



Quick Read

Karnataka announces Deepika Scholarship for girl students

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
Karnataka has announced the Deepika Scholarship Scheme for 2026-27, with 51,399 eligible girls identified to support higher education. The Higher Education Department said eligible students will receive Rs 30,000 annually until completion of their degree course. The scheme is aimed at helping girls who studied in government schools continue higher education and reduce dropout rates after Class 12. Students pursuing general or professional degrees and post-PU diploma courses in government, aided or private institutions can apply. The department has directed 440 government and 421 aided first-grade colleges to inform eligible students. Fresh applications are open until August 31, while renewal applications will be accepted from September 15 to October 30.

Bengaluru's affordable housing crunch deepens

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
Rising property prices are pushing middle-class homebuyers towards Bengaluru's outskirts, where costs are climbing steadily. The city's expanding metro network, IT companies and technology corridors have driven up real estate prices across several localities. Post-Covid demand for larger homes has also encouraged developers to focus on premium and luxury projects, limiting affordable housing launches. Many buyers are moving beyond Greater Bengaluru Authority limits into adjoining gram panchayat areas in search of cheaper homes. BDA's limited development of new layouts has further added to concerns over affordable plots. Experts said rising construction costs are making budget housing difficult, urging the government to implement affordable housing measures under PMAY-U 2.0.

K'taka's water woes persist amid prolonged inter-state disputes

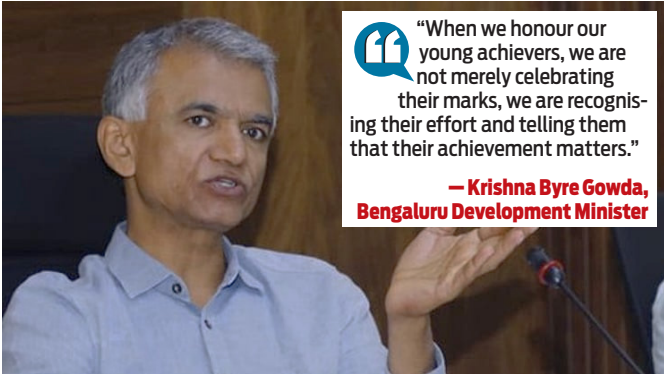
**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
Karnataka's river water disputes continue to intensify pressure on the State, particularly during rainfall-deficit years. Karnataka is involved in at least 25 inter-state water dispute cases, with 17 currently pending before the Supreme Court and various tribunals. Despite spending more than Rs 130 crore on legal fees over three decades, the State continues to struggle to secure and utilise its allocated water. The disputes involve major rivers including the Cauvery, Krishna, Tungabhadra and Mahadayi. Experts argue that Karnataka's case should give

'Nammura Hemme' to honour Bengaluru's young achievers

The initiative will recognise outstanding students while highlighting the encouragement and support provided by their families throughout their academic journey.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's young achievers will be honoured under 'Nammura Hemme', celebrating academic excellence, effort and family support. The Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru Zilla Panchayat will jointly organise the 'Nammura Hemme' (Pride of Our Town) felicitation programme to recognise students who have excelled in SSLC, PUC and Central Board examinations. Students residing in Bengaluru who have secured 621 marks or above in SSLC, 596 marks or above in PUC, and 496 marks or above in Classes 10 and 12 under the central syllabus are eligible to apply. Applications will remain open until August 25, while



the felicitation ceremony is scheduled for August 29. The programme will not only celebrate students' academic achievements but also acknowledge the contribution of their families in supporting them throughout their educational journey. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said academic success re-

flects hard work, discipline and perseverance. He said the initiative aims to encourage young people to dream big and work towards their goals. The minister said 'Nammura Hemme' would also celebrate the families behind every young achiever and inspire more students to pursue excellence.

Nammura Hemme

- Organisers: GBA & Bengaluru Zilla Panchayat
- SSLC: 621 marks or above
- PUC: 596 marks or above
- Central syllabus: 496 marks or above
- Last date to apply: August 25
- Felicitation: August 29
- Eligible: Students residing in B'loru

Celebrating achievement and support

'Nammura Hemme' aims to make academic achievement a shared celebration for Bengaluru. Along with meritorious students, their families will be invited to the felicitation ceremony in recognition of the encouragement and support they provide. The initiative seeks to motivate young people to pursue excellence, while creating a moment of pride for achievers, their families and communities. Eligible students have been encouraged by the GBA and Zilla Panchayat to apply.

Pink Line elevated stretch likely to open in September

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Namma Metro's much-awaited elevated Pink Line stretch is expected to open soon, pending key statutory approvals. The elevated section of Bengaluru Metro's Pink Line, earlier scheduled to open on August 15, is now likely to commence public services in the first week of September, subject to statutory clearances. Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) Managing Director PC Jaffer said all work on the elevated section had been completed from the corporation's side. The remaining approvals include Railway Board clearance for the rolling stock, followed by inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS). Jaffer said the exact opening date would depend on the completion of these statutory processes.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda inspected the underground section of the Pink Line on Saturday. The underground stretch will connect Dairy Circle with Nagawara and is a key component of the city's expanding metro network.

According to Jaffer, the minister has set mid-2027 as the target for completing the underground section, a deadline BMRCL considers achievable. Jaffer said civil works on the underground section have been completed, while electrification is nearly finished. Signalling work is currently under way.

UNDERGROUND SECTION ON TRACK

The underground Pink Line section connecting Dairy Circle and Nagawara is targeted for completion by mid-2027. BMRCL Managing Director PC Jaffer said the deadline set by Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda was achievable. Civil works have been completed, while electrification is nearly complete. Signalling work is currently under way.

PINK LINE

- Elevated stretch: Likely to open first week of September
- Earlier target: August 15
- Pending: Railway Board approval for rolling stock
- Next step: CMRS inspection
- Underground route: Dairy Circle–Nagawara
- Underground target: Mid-2027
- Civil works: Completed
- Electrification: Nearly completed
- Signalling: Work underway

Sugarcane farmers seek fair prices, local ethanol production

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Sugarcane farmers have urged the government to protect their interests by revising FRP scientifically, allowing local ethanol production and adopting a Brazil-inspired sugarcane policy. Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar said sugar prices have risen sharply while sugar factories are earning substantial profits from ethanol production. However, farmers continue to struggle to receive remunerative prices despite rising cultivation costs and crop losses. He said rainfall deficiency and drought-like conditions have significantly affected sugarcane yields in major producing states, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The government should take immediate measures to support farmers facing the crisis. Shanthakumar demanded that ethanol production should not remain the preserve of large sugar factories. Farmers should be allowed to produce ethanol at local sugarcane processing units under simplified regulations. The fuel could be used for household cooking, farmers' vehicles and tractors, while surplus ethanol could be purchased by the government at a fixed price. He also called for a scientific policy based on Brazil's model to balance sugar and ethanol production according to crop availability. When sugarcane production is high, surplus cane could be diverted towards ethanol to prevent excess sugar production and falling prices.

Municipal marshal assaulted over roadside garbage dumping

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A municipal marshal was allegedly assaulted while questioning a resident over roadside garbage dumping in Byatarayanapura Ward. An FIR has been registered at Amruthahalli Police Station following an incident in which a Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) municipal marshal was allegedly assaulted, his uniform torn and his official duty obstructed. The incident occurred on August 23 between approximately 5.50 am and 6.20 am near Amruthahalli Lake. According to the complaint, Venkatesh R., a resident of Sneha Nagar, Amruthahalli, who works as a municipal marshal in Byatarayanapura Ward, noticed Vijay Kumar of Amruthanagar A Sector allegedly dumping garbage on the roadside. When Venkatesh questioned him about dumping waste in a public place, Kumar allegedly abused him using obscene language, slapped him on the cheek and tore his uniform. The complaint further alleged that Kumar obstructed Venkatesh while he was carrying out his government duty. Following the incident, Venkatesh approached Amruthahalli Police Station and sought legal action against Kumar for allegedly assaulting a municipal employee, abusing him and obstructing government duty. Acting on the complaint and directions of Bengaluru



"Citizens are requested to cooperate with municipal staff and support the Corporation's efforts to maintain cleanliness and public health."

— BNCC

What citizens should do

**Avoid:** Dumping waste on roads, footpaths and public places

**Use:** Door-to-door waste collection autos

**If collection is delayed:** Call 1533

**Support:** Corporation efforts to prevent garbage black spots

**Remember:** Do not obstruct municipal staff on duty

North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, police registered a case and initiated an investigation. Police are verifying the circumstances and other details surrounding the incident. The BNCC appealed to citizens to cooperate with municipal personnel engaged in maintaining cleanliness and public health and refrain from misbehaving with or obstructing staff during official duties.

BNCC's public appeal

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has urged residents to avoid dumping garbage on roads, footpaths and other public places. Citizens should hand over waste only to door-to-door collection autos. If the collection vehicle fails to arrive at the scheduled time, residents can call the 1533 helpline and register a complaint. The Corporation also appealed for cooperation with waste collection personnel to prevent garbage black spots and maintain cleaner public spaces.

South Indian states need joint action to tackle air pollution: Study

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Air pollution crossing state boundaries has highlighted the need for coordinated action among southern states, a new study has said. Researchers from the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) have called for an airshed approach involving Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala to tackle pollution more effectively. The five states account for 25 of the 131 non-attainment cities identified under the National Clean Air Plan. Central Pollution Control Board data for 2021-25 showed that PM10 levels exceeded national ambient air quality standards in the cities, while annual PM2.5 levels remained within limits except in Visakhapatnam. However, the study found that pollution sources and their movement vary significantly across southern states. Local emissions re-

main the dominant contributor to PM2.5 levels, but pollution is also transported across state borders. Tamil Nadu receives the largest share of its pollution from local sources, with 81% originating within the state. It also contributes significantly to neighbouring states, accounting for 19% of pollution in Kerala, 15% in Andhra Pradesh, 9% in Karnataka and 5% in Telangana. Karnataka generates around 65% of its pollution internally and contributes about 10% of pollution in Andhra Pradesh. The other states receive smaller shares from neighbouring regions. Unlike the Indo-Gangetic Plain, where pollution is often dominated by major common sources, southern India has multiple interacting source-receptor relationships. The study therefore stressed that state-specific measures alone may not be sufficient.

Medical store owner hacked to death in B'loru, revenge suspected

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 30-year-old medical store owner was hacked to death in a roadside attack, with police suspecting a possible revenge motive. Suhail, a resident of Mangammanapalya, was travelling from Madiwala towards Koramangala around 10 pm on Saturday when four men allegedly arrived on two motorcycles and attacked him with swords near the Madiwala underpass. The attack took place amid traffic and was witnessed by several people. Suhail suffered severe injuries and died at the spot due to excessive blood loss. The attackers reportedly fled after leaving the weapons at the scene. Police are probing a possible connection between the murder and the killing of

Shabbir in Bandepalya on January 13. Suhail's brothers Kaleem, Nazir and another sibling were allegedly involved in the earlier case. Investigators suspect that Suhail may have been targeted to settle scores with his family. However, police said Suhail had no criminal record and was not an accused in the Shabbir murder case. The possibility that the attack was linked to his brothers' alleged involvement is being investigated. Senior police officials visited the crime scene and reviewed the investigation. Three special teams have been formed to trace the attackers. Police have collected CCTV footage and DVR recordings from establishments near the scene and are analysing them to identify the suspects and reconstruct their movements.

BJP to lay siege to Vidhana Soudha over Nagendra's removal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The BJP will intensify its agitation on Monday, demanding the removal of Minister B Nagendra over the Valmiki corporation controversy. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said BJP leaders and workers would march from Freedom Park and lay siege to Vidhana Soudha at 9.30 am on Monday. BJP state president B Y Vijayendra is also expected to participate in the protest. The party has been staging protests and dharnas across Karnataka for the past week, seeking Nagendra's removal from the Cabinet. The BJP has accused Nagendra of involvement in the alleged Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam and has demanded that he step down as Planning and

Statistics Minister. The JD(S), BJP's ally, has extended support to the agitation. Ashoka alleged that the Congress government was attempting to suppress the truth by organising counter-protests. He said the BJP's agitation would continue both inside and outside the legislature. The Valmiki corporation controversy erupted in 2024 after accounts superintendent P Chandrasekharan died by suicide, leaving behind allegations of financial irregularities. Investigations subsequently found that Rs 89 crore had been illegally transferred from the corporation's Union Bank account, with the alleged diversion later pegged at around Rs 187 crore. Nagendra, then the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister, resigned from the Siddara-

BJP PROTEST ESCALATES



maiah Cabinet on June 6, 2024, amid the controversy. He was re-inducted into Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Cabinet on August 3, 2026, and given the Planning and Statistics portfolio. Ashoka said the Opposition had compiled details of 35

cases allegedly involving Nagendra. He also claimed to have discussed the issue with Union Minister and JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy, who supported continuing the agitation.

Opposition escalates campaign

The BJP and JD(S) have intensified protests against B Nagendra, demanding his removal from the Karnataka Cabinet over the Valmiki corporation controversy. The Opposition has disrupted legislative proceedings and staged protests across the State. BJP leaders say the issue concerns alleged misuse of funds meant for Scheduled Tribes. Monday's proposed siege of Vidhana Soudha marks another escalation in the Opposition's campaign against the minister and the Congress government.

Quick Read

Power outages in various parts: MESCOM

**CH NEWS, UDUPI**  
A MESCOM statement said that there will be power outages in various areas due to emergency maintenance work being carried out. On August 25, there will be a power outage in the area of Navunda Power Substation from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, on the 11 KV Melpet and Balaipade feeder route originating from Udyavara Power Substation, and in the area of Udyavara Power Substation from 9 am to 5.30 pm. There will be a power outage in the Manipal Power Substation area from 9 am to 5 pm on August 25. The announcement stated that there will be a disruption in the power supply in the 11 kV Nitte, Kalya, Lemina, Miyaru, Nitte Water Supply, Irvattur, Karkala IB feeders originating from Kemar Power Station from 9 am to 5.30 pm on August 27 and in the Manipal Power Substation from 9 am to 5 pm on August 28.

Fishing boat sinks, six people rescued

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
A boat named Ayan, which had gone out to the deep sea for fishing from Ullal on the outskirts of the city, capsized at the mouth of the estuary. The boat owned by Ibrahim Khalil was returning when the tragedy occurred. The bottom of the boat hit a rock and broke, causing water to enter the boat. Six fishermen who were in danger were rescued by other boats and brought to shore, according to officials from the Fisheries Department.

Darshan’s wife Vijayalakshmi visits the divine shrine of Panolibail Srikallurti

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
Vijayalakshmi, the wife of film actor Darshan, who is facing a legal battle in court in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, visited the famous Karanika Sannidhi in Panolibailu, Sri Kallurti Devi Temple. She is said to have taken a vow with the hope of overcoming the difficulties surrounding him. It is learnt that she visited the temple with the belief that divine intervention would help bring relief from her husband's ongoing troubles.

received the Gandha Prasad from the Kallurti Kalkuda

Tulu Wikipedia completes 10 years of live version

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
Tulu Wikipedia, a digital initiative documenting the Tulu language, literature, culture and heritage, has completed 10 years since its live launch in August 2016. To mark the milestone and discuss its future roadmap, the Karavali Wikimedians User Group will organise a two-day celebration at AJ Grand Hotel in Mangaluru on September 12 and 13. Speaking at a press conference, group President Dr Vishwanath Badikana said the initiative is also working to document the living heritage and indigenous knowledge of Tulunadu, including traditional practices such as Ati Kalanja and Suggi Kunitha. The group is encouraging traditional practitioners to document their knowledge and providing financial assistance to support the



Centenarian Vidwan Chandraiah conferred state-level Chavundaraya Award

The state-level Chavundaraya Award, which includes a cash prize, was conferred on senior litterateur and centenarian Vidwan B Chandraiah for his contribution to Kannada literature through his translation of Ratnakaravarni's Bharatesha Vaibhava.

