



US-Iran trade cautions ahead of fresh sanctions

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SEBI reviews public issue disclosure rules



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The Odyssey Sets November Digital And Blu-ray Release



When bills get fast-track ride!

Parliament Monsoon Session: Trend of introducing and passing bills in same session grows; 11 of 12 bills cleared, 7 passed within 5 minutes or less mostly without debate amid disruptions.

NEW DELHI

More than half of the bills introduced in the 18th Lok Sabha so far have been passed by both Houses in the same session, with the pace of passage accelerating sharply over the past year, an analysis of data from PRS Legislative Research shows.

Of the 64 bills introduced since the 18th Lok Sabha was constituted, 34 or 53%, were passed by both Houses in the session in which they were introduced, as per an analysis of PRS' session-wise data.

The corresponding proportion was 33% during the 16th Lok Sabha, when 63 of the 189 bills introduced were passed in the session of their introduction. It nearly doubled to about 62% during the 17th Lok Sabha, when 117 of the 190 bills introduced were passed in the same session, according to records maintained by PRS, an independent, not-for-profit group that researches and tracks the functioning of Parliament and state legislatures.

The 18th Lok Sabha, however, began slowly on this count. During the Budget Session of 2026, five of the 10 bills introduced were passed by both Houses in the same session. The pace accelerated during the Monsoon Session, which ended on August 13, with 11 of the 12 bills introduced being passed before the



PARLIAMENT'S PRODUCTIVITY RAISES TOUGH QUESTIONS

BILLS INTRODUCED IN MONSOON SESSION	TIME TAKEN TO PASS IN LS	TIME TAKEN TO PASS IN RS
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026	10-hr 54 min	6-hr 39 min
Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026	14 min	1-hr 2min
Disabilities Reform Bill, 2026	12 min	1-hr 52min
National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026	10 min	1-hr 42min
Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026	5 min	52 min
Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026	5 min	2-hr 16min
Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026	5 min	40 min
Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026	4 min	2-hr 21min
MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026	3 min	1-hr 19min
Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026	3 min	2-hr 7min
Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026	2 min	50 min

session concluded. The Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026, was the only bill left pending.

Bills passed without being on original agenda

The government's original

legislative agenda had listed five new bills for introduction and passage and two pending bills for consideration and passage. However, six of the 11 bills eventually passed during the Monsoon Session

Findings on Legislative pace

RAPID PASSAGE: 7 out of 11 passed bills cleared the houses in five minutes or less (with individual bills taking as little as two to three minutes).

QUESTION HOUR IMPACT: Question Hour functioned for just 1% of scheduled time in the Lok Sabha (only nine minutes total, with two oral answers given) and 12% in the Rajya Sabha.

LACK OF DEBATE: Nine of the bills passed without any Member of Parliament speaking other than the minister piloting the legislation.

LOW PRODUCTIVITY: The Lok Sabha functioned for just 15% of its scheduled time and the Rajya Sabha for 33% during the 19 sittings held from July 20 to Aug 13, 2026.

Concerns raised

SCRUTINY DEFICIT: Think tanks and analysts noted that short gaps between the introduction and passage of laws restrict meaningful parliamentary review and limit stakeholder consultations.

BROADER TREND: Data indicates an ongoing acceleration in passing bills during the same session they are introduced across recent Lok Sabha terms.

were not included in the original agenda. Neither of the two pending bills listed for consideration and passage — the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026 — was passed.

The parliamentary committee examining the VBSA Bill

has not yet submitted its report, while the FCRA Amendment Bill was referred to a Joint Committee following Opposition demands for its withdrawal.

7 bills cleared in minutes

The rapid passage of legislation has raised concerns over the time available for parliamentary scrutiny. PRS has previously pointed out that a short gap between introduction and passage gives MPs less time to examine proposed laws and limits opportunities for consultation with stakeholders.

The Monsoon Session data illustrates the trend. According to PRS, nine of the 11 bills passed were cleared without any MP other than the minister piloting the legislation speaking on them. Seven bills were passed in five minutes or less.

Held from July 20 to August 13, monsoon session had 19 sittings. Lok Sabha functioned for only 15% of its scheduled time, while Rajya Sabha worked for 33%, according to PRS.

The trend towards faster passage became more visible in 2025. Three of the five bills introduced during the Budget Session of 2025 were passed in the same session, followed by eight of 13 bills during the Monsoon Session and seven of nine during the Winter Session.

'Cant override Parliament'

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday passed a resolution condemning the Congress' decision to sing only two stanzas of Vande Mataram and said that it will not accept any compromise on the honour of the national song for political convenience or appeasement.

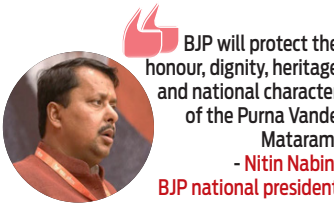
The BJP will launch a campaign to spread the glorious heritage of Vande Mataram to every corner of the country, the party said in the resolution passed at a meeting of its new office-bearers in New Delhi. BJP president Nitin Nabin presided over the meeting.

BJP condemns Congress' Vande Mataram stance

"The BJP today passed an important resolution regarding the respect for Vande Mataram and the protection of its historical legacy," Nabin said. The BJP "strongly condemns and unequivocally opposes" the decision of the Congress Working Committee on August 19, 2026, reaffirming its 1937 resolution, limiting the singing of Vande Mataram to only the first two verses at Congress functions, he said.

Nationwide campaign

Nabin said the BJP will launch a campaign to spread the history, meaning, national significance and glorious heritage of Vande Mataram to every corner of India. "BJP will protect the honour, dignity, heritage and national character of the Purna Vande Mataram."



BJP will protect the honour, dignity, heritage and national character of the Purna Vande Mataram.
- Nitin Nabin, BJP national president

'Cong following Vande Mataram version decided by Gandhi, Patel'

Kalaburagi: Accusing the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre and the BJP of indulging in "politics of polarisation", AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Congress is following the Vande Mataram version that was decided by national leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He questioned whether the national leaders who decided on the shorter version of Vande Mataram were also "anti-national". He was reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, saying its decision to sing just two stanzas of Vande Mataram was "anti-national" and aimed at appeasing its vote bank in defiance of the law.



India ends physical boarding pass for international flyers

Instead, passengers travelling abroad will have to produce an e-boarding pass on their smartphones for immigration clearance, say officials.

NEW DELHI

Passengers flying out of Indian airports will no longer be required to carry a physical boarding pass as immigration authorities have decided to do away with the stamping of this document from September 1, officials said on Saturday.

Instead, passengers travelling abroad will have to produce an e-boarding pass on their smartphones for immigration clearance.

The Bureau of Immigration (BOI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently communicated the official directive to airport authorities after the agency found that the physical stamping of boarding passes for immigration purposes was causing "inconvenience" to passengers.

Instances of errors in reading boarding passes due to "improper or incorrect" stamping were also being reported and, hence, it was decided to do away with this procedure, the officials said. "The matter has been examined by the BOI and it has now been decided to do away with the mandatory requirement of physical boarding passes and the stamping of



Why the change happens

Fix errors: Bad or wrong stamps caused reading mistakes.

Save time: Digital checks speed up the line for everyone.

Cut waste: Airports move closer to paper-free travel.

New rules for flyers

Use phones: Show your digital pass on your screen at the check point. No more stamps: Officers will not mark paper tickets anymore.

Paper is optional: You can still bring a printed copy if you want.

Less waiting: The new plan cuts down on long lines and mistakes.

boarding passes at immigration counters at all international airports in the country," the officials said.

They, however, said physical boarding passes will continue to be accepted but will not be stamped by the immigration authorities from September 1.

Security officials added that boarding passes of international travellers were also not being stamped by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) during individual frisking.

'Missing' IAS officer went home due to family emergency: Min

BENGALURU

Karnataka-cadre IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, who went untraceable after flying from Bengaluru to Delhi, has returned home due to a family emergency, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said on Saturday.

Priyank said the officer had sought leave due to a family emergency and travelled urgently to his hometown. His official phone number was not reachable thereafter, which led to confusion and speculation about his whereabouts.

"There have been reports that an IAS officer in Karnataka has gone missing. The officer concerned has since communicated with the government and clarified that due to a family emergency, he had sought leave and had to travel urgently to his hometown,"

the Minister said in an X post.

He added that the officer had since been in touch with the government and clarified the position.

Gangwar, a 2016-batch IAS officer presently posted as Director of the MSME department, had travelled from Bengaluru to Delhi on August 20, booking a last-minute ticket on an IndiGo flight for Rs 30,200. As per sources, he reached Kempegowda International Airport and boarded the flight around 3 pm. He landed in Delhi around 6 pm and subsequently took a cab.

His phone number then became unreachable. Gangwar earlier worked with the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), which has recently faced allegations relating to a paper leak in the veterinary services examination and an Enforcement Directorate raid.



Karnataka bans analogue paneer for a year

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has imposed a one-year blanket ban on non-dairy or analogue alternatives that are marketed as "paneer."

The ban, which will be effective across the state, is aimed at protecting public health and ensuring only standardised milk-based paneer is sold in the market, the state's Food Safety and Drug Administration said on Saturday.

In a notification, the department said it was prohibiting the manufacturing, processing, packing, storage, distribution, transportation, wholesale and retail sale, display for sale and supply of non-dairy or analogue paneer being sold under the name "paneer" for a period of one year, until August 17 next year.

The order was issued under Sections 30(2)(a), 18 and 29 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. As per relevant sections of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, paneer is a standardised food product prepared from milk.

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Goa declares cancer a notifiable disease

Panaji: Goa has declared cancer a notifiable disease across the state, making it mandatory for healthcare providers or laboratories to report it to government authorities when they diagnose it, officials said on Saturday. The notification, issued by the state Public Health Department on August 20, will pave the way for systematic surveillance of cancer cases and data-driven planning of prevention, screening and treatment programmes, they said. Welcoming the decision, National Organisation for Tobacco Eradication (India) president Dr Shekhar Salkar called the move a "landmark and much-needed public health decision" that could strengthen cancer control in the state.

5 killed as bus ploughs through crowd attending cultural event

PATNA: At least five people were killed and several others were injured, including one critically, when a bus ploughed through a crowd attending a cultural programme in Bihar's West Champaran district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place around 10.45 pm on Friday along the Lauriya Marg in Parau Tola under the jurisdiction of Lauriya police station. "While trying to avert a head-on collision with a truck, the bus ploughed through a crowd attending a cultural event on

the roadside, killing five men," a police Officer said.

The Bettiah-bound bus was coming from Gorakhpur. The deceased are Bahadur Mahto, Sanjay Kumar, Bhola Dubey, Devender Dubey and Jhangur Ram. The cultural programme was held on the occasion of 'chhathi' (an after-birth ritual) of Devender Dubey's daughter.

3 killed in turbine blast Ranchi/Ramgarh: Three employees of a steel factory in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district died and another was injured after a fire broke out at the unit, police said.

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said enormous growth that nations are expected to sustain cannot solely arrive by the luck of geography and underlined the need for "Nyaya-nomics", or the economics of justice, to ensure a level playing field through consistent adjudication.

Addressing the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum here, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said institutions are not scaffolding erected around growth, but they are its architecture.

The theme of the forum was "Rule of Law Frameworks and Institutional Capacity Building for Economic Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability".

The scale at which the country is progressing, and this holds true for each of the BRICS+ nations, owes itself to the nature of institutions, the judiciary being chief among them, he said.

"The enormous growth that our nations are expected to sustain cannot solely arrive by the luck of geography or the accident of resources. It is built, deliberately, out of institutions strong enough to be trusted. Perhaps numbers and statistics can make the point



The enormous growth that our nations are expected to sustain cannot solely arrive by the luck of geography or the accident of resources.
-Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India

tutions strong enough to be trusted. Perhaps numbers and statistics can make the point

better than words alone," CJI Kant said.

"Nyaya-nomics, or more simply, the economics of justice. It is a fact that consistent adjudication and trust in the process reduce the cost of each transaction built upon it, thereby levelling the playing field for market forces, and in turn, making way for growth."

No BRICS+ economy, including India, has achieved growth solely through its resources. Development in these countries has been proportional to the enforceability of their commitments, he added.

Further, the CJI said, "If there is one phrase you absorb into your vocabulary this morning, let it be 'Nyaya Setu', a bridge of justice that connects 11 legal traditions which have mutually agreed that trust should be cultivated deliberately rather than awaited passively."

"Institutions are not scaffolding we erect around growth once it has already begun, but they are its architecture. Take the architecture away, and in truth, what looks like a rising economy is a stack of good fortune waiting for its first storm," he said.

Fake Paper, Real Scandals: Pollution Board Probes

Four senior Karnataka pollution control officials face departmental inquiries over a massive scandal involving fraudulent plastic recycling certificates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A major regulatory scandal has emerged in Karnataka as the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board ordered a formal departmental inquiry against 4 senior officials for allegedly issuing fraudulent plastic recycling certificates.

The investigation centers on Extended Producer Responsibility regulations, which require plastic manufacturing companies to responsibly recycle post-consumer waste. According to audit findings by environment departments and central pollution monitoring bodies, several commercial recycling units were caught generating false compliance documents. These certificates falsely claimed that large quantities of plastic waste had been processed and recycled without any actual industrial recycling taking place.

QUICK READ

Killer arrested after brutally stabbing woman over money

Bengaluru
A tragic incident unfolded late Thursday night near the Majestic bus station, where a transgender woman named Devi was brutally killed. The attack stemmed from a minor dispute over a mere 200 rupees. Investigators revealed that a heavily intoxicated 29-year-old suspect named Gautam approached her around 3:00 AM to rob her. When Devi refused, a fierce argument quickly turned deadly. Gautam struck her with a dagger and fled with her phone and cash. Police launched a swift manhunt, arrested the suspect within hours, recovered the stolen belongings, and initiated strict legal proceedings.

Karnataka High Court orders 24/7 Police station CCTV

Bengaluru
The Karnataka High Court has ruled that all police station security cameras must stay on around the clock. Judges slammed local police after officials claimed cameras were broken for nearly a year during a harassment investigation. The court called this excuse completely unacceptable and damaging to public trust. Acting on strict Supreme Court rules, judges ordered real-time video monitoring directly from the top police office. Authorities must ensure every camera works without pause to keep officers accountable and protect citizens across the state.

High-speed winds and rain hit Karnataka districts

Bengaluru
The Meteorological Department has issued a heavy rain and storm alert across Karnataka as the monsoon remains active. Coastal and interior districts expect moderate showers, accompanied by strong winds reaching up to fifty kilometers per hour in northern areas. Fishermen are strictly advised to avoid venturing into rough seas. Cooler weather conditions will prevail in Bengaluru and surrounding southern interior regions. Officials urge travelers and local farmers to take necessary safety precautions against potential disruptions caused by the severe weather and strong winds.



The accused officials are facing severe disciplinary action for allegedly bypassing mandatory verification rules and approving these fraudulent certificates for corporate entities in exchange for financial gains. This multi-crore malpractice allowed manufacturing companies to bypass environmental obligations illegally, sparking widespread

outrage among local citizens, consumer advocates, and environmentalists.

In response to the growing crisis, the pollution control board has intensified its crackdown across the state. Authorities have announced plans to cancel the operating licenses of commercial recycling units involved in fabricating records and impose

THE RECYCLING SCAM

The EPR Mandate: Under central rules overseen via portals like the Central Pollution Control Board, plastic producers must prove waste recycling to stay compliant.

Paper-Only Recycling: Certain rogue units generated false clearance documents, claiming plastic waste was responsibly processed without ever recycling a single kilo.

Official Complicity: Four board officers allegedly bypassed verification protocols, prompting immediate disciplinary action and potential registration cancellations..

heavy financial penalties. The strict administrative steps aim to restore transparency in environmental governance and crack down on syndicates exploiting sustainability protocols.

PARKS FOR PROJECTS? B'LURU RESIDENTS OPPOSE

The Karnataka state cabinet has approved a major amendment allowing a portion of government park land to be utilized for public projects and horticultural infrastructure

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka state cabinet has approved a major amendment bill allowing up to 5 percent of government park land to be used for public purposes.

The cabinet meeting cleared the proposed revision to the Karnataka Government Parks Conservation Act of 1975, which was formulated by the horticulture department. Under the updated rules, a maximum of 5 percent of total park areas across the state can be utilized for public projects through sales, leases, gifts, or other legal transfers.

Government departments, statutory authorities, and local bodies will be permitted to use these designated spaces within park boundaries. To oversee these allocations, the bill proposes a formal assessment system headed by the additional chief secretary alongside field experts. Furthermore, major horticultural projects, cold storage facilities, and agro-processing centers supporting local farmers will be allowed within sepa-

Bill Provisions

Land Allocation: Up to 5% of park areas can be reallocated.

Transfer Methods: Properties may change hands via lease, sale, or mortgage.

Oversight Panel: A special committee will assess proposals before approval.

Public Concerns

Loss of Greenery: Citizens worry available public open spaces will shrink.

Commercial Threat: Fears remain that the five percent cap could rise later.

rate horticulture zones.

However, this decision has sparked strong opposition from residents across Bengaluru. Local citizens and community groups are deeply concerned that commercializing park spaces will shrink vital green cover and reduce recreational areas meant for children and seniors. Critics argue that utilizing public open spaces for development projects sets a worrying precedent.

Residents have urged the government to protect natural ecosystems and preserve green spaces rather than allow commercial or administrative expansion within public parks. The bill is expected to be introduced during the ongoing assembly session, where lively debates are anticipated as lawmakers address the competing demands of urban infrastructure development and environmental protection.

Dalit protection lacking, claims Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have strongly criticized the ruling administration, alleging a sharp increase in crimes and atrocities directed against marginalized communities across the region. Party representatives voiced deep concern during a recent media briefing held at the local party office, claiming that law enforcement agencies have failed to provide adequate safety and security for

vulnerable citizens.

Senior opposition figures pointed to specific disturbing incidents involving violence and caste-based discrimination, demanding immediate legal action against all perpetrators. They argued that the state administration has neglected its primary duty to protect citizens, pointing out that victims continue to face severe hardships without receiving timely justice or proper administrative support. Furthermore, political ten-

sions escalated as party members raised concerns over remarks made by public figures regarding national leadership. Opposition leaders accused specific ministers of using inappropriate language and behaving improperly, demanding swift arrests and formal police reports to address these grievances. They emphasized that failing to act promptly against such behavior sets a dangerous precedent for public discourse and institutional accountability. The ongoing political row

Director Om Prakash Rao faces cheating charges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Popular Sandalwood film director Om Prakash Rao and his wife, Denisa Prakash, are facing serious legal trouble. A group of angry investors has officially accused the couple of taking crores of rupees and refusing to pay it back.

