progresses across Uttara Kannada

KARWAR

Special Comprehensive Revision of Voter List-2026 process in Uttara Kannada district is progressing quickly with 9,99,368 enumeration forms computerized so far from 12,30,037 voters. During house-to-house visits, officials identified 38,616



cases related to migration, deaths and duplicate records. Karwar and Kumta constituencies also completed major computerization work under the revision drive. Election Officer K. Lakshmi Priya said the process aims to prepare an accurate voter list. Authorities reported permanent migration, death and duplicate cases and continue verification activities across the district. Officials urged citizens to cooperate with the revision process for a reliable and updated electoral roll system.

Residents demand revival of neglected Brindavan Park

MYSURU

Residents of Brindavan Extension have urged the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to urgently restore and develop a neglected public park on Princess Road near the Jayadeva Hospital signal, saying the abandoned area has become unsafe due to illegal activities, crime and poor hygiene conditions.

Resident and architect Vishal Krishna submitted a complaint to MCC Zone-4, stating that the park opposite First Cross of First Stage has remained neglected for years.



The fencing was damaged during Jayadeva Circle redevelopment, while construction debris was dumped inside the premises, making the space unsafe and difficult for public use. Residents said people often gather there after buying

alcohol from nearby bars, creating noise, quarrels and disturbance during late hours.

The residents also pointed out serious incidents linked to the neglected park. They said a man died by suicide inside the area on June 6, 2025, and another unidentified person was found dead nearby days later. They recalled a two-wheeler theft in November 2024, allegedly involving an intoxicated person. Residents claimed repeated complaints to V.V. Puram Police had not resulted in enough monitoring or regular patrolling.

They further alleged that parts of the park were occupied by a lorry stand and waste dumping near a stormwater drain could cause flooding during heavy rains. Open urination and defecation along the road, abandoned vehicles and illegal tree cutting were also reported by residents. Vishal Krishna said restoring the park would increase Mysuru's green cover and improve the city's appearance. He added that a developed park could prevent anti-social activities and support better public health and environmental sustainability.

Residents have demanded immediate removal of debris and abandoned vehicles, rebuilding of damaged fencing, better lighting, sanitation facilities and regular police patrols around the park. They want the neglected space transformed into a safe, clean and accessible green area for the community. Civic officials were urged to act quickly because residents believe the restoration will improve safety, health and quality of life. The park's revival is expected to bring a positive change and return the public space to citizens again.

DASARA-CITY-PREPARATION

MYSURU ORDERS FOOTPATH CLEARANCE BEFORE DASARA FESTIVAL

MYSURU

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Administrator and Regional Commissioner Nitesh Patil has issued a tough ultimatum to officials, directing them to clear all footpath encroachments across the city before the Dasara festival and intensify action against those littering public places.

Reviewing the progress of the footpath clearance drive across the city's nine zonal offices, Patil instructed Assistant Commissioners and Development Officers to dedicate at least one hour every day exclusively for removing illegal encroachments. All major roads and busy commercial stretches must be

made pedestrian-friendly before the world-famous Dasara celebrations.

In a separate review meeting of the Health Department, Patil called for stricter enforcement against littering, saying that penalties should become a strong deterrent.

"Just as traffic violations have reduced because of regular fines; indiscriminate dumping of garbage can also be controlled through consistent penalties. Small fines alone will not help unless enforcement is continuous," he said, directing officials to substantially increase the number of violators being penalised.

Environmental Engineer Mrityunjaya informed the

meeting that Mysuru's cleanliness survey is progressing steadily. Of the 12,500 survey points, inspections have already been completed at 10,500 locations, with the remaining 2,000 to be covered shortly. The survey includes parameters such as toilet maintenance, bio-mining, landfill management, underground drainage and other sanitation indicators.

Officials said the corporation has collected ₹4.36 lakh in fines from April 1 to July 20 for littering and sanitation violations. However, the administrator expressed dissatisfaction, observing that garbage dumping on roads continues despite enforcement. The health inspectors must



step up field inspections and ensure large-scale action against offenders. He also instructed officials to ensure stormwater drains remain free of blockages so that rainwater

flows without obstruction. Three-shift garbage collection on DD Urs Road

To keep one of the city's busiest commercial stretches spotless round the clock, D.

Banaras Sarees for Women Pourakarmikas

In a welfare initiative, the MCC will distribute Banaras sarees to around 900 women pourakarmikas by August 15. Two saree designs were selected after consulting the civic workers, and the distribution will be carried out through a tender process at an estimated cost of ₹1.5 crore. Patil also announced that two additional cotton sarees will be provided later this year. Besides clothing, all pourakarmikas will receive ten types of safety equipment, while male civic workers will be supplied with new uniforms comprising pants and shirts.

The Banaras sarees are being distributed under the welfare grant earmarked for pourakarmikas as part of the Dasara celebrations.

Devaraja Urs Road has been declared a zero-waste zone. Garbage will now be cleared in three shifts—6.30 am, 2 pm and 10 pm—to maintain

24-hour cleanliness. The MCC plans to extend the same model to the areas surrounding the Mysore Palace in the coming months.

MLA WARNS OFFICIALS OVER PUBLIC SERVICE NEGLIGENCE

Virendra Pappi directed health officials to ensure medicine availability at PHCs and take measures to prevent infectious diseases in rural areas

CHITRADURGA

MLA K.C. Virendra Pappi strongly questioned officials during the taluk-level KDP meeting after complaints emerged that patients were being charged money for deliveries at the district hospital. He directed District Surgeon Dr. Ravindra to explain the allegations and warned officials against neglecting public services.

The MLA said reports of collecting Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000 for deliveries in a government hospital and giving priority treatment only to those who pay were serious concerns. He stated that poor people should receive free and quality healthcare and warned that such practices would not be tolerated.

Virendra Pappi also instructed health officials to ensure medicine availability at primary health centres and take steps to prevent infectious diseases in rural areas. He expressed concern over



drinking water problems in several villages and directed officials to work with Gram Panchayats and BESCOM to provide solutions.

The MLA reviewed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and instructed officials to take action against contractors who failed to complete works properly. He also warned against misuse of government schemes, including construction of agricultural pits in the name of farmers without proper use.

Discussing agriculture, he said only 26,000 hectares out

Due to the lack of rain in Chitradurga, agriculture officials should prepare a report on cloud seeding, discuss it with the Chief Minister, and make necessary arrangements.

—Virendra Pappi, MLA K.C

of 56,000 hectares in the constituency had been sown and directed officials to act against shops selling fertilizers above the approved price. He also asked the Women and Child Development Department to ensure quality food in Anganwadis and take strict action against contractors

Key issues reviewed in KDP development meeting
> Alleged hospital delivery charges ranged between Rs 10,000-15,000
> Only 26,000 hectares sown out of 56,000 hectares
> MLA reviewed progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works
> Officials directed to ensure medicine availability at PHCs
> Action ordered against overpriced fertilizer sellers in constituency
> Notices warned for officers missing KDP meetings

supplying poor-quality meals. Officials from various departments attended the meeting. The MLA reviewed several development programmes and urged all government employees to provide honest and responsible service to the public. He also warned that officers who fail to attend KDP meetings would receive notices.

QUICK READ

Crop insurance deadline announced for Gadag farmers

Gadag
The government has announced crop insurance registration under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the monsoon season 2026-27. Farmers with notified crops and crop loans must complete the process as per rules. Indus EAd General Insurance Company will implement the scheme in Gadag district this year. Officials said crop insurance claims will be considered based on crop survey reports and correct land details. The last date for paying premiums for rainfed names and cotton crops under rainfed and irrigated categories is July 22 for loan-taking farmers. Collector C.N. Sridhar advised farmers to complete registration on time.

MPs urged to raise Bhadra Project issue

Chitradurga
The Chitradurga District Irrigation Struggle Committee has urged Karnataka's Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members to raise the Bhadra Upper Bank Project issue during the Winter Session of Parliament. The committee requested MPs to seek national recognition, financial support and speedy completion of the project that aims to provide water to drought-hit areas. It recalled the five-decade struggle of people in Chitradurga and nearby regions for completing the irrigation work. The committee said continuous efforts since 1997, along with support from leaders and organizations, helped push the project forward. It mentioned that promises were made regarding national status and a grant of Rs. 300 crore was announced in the Union Budget of 2023-24, but the promised progress has not been achieved fully so far. The committee stated that pending approvals for power transmission towers and environmental permissions should be completed quickly. It said the project would help supply 1740 TMC feet of water through the planned system and benefit farmers of Chitradurga, Tumakuru and parts of Davanagere district. The irrigation committee appealed to all state representatives to raise their voice in Parliament and support completion of the scheme.

Farmers urged to complete crop insurance registration

Farmers must update crop insurance after changes, paying extra premiums while receiving excess refunds through institutions

CHITRADURGA

District Collector T. Venkatesh has urged farmers to register under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana before the July 31 deadline for the 2026-27 monsoon season. He said the current monsoon has been weak and crop insurance will provide important financial protection against possible losses.

The district has 3,02,505 farmers, but only 44,105 had completed registration as of July 21. Taluk-wise registrations include 13,337 in Chalkalake, 11,925 in Chitradurga, 7,062 in Hiriyur, 5,040 in Holalkere, 2,815 in Hosadurga and 3,926 in Molakalmuru. The Collector appealed to all remaining farmers to complete the process without delay and secure the benefits offered under the government scheme.

Farmers who have taken crop loans can register based



on their expected sowing, while those who later cultivate a different crop must update their insurance details through the registered financial institution within the period fixed under Central Government guidelines. Farmers without crop loans who change crops after registration must also complete the required corrections. Any additional insurance premium must be paid by the farmer, while excess premium, if collected, will be refunded through the concerned institution.

The Collector warned that waiting until the final day

FARMER REGISTRATION PROGRESS REPORT
> District has 3,02,505 farmers under registration drive
> Only 44,105 farmers completed registrations by July 21
> Challakere recorded highest registrations with 13,337 farmers enrolled
> Chitradurga taluk registered 11,925 farmers under scheme
> Hiriyur and Holalkere recorded 7,062 and 5,040 registrations

could lead to registration mistakes, delays and possible problems in receiving insurance compensation. He requested every eligible farmer to register early and benefit from the scheme for better financial security.

IAF opens Agniveer Vayu recruitment for youth candidates

CHITRADURGA

The Indian Air Force has invited online applications from unmarried male and female candidates for the Agniveer Vayu selection test under the Agnipath Scheme.

The last date to apply is July 26. Eligible candidates must meet age and educational requirements, including qualifications in science or other streams with re-

quired marks. Applicants should submit necessary documents such as certificates, identity proof and photographs during registration. Candidates can apply through the official recruitment website. Officials advised interested youth to complete applications before the deadline. More details are available from the District Employment Exchange Centre in Chitradurga.

Kolar voter forms digitization progress reaches 70 percent

KOLAR

Kolar district has achieved significant progress in the digitization of voter enumeration forms during the Election Commission's special voter list revision drive. According to official data released at 4:00 PM on July 20, a total of 9,14,356 forms have been digitized by Booth Level Officers out of 12,95,265 printed forms, achieving 70.59 percent progress. In addition, 5,664 voters voluntari-

MY Bharat registration drive launched across Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

The District Advisory Committee meeting under the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office on Tuesday. Assistant Commissioner Dr. K.J. Kanataraj chaired the meeting, while District Youth Officer Dhananjay Jagtap attended as the Member Secretary. Representatives from government departments, educational institutions and stakeholder organisations also participated.

Officials presented an overview of the MY Bharat initiative and explained its objective of empowering young people through volunteerism, leadership, skill development and community participation. Members discussed several ongoing and upcoming programmes, including Experiential Learning Programmes, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, Vibrant Village Programme and other youth development activities aimed at encouraging social responsibility.

A major decision taken during the meeting was to launch an intensive MY Bharat registration drive across Chitradurga district.



Chitradurga launched a MY Bharat registration drive, directing educational institutions to help students aged 15-29 register and access youth development opportunities

MY Bharat provides young people a valuable platform to gain experience, develop leadership qualities, and contribute to society through meaningful activities.

—Assistant Commissioner Dr. K.J. Kanataraj

All schools, Pre-University colleges and degree colleges were instructed to help eligible students register on the MY Bharat portal. The committee urged educational institutions to encourage youth between 15 and 29 years of age to join the platform and benefit from its opportunities.

Dr. Kanataraj said MY Bharat provides a valuable platform for young people to gain practical experience, develop leadership qualities and contribute to society through meaningful activities. He stressed that active participa-

tion would help students build confidence and prepare for future responsibilities.