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
The fact that centenarian Vidwan B Chandraiah has been honoured with the Chavundaraya Endowment Award is a testament to the fact that there is no age limit for literary service, said retired High Court Judge Justice Padmaraja Nemichandra Desai. He was speaking after inaugurating the Chavundaraya and Dr Siddalingaiah Endowment Award presentation ceremony organised by the Kanwnada Sahitya Parishat at the Sri Krishnaraja Parish-

at Mandir. The award for 2025 was presented to DN Akki from Vijayapura. Meanwhile, senior litterateur and researcher from Bengaluru, Dr HR Swami, was honoured with the Dr Siddalingaiah Literary Endowment Award. Expressing a sense of fulfilment, awardee Vidwan Chandraiah said that receiving an honour like the Chavundaraya Award for his literary service at the age of 100 has brought him immense satisfaction. He sang Udayavayithu ondu goodithu harida hirimeya Kannada, a song of



hope he had written when he was an employee of the Khadi Commission in Madikeri during the time of Kannada Rajyotsava. He shared a poi-

Endowment donor Ramakumari Siddalingaiah explained the intent behind conferring the Dr Siddalingaiah Endowment Award on achievers who have worked towards human dharma and humanity.

gnant moment, stating that his wife Sarojini, who was very happy about this honour, passed away just a day before the award ceremony. Howev-

er, accepting the award with the detachment taught in the Gita, he expressed happiness in fulfilling his wife's wish. The chief guest of the event, Bengaluru University Kannada study centre professor Prof Rajappa Dalavayi, presented the awards and said that the life of Siddalingaiah, who was instrumental in banning the Ajalu practice, was an adventurous song. Gamaki scholar Tekkekere Subrahmanya Bhat introduced the honourees. He highlighted Chandraiah's unique contribution of translating Ratnakaravarni's Bharatesha Vaibhava

from Sangatya to Bhamini Shatpadi for Kannada literature, adding that his literary service even in his twilight years is exemplary. Endowment donor, retired newspaper editor and writer Dr Padmaraja Dandavati delivered the keynote address, noting that Chandraiah is being recognised and honoured, albeit belatedly. Awardees D N Akki and Dr H R Swami shared their thoughts on the occasion. Parishat administrative officer K A Dayananda, who presided over the function, delivered the introductory remarks.

Lamination snag sparks Darbe clash; cops warn against communalising

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
The police have issued a stern warning against attempts to give the incident a communal colour and have booked two individuals for spreading provocative messages and calling for a bandh on social media. According to a police media release, the issue began when a technical snag in a lamination machine damaged a customer's document. Instead of resolving the matter peacefully or approaching consumer forums, the customer allegedly behaved aggressively with a shop worker. The shop owner, Akshatha Rai, also identified as Anjana Pai, intervened, which led to a further altercation. During the commotion, an individual named Sudarshan Pai assaulted another person who was attempting to record the incident on his mobile



A minor dispute over a document getting burnt in a lamination machine at a shop in Darbe escalated into a physical altercation, prompting the police to intervene

In a related development, a second FIR has been registered at the Puttur Town police station against a person operating the Facebook account 'Sanjeeva Matandoor'. He has been booked under the same sections of the BNS for broadcasting similar messages on social media aimed at disrupting religious harmony, creating public panic, and instigating people to form an unlawful assembly through a bandh call. Further investigation is underway.

phone. Video footage of the sequence of events is available with the authorities. The police subsequently took Sudarshan Pai into custody. However, the situation remained tense as some individuals behaved aggressively near the police vehicle. A

person identified as Naushad was reportedly seen reaching inside the vehicle. Sudarshan's father, Sadhashiv Pai, who was inside the vehicle at the time, will be questioned to ascertain the exact sequence of events, police stated.

The police revealed that several individuals involved in the incident have criminal backgrounds. Sudarshan Pai has previous cases against him, including an attempt to murder and drug peddling. Both Naushad and Sadhashiv Pai have a history of assault in road rage incidents. Additionally, two other individuals present at the scene also have prior criminal cases. The Puttur Town police have registered cases against two individuals for inciting unrest. An individual using the WhatsApp account 'Dinesh Panjiga' has been booked under sections 353(2), 57, and 189 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for allegedly spreading messages that incite religious enmity, instil fear among the public, and for calling a bandh to provoke an unlawful assembly.

21 Bangladeshi nationals to be deported

**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
A special police team comprising 30 officers and personnel has left Mangaluru to hand over 21 Bangladeshi nationals who were illegally residing in the state to the Border Security Force (BSF) of West Bengal, with a view to successfully deporting them. The deadline for completing the process has been set for August 26. City Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy has given official information in this regard. A team of 30 officers and personnel has been deployed to provide security to the 21 Bangladeshi nationals who have been detained and to take them safely. The team first left for Bengaluru by bus and from there will travel to Malda district of West Bengal by train on August 23. After reaching Malda, the detained Bangladeshis will be officially handed over to the BSF officials. After that, the BSF troops will take further legal

deportation action. City Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy said that the date has been set for the successful completion of the entire handover process by August 26. On August 8, Home Minister Priyank Kharge, responding to the search for Bangladeshi migrants, said, they may be from Bangladesh or Africa. We are conducting a strict and serious search. In the last 3 months, about one thousand migrants have been found. All of them are coming from North India. There is no compromise in this. We are already in touch with BSF and FRO officials. We are forming a special team and monitoring them. The central government should provide assistance. We cannot reveal. Who is bringing them, where are they coming from, where are they getting Aadhaar cards and jobs. He said that genuine citizens should be alert by informing the government and the police.

Survey officials caught in Lokayukta trap while accepting bribe

**CH NEWS, CHIKKAMAGALURU**  
Two survey officers have fallen into the Lokayukta trap while accepting a bribe of lakhs of rupees in Chikkamagaluru, and the police are continuing their investigation. The officers are surveyors Doreraj and Ranganath of Chikkamagaluru taluk. The arrested officials had allegedly demanded Rs 10 lakh for surveying the agricultural land and preparing a sketch. A farmer from Indavar village on the outskirts of Chikkamagaluru city had been demanded a bribe of Rs 10 lakh for surveying the agricultural land, leading to a complaint by the farmer at the Lokayukta office.

deity and left. The Court dismissed actor Darshan's application to appear in person and directed him to appear for the hearing through video conference. Amidst all these developments, Vijayalakshmi's visit to the temple and the divine presence assumes special significance. While actor Darshan is facing trial for the Pradosh pardon case, his wife Vijayalakshmi Darshan visited Sri Kshetra Mandarabailu Raktheshwari Temple and offered special prayers and darshan to the deity. However, Vijayalakshmi has advised not to give any information about this. However, the video of their visit has gone viral.

Konkani Manyatha Diwas celebrated at Omzoor



**CH NEWS, MANGALURU**  
The ICYM Omzoor Unit organized a vibrant celebration of Konkani Manyatha Diwas at the Holy Family Church grounds on Sunday, immediately following Sunday Mass. The event brought together parishioners and youth to honour the rich cultural heritage and linguistic roots of the Konkani language. The formal stage programme commenced in the presence of distinguished dignitaries. Chief guest James Lewis graced the occasion alongside ICYM Director and Parish Priest Fr William Menezes, Parish Pastoral Council Vice President Arthur D'Souza, Secretary Daffny Lewis, Superior of St Charles Borromeo Sr Luciana and ICYM coordinators Vineet and Glevita Lasrado. ICYM Omzoor Unit President Joswin Pinto and secretary Lavita Pereira were also present on the dais. In his address to the gathering, chief guest James Lewis highlighted the crucial importance of preserving the Konkani language for future generations. Fr William Menezes echoed these sentiments, encouraging the youth to stay deeply connected to their

mother tongue and take immense pride in their cultural identity. Adding a creative touch to the day's events, ICYM members staged an engaging skit focused on Konkani culture. The performance vividly depicted the traditions, customs, and shared heritage of both Goan and Mangalorean communities, drawing warm appreciation from the audience. The entire event was compared by Renisha D'Souza. Secretary Lavita Pereira expressed gratitude to the guests, organizers, and parishioners for making the event a resounding success.

HELPING VICTIMS

Madhu Bangarappa seeks Sharavathi forest land clearance

**CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA**  
District In-charge and Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa held a meeting with officials at the Deputy Commissioner's office regarding the proposal to be submitted to obtain the Central Government's permission to de-notify the forest land of the Sharavati flood victims. The meeting discussed in detail the process of de-notifying the forest land of the Sharavathi flood victims, the necessary documents to be included in the proposal to be submitted to the Central Government and the next

steps to be taken. The Minister instructed the officials to prepare the necessary documents and information comprehensively and submit the proposal as per the rules so that there is no delay in the process of obtaining the Central Government's permission. On this occasion, various development issues of Shivamogga district were also discussed in the meeting. The Minister received information from the officials about the progress of development works of various departments in the district, problems related to the public and the steps

to be taken to resolve them. Minister Madhu Bangarappa directed that prompt action should be taken with coordination among departments regarding the development works of the district. Officials should respond to the problems of the people and ensure that government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries effectively, he said. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Prabhulinga Kavaliatti, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer N Hemanth, CCF Hanumanthappa and officials from various departments.



Quick Read

Kalaburagi society announces interest-free loans

**KALABURAGI**  
The annual meeting of the Khajia Bandhanawaz Minority Souharda Sahakari Sangh Limited was held at the KBN Sabhagana. President Dr. Syedmu Hammad Ali Alhusaini emphasized that customers are the core foundation of cooperative societies. He announced plans to introduce interest-free fixed deposits and low-cost loan schemes to support the poor and needy, urging members to ensure financial stability. During the session, officials presented the annual report, approved the budget for the upcoming year, and honored members who made timely loan repayments alongside shareholders.

Congress leader urges Yadagiri district president post

**SURPUR**  
Local Congress leaders have urged the party high command to appoint Hunasagi Block Congress President Chandrashekharamdin as the Yadagiri district president. Supporters argue this appointment would bring much-needed representation to the Surpur assembly constituency. Advocates believe that recognizing local leadership will strengthen the party's foundation across the region ahead of upcoming elections. A formal petition is set to be submitted to senior state leaders and MLA Raja Venugopal Nayak to advance this recommendation and boost grassroots engagement.

Women's commission chief emphasizes empowerment



**HUNASAGI**  
State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Chaudhary emphasized that the commission remains fully committed to protecting girl children and women's rights. Speaking at a local event, she urged mothers to prioritize quality education for their daughters, noting that education is essential for empowering women to achieve high positions. During the program, local leaders also appealed to the commission to ensure strict punishment for the accused in recent tragic cases across neighboring districts. Officials and local residents participated in the meeting to promote safety, education, and equal rights.

'Art fosters creativity and confidence in students'

**BIDAR**  
Painting plays a vital role in cultivating focus, patience, creativity, and self-confidence among young students. This sentiment was shared by Dr. S.M. Pandit Chitrakala Mahavidyalaya Principal Surekha Marurakar during a special event held in the city. Speaking as a distinguished guest at a painting competition organized by Rajkumar Hebbalkar at the local Karnataka Sahitya Sangha to commemorate the 150th birth centenary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, she highlighted that every student possesses an inherent artistic talent that deserves recognition and encouragement. She noted that painting serves as a powerful

Kukke Temple announces special service changes

Temporary ritual suspensions at the Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple will help manage festival crowds next month.

**SUBRAHMANYA**  
Pilgrims planning a holy trip to the famous Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple next month need to update their schedules. The temple management has officially announced that several special religious services will remain suspended on specific dates in September due to upcoming festival celebrations. According to a press release issued by the temple authorities, major rituals like Ashlesha Bali, Naga Pratishtha, and Mahabhishekam will not take place on September 4 for Sri Krishna Janmashtami, and on

September 7 for Ekadashi. These temporary service halts are expected to help manage heavy crowds and streamline celebrations during the festive days. However, visitors and regular devotees do not need to worry about missing out entirely. The administration has clarified that all daily worship services and regular temple activities will continue running without any changes. Essential rituals such as Mahapuja, Shesha Seva, routine Abhishekam, Archana, and the regular public darshan of Sri Deva will be conducted as usual every single day.



The temple's Chairman and Executive Officer jointly released the statement to keep the public well-informed.

They have earnestly requested all devotees, tourists, and pilgrims who wish to participate in special rituals like Sarpasamskara, Ashleshabali, Nagapratishtha, and Mahabhishekam to carefully check these dates before booking travel or making hotel arrangements. Authorities have urged the public to cooperate with the temple management during this busy festive season to ensure a smooth and peaceful experience for everyone visiting the sacred shrine. Pilgrims needing further updates can reach out to the temple helpdesk directly.

Recruitment drives threaten guest lecturers' livelihoods

**DHARWAD**  
Thousands of guest lecturers working across government pre-university colleges in Karnataka are facing massive job insecurity. Having dedicated two to three decades of their lives to teaching on a very low honorarium, these educators are now deeply worried about losing their livelihoods as the state government prepares to fill thousands of vacant regular posts. Many of these lecturers started teaching years ago with a modest monthly honorarium of just a few thousand rupees, which has gradually increased over time. Despite fighting for permanent employment and basic service security for years, their long-standing demands have largely gone unanswered. With the government now initiating recruitment drives to fill approximately two thousand vacant lecturer



We have given our best years to these institutions, and sudden displacement leaves our families vulnerable. — Affected teachers

positions, nearly half of the current four thousand guest lecturers' fear they will be left unemployed. Because they have spent the prime years of their professional lives exclusively in this role, many feel they lack the experience required to switch to alternative careers. Caught in a difficult situation after years of service, these educators have decided to approach the court for legal recourse. Relying on judicial precedents regarding service tenure as a key qualification, they hope to secure priority or a fair solution from the judi-

**Issues and concerns**  
**Decades of Service:** Many teachers have spent 20 to 25 years educating students on temporary contracts with minimal pay protection.  
**Impending Job Losses:** The state's plan to recruit new permanent staff threatens to displace thousands of current temporary educators.  
**Legal Action Route:** Feeling unheard by administrators, affected lecturers are now preparing to approach the court for justice.

cial system. The unfolding situation highlights a major challenge for the state administration, which must balance regular recruitment goals with the future of long-serving temporary staff who have kept rural and urban colleges running for decades. Education analysts note that a compassionate and balanced policy framework is urgently needed to resolve the ongoing crisis and protect these educators from sudden joblessness.

CUK concludes international IEEE conference

**KALABURAGI:** The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at the Central University of Karnataka recently wrapped up its premier international IEEE INCIP 2026 Conference focusing on modern innovations in communication, information, and processing. The successful multi-day event drew researchers, academic experts, industry professionals, and students from across India and abroad to present cutting-edge research and build collaborative networks. Serving as the chief guest for the closing ceremony, IIST Thiruvananthapuram Professor Chinmay Saha emphasized that hosting such a high-profile international summit in the Kalyan Karnataka region marks a massive milestone for regional academic growth and research excellence.

Bidar MLA Beldale inspects drought-hit crop fields

**BIDAR**  
In response to severe crop damage caused by a lack of seasonal monsoon rains, Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale conducted field visits across multiple villages, including Ashtura, Malkapur, and Sultampur, to assess the agricultural losses faced by local farmers firsthand. Accompanied by local officials and department representatives, the MLA walked through dried-up farmlands to examine stunted crops and evaluate the true extent of the damage. During direct interactions, farmers shared their financial struggles regarding heavy sowing costs, lack of rainfall, and mounting debts. The MLA assured them that their grievances would be strongly presented to government. Emphasizing the need for immediate administrative action, Dr. Beldale instructed agricultural and revenue au-



thorities to conduct a transparent, scientific, and field-level crop damage survey. He stressed that no eligible farmer should be left out of relief measures and demanded that the government announce a compensation of fifty thousand rupees per acre to help families recover. Additionally, the MLA inspected rural development projects under the VBJ Ramaji Yojana, reviewing worker attendance, project quality, and work progress. He strictly directed officials to ensure that daily wage payments are distributed to rural workers without any unnecessary delays.

