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After 540 days, CM invites Bidadi farmers for talks

Facing mounting opposition to the proposed township, the Karnataka government has opened dialogue with affected farmers after prolonged protests.

BENGALURU

After 540 days of protests, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has invited farmers opposing the Bidadi Township project for talks, amid growing agitation over the proposed land acquisition.

The move came after farmers shifted their agitation from Bairamangala Circle to Bengaluru’s Freedom Park and announced plans to lay siege to Vidhana Soudha.

The Chief Minister’s Office has invited 25 representatives of the protesting farmers for discussions at Vidhana Soudha. The delegation is expected to include farmer leaders Badagalapura Nagendra, Chukki Nanjundaswamy, Melukote MLA Darshan Puttannaiah and representatives from nine villages facing acquisition.

The farmers, under the banners of Samyukta Horata Karnataka and the Bairaman-



gala-Kanchuganahalli Horata Samithi, have been opposing the township project for more than a year and a half.

Their primary demand is that the Bidadi Township project be scrapped. They have also sought an immediate halt to the land acquisition process, which followed the issuance of the final notification. Farmers have raised concerns over the impact of the pro-

Bidadi Township protest

- **Protest duration:** 540 days
- **Protest venue:** Freedom Park, B'uru
- **Farmers' demand:** Scrap project
- **Land issue:** Stop acquisition process
- **Delegation:** 25 representatives
- **Affected areas:** Nine villages
- **Next step:** Talks with CM

posed project on agricultural land and livelihoods in the affected villages.

They have also demanded safeguards if the government proceeds with a survey through a committee. According to the protesters,

What farmers want

Farmers opposing the Bidadi Township project have demanded that the proposed development be scrapped and the ongoing land acquisition process stopped. They have also sought wider representation if the government forms a committee to conduct a survey. The protesters say representatives from different fields should be included to ensure an independent and comprehensive assessment. The demands follow more than 540 days of agitation against the proposed township.

such a committee should include representatives from different fields to ensure a comprehensive and transparent assessment. The latest development comes against the backdrop of increasing political and public attention to the land acquisition dispute.

The farmers had intensified their protest in Bengaluru after continuing their agitation at Bairamangala Circle for 540 days.

The invitation for talks could provide an opportunity for both sides to discuss the township proposal, the acquisition process and the farmers’ objections.

Govt mulls year-round random drug tests for commercial pilots

NEW DELHI

The government is considering random, year-round psychoactive substance testing for all commercial pilots to strengthen aviation safety standards.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu said on Tuesday that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was consulting stakeholders on strengthening existing drug-testing rules.

At present, regulations require drug tests for 10% of the overall pilot network on a random basis. Naidu said one proposal was to ensure every pilot undergoes random testing at some point during the year.

The issue gained attention after an Air India captain involved in a Phuket-Delhi flight incident reportedly tested positive for marijuana in a final drug test. Air India and Air India Express have also begun mandatory psychoactive substance testing of all their pilots.

JDS urges govt to take over NICE project, stop toll collection

BENGALURU

The JD(S) on Tuesday urged Karnataka government to take over the NICE project, halt toll collection and clear pending compensation to farmers.

A JD(S) delegation led by party Legislature Party leader Suresh Babu submitted a memorandum to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, demanding immediate government intervention in the NICE project and an end to toll collection.

Speaking after the meeting, Suresh Babu alleged that “daylight robbery” was taking place in the NICE project and questioned who was protecting those responsible. He claimed the High Court had directed that toll collection should not continue, but alleged that toll collection was still being carried out despite the court’s order.

“We have appealed to the Chief Secretary to ensure that the court order is implemented. If the state government fails to act, we will approach the Centre and also complain to the President,” Suresh Babu said.



JDS demands

- **Main demand:** Government takeover of NICE project.
- **Toll:** Immediate halt sought.
- **Farmers:** Pending compensation to be paid
- **Court:** Orders to be implemented.
- **Next step:** Approach Centre and President
- **Complaint:** Governor to be approached

He also demanded that the government pay the pending compensation to farmers whose land was acquired for the project. The JD(S) leader said the interests of affected

farmers should be protected and the government should take responsibility for resolving the long-pending dispute.

Suresh Babu said the party would also submit a complaint to the Governor, reiterating its demand for action against the continuation of toll collection.

JD(S) Legislative Council leader Bhoje Gowda said the NICE project had been the subject of court proceedings and alleged that the issue involved serious irregularities. He too demanded that toll collection be stopped immediately and outstanding dues to farmers be cleared. The delegation maintained that the government should take over the project and ensure compliance with court directions.

Kharge, Rahul seek new caste census questionnaire

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi urged PM Modi to replace the caste census questionnaire after wider consultations.

NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the existing caste census questionnaire and prepare a fresh one after wider consultations with political parties, experts and the public.

Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said the present open-ended format could lead to the same caste being recorded under multiple names, sub-castes and linguistic variations. This, they argued, could fragment communities and make the final data unreliable.

In their letter to Modi, the leaders stressed that accurate caste data was essential for framing and implementing social justice policies, particularly those concerning education, employment and welfare schemes.

They suggested introducing a drop-down list of castes, similar to the method used for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The list, they said, could be prepared using existing government records, including lists of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and data from the Anthropological Survey of India.

Kharge and Gandhi also



Congress concerns

- Issue** Open-ended caste question
- Risk** Multiple names for the same caste
- Impact** Fragmented and unreliable data
- Demand** Scrap existing questionnaire
- Proposal** Create a caste drop-down list
- Reference** Telangana and Bihar surveys

pointed to caste surveys conducted in Telangana and Bihar, saying their experience could guide the Centre in designing a more reliable enumeration process. They enclosed copies of caste lists used in the two states.

The Congress leaders further objected to the omission of “Backward Class” from the census questionnaire, saying it could prevent an accurate assessment of the country’s OBC population.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh described the government’s approach as a “whitewash” and said this was the third letter from Congress leaders to Modi on the caste census without a response. “We do not accept the caste census being conducted in the current manner,” Kharge and Gandhi said, calling for a new questionnaire to ensure the exercise produces accurate and meaningful data.

Doval, Wang Yi hold talks on border issue, India-China ties

BEIJING

India and China on Tuesday held high-level talks on managing the boundary dispute and strengthening bilateral ties, ahead of a possible visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to New Delhi.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who are designated Special Representatives for the boundary question, discussed ways to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border and improve relations across economic, political and multilateral areas. The talks were held

in Beijing during Doval’s two-day visit to China. He had arrived on Monday and also met Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng ahead of the Special Representatives’ meeting.

The discussions assume significance amid continued differences over the border and China’s claims relating to Arunachal Pradesh. The two countries have been working to stabilise relations since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash and the subsequent military stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

The Special Representatives mechanism, established in 2003, remains the main channel for negotiations on

Centre opens missile production to Indian industry

NEW DELHI

The government has approved the transfer of technology for all DRDO-developed conventional missile systems to Indian defence companies for domestic production.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the move on Tuesday, describing it as an important milestone in expanding industry participation in the defence ecosystem. The decision covers a broad range of indigenous guided weapons, including air-defence, air-to-air, anti-armour, anti-radiation, anti-ship and conventional strike systems.

The portfolio includes Akash and Akash-NG surface-to-air missiles, VSHORADS, Astra air-to-air missiles, Rudram anti-radiation systems, Nag and SANT anti-tank missiles, the NASM-SR anti-ship missile, indigenous land-attack cruise missiles and Pralay.

However, strategic missile systems such as Agni and K-series missiles have been excluded. BrahMos and MR-SAM, which involve foreign partners, will also remain outside the transfer programme and continue under separate arrangements.

The Defence Ministry said companies would manufacture the systems subject to applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

DRDO will retain responsibility for design certification and quality assurance.



BPSC aspirants clash with police during Patna march

PATNA

Carrying the Tricolour, a large number of students marched from Gandhi Maidan towards the CM’s residence. The protesters reached Dak Bungla crossing, where police detained several students and tried to stop the march.

Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) aspirants jostled with security personnel and broke through the barricades.

Police responded by deploying water cannons. However, instead of retreating, some protesters danced in the water, turning the tense confrontation into an impromptu

“rain dance”.

Heavy security was deployed at major intersections across Patna, with personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force and Rapid Action Force assisting local police.

The students have been protesting for weeks in Gardanibagh over recruitment and examination-related concerns. Their demands include a single-tier examination for BPSC-TRE 4, greater transparency in recruitment examinations, fair opportunities for Hindi-medium candidates and action over alleged irregularities.

They have also sought cancellation of the 70th BPSC



“Whenever we stage a protest, they simply offer assurances and leave it at that.”

- Protesters

examination, citing alleged irregularities.

Bihar Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari, however, maintained that the government had addressed the students’ concerns and said its doors remained open for dia-

Students’ key demands

- **BPSC-TRE 4:** Single-tier examination
- **Recruitment:** Greater transparency
- **70th BPSC:** Cancellation sought
- **BSSC:** Timely recruitment exams
- **Candidates:** Fair opportunities for Hindi-medium students
- **Main concern:** Alleged exam irregularities and paper leaks

logue. He claimed almost all demands raised by the protesters had been met.

The protesters disputed the government’s position, alleging that several longstanding issues in Bihar’s recruitment

and education systems remained unresolved.

Student protester Vikas Bhatt alleged repeated examination paper leaks and delays in recruitment. He also questioned the absence of regular examination calendars for recruitment commissions.

The protests came on the day Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary announced monthly Vidyarthi Sahyog Shivir at educational institutions to address student grievances. The camps will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, while students will also be able to register complaints online and track their status.

‘Not a single drop will be denied to neighbouring states’: Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday said the State would follow the Supreme Court’s directions on the Cauvery dispute and ensure neighbouring states receive their rightful share of river water.

Kharge said Karnataka would not deny Tamil Nadu “a single drop” that was rightfully due to it, while retaining the State’s legitimate share.

“Whatever is the Supreme Court’s direction, everybody has to follow, whether it is Karnataka or whether it is Tamil Nadu. We have told very clearly that not a single drop will be denied to our

neighbouring states. Whatever is rightfully ours, we keep. Whatever is rightfully theirs, we give,” he said.

The remarks came a day after the Supreme Court asked Tamil Nadu to approach the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) with its grievance that Karnataka was not releasing its proportionate share of water.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta noted that Karnataka had already released water in compliance with CWMA directions. Tamil Nadu’s counsel, however, disputed the claim and said the authority had not directed Karnataka to release the quantity it was entitled to receive.

Mysuru City Corporation launches road-clearing drive

382 abandoned vehicles get notices; given a week's time to clear

MYSURU

Mysuru's roads and footpaths could soon get a much-needed makeover, with the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) launching a drive to remove abandoned and unused vehicles that have been occupying public spaces for months.

The civic body has identified 382 abandoned or unserviceable vehicles parked illegally on public roads, footpaths and other public places across the city. MCC Commissioner Savitha M.K. launched the drive to paste notices on the vehicles on Tuesday, warning owners to clear them within seven days.

The move comes amid growing concerns that abandoned vehicles are not merely an eyesore but are also turning into obstacles for pedestrians and motorists. Vehicles left unattended on roads and footpaths obstruct the free movement of traffic and pedestrians, besides affecting the cleanliness and overall appearance of the heritage city. Some of these vehicles could also become dumping spots for garbage and breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying vectors. The civic authorities have therefore decided to take firm action against vehicles that continue to occupy public spaces without legitimate use.

Seven-day deadline

Vehicle owners have been given seven days from the date of serving the notice to remove their vehicles from the location. Failure to comply will invite action under Section 127 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, besides the relevant MCC bye-laws and resolutions of the Corporation Council. Such vehicles will be treated as abandoned or unserviceable and removed through towing.

The cost of towing and transportation will be recovered from the respective vehicle owners. Depending on the circumstances, the civic body may also initiate steps to auction or scrap the vehicles.

Clear roads, cleaner Mysuru

The MCC has appealed to vehicle owners not to wait for enforcement action and instead voluntarily remove their vehicles within the stipulated period.

The initiative is aimed not only at clearing physical obstructions but also at improving road safety, pedestrian mobility, urban cleanliness and the visual appeal of Mysuru.

With hundreds of unused vehicles scattered across public spaces, the civic body's action is expected to send a clear message that



roads and footpaths are meant for public movement—not long-term parking or dumping unwanted vehicles.

The Commissioner urged owners to cooperate with the civic administration and help

keep public roads and spaces free from obstructions.

MCC Executive Engineer (Environment), environmental engineers, health inspectors and supervisors were present during the launch of the drive.

Gajapayana heralds arrival of Dasara's majestic guests

MYSURU

The countdown to the grand arrival of the royal guests of Mysuru Dasara 2026 has begun. The historic Gajapayana, the traditional send-off ceremony for the elephants selected for the Dasara festivities, will be held at Veeranahosahalli village in Hunsur taluk on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the jumbos' journey towards Mysuru.

Amid the beating of traditional drums, the fragrance of flowers and the chants accompanying the age-old ritual, the elephants will receive a ceremonial welcome before embarking on their journey to the cultural capital of Karnataka. The sight of the majestic jumbos standing in decorated surroundings will once again bring alive the unique bond between the forests, elephants and the Dasara tradition.

The first batch comprises nine elephants, who will be brought to Mysuru as the city prepares to welcome its most celebrated Dasara guests. Urban Development Minister and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yatindra Siddaramaiah, along with a host of dignitaries, will welcome the jumbos. Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy will be the chief guest at the Gajapayana ceremony.

The second and third batches of elephants will arrive in Mysuru in the coming days. In all, around 18 elephants are expected to take part in Dasara duty this year. They will re-



main in Mysuru for more than two months, undergoing intensive training and acclimatisation before taking part in the spectacular Jumbo Savari on Vijayadashami. After completing their royal assignment, the elephants will return to their respective camps.

Gajapayana is much more than a ceremonial send-off. It symbolises the beginning of the elephants' transformation from forest dwellers into the centrepiece of one of Karnataka's most famous cultural celebrations. Traditionally, the elephants selected for Dasara are brought from various elephant camps, where mahouts and forest officials begin preparing them for the demanding responsibilities ahead.

The tradition is closely associated with the history of Mysuru Dasara, during which elephants became an integral

part of the royal procession. The practice has evolved over the years, but the majestic presence of elephants continues to remain the soul of the Jumbo Savari.

Once in Mysuru, the first batch of elephants will receive a formal welcome inside the Mysuru Palace premises on Friday at an auspicious time. Special arrangements have been made for the elephants, their mahouts, kavadis and their families during their extended stay.

A separate enclosure has been readied to house the jumbos, while facilities have also been arranged for the mahouts and their families for the next two months. The elephants will undergo regular exercise, feeding schedules, health checks and training sessions to ensure they are fully prepared for the grand procession.

MGP urges Governor to withhold assent to Parks Act amendment

MYSURU

The Mysuru Grahakara Parishat (MGP) has urged Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot not to give his assent to the proposed amendment to the Karnataka Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975, warning that it could pave the way for the gradual destruction and encroachment of parks across the State.

In a representation to the Governor, MGP founding working president Bhamy V. Shenoy and working president S. K. Dinesh said the Karnataka Assembly had approved the amendment on August 24, allowing portions of park and garden land to be utilised for public infrastructure and utility projects.

They expressed concern that the amendment could significantly dilute the existing protection available to parks. Even under the existing provision permitting up to five per cent of park land for maintenance-related purposes, instances of encroachment have repeatedly been reported.

The MGP said it understood the government's intention to facilitate urgent infrastructure projects, including measures aimed at improving traffic flow to Bengaluru airport, but maintained that alternative



land and planning options should be explored instead of opening up protected park spaces.

The organisation cited its 37-year experience of working to protect parks in Mysuru to underline its concerns. It recalled an incident in the early 1990s when the Mysuru City Corporation allegedly constructed a building overnight in the attractive Cheluvamba Park, initially describing it as a guest house and later seeking to use it as an office. Following a PIL filed by MGP under the Parks Act, the building was demolished, with only a portion retained for use as a toilet.

The organisation also cited its intervention to prevent the alleged encroachment of People's Park, where a proposal to construct a library was linked to plans involving commercial establishments such as hotels, bars and shops. MGP said exposing alleged irregularities in the contract helped prevent the

larger-scale diversion of park land.

The representation listed several other instances where the organisation had intervened against alleged encroachments, including an overhead water tank in Gururaj Layout Park, a mini-library in Siddiqui Nagar Park, a senior citizen facility in Jayanagar Park, a building in Javaregowda Park, Saraswathipuram, a water tank in K.C. Layout Park, and a waste segregation plant in Hebbal Park.

MGP said protecting urban parks was essential in the fight against global warming and in fulfilling the constitutional responsibility to safeguard the environment.

The organisation expressed confidence that the Governor would consider its appeal and withhold assent to the amendment, thereby helping protect the parks of Mysuru and Karnataka for future generations.

Draft electoral roll published for NR Assembly constituency

Meeting held with political parties in Mysuru

MYSURU

The draft electoral roll for Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency was published at the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) office on August 24 as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026. The draft roll has also been displayed on the office notice board for public information.

In this regard, a meeting of leaders and office-bearers of all recognised national political parties in the Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency was held. Detailed information was provided on the publication of the draft electoral roll and the steps to be taken in the next phase of the SIR process. The meeting covered various aspects, including the submission and scrutiny of claims and objections, the process of issuing notices, the appointment of additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and the progress made so far in the SIR exercise in the constituency.

A total of 3,27,898 Enumeration Forms (EFs) have been distributed among voters in the Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency, achieving 100 per cent distribution.



Of these, 2,28,543 Enumeration Forms have been digitised, representing 69.70 per cent progress.

So far, 99,355 voters have been identified under the ASDDO category, and the overall process, including EF digitisation and ASDDO identification, has been completed.

The draft electoral roll contains a total of 2,28,543 voters, comprising 1,09,555 men, 1,18,957 women and 31 third-gender voters.

The political party leaders and representatives were also briefed on the progress of Anomalies, No Mapping and

other SIR-related processes completed so far. A total of 21,125 Anomalies and 560 No Mapping cases have been recorded in the Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency.

Details of documents required

The political party representatives were given detailed information regarding the documents required by voters to establish their eligibility and the verification process involved. It was informed that claims and objections would be received and scrutinised as per the prescribed procedure and that notices

would be issued wherever necessary.

During the meeting, copies of the draft electoral roll were handed over to representatives of all recognised national political parties. Acknowledgements were obtained from the representatives confirming receipt of the draft rolls.

The meeting provided political party leaders and office-bearers with detailed information on the SIR process and sought to ensure transparency, coordination and active participation of political parties in the exercise.

Claims and Objections Open till September 23

Members of the public can submit claims and objections relating to the draft electoral roll from August 24 to September 23, 2026. Eligible voters whose names are missing from the draft roll, as well as those who require corrections to their electoral details, have been urged to submit claims or objections in the prescribed format along with the necessary documents. Claims and objections can be submitted at the concerned ERO/AERO offices as well as through the designated online system.

NALSA-SPRUHA SCHEME

Benefits explained to Mysuru central jail inmates

MYSURU

The Mysuru District Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the Mysuru Central Jail, organised an awareness programme for inmates on the implementation of the NALSA-SPRUHA (Unseen, Heldback and Supporting Potential and Resilience of the Affected) Scheme, 2025.

The programme aimed to create awareness among prisoners about the scheme introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to safeguard the welfare of prisoners' dependent family members, particularly children, during their incarceration. It also seeks to support the rehabilitation of prisoners and help prevent them from returning to criminal activities after their release.

Nagaraj Siddappa Ankasaddoddy, Member-Secretary of



the Mysuru District Legal Services Authority, inaugurated the programme and explained the benefits and objectives of the NALSA-SPRUHA Scheme, 2025 to the inmates.

Panel advocate P. Sundar Raj and S. Manju, Secretary of Socare India, also addressed the prisoners and explained the provisions and benefits available under the scheme.

Chief Superintendent of Mysuru Central Jail Seshu Murthy, prison officers and staff, and advocates associated with the District Legal Services Authority were present.

