



Messi suffers hamstring fatigue concern ahead of Argentina WC campaign

P11

IBC
WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

BENGALURU • HUBBALLI • MANGALURU • MYSURU • KALABURAGI

Change of guard, finally?

Top leadership reportedly asks Siddaramaiah to step down as CM, offers RS seat, likely to resign soon; DKS frontrunner for top post

NEW DELHI

Karnataka may be headed for its biggest political reset since the 2023 Assembly elections, with reports claiming Siddaramaiah has been asked by the party high command to step down as the Chief Minister, move to Delhi as Rajya Sabha member, and take up a larger national role ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

The dramatic behind-the-scenes push unfolded through nearly seven-hour meeting in Delhi on Tuesday, even as senior Congress leaders publicly denied any discussion on change of guard and insisted that talks were restricted to the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Council elections.

But behind the official denials, sources described intense negotiations, persuasion attempts and a carefully crafted political offer aimed at convincing the veteran leader to vacate the CM seat without triggering open rebellion in the party state unit.

As per sources, Siddaramaiah was told by the Congress leadership that the party now needed him in Delhi as one of its most prominent OBC faces, particularly at a time when Rahul Gandhi has aggressively sharpened the Congress's social justice and caste census pitch nationwide. "He was told that he is a major OBC face and the party wants him to play a much bigger role nationally in the run-up to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," as per sources.

The leadership assured Siddaramaiah that "all other things and his issues will be taken care of" if he agreed to move to Delhi through the Rajya Sabha route, sources added. The proposal, however, has not yet received Siddaramaiah's approval.



Cautious move!

Sources said the Congress leadership wants to proceed cautiously to avoid factional unrest, as Siddaramaiah continues to command strong support among MLAs, particularly from backward classes, Dalits and minorities, who view him as the party's most influential mass leader.

Siddu seeks more time?

Sources said Siddaramaiah did not give a definitive answer during the meetings and instead sought more time. Soon after returning from Delhi, the CM reportedly went into a huddle with close ministers and trusted aides as consultations over the Congress proposal intensified.

Inside the marathon meetings

The series of meetings stretched for almost seven hours and involved multiple rounds. One key one-on-one interaction reportedly included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, where Siddaramaiah was directly told that the party wanted him to end his tenure as CM and shift to a larger organisational role at the Centre. Another broader meeting at the Congress headquarters was attended by Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, KC Venugopal and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala.

Cong denies change of guard

Speaking after the meeting, KC Venugopal dismissed reports of a Karnataka leadership reshuffle.

Siddu set to resign?

Siddaramaiah is expected to resign on Thursday or Friday, as per sources. However, he is yet to be convinced about a Rajya Sabha nomination and is currently in a huddle with close ministers. Shivakumar is likely to be the new CM, sources added.

RS polls add pressure?

The timing of the meeting is important as nominations for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls are expected to begin soon. Karnataka is set to elect 4 RS members, with Cong expected to win 3 seats based on current Assembly strength. However, the party appears to be moving cautiously, with Siddaramaiah yet to give any final approval on Delhi move.

DKS at centerstage

The latest developments have once again brought DK Shivakumar to the centre of Karnataka politics. For nearly two years, supporters of Shivakumar have maintained that a power-sharing understanding existed when the Congress formed the government in 2023, with Siddaramaiah taking over first and Shivakumar expected to eventually succeed him. The discussions intensified again after the Siddaramaiah govt completed around half of its tenure earlier this month.

Congress' 2029 calculation

The Congress's outreach to Siddaramaiah also reflects its broader political recalibration ahead of 2029. Rahul's repeated focus on OBC politics and social justice has increasingly shaped the Congress's national messaging.

Panel to study 'unnatural demographic shifts'

NEW DELHI

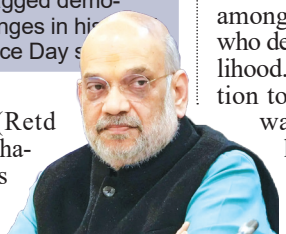
The Union government has moved to institutionalise a nationwide review of 'unnatural demographic shifts' linked to illegal immigration and other causes, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announcing the formation of a high-level committee tasked with studying population changes that the Centre says could impact national security, sovereignty, and social stability.

In an X post, he said infiltration and other factors contributing to "unnatural demographic change" pose a serious challenge to both the present and future of the nation. The panel would be headed by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd). It will also include Census Commissioner, Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd IAS), Balaji

Panel and its role

- Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar will head the panel with five other members.
- The panel will analyse abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities.
- It will recommend planned, time-bound solutions.
- The panel has been given a deadline of one year to submit the report.
- Modi first flagged demographic changes in his Independence Day speech.

Srivastava (Retd IPS) and Dr Sharmika Ravi as members.



'Reject Karnataka's DPR for Mokedatu Project'

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday expressed surprise over the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the CWC entertaining Karnataka's proposal for the Mokedatu Project, without considering Tamil Nadu's plea.

He also requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to instruct officials concerned to reject the DPR prepared by Karnataka, as it contravened the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and also the Supreme Court judgment. Also, PM should advise the Karnataka government not to take up any new project without getting the concurrence of co-basin states and not to violate the apex court judgment, he said.

In a letter to the PM, Vijay said the announcement for the 'Bhoomi Puja' of the Mokedatu reservoir across Cauvery river and utterances of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar have caused a lot of concern among the lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu, who depend on the Cauvery river for their livelihood. "You may be well aware that a solution to the sensitive Cauvery water dispute was obtained after a long legal battle, lasting about three decades, and the judgment dated February 16, 2018, is under implementation," he said.

Polls to 7 Council seats in K'taka, 9 in Bihar on June 18

BENGALURU: The Election Commission on Tuesday announced the schedule for the biennial polls to nine seats of the Bihar Legislative Council and seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council.

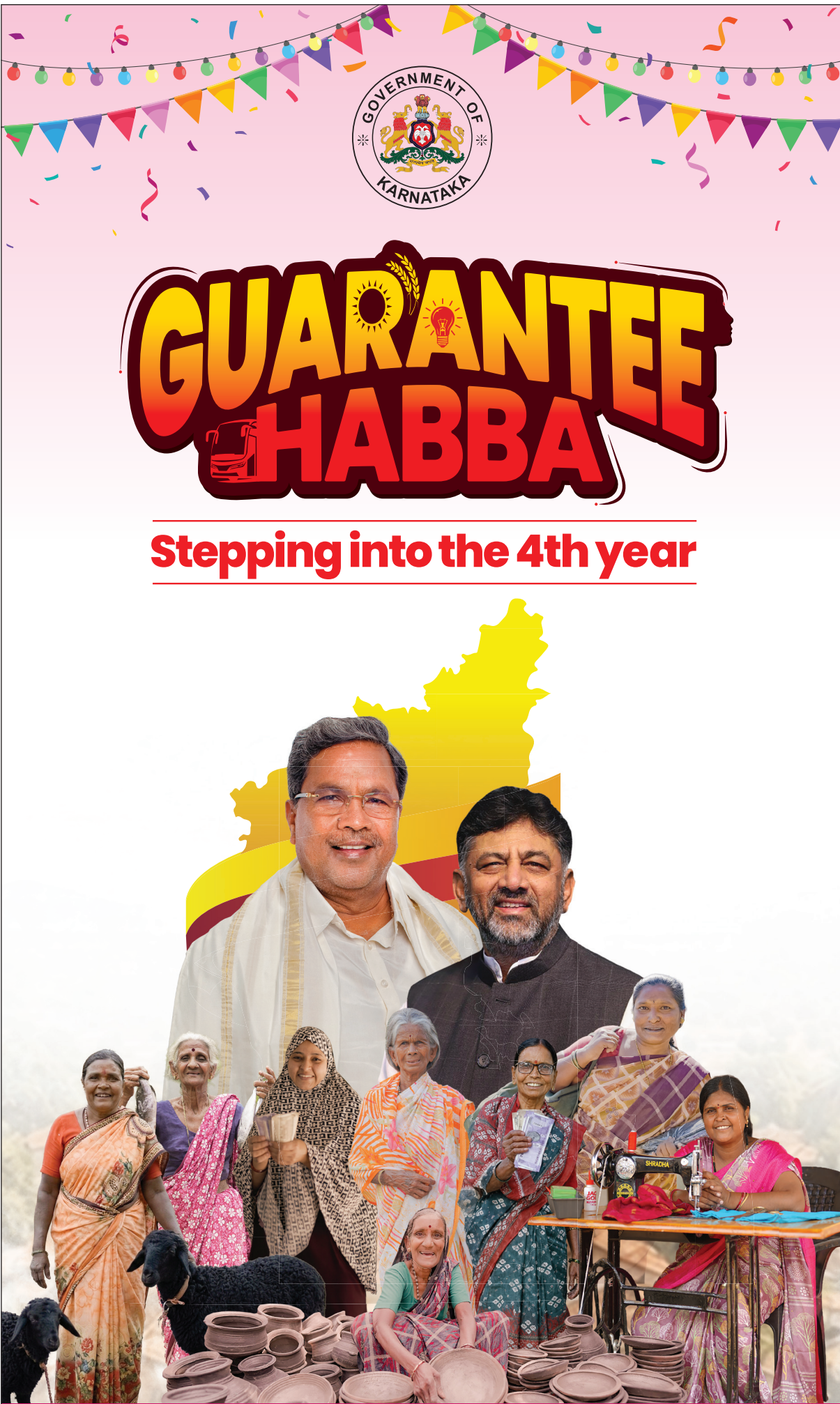
In Karnataka, the term of BK Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed, Govinda Raju, N Nagaraju (MTB), Pratap Simha Nayak K, Thippannappa, and Sunil Valyapur will end on June 30.

Schedule

- Issue of poll notification: **June 1**
- Last date for filing nominations: **June 8**
- Scrutiny of nominations: **June 9**
- Last date for withdrawal of nominations: **June 11**
- Voting: **June 18**
- Counting of votes: **June 18**



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) triumphed over Gujarat Titans (GT) in the IPL 2026 Qualifier 1, clinching their spot in the finals, at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on Tuesday.



GUARANTEE HABBA

Stepping into the 4th year



Gruha Lakshmi

₹2,000 per month
to woman head of the family

Over the past three years, Guarantee Sarkara, through the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, has empowered women heads of families with ₹2,000 every month, enabling them to support household needs, start small businesses, and move towards financial independence

₹69,783 Crore

Direct financial assistance has been transferred to women heads of families, strengthening economic security across households

Siddaramaiah

Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

1.24 Crore Women

are benefiting under the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, helping build stronger and more secure futures for their families

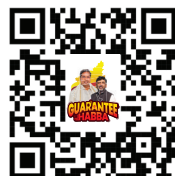
D K Shivakumar

D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Hon'ble Minister Smt. Lakshmi Hebbalkar welcoming Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah during the inauguration ceremony of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme

Shakthi Anna Bhagya
Gruha Jyothi Yuva Nidhi



Scan the QR Code to Witness the Impact of Gruha Lakshmi

CMoKarnataka https://idp.karnataka.gov.in/

karnataka information

QUICK READ

Transport wage talks postponed to June 10

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Conciliation talks between transport workers' unions and management representatives of Karnataka's state-run transport corporations ended without a breakthrough, forcing the Labour Commissioner to defer discussions to June 10. The meeting followed an earlier round on May 18 that had also remained inconclusive. Managing directors of KSRTC, BMTC, KKRTC and NWKRTC attended on behalf of the management, while union leaders represented employees. The unions reiterated their demand for wage revision with effect from January 1, 2024, retention of the four-year settlement cycle, a higher wage increase than the proposed 12.5 per cent, and clearance of arrears.

23 arrested in IPL betting crackdown by CCB police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested 23 people for their alleged involvement in illegal gambling and betting activities linked to the IPL T20 cricket tournament. The arrests were made during simultaneous raids conducted by the Special Investigation Team of the Bengaluru City CCB across multiple police station jurisdictions in the city. Police registered 17 separate cricket betting cases during the operation. Authorities seized seven mobile phones worth ₹1.10 lakh, cash amounting to ₹1,06,433, and betting chips valued at ₹13.37 crore. The total value of seized property is estimated at ₹13.39 crore. Further investigation is underway to identify the masterminds behind the betting network.

Christian Mahasabha seeks repeal of anti-conversion law

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The All India Christian Mahasabha has urged the Karnataka government to withdraw the Prohibition of Conversion Act, alleging that it is being misused against members of the Christian community. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Mahasabha National President S. Prajwalswamy claimed that the legislation was affecting social harmony and was being used to target Christian prayer meetings and priests. He alleged that women, Dalit and Adivasi Christians were facing harassment and attacks. Criticising the Congress-led government for not repealing the law, he demanded protection of religious freedom and equal justice for all communities in the state.

Rising Wage Costs Trigger Steep Menu Price Hike Warnings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dining out in Bengaluru could soon become significantly more expensive, with hotel and restaurant associations warning that menu prices may rise by as much as 60 per cent in the coming months due to higher labour costs and increasing input prices.

The warning comes as the Karnataka government considers revising minimum wages for workers, a move that hospitality industry representatives say will sharply increase operating expenses for eateries across the state. From neighbourhood darsh-

June mayhem: School reopening set to worsen traffic around dug-up CBD roads

Students return as civic works threaten gridlock across Bengaluru roads

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's central business district is bracing for severe traffic congestion as schools and colleges prepare to reopen in June while major road excavation and sewage pipeline replacement works continue across key stretches.

Commuters, parents and students are expected to bear the brunt of the disruption, with ongoing infrastructure projects on major roads such as Richmond Road and Lavelle Road likely to trigger long delays and peak-hour bottlenecks in some of the city's busiest corridors.

One of the most significant traffic choke points is expected near Lavelle Road, where the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSB) has undertaken sewage pipeline replacement work on the stretch leading towards Richmond Road. Vehicular



movement has already been restricted as underground drainage infrastructure is being upgraded.

According to BWSSB officials, work along the roadside has been completed and crews have now moved to replacing ageing pipelines beneath the carriageway. Engineers estimate that the project will require another six weeks for completion.

The timing of the work has become a major concern for residents. The area is surrounded by several prominent schools and colleges, making it a crucial route for thousands of students travelling daily. With educational institutions reopening after the summer break, traffic volumes are expected to rise sharply.

Another major excavation

is under way on Richmond Road near HDFC Bank, where nearly 400 metres of roadway has been dug up for sewer infrastructure upgrades. BWSSB officials said the project is expected to continue for around 60 days. Owing to the heavy traffic density in the central business district, contractors have been permitted to carry out work primarily during night hours.

However, the presence of multiple schools and colleges directly opposite the work zone is likely to complicate traffic movement. School buses, private vehicles and public transport services will have to navigate narrowed road space and diversions.

Beyond these arterial roads, civic works are also under way in Shantinagar, Langford Road and Kamaraj Road. Authorities have announced alternative traffic arrangements, but motorists fear that simul-

taneous projects across multiple locations will push vehicles onto smaller residential roads, creating congestion in neighbourhoods not designed for heavy traffic.