The meeting concluded with an appeal for coordinated efforts from all government departments and educational institutions to ensure maximum awareness and participation in MY Bharat programmes. Officials expressed confidence that the registration campaign would strengthen youth engagement and create greater opportunities for personal growth and community development throughout the district.

AAKASH STUDENTS ACHIEVE EXCELLENT NEET UG PERFORMANCE

UDUPI

Aakash Educational Services Limited announced that nine students from its classroom programme in Udupi secured impressive ranks in NEET UG 2026, reflecting dedicated preparation and strong academic support. Samanvi Maiya led the group with an All India Rank of 3525.

Other successful students included Panchami M.S., Mohammed Talha, Narendra S. Prabhu, Dev Sharma, Grazia Maria Benson, Diyyam Hitesh Sheh, Anwesha G. Patil and Aisha Fatehali Uppin. The institute said the achievement highlighted disciplined study, consistent hard work and guidance from experienced teachers through regular classes, mock tests, doubt-solving sessions and detailed performance reviews. Students thanked their parents and teachers for constant encouragement and said the success strengthened their dream of becoming doctors.

AESL also announced out-



standing national results in NEET UG 2026, with four students in the top 50 and 41 in the top 100 across India. Chief Academics and Business Head Deeraj Kumar Misra congratulated the successful students and their families, saying their discipline, consistency and eagerness to learn brought well-deserved success.

He wished them a bright future in medicine. The institute said its learning system

combines expert faculty, carefully prepared study material, technology-enabled learning, regular assessments, artificial intelligence-based performance analysis and personalised mentoring. Through its network of centres and digital platforms, AESL continues supporting thousands of medical aspirants every year, helping them build confidence, improve performance and succeed consistently.

DAIRY-WELFARE-DRIVE

Bamul supports farmers through welfare schemes: Rajanna

MAGADI

Bangalore Milk Union Limited (Bamul) Director Dr. K.E.B. Rajanna said continuous efforts are being made to protect and support dairy farmers through various welfare programmes. He spoke while distributing financial assistance cheques to milk producer cooperative societies at the Bamul centre in Soluru. Dr. Rajanna said Bamul has introduced several schemes, including medical assistance, insurance benefits, cattle death compensation and member death compensation, to support farmers. He encouraged young peo-

ple to take up dairy farming and assured that the milk union would provide necessary assistance and guidance.

He said farmers involved in milk production are the strength behind the success of the Nandini brand. Bamul is committed to improving the reputation of the brand further and ensuring better opportunities for milk producers, he added.

Dr. Rajanna highlighted that after former MP D.K. Suresh became the president of Bangalore Milk Union, several farmer-friendly decisions and changes have been introduced. He said the union is work-



ing to improve the economic condition of milk producers by making dairy farming a profitable occupation.

He advised rural youth not to depend only on small private jobs but consider dairy farming as a self-employment opportunity.

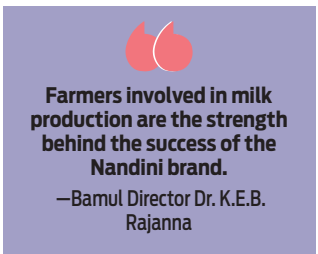
With proper planning and support, dairy farmers can

earn better income and become financially independent, he said.

The director also stated that steps are being taken to construct well-equipped dairy buildings in rural areas with support from different sources. He said strong dairy centres can become symbols of village development and help

increase economic growth.

Bamul officials and local representatives, including Soluru camp office head Naveen Kumar and others, were present during the programme. Dr. Rajanna appealed to youth and farmers to strengthen dairy farming and contribute to rural development.



Farmers involved in milk production are the strength behind the success of the Nandini brand.

—Bamul Director Dr. K.E.B. Rajanna

Vaccination and hygiene key to prevent measles

CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar has urged people to remain vigilant against measles by following the vaccination schedule and maintaining good hygiene. He said measles is a viral disease that mainly affects children and young adults and spreads through droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

Although the illness is usually mild, it can pose serious risks to pregnant women and unborn babies. Symptoms include fever, a red rash that starts on the face and spreads across the body, swollen glands behind the ears and neck, sore throat, headache, red eyes and fatigue. These signs usually appear 14 to 21 days after infection. Dr. Kumar said there is no specific antiviral treatment for measles, making prevention and early medical care essential. He advised parents to ensure children receive the MMR vaccine as per the national immunisation schedule. People should also wash their hands regularly, cover their mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing, and avoid close contact with infected individuals.

Khader Announces Emergency Medical Support Proposal

Khader warned of action against delayed ambulances and announced food safety measures, including quality checks and legal action

KARWAR

Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister U. T. Khader said the state government is considering a scheme to provide free treatment up to Rs.2.5 lakh for accident victims during the first seven days after admission in hospitals across Karnataka. The proposal aims to ensure immediate medical support for injured people without worrying about expenses during emergencies.

Speaking after inaugurating the trauma care centre and emergency treatment unit at Kumta Public Hospital, Khader said accident victims should receive quick medical attention instead of facing delays due to payment concerns. He said discussions have been held with the Chief Minister regarding implementation of the scheme. The minister also announced plans to create a system where ambulances reach accident spots within 15 minutes after receiving calls.

Khader said strict action would be taken if ambulance services fail to respond on time. He added that measures



are being planned to improve food safety and prevent unhealthy food consumption among children. High-tech laboratories will be established to check food quality, and companies involved in selling unsafe products will face legal action.

The minister said awareness about healthy lifestyles and environmental cleanliness is necessary as non-communicable diseases like heart problems, cancer and kidney-related illnesses are increasing. He also informed that vacancies of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and laboratory technicians in hospitals would be filled through permanent and contractual appointments.

The newly opened trauma

care centre at Kumta was built at a cost of Rs.2.73 crore with support from Bharat Electronics Limited and other organizations. Khader said the centre would help save lives during emergencies and promised additional funds for required equipment and infrastructure. He also instructed officials to develop a modern mortuary facility for families arriving during accident cases.

MLA Dinakar Shetty thanked BEL, Rotary Club and local organizations for supporting the project. He requested further improvements in medical facilities. District officials, police officers, health department staff and representatives of various or-



Accident victims should receive immediate medical attention without delays caused by payment concerns.
—U. T. Khader, Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister

Key Healthcare Initiatives

- * Proposed free accident treatment scheme covers Rs 2.5 lakh
- * Ambulances planned to reach accident spots within 15 minutes
- * Trauma care centre built with Rs 2.73 crore investment
- * Food safety labs planned to check unhealthy products
- * Doctor and healthcare staff vacancies to be filled soon
- * Scheme aims seven-day emergency support for accident victims

ganizations attended the programme. Khader said his goal is not only to build hospitals but also create a preventive healthcare environment where people can lead healthier lives.

Chitradurga Hosts Maternal And Child Health Programme

CHITRADURGA

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish stressed the importance of healthy pregnancies and proper spacing between children during the World Population Day-2026 programme held in Chitradurga. He said planned family welfare methods can help reduce maternal and child deaths.

The programme was organised jointly by the district administration, district panchayat, health and family welfare department and Brihanmath Independent Pre-University College. Dr. Girish said women should choose the right age for pregnancy and make full use of healthcare services to ensure the birth of healthy children.

He advised families to maintain a gap of at least three years between two children and use temporary family planning methods. He said proper spacing improves the health of both mothers and children and helps families provide better care.

District Health Education Officer Krishna Naik highlighted the need to prevent child marriages. He said girls should marry after completing 18 years and boys after 21 years to protect their health



and future.

Deputy District Health Education Officer Govindareddy Konnur explained the importance of World Population Day and said the day is observed every year to create awareness about population-related challenges. Taluk Health Education Officer Moogappa said family welfare programmes should include men's participation and awareness about suitable marriage age and child spacing.

Lecturer Shivakumar expressed concern over rising population pressure on food, water, housing and natural resources. College Principal P.M. Rajesh advised students to understand population challenges and focus on providing quality education and better opportunities for future generations.

Health officials, ASHA workers, college staff and students participated in the pro-

Govindareddy explained World Population Day awareness, while Moogappa stressed men's participation in family welfare, suitable marriage age, and child spacing awareness



Child marriages must be prevented; girls should marry after 18 and boys after 21 to protect their health and future.
—Krishna Naik, District Health Education Officer

gramme. Field Health Education Officer Janaki B. conducted the event, while Nandish welcomed the gathering and Keshav delivered the vote of thanks.

QUICK READ

Timely police action saves injured child

Dharwad

A child who was injured after being stabbed by his mother at Ranka Stello Apartments in Dharwad has been discharged from SDM Hospital after successful treatment. Police Commissioner N. Sasikumar found the child alive and ensured immediate medical care following the incident. The child received treatment and is now recovering in good health. The commissioner also visited the hospital and checked the child's condition. Police are investigating the incident involving Priyanka, a doctor, who allegedly attacked her son and killed her husband Kiran. The child's recovery has brought relief after the tragic incident in Dharwad.

Hanagal village to receive basic facilities soon

HANAGAL

Residents of Thilavalli village in Hanagal taluk have requested improved basic facilities from MLA Srinivasa Mane. Women from the newly developed settlement met the MLA and submitted a request seeking drinking water supply, road development and other essential services. They also demanded distribution of title deeds for houses in the area. Responding to their concerns, MLA Mane assured that necessary action would be taken soon to provide facilities. He said comfortable living requires proper civic services and promised to discuss the issues with officials. Steps will be taken to release grants and improve infrastructure in the village.



HASSAN STUDENT SECURES TOP NEET RANKING ACHIEVEMENT

HASSAN

Aakash Educational Services Limited announced that classroom programme student Namith Gowda emerged as Hassan city topper in NEET UG 2026 by securing All India Rank 4339 with 624 marks out of 720.

The institute said his achievement reflected consistent hard work, determination and disciplined preparation supported by experienced teachers and a structured learning environment. Namith thanked his parents and mentors for their constant encouragement throughout his journey. He said regular mock tests, detailed performance reviews, doubt-clearing sessions and focused classroom learning helped him strengthen concepts and remain confident during preparation. He added that the result motivated him to work harder towards becoming a successful doctor.

Aakash Educational Services Limited also highlighted

its strong national performance in NEET UG 2026, with four students in the top 10, 18 in the top 50 and 41 in the top 100 across India. Chief Academic and Business Head Dr. H. R. Rao congratulated Namith and his family, praising his discipline, consistency and eagerness to learn. He wished him success in his future medical career.

The institute said its learning system combines expert faculty, carefully designed study material, technology-enabled learning, regular assessments, artificial intelligence-based performance analysis and personalised mentoring. Officials said these facilities continue helping thousands of students prepare confidently for competitive medical entrance examinations and achieve their academic goals every year. This achievement further strengthens the institute's reputation for producing successful future doctors across the country consistently.

Maruti Stresses Responsible Citizenship, Ravi Kumar Urges Students to Avoid Addiction and Make Wise Choices

MAGADI

The Magadi police department organized a narcotics awareness and legal campaign at Vidya Chetana PU College to educate students about the dangers of drugs and online scams.

Police Inspector Srinivas inaugurated the program and advised students to stay away from harmful substances that can damage their health and future. He said young people are often targeted by drug mafias and should not fall into their trap. Drugs including marijuana and other intoxicants can weaken thinking ability and lead people towards crime and violence. He asked students to inform police about suspicious activities or drug sales near college areas. He also warned them not to share OTPs or personal details during phone calls and stay alert about online frauds.

Police psychologist Maruti explained that education should help build a strong society and responsible citi-





Young people should avoid drug mafias, as intoxicants can weaken thinking and lead towards crime and violence.
—Srinivas, Magadi Police Inspector

zens, not only provide degrees. He said everyone must respect laws and work towards creating a safer environment. College Principal Ravi Kumar encouraged students to avoid addiction and shape their future with good habits. Students asked questions and received guidance on staying aware and making better choices.

The awareness program was attended by former Kasapa president Dayanad, Sunil, Raghu, Thimmaiah, Gayatri, Gagana, police constable Birappa, Kumaraswamy and college staff along with hundreds of students. Officials also highlighted road safety and said driving without a license is dangerous. They advised girls and all citizens to remain safe and follow legal rules in daily life. The campaign ended with a message that awareness and discipline can protect youth from harmful influences and help create a peaceful society with a brighter future.