The trouble started back in 2023. Actors Bhaskar Shetty, Vasudeva Reddy, and their partners trusted the director and lent him a massive amount of money. The total came to Rs.3.85crore. The couple needed the cash to produce a new movie titled Phoenix. At the time, the director promised he would return every single rupee within just six months.

Instead, three years have flown by, and the investors claim they have not seen a single coin. When the lenders went to the director's house recently to talk peacefully and ask for their hard-earned



Kannada film director Om Prakash Rao and his wife face a police complaint after allegedly refusing to repay Rs. 3.85 crore borrowed for the movie Phoenix

money back, things took a dark turn. According to the police complaint, the couple did not apologize or offer a

solution. Instead, they allegedly threatened the investors' lives.

Feeling cheated and unsafe, the group first tried to solve the matter through the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce. When talks failed there, they decided to take strong legal action. Armed with the original movie contract and bounced checks, Bhaskar Shetty and the others registered formal complaints.

They submitted a detailed petition to the Bangalore City Police Commissioner and the Byadarahalli Police Station. Police officials confirmed that they have received the complaint and are actively investigating the matter. The director and his wife have not yet released a public statement regarding these serious allegations. As the investigation moves forward, the movie industry is watching closely to see what happens next in this messy financial battle.

SIT seeks special powers in fake medicine case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team probing a massive counterfeit drug racket operating from a Ramanagara farmhouse has hit a major legal roadblock. To ensure a thorough investigation without procedural delays, the team has formally approached the state Home Department for special legal powers.

The fake medicine operation came to light after police raided an isolated farmhouse in Dodderi village. Locals grew suspicious of luxury cars and aggressive guard dogs. Investigators discovered the syndicate shipped around one hundred bottles of fake pharmaceuticals weekly using delivery apps directly to Bengaluru buyers.

Authorities issued a lookout notice for Prashanth, the suspected mastermind. Under standard rules, only official drug control board officers possess direct authority to file formal charges under the strict Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Because counterfeit crimes carry severe sentences, investigators are requesting official authorization to independently file cases and inspect records without bureaucratic hurdles.



Cellphone Scandal: Prajwal connected from inside

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fresh trouble has begun for former Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna, who is currently locked up inside Bengaluru's high-security Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. Recent police checks show that he managed to get regular phone access while serving his sentence.

During a sudden inspection by the Central Crime Branch, officers searched his cell and discovered hidden electronic devices. Investigators found that he possessed multiple phones, including a smart device. Further checks revealed that the SIM cards used in these gadgets were registered under other people's names, with one active connection traced back to a neighboring state.

Police inquiry uncovered how the illegal items entered

the high-security block. A local resident from Banaswadi named Naveen allegedly arranged the mobile phones. He is believed to have handed them over to another inmate named Pratap Rai inside the same barracks, who then passed them along to Revanna. Authorities have already taken Naveen into custody for questioning regarding the supply chain.

This security breach has caused heavy trouble for jail personnel. Led by DIG Jinendra Gangavi, the department launched a deep investigation into the matter. Several prison officials and security guards face strict departmental action and suspensions for allowing unauthorized items inside. Investigators are looking closely at how staff members permitted gadgets into high-risk barracks, pointing to possible corruption behind bars.

Focus On Preservation, Not Blame: Ramalinga Reddy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy addressed recent security concerns, stating that any officer found at fault in past shootouts will face strict disciplinary action. Speaking to reporters, the minister highlighted that multiple gunfights have occurred across forest divisions over the years.

He noted that previous administrations also experienced similar violent incidents during their terms in office. Records show that numerous cases have been registered within specific divisions, pointing to ongoing challenges in protecting wildlife reserves from poachers and illegal intruders.

Addressing allegations made by opposition political leaders, the minister urged authorities to focus on environmental preservation rather than engaging in mutual accusations. He emphasized that the primary goal remains safeguarding natural habitats and wildlife without causing unnecessary distress to local residents living near forest boundaries.



Furthermore, the government plans to address security loopholes related to unauthorized firearms. Officials intend to coordinate with law enforcement agencies to investigate individuals possessing weapons without proper licenses in surrounding villages. Strict measures will be implemented against anyone violating firearm regulations to ensure public safety and maintain law and order across sensitive regions.

The minister added that further detailed discussions regarding these administrative measures and departmental reports will take place during upcoming legislative sessions. Maintaining staff morale while ensuring absolute transparency and accountability remains a top priority for the administration moving forward.

SUGAR PRICE SHOCK

Sugar and jaggery prices skyrocket prematurely

over recent months, and a sharp decline in regional jaggery production. Without sufficient water supply, many

sugarcane fields have dried up prematurely, causing harvest quantities to drop by half compared to previous years. Furthermore, trade volumes have plummeted drastically, with daily market arrivals of jaggery dropping sharply across major trading hubs. Industry veterans note that such a steep price escalation has rarely been witnessed since local trade markets were established. Consumers hope market conditions stabilize soon to ease household budgets during the upcoming celebrations.

PRICE HIKES

Sugar Rates: Prices climbed from fifty rupees up to seventy-five rupees per kilogram

Jaggery Costs: Wholesale rates surged from 4,500 rupees to 7,000 rupees per quintal

PRODUCTION DECLINE

Dried Fields: Drought conditions ruined vast patches of standing sugarcane crops

Lower Supply: Daily market transport lorries carrying jaggery halved recently

Quick Read

Four Police constables suspended for dereliction of duty

CH NEWS, RAICHUR
Four police constables have been suspended for alleged dereliction of duty in connection with the case involving the rape and murder of a young woman who had gone out in the open to attend to nature's call in Sirwar taluk.The suspended personnel include Bhimareddy and Veeresh, attached to the Sirwar Police Station, along with two other constables. The action was taken after the victim's family alleged that the police personnel refused to receive their complaint when they approached the station following the incident. The family members, reportedly upset over the response from the police, returned home and later demanded a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the young woman's death. They also staged a protest seeking justice for the victim.

Why are parents turning away from government schools?

A ground report from Government School No. 25 exposes the deeper crisis behind the mushrooming of private schools

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Government schools were created to provide quality education to every child, irrespective of the economic status of the family. Yet, across Vijayapura, an uncomfortable question is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore:

If government schools are meant to provide quality education, why are even government school teachers reluctant to send their own children there? Why are auto drivers, daily-wage workers and small-scale employees stretching their finances to pay private school fees?

The answer may lie not merely in the perception of parents, but in the everyday realities inside several government schools.

A visit to Government School No. 25 offers an important case study of the challenges



facing the government-school system. The situation at this school should not automatically be treated as representative of every government school, but the issues it raises deserve serious examination by education authorities.

Government School No. 25 caters to students from Class 1 to Class 7. The school currently has just 38 students, 24 boys and 14 girls, with four teachers. On paper, that works out to around 10 students per teacher. But the teacher-student ratio alone does not tell the whole story. The school has to accommodate seven standards

and multiple subjects, including Kannada, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, along with other subjects. With only four teachers, the question is not simply how many students are assigned to each teacher, but whether every class and every subject is receiving adequate and specialised teaching time. A teacher who is trained or particularly strong in one subject may have to handle another subject because there are not enough teachers.

The problem does not end

inside the classroom. Government school teachers are increasingly required to maintain records, update information and complete various departmental requirements through digital applications and online systems. When the server works, the work may be completed. When it does not, teachers may have to wait, re-try and spend valuable working hours completing administrative requirements. At the same time, parents and students visit schools for certificates and other official requirements.

A teacher may teach one subject to a lower primary class and then take another subject for a higher class. The result, one teacher is expected to be a teacher of several subjects, across several standards. This raises a fundamental question, can a system that continuously asks teachers to do multiple jobs deliver the specialised and consistent education parents expect for their children.

Naubad protest seeks immediate relief for farmers

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Farmers and various organisations staged a road blockade at Basaveshwar Circle in Naubad, demanding immediate action to address the pressing problems faced by farmers in the district.

The protest was organised under the leadership of various farmers' organisations and the Karanja Project Displaced Persons Welfare Committee. Protesters blocked the Bidar-Kalaburagi and Bidar-Bhalki roads from morning until afternoon and raised slogans against the government. The blockade disrupted vehicular movement, with some vehicles being diverted through alternative routes. Traffic was restored after the protest ended.

Speaking during the protest, Farmers' Association district President Shrimant Biradar said farmers were facing several

challenges every year, including excessive and deficient rainfall and the lack of remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

He said crops sown this year were drying up due to inadequate monsoon rainfall, leaving farmers in distress.

In a memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister through the Deputy Commissioner, the protesters demanded that Bidar district be declared drought-hit, considering the prevailing situation caused by the rainfall deficit. They also demanded complete farm loan waiver and compensation of ₹50,000 per acre for affected farmers.

The protesters demanded that the BSSK sugar factory should not be sold and that an alternative arrangement be made to revive the factory during the 2026-27 financial year. They also sought immediate payment of pending wages to workers and all other statutory dues.

The farmers demanded seven hours of uninterrupted daytime electricity supply to agricultural pump sets. They also sought a permanent solution to prevent crop damage caused by wild animals, which they said was causing considerable losses to farmers. Farmer leaders warned that if the government failed to address their demands immediately, they would intensify the agitation by taking people, cattle and bullock carts onto the national highway in the coming days.

Other demands included providing scientifically assessed compensation to Karanja project-affected families and ensuring water supply through the canals of lift irrigation projects to support agricultural activities.

Kudiganur road work remains incomplete months after deadline

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Despite the stipulated deadline having expired months ago, a major road work in Kudiganur village of Afzalpur taluk, remains incomplete, leaving residents to endure severe hardship on a daily basis.

The road, which is an important route for villagers, has reportedly been left halfway through the work. Stones scattered across the road, open potholes and clouds of dust have made commuting difficult and risky for both motorists and pedestrians. During rains, the situation reportedly worsens as the road turns muddy, increasing the risk of accidents. Schoolchildren, pedestrians, motorists and roadside businesses are among those facing difficulties because of the unfinished work.

Residents are now questioning why the authorities have failed to ensure completion of the project within the pre-



Broken stones, open pits and dust turnkey road into a daily ordeal; residents demand immediate completion.

scribed timeframe. The delay has also raised concerns over the monitoring of road works by the concerned department. Locals have questioned whether the contractor is being allowed to continue without adequate accountability from the officials concerned.

Residents are now hoping that the latest report will once again prompt the concerned authorities to act. They have urged senior officials and elected representatives to intervene immediately, inspect the road work and ensure that the pending work is completed without further delay. Locals have warned that if the authorities fail to act, they will launch a protest along with members of the public demanding completion of the road.

Interestingly, this is not the first time that poor road conditions in Afzalpur taluk have drawn attention.

A previous special report published by our newspaper had highlighted the poor condition of a road in Chincholi village and the difficulties faced by residents. Following the report, the concerned officials visited the spot and the road work was reportedly taken up. However, residents now point out that another road being executed by the same contractor has remained incomplete,

raising fresh questions about the monitoring and supervision of road projects.

The prolonged delay has triggered questions among residents over whether the problem lies with the contractor, inadequate supervision by officials, or both. Residents argue that government-funded road projects are ultimately financed by taxpayers and that authorities have a responsibility to ensure that public money is used effectively and that works are completed within the stipulated period.

Expired food products found at two Bidar hotels

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Expired food products found at two hotels; samples of suspected adulterated food sent for laboratory testing.

The Food Safety Department conducted surprise inspections at several hotels, restaurants and bars across Bidar city following concerns over the sale of sub-standard and unsafe food. The inspection team, led by Assistant Commissioner Mohammed Shakeel, reportedly detected expired food products and misbranded items at Hotel Aamantran and New Ashirwad Hotel.

The kitchens at Hotel Udipi Karanth, Punjabi Tadya Mayura, Royal Anmol and Khan Chacha were reportedly found to be unhygienic during the inspections. Suspecting the use of artificial colours and adulterants in food items, officials seized paneer and gram flour samples from Hotel Mayura and chilli powder from Khan Chacha Hotel for further examination. Food samples suspected to be unsafe were also collected from Royal Anmol and Mandi King and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Officials said that strict action would be taken against those found violating food safety regulations after the laboratory reports are received.

Several prominent hotels found allegedly violating provisions of the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2026, were issued notices, officials said. The department warned food business operators to strictly comply with prescribed hygiene, sanitation and food safety standards.

Tricolour flags allegedly found in garbage bin

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

A video purportedly showing a large number of Indian national flags dumped in a garbage bin has gone viral on social media, triggering outrage among citizens in Vijayapura. According to reports, the flags were allegedly found in and around a garbage bin at the Smart Bazaar premises at Patil

Planet on Solapur Road in the city. The video shows several Tricolour flags lying among the garbage.

The incident has raised concerns over the alleged improper disposal of national flags following Independence Day celebrations. Citizens have questioned who was responsible for disposing of the flags and whether the premises' staff

had any role in the incident. However, the allegations have not yet been independently verified. Citizens have urged the authorities to conduct a thorough inquiry, verify the authenticity of the video and identify those responsible.

They have also demanded appropriate legal action if any violation concerning the national flag is established.

AIMSS, AIDYO, AIDSO demand transparent probe

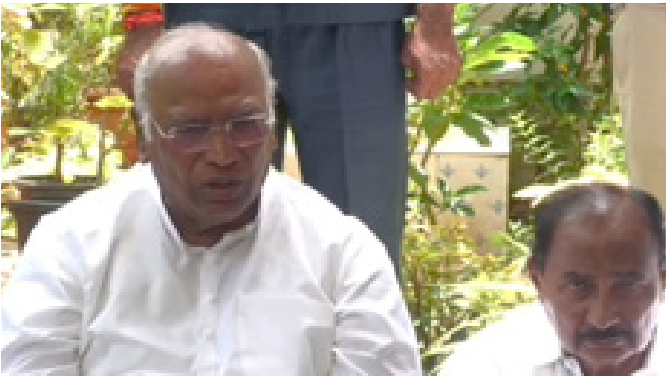
CH NEWS, RAICHUR

AIMSS, AIDYO and AIDSO seek transparent investigation into rape-murder and suspicious death cases. Members of the district committees of the All India Mahila Samskritik Sanghatane (AIMSS), All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO), All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) staged a protest at Dr BR Ambedkar Circle, condemning atrocities against women and demanding a comprehensive investigation into two recent cases. The

protesters demanded a thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into the alleged rape and murder of a young woman from Hokrani village in Sirwar taluk and the suspicious death of a woman from Karadakal village in Lingasugur taluk.

protesters demanded a thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into the alleged rape and murder of a young woman from Hokrani village in Sirwar taluk and the suspicious death of a woman from Karadakal village in Lingasugur taluk.

Kharge questions centre over Vande Mataram stanzas



CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday questioned the BJP-led Union government's decision to raise the issue of singing only two stanzas of Vande Mataram, saying that the practice had been followed since the pre-Independence period. Kharge said, a look at history would show that national leaders including Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had accepted the practice of singing two stanzas of the song. He said the matter had already been settled in 1937, when the country was moving towards Independence, and questioned why the issue was being raised now after several decades.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been in office for nearly 12 years. Why is this issue being brought up now. Why was it not raised when BJP governments were already in power in several States, Kharge asked. He also questioned whether those who sing only two stanzas of Vande

Mataram should be branded as anti-national. Referring to national leaders such as Rabin-drath Tagore, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose, he said those who had contributed to the freedom struggle should not be questioned about their patriotism. Kharge also criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing the BJP of questioning the patriotism of those who fought for India's freedom.

Kharge also condemned the reported denial of permission for Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's visit to the United States. He said it was unfair for the Centre to prevent the Chief Minister from travelling abroad and pointed out that visits to the US could help attract investments to India.

Capital can come to the country from there. Such visits are beneficial to the country. I condemn this kind of behaviour, Kharge said. He also noted the presence of a large number of people of Telugu origin, particularly from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in the United States.

Hariprasad seeks discussion on drought, questions Centre's inaction

CH NEWS, BIDAR

KPCC President BK Hariprasad has demanded a detailed discussion in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on the severe drought situation prevailing across the State, alleging that the Centre has failed to provide relief despite assurances.

Speaking about the drought crisis, Hariprasad said 18 districts in Karnataka are badly affected, with people facing a shortage of drinking water and livestock also struggling due to inadequate water availability. He said that during a recent meeting in Delhi be-



tween the Karnataka Chief Minister and MPs from the State, it was decided to seek Rs 10,000 crore in drought relief from the Centre. It was also decided that a Central government team would visit the drought-hit areas, assess

the situation and submit a report. However, no such team has visited the affected areas so far and no relief has been released, he alleged. Hariprasad said the Opposition wants the drought situation to be discussed in the Assembly, but alleged that attempts were being made to create a ruckus whenever the issue was raised, apparently to shield Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Referring to the demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during earlier protests, Hariprasad questioned

why similar pressure was not being exerted in the case of Minister B Nagendra. If there are allegations against B Nagendra, let the matter be discussed in the Assembly. If the allegations are proved, we ourselves will take action against him, he said.

He further argued that the Assembly functions according to established rules and procedures and that allegations cannot simply be made in the House without following due process. If everyone comes to the House and makes allegations, tomorrow we could also demand the Prime Minister's resignation, Hariprasad said.

BK Hariprasad has accused the BJP of using the protest demanding the resignation of Minister B Nagendra to divert public attention from other pressing issues, particularly the drought situation in Karnataka. Hariprasad said the State is facing a severe drought, with 18 districts affected, and alleged that the BJP was not genuinely concerned about the issue involving B Nagendra. The Chief Minister had requested the Union government to send a team to assess the drought situation. However, neither relief nor a Central assessment team had arrived so far, he alleged.

QUICK READ

Two girls die in well, father missing

Vijayapura
Two girls aged 15 and 10 died after accidentally falling into an open well at a farmhouse in Balabatti village of Nidagundi taluk, Vijayapura district. The deceased were identified as Sakshi, 15, and Rakshitha, 10. Their father, 40-year-old Sabanna, reportedly entered the well to rescue his daughters after they fell into the water. However, he also went missing. Preliminary information suggests that Sabanna did not know how to swim. Villagers recovered the bodies of both girls and launched a search for their father using a makeshift raft. Local residents continued the rescue efforts as police inspected the site. Nidagundi police are gathering information about the incident and circumstances surrounding the girls' fall and Sabanna's disappearance. The search operation for him remains underway.

