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Rs E66K cr  
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# From queues to QR codes UPI TURNS 10

Clocks nearly 13,000-fold rise in transaction volume; emerges as world's largest real-time payment system; marks a revolution in the way India pays and the journey of Digital India.

## NEW DELHI

India's revolutionary indigenous digital payment technology completed its 10 years journey today, August 24. During the last one decade, UPI has become the main component of India's digital payments ecosystem and a key booster of financial inclusion.

Launched on August 25, 2016, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is built and managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).



UPI's annual transaction volume rose from just 1.78 crore transaction in FY 2016-17 to over 24,162 crore transactions in FY 2025-26 in the last decade. It surged an almost 13,000-fold surge in transaction volume.

Meanwhile, transaction value jumped sharply from Rs 0.07 lakh crore in FY2016-17 to Rs 314 lakh crore in FY2025-26, suggesting a jump of 4000 times in transaction value.

UPI has emerged as one of the most successful pillars of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), providing an interoperable, real-time payments platform that enables seamless peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions through

a single application.

## UPI milestone in 2026

UPI's monthly transaction volumes crossed 2,300 crore transactions for the first time in May 2026, reaching 2,320 crore transactions. This momentum continued through the year, with July 2026 recording 2,366 crore transactions, the highest monthly transaction volume in UPI's decade-long journey.

## UPI goes global

UPI is currently operational in 11 countries, namely United Arab Emirates, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and Maldives. At the global level, UPI is also at the lead. As of 2025, UPI accounts for nearly 49% of the world's real-time payment transaction volume.

## How an idea changed India's payment mode

From a bold idea in 2016 to the world's largest real-time payments platform in 2026, the journey of UPI has been nothing short of legendary.

### SCALE AND GROWTH

**Volume surge:** Annual transactions skyrocketed nearly 13,000-fold from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to a staggering 24,162 crore in FY26.

**Value expansion:** Total yearly transaction values climbed from ₹70 billion to an astonishing ₹3.14 tn.

**Network:** Live member banks increased from 216 in 2021 to over 730 by 2026.

**Retail share:** UPI accounts for 81% of India's retail digital payments.

**User base:** Over 500 million active individuals and millions of registered merchants.

**Daily impact:** Processing an average of over 66 crore daily transactions, it has successfully replaced cash for hundreds of millions of users and micro-merchants across urban and rural areas.

### When world looks at India

**Global footprint:** UPI now accounts for nearly 49% of global real-time payment volume and is operational across 11 international countries.

**Global share:** India contributes 49% of global real-time payment transactions via UPI.

**Global ranking:** Recognised as the world's largest real-time payment system by the IMF

## MDR on UPI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier confirmed that the burden of a merchant discount rate (MDR - a fee paid by merchants to commercial banks and payments service providers for processing digital transactions) will be on merchants only, not on customers. This will benefit commercial banks and fintech companies, said the Finance Minister, who tabled amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act to allow an MDR fee in the tune of 0.3-0.5% on UPI transactions under certain conditions. Currently, card transactions in the country normally attract MDR to the tune of 0.9-1.5%, while UPI transactions are free for merchants.

The Union minister said that the move will promote investments in infrastructure, innovation, and security, the benefits of which will reach UPI users. She also said that no decision has been taken on the MDR matter.

## Pillar of India's digital public infra

UPI has emerged as one of the key pillars of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), combining interoperability, real-time settlement and ease of access through a unified platform. Its ability to facilitate both peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant payments through a single interface has helped expand access to digital financial services and contributed to greater financial inclusion. The government said UPI's scale, reliability and interoperability demonstrate India's ability to build digital infrastructure that is scalable, inclusive and innovative.

# Release 9,000 cusecs daily to TN: CWRC to K'taka

The order comes despite Karnataka citing sharp decline in reservoir inflows and water availability.

## BENGALURU

Karnataka has suffered another setback in the Cauvery water-sharing dispute, with the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) recommending that the state release 9,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days.

The decision was taken at the 141st meeting of the CWRC held in New Delhi. The committee directed Karnataka to ensure a flow of 9,000 cusecs at the interstate border measurement point at Biligundlu from 8 am on August 25.

The recommendation would require Karnataka to ensure a total flow of around 11.66 TMC of Cauvery water at Biligundlu during the 15-day period. The committee has asked the state to regulate releases from its reservoirs to maintain the prescribed flow.

Karnataka officials, however, highlighted the declining inflows into the state's Cauvery basin reservoirs and argued that the current situation was not favourable for maintaining high releases to Tamil Nadu.

The state informed the

committee that inflows into the four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin had declined sharply and were around 49.18% below the 30-year average.

Karnataka also pointed out that it had already released 2,16,993 cusecs of water through Biligundlu between July 29 and August 23. This included 32,493 cusecs released over and above the stipulated quantity of 1,84,500 cusecs during the period.

Officials further told the committee that the inflow into Karnataka's reservoirs had dropped drastically from around 77,048 cusecs to just 9,282 cusecs. In view of the sharp decline, they maintained that continuously releasing 12,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu would be practically difficult.

Despite Karnataka's concerns over reservoir levels and reduced inflows, the CWRC recommended maintaining the 9,000-cusec flow at Biligundlu for the next 15 days.

The recommendation comes amid the continuing dispute between

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Cauvery water, with the issue also pending before the Supreme Court.

## Water war deepens

Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) recommended that Karnataka release 9,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days, totaling roughly 11.7 TMCft, to be realized at the Biligundlu interstate point.

### Recommendation in a nutshell

**Quantum:** 9,000 cusecs per day.  
**Duration:** 15 days.  
**Total volume:** About 11.7 TMCft.

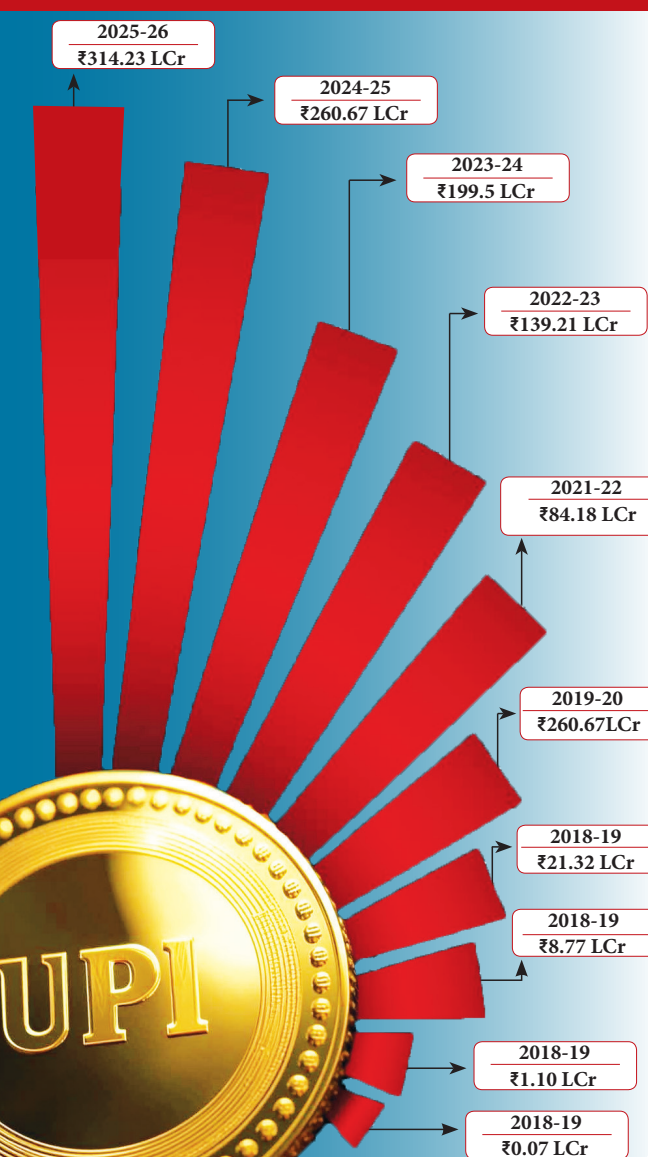
### Measurement point:

Biligundlu.

### Karnataka stance

Karnataka had earlier sought to limit or reduce releases (asking to scale back to 6,000 cusecs daily) citing distress conditions, whereas the panel's current figure sits below earlier peak demands/orders of 12,000 cusecs.

## THE RISE OF UPI



\*Annual growth snapshot (value in ₹lakh crore)

## 3 newborns die after ventilator blast triggers fire

### AMRAVATI

Three newborn babies died after a fire broke out at a government hospital in Maharashtra's Amravati in the early hours of Monday, prompting an emergency evacuation of dozens of infants undergoing treatment.

The fire reportedly erupted around 3:30 am after a ventilator exploded on the third floor. At the time of the incident, 39 newborns were admitted to the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of the Amravati District Women's Hospital.

The three infants died after suffering severe burns and smoke inhalation.

Amravati Police Commissioner Rakesh Ola told news agency PTI that the SNCU has three compartments - one each for inborn and outborn babies, and one for step-down care for children ready to be discharged. He further said that 39 infants were admitted across the three sections.

Staff Evacuate Newborns

Doctors, nurses and other hospital staff rushed to the ward after the fire broke out and began evacuating the babies. Medical equipment was disconnected and the infants were moved out of the affected area as the rescue operation got underway.

## K'taka SIR: 1.08 cr electors out of draft roll

### BENGALURU

The Karnataka Election Commission on Monday published the first draft electoral roll following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state.

Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar said over 1.07 crore names have been moved to the ASDDO (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Other) category following the exercise.

### 4.46 crore voters digitised

As per the draft roll, Karnataka now has 4,46,80,151 registered voters, a gain of 5,54,32,314 voters before the SIR exercise. Of them, details of 4,46,35,975 voters have been digitised (80.52%). The draft roll includes 2,22,01,727 male voters, 2,24,75,553 female voters and 2,871 third-gender voters.

### 7,09,870 duplicate voters identified

The EC said the exercise identified 7,09,870 duplicate voters who were registered at more than one location.

### 'No deletion without notice'

The Election Commission has also clarified that no elector's name can be deleted from the draft roll without notice and an opportunity to be heard. Any deletion must follow due process and a speaking order by the Electoral Registration Officer or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer.

### Claims and objections open till Sep 23

He said voters who have been left out of the draft roll can file claims and objections between August 24 and September 23. Applications can be submitted physically

through Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), or online through the Election Commission's voter portal and ECINET mobile application. Final electoral to be released on October 27



## AIRPORT PRIVATISATION Amritsar, Varanasi among 11 AAI airports set for PPP push

### NEW DELHI

The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee has granted in-principle approval for the privatisation of 11 Airports Authority of India airports, which will be offered in five public-private partnership bundles.

The government plans to pair one larger airport with a smaller airport in each bundle. Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhu-

baneswar, Raipur and Tiruchirappalli will serve as the anchor airports, while Kangra, Gaya, Kushinagar, Hubballi, Aurangabad and Tirupati will be bundled with them.

The approval moves the government towards the next phase of airport privatisation, with bidders set to compete for 50-

year concessions. The bidding will be based on a per-passenger fee on domestic traffic, while the government will also place a cap on the number of bundles that a single bidder can win.

The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee, or PPPAC, approves major pub-

lic-private partnership projects in India and comprises senior government secretaries. NDTV Profit accessed the PPPAC document outlining the proposal.

### Bundles

The five larger airports - Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Tiruchirappalli - will be paired with the six smaller airports.

Kangra, Gaya, Kushinagar, Hubballi, Aurangabad and Tirupati will form part of the pro-

posed bundles alongside the anchor airports.

### Bidding

Bidders will quote a per-passenger fee based on domestic traffic under the proposed model.

The airports will be awarded for a concession period of 50 years. The government will also limit the number of bundles that a single bidder can secure.

## Chinese Prez Xi likely to visit India for first time in 7 years

**NEW DELHI:** Chinese President Xi Jinping is likely to attend next month's BRICS summit in New Delhi with a large delegation, in what would be his first visit in seven years and a fresh sign of a thaw between the rivals, as per reports.

India is hosting the September 12 to 13 summit, where Xi's presence would be watched less for the BRICS agenda than for what it signals about Beijing and New

Delhi's efforts to stabilise relations after deadly border clashes in 2020. "Chinese officials are busy finalising hotels and security protocols."

Last year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China for the first time in seven years, but the relationship has only improved gradually. More recently, a fresh border-related dispute triggered sharp diplomatic exchanges between the two sides.

STORM IN THE SOUDHA

Protests, Policy, Political tussle mar monsoon session

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The monsoon session of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly has transformed into a theater of relentless political confrontation, marked by high-voltage protests, allegations of massive financial misappropriation, and the rapid passage of crucial legislative bills amidst a deafening cacophony.

The corridors of the Vidhana Soudha have been echoing with slogans, sit-ins, and deep-seated ideological clash-

es as the ruling government and the opposition lock horns over the fate of Planning and Statistics Minister B. Nagendra, alongside a slew of other pressing state issues.

What began as a standard legislative session to address the state's governance, drought conditions, and welfare schemes quickly unraveled into a relentless war of attrition between the ruling Congress party and the combined forces of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) [JDS].



Legislative Overdrive: Passing Key Bills in the Din

In a controversial move that drew the ire of the opposition, the government utilized the ongoing chaos to pass a total of eight crucial legislative bills without comprehensive debate. The bills, which carry significant implications for the state's urban planning, environmental conservation, and commercial sectors, were introduced, analyzed by ministers, and approved via voice vote while opposition MLAs protested in the well.

| Key pieces of legislation passed include:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>The Karnataka Government Parks (Conservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026:</b> Undoubtedly the most contentious of the lot, this bill allows the state government to alienate up to 5% of the total area of government parks for public utility projects through sale, lease, gift exchange, or mortgage. Deputy Chief Minister Parameshwar clarified that this alienation is strictly restricted to statutory authorities, government companies, or local authorities, and requires evaluation by an expert committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary. However, R. Ashok heavily criticized the move, warning that the Congress government was paving the way to destroy green spaces, citing fears that 10 acres of the historic Lalbagh Botanical Garden could be compromised. |
| <b>Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026:</b> Introduced by Krishna Byre Gowda, this bill aims to create a unified framework to tackle Bengaluru's infamous traffic congestion and modern transportation challenges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Karnataka Registration of Goods and Services (Amendment) Bill 2026:</b> Aimed at curbing illegal property registrations in urban areas, this legislation demands due diligence from Sub-Registrar Officers, simplifies the public registration process to avoid delays, and introduces severe penalties for hacking or tampering with the department's software portals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (2nd Amendment) Bill 2026:</b> Rural Development Minister Eshwar Khandre piloted this bill to address the rampant proliferation of unauthorized buildings and illegal land conversions in villages. The bill introduces a mechanism to levy and collect property taxes on these unauthorized structures, aiming to boost the revenue net of rural administrative bodies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Karnataka Industries (Facilities) (Amendment) Bill, 2026:</b> Piloted by MB Patil, this bill establishes a State Nodal Agency to streamline industrial setups. It elevates the Deputy Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner to head the State Level Authorized Committee and replaces traditional acceptance certificates with an affidavit-based consent system to improve ease of doing business.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2026:</b> Introduced by Labor Minister Santosh Lad, this bill modernizes fee payments through digital mediums and allows for the appointment of a sub-poena for the conciliation of offenses and appeals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2026:</b> This bill introduces stringent provisions against the creation of duplicative documents, misrepresentation, and fraud, redefining the legal standing of bona fide copies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Dissatisfaction over the rushed legislative process was palpable. MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal expressed deep frustration during Zero Hour, pointing out that crucial issues—such as relief for Krishna river flood victims, the severe state drought, farmer protests against land acquisition, vacant government posts, and the KPSC recruitment scam—were completely ignored. He accused the opposition of compromising with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and demanded an extension of the House schedule to address these pressing public matters.

Chaos on the Assembly Floor

Inside the Assembly, the physical protests outside were mirrored by unprecedented disruptions. From the moment Speaker G.S. Patil convened the House, BJP and JDS MLAs abandoned their seats, surging into the well of the House and chanting anti-government slogans.

The standoff highlighted a stark contrast in the priorities articulated by the opposing factions. BJP MLA Sunil Kumar vehemently criticized the administration, calling it the most "blatant government" he had ever witnessed. R. Ashok echoed this sentiment, declaring an overnight, indefinite sit-in. "We will protest day and night in the House until he resigns.

We will not let up for any reason," Ashok declared, emphasizing that the illegal transfer of Dalit funds could not be

swept under the rug. Conversely, the ruling benches accused the opposition of hijacking democracy and ignoring the genuine crises gripping the state. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar expressed deep frustration, pointing out that vital issues, including severe agrarian distress and the Bidadi problem, were being neglected. "The opposition parties are not interested in discussing burning issues," he noted.

Bangalore Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda brought the focus back to the severe drought plaguing the state due to a critical lack of rainfall. He lambasted the opposition for wasting precious legislative time while farmers remained in profound distress. Minister Priyank Kharge took a more combative

approach, challenging the BJP to a structured debate equipped with documentary evidence, claiming the opposition was engaging in performative politics rather than substantive parliamentary discussion. Excise Minister Shivalinge Gowda also mounted a strong defense, stating, "There are thousands of people who are accused. The moment they make allegations, they do not become criminals. There are 150 ministers in the country who are accused. You are well-practiced and are shouting."

Despite the cacophony, Speaker G.S. Patil firmly pushed forward with the official business, allowing reports to be submitted and navigating through the Question Hour amidst relentless sloganeering.



Public Health: Combating Epidemics and Fake Drugs

A way from the political grandstanding, the session also brought critical public health issues to the forefront. Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader addressed the growing panic surrounding the H1N1 influenza outbreak.

Providing concrete statistics, Khader revealed that 4,212 H1N1 cases had been detected in the state since January, with the highest concentration in the Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts.

However, he quickly moved to dispel rumors of a massive outbreak in educational institutions. Clarifying a media report about a school where two teachers contracted a fever, Khader confirmed that no students were infected and the



rumors of widespread school transmissions were entirely false.

To ensure safety, the Health Department is issuing com-

prehensive guidelines to all schools and colleges. Khader urged the public to adopt basic hygiene protocols, such as drinking hot water, and advised those exhibiting fever symptoms to isolate themselves and seek medical examination if symptoms persist beyond three days.

He assured the House that government hospitals are fully equipped with separate beds and an ample stock of medicines.

Furthermore, fast-tracked tender processes have been approved to procure essential drugs within 15 days, with emergency procurement powers decentralized to the district level.

The minister also provided updates on a major ongoing investigation into a fake med-

The Siege of Vidhana Soudha and the Walmiki Corporation Fallout

The primary catalyst for the legislative paralysis is the multi-crore scandal involving the Walmiki Development Corporation. The opposition has mounted an unyielding campaign demanding the immediate dismissal and resignation of Minister B. Nagendra. The controversy stems from the alleged illegal transfer and misappropriation of funds amounting to Rs 187 crore meant for the welfare of

the Dalit and Walmiki communities.