Power cuts announced in Karwar areas

KARWAR

Hescom has announced scheduled power interruptions in parts of Karwar and Honnavar taluks on July 22 due to maintenance and pole shifting

works. In Dandeli sub-division, electricity supply will remain suspended from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm in several localities. In Honnavar, power interruptions are expected from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm because of mainte-

nance of 33/11KV distribution facilities and feeders. Hescom has urged consumers to cooperate, stating that the planned works will improve power supply reliability and ensure better service in the affected areas.

Civic Leaders Support Staff Injured In Shivajinagar

BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao and Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesh visited Bowring Hospital on Tuesday to inquire about the health of officials and workers injured during a footpath encroachment clearance operation in Shivajinagar. The senior leaders met the victims directly, offered strong moral encouragement, listened to their grievances, and assured them that the entire civic administration stands firmly behind them.

The violence erupted earlier in the day when a team of civic personnel was conducting a drive to clear blocked pedestrian pathways. During the clearance activity, a violent and unruly group interfered with official work, physically assaulted the staff, and sprayed chemical irritants at them. Despite the unexpected

attack, the injured workers showed immense courage while executing their duties.

Among those receiving medical treatment at Bowring Hospital are Assistant Executive Engineers Madhavarao and Savitri, Assistant Engineer Ruchita, JCB driver Siddappa, and tractor worker Sunil. Private contract workers engaged in the operation were also injured during the unfortunate physical clash. Doctors at the facility are actively providing all necessary medical care to ensure their speedy recovery.

Several top dignitaries accompanied the commissioners during their visit, including Development Additional Commissioner Venkatachalapathi alongside Joint Commissioners Ranganath and Hemanth Sharan. They interacted with attending doctors, reviewed healthcare arrangements, and pledged full institutional support.

SMART-SCHOOL-INITIATIVE

Collector reviews plans to strengthen school education

GADAG

District Collector C.N. Sridhara announced plans to develop government schools into Karnataka Public Schools by using Corporate Social Responsibility funds effectively. He said CSR support should improve education quality and strengthen school infrastructure across the district.

The meeting held at the City Collector's Office discussed ways to convert more schools into model institutions. The government scheme provides free Kannada and English medium education from LKG to 12th standard for rural and backward children under one roof. KPS schools have recorded strong academic results with over 80 to 90 percent success in many cases.

The collector explained that



companies must contribute two percent of CSR funds towards education development. Currently 20 KPS schools are functioning and plans are prepared to create 37 more schools through a cluster model combining four to five nearby schools. KPS schools offer quality education, safe transport and continuous learning from LKG to PU level while reducing fi-

nancial burden on families.

Sridhara urged corporate organizations to support school buildings, smart classrooms, computer labs, libraries, sanitation facilities and teacher recruitment through CSR initiatives. He said businesses should adopt schools for complete development instead of providing only temporary help. Deputy Director R.S. Buradi stated that KPS

Organizations invited to adopt govt schools

Education department officials have invited organisations and entrepreneurs to support government schools through the Namma Shale Nanna Kharti portal and district CSR cell. Interested groups can submit proposals online to adopt schools and help improve facilities. Officials said plans are ready to upgrade around 37 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools.

Details of required classrooms, smart classrooms, infrastructure and other facilities will be prepared and shared with companies for CSR support. Deputy Director of School Education and Literacy Department R.S. Buradi said assistance will be arranged according to each school's needs to strengthen education facilities across the district.

schools show better SSLC and PUC results compared to regular government schools.

The collector appealed to companies and community members to work together for creating model public schools

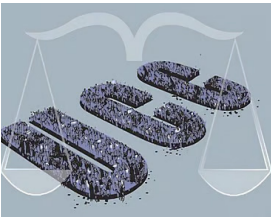
in Gadag district. He added that good education is the greatest gift to society and can help children build successful futures. The initiative aims to provide affordable and quality education for every child in need.

QUICK READ

3 panels formed to safeguard women's reproductive rights

New Delhi

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted three specialised expert groups to examine the ethical, legislative, regulatory and medical aspects of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) services, with a particular emphasis on protecting women's reproductive rights.



MP Assembly passes UCC amid opposition uproar

Bhopal

In a landmark yet highly contentious development, the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026 on Tuesday amid massive uproar and repeated adjournments. The ruling BJP pushed the Bill through after heated debates, marking a significant step towards implementing 'One Nation, One Law' in the state. The proceedings were stormy from the outset. As soon as Minister Gautam Tetwal moved a motion to discuss the Bill and BJP MLA Sitaram Sharma began addressing the House, Congress MLAs stormed the well, raising slogans and demanding that the legislation be referred to a Select Committee.

Fish production hits record high

India's fish production touches 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, with PMMSY driving higher output, infra, market access and greater support for women fishers.

NEW DELHI

India's fish production has risen significantly from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, reflecting the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the flagship scheme, launched in 2020-21, has played a crucial role in the holistic development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector while boosting overall fish production across the country.

The minister said PMMSY has also promoted inclusive growth by extending financial assistance of up to 60 per cent of the unit cost for beneficiary-oriented activities in-



volving women in the fisheries sector. Between 2020-21 and 2025-26, fisheries development proposals worth Rs 4,178.30 crore were sanctioned under the scheme, benefiting 1,47,654 women across states and Union Territories.

The government has simultaneously strengthened fish-

eries infrastructure through investments in cold chain facilities and marketing networks. Projects worth Rs 2,797 crore have been approved under PMMSY and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) till April 2026.

The approved projects include 775 cold storages and ice plants, 28,489 fish transportation units, 1,394 live fish vending units, 6,018 fish kiosks, 117 retail fish markets and 24 wholesale fish markets.

According to the government, these investments are aimed at strengthening the fisheries value chain, reducing post-harvest losses, improving market access and increasing the income of fishers and fish farmers while ensuring the sustainable growth of India's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Inside the story

- Fish production rose from 141.64 lakh tonnes (2019-20) to 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024-25).
- PMMSY launched in 2020-21 boosted fisheries and aquaculture.
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- Investments aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and increasing fishers' income.

Bihar schools face infrastructure crisis

PATNA

The deteriorating condition of government school infrastructure dominated proceedings on the second day of the Monsoon Session of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, with the Opposition accusing the NDA government of failing to provide basic educational facilities across the state.

RJD MLA Kumar Sarvjeet alleged that nearly 40 per cent of government school buildings in Bihar are either dilapidated or have collapsed, forcing several schools to operate from neighbouring villages or in inadequate premises. He questioned whether the Education Department had conducted a comprehensive survey to identify schools with unsafe buildings, panchayats without functional school infrastructure and institutions where students continue to study under trees despite the availability of land.

Sarvjeet urged the government to prioritise the reconstruction of damaged school buildings and strengthen educational infrastructure. He also raised concerns over learning outcomes, claiming that many students in Classes 3 to 6 are unable to read even the English alphabet.

The Bihar Assembly witnessed heated exchanges as the Opposition flagged crumbling school infra, prompting govt to promise corrective measures

Highlighting the shortage of classrooms, the RJD legislator said quality education cannot be delivered when nearly a thousand students are accommodated in schools with only two classrooms. He proposed convening a meeting of all MLAs in the Central Hall of the Assembly to discuss practical measures for improving education, particularly for children from economically weaker sections.

Responding to the debate, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary acknowledged the concerns and assured the House that the government would review the issue comprehensively. He said pending land-related problems affecting school construction would be resolved within six months and recalled that the expansion of schools had begun under former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's initiative to establish a high school in every panchayat.

Nadda meets injured NEET protesters

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday visited Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital to meet protesters injured during the violent demonstrations that erupted amid the 'Sansad Chalo' march over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak.

Nadda interacted with the injured protesters, enquired about their health and held discussions with doctors at RML Hospital to assess their medical condition. The visit came a day after clashes broke out as thousands of supporters of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and students marched from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities, including the NEET-UG paper leak.

In a parallel effort to ad-

CJP's key demands

Representatives of the Cockroach Janata Party met Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda twice on Monday, first presenting their demands verbally before submitting a written memorandum. The delegation sought action over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and reiterated its demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

dress the crisis, two representatives of the CJP met Nadda at his residence on Monday and submitted a written memorandum listing the organisation's three key demands. According to govern-

ment sources, the first meeting took place around 11:50 a.m., during which the delegation presented its demands verbally. Nadda reportedly asked them to submit the proposals in writing.

The representatives returned at around 4 p.m. and handed over a formal memorandum detailing their demands. While arriving for the NDA's 'Mangal Milan' programme on Tuesday, Nadda briefly spoke about the interaction, saying the discussions had gone well. However, he declined to elaborate on whether any assurances had been given to the protesting students and CJP representatives.

The meetings and hospital visits come amid growing political pressure on the government to address concerns surrounding examination transparency and restore confidence among students affected by the alleged paper leak.

J&K chief secy takes part in Pratishthan Divas event

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday visited the Mata Uma Bhagwati shrine at Umanagri, Shangus, in Anantnag district to participate in the celebrations of the Murti Pratishthan Divas, being observed with religious fervour through a two-day Yagyna and other spiritual programmes organised by the Uma Bhagwati Asthapan Trust.

The Chief Secretary, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, paid obeisance at the shrine and sought the blessings of the deity for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of J&K. He also participated in the 'Kalash Puja' and the sacred rituals performed as part of the Murti Pratishthan celebrations.

2 maternal deaths put Rajasthan healthcare under scanner

JAIPUR

The deaths of two women following childbirth in Jodhpur have once again raised concerns over maternal healthcare in Rajasthan, even as the state government claims to have intensified monitoring of pregnant women through a massive state-wide inspection campaign.

The latest fatalities come after similar maternal deaths were reported from Kota, Bikaner, and Banswara, prompting renewed scrutiny of the state's referral system and emergency obstetric care. One of the deceased, Samu, underwent a normal delivery at Tinwari Hospital on June 24 and gave birth to a baby girl.

However, severe postpartum bleeding could not be controlled, forcing doctors to refer her first to Umaid Hospital and later to Mahatma Gandhi Hos-



pital in Jodhpur. Doctors performed an emergency hysterectomy (uterus removal) after the bleeding continued. Despite multiple blood transfusions, dialysis, and ventilator support, she succumbed to complications late on Sunday.

According to hospital authorities, Samu suffered hypovolemic shock due to massive blood loss, resulting in kidney failure and multi-organ complications. During treatment, she received six units of blood, 14 units of plasma, and 10 units of cryoprecipitate.

In the second case,

Dimple was admitted to Mathuradas Mathur Hospital on June 30, the day she delivered her baby. She remained under treatment for nearly 20 days, but her condition suddenly deteriorated on July 19. She died later that night. Her post-mortem was conducted on July 20. Hospital officials said 16 women who recently gave birth have developed serious health complications in Jodhpur over the past month, with most of them having undergone Caesarean deliveries.

Currently, five women are admitted to Umaid Hospital, while two others, including Dhapu, are undergoing treatment at Mahatma Gandhi Hospital. Ironically, the maternal deaths come just days after the Rajasthan government completed a five-day statewide intensive inspection campaign (July 15-19) aimed at improving maternal healthcare.

PLI schemes draw Rs 2.4 lakh crore investment

NEW DELHI

The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have attracted investments of over Rs 2.40 lakh crore, generated over 14.15 lakh direct and indirect jobs, and enabled exports worth Rs 15.2 lakh crore across 14 key sectors as of March 31, 2026, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, MoS for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said the PLI schemes, launched with an approved financial outlay of Rs 1.91 lakh crore.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade acts as the nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring the schemes. Exports under the PLI programme have risen sharply over the last three years, increasing from Rs 4 lakh crore in FY24 to Rs 6.5 lakh crore in FY25 and further to Rs 15.2 lakh crore in FY26, reflecting India's growing integration with global value chains.

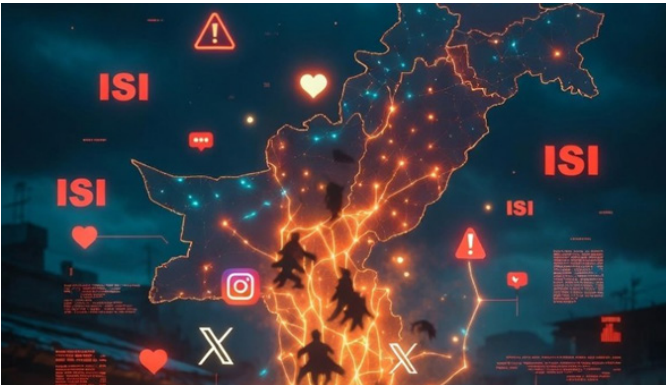
Bhatti network targets UP youth for online anti-India campaign

NEW DELHI

The Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti network has been using social media extensively to recruit more youth, with Uttar Pradesh emerging as its primary focus. Recent investigations have revealed that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-backed network has been scouting for youth in the state by promising them money and power.