CM Principal Secretary hails Chitradurga administration

Chitradurga
Chief Minister's Principal Secretary for Planning and Programme Implementation Munish Moudgil has lauded the Chitradurga district administration for achieving 100 per cent success in distributing caste certificates door-to-door. More than 20 lakh caste certificates have been delivered to citizens across the district. In a letter to Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh, Moudgil congratulated the administration for the achievement. He said delivering essential documents to citizens at their doorstep was a significant citizen-centric accomplishment. The initiative reflected the district administration's commitment and efficiency in taking government services closer to the people, he said. Moudgil also appreciated Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh and his entire team for their efforts and wished them continued success. He urged the administration to maintain the same commitment and enthusiasm in implementing other government schemes and initiatives to further strengthen people-oriented governance.

Rural teacher Ratna Kumari chosen for National Award

Shivamogga
Ratna Kumari, a teacher at Samatagaaru Government Higher Primary School in Hunch Hobli of Hosanagara taluk, has been selected for the National Teachers' Award for her contribution to the educational development of rural children. The Union Ministry of Education and Literacy has selected 48 teachers from across the country for the prestigious award. Ratna Kumari travels daily from Thirthahalli town to teach students at the rural school. The award will be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on September 5, Teachers' Day. Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa congratulated Ratna Kumari, saying her dedication to educating rural children had made Shivamogga district and the State proud. He said her service would inspire the teaching community.



Gadag plans grand business centre across 35 acres: MLA

The team discussed project infrastructure, investment potential, and proposed facilities

GADAG

A major initiative to establish a modern and integrated commercial centre on around 35 acres of land in the heart of Gadag city is gaining momentum. A second consultation meeting on the proposed Gadag-Betageri Business Centre was held at the District Administration Bhavan on Saturday under the aegis of the Gadag-Betageri Trade, Culture and Exhibition Authority. The meeting, chaired by MLA Dr. H.K. Patil, brought together bidders who have responded to the Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for developing the business centre under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, along with entrepreneurs, traders and investors. Various aspects of the project, including infrastructure, investment opportunities and proposed facilities, were discussed. Dr. Patil directed officials to ensure that all planned buildings and infrastructure are constructed to the highest standards without compromising on quality. He said the structures should be attractive, useful and capable of



An EOI has been invited to attract private investors and companies and make optimum use of the strategically located property. A meeting regarding the project has also already been held in Bengaluru.

Dr. H.K. Patil, MLA

serving the public for many years. Since the project is being implemented through a PPP model, he urged bidders to participate with a service-oriented approach rather than focusing solely on profits. He said the 35-acre land in the city centre has already been transferred to the Gadag-Betageri Trade, Culture and Exhibition Authority, a government institution. The business centre is proposed to be developed in seven sectors in phases. Planned facilities include a five-star hotel, modern commercial outlets, an auditorium, textile centre, children's entertainment zone, Gandhi Bhavan, attractive circles, wider roads and organised transport connectivity. The project is expected to benefit residents, traders, investors and tourists visiting Gadag. Dr. Patil noted that Gadag has a rich historical, cultural, educational and commercial legacy, besides tourist destinations such as Lakkundi. He invited local entrepreneurs and investors to make use of the opportunities created by the project. Traders, including representatives of the gold trade, have been asked to submit their requirements and suggestions in writing by September 10 for possible inclusion in the project. Representatives of KPMC presented the project's pro-

Gadag eyes new commercial hub

Dr. Patil urged local entrepreneurs and gold traders to submit requirements by September 10 for a major commercial project in Gadag. Featuring a design by KPMC and backed by Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar, the initiative promises new growth while maintaining strict quality standards.

posed design, infrastructure plan and phased development strategy. Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said legal compliance and quality standards would not be compromised. He urged local traders and investors to participate actively so that they can benefit from the emerging commercial opportunities. The meeting was attended by officials, elected representatives, Chamber of Commerce members, traders, builders, investors and other stakeholders.

Coastal Karnataka startup count reaches 400

The coastal startup ecosystem is supported by 15+ incubators, 35+ engineering colleges, 8 medical colleges, and 150+ degree college

MANGALURU

The number of startups in coastal Karnataka has doubled to around 400, with efforts underway to build a stronger startup ecosystem across the Mangaluru-Udupi region. The target is to increase the number to more than 4,000 startups and create at least five unicorns by 2034. TiE Mangaluru has been selected to lead Karnataka's

first 'K-Combinator' startup acceleration programme under the state government's 'Beyond Bengaluru Mission' and LEAP initiative, TiE Mangaluru president Shyam Prasad Hebbar said at a press conference in Mangaluru. He said more than 15 incubators, over 35 engineering colleges, eight medical colleges and more than 150 degree colleges were supporting the development of startups in the coastal region. The initiative aims to strengthen entrepreneurship from the college level itself. The K-Combinator programme is designed to help startups that have moved beyond college incubators and

are preparing to test products and expand into markets. Three batches will be conducted every year, with four to six startups selected per batch. Founders will undergo a 16-week bootcamp, mentoring sessions and investor interactions with industry experts. TiE Mangaluru founding president Rohit Bhat said the government has sanctioned Rs 9.26 crore for five years, with the first instalment of Rs 1.89 crore already released. Selected startups will receive free workspace and infrastructure for up to eight months. The top two startups from each batch will receive performance-based grants of Rs

KEY POINTS

- Sixteen-week bootcamp for startup founders.
- Govt sanctioned Rs 9.26 crore.
- Free workspace for eight months.
- Top two startups win grants.
- Zero equity dilution for founders.
- Global market access via TiE.

10 lakh each without equity dilution. The programme will also provide access to global markets through the TiE network. Vice-president Suyog Shetty said 15 companies completed the programme last year, with three startups securing seed funding of more than Rs 50 lakh each.

Woman alleges needle left inside tooth during treatment

YADGIR

A woman from Shahapur has lodged a complaint against a dentist, alleging that a needle was left inside her tooth during treatment. District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) Dr. Mahesh Biradar said further action would be taken based on the report of a medical board. Speaking to the media on Friday, Dr. Biradar said Chandrakala Bagli, a resident of Sri Mata Manikeshwari Nagar, had complained against Dr. Atiqur-Rehman of Style Zone Dental Clinic in Shahapur. According to her complaint, she approached the dentist on May 5 for tooth pain and alleged that a needle was left inside her tooth during treatment. When the pain persisted, she reportedly returned to the clinic on August 11 and was allegedly told that the tooth might have to be removed because a needle was present inside it. Following the complaint, health officials summoned the dentist and questioned him. In his written statement, the doctor said the patient had undergone root canal treatment and there

had been no negligence during the procedure. He also reportedly stated that the object seen in the X-ray was not a needle but an appearance caused by the technique used during root canal treatment. Dr. Biradar said an expert opinion was necessary to establish the facts. The case will therefore be referred to the medical board of Yadgir Medical College, where specialists, including dental experts, will examine the matter and submit a report. Necessary action will be taken under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act based on the findings. The DHO clarified that Dr. Atiqur-Rehman is not an unqualified or fake doctor. He holds a BDS qualification and is registered under the KPME Act. Whether there was negligence during treatment will become clear only after the medical board submits its report. Meanwhile, Chandrakala Ningappa Bagni staged a brief protest outside the DHO's office on Friday along with family members, demanding legal action against the dentist and justice.

World Mosquito Day raises awareness in Belaguru

CHITRADURGA

An awareness programme was organised recently at the Anganwadi Centre and Government Higher Girls' School in Belaguru village, under the jurisdiction of Ballalasamudra Primary Health Centre in Hosadurga taluk, to mark World Mosquito Day. Addressing the gathering, Block Health Education Officer Lalithamma explained the health risks associated with mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, chikungunya, encephalitis and filariasis. She urged residents to remain alert and adopt preventive measures to reduce mosquito breeding and the spread of infections. Lalithamma advised people to ensure that water does not stagnate in and around their homes, as stagnant water provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes. She also recommended using mosquito screens on windows and doors and mosquito nets while sleeping, particularly in areas where mosquito-borne diseases are reported.

As part of the programme, schoolchildren were administered a pledge to support efforts aimed at preventing and controlling mosquito-borne diseases. The health team also supervised a session related to the Universal Immunisation Programme and reviewed the arrangements for vaccination activities. Senior Primary Health Safety Officer Nirmala and Primary Health Safety Officer Rekha participated in the programme along with school teachers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, local residents and students. Health officials stressed that community participation is essential for controlling mosquito-borne diseases. They called upon residents to regularly inspect their surroundings, remove stagnant water and maintain cleanliness around homes and public places. The awareness programme aimed to encourage children and residents to adopt simple preventive practices and contribute to creating a healthier community.



‘Discipline and hard work build bright futures’

HULIKOTI

Education is not merely about classroom learning but also about developing students' personalities, revealing their talents and preparing them for the future, said Principal Dr. Appanna Hanje. He stressed that a warm and trustworthy relationship between students and educational institutions plays an important role not only in academic progress but also in shaping responsible citizens. He was speaking at the orientation programme organised for first-year students admitted to K.H. Patil Government First Grade College, Hulakoti, for the 2026-27 academic year. The programme was held at the Vivekananda Pre-University College auditorium. Dr. Hanje said the college has a responsibility to listen to students' concerns, identify their talents and interests and provide appropriate guidance for their academic and personal growth. Programme coordinator and Cultural Department coordinator Ramesh Hulakund said students should consider their college as their own family and develop discipline, punctuality, good conduct and a

Dr. Hanje emphasized that the college must address student concerns, nurture their talents, and guide their overall growth

sense of social responsibility. He encouraged students to make effective use of the academic and extracurricular opportunities available on campus. The programme began with a prayer by Kumari Pragya Varnekar. Mahaananda Hiremath, head of the Arts Department, welcomed the gathering. IQAC coordinator Dr. Manjunath Tyalagatti, Employment Information Cell coordinator Dr. Shreevithal D., NSS coordinator Vijaykumar S., Hosa Diganta programme coordinator Huseinbhasha, Discipline Committee coordinator Mahantesh and Red Cross coordinator Bhimesh introduced students to various academic and student-support activities of the college. Internal Examination Department coordinator Manojkumar Jyotavar delivered the vote of thanks. Rovers-Rangers coordinator Savitri T. conducted the programme.

Financial discipline essential for entrepreneurs

CHITRADURGA

Every entrepreneur should strictly maintain financial discipline while pursuing a business venture and make effective use of banking facilities to establish self-employment and contribute to the country's economic development, said Lead Bank Manager M.P. Praveen. He was speaking at the valedictory programme of a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme held on Friday at the District Industries Centre in Chitradurga. The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods, Dharwad's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development of Karnataka (CEDOK) and the Chitradurga District Industries Centre. Praveen congratulated the participants who successfully completed the training and explained the various stages involved in obtaining loans and other financial assistance from banks. He also shared

practical suggestions to help new entrepreneurs understand and overcome challenges that may arise while starting and managing a business. Speaking on the occasion, Chitradurga CEDOK Deputy Director Shivanand Yaligar said people who start their own businesses should aim to become job creators rather than limiting themselves to self-employment. He said the government is providing greater encouragement and support to entrepreneurship and urged aspiring entrepreneurs to make full use of the available schemes and opportunities. District Industries Centre Superintendent Ramesh was present at the programme. Trainee Pavithra offered the prayer, while Thippeswamy welcomed the gathering and Maruthi proposed the vote of thanks. CEDOK trainer P. Vijay Kumar compered the programme. Certificates were distributed to 31 participants who successfully completed the 10-day training programme.



CHEMICAL GHEE SOLD

Fake ghee racket spreads from Ballari to Chikkamagaluru

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Food department officials have uncovered an alleged racket involved in manufacturing and selling adulterated ghee in Chikkamagaluru district, with the network reportedly operating from Ballari. According to officials, the accused allegedly prepared fake ghee using chemicals and sold it by claiming that it

was genuine traditional ghee. The operation was reportedly carried out discreetly across several areas, raising concerns over public health. Local residents reportedly alerted the Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police after suspecting the activities of the group. They also submitted video evidence regarding the alleged manufacture and sale of adulterated ghee.

Acting on the information, police raided a suspected ghee manufacturing unit. During the search, chemical substances and other materials allegedly used in the preparation of adulterated ghee were found at the premises. The suspected kingpins, identified as Siddesh and Channesh, along with other members of the alleged network, reportedly fled the spot

when the raid was conducted. Police have launched a search to trace and apprehend the accused. Authorities are investigating the alleged supply network extending from Ballari to Chikkamagaluru and are ex-



At The Glance

- Residents alerted police about adulterated ghee
- Video evidence led to a raid.
- Chemicals and materials were seized.
- Suspects Siddesh and Channesh fled.
- Police launched a manhunt for accused.
- Supply network from Ballari investigated.

pected to gather further details regarding the production, distribution and sale of the adulterated product.



QUICK READ

Centre, State urged to waive farmers' loans

Mandya
Karnataka Raitha Sangha leader Kiranguru Papu alias Mohan Kumar has urged the Central and State governments to completely waive agricultural loans of farmers facing severe distress due to poor rainfall, water shortage and crop losses. He said farmers were unable to grow or protect crops because of inadequate rain and limited water availability. With the government declaring drought-hit areas, many farmers have suffered heavy losses and fallen into debt after borrowing money for cultivation. Papu said farmers were forced to pledge jewellery and borrow from private lenders at high interest rates. He urged governments to implement the recommendations of agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, provide scientific prices for crops and announce complete loan waivers.

Man arrested over suspected Pakistan gangster links

Doddaballapur
Police have arrested a 28-year-old man from Doddaballapur on suspicion of maintaining links with Pakistani gangsters through social media. The arrested person has been identified as Syed Abubakar, a resident of Is-lampur. Police said the arrest followed information from the Counter Intelligence Cell and Central Intelligence Bureau. During examination of his mobile phone, officials allegedly found that he had liked Instagram videos linked to Pakistani gangsters and shared some of them as status updates. Police also reportedly found photographs of pistols on his phone and said he had shown interest in firearms. He was reportedly working as an AC mechanic and is being questioned.

Leopard dies in trap, three men arrested

Tumakuru
Forest officials have arrested three men after a leopard reportedly died in a trap and its carcass was allegedly burned near Gauragondanahalli Gate in Tumakuru taluk. The arrested persons were identified as G.D. Shivakumar, Narayanappa and Chandrashekar, all residents of Gauragondanahalli. According to officials, a trap had been placed in Narayanappa's agricultural field to prevent wild animals from entering the farmland. The leopard reportedly became caught in the trap and died. Instead of informing forest officials, the villagers allegedly burned the carcass.

Major Railway improvements under Modi govt

TUMAKURU

The Indian Railways has witnessed major improvements since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, with enhanced facilities, better passenger amenities and increased investment in railway infrastructure, said MLA G.B. Jyothi Ganesh.

He was speaking at a programme organised by the Tumakuru District Railway Passengers' Forum at the city railway station on Saturday. The event included a health check-up camp for railway passengers and their families and an awards ceremony recognising meritorious students.

Jyothi Ganesh said railway stations have become cleaner, safer and more passenger-friendly under the Modi government. He noted that railway services are increasingly accessible to people across different sections of society at affordable rates. He also said the government has been implementing long-term development projects aimed at strengthening the country's infrastructure and supporting the vision of a developed India.

He highlighted the contribution of former Railway Minister V. Somanna to railway development in Tumakuru district. According to him, several railway projects that had remained pending for years have gained momentum. The Tumakuru railway station is



being modernised at an estimated cost of around Rs. 80 crore. Work is also progressing on the construction of underpasses and overbridges at more than 32 railway-level crossings, he said.

A message from Railway Minister V. Somanna, who could not attend the programme, was read out by forum senior vice-president Madhavamurthy. In the message, Somanna said the development of Tumakuru city and district is progressing and railway facilities are being expanded accordingly. He said container services between Tumakuru and Bengaluru's Whitefield would soon be introduced to facilitate transportation of agricultural produce.

Jyothi Ganesh distributed awards to meri-

torious children of railway passengers who secured high marks in SSLC and PUC examinations. A health screening, eye examination and blood donation camp were also organised. Specialist doctors and staff from Siddaganga Multi-Speciality Hospital and GSS Eye Hospital examined passengers and railway employees and provided free medicines to those requiring treatment.

District Railway Passengers' Forum president Karan Ramesh presided over the programme. Rotary organisation president Bhagyalakshmi Nagaraju, doctors Dr Harshitha and Dr Sushma Shekar and several forum office-bearers and members participated.

Artificial paneer banned across Karnataka

The Karnataka government banned the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of artificial analogue paneer statewide for one year to protect consumer health

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has officially banned the manufacturing, storage, distribution, and sale of artificial or analogue paneer across the state for a period of one year.

Issued by the Food Safety Division of the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department, the emergency notification aims to protect public health and consumer interests. The ruling prohibits all processing, wholesale and retail sales, packing, and government supply of non-dairy paneer variants containing vegetable fats or oils instead of pure milk fat.

According to officials, authentic paneer is legally classified under food safety rules as a certified dairy product derived strictly from milk. Products substituting milk solids with vegetable oils or other non-dairy components



cannot be labeled or sold as paneer. Although recent local tests found tested samples free of active toxic adulteration, authorities enforced the sweeping ban to prevent deceptive market practices and safeguard consumers.

The restriction applies strictly to uncertified dairy analogue products lacking specific standards recognized by national food authorities. It

does not impact certified items like processed cheese, frozen desserts, or mixed fat spreads that follow separate regulatory frameworks.

Furthermore, commercial food businesses and hotels are strictly barred from utilizing analogue paneer ingredients in any prepared food items. The state food safety commissioner emphasized that strict legal action will be taken

BAN DETAILS

Zero Tolerance: Non-dairy paneer made with vegetable oil or fat is banned

Wide Scope: The restriction covers wholesale, transport, display, and packaging.

Timeframe: The directive will remain active for an entire year.

IMPORTANT EXEMPTIONS

Standard Products: Certified items like frozen desserts and cheese remain unaffected

Strict Penalties: Food businesses using fake paneer in dishes face severe action

against operators failing to comply, and enforcement teams have begun monitoring commercial establishments across the state to ensure immediate implementation of the new directive.



Bendre Bhavan neglected, becomes hub for miscreants

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

The Bendre Bhavan in Shirahatti, the ancestral town of renowned Kannada poet D.R. Bendre, is reportedly lying in a state of neglect, triggering concern among local residents, literary enthusiasts and Kannada organisations.

The cultural centre was constructed at considerable public expense with the objective of promoting literary and cultural activities and honouring the legacy of Bendre. However, residents allege that the building has failed to serve its intended purpose, with few significant literary or cultural programmes being organised there. The premises have reportedly remained largely unused and poorly maintained.

The building is currently under the control of the Shirahatti Town Panchayat. Residents claim that the premises are filled with garbage, dust, thorny vegetation and discarded materials. Cleaning equipment, waste bins and old tools used by the civic body have also reportedly been stored on the premises, giving the cultural centre the appearance of a neglected storage area.