The political friction reached a boiling point when the BJP and JDS launched a highly coordinated, unprecedented attempt to physically lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha.

In a strategic maneuver, the opposition legislators and party workers mobilized into four distinct teams, launching their march from four different nerve centers across the city:

|                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Team One marched from Freedom Park, a traditional stronghold for democratic protests. |
| Team Two advanced from the vicinity of the Raj Bhavan.                                |
| Team Three mobilized from the Legislators' Home (MLAs' House).                        |
| Team Four advanced from the Right to Information Commission office.                   |

Their objective was to blockade the four main gates of the state secretariat. However, city police had anticipated the escalation. A formidable security ring, complete with heavy barricading, was established around the perimeter. Only personnel with valid identification were permitted entry. As the protesters, led by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok and BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra, aggressively tried to breach the security cordons, scuffles broke out. Police officers intercepted the marchers, forming human chains and detaining the leaders mid-

route. Stray groups of workers attempting to bypass the blockades via the nearby metro station were chased and detained by authorities.

The opposition's stance remains resolute. Former minister Raju Gowda, MLA Munirathna, and Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy held placards accusing the Congress of betraying the Walmiki community. They highlighted the tragic suicide note of the corporation's Auditor General, P. Chandrasekaran, which originally blew the lid off the financial irregularities in 2024.

| STATS                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Karnataka recorded 4,212 H1N1 cases since January.           |
| • Bengaluru districts reported the highest H1N1 concentration. |
| • No students infected in reported school incident.            |
| • Government hospitals maintain separate beds and medicines.   |
| • Essential drug procurement targeted within 15 days.          |
| • No fake medicines entered government hospital supplies.      |

Welfare Scrutiny: Ration Cards, Drinking Water, and BPL Purification

The session provided deep insights into the management of Karnataka's massive welfare infrastructure. Responding to widespread rumors, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad categorically clarified that no eligible ration cards have been cancelled in the state.

The scale of the state's Public Distribution System (PDS) was laid bare in staggering numbers. The state currently manages a total of 1,54,64,226 ration cards, serving a colossal 5,46,45,167 beneficiaries.

Minister Arshad noted that since 2023, the government has expended a massive Rs 22,75,675.40 crore on the overall ration system, heavily driven by the state's flagship Annabhagya scheme providing additional rice. While assuring that no genuine beneficiary would be denied



food rights, he acknowledged the existence of fake beneficiaries and duplicate registrations. The government is actively identifying these anomalies. Furthermore, strict legal actions are promised against any of the 20,547 fair price shops found guilty of malpractice, whose

| The breakdown is as follows:                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Antyodaya Anna Yojana (Central Govt):</b> 10,44,580 cards covering 42,52,559 beneficiaries. |
| • <b>Priority Families (Central Govt):</b> 98,36,123 cards covering 3,59,08,741 beneficiaries.   |
| • <b>Priority Families (State Govt):</b> 16,11,586 cards covering 42,70,802 beneficiaries.       |
| • <b>Non-Priority Families:</b> 29,71,937 cards covering 1,02,13,065 beneficiaries.              |

owners currently receive a commission of Rs 1.50 per kilogram for distribution.

Simultaneously, Deputy Chief Minister Parameshwar addressed the ongoing purification of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) database. The government has identified 24,315 BPL card beneficiaries as "suspicious." At the Village Accountant level, action has been initiated on

23,671 cases—resulting in the servicing of 20,431 cases and the continuation of 3,240. Additionally, thousands of beneficiaries failed to provide necessary income certificates or were completely unreachable. To prevent the leakage of pension funds, the state is heavily relying on cross-verified family data to enforce income limits. Parameshwar also noted that a proposal to raise the family income limit for pensions to Rs 32,000 is currently under review by the Finance Department.

On the infrastructure front, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre addressed the status of the state's clean drinking water units. Out of 20,340 total units, 17,708 are currently functional. However, 602 units have reported deficiencies, and 2,530 require comprehensive repairs.

drinking water to 758 villages through 149 tankers and has hired 714 private borewells. In urban areas, tankers are serving 114 wards across 18 local bodies, supported by 18 hired borewells. Officials estimate that shortages could affect 2,059 gram panchayats next summer if conditions worsen. The state has also stored 152 lakh tonnes of fodder, enough for about 33 weeks to support vulnerable rural families.

Rain Deficit Puts Karnataka Farmers Under Pressure

Karnataka is facing a serious drought threat after receiving only 454 mm of rain between June 1 and August 24, against the expected 654 mm, leaving the state with a 31 percent rainfall shortage.

North Interior Karnataka is 31 percent deficient, South Interior 41 percent, the mountainous region 35 percent and the coast 24 percent. Of 240 taluks, 175 have rainfall shortages, while 14 face se-

vere deficits.

Weather agencies warn that rainfall may remain below normal through the rest of August and September. By August 14, farmers had sown about 60 lakh hectares, or 71 percent of the planned 84.10 lakh hectares. Officials are encouraging farmers to choose short duration crops that can survive with limited rainfall and reduce the risk of crop failure during dry months. Groundwater is under

serious stress in 132 taluks, raising fears that conditions could worsen. Reservoirs hold 679.6 TMC, below the 790 TMC recorded at the same time last year. KRS has only 61 percent storage, while several small irrigation and Zilla Panchayat lakes have very little water. These shortages are putting additional pressure on drinking water supplies across the state.

To meet immediate needs, the government is supplying

The Broader Political Canvas: Electoral Rolls, KPSC, and Corporate Meetings

Beyond the immediate legislative boundaries, the session served as a platform for addressing broader national and state-level political controversies.

Minister Priyank Kharge delivered a scathing indictment of the central BJP leadership and the Election Commission.

He alleged a systemic, politically motivated conspiracy to disenfranchise voters in non-BJP ruled states. According to Kharge, the Election Commission has suspiciously kept over 1.10 crore voters in Karnataka in a "neutral position," effectively stripping them of their electoral rights.

He compared this to similar alleged voter list manipulations in West Bengal, contrasting it with the smooth electoral roll processes in BJP-ruled states like Maharashtra and Gujarat. "The fact that about 1.10 crore voters are being left out is evidence of the authoritarian attitude of the Election Commission," Kharge stated, accusing the BJP of using the constitutional body to subvert democracy.

Kharge also robustly defended Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's recent meeting with controversial industrialist Gautam Adani. Dismissing the opposition's uproar, Kharge stated that if Adani's company qualifies as the L1 (lowest) bidder in a govern-



ment project contract—specifically pointing to the upcoming tunnel project—it is standard procedure for the industrialist to meet the Chief Minister.

He emphasized that the Adani Group operates Asia's largest ACC cement factory in his constituency legally, and as long as the government's stringent bidding standards are met, the state has no objection to doing business with them.

Addressing the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam, Kharge projected a zero-tolerance policy. Assuring the thousands of youth whose aspirations have been derailed by the irregularities, he declared that the government would not protect anyone—be it the KPSC president or

the controller. The state government has received a letter from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and has promised full cooperation in the ongoing probe.

Finally, touching upon the very issue that triggered the legislative paralysis—the prosecution of Minister Nagendra—Kharge pointed out the alleged hypocrisy of the Governor's office.

While the state government respects the Governor's decision to grant the CBI permission to prosecute Nagendra, Kharge questioned why this was treated as an expedited special case.

He demanded that the Governor apply the same urgency to the numerous pending applications seeking permission to prosecute other prominent politicians in the state.



Quick Read



Student drowns in lake; PSI joins search

**KUMTA**  
An 18-year-old student, Prashanth Keshav Mukri, drowned while swimming with friends at Jaddikere near Walagalli in Kumta taluk, Uttara Kannada district. He reportedly drowned after being caught unaware by the depth and water current. After receiving information, Kumta police and fire personnel rushed to the spot and launched a search operation with the help of local swimmers. Kumta police PSI Khader Basha personally entered the lake and joined the search. He assisted fire personnel and local swimmers in locating and retrieving the student's body. Locals appreciated the PSI's courage, dedication and humanitarian approach. A case has been registered at Kumta police station, and further legal procedures are underway.

Two Andhra women drown during Hampi trip

**VIJAYANAGARA**  
Two women from Andhra Pradesh drowned while visiting Hampi, and both bodies have been recovered. The incident occurred near the bathing ghat close to the Virupaksha Temple. The body of 17-year-old Yasmeen, who was swept away while bathing on Saturday morning, was found at Chakratirtha, about one kilometre from the incident spot, on Sunday evening. An 11-member SDRF team from Davanagere, fire personnel from Hosapete and local swimmers conducted an intensive search using boats and coracles. The family of 12 from Kurnool district had arrived in Hampi on Friday evening. Yasmeen reportedly slipped on a wet rock and fell into the water. Her mother, Shaheen, also drowned while attempting to rescue her. Shaheen's body was recovered. The bodies will be handed over to the family after post-mortem procedures.

Power bank explodes in youth's pocket

**BAGALKOT**  
A 21-year-old youth suffered burn injuries after a power bank kept in his pocket suddenly exploded near an ATM at the Jamkhandi bus stand in Bagalkot district. The injured youth, identified as Siddu Salunki, was walking near the bus stand when the power bank reportedly burst into flames. The explosion completely damaged the device, while the fire spread to his T-shirt and trousers. He sustained burn injuries to his legs, abdomen and waist. Local residents immediately rescued him and shifted him to the Jamkhandi taluk hospital for treatment. Doctors said there was no serious threat to his life and that he is recovering. The incident has raised concerns over the safety of power banks and lithium-battery devices.

Bhadra water demand triggers Davanagere bandh

Farmers urged the govt to urgently release Bhadra canal water to protect standing crops and secure drinking water supplies.

DAVANAGERE

Farmers in Davanagere have called for a city-wide bandh on Monday, demanding the immediate release of water from the Bhadra reservoir through canals for drinking water and agricultural needs. The bandh has been called by the Bharatiya Raitha Okkuta, with a protest planned under the leadership of former minister S.A. Ravindranath. Farmers have urged the government to release Bhadra canal water without further delay to protect standing crops and meet drinking water requirements. Residents, traders and people from various sections of society have extended support to the bandh, according to the organisers. With a large gathering expected during the protest, police have made elaborate security arrangements across the city as a precautionary measure. Additional personnel have



| AT A GLANCE                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support:</b> Wide societal backing for bandh.                  |
| <b>Security:</b> Heavy police deployment at junctions.            |
| <b>Vigilance:</b> Authorities monitoring tense farmer agitations. |
| <b>Grievance:</b> Delayed water release despite reserves.         |
| <b>Demand:</b> Immediate water for crops, drinking.               |
| <b>Warning:</b> Threat of intensifying future protests.           |

been deployed at major junctions and other sensitive locations to prevent any untoward incident. Police are closely

monitoring the situation as the farmers have indicated that the agitation could intensify if their demands are not addressed. Farmers have expressed anger over the government's alleged delay in releasing water despite the Bhadra reservoir having around 175 feet of water. They have accused the authorities of neglecting the interests of farmers and alleged that water is being withheld for other purposes. The farmers have demanded that water be released immediately for crops and drinking water requirements. They warned that failure to release Bhadra water would lead to stronger protests in the coming days. The bandh is expected to affect normal commercial activity and traffic movement in parts of Davanagere. Authorities have appealed to protesters and the public to maintain peace and cooperate with security personnel.

Sirasangi Lingraj Desai remembered on death anniversary

HUBBALLI

The 120th death anniversary of philanthropist and educationist Sirasangi Sri Lingraj Desai was observed with Shraddha and respect in Hubballi, commemorating his immense contribution to education and social welfare. The Horkeri Masthar Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee jointly organised the programme at the Sri Lingraj Multipurpose Institution premises in Bharati Nagar. During the programme, floral tributes were offered to the statue of Sirasangi Sri Lingraj Desai, founder-president of the All India Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha. The programme was held in the presence of Niranjan Jagadguru Fakir Dingaleswar Mahaswamiji of the Shirahatti Sri Jagadguru Fakirashwar Sansthan Peetha. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Suresh D. Horkeri, librarian and trustee of the Horkeri Masthar Education Foundation, said Sirasangi Lingraj Desai had earned a permanent place in people's hearts through his extraordinary generosity and commitment to education. He said Lingraj Desai had a deep desire to ensure that children from poor and backward families of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community received access to education. He donated his entire estate for public welfare and played a significant role in creating an environment that encouraged the establishment of several educational institutions.

Ambedkar is an ideology, not just a person: Prof Sali

BALLARI

Dr B.R. Ambedkar should not be viewed merely as an individual, but his ideology, philosophy and social vision must be understood deeply, said Prof. N.M. Sali, Registrar (Evaluation) of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University. He was speaking after inaugurating the 'Reading Ambedkar' special programme and prize distribution ceremony for winners of an essay competition, organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at Saraladevi Satishchandra Agarwal Government First Grade College in Ballari on Monday. He said students should study not only Ambedkar's life but also his writings and ideas on social inequalities and reforms. Prof. Sali said Ambedkar's vision should not remain limited to slogans but should be reflected through knowledge,



Advised students not to give excessive importance to expensive mobile phones and fashion, but instead develop skills and abilities that would help them build meaningful lives.

—Prof. N.M. Sali, Evaluation of Sri Krishnadevaraya University

awareness and a sense of social responsibility. Becoming responsible citizens, regardless of their chosen profession, would be the true tribute to Ambedkar, he said. College Principal Prof. Prahlad Choudhary G. said the Constitution was the

Draft electoral roll published in Koppal district

KOPPAL

The draft electoral roll for Koppal district was published on Monday as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) of electoral rolls, with District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal urging eligible citizens to verify their details and submit claims or objections within the stipulated period. Addressing representatives of recognised political parties at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Dr. Itnal said the revision was being carried out as per the Election Commission of India's directions, with October 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. The draft roll was published on August 24, while claims and objections can be submitted until September 23. The final electoral roll will be published on October 27. The draft rolls are available at the offices of Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, all polling stations and the district administration website. Thirty-seven addi-



To verify your voter registration status, check draft roll updates, or review upcoming electoral timelines.

tional polling stations have been created in areas having more than 1,200 voters, taking the total number of polling stations to 1,352. The district has identified 1,48,826 voters under categories including absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate entries. Citizens can submit Form 6 for new registrations, Form 6A for overseas Indian voters, Form 7 for deletion and Form 8 for corrections through Booth Level Officers, the ECINET mobile application or the Election Commission's voter portal. Special registration drives

will be conducted on August 29-30 and September 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20 at residential areas, apartments, educational institutions and industrial establishments. Political party representatives appreciated the district administration and BLOs for conducting the SIR process systematically. The draft electoral rolls were also distributed to representatives at the meeting.

According to the draft, Koppal district has 10,41,388 voters across five Assembly constituencies — Kushtagi, Kanakagiri, Gangavathi, Yelburga and Koppal. The electorate includes 5,19,142 male voters, 5,22,189 female voters and 57 voters belonging to other categories.

—Dr. Itnal, Deputy Commissioner

Student found dead at Belagavi residential school

CHIKKODI

A 15-year-old student was found dead under suspicious circumstances at the Morarji Desai Residential School in Suttatti village of Raibag taluk in Belagavi district on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Gautham Bhanjantri. His body was found hanging from a window inside one of the school rooms. School staff immediately informed the police after noticing the incident. On receiving the news, the boy's parents rushed to the residential school. The student's mother, Lakshmi Bai Bhanjantri, expressed strong anger over the death and alleged that her son was murdered. She claimed that Gautham was not in a state of mind to take his own life and alleged that he may have been assaulted inside the school before being hanged from the window

to make the incident appear like a suicide. Officials from the Social Welfare Department and police visited the school and inspected the scene. Ramanagouda Kannolli, Joint Director of the Social Welfare Department in Belagavi district, also visited the spot and reviewed the circumstances surrounding the death. Speaking to the media, Kannolli said officials from the department and police had jointly inspected the location and conducted the spot mahazar. He said the student's body had been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem examination. He added that a case had been registered based on the complaint submitted by the boy's parents and that a detailed investigation would be conducted. The exact cause and circumstances of the death are expected to become clear after the post-mortem report is received.

Seven held for running illegal drug factory

BELAGAVI

Police have arrested seven people for allegedly running an illegal drug manufacturing unit under the guise of a poultry farm in Rajagoli village of Chandgad taluk in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district. The accused were reportedly operating the facility from a poultry farm and allegedly manufacturing MDMA-based narcotic substances. According to police, the drugs were being supplied across three states — Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. Officials of the Maharashtra Anti-Narcotics Task Force conducted a raid on the suspected manufacturing facility and arrested all seven accused. Two of those arrested are reportedly from Belagavi district. During the operation, authorities seized 208 grams of drugs valued at around Rs 1.13 crore. Police also recovered various chemicals and equipment allegedly used for manufacturing the narcotic substances. Rajagoli village, where the alleged drug manufacturing unit was being operated, is located around 20 km from Belagavi district, raising concerns about the possible movement of illegal drugs across the state border.

Betageri Railway committee celebrates district formation day

BETAGERI

The Betageri Railway Struggle Committee celebrated the 30th anniversary of Gadag district's formation at K.C. Park in Betageri on Monday. Gadag district was formed on August 24, 1997, and has now completed 29 years. To mark the occasion, members of the Betageri Railway Struggle Committee organised a special programme at 10 a.m. on Monday. The event was held under the leadership of committee president Ganeshsingh Byali. Committee members exchanged sweets and expressed happiness while commemorating the formation of the district. They recalled the sig-



nificance of the district's creation and the developments witnessed over the past three decades. Several prominent members and supporters attended the programme. Those present included M.T. Kabbin, Mansukhlal Punekar, Anjaneya Guntakalla, Bhojappa Hegga-di, Ashok Angadi and Arjunas Merwade, among others. The members also highlighted the importance of continued public participation in addressing the region's devel-

opment needs, including long-pending railway-related demands. The celebration provided an opportunity for committee members and supporters to come together and remember the history associated with the formation of Gadag district. The organisers conveyed their greetings to the people of Gadag district on the occasion and expressed hope that the district would witness further development in the years ahead.