Markaz Kuwait committee elects new leaders

**PUTTUR**  
The Kuwait Committee of Markazul Huda Women's College, which has been successfully operating in Kumbra for the past 25 years, recently held its annual community meeting at Medex Hall in Farwaniya, Kuwait. The gathering took place under the honorable chairmanship of Dr. Abdul Rashid Sakhafi Zaini Kamil, the Executive Chairman of Kumbra Markaz. During the meeting, community members came together to review past educational and social activities and elected a new team of office bearers for the upcoming term.

In the newly formed committee, Yakub Karkala was elected as the President, Zakaria Anekallu took charge as the General Secretary, and Ilyas Montugoli was appointed as the Treasurer. Several other prominent community figures were also chosen to serve as vice presidents, secretaries, advisors, and executive committee members to support ongoing institutional initiatives. The function began with an official presidential address by Abdul Rahman Sakhafi Poyyatbail, President of the KCF Kuwait National Committee. The event was formally inaugurated by KCF IC leader Hussain Musliyar Eru-mad, who praised the institution's long-standing dedication to women's education and social welfare. The program featured active participation from regional delegates and supporters.

Kateel slams Puttur riots as 'Taliban culture'

**MANGALURU**  
Former Member of Parliament Nalin Kumar Kateel has strongly condemned the recent violent clashes in Darbe, Puttur, describing the incident as a reflection of an emerging "Taliban culture" under the current state administration. Speaking to the media in Puttur, Kateel addressed the violent altercation that erupted from a minor dispute over

Ettina Bhuja trek reopens without basic amenities

**Adventure seekers visiting the popular Ettina Bhuja trekking trail in the Western Ghats face severe hardships due to missing support systems, blocked pathways, and poor management.**



**CHIKKAMAGALURU**  
Adventure seekers visiting the popular Ettina Bhuja trekking trail in the Western Ghats are facing severe hardships after its recent reopening. The route, which remained closed for several months due to seasonal weather conditions, has been made accessible again via online bookings with a fixed fee for a five-kilometer hike. However, the resumption of trekking activities has brought serious administrative concerns to light. Tourists who secured permits online arrived only to find that standard operating procedures are completely ignored by local authorities. Essential visitor support systems, including trained guides and safety checkpoints, are entirely missing along the remote path. To make matters worse, recent heavy downpours and strong winds have knocked down several large trees,

blocking the designated hiking trails. Without clear signboards or maintenance crews to clear the debris, enthusiastic travelers found themselves stranded deep inside the thick forest trails without proper guidance or mobile connectivity. The chaotic management has sparked strong criticism from nature lovers and disappointed visitors who expected a safe, well-organized experience. Many have called upon the district administration and the forest department to step in immediately, clear blocked pathways, and deploy necessary support staff. Experts and local tour operators are now advising upcoming trekkers to verify ground conditions and check weather safety alerts before planning any trips to the region. Authorities are expected to review the current infrastructure gaps to prevent further inconvenience to visitors exploring the fragile ecosystem.

Exorcism ritual controversy shakes Koppa taluk

**CHIKKAMAGALURU**  
A shocking case of alleged human rights abuse and physical torture has surfaced in Mekanahadlu village, located within the Koppa taluk of Chikkamagaluru district, creating widespread public outrage across the Malnad region. According to local reports and police sources, a complaint has been officially registered against a local temple figure named Satish Patri at the N.R. Pura police station. The action comes after disturbing video and audio clips went viral on social media platforms, showing a young woman being severely harassed and subjected to bizarre rituals under the pretext of exorcising evil spirits. The viral footage reportedly captures the accused forcibly intimidating the victim, compelling participants to con-

sume unusual items, and issuing severe threats of physical harm if instructions are ignored. Furthermore, related audio clips featuring abusive language directed at individuals added fuel to the controversy, prompting local villagers and community leaders to demand immediate legal intervention. In response to the mounting public pressure and the viral clips, Satish Patri appeared before the media to deny all allegations. He claimed that the circulated footage is several years old and that he has suspended his ritual practices for over a year. He alleged that the controversy is part of a deliberate conspiracy orchestrated against him by temple rivals. Meanwhile, law enforcement authorities have taken cognizance of the complaint and launched a detailed investigation into the matter.

a damaged document at a local shop. He criticized the attackers for barging into a business establishment and assaulting individuals, emphasizing that law and order should be handled exclusively by law enforcement authorities rather than through mob violence. The senior leader expressed deep concern over the handling of the case, questioning why arrests and legal actions

BUS SHELTER RESTORED Youth revive dilapidated Haleengadi bus stop

**MANGALURU**  
Members of the media welfare organization 'Media Manasugalu' have taken up a commendable cleanliness drive, successfully restoring a heavily neglected and dilapidated bus shelter located on the Highway Service Road in Haleengadi. The shelter, which serves thousands of daily passengers including students and women traveling toward the Kateel Temple and Kinnigoli, had fallen into severe disarray over the past year. Due to administrative apathy from local authorities, sewage water, rainwater, and drainage overflow from nearby buildings began stagnating around the



rest area, turning the space into a breeding ground for bushes, garbage, and discarded plastic items. Local residents reported that the abandoned shelter had become a haven for anti-social elements and drunkards during the night, causing immense fear and hesitation

among women, children, and elderly commuters. Additionally, overgrown trees touching high-voltage electricity poles created severe safety hazards during heavy wind and rain. Frustrated by the lack of official response despite repeated media reports, organization members stepped forward to

perform Shramadaan. Armed with cleaning tools, they cleared out the garbage, mud, and wild bushes. With active support from MESCOM staff, hazardous tree branches near the high-tension lines were safely removed. The entire structure was then thoroughly washed with water, drains were cleared, and the signboards were refurbished. Prominent members of 'Media Manasugalu' alongside local supporters actively participated in the social initiative. Commuters and local residents have warmly praised the youth for their proactive efforts in making the public transit space safe and usable once again.

Quick Read



Gadag committee commemorates decades of regional progress

**GADAG**  
The Betageri Railway Struggle Committee is hosting a public celebration for the 29th anniversary of the formation of Gadag District. The special event takes place at Betageri K.C. Park. Organizers have invited local community members and committee supporters to join the gathering and commemorate this important regional milestone. The committee continues to advocate for local development and railway infrastructure improvements across the district as residents reflect on nearly three decades of administrative progress since the district's official establishment.

Expired medicines litter Raibaga veterinary hospital

**RAIBAGA**  
Farmers bringing cattle to the Raibaga taluk veterinary hospital are struggling to get essential medicines, despite sufficient government supplies. Local activists from the Vijaya Karnataka Rakshana Vedike inspected the premises, exposing piles of garbage, dirty rooms, and expired medications scattered around. Protesters also pointed out the missing Preamble of the Constitution in the office as an insult to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. They have demanded an immediate official inquiry and strict legal action against responsible personnel, warning of statewide protests if authorities fail to act.

MLA Aihole leads Bommanala road upgrade

**Harugeri**  
Raibag MLA Duryodhan Aihole laid the foundation stone for a new road development project connecting the Harugeri-Raibaga road to the Scheduled Caste Colony in Bommanala village. Local residents and village elders gathered to welcome the initiative, expressing their appreciation for the infrastructure improvements. Party leaders, workers, and community members were present to witness the ceremony as the MLA officially performed the traditional road pooja to mark the commencement of construction work in the area.

Experts warn youth against substance abuse, gambling

**SRINIVASPUR**  
Substance abuse and unlawful cricket betting have emerged as severe threats to the health, financial security, and future prospects of young people, prompting urgent calls for community-wide vigilance and family support. Experts emphasize that consistent awareness campaigns involving parents, educational institutions, and local leaders are essential to steering youth away from harmful habits and toward constructive pursuits like education, sports, and



Kumaraswamy slams Cong over suitcase culture

Blending cultural tradition with sharp political critique, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy slammed ruling party practices during a village interaction.

RAMANAGAR

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has launched a blistering attack on senior Congress leaders, contrasting traditional cultural practices with what he termed the ruling party's "suitcase culture" during a media interaction in Akkuru village. The senior leader defended the cultural significance of traditional symbols outside homes, questioning the criticism he has received from local opponents. Shifting focus to major regional grievances, he highlighted the long-standing suffering of local farmers whose lands were acquired decades ago for infrastructure projects without receiving proper financial

People have given us the strength to raise our voice whenever farmers' land is being grabbed.

— H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

compensation or promised residential plots. He specifically targeted the controversial NICE Road project, claiming that unauthorized toll collections have persisted for twenty years on infrastructure that belongs to the state rather than functioning as an authorized national highway. Calling for widespread public opposition against systemic governance failures, Kumaraswamy urged taxpayers and citizens across the state to question irregularities and land grabs. He also recalled

Allegations and points raised

**Farmer Land Issues:** Claimed that thousands of farming families have waited 2 decades without receiving proper compensation.

**Illegal Toll Collection:** Argued that collecting toll fees on state infrastructure projects violates legal frameworks.

**Call To Action:** Urged taxpayers and citizens across Karnataka to unite and question alleged governance irregularities.

historical initiatives undertaken by former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to improve regional connectivity and ensure public welfare following past transit tragedies. Furthermore, the Union Minister dismissed recent political jabs from rival lawmakers, referencing past local political episodes and ques-

tioning the historical development track record of neighboring constituencies. Local political observers continue to monitor these sharp exchanges as debates over infrastructure accountability, land compensation, and regional governance intensify across the district ahead of upcoming legislative sessions.

EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT SPARKS PROTEST IN KOPPAL

KOPPAL

Students and local organizations staged a spirited protest under rainy skies to demand proper infrastructure, basic amenities, and permanent facilities for the Maulana Azad Model English Medium School located on Sardar Galli in Koppal. The demonstrators waited hours for local representatives before submitting a formal petition to MLA K. Raghavendra B. Hitnal. Protesters highlighted that despite the institution being established years ago to support underprivileged children from minority and backward communities, students are still cramped into small, temporary rooms without a dedicated school building. Key grievances include a lack of playgrounds, clean drinking water, science laboratories, proper sanitation units, and permanent teaching staff, forcing reliance on temporary guest teachers. The delegation urged the



state administration to immediately sanction land, construct a well-equipped campus, and supply free uniforms and learning materials at the start of every academic year. Community leaders, parents, and various trade union representatives joined the march to emphasize that educational neglect directly harms the future of local youth. In response to the demonstration, the local MLA promised to convene a special coordination meeting with concerned departmental officers to review the pending demands and work out a viable administrative solution.

**Demands submitted to the administration:**

Immediate allocation of land and construction of a fully equipped school building.

Upgradation of classes from LKG up to PUC and technical courses.

Regular appointments for permanent headmasters and subject teachers to eliminate reliance on guest faculty.

Creation of administrative posts, including a Data Entry Operator and support staff.

Essential infrastructure such as a playground, separate restrooms, a clean drinking water unit, a science laboratory, and a library.

Hubballi honors visionary Sirasangi Lingaraja Desai

**HUBBALLI:** On the occasion of the 120th death anniversary of Tyagaveer Sirasangi Sri Lingaraja Desai, who was the visionary founder president of the All India Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha and dedicated his entire estate to global welfare, citizens and dignitaries gathered to honor his enduring legacy. The solemn commemoration took place in Hubballi, where participants paid their respects with profound reverence and devotion by garlanding his statue. Sri Lingaraja Desai played a foundational role in establishing numerous prestigious educational institutions across the region, including the KLE Institute, BLDE Institute, Basaveshwara Vidyavardhaka Sangha, HKE Society, Veerashaiva Sangha, Horakeri Mastara Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee, and the Basava Environmental Protection Committee.

Suryanagar road deteriorates into hazardous trail

GADAG

The main road in Suryanagar's ward number 33 has deteriorated into a hazardous trail, sparking intense frustration among local residents and social activists who feel completely ignored by the municipal authorities. Social activist Krishna H. Hadapada issued a sharp statement criticizing the alarming condition of the thoroughfare located behind the new court area. Everyday travel has transformed into a dangerous struggle, particularly for young school children who find themselves sinking into thick mud puddles and deep potholes right outside their doorsteps. Toddlers and youngsters stumble across the broken pathway, frequently returning home with ruined clothes and tears. Elderly residents suffering from joint and back pain face immense physical barriers, rendering them practically housebound after sunset due to the rocky and thorn-ridden surface. Daily wage laborers and working women carrying

The terrible condition of Suryanagar's main road has sparked intense frustration among residents and activists, who warn of protests if authorities fail to act.

heavy loads struggle to maintain their footing, risking frequent slips and injuries. Emergency vehicles like auto-rickshaws flatly refuse to enter the lane, and medical emergencies risk worsening due to severe jolts along the cratered path. Locals argue that the stretch resembles a farm track rather than an urban town road. Citizens have issued a direct warning to the district administration and municipal council, demanding an immediate overhaul and reconstruction of the neglected route. If authorities fail to take prompt action, residents have threatened to stage a massive traditional folk-style protest accompanied by drum beats directly outside the local municipal offices to wake up the administration.



District health unit hosts renal health seminar

KOPPAL

The district unit of the State Government Employees Association recently hosted a vital community health awareness program at the Government Employees' Hall, focusing heavily on modern medical facts, misconceptions, and post-surgery care regarding kidney transplantation. Inaugurating the event, District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Ishwara Savadi emphasized that public awareness surrounding renal health remains critically low. Because kidney-related ailments often display no clear warning signs until conditions turn severe, individuals frequently realize the gravity of the problem only after health drastically deteriorates. He noted that such educational seminars are essential for teaching early detection methods and understanding modern therapeutic options, including organ transplants when necessary. Medical experts from Bengaluru's Mani-

pal Hospital also shared clinical insights during the session. Dr. Anand Patil, a specialist in uro-oncology and robotic surgery, explained that transplantation offers patients suffering from chronic failure a fresh lease on life. He highlighted that advanced procedures—such as robotic-assisted surgeries utilizing smaller incisions—significantly enhance recovery rates while addressing donor shortages through options like swap and pediatric transplants. Furthermore, Dr. Ravi Jangamani discussed post-operative care, stressing that donors and recipients can lead normal, active lives following regular check-ups and proper medication adherence. Organizers also appealed to extend the Karnataka Health Sanjeevini scheme to include partner hospitals, ensuring smooth medical billing for government employees. Community leaders, medical professionals, and association members attended the session, hoping to dispel prevalent myths and encourage organ donation across the region.

Udupi authorities monitor flood situation closely

**UDUPI:** The district administration has released its primary flood and rain situation report for August 23, 2026, confirming that no human or animal casualties have been reported across the region following continuous downpours. According to the official data issued on behalf of the Udupi District Collector, no major flood disruptions, displaced populations, or relief centers have been necessary so far. However, localized property damage was recorded in Kundapura taluk, where a tree fell onto a tiled residential house belonging to Anthoni Tavro in Hangaralli village, causing partial damage with an estimated loss of Rs. 75,000.

Monsoon winds lash Karnataka coastal belt

UDUPI

The India Meteorological Department has released an official weather advisory warning of heavy downpours and strong surface winds affecting several coastal districts across the region. According to the latest bulletin issued by the Meteorological Centre in Bengaluru, heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of thirty to forty kilometers per hour is very likely to occur at isolated places over Dakshina

Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. This weather pattern is expected to persist across the coastal belt over the coming days, prompting authorities to maintain close surveillance on local conditions. Fishermen, commuters, and residents living in low-lying areas have been advised to stay cautious while traveling or engaging in outdoor activities. Meteorological officials note that active monsoon conditions continue to influence regional weather dynamics, bringing intermittent spells of heavy

**District wise forecast & warnings**

**Day 1 (August 23, 2026):** Heavy rain accompanied by sustained winds reaching 30 to 40 kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts.

**Day 2 (August 24, 2026):** Similar heavy rainfall and gusty wind conditions are expected to persist across the coastal belt.

**Day 3 (August 25, 2026):** Continued wet spells and strong winds forecasted for isolated pockets in the coastal region.