Shivajinagar MLA N A Haris said more than 2.5 lakh students commute through central Bengaluru every day, covering educational clusters around Richmond Road, Residency Road, Vittal Mallya Road, Shantinagar and Langford Road.

"I understand there will be traffic chaos due to the high concentration of schools in the area. However, these sewage pipe changes are important and unavoidable for the larger good," Haris said.

With school reopening just days away, commuters can expect challenging journeys as the city attempts to balance critical infrastructure upgrades with rising traffic demand.

Fuel price surge boosts Karnataka revenues as calls grow for VAT cut

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rising fuel prices are generating a significant revenue windfall for Karnataka, but growing public and political pressure to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel is placing the state government in a difficult position.

Despite demands from opposition parties, industry representatives and consumer groups, the Siddaramaiah government is unlikely to announce any immediate reduction in fuel taxes, citing fiscal constraints and increasing expenditure commitments.

According to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), Karnataka currently levies 29.84 per cent sales tax on petrol and 21.17 per cent on diesel. The state follows an ad valorem taxation system, under which VAT is calculated as a percentage of the fuel's base price, including dealer margins and central excise duty. As fuel prices rise, state tax collections increase automatically.

Officials estimate that the recent increase in fuel prices and corresponding tax collections could generate an additional ₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore annually for the state exchequer.

Finance department sources

Mohandas Pai joins VAT debate

Former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai criticised the state government for benefiting from higher fuel prices while simultaneously blaming the Centre. "At least reduce VAT on the ₹7.5 increase and continue your political protest," Pai said, adding to calls for immediate tax relief for consumers.

said the government is reluctant to forgo this revenue at a time when it faces mounting financial obligations. Apart from slowing revenue growth, the state is also shouldering an annual expenditure of around ₹51,000 crore on its flagship guarantee schemes.

Officials pointed out that taxes on fuel and liquor continue to be among the most important sources of revenue for states, alongside GST compensation and tax devolution from the Centre.

While Karnataka's fuel taxes have drawn criticism, retail fuel prices in the state remain lower than in several others. Telangana imposes VAT of 35.2 per cent on petrol and 27 per cent on diesel, among the highest in the country. Kerala levies more than 30 per cent sales tax along with additional cess and surcharge components. Tamil Nadu follows a hybrid taxation structure that combines a percentage-based levy with a fixed per-litre

charge.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri said the state government faces a difficult balancing act between public expectations and financial realities. "The state already faces a financial crunch. At the same time, the government would like people to believe that the responsibility for providing relief lies primarily with the Centre," he said.

The issue has increasingly become a political flashpoint. Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka recently urged the government to reduce VAT, arguing that rising fuel prices were placing an additional burden on middle-class families and farmers.

Industry bodies have also weighed in. Some members of the state Dealers' Association have suggested that the Centre direct states to temporarily cap VAT at five per cent for three to six months to protect consumers from further price shocks.

cautioned that distractions and temptations in modern society were affecting the success and growth of young people.

Urging parents to play an active role in shaping their children's future, he said education and values must go hand in hand. "Parents should guide their children on the right path and help them build a bright future. The future of children is largely in the hands of their parents," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Siddalinga Swamiji stressed that talent alone was insufficient and that students should

Tata Power Bid Challenges Karnataka ESCOM Monopoly

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A proposal by Tata Power to enter Karnataka's electricity distribution sector could pave the way for competition in a space long dominated by state-run Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs), potentially transforming how power is supplied and priced across the state.

Tata Power has applied to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for a licence to distribute electricity in areas currently served by government-owned utilities. The move has triggered strong opposition from employee unions, which fear privatisation of the sector and possible impacts on existing public utilities.

The Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Union has warned of statewide protests if the application is approved.

According to a public notice issued in connection with the application, Tata Power plans to operate in 15 districts spread across four ESCOM jurisdictions. These include Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga under BESCOM; Mysuru, Hassan and Chamara-

janagar under CESCO; Be-

lagavi, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada under HESCOM; and Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shivamogga under MESCOM.

The company is expected to focus primarily on urban centres, including city corporations and municipal areas.

Energy sector experts said the proposal could mark a major shift in Karnataka's power sector by introducing consumer choice. Under the existing system, consumers are tied to a single distribution company based on their location. If multiple distributors are allowed to operate in the same area, consumers could potentially select their electricity supplier without requiring changes to the transmission infrastructure already connected to their homes and businesses.

Independent analysts have largely welcomed the development, arguing that competition could improve service standards, reduce outages and encourage greater operational efficiency.

Tata Power already distributes electricity in cities such as Mumbai and parts of Delhi, Ajmer and Odisha. Industry observers note that its distribution operations have reported lower technical and commercial losses compared to many state-run utilities.



Students must learn values, not focus only on marks: Nirmalanandanath Swamiji

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Students should not restrict themselves to scoring high marks alone but must also cultivate moral values and respect for elders, parents and teachers, said Dr Nirmalanandanath Swamiji.

He was speaking at a programme organised to mark the 119th birth anniversary of Sri Shivakumar Swamiji and the 81st birth anniversary of Sri Balagadharanatha Swamiji.

Addressing students who were honoured for securing

top marks in the SSLC and II PUC annual examinations, the seer said academic achievement alone was not enough for holistic development.

"Students should not be limited to scoring marks. Alongside academics, they must receive moral education and give importance to respecting elders, parents and teachers," he said.

Dr Nirmalanandanath Swamiji noted that children should grow into responsible citizens and become a source of strength for the nation through their achievements. He also

State launches intensive school inspections ahead of reopening

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a statewide inspection drive to assess school preparedness, infrastructure, enrolment and learning standards ahead of the 2026-27 academic year.

In a circular issued on Monday, the Commissioner of School Education directed officials to conduct surprise visits and review teaching-learning readiness before schools reopen on June 1.

District- and taluk-level teams led by deputy directors, block education officers and other officials will carry out inspections throughout the academic year. Special attention will be given to schools identified as lagging in learning outcomes.

Officials have been instructed to assess student enrolment and attendance, classroom readiness, bridge course im-

plementation, incentive schemes and safety measures, particularly in view of recent heavy rains.

Each inspection team will visit three schools daily — two primary schools and one secondary school — based on route maps prepared at the district and taluk levels.

Schools recording poor academic progress will be placed under continued monitoring and provided remedial support to improve performance.

The department has also directed schools to complete all cleaning and repair works before reopening. Special focus has been placed on buildings affected by rain damage, fallen trees and electrical hazards.

Schools have been instructed to ensure the availability of safe drinking water, functional toilets and adequate infrastructure to provide a safe learning environment for students when classes resume.



Money dispute ends in murder, auto driver buried near lake

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 25-year-old auto driver was allegedly murdered by his friends over a financial dispute and buried in a deserted area near Ramasandra Lake in Kumbalagodu on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The deceased has been identified as N. Rakshit, a resident of Udaya Layout in Tavarekere. Police have arrested one accused, Mohin Pasha, while efforts are on to trace another suspect, Hasan, who is believed to have been involved in the crime.

According to police, Rakshit, who drove a passenger auto-rickshaw, had lent money to Mohin Pasha, a resident of Kambipur. On May 24, Rakshit left home around 6 pm after informing his family that he was going to collect the money. However, he did not return.

Concerned over his disappearance, Rakshit's mother visited Kambipur on May 25 and questioned Mohin Pasha about her son's whereabouts. During interrogation, Mohin allegedly confessed that he and another associate had quarrelled with Rakshit over the financial issue.

Police said the accused allegedly attacked Rakshit by smashing stones on his head, killing him on the spot. They then buried the body near Ramasandra Lake in an attempt to conceal the crime and abandoned his auto-rickshaw near Gnanabharathi to mislead investigators.

Based on a complaint lodged by Rakshit's mother, Kumbalagodu police registered a case and launched an investigation. During questioning, Mohin Pasha reportedly led police to the burial site.

The body was subsequently exhumed in the presence of officials and sent for postmortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. Police said evidence collected from the scene and the accused's statement helped establish the sequence of events.

Investigators are continuing their search for Hasan, who remains absconding. Police are also examining the circumstances leading to the dispute and verifying whether others were involved in the crime.

QUICK READ



Moderate rain brings much relief in Bidar

Bidar
Moderate rainfall in Bidar district, including Aurad and Humnabad, brought relief from intense summer heat. The showers improved soil moisture and encouraged farmers to speed up preparations for the upcoming monsoon sowing season. In Aurad and nearby villages, farmers began ploughing fields and preparing land for cultivation, hoping for timely rains. Humnabad town and surrounding areas such as Manik Nagar, Basantpur, Dhumansur, Hudgi and Chitaguppa also received moderate showers. Villages including Nirna, Udabal, Mustari and Muttangi witnessed rainfall, leading to a drop in temperatures. The weather turned pleasant across the region, boosting confidence among farmers who expect a favourable monsoon for better agricultural productivity this year overall

Mother and son booked in Rs 35 lakh fraud case

Kalaburagi
Kalaburagi police have registered a cheating case against a mother and son for allegedly defrauding a cloth merchant of 35 lakh by promising a residential plot under the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Scheme. The complainant, Nasiruddin Sattar from Mominpura, said the accused Syed Farooq and his mother Shamim Banu, known to him for several years, claimed they had links with officials in the Kalaburagi Development Authority. They allegedly assured him a 30x40 site for 35 lakh under Phase-I of the scheme and collected payments through cheques and RTGS transfers. However, despite repeated follow-ups, no plot was provided and the matter was delayed continuously. Later, officials reportedly clarified that no such scheme existed. Based on the complaint, Chouk police registered a case of cheating and fraud against the accused and initiated further investigation into the alleged financial deception in Kalaburagi city region case continues.

Police rescue cattle from illegal transport in Kalaburagi

Kalaburagi
Kalaburagi police rescued nine buffaloes and ten calves allegedly being transported illegally in a goods vehicle during a routine inspection. The vehicle, valued at around 5 lakh, was seized by officials as part of the operation. The rescued cattle were shifted to a nearby goshaala for safe shelter, feeding, and veterinary care. Police said the transport was in violation of animal welfare and transport regulations. A case has been registered at Ashok Nagar Police Station against the vehicle driver and the cattle owner. Further investigation is underway to trace the origin and destination of animals and determine if more people are involved in illegal transport network operating in region area.

Mega textile park project progresses in Kalaburagi: Priyank Kharge

Kalaburagi Mega Textile Park is advancing rapidly with strong investor interest and key approvals already in place.

KALABURAGI

The proposed Mega Textile Park in Kalaburagi district is progressing rapidly, with significant development milestones already achieved, said Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT and Biotechnology Minister and district in-charge Priyank Kharge. Speaking at a review meeting held in Bengaluru through video conference with officials from the Textiles Department, KIADB, investors, and district administration, the minister said the project is moving forward in a structured and coordinated manner. He informed that nearly 1,000 acres of land have been identified for the textile park in Nadisinnur and Honna Kiranagi villages. According to him, the project has already received strong interest from investors even before its official launch, with eight major investors submitting proposals totaling around ₹1,700 crore. The minister added that the identified land has already been converted for industrial use, and necessary clearances from the Forest Department have been obtained. He further stated that environmental clearance for the project was secured in October last year, clearing a major regulatory hurdle. Priyank Kharge said that the master plan, financial structuring, and detailed project report for the Mega Textile Park have been completed. He also noted that three major board meetings have been conducted to ensure smooth execution and oversight of the project. He expressed confidence that the textile park would become a major industrial hub for the Kalyana Karnataka region. According to him, the project is expected to generate thousands of employment opportunities and significantly contribute to regional economic growth and industrial development. Officials including Government Secretary of the Textiles Department Rohini Sindhuri, KIADB CEO Govinda Reddy, Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ikram Shareef, and other senior officers participated in the review meeting. The government reiterated its commitment to accelerating infrastructure development and attracting further investments to the region.



He informed that nearly 1,000 acres of land have been identified for the textile park in Nadisinnur and Honna Kiranagi villages. According to him, the project has already received strong interest from investors even before its official launch, with eight major investors submitting proposals totaling around ₹1,700 crore. The minister added that the identified land has already been converted for industrial use, and necessary clearances from the Forest Department have been obtained. He further stated that environmental clearance for the project was secured in October last year, clearing a major regulatory hurdle. Priyank Kharge said that the master plan, financial structuring, and detailed project report for the Mega Textile Park have been completed. He also noted that three major board meetings have been conducted to ensure smooth execution and oversight of the project. He expressed confidence that the textile park would become a major industrial hub for the Kalyana Karnataka region. According to him, the project is expected to generate thousands of employment opportunities and significantly contribute to regional economic growth and industrial development. Officials including Government Secretary of the Textiles Department Rohini Sindhuri, KIADB CEO Govinda Reddy, Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ikram Shareef, and other senior officers participated in the review meeting. The government reiterated its commitment to accelerating infrastructure development and attracting further investments to the region.

Gurmitkal MLA Sharanagouda warns protest over civic negligence

YADGIR

Gurmitkal MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur has warned of locking JESCO and Gram Panchayat offices and launching protests if officials continue to ignore public grievances related to electricity supply, damaged infrastructure, and basic civic services in the region. Speaking after meeting newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandey and Zilla Panchayat CEO Laveesh Oradiya in Yadgir, the MLA expressed serious concern over delays in restoring electricity after damage caused by heavy rains and strong winds. He alleged that JESCO officials are not responding promptly even when transformers are damaged or electric poles fall. He said that even two days after such incidents, engineers fail to visit affected areas, creating risks for public safety. He stressed that officials should prioritize immediate field response, while compensation procedures can follow later. He accused certain officers of failing to respond to either elected representatives or the public.

MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur warns protests against officials over power failures, water crisis, and alleged negligence in Yadgir district administration services.

transformers are damaged or electric poles fall. He said that even two days after such incidents, engineers fail to visit affected areas, creating risks for public safety. He stressed that officials should prioritize immediate field response, while compensation procedures can follow later. He accused certain officers of failing to respond to either elected representatives or the public.

Kandakur also raised concerns about Panchayat Development Officers, alleging that many are absent from duty and not addressing citizen complaints. He urged authorities to ensure accountability and prevent supply of contaminated drinking water during the monsoon season. He further criticized the lack of action against overloaded vehicles and said administrative indifference is weakening governance at the grassroots level. He emphasized that even when senior officials are committed, lower-level staff often fail to cooperate, affecting service delivery. The MLA highlighted the drinking water crisis in Gurmitkal constituency, stating that many villages still depend on tanker supply despite his tenure as elected representative. He questioned the effectiveness of governance if basic water needs remain unmet. In response, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandey assured that discussions would be held with the JESCO Managing Director to deploy additional transformers and electricity poles where required. He also promised steps to improve drinking water supply in the district. Zilla Panchayat CEO Laveesh Oradiya said investigations are underway into alleged misuse of 15th Finance Commission funds and that action would be taken against absent officials.