NATIONAL UNITY

YOUTH URGED TO JOIN 'BHARAT JODO YOUTH CLUBS'

GADAG

Youth participation is essential for establishing "Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs" across Gadag district, as such organisations can promote national spirit, social awareness, harmony and a sense of service among young people, Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said on Monday. Addressing a video conference meeting on the formation of Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs at the KSWAN video conference hall of the District Administration Bhavan, Sridhar said youth organisations would provide an important platform for young



Officials urged to form youth clubs

The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to establish youth clubs across all taluks and gram panchayats within a strict timeframe. These groups will foster leadership, community participation, and constructive social engagement while steering young people away from harmful habits.

people to actively contribute to social development and national unity. He said bringing young people into the mainstream of society would help strengthen social integration and contribute to the development of the country. Youth from both rural and urban areas should actively participate in organisational activities and take up constructive initiatives for the welfare of society, he added. The Deputy Commissioner said the clubs would also help develop leadership qualities among youth and increase their participation in community development. He

directed officials to complete the formation of youth clubs in all taluks and gram panchayat areas within the stipulated timeframe. Taluk-level officials, Panchayat Development Officers and staff of other concerned departments were instructed to work in coordination to ensure the successful implementation of the programme. Awareness activities will also be conducted to encourage more young people to join the clubs and benefit from their programmes. The meeting discussed the process of establishing youth clubs at village and ward levels, their function-

ing and plans for future activities. Sridhar directed officials and organisers to encourage young people to stay away from harmful habits and participate in constructive social and cultural activities. Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary C.R. Mundaragi, Zilla Panchayat Planning Director M.V. Chalageri, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department Assistant Director Dr. Sharanu Gogeri, Gadag Tahsildar Srinivasamurthy Kulkarni, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Dr. H.S. Jinaga and senior officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Quick Read

Draft voter list published in Bengaluru Rural district

**CH NEWS,** Devanahalli  
A total of 7,96,138 voters have been included in the draft electoral roll published as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 in Bengaluru Rural district, said District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.N. Anuradha. Speaking at a press conference at the Deputy Commissioner's court hall on Monday, she said the draft voter list has been displayed at all taluk offices, taluk panchayats and gram panchayats for public inspection. Voters and political party representatives can submit claims and objections from August 24 to September 23. Of the 9,12,913 voters recorded in the district as of June 16, 2026, the draft list includes 3,91,515 male voters, 4,04,564 female voters and 59 voters from other categories. A total of 1,16,775 voters have been identified under absent, permanently migrated, deceased, duplicate and other categories. This includes 65,009 permanent migrants, 25,161 deceased voters, 12,212 duplicate registrations, 13,607 absent voters and 786 others. The district administration will issue notices to 56,369 voters, including 26,299 voters whose details could not be mapped and 30,070 voters with errors relating to names, addresses and other particulars.

MLA launches ₹5.2 crore road development works

MANDYA

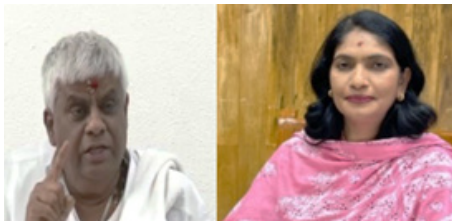
Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar Ganiga performed the bhoomi puja for various road development works costing more than ₹5.20 crore at Muddungere village in the taluk. The works include development of the road connecting Channankegowdanoddi with Hanakere village, the road from Muddungere to Sollenapura and the Alakere Pickup Canal Road. Speaking after the ceremony, Ganiga said village leaders had repeatedly raised concerns about the poor condition of roads in the area. Taking their concerns into consideration, he had secured funds and launched the road development works worth ₹5.20 crore, he said. The MLA said the latest project was the second major development work being taken up in Muddungere village. Several development projects had been implemented in the

Hassan DC post sparks fresh Revanna row

H.D. Revanna questioned the rationale behind altered reservations in his party's strongholds, claiming deliberate manipulation.

HASSAN

Hassan Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari has triggered fresh speculation about an indirect response to former minister H.D. Revanna's recent criticism of her functioning over the reservation process for gram panchayat elections. Revanna had strongly questioned the Deputy Commissioner's actions, alleging that reservation categories for sev-



eral gram panchayats had been changed unfairly. He claimed that the reservations were altered in areas where his party had a strong voter base and

Along with MLAs A. Manju and H.P. Swaroop Prakash, had addressed a joint press conference on August 21 and sharply criticised the district administration. He alleged that similar developments had repeatedly occurred in Hassan district and accused the Deputy Commissioner of holding meetings without adequately addressing public concerns.

- H.D. Revanna, former minister

questioned the basis on which the changes were made. Amid the controversy, Latha Kumari shared a post on her official X account stating, "If

they cannot control you, they hate you." Though the post did not directly name anyone, it has led to speculation that it was aimed at Revanna's allegations.

The former minister had earlier accused the Deputy Commissioner of changing the reservation list submitted by tahsildars and demanded an explanation for the changes. He also alleged that the draft reservation list should have been published and questioned the manner in which the process was handled. He warned that JD(S) leaders would stage a protest under the leadership of former Chief

Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Revanna said the government would be given a week to correct the reservation list. If the demand was not met, he threatened that four JD(S) MLAs would lead a protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office. The political dispute has now intensified following the Deputy Commissioner's social media post, although she has not explicitly stated that it was directed at Revanna.

Voters served notices must appear personally: DC

KARWAR

Voters who have received notices during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls must appear personally for the hearing and submit the required documents, Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya said. She was speaking at a meeting with representatives of political parties held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday. She said the district has 12,30,037 registered voters, of whom 11,23,022 have been mapped. A total of 1,07,015 voters have been identified under categories including migration, shifting, death, duplicate registration and other cases. Notices will be issued to 65,330 voters for

verification. The concerned voters will receive notices through Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Those receiving notices must appear at the place, date and time mentioned in the notice and produce the necessary documents. Voters who fail to attend the first hearing will be given another opportunity. However, a maximum of two hearing dates will be provided, the DC said. The period for filing claims and objections will continue until September 23. Eligible citizens who attain 18 years of age by October 1, 2026, can apply for inclusion of their names by submitting Form 6 along with the required documents. Applications for deletion can be submitted through Form 7, while corrections and

changes in polling stations or constituencies can also be requested. The draft electoral roll published in the district contains 11,23,022 voters, including 5,62,004 men, 5,61,014 women and four transgender voters across six Assembly constituencies. Following polling station rationalisation, 78 new polling stations have been established, taking the total to 1,523. The administration will carefully examine all claims and objections to ensure that no eligible voter is excluded from the electoral roll. All claims and objections will be disposed of by October 22, and the final electoral roll will be published on October 27, the Deputy Commissioner said.

Farmers intensify protest over cauvery water

MANDYA

Protests have intensified in Mandya and Mysuru against the release of Cauvery river water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, with farmers and pro-Kannada activists expressing concern over the impact on drinking water and agriculture in the state. Activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike staged a protest at Sanjay Circle in Mandya, opposing the release of water to Tamil Nadu. Protesters said Karnataka was already facing inadequate rainfall and that the Cauvery basin had not received sufficient rain. They argued that releasing water at this stage could create serious difficulties for farmers in the state. Farmers' organisations expressed concern that Karnataka could face a shortage of water

for irrigation and drinking purposes if the release continued. They claimed Tamil Nadu could receive rainfall in the coming days, reducing its immediate water requirements, while Karnataka's farmers could be left struggling due to the prevailing shortage. The protesters demanded that the state government present the ground situation before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and strongly argue Karnataka's case. They criticised the government for allegedly prioritising Tamil Nadu's interests over the state's own water requirements. The activists urged the government to immediately stop releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu and take steps to protect Karnataka's drinking water and agricultural needs. Similar protests were also held in Mysuru, with farmers

| Protest Points                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Farmers protest continued Cauvery water releases.            |
| ■ Karnataka fears severe drinking water shortages.             |
| ■ Protesters demand strong state government action.            |
| ■ Activists claim Tamil Nadu has sufficient rainfall.          |
| ■ Mysuru hosts similar demonstrations against releases.        |
| ■ Dispute highlights long-standing interstate water conflicts. |

and activists raising concerns over the continued release of Cauvery water. The issue has once again brought the long-standing Karnataka-Tamil Nadu water-sharing dispute into focus. Protesters warned that they would continue their agitation if the government failed to reconsider the water release and take measures to safeguard the interests of farmers and residents of Karnataka.

Dead beggar's house yields Rs 8.4 lakh

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A surprising discovery was made at the house of Noor Unnisa, an elderly beggar who died of age-related illness on August 19 in Guttalu locality of Mandya. Relatives found Rs 8.40 lakh in cash at her residence after completing her funeral. Unnisa had reportedly been begging for several years and lived alone in a rented house. After her sister died two years ago, she continued living alone. Relatives discovered bags filled with coins and bundles of currency notes. The money was counted over two days at a mosque in the presence of relatives, police and community leaders. Several people took part in counting the large quantity of coins and notes. Community leader Mukhtar Ahmed said Unnisa had hearing and communication difficulties but continued begging despite relatives advising her against it.



constituency during the past three years, he said, adding that more works would be undertaken in the coming days. He assured residents that efforts would continue to improve road connectivity and provide better infrastructure in rural areas. The MLA said development works would be taken up based on local requirements and the concerns raised by residents. Local leaders welcomed the launch of the road works and expressed hope that the projects would be completed with-

in the stipulated period and provide better connectivity to surrounding villages. The programme was attended by local leaders M.C. Narayanappa, M.S. Krishna, Alakere Krishnegowda, So. Shi. Prakash, M.V. Jagadish, Danayakanapura Shankaregowda, Hanumegowda and M.S. Ramu, among others. Residents also welcomed the initiative, stating that improved roads would benefit farmers, students, workers and other commuters travelling between the villages.

Manasa foundation's social service sets example: Salur Seer

CHAMARAJANAGAR

The social service initiatives undertaken by Manasa Foundation are exemplary and beneficial to society, said Dr. Sri Sri Shantamallikarjuna Swamiji, pontiff of the Salur Mutt at Male Mahadeshwara Hills. Speaking after inaugurating a programme at Gowrishankar Kalyana Mantapa in Hanur town, the seer praised the joint initiative of Manasa Foundation, Manasa Educational Institutions of Kollegala, Minds Coding Academy and Key2iR, Bengaluru. He said rural areas have immense talent, but many young people face difficulties in finding suitable employment. While parents often focus on their children's education and marriage, many youngsters aspire to build careers. Organisations such as Manasa Foundation can serve as a bridge between talented youth and employment opportunities. The seer appreciated the par-



ticipation of more than 60 companies in the mega job fair. Employment not only provides financial stability but also enhances an individual's dignity and responsibility towards the family. He said the contribution of youth is crucial to the country's economic progress and encouraged rural youngsters to utilise such opportunities to develop socially and economically. Manasa Educational Institutions secretary and political leader Dr. Dattesh Kumar said children from the region possess considerable knowledge and talent but often hesitate to take up employment opportunities. He cited Sachin Tendulkar as an example of how

recognising talent can lead to national-level achievement. He said 720 candidates were selected for jobs in the previous year, but several did not join. He urged students to gain experience by joining available jobs and making proper use of opportunities. A total of 940 candidates registered for the job fair. Of these, 254 registered online and 686 participated offline. Organisers distributed 231 offer letters, shortlisted 136 candidates, and issued digital offer letters to 33 candidates. Nagaraju, Shaktimati Trivedi, Manasa College principal Krishnegowda and others were present.

Kolar draft voter list excludes 1.71 lakh electors

KOLAR

As many as 1,71,034 voters have been excluded from the draft electoral roll in Kolar district following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravikumar said on Monday. Addressing the media at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Ravikumar said the district had 12,95,265 registered voters be-



fore the SIR exercise. Following the revision, 11,24,231 voters have been retained in the draft list. This includes 5,58,680 men, 5,65,461 women and 90 voters belonging to other categories. According to the Deputy Commissioner, the 1,71,034 excluded voters include 37,527 voters who were found absent, 86,992 who had permanently shifted, 29,006 deceased voters and 16,285 duplicate entries. The SIR process began on

June 30 and was completed on August 18 across the district. Kolar currently has 1,578 polling stations. Political party representatives have been informed about the revision process, the Deputy Commissioner said. Voters whose names have been omitted or those seeking corrections can submit claims and objections through the prescribed process. Eligible persons can apply for inclusion of their names using Form 6, he said. Ravikumar said the revision exercise had been completed

smoothly in the district and thanked officials and staff for their cooperation. He also said that KGF and Malur taluks recorded a relatively higher number of exclusions, with around 20,000 voters removed from the rolls in each area. The higher number was attributed largely to migration from these areas. He urged eligible citizens to verify their names in the draft electoral roll and submit applications or objections within the stipulated period to ensure that genuine voters are not left out.

Farmers-scientists dialogue on silk farming today

CHITRADURGA

The Central Silk Board and the Chitradurga Sericulture Department will jointly organise a farmers-scientists interaction under the "My Silk, My Pride" (MRMA) campaign on August 25.

The programme will begin at 11 a.m. at the Deputy Director's office of the Sericulture Dept in Chitradurga. MP Govind M. Karjol will attend as the chief guest. Scientists Dr. Y. Srinivasulu from the Regional Sericulture Research Centre, Central Silk

Board, Chitradurga, Sericulture Dept Deputy Director S. Bojana will participate along with other scientists and officials. The interaction will focus on the present status of sericulture, farmers' problems, technical solutions and ways to increase silk production.

MAGADI

Magadi farmers' cooperative society posts ₹54 lakh profit

MAGADI

The Taluk Agricultural Produce Marketing Cooperative Society has earned a profit of ₹54 lakh during the current financial year and has set a target of achieving ₹1 crore profit next year, said society president Honnapur Shivaprasad. Speaking after inaugurating the TAPCMS annual general meeting at the Bamool office meeting hall in Hosapete, he said the society had earned ₹27 lakh profit last year. With the guidance of Minister H.C. Balakrishna and BDCC Bank president H.N. Ashok, the society improved its performance



and achieved ₹54 lakh profit this year. The society has also strengthened its assets and storage facilities. Two warehouses and a commercial complex have been constructed on 1.22 acres of land near the Hosapete Gate. One warehouse has been leased to the KMFCC for ₹82,000. A 33-gunta site is also proposed to be leased for

construction of a large hotel at an annual rent of ₹2.80 lakh. The society is helping farmers by constructing warehouses to store fertilisers and supplying them at affordable prices. A new agricultural equipment sales centre selling pumps, motors, pipes and other farm implements will also be launched shortly. A ₹20 lakh V-bricks

unit has been established. Its warehouse will be inaugurated on September 6, along with the society's 'Vajra Mahotsava'. Special gifts will be distributed to members during the event. As part of its social service activities, arrangements have been made to provide food to around 10,000 devotees attending the Sriranganatha Swamy annual fair. More than 20 meritorious students were also honoured with talent awards. Secretary M.G. Narayan said fertilisers were being distributed to farmers and 59 Nyayabele shops. Director Somashakar said plans were underway to establish an Adike and Ragi market for farmers.

FSL report reveals key Hanur shootout details

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

The post-mortem and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports in the Hanur forest shootout case have revealed important details about the deaths of Antoniswamy, Peter and Kumar. The post-mortem examinations conducted at Mysuru's KR Hospital found bullet injuries on the chest, abdomen and thigh regions of the three deceased. The reports also recorded details about the depth of the bullet wounds. The FSL report reportedly found gunpow-

der primer particles in the undergarments of Antoniswamy and Peter. It also indicated that the exchange of fire took place at close range. Police have questioned 12 forest personnel who were present at the Holamuridatti and Bettagarada Gudda anti-poaching camps on the day of the incident. Investigators have also recorded the statement of Mahimdas, described as the only eyewitness. Police are comparing his account with statements from the 12 forest personnel to establish what happened during the shootout.



# Shirpur Model Planned Across 224 Constituencies

A dashboard tracking constituency-wise planned projects will launch soon

## KALABURAGI

Karnataka will give priority to implementing groundwater recharge projects across all 224 Assembly constituencies by adopting the Shirpur model of Maharashtra, Small Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister Dr. Ajay Singh said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference at the KKRDB office,

Singh said projects including lake filling, lift irrigation, bridge-cum-barrages, check dams and gokattas would be taken up to improve ground-water levels. A dashboard detailing the projects planned in each constituency will soon be launched, he said.

The Small Irrigation Department has received Rs 3,333 crore for 2026-27. Of the 3,810 lakes under the de-

partment, 925 have been identified for filling. The minister said 687 barrages, check dams and vented dams constructed in recent years have provided irrigation facilities to 40,316 hectares.

In Kalyana Karnataka, eight lift irrigation projects estimated at Rs 1,811 crore are under implementation to fill around 88 lakes. Another Rs 225 crore has been ear-

marked for groundwater recharge works in 25 Assembly constituencies.

In Kalaburagi district, three lift irrigation projects costing Rs 343 crore are being implemented to fill around 19 lakes. Singh also announced plans to establish a planetarium, science centre and science city in Kalaburagi in consultation with the Science and Technology Department.

# Menstruation is natural, not a taboo: Dr. Kavya

## KOPPAL

Menstruation should not be treated as a taboo but accepted as a natural and important part of women’s health and well-being, said Dr. Kavya Pattanashetty, a young doctor from Koppal.

She was speaking as a special invitee at a Friendship Day programme organised recently by the Koppal Inner Wheel Club at its premises. Delivering a special lecture, Dr. Kavya stressed the need to create greater awareness among women about menstrual health and overall physical and emotional well-being.

She explained the different

stages of the menstrual cycle and spoke about the changes women may experience in their physical condition, emotions and energy levels during different phases. Understanding these changes, she said, would help women recognise their bodies’ natural rhythms and respond to them appropriately.

Dr. Kavya encouraged women to listen to and respect their bodies instead of ignoring or resisting natural changes. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining proper health practices and openly discussing menstruation to remove misconceptions and unnecessary stigma sur-

rounding the subject. She said creating awareness about menstruation should not be limited to women. Men also have an important role in understanding women’s experiences and providing a supportive and respectful environment at home, workplaces and in society.

The programme was presided over by Koppal Inner Wheel Club president Meenakshi Bannadabhavi. She appreciated Dr. Kavya for providing useful information and guidance on women’s health and creating awareness about menstrual well-being. She congratulated her and wished her success in her future activities.

# Job Card Mela to continue in Ballari till September 15

## BALLARI

A month-long ‘Job Card Mela’ campaign is being conducted across all gram panchayat limits in Ballari district until September 15 under the ‘Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission’ scheme, said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Haris Sumar.

The initiative has been launched against the backdrop of drought conditions in the state to provide employment opportunities to rural residents locally and prevent migration to cities. Officials will visit households under the campaign slogan, “Every household visited, employment security for every family,” to register eligible workers and create awareness about the scheme.

Under the campaign, each eligible family can receive up to 125 days of guaranteed employment annually, with a notified daily wage of Rs. 382. The programme aims to strengthen rural livelihoods by providing unskilled work locally and reducing migration caused by lack of employment.

Works planned under the campaign include construction of farm ponds, open

## AT THE GLANCE

- **Campaign Objective:** Curb rural migration by providing local drought-relief employment.
- **Household Outreach:** Officials conducting registration drives under a dedicated awareness slogan.
- **Job Guarantee:** Up to 125 days of annual work with a ₹382 daily wage.
- **Asset Creation:** Prioritizing water conservation structures like farm ponds and check dams.
- **Individual Livelihoods:** Supporting cattle and sheep shelter construction on beneficiary lands.
- **Enrollment Action:** Zilla Panchayat CEO urges residents to secure job cards via local gram panchayats.

wells, groundwater recharge structures and check dams for drought relief and water conservation. Individual livelihood assets such as cattle sheds and sheep and goat shelters on beneficiaries’ land will also be given priority.