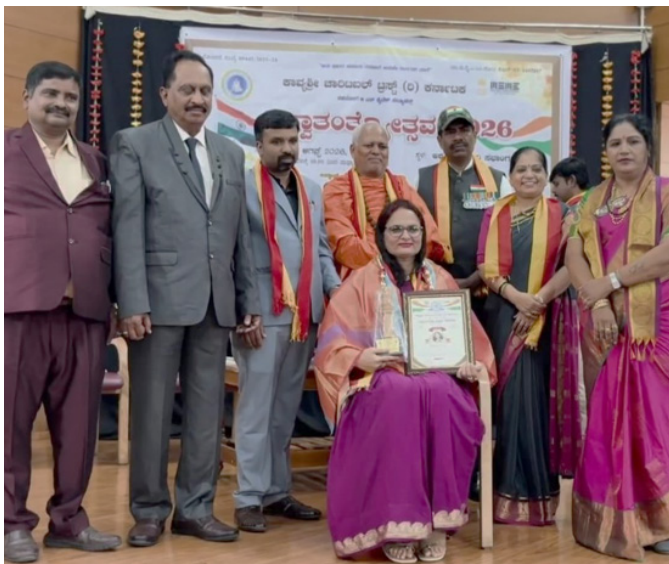
Academician Shamira Sultana honoured with Bharata Bhooshana Award

MYSURU

Noted educationist and academician of Mysuru, Shamira Sultana was accorded a double honour at Swatantrastava 2026, a celebration of India's spirit of freedom and Kannada culture held at the Kannada Sahitya Parishath in Bengaluru.

Sultana was invited as the chief guest for the programme, which brought together eminent personalities, cultural enthusiasts and distinguished guests to celebrate the spirit of independence, patriotism and the rich heritage of Kannada literature and culture.

During the programme, she was presented with the Bharata Bhooshana Award in recognition of her contributions to education, social service and community development.



Speaking on the occasion, she expressed gratitude for the recognition and said the honour would encourage her to continue working for the empowerment of education

and youth, social welfare and community service. The occasion was marked as a memorable celebration of both national spirit and dedicated service to society.

Net closing fast on B'luru city's hidden criminal web

The enforcers: Inside the multi-crore crackdown

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on narcotics, the Bengaluru City Police arrested 10 individuals and seized banned substances valued at nearly ₹8 crore, with an estimated market worth of ₹15.94 crore, across multiple station limits.

Operating on intelligence provided by local informants, special teams from the Hebbal, Yeshwanthpur, HAL, Whitefield, and Yelahanka police stations executed targeted raids. The confiscated contraband includes over 7 kilograms of MDMA, nearly 22 kilograms of ganja, hydro ganja, and hashish oil. Authorities also impounded vehicles and communication devices used by the network.

Initial interrogations revealed that the suspects were procuring illegal substances at lower costs from external suppliers inside and outside the state. They allegedly targeted



college students and the general public, marking up prices for quick profits.

The coordinated operations were carried out under the guidance of senior division leadership, including Deputy Commissioners of Police and Assistant Commissioners. All 10 suspects consisting of 9 local individuals and one from another state have been produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody as investigations continue to trace upstream suppliers.



Station wise seizure breakdown			
Police Station	Main Items Seized	Official Value	Market Value
Hebbal	7 kg 660 g MDMA, 2 bikes	7.66 Crore	15.32 Crore
HAL	170 g MDMA	17 Lakh	34 Lakh
Whitefield	10 kg 150 g Ganja	5 Lakh	10 Lakh
Yelahanka	10 kg 100 g Ganja, 1 lorry	5 Lakh	10 Lakh
Yeshwanthpur	Ganja, Hashish Oil, weed	4.20 Lakh	8.40 Lakh

CCB cops uncover high-tech gambling ring

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a striking crackdown on sophisticated financial crimes, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Special Enquiry Squad of the Bengaluru City Police successfully dismantled an illegal operation manufacturing advanced electronic cheating equipment used in gambling. Operating on precise intelligence gathered by local informants, law enforcement officials targeted an industrial setup located in Dharmanna Garden, Chamundinagar, along Dinnur Main Road in the R.T. Nagar area of Bengaluru.

The clandestine manufacturing unit was reportedly producing specialized digital playing-card scanner cards and various electronic hacking devices designed explicitly to defraud unsuspecting individuals during card games. Five



primary suspects involved in the production and distribution network were apprehended at the scene. During the subsequent execution of the search and seizure warrants, authorities recovered a massive haul of digital scanners, specialized electronic hardware, one automobile, an autorickshaw, three two-wheelers, and seven mobile communication devices. The aggregate value of the seized property and equipment is estimated at ₹50 lakh.

Initial investigations revealed that the syndicate manufactured these customized scanning tools to sell

Seizure & operation highlights

- High-Tech Gear:** Authorities seized advanced digital playing-card scanner cards, specialized electronic equipment, and 7 mobile phones.
- Vehicles Impounded:** A total of 5 vehicles—including 1 car, 1 autorickshaw, and 3 two-wheelers—used in the illegal operations were confiscated.
- Total Value:** The total seized property and equipment is valued at ₹50 lakh.
- Legal Action:** The five suspects were arrested, taken into police custody following a court appearance on August 4, and subsequently remanded to judicial custody on August 7.

them to associates and external gamblers seeking guaranteed advantages in illegal wagering dens.

E-City cops nab thieves, recover ₹34 lakh worth goods

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Electronic City Police in Bengaluru successfully cracked multiple property offenses, arresting three suspects and recovering 26 stolen laptops and 15 two-wheelers with a collective estimated value of ₹34 lakh.

In the first operation, acting on a complaint regarding a burglary at a local paying guest accommodation, police traced and arrested an inter-state offender near the Koyambedu Bus Stand in Tamil Nadu. Interrogation revealed that the accused had targeted multiple PG accommodations across the city. Authorities subsequently recovered 15 laptops sold in Hyderabad and 11 devices sold in Malappuram, Kerala, totaling 26 laptops valued at ₹18 lakh.

In a separate case, two individuals were apprehended near the Veerasandra Signal for motorcycle theft.

The suspects confessed to stealing vehicles parked outside residential areas and



stashing them at an empty plot near Channarayana Road. Police recovered 15 two-wheelers worth ₹16 lakh, successfully solving ten separate vehicle theft cases registered across multiple police stations.

Both operations were executed

under the supervision of Electronic City Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Narayan M. and Assistant Commissioner of Police K.M. Satish, alongside the station's inspection team. The recovered assets have been cataloged as legal proceedings advance.

Property recovery summary table			
Case Type	Main Recovered Assets	Total Valuation	Suspects Apprehended
Case 01	26 Laptops (Inter-state recovery)	₹ 18 Lakh	1 Inter-state accused
Case 02	15 Two-Wheelers (Local hideout)	₹ 16 Lakh	2 Local accused
Total	Laptops & Bikes combined	₹ 34 Lakh	3 Persons Total

R.M.C. Yard police recover 30 mobile phones

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The R.M.C. Yard Police in Bengaluru successfully cracked a street crime ring by arresting two individuals involved in a violent mobile phone snatching incident near the MEI Factory bus stop. Authorities recovered 30 smartphones of various brands alongside a two-wheeler, bringing the total value of the seized property to ₹5.85 lakh.

The investigation began after a resident filed a formal complaint reporting that two helmet-clad bikers approached him from behind, issued threats, and forcefully snatched his device. Acting on local intelligence and technical leads, a special police team intercepted the suspects near the Peenya SRS Government Degree College service road.

During rigorous interrogation, the accused confessed to targeting lone pedestrians across multiple thoroughfares in the city. Subsequent searches conducted at their residences located in Chamarajpet and D.J. Halli yielded the massive cache of stolen communication devices hidden with intent for resale.

Inside Begur police's ₹36 lakh recovery operation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Begur Police in Bengaluru have successfully solved two separate house burglary cases, arresting two suspects and recovering 196 grams of gold ornaments alongside nearly 4.8 kilograms of silver articles with an aggregate value of ₹36 lakh.

In the first case, acting on a complaint filed by a resident who returned from an out-of-town wedding to find his house ransacked, police apprehended a suspect in Mico Layout.

The accused confessed to multiple burglaries across the city. Investigators subsequently recovered 121 grams of gold and 4.75 kilograms of silver items that had been pledged at various local jewelry shops, helping clear eight distinct house theft cases.

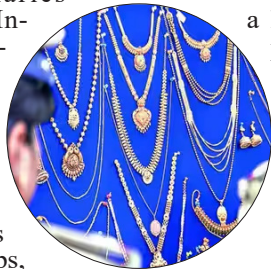
The second operation targeted a domestic theft in Vishwapriya Layout, where

Recovery & operation highlights

Major Gold & Silver Haul: Police recovered 121 grams of gold ornaments and over 4.7 kg of silver articles worth ₹26 lakh from various jewellery shops where they were pledged, successfully solving eight burglary cases.

Family Betrayal Arrest: In a separate case involving a theft in Vishwapriya Layout, police tracked the victim's brother-in-law all the way to Delhi, arresting him on June 29. Interrogation led to the recovery of 75 grams of gold ornaments valued at ₹10 lakh pledged across Bengaluru and Delhi.

Coordinated Leadership: Both swift operations were executed under the expert guidance of DCP Electronic City Division Shri Narayan M., IPS, and ACP Shri K.M. Satish, led by Inspector Sandeep S. and his dedicated team.



a homeowner suspected her brother-in-law. Following technical leads, a special police team tracked down and arrested the suspect in Delhi.

Upon interrogation, he admitted to stealing gold ornaments, leading to the recovery of 75 grams of the precious metal pledged across shops

in Bengaluru and Delhi.

Both operations were conducted under the supervision of Electronic City Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Narayan M. and Assistant Commissioner of Police K.M. Satish, alongside Begur Police Inspector Sandeep S. and his team.

The accused individuals have been remanded to judicial custody following due legal procedures.

‘KPSC recruitment irregularities’: ABVP intensifies protests

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tensions flared across Karnataka's capital as a massive demonstration organized by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) turned into a high-stakes confrontation with law enforcement. Students and youth activists took to the streets under the banner of a "Bengaluru Chalo" program, converging on key locations including Freedom Park, Maurya Circle, and areas near the official home office of the state leadership, to protest alleged widespread corruption and structural irregularities within the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

The demonstration, driven by fierce frustration over compromised examination systems and alleged favoritism in public sector hiring such as controversies surrounding the recruitment of veterinary officers and administrative posts demanded that the entire matter be transferred immediately to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Protesters argued that faith in state-level mechanisms has eroded completely, leaving deserving aspirants at a severe disadvantage against corrupt networks.

Escalation and police intervention at Maurya Circle

The situation deteriorated rapidly when determined groups of student activists attempted to stage a spontaneous road

Fiery student protests transformed Bengaluru into a high-stakes battleground as demonstrators clashed fiercely with law enforcement.

blockade and sit-in protest near Maurya Circle, heavily disrupting urban traffic flows.

Heavy deployments of civil and armed police personnel moved swiftly to clear the thoroughfare. The operation quickly turned physical as officers attempted to lift, drag, and push back demonstrators who linked arms and refused to disperse.

Amid the chaos of mass detentions, severe allegations surfaced regarding the conduct of security personnel. ABVP leaders and eyewitness accounts claimed that male police officers aggressively manhandled female student participants during the forced removal process, operating without adequate female police presence and subjecting demonstrators to undignified treatment.

Furthermore, activists reported that several detained students sustained minor injuries during the scuffles and were denied prompt medical assistance or basic amenities like drinking water while being transported to detention centers.



Media scrutiny and press hindrance

The confrontation also drew sharp condemnation from media circles covering the ground developments. Reporters and camera crews attempting to document the forceful evacuation of female protesters stated they faced aggressive pushback, crude dismissals, and physical blocking of recording equipment by on-duty officers. Rather than addressing legitimate journalistic inquiries regarding crowd control procedures collectively, police personnel reportedly confronted media professionals individually in an intimidating manner, triggering widespread freedom-of-the-press concerns.

Political Fallout and Demands for Accountability

The heavy-handed police response has sparked immediate political ripples across

the state. Senior opposition leaders, including Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) figures like C.T. Ravi, slammed the state administration, accusing it of attempting to silence democratic dissent and shield systemic corruption through state machinery.

Demanding an independent judicial inquiry into the alleged manhandling of students alongside the unconditional release of all detained activists, critics have vowed to amplify pressure on the government.

As the KPSC recruitment scandal continues to dominate political discourse—compounded by high-profile institutional rows involving commission leadership—the events of Tuesday have transformed a structural governance issue into a major flashpoint over civil liberties, student rights, and police accountability in Karnataka.

ED summons Gyanendra, notices to 329 KPSC candidates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Authorities are tightening the net in the KPSC Veterinary Officers exam corruption scandal. The Enforcement Directorate has officially summoned senior IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar for questioning.

Gangwar, who served as the controller of the controversial examination, was told to appear at the ED office in Shantinagar. Investigators want answers regarding serious irregularities uncovered during the recruitment process.

Trouble began when ED teams raided multiple locations linked to suspended KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar, various middlemen, and several candidates. During these searches, officials uncovered key documents pointing directly to Gangwar's alleged involvement.

When the raids happened, Gangwar suddenly left his Jayamahal home, claiming his father was very sick. His phone stayed turned off for three days, raising major red flags among investigators. Although his phone recently turned back on, his sudden disappearance forced officials to search his residence and seize critical paperwork.

At the same time, the Criminal Investigation Department is taking bold steps. The CID has issued fresh notices to 329 candidates linked to the scam. These individuals must report for urgent questioning following their recent confessions to

As the Enforcement Directorate and CID tighten the net around the KPSC recruitment scandal, investigators have summoned key officials and hundreds of candidates.



the ED.

The CID also raided the main KPSC office for a second time. Heavy police barricades and tight security filled the area as officers moved in. Earlier this month, forensic experts examined seized OMR sheets and CCTV footage, raising red flags over manipulated answer sheets. This new raid allowed detectives to grab extra files and secure more proof.

Investigators believe these combined actions will expose how the cheating ring operated. With the ED questioning top leadership and the CID zeroing in on hundreds of candidates, officials hope to bring everyone involved to justice soon. Public trust in the public service commission hangs in the balance as the shocking truth continues to unravel across the city.

Vijayendra demands Nagendra's resignation over scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The head of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state, strongly criticized the ruling party. He stated that the recent state assembly meeting failed to talk about major problems. This includes severe corruption claims against Minister B. Nagendra.

The opposition party wants Nagendra to step down from his post. He faces serious accusations of money laundering and a massive financial fraud involving the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Central investigative groups have already submitted official charge sheets on this matter. Even though he initially resigned when the issue came to light, his recent return to the cabinet caused major anger and political fights.

Vijayendra pointed out that the assembly ignored other urgent troubles. These include severe dry weather conditions, job exam malpractices, land issues, and the needs of North Karnataka. He mentioned an official who tragically died by suicide, leaving a note about the illegal transfer of funds. He also targeted Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. He claimed that the high energy and big plans shown earlier have now faded away completely. Furthermore, delays in expanding the cabinet and confusion over giving out job roles show clear internal fights inside the ruling party.

CH VOICE

chstatenews@gmail.com

Bengaluru is undergoing a sweeping civic makeover, as city authorities unleash an aggressive multi-pronged campaign to reclaim public spaces, overhaul infrastructure, and enforce strict accountability. From a high-level municipal blitz targeting illegal railway track waste and hazardous medical dumping to a massive green drive planting thousands of saplings, the city's administration is leaving no stone unturned.



Pedestrians face considerable inconvenience as the footpath near Atmananda Colony on Sultanpalya Main Road, close to SBI Bank, has been encroached upon by a fruit shop, forcing commuters to walk on the busy road.



Residents of Vinayaka Layout, 9th Cross, near Manoranayapalya Main Road, are facing severe inconvenience due to a road blockage in the area which has been underwork from past 3 weeks. Residents have urged the concerned authorities to take action and clear the obstruction to restore smooth traffic movement.

BBMP CHIEF DIRECTS RAILWAYS TO CLEAR GARBAGE TRACKS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major push to overhaul the city's hygiene and infrastructure, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has issued strict instructions to Railway and K-RIDE authorities to immediately clear waste alongside railway tracks and maintain continuous cleanliness across the city.

The directives were issued during an extensive field inspection of ongoing clean-up drives under the citywide "Freedom from Waste" campaign. Inspected sites highlighted persistent civic issues, prompting the Chief Commissioner to order immediate, structured interventions across several key zones in Bengaluru.



The inspection was attended by Special Commissioners Ramesh D.S. and Pommala

Sunil Kumar, Railway Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Praveen Kataraki, Joint Commissioner Mohammad Nayeem Momin, alongside senior executive engineers and K-RIDE officials.

Directives and Inspection Highlights:

Fencing and Beautification at Yelahanka: Observing dumped Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste near the Yelahanka railway underpass on Ballari Road, officials were instructed to clear the debris immediately. To prevent recurring dumping, fencing will be installed along the tracks. Furthermore, the area extending from Allalasandra will be beautified in collaboration with local NGOs.

Clearing Overgrowth along Srirampura Corridor: Addressing neglected sections along the alternative railway road from Jakkur toward Srirampura, the Chief Commissioner mandated coordinated action between the Railways and K-RIDE to completely clear dense vegetation and weed overgrowth.

Dedicated Waste Transfer Site at Thanisandra: To streamline daily waste handling, orders were issued to utilize civic land adjacent to the railway line on Thanisandra Main Road. This site will replace roadside waste transfers, allowing auto-tippers to transfer garbage directly to compactors in an enclosed space.

C&D Debris Clearance along Outer Ring Road (ORR): Inspecting clearing operations near Ramamurthy Nagar service road, the Commissioner instructed teams to ensure comprehensive cleaning. Machinery including JCBs, desilting units, and tractors must be deployed to remove all residual silt and waste.

Multi-Agency Coordination for Kasturi Nagar & Benniganahalli: To address waste and overgrowth along the ORR service roads, the Zonal Commissioner (East) was directed to convene a joint coordination meeting with Railway and K-RIDE officials. Specific tasks were assigned to clean the area beneath the Kasturi Nagar flyover, desilt Benniganahalli Lake, and install protective fencing along the Benniganahalli service road drain. Detailed action reports are to be submitted jointly by East Zone, Central Zone, K-RIDE, and Namma Metro officials.

"Zero leniency," Bengaluru authorities crack down

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has cracked down heavily on the illegal disposal of hazardous medical waste in public areas by slapping a hefty fine on a local health center.

Officials imposed an immediate ₹40,000 spot fine after a local clinic illegally dumped hazardous medical refuse including needles, syringes, plasters, pill bottles, and other biomedical debris along a public thoroughfare in the Gurappanapalya area within the Jayanagar assembly constituency.

The incident came to light early in the morning on 9th Main Road, BTM Layout 1st Stage, Gurappanapalya. Civic sanitation workers (pourakarmikas) routinely maintaining the stretch spotted the dumped medical materials and promptly alerted municipal marshals. Acting swiftly, the marshals inspected the debris and uncovered clinic prescription sheets buried within the waste pile.

The documentation directly linked the dangerous discharge to a nearby healthcare center.



Immediate On-Site Fine Collected

Following directives from senior officials, BBMP Health Inspectors alongside the civic marshals rushed to the location. Recognizing the acute public health hazards and environmental risks associated with unscientific medical waste dumping, authorities penalized the offending healthcare center ₹40,000 on the spot.

Infrastructure and Governance Orders:

Jakkur ROB Completion: With construction work on the Jakkur Railway Over Bridge (ROB) fully completed, instructions were given to open the facility to the public without delay.

Land Acquisition Acceleration: Pending land acquisition issues required for road formation near the Jakkur ROB must be resolved swiftly to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Action Against Vacant Plots: Notices will be issued to owners of unattended, dirty vacant plots near Jakkur to enforce property maintenance.

Effectively Clean The Areas Along Railway Tracks: Maheshwar Rao

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed railway officials to effectively clean the areas along railway tracks and ensure that cleanliness is maintained continuously. As part of the city-wide "Freedom from Waste" campaign, a major cleanliness drive is being undertaken. During his visit today to various locations to inspect the cleanliness works being carried out on railway land, he issued the following directions to the officials:

Install Fencing Along Railway Tracks:

Noticing construction debris dumped beside the railway track near the Yelahanka Railway Underpass on Ballari Road, he instructed officials to immediately clear the debris. He also directed them to undertake cleanliness works along the railway track and install fencing to prevent the dumping of waste again.