Local residents further al-

leged that the lack of proper supervision has resulted in the premises being misused after dark. They claimed that miscreants and drunkards frequently gather there, raising concerns over the safety and sanctity of the memorial building. Residents have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to restore the premises and prevent further misuse.

Citizens and Kannada organisations have demanded that the Town Panchayat remove all garbage and unwanted materials, clean the entire premises and appoint security personnel. They also suggested that the civic body work with the Kannada Sahitya Parishat and other cultural organisations to organise regular literary and cultural programmes at the venue.

Residents have appealed to district authorities and officials of the Kannada and Culture Department to intervene and revive the Bendre Bhavan.

Shirahatti Town Panchayat Chief Officer N.M. Hadimani said immediate steps would be taken to clean the Bendre Bhavan and that programmes related to the Town Panchayat and literature would be organised at the venue.

Permaculture conference promotes sustainable farming

RAMANAGARA

A national permaculture conference organised by the Art of Living near Bengaluru focused on regenerative agriculture, soil conservation and sustainable farming practices. The two-day event was held at the Art of Living International Centre to create awareness about declining soil health, water scarcity, chemical residues in food and rising agricultural costs.

Gurudev Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated the conference, which brought together farm-

ers, agricultural experts and practitioners. Discussions focused on bringing ecology and agriculture together and exploring ways to shift from conventional farming methods towards natural and regenerative practices. Participants stressed that agriculture should work in harmony with nature rather than treating natural resources merely as inputs for production.

Speakers highlighted the importance of restoring soil health, conserving water and reducing excessive dependence on chemical inputs. They said

natural and regenerative agriculture should not be viewed only as a change in farming techniques but also as a change in the way people understand their relationship with nature. Agriculture is closely connected with water, consumers, markets, institutions and human well-being, they noted.

The need to strengthen links between farmers, banks, producers and consumers was also emphasised. Better coordination among these groups could improve access to finance, markets and sustainable farming knowledge.

Speakers said consumers should also understand the efforts of farmers and others involved in bringing food from farms to their tables.

Minister N. Cheluvaryaswamy said there was a need to look beyond the immediate benefits of chemical-intensive farming. Short-term gains from chemical fertilisers could come at the cost of soil and human health, he said. He stressed the importance of gradually moving towards natural and regenerative farming while respecting nature and protecting agricultural resources.

Tumakuru Cancer Hospital remains shut ten months

TUMAKURU

The Regional Cancer Hospital in Tumakuru, constructed at a cost of around Rs 110 crore, has remained non-functional even 10 months after its inauguration, leaving patients from Tumakuru and neighbouring districts dependent on Bengaluru for advanced cancer treatment.

The three-storey hospital was officially inaugurated on November 7, 2025, with the objective of providing specialised cancer care closer to patients from Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Sirsi, Madhugiri and surrounding areas. The facility was expected to reduce the need for patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections, to travel to Bengaluru's Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology for treatment.

However, the hospital has not yet commenced full-

fledged services. Officials reportedly cite the non-arrival of essential medical equipment from Germany as the primary reason for the delay. The advanced equipment required for cancer diagnosis and treatment is still awaited, and authorities have indicated that the hospital cannot become fully operational until the necessary machinery is installed. The prolonged delay has raised concerns among patients and residents who expected the facility to provide affordable and accessible cancer treatment locally. Families of patients continue to bear the cost and inconvenience of travelling to Bengaluru for consultations, diagnosis and treatment.

Meanwhile, concerns have also been raised over the condition of the newly constructed hospital building. With the facility remaining unused, several rooms and parts of the

premises are reportedly showing signs of neglect. Litter, bidi pieces and empty liquor sachets have allegedly been found in parts of the building and its surroundings.

Residents have expressed disappointment that a facility built with substantial public funds is yet to serve the people for whom it was intended. They have urged the State government and health authorities to expedite the procurement and installation of the required equipment and commence services without further delay.

The situation has also prompted calls for regular maintenance and security at the premises until the hospital becomes operational. Local residents said immediate action would help protect the infrastructure and, more importantly, provide cancer patients with timely treatment closer to home.

Nagendra had no role in Valmiki Scam: Ponnanna

MADIKERI

Chief Minister's Political Secretary and MLA A.S. Ponnanna has defended former minister B. Nagendra, stating that the CID investigation into the alleged Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Development Corporation fund misuse case found no evidence linking him to the scam. Speaking to reporters in Madikeri, Ponnanna said the investigation into eight FIRs registered in connection with the case had been completed and the CID had filed its charge sheet.

He said the investigation covered the diversion of corporation funds to other accounts, alleged misuse of the money and the subsequent recovery of the funds. According to Ponnanna, the investigation found no connection between the recovered money and Nagendra. He added that Nagendra was given a ministerial position after the investigation was completed. Responding to questions about investigations by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation, Ponnanna alleged that probes by central agencies were politically motivated.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ - 562114
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 27931221
Email- itstaff_ ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website. www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ: ನಸಮೇ/ಆಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾಮೆ/ಬೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/13/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20/08/2026

“ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ” (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಹೋರ್ಬಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ಎನ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ (NMPC) ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡಲ್ಟ (DULT) ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಹೋರ್ಬಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ವೀಸರೆಸಿರುದ ಮರ್ಗ
01	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT60755/Call-2	NMPC	47.00	ಇತರೆ
02	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT60757/Call-2	NMPC	38.75	ಇತರೆ
03	DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT61557	DULT	358.65	ಇತರೆ

1) ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: 01 ಮತ್ತು 02 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **05/09/2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **07/09/2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

2) ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: 03 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **29/08/2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **31/08/2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

3) ಬೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಹೋರ್ಬಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

DIPR/CPN/CPL/2379/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagar
Phone/Fax: 08226-222027 e-mail: eecnr@kpwd.gov.in /pwddechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Term Tender Notification No 13/2026-27 Dated: 20.08.2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 form. The Total no of works is 23, H/A :- 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance Works Minimum estimated cost is Rs. 4.00 lakhs, & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 64.00 lakhs, AND The Total no of works is 77, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance Works Minimum estimated cost is Rs. 1.00 lakhs, & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 16.00 lakhs, Works. Further changes in this Notification will be Published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal:	From 21.08.2026 to 31.08.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date:	25.08.2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time:	31.08.2026 Up to 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid:	01.09.2026 after 16.30 Hrs
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid:	03.09.2026 Morning 11.00 AM.

More information can be had from the web site: <https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in> & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

No: DIPR: CHNAGR: 3064/2026-27

Executive Engineer,
PWD Division,
Chamarajanagar



QUICK READ

Rajasthan admits 611 schools lack basic infrastructure

CH NEWS, JAIPUR
Rajasthan government has admitted that 611 government schools are functioning without their own buildings, exposing serious infrastructure gaps. The disclosure came in the Assembly during questions from Opposition Leader Tika Ram Jyoti. The BJP government blamed the previous Congress administration under Ashok Gehlot and said it was working to fix the situation.

Hyderabad building collapse, 2 die, several hurt

CH NEWS, Hyderabad
Two people were killed and several others injured after an under-construction seven-storey building collapsed in Anjaliah Nagar, Madhapur, Hyderabad, on Saturday. Police and emergency response teams quickly reached the site and began clearing the debris. Rescue operations are continuing as officials search for anyone who may still be trapped beneath the rubble. Cong MLA Arekapudi Gandhi alleged that the building was unauthorised and said municipal authorities had earlier stopped its construction for four months.

DMK sets age and term limits

CHENNAI
The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has approved major changes to its organisational structure, introducing age limits and a two-term cap for several key party posts. The reforms were cleared through resolutions at the DMK Executive Committee meeting held at Anna Arivalayam in Chennai on Saturday.
Party president MK Stalin backed the changes, which are aimed at bringing younger leaders into important organisational positions. The move marks a significant change from the party's traditional approach to internal responsibilities and is expected to create greater opportunities for new members and emerging leaders.
The DMK said the reforms were designed to bring "new blood" into the organisation and strengthen its functioning. By limiting the number of

BJP raises questions over Pune event funding

The Maharashtra BJP has questioned the funding of Rahul Gandhi's Pune event, alleging Congress spent heavily on influencers, crowd mobilisation.

MUMBAI
The Maharashtra BJP on Saturday questioned the source of funds for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" event in Pune, alleging that the party spent heavily to attract crowds.
Maharashtra BJP spokesperson Navnath Ban claimed the Congress spent nearly Rs 10 crore on the programme. He alleged that social media influ-

encers were paid between Rs 30,000 and Rs 35,000 each to promote the event and increase attendance. Ban also questioned the purpose and source of the alleged spending. He referred to the programme as "Paison Ki Goonj" and asked where the money came from, who provided it and through which channels it was distributed.
"Where has this money come from? Who is providing it and through whom is it being



distributed? What is the official account of this money?" Ban asked, demanding an in-

vestigation into the alleged funding. The BJP spokesperson further alleged that au-

thorities should examine whether the money had any connection with foreign funding or was diverted through contracts, commissions or other financial transactions in Congress-ruled states. These claims were made by the BJP and have not been established independently.
Ban's remarks came after Gandhi's arrival in Pune for the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" programme, which was held amid

Kolkata shuts hotels after deadly fire

KOLKATA
West Bengal authorities have stepped up fire safety checks after a deadly hotel blaze in central Kolkata killed nine people. On Friday, officials shut 13 hotels, asked 16 others to vacate, and served notices on more than 50 hotels in the city for alleged safety violations.
The action followed Wednesday's early morning fire at Shikha Inn Hotel. Police said the blaze trapped guests, while rescue teams brought at least 80 people to safety. The hotel's lease holder has been arrested, and its owner is still absconding. Officials said the incident exposed serious gaps in basic fire precautions.
Inspections have focused on busy areas such as Mirza

Ghalib Street, Marquis Street and SN Banerjee Road. Fire officials said some hotels had no valid fire licence, while others had expired licences that were never renewed. Several properties reportedly had blocked or locked emergency exits, poor ventilation, changed floor plans, overcrowded rooms, and electricity use above approved limits.
The government has also acted in Tarapith, where another hotel fire killed nine people, including two children, earlier this week. Fifteen hotels there have been closed. Fire Minister Kaushik Chowdhury said inspections would continue, while officials have also been questioned over how unsafe hotels received or retained permissions. Meanwhile, officials said six Bangladeshi victims

KEY FACTS
■ 9 people were killed in the Shikha Inn fire.
■ 80 people were rescued from the hotel.
■ 13 hotels were shut down by authorities.
■ 16 hotels were asked to vacate.
■ 50+ hotels received show-cause notices.

from the Kolkata fire were likely to be taken back home by road on Saturday. Five bodies were expected to cross through Benapole and one through Bhomra. Rebaty Sarker, who had travelled with her son, was cremated in Kolkata on Friday night, bringing a painful close to the tragedy.

Jaipur Ayurveda exam cancelled after major glitch

JAIPUR
The first shift of the All-India Ayush Post Graduate Entrance Test (AIAPGET) 2026 was cancelled at Satya Sai PG Girls College in Jaipur on Saturday after a major technical failure disrupted the examination. The test was scheduled from 10 am to noon, but problems appeared within the first 15 minutes.

Candidates said computer systems stopped working, leaving them waiting for nearly one and a half hours while technical staff tried to fix the issue. The long delay created panic among students inside the examination hall. Some female candidates reportedly felt unwell because of stress and anxiety. Frustrated students and their parents later gathered outside the centre, demanding answers from the authorities.

Jaipur Additional District Magistrate Narendra Kumar reached the college after protests began and spoke with students and their families. College Observer Harshita Sharma later announced that the first shift had been cancelled. She said a fresh examination would be organised for all candidates affected by the disruption. Police and administrative officials remained at the venue to maintain order.



Students expressed anger over what they described as poor management and a waste of months of preparation. One candidate said the systems froze shortly after the exam began and the lack of clear communication made the situation more stressful. Parents also complained about the financial and travel difficulties faced by candidates who had come from other places.
The incident has raised concerns about the arrangements for a national-level entrance examination. Candidates are now waiting for details of the new examination date and further instructions from the authorities. Officials are also expected to examine the technical failure and determine how the disruption occurred, while affected students hope the rescheduled test will be conducted smoothly.

Nehru trophy boat race opens in Alappuzha

ALAPPUZHA
The 72nd Nehru Trophy Boat Race began at Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha on Saturday, bringing together Kerala's sporting spirit and rich maritime tradition. Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan and Kamataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar inaugurated the much-awaited event.
A total of 71 boats is taking part in different categories, including 22 famous snake boats, known locally as Chundan Vallams. Thousands of spectators are expected to gather around Punnamada Lake to watch the colourful and highly competitive races.
Speaking at the event, Shivakumar said he was happy to attend the celebration during the Onam festival. He described the boat race as a major event and a source of pride

for the country. Alappuzha MP K C Venugopal and several other local leaders were also present.
The Nehru Trophy Boat Race traces its history to 1952 and has become one of Kerala's best-known cultural and sporting traditions. Held at Punnamada Lake, the event highlights the state's maritime heritage, teamwork and the remarkable coordination of rowers competing in long, narrow boats.
The district administration said all arrangements had been completed before the event. Authorities made detailed plans for security, traffic control and crowd management to handle the large gathering. District Collector Shaji V Nair appealed to visitors and organisers to cooperate with officials and help ensure a safe and successful celebration.

Tripura government to absorb tariff hike

AGARTALA
The Tripura government has decided to bear the entire additional burden from the revised electricity tariff for 2026-27, providing relief to more than 10 lakh consumer families across the state. Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath said the government would not pass the increased cost on to eligible consumers.
The revised tariff came into effect in May 2026 and had raised concerns among households, farmers, small traders, businesses and industries. Nath said the decision was taken after Chief Minister Manik Saha reviewed the difficulties faced by people and held discussions with senior officials.
Consumers who have already paid higher electricity bills will also receive relief. The minister said the additional amount already collected will be adjusted against future bills over three months.
The adjustment will appear in bills issued in September, October and November, ensuring that consumers do not lose the money they have already paid.

CM Pathak assures students demands will be heard



LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Saturday met a delegation of students who had protested against caste-based reservation at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. He said their concerns would be taken seriously and promised to present the ir demands before the Centre.
Pathak said the government had received a letter from the students outlining their concerns. He assured them that no harm would be allowed to come to students and said the government would work to address their issues while keeping the interests of all groups in mind.
The deputy chief minister also announced that the students would be given an opportunity to meet a union minister within two days. Pathak said he and other representatives would

accompany the delegation during the meeting and help present their concerns directly to the central leadership.
The protest was held at Jantar Mantar on Friday, where a large number of people gathered seeking changes to the existing caste-based reservation system. Delhi Police had earlier said permission for the planned demonstration had not been granted. Despite this, protesters assembled at the designated area, leading authorities to deploy police and paramilitary personnel and put up barricades.
Pathak later said the BJP-led government was committed to the future of students and would ensure that no student faced injustice. The delegation is now expected to meet the union minister, where its demands will be formally discussed with the Centre.

Supreme Court eases judge eligibility rules

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday changed the eligibility rules for advocates seeking entry-level judicial posts, reducing the required legal practice from three years to one year. However, selected candidates will have to complete two years of compulsory training before they can preside over courts and decide cases.
A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices A G Masih and Vinod Chandran, delivered the ruling by a two-to-one majority. Justice Chandran

KEY FACTS	
1 year	Minimum legal practice now required.
2 years	Mandatory training before handling cases.
1 year	Training at a State Judicial Academy.
6 months + 6 months	Law clerkship with district and HC judges

disagreed with the decision. Under the new system, lawyers with at least one year of practice can appear for the three-stage examination used to recruit civil judges and magistrates.
The court has introduced a structured training system to address concerns about candidates entering judicial service without enough courtroom ex-

perience. Successful candidates will first be designated as trainee judicial officers and undergo one year of intensive training at their respective State Judicial Academies. During this period, they will receive a fixed payment equal to half the salary of magistrates. The second year will involve a structured law clerkship. Trainees will spend six

months working with a principal district judge and another six months with a sitting High Court judge. The High Court judge will assess their performance and suitability before they are allowed to take charge of court proceedings.
The eligibility rule has changed several times over the decades. In 1993, the Supreme Court required three years of practice, but in 2002 it allowed fresh law graduates to enter the judicial service. The latest ruling seeks to combine wider access with practical training, aiming to prepare young lawyers for judicial responsibilities.

HISTORIC CALF MILESTONE

Assam welcomes world's first IVF female calf

GUWAHATI
Assam has achieved a major milestone in livestock biotechnology with the birth of the world's first IVF-born female calf of the indigenous Lakhimi breed, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday. The calf was born at the IVF Laboratory of the College of Veterinary Science under Assam Veterinary and Fishery University at Khanapara in Guwahati.
The laboratory was established with support from the Rashtriya Gokul Mission. The breakthrough is considered important for conserving Lakhimi cattle, a native breed of Assam.



Scientists said assisted reproductive technology can help multiply genetically superior animals while protecting valuable indigenous genetic resources. The development could also support better disease control and improved milk

production.
Sarma said the achievement could open new opportunities for Assam's livestock and dairy sectors. In the long term, such technology could strengthen the state's dairy economy and help improve the earnings of live-

stock farmers. He congratulated the veterinary scientists and professionals involved, describing the calf as small in size but significant for Assam's growing biotechnology capabilities.
The latest development builds on earlier efforts to introduce advanced reproductive technology into livestock breeding. Earlier this year, scientists at the veterinary college produced Assam's first IVF-born calf, a female Gir calf born in Sonapur.

8.7 crore Indian youth face education work gap

NEW DELHI
Around 8.7 crore Indians aged 15 to 29 are not studying, working or receiving any training, according to a recent NITI Aayog report. The finding has raised concerns about youth participation in education, employment and skill development, while highlighting the need for affordable training and stronger pathways into work.
The report, titled "Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047", used data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey conducted in 2021. NITI Aayog divided the country's learners and workforce into five groups: school students, those in higher edu-

cation, formal and informal workers, NEET youth, and women.
According to the report, NEET youth face several financial and educational barriers. Many students from low-income families already struggle with college fees and private tuition, making additional paid skill courses difficult to afford. Some young people take low-paying jobs after graduation to support their families, while others struggle to find suitable work and remain outside education, employment and training.
The report also pointed to a major gap between education and employment. Only 8.25 per cent of graduates are work-

ing in jobs that match their qualifications. NITI Aayog said limited practical exposure and insufficient industry-linked training continue to affect employability, even among educated young people.
The report called for affordable or subsidised training, financial support and learning opportunities that allow people to earn while they learn. It recommended reskilling, self-employment options and courses linked to local needs and emerging industries. Since 2014-15, more than 7.67 crore people have received training, but the report said further efforts are essential to help India achieve its Viksit Bharat 2047 goal.