Jevargi stadium decay raises concerns among residents

JEVARGI

The Taluk Stadium in Jevargi, once expected to become a key sports hub for the region, has now turned into a symbol of neglect, drawing strong criticism from athletes, residents, and sports enthusiasts over poor maintenance and lack of basic facilities. Despite Jevargi MLA Ajay Singh serving as Chairman of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, locals allege that the stadium has not received even essential infrastructural upgrades. They say repeated assurances about developing sports facilities have remained unfulfilled. Residents stated that the stadium, located on the outskirts of town, has become a hotspot for anti-social activities during evenings due to the absence of security personnel. They also pointed out that basic amenities such as toilets, drinking water, and lighting are missing, making the facility unusable for proper sporting activities. Women athletes have been particularly affected, as the lack of changing rooms, sanitation facilities, and safety measures has forced many to stop using the ground. Locals said this has severely impacted participation of female sportspersons in regular training and events. The stadium also lacks proper spectator infrastructure. There is no roofing over galleries, leaving audiences exposed to harsh weather during events and national celebrations such as Independence Day and Republic Day. During rains, the ground reportedly turns muddy, making it unsuitable for sports. Sports lovers alleged that despite hosting seasonal camps and tournaments, the stadium still lacks basic infrastructure such as athletics tracks and courts for various sports including badminton, volleyball, cricket, kabaddi, kho-kho, netball, and throwball. In a recent incident, a portion of the spectator gallery roof collapsed due to heavy winds and rain, raising concerns over construction quality. Fortunately, no casualties were reported. Residents blamed substandard construction and poor maintenance for the damage and said repairs are carried out only during special occasions. They urged authorities to take immediate steps to upgrade the stadium and restore it as a functional sports facility for local youth.

participation of female sportspersons in regular training and events. The stadium also lacks proper spectator infrastructure. There is no roofing over galleries, leaving audiences exposed to harsh weather during events and national celebrations such as Independence Day and Republic Day. During rains, the ground reportedly turns muddy, making it unsuitable for sports. Sports lovers alleged that despite hosting seasonal camps and tournaments, the stadium still lacks basic infrastructure such as athletics tracks and courts for various sports including badminton, volleyball, cricket, kabaddi, kho-kho, netball, and throwball. In a recent incident, a portion of the spectator gallery roof collapsed due to heavy winds and rain, raising concerns over construction quality. Fortunately, no casualties were reported. Residents blamed substandard construction and poor maintenance for the damage and said repairs are carried out only during special occasions. They urged authorities to take immediate steps to upgrade the stadium and restore it as a functional sports facility for local youth.

Belakuni Choudri villagers protest contaminated water supply

BIDAR

Residents of Belakuni Choudri village in Aurad taluk have expressed strong anger over the alleged supply of contaminated drinking water and irregular water distribution over the past 15 days, raising serious concerns about public health and safety. Villagers alleged that muddy and polluted water is being supplied to households, making it unsafe for drinking and daily use. They warned that continued consumption of such water could lead to illnesses including vomiting, fever, and other health complications. The situation has created fear among residents, particularly in vulnerable sections of the village. People living in the Dalit locality said they are among the worst affected and are being forced to depend on unsafe water despite repeated complaints. They alleged that authorities have failed to respond effectively, leaving them without any immediate relief or alternative water supply arrangements. Local resident Aravind Mallige said that several representations had been submitted to the Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer and the Gram Panchayat Development Officer, but no corrective action has been taken so far. He accused the officials of neglecting the basic civic needs of the village, especially those of marginalized communities. Villagers have urged senior authorities, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat, District In-charge Minister Eshwar Khandre, and Bidar Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma, to intervene immediately. They demanded urgent steps to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to the village without further delay. They also called for accountability and strict action against officials responsible for the alleged negligence. Residents warned that if the issue is not resolved soon, they may be forced to intensify their protest demanding safe and reliable drinking water facilities.

tions of the village. People living in the Dalit locality said they are among the worst affected and are being forced to depend on unsafe water despite repeated complaints. They alleged that authorities have failed to respond effectively, leaving them without any immediate relief or alternative water supply arrangements. Local resident Aravind Mallige said that several representations had been submitted to the Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer and the Gram Panchayat Development Officer, but no corrective action has been taken so far. He accused the officials of neglecting the basic civic needs of the village, especially those of marginalized communities. Villagers have urged senior authorities, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat, District In-charge Minister Eshwar Khandre, and Bidar Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma, to intervene immediately. They demanded urgent steps to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to the village without further delay. They also called for accountability and strict action against officials responsible for the alleged negligence. Residents warned that if the issue is not resolved soon, they may be forced to intensify their protest demanding safe and reliable drinking water facilities.

Scientific temper essential for modern progressive society

KALABURAGI

At a recent science fair organized at Nutan Vidyalaya Degree College, speakers emphasized the importance of scientific thinking and its practical application in daily life. The event was jointly conducted by the Chemistry Department and the IQAC of the college, attracting students, teachers, and educationists. Chief guest Prof. Vaman Gajare said that scientific temper is essential in today's technology-driven world. He explained that modern society requires practical and rational thinking rather than emotional decision-making alone. According to him, scientific thinking improves logical ability and helps individuals solve problems effectively. Prof. Gajare encouraged students to develop interest in experimental learning, research activities, and innovative discoveries. He stressed that curiosity and observation are key qualities for students.

the college, attracting students, teachers, and educationists. Chief guest Prof. Vaman Gajare said that scientific temper is essential in today's technology-driven world. He explained that modern society requires practical and rational thinking rather than emotional decision-making alone. According to him, scientific thinking improves logical ability and helps individuals solve problems effectively. Prof. Gajare encouraged students to develop interest in experimental learning, research activities, and innovative discoveries. He stressed that curiosity and observation are key qualities for students.

RURAL TRANSPORT IMPACT

Diesel shortage disrupts monsoon sowing in Yadgir

YADGIR

Farmers across Yadgir district are facing severe hardship due to a shortage of diesel and restrictions on fuel sales in cans, disrupting essential preparations for monsoon sowing activities. With pre-monsoon showers already recorded in several parts of the district, farmers have begun land preparation using tractors and other modern agricultural machinery. However, diesel stocks have reportedly run out at several petrol bunks in Yadgir, Shahapur, Surpur, and Wadagera, creating panic among the farming community. Hundreds of farmers were seen traveling from one fuel station to another with empty cans on motorcycles, only to return disappointed due to restrictions on selling diesel in cans and barrels. Many stations displayed “No Stock” boards, further worsening the situation. Farmers expressed frustration over the difficulties. Some said their tractors stalled mid-field due to lack of fuel, making it impossible to continue agricultural work. They questioned how stranded machinery in fields could be brought to fuel stations for refilling. Others alleged discrimination in fuel distribution, claiming that heavy vehicles and construction machinery were receiving diesel, while farmers were being denied even small quantities. They warned that agriculture could come to a halt if the situation continues. Transport operators also reported difficulties, stating that vehicles used for paddy transportation were unable to secure diesel in time, affecting supply chains in rural areas. Petrol bunk operators said they were following government restrictions that prohibit fuel sales in cans and barrels, and added that they are facing pressure from both customers and authorities during the shortage.



pur, Surpur, and Wadagera, creating panic among the farming community. Hundreds of farmers were seen traveling from one fuel station to another with empty cans on motorcycles, only to return disappointed due to restrictions on selling diesel in cans and barrels. Many stations displayed “No Stock” boards, further worsening the situation. Farmers expressed frustration over the difficulties. Some said their tractors stalled mid-field due to lack of fuel, making it impossible to continue agricultural work. They questioned how stranded machinery in fields could be brought to fuel stations for refilling. Others alleged discrimination in fuel distribution, claiming that heavy vehicles and construction machinery were receiving diesel, while farmers were being denied even small quantities. They warned that agriculture could come to a halt if the situation continues. Transport operators also reported difficulties, stating that vehicles used for paddy transportation were unable to secure diesel in time, affecting supply chains in rural areas. Petrol bunk operators said they were following government restrictions that prohibit fuel sales in cans and barrels, and added that they are facing pressure from both customers and authorities during the shortage.

worsening the situation. Farmers expressed frustration over the difficulties. Some said their tractors stalled mid-field due to lack of fuel, making it impossible to continue agricultural work. They questioned how stranded machinery in fields could be brought to fuel stations for refilling. Others alleged discrimination in fuel distribution, claiming that heavy vehicles and construction machinery were receiving diesel, while farmers were being denied even small quantities. They warned that agriculture could come to a halt if the situation continues. Transport operators also reported difficulties, stating that vehicles used for paddy transportation were unable to secure diesel in time, affecting supply chains in rural areas. Petrol bunk operators said they were following government restrictions that prohibit fuel sales in cans and barrels, and added that they are facing pressure from both customers and authorities during the shortage.

remained relatively stable, providing some relief to consumers, prices of garlic and ginger have surged sharply. Garlic prices in particular have reportedly reached around ₹200 per kilogram in retail markets, causing concern among households. Several other vegetables, including long brinjal, carrot, okra, capsicum, green chilli, ridge gourd, ivy gourd, beetroot, cucumber, and smooth ridge gourd, have seen price increases of nearly ₹20 per kilogram. This spike is attributed to a rise of about ₹2,000 per quintal in wholesale rates. Among all vegetables, cluster beans have recorded the steepest increase, with prices nearly doubling in local markets.

QUICK READ



Bhatkal bans liquor during Bakrid festival

CH NEWS, Karwar In Bhatkala, the District Administration has ordered a complete ban on the sale and transport of liquor during Bakrid festival to maintain law and order. According to the order issued by District Magistrate K. Lakshmi Priya, all liquor shops will remain closed from May 28 at 5 am to May 29 at 12 midnight in Bhatkala town under the police station limits. Officials said the decision has been taken to ensure peace and prevent any disturbance during the festival period, and strict action will be taken against those violating the prohibition order in the region for public safety.

Road accident claims 2 lives in Hassan

CH NEWS, Hassan A tragic road accident in Hassan district claimed the lives of a mother and her seven year old son when an auto overturned near Honnavalli Kudige in Alur taluk. They were travelling to obtain a transfer letter for the child's school admission when the driver allegedly drove at high speed and lost control of the vehicle causing it to flip on the road. Priyanka aged 28 and her son Vinith aged 7 died on the spot while auto driver Abbas aged 52 and another boy Sagar aged 13 suffered injuries and were shifted to Alur Taluk Hospital for treatment. Police visited the accident spot conducted inspection and registered a case at Alur police station. They have started investigation into the incident and have urged drivers to follow traffic rules and avoid overspeeding to prevent such tragic accidents on rural roads in future period warning.

Karnataka leaders honor legacy of H S Doreswamy

BENGALURU

Dr. Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University, Dr. H.S. Doreswamy Memorial Foundation, Mahatma Gandhi Study Centre, Dr. M.S.BCU in association with Gowri Media Trust, Karnataka Gandhi Memorial Fund paid tribute to freedom fighter Late H.S. Doreswamy on Tuesday. The memorial was held to commemorate his memory and to discuss the challenges we face today.

The chief guests of the event were Mrs. Teesta Setalvad, Human Rights Activist from New Delhi, Dinesh Gundurao, Honorable Health Minister, Government of Karnataka, Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Honorable Higher Education Minister, Govern-



ment of Karnataka, Jignesh Mevani, Youth Activist and Honorable MLAs from Gujarat. Late H.S. Doreswamy was known for his humble, wisdom, and inspiring nature and his dedication and struggle towards fighting for the landless and equal distribution of land to the landless labourers and small tenant farmers.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) undertaken by the Election Commission of India was criticized for its faulty procedure and exclusion of citizens from voting.

Avadhoota Datta Peetham launches Sanskrit education courses

MYSURU

Marking the 84th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, the Avadhoota Datta Peetham in Mysuru, a series of new Sanskrit education courses has been launched in Mysuru on Tuesday.

The programmes have been introduced jointly by the Peetham's key educational wings — SGS Vedanidhi Academy and Masters Institute — in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University. The newly launched courses are open to anyone



interested in learning Sanskrit, scriptures and related traditional subjects. This is a simple six-month or one-year course designed to provide foundational knowledge in spoken Sanskrit, grammar

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh offers prayers at Chamundi Hills

MYSURU

Bollywood actor and 'Dhuranthar' fame, Ranveer Singh on Tuesday visited the revered Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru and offered special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari, following directions issued by the Karnataka High Court in connection with allegations that he insulted a sacred ritual portrayed in the film Kantara Chapter-1.

Temple sources confirmed that Singh arrived quietly like a common devotee and participated in the rituals without any fanfare. Wearing a mask and avoiding attention, the Bollywood actor reportedly entered the temple premises around 7.15 am through the regular devotees' queue. Before entering the sanctum, he first offered prayers to Lord Ganesha at the temple en-



trance and later performed special puja to Goddess Chamundeshwari. Sources said the actor spent some time seated inside the temple premises in silent prayer after the rituals.

According to M.J. Roopa, Secretary of the Chamundeshwari Development Authority, Ranveer Singh reached Chamundi Hills around 7.30 am

like an ordinary devotee and sat on the right side of the temple while performing the rituals.

Temple authorities also welcomed him ceremonially with a garland during the visit. After offering the Pooja, he left the place without giving any hint to his fans.

Allegations against officials include delaying khata approvals, aiding land mafia, misusing e-khatas, shifting Panchayat office

Revenue Inspector suspended over land mafia allegations

MYSURU

The Directorate of Municipal Administration has suspended Manjunath, the Revenue Inspector of Rammanahalli Town Panchayat, for allegedly colluding with land mafia elements and issuing e-khatas for government properties in favour of private individuals.

Following complaints from the public, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner G Lakshminanth Reddy sought a report from officials and recommended disciplinary action against Manjunath to the Directorate of Municipal Administration.

Based on this recommendation, Director P. N. Ravindra ordered Manjunath's suspension on May 25, pending a departmental inquiry. The suspension order came into immediate effect.

According to allegations, Rammanahalli Town Panch-

yat Chief Officer Mahesh and Revenue Inspector Manjunath had been causing hardship to the public by delaying khata approvals on one hand, while on the other allegedly working with land mafia members to issue e-khatas for government properties.

It is also alleged that they shifted the entire Panchayat office to another location and operated it like a private establishment. Frustrated residents had submitted written complaints to all concerned authorities. Social activist Snehamayi Krishna had also lodged a complaint with the Regional Commissioner against the alleged irregularities.

Acting on the complaints, officials conducted an inquiry and obtained a report regarding the alleged misconduct of the two officers. The report

reportedly found prima facie evidence of irregularities committed by both officials. Based on these findings, the DC Reddy recommended disciplinary action against Chief Officer Mahesh and Revenue Inspector Manjunath.

Since Chief Officer Mahesh falls under the Grade-1 category, the Directorate of Municipal Administration has reportedly forwarded a recommendation to the government for action against him. Meanwhile, Director P. N. Ravindra issued suspension orders against Manjunath.