He instructed officials to clean the area along the railway track from Allalasandra on Ballari Road in collaboration with NGOs and beautify the area to make it more attractive.

Completely Clear Overgrown Vegetation:

Noticing that cleanliness works had not been undertaken along the railway alternative road from the Jakkur side towards Srirampura, he directed railway officials to coordinate with the Railways and K-RIDE departments and completely clear the overgrown bushes and vegetation.

Establish a Waste Transfer Point:

He directed officials to immediately shift the process of transferring waste from auto-tippers to compactors to the corporation land located beside the railway track near Thanisandra Main Road.

Inspect Cleanliness Works:

He inspected the ongoing C&D waste removal operation along the service road near Ramamurthy Nagar on the Outer Ring Road and instructed officials to carry out the cleanliness works properly.



ly. He directed them to completely clean the site using shilts and tractors after removing the waste with JCBs.

Undertake Cleanliness Works in Coordination with Railways and K-RIDE:

As C&D waste, overgrown vegetation and unused materials were found along the service road on the Outer Ring Road, he instructed the East City Corporation Commissioner to hold a meeting with railway and K-RIDE officials and undertake cleanliness works in coordination with them. He also directed officials to clear the waste along the railway track beneath Kasturinagar Flyover and take appropriate measures to prevent the dumping of waste again. In addition, he instructed officials to prepare and submit a report detailing the works and activities to be undertaken by the East City Corporation, Central City Corporation, K-RIDE and BMRCL.

Other Key Directions Issued During the Inspection:

He instructed officials to complete the Jakkur Railway Overbridge project, which has been fully completed, and make it available for public use at the earliest. As a small portion of land needs to be acquired for road construction near the Jakkur ROB, he instructed officials to resolve the issue at the earliest. He instructed officials to issue notices to owners of vacant sites near Jakkur that have not been cleaned. He directed K-RIDE to clean the drain along the service road near Benniganahalli on the ORR and install fencing.

BENGALURU HASIRURU: GREEN DRIVE LAUNCHES

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, D.S. Ramesh, said that the Forest Department of the Corporation has launched a sapling plantation drive under the 'Bengaluru Hasiruru' programme with the objective of increasing green cover, promoting environmental conservation and contributing towards building a greener and sustainable city. Suitable locations for plantation have been identified across various wards based on requests received from Residents' Welfare Organisations (RWOs), the public and local organisations. The Commissioner directed officials to expedite the plantation activities and complete the work at all identified locations at the earliest.

Sapling plantation at 33 locations in Mahadevapura Constituency

A total of 33 locations have been identified for sapling plantation in the Mahadevap-

ura Assembly Constituency with the objective of increasing the city's green cover. Requests for plantation have been received from RWOs and members of the public in various areas.

Under their participation, 760 saplings will be planted, while another 3,090 saplings are proposed to be planted at other public locations. Thus, a total target of 3,850 saplings has been set for the Mahadevapura Constituency. Plantation activities are being undertaken across various wards and localities, including Hoodi, Bellandur, Hagadur, Kaveri Nagar, Whitefield, Gunjur, Belathur, Doddanekkundi, Kundalahalli, Shivanashamudra and Priyadarshini. The programme is being implemented with the active participation of RWOs, residents and local organisations. Along with plantation, priority is also being given to the protection, watering and regular maintenance of the planted saplings.

Campaign at 20 locations in K.R. Puram Constituency

Sapling plantation activities are also being undertaken at various locations in the K.R. Puram Assembly Constituency with the objective of expanding the city's green cover. Based on requests received from RWOs and the public, a total of 20 locations have been identified for plantation. A total of 4,450 saplings are proposed to be planted in the constituency, including 1,140 saplings in collaboration with RWOs and 3,310 saplings at other public locations. Plantation activities are being carried out in various areas, including Medahalli, Dooravani Nagar, Byrathi, Jagadish Nagar and Rampura.

Special focus on increasing green cover around lakes

Under the 'Bengaluru Hasiruru' programme, special priority is being given to sapling plantation in and around lake areas to enhance the green environment. Planting trees around lakes will not only im-

prove the green cover but will also help create a conducive environment for ecological balance, biodiversity conservation and a sustainable ecosystem. Officials have been instructed to select and plant suitable species based on the local environment and soil conditions. Necessary arrangements are also being made for water supply, protection and regular maintenance to ensure healthy growth of the saplings.

'Bengaluru Hasiruru' programme launched on August 15'

The 'Bengaluru Hasiruru' sapling plantation programme was launched on August 15 as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Plantation activities are being carried out in phases across various locations. The Corporation has planned to expedite the plantation programme and complete plantation at all identified locations with the active cooperation of the public and RWOs.

Priority to protection and maintenance of planted saplings

Along with planting saplings, their protection and regular maintenance are equally important. Officials have been instructed to ensure regular watering, provide necessary protection and monitor the growth of the planted saplings so that they do not wither. The Corporation has appealed to RWOs and local residents to actively participate in protecting and nurturing the saplings planted in their respective areas. Measures are being taken to ensure that the responsibility of nurturing every planted sapling is carried out with the participation of the local community.

Focus on selection of suitable plantation locations

Plantation locations are being selected by considering public convenience as well as the environmental requirements necessary for the healthy growth of saplings. Locations such as roadside areas, public spaces,



areas surrounding lakes and other suitable places for expanding green cover are being identified for plantation. The Forest Department has been instructed to select suitable species by considering factors such as availability of space, soil quality, water availability and adequate space for the future growth of trees.

Public participation essential for building a greener city

The 'Bengaluru Hasiruru' programme is not limited merely to planting saplings. Its broader objective is to create a long-term green environ-

ment by ensuring that the saplings planted are properly protected and nurtured. Increasing the city's green cover, maintaining ecological balance and building a sustainable city for future generations require active public participation. In this regard, Commissioner D.S. Ramesh appealed to the public, RWOs, local organisations and citizens to actively participate not only in plantation activities but also in the protection, watering and regular maintenance of the planted saplings.

India can lead global silk production, says MP Karajola

China leads global silk production, India ranks second, and Karnataka tops India, with calls for collaboration to boost productivity and strengthen sericulture

CHITRADURGA

Member of Parliament Gov-inda M. Karajola said India should aim to become the world's leading silk producer by combining farmers' hard work with scientific research and modern technology.

He was speaking at a farmer-scientist interaction organised under the 'My Silk My Pride' campaign on Tuesday. Karajola said China currently leads global silk production, while India ranks second and Karnataka remains the country's top silk-producing state. He urged farmers and scientists to work together to improve productivity and strengthen the silk sector. The programme was organised jointly by the Central Silk Board and the state Silk Department. The Regional Sericulture



Research Centre at Margatta has been upgraded to strengthen research and technical support. The centre, established in 1982, earlier served silk growers in Chitradurga, Ballari and Davangere. The upgraded centre will co-ordinate activities across several units in Karnataka and also support extension centres

in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Karajola highlighted several central government schemes supporting farmers. He said more than 1.42 lakh farmers in Chitradurga district received Rs. 713.72 crore through PM-KISAN, while crop insurance beneficiaries received Rs. 722 crore. Machinery, irrigation equipment and financial assistance have also been provided through various schemes. He said government benefits were reaching beneficiaries directly without middlemen.

Scientist Dr. Yallappa Harijan said transferring new research and technology directly to farmers could increase silk production and productivity while improving incomes. Under the 100-day campaign across 219 districts, scientists are meeting farmers, under-

HIGHLIGHTS
• India ranks second globally in silk production currently.
• Karnataka leads India's silk production among states.
• Chitradurga centre upgraded to Regional Sericulture Research Centre.
• New centre will coordinate 10 sub-units.
• District farmers received ₹713.72 crore under PM-KISAN.
• Scientists to directly transfer modern sericulture technologies.

standing their problems and offering technical solutions. During the Chitradurga programme, silk growers shared their experiences and suggestions, creating a platform for practical solutions and stronger cooperation between farmers and scientists.

Bhadra water release brings hope to drought-hit farmers

CHITRADURGA

The District Irrigation Struggle Committee has welcomed the state government's decision to release 3 TMC of Bhadra water on an experimental basis.

Committee president P. Kodandaramaiah and general convener Dr. Banjagere Jayaprakash said the decision was an important step for people who have waited for decades for a permanent solution to water shortages. They urged the government to announce the date for releasing water without further delay.

The committee said necessary preparations for the experimental release have already been made. The government approved the release for the first phase of the project following a request from Vishweshwara Jal Nigam. The committee urged authorities to inspect the water supply routes immediately and remove any remaining obstacles. It also appealed to the KADA committee to understand the difficulties faced by people in the

The committee sought national project status for Bhadra Upper River Project, release of ₹6,200 crore, and an all-party delegation to resolve the issue

drought-prone region and support the regular flow of water to Chitradurga, Kadur and Tumakuru districts.

According to the committee, the Bhadra Upper River Project was planned mainly to support agriculture and drinking water needs. Its foundation stone was laid in 2009, but delays have continued despite successive governments providing funds. The committee said timely completion could have helped farmers and families facing repeated drought conditions. It welcomed the present government's decision but stressed that the remaining work and legal issues must be addressed quickly.

The committee also demanded that the Bhadra Upper

River Project be declared a national project. It sought the unconditional release of the ₹5,300 crore grant announced in the 2023 Union Budget, later revised to ₹6,200 crore. The committee appealed to the Chief Minister and elected representatives from all parties to hold an all-party meeting, approach the Centre and seek a meeting with the Prime Minister to resolve the issue.

The committee said the experimental release would bring happiness to people who have continued their peaceful struggle despite years of delays. However, it said the celebration should lead to lasting development. The government must fill lakes across Chitradurga district and provide drip irrigation facilities to agricultural lands. Conveners Chalakere Basavaraj, Narenahalli Arunkumar and Jogimatti Maheshbabu, along with leaders R. Sheshannakumar and Kuni-kere Ramanna, said the irrigation struggle would continue until these demands are addressed.

Quick Read

Young minds explore simple ways to protect nature

Ramanagara
A green awareness programme for young children was held at Patel Public English School near Magadi Road in Kempegowda Circle. Founder secretary Patel C. Raju said showing children real examples of green practices helps them understand, collect, protect and value nature. During the event, children presented activities about saving water and using simple experiments to protect the environment. They also showed short films highlighting ways to care for nature. Teachers and school staff took part in the programme, encouraging children to build responsible habits. The event ended with a message that small actions can help keep the environment clean.

KSOU invites applications for new academic admissions

Mandya
Applications for admission to undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma and certificate courses at Karnataka State Open University have begun for the 2026-27 academic year. Eligible students can apply for courses including BA, BCom, BCA, BBA, BSc, BSW, B. Lib.Science, MA, MBA, MSc, MSW, MCA and M.Lib. Science. The university offers PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate programmes. Admissions opened on June 22 and applications will be accepted until September 15, 2026. Students can apply online through the university website. The Mandya Regional Centre is providing admission assistance. For details, students may contact the centre directly.

Officials urged to protect eligible voters during revision

MANDYA

Officials handling the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Mandya district have been instructed to follow every rule carefully during the post-publication stage.

Dr. Kumar issued the direction during a review meeting at Mandya University, where officials discussed notices, document verification and further steps.

Under the SIR process, notices have been issued to 1,50,269 people in the district. Officials were told to complete document verification and check voter eligibility within the prescribed time. Dr. Kumar stressed that objections received after publication of the draft electoral roll must be examined according to the rules before the final voter list is prepared.

He also warned officials to ensure that eligible voters are not left out of the electoral roll. Additional Assistant Electoral Registrars were asked to regularly meet Booth Level Officers and review their progress in collecting supporting documents while delivering notices. Officials were further directed to arrange on-the-spot document uploads and conduct inquiries at Gram Panchayat-level centres for voter convenience.

Citizens can seek changes in the voter list through prescribed forms. Form-6 is meant for adding a name, Form-8 is used for corrections, and Form-7 is used for deletion. Appli-

AT A GLANCE
• 1,50,269 people received notices under SIR.
• Officials instructed to verify documents within deadlines.
• Post-draft objections must follow prescribed legal procedures.
• Eligible voters must not be omitted accidentally.
• Gram Panchayat-level inquiry centres to assist voters.
• Forms 6, 7, 8 handle voter changes.

cants must provide supporting documents wherever required. Officials were urged to examine each application carefully and avoid mistakes that could affect eligible voters.

The meeting was attended by Mandya Sub-Divisional Officer Shivamurthy, Pandavapura Sub-Divisional Officer Srinivas, District Urban Development Cell Project Director Chandrashekhara, Mandya University Registrar Krishnakumar, Joint Director of Food and Civil Supplies Pratik Hegde and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. The administration said careful verification and timely action would help ensure an accurate and inclusive final electoral roll for the district.

Direct interview offers loan officer jobs in Mandya

MANDYA

The Mandya District Employment Exchange Office, in association with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd., will conduct a direct interview on August 28 at 10 a.m. The interview will be held at the company office opposite Mandya Mandavya PU College, First Cross, Nehru Nagar. The recruitment drive aims

to fill vacant Loan Officer positions across Mandya district. Candidates aged 18 to 35 who have passed PUC can attend the interview with their resume or biodata. Interested applicants are encouraged to participate and explore the available job opportunity. For further details, candidates may contact the Employment Exchange Office using the provided telephone numbers

Gadag farmers suffer losses as rains fail

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

Gadag district's agricultural sector is facing a severe crisis after receiving 32% less rainfall than expected during the current monsoon season.

The shortage of moisture has badly affected farming activities across the district, leaving many farmers worried about their crops and loans. Onion and chilli seedlings sown in dry soil are reportedly dying before they can grow properly. Farmers who invested heavily in land preparation, seeds, fertilizers and labour now fear severe financial losses.

Official figures show Gadag has recorded an overall rainfall deficit of 32% this year. The dry weather has reportedly damaged about 80% of crops across the district, according to preliminary estimates

from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. The losses are expected to run into crores of rupees, adding to the pressure on already debt-burdened farming families. In areas such as Thimmapur and Harlapur, severe moisture shortage has worsened crop conditions.

Onion and chilli, two major commercial crops in the region, are among the worst affected. Farmers say seedlings are being hit by a severe form of "Mutugi" disease and are rotting inside the soil before emerging. Money spent on quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and labour has largely gone to waste. Farmers estimate that they have spent around ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 per acre from land preparation to sowing and crop care.

Farmer groups are calling for immediate government action. They want Agriculture and Horti-

culture officials to jointly inspect the affected fields and conduct a scientific survey. They have also sought interim crop insurance and suitable compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, along with free or subsidised quality seeds and disease-control medicines for the next crop. The farmers say quick relief is essential to prevent the crisis from deepening.

Farmer leaders have warned of protests and a sit-in outside the District Collector's office if authorities fail to respond. Karnataka State Farmers' Association district president Yallappa H. Babari urged the government to declare Gadag drought-affected, send experts, assess damage and release compensation quickly.

For farmers facing failed crops and rising debt, immediate relief is now essential for them.

POOR NETWORK TURNS DIGITAL ATTENDANCE INTO DAILY STRUGGLE

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

The Nirantara project of the School Education and Literacy Department, introduced to improve transparency and increase technology use in government and aided schools, has become a source of frustration for many teachers in rural Gadag. The mobile application uses artificial intelligence to record students' attendance through facial recognition. However, poor network coverage in several villages has made the system difficult to use and increased the workload on teachers.

Teachers say they already have to record their own attendance through mobile applications. Now, they are also expected to record the attendance of hundreds of students using the Nirantara app. In villages around Kappathagadda, where network connectivity remains weak, teachers often spend considerable time searching for a signal before classes begin. Some reportedly move to rooftops or open areas with students to complete the process. When the application fails to work, the attendance process becomes even more difficult.

The additional responsibility comes when teachers are already handling several non-teaching duties. They supervise midday meals, mon-



itor the distribution of eggs, bananas and chikki, and manage milk powder under the Ksheer Bhagya scheme. Teachers argue that these responsibilities already consume valuable time that should be spent teaching children. They say technology should reduce their workload, but the daily attendance updates have instead created another stressful task.

Teachers have also questioned what they describe as conflicting government instructions on mobile phone use. The government has restricted mobile phone use in schools, saying it can affect concentration and learning. At the same time, the Nirantara system requires teachers to carry

smartphones and use them to photograph students for attendance. This has created confusion, particularly for teachers who must balance the two instructions during school hours.

Education experts and members of the public have urged the department to consider rural conditions before making digital systems compulsory. They say reliable network infrastructure should be provided first, while schools in areas with poor connectivity should receive suitable alternatives or temporary exemptions. Teachers believe a practical solution is needed so that technology supports education instead of reducing classroom time and adding unnecessary pressure.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tenders through KPP Portal for appointment of Project Management Consultants (PMC) for Construction of **Annex Building at Haj Bhavan, Thiruminahalli Village, Hegdenagara Main Road, Bengaluru.**

Notification No. CE/PMC/Haj Bhavan/KHB/ 2026-27/SE0419 **Date:** 21.08.2026

Last date for submission of bid is on 05.09.2026 up to 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2420/AKAR/2026-27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 009.

Short Term Tender Notification (Call-2)

Karnataka Housing Board invites Short Term Tender through KPP Portal for below mentioned work.

Last Date for submission of bid: 01.09.2026 upto 4:00 p.m.

Name of the Work : Proposed Work of Filling and Levelling of the land, Boundary Stone fixing, Access Road and other works at KHB Land in Chikkajjala, Yelahanka Taluk, Kempegowda International Airport Road, Bengaluru Urban District. **Work Indent & IFT No: Tender Reference Number: KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 776/Call-2 & IFT No.43/2026-27, Date: 25.08.2026, Amount put to Tender in Rs. 1,88,30,918/-.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No. 080-22273511, website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO2401/AAPL/2026-27

ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಲೂರು.
ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕೋಲಾರ-563 103 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08151-272923,
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: admghmalur@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಾಅಮಾ/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ನಾನ್ಯಾಕ್ಷಿನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತೆ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ಡಿ/01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.08.2026

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಲೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ನಾನ್ಯಾಕ್ಷಿನಿಕಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ಡಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಸೇವೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಲಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಮರು ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ. ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: 1. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಾಅಮಾ/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ಡಿ/01/2026-27. 2. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಾಅಮಾ/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ನಾನ್ಯಾಕ್ಷಿನಿಕಲ್/02/2026-27. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಲೂರು, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ಡಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಾನ್ಯಾಕ್ಷಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ-ಮೋರ್ಬಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಲಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಮೋರ್ಬಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಇ-ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (1) ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (<http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. (2) ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಪ್ತಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.8.2026. (3) ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ-ಮೋರ್ಬಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.09.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆ. (4) ಇ-ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಸಬ/-ಆಡಳಿತವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಾಲೂರು ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:225/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

IN ORDER TO MAKE INDIAN FARMING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE,M/S/PIXELIN SCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED BRINGS YOU THE FOLLOWING 100% WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS AS PER THE ORDER DATED:24/10/2019, IN PURSUANCE OF NOTIFICATION NOS. S.O.1809 (I), 28TH DAY JULY, 2014 AND OTHER FOLLOWED BY S.O.62009 (I), 24TH OCT 2016, ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (FERTILIZERS CONTROL ORDER 1989) GOVT OF INDIA.

