

Unincorporated Sector Expands Despite Uncertainty

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Bangladesh await fitness updates before Mackay Test



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Issue notice and come for discussion: CM tells Oppn

The Chief Minister defended his decision to induct Nagendra, saying he was ready to address every allegation raised by BJP members.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar urged the Opposition to follow legislative procedure, issue notice and allow a detailed discussion on Minister B Nagendra's resignation.

Speaking in the Legislative Council on Friday, Shivakumar criticised the Opposition for demanding Nagendra's resignation without giving notice or allowing a discussion in the House.

"There would be meaning if the Opposition protested by specifying the exact reason for demanding Nagendra's resignation.

Is there any meaning in demanding his resignation without issuing a notice and without even coming to the well of the House?" he asked.

The Chief Minister said Opposition members also held constitutional positions and should act responsibly in a democracy.

"There is no objection to the Opposition staging protests. When I was party president, I had approached Nagendra and obtained his resignation to facilitate an

Nagendra Resignation Row



Minister at centre of row: B Nagendra
Agencies cited: CBI, ED and SIT
CM's proposal: Two-day discussion
Demand: Opposition to issue notice
Forum: Karnataka Legislative Council

CM seeks debate, not disruption

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said the Opposition had every right to protest but should follow legislative procedures. He urged BJP members to issue a notice and participate in a detailed discussion on the allegations against B Nagendra. Shivakumar said he would answer their questions and explain why Nagendra was inducted into the Cabinet. He also warned that naming ministers facing cases could upset Opposition members.

"Please give notice. Let us discuss this for two days. I will answer all the questions, doubts and concerns of the Opposition."

— DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

investigation. Subsequently, the government conducted an inquiry.

Now they are again demanding his resignation. There is a proper procedure. Let them issue a no-

tice and come for a discussion," he said.

'What have you discovered?'

Shivakumar questioned what evidence the Opposition had against Nagendra and urged it to place all information before the House.

"Why should Nagendra resign? What have the Opposition members discovered?

What information do they possess? Let them inform the people through the House about what the CBI, ED and SIT have found," he said.

He said the issue could be discussed throughout the day if the Opposition gave notice, adding that there was no need to disrupt proceedings.

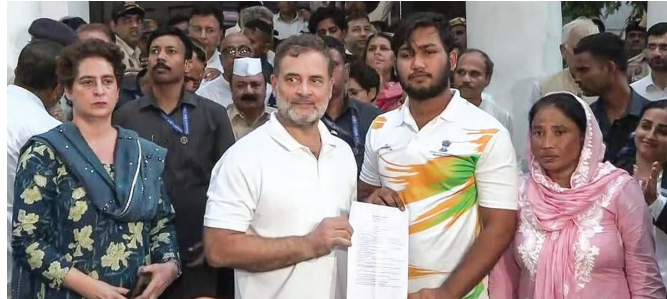
"If the Opposition gives us an opportunity, I will explain why I inducted Nagendra into the Cabinet. If they remain dissatisfied, they can continue their protest. But is it reasonable to call Nagendra corrupt, allege that money went to Rahul Gandhi's house and call the D K Shivakumar government corrupt without holding a discussion?" he asked.

'You may be upset if I name your leaders'

"Please give notice. Let us discuss this for two days. I will answer all your questions, doubts and concerns. You may feel bad if I name Union and State ministers against whom cases were registered and explain how the investigations were conducted," Shivakumar told BJP members.

Delhi Police files FIR over pellet injuries after Rahul's dharna

The FIR followed Rahul Gandhi's prolonged protest demanding justice for student Sahil Lochab, injured during the July 20 protest.



FIR after dharna

Victim: Sahil Lochab, 19 **Incident:** July 20 protest **Injuries:** Eye and abdomen
FIR sections: BNS 118 and 25 **Sit-in:** Over six hours **Hospital:** AIIMS Trauma Centre

FIR as the "first step towards justice" and ended his protest.

Earlier, Gandhi had said Lochab sustained pellet injuries to his eyes and abdomen during the July 20 march and subsequently underwent surgery at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

Gandhi had first approached Mandir Marg police station seeking registration of the case. After his demand was not accepted, he moved to Parliament Street police station.

The Congress has alleged that pellet guns were used during the protest, while Delhi Police has repeatedly denied using them. The issue has remained contentious following medical reports and accounts from injured protesters.

Gandhi also accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of responsibility for the alleged

FIR follows prolonged standoff

Rahul Gandhi's protest followed repeated attempts by Sahil Lochab and his family to register an FIR over his pellet injuries. Lochab had submitted a written complaint on August 14, but police did not register a case, according to sources. Gandhi accompanied the student to two police stations on Friday and later began a dharna outside the DCP's office. Police subsequently registered the FIR, prompting Gandhi to end his protest.

use of excessive force and demanded accountability.

Sources said Lochab had submitted a written complaint to police on August 14 through his lawyers. Further attempts were made on August 17 through email and phone, but no acknowledgment was received.

Centre denies permission for Revanth's US visit

HYDERABAD

The Centre has denied permission for Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's scheduled US visit, forcing him to cut short his foreign tour. Reddy will return to Hyderabad from London on August 23 instead of travelling to Boston and New York.

He had planned to visit leading educational institutions and sign MoUs with Harvard, MIT, Northeastern University and Virginia Tech.

The Chief Minister directed Telangana officials to continue the US tour and complete the proposed engagements.

During his UK visit, Reddy met academics from Oxford and Cambridge under the Telangana Rising initiative.

He alleged that the Centre's decision was politically motivated and said youth development should remain above politics.

Congress protests BJP disruption of Karnataka House

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Congress legislators on Friday protested against BJP and JD(S) members, accusing them of disrupting legislative proceedings over the B Nagendra issue.

Congress legislators staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Assembly premises, alleging that the BJP and JD(S) were preventing both Houses from functioning.

Ministers Sharan Prakash Patil and B Nagendra, Congress state president B K Hariprasad and other legislators participated in the protest and raised slogans demanding that the Legislature be allowed to function.

"Conduct the House and save the Constitution," the protesters said, accusing the Opposition of preventing discussions on pressing public issues.

The BJP has been protesting inside the Assembly and Legislative Council demanding Nagendra's removal, alleging his involvement



"Conduct the House and save the Constitution."
— Congress Legislators

in the embezzlement of funds from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

Nagendra had resigned from the previous Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet as Tribal Welfare Minister following allegations of financial irregularities in the corporation.

He was later inducted into the D K Shivakumar-led ministry on August 3.

Opposition protests

The BJP and JD(S) have been protesting in both Houses demanding Nagendra's removal over alleged irregularities in the Valmiki Corporation. Congress accused the Opposition of repeatedly obstructing proceedings and preventing discussion of pressing public issues. Nagendra, who resigned from the earlier Cabinet after the allegations surfaced, was reinducted into the ministry on August 3. He remains named in ED and CBI charge sheets related to the case.

India says Pakistan mission demolition was 'proportional'

NEW DELHI: India described the removal of structures outside Pakistan's High Commission in Delhi as a proportional response to similar action by Islamabad.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Pakistan had removed certain structures outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad despite New Delhi's request not to proceed. India subsequently removed temporary structures located in the lane outside the Pakistani mission in Delhi.

"Regarding the Indian High Commission in Pakistan, certain structures there were removed despite our request that this not be done. Once it happened, we took what could be described as a proportional action," Jaiswal said.

Delhi authorities used a bulldozer to remove structures and barricades outside the Pakistan High Commission in Chanakyaपुरi after finding that they extended beyond the mission's approved boundary.

Modi pitches India as global space hub at start-up meet

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met CEOs of 20 space start-ups, urging them to make India a global hub for space technology, innovation and investment.

Modi interacted with founders and CEOs at Seva Teerth as India seeks to expand private participation and strengthen its position in the global space sector.

The meeting brought together companies working on rocket development, reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicles, avionics, satellites, advanced propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space-debris removal, and AI-powered weather and climate intelligence.

The entrepreneurs highlighted the rapid growth of India's private space industry and shared their vision for the sector. They said their companies had developed technologies indigenously and credited government support and the opening of the space sector to private players for creating new opportunities.

Congratulations the entrepreneurs, Modi said their confidence had reinforced the vision behind opening the space sector to private participation. He noted that many countries either lacked the resources or did not want to invest heavily in space, creating an opportunity for India to expand its global footprint.

The Prime Minister urged companies to explore applications of space technology that could directly improve people's lives. He suggested partnerships between space companies and organisations in sectors such as agriculture and the environment.

Companies developing space-debris technologies, he said, could work with environmental organisations, while those developing agricultural applications could collaborate with agricultural universities and departments to help farmers improve productivity and decision-making.

Modi also called for closer engagement with Atal Tinkering Labs to encourage children to develop an interest in space technology from an early age.

US nuke industry to submit SHANTI Act recommendations

NEW DELHI: The US nuclear industry is preparing detailed recommendations on India's draft SHANTI Act rules as New Delhi opens the civil nuclear sector to private participation.

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), which has been facilitating engagement between US nuclear companies and Indian stakeholders, is coordinating a comprehensive industry submission to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) by the September 4 deadline.

The move follows the release of draft rules and regulations under the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act

last week.

USISPF held discussions with Indian legal experts and the Nuclear Energy Institute and also conducted a virtual briefing for its Nuclear Industry Committee.

The discussions covered licensing, operator liability, financial safeguards, insurance, project structuring and procedures for private-sector participation. Industry representatives also identified areas requiring greater clarity and proposed feedback for the government.

The draft rules are aimed at establishing procedures for licensing, insurance and approvals while retaining government control over sensitive nuclear activities.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Opposition Leader R Ashoka on Friday demanded Minister B Nagendra's resignation, alleging documentary evidence links him to the alleged Rs 187-crore Valmiki Corporation scam.

Speaking at a protest near the Sri Valmiki Maharshi statue at Legislators' Home, Ashoka said the agitation was a fight for Dalits and alleged that more than one crore Dalits had been deprived of funds.

He claimed the CBI and ED charge sheets had named Nagendra as the main accused and that he was also the main accused in 31 Lokayukta cases.

Ashoka said Valmiki Development Corporation officer P Chandrashekhara, who died by suicide, had exposed the alleged irregularities. He said Chandrashekhara's suicide note mentioned transfers made on ministerial instructions and named others allegedly involved.

He claimed documents showed Rs 40 crore had been transferred, with Union Bank cheques and details of beneficiary accounts available. He also alleged that Rs 50 crore was deposited in the corporation before a loan was obtained on the same day to conceal the transactions.

Ashoka alleged that funds were diverted without tenders and used for the Telangana



elections, including payments to bars, vehicle dealers and drivers. He further alleged that a Lamborghini and 40 kg of gold were purchased from the money.

He said Rs 1.20 crore had reached accounts linked to Nagendra's family and demanded that another Dalit leader be made minister instead.

"Despite all the documents, the minister has not resigned. No bigger evidence than the suicide note is needed."

—R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition

Ashoka's demands

Ashoka demanded Nagendra's immediate resignation and alleged that the government was shielding him despite evidence in investigative agency and Lokayukta cases. He urged the government to release at least Rs 300 crore for drought management in each affected district, instead of seeking relief from the Centre first. He said the government should provide assistance before holding discussions in the Assembly. Ashoka also criticised the government for adjourning the Assembly over the issue and said other Dalit leaders could be considered for ministerial responsibility.

Quick Read



Long fought fugitive finally caught by Bengaluru police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru police finally caught a dangerous criminal on the run for 6 years. Officers arrested Divakar Raj Urs, also known as Kaala, near a local temple. The 33 year-old criminal had a long record of twelve serious crimes, including attempted murder, kidnapping, and robbery. He had been hiding from the law to avoid a non-bailable court warrant. Police tracked him down and caught him successfully. Senior officers praised the Crime Branch team for their quick action. The accused is now facing fresh legal steps at the local police station as the investigation continues.

Karnataka HC demands probe records in KPSC scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court wants the state government to hand over all investigation files regarding a disputed job appointment. The case involves a former official's daughter who allegedly used fake income certificates to secure a government post as an industrial extension officer. Two leaders and several successful candidates recently filed separate petitions asking for a strict CBI probe and the dismissal of existing police FIRs. During the court session, lawyers highlighted unusual home test procedures during the investigation. The judge has ordered prosecutors to submit their official objections soon, with the next court hearing scheduled for August 27.

New special team to probe fake medicines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has launched a special team to crack down on a massive fake medicine racket operating from a farmhouse near Bengaluru. Police recently raided the secret location, seizing fake drugs worth 5 crores and arresting 4 suspects. The gang was caught changing labels on unlicensed pills and making counterfeit branded medicines to sell across multiple states. A new 5 member investigation team, led by senior officer Vamshi Krishna, will now handle the entire case. State ministers promised strict action against everyone involved as officials continue digging deeper into this dangerous health scam.

Priyank defends Nagendra, slams BJP hypocrisy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Senior Congress leader Priyank Kharge launched a fierce counterattack against the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, questioning their moral authority to demand the resignation of cabinet colleague B. Nagendra. Speaking to press members, the minister questioned the grounds on which BJP leaders are pushing for immediate removal from office, emphasizing that allegations must be thoroughly investigated and proven on the floor of the legislature rather than through sudden political pressure. Mr. Kharge drew

From confusion to clarity: New rules ordered

Karnataka has introduced a new law to streamline apartment administration, prevent rival associations, and simplify redevelopment processes.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has introduced a brand new law to safeguard apartment residents and clear up messy administrative rules. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda tabled this fresh legislation in the assembly to solve everyday housing troubles.

City living has grown rapidly, including apartments the top housing choice for most families.

However, older rules from decades ago failed to fix modern housing issues. Because of this, many complexes ended up with multiple rival associations, causing constant fights among neighbors over shared spaces, compound walls, and roads.

The new bill introduces strict guidelines to fix these problems. Every apartment complex will now operate under just one single registered



Our cities are growing rapidly, and families deserve clear rights over their shared homes without endless builder conflicts. -Krishna Byre Gowda, Bengaluru Development Minister

resident's welfare association. This stops rival groups from forming and cuts down on neighborhood arguments. Furthermore, developers can no longer sell or change shared roads and open spaces. Maintenance control must go

THE NEW BILL

Single Association: Every housing complex will feature only one registered Residents' Welfare Association to completely stop rival groups.

Common Areas: Builders are legally barred from selling shared spaces, roads, or open compounds meant for residents.

Civil Powers: Local authorities will gain civil court-like powers to quickly settle daily neighborhood management disputes.

Redevelopment Rules: Old, crumbling apartment blocks can be rebuilt if at least 75% of owners agree, backed by fair compensation.

directly to the residents.

Old and unsafe apartment buildings also get a clear path forward for rebuilding. Redevelopment can move ahead if 75 percent of property owners agree.

If someone disagrees, the law allows property acquisition using an independent valuation at twice the local market value, ensuring fair compensation.

To solve local conflicts

Fixing urban living challenges

State leaders emphasized that the new framework arrived after extensive public feedback sessions with residents and housing experts. By establishing dedicated local authorities to handle local complaints, the government aims to give apartment owners total control over their daily community affairs.

quickly, the legislation sets up special local authorities equipped with civil court powers. Residents can take their disputes straight to these bodies instead of enduring long court battles. Officials spent months gathering feedback from citizens and experts before finalizing this balanced act.

Leaders believe these rules will bring transparency, protect buyer rights, and create better harmony in housing societies across the state.

BNCC Commissioner orders quick grievance disposal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation is fast solving public problems using digital tools and phone calls. Officials are working hard to clear pending cases quickly and help local residents get fast answers to their daily civic issues.

Since launching the Sahaya 2.0 app, citizens have used it to share their neighborhood troubles.

Before a new authority formed, people filed over one lakh cases, and workers fixed almost all of them.

After the transition, thousands more complaints poured in through apps, direct office visits, and Friday phone sessions hosted by the commissioner.

Back in May, thousands of issues remained stuck without solutions. To fix this, leaders started daily review meetings. Thanks to this push, pending cases dropped heavily. Now, only a small number of issues wait for action. Complaints come from over twenty different sources, including social media pages, emails, and news reports.

Vet staff boost to protect cattle

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government plans to hire 100's of new veterinary workers soon. Officials recently shared details about these upcoming job opportunities in the legislature.

The Animal Husbandry Minister announced that authorities will soon recruit hundreds of junior medical examiners and veterinary officers. These new positions will be filled through outsourcing and contract arrangements to help support public veterinary institutions across the region. Leaders noted that thousands of veterinary medical centers currently function throughout the state to care for animals.

Meanwhile, the process for direct recruitment of permanent posts is already moving forward through official channels. Officials submitted formal proposals to finance departments to secure approval for these new hires. Once final clearance is granted, recruitment will begin immediately to fill the gaps in local healthcare services.