The order also states that Manjunath's service lien has been transferred with immediate effect, and he has been posted to a vacant First Division Assistant position at the Hassan City Municipal Corporation.



The controversy dates back to November 28, 2025, during the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival held in Goa. While speaking at the event, Ranveer Singh allegedly mocked the sacred "Daiva Kola" tradition depicted in Kantara.

According to the complaint, the actor imitated the divine expressions associated with Panjurli/Guliga Daiva — revered spiritual entities worshipped in the coastal regions of Karnataka — in a manner considered offensive and disrespectful. It was alleged that he referred to the sacred spirit as a "ghost," triggering outrage among devotees and followers of the tradition.

Complainants argued that the ritual portrayed in Kantara represents deeply rooted spiritual beliefs and is closely as-

sociated with the worship of Goddess Chamundeshwari and regional traditions. They alleged that the actor's remarks hurt Hindu religious sentiments and insulted long-standing cultural practices. The complaint further stated that such comments made by a celebrity on an international platform caused anger, emotional distress, resentment among devotees, besides potentially disturbing communal harmony.

FIR, Apology and High Court Direction

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against Ranveer Singh at the High Grounds Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Seeking quashing of the FIR, Ranveer Singh later approached the Karnataka High Court.

India's first TAVI procedure performed successfully in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Narayana Health in Bengaluru achieved a major milestone in cardiac care by successfully performing India's first Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation for pure aortic regurgitation using a dedicated TAVR device. The procedure was led by Dr. Suraj Narasimhan and marked an important breakthrough for high risk heart patients.

The announcement was made during an event held at Chancery Pavilion in Bengaluru. Doctors explained that aortic valve disease mainly includes stenosis and regurgitation. In regurgitation, the valve fails to close properly and blood flows backward into the heart. This condition is becoming more common among elderly people across the world.

Earlier, pure aortic regurgitation was difficult to treat without open heart surgery because there was no calcified structure to support the artificial valve. The specially designed HANCHOR valve solved this problem and im-

proved the success rate of the procedure from nearly sixty seven percent to about ninety five percent.

Doctors said the devices are manufactured in China and imported through Hong Kong with special approval from government authorities. Narayana Health imported the device for two high risk patients including an eighty year old man and a sixty nine year old patient who could not safely undergo traditional surgery.

The minimally invasive procedure was performed through the femoral artery in the thigh without major surgical cuts.

Both patients recovered well and were discharged within forty eight hours after observation.

Doctors said the treatment cost around fifteen lakh rupees including import charges. Patients thanked the medical team and especially Dr. Suraj Narasimhan for providing advanced treatment and improving their quality of life through successful heart procedures in Bengaluru.

Federation opposed law, boycotted cattle fairs, demanded removal of unauthorized banners, urging authorities for immediate action

Hassan Muslim Federation backs cattle slaughter ban

HASSAN

The Hassan District Muslim Federation announced that it has decided not to slaughter cattle during Bakrid this year in the district, aiming to promote peace and social harmony among communities.

Speaking at a press conference, leaders said the Karnataka Cattle Slaughter and Traffic Prohibition Act 2020 is being misused for political gain and they described it as an attack on constitutional and religious rights. The federation stated that until the government

withdraws the law community leaders have unanimously decided not to participate in cattle slaughter or cattle fairs across Hassan district. They also demanded immediate removal of unauthorised banners placed in localities which they said were creating tension and urged district administration police and municipal authorities to take action.

Leaders present at the press conference included Anshad-e-Palya Yusuf Khan Amir Jan Imran Pasha (lawyer) Naeem Shakir and Suhail and they reiterated that the decision

VVCE to host 24-Hour National Hackathon "FUSION X 1.0"

MYSURU

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering is set to host a 24-hour national-level hackathon titled "FUSION X 1.0" on May 29 and 30, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across the country.

A total of 111 teams have registered for the event so far, with nearly 70 percent of the participants coming from outside Karnataka. Students from states including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are expected to take part, reflecting the growing national recognition of the institution's academic standards and innovation-driven initiatives. The hackathon aims to provide students with a platform to develop research-oriented and practical solutions to real-world technical challenges. Participants will work continuously for 24 hours, collaborating in teams to design innovative projects and demonstrate their technical expertise, creativity and problem-solving abilities. Speaking about the initiative, Principal Sadashi ve Gowda said the objective of organizing the national-level hackathon is to encourage creativity, technical excellence and innovation among students. He described the participation of students from various parts of the country as a matter of pride for the institution. Gopala Reddy K, Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is serving as the coordinator of the hackathon.

The inaugural ceremony will be held on May 29 at 10 am at the college sports ground. Mysuru-Kodagu Member of Parliament Ya duveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar will inaugurate the event. President of the Vidyavardhaka Sangha Gundappa Gowda will preside over the programme.

One held for attempting to sell Grey Francolins

MYSURU

The CID Forest Mobile Unit police arrested a man for allegedly attempting to sell two grey francolin birds illegally near the public playground at Rammanahalli on the Mysuru-Mahadevapura Road in Mysuru on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police team rushed to the spot around 10.30 am and found a person carrying a cage containing two grey francolins and allegedly trying to sell them.

The police immediately

conducted a raid and arrested one accused, while another person managed to escape from the scene.

The arrested accused has been identified as Shivanna, 50, son of late Karishetty, an agriculturist and residing on Hanchya Road in Rammanahalli of Mysuru taluk.

Police seized two grey francolin birds and a cage in which the birds were being kept illegally.

A case has been registered and further legal action has been initiated against the accused.

QUICK READ



Residential sports schools open fresh selection process

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has announced special admissions for Sports Residential Schools and hostels for the year 2026-27. A special selection process will be held for candidates who could not participate earlier, giving them another opportunity across Karnataka. It includes sports coaching selection and a sports science test conducted by experts. Eligible students studying in Class 7 for 8th admission and PUC candidates up to 18 years can apply. Those who missed earlier selection rounds may also participate in the process.

Chitradurga city to face power cut today

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Due to emergency maintenance work in Chitradurga city and nearby areas, electricity supply will be disrupted on May 27 from 10 am to 6 pm. Areas including IUDP Layout, Saraswati Puram, Government Diploma College, Kote Road, Kamana bava Baran gay, Jogimatti Road, Karuvinakatte Circle, District Hospital, District Pancharayat, Science College, Arts College, LIC Office and Taluk Panchayat. The BESCOM Nagar Sub Division Assistant Executive Engineer said the shut down is needed for safety and requested public cooperation during the maintenance period.

Deputy Collector highlights digital land records benefits

CHITRADURGA

Deputy District Collector B T Kumaraswamy said that the government's new digital land records system is bringing a quiet revolution through the Bhoo Suraksha software, which is helping citizens access land documents easily at home. He was speaking at a one day workshop on Importance of Records Preservation Maintenance and Public Records Act 2010 and Rules 2013 organized by District Administration and Karnataka State Gazetteer Department at Zilla Panchayat Hall. He said the system is digitizing pahanı mutation and grant documents by scanning and verifying authenticity so people no longer need to visit offices. Records are now accessible on mobile phones through integrated land technology improving transparency and efficiency. Officials emphasized that maintenance and preservation of files is essential in govern-

MLA D S Arun supports HC bench proposal

MLA invited delegation to Delhi to present the issue directly before central govt authorities for consideration

SHIVAMOGGA

Leaders and lawyers in Shivamogga renewed their demand for establishing a High Court bench in the city during a public meeting held. Speakers said Shivamogga has developed rapidly over the years and is now well connected through roads and communication facilities, making it a suitable place for a regional High Court bench.



MLA D. S. Arun said he would strongly support the proposal at the national level and raise the issue with the Union

Law Minister and the Department of Justice. He assured the gathering that he would stand with the people and lawyers in

their struggle until the demand is fulfilled. He also invited a delegation from Shivamogga to visit Delhi so the matter could be presented directly before central authorities. The MLA said Shivamogga is centrally located and covers four nearby districts within a hundred kilometre radius. He added that the number of pending cases in the region meets the required criteria for estab-

lishing a High Court bench. He urged people to continue the movement without political differences and work together for success. Bar Association President Raghavendra Swamy and honorary struggle committee president K. Basappa Gowda explained the progress of the campaign and appealed for united efforts. Several public representatives, lawyers and com-

munity leaders attended the meeting and expressed support for the long pending demand. Leaders present at the programme said the bench would help people from nearby districts receive quicker justice without travelling long distances to Bengaluru. They said the movement would continue until demand and establishes the High Court bench in Shivamogga.

Officials said awareness campaigns and door-to-door visits will improve waste segregation, reduce dumping and strengthen governance

District Collector calls for waste management awareness

MANDYA

District Collector Dr Kumar said that scientific disposal of solid waste is the responsibility of every citizen and public awareness is essential. District Urban Development Cell and Municipal Council organized a one day workshop on Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 at Mandya University Hall for municipal councilors and officials. Dr Kumar said new rules classify waste into green waste dry waste sanitary waste and special waste and citizens must separate waste at source. Local bodies must collect transport and process waste scientifically and segregate recyclables through MRF units while penalties should be imposed for violations. We must change public mindset and create a clean healthy society and officials should use training to educate citizens through demonstrations in wards. Officials said proper waste management is essential for health and sustainable development and urged all departments to implement rules effectively. P Narasimha Murthy

Project Officer explained that waste should be separated into wet dry sanitary and special care waste including batteries bulbs medicines and paint cans and processed scientifically. Authorities said violations of rules will lead to penalties and stressed that cleanliness improves public health and reduces economic burden on society. District officials police officers engineers and civic workers attended the programme and were urged to implement the rules in all local bodies effectively. Workshop concluded with message that scientific waste management is essential for clean and healthy society in Mandya district. Experts said public cooperation and strict enforcement are necessary for success of Solid Waste Management programme. Segregation at source reduces pollution and helps recycling units manage materials efficiently in urban and rural areas. Officials said awareness campaigns and door to door visits will improve public compliance over time. Every household must participate in segregation and proper waste disposal without irresponsible

dumping. Such initiatives will strengthen governance and reduce health risks ensuring sustainable development. Training programmes help officials understand rules and implement them effectively in departments. Stakeholders expressed commitment to maintain cleanliness and ensure proper waste management across Mandya district going forward. Officials urged citizens to follow rules strictly so that Mandya remains clean healthy and environmentally sustainable for future generations. Officials highlighted that scientific waste management under new rules is a key step towards improving urban living standards in Mandya district. They said that coordinated efforts between local bodies, citizens and government departments are required to ensure effective implementation. Proper segregation, collection and disposal will reduce pollution and protect public health. The initiative is expected to create cleaner surroundings, better hygiene and sustainable development across all towns and municipalities in the district.

“Bengaluru: An Environmentally Dead City”

RASHIDA AAMIR

Bengaluru, once known as “the garden city of India” is now being called “an environmentally dead city” due to the drastic decline of its green cover in the recent decades. Research from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) highlights that the city has lost up to 93% of its original green cover and 60% lake bodies to concrete since 1970. This juxtaposition has happened due to the large-scale cutting down of trees for infrastructure, new transportation, and wider roads. Joseph Hoover, an environmentalist and wildlife conservative challenges the promises made by new transportation and wider roads in exchange of deforestation, aimed to promote public transport and reduce/control traffic with the statistic that the number of private vehicles has increased tenfold. Bengaluru's private vehicle population has crossed 1.2 crore with the average of 2,100 new vehicles hitting the road everyday.



Bengaluru's upcoming major infrastructure projects include Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd's (BMRCL) Namma Metro Phase 3, set to clear 6,868 trees. And Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), set to clear 32,572 trees. For each tree cut, BMRCL and BSRP have promised to plant 10 saplings. Hoover counterargues with this by saying, “The saplings you plant today, it will take 20-30 years to give us some ecological value. The existing tree that you cut down, which has been sequestering carbon for all these years and has been giving us oxygen, you can't replace it. When you cut an existing tree, the carbon that is sequestered is released back into the atmo-

sphere.” He adds that the alternative of preserving trees by transplanting them has a success rate of only 10%, it fails due to severe root loss and causes irreversible water stress, hormonal imbalances, and a fatal condition known as transplant shock. “There should be some balance between development and preserving your ecosystem. What are we leaving behind for our future generations?” Hoover draws concern from pollution levels getting higher and Bengaluru's summers getting hotter – India Meteorological Department (IMD) marked the highest temperature in Bengaluru city in 2026 as 36.6%. Hoover demands we shouldn't wait until “our taps run out of water” to take action and stand up against the government and say ‘we have had enough.’ Bengaluru has suffered enough, we need to move forward with caution or else in the future we will have the best metropolitan cities but no life left to use them.

Arebhashe festival celebrated in Kodagu

MADIKERI

Madikeri MLA Dr Mantar Gowda inaugurated Arebhashe village festival at Maragodu Gowda Samaj premises and said efforts must continue for learning and development of Arebhashe language. He said Arebhashe culture and Sahitya Akademi programmes are reaching village level and preserving the language will also strengthen Kannada. Children and youth should learn the language without hesitation. Sadananda Mavaji said academy is publishing books and quarterly Hingara magazine and urged families to read and promote semi language development through reading habits. Speakers said Arebhashe language has grown through associations, Yakshagana, drama and seminars and stressed need to protect culture and encourage speaking in daily

life. Former officials and writers said language reflects culture and urged more studies, documentation and promotion of Arebhashe traditions across Kodagu and coastal regions. Books were released and local achievers were honoured during the event and organisers said unity and cultural pride will help preserve the language for future generations. Many participants including local leaders academicians community heads and cultural activists attended the programme and supported efforts to strengthen Arebhashe language and culture in Kodagu region. They said language and tradition are closely linked and must be preserved through education cultural programmes and public participation in villages and schools. Organisers said workshops book releases and cultural events will continue and will help younger generation understand the importance of semi language and its heritage. They added that unity among Gowda community members and cooperation from government bodies will ensure survival and growth of Arebhashe language for future generations. A book titled Rsu and Prime Minister Story was released and several books were donated to Maragodu Gram Panchayat during the programme. The event also honoured landholders and cultural contributors and included prayers and cultural performances by local artists and groups. Speakers said such festivals help protect identity and encourage children to learn language and maintain cultural pride in Kodagu and neighbouring regions. Officials said continued support will be given for similar programmes in schools and villages to promote language preservation.

Challakere: Tobacco control raids conducted

CHITRADURGA

Tobacco control teams conducted raids in Challakere city of Chitradurga district to prevent youth from falling into tobacco addiction under the COTPA 2003 Act. They inspected shops near the bus stand and public hospital and caught several violations. Officials from the District Tobacco Control Cell conducted awareness drives and warned shop owners and

youth about rising deaths due to tobacco use. They also instructed shops to display mandatory warning boards as per rules. During the operation, 21 cases were registered and fines were collected under Sections 4, 6A and 6B of the COTPA Act. Authorities imposed penalties of rupees 1500 and 600 in different violations. District officials including health officers and police personnel participated in the in-

spection drive. They said strict enforcement will continue to protect public health and youth. Officials said tobacco control drives will be intensified across Chitradurga district to reduce illegal sales and create awareness among students and young people in future inspections across all towns and villages without delay moving forward with strict monitoring measures system.