S.No	NAME OF THE FERTILIZER	S.No	NAME OF THE FERTILIZER	S.No	NAME OF THE FERTILIZER
1	NPK 17:14:09	17	NPK 00:38:22 + TE	33	NPK 11:8:23
2	NPK 13:12:19	18	NPK 00:24:36 + TE	34	NPK 12:00:38
3	NPK 05:05:40 + TE	19	NPK 00:41:26 + TE	35	NPK 15:40:05
4	NPK 00:37:37	20	NPK 15:05:10 + TE	36	NPK 10:54:10
5	NPK 13:40:13	21	NPK 8:21:21	37	NPK 6:05:30
6	NPK 00:44:42	22	NPK 5:45:5	38	NPK 8:06:38
7	NPK 16:11:32	23	NPK 1:52:00 + TE	39	NPK 14:05:32 + 2S
8	NPK 21:21:6 + 2S	24	NPK 32:05:15 + TE	40	NPK 12:11:18 + 1 Mg
9	NPK 20:16:17	25	NPK 21:36:12 + TE	41	NPK 09:08:28 + 1 Mg
10	NPK 27:14:08	26	NPK 22:22:22 + TE	42	NPK 12:06:22 + 12 CaO
11	NPK 17:00:32	27	NPK 40:10:10 + TE	43	NPK 10:54:10 + 1 Mg
12	NPK 18:48:00 + TE	28	NPK 20:50:10 + TE	44	13:05:37 + 3 CaO
13	NPK 12:12:36 + TE	29	NPK 01:04:40 + TE	45	05:00:30 + MG + S
14	NPK 05:05:45 + TE	30	NPK 10:05:36	46	09:27:18 + 7.5S + TE
15	NPK 15:30:15 + TE	31	NPK 1:36:24	47	NPK 08:24:24 + 4 MgO + 6 S
16	NPK 22:05:18	32	NPK 12:61:00		

25-08-2026

In all the grades mentioned above, (a) Moisture is Maximum 0.8 percent (by weight); (b) Total Chloride is less than 0.05 percent (by weight); (c) Matter insoluble in water is less than 0.5 per cent (by weight); (d) Lead is less than 0.003 percent (by weight); (e) Cadmium is less than 0.0025 percent (by weight); (f) Arsenic is less than 0.01 percent (by weight).

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Raichur IIIT to get ₹12 cr AI centre

Patil invited US firms to expand manufacturing in Karnataka and join Bengaluru’s investors’ summit, while announcing a new data centre policy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka will establish an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence at the Raichur IIIT campus with an investment of ₹12 crore, Large and Medium Enterprises Minister M.B. Patil said on Tuesday. He was speaking at a conference on artificial intelligence and manufacturing organised by the Indian chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce.

Patil urged American companies to expand manufacturing operations in Karnataka and participate in the Global Investors’ Summit scheduled in Bengaluru next April. He also said the state would soon introduce a new data centre policy, with plans to develop 1-gigawatt capacity centres in Bengaluru North, Mangaluru and selected Tier-2 locations.



He said the developing Queen City would also house India’s first AI City. Karnataka has more than 20,000 chip designers, while the Nipuna Karnataka programme is bringing industries and educational institutions closer. More than 30 ITIs are being upgraded as centres of excel-

AT A GLANCE
• AI Centre of Excellence gets ₹12 crore funding.
• Raichur IIIT campus selected for AI centre.
• New data-centre policy targets one-gigawatt capacity.
• AI City planned as part of Queen City.
• Over 20,000 chip designers currently work statewide.
• AI adoption expected to boost labour productivity.

lence with World Bank support, while ₹2,500 crore from the Asian Development Bank is being used to modernise higher education.

Patil highlighted the presence of major companies, including Boeing, GE Aerospace, Honeywell, Applied Materials and Timken, in Kar-

nataka. Their work covers areas such as advanced propulsion, AI-based engine diagnostics, industrial Internet of Things, precision engineering and semiconductor supply chains. He said these developments are strengthening the state’s industrial economy.

Karnataka leads the country in aerospace and defence manufacturing, biotechnology, machine tools and electronic design, Patil said. The state also records industrial output per person above the national average. He added that wider use of advanced AI could further improve this position, citing a World Economic Forum estimate that artificial intelligence could raise labour productivity by 53 percent. AmCham representatives Ranjana Khanna and Salil Gupte attended the conference.

Koppal collector orders action to prevent snakebite deaths

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

District Collector Dr. Suresh B. Itnal directed health officials to take strict measures to prevent deaths caused by snakebites in Koppal district.

He issued the instructions during a snakebite death audit meeting held at the District Collector’s office on Tuesday under the National Snakebite Prevention and Control Programme.

The Collector said snake movement increases during the rainy season, when farmers spend more time working in agricultural fields. He called for widespread awareness campaigns in rural areas. People should use torches while walking at night, remain careful near fields and bushes, and wear suitable footwear and protective clothing to reduce the risk of snakebites.

Dr. Itnal said snakebite must be treated as a medical emergency. Health facilities should assess patients quickly and begin treatment according to medical guidelines. Medical officers were instructed to maintain sufficient stocks of anti-snake venom, store it properly and ensure immediate availability whenever required. Patients needing advanced care should be referred to higher hospitals without unnecessary delay.

District Surveyor Dr. Nandakumar said Karnataka became the first state in India to declare snakebite cases and



AT A GLANCE
• Ten people have died from snakebites this year.
• Five snakebite deaths were reviewed during audit.
• Officials ordered widespread rural snakebite awareness campaigns.
• Health facilities must maintain adequate anti-snake venom.
• Snakebite patients require immediate emergency medical treatment.
• Delayed referrals must be avoided for patients.

deaths as a notifiable disease. The state government added them to the notified disease list through an official notification issued on February 12, 2024.

Ten people have died from snakebites in Koppal district this year, with five cases examined during the meeting. Officials reviewed each case, including the bite time, symptoms, hospital travel, treatment delays, referrals and care provided. Health and medical officials from

Deputy Commissioner urges stronger maternal child healthcare

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal directed health officials to give special attention to maternal and child healthcare and work towards reducing deaths to zero. At a district meeting, he stressed regular checks for blood pressure and anaemia among pregnant women. He instructed officials to update Mother Cards and ensure doctors are present during deliveries. ASHA workers should receive training to identify low birth weight babies early and arrange timely treatment. Officials were also asked to promote vaccination, newborn care, nutrition, cleanliness and pregnancy awareness. He urged families to seek medical help immediately whenever health problems arise.

across the district attended the meeting. The review aimed to identify gaps and strengthen emergency response so that preventable deaths are avoided.

Bapuji Essay Contest set for September 2

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Information and Public Relations Department will conduct the Bapuji Essay Competition on September 2 as part of Mahatma Gandhi’s 157th birth anniversary celebrations.

The contest will be held in schools and colleges for high school, pre-university, graduate and postgraduate students, said Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Akash S.

The competition aims to help students understand Gandhi’s life, role in India’s freedom struggle, simple living and principles of truth and non-violence. Dr. Akash S urged students across Chitradurga district to participate in large numbers and use the opportunity to explore Gandhi’s ideas and their relevance today.

High school students must write 700 to 800 words on topics related to Gandhi’s simple life, truth and lessons from his life. PUC students must write 900 to 1,000 words on freedom, truth, non-violence and Gandhi’s contribution to reducing inequality. Graduate and postgraduate students must write 1,400 to 1,500 words on ethical politics, Satyagraha and Gandhi’s educational principles.



Each category will have district-level prizes of Rs. 3,000 for first place, Rs. 2,000 for second and Rs. 1,000 for third. District winners will be sent to the state-level competition in Bengaluru, where the top three students will receive Rs. 31,000, Rs. 21,000 and Rs. 11,000 respectively.

Entries must be original and unpublished. Students must write their essays neatly by hand at the competition venue without using mobile phones or reference materials. Contestants must provide their name, class, institution, address and mobile number. Schools and colleges must submit details of their three selected essays to the District Information Officer by September 5. Selected essays may also be published by the department.

Gadag Ward 21 sees fresh infrastructure push

CH NEWS, GADAG

Ward No. 21 of Gadag-Betageri has received development works worth around ₹1.25 crore under the Chief Minister’s Infrastructure Development Plan for 2025-26.

The projects include concrete roads, improved drainage and other essential civic works. Senior MLA and former minister H.K. Patil performed the foundation-laying ceremony for the projects, marking a major development initiative for the ward.

Municipal council member Chummi Nadaf has been actively seeking better facilities for residents, particularly poor and middle-class families. He said the ward needs more than roads and drainage and requested the development of three to four parks with modern facilities. The proposed parks are expected to provide residents, including children, women and senior citizens, with better spaces for recreation, exercise and peaceful community life.

Responding to the request, H.K. Patil assured residents that the proposed parks would be developed comprehensively. He also said efforts would be made to complete the works and make

the facilities available to the public within the next four to five months. Residents welcomed the assurance and expressed hope that the new projects would improve the overall appearance and basic infrastructure of the ward.

The development programme was described by local representatives as an important step for Ward 21, where residents have long sought improved civic facilities. Supporters said the sanction of a substantial amount for works in a single ward would help address several long-standing infrastructure needs. They also credited Chummi Nadaf’s continued efforts and H.K. Patil’s support for bringing the projects forward.

Local leaders, municipal council members, government officials, residents and party workers attended the foundation-laying ceremony. Many expressed happiness over the proposed development and thanked the MLA and municipal representative for their efforts. With road, drainage and park projects planned, residents now look forward to seeing the promises converted into completed facilities. The successful completion of the works will ultimately determine how much the initiative improves daily life in Ward 21.

Rotary Club launches school literacy support drive

DAVANAGERE

Rotary Club Davangere Midtown held a literacy programme at Government Higher Primary School in Duggammanapeta, Davangere, to encourage students and support their educational needs.

Educational materials worth ₹25,000 were distributed among primary, upper primary and high school students. The kits included dictionaries, compass boxes, notebooks, writing pads and other useful items, giving children resources needed for regular study.

A. N. Shekhar, the club’s Treasurer and Executive Secretary and a former student of the school, shared his journey from student life to becoming a government Executive Engineer. He urged students to use the materials well, study honestly and become responsible citizens.

Senior Rotarian Kusum Shetty spoke about the life of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, highlighting his discipline, hard work and achievements. He



encouraged the children to learn from great personalities and work steadily toward their goals.

Dr. S. B. Mallur urged students to respect parents and teachers, while Dr. V. L. Jayasimha demonstrated proper handwashing and stressed personal hygiene.

The programme ended with a call for disciplined, healthy and responsible lives in the future.

Burglar wanted in forty cases arrested in Ballari

BALLARI

Kaul Bazar police have arrested a 28-year-old man suspected of involvement in about 40 house burglary cases across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The accused, identified as Hanumanthappa, was arrested during an investigation into a house theft reported in Karimaremma Colony, Ballari. Police said the arrest helped uncover his alleged involvement in several other cases.

According to Ballari District Superintendent of Police Suman D. Pannekar, police seized 110 grams of gold ornaments worth around Rs 13 lakh and Rs 10 lakh in cash from the accused. Officers had been tracking Hanumanthappa’s movements for several days before catching him while he was reportedly travelling towards Bengaluru carrying the valuables and cash.

During questioning, police found that

the accused was allegedly involved in thefts reported in several districts, including Ballari, Bengaluru, Gadag, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga, Davangere and Chikkaballapur. Three of the reported cases were in Ballari. Police also said he was linked to around 40 cases registered at different police stations in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

A special team from Kaul Bazar police station was formed to investigate house burglaries and track the suspect. The team eventually arrested him and recovered the valuables. Police are now checking whether the seized gold and cash are connected to other theft cases. Further investigation is underway, and officials said more details could emerge as the inquiry continues. Additional SP Naveen Kumar and Ballari City DySP V. Govindaraju attended the media briefing.

Eight booked over alleged illegal money scheme in Kadaba

KADABA

Kadaba police have registered a case against eight people for allegedly operating a prohibited money circulation scheme that promised the public high returns. Police raided a meeting at Ambedkar Bhavan in Kadaba Peta on August 23 and reportedly found people being encouraged to join a network operated through a Haveri-based organisation called Kings Bazaar. Police said members were allegedly promised large profits within a short period after investing money. They were also reportedly offered valuable goods at discounted

prices and daily commissions for bringing new members into the scheme. Officials are investigating whether local people were working as agents to recruit members and collect money. The case names the owner or organisation of Kings Bazaar as the first accused. Seven others, identified as Subrahmanya Shagritaya, Gurumurthy, Suresh R., Balakrishna P.H., Kiran Kumar, Srinath and Sandesh, have also been named. Police are examining their alleged connections with the organisation, local recruitment activities, financial transactions and commission arrangements.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division(Zone-2),
2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore - 560010.

No:EE/SD/TEND/15/2026-27

Date:25.08.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub: Corrigendum of Tender notification No. EE/SD/TEND/15/2026-27, Dtd:13.08.2026. Due to technical reasons, in this tender notification, time schedule is modified and revised time schedule is as follows.

Calendar of event	Schedule as per Notification	Revised Schedule
Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting	21-08-2026 at 3.00 P.M.	31-08-2026 at 3.00 P.M.
Last date for submitting the tenders	27-08-2026 upto 4.00 P.M.	04-09-2026 upto 4:00 P.M.
Date for Opening of technical bids	29-08-2026 at 4.30 P.M.	05-09-2026 upto 4:30 P.M.
Date for Opening of financial bids	31-08-2026 at 4.30 P.M.	07-09-2026 at 11.30 A.M.

All other terms & conditions remains the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division (Zone-2).

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department.
SIRASI Division(U.K), Karnataka
Telephone: 08384- 223164 Fax: 08384- 224100.

No. PWD/SR/Dn/AE/IFT/ 8443 NDRF/SDRF/2026-27/1523

Date:24.08.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM)

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2ND CALL)

(1) **The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi** invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. **(26.03.2021)**

(2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam> under login for Contractors: (3.) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the procurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the **Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division.** (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents (1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **01-09-2026 upto 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders : **02-09-2026 upto 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid : **03-09-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid : **04-09-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMKA/365/26-27 dt.
25.08.2026

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,
KALABURAGI, e-mail: midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com, Ph.08472 - 220196

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-2/2026-27/ 2419

DATED : 24-08-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-1&4)

1) Detail of Work : THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 4702 A.P.B/S.C.P. & T.S.P. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, 2) Amount of Estimate : Max. **Rs. 100,82,910.29, Min. Rs. 3,43,481.25,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-IV & Above, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 2,00,000.00, Min. Rs. 4,300.00, 6) Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time : **04-09-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 7) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications : **05-09-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 8) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders : **07-09-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **08-09-2026, Up to 17.30 Hours,** 10) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **09-09-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 11) Addl. information : Executive Engineer M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 12) Address of E-Portal. : (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/462/
Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
Office: 08262 - 230420 Fax:0862232272 Commissioner : 08262 – 232272 Help Line: 08262- 232222 E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website: www.chickmagalur.gov.in
No.: CMC/CKM/Legacy/CR/02/2026-27 Date: 20.08.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender is invited from Eligible Class Civil Contractors for implementation of the works mentioned below. Those interested can submit the Tender subject to conditions.

Sl.No. 1. Details of the Work: Scientific Disposal of Legacy Solid Waste lying at Survey No. 33 of Indavara Village in the limits of City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru. DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT60991 **Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs): 430.61 E.M.D. (in Rs.): 5,47,500.00**

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement. Time Period: 09 Months (Excluding Rainy Season) 1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 19.09.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs. 2. Date of opening Technical Bid: 21.09.2026 at 11.00 AM. 3. Date of opening Financial Bid: 22.09.2026 at 11.00 AM. 4. Date of Tender Pre-bid Meeting: 02.09.2026 at 4.00 PM at the City Municipal Council Office.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> If there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Smt. Bhavya Manjunath T. President
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- Smt. Lalitha Ravinaik Vice President
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.

Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm/ksmka/26-27/99/706



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

WHO WILL FOOT THE BILL? LEGISLATURE’S COSTLY SESSION ENDS IN FUTILITY

The premature sine die adjournment of the joint session of the Karnataka Legislature, three days ahead of schedule, raises a fundamental question: who will foot the bill for a session that failed to adequately address the issues that matter most to the people?

The session, which was expected to deliberate on several pressing issues confronting the State, was virtually consumed by the political deadlock over the alleged multi-crore financial irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation and the Opposition’s demand for the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra. The BJP and JD(S), determined to keep the issue alive, repeatedly disrupted the proceedings, insisting that the alleged irregularities and the Minister’s role be discussed on the floor of the House. The ruling Congress, however, refused to yield political ground. Instead of finding a way to accommodate the Opposition’s demand within parliamentary rules, the government appeared more interested in avoiding a discussion that could embarrass it.

The result was predictable. The Opposition protested, the Treasury Benches resisted, proceedings were repeatedly disrupted and valuable legislative time was lost. The tragedy is not merely that the session was disrupted. It is that public interest became the casualty of a political battle of egos. Karnataka has no shortage of serious issues demanding legislative attention. Parts of South Karnataka have been grappling with drought-like conditions, while several areas of North Karnataka have faced the impact of floods and excessive rainfall. Residents of Bengaluru continue to complain about infrastructure deficiencies, traffic congestion, water and civic problems. Allegations surrounding irregularities in KPSC recruitment have also raised serious concerns among thousands of job aspirants.

These issues deserved sustained debate, scrutiny and, more importantly, concrete assurances from the government.

Instead, the Valmiki Corporation controversy overshadowed virtually everything else. There is nothing wrong with the Opposition demanding accountability. In fact, questioning the government is one of the primary functions of an Opposition in a democracy. But repeated disruption cannot become a substitute for debate. At the same time, the government cannot use its majority to simply brush aside uncomfortable questions. Democracy requires both accountability and responsibility. The ruling party may have succeeded in passing important Bills, but legislation passed amid repeated disruptions cannot be treated as a complete measure of a successful session. Nor can the Opposition claim success merely because it prevented normal proceedings. The bigger question concerns the enormous public expenditure involved in conducting a legislative session. Taxpayers pay for the infrastructure, security, salaries, logistics and administrative machinery required to run the Legislature. If the House spends days in confrontation and ends without discussing the principal problems facing citizens, the expenditure becomes difficult to justify.

THE COST OF IGNORING OUR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The recent, near-catastrophic failure of a main water artery serving the downtown core a cascading crisis that left tens of thousands of residents and businesses without basic service for nearly two days must serve as our community’s final wake-up call. We can no longer afford the dangerous luxury of indifference toward our aging, invisible public infrastructure. What occurred this week was not a capricious act of nature or an unforeseeable statistical anomaly. It was the predictable, eventual consequence of systemic underfunding, deferred maintenance, and political decision-making that prioritizes short-term ribbon-cutting ceremonies over the quiet, diligent work of asset management. Across the nation, as well as in our own municipality, the subterranean networks that sustain modern civilization the water mains, sewer lines, and natural gas conduits are operating long past their intended life cycles. Many of these critical components were laid down more than half a century ago, built with materials and for a population scale that has long since become obsolete. They are, quite literally, crumbling beneath our feet, a buried liability that grows more volatile with each passing year.

The problem, of course, is that infrastructure is only a political priority when it fails.

New parks, civic centers, and expanded roadways provide tangible visual evidence of progress. By contrast, the quiet repair of a twenty-four-inch water pipe deep beneath Main Street offers zero electoral payoff. Yet, it is this very refusal to invest in the unglamorous essentials of civic life that places our community in escalating peril. The argument that we "cannot afford" the necessary upgrades is not just shortsighted; it is mathematically demonstrably false. As this latest failure showed, the emergency response, specialized labor, and rush procurement required for immediate repairs are exponentially more expensive than scheduled, proactive maintenance. Furthermore, these emergency repair costs only account for the immediate direct expenditure. They do not factor in the monumental economic toll on local businesses forced to close, the logistical strain on emergency services, or the severe damage to public trust and investor confidence. The reality is simple: we pay now, or we pay much, much more later.