Additionally, discussions highlighted the ongoing work of mobile medical units operating across various districts under central schemes. Offi-

cials reviewed current helpline operations and emergency response times for livestock care. Although proposals were made to extend daily operating hours and expand helpline staff to better serve rural areas, federal agencies rejected those specific requests.

Even with these administrative hurdles, local leaders remain committed to improving animal healthcare delivery. Lawmakers continue to push for better resources and increased manpower to support farming communities. Ensuring proper medical attention for livestock is vital for the local agricultural economy and animal welfare. Authorities hope that adding new contract and outsourced staff will ease the workload on current professionals. Further updates regarding the hiring schedule are expected to be released as soon as administrative approvals are finalized in the coming weeks.



Staffing push

Contract Roles: Proposals have been submitted to hire 400 veterinary officers on contract and 300 junior medical examiners on an outsourced basis.

Direct Recruitment: Permanent posts for Basava Vedyadhikari are currently processing directly through the state public service commission.

Mobile Units: Dozens of mobile veterinary vehicles operate statewide under central schemes to reach remote livestock.

Emergency Lines: The emergency helpline works to coordinate quick responses for urgent cattle treatments across dispersed regions.

Addressing rural treatment challenges

The state currently manages thousands of functional veterinary centers, ranging from super specialty hospitals to local primary care clinics. Officials explained that mobile treatment units face heavy travel times across wide rural geographies, averaging hours per emergency call. Although central guidelines recommend specific staff and vehicle ratios for large cattle populations, local authorities continue pushing to strengthen infrastructure and helpline shift capacities to deliver seamless healthcare services.

"Fix roads immediately", Orders BNCC Chief

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The boss of the Bengaluru North City Corporation took a strict look at the Outer Ring Road. Commissioner Pomma-la Sunil Kumar checked major spots to spot messy areas, broken paths, and rough roads, demanding instant fixes from local teams.

Starting near the Hebbal Flyover, the chief spotted piles of waste building material left behind by the K-RIDE project. He ordered work teams to clear the mess right away to keep the area tidy for everyday traffic.

Moving along the service

road close to Bhadrappa Layout, officers found garbage dumped on walking paths. The local manager received orders to clean it up fast. Field marshalls must now watch this spot closely to stop people from turning it into a regular trash dump.

Between Bell Circle and Guruguntepalya, bumpy roads caused trouble. Engineers got direct orders to patch up all holes quickly so drivers can travel safely without bumps. Close by at Bhadrappa Layout, street sellers had blocked walking paths. Officials were told to run a clear-up drive immediately.

Keep our roads neat, clear out all obstacles, and fix every single pothole right now. -Pommala Sunil Kumar, BNCC Commissioner

Further along the route, construction waste was spotted near BMRCL metro zones. Project officials must clear and clean these spots within one week. Near Kalyan Nagar, more garbage and building waste piled up on the roadside. Teams received a strict deadline to clean everything completely by 25th August. During the visit, the commissioner told all department heads to keep their sec-



tors spotless, smooth, and free of road damage. Regular checks are now a must so small problems do not turn into big headaches. Other top officers joined the inspection tour to make sure every order was heard clearly. Local residents hope these strict steps will finally bring smooth roads and clean footpaths to their neighborhoods soon.

JD(S) demands cancellation of NICE agreement

Janata Dal (Secular) lawmakers urged the state legislature to terminate a delayed multi-decade highway infrastructure agreement with a private partner.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A prominent regional political party has officially urged the state government to scrap a long-standing infrastructure agreement. Lawmakers recently raised serious concerns regarding an ongoing multi-decade highway project in the legislature.

Leaders from the Janata Dal Secular recently submitted a formal notice to assembly officials under specific legislative rules. They argued that the original project implementation has faced severe delays and widespread irregularities over the years. According to historical records, the state initially signed a basic agreement decades ago to build a massive network of expressways, peripheral roads, and new townships.

However, critics pointed out that only a small fraction of the planned work has been successfully completed. Party representatives emphasized that previous judicial reviews and official committee reports have already highlighted numerous violations of the original terms and conditions. Because the private partner failed to deliver most of the promised infrastructure within the expected timeframe, politicians insist that authori-

Long standing infrastructure debate

The controversy stems from the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project agreement established decades ago, which involved acquiring thousands of acres of land through local industrial boards. While initial plans promised extensive highway and suburban development, critics argue that non-fulfillment of core conditions has left the project stalled. With fresh demands raised on the assembly floor, lawmakers are pressing the state administration to reconsider its contractual ties and re-examine the future of the corridor project.

ties must terminate the contract immediately.

Furthermore, lawmakers stressed that this matter involves deep public importance and requires urgent debate in the house. The ongoing delays have caused immense inconvenience for daily commuters and local residents alike. Political leaders continue to pressure state administrators to take decisive legal action. Public interest in large-scale infrastructure accountability remains exceptionally high across the region. Officials have not yet announced a final decision regarding the cancellation demand, but discussions are expected to continue in the legislative assembly over the coming days. Citizens and transport experts are watching these developments closely to see how the government responds to these growing political pressures.

Minister B. Nagendra confident of legal vindication

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



State Minister for Planning and Statistics B. Nagendra has strongly asserted his innocence regarding the Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation financial irregularities. Following a public demonstration by Congress party workers near the Mahatma Gandhi statue close to the Vidhana Soudha, the minister addressed reporters to clarify his stance on the allegations that previously led to political turmoil.

Mr. Nagendra stated that the entire disputed amount of 187 crore rupees, which was alleged to have been misused during the episode, has been successfully recovered and safely deposited back into the state government treasury. He expressed total confidence that the ongoing judicial proceedings will completely exonerate him of any personal wrongdoing or administrative negligence linked to the corporation.

Reflecting on the timeline of events, the minister noted that an independent Special Investigation Team was originally constituted to probe the matter during his tenure. He emphasized that he chose to step down from his ministerial portfolio voluntarily at that

time to ensure a completely unhindered and transparent investigation by law enforcement agencies. Subsequent inquiries by multiple investigative bodies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate, have thoroughly examined the financial transactions, with the minister asserting his full cooperation throughout the legal process.

Addressing critics and political opponents who have continued to raise questions, Mr. Nagendra alleged a partisan pattern behind the persistent demands for his removal. He pointed out that various leaders across different political affiliations face numerous legal challenges and formal charges nationwide, yet different standards are often applied based on political affiliations. He reiterated his unwavering faith in the judiciary of the country and affirmed that he will pursue his legal defense rigorously until all remaining doubts are cleared.

CLEARING KHATA CONFUSION

Karnataka approves B-Khata to A-Khata bill

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has approved a major new legal reform to bring massive relief to lakhs of property owners living in unauthorized layouts. Minister Krishna Byre Gowda introduced the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Amendment Bill to end decades of ownership uncertainty.

For the past 30 to 40 years, numerous families owned plots and houses trapped in administrative limbo because their land only held B-Khata records. Unregulated layouts developed in the past lacked



proper roads, drainage, water supply, and electricity, leaving buyers struggling without true legal protection.

The newly passed legislation amends Section 284 to officially allow municipal corporations to declare roads in unauthorized layouts as



public roads. Once these roads receive official recognition, eligible property owners can finally transition from B-Khata to A-Khata. This vital legal pathway grants complete ownership security and a true land guarantee to residents. With the new A-Khata

status, property owners gain easier access to bank loans, building plan approvals, and occupancy certificates. While offering a practical fix for legacy issues, the state has also tightened regulations to stop new unauthorized layouts from coming up in the future.

The assembly unanimously passed this historic step to protect ordinary citizens who suffered through no fault of their own. Leaders believe this reform will clear long-standing administrative hurdles and provide proper urban recognition to thousands of struggling neighborhoods across the state.

Bringing legal relief to families

For 3 to 4 decades, many families unknowingly purchased plots in unauthorized layouts lacking proper infrastructure like wide roads, drainage, and water supply. Because these developments bypassed standard rules, owners were restricted to B-Khata certificates, blocking bank loans and legal building approvals. While the state previously cracked down on new illegal developments in 2024, this new amendment provides a practical, regulated solution for legacy properties. Originally tested in Bengaluru, this citizen-friendly framework is now expanding to municipal corporations, town municipalities, and local panchayats across Karnataka, offering permanent legal peace of mind to countless homeowners.

Quick Read

Udupi to celebrate Narayana Guru Jayanti on Aug 28

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The Brahmashri Narayana Guru Jayanti celebration will be held on August 28 at 10 am at the Bannanje Narayana Guru Auditorium in Udupi. The event is jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department and Billavara Seva Sangha. District In-charge Minister Rizwan Arshad will inaugurate the programme, while MLA Yashpal A. Suvarna will preside. Several elected representatives and senior district officials are expected to attend. Lecturer Sachendra Ambagil will deliver a special lecture during the event. Organizers said the celebration will honour Narayana Guru's contributions and provide an opportunity for the community to come together and remember his teachings.

POCSO convict sentenced to five years in prison

SULLIA
The 7th Additional District and Sessions Court in Mangaluru has sentenced a 64-year-old man to five years of simple imprisonment in a POCSO case. The court also imposed a fine of Rs. 35,000, with an additional six months of simple imprisonment if the amount is not paid. The case was registered at Bellare police station in 2020 under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Section 8 of the POCSO Act. After examining the evidence, Judge Sumangala Chakalabbi found the accused guilty. Investigating officer Naveen Chandra Jogi submitted the charge sheet after collecting evidence. Special prosecutor Pushparaj represented the government during the proceedings and argued for conviction.

Leopard sparks panic after entering Kadur village

KADUR
A leopard created panic in Hulikere village of Kadur taluk after entering residential areas and moving close to homes. Villagers captured videos of the animal running through the area and resting on a house compound. In one incident, the leopard passed near an elderly woman standing in her courtyard. Its presence has frightened workers, bikers and schoolchildren. Residents have urged authorities to capture and relocate the animal quickly. Forest Department personnel reached the village to begin efforts to catch the leopard. Officials advised residents to avoid unnecessary movement outside until the animal is captured and the situation returns to normal.

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS EXPANDS

Job card fair brings rural work opportunities across Kodagu

CH NEWS, MADIKERI
A month-long job card fair is being conducted across Kodagu district under the newly introduced Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission Grameen-2026 scheme.
Kodagu Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Anand Prakash Meena said the fair would continue until September 15 across all 102 gram panchayats.
Meena urged rural residents to make use of the opportunity to obtain job cards and access employment.

Kodagu DC assures prompt action on disability issues

The Deputy Commissioner urged effective implementation of disability welfare schemes, prioritising their needs and ensuring respectful, prompt service at government offices

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Kodagu Deputy Commissioner S.J. Somashekhar held a meeting to hear the grievances of people with disabilities and assured them that their concerns would be addressed promptly.

The meeting, held at the district office, continued for more than two hours, with several participants raising issues related to pensions, education, transport, healthcare and government services. Somashekhar said such meetings should be held every three months, while similar meetings should also take place at the taluk level.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to implement welfare programmes meant for people with disabilities effectively and take up their work on priority. He said people with disabilities must be treated respectfully at government offices and should not be made to wait unnecessarily. He also stressed the



need for ramps at offices and schools. If someone faces difficulty entering an office, officials should visit them and provide the required service. Aadhaar registration camps should also be organised at the taluk level, he said.

Education-related concerns were also discussed. Veena Changappa of Kodagu Vidyalaya requested that students with disabilities appearing for SSLC examinations be allowed to write their exams at nearby centres. Special Needs Officer Vimala said special schools are functioning in Madikeri, Shanivarasante, Sunkikoppa and Palibetta, with 276 students attending

HIGHLIGHTS

- Grievance meeting held under Deputy Commissioner's chairmanship
- Quarterly grievance meetings proposed for differently-abled people
- Taluk-level meetings urged for faster grievance resolution
- Aadhaar registration camps directed across taluks
- Four-month pension delays raised during meeting
- Officials instructed to ensure respectful, accessible services

from their homes. She said coordination with education officials would be strengthened to support students appearing for SSLC and Second PUC examinations. Govern-

ment benefits, including identity cards, three-wheelers and health services, were also highlighted.

Several participants raised concerns about delayed pensions, transport and housing. District president B.M. Thirumalesh said pensions for some beneficiaries had been stopped for four months due to the income limit. Somashekhar said steps were being taken to increase the limit and address the issue. Others sought priority treatment at hospitals, housing assistance and better access to reserved bus seats. Officials from health, transport, education and other departments explained available schemes. Rehabilitation centres in Kushalnagar and Madikeri were also highlighted for providing physiotherapy. The meeting ended with assurances that unresolved grievances would be followed up, giving participants hope for quicker and more humane public services.

TiE Mangalore chosen to accelerate coastal startups

MANGALORE

TiE Mangalore has been selected to lead the K-Combina-tor programme launched by the Karnataka government to support and accelerate start-ups under the Beyond Banga-lore Mission and LEAP initiative. The programme will focus on helping business-led creative startups in Mangalore, Udupi and other parts of the coastal region.

TiE Mangalore President Shyam Prasad Hebbar announced the development at a press conference held at the city's Press Club on Friday. He said the organisation will provide selected startups with access to experienced mentors, investors, entrepreneurs and a wider business network. The programme aims to help young companies expand their businesses and reach international markets.

Under the initiative, select-

ed startups will receive government grants of Rs. 10 lakh each. TiE Mangalore will receive Rs. 9.26 crore from the Karnataka government over five years to run the programme. Rohit Bhat, founder president of TiE Mangalore, said the government has already released Rs. 1.89 crore as the first instalment, allowing the startup selection process to begin.

The organisation will also offer guidance in areas such as marketing, business growth and expansion. Officials said the programme will connect local entrepreneurs with TiE Global's established mentoring network and broader ecosystem. TiE Mangalore Vice President Suyog Shetty and Atul were also present at the press conference. The initiative is expected to give coastal Karnataka's emerging startups stronger support and new opportunities for growth.

JOURNALIST ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED BY DOCTOR IN KUNDAPUR

UDUPI

A case has been registered at Kundapur police station after Kannada journalist Srikanth Hemmadi was allegedly attacked by government doctor Dr. Mahendra Kumar Shetty.

According to the complaint, Hemmadi had recently published a report alleging that surgeons at Kundapur Government Hospital were taking money from poor patients during treatment. The report is believed to have angered the doctor, who allegedly confronted and attacked the journalist. Police said the incident occurred on the morning of August 21, when Hemmadi was having break-

fast with his wife and a classmate at a hotel in Kundapur. Dr. Shetty allegedly arrived at the spot, attacked him and issued a life threat. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the allegations. The incident has drawn strong condemnation from journalists' groups, including the Karnataka Working Journalists Association and Udupi District Working Journalists Association. Several local units also opposed the alleged attack. Social and political organisations, including Sahabalye, CPM and DYFI representatives, demanded appropriate legal action against the accused and called for protection of journalists.

Monsoon crop insurance registration extended until Aug 31

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Farmers in Dakshina Kannada can now register for the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for monsoon paddy and other crops until August 31. The insurance scheme covers eligible crops grown during the 2026-27 monsoon season. IndusInd General Insurance Company Ltd., formerly Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd., has been appointed to implement the scheme in the district this year. Eligible borrowing farmers who meet the prescribed conditions and are not excluded from the scheme can use the extended deadline to register.

‘Joint efforts needed for HIV-Free India by 2030’

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

State AIDS Control Organization Joint Director Dr. Girija Tai called for coordinated efforts to achieve the goal of an HIV-free India by 2030.

She said public cooperation, along with support from health officials and other government departments, would be essential to reach the target.

She was speaking while presiding over a monthly progress review meeting of HIV-related centres in Dakshina Kannada district at the office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer. Dr. Girija Tai said creating awareness among people should remain a major priori-

National Space Day celebrated with science events in Pilikula

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

National Space Day 2026 was celebrated at the Pilikula Regional Science Centre on Friday with a series of programmes highlighting India's achievements in space science.

Mangaluru Press Club president P.B. Harish Rai said the occasion helps keep alive the historic achievement of Indian scientists in successfully landing the Vikram lander near the Moon's south pole.

Inaugurating the programme, Rai said the Moon has fascinated people for generations through stories, poems and traditions. He noted that education and scientific progress have helped people understand the Moon and space beyond imagination and cultural beliefs. Science Centre director Dr. Ashok K.R. urged students to approach every subject with a scientific attitude and develop the habit of asking questions. He encouraged them to expand their knowledge, use available opportunities and make thoughtful choices while planning their future. Pilikula Develop-

Arun Kumar Shetty highlighted scientists' role in India's development, urging youth to pursue research, innovation, teamwork and leadership as the country advances in technology

ment Authority Commissioner Dr. Arun Kumar Shetty N, who presided over the programme, highlighted the contribution of scientists to India's development through research and innovation. He encouraged young people to participate in scientific research and use innovation, teamwork and leadership to contribute to the country's progress. He said India is steadily advancing in science and technology.