QUICK READ

Class 11 student dies in Bhopal

BHOPAL

A 17-year-old Class 11 student was found dead at his home in Bhopal, with police suspecting suicide. The incident reportedly occurred on Friday. Police said the boy was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead, TT Nagar police said a post-mortem examination was conducted and an investigation is underway. No suicide note was found, and police said the exact reason behind the death remains unclear. Family members' statements will be recorded as investigators continue examining the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Police seize 10 kg gold in Kannauj

Kannauj

Police in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district seized around 10 kilograms of gold worth nearly Rs 15 crore from a car in the Talgram area. Two men travelling in the vehicle were detained after their car collided with a police vehicle on the expressway. Police later recovered 10 gold bricks during a search. The consignment was allegedly being taken from Gorakhpur to Delhi and may have entered India through Nepal. GST and Customs officials are examining the gold and investigating the suspected smuggling network.



UP Minister warns against sugar hoarding

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Minister Chaudhary Laxmi Narayan has warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals involved in sugar hoarding and black marketing. Officials announced that no dealer will be permitted to store sugar beyond a strict 30-day limit. Following a comprehensive review by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to guarantee steady market availability, the state confirmed robust sugar reserves across local mills. Furthermore, the government highlighted ongoing financial distributions, noting that billions have already been successfully disbursed directly to thousands of sugarcane farmers statewide.

Ministry urges TV channels to show drug warnings

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has advised TV channels to display drug abuse warnings regularly, aiming to raise awareness and promote responsible viewing among audiences.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has advised private satellite television channels to display warnings about the harmful effects of drug abuse during programmes. The move is aimed at increasing public awareness and encouraging responsible viewing, especially among young people who may face greater risks from



narcotics and other intoxicating substances. The ministry said the disclaimer should be shown at suitable intervals during all

“Illicit narcotics destroy health and guarantee imprisonment. Say no to drugs.”
I&B Ministry

programmes, including general entertainment shows and non-news broadcasts. Channels have been asked to make the warning clear, readable and prominent so viewers can easily notice it during regular television viewing.

The prescribed warning says, “Illicit narcotics destroy health and guarantee imprisonment.

Say no to drugs.” The ministry said the abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and other intoxicants is a serious public health concern. It can also create harmful social, economic and behavioural effects on individuals, families and communities.

BJP launches month-long service campaign

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced a major nationwide outreach initiative titled the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. Scheduled to run from September 17 through October 17, the extensive month-long campaign aims to honor grassroots workers and bring public welfare benefits directly to citizens across the country.

According to party leadership, the nationwide drive marks a special milestone celebrating twenty-five years of public service rooted in community welfare and grassroots development. Senior party officials outlined the comprehensive plans during a recent media briefing following key organizational workshops

held in the national capital.

The extensive campaign will focus heavily on grassroots engagement, highlighting community service, cleanliness drives, and tree-planting initiatives. Party workers plan to visit local child care centers to honor dedicated women workers who ensure nutrition and care for young children at the local level. Additionally, special interactive communication programs will be organized to strengthen community bonds and celebrate frontline social workers.

Another major highlight of the upcoming initiative is the 'Seva Setu Abhiyan', designed to bridge any gaps between government welfare programs and their intended beneficiaries. Dedicated assistance camps will be set up at local

administrative blocks to help eligible citizens enroll in various central social security and health protection schemes if they were previously left out.

Furthermore, the party announced a national innovation challenge aimed at encouraging local youth to research and present creative solutions to everyday civic challenges within their communities. Through these multi-tiered competitions and digital video campaigns highlighting social work, organizers hope to inspire widespread civic participation among the younger generation. State, district, and block-level preparatory workshops will be completed soon to ensure seamless execution down to every local polling booth.

Former Meta manager sues over firing

NEW DELHI

A former Meta product design manager has sued the company, alleging he was fired after refusing to sign an immigration support letter that he believed contained inaccurate claims about a Chinese engineer's work.

James Tillinghast filed the lawsuit on August 17 in a US District Court in New Jersey. According to the complaint, the dispute began in 2024 when Meta and immigration lawyers prepared an I-140 petition seeking an EB-2 National Interest Waiver for an employee in Tillinghast's team. The petition reportedly credited the employee with generating about \$638 million in additional advertising revenue.

CPI to launch nationwide political campaign from Sept 1

NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India will launch a nationwide political campaign from the national capital on September 1, CPI General Secretary D Raja said on Saturday. The party will organise a major rally in Delhi, with supporters expected to arrive from different parts of the country to raise concerns and demand political change.

Raja said the campaign would focus on issues affecting ordinary people, including unemployment and underemployment among young people. He also raised concerns about students facing paper leaks and what he described as the growing influence of coaching mafias. According to Raja, workers are also struggling because of what he called the government's "anti-worker policies". The CPI leader said farmers were continuing their agitation over demands for a legal guarantee on minimum support price, while women were seeking 33 per cent reservation. He claimed that several sections of society were unhappy with the policies of the BJP-led government and were demanding greater attention to their concerns.

CPI General Secretary D Raja said the party will launch a nationwide campaign on September 1, focusing on unemployment, paper leaks, farmers' demands and women's reservation.

Raja said the party's campaign slogan would be "change is necessary" and called for the defeat of the Narendra Modi-led government. He accused the government of giving greater importance to large businesses while failing to adequately address the problems faced by common citizens.

The CPI said its nationwide campaign would continue to highlight economic and social issues ahead of the September 1 rally. Raja said people from different sections and regions would participate in the Delhi gathering to express their concerns. The party plans to use the campaign to build wider public support around employment, education, farmers' demands, workers' rights and women's representation, while seeking a change in government.

Kerala opposes Mangaluru railway division shift

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Saturday said the state would approach the Centre seeking reconsideration of the Railway Board's decision to shift Mangaluru from the Palakkad division to the Mysuru division. He described the move as unilateral and said Kerala was not consulted before the decision.

Satheesan said removing Mangaluru from the Palakkad division could significantly reduce its revenue and affect future development. He also warned that transferring the area from Ullal to Mangaluru to South Western Railway could cause losses to both

Southern Railway and Kerala. The Chief Minister said letters would be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Railway Minister. He added that Kerala MPs would work together to press the Centre for an urgent review. Satheesan called reconsideration of the decision a united demand from the state. Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan also criticised the decision, alleging that it reflected continued neglect of Kerala's Malabar region.

He said the New Mangalore Port Authority was important to the Palakkad division and warned that losing the Mangaluru region could weaken the division financially.

PhD scholars stopped during Patna march

PATNA

PhD holders and research scholars protesting in Patna for the past 18 days were stopped by police on Saturday while marching towards Lok Bhawan to press for their demands. Carrying the Tricolour, the protesters moved from their demonstration site in Gardanibagh but were halted near the R-Block area.

Police had deployed personnel and placed barricades along the route to prevent the protesters from moving further.

ther. When some demonstrators tried to cross the barricades, officers intervened and stopped them. The protesters are members of the All PhD Holders and Research Scholars Association of Bihar, which has been holding an indefinite agitation over higher education, employment and the future of research scholars.

Association convener Kumud Patel, who is also on an indefinite hunger strike, said the movement was not limited to recruitment for a small

number of posts. He said the protesters were seeking wider reforms in Bihar's higher education system, along with better employment opportunities and protection of the rights of research scholars.

The protesters have demanded implementation of UGC Regulations, 2018, including Table 3A, in Assistant Professor recruitment.

They have also sought an increase in the upper age limit for recruitment from 43 to 55 years, a fair policy for regularising long-serving guest

faculty and a clear domicile policy.

They are also demanding regular, time-bound recruitment to permanent Assistant Professor posts and protection of the academic autonomy of universities and colleges.

The protesters said these steps are needed to create better opportunities for qualified researchers and strengthen higher education in Bihar.

They maintained that the agitation would continue until the government takes concrete action on their demands.

FDCI PRAISES MODI FOR PROMOTING INDIAN FABRICS

NEW DELHI

Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) Chairman Sunil Sethi on Saturday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for helping Indian fabrics and traditional crafts gain greater recognition around the world. Speaking at the launch of the book *Bespoken* in New Delhi, Sethi said the Prime Minister's use of Indian textiles in gifts for foreign dignitaries had helped draw attention to the country's rich craft traditions.

Sethi said Indian fabrics were being appreciated internationally because of their beauty and cultural value. He attended the event wearing an

Odisha Ikat coat made by an Indian designer, while his shirt and tie were also created by Indian designers. He said promoting local craftsmanship was important for giving Indian designers a stronger position globally. The FDCI chairman highlighted Khadi as one of the key Indian fabrics being taken abroad. He said efforts had taken Khadi to countries including Bhutan and Russia, while designers had also presented it in France. He noted that Indian designers recently held a successful show in Auckland, New Zealand, where the event was packed with visitors. Sethi said these developments showed that India was

no longer being viewed as a secondary player in global fashion. Instead, he said the country's textiles and craftsmanship were increasingly becoming sources of pride and international interest. He stressed that Indian designers should receive greater recognition as the country expands its presence in global fashion.

He also spoke about Andrew Ramroop, founder of the Savile Row Bespoke Academy in London, whose life and career are featured in *Bespoken*. Sethi described Ramroop, who is of Indian origin, as an outstanding figure in bespoke tailoring and praised his contribution to the international tailoring industry.

Six arrested in Chhattisgarh university paper leak

RAIPUR

Six people, including a professor and five students, have been arrested in connection with the alleged question paper leak at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Saturday. The case came to light before the August 20 BSc Agriculture Entomology examination, prompting police and cyber teams to launch an investigation.

Police said the investigation traced the suspected leak to Bharti College in Durg district, which is affiliated with the university. The arrested professor was allegedly responsible for collecting the question paper

INSIGHTS
6: People arrested in the paper leak case.
1: Professor among those arrested.
5: Students arrested in the investigation.
15: Questions allegedly copied from the paper.

from the university in a sealed envelope. Investigators said he used an unusual method to access the paper without opening the envelope. According to DCP (Crime) Smruthik Rajanala, the professor allegedly made a small hole in the envelope and inserted an endoscopic

camera to scan the question paper. He then reportedly copied 15 questions by hand and sold them to students. Police identified the professor as Yogesh Sonkeshariya during the investigation.

The investigation also found that the accused allegedly used the same method to leak another question paper. Police said the Plant Pathology paper had been leaked on August 7. The accused allegedly sold the leaked papers for around Rs 11,000 and Rs 12,000. The Entomology examination was cancelled after the leak was detected on August 20.

Chief Minister Sai said the investigation would continue and that further action would be taken if more people were found involved.

“Peace cannot weaken India”: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India's commitment to peace and non-violence should never be seen as weakness. Speaking at the "Veeroday" Rashtra Prahar Samman ceremony at Delhi University, Singh said protecting the country's security, sovereignty and honour remain the government's duty. "Non-violence and peace are our culture. But protecting the nation's security, sovereignty, and honour is our duty," Singh said. He stressed that India's peaceful values are fully compatible

with its responsibility to defend national interests and safeguard the country. The defence minister also spoke about the importance of Jainism and its place in India's cultural and spiritual heritage. He said the government has worked to recover stolen religious artefacts from abroad. According to Singh, more than 20 revered Tirthankara idols have been brought back to India in recent years.

Singh paid tribute to Jain monks and recalled the teachings of Jain philosophy, saying a true saint is one who overcomes anger, arrogance, deceit and greed.

Jaipur police register FIRs after CJP dispute

JAIPUR

Jaipur police have registered two separate FIRs following a dispute involving the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and villagers in Rampura Kanwar-pura, Jaipur district. Jaipur South DCP Rajarshi Raj Verma said complaints were received from both sides and cases had been registered accordingly.

Speaking to ANI, Verma said the investigation had only recently begun. Police are recording statements of people connected with the incident and will decide further action based on the evidence



collected. "FIRs have been lodged by both sides," the DCP said.

The development follows a

violent confrontation involving a visiting CJP delegation. CJP activist Ashutosh Ranka alleged that the group was at-

tacked by people brought from outside. He claimed some of those allegedly involved had been seen with local MLA Kailash Verma before the incident. Ranka described the attack as planned and said the police did not respond despite calls for help.

Ranka also alleged that stones were used during the violence and claimed photographs of some people had been shared on social media. His allegations have not been established by the police, and the investigation is still underway.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh BJP spokesperson

Shaikh Baji accused the CJP of politicising the incident and claimed the organisation was acting in favour of the Congress. He also alleged that the group was giving excessive attention to the Rajasthan clash while ignoring issues such as paper leaks and employment concerns elsewhere.

Police have said they are examining the complaints from both sides and recording statements as part of the investigation. The authorities are expected to take further action after reviewing the available evidence and establishing the circumstances surrounding the confrontation.



QUICK READ

Multiple deaths after UK police car crash, police say

London

Several people have died after a collision near Middlesbrough in northeast England between a police car and a passenger car, the local police force said on Saturday. Cleveland Police said the incident took place at around 3.39 a.m. (0239 GMT) on a main road near the South Bank area to the east of Middlesbrough. Sadly, the collision has resulted in multiple fatalities," a police spokesperson said.

PTI seeks contempt action over jailed Imran's hospital move

LAHORE

The party of Pakistan's jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan filed a contempt petition against the government on Saturday after authorities took the cricket-er-turned-politician to a state-run hospital instead of the private facility ordered by the top court, party officials said. "The petition seeks action against the prime minister, law minister, information minister" and other government officials, said Naeem Panjutha, a legal advisor for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, adding it also calls for Khan's treatment at the private hospital ordered by the court.

Mexican Governor indicted by US returns to office

MEXICO CITY

The governor of Mexico's Sinaloa state, Ruben Rocha Moya, returned to office on Friday after taking leave for more than three months following U.S. drug trafficking charges, a move likely to deepen strains between Mexico and the United States. Rocha, 77, a member of Mexico's ruling Morena party, said in a statement posted on X that he was resuming his duties with a "clear conscience" and his "head held high." The development marks a remarkable turnaround for Rocha, who has not only avoided, for now, extradition to the United States but has also reclaimed the governor's office. His return adds a new twist to a saga that has tested U.S.-Mexico security cooperation and underscored the complexities in the bilateral relationship: despite years of joint efforts against cartels, Mexico remains deeply resistant to U.S. actions it sees as encroaching on its sovereignty. The Mexican government is "more than happy to extradite druglords if the U.S. wishes, but they're not so eager to extradite members of the political party of their president," said Martin Castillo, a public policy expert at the University of Chicago.

FASTER THAN USAIN BOLT!

Chinese robot beats Bolt's world record

BEIJING

A humanoid robot developed by Chinese smartphone maker Honor ran 100 meters in 9.32 seconds, China's state broadcaster reported on Saturday, beating the human world record held by Jamaican sprinting great Usain Bolt. The robot, dubbed Lightning, reached a peak speed of 14.5 meters per second during a preparatory test event for the second World Humanoid Robot Games, which opened in Beijing on Saturday. The performance surpassed the 9.58-second

US-Iran trade cautions ahead of fresh sanctions

US-Iran tensions rise as Washington prepares new sanctions, while China faces pressure over Iranian oil and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains virtually halted amid the continuing regional standoff.

CAIRO

The US and Iran traded sharp warnings on Saturday ahead of Washington's planned announcement of new economic sanctions targeting Tehran and countries doing business with it, including China.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is scheduled to hold a press conference at 2 p.m. EDT on Monday, when he is expected to announce what Washington has described as the "toughest sanctions in history" against Iran. The measures could put pressure on Tehran's trading partners, with China particularly exposed as it buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil, according to 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler.

Iran rejected the sanctions, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaci calling them an attempt to impose "extraterritorial sovereignty" over independent UN member states. He said secondary sanctions had no basis in international law. President Donald Trump said Friday that Iran would like to reach a deal but was not prepared to accept



what he considered the right agreement. He also warned countries against providing any type of economic lifeline to Tehran. The standoff comes as the war approaches its sixth month. Although the two sides were not exchanging fire, neither was engaged in peace talks. Meanwhile, traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has virtually stopped, leaving hundreds of vessels and thousands of seafarers stranded. Ship-tracking data showed only four commodity ships crossed the waterway on Thursday, with no large crude oil or LNG tankers among them.

In a nutshell

- Americans to target Iranian trading partners, raising concerns in China
- Strait of Hormuz traffic plummets and oil prices continue to rise
- Iranian leaders sound confident while also acknowledging economic toll.

Iran has, however, allowed some Iraqi oil tankers to pass after repeated requests from Baghdad, according to IRNA.

China faces oil pressure

China buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil, making Beijing a key target of Washington's expected sanctions pressure.

Hormuz traffic stalls

Only four commodity ships crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, with no large crude oil or LNG tankers among them.

US-Canada trade tensions rise

OTTAWA

The United States imposed 50% tariffs on some Canadian goods on Saturday after the two countries failed to reach a trade agreement, escalating tensions between longstanding allies and raising fresh doubts over broader North American trade talks.

The tariffs, which took effect shortly after midnight on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods, cover products including wooden ice hockey sticks. The affected goods represent just over 5% of Canada's exports to the United States, limiting the immediate economic impact but increasing pressure on relations between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Carney said Canada had suspended trade negotiations

I have decided to suspend trade negotiations with the U.S. and have directed Canada's negotiators to return to Ottawa.

Mark Carney, Canadian PM

with Washington and would retaliate "dollar for dollar" against the new tariffs.

"I have decided to suspend trade negotiations with the U.S. and have directed Canada's negotiators to return to Ottawa," Carney said in a statement.

He said Canadian negotiators had worked in good faith but argued that last-minute changes to Washington's proposed terms were unfair and uneconomic and raised questions about the reliability of any future agreement.

The breakdown came after both sides appeared close to a deal that could have reduced

tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum and automobiles. The agreement could also have allowed American alcohol to return to Canadian liquor stores.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said Canada had declined to finalize the deal under terms agreed earlier in the week.

"This is a missed opportunity for Canada to partner with the United States," Greer said at a White House briefing. The dispute could also complicate negotiations to renew the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, adding uncertainty to North American trade relations.

Trade deal collapses

Talks broke down after last-minute disagreements, despite signs of progress on tariffs covering steel, aluminum and automobiles

US Navy aircraft transits Taiwan Strait

TAIWAN

A US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft transited the Taiwan Strait in international airspace on Friday, prompting a response from China as Washington reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. 7th Fleet said the aircraft operated in accordance with international law and that the transit demonstrated Washington's commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. "By operating within the Taiwan Strait in accordance with international law, the United States upholds the navigational rights and freedoms of all nations," the 7th Fleet said in a statement.

"The US military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows."