The Zilla Panchayat CEO urged eligible rural residents to make use of the campaign and contact their respective gram panchayat offices to obtain new job cards and information about the available employment opportunities.

# Vachana Shravan-2026 held at Gojanur

## GADAG

A meaningful Vachana Shravan programme was organised at Gojanur in Lakshmeshwar taluk as part of Vachana Shravan-2026. The programme was jointly organised by Basava Dal, Basava Kendra and Lingayat Pragatish-eel Sangha, Gadag-Betageri, as part of the Shravan month celebrations.

Prof. S.U. Saijanashetru of Gadag delivered a vachana meditation on a verse of Vishwaguru Basavanna. He explained that the Sharanas advocated a life without hypocrisy, stressing the importance of maintaining purity in both thoughts and actions. He said Basavanna’s teachings continue to guide society towards equality, dignity of labour, social harmony and simple living. The programme proposal was presented by Sharanu Shri Prakash Asundi. A special attraction was the participation of villagers dressed as prominent Sharanas. Anju Basappa portrayed Parasannavar Basavanna, Shivaraj Ashok Shirahatti portrayed Ambigara Chaudayya, Vaishnavi Mahathagouda Patil portrayed Akkamahadevi, and Gouramma Parashuram Kusugal portrayed Jedara Dasimayya.

The programme conveyed messages of equality, dignity of labour, social responsibility, cultural values, inner purity and a life free from superstition through Basavanna’s vachanas. Channaveeraiah Hiremath presided over the event, while Chandragowda Shekar-gowda Doddagoudra welcomed the gathering. Gaurav Badigannavara proposed the vote of thanks. Basavadal Sharanija performed the vachana mangala and Basavaraja Sanshi compered the programme. Several Basava Dal patrons and members, including V.K. Karigoudra, M.B. Lingadala, Sharanu Sinnur, N.M. Pavadigoudra, Shekhanna Kavalikai, Padmavati Hanjigi, Gangamma Hugara and others, attended the event.

# Udupi man kills elderly parents with hammer

## UDUPI

A man allegedly killed his elderly parents with a hammer following an argument at their residence in Udupi district, police said. The victims were attacked during a dispute, resulting in their deaths. The incident has shocked residents in the area. Police have launched an investigation into the alleged double murder and are examining the circumstances that led to the confrontation. Officials are also working to establish the exact motive behind the incident. The accused has come under police scrutiny as investigators gather evidence and question people familiar with the family. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses. Police said appropriate legal action will follow based on the findings of the probe. The incident has raised concerns among local residents over the circumstances surrounding the violent family dispute

# Hebbalkar challenges Sanjay Patil over ₹5,000-cr allegation

## BELAGAVI

Belagavi Rural MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Monday dismissed allegations of a ₹5,000-crore scam against her as a political stunt and challenged former MLA Sanjay Patil and BJP leaders to a face-to-face debate on the issue.

Speaking at an interest-free loan distribution programme organised by the Belagavi District Central Co-operative Bank (BDCC) at Mannur village, Hebbalkar said her opponents had no substantive issue against her and were therefore making baseless allegations. She challenged Patil to come to Malakarni for a direct discussion on the alleged ₹5,000-crore irregularities.

Hebbalkar said her goal was to develop Belagavi Rural constituency on the lines of Maharashtra’s Bara-mati and make it a model constituency known across Karnataka. She said ₹50 lakh in interest-free loans had been sanctioned for farmers of Mannur, Ambewadi and Gojaga. She added that the area would require another ₹2 crore and assured that efforts would be made to secure the funds.

She said tender procedures for de-



velopment works in the three villages had been completed and promised that new road works would be completed before the next monsoon.

On the allegations, Hebbalkar said she had faced political pressure and threats of IT and ED action because of her work. She claimed Patil had complained against her in 2017 when she was establishing a factory with an investment of ₹10 crore.

Hebbalkar also announced plans to establish a sweet-potato processing factory in the Belagavi Rural area. She said she was ready to invest personally if suitable five-acre land was available near Belagavi or Ambewadi.

# Nilaji temple roofing work gets official start

## BELAGAVI

Former minister and Belagavi Rural MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Monday performed the bhoomi puja and formally launched the concrete roofing work of the under-construction Sri Mahalakshmi Temple at Nilaji village.

Speaking on the occasion, Hebbalkar assured the villagers and members of the temple committee that she would extend all possible assistance for the completion of the temple. She said efforts would be made to secure ₹25 lakh in government funds for completing the concrete roofing work at the earliest.

Hebbalkar also promised to ex-

tend financial assistance from her personal resources, as far as possible, towards the temple construction. She appreciated the efforts of the villagers and the temple committee in taking up the construction and urged them to ensure that the work was completed within the stipulated period without compromising on quality. She said the temple was emerging as an important religious centre for the village and expressed hope that its completion would benefit devotees and residents of the surrounding areas.

MLC Channaraj Hattiholi said the construction of the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple was a long-standing aspiration of the people of Nilaji.

He said the completed temple would become an important centre for religious, cultural and community activities and provide a place for devotees to gather and celebrate festivals.

The launch of the roofing work brought cheer among the villagers, who thanked Hebbalkar for extending support to the project. They requested continued assistance for completing the remaining construction works.

The programme was attended by MLC Channaraj Hattiholi, senior villagers, members of the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple committee, local leaders, party workers and residents.

| <div><div><b>BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION</b><br/>Office of the Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division,<br/>Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru - 560103.</div></div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Sl. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Name of the Work / Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No: EE/BECC/MR/H/TN/03/2026-27      Date: 24-08-2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Drains at 9th Cross Tulasi Theatre Road in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(CAT-1) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                 |
| <b>INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)</b><br>(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads from More Mega Store to Vaswani Apartment in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000/-</b>                                  |
| The Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, BECC, Bengaluru invites Item Rate Tenders from eligible Tenderers registered in BECC / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Government Organization for the Works detailed below.                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing and Fixing Name Boards in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                 |
| Sl. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Name of the Work / Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Yamalur Ambedkar Colony Roads and Kempapura Ambedkar Colony Roads in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b> |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 35,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                                | 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Yamalur Muneshwara Temple Road and Kempapura Village Cross Roads in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b>  |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                          | 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Desilting of Drains at Rama Temple to Doddanna House Road in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 15.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 37,500/-</b>                    |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                              | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Desilting of Drains near Spandana Appartments Cross Roads in Challaghatta Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>           |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 35,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                             | 31                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements and Repairs to Yemalur Anganawadi Kendra and Library Building in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000/-</b>                             |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                              | 32                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing and Fixing Name Boards in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-</b>                                                                          |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engaging Tipper Tractor and Labours in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 35.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 70,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                          | 33                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Desilting of Drains in Pearl Paradise Layout Kempapura in Ward No. 46, Yemalur. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-</b>                                                    |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Filling of Potholes Ward No. 47 - Bellanduru, Ward No. 49 - Doddakanahalli, Ward No. 46 - Yamaluru, Ward No. 45 - Marathalli, Ward No. 48 - Panathur and Ward No. 41 Munnekolla in Marathalli Division. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 90.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,80,000/-</b> | 34                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Desilting of Drains Cafe Coffee Day Backside Roads at Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,000/-</b>                                                      |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 47, Bellanduru. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                           | 35                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Drains in Green Glen Layout at Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000/-</b>                                               |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 49, Doddakannahalli. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                          | 36                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing & Fixing Name Boards in Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 15.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 18,750/-</b>                                                                      |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 46, Yamaluru. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                             | 37                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Bellandur Burial Ground at Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000/-</b>                                                                 |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                             | 38                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Drains in Bellandur Village at Ward No. 47, Bellandur. <b>(CAT-2A) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                          |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                                 | 39                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Desilting of Drains at Bellandur Main Roads in Ward No. 47, Bellandur <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                          |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing Missing Slabs, Desilting of Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                          | 40                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Devarabisanahalli Burial Ground at Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 30.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 60,000/-</b>                                                 |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Sai Baba Layout in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                                                                          | 41                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to I Life Apartment Roads at Devarabisanahalli in Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000/-</b>                                     |
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Saphthagiri Layout 1st Cross in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                                                             | 42                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Devarabisanahalli Lake Road in Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 30.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 60,000/-</b>                                                     |
| 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Shamareddy Layout Main Road, Patel Layout Main Road, Dental College 1st & 4th Cross Roads in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 75.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,50,000/-</b>                                              | 43                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing and Fixing Name Boards in Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000/-</b>                                                                 |
| 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at J.C.R Layout Main Roads and Cross Roads in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                                                     | 44                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improvements to Roads and Drains Opp. to Gear School Road at Devarabisanahalli in Ward No. 49, Doddakannelli. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 30.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 60,000/-</b>                   |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Prem Brook Layout Cross Roads in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 40,000/-</b>                                                                                                               | 45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing Temporary Arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Ward No. 47, Bellanduru & Ward No. 49, Doddakanahalli. <b>(SC) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 7.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 8,750/-</b>                     |
| 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Panathur Ward Office Renovation in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(Others) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                                                                                                  | 46                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing Temporary Arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli and Ward No. 46, Yamaluru. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 7.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 17,500/-</b>                  |
| 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Kaverappa Layout Main Roads & Cross Roads in Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                                                       | 47                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Providing Temporary Arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Ward No. 41, Munnekolala and Ward No. 48, Panathur. <b>(CAT-1) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 7.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 8,750/-</b>                     |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Desilting of Drains and Providing Missing Drain Slabs at Marathahalli Village Roads and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(SC) -Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                        | <b>Calendar of Events:</b> 1) Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <a href="https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in">https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in</a> . 2) Last Date for Submission of Queries: 31-08-2026 within 11.00 AM. 3) Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting: 31-08-2026 at 4.00 PM. 4) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 05-09-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 5) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: 07-09-2026 at 4.30 PM. 6) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: 08-09-2026 at 4.00 PM. Further details can be had from the above office. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Oil Mill 2nd Cross Road in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>Sd/- Executive Engineer</b><br><b>Marathahalli Division, BECC.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Improvements to Roads & Drains at 3rd Cross Anjaneya Temple Road in Ward No. 45, Marathahalli. <b>(CAT-2A) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) (Exclusive of GST): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-</b>                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# FIR registered over Tipu Sultan cutout

A complaint alleges that a group of Muslim youths erected a large Tipu Sultan cutout in Chikkamagaluru for Eid-e-Milad

## CHIKKAMAGALURU

Police have registered an FIR in Chikkamagaluru following a controversy over a 40-foot-tall cutout of Tipu Sultan installed during Eid-e-Milad celebrations and a social media reel allegedly featuring a song associated with the Pakistan Army.

According to the complaint, a group of Muslim youths installed the large Tipu Sultan cutout in Chikkamagaluru city as part of the Eid-e-Milad celebrations. A video of the cutout was reportedly recorded and uploaded as a reel on social media with a song referring to Pakistani Mujahideen. The video was allegedly shared through an Instagram account named “Chikkamagaluru Power Tipu Boys.” The use of the song has triggered controversy, with concerns being raised that the content could affect communal harmony.

Sub-Inspector Dhanraj of the Chikkamagaluru City Police Station filed a complaint in connection with the social



media post. The complaint alleged that the song was used in a manner that could hurt religious sentiments and disturb communal harmony.

Police have registered a case based on the complaint and initiated an investigation into the video and those responsible for creating and circulating it. Authorities are also examining the circumstances surrounding the installation of the large cutout and the social media content.

The complaint alleged that

| SUMMARY                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Account:</b> Instagram handle shared controversial video.      |
| • <b>Song:</b> Track referenced Pakistani soldiers.                 |
| • <b>Complaint:</b> Police Sub-Inspector filed formal charge.       |
| • <b>Concerns:</b> Fear of disturbed communal harmony.              |
| • <b>Investigation:</b> Authorities probing creators and uploaders. |
| • <b>Action:</b> Strict measures sought against instigators.        |

the use of the song, which reportedly referred to Pakistani soldiers, was deliberate and could promote hostility between communities. The complainant sought appropriate action against those responsible for allegedly attempting to create communal tension.

Police are expected to examine the original video, the Instagram account and other available digital evidence as part of the investigation. Further action will depend on the findings of the inquiry.

## Quick Read

### Tiger returns to Gangavathi-Hampi after decades

**Gangavathi**  
A tiger has been spotted in Karnataka's Gangavathi-Hampi region after nearly five decades, bringing renewed attention to wildlife movement in the area. Forest department officials confirmed the presence of the big cat in the hilly and forested landscape. However, authorities are yet to determine where the tiger migrated from before reaching the region. The sighting has generated interest among wildlife enthusiasts and local residents, while forest officials are closely monitoring the area. The return of the tiger after such a long gap is being viewed as a significant development for the region's wildlife. Officials are expected to continue tracking the animal and gathering information about its movement and habitat. The sighting could also provide valuable insights into changing wildlife corridors and forest conditions in the Gangavathi-Hampi landscape.

## 4 retired teachers honoured for dedicated service

### HUBBALLI

Four retired teachers were felicitated for their decades of dedicated, honest and committed service at a programme organised at the Government Model Primary School in Basaveshwar Nagar, Hubballi.

The Horkeri Masthar Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee jointly organised the programme to honour retired teachers Savitri V. Harnal, Renuka Kattimani, Jayashree Muragod and Suma Hardekar.

The teachers were honoured with shawls and garlands and presented with books and fruits as a mark of appreciation for their contribution to primary education. Organisers congratulated them and wished them a happy and healthy retired life.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Dr. Suresh D. Horkeri, secretary of the Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee, district vice-president of the Karnataka Jnana Vijnana Samiti, working president of the district unit of the Karnataka Vachana Sahitya Parishat and trustee of the Horkeri

Masthar Education Foundation. Senior head teacher Dr. H.B. Koravar presided over the event.

Dr. Horkeri welcomed the gathering and compered the programme, while teacher Akkamma V. Shettar proposed the vote of thanks.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Horkeri said educating children at the primary level is a highly important responsibility. Teaching young children with affection, care and patience requires dedication and is not an easy task, he said.

He appreciated the retired teachers for their long and active service in the teaching profession and said it was a matter of happiness, pride and honour to felicitate them. He wished Savitri Harnal, Renuka Kattimani, Jayashree Muragod and Suma Hardekar good health, happiness and a fulfilling retired life.

Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee vice-president Channabasappa Dharwad Shettar, teachers Shakuntala G. Naval Gund, Anasuya V. Marakumbi, Vidya Banna, Savita P. Magadur, Veena P. Patil, Ganga Bikkannavar, Revanasiddhaya Hiremath and Jyothi Nagarahalli, along with students and parents, participated enthusiastically.

# BJP calls major protest over Gutka ban

## DAVANAGERE

The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced a major protest in Davanagere on August 28, claiming that the state government's decision to ban gutka has adversely affected areca nut growers across Karnataka.

Former minister M.P. Renukacharya said BJP workers and areca growers would organise a padayatra from all taluks of Davanagere district from 9 a.m. on August 26. The agitation will culminate in a major protest outside the Assistant Commissioner's office in Davanagere at 11 a.m. on August 28, followed by a proposed gherao of the office.

Questioning the government's health-related justification, Renukacharya asked why products such as cigarettes and alcohol, which are also harmful to health, were not being discussed in the



same manner. He said the government should consider the economic impact of the decision on farmers before implementing measures affecting the areca market.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Thirthahalli Araga Jnanendra met Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and urged the government to protect areca growers from the impact of the gutka ban.

Jnanendra said Karnataka accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the country's areca nut production and described it as an important commercial crop for the state.

Jnanendra said he requested the government not to implement measures that could adversely affect growers. According to him, Shivakumar assured that the interests of farmers would be protected

“The ban had caused a sudden fall in areca nut prices, leaving thousands of growers worried about their livelihoods. That around 50 lakh families depend on areca cultivation directly or indirectly and urged farmers to participate in the protest irrespective of political affiliations.”

- M.P.Renukacharya, Former minister

and that steps would be taken to ensure they do not face difficulties. The Deputy Chief Minister also reportedly assured that a meeting would be convened to discuss the concerns of areca growers.

The BJP has urged farmers across the state to join the campaign and intensify pressure on the government to safeguard the areca nut sector.

## Sangeetha Balachandra sets world singing record

### UDUPI

Musician Sangeetha Balachandra has created a world record by continuously singing devotional compositions of the Haridasa tradition for 25 hours at the presence of Lord Sri Krishna in Udupi.

The record-setting programme began at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday at the Nrisimha Sabha Bhavan of the Bhagavad Gita Mandir, located at Sri Puthige Matha. The uninterrupted performance concluded around 7.40 a.m. on Monday with the devotional composition “Krishna Ena Barade.”

Dr Manish Vishnoi, Asia Head of the Golden Book of World Records, officially announced the achievement and presented a certificate to Sangeetha Balachandra. On the occasion, Adamaru Matha seer Sri Vishwapriya Tirtha Swamiji and Puthige Matha seer Sri Sugunendra Tirtha Swamiji honoured him with the title “Geeta Gangotri.”

Blessing the musician, Sri Vishwapriya Tirtha said the title symbolically combines the sacred memories of the Bhagavad Gita, Ganga, Govinda and the cow. He expressed hope that, just as the Ganga continuously flows from Gangotri, the stream of

Haridasa literature and devotional music from Balachandra's voice would continue inspiring devotion and spiritual feelings among people.

The programme was supported by accompanying instrumental musicians. Sangeetha Balachandra and his parents were also felicitated during the event. A large number of music lovers and devotees of Lord Krishna witnessed the marathon performance. The programme was sponsored by Bhima Jewellers.

Meanwhile, renowned miniature artist Kamal Ahmed Malekoppa, based in Karkala in Udupi district, was recently honoured by President Droupadi Murmu during the prestigious Artist-in-Residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Twelve artists representing traditional Indian art forms participated in the ten-day programme. Malekoppa, who has worked in miniature painting for three decades and developed a style influenced by the Vijayanagara Garudadri tradition, created an artwork at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Murmu interacted with the artists and appreciated their efforts to preserve India's traditional artistic heritage for future generations.

## Gadag civic body removes unauthorized city banners

### MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

Gadag-Betageri Municipal Corporation officials on Monday launched a special drive against unauthorized banners, flex boards and cutouts installed across the city without obtaining prior permission.

The civic authorities removed and confiscated hundreds of banners put up at major junctions, roadsides and other public places. The banners included political messages, personal greetings, event promotions, birthday wishes and other publicity materials. Officials said the unauthorized displays were affecting the city's appearance and causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians.

Municipal workers assisted officials in removing the banners during the drive. The action has reportedly caused concern among individuals and organisations that had installed publicity materials without securing the required approval from the civic body.

According to municipal officials, anyone planning to install banners for events, birthdays, festivals or other programmes must

obtain prior permission from the municipality and pay the prescribed fee. However, officials noted that many banners had recently been installed across the city in violation of these rules.

The municipal body said the strict enforcement drive was intended to prevent indiscriminate installation of banners and maintain cleanliness and the visual appearance of the city. Officials also warned that similar action would continue against unauthorized displays.