Our political leaders must shift their perspective from viewing infrastructure as a simple expense to understanding it as a crucial investment. True leadership on this issue requires political courage the willingness to champion and secure consistent, long-term funding streams for a comprehensive modernization effort, even when the benefits of that effort will not be realized until after the next election cycle. It also requires honesty with the public, explaining that the true cost of reliable basic services might mean adjustments in water rates or reallocating a larger portion of the tax base. This latest failure was our final warning shot.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J

ONAM: THE BEAUTIFUL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S OWN COUNTRY



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

Onam begins long before the feast is served. It begins in the memory of a kingdom where prosperity was shared, dignity was ordinary, and no one was made to feel lesser than another. For Malayalis across the world, Onam is not merely a festival. It is an emotional return to Kerala, to family, to childhood, and to the enduring ideal represented by Mahabali. Perhaps that is why Onam has found a place in the hearts of so many, across faith, caste and community. Its strength lies not in asking us what separates us, but in reminding us of what can bring us together. Draped in white and gold, Kerala comes alive with flowers, music, colour and food. Pookkalams bloom at doorsteps. Homes open their doors. The sadya fills banana leaves with an abundance meant to be shared. Families gather, friends arrive, neighbours are welcomed, and celebration becomes a language everyone understands. At the heart of Onam is the story of Mahabali, a ruler remembered the prosperity to brought to his people in every way, the happiness and dignity equality and prosperity he wished for his people. He is remembered as a king whose greatest measure of prosperity was the wellbeing of those he

May this Onam bring peace to our homes, prosperity to our families, kindness to our communities, and understanding to our world

ruled. And so, once every year, we welcome him home. We believe he returns to see his people to see them living as he wished prosperous abundant and happy. He returns to see whether the spirit of his kingdom still lives among them. Perhaps the enduring beauty of Onam is that it has grown beyond the boundaries of any one community. In homes, schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods, people of different faiths and backgrounds come together to celebrate. They may pray differently and live differently, yet find common ground in a festival that makes room for everyone. A pookkalam flower arrangement is done by everyone together. A sadya invites all near and dear. That is the quiet strength of Onam. It reminds us that belonging does not require sameness. That abundance finds its deepest meaning when it is shared. That dignity is most meaningful when it belongs to everyone. For Malayalis living across the world, Onam may begin with a longing for Kerala. But it carries something of Kerala wherever it goes the warmth of an open door, the generosity of a shared meal, the joy of gathering, and the belief that there is always room for one more. Every year, when Mahabali returns,

we do more than welcome a legendary king. We remember the kind of world we wish to build: one where prosperity is shared, dignity is universal, and no one is left standing outside. Perhaps that is the beautiful understanding of

come, and a place at the table for one more. And may the spirit of Onam travel far beyond Kerala to every home, every community and every corner of the world. May the world know the blessings that Onam reminds us of: prosper-



God’s Own Country. That true prosperity is not measured by how much one possesses, but by how much one is willing to share. That dignity becomes meaningful when it is extended to all. That a table becomes richer when there is room for another. May this Onam bring peace to our homes, prosperity to our families, kindness to our communities, and understanding to our world. May there always be enough to share, a door open to wel-

ity without exclusion, dignity without distinction, abundance without selfishness, and happiness that grows because it is shared. This is perhaps the most beautiful understanding of God’s Own Country, not merely a place, but an idea of how we might live. Happy Onam. May Mahabali’s return remind us of the world we remember, the world we hope for, and the world we can still choose to create together.

THE REALITY OF STRUGGLE

Life presents different challenges to different people. Some face financial hardship, while others battle illness, discrimination, unemployment, or lack of educational opportunities. Many children grow up in villages without proper schools, and countless young people dream of higher education despite limited resources. Yet history and everyday life are filled with examples of individuals who overcame these barriers through hard work and resilience. Struggles shape character. They teach patience, problem-solving, and empathy. People who have experienced difficulties often become more compassionate and are motivated to help others facing similar circumstances.

Education: The Greatest Equalizer
One of the most inspiring social stories is that of students who rise above poverty through education. Across India and the world, many children walk long distances to attend school, study under streetlights due to a lack of electricity, or work part-time to support their families while continuing their education. Scholarships, community libraries, dedicated teachers, and supportive families have changed countless lives. Education opens doors to careers, builds confidence, and empowers individuals to break the cycle of poverty. Every child who succeeds despite difficult circumstances becomes an inspiration to others.

Women Breaking Barriers
Women have rewritten the meaning of success in every field. Despite facing social restrictions, unequal opportu-

nities, and stereotypes, millions of women have become entrepreneurs, scientists, teachers, doctors, athletes, and community leaders. Many self-help groups in rural areas have empowered women financially and socially. By starting small businesses, learning new skills, and supporting one another, these women have improved not only their own lives but also the well-being of their families and communities.



The Power of Community Support
No one succeeds entirely alone. Behind many success stories are teachers who encouraged students, neighbours who offered help, volunteers who provided resources, and communities that believed in someone’s potential. Community kitchens, blood donation drives, free coaching centres, book banks, and public libraries demonstrate how collective efforts can transform lives. Sometimes, a single act of kindness a donated book, a scholarship, or words of encouragement can change a person’s future forever.

Young Change Makers
Today’s youth are proving that age is no barrier to making a

difference. Across the world, young people are launching environmental campaigns, teaching underprivileged children, developing innovative technologies, and promoting mental health awareness. These young change makers show that social responsibility begins with small actions. Their stories inspire others to contribute positively to society rather than waiting for someone else to solve problems.



- Dr. Vijay Garg

Success beyond Wealth
Society often measures success by money, fame, or status. However, true success is much broader. A teacher who inspires generations of students, a nurse who serves with compassion, a farmer who adopts sustainable practices, or a volunteer who helps disaster victims are all successful in meaningful ways. Success is about creating value, uplifting others, and leaving the world better than we found it.

Learning from Failure
Every inspiring story includes moments of disappointment. Failure is not the opposite of success; it is part of the journey. People who eventually succeed learn from mistakes, adapt to changing circum-

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

stances, and continue moving forward. Developing resilience is essential in today’s rapidly changing world. Instead of fearing failure, individuals should view it as an opportunity to grow and improve.

Building an Inclusive Society
A compassionate society ensures that everyone has the opportunity to succeed regardless of their background, gender, disability, or economic status. Equal access to quality education, healthcare, employment, and justice allows more people to realize their potential. Governments, educational institutions, businesses, and civil society all have important roles in creating opportunities and reducing inequality. When society invests in its people, everyone benefits.

Inspiring the Next Generation
Stories of perseverance motivate young people to dream bigger and work harder. Schools and families should regularly share real-life examples of ordinary people achieving extraordinary things through determination and integrity. Reading biographies, participating in community service, and interacting with role models help children understand that success comes through consistent effort rather than shortcuts.

Conclusion
Every struggle carries within it the possibility of success. Inspiring social stories remind us that hope is stronger than hardship and determination is more powerful than obstacles. They encourage us to believe in ourselves, support those around us, and never underestimate the impact of kindness and perseverance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix Public Transit Today

Our city’s public transportation network is rapidly falling apart, leaving thousands of daily commuters stranded during peak hours. Buses are constantly overcrowded, and their schedules remain completely unreliable. This forces citizens to depend on private vehicles, directly increasing gridlock and severe air pollution. City planners must immediately prioritize upgrading the public fleet and optimizing transit routes. Investing in sustainable mass transit is no longer optional; it is essential for the economic and environmental survival of our urban centers.

- Prakash Anandraj

Fix Dangerous Potholed Roads

The deplorable condition of our city roads has reached a breaking point. Rainwater has carved deep potholes across major traffic corridors, causing constant accidents, vehicle damage, and massive commute delays. Despite repeated complaints from local residents, civic authorities continue to apply temporary, inadequate fixes that wash away with the next rainfall. We need long-term road reconstruction using durable asphalt materials and proper drainage systems. The municipal corporation must hold negligent contractors accountable immediately.

- Anitha Prakash

Prioritize Garbage Collection

The severe neglect of daily waste management in residential areas is becoming a critical health hazard. Piles of uncollected garbage are mounting on street corners, attracting stray animals and creating unbearable odors. With monsoon rains approaching, these stagnant waste dumps will turn into breeding grounds for dangerous vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria. The municipal sanitation department must enforce strict waste collection schedules and clear these public dumps immediately. Civic health should never be sidelined due to administrative delay.

- Rahul Prakash



THE ROAD TO DEVELOPED INDIA BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM

India is moving forward with an ambitious resolve to become a developed nation by 2047. A teacher, crumbling walls and shrinking government schools can be the dream of a developed India be fulfilled without a strong education system? The country's progress towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, its digital revolution, achievements in space, expansion of infrastructure and growing influence on the global stage are certainly matters of pride. Yet, behind this impressive picture lies another India, an India where thousands of children still struggle for adequate teachers, safe school buildings, clean drinking water, toilets, electricity and quality education. The fundamental question is: if the very foundation of the education system on which the developed India of 2047 is to be built is weak, how strong will that India ultimately be? Government data makes this concern even more serious. According to UDISE+ 2024-25, as many as 104,125 schools in the country have only one teacher, serving nearly 3.377 million students. This means that a single teacher is expected to manage several classes, multiple subjects and administrative responsibilities while also ensuring that children receive a meaningful education. This is not merely a statistic; it is the story of millions of children for whom government schools are the most accessible, and often the only, avenue to education.

The irony is that in the same country we proudly discuss world-class universities, IITs, IIMs, medical institutions and technologically advanced educational campuses, while failing to pay adequate attention to the child in a village who dreams of a better future while sitting beneath a leaking roof. In some

places there is only one teacher for five classes. In others, school buildings are dilapidated, drinking water is unavailable, toilets are inadequate, and electricity, fans and other basic facilities are missing. In recent months, students in several districts of Uttar Pradesh have taken to the streets demanding more teachers, better food, drinking water, fans and basic facilities. In Fatehpur, nearly a thousand students reportedly protested over crumbling classrooms, leaking roofs and the lack of safe drinking water. This situation cannot be described merely as the failure of one state or one government. It is the consequence of an administrative mindset that has repeatedly given education a high place in speeches but failed to make its quality and accountability among the highest priorities of governance. There are large education departments, substantial budgets, numerous schemes, committees and inspection mechanisms. Yet how did more than one lakh single-teacher schools continue to exist? This question must be addressed not merely to governments, but to the entire administrative system.

The picture, however, is not entirely bleak. According to UDISE+ data, in 2024-25 India had around 1.471 million schools, nearly 246.9 million students and more than 10 million teachers. Government schools numbered around 1.013 million, while private unaided recognised schools numbered approximately 340,000. Government data also shows that the number of single-teacher schools declined from 110,971 in 2023-24 to 104,125 in 2024-25, while the proportion of schools with computer facilities increased from 57.2 per cent to 64.7 per cent. These improvements de-



serve recognition. But treating them as the final measure of success would amount to complacency. The real test of education is not merely the existence of buildings, computers or impressive statistics; it is whether a child is actually learning and whether the system is preparing that child for a better future.

A recent NITI Aayog report presents another significant picture. In 2014-15, India had around 1.107 million government schools, but by 2024-25 the number had fallen to approximately 1.013 million. In contrast, the number of private recognised schools increased from around 288,000 to 339,000. This is not merely a fluctuation in the number of schools; it also signals changing parental preferences and declining confidence in government education. The most important question is this: when the government has land, buildings, trained teachers, the capacity to pay salaries and an extensive administrative machinery, why do government schools continue to lag behind private schools? It is easy to criticise private schools, but we must also ask why parents, even with limited

incomes, are willing to pay fees to send their children to them. The answer lies in the quality of education, discipline, regularity, English and technology-oriented learning, communication with parents and the overall learning environment offered by private schools. ASER data also highlights this gap. According to the NITI Aayog report, in 2024, 23.4 per cent of Grade 3 children in government schools could read a Grade 2-level text, compared with 35.5 per cent in private schools. At Grade 5, the corresponding figures were 44.8 per cent for government schools and 59.3 per cent for private schools. Clearly, the problem is not merely one of school infrastructure; it is also a crisis of learning outcomes.

At the same time, the picture at the higher-education and competitive-examination levels is equally worrying. Reports of paper leaks, examination irregularities, delays in recruitment and student protests have continued to surface. Examination-related controversies in 2026 have further fuelled dissatisfaction among students and job aspirants. This indicates that the crisis

extends from the foundation of the education system to its higher levels. Weak foundations in primary education, quality concerns in secondary schooling, and questions of transparency in higher education and competitive examinations cannot be treated as isolated problems. They require an integrated and comprehensive solution. Government schools are, in fact, one of the most important instruments of social equality in India. A large number of children from rural families, workers, economically weaker sections, disadvantaged communities and low-income households study in these schools. If the quality of these institutions declines, the greatest loss is suffered by those who cannot afford expensive private education. The deterioration of government schools, therefore, is not merely an educational crisis; it is also a crisis of social justice.

There is one tough but meaningful suggestion that deserves serious consideration: should there be a system under which, under defined circumstances, the children of elected representatives and senior government officials are encouraged—or even required—to attend government schools? When those responsible for making policies experience the same education system through their own families, perhaps a broken window, a non-functional toilet, a shortage of teachers or poor-quality school meals would no longer remain mere observations in official files; they would become matters of personal experience and urgency. Education cannot be reduced to schemes providing midday meals, scholarships, uniforms or free textbooks.

These are important and necessary interventions, but the purpose of education is not merely to bring

a child to school. It is to equip that child with knowledge, wisdom, skills, values and self-confidence and to prepare him or her to become a responsible and capable citizen. If a child does not receive quality education today, how can we expect that child to make a meaningful contribution to building a developed India tomorrow?

The government should now move beyond announcements and consider a comprehensive initiative such as a "National Government School Transformation Mission." Clear standards should be established for every school covering teacher availability, structural safety, drinking water, electricity, digital facilities, toilets, libraries, playgrounds and learning outcomes. Every school should have a public performance dashboard, and every year it should be made clear how many children have acquired basic reading, writing and numeracy skills. Teacher recruitment must be transparent, while political interference in appointments and transfers should be strictly curbed. School Management Committees should be given genuine authority, and accountability of officials at the district level must be clearly established. Most importantly, education must be elevated above partisan politics. Both the government and the opposition need to understand that government schools do not belong to any political party—they belong to India's future. If any political party highlights the poor condition of schools, that concern should be welcomed. The issue, however, must never be about political credit; it must be about the future of our children.

-LALIT GARG

DRONE WARFARE AND INDIA'S PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE BATTLEFIELD

The first flight of the indigenously developed Divyastra Mk3 is a positive step, as the Indian Army increasingly relies on UAS technology in warfare. Today's warfare is undergoing a fundamental shift: battles are no longer measured solely by the number of tanks, fighter jets, missiles, and troops. UAS are increasingly becoming the preferred tool for surveillance, targeting, precision strikes, and electronic warfare. Therefore, the successful flight of the indigenous Divyastra Mk3 jet in August 2026 is not only a technological breakthrough, but also a sign of India's efforts to adapt to a more networked, technology-driven, and independent battlefield.

Drone warfare uses unmanned aerial systems to gather intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), locate targets, conduct precision strikes, electronic warfare, and provide communications support. Recent wars have demonstrated that the use of drones can revolutionize the way wars are fought and economic operations. Drones also have the potential to transform the nature and economics of military operations, as evidenced by recent wars. The Russia-Ukraine war demonstrated the threat posed by relatively inexpensive drones to expensive tanks, artillery, warships, and other conventional military equipment. When it comes to military superiority, it's no longer just about possessing expensive platforms, but about the ability to deploy large numbers of inexpensive, flexible, and intelligent systems.

The benefits of using drones are vast, and one of the most significant is that they save human lives in dangerous operations. ISR drones can be used to reconnaissance enemy territory, keeping pilots and soldiers safe from danger. They can provide commanders with real-time information about enemy locations, troop numbers, and battlefield conditions. This leads to a better understanding of the situation and allows for quicker, more informed decisions. This is a highly valuable strategic capability for a country like India, where borders are complex, mountainous terrain exists, and operational conditions vary.

Loiter munitions are revolutionizing warfare by eliminating the need for a sensor-to-shooter approach. Using conventional weapons, it can take considerable time to locate a target, transmit information about it, select the appropriate weapon, and launch an attack. Loiter munitions can search for, identify, and engage a target in a much shorter timeframe. This is particularly useful for time-sensitive targets and for mobile enemy troops. Thus, the Divyastra Mk3 is a significant development in building India's indigenous precision-strike capability and reducing the time from target detection to attack.

Drones are also impacting the econom-



ics of war. Low-cost unmanned platforms can damage or destroy assets costing many times more. This poses a serious challenge to conventional armies. Commercially available technologies were rapidly put to military use during the Russia-Ukraine war, as evidenced by the use of first-person view (FPV) drones. However, small drones carrying cameras and explosives can target vulnerable points in tanks and other armored vehicles at a much lower cost than precision-guided weapons. Therefore, the ability to adapt civilian technology to military needs and rapidly develop new ideas will become even more important in the future context of warfare.

The second major change is drone swarms. Large numbers of coordinated drones can overload or "overwhelm" conventional air defense systems. Conventional air defense missiles are very effective at shooting down a single aircraft or missile, but it is not economically viable to shoot down a hundred or more cheap drones with expensive missiles. Defenders will face significant cost challenges in the event of a large-scale drone attack. This means that the battlefield of the future may become a struggle between drone fleets and multi-layered anti-drone (CD) capabilities capable of detecting, pursuing, and neutralizing multiple threats simultaneously.

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to accelerate this transformation. AI has the potential to improve navigation, object recognition, and target identification, as well as coordinate between multiple unmanned systems. This increased independence can help drones operate in the event of communications failures due to electronic warfare. However, AI-powered autonomy also raises significant ethical, legal, and accountability questions. Responsibility for the consequences of an autonomous system's misdirection of targets is sometimes unclear. Therefore, military effectiveness must be evaluated within the context of meaningful human control, the rules of war must be transparent, and standards of accountability must be clear.

India has begun taking significant steps toward developing drone warfare capabilities. The Divyastra Mk3 enhances indigenous precision strike capabilities and is a result of the growing focus on indigenous unmanned systems. This is particularly important for indigenous propulsion, as reliance on imported engines

and key components could lead to strategic vulnerabilities in times of conflict. Therefore, the development of jet engines by DG Propulsion is crucial to reducing dependence on foreign technologies and achieving technological self-reliance.

The reorganization of the Indian Army also indicates that the military is beginning to understand the importance of drones in future warfare. The Ashwini drone platoon and Divyastra battery are steps aimed at better integrating unmanned systems into battle formations. Indigenous precision-guided weapons like DRDO's ULPGM-V3 could further enhance the combat capabilities of UAV platforms. Meanwhile, the development of indigenously developed strike drones is contributing to the expansion of unmanned capabilities. Progress made so far indicates that India is moving towards the planned use of drones on the battlefield.

However, India's level of preparedness is still far from perfect. One of the biggest threats to drone use is electronic warfare. Jamming and spoofing can disrupt navigation and communication links. If a drone's navigation system or command link fails, it could become ineffective at the most critical time. Future Indian systems will need to have secure communications, anti-jamming systems, other navigation systems, and a high degree of autonomy.

Another critical requirement is anti-drone capabilities. This doesn't mean you can't find a way to shoot down a cheap drone with an expensive missile, but it's not always possible. India needs cost-effective and multi-layered solutions that include anti-drone directed energy weapons, emerging technologies, electronic jamming, detection networks, kinetic interception, and other solutions. Developing indigenous sensors, electronics, semiconductors, and secure processors is equally important. Reliance on foreign key technologies could pose serious problems in a protracted conflict.

Drones are revolutionizing precision warfare with their adaptable, autonomous, and cost-effective weapons. They are transforming the nature of hostilities and defensive strategies, and even changing the traditional economics of military power. The Divyastra Mk3 is an important symbol of India's efforts to adapt to these changing times. But simply having more drones is not enough for preparedness. India must integrate indigenous innovations into military doctrine, electronic warfare, artificial intelligence, secure communications, and effective counter-drone technologies. The nation that can integrate all of these has the greatest chance of winning the wars to come.

- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

GIVE THE ELDERLY THE LIGHT OF DIGNITY, NOT THE DARKNESS OF NEGLECT

World Senior Citizens Day serves as a vital wake-up call to society's collective conscience, compelling us to reflect on the painful realities faced by the elderly. The very hands that laid the foundation of families, the shoulders that carried the burden of securing their children's future, and the wisdom that guided successive generations through life's difficult journeys—why should those very elderly parents endure loneliness, neglect, insecurity, and humiliation in the twilight of their lives? Somewhere along the way, our social sensitivity has weakened. In a culture where respecting elders was once an instinctive value, the need to dedicate a specific day to their rights, dignity, and security demands serious collective introspection.