DRINKING WATER URGENCY

CEO orders urgent steps for drinking water supply

MANDYA

CEO KR Nandini told officials to take urgent steps to prevent drinking water shortage in villages during summer season. She spoke at District Water and Sanitation Committee meeting held at Zilla Panchayat hall in Mandya. Officials were instructed to ensure continuous water supply and carry out emergency works based on priority and need in every village. There should be no difference in water quality or quantity and all villages must



receive minimum supply without interruption. Officials were asked to prepare action plans showing problems solutions and estimated costs for villages facing water

shortage issues. The meeting discussed borewell failures pipeline repairs electricity issues and falling groundwater levels across several taluks in the district.

Officials directed drilling of new borewells repairing pumps and supplying water through tankers in areas where needed urgently. A special helpline has been set up to receive complaints and resolve drinking water issues quickly for citizens. Officials reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission works and ordered speedy completion of delayed rural water supply projects. Water quality testing campaigns will be conducted in villages with participation of staff and local community workers.

Officials said coordinated efforts between departments will ensure better service delivery and reduce shortages in rural areas. Administration assured that all necessary steps will be taken to ensure safe and uninterrupted drinking water supply during summer. CEO Nandini concluded that the administration is committed to solving water problems across Mandya district and ensuring supply. Officials said village level monitoring will be strengthened and regular inspections will be conducted to

prevent any disruption in water supply during peak summer months. Authorities emphasized that public cooperation is essential for sustainable water management and urged citizens to use water carefully, avoid wastage, and support government efforts to maintain clean and safe drinking water in all rural and urban areas of Mandya district for long term sustainability and better living conditions effectively in all regions ensuring long term water security for all citizens homes.

Health Officials Warn Public About Dog Bites

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Dog bite cases are common in Chikkaballapura and officials have warned that they can become dangerous if not treated quickly because rabies is a deadly disease that spreads through infected animal bites and has no cure once symptoms appear. Health experts said early symptoms include fever, headache, pain or itching at bite site, fatigue, nausea, sore throat and difficulty sleeping, while advanced stages may cause hydrophobia, fear of water, fear of air, anxiety, hallucinations, excessive drooling, muscle spasms and paralysis.

QUICK READ



Fish truck overturns after tyre burst

CH NEWS, Udupi

A fish-laden lorry overturned near Ambagilu in Udupi on Tuesday after a sudden tyre burst caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The truck was transporting fish from Mangaluru when the accident occurred on the roadside. The driver, who was alone in the vehicle, escaped with minor injuries. Local residents rushed to the spot and assisted him immediately after the mishap. The lorry suffered considerable damage in the accident. Police visited the scene, conducted an inspection and later cleared the vehicle from the road. Traffic movement in the area was disrupted briefly following the incident.

District to observe Menstrual Hygiene Day with awareness

CH NEWS, Mangaluru

Dakshina Kannada district will mark International Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28 with a series of awareness programmes across rural areas to encourage healthy discussions on menstruation and hygiene practices. The Karnataka government's Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department has instructed all taluk and gram panchayat offices to organise events on the occasion. Participants will wear bracelets containing 23 white beads and five red beads, symbolising the 28-day menstrual cycle.

Police educates NCC cadets on cybercrime and drugs

CH NEWS, Udupi

Around 600 National Cadet Corps students at St Francis Xavier English Medium School in Udyavara attended an awareness session on cybercrime and drug abuse conducted by Udupi Police constable Pavan Kumar. During the programme, the officer explained safety measures to prevent cyber frauds such as hacking, fake job offers, fraudulent loan schemes and so-called digital arrest scams. Students were advised to remain alert while using online platforms and avoid sharing personal information with unknown sources. The session also focused on the dangers of narcotic drugs and the legal consequences under the NDPS Act. Cadets were encouraged to make responsible choices and spread awareness among their peers and communities.

CHITRADURGA

Health Education Officer B. Moogappa has advised the public to undergo a blood test for any kind of fever, stating that early diagnosis is the only way to properly identify diseases like dengue and chikungunya. He said there is no specific direct treatment without proper testing.

He was speaking during a community health education programme held at Prashanta Nagar under Budhnagar Health Centre as part of Dengue Awareness Day activities.

Officials urged to speed up minority schemes

Mandya has 64 minority Anganwadi centres with 4,300 children; officials urged to address dropout causes

MANDYA

Karnataka State Minorities Commission Chairman U Nisar Ahmed said that there should be no negligence in implementing the Prime Minister's 15 point minority welfare programme and all departments must ensure timely delivery of benefits.

He presided over a progress review meeting with district level officials at the district collector office and reviewed implementation of the new 15 point programme for minorities in Mandya district.



The Prime Minister's 15 point programme aims at comprehensive development of minority communities including Muslim Jain Christian Sikh Parsi and Buddhist groups across welfare education and employment sectors.

Officials were instructed to ensure Anganwadi enrolment of minority children under six years and to prevent dropouts through door to door awareness campaigns in villages.

There are 64 minority Anganwadi centres in Mandya district with over 4300 children enrolled and officials

were told to identify reasons for dropouts and take corrective action.

He also directed officials to promote self employment schemes including PM Swanidhi micro credit loans youth fund programmes and skill development training for minority youth across the district.

Lead Bank Manager Arun Kumar informed that 477 minority beneficiaries have received education loans while government welfare schemes are being implemented through banks at low interest rates.

District Collector Dr Kumar

said implementation of minority welfare schemes is satisfactory and assured that all eligible beneficiaries are being covered under government programmes.

Officials including Zilla Panchayat CEO KR Nandini and other district officers attended the meeting and stressed the need for effective coordination and monitoring of welfare schemes.

We need to ensure strict implementation of all minority welfare programmes in Mandya district by improving coordination between departments

and increasing field level monitoring. The government is also focusing on education skill development financial inclusion and awareness generation among minority communities to ensure equal opportunities and social justice. Officials were instructed to conduct regular inspections of schools and Anganwadi centres and submit progress reports on time. Community leaders also expressed support for the schemes and requested faster delivery of benefits to eligible families across rural and urban areas.

Activists condemn the state government for shielding rioters while urging strict measures against lawbreakers

SDPI protest condemns vigilantism and case withdrawals

MANGALURU

Members of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) staged a protest near the Clock Tower, strongly opposing the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw cases registered against rioters. The demonstration was organized jointly by the party's city and rural district units in Mangaluru and witnessed participation from party workers, leaders, and members of the public.

Protesters raised slogans against the government and accused it of encouraging forces that disturb communal harmony by withdrawing cases against individuals involved in violent incidents. They demanded immediate action to stop assaults, attacks, and vigilantism carried out in the name of cow protection. Demonstrators also called for strict punishment against those taking the law into their own hands.

Addressing the gathering, Riyaz Farangipete criticized the BJP and Sangh Parivar or-



ganizations, alleging that they act against constitutional principles and spread misinformation through social and political platforms. He claimed that secular political parties had failed to effectively challenge such narratives, allowing the BJP to strengthen its influence across the country.

Farangipete also alleged that in some cases police personnel assist groups involved in stopping cattle transport vehicles, filing cases against transporters while failing to act against those engaged in violence and vigilantism. He questioned the legitimacy of moral policing activities and accused authorities of protecting troublemakers instead of maintaining law and order. State Secretary Riyaz Kadam also expressed disappointment over what he de-

scribed as unfulfilled election promises made by the Congress government. He referred to assurances regarding restoration of hijab rights, reimplementation of 2B reservation, and other public welfare measures that had gained significant support from Muslim voters during elections. Rural District President Anwar Sadath Bajatturu said the withdrawal of cases against pro-Kannada leaders such as Vatal Nagaraj was welcome, but criticized the withdrawal of cases against individuals accused of hate speech, including Pramod Muthalik and Chaitra Kundapura.

Several party leaders and representatives attended the protest, including state committee member Ashraf Agnadi, city district general secretary Jamal Jokatte, secretary Nisar Valavoor, rural district secretary Shakir Alakemajalu, and members of the Women India Movement. The programme was compered by rural district secretary Ashraf Talapady.

Udupi administration tightens vigilance ahead of Bakrid

UDUPI

The district administration in Udupi has intensified precautionary measures ahead of Bakrid celebrations to ensure peaceful observance of the festival and maintain communal harmony. A key district-level committee meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, with participation from senior officials representing various government departments and law enforcement agencies. During the meeting, authorities discussed measures to prevent unauthorized slaughter activities and illegal transportation of livestock during the Eid al-Adha period. Officials emphasized that strict vigilance would be maintained across the district while ensuring that lawful religious practices are carried out without disruption.

Malavalli and Maddur taluks after sustained surveillance and investigation. Officials said the accused were linked to multiple chain snatching and robbery cases reported across several police station limits in previous years.

According to police records, the accused were involved in several cases registered between 2022 and 2026 under charges including robbery and theft. Authorities said they had been operating across rural routes targeting vulnerable pedestrians, especially women travelling alone.

Police recovered 475.5 grams of stolen gold ornaments and two motor cycles used in the crimes. The estimated value of the seized property is about ₹70.37 lakh.

Officials said the arrests were made with coordinated efforts of multiple police teams across Mandya district.

The accused are currently under investigation, and further legal action is being taken.

KUNDAPURA

A new chapter in rural skill development began with the inauguration of the SKF Industrial Training Center at Guddeyangadi near Yedadi-Matyadi in Kundapura taluk of Udupi District. The training center has been established through a joint initiative of the Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar Charitable Trust and SKF Elixir India Private Limited with the aim of creating employment opportunities and self-reliance among rural youth.

The center was inaugurated by Dr. M. Mohan Alva from Moodbidri. Speaking at the event, he praised the inspiring journey of Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar, who overcame hardships through determination and hard work. He stated that Dr. Achar has created thousands of employment opportunities across India and abroad through his enterprises and philanthropic initiatives.

Dr Prasad directed officials to protect flood-prone areas and regularly update vulnerable families with safety instructions

Officials urge monsoon safety measures in Kodagu

MADIKERI

Kodagu district in-charge secretary Dr. N.V. Prasad has called for necessary precautions and preparedness as early signs of the monsoon have begun in the district. He spoke at a meeting held on Tuesday during a capacity building programme of Ponnampet Taluk Panchayat and reviewed preparedness measures across departments.

Dr. Prasad directed officials to take special care in vulnerable and flood prone areas and ensure that families living in such regions are regularly updated about safety instructions. He also instructed authorities to



strengthen facilities at relief and care centres so that essential services are available during emergencies.

He stressed the need to complete repair works of dilapidated school and Anganwadi buildings to prevent accidents during heavy rains. He also reviewed drinking water supply projects and asked officials to complete pending works under the Jal Jeevan Mission at the earliest. The secretary advised the Agriculture Department to guide farmers on availability of fertilizers, seeds, urea and

machinery so that the sowing season is not affected by monsoon conditions. District officials said a monsoon helpline centre has already been set up and nodal officers have been appointed to monitor rainfall related issues. District Collector S.J. Somashekhar said all necessary precautionary measures are in place to handle monsoon challenges.

The meeting also discussed progress in animal husbandry and horticulture departments. Senior officials from revenue, forest and panchayat departments attended and reviewed preparedness plans for the upcoming rainy season across Kodagu district.

Kadirenahalli underpass gets drainage plan

BENGALURU

Additional Commissioner Dr. Naveen Kumar Raju of Bengaluru South City Corporation conducted a surprise inspection at Kadirenahalli underpass after reports of rainwater logging

disrupted traffic movement in the area.

He inspected the underpass along with waste transfer points near Kadirenahalli Cross and Yalachenahalli Lake. Officials informed him that recent heavy rains had exposed weak drain-

age systems, leading to water accumulation and inconvenience to commuters.

Dr. Raju instructed engineers to immediately design and implement a permanent drainage solution to ensure smooth rainwater flow.

CNC honors Codava martyrs at memorial ceremony

MADIKERI

A delegation from the Codava National Council led by Chairman N.U. Nachappa Codava visited the Devattparamb Codava Genocide Memorial Site on 26 May 2026 to pay monthly tribute to Codava ancestors who lost their lives while defending their homeland and community. Members of the delegation offered floral tributes and conducted prayers in remembrance of the victims. During the ceremony, the organisation recalled the tragic events of 12 December 1785, when thousands of

unarmed Codava men, women, and children were allegedly massacred at Devattparamb. According to the CNC, forces of the Mysore Sultanate and soldiers associated with the French East India Company invited Codavas to what was presented as a peace gathering before carrying out the killings. The delegation stated that the attack followed repeated military campaigns by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan to gain control over Codava territory, which was strategically important because of its access to the Malabar Coast and its valuable spice trade.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS ALERT

Health Officer urges blood test for every fever case



Government nursing college students also participated in spreading awareness in Anganwadi centres. Officials explained that dengue and chikungunya are caused by Aedes

mosquitoes, which breed in clean stagnant water and usually bite during the daytime. Common symptoms include sudden fever, eye pain and joint pain, while severe cases may

lead to bleeding, low consciousness and even life threatening conditions if not treated on time. Health experts advised people to maintain clean surroundings, avoid water stagnation, properly dispose of waste and take precautions against mosquito bites. They also urged households to clean water storage areas weekly to prevent mosquito breeding.

Senior Health Inspector T. Sreenivasamurthy appealed for public cooperation during door to door health surveys and larva inspection drives. He said community participa-

tion is essential for preventing mosquito borne diseases and maintaining hygiene in residential areas.

Nursing instructor Lavanya and students demonstrated awareness activities using pamphlets to educate the public. Anganwadi workers and local residents participated in the programme and supported the awareness drive aimed at reducing mosquito borne diseases in Chitradurga district through better hygiene and timely medical testing practices for all fever cases in the region.

QUICK READ

2 Trinamool leaders arrested for corruption

KOLKATA
Two Trinamool Congress leaders were arrested in separate West Bengal districts following major crackdowns on corruption. In North 24 Parganas, the police arrested Baduria Municipality Chairman Dipankar Bhattacharya after recovering nearly eighty lakh rupees in cash and thousands of government-funded tarpaulins. Bhattacharya, who had been hiding in a hotel planning a long-term escape, was tracked down following complaints filed by opposition parties. Meanwhile, in South 24 Parganas, protests erupted outside the home of Trinamool regional President Gautam Aari. Local authorities raided Aari's property, recovering a massive cache of hoarded government relief materials, including blankets, mats, and fish food, leading to his immediate arrest.