The programme included an information session and demonstration on OMO radio by Rohit S. Rao of the Mangaluru Amateur Radio Club. Later, Dr. Prahas Amin, managing director of Flash Show Technologies, spoke about astrophotography and demonstrated the techniques involved.

Fraud case filed over alleged land deal in Belthangady

BELTHANGADY

Belthangady police have registered a fraud case against Guruvayankere Civil Service Trust president Somnath Nayak and Ranjan Rao Erdoor over allegations of cheating a man of more than ₹1 crore in a disputed land transaction.

The case was registered on August 19 following a complaint by 61-year-old Shashidhar Achyuta Totantil of Kottar Chowki in Mangaluru. According to the complaint,

an agreement was signed on August 4, 2025, involving 0.28.50 acre of land in Survey No. 85/3A at Guruvayanakere in Kuvettu village. The land was reportedly owned by Ranjan Rao Erdoor. The complaint alleges that Somnath Nayak played a key role in the transaction.

The complainant alleged that 0.70.25 acre of adjoining government land was described as Kumki land and that the accused promised to secure and register the entire 0.98.75-

acre property. He said an agreement was made for the transaction and payments were subsequently made to the accused and bank accounts identified by them. According to the complaint, 28 cents of agricultural land was later registered in the complainant's name on May 14, 2026, under document number 693/2026-27. However, concerns reportedly arose over the remaining government land and the possibility of obtaining it legally. The complainant alleged that

money was still collected by stating that additional payments might be required to correct land records.

Shashidhar has alleged that he was cheated of ₹1,00,61,250 in total. Belthangady police have registered the case based on the allegations and begun an investigation. The allegations remain subject to the police inquiry, and further details are expected as investigators examine the documents and financial transactions involved.

Shivamogga Consumer Court directs refund for defective phone

SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered a mobile phone seller and company to refund the purchase amount and pay compensation after finding a service deficiency.

Manjunath J.V. of Gopal

bought an Itel P 450 mobile phone for Rs. 1,650 from Filam Center and Electronics on Nehru Road. Within a month, the phone developed a defect. The seller replaced the charger, but the problem continued. Despite repeated requests and a written complaint, the issue was not resolved.

Manjunath then approached the consumer commission through a lawyer. The opposite parties did not appear despite receiving notice, leading to a one-sided hearing. Commission Chairman T. Shivantha and member B.D. Yogananda Bhandya examined the documents and upheld the complaint.

The commission ordered a refund of Rs. 1,650 with seven percent annual interest, rising to 10 percent if delayed. It also awarded Rs. 5,000 for mental distress and Rs. 10,000 towards legal expenses. The customer must return the faulty phone after receiving the ordered relief promptly.

Mangalore rail zone set for major Mysuru shift

MANGALURU

The Union Railway Ministry has ordered a major administrative change involving Mangaluru's railway network, bringing the railway area up to Ullal, including Ullal station, under the Mysuru division of South Western Railway. The decision ends a long-standing demand to bring the coastal railway region under a more closely connected administrative division. The change is expected to improve coordination, reduce administrative difficulties and support faster development of railway services in coastal Karnataka. Under the new arrangement, the inter-

change point between Southern Railway and South Western Railway will shift from Padil to Ullal. However, Thokur railway station will continue to remain under Konkan Railway, as it does currently. Thokur will serve as an interchange point between Konkan Railway and South Western Railway. The changes are expected to simplify railway operations and address several technical and administrative difficulties that have affected the region.

Dakshina Kannada MP Brijesh Chowta welcomed the decision and said he had raised the demand as a priority soon after becoming an MP in June 2024.



Quick Read

Bharat Jodo Marathon to be held on August 29

Karwar

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Karwar, will organise the “Bharat Jodo Marathon-2026” on August 29 as part of National Sports Day celebrations. The event will feature separate 5-km categories for men and women and will begin at 6 am at the Maladevi Taluk Sports Ground. Interested participants must register by 6 pm on August 27 through the Google Form or QR code provided by the department. Only participants who register online will be allowed to take part. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first five finishers. T-shirts will be provided to participants, while certificates will be given to those who complete the marathon. Participants will not be provided accommodation or travel allowances. Participants must be aged between 14 and 65 years. For further information, participants can contact athletics coach Shivanand Naik or the department office during working hours.

Karnataka Board invites SSP Scholarship applications

Mandya

The Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has invited applications through the State Scholarship Portal (SSP) for educational financial assistance for the children of eligible registered construction workers for the 2026-27 academic year. Under Rule 45 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Karnataka Rules, 2006, educational assistance is provided annually to two children of registered workers. Eligible beneficiaries can apply for the assistance through the SSP for their children's education. Registered beneficiaries have been advised to submit their applications on or before December 31.

Vehicle arrangements made for media representatives

Chintamani

The taluk administration, Taluk Panchayat and Social Welfare Department have made vehicle arrangements for media representatives to attend the inauguration of development works at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, the Capacity Building Hall of the Taluk Panchayat and Azad Chowk in Chintamani on August 22 at 10 am. The programme will be attended by the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and other ministers. A vehicle for media representatives will be available from 8.30 am on August 22 in front of Ambha Bhavani Hotel in the city. Media representatives have been requested to make use of the vehicle facility and attend the programme.

Devaraj Urs’ ideals must guide younger generation: MLA

HUNSUR

Hunsur MLA G.T. Harish Gowda paid floral tributes to the statue of former Karnataka Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs in the heart of the town on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Speaking to reporters, Gowda described Devaraj Urs as a champion of the oppressed, a leader who stood by the marginalised and a symbol of social justice. He said Urs had brought pride to Hunsur by serving as the constituency’s MLA and later

Monsoon failure: Farmers urged to grow short-duration crops

Promoting short-duration and semi-dry crops helps farmers navigate challenges and significantly reduces the risk of overall crop losses

MANDYA

With the monsoon failing and water availability for long-duration crops expected to remain limited, farmers have been advised to shift to alternative and semi-dry crops that require less water and can be harvested in a shorter period. Mandya Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar issued the appeal while chairing a meeting with Agriculture Department officials at the Deputy Commissioner’s office. He said farmers should be encouraged to cultivate crops such as ragi, jowar, sesame, cowpea, black gram and arka, which can be grown with limited water. The Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee has decided to prioritise the available water in tanks and reservoirs for drinking purposes for people and livestock, as well as for short-duration crops. Water supply for long-duration



crops will not be considered for the time being. As only four rounds of irrigation water have been decided upon, officials must ensure that the available water is conserved and used efficiently, Dr Kumar said. He also directed officials to give priority to storing water in tanks and other water bodies in villages where necessary to prevent further depletion of groundwater levels. Agriculture Department officials were instructed to conduct awareness programmes at taluk, hobli and village levels and guide farmers on selecting alternative and short-duration crops based on the prevailing rainfall conditions. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated efforts between officials and farmers to manage the impact of the rainfall deficit and ensure that available water resources are used carefully. Agriculture Department Joint Director Jayaswamy G.S. and other district-level officials attended the meeting.



The prevailing rainfall deficit could make it difficult to provide sufficient water for long-duration crops. Therefore, promoting short-duration and semi-dry crops would help farmers manage the situation and reduce the risk of crop losses.

- Dr Kumar, Deputy Commissioner

Public urged not to encroach forest land

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Forest Department has appealed to farmers, members of the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti and the general public not to enter or encroach upon forest land in Survey No. 67 of Shingadikadirenahalli village in Nandi Hobli of Chikkaballapur taluk. According to the department, information has been received that some farmers and members of the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti have planned to enter the area on August 27, 2026. The land in Survey No. 67 has been classified as forest area under

Section 4 of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. The classification is also reflected in the revenue records. The department warned that unauthorised entry, occupation or encroachment of the land would amount to a violation of the Karnataka Forest Act and other applicable forest and revenue laws. It also referred to the Forest (Conservation and Management) Act, 1980, and the Supreme Court’s judgment in the T.N. Godavarman versus Union of India case. Officials said protection of forest land and prevention of encroachments are mandatory

under existing laws. Any attempt to alter the nature of forest land, occupy it or use it without permission would be considered unlawful and could invite legal action. The Forest Department therefore urged farmers and members of the public not to enter Survey No. 67 or attempt to occupy the forest area. People were also advised not to participate in any activity that could disturb law and order. The department appealed to all concerned to follow the law and cooperate with authorities in protecting the notified forest area.

Students urged to protect environment for future

HUNSUR

An interactive programme on environmental conservation was organised at the Government Higher Primary Boys’ School in Hunsur as part of the school’s Eco Club activities. Environmentalist T.C. Devanath interacted with the students and spoke about the growing need to protect nature and preserve the environment for future generations. Addressing the students, Devanath said environmental protection was not the responsibility of governments and organisations alone, but a collective duty of every individual. He stressed that the present generation must take conscious steps to reduce pollution and protect natural resources so that children and future generations can live in a healthy and safe environment. He urged students to develop environmentally friendly habits from an early age. Avoiding unnecessary use of plastic, keeping surroundings clean, planting and protecting trees, conserving water and preventing waste were among

the measures he highlighted. He also encouraged students to spread awareness about environmental protection among their families and communities. The programme provided an opportunity for students to interact directly with an environmentalist and understand the impact of human activities on nature. The Eco Club initiative aims to encourage students to take an active role in environmental conservation through awareness programmes and practical activities. School senior head teacher H.S. Suresh, SDMC Vice-President Mohammed Rafi, Teachers’ Association representative Shobha, head teacher Madhu and teachers Veena, Narasimha, Madhu Prasad, Cheluvvaraj, Krishnamurthy, Soma Sundar, Shobharani, Shilpa, Radhika and Kazima were present. The organisers said such programmes would help students understand their responsibility towards nature and motivate them to become environmentally conscious citizens.

Hunsur road widened after toilet removal

HUNSUR

The Hunsur City Municipal Council has removed a dilapidated Sulabh toilet situated along the NES Quarters connecting road and widened the stretch, providing relief to residents, pedestrians and hundreds of school students who use the road every day. The road, located beside the Murali Hotel building, is an important link connecting the main area with the NES Quarters. Residents of the quarters, members of the public and students travelling to Shastri School regularly use the road. However, the Sulabh toilet on the roadside had remained in a damaged and unusable condition for nearly two to three years. With the facility remaining non-functional, people reportedly began using the area around the toilet for open defecation. This resulted in foul odour, unhygienic conditions and inconvenience to pedestrians. The situation was particularly difficult for schoolchildren who had to pass through the area daily. Residents had submitted several petitions to the municipal authorities seeking removal of

the damaged structure and improvement of the road. They had also warned that they would launch a protest if no action was taken. Recently, residents of NES Quarters met former MLA H.P. Manjunath and explained the problems faced by them. Responding to their request, Manjunath directed municipal officials to remove the damaged toilet and take up road improvement works. Acting on the direction, municipal officials cleared the structure and widened the road, making it easier and safer for residents, students and other commuters to use the stretch. Residents Felicitate Officials NES Quarters residents expressed appreciation for the municipal authorities for resolving the long-pending civic issue. As a mark of gratitude, they felicitated Municipal Commissioner Manasa and engineer Krishnegowda for their efforts in removing the unusable toilet and improving the road. Residents said the removal of the structure had helped improve cleanliness and public convenience in the locality.

Ramanagara Civic Body seeks transfer of PWD roads

RAMANAGARA

The Ramanagara City Municipal Council has decided to submit a proposal to the government seeking the transfer of roads currently maintained by the Public Works Department (PWD) within the municipal limits. The decision was taken at a special general meeting held at the municipal council’s Prashasti Bhavan. Council president K. Sheshadri said several important roads, including the stretch from the KSRTC bus stand through Kempegowda Circle to the municipal limits, Kempegowda Circle to Chennenaahalli, the road from near Archakarahalli Mahadeshwara Swamy Temple to Doddamannugudde Main Road, and portions of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway, are currently under the PWD. Although these roads are maintained by the PWD, the municipal council is undertaking cleaning and patchwork works. Therefore, members agreed with the proposal to take over the roads and develop them under the municipality. Opposition leader Manjunath said the transfer process should have been completed

earlier. He alleged that five to six manholes had been closed during road repair works in his ward and that complaints to the contractor and concerned officials had not yielded results. He said sewage water was entering houses, while residents were blaming the municipal council without knowing which department was responsible for the roads. Ruling party member Somashekar (Mani) also supported the proposal and said speed breakers were required on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway near Gandhinagar. He said several roads had deteriorated and could be repaired more effectively if brought under municipal control. The meeting also discussed conducting a survey of private properties and vacant sites within municipal limits. Commissioner Dr Jayanna said the council had around 33,000 properties and that a comprehensive survey could increase annual revenue from the current Rs 6.8 crore to around Rs 10 crore. Members also approved the proposal to digitise all municipal records. Standing Committee Chairman Mohammed Arif was present.

Varamahalakshmi festival celebrated with sweet and colours

Chamundeshwari Temple adorned with currency notes

MANDYA

The famous Chamundeshwari Temple in Srirangapatna was given a unique ‘Dhanalakshmi’ decoration with currency notes on the occasion of the Varamahalakshmi festival. A special puja was also performed at the temple. The sanctum sanctorum was decorated with currency notes, attracting the attention of devotees. Temple chief priest Lakshmisha created the elaborate decoration using around Rs 3 lakh in offerings donated by devotees. New currency notes of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200 and Rs 500 denominations were artistically arranged around the sanctum and the deity. The decoration presented Goddess Chamundeshwari in the form of Dhanalakshmi. Special prayers and Mahamangalarati were performed with a wish for timely rains, good crops and prosperity for farmers and the general public across the state. A large number of devotees have been visiting the temple since morning to seek the blessings of Chamundeshwari in her Dhanalakshmi form.



VARAMAHALAKSHMI FESTIVAL CELEBRATED ACROSS MAGADI

Magadi: The Varamahalakshmi festival was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm by women across Magadi taluk on Friday. Women woke up early, cleaned and decorated their homes and installed the idol of Goddess Varamahalakshmi before performing special rituals. Many households decorated the entrance with colourful rangoli, mango leaves and traditional festoons. Women dressed in new sarees and jewellery and offered flowers, fruits and various delicacies to the Goddess. Special prayers were performed seeking prosperity, happiness and the well-being of family members. In several homes, priests were invited to perform the rituals, while middle-class families also observed the festival according to their traditions.

Women prepared special offerings such as holige, payasa, kosambari and chitranna along with fruits, coconut and other items. The festival, observed on the second Friday of the Shravan month, witnessed women wearing white sarees with red borders and offering prayers with devotion. The celebrations were conducted without discrimination based on caste or religion, reflecting the traditional spirit of the festival. Special pujas were performed at several prominent temples in and around the town, including Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Kalyanaghatta Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple, Prasanna Someshwara Temple, Hombalammanna Pete Lakshmi Temple, Savanadurga Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple and Savadurga Veerabhadraswamy Temple.

VILLAGE ASSISTANTS DEMANDS

Village assistants demand fulfilment of long pending demands

MAGADI

The Village Assistants Association has announced a symbolic protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on August 24, demanding the fulfilment of long-pending demands of around 10,450 village assistants across Karnataka. Speaking at a press conference in Magadi on Friday, association district president Ningraju said the protest was aimed at drawing the government’s attention to pending service-related issues. He said the association wanted the government to expedite



the files concerning village assistants and take a final decision during the ongoing legislative session. The association claimed that a Cabinet meeting held on September 25, 2025, had taken a decision regarding

granting D Group status to village assistants and providing a minimum retirement benefit of Rs 10 lakh. However, the decision has not been implemented so far, they alleged. The association also de-

manded salary revision and better service security. Village assistant posts were regularised in 2007, but an appropriate salary revision has not been carried out, leaders said. Employees who retire after 40 to 45 years of service face difficulties in securing retirement benefits, they added. The association further demanded that the retirement assistance provided to village assistants or their legal heirs be increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. State general secretary Shivrudrappa said the village assistant post was created in

1978 and the number of employees had increased significantly over the years. He said the government had proposed a monthly salary of Rs 27,000 and D Group status for village assistants in 2025, but the order was yet to be implemented. Around 6,000 village assistants are expected to participate in the peaceful protest. Association leaders appealed to the government to fulfil their demands and recognise village assistants on par with D Group employees. Several association leaders and village assistants were present.