Gadag-Betageri Municipal Revenue Officer Mahesh appealed to residents, organisations and event organisers to cooperate with the civic administration and follow the prescribed regulations.

“Preserving the beauty of the city is everyone's responsibility. Permission must be obtained and the prescribed fee paid before installing any banner. Legal action will be taken against those who violate the rules,” he said.

The municipal authorities urged the public to avoid putting up banners without permission and cooperate with future enforcement drives.



“The Municipal Council has taken steps to curb the installation of unauthorized banners. Permission is mandatory for program, personal and greeting banners, and prior approval and payment of a prescribed fee are required.”

- Mahesh Hadapada, Revenue Officer

## Lokayukta office building to be built in 9 months

### HAVERI

The foundation stone for the construction of a new Lokayukta office building in Haveri district was laid on Monday. Karnataka Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil said the ₹4.15-crore building would be completed within nine months.

Speaking after performing the bhoomi puja at Basaveshwara Nagar in Haveri, Justice Patil said the government had allotted land for the Lokayukta office and issued the necessary administrative and work orders. The construction has been taken up immediately to avoid delays, he said.

The contractor and officials of the Public Works Department have assured that the project will be completed within the stipulated nine-month period. Justice Patil said the Lokayukta's primary responsibility was to detect lapses in public service, take action against those responsible within the legal framework and provide relief to citizens

facing injustice.

He said the Lokayukta would continue investigating complaints of administrative irregularities and cases of injustice to the public. If deficiencies in the quality of government works, including roads and buildings, are found, inspections and investigations would be conducted and action taken against those responsible. The Lokayukta engineering division would monitor the quality of government construction and other works. Expert teams comprising chief, executive and supervisory engineers would inspect projects, identify deficiencies and submit reports. Action would be initiated based on these reports, he added.

Justice Patil said around 38,000–40,000 cases relating to complaints and corruption were pending before the Lokayukta. Around 35–36 judicial officers and hundreds of police personnel were working day and night on investigations and inspections.

## Aakash launches ANTHE 2026 Talent Hunt Exam

### MANGALURU

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) has launched the 2026 edition of the Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam (ANTHE), one of India's longest-running talent identification examinations. The exam has recorded more than one crore student registrations over the past 16 years, providing students with academic assessment, national benchmarking and personalised insights.

ANTHE is designed as a comprehensive diagnostic assessment rather than a test based solely on marks. Each question is mapped to specific concepts and competencies to assess subject knowledge, aptitude, analytical ability and examination behaviour. Students receive an ANTHE Intelligence Report highlighting their strengths, areas requiring improvement and competitive examination readiness.

The assessment also evaluates students through Competitive Exam Success Potential, Test-Taking Personality and Attempt Intelligence Quotient. These parameters provide insights into how students approach examinations,



Dr Vikram chakravarthy, State Head Rest Of KARNATAKA branches, SHYAM PRASAD Assistant Director Mangalore Udupi Shivamogga Branches, Suraj prabhu Branch Head Mangalore Branch.

including accuracy, risk-taking and higher-order thinking skills.

The significance of ANTHE is reflected in the achievements of its students. In NEET UG 2026, 31 of Aakash's 41 students who secured ranks among the Top 100 had previously qualified through ANTHE. Similarly, seven of the 11 Aakash students ranked among the Top 100 in JEE Advanced 2026 had qualified through ANTHE.

AESL MD and CEO Chandra Sekhar Garisa Reddy said ANTHE aims to help students understand their academic po-

tential and identify areas requiring improvement at an early stage. He said the examination is intended to provide clarity and guide students towards a more informed academic journey.

ANTHE 2026 offers scholarships of up to 100 per cent, subject to applicable criteria, along with ₹2.5 crore in cash prizes. The examination is open to students from Classes V to XII and will be conducted online and offline. The online examination will be held from October 27 to November 1, while offline exams are scheduled for October 11, October 25 and November 1.



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

## ARE WE LOSING THE ABILITY TO BE BORED?

Wake up. Check your phone. Scroll. Reply. Move on with the day. Before we have even left our beds, we have entered a world of messages, news, videos, opinions and other people's lives. From the moment we wake up until the moment we fall sleep there is almost always something waiting to occupy our attention. But this really what progress looks like? We have never been more connected. With a few taps, we can know where our friends are, what our families are doing, what someone across the world thinks about an event, or what a stranger ate for breakfast. Yet this constant access comes with a strange contradiction: we know more about more people, but are we actually more present with the people in front of us? Consider waiting in a queue. Once, there was little to do but look around, observe people, or simply let your mind wander. Today, an empty five minutes is enough reason to reach for a phone. A notification appears, a screen is checked, and our attention shifts. We may be connected to hundreds of people who are not even in the room while giving less attention to the person standing beside us. Perhaps this is where boredom deserves a second look. Boredom is almost always portrayed as something negative a feeling to escape, a moment to fill, an inconvenience to overcome. But perhaps we have misunderstood it. Boredom is not necessarily about being productive or creative. Sometimes it is simply about having nothing demanding our attention. Our minds, much like our bodies, need moments of rest. Yet we have become accustomed to filling every pause with something: a message, a video, a song or an update. Even when we are doing nothing, we are rarely experiencing nothing. And that empty space matters. It gives us the opportunity to sit with a thought rather than immediately replacing it, to notice our surroundings, to reflect, or simply to let our minds wander. Creativity may come from that space, but it does not have to. The value of boredom is not that it always produces something. Its value may simply be that nothing is being demanded of us for a while. Putting the phone away does not mean rejecting technology. It means creating boundaries around our attention. A meal without a screen, a walk without constantly checking notifications, or a few minutes of waiting without scrolling can give us something increasingly rare: uninterrupted time with ourselves and the people around us. Perhaps the problem isn't that we have too much entertainment. It's that we have forgotten how to exist without it. In a world determined to fill every silence, perhaps boredom is not something we need to defeat. Perhaps it is something we need to make room for.



# TULSIDAS: THE ETERNAL VOICE OF RAM DEVOTION, VALUES AND HUMAN WELFARE



- LALIT GARG

In India's great tradition of saints, Goswami Tulsidas occupies a place far beyond that of a celebrated poet or devotee of Lord Rama. He was a people's spiritual guide, a cultural visionary and an immortal exponent of the Indian philosophy of life. Tulsidas Jayanti, observed on Shukla Saptami of the month of Shravan, provides an occasion to remember a great soul who brought the story of Rama out of royal courts and the exclusive domain of Sanskrit scholarship and made it a living part of the language, emotions and everyday life of the common people. Tulsidas transformed devotion from a mere form of worship into a way of life rooted in character, dignity, compassion, service, harmony and the welfare of all. His life itself represents an extraordinary spiritual journey. Born amid difficult circumstances, he lost the protection of his parents at an early age and experienced deprivation and struggle. Yet these very hardships became the foundation of his spiritual awakening. His childhood name is traditionally said to have been 'Rambola'. The name of Rama was not merely a religious invocation for him; it became the very foundation of his existence. Later, the transformative words of Ratnavali awakened within him a profound spirit of detachment, turning his worldly attachment into an immense and lifelong stream of devotion to Rama.

The greatest distinction of Tulsidas is that he never separated devotion from life. For him, Rama was not merely an idol installed in a temple.

His life and literature invite us to discover the divine possibilities within ourselves and to dedicate our lives to the larger good of humanity.

Rama represented truth, righteousness, dignity, compassion, character, strength and the inspiration to work for the welfare of society. Thus, Tulsidas's Rama became an ideal deeply rooted in the Indian mind, embodying a remarkable synthesis of divinity and the highest qualities of humanity. His immortal work, Ramcharitmanas, remains one of the greatest achievements of Indian literature and culture, retaining its relevance

even after centuries. It is not merely a retelling of the story of Rama; it is a profound guide to making human beings truly humane. It encompasses family, society, governance, political ethics, duty, sacrifice, friendship, brotherhood, compassion and, above all, a broad and inclusive understanding of Dharma that inspires an individual to rise above self-interest and dedicate life to the welfare of others.



By presenting profound spiritual wisdom in the simple, melodious and accessible language of Awadhi, Tulsidas broke the barriers that had confined knowledge to limited circles. As a result, Ramcharitmanas did not remain merely a text for scholars; it

recognized by eminent scholars of his time. It is traditionally said that Madhusudan Saraswati, one of the great scholars of Kashi, praised Tulsidas in a memorable metaphor, describing him as a living Tulsi plant moving through the sacred forest of Kashi, with the bee of Rama hovering around the blossoms of his poetry. This was not merely a literary compliment; it reflected the profound recognition of Tulsidas's spiritual stature and poetic genius.

The devotion of Tulsidas was never passive or escapist. It did not encourage withdrawal from responsibility; rather, it awakened a deeper sense of duty. Rama goes into exile because of his commitment to duty. Bharat rejects the throne because of

brotherly love, sacrifice and moral integrity. Hanuman serves with complete dedication and surrender. Sita demonstrates courage, patience and inner strength even in the face of adversity. For Tulsidas, devotion means dissolving the ego and awakening the highest and noblest human potential within oneself. A devotee of Rama surrenders before the Divine but does not run away from the world. Instead, he becomes more conscious of his responsibilities towards family, society and the nation. This is why Tulsidas's vision of devotion represents a beautiful confluence of knowledge, action and love.

To regard Tulsidas merely as a religious poet would be to underestimate the vastness of his personality and contribution. His writings reveal a deep awareness of the social contradictions, fragmentation and moral challenges of his times. He did not offer society a political manifesto; instead, he showed a path to social transformation through the formation of character. His vision of Ram Rajya places the welfare of the people, rather than the pursuit of power, at the heart of governance. In the ideal of Ram Rajya, people live without fear, with dignity, justice and social harmony. This dimension of Tulsidas's thought is particularly relevant today, because modern society is experiencing not only unprecedented material development but also a crisis of morality, sensitivity and social trust.

Families are increasingly becoming fragmented, self-interest is weakening relationships, public life is witnessing a decline in dignity and restraint, and individuals often remain inwardly restless despite material success.

## INDIA'S TECH HUB AT A CROSSROADS: BALANCING GROWTH AND EQUITY IN BENGALURU

The Silicon Valley of India Faces its Defining Challenge Bengaluru, often celebrated as India's Silicon Valley, stands today at a critical juncture. For decades, it has served as the beacon of the nation's technological aspirations, attracting global giants, a vibrant startup ecosystem, and a workforce that represents the forefront of India's intellectual capital. The city's growth trajectory, fueled by innovation and entrepreneurship, has been unparalleled. However, this remarkable rise has come with complex, often uncomfortable, questions about equity, inclusion, and sustainable urban development. The coming years will determine whether Bengaluru can transition from a city defined solely by technological achievement to one that represents a balanced, inclusive model for urban India. The disparity within Bengaluru is, perhaps, nowhere more evident than in its physical and social landscape. While gleaming tech parks, innovative hubs, and high-rise condominiums define the city's skyline, significant portions of the population continue to face challenges related to affordable housing, accessible infrastructure, and a palpable divide in economic opportunity. The rapid, often unregulated, expansion has strained civic amenities, leaving many original residents and immigrant workers, who form the backbone of the city's essential services, on the periphery of its prosperity. This socio-economic divide is not just a moral concern; it is a long-term sustainability issue. A city that functions with deep internal inequities risks fostering social friction and a potential brain drain if the environment becomes hostile or unlivable for a significant portion of its workforce. Furthermore, as the focus intensifies on advanced technologies like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and green tech, there is a risk that the benefits of this next wave of innovation will disproportionately accrue to those already well-off, while leaving others further behind. Addressing this challenge requires a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach.

- RAHUL K.

# MILLETS ARE BOOMING, BUT ARE FARMERS BENEFITING?

Millets are enjoying a remarkable revival. Once considered traditional "poor man's grains," they are now being promoted as nutritious, climate-resilient and environmentally friendly foods. Governments, health-conscious consumers, food companies and restaurants are increasingly showing interest in millets.

But an important question remains: Are the farmers who grow these grains receiving a fair share of this growing opportunity?

Millets such as bajra, jowar, ragi, foxtail millet and little millet have many advantages. They generally require less water than crops such as rice and can perform well under difficult climatic conditions. They are also valued for their nutritional qualities and are increasingly finding their way into modern foods from breakfast products and snacks to flour and ready-to-eat items. The growing demand should, in theory, create new opportunities for farmers. However, popularity alone does not guarantee better farm incomes. The farmer is at the beginning of the chain.

A packet of millet flour sold in an urban supermarket may carry a significantly higher price than the amount received by the farmer who

produced the grain. Between the farm and the consumer are several stages collection, transportation, cleaning, processing, packaging, branding, marketing and retail. Each stage can add value and cost. The farmer, however, often has the least control over the final price. This raises a fundamental question: If the millet market is growing, why should the farmer remain the weakest link in the value chain?

Production is only half the story, encouraging farmers to grow millets is not enough. They also need reliable markets. If farmers produce more millet but cannot easily sell it at remunerative prices, increased production may not translate into increased income. Better procurement systems, local processing facilities, storage infrastructure and transparent markets can make a major difference. Farmers should not be forced to depend entirely on middlemen simply because they lack alternatives.

The missing link: value addition, one of the biggest opportunities lies in processing. Raw millet has a relatively simple market. But when it becomes flour, breakfast cereal, snack food or another value-added product, its commercial value can increase substantially.

Why should farmers remain only producers of raw material? Farmer cooperatives and producer organisations could participate more actively in cleaning, grading, processing, packaging and marketing. This could help them capture a larger share of the value created from their produce.

Traditional crops need modern markets, millets are traditional crops, but their future depends partly on modern consumer behaviour. Young consumers may not automatically choose traditional grains simply because they are nutritious. Convenience, taste, packaging, affordability and availability also influence food choices.

Therefore, promoting millets requires more than slogans. It requires innovation. Traditional knowledge must meet modern food technology. Climate resilience can become an economic opportunity. Millets are often discussed as climate-resilient crops. Their ability to perform under relatively dry conditions makes them important in discussions about sustainable agriculture. But climate resilience should not become another burden placed on farmers. If society wants farmers to grow crops that provide environmental benefits, farmers should also receive economic benefits for doing so.



- Dr. Vijay Garg

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

Sustainability cannot survive if the person practising it cannot earn a sustainable livelihood.

Consumers can also influence the future

Consumers have an important role. When people choose millet products, they contribute to creating demand. But consumers can go one step further by asking where their food comes from and whether farmers are receiving a fair return. A healthy grain should ideally support a healthy agricultural economy as well. From "millet promotion" to "millet prosperity". The real success of the millet movement should not be measured only by how many millet products appear on supermarket shelves. It should also be measured by: whether millet farmers earn better incomes, whether local processing creates rural employment, whether farmers have access to stable markets, whether women and small farmers benefit from the value chain, and whether consumers receive nutritious food at reasonable prices. The goal should be to build a farmer-centred millet economy, not merely a consumer-centred millet market. The real millet revolution. Millets are booming. Their nutritional, environmental and commercial potential is increasingly recognised.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mindful Tech Use Needed

Our relentless obsession with constant digital connectivity is quietly eroding our ability to pause and think. Boredom is no longer tolerated; every free second is immediately devoured by screen time. This constant stimulation suffocates human creativity and deep reflection. We urgently need to embrace unplugged moments, allowing our minds space to wander, recharge, and reclaim genuine imaginative thought.

- Varsha Kitty

### Fair Pay for Farmers

The sudden rise of millet consumption is celebrated as a massive health and environmental win. However, rural reality paints a starkly different picture. While urban markets and food brands profit off premium packaged millet products, the actual farmers growing these climate-resilient crops continue to face razor-thin margins. We must establish fair pricing mechanisms so agricultural boom benefits reach the fields.

- Anna Benedict

### Redefining Cultural Heritage

Tulsidas left behind far more than religious devotion; he gave us a timeless blueprint for human values and civic welfare. His literary works bridged societal divides, placing compassion, duty, and ethics at the center of community life. Today, celebrating his legacy means championing universal humanism, social responsibility, and empathy core principles that transcend dogma and remain vital for modern society.

- Suganthi



Quick Read

Heavy rain likely across Bengal for next 48 hours

**CH NEWS,** Bengal  
The India Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rain across several districts of Bengal over the next 48 hours due to a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal. South Bengal may receive widespread rain, with heavy showers likely in Jhargram and Purulia. Coastal districts, including East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas, could face thunderstorms and winds up to 50 kmph. Kolkata may also witness thundershowers and gusty winds. North Bengal districts, including Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, are also expected to receive heavy rainfall.

Four phones seized in Jaipur jail raid

**CH NEWS,** Jaipur  
Authorities recovered four mobile phones and SIM cards from inmates during a surprise search at Jaipur Central Jail on August 22. The devices were found in different barracks, and police registered a case at Lalkothi Police Station. Officials are examining the phones and checking calls allegedly made from them while investigating how the prohibited devices entered the high-security prison. In a separate incident, prisoner Shobhit Joshi failed to return after his one-day parole expired. Police registered another case and deployed teams to trace him. The incidents have raised fresh concerns about jail security, prompting continued investigations by police and prison authorities.

Bihar CM launches ‘vidya Saathi’ app for students

**PATNA**  
Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday launched the ‘Bihar Vidya Saathi’ app, a 24x7 interactive learning platform aimed at providing personalised academic support to students across the state.  
The platform has been launched in 700 Saraswati Vidya Niketan Model Schools across all 38 districts and is expected to directly benefit around 3 lakh students.  
Under the initiative, students from Classes 9 to 12 will have access to live teachers and one-to-one interaction.  
Students can select teachers according to their academic needs and preferences.  
Around 75,000 teachers will provide personalised academic support. The platform will also offer digital study materials for Classes 9 and 10, while Class 11 and 12 Science students will receive live tutoring support.  
Students preparing for the Bihar Board, JEE and NEET will also have access to digital learning resources. Modern AI

KEY INSIGHTS

■ 3 lakhs — Students expected to benefit.

■ 700 — Model schools covered across Bihar.

■ 75,000 — Teachers to provide academic support.

■ 24x7 — Live teacher assistance for Classes 9–12.

tools will be used to strengthen concept learning and provide unlimited opportunities for study and practice.  
Speaking at the launch, Choudhary said the initiative would ensure that students could receive answers to their academic questions whenever and wherever they study.  
The Chief Minister urged students to make full use of the platform and develop their knowledge and skills. He said the initiative, initially launched in 700 schools, would be expanded to more schools across Bihar in the future.  
Students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, demonstrated the app’s features during the launch programme.



Choudhary at the launch of the Vidya Saathi app.

Finance Minister begins Canada-US visit to boost investments

Nirmala Sitharaman will visit Canada and the US from August 25 to September 2 to strengthen economic ties, investments and financial cooperation.