**Day 4 & Day 5 (August 26–27, 2026):** Weather warnings are currently nil, with conditions expected to ease across the designated districts.

moisture and brisk winds to coastal zones. While the current active warning phase covers the immediate multi-day

forecast window, conditions are anticipated to gradually ease toward the end of the week.

NEW KSRTC TERMINAL LAUNCH

Molakalmuru welcomes transport infrastructure project

MOLAKALMURU

The Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department Minister and District In-charge Minister, T. Raghunurthy, officially performed a traditional puja program to symbolically launch vehicle operations at the newly constructed Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus stand in Molakalmuru town. Addressing the gathering, Minister Raghunurthy clarified that this event marked a soft launch for public convenience rather than the formal grand inauguration. The



infrastructure project, which features an upgraded bus stand and depot built at an

estimated cost of Rs 5.45 crore under sanctions spanning 2018 to 2023, is near-

ing full completion. He assured citizens that a formal inauguration ceremony will be organized with elected representatives and institutional leaders in the coming weeks. Local MLA N. Y. Gopalakrishna noted that bus operations were initiated early following persistent public requests. He explained that final approach road permissions from the National Highways Authority of India caused minor delays, but full-scale depot operations are expected to wrap up within a month.

KSRTC Chitradurga Divisional Controller Venkatesh stated that modern passenger amenities have been established at the station, including purified drinking water, seating zones, separate restrooms for men, women, and persons with disabilities, a dedicated women's resting lounge, a feeding room for mothers, and six commercial stalls. The terminal is currently connected to national highway bus routes, with more than 53 bus services scheduled to operate daily for commuter convenience.





- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

## FAKE DRUGS: A CRIME THAT DESERVES THE HARSHEST PUNISHMENT

The unearthing of an alleged fake drugs manufacturing racket on the outskirts of Bengaluru is not merely another case of commercial fraud. It is a chilling reminder of how criminal networks can exploit the healthcare system and put the lives of unsuspecting patients at grave risk. The revelation becomes all the more disturbing because the spurious medicines were allegedly being manufactured and marketed for the treatment of serious ailments such as cancer.

According to the investigation so far, the modus operandi of the gang was both simple and sinister. Spurious medicines were allegedly supplied to medical shops on the outskirts of Bengaluru at heavily discounted prices. The medicines would then reach patients who, believing they were purchasing genuine life-saving drugs, consumed them in the hope of fighting serious diseases. For a patient battling cancer or another life-threatening illness, a counterfeit drug is not merely a standard product it can mean the loss of precious time, worsening of the disease and, potentially, loss of life.

The alleged involvement of a medical representative as the kingpin makes the case even more alarming. While the main accused is reportedly staying in Dubai, four others have reportedly been taken into custody by the investigating agencies. The state government has rightly constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by senior IPS officer Vamshikrishna to investigate the racket in depth and uncover the entire network behind the manufacture, supply and distribution of the spurious drugs.

The SIT must not confine itself to identifying the immediate perpetrators.

It must trace the entire chain from the source of raw materials and manufacturing facilities to distributors, medical shops and those who may have facilitated the racket. The investigation must also establish whether similar consignments have reached other parts of Karnataka or neighbouring States. Most importantly, authorities must ascertain whether patients have already suffered because of these medicines and ensure that affected families receive appropriate assistance.

This is an offence that demands the strongest possible response from the government. Manufacturing and deliberately circulating fake medicines, particularly those intended for the treatment of life-threatening diseases, should be treated as a grave criminal offence. Those who knowingly manufacture or distribute such drugs are effectively gambling with human lives. The punishment must therefore be severe enough to serve as a genuine deterrent.

There is also a strong case for reviewing the existing legal framework. If loopholes in the present laws are enabling offenders to exploit regulatory weaknesses and escape with relatively lesser punishment, they must be plugged immediately. Karnataka should consider bringing in stringent provisions, within the constitutional and legal framework, to ensure that those found guilty of deliberately manufacturing and distributing life-saving spurious medicines face the harshest permissible punishment.

The issue should also rise above partisan politics. Legislators who routinely demand Special Investigation Teams to probe matters of political interest must display the same urgency when the lives of ordinary citizens are at stake. The political class should speak with one voice in demanding a thorough investigation and stringent punishment for those responsible.



- LALIT GARG

## A WASTED MONSOON SESSION: DEMOCRACY NEEDS DEBATE, NOT DEADLOCK

As India approaches the 80th anniversary of its Independence, the conclusion of the Monsoon Session of Parliament offers a moment for serious national introspection. Marked by persistent disruptions, sloganeering, and adjournments, the session reflected a troubling decline in parliamentary decorum. Productivity plummeted to barely 19 percent in the Lok Sabha and 39 percent in the Rajya Sabha, with Question Hour the core mechanism of democratic accountability completely wiped out in the Lower House.

Parliament represents the collective consciousness and aspirations of millions of citizens. Every minute lost to deadlock drains public trust and wastes taxpayer money. While raising concerns and expressing dissent are crucial democratic rights, repeatedly paralyzing the House undermines the foundation of governance. Both the ruling party and the opposition share responsibility: a numerical majority does not justify ignoring opposition concerns, nor does the right to protest grant a license to stall proceedings.

The session witnessed heightened political hostility, illustrated by the opposition's boycott of the customary post-session tea gathering with the Lok Sabha Speaker. Critical issues including the NEET-UG paper leak, student demonstrations at Jantar Mantar, and allegations regarding Ram Temple donations became flashpoints for confrontation rather than constructive debate.

Despite these hurdles, essential legislative work was accomplished. Parliament passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill to combat exam irregularities, referred the FCRA Amendment Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, and approved the formal renaming of Kerala to Keralam.

These successes demonstrate what Parliament can achieve when functional. Moving forward, political leaders must prioritize preparation over noise, and dialogue over disruption. A mature democracy requires the government to listen with humility and the opposition to challenge with wisdom, ensuring that national progress is never held hostage to political deadlock.

# Generation Alpha: What Is Changing About Childhood?



- Dr. Vijay Garg

For earlier generations, childhood meant outdoor games, cycling, visiting friends and spending hours exploring the neighbourhood. Today, smartphones, tablets, online games and streaming platforms have become familiar companions for children.

Digital entertainment can offer educational value, improve problem-solving and encourage creativity. However, concern arises when screens replace physical activity, face-to-face interaction, imaginative play and time outdoors. Children need movement, social interaction and hands-on experiences that technology cannot fully reproduce.

**The value of boredom**

Modern technology has also reduced children's experience of boredom. Earlier, having "nothing to do" often pushed children towards drawing, reading, inventing games or exploring their surroundings.

Today, a video, game or on-line activity is available within seconds. Yet unstructured time can encourage imagination and independent thinking. Parents should therefore not feel compelled to fill every free moment with entertainment. Children need space to discover what they can create on their own.

**Attention in the digital age**

Short videos, notifications and rapidly changing online content are designed to capture attention. Children accustomed to constant stimulation may find activities requiring patience and concentration less appealing.

Education must help children develop sustained attention. Mathematics, science, reading and writing often require persistence rather than instant gratification. Technology should make learning more accessible, but not make entertainment the condition for learning.

**Artificial intelligence and learning**

Artificial intelligence is creating new possibilities for Generation Alpha. Children can use AI to ask questions, understand difficult concepts, learn languages and explore creative ideas.

However, obtaining an answer is not the same as developing understanding. If AI completes every assignment, children may lose opportunities to make mistakes, experiment and solve problems independently.

The aim should be to teach children how to use AI responsibly while ensuring that technology does not replace their ability to think.

**Information needs critical thinking**

Generation Alpha has unprecedented access to information. A child can explore history, science, geography or mathematics within seconds.

But information is not automatically knowledge, and knowledge is not automatically wisdom. Children must learn to question sources, verify claims and distinguish facts from misinformation. Digital literacy should therefore become an essential part of education.

**Changing friendships and social skills**

Online games, messaging platforms and social networks have created new forms of friendship and communication. Yet face-to-face interaction remains essential.

Children develop empathy and social confidence by listening, sharing, negotiating, resolving disagreements and understanding emotions. Digital communication can complement these experiences, but should not completely replace them.

**Rediscovering nature**

Another concern is the growing distance between children and nature. A child may know countless digital characters while knowing little about local trees, birds or insects.

Nature offers lessons that screens cannot provide. Planting a seed teaches patience; watching birds develops observation; walking through a garden provides sensory experiences.

Retired Principal, Educational Columnist and Eminent Educationist, Street Kour Chand, MHR, Malout, Punjab

Regular contact with nature can also encourage environmental responsibility.

**Family time matters**

Technology has entered dining rooms, bedrooms and living spaces. Family members may sit together while each person remains absorbed in a separate screen.

Simple conversations, shared meals, walks and household activities can build stronger relationships. Parents also need to model responsible technology use. Children are more likely to follow digital boundaries when adults practise them themselves.

**Growing up too quickly**

Digital platforms expose children to lifestyles, advertisements, celebrities and adult-oriented content at an early age. Such exposure can create unrealistic ideas about beauty, wealth, popularity and success.

Childhood needs room for innocence, mistakes and gradual development. Parents should guide children through digital content rather than leaving them to navigate it alone.

**Education must evolve**

Generation Alpha will enter a world shaped by artificial intelligence, automation and digital collaboration. Memorising information alone will not be enough. Creativity, communication, critical thinking, adaptability, collaboration and emotional intelligence will become increasingly important.

Schools should therefore combine technology with books, handwriting, sports, art, music, experiments, practical activities and direct interaction with teachers. The future classroom should strengthen human capabilities rather than replace them with screens.

**Parents as digital guides**

Parents may sometimes find themselves less familiar with technology than their children. However, they can still provide something more important than technical knowledge—judgement.

Instead of imposing rules without explanation, parents can help children understand why screen-time limits, online safety and digital balance matter. Technology should be presented as a tool that children control, rather than something that controls them.

**A shared responsibility**

Children's well-being cannot rest entirely on parents. Schools, communities, technology companies and policymakers also have responsibilities.

Schools can provide opportunities for sports, reading, gardening, arts, science and outdoor learning. Communities can create safe spaces for children to play. Technology companies must prioritise children's safety and well-being.

Society must ensure that technological progress does not come at the cost of healthy childhood experiences.

**Giving Generation Alpha the best of both worlds**

Generation Alpha should not be viewed with fear or nostalgia. These children are growing up in a different environment and may develop remarkable digital abilities.

The objective should not be to return them to the childhood of previous generations.

Instead, they should experience the best of both worlds: artificial intelligence and books, digital tools and outdoor games, online communication and face-to-face relationships, virtual exploration and real-world discovery.

**Childhood must remain human**

The greatest challenge is not technology itself, but the possibility that it may occupy every empty space in childhood. Children need learning, play, silence, imagination, movement, conversation, curiosity and rest.

Not every question requires an instant digital answer, and not every free minute needs a screen.

# WHEN THE YOUTH SPEAK, IS INDIA LISTENING?



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

India envisions itself as a rising global force, a major economic power, and an influential architect of the international order. Yet, this global ambition hinges on a fundamental domestic challenge: does India listen when its own young people speak? When students question institutions, protest systemic failures, and demand accountability over mere assurances, a healthy democracy cannot simply respond with dismissal. The path forward demands dialogue, institutional responsibility, and concrete action.

The recent discourse surrounding examination irregularities highlights this vital dynamic. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat emphasized the necessity of engaging with the youth, asserting that genuine grievances must not be automatically labeled as anti-national. In a thriving democratic society, questioning authority is not disloyalty, and peaceful protest is not hostility toward the nation. Often, young citizens challenge an institution precisely because they desire to see it function properly. Dismissing their concerns risks severing the essential bond of

"A confident nation does not silence these questions; it listens carefully, responds directly, and builds a democratic framework where national progress and honest debate thrive together".

trust between citizens and public institutions.

India's youth are far more than passive beneficiaries of state policy; they are future administrators, scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, and political leaders. Raised in an era defined by immediate information and constant scrutiny, today's generation expects transparency over blind compliance. They seek to understand the rationale behind decisions and demand the freedom to ask difficult questions. Democratic elections grant a government the mandate to govern, but they do not negate the citizen's enduring right to question. A democracy demonstrates true strength not through enforced consensus, but when citizens can express disagreement without fear or contempt.

Listening, however, is only one half of the governance equation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stance on systemic examination failures points to the second necessity: listening must lead to actionable outcomes. For a student, an examination is not a mere administrative exercise; it represents years of dedication, family sacrifice, and personal aspiration. When paper leaks or irregularities compromise the integrity of these systems,

the damage reaches far beyond a single test. The government carries an urgent duty to identify perpetrators, enforce strict accountability, and fortify public institutions against recurring failures. Bhagwat's call for dialogue and Modi's push for administrative action should not be viewed as competing approaches; effective governance requires both a willingness to hear uncomfortable truths and the political resolve to execute solutions.

This dynamic also places a significant responsibility on the political Opposition. A robust democracy requires a vigilant Opposition to scrutinize policies, highlight mistakes, and hold the ruling party accountable. However, when every national issue is reduced to partisan point-scoring, political competition becomes counterproductive. On the global stage, India presents itself not as a collection of competing political factions, but as a unified nation. When pursuing opportunities that enhance national infrastructure, expand

technology, or drive economic growth, political differences should not become a pretext to obstruct progress.

The sentiment expressed by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, that political parties must maintain a shared commitment to national development despite intense disagreements reflects the maturity required in modern governance. Opposition should serve to refine policy rather than diminish national achievements. Holding a government accountable is essential; deliberately undermining national initiatives out of political rivalry harms the broader public interest.

Similarly, the government must abandon the habit of viewing criticism as inherently hostile. Labelling peaceful protest as anti-national is just as destructive to public trust as viewing every government initiative as illegitimate. A confident administration does not fear scrutiny from civil society, journalists, or students.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Youth Dialogue in Governance

India's strength on the global stage relies heavily on how it treats its youth at home. When students protest system failures or demand examination integrity, their voices reflect a deep desire for institutional accountability. Dismissing genuine grievances as disloyalty only erodes public trust. True democratic maturity requires leadership that listens to uncomfortable questions, addresses structural flaws, and engages the younger generation as vital stakeholders in the nation's future.

- Melwyn Mrinal R

### Opposition and National Interest

A strong democracy needs an active Opposition to challenge policies and expose administrative lapses. However, constant political obstruction purely for partisan gains serves no one. On international and developmental fronts, India presents a unified identity. Political competition should focus on refining policies rather than undermining national progress. Holding the government accountable is essential, but political parties must prioritize collective national growth over endless confrontation.

- Minal Jovitha Rajarathnam

### Action Beyond Dialogue

Listening to citizens is a crucial first step, but governance must ultimately deliver concrete solutions. Recurring examination paper leaks and administrative irregularities disrupt millions of young lives and destroy trust in public institutions. Reassurances alone cannot restore confidence. The government must act swiftly by punishing perpetrators, fixing structural flaws, and ensuring complete transparency. A nation can only progress when its administrative systems actively protect its youth's aspirations.

- Rahul K



Quick Read

Politician's aide's daughter found dead in Baramati

**BARAMATI**  
The daughter of a close aide to legislator Rohit Pawar was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Baramati on Sunday morning. The deceased was discovered near the family's residence in Sai Ganesh Nagar, situated in the Rui area of Baramati town. Local authorities recovered the body around 8 am after residents alerted law enforcement. Police officials arrived promptly at the location to initiate a thorough investigation into the incident. The area has been secured by investigators, and forensic teams are examining the scene to ascertain the exact cause and circumstances surrounding the death.

Police book CJP leaders for 'intimidating' teachers

**LATUR**  
Maharashtra Police have booked Cockerach Janta Party convener Abhijeet Dipke and his associates for allegedly trespassing into a government school in Jawali village. Ausa police registered the case following a formal complaint by schoolteacher Sayyed Shamsahbano Khairatali. Dipke allegedly entered classrooms without permission, interrogated students, disrupted official duties, and filmed the interaction for social media. Furthermore, he accused the school of staging attendance and threatened teachers with suspension. Charges were filed under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for criminal intimidation, house trespass, defamation, and deterring a public servant. Authorities are investigating the matter.