Quick Read

Shiraguppi Gram Sabha scheduled for on August 27

Hubballi
The first-round Gram Sabha of Shiraguppi Gram Panchayat for 2026-27 will be held on August 27 at 11 am at the Shiraguppi Gram Panchayat premises. The meeting will discuss various departmental schemes, selection of development works, preparation of action plans, selection of beneficiaries, public grievances, tax collection and other issues placed before the meeting with the approval of the chairperson. The Gram Panchayat Development Officers have urged residents of Shiraguppi village, including members of minority communities, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, women and the general public, to participate in large numbers and make the Gram Sabha successful. The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to raise local issues and contribute to village development planning.

Deen Dayal Sparsh scholarship applications invited

Karwar
The Postal Department has invited applications from students studying in Classes 6 to 9 for scholarships under the "Deen Dayal Sparsh Yojana", aimed at encouraging interest in philately among schoolchildren. Under the scheme, students who secured at least 60% marks in the 2025-26 academic year and maintain a postal savings account or are members of a philately club and actively pursue stamp collection will be eligible. Selected students will receive an annual scholarship of Rs 6,000. Selection will be based on a philately quiz. Students shortlisted through the quiz will have to participate in the philately activities conducted by the Postal Department.

Sadbhavana Day pledge administered in Haveri

Haveri
A pledge was administered to mark Sadbhavana Day at the Deputy Commissioner's office meeting hall in Haveri. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Nagaraj led the officials and staff in taking the pledge. The programme was attended by Deputy Director of the Food and Civil Supplies Department Manjunath, Regional Transport Officer Vinay Kathorkar, Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry Department Dr. Yali, district-level officers from various departments and other staff members. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to promoting communal harmony, unity and mutual understanding among people.

‘Make full use of government facilities, achieve your goals’

VIJAYAPURA
Students from rural areas should make full use of the modern facilities provided by the government and work hard to achieve their goals, former Gram Panchayat vice-president Gurunagouda Biradar said.
He was speaking after inaugurating the welcome and cultural programme for first-year PUC students for the 2026-27 academic year at the newly started Government Pre-University College in Kupakaddi village of Kolar taluk.
Recalling his own student days, Biradar said he had to travel to another village to pursue educa-

District Consumer Protection Council holds first meeting

Discussions focused on consumer rights and duties, awareness programmes, and safeguards against unfair practices

KARWAR

The first meeting of the Uttara Kannada District Consumer Protection Council was held at the meeting hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Karwar. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla chaired the meeting.
The meeting was organised to familiarise the newly constituted council members with its objectives, responsibilities and functions. Detailed discussions were held on consumer rights and duties, consumer awareness programmes and measures required to protect consumers from unfair practices.
Officials stressed the importance of creating greater awareness among people about their rights as consumers. Members were urged to actively participate in awareness programmes and help citizens understand the procedures available for resolving consumer-related complaints. The council also discussed the need to ensure that consumers receive proper information about the quality, quantity, price and safety of goods and ser-



vices.
The meeting emphasised the importance of coordination among various government departments and agencies in protecting consumer interests. Officials and council members discussed ways to strengthen consumer awareness activities across the district, particularly among people who may not be fully aware of available grievance-redressal mechanisms.
The participants also highlighted the need to encourage consumers to raise complaints whenever they face problems relating to goods or services. Awareness programmes can help people understand where and how to approach the appropriate authorities when their consumer rights are violated.
Deputy Director of the Consumer Affairs Department Manjunath Revanakar, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Prakash Halamanavar, District Social Welfare Officer Umesh and Assistant Registrar and Assistant Administrative Officer of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Manjunatheshwar Ganapati Goli attended the meeting.
Lokesh Lakshminarayana Hegde, Bhandival, G.G. Hegde KadeKone and other officials and council members were also present.
The council members were encouraged to work collectively to improve consumer awareness and ensure that grievances are addressed effectively. The meeting also underlined the importance of

Boost consumer rights awareness

Officials stressed inter-departmental coordination to strengthen consumer protection, enhance grievance-redressal awareness, and encourage residents to report faulty goods or services. Key leaders, including Deputy Director Manjunath Revanakar, urged council members to drive community education, streamline departmental responses, and ensure timely resolution of complaints.

strengthening the consumer protection system at the district level through regular awareness drives, better coordination among departments and timely response to complaints.
The council is expected to play an important role in promoting consumer awareness and safeguarding the rights of people across Uttara Kannada district.

Kerakoll supports sustainable construction of Viveka Smaraka

MYSURU

Kerakoll, an Italian company specialising in sustainable building materials, has contributed eco-friendly construction solutions to the newly inaugurated Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre, known as Viveka Smaraka, in Mysuru, Karnataka.
The centre has been established to promote the teachings and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and stands at the historic site of the former Niranjana Math on N.S. Road. Swami Vivekananda stayed at the site as a wandering monk in November 1892. The property was later handed over by the government to Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Mysuru, for the development of the centre.
Led by Ashram President Swami Muktidananda, the facility has been designed as a youth-focused centre where more than 10,000 students are expected to participate in specialised workshops and programmes. The project com-



bines cultural heritage with modern facilities aimed at encouraging education, personal development and youth engagement.
Spread across more than 81,600 square feet, the complex includes a basement, a G+3 main building and a G+2 annex. The centre features a 4D Experience Centre, a 700-seat amphitheatre, exhibition halls, classrooms, conference facilities, a library and dedicated meditation and yoga spaces.
Kerakoll supplied four of its eco-friendly product systems for critical structural and finishing applications. The products included H40 Gel White, Aquastop Flex, Biofix Grey and Fugalite Colour. The company said the solutions were selected to support structural durability, aesthetics and indoor environmental



quality while meeting the requirements of a high-use institutional facility.
Ahzam Javed, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, Kerakoll, said the company was proud to contribute to a project of national, cultural and spiritual importance. He said the company's focus was on creating healthy, durable and environmentally responsible spaces and added that its engineered solutions would help the facility maintain high architectural and environmental standards over the long term.
The company said its involvement in the Viveka Smaraka project further strengthens its position as a technology partner for institutional, commercial and heritage projects in India, combining Italian engineering expertise with sustainable mineral-based construction technology.

Koppal Horticulture Campaign draws 12,000 participants

KOPPAL

The 10th edition of the 'Plant Fair and Horticulture Campaign-2026', organised by the Koppal Horticulture Department from August 15 to 20, concluded successfully with overwhelming participation from farmers and the public. More than 12,000 people attended the six-day event, generating demand for over 55 lakh saplings and horticulture-related inputs.
The campaign focused on promoting horticulture crops along field bunds, dryland farming, drought management and rainwater harvesting under the theme of low investment, low maintenance and continuous income. Exotic fruit saplings witnessed particularly high demand, with advance registrations received for more than 2,000 Miyazaki mango and over 2,000 avocado saplings. Demand was also recorded for more than 5,000 exotic fruit plants, including macadamia, mangosteen, litchi, foreign jackfruit and cherry varieties.
Farmers registered in advance to cultivate horticultural crops across more than 3,000 acres. Over 500 acres have been earmarked for planting hybrid coconut varieties, including Kolangatt Orange, Chowghat Green, Gangabond and Ttidi. The department's nursery sold more than 3.5 lakh saplings, including Kesar mango, lemon, coconut, vegetable and ornamental plants, while advance demand was received for another 4.5 lakh saplings.

Shirahatti Town Panchayat awaits new building

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS



The Shirahatti Town Panchayat in Gadag district is struggling to function from a dilapidated British-era sub-jail building, raising questions over when the civic body will get a proper office of its own.
The town panchayat had earlier functioned from a small building near Basaveshwara Circle. However, due to lack of space, it was shifted to the old sub-jail building on the outskirts of the town around three years ago. The structure is now in poor condition, with rainwater leaking through the roof even during light showers. A tarpaulin sheet has been placed over the building as a temporary measure. Staff members are reportedly struggling to protect property documents, official records and other important files from water damage.

Ironically, funds have already been sanctioned for a new building. Around Rs 1.55 crore has been allocated under the fourth phase of the Urban Upgrading project. The tender process has also been completed and a work order issued to the contractor. Property No. 149/2 has been identified as the site for the proposed building.
However, the project has reportedly hit a roadblock over ownership of the identified land. The site is said to belong to the Sports Department, leading to confusion among authorities over its ownership and legal status. Contractors are reportedly reluctant to begin construction

despite receiving the work order, fearing future legal complications.
Residents have questioned why construction has not begun despite the availability of funds and completion of the tender process. They have urged the government and concerned departments to resolve the land issue immediately and start construction.
With the existing building posing serious challenges to staff and public records, residents are demanding that authorities act quickly and provide the Shirahatti Town Panchayat with a safe and permanent office.

Public outrage

Despite having both money and permission, the project has been shelved just on the pretext of land dispute between departments. The people's representatives and officials, who should be working with a development vision, are turning a blind eye to this plight. The public is expressing strong anger that the district administration and the concerned minister should immediately intervene, resolve the land dispute with the sports department and construct a new, well-equipped building for the Shirahatti town panchayat.

Gadag reviews Mid-Season Crop Adversity relief measures

GADAG

Gadag Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar has directed officials to use satellite data and conduct joint field surveys to assess crop losses and provide timely compensation to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana amid adverse weather conditions during the ongoing monsoon season.
Sridhar issued the directions while chairing a district-level high-level review meeting to discuss invoking the 'Mid-Season Adversity' provisions for monsoon crops. He said irregular rainfall, prolonged dry spells and other weather-related conditions had affected crops in several areas, making immediate assistance essential for affected farmers.
The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials and representatives of insurance companies to identify areas where crop losses were likely to exceed 50 per cent due to inadequate rainfall or prolonged dry conditions. Joint field inspections involving the Agriculture Department, Revenue Department and insurance companies should be conducted immediately, he said. Reports should be submitted as per the prescribed guidelines to facilitate payment of 25 per cent advance interim compensation to eligible farmers.

The meeting decided to use satellite-based indicators, including NDVI and NDWI, along with rainfall-related satellite data from KSNMDC, to scientifically assess crop growth and moisture conditions. Joint teams were directed to inspect affected agricultural fields and submit reports without delay.
Sridhar instructed officials to complete the Mid-Season Adversity process before the completion of harvesting so that eligible farmers receive fair compensation without unnecessary delays.
Joint Director of Agriculture Chetana Patil said the department was scientifically assessing the condition of maize, sunflower, groundnut and other monsoon crops. NDVI and moisture-index data were being examined to identify eligible Insurance Units that could be activated under the Mid-Season Adversity guidelines.
Patil said Agriculture Department officials, Revenue officials and insurance company representatives would coordinate closely to ensure that no eligible farmer was deprived of insurance benefits. She added that the department was committed to conducting an accurate assessment of crop damage and facilitating insurance benefits for registered eligible farmers according to the rules.

VALMIKI CORPORATION SCAM PROTEST

BJP protests alleged Rs 8.43 crore KUDA Scam

KOPPAL

BJP leaders and workers staged a major protest and attempted to lay siege to the Koppal Urban Development Authority (KUDA) office on Friday, condemning allegations that more than Rs 8.43 crore belonging to site applicants was misappropriated through fake bank accounts.
Before the protest, BJP leaders and workers from Koppal constituency participated in the ongoing dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's office, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over the Valmiki Corporation scam. Later, a procession was taken from the DC office to the KUDA office under the leadership of Dr Basavaraj Kavatagere, MLC Hemalatha Naik, former MP Shivaramagowda and district BJP president Naveen Gulagannavar.



Carrying placards and raising slogans against the state government and KUDA, the protesters attempted to enter the authority's office. Police stopped them, leading to a brief scuffle and pushing between the protesters and police. Several BJP leaders and workers were subsequently taken into custody and later released.
Speaking during the protest, Dr Basavaraj Kavatagere said the alleged misuse of more than Rs 8.43 crore paid by hundreds of people aspiring to own sites was a serious matter. He demanded a comprehensive probe into how out-

sourced employee Ravindra Kumar, who is allegedly a key accused, was entrusted with such responsibilities at KUDA.
He also sought an investigation into alleged transfers of money to bank accounts of the accused's family members and demanded that the final beneficiaries of the funds be identified. The BJP leaders questioned the delay in arresting key accused persons and demanded that a Special Investigation Team comprising competent officers be formed for an impartial investigation.
Later, a BJP delegation met District Superintendent of Po-

Key points
• Alleged misuse of site fees.
• Demand probe into out-sourced employee.
• Investigate fund transfers to family.
• Demand Special Investigation Team formation.
• Met District Superintendent of Police.
• Warned approaching CBI and ED.

lice Arasiddi and submitted a memorandum bearing the signatures of party leaders.

Quick Read

Incorrect to attribute sugar price hike to ethanol production

New Delhi

Government on Friday said it is incorrect to attribute the recent increase in sugar prices to diversion of sugar for ethanol production, as the share of sugar diverted for this purpose has declined from around 12 per cent in 2022-23 to around 9 per cent in 2025-26. "Moreover, nearly three-fourths of the ethanol produced in the country now comes from grains, particularly maize," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution said in a statement. The government said it is closely monitoring the situation and has taken a series of measures to ensure adequate availability of sugar and stable prices for consumers.

China's growing clout in Indo-Pacific raises concern

Beijing

A section of Japanese media and people are criticising Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and her administration for their efforts to upgrade Japan's defence and security systems, but these critics are overlooking China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region, according to an article published on the Japan Forward news website. "The Pacific Islands have become an increasingly important arena of strategic competition between China and the United States and its regional partners," the article stated.

India, ADB sign \$230 million loan to modernise Chennai's water supply

New Delhi

In a bid to modernise and expand Chennai's water supply and sanitation infrastructure, the government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday signed a \$230 million loan. The project will construct over 170 km of water supply pipes and sewer pipes, upgrade seven water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations and strengthen water utility assets and operations management through performance-based contracts, according to a Finance Ministry statement. With this, Chennai will become the first Indian city to implement a comprehensive ring-main solution, a closed-loop plumbing system designed to maintain balanced water pressure and deliver water efficiently across service areas, improving reliability, equity, and resilience to natural hazards in its urban water supply system.

Unincorporated Sector Expands Despite Uncertainty

India's unincorporated sector expanded strongly in April-June 2026, with establishments, employment and digital adoption rising

NEW DELHI

India's unincorporated non-agricultural sector continued to expand during the April-June 2026 quarter, with the estimated number of establishments rising 9.20 per cent year-on-year, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The number of unincorporated establishments increased to an estimated 8.67 crore in April-June 2026, compared with 7.94 crore during the corresponding quarter of 2025. The growth came despite continuing global economic uncertainties.

Employment in the sector also recorded a strong increase. The estimated workforce rose to 13.70 crore during the quarter, up 6.55 per cent from 12.81 crore a year earlier.



The services sector emerged as a major driver of employment growth, with its estimated workforce increasing by more than 21 per cent. The sector also continued to show greater participation of women, who accounted for more than 30 per cent of total employment.

Working owners remained the largest category of workers, accounting for 62.38 per cent of total employment, compared with 60.18 per cent a year earlier. Meanwhile, the share of hired workers declined to 22.77 per cent from 24.38 per cent.

Urban areas recorded significantly stronger employment growth, with employment rising more than 12 per cent year-on-year, while rural employment grew by 0.7 per cent.

Digital adoption also gained momentum. Around

India's Business Landscape Just Shifted:

■ Establishments rise 9.20% year-on-year

■ Employment reaches 13.70 crore

■ Services workforce grows over 21%

■ Women account for more than 30% of workers

■ Urban employment rises over 12%

■ Around 80% establishments adopt cashless payments

80 per cent of establishments reported using cashless payment methods, including UPI, online banking and POS devices, signalling wider adoption of digital transactions across the sector.

Energy Platform Launches Deep-Tech Accelerator

NEW DELHI

MC²⁺, the energy innovation platform under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, has launched MC²⁺ Ignite, a sector-specific accelerator programme aimed at helping deep-tech startups move from laboratory development to industrial deployment.

The programme will select approximately 30 deep-tech startups and provide milestone-linked convertible funding of up to ₹2 crore to each selected venture. Applications for the inaugural cohort will close on August 31, 2026, with selected startups scheduled to be announced on September 15.

MC²⁺ Ignite will provide startups with access to capital, research and development infrastructure, technical expertise, industry mentors, pilot opportunities and potential

MC²⁺ Ignite at a Glance:

Around 30 startups to be selected

Funding of up to 2 crore each

Applications close: August 31, 2026

Selected startups announced: September 15

commercial pathways through participating energy companies.

The accelerator will operate through a hub in Delhi and nodes located within the R&D centres of participating oil and gas companies. This structure is intended to bring startups closer to industrial environments and provide access to sites where technologies can be tested and validated.

ed.

MC²⁺ has also partnered with institutions including IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, C-CAMP and Venture Centre in Pune, allowing participating startups to access laboratories, infrastructure and mentoring capabilities.