Officials say the Bhatti network is attempting to build an army of social media operatives to carry out a massive disinformation campaign against the Indian state. The network seeks to recruit Indian youth who can amplify propaganda and spread disinformation across social media platforms.

An Intelligence Bureau official said the Bhatti syndicate is seeking to exploit vulnerable youth and recruit them into its network. This network operates behind the scenes and is tasked with exploiting



vulnerabilities and sensitive issues in India with the clear intention of inciting violence, the official said.

The network has been told to focus on youth-centric issues and amplify them by running a disinformation campaign, officials say.

According to officials, Bhatti runs several India-centric campaigns through specialised modules tasked with targeted killings, gathering sensitive information and carrying out terror attacks. However, the network being built

in Uttar Pradesh is considered particularly dangerous as it is dedicated solely to waging a large-scale disinformation campaign against the Indian state.

The Bhatti network carefully selects the youth it seeks to recruit. According to officials, it targets those who are not only in need of money but are also looking for recognition and acceptance in society. Such individuals are considered particularly vulnerable and are often drawn to the promise of influence and power.

NEET FIASCO

Opposition targets NDA govt over NEET paper leak

NEW DELHI

The Samajwadi Party and the Congress on Tuesday intensified their attack on the BJP-led NDA government over the alleged NEET paper leak, accusing it of suppressing democratic protests and demanding accountability during the second day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The criticism came after scores of people, led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), marched towards Parliament seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the



alleged leak of the May 3 NEET examination paper.

The protest witnessed police intervention, with reports of lathi charges, tear gas and injuries to demonstrators.

Speaking outside Parliament, Samajwadi Party chief and MP Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the government's response to the protest was unprecedented in independent

Hitler used to carry out such things, and now we are witnessing it under the BJP-led regime. It is unacceptable in a democracy. -Akhilesh Yadav, SP chief

India. He claimed several protesters suffered serious injuries, including head wounds requiring stitches and fractures, and urged the government to ensure proper medical treatment for those affected.

Yadav strongly criticised the police action, comparing it to the authoritarian methods associated with Adolf Hitler.

He questioned whether such treatment of students and youth reflected the government's commitment to its slogan of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.

Congress MP Jebi Mather also condemned the police action, drawing parallels with the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre. She alleged that peaceful student protesters were met with barricades, lathi charges and tear gas instead of being heard. Mather said students have every democratic right to question the government and express their concerns without fear of intimidation.

Son alleges 'police intimidation' after 13-hr interrogation of TN MLA

THOOTHUKUDI

The political row over the arrest of DMK MLA GV Markandeyan, intensified on Tuesday after his son, Akshay, accused the police of subjecting the legislator to a prolonged interrogation and intimidation.

Addressing reporters, Akshay said the Vilathikulam MLA, who was arrested on Monday in connection with a defamation case over his we will crush your bones remarks against Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, was questioned for nearly 13 hours, despite the

speech under investigation lasting only about five minutes. He claimed the lengthy interrogation was unjustified, particularly in view of his father's health condition.

According to Akshay, Markandeyan suffers from diabetes and heart-related ailments and should not have been subjected to such an extended period of questioning.

Akshay further alleged that the MLA was threatened during the interrogation and claimed that police attempted to pressure him into making statements that suited the ruling party's political narrative.

QUICK READ

3 of a family killed in South Delhi building fire

New Delhi

In a tragic incident, a woman and her two children were burned to death after a fire broke out at their house in South Delhi's Lodhi Road area on Tuesday morning, officials said. According to the Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding the blaze was received at around 10.21 a.m. from B-Block, opposite Chawla Sweets, B.K. Dutt Colony in the Lodhi Road Police Station area. Consequently, the Delhi Fire Services was informed, and one water tender (WT), one water bowser (WB) and one Big Fire Tender (BFT) were immediately rushed to the spot.

Delhi HC permits Wangchuk's transfer to Medanta

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday allowed activist Sonam Wangchuk to be shifted from Safdarjung Hospital to Medanta Hospital, observing that there was a consensus among doctors that he required constant medical monitoring and directing that a panel of doctors be constituted at the private hospital to oversee his treatment. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said that Wangchuk would be shifted to the hospital of his choice and indicated that a formal order would be passed after the lunch break.

Fadnavis slams politics over NEET stir

He accused opposition parties of exploiting NEET protests for political gains

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday accused opposition parties and political organisations of exploiting the ongoing protests over the alleged NEET examination paper leak for political gains instead of focusing on the concerns of students.

Addressing reporters in Mumbai, Fadnavis criticised demonstrations led by the Cockroach Janata Party and social activist Sonam Wangchuk, who have demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan. He said that while the Constitution guarantees citizens the right to protest, the exercise of that right must remain peaceful and responsible.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the state government would continue to permit peaceful and authorised protests. However, he warned that any attempt to organise unauthorised demonstrations or indulge in violence would invite strict action.

Fadnavis alleged that movements lacking clear leadership often become vulnerable to infiltration by political elements seeking to



create instability. According to him, several parties and organisations with little concern for the NEET issue have entered the protests to pursue their own political objectives.

He claimed that many participants raising slogans against the government have

Statement in-short

■ Fadnavis accuses opposition of politicising NEET protests.

■ Says peaceful protests are a constitutional right.

■ Warns against unauthorised demonstrations and violence.

■ Alleges political groups infiltrated the movement.

■ Claims rejected parties are seeking political revival through unrest.

limited knowledge of the ex-

amination itself and are merely acting as tools in a larger political campaign. Such groups, he said, are attempting to create unrest by using genuine public grievances as a platform.

Taking a swipe at opposition parties, the Chief Minister said those rejected by voters in their respective states were now trying to revive their political fortunes through the controversy. He maintained that democratic protests should remain issue-based and peaceful, rather than being used to fuel political instability or serve partisan interests.

UAE minister meets AP CM

AMARAVATI

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu here on Tuesday and discussed the proposed establishment of a food cluster in the state.

The delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held discussions with the Chief Minister and senior officials at the State Secretariat.

The state government said that a decision has been taken to establish a value chain for exporting various horticultural products—including mangoes, bananas, and cocoa—to international markets.

An agreement for establishing a food cluster was reached at the World Economic Forum meet at Davos early this year.

According to an official release, the UAE had expressed its readiness to set up the food cluster in Andhra Pradesh during Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Davos.

The UAE decided to establish a value chain in the food processing sector in Andhra Pradesh. A partnership has been formed between the Andhra Pradesh government and the UAE to this effect, it said.

Industries Minister TG Bharat and senior officials from the Food Processing, Industries, and EDB departments attended the meeting.

Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri had a meeting with Chandrababu Naidu on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January.

It was then announced that the UAE Dubai Food Cluster would work together with the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing sector.

Mamata vows to join NEET protest in Delhi

KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday announced that she would participate in the Cockroach Janta Party's agitation in New Delhi over the alleged NEET examination paper leak, while also vowing to legally defend the Trinamool Congress' name and election symbol.

Addressing the party's annual July 21 Martyrs' Day rally in Kolkata, Banerjee said she would intensify her political campaign against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and resume district tours across West Bengal in the coming weeks.

She warned that any attempt to deprive the Trinamool Congress of its recognised name or electoral

The TMC chief says she will visit Delhi and join the Cockroach Janata Party stir against the NEET paper leak to strengthen Opposition unity

symbol would be strongly challenged. Referring to the claim made before the Election Commission of India by the rebel faction led by expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee, she asserted that the matter could be taken to the Supreme Court if required.

Banerjee also dismissed any possibility of welcoming back leaders who left the Trinamool Congress after its defeat in the recent Assembly elections. She said the party would move forward with loyal workers and new mem-

bers instead of relying on former leaders who had switched sides.

Calling the departure of several leaders a positive development, she remarked that those who had deserted the party were free to remain where they were. According to her, a stronger organisation would be built with committed workers, students and young supporters.

Reiterating her opposition to the BJP, Banerjee said there would be no compromise with the ruling party at the Centre under any circumstances.

She maintained that enduring imprisonment was preferable to compromising with the BJP and expressed confidence that the younger generation would strengthen the Trinamool Congress in the coming years.

Country's youngest Municipal chairperson unseated

KOTTAYAM

India's youngest municipal chairperson, 21-year-old Diya Binu Pulikkakandam, was voted out of office on Tuesday after a no-confidence motion was passed in the Pala Municipality, ending the UDF-backed administration amid an escalating internal crisis within the Congress.

The motion was carried unanimously by all 17 councillors present in the 26-member municipal council. Those supporting the motion included 12 Left Democratic Front (LDF) councillors, four Congress councillors who defied the party whip, and Independent Vice-Chairperson Maya Rahul.

With no councillor voting against the motion, the United

Democratic Front (UDF) lost control of the municipality, bringing weeks of political uncertainty and internal disagreements to a head.

The Congress had been facing growing differences with the independent group led by Diya Binu, with a section of its councillors unwilling to continue supporting the alliance.

Sensing divisions within the ruling front, the LDF moved the no-confidence motion, which ultimately succeeded with support from rebel Congress members.

Ahead of the vote, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had issued a whip directing its councillors not to take any action that could result in the collapse of the UDF administration.

RS adjourned amid Oppn uproar over NEET

NEW DELHI

In a continuation of the ongoing deadlock, the Rajya Sabha was ultimately adjourned for the day on Tuesday following unrelenting uproar by opposition members protesting the police lathi charge on students demonstrating against the NEET examination paper leak.

The Upper House is scheduled to reconvene at 11 a.m. on Wednesday. Chaos engulfed the proceedings from the very beginning. As soon as the House assembled, loud protests forced an immediate adjournment till noon.

When the House resumed at noon, it was again adjourned till 2 p.m. due to continued sloganeering.

Even after reconvening



post-2 p.m., the din persisted, compelling Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh to adjourn the House for the day.

The Deputy Chairman repeatedly appealed to members to maintain decorum and adhere to the listed business of the House.

He emphasised that no unlisted issues could be taken

up and urged opposition members, particularly from Congress, to respect parliamentary rules and norms.

I have been repeatedly urging members to maintain order in the House, he said.

However, sloganeering continued, and Opposition members paid no heed to his requests and continued their vociferous protest.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh observed that it appeared the opposition was not interested in allowing the House to function as per laid-down procedures. When sloganeering showed no signs of subsiding, he adjourned the proceedings till Wednesday morning.

The opposition's sustained agitation centres on the alleged police action against students and activists who marched to Parliament on Monday demanding justice in the NEET-UG (medical entrance examination) paper leak case.

The issue has paralysed both Houses of Parliament, with opposition parties demanding accountability, a fair probe, and support for affected students.

Shut doors on TMC rebels forever: Abhishek to Mamata

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday urged former West Bengal Chief Minister and party supremo Mamata Banerjee not to allow the return of any leader who deserted the party or joined a rebel faction during the difficult period following the Trinamool Congress's landslide defeat in the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections.

Addressing the party's annual July 21 Martyrs' Day rally near Birla Planetarium in central Kolkata, Abhishek Banerjee said those who abandoned the party should not be welcomed back under

any circumstances.

Those who think that I have lost political relevance must remember that Mamata Banerjee is my source of energy. The deserters should remember that whatever political recognition they achieved in life was because of Mamata Banerjee. Even the Almighty will not pardon those who desert their own mother. Hence, I will request her not to take back any of those deserters in the future, Abhishek, who is the nephew of Mamata, said.

His remarks came amid an escalating confrontation between the Mamata Banerjee-led

Trinamool Congress and the rebel but majority faction headed by the party's expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee.

Responding from the dais of a parallel July 21 Martyrs' Day rally organised by the rebel faction on the nearby Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Trinamool Congress

legislator Madan Mitra, who recently joined the dissident camp, launched a sharp attack on Abhishek Banerjee.

Abhishek Banerjee purchased a chartered flight for his personal travel from the money donated by the ordinary party workers of Trinamool Congress.



STUDENTS' VOICES MUST BE RESPECTED: PASWAN

NEW DELHI

Union Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag Paswan on Tuesday said he respects the sentiments of students and does not believe in suppressing their voices through force, asserting that dialogue remains the most effective way to address their concerns.

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief made the remarks in the aftermath of the violent clashes that erupted on Monday between Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) supporters and security personnel during the 'San-sad Chalo' march in Delhi.