China's military tracked and monitored the patrol and reconnaissance aircraft throughout its transit, the state-backed Global Times reported, citing a military source. The source said the situation remained under control. U.S. military aircraft and ships regularly pass through or above the Taiwan Strait, which separates democratically governed Taiwan from mainland China. Such operations have repeatedly angered Beijing.

China claims Taiwan as its territory and says it has jurisdiction over the strait. Taiwan and the United States maintain that the waterway is an international passage. The latest US mission comes as Washington and Beijing seek to stabilise relations strained by disputes over Taiwan, trade and technology restrictions.

S. Korea tests Northern sea route with first commercial voyage to Europe

SEOUL

A South Korean container ship sets sail on Saturday for Europe via the Arctic in the nation's first commercial voyage on the route to test its viability, with the hope of turning the southeastern port of Busan into a global maritime hub.

The PanStar Acro will sail north, hugging eastern Russia's Kamchatka peninsula, cross the Bering Sea, and take the Northern Sea Route, stopping in Felixstowe in Britain, Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Poland's Gdansk before returning on a journey expected to take 40 to 45 days.

President Lee Jae Myung has made Arctic shipping a priority for South Korea, a shipping powerhouse. Officials say this could help transform Busan and position the

Arctic as a regular trade route by 2030.

But the project risks friction with Western allies hoping to keep Russia isolated during its war in Ukraine. Seoul has consulted with Moscow about the journey, including whether the ship needed help to tackle any problems, such as getting stuck in ice. South Korea's Oceans Ministry and Russia's Foreign Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Last year, 88 vessels made 103 transits through the route, up from 97 in 2024 and 43 in 2022, chiefly from nations such as Russia and China, according to Norway's Centre for High North Logistics.

Melting Arctic ice has made passage through the north easier, while the increased shipping in turn accelerates global warming, scientists say.

Detained pilots in poor health, move them to hospital: Iran tells Qatar

TEHRAN

An Iranian military official called on Qatar on Saturday to transfer detained Iranian pilots to a hospital on land, saying they were being held on water and were in "poor physical condition". Tasnim news agency reported. Mohammad Baqerzadeh, commander of the Committee for the Search for Missing Persons of Iran's Armed Forces General Staff, said the loca-

tion where the pilots were being held was unsuitable and requested that the International Committee of the Red Cross send an air ambulance to Qatar to expedite the return of injured and sick detainees to Iran. Qatar denied last week that it was holding Iranian pilots, saying they had violated Qatari airspace earlier this year and failed to respond to attempts to contact them.

Doha said it had contacted Iran to coordinate the handover

of the remains of one pilot and had invited Tehran to review details of its search and rescue operations, but had received no response. A foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday that the invitation remained open for an Iranian delegation to visit over the pilots issue. In his latest statement, Baqerzadeh welcomed Qatar's decision to receive a team of Iranian experts and called on Doha to provide them with the necessary cooperation.

Romania adopts fresh steps to boost Danube waters to cool nuke plant

WARSAW

Romania's National Committee for Emergency Situations approved new measures to boost the water level of the River Danube and ensure cooling of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, the government press office said on Saturday.

The plant remains shut due to historically low Danube levels and the country has declared a state of emergency throughout August stemming from a decline in electricity production.

Emergency measures are being planned to maintain adequate water levels around the plant area as Danube water flow remains a concern. The measures are aimed at ensuring a steady supply of water for the plant's cooling systems and maintaining safe and uninterrupted operations.

As part of the plan, emergency dredging of the Danube channel in the plant area will be carried out to improve water flow and access to the intake facilities.

Iran allows Iraqi oil tankers pass Hormuz



oil through Hormuz with Iranian officials.

However, Amedi said the issue remained complicated. He was speaking at the Baghdad Dialogue policy conference on Saturday.

The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial route for global oil shipments, and its disruption has severely affected Iraq. Maritime traffic remains significantly below pre-war levels, while vessels operating in the area continue to face attacks.

Iraq produced about 4 million barrels of oil per day before the outbreak of the Iran war, making uninterrupted export routes critical to its economy.

Russian, Ukrainian attacks kill 4

KYIV

Russian drone and missile strikes killed at least two people overnight in Ukraine, officials said Saturday, while a Ukrainian drone attack on Russia's Krasnodar region killed two others, a day after a strike on a Ukrainian shopping center killed 16 people.

In the latest attacks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that one person was killed and another wounded when ballistic missiles hit railway infrastructure in the capital, Kyiv. Russia's Defense Ministry said that its forces had hit a locomotive depot. Moscow's forces have recently intensified their ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv, exploiting Ukraine's chronic shortage of US-made Patriot air defense interceptors, the sole weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down the missiles. Russian drone strikes also killed one person overnight in a village in the Zaporizhzhia region, local officials said Saturday. Zelenskyy said that three people were wounded in an attack on a minibus in the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia. In Russia's southern Krasnodar region, authorities said that two children were killed and two adults were wounded in a Ukrainian drone strike.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Sri. Nandish son of Sri. Siddaramaiah, residing at: Jayapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and Bangalore South District, has lost Original Hakku Patra dated 23-05-1998, issued by The Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayat, Ramanagara in favour of Sri. Krishnaiah, in respect of Site No. 62, measuring 30 X 40 feet, Situated at Jayapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and Bangalore South District, while Xerox at Ramanagara Town on 11-08-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client.

CONTACT ADDRESS

Rajini. M.S., B.A., LL.B., Advocate., 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159. Mob: 8884242935. Place: Ramanagara. Date: 22-08-2026.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAGEENA BEGUM W/o Mohamed Sajid, resident of No 15/26, Flat No A5, Anees Next Apartments, 3rd Floor, 2nd Cross, Opp Milk Dairy, P And T Colony Venkateshpuram, KG Halli, Bangalore -560045, have changed my name to SAYEEDA KULSUM, Vide affidavit dated: 21.08.2026 before notary CHANDRA SHEKAR .M, Bangalore

THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR CRL.MISC.NO.318/2026

Petitioners: 1. Sri. Veerachikkalaiah S/o Late Veerabhadraiah Aged about 62 years, Rite: E31, 12th Cross, Behind Kumwempu School, Bagalakunte, Nagasandra, Bangalore North -560073 V/s Respondent: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wherefore the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Elder mother of petitioner No. 1, to 10 mother in law of of petitioner No.2 & 3 by name SMT. RANGAMMA W/O LATE VEERABHADRAIAH who died 02-01-1995 at Bhuchanahalli village, Doddaballapur taluk, Doddaballapur taluk, Bangalore Rural District, In this regard it is hereby notified that whoever has interested in this said matter may Appear in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 24-09-2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order. Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day August 2026

By Order of the Court

Chief Ministerial Officer, Prt Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapura Advocate Sri. Nagaraju C. Doddaballapur 561203

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.Misc.No.429/2026

PETITIONERS: Sri. Venkataramanappa W/o Late Shingrapa @ Singrapa Aged about 74years Riat Sotthenhalli village Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural district V/S RESPONDENT: Register of Birth and Deaths Rep. by the Tahasildar, Doddaballapur, Doddaballapur Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named have filed above for the relief of registering death certificate of their father a petitioners namely Sri. PUTTAMMA W/o SHINGRAPPA @ SINGRAPPA died on 03.02.2001 resident of Sotthenhalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, and any persons who are interested to be present before the Hon'ble court on 25.09.2026 at 11:00 a.m to contest the case and intend to rely in support of their defense. Take notice that in default of appearance on the day before mentioned the case will be here and determined in the absence. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 22nd day of August 2026.

By order of the court

Sheristadar, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC, Doddaballapur Advocate for petitioner: Nethravathi.S, Advocate, Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.Misc.No.428/2026

PETITIONERS: Sri. Venkataramanappa W/o Late Shingrapa @ Singrapa Aged about 74years Riat Sotthenhalli village Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural district V/S RESPONDENT: Register of Birth and Deaths Rep. by the Tahasildar, Doddaballapur, Doddaballapur Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named have filed above for the relief of registering death certificate of their Father of petitioner namely SHIGRAPPA @ SINGRAPPA S/o Doddavenkatappa died on 05.02.1985 resident of Sotthenhalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, and any persons who are interested to be present before the Hon'ble court on 25.09.2026 at 11:00 a.m to contest the case and intend to rely in support of their defense. Take notice that in default of appearance on the day before mentioned the case will be here and determined in the absence. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 22nd day of August 2026.

By order of the court

Sheristadar, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC, Doddaballapur Advocate for petitioner: Nethravathi.S, Advocate, Doddaballapur

SEBI reviews public issue disclosure rules

Sebi chairman said transparency is not merely about the volume of information disclosed by a company but about whether the information helps investors understand what matters.

NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reviewing rules governing the monitoring and disclosure of funds raised through public issues, with a focus on making disclosures more timely and compliance requirements simpler for companies. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the regulator is examining the existing framework for tracking and reporting the utilisation of issue proceeds. The review is intended to improve the quality and timeliness of information available to investors while reducing compliance complexities for issuers.

Speaking at the Institute of Directors' Annual Directors' Conclave 2026, Pandey said corporate governance should be judged by the relevance and usefulness of information disclosed.

True transparency is not the volume of information. It is the quality, timeliness and usefulness of information, he



SEBI eyes overhaul of disclosure, compliance & RPT rules
SEBI reviewing public issue fund utilisation disclosure framework
Focus on timely and useful investor information
Compliance requirements may be simplified
Related-party transaction framework may be refined
SEBI considering safeguards against duplicate penalties

said. He added that disclosure rules should support informed investment decisions rather than merely increase reporting obligations.

Pandey noted that SEBI has strengthened requirements for disclosing material events and information by introducing materiality thresholds and defined timelines. These measures are designed to improve consistency and ensure significant information reaches investors without unnecessary delays.

The regulator is also looking to further refine the framework for related-party transactions. The proposed changes aim to clarify compliance requirements while safeguarding investor interests.

Pandey stressed that regulations should remain proportionate and avoid duplication. As part of this approach, SEBI is considering a framework to prevent entities listed on multiple stock exchanges from facing penalties more than once for the same violation.

The proposed reforms signal an effort to balance investor protection, transparency and compliance.

Quick Read

Hyderabad CGST busts illegal pan masala unit

NEW DELHI

The Hyderabad CGST Zone has unearthed a clandestine pan masala and tobacco manufacturing unit in Telangana's Medchal-Malkajgiri district and detected duty and cess evasion of about Rs 160 crore and arrested a key accused, an official statement said on Saturday. Acting on specific intelligence, CGST officers conducted a search at a tin-shed premises, leading to the discovery of an unregistered manufacturing facility engaged in the production and packing of pan masala and scented jarda.

Gold, silver likely to see gains as debasement trade opens

NEW DELHI

Gold and silver are likely to witness a substantial rally as fiscal dominance and shifting real yields reshape the macro-outlook, a report said on Saturday. The report from Vallum Capital said the recent correction merely re-priced ownership rather than invalidating the investment thesis to accumulate precious metals. It further noted that a 2 per cent real yield threshold and a reversing Dollar Index are structural markers and signal a durable reversal rather than just a chart pattern.

IMF funds stalled as Bangladesh faces reforms

NEW DELHI

The remaining funds under Bangladesh's International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme remain stalled as the global lender presses Dhaka to complete a series of pending reforms covering the financial sector, taxation, energy and climate resilience.

According to a report by Bangladesh-based publication The Asian Age, the IMF has set nearly a dozen conditions for reactivating the suspended programme. The requirements include banking-sector and legal reforms, capacity building for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and single-click access to taxpayer information.

The lender has also sought the removal of fuel and electricity subsidies, adoption of a market-based foreign-exchange rate and measures to strengthen Bangladesh's resilience to climate-related risks.

The government is seeking an additional \$2 billion in budget support alongside the remaining tranches of its \$4.7 billion IMF programme. An IMF Fiscal Affairs Department delegation recently visited Dhaka to review progress in key sectors and assess tax policies, with the findings expected to influence the future of the lending programme.

IMF conditions

The IMF's conditions include banking and legal reforms, stronger tax administration, a market-based exchange rate, subsidy reforms and measures to improve climate resilience.

The report said unfinished reforms from the previous IMF programme have gained priority under the new programme. The latest discussions therefore extend beyond climate policies to broader economic and institutional reforms.

An IMF Technical Assistance mission in July also assessed Bangladesh's policies, financial structures and institutional capacity to address climate change. Its findings could influence discussions over a potential new loan programme.

Bangladesh has introduced climate-smart public financial management and gender-responsive budgeting in its Public Financial Management Reform Strategy 2025-2030.

The FY26 budget has allocated nearly Tk 42,206.89 crore across 25 ministries for climate-related expenditure, representing 10.09 per cent of total allocations.

BRICS adopts Chennai Declaration on STI

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday announced the unanimous adoption of the 'Chennai Declaration', reaffirming BRICS countries' commitment to building an effective, resilient and future-ready framework for science, technology and innovation.

The declaration, adopted

DECLARATION SUMMARY

The Chennai Declaration strengthens collaboration across AI, quantum technology, biotechnology, healthcare, climate and sustainability, while supporting young scientists, innovators and startups through dedicated BRICS initiatives.



under India's BRICS Chairmanship, places a people-centred and humanity-first approach at the core of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation. It emphasises sustainable development, resilient and high-quality growth, social inclusion and the use of technology to improve the welfare and quality of life of people across BRICS nations.

Speaking at the closing session of the 14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet chaired by India, Singh said the discussions had reinforced the central role of STI in creating a more resilient, inclusive and sustain-

able future.

He highlighted the wide range of areas discussed, including artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, quantum technologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, healthcare, climate and sustainability. According to Singh, these areas represent shared opportunities and challenges that BRICS nations can address through greater collective action.

The Chennai Consensus also reflects the growing depth of BRICS STI cooperation through 14 thematic Working Groups, 11 editions of the BRICS Young Scien-

India-led BRICS STI cooperation seeks to unite innovation, technology and startup ecosystems around inclusive growth and sustainable development.

tist Forum, nine Young Innovators Prize editions and nine BRICS STI Framework Programme calls.

The declaration welcomed India's efforts to streamline STI priorities and develop a more future-ready cooperation framework. It also welcomed the BRICS Youth Startup Platform and recognised the need for financing early and growth-stage startups, including consideration of a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund.

The deliberations reaffirmed the central role of STI in building a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Banks raise \$72.8 billion in forex inflows till Aug 21: RBI

NEW DELHI

The Research Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said that authorised dealer banks have raised a massive \$72.848 billion in forex inflows till August 21, and a major chunk came from FCNR (B) deposits at \$65.397 billion.

External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) under Reserve Bank's Swap facility helped raised another \$7.451 billion till August 21. RBI had introduced a special USD-INR forex swap facility covering FCNR(B) deposits, ECB and OFCB inflows on June 8, 2026.

As already announced vide Press Release dated Au-

gust 14, 2026, the Scheme is open till August 31, 2026 for FCNR(B) deposits, and up to December 31, 2026 for ECBs and OFCBs, The Research Bank said in a statement.

The massive foreign inflows arrive as Indian banks have stepped up their efforts to attract FCNR(B) deposits by offering higher interest rates after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suddenly cut short the deadline for its dollar-rupee swap window to August 31, from September 30.

The swap facility, announced in June to boost the inflow of dollars amid a weakening rupee, was originally available until the end of September, but the RBI abruptly shortened this by a

month due to the encouraging response to the facility, which resulted in the required amount of foreign exchange flowing into the country.

While there may be valid reasons to justify an early closure of the RBI's FCNR(B) deposit scheme, the most likely reason could be that the target for dollar mobilisation has already been achieved with inflows at \$57 billion, and another \$25-30 billion could easily flow in the remaining days of August, taking the total collections to around \$85 billion, an SBI Research report said earlier this week.

According to the SBI report, we don't believe that the cost of swap could have been a constraining factor.

Oil regulator clears 1,800-km LPG pipeline network worth Rs 7K cr

NEW DELHI

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorised the development of nearly 1,800 km of LPG pipeline infrastructure involving an estimated investment of about Rs 7,000 crore across six states to boost India's energy infrastructure and LPG supply chain resilience.

The projects -- spanning Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa -- are aimed at strengthening the country's LPG transportation network and enhancing long-term energy security. India meets a significant portion of its LPG demand through imports at coastal locations, necessitating transport of the fuel across the country.

In addition, the newly approved pipelines are expected to improve the efficiency and reliability of LPG movement to inland markets.

The authorised pipeline projects include the 556-km Cherlapally (Telangana)-Nagpur (Maharashtra) pipeline, the 611-km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)-Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline and the 633-km Shirapur (Maharashtra)-Goa and Hubballi (Karnataka) pipeline.

Moreover, the projects have been authorised for development by GAIL (India) Ltd.

Upon completion, the PNGRB-authorised common-carrier LPG pipeline network in the country will expand from around 7,700 km to about 9,500 km, marking an in-

crease of nearly 23.5 per cent.

The approvals build on the earlier authorisation of the Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline, which at around 2,757 km is the country's longest LPG pipeline.

According to PNGRB, pipeline transportation is globally regarded as the safest, most economical and environmentally sustainable mode of LPG transport.

The new projects are expected to substantially reduce the movement of LPG tank trucks on roads, resulting in improved road safety, lower logistics costs, reduced traffic congestion and a significant decline in carbon emissions through a shift from road-based transportation to pipelines.

Fresh tariff war adds pressure to strained US-Canada relationship

WASHINGTON

A trade confrontation between the United States and Canada escalated sharply on Saturday after last-minute negotiations collapsed, triggering 50 per cent US tariffs on billions of dollars in Canadian goods and a promise of dollar-for-dollar retaliation from Ottawa.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney suspended the negotiations and ordered his country's team to return from Washington. He accused the United States of changing its proposed terms at the last minute.

Last-minute changes in the U.S. proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal, Carney said.

At midnight tonight, the US intends to impose a 50% tariff on roughly \$28 billion of Canadian goods. Canada will match those tariffs dollar for dollar to protect our workers and businesses, he said.

The Office of the US Trade Representative blamed Canada for the breakdown. It said Ottawa declined to finalise an agreed-under terms reached earlier in the week.

Despite the US offer to Canada to receive the best treatment of any major exporter to our market, new demands and walk backs of other commitments by Canada have upended the careful balance reached in the past days, it said.

The US side said its offer included significant tariff reductions covering steel, aluminium, automobiles and lumber. It also proposed co-operation on export controls, transshipment, digital trade, critical minerals and imports made with forced labour.

Government reviews proposals to boost women-led rural enterprises

NEW DELHI

A government committee held discussions focused on accelerating entrepreneurship-led livelihood opportunities for rural women and contributing to the national goal of creating 6 crore Lakhpati Didis, an official statement said on Saturday.

The Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development, chaired by the Secretary (Rural Development), Rohit Kansal, considered proposals under the Non-Farm Livelihoods (NFL) component of DAY-NRLM to strengthen and scale up women-led rural enterprises and create a pathway for small-scale SHG enterprises to graduate into higher-order, growth-oriented businesses.

The committee considered four new incubator proposals from Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, with IIT Patna, IIM Jammu, IIM Lucknow and IIT Gandhinagar, respectively, as the proposed incubator partners.

The four programmes are proposed to support more than 600 high-potential rural enterprises through structured interventions in business strategy, mentoring, financial planning, formalisation, technology adoption, market access and access to finance.

According to the statement, the Incubator Sub-Scheme builds on the experience of four completed incubator programmes in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Karnataka, which supported over 600 SHG

enterprises.

The programme has since expanded significantly, with 14 incubator programmes currently operational across 13 States, supporting around 2,100 rural SHG enterprises through partnerships with premier business and academic institutions including IIMs, IITs and leading incubation institutions.

The earlier programmes demonstrated tangible outcomes, including revenue growth, improved business formalisation and additional employment generation.

The new incubators will focus on sectors such as food and agri-processing, textiles and handicrafts, manufacturing, retail and services, tourism-linked activities, digital enterprises and other locally relevant growth sectors.

NEW YORK

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a series of high-level meetings with senior representatives of global financial, technology and infrastructure companies in New York, focusing on investment opportunities, financial services, digital infrastructure and advanced technology.

Patel is leading a high-level delegation to the US and Canada as part of Gujarat's efforts to attract investments and strengthen international partnerships ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027. During the visit, the delegation is meeting investors, industry leaders and technology companies.

In his meeting with JPMorgan representatives, Patel discussed further development of Gujarat Interna-



tional Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, as an international financial centre. JPMorgan reaffirmed its commitment to GIFT City and shared plans to deepen its presence and expand its business operations there.

Patel also met Jerry Keefe, Co-President of Golub Capital. The company expressed interest in investing in GIFT

City and connecting global players from banking, insurance and exchange-related activities with the financial hub.

Discussions with Sanjeev Ahuja, Founder and Chairman of Tillman Global Holdings, focused on Gujarat's growing data centre sector. Ahuja appreciated the state government's proactive

The growing confidence of such institutions would help further strengthen the financial centre's position.

—Bhupendra Patel, CM

policies, particularly its Data Centre Policy, and highlighted the importance of a supportive regulatory environment and cooperation between government and industry.

Patel also held discussions with Uber representatives and visited IBM Research, where advanced technology and innovation were among the areas of engagement.

The meetings are part of Gujarat's broader strategy to position the state as an attractive destination for global capital, financial services, digital infrastructure and technology investments.



Starc makes history as Australia's WTC wicket king

MACKAY

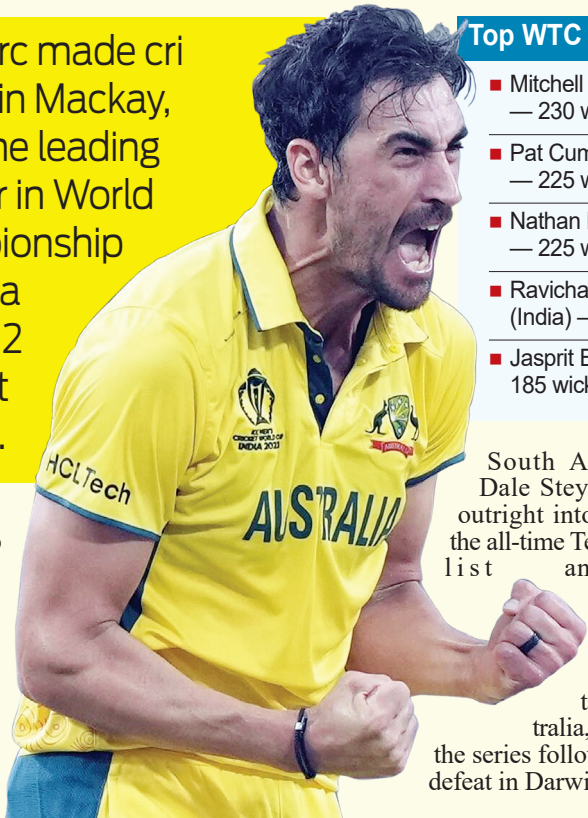
Australian fast bowling spearhead Mitchell Starc etched his name into the record books on Saturday, becoming the leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship (WTC) history during a sensational spell against Bangladesh in Mackay.

Starc dismantled the opposition batting lineup with stunning figures of 6-12, skittling Bangladesh out for just 64 runs after Australia won the toss and elected to bowl. With this masterclass, the left-arm pacer moved past teammate Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, taking his total to 230 wickets in 56 matches to claim the top spot in WTC history.

The record-breaking performance began right from the first ball of the match when Starc removed Shadman Islam. He followed up with a blistering burst that included a five-wicket haul in just 22 deliveries, wrapping up his mesmerizing spell to put Australia firmly in control.

In addition to topping the all-time WTC chart, Starc's 440th career Test wicket saw him surpass

Mitchell Starc made cricket history in Mackay, becoming the leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship history with a stunning 6-12 spell against Bangladesh.



Top WTC Wicket-Takers

- Mitchell Starc (Australia) — 230 wickets
- Pat Cummins (Australia) — 225 wickets
- Nathan Lyon (Australia) — 225 wickets
- Ravichandran Ashwin (India) — 195 wickets
- Jasprit Bumrah (India) — 185 wickets

South African legend Dale Steyn, moving him outright into 10th place on the all-time Test wicket-takers list and fifth among fast bowlers globally. The stellar effort comes at a vital time for Australia, who trail 1-0 in the series following a stunning defeat in Darwin.

Spotlight on Kuldeep ahead of Colombo test

COLOMBO

Following a dominant 165-run victory in the opening Test at Galle, Team India is set to conclude their Sri Lankan tour with the second and final Test, beginning this Sunday (August 24th) at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo. India enters the match eyeing their first overseas Test series sweep since December 2022.

The spotlight remains firmly on left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav. After a quiet opening Test where he managed only a single wicket across 25 overs, questions remain regarding his form and control. While the Indian think tank has the option of bringing in off-spinner Saransh Jain, Kuldeep's quality and experience likely keep him in the starting XI as he looks to find his usual lethal rhythm.

India's performance in Galle provided plenty of positives. Manav Suthar was the standout performer with a 10 wicket match haul, supported well by Ravindra Jadeja. With the bat, Devdutt Padikkal seamlessly slotted into the top order, while Rishabh Pant's aggressive second-innings 66 proved vital in setting up a massive target for the hosts.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will be desperate to fix their top-order batting woes after their middle order was forced to rebuild repeatedly in the first Test. With another spin-friendly surface expected in Colombo, the hosts will rely



heavily on bowlers like Prabath Jayasuriya and Asitha Fernando to contain India's batting lineup. For India, this Test is about more than just a clean sweep - it is a critical opportunity to gather points for their World Test Championship campaign. As they look to solidify their position in the top two, the visitors will rely on their balanced bowling attack and in-form batters to navigate the challenges of the Sinhalese Sports Club surface.

Mansi Lather secures silver at U20 Worlds

SLOVAKIA

The Indian women's wrestling team enjoyed another stellar day at the U20 World Championships in Slovakia, adding one silver and two bronze medals to their impressive tally.

Mansi Lather led the charge for India in the 68kg category, battling her way into a tightly contested gold medal match against China's Chenling Song. In a tense defensive showdown, Mansi narrowly lost 1-2, but her hard-fought effort earned her a well-deserved silver medal.

India added further success during the bronze medal playoffs. In the 57kg division, Tanvi Gundesh Magdum put on a dominant display to defeat Canada's Agnia Krakovska with a score of 10-4. Shortly after, teammate Komal triumphed over

Hungary's Eda Balazs 5-2 in the 59kg category, securing the second bronze medal of the day. These latest podium finishes build upon a phenomenal run by the Indian women's wrestling contingent earlier in the week. Rising sensation Kajal Dhochak claimed a historic



gold medal in the 76kg class with a flawless 7-0 victory over China's Jingru Sun. Her latest triumph adds to an already legendary youth career that includes multiple world and continental titles across different weight classes.

In addition to Kajal's gold, India previously secured two important silver medals through Tanu Sharma, who fell 3-5 to Japan's Chisato Yoshida in the 72kg final, and Savita, who claimed silver after facing Japan's Sakura Onishi in the 62kg division.

Target is to continue winning run: Maresca

MANCHESTER

New manager Enzo Maresca has officially set his target for the 2026-27 season - maintain the club's high standards and continue their relentless pursuit of silverware. Returning to Manchester City for his 3rd stint, the Italian manager emphasized that winning trophies remains the primary objective for the team.

Maresca, who steps into the role following the highly successful Pep Guardiola era, acknowledged the immense challenge of managing such a dominant club but expressed excitement about the path forward.

Tyagi attributes tactical growth to Steyn

LUCKNOW

Fast bowler Kartik Tyagi has credited former South African legend Dale Steyn for his recent tactical evolution after a blistering 149 kph yorker during the UPT20 League at the Ekana Cricket Stadium.

Click to open side panel for more information. The Meerut Mavericks quick, whose career was nearly derailed by a series of significant injuries between 2022 and 2024, is currently enjoying a remarkable resurgence. Tyagi explained that his work with Steyn focused on moving beyond the obsession with variety balls, such as slower deliveries, to prioritize the consistent application of high-speed, hard-length bowling. "In T20 cricket, everyone talks endlessly about slower balls and yorkers, but for me, it



is about how relentlessly I can hit a good length at this pace," Tyagi noted.

This tactical shift, combined with a comprehensive physical and mechanical rebuild, has paid dividends. After an injury-riddled period that saw him left unsold at the 2025 IPL auction, Tyagi used the UPT20 platform to prove his fitness and skill. His dominant 2025 campaign led to a contract with the

Kolkata Knight Riders for the 2026 IPL season, where he finished as the franchise's leading wicket-taker with 18 wickets.

Looking forward, Tyagi remains optimistic about the future of fast bowling in Uttar Pradesh, highlighting the state's proactive scouting efforts like the "Speed Hunt" as vital tools for unearthing genuine pace talent.

Simarjeet praises Mayank after Delhi win

NEW DELHI

East Delhi Riders captain Simarjeet Singh has highlighted the massive impact of pace star Mayank Yadav following a comfortable 7 wicket victory over the Outer Delhi Warriors in the Delhi Premier League.

The Riders delivered a disciplined all-round performance to crush their opponents on their last match. Their lethal bowling attack completely dismantled the Warriors, bowling them out for just 134 runs in under 20 overs. Mayank led the charge with brilliant figures of 3 wickets for 22 runs, while teammates Ashish Meena and Simarjeet provided strong support. Chasing a small target, the Riders overcame early stumbles thanks to an unbroken partnership between Kavya Gupta and Vaibhav Baisla, securing the win easily.

Speaking after the match, Simarjeet shared insight into the team's refreshed mindset. Rather than worrying about points pressure or playoff scenarios, the squad chose to focus purely on playing quality cricket and rewarding their fans and management. Simarjeet also took time to praise Mayank, calling him the fastest bowler in India.

Beyond his raw pace on the field, the captain noted that Mayank brings great energy to the locker room. He regularly shares inspiring stories from his time with the national team, providing invaluable motivation to younger squad members.

The two fast bowlers have formed a lethal partnership on the pitch. Simarjeet explained that they constantly talk during



East Delhi Riders captain Simarjeet Singh praised pace star Mayank Yadav after their comprehensive 7-wicket victory in the Delhi Premier League, highlighting his lethal bowling and inspiring leadership.

matches to figure out tactics, deciding who should attack and how to manage the game situation best.

Looking ahead, the East Delhi squad is not concerned with ruining other teams' playoff chances. Instead, they want to focus on personal development, cut out previous mistakes, and finish the tournament strongly as domestic cricket season approaches.

Joao Pedro extends Chelsea stay until 2034

LONDON

Brazilian forward Joao Pedro has committed his long-term future to Chelsea by signing a massive new contract that runs until June 2034. The announcement was made by the Premier League club recently, securing the star attacker's services for the next 8 years.

Pedro made the move to Stamford Bridge from Brighton and Hove Albion in July 2025 and immediately became a fan favorite. He played a pivotal role in helping the Blues capture the FIFA Club World Cup trophy, scoring two crucial goals against his former club Fluminense in the semi-finals before finding the

back of the net once again in the final victory over Paris Saint-Germain.

The 23-year-old continued his stellar form throughout his debut full campaign in west London. He netted 20 goals across all competitions and was voted the club's Player of the Season by supporters. His clutch performances included opening the scoring against West Ham United, netting the winner against Tottenham Hotspur, and scoring twice in a memorable UEFA Champions League win over Napoli.

Speaking about his extension, Pedro expressed immense pride and happiness in tying his future to Stamford Bridge.

Sooryavanshi faces 'red ball' test in Duleep trophy



NEW DELHI

Indian cricket prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is gearing up for a crucial red-ball and leadership challenge as the new domestic season begins. At just 15 years old, the young talent has been named vice-captain of the Ishan Kishan-led East Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy tournament.

While Sooryavanshi has shined brightly in T20 leagues, the under-19 setup, and even senior international duty, his first-class numbers tell a different story. Across eight red-ball matches, he has scored 207 runs with an average of 17.25. Experts and fans will watch closely to see how the teenager adapts to the demands of four-day cricket as East Zone prepares to face North East Zone.

Beyond the teenage sensation, the tournament serves as an important scouting ground for

national selectors. India is actively searching for fresh fast-bowling talent to bolster their Test squad, especially with veteran pacer Jasprit Bumrah requiring careful workload management. While young quicks like Aaquib Nabi and Gurnoor Brar show promise, they still need valuable red-ball experience on home pitches.

Meanwhile, veteran fast bowler Mohammed Shami remains determined to force his way back into national contention. Despite not playing a Test match in over three years, Shami continues to dominate domestic cricket, claiming 37 wickets in the previous Ranji Trophy campaign while expressing frustration over his current exclusion.

Several other notable players will also look to make a strong impression over the next fortnight. Ruturaj Gaikwad aims to secure a future opening spot, while Arshdeep Singh hopes to bring his white-ball brilliance into the red-ball format. Domestic stars like Prithvi Shaw, Rajat Patidar, and Sarfaraz Khan will also feature. The Duleep Trophy runs from August 23 to September 9, featuring six regional teams competing in a knockout format. The opening quarterfinals will see East Zone play North East Zone, while North Zone battles West Zone for a spot in the semifinals.

All format success awaits Vaibhav, says Dravid

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has emphasized the urgent need for young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to build his skills in red-ball cricket. While the 15-year-old prodigy has already excelled in white-ball formats, Dravid believes that has already excelled in white-ball formats, Dravid believes that gaining multi-day domestic experience is crucial to transforming him into a complete all-format player. Sooryavanshi is preparing to represent East Zone in the prestigious Duleep Trophy. Having previously worked with the youngster at Rajasthan Royals, Dravid noted that patience and consistent exposure to first-class matches will help the teenager learn how to build long innings successfully.

Hamilton left puzzled after Ferrari's pace drop

ZANDVOORT

Lewis Hamilton found himself scratching his head after a frustrating qualifying session at the Dutch Grand Prix. The racing star admitted that his vehicle felt like a completely different machine when it mattered most, leaving him searching for answers.

Earlier in the day, practice went very well. The British driver felt comfortable and fast on the track. However, things changed drastically once the afternoon qualifying session began. While his teammate Charles Leclerc secured the third-fastest spot, Hamilton struggled to keep up and finished down in 7th place.

Strong winds and changing weather made driving difficult for everyone on the track. The track went from being damp earlier in the day to drying out under bright sunshine. Teams had to work hard to set up their cars perfectly in a very tight window. Small tweaks made between sessions seemed to push Hamilton's car in the wrong direction.

Hamilton noted that his teammate Leclerc managed to find a much better rhythm. Leclerc even called his final lap one of his best of the entire year, missing out on pole position by just a tiny margin.

Ferrari brought new upgrade parts to this race, focusing heavily on the floor and rear aerodynamics to boost speed. Engineers will now spend hours looking over the computer data to understand why Hamilton lost so much speed.

Looking ahead, the team remains hopeful. They plan to review everything overnight to fix the setup issues before the sprint race.

Struggling with car setup issues and strong winds, Lewis Hamilton finished 7th in qualifying at the Dutch Grand Prix, while teammate Charles Leclerc secured third.



Verstappen seeks answers after Zandvoort qualifying

ZANDVOORT

Max Verstappen admitted he and Red Bull must figure out their car balance issues after a difficult qualifying session at his home Dutch Grand Prix. The reigning world champion started Saturday's Sprint from 6th on the grid, fighting an uphill battle in front of his passionate home supporters.

Fresh off signing a massive multi-year contract extension keeping him with Red Bull through 2030, Verstappen entered the weekend carrying strong momentum from recent podium finishes. However, finding the right grip and balance around the banked Zandvoort circuit proved tougher than expected during Friday's running.

After a single hour of practice, the Dutch star could only manage the 6th fastest time in Sprint Qualifying, finishing over half a second behind polesitter George Russell. While he managed to edge out rival Lewis Hamilton's Ferrari, Verstappen conceded that the car is still lacking the ultimate speed needed to fight at the very front.

Speaking to the media after the session, Verstappen explained that although the car felt slightly better than it did in opening practice, the team still has plenty of homework to do. Engineers will look closely at the telemetry data overnight to



fine-tune the setup, aiming to unlock more mechanical grip and a stable balance for the upcoming races.

With a strong home crowd backing him, Verstappen remains hopeful that the team can turn things around. While qualifying was a challenge, Red Bull traditionally finds extra pace as the weekend progresses, leaving the door open for a strong recovery during the main grand prix weekend.

Alonso blames Honda engine after Dutch struggles

ZANDVOORT

Fernando Alonso faced a major setback during Sprint Qualifying at the Dutch Grand Prix, pointing the finger at Honda's new power unit after a difficult session. Both Aston Martin cars were knocked out in the very first round, leaving the veteran Spanish driver and his teammate Lance Stroll at the back of the grid.

The weekend started with a glimmer of hope when Alonso finished 12th in practice, showing decent speed. However, things fell apart once qualifying began. The double world champion locked his front tires on his first flying lap and slid straight into the gravel trap. His 2nd attempt went even worse, coming in over 3 seconds behind the pace-setter due to severe technical troubles.