The Section 8 not-for-profit platform, backed by India's energy majors, was established to reduce fragmentation in energy-sector research and create stronger links between industry requirements, scientific institutions and startups.

Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Chairman of MC² Foundation, said the initiative addresses duplication in energy research and creates a more direct interface between industry and research institutions.

India eyes 20% of global smartphone production in 1-2 years

NEW DELHI

India is rapidly emerging as a key alternative manufacturing hub in the global electronics supply chain and could account for nearly one-fifth of the world's smartphone production within the next one to two years, according to a report.

The shift reflects a broader transformation in the global electronics manufacturing landscape, as companies seek to reduce their dependence on China and diversify production across multiple countries, according to One World Outlook report.

The strategy, widely described as "China plus one", has gained momentum amid supply-chain disruptions, rising geopolitical tensions, tariffs and tighter controls on critical technologies.

Nepal drives green future with electric vehicles

KATHMANDU

Electric vehicles are booming across Nepal, transforming the country's roads into cleaner pathways. Official data reveals that more than 63,000 EVs are now registered nationwide, making up a remarkable seventy percent of all newly imported private cars.

This rapid shift helps the Himalayan nation utilize its abundant hydropower resources while cutting down on costly imported fossil fuels. Government tax breaks, affordable loans, and a flood of new models especially affordable Chinese brands have driven this incredible growth in recent years.

Nepal now proudly stands right behind Norway as the world's second-largest market for new private electric car sales.

Solar expansion in China causes bird diversity decline

BEIJING

Rapid expansion of solar farms in China is linked to a reduction in bird diversity as cropland and grassland are cleared for development, a new report has said, calling the trend a green dilemma that pits carbon reduction against conservation.

Both resident and migratory bird species showed significant declines in areas of rapid solar development, with stronger effects observed in wealthier and non desert regions, the report from France 24 said citing Chinese research.

Species native to mountain habitats that are poorly suited to solar farms were largely unaffected, the report said citing a study, which analysed policy driven solar growth across 2,344 Chinese counties from 2014 to 2023.

The research paired that

data with citizen science bird records, and found that stricter pro solar policies were consistently linked with declines in bird biodiversity.

"The main message is not to slow the renewable energy transition, but to make solar development more ecologically informed," the report cited first author Huiming Zhang of Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology.

China aims to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 and the country's solar footprint reached nearly 4,520 square kilometers by 2024 - equivalent in size to the US state of Rhode Island.

Solar locations are chosen based on the government's "Five-Year Plans" to promote economic development in certain regions rather than land availability or intensity of sunlight.

DGGI busts clandestine pan masala, tobacco manufacturing network

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has uncovered a clandestine manufacturing operation involving pan masala, scented jarda and gutkha across six premises in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot and Banda districts, according to an official statement on Friday.

According to the Ministry of Finance, acting on specific intelligence, officers of the DGGI's Lucknow Zonal Unit launched coordinated searches around midnight on August 18 at premises linked to two firms, one engaged in the manufacture of pan masala and allied products and the other involved in trading activities.

During the searches, officials detected 27 undeclared pouch-packing machines, including six machines used

Goyal Pushes Deeper Singapore Economic Ties

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening economic and investment ties with Singapore following a series of high-level meetings with business leaders during his visit.

Goyal met Dilhan Sandrasegaram, CEO of Temasek Holdings, and discussed opportunities to deepen investment linkages and expand the Singapore-based investment firm's engagement with India's growth story. He highlighted India's strong economic fundamentals, investment-led reforms and expanding opportunities across sectors as key drivers for long-term partnerships.

The minister also held discussions with a delegation led by Mark Lee, Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation. The talks focused on increasing business-to-business engagement and expanding trade and investment ties between India and Singapore.

Goyal stressed the important role of business communities in strengthening economic partnerships, promoting collaboration and creating new opportunities for companies in both countries.

Healthcare cooperation also featured prominently during his visit. Goyal met Leo Puri, Chairman of Fortis Healthcare, and Dr Prem Nair,

Group CEO of IHH Healthcare, to explore opportunities for deeper India-Singapore collaboration in the healthcare sector.

He said India's growing healthcare ecosystem presents significant opportunities for global investors and institutions.

Goyal further met Brian Shuptrine, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Turner & Townsend, to discuss India's expanding infrastructure and development landscape. The minister highlighted opportunities for greater participation by global investors and international partners.

The meetings come as India seeks to strengthen economic partnerships with Singapore and expand business collaboration across Asia.

SEBI Chief urges focus on investors

MUMBAI

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey urged the mutual fund industry to prioritize investor outcomes above all else during its rapid growth phase. Speaking at a major financial milestone event, Pandey emphasized that true sector success should not be judged merely by soaring assets under management or rising folio counts.

With unique investors expanding significantly and monthly contributions reaching record highs, regulators stress that multi-lingual education and rigorous protection frameworks must remain central.

Authorities also highlighted the surging participation of women investors, calling for enhanced digital safety standards across all financial platforms moving forward.

BRICS TECH COOPERATION

BRICS Pushes Stronger Technology Cooperation

NEW DELHI

Emerging technologies are opening new avenues for economic and social progress, but stronger international cooperation is essential to ensure innovation remains accessible, affordable, trusted and sustainable, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh said.

Addressing the 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting, Singh called on BRICS countries to pursue practical mechanisms for deeper collaboration in frontier research, inno-



vation financing, talent mobility, shared research infrastructure, startup partnerships and capacity building.

He said such cooperation could help build a future-ready BRICS science, technology and innovation architecture capable of re-

sponding to global challenges while supporting the aspirations of the Global South.

Singh noted that the world is undergoing rapid transformation driven by artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, photonics,

geospatial technologies and high-performance computing.

He highlighted India's growing global role in science, technology and innovation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reiterated the country's commitment to an open, inclusive and human-centric approach.

India's National Quantum Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, BioE3 Policy, National Geospatial Policy and expanding Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem were cited as examples of efforts aimed at ensuring technology improves lives and supports sustainable economic trans-

formation.

India has chosen "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" as the theme of its BRICS Presidency in 2026.

Singh said the theme reflects a shared commitment to inclusive growth, sustainable development, resilience and equitable international partnerships.

Dr Jitendra Singh: "Emerging technologies create new opportunities for progress but require stronger international cooperation."

BRICS President: "Science, technology and innovation must serve humanity."

Amazon expands anti-counterfeit unit in India to protect 1.7 million sellers

NEW YORK

US-based e-commerce and technology giant Amazon is expanding the operations of its Counterfeit Crimes Unit (CCU) in India as it majorly steps up efforts to protect 1.7 million Indian sellers and consumers from counterfeit products, CCU Director Kebharu Smith said on Friday. In an interview with IANS, Smith said the unit -- which was launched in June 2020 -- is a global team with members in the, including India and has pursued more than 32,000 bad actors globally through civil litigation and criminal referrals to law enforcement agencies.

Smith also highlighted the scale of Amazon's seller ecosystem in the country. "Amazon today works with more than 1.7 million sellers in India and half of them are from tier two and tier three cities," he said. "Our mission is to take the fight to these bad actors," Smith said. The expansion of the CCU's India operations is aimed at strengthening efforts on the ground and working more closely with local law-enforcement agencies, he said. "We have ongoing investigations with the CBI here in India as well," Smith told IANS.

Quick Read

Gujarat doctor allegedly assaulted at Rajkot hospital

Rajkot
A 26-year-old woman resident doctor at Rajkot's PDU Civil Hospital was allegedly slapped, abused and threatened by a senior male colleague following a disagreement over the admission of a critically ill patient, The doctor, identified as Krishna Singhala, was reportedly on emergency duty when the incident occurred on Thursday evening. The episode triggered a protest by junior doctors; Police registered a complaint against Ashwin Ramani and detained him on Friday. Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya assured the doctor of swift justice and full security, stressing that there would be no compromise on the dignity and safety of women doctors.

Karol Bagh demolition collapse kills one, injures three

Delhi
A two-storey building collapsed during demolition work on Pyare Lal Road in Delhi's Karol Bagh on Friday morning, killing one labourer and injuring three others. The incident occurred around 11:15 am while a private contractor was demolishing the old structure. Police said the building owner had not obtained the required permission for demolition. Rescue teams rushed to the site after receiving information from locals. One injured worker later died, while another was reported critical. The building owners and contractor were detained for questioning as further investigation continues.



Committee probes student's death case in visakapatnam

Visakhapatnam
A three-member committee has been formed to investigate the death of a six-year-old student who allegedly died after being beaten by a school teacher in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao expressed condolences to the child's family and assured them of support. He said the incident had been brought to the notice of Minister Nara Lokesh and the committee would examine the matter. Rao said appropriate action would follow the report and urged schools to monitor students' health and maintain proper records.

Delhi bans construction to reduce air pollution

Delhi will ban construction from December 10 to January 20, with AI cameras and the Dust Portal monitoring sites

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will completely ban construction activities across the capital from December 10 to January 20 to help control air pollution during the winter season, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Friday. The move aims to prevent dust pollution when air quality often worsens across the city. Gupta said construction sites covering more than 500 square metres will be closely monitored through the government's Dust Portal and AI-enabled cameras. She urged residents to report violations to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, their local MLA, or the chief minister. The chief minister said construction work had continued at some locations during the previous winter despite restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan. She



AT A GLANCE
42-day construction ban: Dec 10-Jan 20.
Sites above 500 sq m monitored.
AI cameras will track violations.
•Violators face notices, fines and warning

said some sites had operated behind covers, making en-

forcement difficult. This year, authorities plan to use real-time monitoring to detect such violations and take action. The upgraded Dust Portal uses cameras, pollution sensors, GIS mapping and artificial intelligence to track construction and demolition sites. It monitors PM10 and PM2.5 levels and can generate yellow, orange and red alerts based on pollution conditions. Officials can also issue digital notices, warnings and fines when rules are violated.

Samrat Choudhary discusses Bihar issues with Ministers

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary met Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi on Friday to discuss key issues linked to the state's development and financial interests. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Janata Dal-United National Working President Sanjay Jha also attended the meeting. The meeting was held at Kartavya Bhawan around 11 am. According to Chief Minister Choudhary, discussions covered India-Nepal water and dam projects, budgetary matters, tourism development and other issues concerning Bihar. He said the talks were aimed at improving coordination between the state and the Centre and advancing matters related to development, prosperity and public welfare. The meeting comes as Bi-

Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary met Union ministers Sitharaman and Jaishankar to discuss funding, infrastructure, tourism, irrigation and India-Nepal water projects.

har seeks greater Central support for major infrastructure and development programmes. Several projects in the state require substantial funding, while the government is also seeking assistance for ongoing and proposed initiatives. Among the important issues is the Kosi-Mechi River Interlinking Project, for which Bihar currently bears part of the project cost. The state is also pursuing major expressway and infrastructure projects and is expected to seek timely release of funds for their implementation. However, no specific request for additional financial assistance made during Fri-

day's meeting has been officially confirmed. The discussions are therefore being seen as part of broader Centre-state coordination on Bihar's development priorities. Choudhary's Delhi visit was his first reported trip following the Bankipur by-election. Before meeting the Union ministers, he visited BJP leader Vinod Tawde's residence and congratulated him on his reappointment as the party's National General Secretary and Uttar Pradesh In-charge. Choudhary praised Tawde's organisational leadership and expressed confidence in his future contribution. The meetings highlighted Bihar's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Centre while seeking support for infrastructure, irrigation, tourism and other development programmes. Further decisions on funding and projects are expected through the appropriate government channels.

EOW ARRESTS EEE CHIEF IN ₹9.31 CRORE CASE

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested Aswath Reddy N., Managing Director of Electrical Energy Equipments India Pvt. Ltd. (EEE), in an alleged ₹9.31 crore payment diversion case linked to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (BESCOM) projects. Reddy was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Saket Courts on August 19 after being brought to Delhi on transit remand. According to the complaint, Visual Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. (VTI) entered into an MoU with EEE on August 8, 2024, for supplying materials for BESCOM projects. VTI alleged that it supplied materials worth about ₹9.31 crore after being assured that BESCOM payments would be routed through an escrow account. Investigators allege that the payments were instead transferred to another EEE account. The court noted that investigators are examining the money trail, including the accounts receiving BESCOM payments, subsequent trans-

INSIGHTS
■ EOW arrested EEE MD Aswath Reddy.
■ Case involves alleged ₹9.31 crore diversion.
■ VTI supplied materials for BESCOM projects.
■ Court granted two days' police custody.
■ Investigators are tracing the money trail

fers and the alleged ultimate beneficiaries. GST records, invoices and different versions of a purchase order dated August 21, 2024, are also being examined. EOW had sought six days of police custody, but the court granted two days for sustained interrogation and confrontation with records. Reddy's anticipatory bail plea had earlier been rejected by the Delhi High Court on June 9, which considered the allegations serious and said the matter could not be treated merely as a civil dispute. The court also noted discrepancies concerning the purchase order and jurisdiction clauses.

JP Nadda reviews H1N1 readiness amid Delhi surge

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday reviewed the country's preparedness to deal with H1N1 influenza, with special attention to Delhi, amid reports of a rise in swine flu cases in the national capital. Delhi Health Minister D Pankaj Kumar Singh was also present during the meeting, where officials discussed the current health situation and measures needed to handle seasonal influenza. According to the Health Ministry, Nadda reviewed national surveillance data and

the epidemiological situation linked to influenza. Officials also discussed trends in influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory infections, along with testing facilities and laboratory surveillance. Nadda stressed the importance of remaining alert and maintaining strong monitoring of influenza trends. The meeting also focused on the preparedness of healthcare facilities in Delhi. Officials reviewed the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities and other essential supplies required to manage patients during a possible in-

crease in seasonal influenza cases. The review came as health concerns have grown over reports of more H1N1 cases in the capital. Delhi has been experiencing humid and changing weather conditions, with fluctuations in temperature. Health experts have said such conditions can support the spread of seasonal respiratory infections. They have advised people to stay alert to symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, and seek medical attention when required.

19-Year-Old NEET Aspirant Dies by Suicide

MAHARASHTRA

A 19-year-old NEET-UG aspirant, Suraj Subhash Shinde, from Khandala village in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhaji-nagar district, died by suicide after reportedly becoming distressed over scoring lower than expected in the medical entrance examination. Before his death, he left a brief note apologising to his parents and expressing a hope of becoming a doctor in another life. His death highlights the intense academic and emotional pressure faced by students preparing for highly competitive examinations such as NEET.

ED seizes cash, locker keys from MP Avinash Reddy

HYDERABAD,

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday seized unaccounted cash of ₹24 lakh and two locker keys during searches linked to YSRCP Lok Sabha MP YS Avinash Reddy in a money laundering case connected with the 2019 murder of former Andhra Pradesh minister and MP Y S

Vivekananda Reddy.

The searches were conducted at seven premises in Hyderabad and Kadapa under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED also seized documents and digital devices that it described as incriminating. The agency said the searches covered residential premises linked to key accused in the case. Vivekananda Red-

dy, a prominent political leader and uncle of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, was found murdered at his residence in Kadapa on March 15, 2019. Following an Andhra Pradesh High Court order in March 2020, the Central Bureau of Investigation was directed to conduct further investigation into the case. The CBI later

registered an FIR and filed three chargesheets, naming several people, including Avinash Reddy, his father Y S Bhaskar Reddy and other accused. According to the ED, the CBI investigation alleged that political disagreements and concerns over Vivekananda Reddy's growing influence were behind the alleged conspiracy.

Gujarat CM courts US firms for investments abroad

NEW YORK

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held separate meetings with senior executives of Kyndryl, BlackRock and Holtec International in New York as part of the state's efforts to attract global investment ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027. Discussions focused on artificial intelligence, financial services, digital infrastructure and nuclear equipment manufacturing. Patel met Xerxes Cooper, Global Head of Delivery at Kyndryl, and discussed oppor-

tunities for cooperation in artificial intelligence, knowledge-sharing, skill development and mentorship programmes for startups and students. Patel highlighted Gujarat's growing focus on semiconductors, electronics, data centres, digital infrastructure, AI and advanced manufacturing. He also invited Kyndryl to participate in the upcoming global investment summit. The chief minister separately met Samara Cohen, Senior Managing Director and Global Head of Development at BlackRock. Their discussions covered asset management and

exchange-traded funds in India and Gujarat. Patel highlighted the potential of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, to become a major global centre for financial services. He invited BlackRock to expand its operations in GIFT City and participate in the 2027 summit. Patel also held talks with the chief executive of Holtec International, a company involved in nuclear power equipment and fuel storage solutions. Holtec already operates a precision fabrication facility in Gujarat and expanded it in 2025.