Speaking to reporters, Paswan said that while students were naturally upset over the issues that prompted the protest, their concerns deserved to be heard with sensitivity rather than met with force.

Look, the way the protest took place yesterday, I respect the sentiments of the students. It is natural that they would have anger and concerns over these issues, which is why they came out on the streets. But at the same time, I am absolutely

not in favour of any attempt to suppress the voices of students through force, he said.

Referring to the meeting between Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and representatives of the CJP, Paswan said the Centre has consistently preferred dialogue as the means to resolve disputes and has remained open to engaging with those seeking discussions.

Dialogue is a beautiful medium, and the government has always kept its doors open for it.

When their representatives wanted to meet the government, J.P. Nadda ji met them, and the issues were discussed, he said.

Paswan further observed that public anger often drives people to take to the streets and noted that peaceful demonstrations are an integral part of a democratic system.

At the same time, he said that when protests cross permissible limits or create law-and-order challenges, authorities are sometimes compelled to take stringent measures, although he personally does not strongly support such action.



SC asks AIIMS Medical Board to examine Asaram's health

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to constitute a medical board within a week to examine the health condition of self-styled godman Asaram Bapu in connection with his plea seeking interim bail on medical grounds.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and P.B. Varale directed the medical board to submit its detailed report within one week, saying that it would decide Asaram's prayer for interim bail only after receiving an independent assessment of his medical condition. We are not granting regular bail except if we are satisfied it is required on a medical ground. Let the report come, the Justice Sundresh-led Bench observed.

Government of Karnataka	
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KALABURAGI	
No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRD/TS-1/2026/27/1729	Date : 17/06/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION	
(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)	
1. Name of work : 1) Construction of CC Road, CC Drain, Temples and play ground in various places at Satnoor Village in Chittapur Taluka Indent No.24388/Call-2, 2. Construction of road from Bennesiroor Village to Kulali village in Aland Taluka Indent No. 22723/Call-2, 3. Improvements to Road from Hulgol approach road (balance work) and improvements to road from Mudhol -Medak main road towards Gaddamedda Tanda in Sedam Taluka Indent No.17821/call-5, 4. Development of Sri Sri Siddlingeshwar Matha at Ravor village in Chittapur taluka Indent No.26757/call-2, 2. Head of account : Gram Vikas /5054/CMIDP , 3. Amount put to tender : 24388/Call-2 Rs.5330231.14, 27273/Call-2 Rs.7555826.72, 17821/Call-5 Rs.8376371.89, 26757Call -2 Rs.12543839.31 , 4. Class of Contractor : Class-III and Above, 5. Issue of Blank Tender Documents : 18.07.2026 to 29.07.2026 upto 4.00 pm , 6. Tender Form Fee : As per KPPP Norms, 7.E.M.D. Fee : 24388/Call-2 - Rs.107000.00, 27273/Call-2 - Rs.151500.00, 17821/Call-5 - Rs.168000.00, 26757Call 2 - Rs.200000.00 , 8.Receipt of completed tender documents : 18.07.2026 to 29.07.2026 upto 4.00 pm , 9. Technical Bid Opening Date : 30-07-2026 After 4.00 pm , 10. Financial Bid opening Date : 31-07-2026 After 11.00 am , 11: For more details contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi , 12 Website Address : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in	
DIPR/Kalaburagi/342/ Deshpande Publicity/2026-27	Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Kalaburagi

	KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3 rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.	
Tender Notification (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)	
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.	
Construction of Post Matric Girls Hostel at Gadag, Gadag District (BCWD 1986). Work Indent & IFT No. KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 768 & IFT No.35/2026-27 Date: 20.07.2026. Amount put to tender: Rs.3,00,35,328/-.	
Last date for submission of bid: 21.08.2026 up to 4 PM	
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	
DIPR/CP/1748 /AKAR/2026-27	Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

	BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-01, Mayo Hall, M.G. Road, PU Building, 17th Floor, Bangalore-560001	
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE	
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)	
Ref : BCCC/SADH (Zone-01)/TENDER/81/2026-27, Dated:06.07.2026	
In W.P. No. 21766/2026 filed against the tender notifications related to the maintenance of parks, the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court has granted a stay on the tender notifications from Annexure-B to X in the interim order dated 16.07.2026 till the next date of hearing: 29.07.2026 .	
In view of the said interim order and with the aim of avoiding further legal complications, the said tender notifications will be cancelled and, if necessary, a fresh tender will be called in accordance with the final order of the court.	
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-1), BCCC	

QUICK READ

Pak revises fuel prices amid global oil volatility

Islamabad
Pakistan's federal government on Tuesday increased the price of high-speed diesel by PKR 5.71 per litre and reduced petrol by 35 paise per litre for one day. Diesel now costs PKR 360.06 per litre, while petrol is priced at PKR 315.80 per litre. The government has introduced daily fuel price revisions based on global oil market trends. Recent fuel price changes have already led to higher public transport fares, increased freight charges, and protests from petrol pump operators across the country.

Flash floods kill 9 across Khyber province

Islamabad
At least nine people died after heavy rains and flash floods caused widespread destruction across Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday. The deaths were reported in Khyber, Mardan and Bajaur districts. Floods damaged roads, bridges, homes, shops, farms and crops, while electricity, communication and traffic were badly affected. Rescue teams recovered several bodies, including those of a woman and a child. A video showing a man being swept away by strong floodwaters in Khyber also went viral on social media.

Deadly floods leave 20 dead in Afghan

Kabul
At least 20 people were killed and more than 80 injured after severe floods hit Parun city in Afghanistan's Nuristan province on Tuesday. Taliban authorities said over 100 people are still missing, raising fears that the death toll may increase. Floodwaters destroyed homes, shops and farmland, causing major financial losses. Rescue teams have been sent to search for missing people, assess the damage and provide emergency assistance as operations continue in the affected areas.

‘India shapes global agenda with growing influence’

‘India is one of the oldest and greatest civilisations, with a heritage that has enriched the world through its culture, philosophy and historical monuments’

SKOPJE

North Macedonia President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova praised India's global leadership, democratic values and economic progress while calling for stronger bilateral ties and cooperation.

North Macedonia President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova on Tuesday described India as one of the world's most influential nations, praising its rich civilisation, democratic strength and rapid economic growth. Speaking at a joint press conference with President Droupadi Murmu in Skopje, she said the discussions between the two leaders were warm, open and focused on expanding future cooperation between the two countries.

Davkova said India is one of the oldest and greatest civilisations, with a heritage that has enriched the world through its culture, philosophy and historical monu-



ments. She highlighted landmarks such as the Himalayas, the Taj Mahal and ancient temples, while praising the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Ravi Shankar and filmmaker Satyajit Ray. She noted that India has successfully preserved its history while becoming a global leader in innovation, technology and scientific achievements. Calling India the world's largest democracy and one of the fastest-growing economies, she said the country plays a major role in shaping the global agenda.

The North Macedonia

President said both leaders agreed to strengthen political dialogue and expand cooperation between governments, ministers, parliaments and institutions. She added that there is still great untapped potential in bilateral relations.

Davkova also described India's economic transformation as one of the most remarkable success stories of the 21st century. She expressed confidence that stronger economic ties would complement the excellent political relationship and create new opportunities for businesses and investments in both countries.

India-North Macedonia boost economic ties

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said India and North Macedonia have agreed to strengthen trade, investment and business cooperation. During talks with President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, both leaders discussed collaboration in IT, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, tourism and filmmaking. They also agreed to double bilateral trade. Murmu said her historic visit would begin a new chapter in relations and welcomed North Macedonia's interest in joining India's global sustainable development initiatives.

MEA greets Miliband, eyes stronger India-UK relations

LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday congratulated Ed Miliband on his appointment as the United Kingdom's new Foreign Secretary and expressed confidence that India and the UK would continue to deepen their strategic partnership.

He said he looked forward to working closely with Miliband to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries across several important sectors.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has gained strong momentum in recent years, especially after the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). He added that both countries have made steady progress in expanding bilateral cooperation.

Ed Miliband, who was



elected as Member of Parliament for Doncaster North in 2005, officially took charge as the UK's Foreign Secretary on Monday. Before this, he served as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero from July 2024 to July 2026. He has also held several senior government positions, including Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and Leader of the Labour Party.

During his tenure as Energy Secretary, Miliband worked closely with India on clean energy initiatives. Last year, he co-chaired the Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue with Union Minister

India-UK energy cooperation

India and the United Kingdom have expanded cooperation in renewable energy, offshore wind and green hydrogen. The two countries recently launched the UK-India Offshore Wind Taskforce to support clean energy projects, improve supply chains and encourage investment.

Manohar Lal. The meeting reviewed cooperation in renewable energy, power and green technologies. Both countries also launched the UK-India Offshore Wind Taskforce to promote offshore wind projects, supply chains and financing models while strengthening cooperation in green hydrogen and energy innovation.

Pak sets up cryptocurrency unit to fight fin crimes

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has created a new cryptocurrency investigation unit to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing through digital currency transactions.

The move aims to strengthen oversight of virtual assets and improve the country's ability to tackle financial crimes involving cryptocurrencies.

FIA Counter-Terrorism Wing Director Dr. Muhammad Athar Waheed said the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority would continue regulating digital assets, while the newly formed unit would investigate their possible use in criminal activities.

The cryptocurrency investigation unit will function under the FIA's newly established National Command and Control Centre.

Trump weighs ceasefire or fresh military action

WASHINGTON DC

US President Donald Trump is considering two options as tensions between the United States and Iran continue to rise, he is deciding whether to support a proposed 10-day ceasefire or continue military action with Israel.

The ceasefire proposal has been put forward by mediators from Qatar, Egypt, Pakistan and other regional countries. It includes a temporary stop to fighting, reopening the Strait of Hormuz for global shipping and creating time for talks on a long-term maritime agreement.

Reports said the Trump administration is reviewing the proposal and has asked Israel not to take actions that could affect diplomatic efforts. However, the United States has also strengthened its military presence by sending more fighter aircraft and refuelling planes to the region. Israel is also preparing for possible military operations if talks fail.

Neither the United States nor Iran has accepted the proposal so far.



Iran confirmed that mediators are working to reduce tensions but said its armed forces would continue responding to what it called American aggression

Key points

- Trump considering ceasefire or military campaign.
- Mediators proposed a 10-day truce.
- Strait of Hormuz reopening is part of the plan.
- US and Iran have not accepted the proposal.
- Military build-up continues despite diplomatic efforts.

BNM seeks global action over missing Baloch leader

Quetta: The Baloch National Movement (BNM) has called for international action over the alleged enforced disappearance of its senior leader, Ustad Wahid Kambar Baloch. In a statement released on X, the organisation marked two years since his reported disappearance and demanded that he be produced before the public immediately.

BNM alleged that Ustad Wahid Kambar Baloch has been in the custody of the Pakistan Army for the past two years.

It claimed he should be treated as a prisoner of war under international humanitarian law. According to the organisation, he was allegedly abducted on July 19, 2024, from Kerman in Iran.

Indian jailed for Singapore diamond theft attempt

SINGAPORE

An Indian national has been sentenced to two years, two months and two weeks in jail for stealing a valuable diamond from a jewellery store in Singapore. His alleged accomplice will appear in court on Friday in connection with the same case.

Mangroliya Manojkumar Kurjibhai, 41, pleaded guilty to stealing a 4.95-carat diamond worth about SGD 200,000 (USD 154,000) from a jewellery store in Chinatown. According to court documents, he and Serasiya Milan Ramnikbhai, 30, travelled from India to Singapore after

planning the theft in advance.

Before leaving India, the two reportedly arranged for a fake diamond to be made in Surat with the same specifications and serial number as the original stone. At the store, Mangroliya distracted the sales manager while Milan secretly replaced the real diamond with the fake one and hid the genuine stone.

The theft was captured on CCTV cameras. After the pair left the shop, staff checked the diamond and discovered it was counterfeit. The suspects then returned to their hotel, checked out early and booked

a flight to India.

However, they were arrested at Changi Airport while trying to leave Singapore. Police recovered the genuine diamond from Milan's bag before the flight.

Prosecutors told the court that the crime was carefully planned and carried out only after the accused entered Singapore for that purpose. During sentencing, Mangroliya requested leniency, saying he has two children in India. The offence carries a maximum punishment of seven years' imprisonment and a fine.