**NEW DELHI**  
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will visit Canada and the United States from August 25 to September 2, with a focus on strengthening economic and financial cooperation. The visit is expected to improve investment links and expand partnerships on important global economic issues.  
In Toronto, Sitharaman will join Canada’s Finance and National Revenue Minister François-Philippe Champagne for the first Economic and Financial Dialogue. The talks will



cover economic developments, financial sector cooperation, investment opportunities and shared international priorities. She will also meet business leaders from energy, artificial intelligence and critical miner-

als sectors. The finance minister is expected to promote stronger business connections between India and Canada, including investment opportunities through GIFT City-IFSC. She will also hold meetings with Canadian company leaders to discuss India’s growth, investment prospects and opportunities for expanding businesses in the country.  
During the US leg, Sitharaman will travel to Chicago, Asheville in North Carolina and New York. In Chicago, she will meet investors and senior business leaders and visit the

University of Chicago’s Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. In Asheville, she will lead India’s delegation at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting.  
In New York, Sitharaman will attend an investor meeting with senior company representatives. She will also take part in a bell-ringing ceremony hosted by NASDAQ. The visit is expected to strengthen investment ties and create new opportunities for cooperation in finance, technology and business.

India intensifies action against fugitive criminals

**NEW DELHI**  
Indian agencies have stepped up efforts to bring criminals hiding abroad back to India, with the Union Home Ministry saying 51 hardened criminals have been deported in 2026 alone. The latest operation involved three alleged gang members who were brought back from Malaysia and handed over to the police.  
Punjab Police, working with central agencies, secured the deportation of Jaspreet Singh, Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh on August 19. The three are allegedly linked to the Davinder Bambiha gang and are accused of several crimes, including extortion, cross-border arms and drug trafficking, as well as a foiled grenade attack in Ludhiana.  
The Home Ministry said the action reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s focus on building a safe and secure India. Earlier, the Centre said 274 fugitive criminals had been brought back from 36 countries between 2019 and July 2026. Officials credited stronger laws, international cooperation, coordinated efforts by agencies and technology-driven investigations for the progress.  
The ministry said its approach to dealing with fugitives is based on global outreach, stronger coordination and smart diplomacy. It also described the return of fugitive offenders as a national priority, linking the issue to national security, law and order, economic stability and India’s sovereignty.



Priyanka Gandhi Raises Unemployment Concerns

**NEW DELHI**  
Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday raised concerns over unemployment among India’s youth, saying a lack of job creation, challenges in education and policies affecting small businesses were contributing to growing frustration among young people.  
Speaking to ANI after a Joint Committee meeting on the “One Nation, One Election”, Priyanka said, “We already know that the unemployment rates are the highest they’ve ever been in 40 years.” She added that there were “unrest, disappointment and frustration” among the youth, pointing to recent student protests.  
Priyanka attributed the employment challenge to what she described as a lack of focus on manufacturing and MSMEs, along with policies she

“We already know that the unemployment rates are the highest they’ve ever been in 40 years.”

- Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader

IN FOCUS

■ 8.7 crore — Youth not in education, employment or training.

■ 15.6% — Youth unemployment rate.

■ 19.5% — Young women’s unemployment rate.

■ 67% — Unemployed 20–29-year-olds who are graduates.

said were hurting small businesses and other job providers. She also criticised the education system and said there had been insufficient job creation over the past 12 years.  
Her remarks came after a NITI Aayog report, Reimagin-

ing Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047, highlighted the scale of young people outside education, employment and training. Based on data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey conducted in 2021, the report estimated that 8.7 crore Indians aged 15-29 were classified as NEET youth. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also criticised the Centre over the report, citing youth unemployment figures and questioning job creation after graduation.  
Kharge asked where jobs were after graduation and questioned what happened to the promise of creating two crore jobs annually.  
He also warned that education costs, recruitment delays, skills gaps and limited quality employment could undermine India’s demographic dividend.

Telangana BJP chief begins protest over fee dues

**HYDERABAD**  
Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday began a 48-hour hunger strike, demanding that the state government clear pending fee reimbursement dues. He claimed nearly Rs 15,000 crore is outstanding and alleged that the delay is affecting the education and future of around 40 lakh students across Telangana.  
Rao accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil promises made to students and young people. He said many students were facing difficulties in continuing higher education or finding jobs because some educational institutions had withheld their certificates over unpaid reimbursement amounts. He warned that the BJP would continue its campaign until the government released the pending funds.  
The BJP leader also challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to visit Telangana and help secure the release of the dues. Rao said students and young people were suffering because of the government’s alleged negligence. He argued



| MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| ■ ₹15,000 crore  | Pending dues claimed   |
| ■ 40 lakhs       | Students affected      |
| ■ 48 hours       | Hunger strike duration |
| ■ 4 groups       | SC, ST, BC, minorities |
| ■ August 24      | Protest began          |

that the issue had created uncertainty for students and their families and demanded immediate action to resolve the matter.  
However, Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar rejected Rao’s allegations. He accused the BJP leader of using the issue for political purposes and asked him to bring funds from the Centre if he was genuinely concerned about students. Prabhakar said the Congress government was clearing old dues left pending by the previous BRS government.  
The minister also said the state would provide advance fee reimbursements through banks from the current academic year for SC, ST, BC and minority students. He added that welfare hostel funds were being released through a green channel.  
The exchange has intensified the political debate over student welfare and fee reimbursement in Telangana, with both sides blaming each other for the situation.

SC rejects separate probe into Delhi protest assaults

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Monday said there was no need for separate suo motu proceedings into allegations of sexual assault and harassment of women protesters during the July 20 student protests in Delhi. The court said the matter has already been entrusted to a five-member High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) headed by former Supreme Court judge R Subhash Reddy.  
A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said the committee had been specifically directed to examine allegations of targeted violence, harassment, molestation and secondary victimisation of women protesters on priority.  
Senior advocate Shobha Gupta had urged the court to initiate a separate mechanism, citing

allegations that women protesters were molested and sexually assaulted by police personnel. The bench clarified that the committee would provide a mechanism for victims to submit complaints, with nodal officers to be appointed for the purpose. The HPEC was constituted to conduct an independent inquiry into allegations of police excesses as well as violence by protesters. Its mandate includes examining the use of force, tear gas, pellet guns, electric batons and lathis, surveillance, prohibitory orders and the invocation of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.  
The committee has also been directed to preserve and examine CCTV and drone footage, body-camera recordings, wireless communication records and PCR logs. Anonymous complaints may be accepted to protect victims and witnesses.

Six held in fake airline job racket

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi Police have busted a fake airline job racket operating through “Breitish Airways” and Future Wings Learning Institute websites. Six people, including the alleged master-

mind, associate, website developer and three tele-callers, were arrested from Noida.  
The accused allegedly lured job seekers with promises of airport employment and demanded Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000 for aviation courses.

Revanth Reddy slams centre over US visit denial

**NEW DELHI**  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday accused the Centre of “insulting” the four-crore people of Telangana by denying political clearance for his proposed visit to the United States.  
Reddy alleged that the decision reflected discrimination against Telangana and said the issue would be raised in Parliament. He questioned why clearance was granted for his visit to England but denied for the US.  
The Chief Minister also compared his proposed visit under the Telangana Rising 2047 initiative with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel’s US and Canada visit for the Vibrant Gujarat 2047 initiative.

“This is the only political reason Narendra Modi has refused to let me travel to the US to promote Telangana.”

- Revanth Reddy, CM

Reddy said his proposed US trip was aimed at attracting investments to Telangana and argued that the Centre had no political reason to prevent him from travelling.  
The Ministry of External Affairs, however, said visits by chief ministers and other dignitaries are assessed before political clearance is granted.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the programme proposed for Reddy’s US visit was not considered appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit.  
Reddy questioned the difference in treatment and accused the Centre of acting against Telangana’s interests. He said the state would continue to welcome investors from across the world and ensure that their investments were protected.  
The controversy comes amid the Telangana government’s efforts to promote its Telangana Rising 2047 vision and attract international investment. Reddy said the denial of clearance would be raised in Parliament, turning the issue into a fresh Centre-state political dispute.

TN AIRPORT PROJECT CANCELLED

DMK protests Tamil Nadu airport project decision

**CHENNAI,**  
The DMK staged a walkout from the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday after Chief Minister Joseph Vijay announced that the proposed Parandur greenfield airport project would be dropped. The project, originally conceived during the DMK government, had faced strong opposition from farmers concerned about losing their agricultural land.  
Former Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin criticised the decision, calling it a major setback for Tamil Nadu’s development. He said,



“Tamil Nadu’s interests cannot be mortgaged for petty political considerations,” and argued that cancelling the project would affect the state’s growth and employment opportunities for young people.

Inside the Assembly, DMK member E V Velu sought permission to discuss the government’s decision with Speaker J C D Prabhakar. After the request was not accepted, DMK members protested and walked out of the House. The

opposition party maintained that the airport was important for Chennai’s future economic expansion.  
Former state Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu told PTI that the Parandur airport was vital for the industrial growth of Chennai and nearby areas, particularly the Sriperumbudur industrial belt. He claimed that around 90 per cent of the required land had

already been acquired and compensation had been paid, making the decision to abandon the project “illogical and harmful” to Tamil Nadu’s economic plans.  
The proposed airport had been presented as a solution to Chennai’s growing aviation needs and was expected to support industrial activity and employment. However, resistance from affected communities remained a major challenge. The government’s decision has now triggered a political dispute, with the DMK questioning its economic impact while the administration has chosen to shelve the project.

Calcutta HC seeks fir report on Abhishek Banerjee’s aide

**WEST BENGAL**  
The Calcutta High Court on Monday directed the West Bengal Director General of Police to submit a detailed report on all FIRs registered against Sumit Roy, personal assistant to Trinamool Congress general secretary and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee.  
Justice Sougata Bhattacharya asked the DGP’s office to provide details of the cases by the next hearing on September 10. The court also ordered that no coercive action be taken against Roy until then, allowing him to approach the court if police attempt such action. Roy’s counsel told the court that his client had cooperated with investigations and appeared before investigating officers whenever summoned.  
He alleged that police were filing new cases against Roy frequently to harass him. According to the submission, the first FIR was registered on June 5, followed by another on June 16 and subsequent cases. The court sought complete details of all FIRs registered against Roy by the state police.

Quick Read

**Intoxicated father shoots daughter dead**

**Pilibhit**

A 42-year-old man allegedly shot his 20-year-old daughter dead following an argument at their home in Rampura Naugawan village, Uttar Pradesh, police said. The accused, identified as Ajay Pal Gangwar, reportedly returned home intoxicated before an argument broke out with his daughter, Anshika Gangwar. As the dispute escalated, he allegedly pulled out an illegal firearm and shot her in the head at close range, killing her instantly. Family members and neighbours rushed to the spot after hearing the gunshot, but the accused had fled. Police teams are conducting raids to apprehend him. A case is being registered based on the family's complaint.

**Man held for sharing wife's intimate videos**

**Kollam**

A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly uploading his wife's intimate videos on a pornographic website and performing a sexual act in front of their four-year-old daughter, police said. The case came to light after the woman's friends informed her about the videos. Police said she later found another video on her husband's phone. After returning to Kerala, he allegedly repeated the act despite counselling. He was arrested after police registered cases, including under the POCSO Act.

**Friends found hanging together in Vidisha**

**Bhopal**

Two young friends were found hanging from the same noose on a tree in a field near Adampur village in Vidisha district on Sunday, police said. The deceased, Akash Meena, 22, and Arif alias Babu, 21, were neighbours and worked together in agriculture. Their families have raised suspicion of murder, saying the circumstances were unclear. Police teams, along with forensic experts, inspected the spot and questioned villagers. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. Police said they are investigating the deaths and awaiting the post-mortem report to determine the exact cause and circumstances.

# UPSC announces direct recruitment to 80 central Government posts

UPSC invites applications for 80 EPFO Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner posts, offering permanent Group A government positions.

NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has invited applications for 80 posts of Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (APFC) in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Eligible candidates can apply through the UPSC Online Recruitment Application portal from August 22 to September 11, 2026.

Of the 80 vacancies, 28 are for Unreserved (UR) candidates, 8 for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), 18 for Other Backward Classes (OBC), and 15 each for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates. Three posts are reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD).

The APFC post involves responsibilities related to enforcement, recovery, accounts, administration, cash management, legal matters, pensions and computer-related functions. Selected officers will also handle statutory and administrative duties, including conducting inquiries, settling claims, maintaining cash books, reconciling bank statements and preparing management information system (MIS) returns. According to the UPSC advertisement, the APFC position is a permanent Central Board Group 'A', non-ministerial post, with the corresponding Central Government pay level. The Commission has advised candidates to read the detailed Specification Advertisement No. 52/2026 and follow the instructions while submitting their applications through the online portal.



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AT A GLANCE

■ 80 — APFC vacancies in EPFO.

■ Aug 22-Sep 11 — Application window.

■ 28 — UR vacancies.

■ 18 — OBC vacancies.

■ 15 each — SC and ST vacancies.

■ 3 — PwBD-reserved vacancies.

■ Group 'A' — Permanent, non-ministerial Central government post.

cial Advertisement No. 52/2026 and follow the instructions while submitting their applications through the online portal.

# 'Govt has played delay games' CJP announces peaceful protest

NEW DELHI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday announced a peaceful protest march in Delhi on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to honour commitments made to young people on July 25.

The party said the march will be held from India Gate to the New Delhi Police Headquarters and will be led by families of deceased NEET victims and victims of alleged police brutality. Students and young citizens from across the country have also been urged to participate.

The CJP said the nationwide youth protests were withdrawn on July 25 in good faith after the government made commitments to address concerns raised by protesters.

However, the party alleged that the Centre had delayed implementation and avoided giving clear assurances on the commitments.

The CJP also referred to Supreme Court proceedings on August 18, claiming that the court had sought details of

"We will not accept this attempted betrayal." — CJP

FIRs registered across the country to consider their collective quashing. The party alleged that the government had not provided a clear commitment on the issue.

The party said it had been forced to return to the streets because the government appeared to be going back on promises made to the younger generation.

The CJP accused the Centre of attempting to betray the trust of Gen-Z and families who had lost their children during the protests.

The party appealed to students, youth organisations and young citizens to join the September 5 march peacefully. The CJP said families of deceased victims and those alleging police brutality would lead the march, with participants demanding that the government honour its July 25 commitments "in letter and in spirit."

# Delhi polling stations rise after SIR rationalisation

NEW DELHI

The number of polling stations in Delhi has increased to 14,947 from 13,033 following rationalisation under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, according to the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer.

The number of polling-station locations has also risen from 2,696 to 2,856 across the capital's 70 Assembly constituencies. The changes were made after the Election Commission reduced the maximum number of voters at each polling station from 1,500 to 1,200 to make voting

| HIGHLIGHTS                             |
|----------------------------------------|
| 14,947 — Total polling stations        |
| 2,856 — Polling-station locations      |
| 1,200 — New voter limit per station    |
| 47 lakh+ — Voters likely to be removed |

more convenient.

North East Delhi has the highest number of polling stations, with 1,829 stations spread across 321 locations.

New Delhi has the lowest, with 214 polling stations among the capital's 13 districts. The revision is also expected to affect the electoral rolls significantly. More than 47 lakh voters out of Delhi's 1.45 crore registered voters are likely to be removed from the draft rolls scheduled for publication on August 31. Their enumeration forms were marked "uncollectable" during the door-to-door verification exercise, which ended on August 17. The final changes will depend on the revision process and subsequent scrutiny by election authorities.

# FDA suspends five MCA restaurants over violations

MUMBAI

The Food and Drug Administration has suspended the licences of five restaurants operating at the Mumbai Cricket Association premises after inspections found serious food safety and hygiene violations.

The action was taken against Permit Room, Pavilion, Mediterranean, Oriental Swing, and Clubway & Pastry Counter.

Officials found rotten raw food, poor sanitation, improper food storage and inadequate temperature control at the establishments.

# Calcutta HC stays arrest warrant against MP

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday stayed an arrest warrant issued against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra by a Krishnanagar court for failing to appear before it in a case involving allegations of insulting women and making hate speeches.

A division bench comprising Justices Debansu Basak and Aryak Dutt directed that the matter be taken up again on August 27. The bench will hear the complainant in the case before the Nadia district court.

The High Court stayed the arrest warrant against Moitra until further orders.

Moitra's lawyer, Arko Kumar Nag, argued that since the alleged speeches and the complaints against her were made in connection with her role as an MP, the case should be heard by the designated MP/MLA court in Salt Lake.

The lawyer also submitted that the allegations against Moitra were baseless and frivolous and that the complaint did not dis-



close any criminal offence.

The case was filed against Moitra over allegations that she had insulted women and delivered hate speeches. Following the complaint, the Krishnanagar court had issued pre-cognisance summons to the TMC MP.

The Third Judicial Magistrate at Krishnanagar later ordered an arrest warrant on August 19 after noting that Moitra had failed to appear despite repeated summons.

The magistrate had also directed that a report on the execution of the arrest warrant be submitted before the court on August 28.

With the Calcutta High Court now staying the warrant, the legal proceedings against the TMC MP will come up for further consideration on August 27.

# MP Congress seeks probe into ₹600 crore irregularity

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Monday intensified its attack on the BJP-led state government over an alleged ₹600-crore financial irregularity in the state treasury, demanding a detailed investigation, recovery of the allegedly lost public money and accountability of those responsible.

Congress state president Jitu Patwari claimed that the alleged irregularity involved public funds and questioned how transactions of such a large scale could continue for a prolonged period without detection.

"Every rupee of the government treasury will have to be accounted for. The culprits and those shielding them must be exposed, and every penny of the people's money must be recovered."

— Jitu Patwari, Congress president

According to Patwari, 24 government departments are under scrutiny, suspicious transactions involving nearly ₹305 crore have been detected, and around 400 officers and employees are under the scanner. He further alleged that nearly ₹380 crore remains to be recovered.

# Punjab emerges as major IT destination: CM

CHANDIGARH

Punjab is rapidly emerging as an important information technology destination, with Mohali expected to develop into a major centre for artificial intelligence, digital innovation and Global Capability Centres, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Monday. He made the remarks after meeting a delegation from the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).

Mann said world-class infra-

structure, skilled professionals, lower business costs, Invest Punjab and the state's new GCC Policy 2026 were helping create a favourable environment for technology companies. He said the government was working to attract investments and create more employment opportunities for young people in the state. The Chief Minister invited NASSCOM to partner with Punjab's upcoming startup incubator in Mohali and help strengthen the state's innovation ecosystem.



# Chlorine gas leak leaves 50 people hospitalised

NAGPUR

Around 50 people were hospitalised after a chlorine gas leak at a water treatment plant in Godhani Nagar on Monday, causing panic in nearby residential areas. Those affected reported breathing difficulties, coughing, headaches, anxiety and low oxygen levels. The leak occurred between 1 am and 1:45 am at the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran's water treatment plant, where chlorine escaped from a 900-kg cylinder.

As the gas spread, residents rushed away from the area amid confusion and fear. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation and the National Disaster Response Force evacuated people living within a 200-metre radius of the plant

and shifted them to safer places. Several residents were taken to hospitals after experiencing health problems. Pets and stray animals in the locality were also reportedly affected.