India expects sodium-ion battery growth

NEW DELHI

India could see major growth in sodium-ion battery technology as researchers have reached Technology Readiness Level 7 and above, Renewable Energy Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said on Friday. He said the technology could move from pilot projects to commercial production within two to three years, supporting India's growing need for energy storage. Sarangi said alternative battery technologies will become increasingly important as renewable energy expands. He also highlighted progress in vanadium flow batteries, saying domestic manufacturers are developing supply capacity. NTPC Green Energy has placed an order for 100 megawatts, while rising demand could eventually help reduce costs. The secretary said the Central Electricity Authority estimates India will need around 411 gigawatt-hours of energy storage by 2031-32. He said the country is on track to achieve the target earlier. Currently, around 156 GWh of battery energy storage projects are reportedly under process or implementation through tenders and placed orders. Sarangi also discussed battery recycling and domestic solar manufacturing.

Jharkhand HC stays cancellation of JSSC-CGL, CDPO exams

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court has stayed the state government's decision to cancel the JSSC-CGL and CDPO examinations, providing temporary relief to candidates whose appointments were affected by the order. The court's intervention comes amid a wider controversy over alleged irregularities in several competitive examinations conducted in the state. The state government had ordered the cancellation of several examinations following an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the recruitment process. Candidates selected through the JSSC-CGL examination challenged the decision before the High Court, arguing that cancelling the entire examination and appointments was unfair to those who had followed the prescribed selection process. A total of 1,932 candidates were selected through the JSSC-CGL examination. Many had already received appointments and were working in different government departments. The candidates argued that if wrongdoing had occurred during the examination, responsibility should be fixed against those involved rather than penalising all successful candidates. The High Court's order has offered temporary relief to the affected employees. The development comes a day after the court also stayed the gov-

ernment's decision to cancel appointments linked to the JPSC 11th-13th Civil Services and Food Safety Officers examinations. The court directed the concerned individuals to continue working until further orders and sought a response from the state government. The controversy has triggered protests by candidates and employees affected by the cancellations. Officers whose JSSC-CGL appointments were cancelled had been staging a sit-in since August 18, demanding withdrawal of the government order. On Thursday, they held a protest outside Project Bhawan and later organised a Tiranga Yatra from Morhabadi to Albert Ekka Chowk. The wider dispute began after the Jharkhand government announced the cancellation of 22 examinations conducted by the TDPL agency. The decision affected people who had already cleared examinations, secured government jobs and begun working. Many protested after their appointments were suddenly put at risk. The High Court has now provided judicial relief while the dispute continues. The next hearing is scheduled for September 15, when the court is expected to consider the state government's response and further arguments on the examination cancellations and appointments.

Calcutta HC sets conditions for teachers' Census duty

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday laid down several conditions or appointing teachers from West Bengal's state-run schools for Census duty. Justice Krishna Rao directed authorities to inform schools in advance about their requirement for Census work and ensure that regular teaching is not affected. The court said schools must arrange alternative teachers when their staff members are assigned Census duties. However, once selected, teachers will be required to report for the assignment and perform



their Census responsibilities as directed by the authorities. Justice Rao also ordered that teachers engaged in Census work must be officially treated as "on-duty" through-

out the period of their Census-related assignment. The court had earlier questioned the practice of asking teachers to handle teaching and Census responsibilities at the same

Quick Read



Veteran actress Sowcar Janaki dies aged 94

Chennai
Veteran actress and Padma Shri awardee Sowcar Janaki died in Chennai on Friday at the age of 94 after being hospitalised following health complications. Her death was confirmed by Nadigar Sangam president Nassar. Janaki, born Sankaramanchi Janaki, began her film career with the Telugu film Shavukaru in 1950. She worked across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam cinema during a career spanning more than seven decades, appearing in over 400 films. Her death prompted condolences from colleagues and fans across South Indian cinema.

Four arrested after Dehradun clash, firing

Dehradun
Four people were arrested after two groups of youths allegedly clashed and opened fire in Patel Nagar on Thursday, police said. One person, identified as Sahil, was injured and taken to Mahant Indresh Hospital. Police said the groups had an old dispute and one group allegedly attacked the other with sticks before firing broke out at two locations. An FIR was registered against 11 people under relevant Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections. Police identified the arrested as Sujal Pal, Aditya Malik, Anshul and Aryan. Raids are underway for others.

Maharashtra family of 3 dies in hilltop fall

Sambhajinagar
Three members of a family died after falling from Khavda Hill in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on Friday, police said. A 19-year-old boy had reportedly gone to the hill after an argument with his parents over a mobile phone. The boy allegedly threatened to jump, prompting his parents, villagers and police to try to persuade him to move away from the cliff edge. Rescue personnel also reached the spot. After nearly three hours, the boy fell from the hill. His father, who tried to save him, also fell, while his mother fell moments later. Police recovered all three bodies and sent them for further formalities.

Rajasthan school inspection sparks political clash

JAIPUR
A school inspection attempt by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) in Rajasthan's Jaipur district triggered a political controversy after party members alleged, they were attacked during the visit. The incident took place in Kanvarpura village under the Bagru Assembly constituency, where the CJP delegation had gone to inspect a government school. The party alleged that the school had been operating from a buffalo shed for years. Videos shared by CJP showed a confrontation be-

Udhayanidhi challenges CM vijay to release corruption files

Tamil Nadu Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin challenged Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to release alleged DMK-era corruption files, triggering a heated Assembly exchange on Friday

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday challenged Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to release alleged corruption files linked to the previous DMK government and take action if there was evidence of wrongdoing. The remarks were made during a heated debate in the state Assembly over Vijay's earlier statement that he would make the files public at an "appropriate time." Udhayanidhi questioned why the alleged findings had not yet been released and criticised Vijay's approach to the issue. He said the Assembly should not be treated like a film set while responding to the chief minister's remarks. "Don't deliver punch dialogues like in cinema in the



assembly," Udhayanidhi said. He also urged Vijay to release the documents immediately if there was credible evidence of corruption, asking why the chief minister was delaying their publication. Vijay did not directly respond to Udhayanidhi in the House. However, the state's School Education Minister defended the government, saying Vijay remained committed to transparency and

would release the alleged corruption files at an appropriate time. The exchange triggered heated arguments between DMK and TVK legislators, with members raising slogans and briefly disrupting proceedings before the Assembly resumed. The dispute followed Vijay's statement on Wednesday that he possessed files concerning alleged corruption in three government

"Don't deliver punch dialogues like in cinema in the assembly,"
"Udhayanidhi Stalin, LoP

departments and would reveal them when the time was appropriate. The Assembly has recently witnessed repeated clashes between the ruling TVK and opposition DMK over corruption allegations, government finances and welfare schemes. During an earlier budget discussion, Finance Minister Wilson criticised the previous government over rising debt, while DMK leader Nehru defended the borrowing, saying funds were used for development projects. The Assembly also passed a resolution seeking fairer tax devolution from the Centre.

Congress seeks review of E20 policy, non-ethanol options

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday demanded an immediate review of the Centre's E20 petrol policy and called for non-ethanol fuel options, alleging that consumers were facing higher food and transport costs. Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh raised the issue in a post on X, arguing that increased ethanol production was affecting food prices while raising concerns about vehicle mileage and compatibility. Ramesh alleged that sugarcane and foodgrains were being diverted towards ethanol production, contributing to higher prices of food products. Citing figures from a news report, he said 2.5 million tonnes of sugarcane meant for sugar production

"The people are paying the price for both expensive food and expensive travel."
Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader

had been diverted to ethanol. According to the figures cited by Ramesh, sugar prices increased from ₹48 to ₹67 per kg, while jaggery prices rose from ₹50 to ₹65 per kg over three months. He also questioned why petrol prices had not fallen despite lower international crude oil prices and the increased use of ethanol blending. Ramesh said vehicles not designed for 20% ethanol blending could face concerns related to mileage and compatibility. He also questioned the availability of alternatives for consumers and alleged that the policy had benefited

ethanol producers while leaving vehicle owners with additional costs. "The people are paying the price for both expensive food and expensive travel," Ramesh said, criticising the government's policy. He demanded that consumers be allowed access to non-ethanol petrol and argued that fuel policy should not increase costs for households and vehicle owners. Ramesh also said Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly raised concerns over the implementation of the E20 policy. The Congress has sought a policy review and greater choice for consumers amid the continuing debate over ethanol blending, fuel prices and its wider economic impact.

BCI chief rejects resignation calls amid lawyers' protest

NEW DELHI

Bar Council of India Chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Manan Kumar Mishra on Friday rejected demands for his resignation following protests by lawyers, saying he was elected to the post and represented around 25 lakh lawyers across India. "I have served as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India for 12 to 14 years because I was elected. Manan Mishra represents 25 lakh lawyers; he will not step down simply," Mishra said. The remarks came a day after lawyers from several Delhi Bar Associations protested outside the BCI office. They raised concerns over Mishra's long tenure, advocate welfare measures, the proposed Advocate Protection Act and an increase in State Bar Council registration fees. Senior lawyers also assisted

Supreme court holds rare Lok Adalat to reduce backlog

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held a special Lok Adalat bringing judges, lawyers and senior advocates together to settle long-pending disputes. The exercise marked the first time lawyers joined judges on the bench during the process. The initiative began as part of a three-day effort to reduce the court's growing case backlog. Judges heard matters involving banking, matrimonial disputes, motor accident claims, consumer compensation, labour issues, RERA cases, cheque disputes, property matters, taxation and service-related cases. Litigants appeared either physically or through virtual proceedings. Judges also checked whether parties accepting settlements had agreed freely and without pressure before disposing of cases. The special hearing was part of the Supreme Court's SAMADHAN Samaroh, with proceedings scheduled to continue on Saturday and Sunday. Nearly 15 benches participated after completing the court's regular business. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant headed one bench with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. Senior lawyers also assisted

Supreme Court holds special Lok Adalat with judges and lawyers to settle long-pending cases and reduce the court's growing backlog.

the bench during the proceedings. The court also took up several old public interest litigations during the day. Matters related to oxygen supplies during the Covid-19 pandemic, vaccination for vulnerable groups, employment schemes, nurses' service conditions and migrant children were addressed. Petitions challenging the repealed farm laws and the imposition of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir were also dismissed as infructuous. The special Lok Adalat followed preparations that began about four months ago, when the Supreme Court invited lawyers and litigants to seek settlements. Most matters heard on Friday were settled, disposed of or withdrawn. The court also identified tax cases involving faceless assessments for further hearing. Settlements reached during the three-day exercise will have the force of judicial orders, providing parties a quicker way to resolve their disputes.

Jajpur floods: man's body stuck on rooftop for 18 hours

JAIPUR

Flooding in Odisha's Jajpur district has highlighted the severe humanitarian challenges faced by residents in inundated areas. In Chintasahi under Bari panchayat, families have remained surrounded by floodwaters for nearly six days following the swelling of the Brahmani and Kharsrota rivers. The situation became particularly distressing after 61-year-old Hrushikesh Mallik died on Wednesday afternoon. His family was forced to keep his body on the rooftop of their house for nearly 18 hours because the ground floor was submerged under around four feet of water. Relatives said they repeatedly sought administrative assistance to transport the body for the last rites but received no immediate help. As water levels receded, villagers carried the body through waist-deep water for about one kilometre because the road remained submerged.

CANCER VACCINE SHOWS POSITIVE RESULTS

NEW DELHI

A personalised cancer vaccine developed by Moderna with Merck has shown encouraging results in a large Phase-3 trial involving patients with high-risk melanoma, a potentially aggressive form of skin cancer. The INterpath-001 trial involved 1,137 patients whose melanoma tumours had been completely removed through surgery. Participants received either the personalised mRNA vaccine, intismeran autogene,

Major insights

1,137 patients in Phase 3 trial.

Recurrence-free survival improved with the vaccine + Keytruda.

Affordability and access remain challenges in India.

Earlier Phase 2 data showed 49% lower recurrence/death risk.

along with Merck's Keytruda, or Keytruda alone.

According to Moderna and Merck, the combination met the trial's primary goal of improving recurrence-free survival, helping patients remain free from the cancer returning. It also achieved a key secondary goal by reducing the risk of the disease spreading to distant parts of the body. Unlike preventive vaccines, the treatment is designed for people who already have cancer. Keytruda works by helping the immune system recognise and attack cancer cells, while the person-

alised mRNA treatment is tailored to the individual patient's tumour. The results have generated significant interest in personalised cancer treatment. Moderna's shares rose sharply following the announcement of the late-stage trial data, boosting the company's market value. Indian oncologist Dr Mandeep Singh Malhotra described the development as an important advance, while noting that affordability and access could remain major challenges for patients in India.

CJP leader threatens Jaipur protest over school

JAIPUR

CJP leader Abhijeet Dipke has threatened to stage a protest at a government school in Jaipur if those allegedly responsible for attacking a party team are not arrested within 48 hours. Dipke alleged that a team led by CJP activist Ashutosh Ranka was attacked by BJP workers while attempting to highlight the condition of a school where children were reportedly studying in a buffalo shed. He demanded arrests and immediate repair work at the school. "If within 48 hours, the goons aren't arrested and repair work doesn't begin, I'll visit Jaipur and will sit at the school until its repair begins," Dipke said.

DMK rejects Government cars for all MLAs

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's decision to provide government cars to all MLAs has triggered a political debate, with the opposition DMK announcing that its legislators will not accept the vehicles. Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin said on Friday that all 59 DMK MLAs had decided to reject the cars and had informed Assembly Speaker J C D Prabhakar about their decision. He suggested that the government should provide vehicles only to legislators who genuinely need them, after reviewing their financial status as declared in election affidavits. Vijay had announced on August 19 that every MLA would receive a government car along with ₹1 lakh as an allowance for fuel expenses and hiring a personal assistant. The Chief Minister said the facilities would help legislators serve their constituencies more effectively. The announcement has drawn criticism from opposition parties and activists,



particularly amid concerns over Tamil Nadu's financial position and the government's earlier emphasis on reducing borrowing. Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna defended the scheme, saying a car is a basic requirement for an MLA to travel and meet people. The CPI said its MLA did not require a government vehicle, while the PMK suggested that cars should be given only to legislators who do not already own one. Congress and AIADMK have not clearly stated their positions. The dispute has added to the political debate over government spending and benefits for elected representatives, with parties divided over whether the proposed facilities are necessary.

JAIPUR SCHOOL INSPECTION CLASH



tween its members and a group of men near the village. The party also alleged that stones were thrown at their vehicle, damaging its rear windshield, while around 40 members were



reportedly injured and taken to a Jaipur hospital. CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka alleged that the attack was carried out at the direction of Rajasthan Education Minister

Madan Dilawar. He criticised the government and said the party would continue its campaign to improve schools. "BJP goons have once again resorted to violence against our team," Ranka said, alleging that the BJP was opposed to efforts to improve government schools. He added, "The school will be fixed, one way or another. The allegations triggered a political response from the BJP and Rajasthan government. BJP MLA Gopal Sharma mocked the CJP, while Junior Home Minister

Jawahar Singh Bedham alleged that Congress supporters were operating behind the party's banner. Social Justice Minister Avinash Gehlot described the group as "a party of anarchic elements." Education Minister Madan Dilawar urged political groups not to turn schools into "political arenas." Meanwhile, Congress leader Sachin Pilot criticised restrictions on outsiders visiting government schools and accused the Rajasthan government of trying to conceal shortcomings in the education system.



BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers hold meet

VISAKHAPATNAM

India will host the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting and Sports Ministers' Meeting in Visakhapatnam on August 22 and 23 respectively, bringing together ministers and delegation heads from all 11 member countries.

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will chair the meetings, with Minister of State Raksha Khadse also participating. Senior officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will attend the programmes, which aim to strengthen cooperation among BRICS nations.

The Youth Ministers' Meeting on August 22 will focus on youth development and empowerment. Discussions will cover education, skills, entrepreneurship, wellbeing and sustainable development. Recommendations from the BRICS Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit will also be considered. The meeting is expected to conclude with a joint declaration and a youth cooperation framework.

The Sports Ministers' Meeting on August 23 will focus on strengthening cooperation in sports. Key areas include traditional and indigenous sports, sports technology and sports manufacturing. Representatives from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates will participate.

The meetings are being held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, guided by the theme of resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.

The programme will also feature the BRICS Friendship Cycling Event, country statements, bilateral meetings and cultural activities. The Sports Ministers' Meeting is expected to conclude with the adoption of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration. The gatherings will provide BRICS nations an opportunity to exchange experiences, share best practices and build stronger institutional cooperation in youth development and sports.