Indian-UN diplomats still displaced over building safety

NEW YORK

Indian diplomats posted at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations continue to remain displaced three weeks after their mission building was evacuated because of structural concerns at a nearby high-rise building in Manhattan.

The mission building, which includes offices and residential apartments for diplomats and their families, was evacuated on July 7 after safety concerns were reported at the former Pfizer headquarters located across the street. Although evacuation orders

for most surrounding buildings were lifted within a day, the Indian mission, along with a nearby school and hotel, remains closed.

The continued closure has forced diplomats and their families to stay in temporary hotels across New York, creating major inconvenience and disrupting their daily lives. Despite these difficulties, mission officials have continued to perform their diplomatic duties without interruption. They also successfully managed External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United Nations on July 13.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

India-Aus deepen global air combat collab

CANBERRA

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is taking part in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia, strengthening defence ties and improving cooperation with partner nations. The multinational exercise also highlights the growing strategic partnership between India and Australia.

The IAF contingent met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the opening ceremony of Exercise Pitch Black 2026 at Darwin. The exercise, hosted by the Royal Australia



lian Air Force, brings together air forces from 19

nations for advanced multinational air combat train-

ing.

India has deployed four Rafale fighter aircraft along with nearly 100 Air Warriors, including pilots, engineers, technicians and other experts. The contingent is also supported by C-17 Globemaster III and IL-78 Air-to-Air Refuelling aircraft for combat support missions.

The exercise, scheduled from July 20 to August 7, focuses on enhancing interoperability, improving operational coordination and sharing best practices among participating na-

tions. It is regarded as the largest international air combat exercise in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its emphasis on night flying over northern Australia's vast open areas.

The Ministry of Defence said the exercise provides an excellent opportunity to test expeditionary air operations, strengthen multinational partnerships and improve operational readiness in realistic combat situations. The IAF has previously participated in the 2018, 2022 and 2024 editions of the exercise.

AFFIDAVIT

I, SRINIVASA GOWDA S V, Father of KUNAL S GOWDA Student of VIDYA JYOTHI SCHOOL. Residing at no 3287, 3rd cross 2nd main,pc extension,kolar. Stating that my name is wrongly entered in school records as SRINIVAS GOWDA S V in school records. My correct name is SRINIVASA GOWDA S V As per adhar card. Kindly correct the same.vide affidavit dated 21/07/2026 sworn to before Sri Venkateshappa N, BA, LLB, Advocate and notary public Government of India,kolar district SRINIVASA GOWDA SV (DEPONENT)

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

NAME CHANGE

I, RIYAZ AHMED, resident of No 4/1, 2nd Cross, Haines Road, Near Coles Park, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name to SYED RIYAZ AHMED, vide affidavit dated: 21.07.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJIV C alias C RAJIV alias RAJIV CHALAMCHARLA S/o C MADHUSUDANARAO, R/o No. 907, Casa Serene Apartment, Subroto Mukherjee Road, T Dasarahalli, Peenya Dasarahalli, Dasarahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560057, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJIV KUMARAN CHALAMCHARLA.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMED FAREED ANJUM AHMED, Resident of No.593, 8th Cross, 2nd Main, Vinobha Nagar, K G Halli, A C Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to MOHAMED FAREED ANJUM. Vide Affidavit Dated: 21.07.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

Kevin Keegan Dies at 75

England football legend Kevin Keegan died at 75 after battling stage four cancer, leaving behind an enduring legacy.

LONDON

Liverpool, Newcastle United and England football legend Kevin Keegan passed away at the age of 75, seven weeks after publicly revealing that he had been diagnosed with stage four cancer. His family confirmed the news, bringing an end to the life of one of English football's most celebrated figures.

Keegan enjoyed a remarkable playing career spanning nearly two decades, representing Scunthorpe United, Liverpool, Hamburg, Southampton and Newcastle United. Primarily an attacking midfielder who could also operate as a forward, he established himself as one of England's finest footballers and later went on to manage Newcastle United, Fulham, Manchester City and the England national team.

Newcastle United led the tributes, describing Keegan as



Key Hilights

Kevin Keegan dies aged 75.

Family confirms death after cancer battle.

Former England captain & manager.

Starred for Liverpool, Hamburg & Newcastle.

Newcastle United pays emotional tribute.

Remembered as one of England's greatest football figures.

world. His passion, ambition and deep connection with the North East made him a beloved figure whose influence extended far beyond the football pitch.

Newcastle said Keegan's legacy would not be measured merely by appearances or victories but by the memories he created, the dreams he inspired and the generations of supporters who fell in love with football because of him.

Tributes from across the footballing world are expected to continue as fans remember one of England's greatest football icons.

Charismatic Keegan wore his heart on his sleeve, on and off the pitch

LONDON

Kevin Keegan wore his heart on his sleeve as both a player and manager, and the fans loved him for it.

The former England forward, who has died of cancer at 75, combined charisma and impulsive passion with an ability to score the goals that mattered while never losing sight of where he had come from and what the game meant to so many.

The fans made me, former club Liverpool recalled their 'Mighty Mouse' as saying once. When they started singing my name... what am I, five foot seven with Cuban-heeled boots? But (because of them) I was six foot six.

Known also as 'King Kev', Keegan was hailed as a saviour on Tyneside when he returned to his old club as manager in 1992 to stave off relegation to the third tier and take the Magpies back to the top flight with the likes of Andy Cole, David Ginola and Peter Beardsley.

Keegan's father Joe had been a miner in a South Yorkshire colliery and was a Newcastle fan. In the 1995-96 season Newcastle had soared 12 points clear in the title race with their attacking approach, only to be caught and overtaken by Alex Ferguson's Manchester United.

The pressure took its toll on Keegan and he showed his vulnerability, and impulsiveness, with a finger-jabbing television rant after beating Leeds United 1-0 that has gone down in Premier League lore and is off-repeated.

KISS INHERITS WALLABIES SIDE WITH FAMILIAR PROBLEMS

MELBOURNE

Joe Schmidt would have liked to hand over a fully rebuilt Wallabies side to Les Kiss but instead the incoming coach will find a similar set of problems to the ones that greeted the New Zealander two years ago.

Schmidt took over a demoralised outfit in the wake of the 2023 World Cup in France where the Wallabies crashed to their first exit from the pool phase under the chaotic tenure of Eddie Jones.

Despite some notable wins, including the upset of world champions South Africa at Ellis Park last year, Schmidt departed with a record of 19 losses from 31 tests, the second-worst winning ratio among Wallabies coaches with 30 tests in charge.

After losing two of the three Nations Championship (NC) tests, the Wallabies are languishing at eighth in the world rankings, only one better than their low point after France 2023.

They signed off from the championship's Southern



Hemisphere leg over the weekend with a 57-10 win over Italy in Perth to farewell Schmidt in style.

But beating the 12th-ranked Italians, who were exhausted after a long tour and without their head coach due to a World Rugby ban, was small consolation following the home defeats by Ireland and France.

After the Wallabies conceded 30 unanswered points against the French in Brisbane, captain Harry Wilson spoke for many when he said the team had failed to deliver for their fans.

We're definitely bothered

by it; we're here to win and no team can sit there and say we're happy with being close and improving, he said.

The Wallabies played superb rugby in phases during all three matches but despite Schmidt's efforts to blood new players, a lack of depth continues to restrict them.

With erstwhile number 10 Noah Lesioles unselected while playing in Japan's second division, Joe Schmidt used debutant Declan Meredith as his starting flyhalf against France following injuries to Carter Gordon and Ben Donaldson against the Irish.

Delhi Edge Ahmedabad in UTT Thriller

Captain Sathiyam Gnanasekaran starred as Dabang Delhi TTC defeated Ahmedabad APL Pipers 9-6 to boost their playoff hopes.

PANAJI

Indian table tennis star Sathiyam Gnanasekaran produced a captain's performance as Dabang Delhi TTC defeated Ahmedabad APL Pipers 9-6 in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.

The former champions endured a closely contested encounter, with both teams exchanging early victories before Sathiyam took charge.



He first teamed up with Maria Xiao to secure a crucial mixed doubles win, giving Delhi a slender edge after the opening singles matches had ended evenly.

Delhi had made a positive start when Youssef Abdelaziz edged Adrien Rassenfosse in a thrilling three-game contest decided on the Golden Point. However, Ahmedabad quickly levelled the tie as Austrian star Sofia Polcanova defeated Maria Xiao in another Golden Point finish to continue her impressive campaign.

Match Highlights

RESULT

Dabang Delhi TTC beat Ahmedabad APL Pipers 9-6.

STAR PERFORMER

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran won both his singles and mixed doubles matches.

TURNING POINT

Delhi's mixed doubles victory shifted momentum before Sathiyam sealed the tie with a dominant singles display.

IMPACT

Delhi registered their third win of the season and boosted their playoff hopes.

The decisive moment came in the mixed doubles, where Sathiyam and Xiao overcame Payas Jain and Polcanova to restore Delhi's advantage. Carrying that momentum

into his singles match, Sathiyam delivered one of his finest performances of the season. Having struggled against Payas in recent meetings, the experienced Indian paddler responded with a commanding straight-games victory to put Delhi firmly in control.

Ahmedabad captain Manika Batra ended the evening on a positive note by defeating Sutirtha Mukherjee in the final singles match, but the result was not enough to deny Delhi an important victory.

The win marked Delhi's third of the campaign and significantly strengthened their chances of qualifying for the playoffs in the seventh season of Ultimate Table Tennis, which features 42 players, including 14 Olympians.

ROAD TO GLASGOW Selva Eyes Glasgow Debut Glory

MUMBAI

Indian triple jumper Selva Prabhu is set to make his senior debut at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, marking a major milestone in his rapidly rising athletics career.

The 21-year-old has emerged as one of India's brightest talents in the men's triple jump after winning a silver medal at the World U20 Championships and establishing himself as an NCAA champion in the United States. As he prepares to compete at his first senior multi-sport event, Selva described the opportunity to represent India as both an honour and a responsibility.

Having spent the last few years competing in the highly competitive NCAA circuit, Selva believes the experience has significantly improved every aspect of his game. Regular competition against world-class athletes and guid-



It's a huge honour to represent India at my first senior multi-sport Games. My goal is to give my best and make my country proud.

Competing in the NCAA has helped me improve technically, physically and mentally, making me more confident for international competitions.

ance from experienced coaches have helped him become stronger technically, physically and mentally, giving him the confidence to perform on the international stage.

In the build-up to the Glasgow Games, Selva has focused on refining his speed, rhythm and technique. He said consistency across all three phases of the triple jump has been the priority during training while ensuring peak physical fitness.

Despite acknowledging the high standard of competition in the men's triple jump, Selva remains focused on deliv-

ering his best performance rather than worrying about the opposition. He believes executing his jumps well could help him achieve a mark close to or beyond his personal best.

Selva also credited the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) for playing an important role in his development and preparations for the Commonwealth Games. With his first senior multi-sport appearance approaching, the young jumper hopes to gain valuable experience while making India proud on one of athletics' biggest stages.

MLB roundup: Red Sox edge Orioles for 14th straight win

BOSTON

Caleb Durbin hit a tiebreaking solo home run to break in the eighth inning as the Boston Red Sox extended their winning streak to 14 games by beating the visiting Baltimore Orioles, 6-5.

The streak is the second longest in club history and one short of the franchise record set in 1946.

Durbin's homer came against reliever Tyler Wells (2-2) and broke a 5-5 tie. It was his 10th home run of the season. Baltimore had runners on second and third with two outs in the ninth, but Tyler O'Neill lined out to shortstop to end the game. Garrett Whitlock (5-1) pitched a scoreless eighth to earn the win. Aroldis Chapman worked the ninth for his 22nd save.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered and Gunnar Henderson had three doubles for the Orioles, who committed four errors. The loss ended Baltimore's seven-game winning streak.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered twice as New



York played one of its best games at home of late to beat Pittsburgh.

The Yankees won for the third time in their past 12 home games and scored its most runs in a home game since a 10-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox on June 17 thanks to Chisholm, who homered in the first and third off Pittsburgh's Braxton Ashcraft (9-4) and produced his 10th career multi-homer game.

Chisholm's second homer occurred after rookie Esmerlyn Valdez hit a 431-foot two-run home run that gave the Pirates a 5-4 lead in the top of the third. Valdez's drive to right gave him an RBI in eight straight games and 13 homers in the first 32 games of his career.

FIFA to investigate WC final post-match brawl

NEW JERSEY

FIFA has appointed a disciplinary and ethics prosecutor to investigate the post-match brawl that erupted after Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 after extra time to win the FIFA World Cup.