2 arrested for minor Dalit girl's gang-rape

**MUZAFFARNAGAR**  
Police have arrested two men, including a doctor, for allegedly abducting and gang-raping a 17-year-old Dalit girl. The City Kotwali police safely recovered the missing teenager following a three-day search operation that involved scrutinizing footage from roughly 600 CCTV cameras. The accused, identified as Nazim and Dr. Mohammad Adil, were arrested after Nazim sustained a leg injury in a police encounter. Both accused were booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, POCSO Act, and SC/ST Act before being remanded to judicial custody. The state government has assured strict legal action.

BSP SUPREMO FOR RESERVATION

Govts should not provide shelter to anti-reservation elements: Mayawati

**LUCKNOW**  
BSP supremo Mayawati has criticised a protest held at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi against caste-based reservation, saying governments should not provide support or shelter to groups opposing the reservation system. Reacting to the demonstration, Mayawati said reservation was provided through constitutional provisions to address the historical social and economic disadvantages faced by disadvantaged communities. She argued that attempts to oppose or weaken reservation could affect the rights and opportunities available to these sections. The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yav

Delhi cops get post Jantar Mantar dos and don'ts list

‘The directions were aimed at ensuring that personnel maintain professionalism and restraint while performing crowd-management duties’



NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have advised their personnel to remain calm and avoid arguments with protesters while handling demonstrations. Senior officers have reportedly told police staff not to react angrily to provocative remarks or actions, stressing that their conduct should remain professional throughout public protests.

The directions come as police personnel increasingly face heated exchanges with protesters during demonstrations. Officials have reportedly reminded officers that angry reactions can quickly become the focus of attention and may be recorded and shared widely on social media.

A senior police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the instructions were aimed at ensuring that personnel maintain professionalism, patience and restraint while performing their

| PROTEST KEY POINTS                               |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| Maintain professionalism during heated protests. |
| Exercise patience and restraint.                 |
| Avoid unnecessary officer confrontations.        |
| Prevent emotional responses to provocations.     |
| Keep composure to stop escalation.               |
| Prevent viral social media controversy.          |

duties. Officers have been encouraged to avoid unnecessary confrontations and focus on maintaining law and order.

The message to personnel is simple: provocation should not lead to an emotional response. Police officers dealing with crowds are expected to remain disciplined even when protesters become aggressive or use harsh language. Officials believe that maintaining composure can help prevent situations from

escalating.

The advice also reflects growing awareness of how videos recorded during protests can influence public opinion. A brief argument or angry exchange can quickly spread online, creating controversy and distracting attention from the actual issue being handled by police.

The senior officer said personnel have been asked to concentrate on their responsibilities and follow established procedures while dealing with protesters. The emphasis is on communication, restraint and professional behaviour rather than confrontation.

The Delhi Police's approach seeks to ensure that public demonstrations remain peaceful and that officers do not become part of unnecessary disputes. Officials hope the guidance will help personnel handle challenging situations with greater patience and responsibility while protecting public order.

UP speaker under fire over National anthem incident

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana has faced criticism after a video purportedly showing him leaving a saluting dais while the national anthem was being played at an event in Unnao surfaced.

According to reports, the incident took place during a public programme in Unnao. A video circulating in connection with the event appears to show Mahana standing still for a few seconds after the national anthem began. He then reportedly turned around and stepped down from the dais while the anthem was still being played.

The video has triggered reactions and criticism from sections of the public and political circles, with questions being raised over the Speaker's conduct during the national anthem. The incident has also drawn attention because Mahana holds a senior constitutional position in the state.

The exact circumstances behind his decision to leave the dais were not immediately clear from the video. It was also not clear whether there was any specific reason for his movement during the anthem.

BJP-Cong clash over Rahul's Pune youth outreach

PUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) described Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent event in Pune as a "political comedy show", while the Congress hit back, claiming the ruling party was "shaken" by the response to his youth outreach programme.

Rahul Gandhi interacted with students in Pune as part of the Congress's efforts to engage with young people and discuss issues concerning the country's youth. The programme provided students an opportunity to interact directly with the Congress leader and raise questions on matters of public interest.

The BJP criticised the event, questioning its political relevance and portraying Gandhi's interaction with students as an attempt to gain political attention. The party's remarks came as the Congress continued its outreach activities aimed at strengthening its connection with young voters.

The Congress, however, rejected the BJP's criticism and said the ruling party's reaction showed that it was concerned



The programme gave students the chance to chat directly with the Congress leader and ask about things people care about.

about Gandhi's growing engagement with young people. Congress leaders argued that the BJP would not have responded so strongly if the programme had not generated public and political interest.

The exchange between the two parties reflects the continuing political confrontation between the BJP and Congress, particularly over efforts to attract young voters. The

BJP FLAYS, CONGRESS DEFEND

The BJP criticised the Congress for youth outreach events, while Congress defended the engagement, highlighting a continuing political confrontation to attract young voters.

Congress has increasingly focused on student and youth interactions as part of its broader political outreach, while the BJP has continued to challenge Gandhi's initiatives and public appearances.

The Pune event is part of Gandhi's wider engagement with students and young citizens, with the Congress seeking to highlight issues affecting education, employment and opportunities for the younger generation. The BJP's criticism and the Congress's counterattack have added another layer to the ongoing political debate between the two parties.

BJP workers sing Vande Mataram amid assembly row

SHIMLA

BJP leaders and workers gathered at the Ridge in Shimla and sang Vande Mataram amid a political dispute in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. The gathering came as the Monsoon Session of the state legislature continued, with the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP facing off over the issue.

The BJP workers raised slogans and participated in the singing of the patriotic song at the prominent Shimla location. Party leaders said the programme was organised amid the ongoing controversy in the Assembly and reflected their position on the issue.

The development took place as the Monsoon Session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly witnessed a confrontation between members of the Congress and BJP. The House was reportedly adjourned following the dispute, with the Opposition raising objections and demanding attention to the matter.

The Ridge, one of Shimla's best-known public spaces,

YOGA GURU CLARIFIES MEANING OF VANDE MATARAM

**Haridwar:** Yoga guru Baba Ramdev stated on Sunday that the national song Vande Mataram represents the worship of "Bharat Mata" rather than specific Hindu deities. Ramdev addressed reporters during an event in Haridwar, seeking to clear up misconceptions surrounding the song's meaning and cultural context. Ramdev explained that Bharat Mata embodies faith, knowledge, empowerment, and supreme devotion for citizens across the country. He noted that viewing the lyrics as direct references to individual goddesses or religious shrines reflects a misunderstanding of the Sanskrit text. According to him, linking national devotion to sectarian divisions represents intellectual bankruptcy. Turning to current civic affairs, Ramdev strongly cautioned against involving young school children in street demonstrations and police station blockades.

saw the participation of BJP leaders and party workers during the gathering. The singing of Vande Mataram added a patriotic tone to the political demonstration.

The confrontation in the Assembly has added to tensions between the ruling party and the Opposition during the ongoing session. Both sides have continued to express their views on the issue, while political activity outside the House has also increased.

The BJP gathering at the Ridge is expected to keep the controversy in the public spotlight as the Assembly session continues. The incident highlights the growing political disagreement between the Congress government and BJP leaders in Himachal Pradesh. Further developments are likely as the Monsoon Session proceeds and both parties continue to press their respective positions on the issue.

AOL welcomes Supreme Court ruling

NEW DELHI

The Art of Living organisation has welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to set aside an earlier National Green Tribunal (NGT) order connected with the environmental controversy surrounding its 2016 World Culture Festival on the Yamuna floodplain.

The festival, organised by the Art of Living in Delhi in March 2016, had drawn criticism over alleged damage to the Yamuna floodplain. The NGT had earlier imposed an environmental compensation amount in connection with the event.

The organisation said the Supreme Court's latest decision provides relief and marks an important development in the long-running legal dispute. It maintained that the concerns raised over the festival and the floodplain had been contested before the courts.

The case has remained under legal scrutiny for several years because of questions surrounding environmental protection, the use of the floodplain and the responsibility of organisations holding large public events in ecologically sensitive areas.

The Yamuna floodplain plays an important role in supporting the river ecosystem and helping manage excess water during periods of



heavy rainfall. Environmental concerns surrounding its use have therefore remained a significant part of the dispute.

The Art of Living welcomed the Supreme Court's intervention and said the judgment would help bring greater clarity to the matter. The organisation has consistently maintained its position in the case while facing criticism from environmental groups over the festival.

The Supreme Court's decision now marks a significant development in the decade-old controversy. The ruling is expected to remain important in discussions about environmental responsibility, judicial oversight and the protection of sensitive river ecosystems in Delhi.

The case has highlighted the need to balance large public gatherings with environmental safeguards, particularly when such events are held near important natural habitats.

Ageing Lutyens bungalows raise ministers' upkeep costs

NEW DELHI

The cost of maintaining official residences of Union Ministers in Delhi has risen sharply as the iconic bungalows in the Lutyens' zone age, with annual spending on renovation, furnishing and repairs reaching a record ₹92.35 crore in 2025-26.

According to information obtained by PTI through a Right to Information (RTI) query, the government spent ₹547.68 crore on repair, renovation and maintenance of residences allotted to Union Ministers between 2014-15 and 2025-26. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is responsible for executing these works.

The expenditure has increased considerably over the years. In 2014-15, the government spent ₹27.47 crore on the upkeep of ministerial residences. The amount rose to ₹92.35 crore in 2025-26, representing more than a three-fold increase over the period.

The rise in expenditure has been attributed to the ageing condition of the bungalows, many of which are nearly a century old. The historic residences require regular repairs and renovation, while furnishing and maintenance work also add to the overall expenditure.

Quick Read

Rijiju says Arunachal swimming is child's play

**NEW DELHI**  
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju took a light-hearted dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over swimming in Arunachal Pradesh's fast-flowing rivers. Sharing a video of him-self swimming, Rijiju said such activities were part of his routine since childhood and "child's play" for him. Rijiju said Gandhi might need training before at-tempting similar activi-ties. He also cautioned people against entering deep water without knowing how to swim, noting that Arunachal's rivers are large and very deep. Explaining the difference between river and pool swimming, Rijiju said swimmers in strong currents should keep their heads up and maintain a more up-right body position. His comments continued the friendly fitness ex-changes between him and Gandhi, who have previously discussed workouts and jiu-jitsu.

Former OSD's driver arrested in assault case

**HYDERABAD**  
Police arrested the driver of Telangana Forest and Endowments Min-ister Konda Surekha's former OSD, N. Su-manth, in connection with an alleged assault on a real estate busi-nessman. The driver was arrested near Su-manth's residence in Tellapur on Sunday. Po-lice said Sumanth and five others were booked after realtor Gongidi Harikrishna alleged that he was attacked with iron rods and sticks and threatened with dire consequences. He also alleged that the ac-cused demanded Rs 10 crore. A zero FIR was ini-tially registered at Me-dipally Police Station and later transferred to Jubilee Hills Police Sta-tion. The case was reg-istered under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Harik-rishna alleged the as-sault occurred on July 30 and said he suffered fractured hand and other injuries, requiring surgery. Investigations are continuing into the allegations against Su-manth and the other accused.

DDA plans 20 meetings on MPD-2047

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will hold 20 stakeholder meetings over the next three months to discuss implementation of the Master Plan for Del-hi-2047 (MPD-2047), officials said. The meet-ings will involve MPs, MLAs, government agencies, industry bod-ies, residents, landown-ers, planners and pro-fessional institutions. Discussions will cover Transit Oriented Devel-opment, High Density Corridors, Land Pooling, Low Density Areas and group housing redevel-opment. Stakeholders will also discuss Yamu-na rejuvenation, herit-age conservation, com-mercial development, slum redevelopment and mobility improve-ments. The DDA said the outreach aims to strengthen coordina-tion, increase public participation and sup-port Delhi's long-term planned development.

Hooda denies calling Sajjan Kumar 'role model'

Punjab Congress leaders distanced themselves from Hooda's remarks, reiterating their support for victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh violence.

GURUGRAM

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda on Sunday de-nied calling former party leader Sajjan Kumar a "role model" after facing sharp crit-icism over his condolence re-marks following Kumar's death. Hooda said the words had been attributed to him by peo-ple seeking to create a politi-cal controversy. Hooda had earlier described Kumar's death as a loss to the country's political landscape and praised his connect with people and contribution to Delhi's development. The re-marks triggered strong reac-tions from the BJP, AAP and Shiromani Akali Dal, particu-



larly in Punjab. Punjab Con-gress leaders also distanced themselves from Hooda's comments and reiterated their support for victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh violence. The controversy intensified after senior Haryana Congress



leader Kuldeep Sharma wrote to party president Mallikarjun Kharge seeking Hooda's re-moval from the Congress Working Committee. Sharma said the remarks had hurt Sikh sentiments and could damage the party's prospects

in Punjab, which is headed for elections. Sajjan Kumar (80) died on Thursday while serving two life sentences in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The controversy over Hooda's remarks has renewed political debate over the Congress leader's legacy and the party's position on the violence. Hooda said he had never used the words "role model" and had no such sentiment. He stressed that his family had longstanding ties with the Sikh community and main-tained that those responsible for the 1984 violence must face strict punishment. He also expressed regret if his remarks had hurt anyone's feelings.

CM Yogi predicts permanent wipeout of SP

NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday claimed that the Samajwadi Party (SP) would be "wiped out" permanently in the next Assembly elections, while accusing the opposition party of neglecting the poor and focusing its politics around a single family. Speaking at an event in Lucknow where mid-day meal cooks were honoured and cashless healthcare cards were distributed, Adityanath highlighted welfare measures announced for cooks working in government primary schools. These include an in-creased honorarium, finan-cial assistance of up to Rs 2 lakh in cases of accidental death or injury, and cashless

medical treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh. The government has also doubled the saree allow-ance from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. Linking the welfare initia-tives to his political criticism of the SP, the chief minister alleged that the previous SP government had failed to make the welfare of poor peo-ple a priority. He also accused the earlier administration of allowing crime, communal clashes and encroachment on the land of poor people. Adityanath targeted SP president Akhilesh Yadav, re-ferring to him as "Babua" and questioning his involvement in state affairs. He cited Ya-dav's recent comments about several members of his family being MPs and said that fam-ily-based politics would not



prevent voters from rejecting the SP in the next election. The chief minister contrast-ed his government's record with the previous adminis-tration, claiming Uttar Pradesh had moved beyond frequent riots and curfews and was now witnessing development and improved law and order.



Adityanath also criticised Yadav's daily routine, ques-tioning how he could find sufficient time to focus on the state. His remarks are likely to intensify the politi-cal confrontation between the BJP and SP ahead of the next Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Ex-diplomat Suri raises citizenship verification concerns

NEW DELHI

Former Indian diplomat Na-deep Suri has raised con-cerns over the difficulties in-volved in establishing citizen-ship during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Punjab. Suri said the experience highlighted the challenges that even long-serving citizens can face when asked to produce documents for verification. Suri, who served as India's ambassador to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates and as High Commissioner to Aus-tralia, spoke about the issue while discussing the electoral roll verification exercise. His remarks have attracted atten-tion because of his distin-guished career in the Indian Foreign Service and his long association with public service. The SIR exercise requires voters to provide information and supporting documents to establish their eligibility and ensure that electoral rolls con-tain the names of genuine vot-ers. The process has generated debate over documentation requirements, particularly among people who may not have easy access to older records. Suri's experience has added

another dimension to the dis-cussion, with concerns being raised over whether documen-tation procedures could create difficulties for citizens whose records are incomplete, un-available or difficult to obtain. The issue has also prompted questions about how verifica-tion can be carried out while ensuring that eligible voters are not inadvertently excluded from electoral rolls. Suri joined the Indian For-eign Service in 1983 and served in several important diplomatic assignments during his career. His postings in-cluded senior diplomatic re-sponsibilities in Egypt, Aus-tralia and the UAE before his retirement from government service. His comments come at a time when electoral-roll ver-ification has become a politi-cally sensitive issue, with dif-ferent parties expressing con-trasting views on the need for accurate voter lists and the safeguards required during the revision process. The for-mer diplomat's account has therefore drawn attention to the practical difficulties that can arise during citizenship and voter verification, particu-larly when authorities seek documentary proof from individuals.