India is undergoing a rapid demographic transition. According to the United Nations Population Fund's India Ageing Report 2023, the share of people aged 60 and above is projected to reach nearly 20 percent of India's population by 2050. This means roughly one in every five Indians will soon be a senior citizen. Living longer is undeniably a major triumph of modern healthcare and human civilization. However, when longevity is accompanied by chronic illness, financial precarity, and severe emotional isolation, a long life transforms from a blessing into an exhausting burden.

Historically, India's joint-family system positioned the elderly as custodians of family memory, values, and guidance. Today, rapid urbanization, employment-driven migration, the rise of nuclear households, and growing consumerism have dismantled this traditional arrangement. Many senior citizens find themselves emotionally isolated even while sharing a roof with their families. They have a home, but no one to engage in meaningful conversation; they have children, but receive little of their time or affection. The supreme irony of modern family life is that individuals who spent their prime placing their children at the center of their existence are frequently pushed to the margins after retirement. The advice of a working individual is treated as essential, yet the moment they retire, their functional utility to the household is often treated as if it has expired. This structural shift is reflected in the proliferation of old-age homes across the country. While these institutions provide essential security and specialized medical care for those living without family support, their rising numbers highlight a deeper moral crisis. When capable adult children send elderly parents to care facilities simply because they are viewed as an "inconvenience" to modern lifestyles, the issue transcends family dynamics—it strikes at the moral foundations of society itself. Acquiring parental property only to distance oneself from them, viewing their medical treatments as financial burdens, or treating them merely as unpaid domestic help are alarming trends that demand urgent social reform.

Addressing this issue requires mutual adaptation. Senior citizens must also recalibrate their expectations to align with changing social structures. Understanding the younger generation's desire for independence and per-



sonal space can prevent unnecessary friction. Offering experience as gentle guidance rather than authoritative command fosters healthier intergenerational relationships. Growing older in years is inevitable, but growing old in spirit is a choice. By remaining active in community service, learning, creative pursuits, and social networks, senior citizens can ensure their later years remain vibrant and fulfilling.

Concurrently, the legal and policy frameworks surrounding elderly care have strengthened. A landmark Supreme Court judgment recently reinforced that adult children cannot treat parents as disposable once their economic utility ends. The judiciary affirmed legal protections under the law to safeguard the dignity and property rights of senior citizens, including enabling the restoration of transferred property when statutory maintenance conditions are breached. While the law can mandate financial support and property rights, it cannot manufacture familial affection—that responsibility rests with the family and the wider community.

On the policy front, the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced key measures to enhance social security for the elderly. Notably, the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in October 2024 extended health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income, aiming to benefit approximately six crore individuals. Complementing this, the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana adopts a holistic approach to active ageing, addressing healthcare, nutrition, shelter, and re-employment opportunities. However, the ultimate efficacy of these programs relies on seamless execution at the grassroots level, ensuring senior citizens do not face administrative hurdles to access their rights.

Ultimately, emotional security is just as crucial as financial stability. Money can purchase prescription medication, but it cannot cure profound loneliness. A hospital can treat physical ailments, but only familial affection can heal a spirit wounded by neglect. Senior citizens do not merely need food and shelter; they require meaningful interaction, respect, inclusion in family decisions, and the reassurance that their presence still matters.

-LALIT GARG



Quick Read

Arunachal police rescue 19 trafficked children

ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Police have arrested three people for allegedly facilitating an inter-district child trafficking network and rescued 19 children from different parts of the state, Police said the children, mostly below eight, were found in Mechuka, Aalo, Pasighat, Naharlagun, Itanagar and Longding. The youngest was reportedly around three years old, the arrested accused were identified as Gumnya Kochung, Marta Ete and Neha Gerory. Investigators found suspected payments of "10,000 to "50,000 per child. The case was registered on August 17 after a Child Welfare Committee complaint. A Special Investigation Team is examining financial records, calls and digital evidence to trace others allegedly involved.

Relative denies iPhone claim about dead boy

SAMBHAJINAGAR

Kalyani Dabhade, maternal aunt of 19-year-old Kunal Chandgude, has rejected reports that his death was linked to iPhone EMIs, Kunal, his father Murlidhar, 48, and mother Sangita died after falling from a hill cliff in Tisgaon on August 21. Dabhade said Kunal was distressed by tensions between his parents and wanted his father to return home. She said the family had two phones for study and communication, "It was not about a phone. Kunal wanted his father to come back home," Dabhade said, she added that Kunal did not intend to end his life but wanted to emotionally persuade his father to return.

Andhra family deaths lead to coach's arrest

VIJAYAWADA

Police have arrested Shaik Sadiq Khan in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the deaths of a Panchayat Raj assistant engineer and two family members who allegedly jumped into the Godavari River on August 16. Nukaraju, his wife Meena and daughter Sowjanya died near Rajamahendravaram, while their 10-year-old grandson was rescued by fishermen, Police said Khan was arrested in Meerut on August 22 after a multi-state search. He allegedly harassed and blackmailed the family and had worked as a rifle-shooting coach at the grandson's school, six special teams are investigating the case, including allegations linked to threats, extortion and another death. Khan was brought back to Andhra Pradesh after being produced before a Meerut court.

KANDA EXPRESS SUPPLY

800 Metric Tonnes of Onion Supplied to Five Major Cities

NEW DELHI

The Union Government is supplying 800 metric tonnes of onions from Nashik to five major cities through special 'Kanda Express' trains to strengthen market availability and maintain price stability, Union Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi said.

The onions are being transported from Nashik to Chennai, Madurai, Delhi, Ernakulam and Guwahati. The government plans to extend the supply to other cities depending on market requirements. The special train service is aimed at ensuring faster and bulk transportation of onions to major consumption centres.



According to Joshi, arrangements have also been made to sell onions from the government's buffer stock at ₹35 per kg through the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), NAFED and Kendriya Bhandar. The move is expected to improve availability and provide relief to consumers amid fluctuations in onion prices.

Kejriwal challenges BJP to inspect 1,000 schools

AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal challenged the BJP to jointly inspect 1,000 schools each in Punjab and Gujarat, highlighting Punjab's claimed education improvements.

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to jointly inspect 1,000 government schools each in Punjab and Gujarat. He said the exercise should include media representatives so people can see which state provides better public education. Kejriwal made the proposal while accusing the BJP of trying to damage Punjab's image instead of improving education in Gujarat.

Kejriwal said AAP had governed Punjab for about four-and-a-half years, while the BJP had ruled Gujarat for nearly three decades. He claimed the Punjab government had improved 19,200 of the state's 19,700 government schools, with work continuing in the remaining 500. He also referred to NITI Aayog rankings, claim-

ing Punjab had moved from 28th place to first in government school education during the AAP government's tenure.

He further accused the BJP of using an old video from 2018 to show Punjab schools in poor condition.



AT A GLANCE
19,700 — Punjab schools
19,200 — Schools improved
500 — Work ongoing
1,000 — Schools to inspect
28th to 1st — Claimed ranking rise



Allahabad HC upholds school dress code rules

NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court's decision on school dress codes has triggered a political debate over the balance between institutional rules and students' religious freedom. The court dismissed a petition seeking permission for a minor student to wear a headscarf with her prescribed school uniform.

The petition was filed by a girl studying at a private school in Prayagraj. She had completed her high school education and was seeking admission to Class 11 at the same institution. The court held that students cannot insist on changing an institution's prescribed dress code based on personal preferences.

The ruling drew different reactions from political leaders. BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi backed the judgment and urged people not to turn the hijab issue into a source of communal tension. He said schools have their own dress codes, discipline and regulations, which students are expected to respect.

CPI MP P. Santhosh Kumar took a different position, saying uniforms promote equality but students should also be allowed to practise their faith. VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal supported the court's view and said schools should promote equality, unity and brotherhood. Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan described head-covering as a matter of personal choice and said similar traditions exist across communities.

BJP leader and senior advocate Nalin Kohli said the ruling appeared consistent with Supreme Court decisions concerning religious practices. He noted that non-religious schools generally have common uniforms, while families seeking religiously oriented education can choose institutions based on those principles. The verdict has therefore renewed discussion over how schools should balance uniformity, discipline and individual religious expression.

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Yash praises Vijay's political rise at Toxic event

CHENNAI

Kannada actor Yash praised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay for his transition from cinema to politics at the Chennai pre-release event of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. The event was held at Nehru Indoor Stadium on August 23.

Yash spoke about Vijay's discipline, dedication and commitment to public life, saying the support he received from people reflected the trust placed in him. He described Vijay's political journey through Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a new trend.

"We have really learned a lot from him, we have admired him for his commitment," Yash said. He added that Vijay's discipline and dedication had helped him earn the love and responsibility given by the people.

Yash also praised Toxic producer K. Venkat Narayana, who also produced Vijay's Jana Nayagan. According to Yash, Narayana had often spoken about Vijay's hard work and passion for serving Tamil Nadu.

"Hope the entire country gets into this kind of politics," Yash said while wishing Vijay success. He added that the audience's love should be returned through responsibility and public service.

Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas and backed by KVN Productions, stars Yash, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Kiara Advani, Rukmini Vasanth and Sudeep Nair. The gangster drama is scheduled for worldwide theatrical release on August 26.

Three terror associates arrested across Kashmir valley

SRINAGAR

Security forces arrested three suspected terror associates during a checking operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday. Officials said the operation led to the recovery of two hand grenades, five posters carrying markings of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen outfit and a motorcycle.

The three accused were identified as Junaid Ahmad Dar, Amir Yousuf and Junaid Muzaffar, all residents of Kulgam district. Security personnel stopped them during naka-checking in South Kashmir and seized the suspected material. The recovered items have been

Security forces arrested three suspected terror associates in Shopian and recovered grenades and Hizbul posters, while two more suspects were detained separately in Pulwama.

taken into custody, while further investigation is underway to establish their alleged links and activities.

In a separate operation in Pulwama district, security forces arrested two more suspected terror associates and recovered a pistol, 12 rounds of ammunition and a hand grenade. The arrests were made during a joint operation in the Yarwan forest area of CB Nath in Rajpora.

Officials said the operation involved the 44 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army and the 183 Battalion of the CRPF. Acting on security inputs, the forces launched a Cordon and Search Operation in the forest area.

During the search, the teams noticed two people emerging from the forest towards CB Nath village in a suspicious manner. Security personnel quickly moved in and apprehended both individuals. Officials said the investigation into the Pulwama case is also continuing. The latest operations come as security forces maintain heightened vigilance across South Kashmir to prevent terror-related activities and disrupt support networks.

BSP says party will fight polls alone

LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday announced that her party will contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand independently. The decision was taken during a meeting to review the party's organisation and support base in Punjab.

Mayawati directed party workers and office-bearers to strengthen the BSP's organisation from the grassroots level, particularly up to the booth level. She also asked leaders to ensure that election candidates are hardworking and honest and that preparations are completed without any shortcomings.

Explaining the decision to contest alone, Mayawati said



"Electoral alliances cause the party to suffer losses in both seats and vote share."

—Mayawati, CM

alliances had hurt the party's performance in the past. "Electoral alliances cause the party to suffer losses in both seats and vote share. Therefore, the BSP will contest the elections on its own in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand," she said.

The BSP chief urged work-

ers to remain united and prepare to counter the strategies of rival parties. She also asked party leaders to prepare for a programme marking the death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram on October 9. The party is also preparing for 'Jan Kalyankari Diwas' on January 15, 2027.

Mayawati said such programmes would help promote Ambedkarite ideology and strengthen the BSP movement. She said the party would focus on policies aimed at helping poor, unemployed and marginalised people achieve freedom from poverty and unemployment and live with self-respect. She also directed the organisation to remain active and election-ready while maintaining regular contact with the public.

Kolkata markets raided as essential prices rise

KOLKATA

The Enforcement Branch of Kolkata Police raided several markets on Tuesday after Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari directed officials to monitor rising prices of essential commodities. The inspections focused on sugar, edible oil, rice, vegetables and other items amid concerns over hoarding and overcharging.

Around 10 EB teams visited Shyambazar, Maniktala Market, Kole Market, Garia Bazar and Jadu Babur Bazar. Officials checked the availability and prices of essential goods and examined whether traders were storing supplies illegally or charging customers excessive rates. The operation followed a meeting at the state secretariat on Monday.

Adhikari said sugar prices had crossed Rs 65 per kg and warned traders against hoarding rice and sugar. "We have found where the leakage is. We will fix it. There will be no scope for injustice here," he said. Sugar prices have reportedly risen by about Rs 20 per kg in the past 20 days.

Traders said the increase in vegetable prices was linked to prolonged rain during July



"We have found where the leakage is. We will fix it. There will be no scope for injustice here."

— Suvenud Adhikari, CM

and August, which disrupted supplies and affected market arrivals. Prices of edible oil, garlic and onions have also increased in recent weeks. Traders said efforts were being made to prevent stockpiling of vegetables and other essentials for later sale at higher prices.

The inspections are aimed at keeping essential commodities available at reasonable prices and checking unfair trading practices. Traders expect vegetable prices to ease after the monsoon ends and supplies improve. The Enforcement Branch is likely to continue monitoring markets as authorities assess whether further action is needed.

Delhi reviews H1N1 spread as cases cross 2,300

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called an emergency meeting on Tuesday to review the spread of H1N1 in the capital, with 2,308 infections reported this year. Health Minister Pankaj Singh said the situation remained "under control" and assured residents that doctors, staff and medicines were available.

Singh said isolation wards had been established in hospitals across Delhi and warned that action would be taken against hospitals if patients were denied beds. The review meeting was attended by senior officials from the Health Department, MCD, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board.

"There is no need for panic. Patients are coming, but they are getting treated and then going back," Singh said. Delhi has recorded around 3,000 influenza cases this year, with H1N1 accounting for most infections. Officials said the remaining cases were caused by other influenza strains.

Doctors said children, elderly people, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses face a higher risk of severe infection. Respiratory specialist Dr Bharat Gopal said rising cases had renewed interest in seasonal influenza vaccination, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Physician Dr Bibhu Anand said H1N1 testing is widely available at hospitals and diagnostic centres. Private testing can cost between ₹1,500 and ₹5,000, while government facilities charge little. Doctors advised people against self-medication and urged patients to seek medical help for breathing difficulty, chest pain, low oxygen levels, confusion or persistent high fever. Authorities said the preparedness measures are intended to ensure timely treatment while preventing unnecessary panic among residents.

JHARKHAND POLICE BOOK 38 OVER MOLESTATION CLAIMS

RANCHI

Police have registered a case against 38 people for allegedly molesting a woman member of the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch during a protest in Ranchi on August 21. The demonstration was held over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations near Albert Ekka Chowk.

The case was filed on Monday after the woman approached Kotwali police station with BJP Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi. Police said eight people were named in the complaint, while 30 others were booked without being named. The accused face molestation charges and other sections

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The woman alleged that the protesters were holding a peaceful procession and attempting to burn effigies of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi when the incident occurred. She alleged that around eight identified and more than 30 unidentified people assaulted and molested her during the demonstration.

Police officer-in-charge Sanoj Choudhary confirmed that a case had been registered and said further investigation would determine the roles of those accused. Authorities are examining the circumstances surrounding the incident and the allegations made in the com-

plaint. Police have not announced any arrests so far, and officials said the investigation would proceed after statements from the complainant, witnesses and other people present at the protest are recorded. The police are also checking available evidence from the area nearby.

Marandi condemned the alleged attack and described it as an attempt to suppress students raising concerns through democratic means. He said the BJP would support their struggle. The case has added another layer to protests over recruitment examination issues in Jharkhand, with police now investigating the alleged misconduct during the demonstration.

Quick Read

Wife, lover held for alleged murder of husband

FARIDABAD
Faridabad Police arrested a woman and her alleged husband within 24 hours for the murder of her 42-year-old husband, Shyamveer, in Mojabad village. Police said the lover allegedly killed Shyamveer by striking him with an interlocking tile after getting him intoxicated. The woman allegedly shut the door from outside. The duo then allegedly buried the body in a pit near the house. The case came to light after police received information about a buried body on August 24. Both accused will be produced before court.

Ganesh idol collapse kills two in Mumbai

MUMBAI
Two people were killed and five injured after a 22-foot Ganesh idol collapsed during its arrival procession in Mumbai on August 22. The incident occurred near Kabutarkhana in Bhuleshwar. A preliminary police probe suggested that the idol's rear welding support broke, causing the collapse. The deceased were identified as Sanket Nevshe, 33, and Brijesh Joshi, 30. The Lalbaugcha Raja Ganeshotsav Mandal announced \$11 lakh for the organising mandal and \$5 lakh each for the victims' families.

Newborn sold for Rs 4.5 lakh, four arrested

BIHAR
Police rescued a newborn allegedly sold for Rs 4.5 lakh in East Champaran and arrested the baby's parents, alleged buyer and an ASHA worker accused of brokering the deal. Police said intermediaries paid the parents only Rs 1.5 lakh and kept the remaining Rs 3 lakh, leading to a dispute that exposed the transaction. Officers recovered Rs 1.5 lakh in cash. An FIR has been registered under relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, and further investigation is underway.

KPSS raises concern over threats to minority employees



SRINAGAR
The Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti (KPSS) on Tuesday expressed concern over alleged threats issued by a terrorist outfit to PM Package employees working in the Kashmir Valley. KPSS president Sanjay Kumar Tickoo said the latest development raised serious questions about the safety of minority employees.
Tickoo said Kashmiri Pandits should not repeatedly be asked to prove their commitment to Kashmir while continuing to face security concerns. He said the community's return should be supported by safety, equal rights and protection from intimidation. The KPSS also stressed that the majority community should not be blamed for militant activities. However, it called for a closer exam-

PM Modi meets Gujarat speaker on rural issues

Gujarat Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with discussions focusing on agriculture, dairy, cooperation, livestock farmers and rural development.

NEW DELHI
Legislative Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Chaudhary said their discussions covered co-operation, agriculture, nature and issues affecting livestock farmers.
Sharing details of the meeting on social media,

Chaudhary described the interaction as cordial and praised Modi for focusing on farmers, rural communities, youth and poorer sections. He said the Prime Minister had consistently worked to protect the interests of farmers and livestock rearers.
Chaudhary highlighted the Centre's GOBARdhan scheme, saying the pro-



gramme, worth more than Rs 23,000 crore, was aimed

“The Prime Minister had consistently worked to protect the interests of farmers.”
—Shankar Chaudhary, Assembly speaker

at helping livestock farmers become more self-reliant. He also said the government had maintained a ban on milk imports despite global pressures.

UP sanctions Rs 604 crores for school repairs

LUCKNOW
The Uttar Pradesh government has sanctioned Rs 604 crore to repair, rebuild and upgrade 3,126 council-run primary and upper primary schools across the state. The move aims to improve school buildings and provide students with safer and better learning environments.

The government has already released the first instalment of more than Rs 302 crore for the work. Of the total allocation, Rs 344 crore has been earmarked for 2,243 primary schools, providing around Rs 15 lakh per school. The funds will be used to improve schools with poor infrastructure and replace

Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned \$604 crore to repair and upgrade 3,126 government schools, aiming to provide students with safer and better learning environments

buildings that are in a dilapidated condition. The initiative is expected to benefit students studying in government-run schools across Uttar Pradesh. District and state-level committees will monitor the construction and repair work to ensure that the allocated funds are properly used. Officials will oversee progress as projects are taken up across different districts.

IN FOCUS
Total allocation: \$604 crore
Schools covered: 3,126
First instalment: \$302+ crore
Primary schools: 2,243
Allocation per school: About \$15 lakh

The decision comes after campaigns and reports highlighted poor infrastructure in schools in several parts of the country. The Uttar Pradesh government said the large-scale funding would help create better learning conditions and ensure children are not forced to study in unsafe or damaged buildings.