AT A GLANCE

- Youth Ministers' Meeting scheduled for August 22
- Youth talks focus on skills, entrepreneurship, wellbeing
- Sports Ministers' Meeting scheduled for August 23
- Sports discussions cover technology and indigenous sports
- All 11 BRICS member countries will participate
- Joint declarations expected from both ministerial meetings

PARA GLORY CELEBRATED



Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday congratulated K.S. Shilpa for winning the bronze medal in the women's para shot put event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. At a ceremony held at his office in Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar presented Shilpa with a cheque for ₹20 lakh as a cash reward. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, MLA Ravi Shankar, Karnataka Olympic Association President, Legislative Council Member Govindaraju and others were present on the occasion.

Mohammed Azhar claims maiden professional golf title

KOLAR

Hyderabad golfer Mohammed Azhar won his first professional title at the Rs. 1 crore Kolar Open on Friday. The 27-year-old carded a one-under 71 in the final round to finish at nine-under 279, winning by two shots. Azhar earned Rs. 15 lakh and moved from 17th to 10th in the 2026 DP World PGTI Order of Merit. His season earnings have now reached Rs. 35,14,675. Chandigarh's four-time tour winner Angad Cheema and Delhi's three-time winner Shaurya Bhat-tacharya shared second place at seven-under 281. Azhar's steady performance throughout the tournament secured a memorable breakthrough victory.

Chess underdogs shine in action-packed second round



MUMBAI

The second round of the Asian Junior Open and Girls Classical Chess Championships produced several surprises on Friday, with lower-rated players defeating strong opponents.

The biggest upset came when 2113-rated Guru Prakash defeated recently crowned Asian Junior Rapid champion FM Vivaan Vishal Shah, rated 2339, in the Open section.

Manav Kumar also caused a major surprise by beating higher-rated FM Arun Kataria. Hardik Shah held Turkmenistan's FM Amanmuhamet Hommadov to a draw, while Mehul Sondhi shared the point with FM Madhvendra Pratap Sharma. The results added excitement as players continued their fight for leading positions. Top seeds, however, continued to show their strength. IM Mayank Chakraborty defeated Vivaan Sardana to maintain his perfect record and move to two points from two games. IM Artem Pingin, IM Apoorv Kamble and IM Aaditya Dhingra also won their matches and stayed among the players with perfect scores. The Girls section also witnessed unexpected results. Sunetra Dey held higher-rated FM Prishita Gupta to a draw, while Tripurambika V defeated WCM Anushka Bapu Kutwal. Pranavasi S produced another notable result by defeating Uzbekistan's WFM Begmuratova Sarvinoz.

Top seed WFM Pratitee Bordoloi continued her winning form with another victory, taking her score to two points. Kazakhstan's WFM Mariya Kholyavko and Turkmenistan's WFM Shohradova Lala also remained unbeaten with perfect scores after winning their second-round games.

Albon and Sainz back Williams despite difficult season

ZANDVOORT

Alex Albon and Carlos Sainz have both committed to Williams for 2027, despite the team's difficult Formula One season.

Their decisions reflect continued faith in Team Principal James Vowles and his plans to move the Grove-based team higher up the grid. Williams enjoyed a strong 2025 campaign, finishing fifth in the Constructors' Championship, but its 2026 car started the season late, overweight and lacking competitiveness. Albon admitted the year has been frustrating, but said the team is now examining its problems more deeply and responding with greater urgency.

Albon believes the current struggles are a temporary setback after years of steady progress. He said the team's weaknesses were sometimes hidden by stronger downforce in previous seasons, while this year's problems became more obvious. He chose to stay because he believes Williams can return to its expected potential.

Sainz, meanwhile, said leaving when the team is facing its biggest challenge would not fit his character. Although other teams had been linked with him, he wanted to understand how Williams' long-term plans had changed before making his decision. He said several important new signings and changes in working methods have strengthened his confidence.

Both drivers believe the team must turn its lessons from 2026 into improvements for next year. Sainz said the current setback may have delayed Williams' progress, but its medium and long-term plans



Alonso takes his time deciding Aston Martin future

Fernando Alonso has not decided whether he will continue racing for Aston Martin next season. The 45-year-old driver said his future is not his main focus, as he remains concentrated on the current Formula 1 weekend. Aston Martin has indicated that the decision belongs to Alonso and expects clarity in the coming weeks. Alonso said he remains committed to the team, whether as a driver or in another role. However, he still wants to race and hopes to pursue major goals, including another Formula 1 title. He added that age is not a concern, with motivation and competitiveness being more important to him.

still give him hope. He stressed that the team must begin showing positive momentum in 2027.

Their continued commitment now places greater pressure on Williams to deliver on its promises.

England build strong lead against struggling Pakistan

LEEDS

England secured a commanding 238-run first-innings lead over Pakistan after being dismissed for 409 early on the third day of the opening Test at Headingley on Friday. England resumed at 366 for eight and added another 43 runs before losing its final wickets, putting Pakistan under significant pressure.

Jofra Archer led England's late resistance, scoring 23 runs from the lower order. He struck two fours and a six but eventually ran out of partners as Pakistan completed the innings. England's total gave the home side a strong advantage heading into Pakistan's second innings.

Pakistan bowler Khurram Shahzad took the final two English wickets. He dismissed wicketkeeper Jamie Smith, who scored 25, after Smith mistimed a pull towards midwicket. Shahzad then bowled Josh Tongue for eight to end England's innings. Despite taking three wickets, Shahzad had an expensive outing, conceding 133 runs. Pakistan now faces the difficult task of overcoming a large deficit and preventing England from taking control of the Test.

England's strong batting effort has placed Pakistan under immediate pressure at Headingley. The visitors must now produce a much improved performance with the bat to reduce the deficit and give themselves a chance of staying competitive in the match. England, meanwhile, will look to maintain its advantage and push for a winning position.

The first Test remains finely poised in terms of the overall result, but England's substantial lead has given the hosts a clear upper hand. Pakistan's response in the second innings will determine whether the visitors can recover from their difficult position.



Gill sharpens game against spin before Sri Lanka Test

COLOMBO

India captain Shubman Gill spent extra time practicing against left-arm spin during Friday's training session before the second Test against Sri Lanka.

Gill struggled against Prabath Jayasuriya in the opening Test at Galle, scoring only 16 and 8 as India won by 165 runs.

Gill has now been dismissed 11 times by left-arm spinners in 42 Tests, highlighting an area he wants to improve. At the Sinhalese Sports Club nets, the right-hander faced left-arm spinners Manav Suthar, Ravindra Jadeja and local bowlers for an extended period. His focused practice came as India prepared for another Test in spin-friendly condi-

tions. India's spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule said Gill was mainly adapting to the local pitch rather than making major changes to his technique. He explained that the captain was studying the surface, judging its pace and choosing suitable shots and defensive options. Bahutule added that Gill generally relies on his natural style while adjusting to each innings.

Meanwhile, KL Rahul and Kuldeep Yadav did not take part fully in training. Rahul missed the session, while Kuldeep attended without batting or bowling. Bahutule said both players were simply resting after the long first Test and travel.

Off-spinner Saransh Jain bowled briefly to Gill and Rishabh Pant, but his presence does not mean Kuldeep will be dropped. India will continue preparing for the second Test, which starts on August 23.

Tillakaratne returns as Sri Lanka batting coach

COLOMBO

Former Sri Lanka captain and 1996 World Cup winner Hashan Tillakaratne has been appointed batting coach of the country's senior men's national program, Sri Lanka Cricket announced on Friday.

The 59-year-old former left-handed batter officially began his new role on August 20. His contract will continue until December 31,

2027, with duties based at Sri Lanka Cricket's National High Performance Center in Colombo.

Tillakaratne played international cricket from 1989 to 2003, representing Sri Lanka in 83 Tests and 200 ODIs.

He scored more than 8,200 runs across the two formats and captained the Test side in 11 matches.

He previously worked as Sri Lanka's batting coach and led the national women's

team. He also coached Bangladesh's women's side and has experience with senior and Under-19 teams.

One of his finest Test performances came against India in 2001, when he scored an unbeaten 136 in Colombo.

Tillakaratne also served as a national selector and recently completed a coaching stint in the United States, bringing wide experience to his new assignment.



Hong Kong Activists Convicted Over Slogan

Hong Kong's court convicted two democracy activists over peaceful political advocacy, saying their slogan challenged Communist Party rule under the city's national security law

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's High Court on Friday convicted two prominent pro-democracy activists of inciting subversion, ruling that their repeated use of the political slogan "end one-party dictatorship" violated the city's China-imposed National Security Law.

Lee Cheuk-yan, 69, and Chow Hang-tung, 41, were former leaders of the now-disbanded Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, a group that organised annual vigils commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

The three national security judges said the defendants' peaceful use of the phrase was central to the offence. They ruled that Lee and Chow intended to undermine confidence in China's Communist Party by creating hostility and division.

The activists, who have been detained since 2021, pleaded



not guilty. They could face up to 10 years in prison under the National Security Law.

The judges rejected arguments from the defence that the pair genuinely believed their political activities were protected by Hong Kong's previous freedoms of expression. The court said their continued support for the Alliance's political resistance amounted to a breach of the law, even without violence or threats.

The ruling underscores the sweeping impact of the security legislation introduced in 2020 following months of sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong in 2019.

Public Tiananmen commemorations, once permitted in Hong Kong and regarded as a

ACTIVISTS WERE OFFENDED AFTER CONVICTION

- Lee Cheuk-yan and Chow Hang-tung convicted of inciting subversion.
- Their repeated use of "end one-party dictatorship" was central to the ruling.
- Both activists have been detained since 2021.
- They could face up to 10 years in prison.
- Tiananmen vigils were effectively outlawed after the 2020 security law.

symbol of the city's relative political freedoms, were effectively outlawed after the law took effect.

Foreign diplomats, including representatives from the European Union and the United States, attended Friday's proceedings. Another former Alliance chairman, Albert Ho, 74, pleaded guilty to the same charge.

Khan Returned To Prison, PTI Alleges Court Breach

LAHORE

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was briefly taken to hospital early Friday, declared medically fit and returned to prison within hours, triggering accusations from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party that authorities had violated a Supreme Court directive.

Khan was examined at the state-run Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad rather than the private Shifa International Hospital specified by the court, according to Information Minister Attaullah Tarar. He said the change was necessary because of a security situation allegedly created by PTI workers along the planned route.

PTI rejected that explanation and said Khan was also denied access to his personal physician, which the party said was required under the court's order. It announced plans to file a contempt petition, arguing that the directive required Khan to remain under medical supervision until at least mid-September.

Khan's sister, Uzma Khan, who attended his examination, said the former premier had complained of being repeatedly tortured in prison. She said he appeared stable



Imran Khan's brief hospital stay and return to prison have triggered accusations that authorities breached a Supreme Court directive

and medically fit but had a patch over one eye.

There was no immediate response from Pakistan's interior or law ministries, or from jail authorities, requests for comment on the torture allegations.

PTI supporters have reacted angrily to Khan's return to prison. The party warned that the episode could fuel public outrage and increase tensions, potentially leading to renewed street protests.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, a PTI leader, described the developments as contempt of the judges and the Supreme Court. Khan has remained imprisoned since August 2023.

Nigerian Parents Demand Return of Abducted Children

MAIDUGURI

Parents of children abducted from northeastern Nigeria's Borno state protested, demanding government action to secure the release of their children, nearly 100 days after they were taken from their classrooms.

The children were seized on May 15 from a school in Mussa, a community located on the fringes of the Sambisa Forest, a longstanding stronghold of Islamist militants.

The protest in Uba town highlighted growing frustration among families as kidnappings continue despite years of military operations against Boko Haram and its Islamic State West Africa Province offshoot, ISWAP.

Although the insurgency has weakened from its peak, both groups continue to carry out attacks against civilians, schools and security forces in Borno and neighbouring states.

Families said they remain

unaware of where the children are being held or what conditions they are facing. Chinda Buba, whose child was abducted, said parents had received no clear information about their children's safety.

Peace Nicolos, whose two young children are among the missing, said families were living with constant anxiety and struggling to cope.

The abduction was followed by another attack in nearby Lassa on June 29, when 36 students and a teacher were also taken captive. Around 45 children from Mussa are still believed to be unaccounted for, according to a representative of the community's traditional ruler.

A police spokesperson said the military was "on top of the situation" but declined to provide further details. A military spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment. The parents are now urging authorities to intensify efforts to locate and rescue the children.



Prince Harry to learn how much failed Daily Mail lawsuit will cost

LONDON

Days after it was revealed he will return to Britain, Prince Harry will learn on Friday how many millions of pounds he might have to pay towards the legal costs of the Daily Mail publisher after losing a high-profile privacy lawsuit. Last month, judge Matthew Nicklin at London's High Court comprehensively rejected the case brought by King Charles' younger son alongside singer Elton John and five other British figures, rejecting allegations that the Mail titles had engaged in widespread unlawful activities, such as phone hacking.

Trump Seeks Kim Meeting Amid Pyongyang Caution

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump says he wants to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un later this year, but Pyongyang has signalled that any renewed engagement will come with strict conditions.

Trump has moved to revive diplomacy with North Korea after abruptly scaling back joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises, describing them as hostile toward Pyongyang. He later said he expected to meet Kim, potentially during a visit to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen.

A person briefed on discussions between U.S. and South Korean officials said Trump is eager to restart talks and secure a diplomatic achievement on the international stage. South Korea has privately shown some support for the approach, although officials remain concerned about reducing military exercises with Washington.



The United States says it remains open to dialogue without preconditions. A State Department spokesperson said Trump and Kim would meet again at the appropriate time.

North Korea, however, has offered a cautious response. While praising the leaders' "excellent personal relationship", Pyongyang appears unwilling to let personal ties determine broader diplomatic or security decisions.

Analyst Lim Eul-chul of Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said North Korea considers national security interests and military capabilities separate from the personal relationship between Trump and Kim.

Trump's outreach also comes as North Korea supports Russia's war in Ukraine with troops, equipment and missiles, while the U.S. remains engaged in the nearly six-month war involving Iran.

The contrasting positions suggest that a Trump-Kim meeting remains possible, but meaningful negotiations could prove difficult.

China, Indonesia agree to boost military ties

JAKARTA

China and Indonesia agreed on Friday to boost military ties and work closely on minerals, energy and technology, as Jakarta seeks to balance ties with both Beijing and Washington amid economic and geopolitical tensions, including in the South China Sea. Both countries should "seize the moment," China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in remarks made at the start of his visit to Jakarta. He was travelling with Defence Minister Dong Jun to meet their Indonesian counterparts.

"The current international situation is intertwined and complex. Unilateralism and hegemonic acts bring serious impact on global cooperation and stability," he said. "China actively aims to build China-Indonesia cooperation at a high level," Wang added. The two countries pledged to cooperate across multiple areas from artificial intelligence, defence and rail transport to green energy, satellites and fisheries.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri,Yaseenpasha s/o Abdulkhuddus , Residing at 2nd Block, Sundarapalya, village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Discharge Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at 2nd Block, Sundarapalya, village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Regd sale Deed, Dated:-19-07-2010, Regd Sale Deed, Executed by Sri, Sheik Mahaboob sab s/o Shek abbas Sab, in favour of Smt, tholisamma w/o Venkataravanappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-02152/2010-11, IN CDNO.BPTD 84, in regd before the SRO Bangarapete, in Respect of Property Bearing Bangarapete Taluk, sundarapalya Village, V.P.Katha no.598/5, in measuring 30 x 28 Feet police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2378193/2026, DATED:-20-08-2026, and complaint dated:-20-08-2026, by respective person/ if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-20-08-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL,
ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY,
BESIDE SANTHOSH MATHA
TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD
CHINTHAMANI,M:-9980110692

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BANGALORE CHANDRASHEKHARA JAYARAJA S/O CHANDRASHEKHARA R/o No.8, 1st Floor, 7th Cross, FTI Colony, HBOS Nandini Layout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560096, have changed the name of my minor son NAVANIT J aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as NAVANIT J NAIIDU

NAME CHANGE

I, MUNEER AHMED, S/o. Sardar, resident of No. 347, 5th Cross, Vinobha Nagar, K.G. Halli, Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to S. MUNEER AHMED, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.08.2026 before notary CHANDRASHEKAR M., Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF MOTOR ACCIDENTS CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, COURT OF SMALL CAUSES - IV, AT CHENNAI

M.C.O.P.No. 1120 of 2026

Mrs. Hemalatha.D (F/ 31) W/o. Vinoth Kumar ...Petitioner

-Versus- 1) Banerji D, And 2 others Respondents

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT HOSKOTE C. MISC. No.133/2025

BETWEEN: 1. Smt.MUNEEMMA W/o Late Patel Chikkappaiah, Aged about 75 years 2. Sri. CHIKKAVERAPPA S/o Late Patel Chikkappaiah Aged about 43 years Both are residing Marasandahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote taluk Bengaluru Rural District PETITIONERS AND: THE TAHASILDAR, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District ...RESPONDENT

PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Tahasildar Hosakote to register the death of the Father-in-Law of Petitioner No.1 and Grandfather of Petitioner No.2 i.e., the deceased MUNEPPA @ HOTTEPPA S/O MUNEPPA who died on 03-04-1970, at Marasandahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. On the above petition is posted on 23.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 17th day of AUGUST 2025, at Hoskote.