The ill-tempered final ended in controversy after Spain secured their second World Cup title through an extra-time winner from winger Ferran Torres. Emotions ran high throughout the closing stages, with Argentina already down to 10 players after midfielder Enzo Fernandez was sent off in the 93rd minute of normal time following a second yellow card.

Tensions spilled over immediately after the final whistle when Argentine midfielder Leandro Paredes became involved in a confrontation with several Spanish players, in-

cluding defender Eric Garcia and midfielder Gavi. The altercation quickly escalated into a mass brawl involving players from both teams, with pushing and shoving breaking out on the pitch.

Coaching staff and match officials rushed to intervene as players from both sides exchanged heated words before being physically separated. Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni was seen attempting to calm his players and restore order following the chaotic scenes.

In response to the incident, FIFA has initiated disciplinary proceedings by appointing a prosecutor from its disciplinary and ethics department to investigate the events that unfolded after the match. The governing body has not indicated when the inquiry will be completed or whether any players or officials could face



sanctions.

The investigation is expected to examine video footage, match reports and other evidence before determining whether disciplinary action is warranted against those involved in the post-match vio-

lence.

FIFA has launched an investigation into the post-match brawl following Spain's World Cup final victory over Argentina, with disciplinary action likely after chaotic scenes.

QUICK READ



Kharif Sowing Drops As Pulses Area Shrinks

New Delhi

India's kharif crop sowing fell by 6.04 per cent to 658.19 lakh hectares as of July 17 compared to the same period last year, according to the Agriculture Ministry. The biggest decline was seen in pulses, where sowing dropped by over 15 per cent. Rice acreage fell slightly, while coarse cereals and oilseeds also recorded lower coverage. Bajra, soybean and groundnut sowing declined, raising concerns about crop production during the current kharif season.

Domestic Air Travel Records Steady Growth This Year

New Delhi

India's domestic airlines carried 864.04 lakh passengers during January-June 2026, up 1.44 per cent from 851.74 lakh passengers in the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. However, passenger traffic in June fell slightly by 1.03 per cent to 134.64 lakh from May. Among airlines, Akasa Air recorded the highest passenger load factor at 92.2 per cent, followed by SpiceJet, Air India Group and IndiGo, showing strong demand for domestic air travel.

Lupin Licenses Two Cancer Drug Programmes To Kaveri

New Delhi

Lupin Limited's US subsidiary, Lupin Inc., has licensed two cancer drug programmes to Kaveri Therapeutics Inc., a newly formed US company, in a deal valued at USD 1.6 million. In return, Lupin Inc. received an 82.2 per cent equity stake in Kaveri Therapeutics through 332,000 common shares. The agreement, completed on July 20, 2026, gives Kaveri Therapeutics exclusive and permanent rights to develop the two oncology programmes.

FCNR Deposits Set to Boost Banking Liquidity and Credit

Mumbai

Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNR(B) deposits in India could reach between USD 50 billion and USD 70 billion, helping improve liquidity and reduce funding pressure on banks, according to global brokerages. Jefferies, UBS and Macquarie said the Reserve Bank of India's recent FCNR(B) measures have received a stronger-than-expected response from overseas depositors.

Trump Revises Aluminium Tariffs To Boost Domestic Industry

President Donald Trump has announced new aluminium import tariff changes to strengthen national security and encourage more domestic aluminium production

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to revise tariffs on aluminium imports. The White House said the move is aimed at protecting America's national security and increasing investment in the country's aluminium industry.

According to the administration, aluminium is an essential material used in military equipment such as armoured vehicles, naval ships, spacecraft, missiles and other strategic defence systems. These products require high-strength aluminium alloys made from primary aluminium, but current US production is not enough to meet



domestic demand.

The proclamation directs the Secretary of Commerce to introduce an incentive programme for companies willing to build, expand or modernise aluminium smelters in the United States. Approved companies will be allowed to import a matching quantity of primary aluminium at a tariff rate that is half the normal Section 232 duty.

The Commerce Department will review investment

The new policy offers lower import tariffs to companies investing in US aluminium production facilities. Officials say the plan will increase domestic manufacturing, improve the supply of primary aluminium for defence needs, create new jobs and reduce reliance on imports. Companies must complete approved investment plans to continue receiving tariff benefits under the programme.

plans and monitor whether companies fulfil their commitments. Businesses failing

to meet approved targets may lose the reduced tariff benefits, including those already granted.

The White House said the decision supports the reshoring of aluminium production and reduces dependence on foreign suppliers. It added that since returning to office, President Trump has strengthened tariffs on key sectors, including steel, copper, automobiles, trucks, timber, lumber and pharmaceuticals, to support American manufacturing.

The administration also claimed that its tariff policies have encouraged trillions of dollars in domestic and foreign investment, helping create jobs, strengthen supply chains and improve the country's industrial base.

Markets Open Lower Amid Global Tensions And Foreign Fund Outflows

MUMBAI

Indian benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty opened lower on Tuesday as selling in heavyweight HDFC Bank, continued foreign fund outflows and rising geopolitical tensions affected investor confidence.

The BSE Sensex fell 58.89 points to 77,649.63 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty slipped 22.45 points to 24,216.05. Shares of HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti and Eternal were among the major losers.

HDFC Bank declined for the second straight session after its quarterly results disappointed investors due to weaker margins. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) also remained net sellers, offloading equities worth ₹1,121.04 crore on Monday.

India, UK Deepen Trade; Milk MSP Unchanged

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday congratulated Jonathan Reynolds on his appointment as the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. Goyal said he looks forward to working with Reynolds to strengthen trade and investment ties between India and the UK following the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on July 15.

Meanwhile, Andy Burnham became Britain's 59th Prime Minister after Keir Starmer resigned. Speaking after taking office, Burnham said Britain must restore political stability and rebuild public confidence in the political system.

In another development, the Centre informed Parliament that there is no proposal to introduce a Minimum Support



Price (MSP) for milk. Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh said milk prices will continue to be decided by cooperatives and private dairies based on market conditions.

The government said it has taken several steps to support dairy farmers by expanding cooperative societies, increasing milk chilling and processing capacity, and improving quality testing. India produced 248 million metric tonnes of milk during 2024-25, about 69 per cent higher than in 2014-15. Officials said improvements in breeding programmes, artificial insemination and dairy.

Dairy Sector Receives Major Infrastructure Boost

The government has expanded village-level dairy infrastructure by establishing over 36,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies and strengthening more than 31,000 existing ones. It has also increased milk chilling and processing capacity, distributed quality testing devices and promoted breed improvement programmes. These measures aim to support dairy farmers, improve milk quality and strengthen organised milk procurement across India.

India Approves First Dengue Vaccine To Strengthen Disease Prevention Efforts

NEW DELHI

India has approved its first dengue vaccine, marking a major milestone in the country's fight against one of the fastest-growing mosquito-borne diseases. The Health Ministry announced on Tuesday that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has granted marketing approval for Qdenga, a vaccine developed by Takeda GmbH of Germany and imported by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd.

Qdenga is a live, attenuated tetravalent vaccine designed to protect against all four types of the dengue

virus. Developed using recombinant DNA technology, the vaccine is supplied as a freeze-dried powder and is given as a subcutaneous injection.

The vaccine has been approved for people aged between four and 60 years. The vaccination schedule includes two doses of 0.5 ml each, administered three months apart.

The approval follows detailed scientific evaluation of the vaccine's quality, safety and effectiveness under India's drug regulations. The decision is supported by results from global clinical studies conducted in more than eight countries, including Brazil, Thailand



and Sri Lanka, along with a Phase III clinical trial carried out in India.

Qdenga has already been approved in 42 countries, including the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. It has also received World Health Organization pre-qualification, with more than 24 million doses distributed worldwide.

The Health Ministry said the vaccine will support existing dengue control measures such as mosquito control, disease surveillance, early diagnosis and timely treatment. Officials stressed that vaccination will complement, not replace, preventive steps like eliminating mosquito breeding sites and using personal protection against mosquito bites across communities.

Government Rules Out Milk MSP, Continues Market-Based Pricing Policy Nationwide

NEW DELHI

The Central Government has said there is no proposal to introduce a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk, stating that prices will continue to be decided by cooperatives and private dairy companies based on market conditions. The information was shared in the Lok Sabha by Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, also known as Lalan Singh.

The minister said the government is taking several steps to protect dairy farmers, ensure fair milk prices, improve milk quality and safeguard consumer interests across the country.

To strengthen the organised dairy sector, the gov-

SBI Funds Expands Investment Products And Customer Reach

MUMBAI

SBI Funds Management plans to introduce new products under its Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) business while strengthening its fund management and fundraising capabilities, Chief Executive Officer Debasish Mishra said after the company's listing ceremony.

Mishra said the AIF segment is one of the company's major growth areas and significant investments are being made to expand its offerings. He added that the company will soon announce new product capabilities, particularly in Category II AIFs, which continue to see strong growth across the investment industry.

SBI Chairman C.S. Setty said the company will continue to focus on its core mutual fund business while gradually expanding its range of financial products. He noted that mutual fund investors currently make up less than four per cent of SBI's total customer base, leaving strong growth opportunities.

Setty said SBI Funds Management would continue to develop products through its own subsidiaries to ensure better quality, greater control and customer suitability. He

SBI Funds Management plans to strengthen its Alternative Investment Fund business, launch new products and expand its wealth management customer base by 2030

- New AIF products to be introduced soon.
- Focus on expanding Category II AIF business.
- Mutual funds remain the company's core business.
- Target of 1.4 million wealth customers by 2030.
- Royalty and commission policies will remain unchanged.

also clarified that the company's royalty and commission policies would remain unchanged after its stock market listing and would continue to match industry standards.

The company has set a target of reaching around 1.4 million wealth management customers by 2030. Setty added that SBI follows an open architecture approach in wealth management, offering carefully selected products that best meet the needs of high-net-worth individuals.

India Expands Public EV Charging Network Across The Country Rapidly

NEW DELHI

India now has 52,718 public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, including 16,561 fast charging stations for electric cars, the Centre informed Parliament on Tuesday. The government said it is expanding charging infrastructure to reduce range anxiety and encourage more people to adopt electric vehicles.

Minister of State for Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said the Ministry of Heavy Industries has allocated ₹912.50 crore under the FAME-II scheme and ₹2,000 crore under the PM E-DRIVE scheme to establish public EV charging

stations, especially in cities and along national highways.

The Ministry of Power has also issued the "Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure 2024" to ensure a connected and standardised charging network across the country. Setting up EV charging stations has also been made an unlicensed activity, making it easier for private companies to build charging facilities. The government clarified that electric cars are not covered under the PM E-DRIVE scheme because they receive support under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components.



ernment established 36,283 new Dairy Cooperative Societies at the village level by March 2026 and strengthened another 31,150 societies. It also created milk chilling capacity of 168 lakh litres per day and distributed 76,748 milk quality testing devices. Projects with a processing and value-added capacity of 418 lakh litres per day have also been approved.

India's milk production

reached 248 million metric tonnes during 2024-25, compared to 146 million metric tonnes in 2014-15, an increase of nearly 69 per cent. The government credited the growth to breed improvement programmes, free artificial insemination, sex-sorted semen and in-vitro fertilisation. Around 17.27 crore artificial inseminations have been carried out, increasing coverage from 20 per cent to 42 per cent and improving milk productivity by 67 per cent.

The minister added that FSSAI continues nationwide monitoring of milk quality through State Food Safety Authorities while the government expands organised milk procurement and strengthens dairy infrastructure across rural India for sustained growth.

Gold Futures Climb Nearly One Percent Amid Global Uncertainty And Talks

NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose sharply in futures trade on Tuesday as investors closely monitored diplomatic efforts to ease tensions between the United States and Iran. Strong global trends also supported the rise in bullion prices.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for August delivery gained ₹988, or nearly one per cent, to ₹1,42,376 per 10 grams in early trade. Analysts said improving global sentiment and expectations surrounding the US-Iran talks

influenced market movement.

In the international market, Comex gold futures for August delivery increased by USD 66.30, or nearly two per cent, to USD 4,082.20 per ounce. Experts said reports that Iran had received a proposal for a 10-day ceasefire helped gold recover from recent lows.

Market analysts noted that investors remain cautious because of concerns over energy prices, inflation and the possibility of further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. A strong US dollar has also limited the metal's gains in recent weeks.