Tragic well collapse kills 5 labourers in Panna

BHOPAL
A devastating soil cave-in at an under-construction public irrigation well claimed the lives of five labourers in Panna district. The workers were executing excavation tasks under the MNREGA scheme when loose soil suddenly collapsed, trapping them under tonnes of debris. District Collector Usha Parmar and Superintendent of Police Nivedita Naidu rushed to the scene with heavy earth-moving machinery to oversee the rescue operation. Authorities identified the deceased, four of whom belonged to the same family, including two brothers and their sons. Local MP Vishnuddutt Sharma expressed deep condolences and confirmed that the district administration is providing immediate relief.

Govt moves fast to fix CBSE payment system

NEW DELHI
Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met top officials from four major public sector banks to fix the CBSE payment system. After students faced technical glitches during re-evaluation fee payments, the minister demanded urgent action. He ordered State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, and Indian Bank to build a secure, student-friendly system. The banks must ensure fast transactions, instant failed-payment refunds, and quick complaint resolution. This emergency meeting follows the minister's recent discussion with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Bank leaders promised to upgrade their digital infrastructure immediately to support students.

NEW DELHI
India marked exactly twelve years since a historic political shift occurred when Narendra Modi took the oath of office as the country's 15th Prime Minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The anniversary commemorates the groundbreaking May 2014 election results, where the Bharatiya Janata Party secured an outright majority with 282 seats, ending three consecutive decades of unstable coalition govern-

TMC MP's presence at CM's meet sparks speculation

Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar sparked intense political speculation after attending an administrative meeting led by CM Suvendu Adhikari.

KOLKATA
Speculation intensified over the political future of senior Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar after she attended an administrative meeting led by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, which ended Mamata Banerjee's fifteen-year

party's Lok Sabha chief whip. Following her removal, she posted a sarcastic social media message about being "rewarded" for four decades of loyalty. She subsequently blamed the election-management firm I-PAC and widespread grassroots corruption for the party's heavy losses in the recent assembly elections, which ended Mamata Banerjee's fifteen-year

rule. While Dastidar's appearance alongside the newly formed BJP government raised eyebrows, both sides publicly downplayed any immediate political shift. Chief Minister Adhikari had previously announced that opposition representatives would be invited to official administrative sessions to voice regional needs. Attending lawmakers Bina Mondal, Abdul Matin, and Anisur

Rahaman Bidesh maintained they attended strictly to secure state development and financial cooperation for their marginalized constituencies. However, local political analysts view the cross-party attendance as a highly significant shift in state dynamics. Dastidar's public criticism of her own party's governance, combined with the central government recently upgrading her security to the Y-category, suggests a widening rift. Observers continue to watch the veteran politician closely as internal tensions brew within Trinamool's ranks.

Munambam land row: Kerala BJP chief seeks Rijiju's intervention

NEW DELHI
The ongoing Munambam land dispute escalated further after Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar urged the central government to intervene. In a formal letter to Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Chandrasekhar demanded the immediate removal of over 400 acres of disputed coastal land from the central government's UMEED portal.

The political row intensified when the Kerala State Waqf Board registered the highly contentious property on the national digital platform. Chandrasekhar claimed this registration openly violated federal guidelines and statutory frameworks. He explained that under

The land dispute triggered a fresh political row after the Kerala State Waqf Board listed over 400 acres on the Umeed portal .

current laws, only a designated trustee is authorized to upload property records onto the portal, a right that belongs to Farook College in this case. Instead, he charged, the Waqf Board acted completely unilaterally. He further accused local opposition coalitions of playing divisive vote-bank politics by caving to extremist minority groups rather than protecting citizens.

This demand for federal action comes just a day after Kerala Chief Minister V. D.

Satheesan publicly promised panicked local residents that they would not face eviction from their ancestral homes. The long-standing Munambam dispute currently impacts over 600 vulnerable families, primarily from Hindu and Christian fishing communities who hold legal title deeds.

Waqf Board Chairman K. S. Hamza defended the portal entry, insisting the land remains permanent religious property.

However, affected residents and political leaders counter that the unilateral digital listing severely complicates a quick resolution.

Neighbors remain highly anxious, watching closely to see if the central government will step in to protect their property rights.

Chouhan launches new memoir ‘Apnapan’

NEW DELHI
Top political figures gathered to celebrate the launch of "Apnapan," a new book written by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The memoir details Chouhan's decades-long work alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi, offering valuable lessons for the next generation of public servants.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu highly praised the book, stating that its title beautifully reflects a deep sense of belonging and public connection.

Naidu emphasized that aspiring politicians should study the text to understand how Chouhan successfully served as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for a record seventeen years before moving into

his current role in the central government.

Other prominent leaders, including Union Minister Chirag Paswan, echoed this sentiment, noting that experienced statesmen must document their journeys so younger generations can learn from past challenges.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya also congratulated Chouhan on the publication. They highlighted his extensive administrative career, spanning positions from youth leader to Union Minister. They noted that the book acts as a practical guide, meaningfully capturing Prime Minister Modi's evolution from a dedicated grassroots organizer to a national leader. The launch event highlighted the book's dual



value as an intimate political memoir and a detailed roadmap for effective governance. Attendees expressed strong hope that the publication would inspire citizens from all walks of life. They believe it will serve as an essential reference point for young readers seeking authentic insights into leadership and self-reliance.

19 NEW DSPS JOIN BIHAR POLICE FORCE

PATNA
Nineteen newly trained Deputy Superintendents of Police officially joined the state force. The officers graduated during the 69th Convocation Ceremony of the Bihar Police Academy, held in Rajgir, following a grand passing-out parade.

Addressing the graduates,

Bihar Director General of Police Vinay Kumar delivered an inspiring message regarding the true meaning of law enforcement. He explicitly told the young officers that policing must never be viewed as just a salaried job.

To emphasize his point, the 1991-batch officer shared a famous historical anecdote involving former Punjab po-

lice chief K.P.S. Gill. When once asked by a trainee about financial allowances, Gill famously replied that anyone entering the force solely for money could easily make a larger profit by opening a street corner shop. Kumar stressed that uniform service is fundamentally about deep community responsibility, public commitment, and pro-

tecting citizens. The graduating batch, consisting of fourteen men and five women, successfully completed a year of rigorous mental and physical preparation. Their extensive curriculum covered modern policing demands, including cybercrime investigation, digital evidence collection, riot management, and disaster response.

MODI SARKAR ON MISSION MODE

PM Modi completes 12 historic years in office

ments.

The 2014 mandate reflected a public desire for decisive leadership to counter economic slowdown, policy paralysis, and high inflation. Over the next 12 years, the administration introduced sweeping structural reforms to modernize the national economy.

Key milestones included the 2017 rollout

of the Goods and Services Tax, which unified a complex web of central and state taxes, and the Jan Dhan Yojana, which provided formal banking access to hundreds of millions of unbanked citizens. Consequently, India's nominal GDP expanded significantly, climbing from two trillion dollars in 2014 to over four trillion dol-

lars by 2025.

Digitalization emerged as a major cornerstone of the government's governance model.

The ambitious "Digital India" initiative streamlined public welfare delivery by linking state subsidies directly to authenticated bank accounts, eliminating corruption leakages.

Major welfare campaigns, including the housing-for-all initiative, clean cooking fuel distribution, and the universal Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, successfully

created a robust social safety net for vulnerable populations.

On the global stage, the administration pursued a highly visible diplomatic strategy, strengthening manufacturing through the "Make in India" campaign and adopting a robust national security posture. Twelve years later, this governance model remains defined by centralized decision-making, digital innovation, and an ongoing ambition to elevate India among the world's primary economic superpowers.

ED raids Royale Estate Group offices

CHANDIGARH

The Enforcement Directorate conducted extensive search operations across multiple locations in Punjab and Chandigarh. The federal raids targeted various residential and commercial properties linked to Chandigarh Royale City Promoters Private Limited and the Royale Estate Group over a major money-laundering case.

The agency's actions stem from a criminal case registered by the Punjab Police in July 2025. Company directors and their close associates face se-

vere allegations of cheating, breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy. Specifically, the promoters allegedly defaulted on mandatory statutory payments owed to the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority. Furthermore, the company submitted bounced cheques totaling nearly thirty-three crore rupees regarding a major residential colony project located in Karala village, Mohali.

Financial investigators revealed that the real estate firm maintained massive outstanding liabilities while secretly diverting project funds.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		
Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreeramam Swami Temple, Cherpu - Thririprayar Road, Thririprayar, Thiruvallur, Kerala 686067 Phone No: 0467-3620504, Website: www.manappuramhometfin.com		FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD		
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("Act"), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:				
Sr.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan Guarantor / Member / Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Jagadeesh Shivanagouda Parutagouda, Shivnagouda Parutagouda, Shashikant Mallikarjunagouda Palli, /NLAPO26035503/ Hubli	All That Part And Parcel of Property Bearing Na Residential Property Bearing Gram Panchayat Property No.605, Measuring East-West-7Mtrs, North-South-12Mtrs, Along With Residential Structure Bearing E-Property No.150100401700471448, of Nagur Village, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Nagur, Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587118, East-Basamma Shivnagouda Paruthagouda, West-Passagae, South-Road, North-Road,	19-01-2026 & Rs.515850/-	23-05-2026
2	Ravi Kumar R, Ramachandran T, Sulochana S, /NHL0030016820/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No.1550050705070006, Measuring East To West: 9.7536 Meters And North To South: 10.97 Meters, Situated At Hujli Dore Village, Bukapattana Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin:571217, East-Property of Thimmaiah, West-Road, South-Property of Jayamma, North-House of Thimmakka	19-01-2026 & Rs.369011/-	23-05-2026
3	Gowamma, Mahadevaswethy, /NLAPO09040783/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 85/1, P.D. No. 15220052216102013, Situated At Within The Grama, Kudalpuram Gramapanchayath, Nanjangudi Block, Mysore (D), Admeasuring: 198.07 Sq Mts of Site 198.06 Sq Mts of Building, Karnataka, Pin: 571118, East-Road, West-Property of Basaveshwara, South-House of Rangaswamy, North-House of Premna	19-01-2026 & Rs.427992/-	23-05-2026
4	Kamalavva Basavanni Danadavar, Kamalesh Basappa Danadavar, Anjali Kamalesh Danadavar, /MLAPO090805822/ Belgaum	Residential Property Bearing GP No: 404, 17X60 = 1020 Sq Fts, Situated At Panagutti, Within The Local Limits of Gram Panchayat Dhananatti (Rangadoli) And Within The Local Jurisdiction of Grama Panchayat Belagavi Tal & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591243, East-Public Road, West-House of Siddava Basappa Halabur, South-House of Lagunavva Fakirappa Danadavar, West-Public Road,	19-01-2026 & Rs.299467/-	23-05-2026
5	Bishtappa Nagappa Kolkar, Bharati Bishtappa Kolkar, Sushila Nagappa Kolkar, /NLAPO09041393/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of G P No 160/K/2, Total Measuring: 1620 Sq Fts, Towards East-West: 75 Ft, Towards North-South: 21.6Ft, Situated AtHireangoli, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Gangadavagad, SroKhanapur Tal &Khanapur Dist:Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591106, East-Panchayat Road, West-Own Open Property, South-Property of Nagappa Badiger, North-Property of Maruti Kolkar	19-01-2026 & Rs.522228/-	23-05-2026
6	Shindhar Maruti Kerwad, Maruti Siddappa Kerwad, Tukaram Metri, /MLAPO09054536/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of GpNo: 608/A, Swatini No. 1524020238020871, Total Measuring: 118.210000 Sq Mtrs. That Is Towards East- West: 4.50,4.85 Mtrs And Towards North-South: 25.50 Mtrs, Situated At Batur Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Batur And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Kiltur, Tal: Kiltur &Dist:Belagavi, Karnataka,Pin:591115,East-Property of Durgavaggi Gadegannavar, West- Property of Yamanavada Keravadi, South- Gram Panchayat Road, North-Property of Siddava Maruti Keravadi	19-01-2026 & Rs.511300/-	23-05-2026
7	Nagamallamma C, Maheshaswamy HK, /NHL000022685/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece & Parcel of The Residential Building Village Bagari Gramapanchayath Property No. 615 As Per Form No. 118 Unique No. 15080020091120251, Situated At Hongalli Village Bagari Gramapanchayath Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarnanganagur District, Total Measuring 201.99 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571111, East-Land of Kendaganappa, West-Land of Kendaganappa, South-Land of Kendaganappa, North-Road,	19-01-2026 & Rs.346410/-	23-05-2026
8	Ramu N, Nadiyannaappa R, /NHL0030059147/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khattha No. 24/34 And E-Khattha No. 152500501000100200 Measuring East To West: 4.8768 Mtrs And North To South: 14.40 Mtrs & Mrs is Situated At Garani Village, I.D. Halli Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572124, East-House Belongs To Lakshammamma, West-House Belongs To Venkateshappa, South-Road, North-Road,	19-01-2026 & Rs.539293/-	23-05-2026
9	Devaraj Nandyanayak Lamani, Ramabai Nandyanayak Lamani, Despa Devaraj Lamani, /NHL0044651254/ Shikaripura	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Khattha/Property No. 18/1, E-Property No. 151700402300101064, Measuring East-West: 19.08 Meter X North-South: 8.18 Meter, Total 156.190000 Sq. Meter, Including 101.000000 Sq. Meter House, Situated At Nagavanda Village, Nagavanda Village Panchayath, Rathihalli Taluk, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 587120, East-Property of Halesh Naik Ramanavada, West-Property of Chandra Naik Gadigga Naik Lamani, South- Panchayath Road, North-Property of Jagadeesh Naik Lamani	20-01-2026 & Rs.527898/-	23-05-2026
10	Nilavva Ningappa Samudbhail, Revannappa Ningappa Samudbhail, Ningappa Nilavva Samudbhaila, /NHL0048035069/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No. 502/B New No.502/2, E- Swathodi Measuring 15.1700502700200834, Measuring 14.50 X 6.10 Meter = 88.45Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 88.45 Sq. Mtrs, Situated At Asundi Village, Within The Limits of Village Panchayath Asundi, Ranebennur Block, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581115, East-Property of Beeraappa Khichadi, West-Road In Same Property, South-Property of Chowdappa Neelappa Samudbhail, North-Property of Samnagudappa Neelappa Samudbhail	20-01-2026 & Rs.519914/-	23-05-2026
11	Manjunath Somappa Paschapur, Narayana Somappa Paschapur, Somappa Bhimappa Paschapur, Nagaraj Somappa Paschapur, /NHL0026030601/ Hubli	Residential 11B Property Bearing GP No.396, Property No. 150100200802080777, Measuring East To West: 7.62Mtrs And North To South: 7.62Mtr, Total Measuring 58.06Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 58.06Sq Mtr, Situated At Achannur Village Within Bilerkur Gram Panchayat, Tq. & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587111, East-Property of Annesha Ibrahim Soudagar, West-Road, South-Road, North-Road,	20-01-2026 & Rs.829037/-	23-05-2026
12	Prakash Nooli, Sunita Prakash Nuli, Sahashikant Bastwadi, /NHLAPO08038933/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing No. 15/16A, Swatini No. 150400500101662, Total Measuring 98.72 Sq. Mtrs, Towards East-West: 5.06 Mtrs Towards North-South 19.51 Mtr, Situated At Hebbal, Tal: Hukkeri & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591221, East-By Property of Mallappa Dundappa Mathapati, West-Property of Rekha Girish Koli, South-Road, North-Drainage	22-01-2026 & Rs.237553/-	23-05-2026
13	Putta Thayamma M, Siddaraju M, /NHL0044021556/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 7/77, P.D. No. 15220016168500000000, Situated At Padukote Village, Padukotekaval Grama Panchayath, Heggadavanakote Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East To West 15.24 Meters And North To South 15.24 Meters, Totally 232.25 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571189, East-House Belongs To Lakshmi Chikkanaka, West-House Belongs To Mahadevagowda, South-Road, North-Land Belongs To Mahadevagowda,	22-01-2026 & Rs.354523/-	23-05-2026
14	Basanagouda Fakiragouda Karigouda, Mallikarjunagouda Basanagouda Karigouda, Lingaraj Basappa Jakadi, /NHLAP11701635/ Raichur	Property Bearing No. 113, P.D. No. 151300501930030047, Measuring East-West: 16.66 Meters And North-South: 16.66 Meters, Situated At Temple Gaudar Street, Village Ararahatti, Tq Navalgund, Dist. Dharwad, Karnataka, Pin: 582208 Admeasuring 111.48 Sq Mts. East-Plot No. 112, West-Plot No. 114, South-Plot No. 132, North-Govi Road	22-01-2026 & Rs.332063/-	23-05-2026
15	Ningargaju M, Jiyanna C, /NHL0040026351/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 517/31, P.D.No.150800300500300502, Situated At Kempnagappa Grama, Siddahannur Gramapanchayath, Kollegala Block, Chamarnanganagur (D), Karnataka, Pin: 571440 Totally Measuring 111.48 Sq Mts., Building Measuring 22.30 Sq Mts. East-Site No. 32, West-Hiduvalli Land, South-Road, North-Site No. 30	22-01-2026 & Rs.516407/-	23-05-2026
16	Yashodha K, Kurnarappa D, /NHL0051001958/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khattha/Property No. 334/3/A, E-Property No. 15240050100100308, Measuring East-West: 18.288 Meter X North-South: 6.096 Meter, Total 111.49 Sq. Meter, Including 41.81 Sq. Meter Situated At Balekoppa-I Village, Balekoppa Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577423, East-Hiduvalli Land, West-Road, South-House of Sharanamma, North-House of Hanumanthappa	22-01-2026 & Rs.383195/-	23-05-2026
17	Devamma Hiremani, Erappa Hiremani, Erappa Hiremani, /NHL017000796/ Raichur	Residential Property Bearing Property No.365 Near Water Tank/Chilvadi(Village) Koppal(Tq)Koppal(Dist), Measuring 63.90 Sq Mtrs, Including Built Up Area Measuring 688 Sq Ft, Karnataka, Pin: 582240, East-Road, West-Balamma Gobbi House, South-Basalingamma Uddur House, North-Road	22-01-2026 & Rs.279084/-	23-05-2026
18	Shivaraja Naik H P, Papa Naik, /NHL0051001071/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Khattha/Property No. 206, E-Property No. 15240050100100308, Measuring East-West: 12.192 X North-South: 24.384 Meter, Total 297.29 Sq. Meter, Including 102.19 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Hunasoddu Village, Abbalagera Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577225, East-Property of Durgya Naika, West-Property of Peekeya Naika, South-Road,	22-01-2026 & Rs.1032133/-	23-05-2026
19	Kalpana, K R Krishnamurthy, Deepthi K, /NHL0020080449/ Vinaynagar, Ramnagar	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.188, E Khattha No.152900302700900215, Situated At Kondahalli Village, Sathanuru Grama Panchayath, Magadi Taluk, Ramnagar District, Karnataka, Pin: 562120, Total Measuring 147.16 Sq. Meter, Including Remaining Own Property, West-Road, South-Road, North-Remaining Own Property	22-01-2026 & Rs.311264/-	23-05-2026