HYDERABAD POLICE INSPECTOR SUSPENDED OVER MURDER CASE

HYDERABAD
Jubilee Hills Police Station Inspector Muttu Yadav has been suspended over the handling of a case involving N. Sumanth, former OSD to Telangana Minister Konda Surekha. Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar ordered the suspension over an alleged delay in registering

the FIR and failure to trace Sumanth. A departmental inquiry has also been ordered to examine how the case was handled. Sumanth remains at large in an alleged assault case involving real estate businessman Gongidi Harikrishna. His driver was reportedly detained by police on Sunday.

Harikrishna alleged that Sumanth and five others assaulted him with iron rods and sticks on July 30. He also alleged that the accused demanded Rs 10 crore and threatened him. The complainant said he suffered a fractured hand and other injuries and underwent surgery on August 10. A zero FIR was initially

registered at Medipally Police Station before the case was transferred to Jubilee Hills Police Station. Sumanth and five others were booked under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The case comes amid a political controversy involving Minister Konda Surekha's family. Her daughter, Konda Sushmitha,

recently made remarks about Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and alleged corruption involving his family. The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee later issued a show-cause notice to Surekha. The minister distanced herself from her daughter's comments, saying they reflected her personal views.

Jagan urges YSRCP cadres to target local polls

AMARAVATI
Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday urged party workers to prepare strongly for the upcoming local body elections, claiming that a strong anti-incumbency mood exists against the coalition government.
Addressing party leaders and cadres at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Jagan said the party could secure a decisive victory if public dissatisfaction translates into votes. He asked workers to ensure that YSRCP candidates contest every seat and prevent what he described as attempts



“We will not tolerate unanimous elections.”
—YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, CM

to influence elections. Jagan said party leaders should visit every household and explain the differences between YSRCP and the ruling coalition. He called for strong candidates and said unanimous elections would be

taken seriously by the party. He also announced preparations including QR-coded identity cards for grassroots workers, election material and meetings at different organisational levels. He asked the legal, media and social media teams to remain active and respond to alleged harassment and government policies.
Jagan urged leaders to work as one team without personal differences and spend the next few months in their constituencies. He also alleged that the coalition government could misuse the police force and warned that officials acting beyond their limits could face consequences in the future.

SC stays coercive action against journalist

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed coercive action by Uttar Pradesh Police against journalist Abhishek Upadhyay in a road-rage case. The court also extended interim protection to any future FIR that the state police may register against him.
A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along

with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, was hearing Upadhyay's petition. The court directed police to provide him with a copy of the FIR registered at Indirapuram police station in Ghaziabad.
The FIR, registered on August 18, alleges that a Baleno car hit a motorcycle near Shipra Mall and that the driver abused and threatened the

complainant. Upadhyay has denied the allegations, saying there was no collision or confrontation.
Senior advocate Pradeep Rai, appearing for Upadhyay, called the allegations baseless and said the case followed the journalist's reports on the Ram Mandir donation controversy. He sought protection from arrest and an independent probe.

DHAR BHOJSHALA BANDH

Half-Day Bandh held over Bhojshala issue in Dhar

MADHYA PRADESH
A half-day bandh called by Hindu organisations over the Bhojshala dispute was observed in Dhar on Tuesday, with several markets remaining closed. Police maintained heavy security across the district, and officials said the situation remained peaceful.
The Sakal Hindu Samaj called the shutdown until noon, alleging that the administration was not properly implementing court directions concerning arrange-



ments for Friday prayers near the disputed complex. Members held a motorcycle rally

and appealed to traders to close their shops. Schools, colleges, petrol

pumps, medical stores and other essential services remained open. Later, Hindu organisations took out a protest march from Lalbagh to the Collectorate and submitted a memorandum to Dhar Collector Rajiv Ranjan Meena. Barricades were placed outside the office, while officials received the memorandum at the main gate.
The organisations alleged that prayer arrangements at Survey Number 612 were affecting access to the Bhojshala site and hurting Hindu

sentiments. Bhojshala Mukti Yajna coordinator Gopal Sharma said the issue had been raised since 1987 and protests would continue.
Collector Meena said the matter was before the courts and the administration would follow the judicial process. The Supreme Court has directed the state to facilitate Friday prayers at an adjacent site as an interim arrangement. Police said adequate forces were deployed in sensitive areas to maintain law and order.

Quick Read

Karachi hospital shock: Woman delivers in washroom

KARACHI Pakistan's broken health system faces anger. A poor woman was forced to give birth inside a Karachi hospital wash-room. Videos of the awful event spread fast online. Reports show staff told her to walk while in heavy labor. She got zero timely help. This tragedy exposes massive overcrowding, staff shortages, and bad management in public hospitals. Poor families rely on these centers because private care costs too much. Experts demand strict accountability, better safety rules, and proper medical care for every mother. Systems must change now to stop such painful suffering.



Gen Z surge sparks employee retention crisis

NEW DELHI India's professional sector faces a massive retention crisis. A new report reveals half of all employees want to quit their jobs. Three out of four plan to leave within 12 months. Gen Z numbers have doubled to 34 percent of the workforce. These young workers demand clear pay and fast promotions. Meanwhile, 86 percent of frontline managers are hunting for new roles. They feel crushed by heavy client demands and constant work pressure. Experts urge leaders to fix company culture immediately. Without real changes, worker loyalty will drop further.

New trade routes hurt Pakistan's border economy

NEW DELHI Afghanistan is shifting its trade away from Pakistan. A new report shows transit trade has collapsed drastically over recent years. Container traffic dropped from over one hundred thousand down to just eleven thousand units. Strict border rules and high costs pushed Kabul to rely heavily on Iran and Central Asia instead. This big change deeply harms businesses in Pakistan's border regions. Local factories, transporters, and warehouses face massive losses due to weak demand. Experts warn that losing this vital market will permanently damage the local commercial ecosystem.

FedEx invests \$150 million in Delhi cargo hub

FEDEX IS TRANSFORMING INDIA'S LOGISTICS LANDSCAPE WITH A MASSIVE NEW AIR CARGO HUB AT DELHI AIRPORT.

NEW DELHI

Global logistics giant FedEx has officially announced a massive \$150 million investment to build a brand new, state-of-the-art air cargo hub right at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The groundbreaking ceremony for this ambitious project saw high-profile attendance, including Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram-mohan Naidu, highlighting the huge national importance of the venture.

Spanning an impressive 230,000 square feet inside GMR Cargo City, the facility aims to completely transform how shipments move across the country. By bringing international gateways and daily delivery operations under one single



roof, the company promises much faster and smoother logistics.

Company leaders are thrilled about the milestone. Kami Viswanathan, president of FedEx MEISA, stated that India remains a vital pillar in their global network. She emphasized that the bold investment proves their long-term trust in India's booming economy and rapidly

expanding trade demands.

Rajesh Arora from GMR Airports added that this partnership firmly cements Delhi Airport as a premier global logistics gateway. As online shopping and international trade reach new heights every single day, this project arrives as a game-changer for local businesses looking to expand globally.

Highlights Of The New Hub

- **Supercharged Speed:** Processing capacity will skyrocket from just 600 packages per hour to a whopping 5,000 packages per hour.
- **Smart Tech Integration:** The plant will feature ultra-modern auto-sorters, next-generation X-ray machines, and intelligent package-handling systems.
- **Strategic Growth:** It will heavily boost connectivity for businesses located across North and East India, linking them directly to global markets.

‘Microchips surge toward a trillion-dollar era’

NEW DELHI

Worldwide chip earnings will likely hit \$1.6 trillion this year, showing a massive 92 % jump from \$809 billion in 2025, according to a recent market report. Experts predict the total figure will climb further to touch \$1.9 trillion by 2027.

Analysts at Gartner note that the technology sector has entered an entirely fresh cycle of rapid expansion. This boom stems directly from heavy, continuous spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure alongside higher-than-expected memory chip pricing trends.

Memory earnings alone are projected to hit \$837 billion this year and soar past the \$1 trillion mark by 2027. Memory components will make up over half of all industry revenue, completely shifting past previous

Driven by soaring artificial intelligence infrastructure spending and memory pricing, global semiconductor earnings will skyrocket to \$1.6 trillion this year

market shares. Experts explain that modern artificial intelligence data centers are reshaping how hardware investments and supplier values function globally.

Industry specialists predict dramatic jumps in storage components, with DRAM and NAND flash products seeing triple-digit growth percentages. Even though manufacturers plan to introduce extra factory capacity soon, market supply will likely stay tight.

As modern AI server clusters grow larger and more powerful, they demand heavy investments across processors, power management tools, networking silicon, and optical connections.

INDIAN STEEL SECTOR EYES STRONG RECOVERY:REPORTS

NEW DELHI

India's domestic metal market is gearing up for a strong volume-driven rebound in the latter half of the financial year. Market analysis indicates that lower raw material expenses and steady local consumption will drive growth.

While the upcoming monsoon months might cause a temporary seasonal slowdown, industry experts predict overall annual expansion could hit nine percent. Major producers continue to maintain high factory usage rates alongside smooth facility upgrades and expansion plans.

Analysts point out that declining coking coal prices and reduced maintenance downtime will help protect company profit margins despite minor price softening



in the near term. At the same time, authorities maintain a protective 12 percent safeguard duty, though heavy metal imports from regional competitors remain an area requiring careful observation.

Beyond iron and steel, market specialists maintain an optimistic outlook for non-ferrous materials like aluminum, zinc, and silver. Ongoing geopolitical tensions and international plant shutdowns are expected to keep global aluminum supplies tight, helping sustain high commodity values.

Major Market Drivers

- **Surging Demand:** Local steel consumption is projected to climb significantly once the monsoon season wraps up.
- **Cheaper Raw Materials:** Falling coking coal prices starting this August will help protect corporate profit margins.
- **Strong Capacity:** High plant utilization rates show that producers are ready to meet soaring market needs.
- **Safeguard Shield:** A steady 12 percent import duty helps protect local makers from heavy overseas dumping.

Swiggy shares plunge below IPO price

NEW DELHI

Food delivery and quick commerce giant Swiggy Ltd has experienced a significant downturn, with its shares tumbling roughly 38 percent from their peak values seen during the market debut in late 2024.

The enterprise launched its initial public offering at Rs 390 per share, which represented the top edge of the designated price band. Market entry day brought strong initial excitement, with shares opening well above the issue price and climbing to intraday highs of around Rs 465 on major domestic exchanges.

However, early investor enthusiasm has gradually dissolved over time. Trading data shows the stock closing lower at Rs 287 on Tuesday, marking a noticeable double-digit drop below the original IPO price. This sustained downward correction highlights continuous selling pressure from market participants despite optimistic projections previously issued by

prominent financial brokerages.

Throughout its public trading history, the equity has faced severe volatility. The share price touched a yearly low representing nearly a 50 percent drop from its listing peak before staging a modest rebound. Although analysts from global firms like Macquarie previously projected aggressive targets reaching up to Rs 700, and domestic institutions like ICICI Securities set even higher goals, current market valuations remain heavily suppressed.

Operational challenges continue to weigh on investor sentiment.

The enterprise recently reported a consolidated net loss totaling Rs 791 crore for the quarter ending June 2026. While management focuses on expanding quick commerce operations and grocery delivery services across competitive urban markets, achieving sustained profitability remains a primary concern for shareholders navigating the ongoing share price correction.

Inside Pakistan's 15 million housing crisis

NEW DELHI

Pakistan is currently battling an intense housing deficit, driven by surging population growth, low-quality construction standards, and an underdeveloped formal mortgage finance sector. Recent analytical findings reveal that with an estimated population of 259 million people, the nation requires roughly 41.1 million living units. However, official census records point to only 38.34 million existing homes, leaving a direct numerical shortage of nearly 2.77 million units.

The crisis runs much deeper when factoring in structural quality. Approximately 32.5 percent of current dwellings consist of substandard or semi-permanent materials. After stripping away these vulnerable structures, the pool of durable housing plummets to 25.9 million units, revealing an alarming shortage of 15.23 million acceptable homes.

Unlocking \$10B through Indian SME networks

NEW DELHI

Indian small and medium enterprises operating in Qatar act as vital living bridges that can turn Doha's massive 10 billion dollar investment pledge into active growth projects back home. Sandeep Kumar, Charge d'Affaires at the Indian Embassy, shared these insights during the recent cultural celebrations held in Al Gharafa.

He noted that over 20,000 Indian-owned or managed businesses base their operations in Qatar. These enterprises provide a practical mechanism to transform high-level political commitments into concrete ground-level business partnerships.

Funds coming from Qatar should directly support long-term national priorities, including advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, logistics, infrastructure, and food security.

Qatar has indicated that it will be investing about \$10 billion in India. This signals significant opportunities and a positive momentum towards achieving mutual goals.

Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India

Bilateral commerce currently stands near fourteen billion dollars, largely driven by Qatari energy supplies. Both nations have agreed to double energy trade volumes before the end of the decade. Furthermore, officials highlighted India's youthful demographic advantage, expanding female workforce participation, and advanced digital public infrastructure as major drivers of economic resilience. Joint technological collaboration in artificial intelligence and blockchain offers immense potential for mutual prosperity.



CHINA'S DEFLATIONARY SPIRAL
China economy suffers as consumer demand drops

NEW DELHI

China's vast economic engine is grappling with severe structural strains as domestic consumer demand experiences an unprecedented collapse. A recent analytical report reveals that retail sales are contracting across multiple sectors, property market values continue their relentless descent, and ordinary households are sharply curtailing major expenditures. Even within the upper echelons of state planning, government advisers are now publicly voicing alarm that chronically weak domestic consumption is actively eroding the nation's long-term growth potential



and technological innovation capacity.

The reality on the ground contradicts official economic narratives. Supermarket aisles across major urban centers remain fully stocked under bright lights, yet consumer engagement has plummeted into an eerie quiet. This

stagnation is not an isolated phenomenon - rather, it serves as a highly visible symptom of an economy sliding further into a deflationary spiral. Official macroeconomic data increasingly struggles to mask the underlying financial anxiety gripping the population.

Confidence-dependent sectors have suffered catastrophic reversals. According to market data from May 2026, national automobile sales plummeted by 16.1 percent year-on-year, while expenditures on home appliances and electronics contracted by 5.6 percent. Concurrently, building materials registered a sharp drop of 13.6 percent, and luxury and jewelry segments fell by 8.9 percent. When citizens universally retreat from purchasing big-ticket items like vehicles and refrigerators by double-digit margins, it indicates a profound loss of financial security rather than mere temporary belt-tightening.

Indian technology services companies are rapidly becoming essential partners for major international artificial intelligence labs. As businesses worldwide shift their focus from building models to actual implementation, these firms are stepping up to bridge the gap.

A fresh market report points out that global innovators like OpenAI and Anthropic rely heavily on external systems integrators. Moving successful tech pilots into reliable daily operations requires specialized expertise that traditional tech firms have mastered over decades. For in-



stance, demand for enterprise deployment tools has outpaced the internal capacity of top AI developers, forcing them to collaborate with industry giants like Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services.

Experts note that companies attempting to adopt emerging technologies often face roadblocks related to governance,

data readiness, and clear financial returns, rather than the capabilities of the models themselves. Recent quarterly earnings commentaries from leading Indian firms confirm this trend. Clients are demanding rigorous accountability and robust data foundations before committing large budgets to extensive rollouts.

US PLANS MASS VISA REPEAL FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The proposed action targets so-called B1 and B2 visas issued between 2016 and 2026, whose holders have sought asylum or are now seeking asylum.

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is planning to revoke the non-immigrant visas of foreign nationals who have applied for or are currently seeking asylum in the United States, marking another major step in its immigration crack-down.

The State Department said it was coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security to identify people affected by the move.

The plan targets holders of B1 and B2 visas, which are issued for business and tourism travel. The visas covered by the proposed action were issued between 2016 and 2026 to people who later filed asylum claims or are currently seeking asylum.

The State Department did not disclose how many visas would be revoked. However, the Associated Press, citing State Department documents and two US officials, reported that the number could reach



200,000. If implemented at that scale, the measure would represent the largest single mass visa revocation in US history.

A State Department spokesperson said officials were working to identify foreigners who entered the country claiming to be short-term visitors but later filed asylum applications to remain in the US permanently. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau has also criticised what the administration describes as abuse of

the asylum system.

The proposed visa cancellations would not automatically result in immediate deportation, according to reports. People with pending asylum cases could be reclassified while losing their status as business or tourism visitors. The administration is expected to begin the revocation process in the coming weeks.

The latest move comes after the State Department said earlier this month that it had already revoked more than 175,000 visas under the

THE PLAN IN A NUTSHELL
• US plans mass B1/B2 revocation.
• Targets 2016-2026 asylum-seeking visitors.
• Potential scale reaches 200,000 visas.
• Officials target alleged asylum system abuse.
• Cancellations don't trigger immediate deportation.
• Previous administration revoked 175,000 visas.

Trump administration. Those earlier cancellations largely involved alleged visa violations, criminal activity, fraud, violence or national security concerns.

The planned action is likely to face scrutiny from immigration advocates and could lead to legal challenges as the administration continues its broader effort to tighten immigration and asylum policies.

Typhoon Narra wreaks havoc in southern China

BEIJING

Severe flooding has submerged homes and businesses in southern China, forcing authorities to relocate around 54,000 people in Guangxi as torrential rains linked to Typhoon Narra continue to batter the region.

Authorities in Chongzuo, in Guangxi province, moved more than 15,000 people to safer locations after river levels rose above a record recorded in 2008. Across Guangxi, the total number of people relocated because of the flooding has reached about 54,000, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

The persistent rainfall has caused water levels to rise rapidly, inundating residential areas and commercial establishments. Emergency teams have been working in affected areas, using boats to reach residents trapped by floodwaters and assist with evacuations. The flooding has also disrupted electricity supplies and business activities in



The rising floodwaters have forced China to evacuate approximately 54,000 people.

some locations.

Typhoon Narra has remained over the Beibu Gulf, also known as the Gulf of Tonkin, for several days. The storm has brought intense rainfall to Guangxi and neighbouring provinces including Hainan and Guangdong. Forecasters have warned that heavy rainfall could continue across parts of southern China through Wednesday, increasing the risk of further flooding and landslides.

The latest flooding comes after southern China experienced another major weather disaster earlier this year. Typhoon Maysak caused devastating floods in Guangxi in July, with Chinese authorities later reporting at least 159 deaths and 10 people missing.

Meanwhile, another typhoon, Saudel, is moving towards southern Japan and northern Taiwan and is expected to bring heavy rain and strong winds to parts of East Asia. Authorities are closely monitoring weather conditions as the latest flooding has already displaced thousands of people across southern China.

Quick Read

Kremlin says no information on US plane

Moscow

The Kremlin on Tuesday said it had no information about a US military aircraft that reportedly landed at an airport near Moscow. Flight-tracking website Flightradar24 showed the US Air Force aircraft had arrived at the airport near the Russian capital. The reported landing has drawn attention amid ongoing tensions between Russia and the United States. Kremlin officials did not provide details about the aircraft, its purpose or the circumstances surrounding its arrival. The US military has also not immediately disclosed information about the flight. The development comes as Moscow and Washington continue to maintain close scrutiny of each other's military activities.

UN chief decry killing of 2 peacekeepers in Sudan

NEW YORK

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned an ambush on a UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) patrol in Jonglei State that killed two Ethiopian peacekeepers and injured seven others. The attack took place on Monday when the patrol was travelling towards Pajut.

The seven injured included three Ethiopian peacekeepers, two personnel from the South Sudan National Police Service and two UNMISS civilian staff members. The UN mission said unidentified armed individuals carried out the attack. A Quick Reaction Force was deployed to secure the area and assist with the emergency response.

Guterres expressed his condolences to the families of the peacekeepers who were killed

and to the Ethiopian government. He also wished those injured a speedy recovery. The UN chief said attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law and called for a prompt and thorough investigation.

He urged authorities to ensure that those responsible are identified, prosecuted and held accountable. The UN reiterated its commitment to supporting the victims and their families following the deadly incident.

UNMISS chief Anita Kiki Gbeho also condemned the attack, describing the targeting of UN personnel serving to support peace in South Sudan as unacceptable. She called on relevant authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The attack comes amid worsening insecurity in South



Sudan, where violence involving government forces and armed opposition groups has raised concerns about renewed conflict. The UN has also reported a sharp increase in attacks against humanitarian personnel this year, further complicating relief operations in the country.