A team from Orange City Water moved the leaking cylinder and submerged it in a water tank containing a caustic soda solution to neutralise the gas. People requiring medical attention were taken to Sparsh Hospital in Zingabai Takli and Mayo Hospital in Nagpur. Doctors said patients mainly complained of breathing trouble, coughing, headaches, anxiety and reduced oxygen levels.

Police, fire brigade officials, NDRF personnel and other emergency teams joined the rescue operation.

# BJP questions Kerala government's 100-day performance

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a sharp political attack on the V.D. Satheesan-led Kerala government as it completes its first 100 days, questioning its performance and alleging that key election promises remain unfulfilled.

BJP state president and MLA Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the government had promised five guarantees during the election but had implemented only one. He demanded an explanation over the remaining commitments.



"What happened to the other guarantees?" Chandrasekhar asked, challenging the government to account for its election promises.

The BJP leader also accused the Congress-led administration of failing to

"The government had gone before the electorate promising five guarantees but had implemented only one."

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MLA

take meaningful action against corruption despite promising to investigate alleged irregularities under the previous CPI(M)-led government.

On the economic front, Chandrasekhar claimed the government had added ₹12,500 crore to Kerala's debt burden while failing to attract fresh investments or create significant em-

ployment opportunities.

He also accused the government of abandoning its promise of non-communal governance. Chandrasekhar alleged that the Chief Minister was now engaging in communal politics and acting on issues raised by the Indian Union Muslim League and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The BJP state president further criticised the government over the proposed division of the Palakkad railway division, saying Kerala's railway interests should not be compromised. He called for de-

tailed discussions on administrative reorganisation, including the proposed division of districts.

Chandrasekhar also demanded a CBI probe into alleged irregularities surrounding the proposed visit of football star Lionel Messi to Kerala, alleging that promises in the sports sector were turning into controversies.

The BJP's criticism comes as the government's 100-day milestone becomes a political battleground over promises, governance and development.

Quick Read

Alibaba's \$10 bln share sale starts Al countdown

**HONG KONG**  
China's Alibaba shares slumped in Hong Kong trade on Monday after it launched a \$10.2 billion share sale at a steep discount to fund its AI ambitions, with investors focused on stock dilution and execution risks. The e-commerce and cloud computing giant said it would sell HK\$80 billion (\$10.2 billion) of new shares at HK\$112.70 each, an 8.4% discount to Friday's close, to fund chips, AI infrastructure and models. AI has become Alibaba's biggest driver of revenue growth at a time when e-commerce growth is stagnating, and its Qwen AI models are some of the most popular in China.

India-Bhutan ties enter stronger phase across sectors

**New Delhi**  
Grounded in the historic spirit of the 1949 and 2007 Friendship Treaties, the India-Bhutan bilateral relationship has quietly moved past traditional donor-recipient dynamics into an agile, forward-looking strategic partnership. Over the past year, bilateral cooperation has accelerated across four major sectors economic planning, energy transitions, regional connectivity, and knowledge sharing, according to an article in India Narrative. The article highlights that India's development partnership with Bhutan has moved from ad hoc projects to a tightly aligned, plan based framework. The fifth India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks concluded with a comprehensive review of India's INR 10,000 crore.

L&T bags over Rs 15K cr Mideast gas compression project

NEW DELHI

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday said it has secured an ultra-mega contract worth more than Rs 15,000 crore to build gas compression facilities and related infrastructure for a client in the Middle East. The project was awarded through a letter of award issued in FY26, the company said.  
It noted that L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Onshore (LTEH Onshore) will execute the project on an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis and the facilities will be developed for new onshore installations to process sour gas.  
The project includes gas inlet facilities, gas compression systems, condensate and pro-

HARYANA 2.0  
Haryana targets Rs ₹66K cr investment push  
CM Nayab Singh Saini pitches Haryana as a strategic investment destination, assures industry of policy stability and faster approvals.

MUMBAI

Memoranda of Understanding involving investments of more than Rs 66,000 crore were signed in Haryana on the second day of the state government's 'Happening Haryana 2.0' international outreach campaign, marking a major investment push.  
The MoUs were exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh at an interaction with Consuls General, investors and Mumbai's financial sector.  
Saini said Haryana offered investors more than land, incentives and approvals, describing the state's approach as a strategic partnership based on scale, speed, policy certainty and shared prosperity. "We believe in project movement, not file movement," he said, highlighting the government's focus on faster implementation.



The Chief Minister said an Industry-Worker Friendship Council had been constituted to address issues concerning the rights of industries and workers and resolve industrial disputes.  
Saini highlighted Haryana's economic contribution, noting that while the state accounts for only about 1.3 per cent of India's geographical area, it contributes around 3.6 per cent to the national economy. He said the state had become a hub for automobiles, agro-industries, engineering, electronics, logis-

tics, IT services and corporate activities.  
He also cited the recent signing of MoUs worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore at the Industry Policy launch programme in Gurugram. Of the 123 companies involved, 108 have been provided land.  
The government, he said, plans new growth nodes by integrating district-specific industrial clusters with land, skills and connectivity, with sectors tailored to northern, central, southern and western Haryana.

**Boosting state's industrial growth agenda**

- MoUs worth more than Rs 66,000 crore signed during Happening Haryana 2.0.
- CM stresses speed, policy certainty and partnership with investors.
- Haryana contributes around 3.6 per cent to India's national economy.
- Recent Industry Policy programme saw MoUs worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore.
- 108 of 123 companies have already been provided land.
- New district-specific growth nodes planned across four regions.

TALABIRA MINE SETS COAL PRODUCTION RECORDS

NEW DELHI

Talabira II & III Open Cast Coal Mine in Odisha has achieved record production and dispatch in the 2025-26 financial year, reinforcing the Centre's push to increase domestic coal availability and strengthen energy security.  
Allocated to NLC India Ltd. on May 2, 2016, under the Nominated Authority framework, the mine produced 19.14 million tonnes (MT) of coal and dispatched 17.69 MT during FY26, according to the Ministry of Coal. The mine, spread across Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts, recorded year-on-year production growth of 11.28 per cent. It also achieved its highest-ever daily output of 126,138.07 tonnes on March 21, 2026,

**Record performance**

- FY26 production: **19.14 MT**
- FY26 dispatch: **17.69 MT**
- Production growth: **11.28% year-on-year**
- Highest daily output: **126,138.07 tonnes**
- Highest monthly output: **3.39 MT in March 2026**
- Cumulative production: **72.23 MT**
- Cumulative dispatch: **70.89 MT**

while monthly production touched a record 3.39 MT in March. Talabira II & III supplies coal to power-generating facilities across several states,

including NTPC Darlipali, NTPC Gadawara, NTPC Kharagone and NTPC Kudgi. Its output also supports power plants in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Since beginning production, the mine has maintained a sustained growth trajectory, with cumulative production reaching 72.23 MT and cumulative dispatch standing at 70.89 MT as of August 14, 2026. The ministry said technology has played a key role in improving operational efficiency. The Digital Logistics Management System uses RFID-based vehicle verification, AI-enabled cameras and technology-enabled entry and exit gates to monitor coal move-

US long bonds risk deeper selloff sans clear Warsh guidance

WASHINGTON

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh's debut speech at the annual Jackson Hole conference this week, self-advertised as a choice between discussing near-term policy or broader principles, has taken on added weight as traders and analysts look for guidance about the recent jump in bond yields and for reassurance of his independence from the Trump administration.  
Warsh has said he wants to wait for recommendations from five task forces established at the start of his tenure this spring before getting too detailed about his plans.  
But markets have already sped towards a conclusion that the Fed's policy interest rate needs to be higher, with U.S. inflation above the 2% target for more than five years and Warsh's colleagues concerned that if the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee doesn't hike rates to get inflation back to that level, the central bank's credibility could suffer.  
Globally, what former Fed Chair and Nobel Economics Prize winner Ben Bernanke deemed a "global savings glut" that kept market interest rates low has evolved into a global savings squeeze with rising government debts, fractured international trade and supply lines, the costs of population aging, and booming private investment in artificial intelligence competing to divvy up the dollars available to invest and lend.  
"Both the bond market and the FOMC have clearly decided to wake up" to account for higher inflation and what promises to become "a secular, multi-year uptrend in interest rates," said Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Centre grants 4-month extension to green energy projects

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has advised state governments and power sector PSUs to grant up to four months' extension to renewable energy projects affected by disruptions arising from the West Asia situation.  
The relief is being offered under Force Majeure provisions in power purchase agreements (PPAs), which generally recognise war as a qualifying event. The Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure, in an order dated April 29, 2026, clarified that the West Asia situation should be treated as war and allowed time extensions of up to four months.  
According to the MNRE advisory issued on August 21, the relief will cover projects whose scheduled supply or commissioning dates, including earlier extensions, fall on or after February 28.  
Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies such as Solar Energy Corporation of India, NTPC, NHPC and SJVN, along with power, energy and renewable energy departments of state and Union Territory governments, may grant extensions to Scheduled Commencement of Supply Dates or Scheduled Commissioning Dates.  
The agencies have been

**BOOST TO RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR**  
Relief applies to projects whose scheduled supply or commissioning dates, including earlier extensions, fall on or after February 28, 2026. SECI, NTPC, NHPC, SJVN and state agencies can process eligible requests under contractual procedures.

asked to examine requests from renewable power developers and follow applicable contractual procedures in each case.  
The advisory comes after representations seeking a blanket extension for affected renewable energy projects. Developers cited a July 31 advisory from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs concerning real estate projects, which allowed regulators to consider four-month extensions for projects with completion dates on or after February 28, 2026.  
MNRE has directed implementing agencies to decide requests in accordance with applicable force majeure provisions and the Finance Ministry's April order.  
"The West Asia situation should be treated as war," the Finance Ministry order clarified, enabling time extensions of up to four months.

'India's growth to boost NZ gains in free-trade deal'

NEW DELHI

India's economic rise makes it a strategic partner for New Zealand, and the recently signed free trade agreement (FTA) between the two nations is expected to deliver significant gains, a new report has said.  
A report from Australia-based Westpac Institutional Bank highlighted India's scale and growth potential suggesting that the FTA could add close to 0.1 per cent to New Zealand's GDP over the next decade.  
"India is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and offers access to a market of 1.4 billion people – one fifth of the world's population," the report said. Under the FTA, 95 per cent of New Zealand's current exports gain tariff elimination or substantial tariff reductions.  
Estimated tariff savings of around NZ\$43 million annually from day one, rising to about NZ\$62 million when fully implemented based on current trade levels. The report called India a global economic powerhouse and is expected to become the world's third-largest economy this decade due to rapid growth in incomes and consumer spend-

ing.  
"Within five years, India's middle class is expected to exceed the entire population of the EU or ASEAN. Increasing influence in global trade, technology, investment and geopolitics," the institutional bank said.  
The merchandise trade benefits are likely to be larger over time as India's economy grows, even more so if – as seems likely – the FTA encourages proportionally greater trade with India.  
"Importantly, benefits from the FTA extend beyond traditional merchandise trade to investment, services, tourism and education exports," the report noted. Further, the FTA also holds benefits related to strategic relations and economic diversification especially important in the current geopolitical environment.  
India is currently only New Zealand's 10th-largest export market despite its economic scale. NZ exports remain concentrated in a relatively small number of markets, the report said, adding that diversifying reduces economic risk.  
The benefits extend beyond tariff reductions and the agreement facilitates faster customs clearance procedures.

Govt lifts export ban on wheat, its products

NEW DELHI

The government has amended the export policy for several wheat products and shifted from the prohibited to the free category, according to a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Monday.  
Under the revised policy, exports of wheat or meslin flour (atta), maida, semolina (rava), wholemeal atta and resultant atta will now be permitted without restrictions. The Centre had imposed curbs on wheat and wheat product exports in 2022 to ensure domestic food security and contain rising prices.  
On May 13, 2022, the export policy for wheat was changed from free to prohibited and the restrictions were extended to wheat flour exports in August that year.  
The decision came amid disruptions in global wheat

supplies following the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which boosted overseas demand for Indian wheat and pushed domestic prices higher.  
Meanwhile, the government said export restrictions were necessary to safeguard food security for the country's 1.4 billion population and to check rising wheat and wheat flour prices.  
Despite the ban, certain exceptions were permitted for specific wheat products.  
In February this year, the government allowed the export of 25 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat and an additional 5 LMT of wheat products, citing improved stock availability.  
According to the data released in May, India's total foodgrain production increased by 5.3 per cent to an all-time high of 376.563 million tonnes in 2025-26 compared with the corresponding figure of 357.732 million tonnes for the previous year.

TIES WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN FIN HUB  
FM eyes deeper global investment collab

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will undertake a visit to Canada and the United States from August 25 to September 2, with the government seeking to strengthen economic and financial partnerships, deepen investment linkages and advance cooperation on shared global priorities.  
In Toronto, Sitharaman will participate in the inaugural Economic and Financial Dialogue with Canada's Minister of Finance and National Revenue, Francois-Philippe Champagne. The discussions

will cover macroeconomic developments, financial sector cooperation, bilateral investment opportunities and international priorities, while strengthening the economic and financial pillar of the renewed India-Canada partnership.  
She will also join an Investment Roundtable with senior representatives from the energy, artificial intelligence and critical minerals sectors. The interaction will focus on business-to-business linkages, investment opportunities and long-term commercial partnerships, including opportunities in GIFT City-IFSC.



Sitharaman is scheduled to hold one-to-one meetings with Canadian business leaders to discuss India's growth prospects and opportunities for expanding Canadian companies' presence in India.  
In the US, she will visit

Chicago, Asheville and New York. Chicago engagements include a roundtable with investors and private-sector leaders, along with a visit to the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago.  
In Asheville, she will lead India's delegation at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the US G20 presidency.  
Her New York programme includes an investor roundtable with leading companies and a NASDAQ bell-ringing ceremony.  
The Finance Ministry said

the visit will also provide insights into technology-driven financial markets and the evolving relationship between technology and capital markets.  
Nirmala Sitharaman: "The visit will focus on strengthening bilateral economic and financial partnerships."  
Pankaj Choudhary: "Discussions will seek to deepen investment linkages and advance cooperation on shared global economic priorities."  
Nirmala Sitharaman: "The programme would explore investment opportunities and long-term commercial partnerships."

Quick Read

Pro-Tokayev party wins 71% in Kazakh Parl poll

**ALMATY**  
Adilet, a newly-formed pro-government party in Kazakhstan, has won just over 71% of the vote in a parliamentary election, the electoral commission said on Monday, in a result likely to consolidate President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's power. Adilet was founded in the Central Asian country earlier this year and is led by top aides to Tokayev. Shortly after its founding, it incorporated the previous ruling party, Amanat. Aside from Adilet, the electoral commission said four other blocs, the pro-business Respublika and Ak Zhol parties, the centre-left Nationwide Social Democratic Party.

Dallas meet both rally, rescue mission for Republicans

**Dallas**  
President Donald Trump's Republican Party is increasingly viewing its first-of-a-kind midterm convention in Dallas next month as crucial to regaining momentum at a time when opinion polls show voter frustration over the economy and the Iran war, according to party officials, donors and convention planners. When Republicans announced the convention earlier this year, some strategists dismissed it as a distraction as campaigns entered the final stretch. They questioned the need for a national gathering with no official party business.

UK to provide long-range missile blueprints to Ukraine

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham will visit Ukraine on Monday on his first overseas trip since taking office, and will announce British support to help Kyiv improve its domestic production of long-range missiles. Burnham will be in Ukraine to co-chair a meeting of the so-called Coalition of the Willing, a group of countries backing Ukraine, on Monday when he is also due to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He is set to announce that Britain has agreed to allow European missile manufacturer MBDA to release classified information on British-made components used in the SCALP long-range cruise missile, according to his office. That will help enable France and Ukraine to establish local assembly lines for the missile, which shares British and French technology, according to Downing Street. "Ukraine's security is our security," Burnham said in a

Pak pushes Iran talks amid escalation

CAIRO

Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Monday for talks as Washington prepared what Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called its biggest financial offensive against Tehran. Munir's visit came amid heightened economic and maritime pressure on Iran. Pakistan said the trip was part of its efforts to promote regional peace and stability. Pakistani sources said Munir was expected to meet people close to Iran's supreme leader. Two Pakistani sources said Trump had spoken with Munir last week,

Zelensky vows Ukraine will not surrender for peace

Zelenskyy rejects territorial surrender as Western leaders rally behind Kyiv, while Britain backs Ukraine's air-defence needs amid fresh Russian attacks.

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday Kyiv wants peace but will not accept surrender or territorial concessions to Russia, as leaders gathered in Kyiv for Ukraine's Independence Day. Speaking in a video address, Zelenskyy thanked leaders who travelled to Ukraine and reiterated that his country would not give up territory. He said Russia's demand that Kyiv cede the Ukrainian-held portion of Donbas would not end Moscow's aggression. "Ukraine absolutely wants peace, but it is not ready to simply surrender," Zelenskyy said, adding that Ukraine would not give away what belongs to it. The remarks came as Western leaders renewed support for Kyiv. British Prime Minister Andy Burnham made his



first visit to the capital and was expected to announce British support for domestic long-range missile production. Burnham was also due to co-chair a virtual meeting of the Coalition of the Willing with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. The group was expected to discuss Ukraine's request for more air-defence systems.

Zelenskyy highlighted Ukraine's defence-industry achievements, including naval-drone operations and strikes inside Russia. He urged arms maker Fire Point to speed up production of its Flamingo cruise missile ahead of winter. Britain also signalled plans to permit classified technology to help Ukraine produce European SCALP cruise missiles domestically. The Krem-

Ukraine celebrates I-Day

■ Zelenskyy rejects Russian territorial demands

■ Britain backs Ukraine's missile production

■ Kyiv seeks more air-defence systems

■ Western leaders reaffirm support

■ Kremlin warns against further military assistance

lin warned that such assistance would escalate the conflict, saying it would "add fuel to the fire." With peace talks stalled over Russian territorial demands, Zelenskyy's message underscored Kyiv's determination to pursue negotiations without accepting terms it considers surrender.

Iran warns 45 tankers with fines, confiscation amid Strait escalation

TEHRAN

Iran said it had blacklisted 45 tankers that had broken its rules for crossing the Strait of Hormuz, and would take action against any vessels transferring loads with them, escalating its threats over the key waterway six months into the war. The named vessels could be fined, detained and have their cargoes confiscated, according to an X post from the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, a new body set up by Iran to manage the strait. The warning was issued within days of the U.S.

threatening Iran with "the toughest sanctions in history", and Iran saying its response to any new U.S. threats would be "devastating". The restricted list includes very large crude carriers, liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas tankers, and clean product vessels, among others. Some of the named ships are owned by the United Arab Emirates' ADNOC Logistics and Shipping (ADNOC L&S), ADNOC's subsidiary Navig8 Tankers, and Saudi Arabia's national ship-ping carrier Bahri.