By order of the Court.
Sheristedar, Civil Judge & J.M.F.C, Hoskote.

Advocate For Petitioner: Srinivasappa, Advocate, SLV Complex, KR Road, Hoskote Town, Bengaluru Rural District
Mob: 8971808422
Hoskote, Date: 17.08.2026

ಸಹಕಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ನಮೂನೆ -8 ನಿಯಮ17(2)(ಡಿ)

ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/51/2025-26

ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/52/2025-26

ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/54/2025-26

- ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಪ್ರಿಯ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಪತ್ತಿನ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಘ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಹಕಾರಿಯ ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರಾದ 1) Sri. Sivalingam .A S/o Ayyamperumal Nadar, R/a No.03, 4th Floor, 5th Cross, Muneshwaranagara, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061 2) Smt. Ponnari. R W/o Sri. Sivalingam .A, ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/51/2025-26 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.05.2025ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ.14,61,426/-, ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/52/2025-26 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.05.2025ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಟ್ಟು .32,76,178/-, ಇಪಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ಸ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ/ವ.ಅ/54/2025-26 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.05.2025ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ನಿಂದ ರೂ.16,61,982/-, ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.05.2025ಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂರು ದಾವೆಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.63,99,586/- ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಸಂದಾಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾದ ಸ್ಥಿರ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ಜಪ್ತಿಯನ್ನು 2026 ನೇ ಇಸವಿ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳ 12ನೇ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಗುರುವಾರದಂದು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳು ಇರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಹರಾಜು ಹಗಲು 11-30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಕೊಗುವುವವರಿಗೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಮೂರು ಸಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಖಾಯಂ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
- ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರು ಹರಾಜಿನ ಮೊಬಲಗಿನ ಪೈಕಿ ಅದರ ಶೇಕಡಾ 25ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮನಾದ ಮೊಬಲಗನ್ನು ಹರಾಜಿನ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೇವಣಿ ಇಡತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಹಣದ ಉಳಿದ ಮೊಬಲಗನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 45 ದಿವಸಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಲು ತಪ್ಪಿದರೆ ಅವರು ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
- ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇಳಿದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದೊಳಗೆ ಹಣವನ್ನು ತೇವಣಿ ಇಡದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮೊಬಲಗಿನ ಪೈಕಿ ಉಳಿದ ಮೊಬಲಗನ್ನು ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡದಿದ್ದರೆ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರನ ಸಂಬಂಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಥವಾ ನಷ್ಟ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ, ಆ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮರು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಅಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಭೂಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪುನಃ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
- ಮಾರಾಟದ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡುವವರು ತಾವು ತಮ್ಮ ಪರವಾಗಿಯೇ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೋ ಅಥವಾ ಅನ್ಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೋ ಎಂಬುವುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೋರಬಹುದು. ಅನ್ಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡುವ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರು ಆ ಅನ್ಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಸ್ವತಃ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಹಾಜರು ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಬಹುದು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅವರ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರನಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಯಾವೊಬ್ಬ ವಿಜೇತನಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ಸಂಬಂಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಕ್ಷೇಮುದಾರನಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬರು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಖರ್ಚುಗಳ ಸಹಿತ ಹೊರಾ ಮೊಬಲಗನ್ನು ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಪರಂತು, ಹಾಗೆ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ದಿನದ ಸೂಕ್ತಾಸ್ತತ್ವ ಮುಂಚೆಯಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
- ಹರಾಜು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ ಅದನ್ನು ಖಾಯಂ ಮಾಡುವವರಿಗೆ ಖಾಯಂ ಆಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದಲ್ಲ. ಮಾರಾಟವು ಮುಕ್ತಾಯವಾದ ನಂತರ ಅದರ ಮೇಲಣ ಸ್ಥಾಂಪು ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರನು ಸಹಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊಹರು ಹಾಕಿರುವ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಅವನಿಗೆ ನೀಡತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
- ಭೂಮಿಗಳ ವಿವರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅವುಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪುಗಳೇನಾದರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಬೇಕು.

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗಾಮ	ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರನ ಹೆಸರು	ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರನಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಸ್ಥಿರ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ವಿವರ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಸ.ನಂ. ಅಂದಾಜು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ	ತೀರ್ಪು ಮೊಬಲಗು	ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಖರ್ಚುಗಳು ಇದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಅವುಗಳ ವಿವರ
1	2	3	4	5
Ramachandra pura, Bangalore	1) Sri. Sivalingam 2) Smt. Ponnari	ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿವರ All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of Property bearing New Municipal No.23, PID No. 25-5-23, previously Portion of property No.23 & 23/2, Situated at 2nd Main Road, Kalappa Block, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Old Division No 12, now New Ward No.25, Ramachandrapura, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 25-0 feet and North to South: 21-0 feet, excluding 3X25 feet common passage, and bounded on:- East by: Previously portion of property No.20 Now 5-0 feet common Passage, West by: Portion of the same property already Sold and then conservancy, North by: Previously portion of property No.23 And No.23/2 now private Property, South by: 3X25 common Passage and then private property.	1.8.13,01,514/- 2.8.28,58,554/- 4.5.14,40,668/-	ಸಹಕಾರಿಯ ಸಾಲದ ಖರ್ಚುಭಾರ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಷರಾ: ಈ ನೋಟೀಸನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟದ ಮೂವತ್ತು ದಿನಗಳ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿಯಾದರೂ ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರಾಟದ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚೆ ನಿರಂತರ ಮೂರು ದಿನಗಳ ಸದರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಗೂರ ಸಾರುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಟಿ.ಆರ್. ಸವಿತ

ವಸೂಲಾತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು (ನಿ-441) ಹಾಗೂ

ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿಬಂಧಕರು

ಕ.ರಾ.ಸೌ.ಸಂ.ಸ.ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.07.2026

Kajal wins second straight U20 World Wrestling gold

SLOVAKIA

India's Kajal Dhochak won her second straight U20 World Wrestling Championship gold medal, defeating China's Jingru Sun 7-0 in the 76kg final in Slovakia.

The 18-year-old produced a dominant performance throughout the tournament and became only the second Indian wrestler to win two U20 world titles.

Kajal, who moved up from 72kg this year, did not concede a single point during her campaign. She opened with a victory over Japan's Miyu Takayama, then defeated Turkiye's Elmira Yasin 14-0 and USA's Piper Fowler 6-0. Her latest triumph adds to titles won at the 2024 U17 Worlds and 2025 U20 Worlds.

In the final, Kajal quickly

Kajal dominated after moving up to 72kg, conceding no points, and added another title to her 2024 U17 and 2025 U20 World championships



another takedown. The 7-0 score remained unchanged as Kajal completed a fifth consecutive gold-winning performance in 2026.

India also earned two silver medals on the same day. Tanu Sharma lost 3-5 to Japan's Chisato Yoshida in the 72kg

final, while Savita finished runner-up in the 62kg category after losing 2-12 to Japan's Sakura Onishi. More Indian wrestlers will compete in the remaining women's and men's freestyle events, with the team hoping to add more medals.



Sri Lanka add two fresh faces for India Test

NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka have added all-rounder Sahan Arachchige and batter Kamil Mishara to their 14-member squad for the second and final Test against India in Colombo from August 23.

The changes come after injuries and poor form affected the team following India's convincing 165-run victory in the opening match at Galle.

Dinesh Chandimal has been ruled out after suffering an injury in Galle, while concussion replacement Pasindu Sooriyabandara has also been left out after making a golden duck. Nishan Madushka, Ramesh Mendis and Dilshan Madushka were also not selected. Arachchige earned his chance after impressing for Sri Lanka A against India A, scoring 209 runs across

two unofficial Tests.

Arachchige made 127 in the second game after scoring 72 in the opener, showing strong form with the bat. Mishara has also been in excellent touch, scoring 411 runs in nine innings during the Lanka Premier League. He recently struck a quick 145 from 72 balls in the Major Clubs T20 competition, further strengthening his case for selection.

Sri Lanka will hope the new additions can provide greater stability against a confident Indian side. India dominated the first Test with bat and ball, with Devdutt Padikkal scoring 167 and Manav Suthar claiming 10 wickets. Sri Lanka now face a difficult task in Colombo, where they must improve quickly to level the two-match series and avoid another defeat.

Treesa Gayatri upset Chinese pair to secure medal

NEW DELHI

India's Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand created a major upset at the BWF World Championships by defeating fourth-ranked Chinese pair Ji Yifan and Zhang Shuxian.

The Indian duo fought back from losing the opening game to win 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 and reach the semifinals, guaranteeing India a medal in women's doubles. The victory makes Treesa and Gayatri only the second Indian women's doubles pair to win a World Championships medal. Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa previously achieved the feat with bronze in 2011. The result also adds another important moment to India's growing badminton success on the world stage.

The Indians struggled early, falling behind 2-6 and eventually losing the first game. Their response was impressive, as they matched the Chinese pair in long rallies and improved their attacking play. Cross-court shots and strong defence helped Treesa and Gayatri take control of the second game before win-



Treesa and Gayatri became only the second Indian women's doubles pair to win a World Championships medal, following Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's 2011 bronze

ning it 21-15 and forcing a decider. The final game changed quickly after the score reached 4-4. Treesa produced a powerful smash, helping India win seven straight points and build a 9-4 advantage. The pair stayed composed despite a brief Chinese fightback and moved close to victory at 18-9. Several errors from their opponents then handed India the crucial points. Later, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will seek another medal against Chinese third seeds Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang in the men's doubles quarterfinals.

Bangladesh await fitness updates before Mackay Test

MACKAY

Bangladesh are waiting for fitness clearance on opening batter Tanzid Hasan Tamim and veteran wicketkeeper Mushfiquur Rahim before the second Test against Australia. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto remains hopeful that both players will be available, but said the final decision will come after further medical checks before the match.

Tanzid scored a fine century in the first Test in Darwin but missed Thursday's batting practice because of neck stiffness. He underwent a scan and returned to bat on Friday, giving Bangladesh a positive sign. Mushfiquur suffered a finger injury during training, although Shanto said he was recovering well. The captain added that the team has several options if either player cannot take the field.

Left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam is also fit and ready after recovering from his issue. Bangladesh must decide whether to include him at the expense of spinner Taijul Islam. Shanto said wind at Mackay could provide extra swing for fast bowlers. He added that the squad has five seamers and two experienced spinners, giving the team plenty of flexibility. The final combination will depend on the pitch conditions.

Bangladesh entered the match with confidence after securing their first Test victory in Australia in Darwin. Hasan Mahmud and Mehidy Hasan Miraz impressed with the ball, while Tanzid made a valuable century. However, Shanto said that result is now behind them. He stressed that Bangladesh must remain focused and produce another strong performance over five days to challenge Australia again.

Hussey weighs England Test batting coach role offer

Former Australia batter Michael Hussey is considering becoming England's Test batting coach after an informal approach from new head coach Stephen Fleming. Hussey and Fleming worked together for years at Chennai Super Kings, building a strong professional relationship. Hussey said he would not immediately reject the opportunity but admitted coaching England against Australia in an Ashes series would feel unusual. Family commitments and time away from home remain important factors in his decision. Hussey, who previously worked with England's 2022 T20 World Cup team, also praised Fleming's cricket knowledge and leadership style, backing him to guide England successfully.



Spain plans long contract extension for De La Fuente

NEW DELHI

Spain are preparing to extend coach Luis de la Fuente's contract until around 2030 after he guided La Roja to their second FIFA World Cup title.

Spain defeated Lionel Messi's Argentina 1-0 in the final at New York, completing a remarkable run under the 65-year-old manager. The Royal Spanish Football Federation is pleased with De la Fuente's leadership and wants to secure his services beyond his current agreement, which runs until 2028. The proposed extension would take him through the next World Cup, which Spain will co-host with Portugal and Morocco. Federation president Rafael Louzan confirmed that discussions are already underway.

Louzan praised De la Fuente's calm approach, hard work, leadership, saying the coach deserves to remain with the national team. Since taking charge, De la Fuente has helped Spain win the 2024 European Championship and the 2026 World Cup.

Liam Scott determined to break back into Australia

ADELAIDE

Australian all-rounder Liam Scott is determined to earn another chance with the national team after making his international debut during the white-ball tour of Bangladesh earlier this year.

The 24-year-old believes he can represent Australia in all three formats and is working to improve while waiting for another opportunity. Scott made his ODI debut in Dhaka and took two wickets, giving his growing career a major boost.

His domestic form earned him the national call-up. He was named Sheffield Shield Player of the Year after scoring 496 runs and taking 23 wickets in the 2025-26 season. Scott also made 310 runs for Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League.

After Bangladesh, he joined Gloucestershire for a short county stint, gaining useful experience in different conditions and continuing to develop as a batter and medium-pace bowler.

Scott has made technical changes to become more effective against spin and improve his power-hitting. He said bowling adjustments have also helped him gain extra pace. Experience in different conditions, he added, has taught him to adapt quickly when opportunities arrive. Rather than worrying about selection, Scott wants to focus on consistent improvement and remain ready for whatever challenge comes next. Australia's busy year could create openings as senior players age, but Scott knows strong performances will matter. He aims to help South Australia win again.



Fils storms into Cincinnati Semifinal with dominant win



CINCINNATI

French tennis player Arthur Fils reached his third ATP Masters 1000 semifinal of the 2026 season after defeating Argentina's Thiago Agustín Tirante 6-3, 6-2 at the Cincinnati Open.

The 22-year-old completed the match in 64 minutes, controlling the contest with powerful forehands and strong serving. He did not face a single break point and broke Tirante's serve three times.

Fils has enjoyed a strong season after returning from an eight-month injury absence in February. He has recorded 30 tour-level wins from 40 matches, including a title in Barcelona and semifinal appearances in Miami and Madrid.

His latest victory also made him the first Frenchman since Guy Forget in 1991 to reach three Masters 1000 semifinals in one season.

Fils will next meet Italy's Flavio Cobolli, who defeated American Tommy Paul 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. Cobolli reached his first Masters 1000 semifinal and is set to achieve a career-best ranking. Both players will now fight for a place in their first Masters 1000 final.

Rybakina injury ends Cincinnati run as Swiatek advances

CINCINNATI

Elena Rybakina's Cincinnati Open campaign ended painfully after she retired from her quarterfinal against Iga Swiatek because of a left ankle injury.

Swiatek was leading 4-1 when Rybakina struggled to move after attempting a volley. She soon found it difficult to push off while serving. After a medical check, the Kazakh player decided to stop the match.

Rybakina said walking was painful and that she would undergo an MRI to understand the injury. She explained that the ankle had bothered her for some time but had been under control until the latest incident.

The defeat also ended Rybakina's chance to challenge Aryna Sabalenka for the world No. 1 ranking. Sabalenka had already lost in the fourth round, but Rybakina needed to reach the Cincinnati final to take the top spot.



Sabalenka will now remain No. 1 heading into the US Open.

Swiatek advanced to the semifinals, where she will face Jessica Pegula. The Polish star is also aiming to defend her Cincinnati title, hoping to join an elite list of successful champions.

Antonelli accepts grid penalty for home Monza race

NEW DELHI

Formula 1 championship leader Kimi Antonelli has confirmed that he will take a grid penalty at his home Italian Grand Prix in Monza on September 6.

The Mercedes driver plans to use an additional power unit after reaching the limit of his allocated components. His teammate George Russell is also nearing the same limit.

Antonelli is already using his fourth and final power unit allocation after taking it at Spa-Francorchamps, the second-last race before the summer break. Under Formula 1 rules, drivers receive a limited number of power unit components each season. Using more than the permitted number results in grid penalties, making Antonelli's decision an important part of his championship strategy.

The Italian driver said Monza is one of the best places to accept the penalty because overtaking is relatively easier there. Although the race is his home event, Antonelli is putting his title challenge ahead of personal considerations. He believes starting lower on the grid at Monza could still allow him to recover positions and score valuable points.

The Formula 1 season returns with the Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort after the summer break. The historic circuit first hosted the championship in 1952 and returned to the calendar in 2021 after a long absence. With Antonelli leading the title race, his planned Monza penalty adds another strategic challenge to an already intense season.