J&K sees peace, development under Modi: Singh

SRINAGAR

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed greater normalcy, peace and development since Prime Minister Narendra Modi as-sumed office. Speaking to reporters after a BJP workers' meeting in Srinagar, Singh said the party had organised such meetings regularly, but the latest gath-ering was held in the Valley after a considerable gap. He said the situation in the re-gion had changed significant-ly over the past 12 years,

with development activities progressing and people re-turning to normal life. Singh said the aspirations of people, particularly the younger generation, had also changed. He highlighted emerging economic activities such as lavender farming and described the growth of the sector as part of the "Pur-ple Revolution" in Jammu and Kash-mir. He also referred to infra-structure projects, including the construction of new dams, and said the region



could play an important role in India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. The minister also spoke about India's achievements in space exploration, recalling the Chan-drayaan-3 landing near the Moon's south polar region on August 23, 2023. He said the opening of the space sector to private participa-tion had helped ac-celerate the coun-try's space economy and strengthened India's position among leading spacefaring nations. The government has also

Priyanka Chaturvedi backs Rahul's Pune women outreach

NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Pri-yanka Chaturvedi on Sunday welcomed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Chhatron Ki Goonj programme in Pune, stressing the importance of giving women a platform to express their views and concerns. Chaturvedi praised the ini-tiative focused on women's issues and said that listening to women's experiences was essential for understanding the challenges they face. Her remarks came after Rahul Gandhi's Pune event, the fourth edition of the Chhatron Ki Goonj campaign, which focused particularly on wom-en and students. The campaign, launched by

Rahul Gandhi in Kota in June, has sought to highlight issues affecting young people, in-cluding education, employ-ment and other challenges. The Pune edition placed greater emphasis on wom-en-centric concerns. Rahul Gandhi has said that women need equality, safety, opportunities and the freedom to express their views. He has also raised concerns over in-security and discrimination faced by women, urging young people to participate in discussions on their rights and future. The Pune programme fea-tured interactions with wom-en students and sought to pro-vide them with an opportunity to speak about their experi-ences and concerns. The ini-

tiative comes amid a broader political outreach by the Con-gress among young voters and women. Chaturvedi's support for the event underlined the political importance of creat-ing spaces where women can directly articulate their con-cerns. She said women's voic-es should be heard in discus-sions shaping society and the country's future. The Chhatron Ki Goonj campaign has previously been held in Kota, Dehradun and Prayagraj before reach-ing Pune. Rahul Gandhi has used the platform to discuss youth-related issues, includ-ing unemployment, expen-sive education, examination paper leaks, access to credit and the impact of artificial intelligence.

COACHING REGULATIONS

Maharashtra plans new rules for coaching classes

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has proposed a new law to regulate private coaching centres across the state, with restrictions on class hours, student admissions, fees, safety standards and student welfare. The proposed Maharashtra Private Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2026, aims to bring coaching institutions under a formal regulatory framework. Under the draft legislation, coaching centres would be re-quired to register with the state and comply with pre-scribed standards. Classes would be limited to a maxi-mum of five hours a day, while students and teachers would be entitled to a weekly day off. The proposal also seeks to prohibit coaching centres from enrolling chil-dren below the age of 13. The government has also

| RULE HIGHLIGHTS                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| Coaching centres must register with the state.     |
| Daily class limit capped at five hours.            |
| Mandatory weekly day off for all.                  |
| Prohibition on enrolling children under 13.        |
| Strict ban on basement-operat-ed coaching centres. |
| Clear fee caps, transparency, and refund rules.    |

proposed restrictions on the rapidly growing "dummy school" model, under which students formally remain en-rolled in schools while at-tending coaching centres for most of their academic preparation. Coaching cen-tres operating from base-ments would also be prohib-ited under the proposed framework. Fee regulation is another

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday stressed the need to strengthen Atmanir-bharta (self-reliance) in de-fence, saying greater domestic production would act as a mul-tiplier for India's military ca-pabilities. He said indigenous weapons and systems had demonstrated their importance during Operation Sindoor. Singh was speaking at a foundation stone-laying cere-mony in Kolkata for five brownfield expansion projects of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Yantra India Ltd (YIL). He said both organisations were contributing significantly to India's defence manufacturing capabilities. The minister highlighted that the Next Generation Off-shore Patrol Vessels being built by GRSE would have nearly 80 per cent indigenous content. He also praised YIL's Metal and Steel Factory for manufacturing steel, alumin-ium and other components used in weapons systems. Singh said India should take advantage of the global opportunity in shipbuilding



**Singh noted that both organizations are making substantial contributions toward boosting India's defense manufacturing capabilities.**

and develop capabilities rang-ing from ship design and con-struction to maintenance, re-pair and overhaul (MRO). He noted that warship constru-ction can take five to 10 years, while large commercial ves-sels may require 15 to 20 years, making technological upgrades during construction essential. Calling MRO a major op-portunity, Singh said it could generate strong returns with comparatively limited invest-ment. He urged Indian ship-builders to offer quality ves-sels at competitive prices and compete aggressively in inter-national markets. The defence minister also urged greater private-sector participation to address chal-lenges in sourcing quality spares and components. He assured shipyards of govern-ment support and said the ₹3,420-crore investment would boost industrial growth and employment in West Ben-gal. He added that GRSE would be in a position to bid for the Navy's proposed Next Generation Destroyers.

Quick Read

Sensex needs to cross 77,720-78,000 for recovery

**Mumbai**  
The near-term outlook for the Indian stock market remains side-ways to cautious, with analysts identifying 77,000-77,380 as an immediate support zone for the Sensex and 77,720-78,000 as a key resistance area, while the Nifty faces resistance at 24,400-24,600. Analysts said a sustained move above the Sensex resistance zone could improve the short-term market outlook, while holding above the 77,000-77,380 support range would keep the ongoing consolidation structure intact.

Foreign investors keep buying Indian equities

**New Delhi**  
Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are likely to sustain the buying trend amid India's improving GDP growth and earnings growth perspective, according to analysts. Total FPI buying stood at Rs 23,543 crore this month (till August 22), of which, Rs 14,117 crore was through exchanges and Rs 9,426 crore was through primary market and others category. The factors that are driving the FPIs back to the Indian market are earnings growth revival as reflected in Q1 results, FPI withdrawal from the 'chip trade', rupee stability and the impressive growth prospects of companies in the broader market, said market experts.

## 4 of top 10 firms lose ₹ 87,960 cr in market value

**MUMBAI**  
Four of the top-10 most valued companies in India collectively saw their market capitalisation erode by Rs 87,960.29 crore last week. The Sensex declined 468.42 points, or 0.60%, during the week, while the Nifty fell 114 points, or 0.46%. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that for the coming week, 24,000-23,900 will remain the crucial support zone, while 24,500-24,600 is the immediate resistance area. Sustaining above 24,000 and the lower triangle trendline would indicate continued buying interest on declines and help preserve the current technical structure, an analyst stated. On the upside, a decisive move above 24,600 could strengthen recovery momentum and attract fresh buying, while a break below 23,900 may increase selling pressure and weaken the near-term setup, a market expert noted. Bharti Airtel's market valuation declined by Rs 28,052.96 crore to Rs 12,14,963.15 crore,

## KOREANS' DRINKING CUPS BECOME LIGHTER

**SEOUL**  
South Korea's alcoholic beverage production plunged to below 3 million kiloliters (kl) for the first time in 27 years in 2025, data showed on Sunday, signalling a structural decline in the industry with more South Koreans turning to healthy lifestyles. Shipments of beer and soju have fallen for three consecutive years since 2022, while those of takju, or traditional Korean rice liquor, have dropped for five consecutive years as of 2025, according to the data from the National Tax Service.



# Canada retaliates as trade war with US escalates

Negotiations between neighbouring countries broke down on Aug 21 in Washington, putting into force new 50% US tariffs impacting about \$20 bn worth of goods

### OTTAWA

Canada will impose dollar-for-dollar tariffs on a range of U.S. goods from September 8 after trade talks with Washington collapsed, Prime Minister Mark Carney said, sharply further escalating tensions between the longtime allies. The retaliatory duties will target U.S. steel, dairy products, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, electronics and other imports. Ottawa will release details on measures soon, Carney said. The move follows President Donald Trump's decision to impose 50% tariffs on Canadian products, affecting about \$20 billion worth of exports, including wine, furniture, dairy products, cement, clothing, fishing rods and hockey equipment. The new U.S. du-



ties also cover products that had previously benefited from protections under the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. Carney said Canada could not accept Washington's demands and would act to protect Canadian workers, farmers, families and businesses. "Canada will match Washington's new tariffs dollar for dollar," he said at a press conference in Ottawa. The Canadian prime minis-

ter also described the situation as an attack when asked whether the two countries were entering a trade war. Canada relies heavily on the U.S. market, with nearly 70% of its exports going south of the border. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer blamed Canada for the failed negotiations, calling the breakdown a missed opportunity. He said Washington would proceed with measures responding to

### US-Canada tariff war

- Retaliatory tariffs take effect September 8.
- US tariffs target about \$20 billion in Canadian exports.
- Canada will target steel, dairy, electronics and other goods.
- Trade talks collapsed after three days of negotiations.
- USMCA's future faces greater uncertainty.

Canadian retaliation and indicated that no new talks were planned. The collapse of negotiations could also complicate the future of the three-country USMCA trade pact, increasing regional uncertainty for businesses and workers across North America.

## FSSAI acts against Delhi, Daman firms

### NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has taken strict regulatory action against two food businesses in Delhi and Daman after inspections uncovered serious violations and non-compliance with food safety requirements. The regulator has suspended the licence of Marche Retail Private Limited in New Delhi for 30 days with immediate effect. It has also issued a prohibition order against SDP Industries Private Limited in Ranganwada, Daman, following concerns over non-compliant ghee products and possible adulteration. Inspections at Marche Retail and a subsequent fol-



low-up inspection identified deficiencies in the establishment's design, operational controls, sanitation and personal hygiene. Authorities also found shortcomings in food-handler training and mandatory record-keeping. Required medical records of food handlers were unavailable, while prescribed food safety and hygiene documentation was not adequately maintained. The company has been directed to immediately stop all food business

activities until the identified deficiencies are corrected and compliance is verified by the competent authority. Separately, enforcement inspections and sampling of multiple ghee products manufactured by SDP Industries resulted in a prohibition order. The products were marketed under brands including Shrad-dha, Shree Saras and Gokul. Laboratory analysis of the samples detected beta-sitosterol, a plant sterol that is required to be absent in ghee. The samples also showed non-conformity in fatty-acid composition. According to FSSAI, the findings indicated the presence of foreign or vegetable fats and raised serious food safety concerns.

## Over 18 lakh farmers switch to natural farming

### NEW DELHI

As part of India's push for regenerative agriculture, the country's farmers are adopting practices such as natural farming, agroforestry, micro-irrigation, integrated farming systems, and scientific soil management, according to the factsheet on Sunday. Government support has accelerated this transition aimed at rebuilding soil vitality, strengthening ecosystem functions, and improving resilience to climatic variability, while supporting long-term environmental balance and farm prosperity. As of March 2026, natural farming clusters covered 8.80 lakh hectares and enrolled 18.19 lakh farmers. About 109 lakh hectares have been brought under the Per Drop More Crop scheme. In addition, 25.89 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated since inception. India's agriculture and allied sectors have demonstrated strong and sustained progress. During FY16-FY25, it

recorded decadal growth of 4.45 percent, the highest in previous decades. However, years of intensive cultivation, heavy chemical use, and erratic rainfall leave many soils tired and less responsive. Yields that once came easily now demand higher inputs, while heat-waves, dry spells, or excess rain can undo months of labour. For millions of small and marginal farmers, declining soil health often translates into higher costs and uncertain harvests. As a result, the sustainability of farming has become an increasingly important concern and regenerative agriculture has to play a key role, the official statement said. Regenerative agriculture is a holistic farming approach centred on restoring soil health and enhancing biodiversity. At the same time, it seeks to ensure long-term productivity and resilience in farming systems. Healthy soils support higher food and nutritional output, store more carbon, and promote biodiversity.

# Downstream sector to drive space growth

### NEW DELHI

As India observes National Space Day on August 23, experts have said the next phase of growth will extend beyond launches and satellites, with downstream applications, private participation and satellite-based services expected to become major drivers. Lt. Gen. AK Bhatt, Director General of the Indian Space Association, said India's private space ecosystem had travelled a distance and was converting technological capabilities into market opportunities. He said the country was emerging as a full-stack space economy, with strengths across launch systems, satellite infrastructure and downstream applications. Bhatt pointed to recent achievements by private space companies as evidence that Indian firms can develop technologies at globally competitive levels. He said the progress was sending a positive signal to investors and international partners about the sector's ability to execute and scale. He attributed the transformation to a public-private partnership combining ISRO's technological expertise, policy and regulatory reforms, and the capabilities of a new generation of private companies. Krishanu Acharya, CEO and Co-Founder of Suhora Technologies, said India's private space story had traditionally focused on rockets and launch vehicles, but downstream applications could become a more sustainable growth engine. He said the growing number of satellites would create raw data, making the



ability to convert that information into usable insights increasingly important. Acharya said downstream companies could help India develop expertise in analytics and applications based on space data, allowing the country to compete globally. Gautam Sharma, Managing Director of Viasat India, highlighted the government and ISRO's role in building an ecosystem through public-private partnerships.

**Growth ahead**  
Experts said satellite data will increasingly create opportunities for analytics, weather intelligence and other applications. They see downstream services as a sustainable, exportable growth engine that can strengthen India's global position.

## US-India trade deal almost finalised in principle: Gor

### NEW DELHI

The proposed US-India trade agreement is almost finalised in principle, with the two sides now working to settle the remaining legal and technical language, according to US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Speaking at a media event in the national capital, Gor said the broad contours of the agreement had been settled and that the remaining work involved reconfiguring and finalising certain portions of the text. The trade deal is, in principle, almost everything is done, Gor said, attributing the delay in concluding the agreement largely to the need to work through legal and technical language. The US envoy also addressed concerns over a proposed legislation in the US Congress that could impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries purchasing Russian oil. He said the measure was being pushed by lawmakers from

both sides of the political aisle and stressed that it was not an initiative being advocated by the White House. This is not something that you have seen the White House advocate. You won't find a clip of President Trump pushing it, Gor said. Acknowledging that such a measure could have implications for India, he said US President Donald Trump remained focused on bringing the Russia-Ukraine conflict to an end. President from day one has been wanting to end this war between Russia and Ukraine, and he's determined, Gor said, calling an end to the conflict vitally important. Gor also highlighted the close relationship between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing their ties as a deep and personal friendship. He said both leaders were action-oriented, focused on results and keen to move quickly on issues of mutual interest. They are both forward leaning, and they want action fast, and they're results-driven.



## INDIA-JAPAN TRADE PUSH

# Goyal to lead trade delegation to Japan

### NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Japan from August 24 to 27, leading India's largest-ever business delegation to the country as New Delhi seeks to deepen trade and investment ties with Tokyo. Goyal will travel to Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka with more than 200 Indian business representatives from sectors including manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy, steel, automotive, financial services, healthcare and startups. The visit comes as India



and Japan look to strengthen their Special Strategic and Global Partnership through greater economic and industrial cooperation. In Tokyo, Goyal is scheduled to meet senior leaders of major Japanese conglomerates and in-

dustrial groups that have been long-term partners in India's growth. He will also participate in a round-table with Keidanren, Japan's apex business federation representing more than 1,500 leading companies. Dedicated discussions will focus on semiconductors, artificial intelligence, start-ups and foreign institutional investors. Goyal will hold bilateral talks with Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Akazawa Ryosei and meet senior government and parliamentary leaders. He is also expected to interact with the

Indian community. In Nagoya, he will lead a roadshow with business organisations and meet Aichi Prefecture leaders and investors in automotive and steel manufacturing. The visit will conclude in Osaka with an Investors and Business Roadshow and meetings with Japanese companies across electronics, industrial and consumer sectors. Officials said the visit could provide fresh momentum to bilateral investment and cooperation in high-technology manufacturing, clean energy and next-generation industries.