Any vessels involved in ship-to-ship transfers with the named vessels could be added to the blacklist, the Iranian X post added. The post did not spell out what it meant by Iran's rules, but Tehran has in the past said ship-owners should get its clearance to transit the strait and said ships should pay for security and other services. The U.S. has also imposed a naval blockade against Iran-related shipping. The Gulf supplied about 20% of the world's daily crude oil and liquefied natural gas before the Iran conflict disrupted tanker traffic.

Indonesia quake toll touches 100

JAKARTA

The death toll from a powerful earthquake in eastern Indonesia rose to 100 on Monday as rescue and relief operations entered their 10th day, with thousands of residents still displaced and authorities working to deliver emergency supplies across badly affected areas. The magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck East Nusa Tenggara province on August 15 and was followed by thousands of aftershocks, complicating rescue efforts and forcing people to remain away from damaged homes. More than 73,000 houses have been damaged, while about 180,000 people have been evacuated, according to Indonesia's disaster agency.

French poll puts Melenchon in 2027 runoff as Le Pen leads

PARIS

French far-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon has emerged as the strongest potential challenger to far-right leader Marine Le Pen in France's 2027 presidential election, according to a poll released Monday, highlighting the growing polarisation of the country's electorate as President Emmanuel Macron's presidency nears its end. The Harris Interactive-Toluna survey, conducted for French broadcasters M6 and RTL, showed Mélenchon reaching the second round in three of five first-round voting scenarios tested. In a fourth scenario, he was tied with former prime minister and centrist candidate Édouard Philippe for second place. Mélenchon, the leader of the far-left La France Insoumise (LFI) party, was estimated to receive between 16% and 17% of first-round votes. That represents a notable improvement from the 12% recorded for him by the same polling institute in April. The rise puts him much closer to Philippe and

strengthens his position in a crowded field of potential candidates. Marine Le Pen, however, remains firmly ahead. The National Rally leader was projected to receive between 35% and 38% in the first round, giving her a substantial lead over every other candidate tested. The poll also showed that Le Pen would comfortably defeat Mélenchon in a second-round contest, receiving about 68% compared with 32% for the LFI leader. The findings underline the difficulties facing France's political centre. Macron's second and final presidential term is approaching its conclusion, while centrist candidates are struggling to consolidate support amid competition from both the left and right. Former prime minister Édouard Philippe, who is seeking to position himself as a moderate alternative, acknowledged the possibility of an increasingly polarised contest. "The risk of Mrs Le Pen and Mr Mélenchon facing each other in the second round is real and serious," Philippe told reporters on Monday.

Trump-Kim overture alarms Asian allies

TOKYO

Donald Trump's renewed outreach to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is deepening concerns among allies in Asia about Washington's reliability, as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and India reassess their security ties with Washington. Trump's decision to reduce military drills with South Korea last week, describing them as hostile to Pyongyang, has unsettled partners concerned about his approach. Washington also cancelled another Marine exercise with Seoul, citing pressure on U.S. forces linked to Iran. The moves come as Trump seeks to restart talks with Kim and secure a diplomatic win. A person briefed on talks said Trump is eager for a new meeting, but Pyongyang has responded cautiously so far. North Korea meanwhile fired suspected ballistic missiles off its east coast, triggering alerts in South Korea and Japan. Tokyo fears engagement could embolden Pyongyang and weaken confidence in Washington. Japan is also preparing negotiations with Washington over its financial contribution toward hosting U.S. forces. A senior Japanese government official said Tokyo is con-

ASIA'S CONCERNS

SOUTH KOREA FACES REDUCED MILITARY DRILLS; JAPAN FEARS TOUGHER COST-SHARING DEMANDS; TAIWAN IS WATCHING THE TRUMP-XI SUMMIT; AND INDIA IS REASSESSING ITS STRATEGIC POSITION AS WASHINGTON RECALIBRATES REGIONAL PRIORITIES.

cerned Trump could suddenly demand a substantial increase in payments. Taiwan is watching a Trump-Xi Jinping summit, while India is increasingly uncertain about its place in Washington's strategic calculations. Analysts say the uncertainty could have wider consequences for regional security across Asia. Jeremy Chan of Eurasia Group said the decision to reduce exercises would fuel doubts about U.S. commitments. For Asian partners, the issue extends beyond North Korea: they are weighing whether Washington's promises remain dependable for allies as Trump prioritises negotiations, defence spending and domestic political considerations.

Typhoon Narra floods Vietnam, China

BEIJING

Floods and landslides triggered by Typhoon Narra battered northern Vietnam and China's southern Guangxi region on Monday, damaging infrastructure, disrupting daily life and destroying crops as heavy rains continued across the region. In China, rising floodwaters prompted authorities to relocate about 54,000 people, including 8,087 residents moved to emergency shelters, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Floodwaters engulfed parts of Chongzuo city, submerging roads and low-rise structures. Rescuers waded through knee-deep water and used boats to evacuate stranded residents. Fifteen rivers in the region rose above warning levels at

monitoring stations. Weather officials warned that torrential rain would continue across Guangxi, Guangdong, Hainan and Fujian through Wednesday. Northern Vietnam also suffered widespread flooding after days of heavy rainfall associated with Narra. One person was killed and more than 4,300 households were displaced. Mountainous provinces including Lang Son and Cao Bang recorded between 236 and 300 millimetres of rain in the 24 hours to Monday morning, triggering landslides and flash flooding. Quang Ninh province, home to the UNESCO World Heritage site Ha Long Bay, was also affected. Flooding inundated parts of the city and disrupted tourism, fishing and transport.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJ KUMAR alias RAJKUMAR A GAJAKOSH alias RAJKUMAR GAJAKOSH S/o AMBAJI GAJAKOSH, R/o Ward No. 18, Panchasheel Nagar, Indi, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586209, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAJAKOSH RAJAKUMAR AMBAJI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KATHARE SRISANTOSH BABU S/o PANDURANGA KATHARE, R/o 370, 4<sup>th</sup> Main, 9th Cross, P J Extension, Jayadeva Circle-Davanagere, Davangere, Karnataka- 577002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANTOSH KATHARE.

NAME CHANGE

I, YASMIN SULTANA Resident of No. 1050, Abubakar Masjid Road, Next to K K S Function Hall, Sarapalya, Bengaluru- 560077 have changed my name to **YASMEEN SULTANA**, vide affidavit dated: 17.08.2026 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED SHARIFF**, resident of No. 5B, 1st Floor, 6th Cross, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, HBR Layout, Kalyanagar, Bangalore-560043, in Passport No. J6525568 my son name is mentioned as **MOHAMED YOUSUF SHARIFF**, but in Aadhar Card and other document it is mentioned **MOHAMMED YOUSUF SHARIFF**, so I declare that my son name is **MOHAMMED YOUSUF SHARIFF**, vide affidavit dated: 24.08.2026, before Notary LAKSHMAIAH, Bengaluru

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, Bejai, 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.

IN THE COURT OF THE H ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT:DEVANAHALLI  
Crl.MISC.No.544/2026

Between: Sri. Muniyappa and another  
...Petitioners

And: The Tahsilidhar, Devanahalli  
...Respondent

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client Sri. Muniyappa & another residing at Devanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one Doddakrishnappa S/o Late. Munishamappa was died on 26-08-2004 at Devanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, if any 3rd parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble 2nd Additional Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Devanahalli and the date hearing on 30/9/2026 at 11.00 A.M in Crl. Misc. 544/2026, at Devanahalli.

By the order of Hon'ble Court  
Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli

Advocate for Petitioner  
Address for Services: Sri. Narasimhamurthy.K  
Advocate, Office at: #F58, J.M. Arcade,  
1st Floor, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town,  
Bengaluru Rural District.

THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR  
CRL.MISC.NO-588/2026

Petitioners:1. Smt. Meena W/o Late Lakshminarayana Rao Aged about 56 years, 2. Sri, Manju L S/o Late Lakshminarayana Rao Aged about 34 years, R/o: No 85 2nd Cross, Veeraranjaneva Sava Sangha Janatha Colony, Bangalore South-560039

V/s  
Respondent: The Tahasilidhar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Wherefore the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his husband of petitioner No.01 father of petitioner No.02 by name SRI, LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO S/O RAJA RAO who died 15-09-2023 at Dargapagalli village, Kasaba hobli, Doddaballapur taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notified that whoever has interested in this said matter may Appear in person or through advocates duly authorized before court 26/08/2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 22nd day August 2026

By Order of the Court  
SHERISTADAR, THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR  
Advocate: Sri, Raghuvendra. R, Doddaballapur -561203

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To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042



# AG.AL clinches historic Esports World Cup crown

AG.AL dominated the tournament, winning Tekken 8, finishing second in Chess, Free Fire and Honor of Kings, and third in Teamfight Tactics

## PARIS

AG.AL created esports history by winning the 2026 Esports World Cup Club Championship after a thrilling seven-week competition in Paris.

The club collected 5,300 points to finish ahead of Team Falcons and Team Vitality. More than 2,000 players from over 100 countries competed across 25 tournaments in 24 games, with a record prize pool of \$75 million.

The title was decided during the final weekend through the inaugural Trackmania tournament. AG.AL's Gwendal "Gwen" Duparc delivered a stunning performance to win the event and secure the overall championship. Team Falcons had entered the playoffs at the top of the standings, but Carl Jr.'s quarterfinal exit gave AG.AL a major opportunity. Gwen needed a top-three finish and went on to dominate the final.

AG.AL's success was built on strong performances



throughout the tournament. The club won Tekken 8, finished second in Chess, Free Fire and the Honor of Kings World Cup, and took third place in Teamfight Tactics. Team Falcons finished second with 4,600 points, while Team Vitality scored 3,300. The results highlighted AG.AL's ability to compete strongly across several games.

The Paris event also set impressive records for esports. Organisers reported 850 mil-

lion viewers, 440 million hours watched and 175,000 competition tickets sold. Around two million visits were recorded across venues, fan events and city activities. Paris also became the first city outside Riyadh to host the Esports World Cup, marking an important step in its global expansion. AG.AL's victory capped a memorable tournament filled with stand-out performances and new records. The championship gave

## HIGHLIGHTS

- AG.AL finished top with 5,300 points.
- Team Falcons finished second with 4,600 points.
- Team Vitality secured third with 3,300 points.
- Record prize pool reached \$75 million.
- More than 2,000 players competed across tournaments.
- Event attracted 850 million viewers globally.

the club its biggest moment yet and confirmed its strength across esports. With the World Cup returning to Riyadh in 2027, AG.AL leaves Paris as the champion and with a lasting place in esports history.

# Yamashita matches LPGA record with huge victory

Yamashita secured her fourth LPGA Tour title, following victories in four countries, including June's Meijer LPGA Classic and previous wins in Wales and Malaysia

## EDMONTON

Miyu Yamashita produced a remarkable performance, matching the LPGA Tour's 72-hole scoring record while winning the CPKC Women's Open by nine strokes at Royal Mayfair. The Japanese golfer finished with a four-under 66, including a birdie putt on the 18th hole, to reach 23 under par with a total of 257. She matched Sei Young Kim's LPGA record, set in 2018. Yamashita also broke the tournament record of 262.

Yamashita controlled the competition from the opening round, when she shot a course-record 62. She followed with

rounds of 64 and 65, building a six-stroke advantage before the final round. Her victory became a wire-to-wire triumph on a course affected by unusually heavy summer rain and mosquitoes.

Yuri Yoshida finished second at 14 under after a final-round 69, while Kim was another stroke behind. Seventeen-year-old Canadian Anna Huang impressed with a 65 to finish tied for fourth at 12 under. Sixteen-year-old amateur Aphrodite Deng tied for seventh at 11 under.

The victory marked Yamashita's fourth LPGA Tour title, with her wins coming in four countries. She previously won the Meijer LPGA Classic this June and collected titles in Wales and Malaysia last season. She also has 13 victories on the Japan LPGA Tour. Her latest success further establishes her as one of the rising stars of women's golf, with her record-setting consistency making the Edmonton triumph especially memorable.



# BCCI seeks five junior selectors for India

## NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has invited applications for five positions on its junior men's selection committee.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on September 5, 2026.

The new panel will replace the current committee, led by S Sharath, which has served since 2021. During its tenure,

India won the 2022 and 2026 Men's Under-19 World Cups, led by Yash Dhull and Ayush Mhatre.

The incoming selectors will choose teams up to the Under-22 level for domestic and international matches, camps, and tours. They will also monitor player development, appoint captains, select support staff, and help strengthen India's future talent pool.

Applicants must be former players with at least 25 First-Class matches and must have retired for five years or more. Anyone with five cumulative years on a BCCI cricket committee is ineligible.

Shortlisted candidates will face personal interviews after screening, with the new panel expected to help build India's next generation of cricketers.



# Federer returns to New York for two matches

## NEW YORK

Tennis legend Roger Federer is set to return to the US Open four years after retiring from professional tennis.

The tournament organisers confirmed that the Swiss star will play two special matches during Fan Week in New York.

Federer, a five-time US Open champion, will face longtime rival Andy Roddick in a one-set singles match. The pair famously met in the 2006 US Open final, where Federer won in four sets. They also played each other in the quarterfinals the following year.

The former world number one will then join American great John McEnroe for a special doubles match. They will face Roddick and Andre Agassi, creating a star-studded contest featuring four former champions and major tennis figures.

Federer won all five of his US Open titles between 2004 and 2008, establishing a remarkable run at Flushing Meadows. His winning streak ended in 2009, when he lost a five-set final to Juan Martin del Potro. Federer reached the final once more in 2015 but was defeated by Novak Djokovic.



Dr. K. Govindaraj, MLC and President of FIBA Asia and KOA, presented the Champions Trophy to Team Australia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Sunday evening, August 23, 2026, following their victory over China in the FIBA U18 Asia Cup Basketball Championship for Men. He also presented the MVP award to Australia's Yahya Basaran. Australia defeated China 89-79 in the final to clinch the championship title.

CH PHOTO

# New PGTI race adds stakes to India Championship

## NEW DELHI

The Professional Golf Tour of India has launched a new season-long race designed to increase competition and strengthen the route for Indian golfers to the DP World Tour.

The Race to DP World India Championship will finish at Delhi Golf Club from October 15 to 18.

The \$4 million India Championship will now decide the PGTI Order of Merit champion, making the season finale more important. The race includes nine tournaments with a combined prize fund of Rs 10 crore. Three events have already been completed, while six more are scheduled before October.

The top 24 players after the Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship in Greater Noida will qualify for the India Championship. Meanwhile, the top 60 players in the PGTI Order of



Merit will keep their playing rights for the 2027 season.

The new schedule brings the PGTI season to an earlier close in October instead of December. Officials believe this closer match with the DP World Tour calendar will help leading Indian golfers move into international competition more smoothly. The Order of Merit winner will also receive exempt status on the DP World Tour.

The remaining events include tournaments in Telangana, Hyderabad, Chennai,

Raipur and Bengaluru before the Greater Noida finale. PGTI President Kapil Dev said the format would reward consistency and raise competition throughout the season. The Delhi championship will then bring the race to its decisive finish, while also creating a stronger platform for India's top golfers to pursue opportunities overseas and compete against international stars. The new structure is expected to make the domestic season more meaningful from start to finish.

# Pratitee takes lead as Mayank holds top spot

## CHENNAI

Indian chess players Pratitee Bordoloi and Mayank Chakraborty remained in strong positions at the Asian Junior Classical Chess Championship on Monday, with both continuing their impressive campaigns.

Top seed Pratitee moved into sole first place in the girls' event after defeating WCM Aadya Gowda in the seventh round. The victory took her score to six points from seven games, giving her

a half-point advantage over the nearest challengers.

Shohradova Leyla of Turkmenistan dropped to second after drawing with Shivamshika G. FM Prishita Gupta also reached 5.5 points after beating WFM Nivedita V C. In the open section, Mayank remained the leader after drawing with IM Vignesh Advait Vemula. The result gave him six points from seven rounds, keeping him half a point ahead of his rivals.

FM Sharnarshi Viresh moved into the chasing group



with an important win over Turkmenistan's FM Amanmushammet Hommadov. Vignesh, IM Artem Pingin and Viresh are among those still fighting for the top position as the championship enters its crucial stage.

Meanwhile, Indian Grandmaster Pranesh M won the Kanizsa Open in Hungary after defeating Germany's Vadim Petrovskiy in the final round. The 19-year-old finished with seven points from nine games and secured the title in a strong international field. Pranesh, who is ranked 44th in the latest FIDE standings, received congratulations from the Indian Embassy in Hungary. His victory added another bright result for Indian chess on the global stage.

# Barcelona starts title defense with five goal win

## MADRID

Barcelona began its La Liga title defense in impressive style, beating Elche 5-0 away from home and making a strong early statement.

Raphinha opened the scoring from the penalty spot before debutant Karim Adeyemi doubled Barcelona's lead before halftime. After the break, substitute Anthony Gordon made an immediate impact by assisting Raphinha's second goal and Fermin Lopez's close-range finish.

Lopez completed the scoring in the 79th minute with a fine individual effort, giving Barcelona a comfortable victory. Coach Hansi Flick praised the result and said the big win provided confidence for the matches ahead.

Atletico Madrid, meanwhile, were held to a 2-2 draw by Villarreal after a dramatic contest. Marc Pubill gave Atletico the lead, but Villarreal moved ahead through penalties scored by Gerard Moreno and Georges Mikautadze. Atletico defender Robin Le Normand was sent off after fouling Mikautadze.

Giuliano Simeone rescued a point for Atletico with a solo goal five minutes before the final whistle. Julian Alvarez, whose future at Atletico remains uncertain, was met by boos from some home supporters before the match. Elsewhere, Enes Unal scored in the 81st minute as Getafe defeated Racing Santander 1-0. Osasuna will face Levante, while promoted sides Malaga and Deportivo La Coruna meet on Monday. Barcelona's powerful opening has set an early tone for its title defense.



# Lopez inspires Palmeiras to extend league lead

## SAO PAULO

Jose Manuel Lopez scored twice as Palmeiras strengthened its position at the top of Brazil's Serie A with a convincing 4-1 victory over Vasco da Gama.

Lopez opened the scoring shortly after halftime, while Vitor Roque converted a penalty and Mauricio added another goal before the hour mark. Lopez completed his second goal in the final minute, before Facundo Colidio scored a late consolation for Vasco.

The win moved Palmeiras to 51 points, six ahead of second-placed Flamengo, which has a match in hand. Vasco remained 19th with 22 points, leaving the club deep in the relegation zone.

Other Serie A results saw Coritiba beat Corinthians 2-1, Mirassol draw 1-1 at Santos, Chapecoense defeat Sao Paulo 1-0, Bragantino beat Gremio 1-0, and Bahia win 2-0 at Vitoria.

In Germany, Union Berlin also celebrated a strong comeback, defeating second-tier Eintracht Braunschweig 4-2 in the German Cup. Braunschweig twice took the lead through Max Marie, but Union answered each time. Substitute Marin Ljubic then scored twice late, while Zeno Van Den Bosch and Tom Rothe also found the net. The victory gave new coach Mauro Lustrinelli a winning competitive debut.