Date: 27th May 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA | Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

QUICK READ

Surge in violence sparks outrage in Bangladesh

Dhaka

A terrifying spike in violence against women and children has triggered widespread public outrage across Bangladesh. Human rights organizations reported multiple horrific assaults across several districts, including Chuadanga, Jashore, and Cumilla. Local police have detained multiple suspects, including a twenty-year-old man in Chuadanga for assaulting an elderly woman, and a youth in Jashore for attacking a nine-year-old girl. Outrage further intensified in Cumilla after local village leaders attempted to cover up an assault through informal arbitration. Security experts warned of a severe breakdown in legal accountability, while UNICEF expressed deep concern, demanding an immediate end to the culture of impunity and calling for stronger child protection laws.

Train crash with school van in Belgium kills 4

Brussels

A train collided with a school minivan at a level-crossing in Bugenhout, killing four people. The victims included two special needs pupils, the van driver, and an adult chaperone. Two other students suffered severe injuries. Transport Minister Jean-Luc Crucke stated that security camera footage confirmed the crossing's safety barriers were fully down when the crash occurred. The vehicle was transporting seven special needs children to school. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed deep grief over the tragedy. This horrific accident spotlights Belgium's dense rail network, which has seen numerous fatal level-crossing collisions since 2021.

PoJK protests intensify over soaring utility tariffs

As JAAC protests intensify across PoJK, angry leaders have rejected government talks, demanding economic relief and immediate regional autonomy

MUZAFFARABAD

Severe political tensions continue to rock Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) intensifies its massive public mobilization campaign.

The powerful movement is demanding immediate economic relief, fair utility tariffs, and greater political self-governance.

During a roaring public rally, angry JAAC leaders rejected all further talks with state officials. They stated that the federal government in Islamabad has completely ignored their long-standing demands despite giving multiple false assurances over time. The energetic demonstrators are demanding immediate relief on high electricity tariffs, cheap



er food prices, and the activation of promised subsidy packages.

Addressing a massive crowd of supporters, a local JAAC representative openly challenged the regional Assembly members. He ques-

tioned why local politicians oppose regional self-rule, loudly declaring to the cheering audience that the disputed territory belongs to Kashmir, not Pakistan. He also slammed the administration for failing to deliver promised

subsidies on thirty-six essential household items.

Furious JAAC leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir urged thousands of supporters to stay united and completely occupy the protest grounds. He led aggressive chants against pro-government agents, calling the massive civil movement the ultimate death of state-sponsored corruption.

For decades, PoJK has faced intense global criticism for political neglect and severe underdevelopment. Frustrated residents continue to protest against heavy resource exploitation, unequal distribution of wealth, and their complete lack of political representation. Activists warned that public anger will continue to escalate across the region unless Islamabad grants true autonomy to the local population.

In Prague, the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts concluded a historic cultural tour, using traditional performances to challenge Beijing

ARTISTES USE TRADITIONAL DANCE TO PROTEST CHINA

PRAGUE

The Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) has successfully wrapped up a historic cultural tour in the Czech Republic, using traditional music and dance to fiercely challenge Beijing's political narratives.

The high-profile showcase, held at the prestigious Senate Garden in Prague, marked the premier cultural group's first visit to the country in nearly two decades.

Organized by Czech Senate Vice-President Jitka Seitlova, the Synopsis Foundation, and the Tibet Bureau Geneva, the event served as a peaceful protest against China's severe restrictions on Tibetan language and religious freedom. TIPA explicitly accused Beijing of attempting to distort and erase Tibetan identity on the global stage.

Through captivating classical opera performances, known as Ache Lhamo, and



ancient folk dances, the talented artists proudly presented Tibet as an independent, rich civilization with thousands of years of distinct history. Tibetan representative Thinlay Chukki stated that the performances stand as a powerful symbol of truth against Chinese political pressure.

The event highlights the deep, historic friendship between the late Czech President Vaclav Havel and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Solidifying this allyship, the Czech Senate recently passed

a crucial resolution supporting the Dalai Lama's right to independently choose his successor without foreign interference.

Over 300 spectators, including European senators, human rights activists, and students, attended the vibrant showcase. Moving the audience deeply, the successful cultural display successfully countered Chinese misinformation while beautifully preserving ancestral roots for young Tibetans living in the diaspora.

Iran orders internet restoration after 87-day blackout

TEHRAN

The Iranian government has officially announced plans to restore international internet access across the country over the "coming days." The decision follows a formal directive from President Masoud Pezeshkian, aiming to end a severe, nationwide digital blackout.

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani confirmed the breakthrough during her weekly press conference. She stated that a specialized cyberspace task force recommended lifting the restrictions to prevent domestic injustice and economic discrimination. Following their conclusion, President Pezeshkian immediately notified the Ministry of Communications to execute the order and return online rights to the citizens.

The country has been trapped under a near-total internet blackout for more than 87 days, according to reports. The strict digital blockade was initially launched on January 8 to suppress anti-regime protests, before being intensified on February 28 following joint U.S. and Israeli military strikes. The prolonged blackout crippled local businesses and blocked citizens from accessing vital safety information during foreign bombing



Iran will restore internet access following President Pezeshkian's order, amid high geopolitical tensions and ongoing peace talks with US

campaigns.

Simultaneously, geopolitical tensions remain high as Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned that the region will no longer serve as a protective shield for American military bases. Meanwhile, diplomatic peace talks continue between Washington and Tehran. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio criticized Iran's illegal tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz, demanding unrestricted maritime passage. Rubio noted that President Donald Trump is currently reviewing a preliminary draft for a potential peace deal, stating that a final decision will be reached within days.

FRESH SECURITY CONCERNS AFTER N. KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH

SEOUL

North Korea launched an unidentified weapon toward the Yellow Sea, sparking fresh security concerns across the region. South Korea's military confirmed the launch and is currently analyzing the details, though specific information remains limited.

This unexpected move follows a series of recent weapons tests by Pyongyang. Just last month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un personally supervised the test-firing of advanced tactical ballistic missiles.

Those weapons utilized controversial cluster warheads, which scatter smaller bombs over large areas to maximize destruction. While over 120 nations have banned cluster

munitions under a global treaty, North Korea is not a member of the agreement.

Neighboring countries detected those earlier tests, though confusion arose over whether the missiles were launched from land or from submarines near the coast. Meanwhile, this sudden military action coincides with major diplomatic shifts happening elsewhere in the world. In the United States, President Donald Trump announced progress in ceasefire negotiations with Iran.

Trump shared that Iran has agreed to hand over or destroy its enriched uranium under international supervision. Senior officials from both nations recently met in Qatar to finalize this historic peace agreement.

India and US sign critical minerals pact

NEW DELHI

India and the United States signed a landmark bilateral framework to secure the mining, processing, and long-term supply of critical minerals and rare earth elements. The agreement is a strategic move to build resilient technology pipelines and reduce global dependence on dominant single-source suppliers like China.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced the partnership following bilateral discussions and a Quad Foreign Minister's meeting in New Delhi. He emphasized that securing these resources is highly timely

and critical in a deeply contested global landscape.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio praised the strategic alliance, calling the agreement a tangible example of how both nations' national interests align. He noted that India and the U.S. share an urgent economic need to protect reliable, long-term access to the raw materials fueling today's innovation economy.

As China currently dominates the global processing market for rare earths, this Washington-New Delhi pact marks a major step toward creating an alternative, secure supply chain among democratic nations.



The comprehensive framework expands cooperation across the entire mineral lifecycle, focusing on:

- Joint exploration and advanced mining initiatives
- Processing, refinement, and material recycling
- Coordinated financial investments in eco-friendly mining infrastructure
- Diversifying supply networks for electric vehicles (EVs), clean energy tech, and defense manufacturing

Iwate builds tech and educational ties with India

IWATE

Historically celebrated as a "Rich Land," Japan's Iwate Prefecture is actively shifting its focus toward India to build deep industrial and educational ties. Iwate Governor Takuya Tasso announced plans to establish a robust technological partnership centered on semiconductor engineering and automotive manufacturing.

The prefecture's capital, Morioka, recently gained international spotlight after being featured by major U.S. media as a top global destination. Governor Tasso attributed this success to Morioka's clean environment, where three major rivers meet, alongside a rich balance of local history, culture, and active civic preservation.

Leveraging his background as a former central government bureaucrat, Governor Tasso has consistently driven international collaborations. The region has already set up highly successful global institutions, such as the Harrow International School Appi, which hosts over 300 international students. Having solidified ties with Brazil, China, and Russia, Iwate is now setting its sights on India's booming industrial landscape.

Iwate's abundant water resources and advanced transit infrastructure have turned it into an industrial powerhouse. The region hosts major production facilities for global tech giants like Kioxia and Tokyo Electron, alongside auto-

motive leaders Toyota and Denso.

To train the next generation of microchip talent, the prefecture launched "I-SPARK," a specialized training institute for future semiconductor engineers. Highlighting the blooming alliance, four professional interns from India's Gujarat state joined the curriculum in 2025, with a larger cohort expected to follow this year.

Governor Tasso confirmed his commitment to this economic corridor, stating he will personally visit Gujarat by March 2027 to finalize a mutual partnership framework. Local officials hope that fusing Iwate's industrial expertise with India's tech talent will pave the way for a highly resilient global supply chain.

ELITE K9S UNLEASHED

ELITE K9 TEAMS STAND OUT IN MEGHALAYA DRILL

SHILLONG

The Indian Army's elite canine warriors stole the spotlight at "Exercise PRAGATI 2026" in Meghalaya, proving themselves as invaluable assets in modern combat.

The highly trained dogs demonstrated their specialized skills alongside armed forces personnel from twelve friendly nations during high-intensity tactical drills.

According to defense spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mahendra Rawat, the K9 teams excelled in high-risk scenarios, including explosive

detection, tracking, and intervention operations. The demonstration featured three standout dogs: Alan - a Belgian Malinois assault specialist, Deo - a Labrador trained to sniff out hidden bombs and Victor - an indigenous Rampur Hound.

Victor's participation marked a major milestone for India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" self-reliance initiative. Indigenous breeds like the Rampur Hound are increasingly integrated into frontline roles due to their excellent climate adaptability, natural resilience, and high disease resis-

tance. Officials noted that these loyal animals possess the speed, instinct, and courage required to operate effectively across diverse terrains, ranging from blistering deserts to freezing high-altitude glaciers.

In a fascinating look at the future of warfare, the drill also featured high-tech robotic dogs. This display showcased how traditional animal instincts and cutting-edge technology can work together to boost battlefield effectiveness.

The two-week multinational exercise began on May 20 at the Umroi Military Station. It



brings together troops from nations including Bhutan, Malaysia, Nepal, and Vietnam to

strengthen regional cooperation. Amid the heavy machinery and international troops, the silent

four-legged warriors stood out for their unmatched discipline and mission readiness.