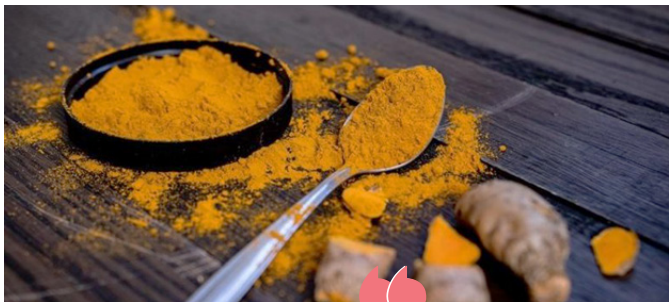
MARKET WATCH

Turmeric Prices Rise Amid Drought Supply Concerns

ERODE

Turmeric prices in Tamil Nadu's major trading centre of Erode have climbed close to ₹20,000 per quintal as lower arrivals, strong demand and fears of drought continue to tighten supplies. Traders say prices may increase further if monsoon rains remain weak and cultivation declines during the next growing season.

The finger variety of turmeric touched ₹19,779 per quintal on Monday, compared to ₹15,199 on June



19 and around ₹14,000 in April. The bulb variety also recorded a sharp rise, reaching ₹17,632 per quintal after trading near ₹14,000 in April. Traders said fresh arriv-

"Good prices alone cannot encourage cultivation when farmers face serious water shortages."

- K.R. Sudandhirarasu, President of the Tamil Nadu Small and Micro Farmer Association

als from major producing states, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra, have almost ended. The next major arrivals are expected only in February 2027, adding to concerns about supply.

M. Sathyamurthy, Secretary of the Erode Turmeric Merchants and Godown Owners' Association, said, "If rainfall remains poor, cultivation may decline further and prices could continue to rise."

He added that wholesalers have started stocking

turmeric in anticipation of lower production next season.

Farmers, however, said the price increase has brought little benefit because many had already sold their produce before the recent rally.

Market experts believe adequate rainfall could stabilise prices, but prolonged drought conditions may reduce cultivation further and push turmeric prices above previous record levels in the coming months across producing regions.:::

Fernandez Vows To Fight On

Enzo Fernandez has thanked Argentina fans after the WC final defeat to Spain, promising to continue giving everything for his country despite the heartbreaking end to their title defence.

NEW YORK

Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez has pledged to continue giving his all for the national team after breaking his silence following the heartbreaking FIFA World Cup final defeat to Spain. The Chelsea star reflected on the campaign, thanked supporters for their unwavering backing and promised to keep serving Argentina with pride despite the painful loss.

Argentina's title defence came to an end after a 1-0 extra-time defeat to Spain at New York New Jersey Stadium on Monday. Ferran Torres scored the decisive goal for the European champions, who lifted the trophy after a closely contested final.

Fernandez endured a difficult evening as he was sent off in second-half stoppage time. The midfielder had already been booked for dissent before receiving a second yellow card for a late challenge on Spain defender Pau Cubarsi,



leaving Lionel Scaloni's side with 10 men during the closing moments of the match.

A day after the final, Fernandez shared an emotional message on Instagram, saying the team's journey meant more than the result alone. He praised the spirit of the squad, saying they had always represented Argentina with pride,

humility and determination while competing at the highest level.

The 25-year-old also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Argentina's supporters, acknowledging their constant encouragement throughout the tournament and for making the players feel at home wherever they played.

Highlight of The Campaign:

Argentina lost 1-0 to Spain after extra time.

Ferran Torres scored the winning goal.

Fernandez was sent off after two yellow cards.

Midfielder thanked Argentina supporters.

Vowed to keep giving everything for his country.

Despite the disappointment of falling short in the final, Fernandez reaffirmed his commitment to the national team. He described wearing Argentina's jersey as the greatest honour of his career and promised to continue giving everything every time he is called upon to represent his country.

Samson Opens Up On Heartbreak

NEW DELHI

India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has candidly spoken about the disappointment of missing out on India's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, revealing that he realised his chances had faded after Ishan Kishan's outstanding performances during the series against New Zealand.

Speaking to JioStar, Samson recalled how the selection race shifted dramatically in Kishan's favour after the Jharkhand batter grabbed his opportunity with both hands. Kishan, who was initially outside the playing XI, impressed with a series of impactful knocks, including a half-century and a century, making a strong case for World Cup selection.

In contrast, Samson endured a difficult five-match

series, registering scores of 24, 6, 6, 10 and 0. Looking back, the Kerala batter admitted it became obvious that the selectors would back the player in better form ahead of the global tournament.

The 31-year-old described the setback as one of the harsh realities of representing India, where fortunes can change overnight. He said that despite previously enjoying a remarkable run in T20s, including three centuries in seven matches, he never felt his place in the team was guaranteed.

Samson also reflected on the emotional toll of the experience, saying he had devoted himself completely to training and preparation with the goal of securing a World Cup berth.



Sanju Samson admitted he knew his T20 WC dream was over after Ishan Kishan surged ahead with match-winning performances.

WORLD JUNIORS SQUASH Begin Juniors Campaign Strongly

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

India made an impressive start to their campaign at the World Squash Junior Championships, with top seed Anahat Singh leading a series of commanding performances as several Indian players advanced to the next round in both the men's and women's singles events.

Anahat, India's biggest medal hope and the top seed in the women's draw, began her quest to become the country's first-ever junior world champion with a dominant straight-game victory over Australia's Lilly Wilson. The 17-year-old needed little time to wrap up the contest, winning 11-2, 11-1, 11-3 to comfortably move into the second round.

Saanvi Kalanki produced one of India's most hard-fought wins of the day. Facing the Netherlands' Elcke Mols, Kalanki battled through a five-game thriller, eventually prevailing 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6 after twice surrendering her lead before sealing the decider.

Anika Dubey also advanced with an impressive 11-7, 11-3, 11-5 victory over Japan's Anna Kuwahara, while Rudra Singh progressed after receiving a walkover from Nigeria's Khadija Abdulraheem.

In the men's section, Aryaveer Dewan, Yusha Nafees and Gurveer Singh, who



Anahat Singh, India's top seed, kept her dream of becoming the country's first junior world champion alive with a commanding opening-round victory.

India's men's team enters the championships after ending a 13-year medal drought with a bronze medal in Cairo last year.

had received first-round byes, all secured victories to reach the third round. Aryaveer defeated Germany's Levi Visser in straight games, Yusha overwhelmed Brazil's Matheus Frabetti without dropping a point in any game, while Gurveer overcame Ireland's Christian Dromgoole in four games. Purav Rambhia, however, bowed out after losing to England's Ronnie Hickling.

The individual competition runs until July 25 before the men's and women's team events begin on July 26, with India's men's side aiming to build on last year's bronze-medal finish.

ARGENTINA RECEIVE HEROES' WELCOME HOME

EZEIZA

Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 runners-up received a rousing reception upon returning home after their narrow 1-0 defeat to Spain in the final at MetLife Stadium in New York. Despite missing out on retaining the world title, the national team was greeted with overwhelming support from fans who turned out in large numbers to honour their efforts.

The delegation arrived at Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza, where a red carpet reception and a military band from the Grenadier Regiment welcomed the players and coaching staff.

The band played the popular anthem Muchachos as coach Lionel Scaloni and his squad stepped onto Argentine soil.

Thousands of supporters gathered outside the Argentine Football Association (AFA) headquarters near the airport, waving flags, chanting and wearing the iconic No. 10 jersey in tribute to captain Lionel Messi. However, Messi was not part of the returning delegation after the AFA confirmed that several players would travel separately.

Among those who returned were Emiliano Martinez, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martinez, Alexis Mac Allister, Leandro Paredes, Nicolas Ta-



gliafico, Gonzalo Montiel, Thiago Almada, Giovani Lo Celso and several other members of the World Cup squad.

The players travelled in an open-top bus under heavy security to the Lionel Andres Messi Training Centre, acknowledging cheering sup-

porters along the route. Families, children and football fans lined the streets for hours, carrying flags, drums and banners to thank the team for another memorable World Cup campaign.

Although Argentina fell short in the final, the emotion-

KEY HIGHLIGHT

- Argentina lost 1-0 to Spain after extra time.
- Team received a red-carpet welcome at Ezeiza Airport.
- Thousands of fans gathered to greet the squad.
- Lionel Messi did not travel back with the delegation.
- Players travelled in an open-top bus to the Lionel Andres Messi Training Centre.

al homecoming reflected the nation's appreciation for a squad that once again united the country with its resilience, commitment and fighting spirit.

Harmanpreet To Lead India Squad

NEW DELHI

Hockey India announced a 20-member men's squad for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, with ace defender and drag-flick specialist Harmanpreet Singh set to captain the side in the prestigious tournament to be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30.

The squad features a healthy blend of experienced campaigners and emerging talent as India aim to end their long wait for a World Cup title. Veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh, India's most-capped player, will provide valuable experience alongside several established internationals.

The goalkeeping responsibilities will be shared by Mohith HS and Suraj Karkera.

The defensive line includes Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit and Yashdeep Siwach.

India's midfield will revolve around the experienced trio of Manpreet Singh, Har-dik Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad, while Nilakanta Sharma, Rajinder Singh and Aditya Arjun Lalage add depth and youthful energy. The forward line comprises Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Shilanan Lakra.

Chief coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence in the squad, saying the players had earned their places through performances and possessed the right balance to challenge the world's best teams. He stressed that the team would approach the tournament one



match at a time while sticking to its Press, counter, perform philosophy.

India have been drawn in Pool D alongside England, Pakistan and Wales and will play all their league-stage matches in Amstelveen, Netherlands, as they target a place in the knockout rounds and a strong World Cup campaign.



‘They cannot touch Virat, Rohit if they want to play’: Ashwin backs senior stars for 2027 WC

NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has thrown his weight behind Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli amid renewed debate over their future, insisting the veteran duo have earned the right to decide when they step away from the game.

Speaking after Rohit's 138 in the series decider at Lord's against England, Ashwin said the two batting stalwarts remain untouchable as long as they are willing to continue representing India.

They cannot touch Virat and Rohit if they want to play. It is because of their credentials. Rohit has scored almost 12,000 runs; they cannot touch him. The other thing is that they are batters, and if you touch them, they have an army. People come to see them. If you drop them, it will just break the roof down, Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

Praising the former India captain's approach, Ashwin said Rohit looked in complete control once he settled into his innings and believed an even bigger score was within reach. This is a phenomenal knock. He was set after hitting that pull to Josh Tongue. I feel that this is Rohit's road to a comeback after an injury. If he were in a slightly better state or were more confident, he could have scored 180 and won the match for the team. I felt like Rohit was in really good form, he added.

Ashwin also suggested that Rohit's motivation now stems from his own desire to feature at the next ODI World Cup rather than from any need to answer critics or prove his credentials.

The position he is in and the way he batted, it's not that difficult for him. We have seen him for so many years; there's nothing left to prove. Whom does he have to prove? It is only about the internal appetite: I want to go to the World Cup, that's why I need to play like this, Ashwin stated.

‘Gambhir and team management have to be accountable’: Srikanth

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Krishnamachari Srikanth has called for accountability from head coach Gautam Gambhir and the team management following India's 2-1 ODI series defeat to England, questioning the side's preparation for the 2027 World Cup and criticising the frequent changes to the playing XI.

Speaking after England clinched the series with a 27-run win in the third ODI at Lord's, Srikanth said India's performances against stronger opposition should be the benchmark rather than victories over lower-ranked teams.

They'll win a T20 World Cup in between, they'll win a Champions Trophy, and then lavish praise on Gambhir. Whereas, Gambhir has



to be held accountable. The team management has to be accountable. They'll beat Zimbabwe, then beat Sri Lanka and the West Indies and then they will start saying that India is back in form. If you consider Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and West Indies games as crucial series, there's no scope for the team. Unfortunately, they'll keep doing this, Srikanth said on his YouTube channel. Srikanth also expressed concern over India's

ODI planning, pointing out that the limited number of matches before the next World Cup leaves little room for experimentation.

After this, there aren't many one-day matches. There are only a handful of one-day matches. After that, there will be the Australia series, IPL and the World Cup. Honestly speaking, this is not the way to prepare by chopping and changing. Shubman Gill himself gave a statement saying what can

we do if there are so many constant injuries. Every now and then the players are injured, he added.

The former opener was equally critical of India's batting order during the Lord's chase, arguing that KL Rahul should have been promoted instead of being pushed down to No. 6.

Will anyone send KL Rahul at No. 6 when chasing such a huge total? That guy has won you so many matches for you.

Just like you screwed up Sanju Samson and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, now you are screwing up KL Rahul.