**Meet highlights**

- India and Japan are seeking to significantly deepen trade and investment ties.
- The delegation spans manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy, automotive, finance, healthcare and start-ups.
- Discussions will explore opportunities in high-technology manufacturing and next-generation industries.



# Is Social Media Controlling the Future of Indian Youth?

India's young people are carrying the world in their pockets. The real question is whether they are choosing what to see or being quietly trained to want what the algorithm chooses to show them

The first influence on a young Indian's morning may no longer be a parent, a teacher or a newspaper. It may be a notification. Before breakfast, a student can see a millionaire explaining success, a fitness creator selling discipline, a political clip selling anger, a beauty influencer selling insecurity and a coach selling a shortcut to a competitive examination. None of them knows the student. Yet each of them is competing to shape what that student fears, desires and believes. This is why the question, Is social media controlling the future of Indian youth? cannot be dismissed as another complaint about children using phones. The phone is no longer merely a device



## Control is too strong a word. Influence is too weak

Social media does not command every young person to make the same choice. It does something more subtle. It decides which choices remain visible. An algorithm cannot force a student to become a trader, creator, activist, engineer or extremist. But it can make one path appear exciting and another path appear invisible. It can make a rare success look ordinary. It can make a slow career look like failure. It can make outrage look like courage and patience look like weakness. It can repeat an idea until familiarity begins to feel like truth. That is not total control. But it is far more than entertainment. Every genera-

tion is influenced by the media of its time. Newspapers shaped public opinion. Cinema shaped romance, fashion and heroism. Television brought national events into the living room. Social media is different because it does not give the same programme to everyone. It studies the individual, predicts the next reaction and rearranges the world around that prediction. The feed is personal, but the purpose is commercial. The platform does not need a young person to become wiser. It needs that person to remain available. The most valuable product in the digital economy is not content. It is uninterrupted attention.



## Aspiration has become public, measurable and exhausting

Social media has not merely changed what young people want. It has changed the speed at which they believe they must achieve it. At 19, someone else has a startup. At 21, someone else has a luxury car. At 23, someone else is travelling internationally. At 25, someone else has bought a house for their parents. The feed brings thousands of exceptional lives into one ordinary afternoon. The comparison is unfair because the information is incomplete. One person is displaying family wealth. Another is displaying debt. Another is displaying a rented set. Another is displaying the best ten seconds of a difficult year. All four can look like success. The young viewer compares a private struggle with a public edit. That comparison will almost always end in defeat. The old pressure was to keep up with the neighbour. The new pressure is to keep up with the most successful stranger the algorithm can find. This pressure enters the body too. Filters quietly redraw the face before a teenager has finished growing into it. Fitness content can encourage health, but it can also turn health into a performance. Beauty content can teach skill, but it can also convert a normal feature into a flaw waiting for a product. The market first creates dissatisfaction. Then it places a purchase link beneath it. For young men, the feed often sells muscularity, money, dominance and emotional si-

lence as one package called masculinity. For young women, it often demands beauty, ambition, confidence, domestic approval and effortless perfection at the same time. The standards are impossible because an impossible standard keeps the consumer returning.



## The algorithm is becoming the new career counsellor

Earlier generations often inherited ambition from what they could see around them. A child knew the careers of relatives, neighbours and teachers. Today, a teenager in a small town can watch a designer in Bengaluru, a coder in California, a musician in Seoul and an entrepreneur in Dubai before going to school. That is an extraordinary expansion of possibility. Social media has shown millions of young Indians

that talent does not require a famous surname or a metropolitan address. A camera, an internet connection and a useful idea can open a door that an institution once kept closed. But an open door is not the same as a guaranteed livelihood. The creator economy demonstrates both the promise and the trap. A 2025 BCG report estimated that India had 2 to 2.5 million active digital creators with more than 1,000 followers. Yet only 8 to 10

per cent were said to monetise their work effectively. Social media displays the visibility of success more often than the economics behind it. The audience sees the sponsorship. It does not see the months without income. It sees the viral reel. It does not see the hundreds that failed. It sees the resignation video. It does not see the health insurance, family support or savings that made the resignation possible. When exceptions are

shown every day, they begin to look like the rule. That can produce courage. It can also produce distorted expectations. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be a creator, founder, gamer or trader. The problem begins when a platform sells the glamour of a profession without revealing its probability, preparation or price. A career should be chosen with evidence. A feed chooses with engagement. Those are not the same standard.

## There is no single Indian youth

Any serious discussion must avoid treating young Indians as one uniform group. The same app can be freedom for one person and surveillance for another. For a student in Delhi with a private laptop, social media may be an additional source of opportunity. For a girl using her brother's phone in a village, access may depend on permission, timing and privacy. ASER 2023 surveyed 34,745 rural youth aged 14 to 18 across 28 districts. About 90.5 per cent reported using social media in the previous week. Yet among those who could use a smartphone, 43.7 per cent of boys owned one, compared with only 19.8 per cent of girls. Only about half of social media users knew the safety settings tested in the survey. Access is not equal merely because a phone is present in the household. Ownership creates privacy. Privacy creates experimentation. Experimentation creates skill. A borrowed device can connect a

girl to the world while still reminding her that the connection is not fully hers. The digital divide is no longer only between connected and unconnected India. It is between those who own the device and those who borrow it. It is between those who can create freely and those who are watched while consuming. It is between those who understand the platform and those who are merely available to it. Language adds another layer. The growth of content in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Bengali and other Indian languages has democratised expression. A person no longer needs polished English to build an audience. That is a social revolution hidden inside an entertainment feed. But misinformation has also become multilingual. The language of inclusion can become the language of manipulation. Digital access without digital judgment is only half an empowerment.



## News now reaches the young before journalism does

Social media has also changed how young Indians meet public reality. News is no longer something they always choose to open. It appears between comedy, cricket and fashion. The IAMAI-Kantar 2024 report estimated that 582 million internet users encountered news online through websites, apps, social posts, forwards or YouTube, either consciously or while browsing. Only about 180 million were classified as conscious online news users. This means public opinion can begin forming before a person has decided to become informed. A fifteen-second clip can remove the sentence before an argument and the fact after it. A caption can tell the viewer what to feel before

the video begins. A confident voice can make an unsupported claim sound researched. Repetition can give a lie the emotional texture of common knowledge. Anger travels faster because anger asks for less patience. Nuance is difficult to compress because nuance admits what it does not know. The algorithm rewards certainty even when reality is uncertain. This is dangerous in every democracy, but especially in a country as large and diverse as India. A misleading post does not need to convince the whole nation. It only needs to find the right fault line. Religion, caste, language, region, gender and political identity can all be converted into engage-

ment. A society pays the price when its deepest tensions become a platform's most profitable content. Artificial intelligence has raised the stakes again. A young voter may now encounter a leader saying words that were never spoken, a crowd that never gathered or an event that never occurred. India's 2026 amendments to the IT Rules introduced due-diligence requirements around synthetically generated information, including declarations, verification and prominent labelling. That is a necessary step. But regulation is chasing a technology that learns faster than law is written. The future voter will need more than literacy. The future voter will need resistance to manipulation.

## The mental-health debate needs honesty, not panic

It is tempting to blame every anxious teenager on a screen. That would be convenient, simple and wrong. Young Indians also live with examination pressure, uncertain employment, family conflict, loneliness, discrimination, financial insecurity and fear of failure. Social media did not invent these pressures. It can amplify them, display them and prevent escape from them. The scientific evidence is more nuanced than the loudest public arguments. A major UNICEF report published in 2025 found no clear evidence that screen time by itself directly damages the aspects of children's mental health it studied. The stronger and more consistent harms were associated with experiences such as online bullying, sexual abuse and exposure to harmful content. The report argued that protecting children requires attention to what happens online, not only how many minutes are spent there. This distinction matters. Two hours spent learning a language with friends is not the same as two hours spent receiving abuse. One hour creating music is not

the same as one hour comparing bodies. Thirty minutes speaking to a support community is not the same as thirty minutes being pulled through violent content. The clock measures duration. It does not measure damage. At the same time, screen time is not everything must not become nothing is wrong. Sleep can be displaced. Bullying can follow a child home. Humiliation can acquire an audience. Self-harm content can be recommended to a vulnerable person. Private mistakes can become permanent records. The child may leave school at three o'clock, but the school crowd now remains in the pocket all night. India's challenge is made harder by stigma around seeking help. When emotional pain is treated as weakness at home, a young person may turn first to an anonymous account, an influencer or a chatbot. Sometimes that connection saves a life. Sometimes it sends the person deeper into an unmoderated community. Technology can offer support. It cannot replace a trustworthy human being.

Quick Read

Bangladesh militancy fears rise amid explosives

**CH NEWS,** London  
Concerns over a possible resurgence of Islamist militancy in Bangladesh have grown following a series of explosive recoveries, arrests and a recent bomb blast, Authorities have recovered explosives from seven locations over the past month. On August 11, counter-terrorism officials recovered nine pipe bombs, chemicals and bomb-making equipment during a raid in Savar near Dhaka. Police also arrested a suspected member of the banned Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Authorities have recently found bomb-like objects near several metro stations, including Motijheel, Farmgate and Mirpur. The developments have raised security concerns amid reports that hundreds of individuals linked to militant activities received bail between September 2024 and July 2025.

Security official killed in Balochistan bomb blast

**CH NEWS,** Quetta  
A security official was killed and six others injured after a roadside bomb struck a security convoy in Pakistan's Balochistan province, police said. The explosion occurred in Khad Kocha, Mastung district, along the Quetta-Karachi National Highway. Police said an explosive device planted beside the road detonated as the convoy passed. One vehicle was hit, while others escaped damage. A gunfight followed, but the attackers fled before reinforcements arrived. The injured personnel and the deceased official were taken to a nearby hospital. Authorities temporarily closed the highway and launched a search operation to identify and arrest those responsible. The incident comes amid continued attacks by Baloch armed groups targeting Pakistani security forces across the province.

250 Ukrainian drones downed in 12 hours: Russia

**MOSCOW**  
Russian air defence systems intercepted and destroyed 250 Ukrainian drones over a 12-hour period, the Russian Defence Ministry said. According to the ministry, the drones were shot down between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Moscow time across 19 Russian regions, including the Moscow region. Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanyin separately said more than 2,600 drones had approached the capital over the past week, with 493 reportedly destroyed before reaching the city. The latest claims come amid continued attacks between Russia and Ukraine. Earlier, Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had captured 11 settlements in the Kharkiv, Donbas and Zaporizhzhia regions

PLAN SPARKS CIVIL RIGHTS ALARM

‘Stop electric shock glove plan for ICE’

**WASHINGTON**  
US Congressman Shri Thanedar has urged the Trump administration to stop a reported plan to equip Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers with electric-shock gloves, raising concerns over the potential risks associated with the proposed equipment. In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Thanedar, the ranking member of a Congressional subcommittee on oversight, investigations and accountability, called for the administration to halt the plan and provide greater clarity on its purpose and intended use. Thanedar expressed concern about the reported introduction of gloves capable of delivering an electric shock. He questioned whether such equipment would be appropriate for use by immigration enforcement personnel and warned that its deployment could create serious safety and accountability concerns. The issue comes amid heightened scrutiny of ICE operations and the methods used by immigration enforcement officers. The agency operates

under the Department of Homeland Security and is responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws, including conducting arrests and removals. Thanedar's intervention seeks to draw congressional attention to the reported plan and obtain information about the technology, its proposed deployment and the safeguards that would govern its use. He has urged the administration to reconsider the proposal before such equipment is provided to officers.



INS Sudarshini Lisbon visit boosts India-Portugal naval ties

Arriving via the Tagus River, the ship highlighted India's traditional seamanship during its major international voyage.

LISBON

India-Portugal maritime cooperation is set to receive a further boost with Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini arriving in Lisbon as part of its ongoing Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. The three-masted barque reached Lisbon on August 22 after sailing across the Atlantic. Its arrival through the Tagus River showcased India's traditional sailing and seamanship capabilities and marked another important stop in the ship's extended international voyage. During the port call, INS Sudarshini's crew and naval trainees are scheduled to take part in professional exchanges, cross-deck visits and cultural engagements with Portuguese naval authorities, local officials and members of the Indian diaspora. These activities are aimed at promoting greater understanding and strengthening maritime cooperation between the two countries. The Lisbon visit is the ship's 15th port call during its seven-month voyage under Lokayan 26. The expedition is designed to strengthen India's maritime connections with partner countries while providing naval and Coast Guard trainees valuable experience in long-distance sailing and international engagements. The visit also highlights the



importance India attaches to maritime diplomacy and naval cooperation with European partners. Professional interactions between the two navies are expected to contribute to greater interoperability, knowledge sharing and goodwill. INS Sudarshini's deployment is part of India's broader efforts to showcase its maritime heritage and strengthen relations through naval outreach. The expedition continues to carry a message of friendship, cooperation and camaraderie as the ship visits ports across different regions. The Lisbon port call therefore represents more than a routine naval visit, providing another opportunity for India and Portugal to deepen their long-standing maritime relationship and expand cooperation through professional and cultural exchanges.

INS Sudarshini docks

INS Sudarshini arrived in Lisbon for its 15th port call on a seven-month Lokayan 26 voyage, strengthening India-Portugal maritime ties, enhancing naval cooperation, and promoting global friendship through professional and cultural exchanges.

cooperation and camaraderie as the ship visits ports across different regions. The Lisbon port call therefore represents more than a routine naval visit, providing another opportunity for India and Portugal to deepen their long-standing maritime relationship and expand cooperation through professional and cultural exchanges.

Pact raises European concerns over Turkey

TEL AVIV

The Mecca Pact signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey on August 7 could have implications extending beyond the Middle East, with its potential impact on Europe drawing increased attention. Political researcher Vas Shenoy said European countries should pay greater attention to the agreement, particularly because of Turkey's strategic role. Turkey shares borders with NATO members Greece and Bulgaria and controls the strategically important Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. It has also expanded its military presence in Syria and Libya and remains involved in long-running disputes with Greece and Cyprus over maritime boundaries, territorial waters and economic zones. According to Shenoy, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pursued an independent foreign policy for more than a decade. Turkey has remained a NATO member while simultaneously developing relations with countries outside the Western alliance. Ankara's purchase of Russia's S-400 air defence system, continued

Ankara's growing military and political influence could affect European security interests, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean.

- Vas Shenoy, Political researcher

communication with Moscow and support for Ukraine have highlighted this approach. Turkey has also negotiated migration agreements with the European Union while maintaining disputes with Greece and Cyprus. Its military interventions in Libya and Syria have further demonstrated Ankara's willingness to pursue its interests without always waiting for European or US consensus. The Mecca Pact could potentially develop beyond a conventional mutual-defence arrangement into a broader defence and industrial partnership, the report said. Such an evolution could have particular significance in the Eastern Mediterranean, where tensions between Greece and Turkey remain unresolved despite both being NATO members. Disputes involving the Aegean, Cyprus, airspace, territorial waters and maritime economic zones continue to affect regional stability.

Egypt-Iran push diplomacy to ease regional tensions

CAIRO

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi discussed regional developments and efforts to revive diplomacy aimed at reducing tensions during a phone conversation, according to Egypt's Foreign Ministry.

The two ministers discussed ways to create conditions for returning to a diplomatic track, including implementation of a memorandum of understanding signed between the United States and Iran on June 18. The discussions come amid renewed regional tensions and uncertainty over the future of US-Iran negotiations. Abdelatty stressed the need to intensify diplomatic efforts to contain the escalation and reach peaceful understandings that could help restore security and stability in the region. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the freedom and safety of international navigation and protecting the security and stability of Gulf states.