Alonso explained that the engine suffered from major driveability bugs. He noted that the power unit kept pushing forward under braking, making it extremely hard to slow the car down because the throttle stayed open. On top of that, a system error stopped his rear wing

Fernando Alonso ready to decide FI future

LONDON

Racing star Fernando Alonso will soon reveal if he will stay in Formula 1. His current deal with Aston Martin ends this year. Team leaders say talks have continued for many months, and a final choice is expected very soon. Alonso remains quiet on the matter, noting his full focus is on the current race weekend and car upgrades rather than next season. With other top drivers already locked into their teams for next year, Alonso stands as the biggest puzzle piece left in the sport. Fans eagerly wait to see his next big move.



from opening on the straight lines.

The driver admitted that the brand-new Honda engine is still very young and immature with its control settings. Because this is a Sprint weekend, the team had very little practice time to iron out these complicated bugs before facing the stop-watch.

Looking ahead to race day, Aston Martin confirmed that overnight setup changes have fixed the wing issue. However, because of these adjustments, Alonso will have to start the upcoming Sprint race straight from the pit lane, turning the event into a massive recovery test for the team.

Carlos Sainz warned after slow driving incident

ZANDVOORT

Carlos Sainz faced more trouble at the Dutch Grand Prix after receiving an official warning from race stewards. The Williams driver was investigated for driving too slowly during the sprint qualifying session at the challenging Zandvoort circuit. Sainz had already endured a rough afternoon on the track. He finished a disappointing 18th in the qualifying session after failing to make it past the first round. To make matters worse, race officials summoned him for breaking rules regarding minimum speed limits on the track.



According to the official report, the Spanish driver crossed the line 5 seconds slower than the maximum time allowed. Officials reviewed video footage, team radio messages, and data before making their final decision. Sainz explained to the stewards that he had to move out of the way for another car

before Turn 13, which ruined his lap time. He also pointed out that his car's battery had run completely empty, making it hard to speed back up. However, he admitted that he could have tried harder to make up lost time before heading into the pit lane.

The stewards understood his energy management struggles but still handed down a formal warning for not managing his delta time properly.

This setback capped off a very frustrating Friday for the driver. Earlier in the day, he slid off the track into the gravel multiple times during practice, damaging important parts of his vehicle. Because spare parts are limited right now, his team had to use older components with less performance. Williams decided to change his car setup, which means Sainz will officially start the upcoming sprint race from the pit lane. The team hopes this change will help them gather useful data to improve for the rest of the weekend.

Russell capitalizes on Antonelli's Zandvoort misstep

ZANDVOORT

George Russell turned his weekend around in fine style by securing pole position for the Dutch Grand Prix Sprint. Facing a tough run of recent races and low personal confidence, the Mercedes driver adopted a fresh mental approach to outpace the chasing pack on the challenging Dutch circuit.

While teammate Kimi Antonelli topped opening practice, a mistake early in Sprint Qualifying caused floor damage and compromised his car. Russell capitalized on the opportunity instantly. In a tense battle at the top, he edged out McLaren rival Lando Norris by a razor-thin margin of just four-hundredths of a second to secure the top spot on the

grid.

Russell admitted that his confidence had taken a hit following recent struggles, including an early retirement in Belgium and technical troubles in Hungary. To combat this, he chose to wipe the slate clean, treating the weekend like the very first round of the championship and avoiding overthinking. That clear mindset paid off when it mattered most in the final qualifying phase.

With Antonelli lining up fifth after his qualifying error, Russell now holds a golden opportunity to convert track position into a strong result and chip away at the standings. However, he remains wary of the strong race pace shown by Ferrari and McLaren during practice.

'Everything feels like i'm a rookie..'

ZANDVOORT

Yuki Tsunoda admitted he felt like a complete newcomer after stepping back into a Formula 1 race seat at the Dutch Grand Prix. Following an unexpected call-up due to Isack Hadjar's wrist injury, the Japanese driver rejoined Racing Bulls on a short-term basis as part of his reserve duties.

Having spent the season on the sidelines after losing his Red Bull seat, Tsunoda faced the massive challenge of handling the radically different 2026 machines for the very first time. Despite the sudden transition, he navigated a damp and tricky opening practice session safely before putting in a solid shift during Sprint Qualifying. Tsunoda successfully fought his way into the 2nd qualifying phase, ultimately claiming the 12th spot on the grid. He missed out on a higher position by a mere fraction of a second, finishing just 0.009 seconds behind teammate Liam Lawson.

Zandvoort return: What went wrong for Lawson?

ZANDVOORT

Liam Lawson experienced a whirlwind return to Red Bull during Friday's Sprint Qualifying at the Dutch Grand Prix. Stepping in as a late replacement for the injured Isack Hadjar, the New Zealander immediately turned heads by showing impressive raw speed before ultimately settling for 11th on the grid for Saturday's Sprint.

Having only spent a brief two-race stint with the squad early last year, Lawson faced a steep learning curve with minimal preparation time. Despite the sudden transition, he hit the ground running and even managed to outpace teammate Max Verstappen during the opening phase of Sprint Qualifying.

However, his momentum hit a roadblock in SQ2. While the team started the session strongly,

they failed to make the same performance steps as their rivals as the track evolved, resulting in a frustrating elimination just outside the top ten.

Reflecting on his return, Lawson admitted that while the day had positive moments, missing out on SQ3 left a bitter taste. He noted that the car clearly possessed the potential to fight near the very front, making the early exit harder to swallow.

Interestingly, Lawson finds himself starting Saturday's Sprint sandwiched directly between his usual Racing Bulls teammates, with Arvid Lindblad starting tenth and Yuki Tsunoda right behind him in 12th. With plenty of data gathered from his first day back in the championship-winning machinery, Lawson will look to turn that raw speed into a strong points-scoring opportunity during the main sessions.



Zandvoort updates boost Gasly's midfield hopes

ZANDVOORT

Alpine is back in the heart of the midfield battle. Pierre Gasly delivered a strong performance during Sprint Qualifying at the Dutch Grand Prix, locking in an impressive 8th place on the grid.

The French racing team arrived at Zandvoort with a major performance package. Driven by hard work at the Enstone factory, the team managed to bring vital car updates one race earlier than planned. This new upgrade includes a changed floor, a new diffuser, a revised rear wing, and updated sidepods. Because of the tight schedule, only Gasly received the new parts for this weekend, while his teammate Franco Colapinto will get them at the next round in Monza.



Gasly admitted he felt frustrated before the summer break as Alpine slipped to 6th place in the Constructors' Championship behind Racing Bulls. However, the new setup immediately changed his feeling inside the car. He noted that the machine has much more grip and responds far better to his driving style.

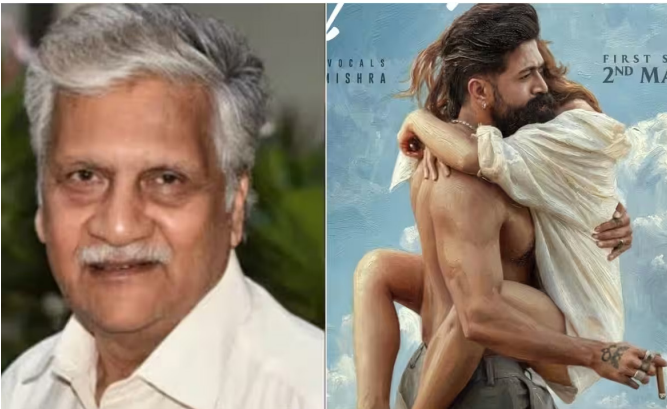
Even though the car is not yet perfect and the team still has weaknesses to fix, this early upgrade proves to be a massive step forward. Gasly successfully outpaced rivals from Audi and Racing Bulls in qualifying, placing himself right at the front of the midfield pack.

The team's main target for the remainder of the season is clear - chase down Racing Bulls and take back 5th place in the standings. With plenty of races left, Gasly believes that the team can fight for big points again. If this new speed continues, Alpine's clever engineering push could turn their season around completely before the year ends.

‘YASH IS LIKE KOHINOOR’: BABU DEFENDS TOXIC

Veteran filmmaker SV Rajendra Singh Babu has spoken in support of Yash after criticism surrounding Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. The comments came after his daughter, actor Rishika Singh, questioned some romantic and intimate scenes shown in the film’s trailer and songs. Rishika had expressed discomfort over the way women were portrayed in parts of the promotional material. She also questioned Yash’s decision to appear in such scenes and said the actor should show greater respect towards women. Addressing her comments, Rajendra Singh Babu said Rishika’s views were her personal opinion. He maintained that everyone has the right to form their own opinion about a film. The veteran director, how-

ever, strongly praised Yash and his contribution to Kannada cinema. He said the actor’s films, particularly the KGF series, had helped Kannada cinema reach audiences across India and beyond. Yash is like the Kohinoor diamond for our Kannada industry, Rajendra Singh Babu said, according to Cinema Express. He also praised the scale and ambition of Toxic. The film has faced criticism from some viewers since its promotional material was released. Rishika’s remarks added to the discussion around the movie’s presentation of romance and women. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26. The film is expected to attract attention because of Yash’s popularity and its ambitious presentation.



Yash’s Growing Reach

Yash has emerged as one of Kannada cinema’s most recognised stars following the success of the KGF films. His popularity has helped Kannada films reach audiences outside Karnataka and India. Rajendra Singh Babu praised the actor’s achievements and called him a Kohinoor diamond for the Kannada film industry. Toxic is now among his most anticipated projects.

Mahaveer Karna Set For Worldwide Release On December 4



Director Ramesh Varma’s upcoming epic film has been titled Mahaveer Karna, with the makers announcing that the hybrid live-action film will release worldwide on December 4, 2026. The title was revealed through a teaser released on Saturday. The film is presented by Pen Movies and Neeladri Productions, in association with RV Film House. The makers described it as an ambitious cinematic project that combines live-action performances with advanced visual effects. Varma, known for films such as Rakshasudu and Khiladi, has worked across action, thriller and commercial cinema. With Mahaveer Karna, he is now entering the world of epic storytelling based on the Mahabharata. The film places Karna at the centre of its story. Born to Kunti but raised away from royal recognition, Karna faced rejection, questions about his identity and difficult circumstances throughout his life. Despite these struggles, he remained loyal to those he trusted and firmly followed his promises. His generosity, courage and commitment to his word have made Karna one of the most memorable and tragic figures in Indian mythology. The teaser reportedly highlights these qualities while presenting warriors, kingdoms, weapons and large-scale visuals. The makers appear to be focusing on Karna’s human side rather than presenting the film only as a mythological spectacle. Themes of honour, loyalty, friendship, betrayal, destiny and sacrifice are expected to form the emotional core. The technical team includes Hybrid Creator Ramji Dott as director of photography, Prawin Pudi as editor, Shreemani as dialogue writer and Gyaani as music director.

Ramayana Bhojpuri Trailer Sparks Huge Online Buzz



A fan-made Bhojpuri trailer of Ramayana has created a strong buzz online, with viewers praising the version and asking the makers to consider an official release. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi and Yash. Produced by Namit Malhotra, the film is planned for release in Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and English. Reports also suggest that Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish versions are being considered. The Bhojpuri trailer circulating on social media is not

official. It is a fan-made version that has received humorous and positive reactions. One viewer wrote, I was waiting for Ravi Kishan voice on Ravana, showing interest in hearing the popular Bhojpuri actor’s voice in the film. Another user called the trailer on another level. A fan also suggested that an official Bhojpuri release could earn more than Rs 100 crore in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh if promoted well. It remains unclear whether the filmmakers will respond to the demand or plan an official Bhojpuri version. Makers have not confirmed an official

Bhojpuri release yet. Meanwhile, Yash recently addressed reports about Ramayana’s Rs 4,000 crore budget on Aap Ki Adalat. He clarified that the amount covers both parts, including release and promotion. He said global films require major promotional spending, similar to Hollywood productions. Ramayana will release in two parts. Part 1 is scheduled for Diwali this year, while Part 2 will arrive during Diwali next year. Reports say Brahma AI is being used for dubbed versions to improve lip-sync accuracy.

I’ll Act If Something Interesting Comes, Says Jason Sanjay

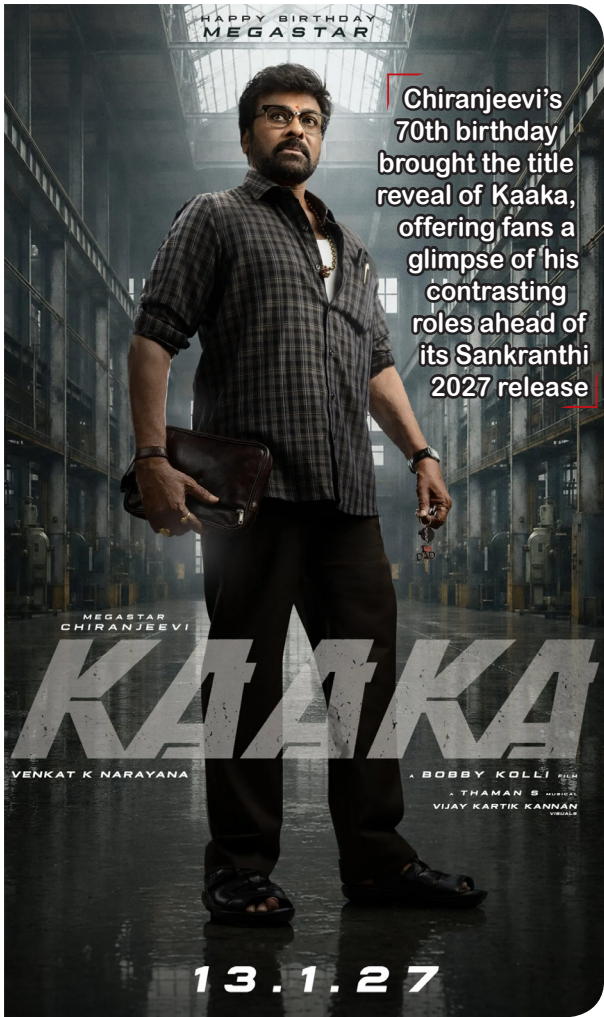


Jason Sanjay, son of actor Vijay, is currently concentrating on making his directorial debut Sigma a success. However, the young filmmaker has said he is open to acting if he finds an interesting project after the film’s release. In an interview with SS Music, Jason said his complete attention is currently on Sigma, which is scheduled to release on October 2. He said he does not want to get distracted before the film reaches theatres. After Sigma releases, if

something interesting comes, I’ll definitely act, he said. Jason also revealed that he would like to begin his acting journey with romantic comedies. He said he would later like to explore science-fiction films, a genre he enjoys. The filmmaker also spoke about his preferences in relationships. He said he would like a partner who loves food, enjoys travelling and exploring new places, and is financially independent. He also described high-maintenance behaviour as a red flag. Jason said it would be difficult to connect with someone who does not enjoy Tamil films and songs. He explained that movie references are part of his daily conversations and that a partner should understand them. He also recalled earning his first salary. Jason said he initially worked as a freelancer for advertising agencies after finding opportunities through LinkedIn. Later, he worked as a cashier at a small theatre abroad because the job allowed him to watch movies for free.

Chiranjeevi Shows Two Shades In ‘Kaaka’ Glimpse

Chiranjeevi’s much-awaited film has been titled Kaaka, with its first glimpse introducing fans to two different sides of the megastar. The title was revealed on Chiranjeevi’s 70th birthday. Directed by Bobby Kolli, the film was earlier known as Mega158 and is scheduled to reach theatres on January 13, 2027, during the Sankranti festival. KVN Productions, which is backing the project, shared the title and glimpse on X. The production house said the film would present a WHOLE NEW SIDE of Chiranjeevi and set a bloody benchmark on the big screen. The glimpse introduces Chiranjeevi as K Satyam, a supervisor working in the aqua industry. He first appears as a simple middle-class man focused on his daily work and festival preparations. A humorous sequence begins when Getup Srinu’s character tells Satyam about scooter keys given to him by his daughter. The keys accidentally fall into the water after Satyam asks him to throw them. A dog then appears with a remote, helping Satyam retrieve the keys using a magnet. The mood changes when guns are discovered along with the keys. This unexpected moment hints at another side of Satyam and leads to the title reveal. The glimpse keeps the connection between the two shades and the main story under wraps. Anaswara Rajan also stars in a key role.



HERO KI HORRORINE RELEASE DATE SET FOR JANUARY 2027

Producer Ektaa R Kapoor and Amar Butala have announced the release date of Hero Ki Horrorine, a horror comedy directed by Sajid Khan. The film is expected to mix supernatural elements, romance and humour. The movie marks the acting debut of Yashvardhan Ahuja, son of veteran actor Govinda. He will share the screen with his mother, Sunita Ahuja. Nitanishi Goel, who earned praise for her performance in Laapataa Ladies, will play the female lead opposite Yashvardhan. The cast also includes Jamie Lever, Chunky Pandey, Brijendra Kala and Simrat



Kaur Randhawa in roles. Ektaa R Kapoor has previously backed projects that combine horror with comedy. With Hero Ki Horrorine, the makers are again looking to bring together scares and laughs. Sajid Khan, known for films across comedy and mainstream entertainment, is directing the project. The makers have not re-

vealed the complete storyline or character details yet. However, the combination of a debut actor, an established director and a popular supporting cast has created interest around the film. Yashvardhan’s debut will be closely watched because he comes from the Ahuja family. His first major screen appearance will also bring expectations from audiences familiar with his father’s long career. With its horror-comedy theme and January release, Hero Ki Horrorine is positioned as an entertainer for audiences seeking humour, romance and supernatural drama among moviegoers nationwide already.

The Odyssey Sets November Digital And Blu-ray Release



Christopher Nolan’s blockbuster epic The Odyssey is preparing to move from cinemas to home entertainment platforms following a record-breaking global theatrical run. The film will be available to rent and buy digitally from November 17, 2026, according to Variety. Its 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray release is also scheduled for the same day. The date comes exactly four months after the film opened in theatres on July 17. The Odyssey will have a 123-day the-

atrical window before its digital release. A similar strategy was followed by Nolan’s Oppenheimer, which also remained in cinemas for 123 days before reaching digital and premium home formats. The film has earned around USD 1.352 billion worldwide, making it the highest-grossing R-rated film in history. It has surpassed Deadpool & Wolverine and become only the third R-rated movie to cross the USD 1 billion mark, after Joker and Deadpool & Wolverine. The achievement has also made The Odyssey the highest-grossing film of Nolan’s career, overtaking The Dark Knight Rises, which earned about USD 1.08 billion worldwide. It has also set a record as the highest-grossing IMAX release. The film earned USD 123 million in its opening domestic weekend and has collected about USD 516 million in North America and USD 835 million internationally. Based on Homer’s ancient Greek epic, The Odyssey stars Matt Damon as Odysseus, King of Ithaca, who struggles to return home after the Trojan War.