The latest incident highlights the risks faced by UN personnel working to protect civilians and support peace efforts in South Sudan. The United Nations has repeatedly called on all parties to respect the safety and security of peacekeepers operating under its mandate.

Conflicts choking global trade arteries: UN chief

GENEVA

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate end to attacks on commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure, warning that conflicts in several regions are threatening major global trade routes and disrupting the flow of essential goods.

Guterres said conflicts were "choking" the arteries of global trade and putting pressure on the global food system. He stressed that navigational rights and freedoms are vital for international peace and security and for maintaining the movement of essential supplies.

The UN chief highlighted growing risks around three key maritime routes — the Black Sea, the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. He called on all parties to fully respect international law, including the law of the sea and international humanitarian law, and to protect civilian vessels, infrastructure and seafarers.

Guterres specifically urged an immediate halt to attacks on commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the Black Sea. He also called for the full restoration and respect of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and an end to attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and around the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The appeal comes as insecurity continues to affect vessels using important international trade corridors. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) recently warned that the master of an oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile near Ash Shishah in Oman. Authorities ad-

vised vessels operating in the area to exercise caution while investigations continue.

The disruptions have raised concerns about the impact of regional conflicts on global supply chains, food security and energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz is particularly important for international energy shipments, while the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab provide a major connection between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

Guterres' appeal comes amid wider diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and restore safe maritime movement. He stressed that protecting shipping and ensuring freedom of navigation are essential not only for individual countries but also for global economic stability and international security.



'Stop attacks on ships'

UN chief warns maritime trade risks
UN chief highlighted growing security risks across three vital maritime routes: the Black Sea, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Red Sea. He urged an immediate halt to attacks on commercial shipping, warning that ongoing insecurity severely threatens global trade.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED FARHAN, S/o Mohammed Afsar, resident of No. 148/33, Majid Street, Neelasandra, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore-560047, have changed my name to MOHAMMED FARHAN AFSAR, Vide Affidavit Dated: 25.08.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, YUNUS BASHA S/o Nazeer Ahmed, residing at J2/21, VV Nagar, Kurekuppaa Toranagalli RS, Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District-583123. My name is mentioned in my Aadhar card No. 8071 2207 4686 as YUNUS BASHA, but my name is wrongly mentioned in Passport Records, as SHEIKH YUNUS BASHA, I am producing this affidavit before the concerned authority to consider and change my name as YUNUS BASHA in my Passport record. What is stated in the above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, vide affidavit dated: 09.03.2026, before Notary SATISH KUMAR K, Ballari

NAME CHANGE

I, Prabal Khatawkar Son of Veerendra Pundalikappa Khatawkar, aged about 23 years, residing at: C-14, County Villa, Eagleton Golf Village, Shanumangala Road, Bidadi Hobali, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District-562159, Karnataka, India, have changed my name to Prabal Veerendra Khatawkar and hereinafter known as Prabal Veerendra Khatawkar for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to one and all that D R Ashwathaiiah S/o D G Ramalingaiah R/at Dronakunte Village Hossur Hobly Gowribidanur Taluk has lost his title deeds relating to Sy No 4/1 (old) 4/3 (New), 15/4,17/4,16/2,16/3,16/5 and 22 of Dronakunte Village. He has lost sale deed vide Reg No2649/1995-96, 723/1994-95, 156/1996-97 and 759/1996-97 registered in the name of Ramalingaiah D G Near Flower Market Kotaladinne if anyone found said sale deeds kindly return to the addressee below.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FARIDA BANU W/o Syed Mujeeb Haroon, Age 50 years, residing Ward No.09 Jamia Masjid Mohalla, Chikkaballapur-562101. I have changed my name from FARIDA BHANU to FARIDA BANU for all purpose. Sworn before K B Venkatawkar, Advocate & Notary, Chikkaballapura Vide affidavit dated: 20/08/2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K P Praveen S/o K P Papanna, R/o Ward no. 14, Mission Ramaswamy Road, Kandavara, Chickballapur-562101, Karnataka, India, my Spouse name has been changed from AKHILA to DEVOLLU NARASIMHAIAH AKHILA before notary Pathan Rahamathulla bearing reg no. 8800, dated 25th Aug. 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, D N Akhila W/o K P Praveen, R/o Ward no. 14, Mission Ramaswamy Road, Kandavara, Chickballapur-562101, Karnataka, India, my husband name has been changed from KANDAVARA PRAVEEN to KANDAVARA PAPANNA PRAVEEN before notary Pathan Rahamathulla bearing reg no. 8800, dated 25th Aug. 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHARANABASAPPA C MUNDASAD alias SHARANABASAPPA MUNDASAD S/o CHANNAVEERAPPA, R/o Basava Mahamane, Mruthyunjay Nagar, 6th Cross, Near Gas Godown, Ranebennur Town, Haveri, Karnataka-581115, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TUSHAR C MUNDASAD.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PARASMAL BADERA S/O BHAGCHAND JAIN, R/o Flat No. 1071, Phoenix One, Bangalore West, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Opp. Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARAS MAL JAIN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHANDRAHAS N alias N CHANDRAHAS S/o NAGAPPA NEVAR, R/o 534, Neelakanteshwara Nilaya, Bande Colony, Geddalahalli Grama, Tana Sanjaynagar, Opp. Shanthi Nilaya, Bangalore North, R.m.v. Extension II Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as N CHANDRAHAS AILI.

CHCLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact:

080-41209042

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE I ADDL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT K.G.F. C.M.C. No. 37/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Smt. Venkatamma W/o. Late. Muniyappa, D/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 70 years, R/at: Ramapuram Village, Kyasamballi Post & Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District. Aadhaar No.3682 1199 1072.
2. Sri. Venkateshappa S/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 69 years, R/at: Muddepalli Village, Pulugurkote Post, Kolar Taluk & District Aadhaar No.6224 6762 9129.
3. Smt. Lakshamma W/o. Late. Muniramma, D/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 67 years, R/at: Oorukunte Mittur Village, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District. Aadhaar No.9130 9335 3654.
4. Smt. Saraswathi W/o. Late. Ariyappa, D-in-law of Late. Gangappa & Late/ Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 57 years, Aadhaar No.9834 6968 9426.
5. Smt. Cherukuri Ranjitha D/o. Late. Ariyappa, W/o. Cherukuri Nanda Kumar, G-Daughter of Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 33 years, R/at: No.34-104/1, Bommididdi Village, Palamer Mandal & Taluk, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Aadhaar No.5801 3674 4977.
6. Sri. Vinodh Kumar. A S/o. Late. Ariyappa, G-Son of Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 31 years, Aadhaar No.5510 4163 0897. No.4 & 6 R/at: M-Ramapura Village, Kyasamballi Post & Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District.
7. Sri. Narayanaappa S/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 31 years, Aadhaar No.8397 1123 2307.
8. Smt. Parvathamma W/o. Venkateshappa, D/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 52 years, adhaar No.3889 3524 7963. Petitioners No.7 & 8 are R/at:Kadarpura Village, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District.
9. Smt. Nagarathamma W/o. Seenappa, D/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 50 years, R/at: Athikunte Village, Avani Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District. Aadhaar No.5564 5409 2514.
VIS
RESPONDENT: The Tahsiladar K.G.F. Taluk, Robertsonpet, K.G.F.

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the petitioners are filed a petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth & Death Act 1969, for obtaining the Death Certificate of petitioners No.1 to 3 & 7 to 9 Father and the petitioner No.4 Grandfather-in-law and the petitioners No.5 & 6 Grandfather Sri, GANGAPPA S/o. Late. ChikkaVenkata & Late. Smt. Guramma, H/o. Late. Lakshamma who was died on 16/04/2004, at Home: Majara Ramapura Village, Kyasamballi Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District.
The hearing date of the case is posted on 28/09/2026 if any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader in the above said hearing date at about 11.00 a.m. to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed off as ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 25/08/2026
By The Order Of The Court
I ADDL Civil Judge & J.M.F.C at K.G.F Advocate For Petitioners
S. SATEESH KUMAR, B.A. LL.B., Advocate, K.G.F. Mobile: 9483694409

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE I ADDL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT K.G.F. C.M.C. No. 36/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Smt. Venkatamma W/o. Late. Muniyappa, D/o. Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 70 years, R/at: Ramapuram Village, Kyasamballi Post & Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District. Aadhaar No.3682 1199 1072.
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5. Smt. Cherukuri Ranjitha D/o. Late. Ariyappa, W/o. Cherukuri Nanda Kumar, G-Daughter of Late. Gangappa & Late. Smt. Lakshamma, Aged about 33 years, R/at: No.34-104/1, Bommididdi Village, Palamer Mandal & Taluk, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Aadhaar No.5801 3674 4977.
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VIS
RESPONDENT: The Tahsiladar K.G.F. Taluk, Robertsonpet, K.G.F.

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the petitioners are filed a petition under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Birth & Death Act 1969, for obtaining the Death Certificate of petitioners No.1 to 3 & 7 to 9 Mother and the petitioner No.4 Mother-in-law and the petitioners No.5 & 6 Grandmother Smt. LAKSHMAMMA, D/o. Late. Venkatappa & Late. Smt. Guramma, W/o. Late. Gangappa, who was died on 24/12/2001, at Home: Majara Ramapura Village, Kyasamballi Hobli, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District.
The hearing date of the case is posted on 28/09/2026 if any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader in the above said hearing date at about 11.00 a.m. to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed off as ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 25/08/2026
By The Order Of The Court
I ADDL Civil Judge & J.M.F.C at K.G.F Advocate For Petitioners
S. SATEESH KUMAR, B.A. LL.B., Advocate, K.G.F. Mobile: 9483694409

Praggnanandhaa storms into Grand Chess Tour final

Praggnanandhaa needed one blitz win to reach 19 points and qualify, while Keymer’s late three-game winning streak could not alter the outcome

ST. LOUIS

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa delivered a commanding performance to defeat Germany’s Vincent Keymer 19-9 and reach the final of the 2026 Grand Chess Tour.

The Indian star will now face defending champion Fabiano Caruana of the United States in the title clash.

Praggnanandhaa entered the final day with a six-point advantage after winning the second classical game.

He then strengthened his position by defeating Keymer in two consecutive rapid games. Those victories gave him an unassailable 17-3 lead and put him firmly in control



of the semifinal.

The Indian grandmaster needed only one win in the blitz section to reach 19 points and secure his place in the final.

Keymer continued fighting despite the result being decided, winning the final three

blitz games. However, those victories could not change the outcome, as Praggnanandhaa had already built an overwhelming advantage.

Caruana also produced an impressive semifinal performance, defeating fellow American Wesley So 18-9.

Although Caruana is not always regarded as a specialist in faster formats, his strong blitz performance helped him secure a comfortable victory. His experience and defending champion status make him the favourite against Praggnanandhaa.

The Grand Chess Tour finale carries a prize fund of USD 450,000, with USD 200,000 going to the winner and USD 125,000 to the runner-up.

The third-place playoff will see Keymer face So, while the top three finishers will earn direct invitations to next year’s Grand Chess Tour.

Praggnanandhaa now has a major opportunity to challenge Caruana and claim the prestigious title.

Mairaj keeps Olympic dream alive one target

NEW DELHI

At 51, Indian skeet shooter Mairaj Ahmad Khan continues to approach competition with calm focus and determination.

His simple philosophy is to remain in the present, work hard and handle one target at a time. “I never go in the future,” Mairaj said, explaining the mindset that has helped him maintain a long and successful shooting career.

Mairaj began shooting in the under-12 category as a three-position rifle shooter before taking a break for studies and cricket. He returned to shooting in 1994 as a shotgun competitor and switched his focus to skeet in 2000. He later became India’s first skeet shooter to qualify for the Olympics, competing at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, held in 2021. His career reached another historic point when he won silver at the 2016 ISSF World Shooting Championships in Rio, becoming India’s first skeet shooter to win a World Cup medal.



BERLIN

Edin Dzeko produced a brilliant performance as Schalke 04 avoided a huge upset against fourth-tier Hallescher FC, winning 5-2 after extra time in the German Cup first round. Hallescher stunned their visitors by taking the lead shortly before halftime. Vin Kastull took advantage of a poor clearance and calmly fired the ball into the far corner, giving the underdogs a surprising advantage. Schalke fought back in the 62nd minute when Dejan

Ljubicic equalized. Hallescher defender Burim Halili slipped while trying to stop Adil Aouchiche’s delivery, leaving Ljubicic free to shoot into the left corner. Coach Miron Muslic then sent on Dzeko and Robin Gosens as Schalke searched for the winning goal. Dzeko converted a penalty in the 81st minute, putting Schalke ahead. However, Hallescher refused to give up. Schalke goalkeeper Loris Karius made an important late save, but Niclas Stierlin scored from a corner during stoppage time to force extra time. Dzeko quickly re-

stored Schalke’s control, crossing for Moussa Sylla to score in the 98th minute. Sylla later assisted Junior Adamu, who headed Schalke’s fourth goal late in the first extra-time period. Dzeko completed his outstanding night in the 117th minute, finishing from Gosens’ pass to seal the victory. Gosens admitted Schalke had been dominant but struggled near goal and conceded from set pieces. Despite the scare, Schalke moved safely into the next round and can now focus on its Bundesliga opener against Augsburg.

TREESA & GAYATRI RISE AFTER HISTORIC WORLD BRONZE

NEW DELHI

India’s women’s doubles stars Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have made a major jump in the latest badminton world rankings after winning a historic bronze medal at the BWF World Championships.

The pair climbed 12 places, moving from 39th to 27th in the world rankings. Their medal was India’s only podium finish at the home championships.

Treesa and Gayatri now have 44,192 ranking points, compared with 33,692 points last week. Their achievement also made history, as they became the first Indian women’s doubles pair since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa in 2011 to win a World Championships medal. India also continued its impressive run of claiming at least one medal at every Worlds since 2011.

The Indian duo produced a memorable quarterfinal performance by defeating fourth-seeded Chinese players Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian. After losing the opening game 16-21, Treesa and Gayatri fought back strongly to win the next two games 21-15 and 21-13. They also pushed world No.1 pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning hard in the semifinal, winning the opening game before losing the next two and settling for bronze.

The latest rankings also brought major changes in men’s singles. Indonesia’s Jonatan Christie became world No.1, while Shi Yuqi dropped to sixth after an early exit. Christo Popov moved to second, and Chou Tien Chen climbed to fourth. World champion Alex Lanier rose to seventh. India’s Lakshya Sen moved to 13th, while Ayush Shetty reached 20th, adding further cheer for Indian badminton.



SA20 delivers major economic boost to South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

SA20 Commissioner Graeme Smith has praised the league’s growing economic influence after its record-breaking fourth season contributed USD 406 million to South Africa’s gross domestic product. An independent assessment found the league’s GDP contribution increased 23 percent from the previous season, showing that its value now reaches far beyond cricket.

Direct spending also grew strongly, rising from USD 112 million in Season 3 to USD 137 million in Season 4. The competition created or supported 9,470 annualised jobs, a 16 percent increase, while household income generated through the league climbed from USD 87 million to USD 106 million. Smith said the figures showed how a successful sporting event can benefit the wider economy.

Public interest also increased during the season. Overall attendance rose 13 percent, with 22 of 34 matches selling out across the league’s six host cities. The final sold out in record time for the fourth straight season. Smith said the franchises and host cities were important to this growth, as full stadiums bring visitors, support local businesses and create new opportunities.

Serena Alcaraz draw tough US Open opener

Serena Williams returns to doubles, while Carlos Alcaraz uses mixed doubles as his comeback before defending his US Open title

NEW YORK

Serena Williams and Carlos Alcaraz face a difficult start to their US Open mixed doubles campaign, meeting Erin Routliffe and Lloyd Glasspool in the opening round on Tuesday.

The high-profile pairing has attracted major attention, especially because Williams is returning to Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2022.

Routliffe and Glasspool earned their place in the 16-team field after winning two close qualifying matches. They defeated Luisa Stefani and Neal Skupski before edging Kristina Mladenovic and Marcelo Arevalo. Routliffe brings strong experience, having won the US Open women’s doubles title in 2023 and 2025. Glasspool has also reached the top spot in the doubles rankings.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, has played only five tournaments since returning to competitive tennis in June. She will not compete in singles this year but is expected to play mixed doubles and women’s doubles with her sister, Venus Williams.

Alcaraz is also making a comeback after missing com-

petition since April because of a right wrist injury. The Spaniard will use the mixed doubles match as his return before defending his US Open singles title.

The other half of the draw also features star power, with Aryna Sabalenka and Novak Djokovic facing Katerina Sinikova and Henry Patten. Jessica Pegula and Taylor Fritz will meet Diana Shnaider and Casper Ruud, while Amanda Anisimova and Learner Tien face Tommy Paul and Emma Navarro.

The revamped event promises quick, exciting matches, with the first round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and final taking place over two days. For Williams and Alcaraz, the opening challenge will immediately test their teamwork, while fans will be watching closely to see whether the famous pairing can advance.



East Zone storm into Duleep Trophy semifinals

BENGALURU: East Zone produced a dominant display to defeat North East Zone by an innings and 210 runs in their Duleep Trophy quarterfinal at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 on Tuesday.

Strong batting and disciplined bowling helped East Zone seal a convincing victory.

Shahbaz Ahmed led the batting charge with a superb 167 from 244 balls, hitting 17 fours and four sixes. Sudip Kumar Gharami also played a major role, scoring 146 from 185 balls, with 25 fours and one six. Their partnership rescued East Zone after the side slipped to 138 for five and helped them reach a huge total of 467. North East Zone struggled badly in

their first innings and were dismissed for only 111 in 42.5 overs. Abhijit Sarkar was the star bowler, taking five wickets for 20 runs, while Shahbaz claimed three wickets. Arpit Bhatwara was the top scorer with 32, but the rest of the batting order could not withstand East Zone’s attack.

Asked to follow on, North East Zone again failed to build a strong innings. Pheroizam Jotin made 39, while Akash Choudhary scored 27 and Kishan Lyngdoh added 25.

Anukul Roy then finished the job with five wickets for 37 runs from 15 overs, supported by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Mukesh Kumar and Sarkar.

Palmer inspires Chelsea to victory under Alonso



LONDON

Cole Palmer inspired Chelsea to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Fulham, giving new manager Xabi Alonso a winning start in his first Premier League match.

Chelsea needed only 32 seconds to take control when Palmer sent a clever pass to Joao Pedro, who raced through the Fulham defense and scored. The quick goal gave Alonso’s team an ideal beginning in the London derby.

Fulham responded strong-

ly and equalized in the 23rd minute through Josh King after Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez made a costly mistake. Chelsea regained their advantage before halftime when Morgan Rogers marked his competitive debut for the club with a well-taken goal. Maxence Lacroix played an important part in creating the opportunity, helping Chelsea take a 2-1 lead into the break.

Palmer then added Chelsea’s third goal early in the second half, finishing a move involving Rogers and

Injury forces Sri Lanka to change Asia Cup squad

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka have suffered a setback before the Women’s T20 Asia Cup 2026, with all-rounder Dewmi Vihanga ruled out after suffering a right knee injury during a practice session.

Vihanga, who was preparing for her senior international debut, did not travel with the team to the UAE. Left-arm spinner Nimasha Meepage has been selected as her replacement.

Defending champions Sri Lanka will be led by experienced batter Chamari Athapaththu, with Harshitha Samarawickrama serving as vice-captain. The squad also welcomes pacers Mithali Aiyedya and Chethana Vimukthi, who missed the recent T20I series against Pakistan. Sri Lanka won that series 2-1 and will hope their returning players strengthen the team’s title defence.

Sri Lanka are placed in Group B with Bangladesh, hosts UAE and tournament debutants Indonesia. Their campaign begins against the UAE on August 29, followed by a match against Indonesia on September 2. They will finish the group stage against Bangladesh on September 6. The top two teams from each group will reach the semifinals, scheduled for September 10 and 11.

The tournament will be played in the UAE from August 28 to September 13, with all matches taking place at Dubai International Stadium. The final is scheduled for September 13. Sri Lanka won their first Asia Cup title in 2024 after defeating seven-time champions India in the final at Dambulla.