Araghchi briefed his Egyptian counterpart on Iran's assessment of recent regional developments, the progress of negotiations and the challenges facing the diplomatic process. Under the US-Iran MoU, negotiations were expected to take place within 60 days to reach a final agreement, but the deadline passed on Monday without clarity over the talks' future. The diplomatic efforts come against the backdrop of renewed tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. US President Donald Trump has threatened further economic action against Iran, while Iranian officials have stressed the need for a new regional security framework. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Tehran had received numerous messages from neighbouring countries regarding new security arrangements and economic cooperation. He argued that regional countries should develop an independent security order. The latest Egypt-Iran contact reflects continuing diplomatic efforts by regional actors to prevent further escalation.



These discussions unfold against a backdrop of escalating regional friction and clouded prospects for future US-Iran diplomatic engagement.

cess. Under the US-Iran MoU, negotiations were expected to take place within 60 days to reach a final agreement, but the deadline passed on Monday without clarity over the talks' future.

The diplomatic efforts come against the backdrop of renewed tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. US President Donald Trump has threatened further economic action against Iran, while Iranian officials have stressed the need for a new regional security framework. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Tehran had received numerous messages from neighbouring countries regarding new security arrangements and economic cooperation. He argued that regional countries should develop an independent security order. The latest Egypt-Iran contact reflects continuing diplomatic efforts by regional actors to prevent further escalation.

Diplomacy sum up

- Ministers discuss stalled US-Iran talks.
- Egypt urges regional stability, safe navigation.
- US-Iran MoU deadline passes without agreement.
- Tensions rise around Strait of Hormuz.
- Trump threatens further economic sanctions.
- Iran proposes independent regional security order.

37 hurt after quake hits Japan

TOKYO

At least 37 people were injured after a 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, early Sunday, causing water pipe bursts and temporary disruptions to transportation, local media reported. According to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the injured were reported from Tokyo, Ibaraki, Kanagawa and other areas. The earthquake occurred at around 2 a.m. local time at a depth of approximately 70 km, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). The tremor registered a lower 5 on Japan's seven-level seismic intensity scale in parts of Ibaraki, Saitama and Chiba prefectures and Tokyo's Adachi Ward. At this level, strong shaking can frighten people

and make it difficult to remain standing, while objects may fall from shelves. The earthquake was widely felt in Tokyo and across parts of northeastern and central Japan. Some residents said on social media that the shaking was among the strongest they had experienced in recent years. The quake temporarily affected some train services across the Kanto region, although operations were gradually being restored. Several water pipes also burst in Tokyo and other areas, resulting in temporary flooding on some roads. The JMA urged residents to remain alert for the possibility of another earthquake registering lower 5 on the seismic intensity scale over the following week, particularly during the first two to three days.

Gujarat CM visits BAPS Akshardham in New Jersey

WASHINGTON

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Robbinsville, New Jersey, during his ongoing visit to the United States. The visit was part of his US tour linked to the Vibrant Gujarat initiative. Patel toured the sprawling temple complex and appreciated its architecture, spiritual atmosphere and efforts to showcase India's cultural heritage overseas. He thanked BAPS volunteers for their contribution to the construction and said the complex would inspire generations to come. During his visit, the Chief Minister also toured the Akshardham Museum, which is under construction. The planned museum will feature architectural replicas, multimedia presentations, immersive displays and lifelike statues aimed at presenting India's heritage and traditions to visitors from around the world. Patel said the complex represents more than a place of worship, highlighting its role in promoting Indian culture, spirituality, art, family val-



ues, harmony and selfless service. He also praised the volunteers for their dedication, discipline and hospitality. The Gujarat Chief Minister's visit is being seen as an important engagement with the Indian diaspora in the United States. It is also reportedly the first visit by a Gujarat Chief Minister to the US in nearly three decades.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of WORLD GOVERNMENT PARTY. The office of the party is located at 6-103, Karopady, P. O. - Odiyoor, District - Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka - 574243. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows: President: Murali Krishna Brahmandam, 306, Marian Paradise Streak, Bejal, Mangalore - 575004; General Secretary: DHARMENDRA, 6-103, Karopady, P. O. - Odiyoor, Karnataka - 574243; Treasurer: JAYASHREE, 6-103, Karopady, P. O. - Odiyoor, Karnataka - 574243. If anyone has any objection to the registration of WORLD GOVERNMENT PARTY, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



# Treesa-Gayatri earn historic World Championships medal

**NEW DELHI**

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand capped an emotional World Championships campaign by securing India's first women's doubles medal at the event in 15 years, despite their semifinal defeat to defending champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning of China.

The Indian pair's impressive run ended with an 18-21, 21-13, 21-8 loss in the semifinal. However, their historic bronze medal marked a significant achievement for Indian badminton, ending the long wait since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa won bronze in 2011.

Gayatri described the campaign as an "amazing journey", saying the achievement had left her overwhelmed by the emotions surrounding their breakthrough performance.

The pair entered the tournament without significant momentum following injury setbacks. Treesa had missed three months of competition earlier this year after suffering an ankle injury. Their performances at the Philippines Challenge, however, helped restore their confidence.

The Indians defeated pairs from Spain and the USA in the opening rounds before producing one of the tournament's biggest upsets. They stunned fourth



Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand ended India's 15-year wait for a women's doubles World Championships medal, completing an emotional campaign with historic bronze despite their semifinal defeat.

seeds Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian of China in the quarter-finals to guarantee themselves a medal.

Gayatri said the duo entered the quarterfinal without expectations and instead focused on executing their game plan. Their confidence grew after defeating several strong opponents.

Against top seeds Liu and Tan, Treesa and Gayatri started strongly and won the opening game 21-18. They fought hard in the second and levelled the score at 10-all before the Chinese pair regained control.

Despite eventually losing the semifinal, the Indian duo's historic bronze represents a major milestone and provides renewed belief ahead of future international competitions.

## Highlights of the match

- India's first women's doubles World Championships medal since 2011.
- Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand secured bronze in the Philippines.
- Indian pair stunned fourth seeds Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian.
- Treesa returned after a three-month injury layoff.
- Defending champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning ended their run.
- Gayatri called the campaign an "amazing journey."

# Bangladesh break into test top six

## NEW DELHI

Bangladesh climbed to sixth place in the latest ICC Test team rankings, marking a historic breakthrough after their recent series against Australia.

The Bangla Tigers moved up three places to a rating of 78, surpassing the West Indies, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is the first time Bangladesh have risen above ninth position in the Test rankings, making the achievement a significant moment for the side.

Bangladesh Test captain Najmul Hossain Shanto called the rise a "huge achievement", although he admitted the team would have preferred to celebrate it after a stronger performance in the second Test against Australia.

Bangladesh famously won the opening Test in Darwin by nine wickets, securing their first Test victory on Australian soil. They bowled Australia out for 198, with Hasan Mahmud claiming six wickets, before posting 426 in their first

innings. Mehidy Hasan Miraz then helped dismiss Australia for 284 in the second innings, leaving Bangladesh with only 57 runs to chase.

Australia responded strongly in the second Test, winning by an innings and 51 runs to level the series 1-1.

Shanto believes Bangladesh need more regular exposure to Australian conditions. The recently completed series was their first Test tour of Australia in 23 years. He said most Bangladeshi players lack experience of the conditions and quality of bowling found there.

Bangladesh have also had limited opportunities in Australia across other formats. Their last ODI series there was in 2008, while they have never toured the country for a T20I series.

Shanto urged cricket authorities to schedule more frequent tours, saying consistent exposure would help players adapt and compete better.

**Bangladesh's historic rise to sixth in Test rankings has strengthened their ambitions for greater consistency and regular overseas exposure.**

# Harmeet sees mixed team medal chance

## NEW DELHI

Indian table tennis star Harmeet Desai believes the new mixed team format at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics could give India a major medal opportunity as the country makes steady progress.

The Arjuna Awardee and Olympian said India's improving strength in men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles has created a strong base for the new Olympic format. The mixed team event will feature matches across categories.

Desai pointed to the strength of India's women's team, mixed doubles and men's doubles as reasons for optimism. He said India was improving across every event and could aim to reach the medal round in Los Angeles.

Desai also welcomed the proposed 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat, saying the event could transform the state's sporting ecosystem. He said major competitions bring greater infrastructure spending, player support, international coaching and exposure.

He highlighted the Naranpura Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, where he recently competed, as an example of India's growing sports infrastructure. Desai said more such facilities could encourage young people to participate and raise competition levels.

The table tennis player credited the sport's recent growth to increased professionalism, financial support and corporate involvement. Players now increasingly have personal coaches, sparring partners, physiotherapists, physical trainers



Desai highlighted India's progress across singles, doubles and mixed doubles, along with better coaching, support teams, international exposure and improved world rankings. He believes these gains can strengthen India's medal prospects.

and dietitians. Regular international competition has also helped Indian players improve their world rankings. With athletes competing in Contender, Feeder, Smash and Star Contender events, the pressure to perform consistently has increased.

Desai believes these developments can help India build depth and enter Los Angeles with genuine medal ambitions.

Harmeet Desai: "This time there will be a new format in the 2028 Olympics which has never happened before. Mixed team.

# 'I do believe that this can be the last one': Neuer

## MUNICH

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has hinted that the 2026-27 season could be the final campaign of his illustrious career, admitting retirement is now a strong possibility.

Neuer made the comments after Bayern defeated Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in the German Super Cup. Asked whether it could be his final appearance in the competition, the 40-year-old Bayern captain replied, "Could be, could be." When asked whether he could call time on his career at the end of the season, Neuer suggested the possibility was becoming increasingly likely.

"Now is the time to enjoy everything once again. Then I'll see how the season goes. But basically, I do believe that this can be the last one," Neuer said as quoted by Goal.com.

The veteran goalkeeper had already indicated during Bayern's pre-season training camp that he was unlikely to extend his contract beyond its current term, which runs until 2027.

Neuer, however, stressed that he does not want to approach individual matches with the mindset that they could be his last. "I don't play the matches to say: This is my last match now. But it does look very much like I'm retiring," he said.

The former Germany international had previously admitted that he came close to retiring before deciding to continue with Bayern. He credited the current squad, coaching staff and the club's continued ability to challenge for major honours for influencing that decision.

## MACKAY

Australia captain Pat Cummins said his side's emphatic innings-and-51-run victory over Bangladesh in the second Test was the perfect response to their defeat in Darwin, praising the team's sharpness and strong start in Mackay.

Australia completed a remarkable turnaround by bowling Bangladesh out for 95 in their second innings after posting 210 in their first. Mitchell Starc starred with a 10-wicket match haul, claiming 6/12 in the first innings and four more wickets in the second, while Cummins and Nathan Lyon took three wickets each. The victory, which levelled the two-match series 1-1, was completed inside two days and lasted only 750 balls, making it Australia's shortest Test in almost a century. "Yeah, that's right. A lot of



things went right these couple of days, where a lot of things went wrong last week. But yeah, we needed to bounce back, and it was a great couple of days from the lads," Cummins said after the match. Australia had suffered a nine-wicket defeat in the opening Test in Darwin, but produced a vastly improved performance in Mackay, particularly with the ball and in the field. Cummins credited the team's excellent start for setting the tone of the match. "Yeah, that's it. I thought everyone was really sharp. It's a bit like the opposite last week. If you get a really good first hour or two, it can set up the rest of the match. I don't think we can expect to get six for 20 or whatever we had every match. But it was a great start and didn't really let up after that," he said. Starc led Australia's bowling attack with a career-best 10-wicket haul in a home Test, while Cummins returned figures of 3/10 in the second innings and Lyon finished with 3/25, including the final two wickets of the match.

**'We needed to bounce back': Cummins**

# 'Success will be seeing young players grow'

## CHANDIGARH

The stage is set for the 2026 edition of the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League, which will begin on August 30 at the I.S. Bindra Stadium in Chandigarh. Six teams will compete for the title, with some of Punjab's most promising young cricketers getting an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Fazilka Falcons will be led by India captain Shubman Gill, who is looking forward to being part of the tournament and playing alongside some of the state's finest young players. Speaking about his role as

captain and the team, Gill said, "I am very excited to lead the Fazilka Falcons. We have a very talented and exciting group of players, and I am really looking forward to working with the team. It will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn from each other and play some good cricket."

Gill also praised the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) for organising the league and providing a platform for young cricketers to take the next step in their careers.

"I would like to thank the Punjab Cricket Association for organising the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League. It is

a very important platform for young and talented cricketers from Punjab. They get the opportunity to perform against quality players, gain experience and show what they can do. Hopefully, many of them can use this tournament as a stepping stone to bigger opportunities," Gill said.

Having played international cricket at the highest level, Gill is also keen to share his experience with the younger members of the Fazilka Falcons squad. He believes that self-belief, match awareness and the ability to make the right decisions under pressure are important qualities for any young cricketer.

# Shubman Gill completes 3,000 test runs

## COLOMBO

India captain Shubman Gill reached a significant Test milestone on Sunday, completing 3,000 runs in the format during the opening session of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo.

Gill entered the match needing seven runs after narrowly missing the landmark in the series opener at Galle. He reached the mark in the 23rd over when he edged a delivery from Keshara Nuwantha to the boundary.

At 26 years and 349 days, Gill became the fourth-youngest Indian batter to score 3,000 Test runs. Only Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Dilip Vengsarkar reached the milestone at younger ages. Gill moved ahead of former India captain Kapil Dev, who achieved the feat at 26 years and 356 days. Gill began cautiously, taking 13 balls to open his account before

**Shubman Gill:** "It looks like a much harder, much better surface compared to Galle. I think for the first two or three days, it'll be a really good wicket to bat on."

**Dhananjaya de Silva:** "It's quite harder than Galle. I thought it's good for batting, and I don't mind bowling because, with cloud cover, maybe we can strike early and put them under pressure."



whipping left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya for a boundary.

He then reached his milestone soon afterwards. The Indian captain came to the crease after India lost Yashasvi Jaiswal for 45 to Asitha Fernando. KL Rahul had earlier been dismissed by Lahiru Kumara after edging an attempted cut behind.

India went to lunch at 88/2 after 25 overs after winning the toss and choosing to bat. The visitors made one change, with off-spin all-rounder Saransh Jain making his India debut after Kuldeep Yadav was ruled out with a viral illness. Sri Lanka also had

debutants to Kamil Mishara and Pasindu Sooriyabandara.

Gill said the Colombo pitch looked harder and better for batting than Galle, particularly during the opening days.

# Vaibhav Sooryavanshi stunned on Duleep Trophy debut

## PATNA

Batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi endured a disappointing return to competitive cricket on Sunday, managing just eight runs off six balls for East Zone in the Duleep Trophy quarter-final against North East Zone in Bengaluru. The East Zone vice-captain made an aggressive start, taking on pacer Bishworjit Konthoujam with back-to-back boundaries in the second over to signal his intent. However, Konthoujam had the final say, dismissing Sooryavanshi off the last ball of the over to provide

North East Zone with an early breakthrough.

Konthoujam pitched a back-of-a-length delivery outside off stump, and Sooryavanshi flashed hard at it, only to find the fielder at gully. The youngster looked disappointed as he made his way back to the dressing room after a brief stay at the crease.

On Saturday, former India captain Rahul Dravid said that Sooryavanshi's development needs to be balanced well, with priority given to both white-ball and red-ball formats, the latter of which he has not delivered much at the senior level. "I think you always have to find that balance. And

I think it is a great thing that Vaibhav is getting the experience of playing some white-ball cricket through the IPL in India, but he is also having the time to go back and play red-ball cricket in the Indian domestic system and grow his red-ball career," he said.

"All of us also want to see Test cricket survive, all of us want to see Test cricket grow, and we need players like him to be able to hopefully play all formats of the game," he added. Sooryavanshi only played 12 innings for Bihar in eight First-Class games with a top score of 93 and an average of 17 plus, which is nothing to write home about.