Messi suffers hamstring fatigue concern ahead of Argentina WC campaign

MIAMI

Inter Miami and Argentina superstar Lionel Messi has been diagnosed with a left hamstring issue after being forced off during his club's Major League Soccer match against the Philadelphia Union, raising concerns just weeks before Argentina begins its FIFA World Cup title defence.

Inter Miami confirmed on Monday that medical tests revealed "an overload associated with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring." The club did not disclose the exact nature of the examination, although such assessments typically involve imaging scans to determine the extent of the problem.

The MLS associations stated that Messi's return to action would depend on his recovery and medical progress.

"The timeline for his return to physical activity will depend on his clinical and functional progress," the club said in an official statement.

Messi was substituted in the 73rd minute of Inter Miami's thrilling 6-4 victory over the Philadelphia Union on Sunday night. The Argentine forward appeared uncomfortable moments earlier and was seen reaching toward the back of his left leg before signalling that he could not continue.

Despite the concern, Messi walked off the field without assistance and headed directly to the dressing room. Before his departure, he had played a key role in the match, providing two assists during the first half. The injury scare comes at an important time for Argentina, which is scheduled to begin preparations for the upcoming World Cup in the United States. The reigning champions will play warm-up matches against Honduras on June 6 in Texas and Iceland on June 9 in Alabama before the tournament begins.

Argentina has been drawn in Group J, where it will face Algeria, Austria and Jordan in the group stage. The team will be hoping its captain is fully fit before the campaign gets underway. Weather conditions during Sunday's match may also have contributed to the concern. Heavy rain fell throughout the second half, making the playing surface slippery, although Inter Miami has not linked the injury to the conditions. Messi remains one of the most influential figures in world football. The 38-year-old has appeared in five World Cups and famously led Argentina to the title in 2022.



Inter Miami star withdrawn after discomfort, recovery timeline remains uncertain

French Open hit by intense heat as temperatures soar

PARIS

A rare early-summer heat wave has gripped the French Open, forcing players and spectators to adapt to unusually high temperatures that are transforming conditions at Roland Garros and creating fresh challenges during the season's second Grand Slam.

Temperatures during the opening two days of the tournament have climbed to around 33 degrees Celsius, significantly above average for late May in Paris. Forecasts indicate that the hot spell is likely to continue throughout the first week, raising concerns about player welfare while also affecting the nature of competition on the clay courts.

Several players compared the conditions to those experienced during the Paris Olympics in 2024, which took place in the peak summer months of July and August. Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek noted that the intense heat had altered the behaviour of the ball and the speed of the courts, making this year's tournament



Unseasonal Paris heat creates faster courts and testing conditions throughout

feel markedly different.

The soaring temperatures have prompted players to take extra precautions. Many have been seen placing ice towels around their necks during changeovers, while spectators have sought relief under sprinklers and water hoses used to maintain the clay surfaces between sets.

Australian player Daria Kasatkina described the conditions as among the hottest she had experienced at Roland Garros, saying the heat made concentration and energy management crucial factors in determining match outcomes.

The extreme weather has already had a visible impact on the tournament. Canadian player Gabriel Diallo cited the heat as a major reason for retiring from his opening-round match. Elsewhere, both Andrey Rublev and Ignacio Buse required medical attention during a lengthy encounter, while a ball girl also needed assistance after appearing af-

ected by the conditions.

Tournament organisers have implemented an extreme weather protocol similar to those used at the Australian Open and US Open. Cooling breaks can be introduced when heat-stress readings exceed specific thresholds, while play can be suspended if conditions become dangerous. Not all competitors are unhappy with the weather. Australian star Alex de Minaur said the heat favours an aggressive style of play by making the ball travel faster through the air. American player Alex Michelsen echoed that view, suggesting the quicker conditions suit power hitters.

As temperatures continue to soar, adapting to the heat may prove just as important as adapting to the clay in determining who advances deep into the tournament.

President says country welcomes arrangement after United States raises concerns

Mexico agrees to host Iran team base during FIFA World Cup 2026

MEXICO CITY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has confirmed that Mexico will host Iran's national football team during the FIFA World Cup 2026 after the United States reportedly declined to accommodate the squad throughout the tournament.

Sheinbaum said Mexican authorities had no objections when approached by FIFA regarding alternative arrangements for the Iranian team. The decision means Iran will now establish its tournament base in the border city of Tijuana while continuing to play its group-stage matches in the United States.

"The United States doesn't want the Iranian national team to stay overnight in the United States," Sheinbaum told reporters. She added that FIFA subsequently contacted Mexico to explore the possibility of hosting the team.

"Can they stay overnight in



Mexico? And we said, 'Yes, no problem. We have no issue with that,'" she said.

The change comes amid continuing geopolitical tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel. Iran's football federation had earlier announced that its originally planned base in Tucson, Arizona, would be shifted to Tijuana because of the prevailing circumstances. FIFA later confirmed the adjustment to

the team's World Cup preparations.

Iran is scheduled to play all three of its Group G matches in the United States despite being based in Mexico. The Asian side will open its campaign against New Zealand national football team in Inglewood, California, on June 15. It will then face Belgium national football team on June 21 at the same venue before taking on Egypt national football team in Seattle on June 26.

The arrangement highlights the unique logistical challenges

associated with the expanded FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. Teams are expected to travel extensively across North America during the tournament, making base camp planning a critical component of preparations.

Sheinbaum said Mexican authorities continue to work closely with FIFA to finalise operational and security arrangements ahead of the competition.

The 2026 edition will be the first World Cup to feature 48 teams, expanding from the traditional 32-team format. With matches spread across three host nations, organisers face unprecedented logistical demands as they prepare for what is expected to be the largest World Cup in history.

Iran's relocation to Tijuana is one of the first major operational adjustments linked to the tournament, underlining the complex political and practical considerations surrounding the global event.



Iniyan Panneerselvam claims double gold at Commonwealth Chess Championship

NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam delivered a dominant performance at the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Sri Lanka, clinching gold medals in both the Rapid and Blitz categories to emerge as one of the tournament's biggest stars.

The Tamil Nadu player showcased remarkable consistency across both formats, scoring 6.5 points from seven rounds in each event to secure the top podium position. His double triumph highlighted India's continued strength in international chess and added another significant achievement to his growing list of accomplishments.

In the Rapid section, Iniyan finished ahead of fellow Indian Grandmaster Srihari L R, who secured the silver medal. Grandmaster Mitrabha Guha completed an Indian sweep of the podium by taking bronze.

The Blitz competition saw Iniyan maintain his impressive form. He once again topped the standings with 6.5 points, while Grandmaster Rohith Krishna S claimed the silver medal. Srihari added another medal to his tally by finishing third and securing bronze in the fast-paced format.

While Iniyan dominated the Rapid and Blitz events, the Classical title went to Mitrabha Guha, who produced a strong performance over the

longer format of the game. Sri Lankan player Ranindu Liyanage finished second to claim the silver medal, while Srihari continued his impressive tournament by securing bronze.

The championship was held from May 16 to 26 and attracted a strong international field from across the Commonwealth. Players from India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malaysia, Singapore, Scotland and Canada participated in the event. A total of 96 players competed in the Open section, with contests held across Classical, Rapid and Blitz formats.

Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah reaches US Open

NEW DELHI

Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah has completed a remarkable journey from aspiring medical student to major championship competitor after securing a place in the 2026 US Open, one of golf's most prestigious tournaments.

The 34-year-old will make his debut at the US Open next month after producing an impressive performance in the demanding 36-hole final qualifying event at Dallas Athletic Club. Shah finished five-under-par overall to book his place in the championship, which will be held at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club from June 18.

Born in California to parents who emigrated from India in the 1980s, Shah grew up in a Gujarati family where medicine was viewed as the preferred profession. Like many in his extended family, he was expected to pursue a career in healthcare and initially enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a pre-med student.

However, his passion

for golf eventually proved stronger than his interest in medicine.

"My extended family are in medicine. That was always the Gujarati line of work in our household," Shah said. "But I realised medicine probably wasn't going to be my thing when ev-

eryone after class went to the library and I was going to the golf course."

That decision led him onto a challenging professional path. Since turning professional in 2015, Shah has competed across various tours and qualifying events, steadily working toward the opportunity to play in one of golf's four major championships.

A key part of his development came through competing on the Asian circuit and in the Indian Golf Premier League, experiences that helped him reconnect with his cultural roots.

Shah said interacting with players from India and spending more time within Indian golfing circles strengthened his confidence and sense of identity. Although raised in the United States, he has maintained strong ties with India through regular visits to Gujarat and Mumbai, where his family originates.

"I've always been tied to the motherland," he said, describing India as a place that remains deeply important to him.

Looking ahead, Shah also voiced support for maintaining multiple pathways into professional golf amid ongoing debates surrounding the sport's structure and the divide between established tours and emerging circuits.



Spain WC squad named without Real Madrid players

MADRID

Spain have announced their 26-man squad for the FIFA World Cup 2026, with coach Luis de la Fuente naming a youthful but experienced group and, notably, excluding any players from Real Madrid for the first time in the tournament's history.

Teenage Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal has been included despite a hamstring injury, with the coach confident he will recover in time.

Veteran striker Alvaro Morata and midfielder Fermin López miss out due to fitness concerns.

Key players include Rodri, Pedri, Gavi, Dani Olmo, Nico Williams, Mikel Oyarzabal and goalkeeper Unai Simón.

Defensive absences such as Dani Carvajal and Dean Huijsen highlight the lack of Real Madrid representation.

Spain, ranked second in the world, are placed in Group H with Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

They begin their campaign on June 15 against Cape Verde in Atlanta. Spain aim to win a second World Cup title in 2026 again strongly.

Yashas P storms to historic 400m hurdles gold at Federation Cup

RANCHI

Karnataka hurdler Yashas P produced a career-defining performance at the National Athletics Federation Cup, clocking the second-fastest time ever by an Indian in the men's 400m hurdles to strengthen his case for selection to the Commonwealth Games squad.

The 24-year-old won gold on the final day of the competition with a stunning effort of 49.00 seconds, becoming the fastest active Indian in the event. Only national record holder Dharun Ayyasamy, who ran 48.80 seconds in 2019, has gone faster among Indian athletes.

Yashas' performance came just a day after he breached the Commonwealth Games qualification standard, underlining his excellent form heading into a crucial phase of the season. He edged longtime rival Santhosh Kumar T of Tamil Nadu, who claimed



silver with a time of 49.06 seconds. Both athletes remain in contention for Commonwealth Games selection, pending approval from the Athletics Federation of India's selection committee.

The achievement is particularly noteworthy given that Yashas was overlooked for the Karnataka government's Target Olympic Podium programme, which provides selected athletes with annual financial support of ₹10 lakh through the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics cycle.

Karnataka enjoyed a productive final day overall. Distance runner Shivaji Parashu-

ram bounced back impressively to win the men's 5000m gold medal in 14 minutes and 14.43 seconds. The victory came after a difficult start to the competition, where he fainted after the 10,000m race and was later disqualified for a lane infringement.

In the women's 400m hurdles, Karnataka's Sinchal Kaveramma secured silver with a time of 57.77 seconds behind national star Vithya Ramraj, who won gold in 56.61 seconds. However, both athletes fell short of the Commonwealth Games qualifying mark.

QUICK READ



SEBI explores DLT tokenisation for corp bond market

New Delhi

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has launched a pilot project to explore tokenisation of corporate bonds using distributed ledger technology (DLT), according to chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey. The initiative aims to test whether blockchain-based systems can improve liquidity, efficiency, and settlement speed in India's debt markets. SEBI said corporate bonds already trade on existing platforms, but DLT could enable near-instant settlement and better coordination among stakeholders. The regulator will assess operational and technological challenges before wider adoption. The Reserve Bank of India has issued draft guidelines, with final norms expected soon. SEBI and exchanges are preparing for implementation once regulatory clearance is granted. Pandey also noted AI-driven sectors are influencing global market valuations and valuation trends.

AI jobs apocalypse fears unlikely says Altman now

New Delhi

Sam Altman CEO of OpenAI said fears of an AI-driven jobs apocalypse have so far been overstated, speaking at a Commonwealth Bank of Australia conference in Sydney. He said entry-level white-collar job losses after ChatGPT in 2022 have been less severe than expected. He added that earlier predictions about social and economic disruption were wrong, even if AI progress has been roughly accurate. Companies including HSBC, Amazon, and Standard Chartered have noted AI is reshaping roles. He said human interaction remains essential in many jobs and cannot be fully replaced by machines, citing his Slack and email experiment. Altman emphasized careful optimism about AI's economic impact going forward in global markets.

DoT introduces QR login reforms under PM-WANI

New Delhi

The Department of Telecommunications has introduced QR-based login reforms under the PM-WANI framework to expand public Wi-Fi access. The system enables QR authentication for secondary devices and offers short-duration plans of 15, 30, and 60 minutes. Hotspot naming has also been standardised to improve usability and trust. Officials said implementation will be completed within eight weeks. Under the guidance of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of State Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, the reforms aim to boost adoption of PM-WANI networks across transit hubs and public spaces. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vision for affordable digital connectivity nationwide digital inclusion goals achieved.

Quad nations expand indo-pacific trade, energy ties

Quad nations strengthened Indo-Pacific cooperation on trade, energy security, and maritime stability through new joint initiatives announced

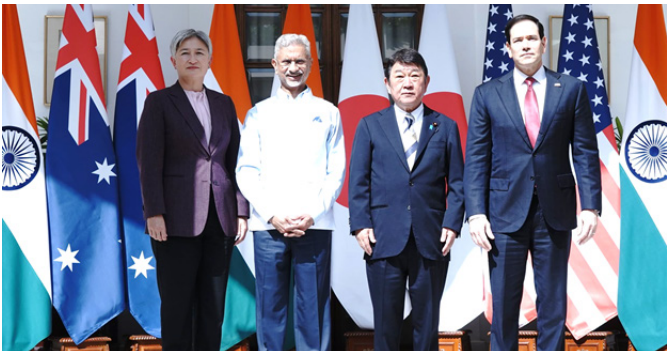
NEW DELHI

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue announced a series of new initiatives focused on trade, maritime cooperation and energy security, signaling a stronger push toward practical economic collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

The meeting was hosted by India in New Delhi as part of its current chairmanship of the grouping.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar joined US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the discussions.

The four-member grouping unveiled five major initiatives covering maritime surveillance, port infrastructure, re-



gional maritime coordination, critical minerals and energy security. The announcements reflected the Quad's growing emphasis on operational co-operation and regional economic resilience.

Speaking at the meeting, Jaishankar said the Indo-Pacific region would play an increasingly vital role in global trade, maritime commerce

and energy transportation in the coming years. He also underlined the importance of collective efforts against terrorism, stressing that democratic nations must adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward terror threats.

The leaders discussed the importance of strengthening supply chains and ensuring uninterrupted maritime routes

amid rising geopolitical tensions and global energy concerns. Rubio described the Quad as a "partnership of action" focused on delivering practical outcomes instead of remaining only a discussion platform.

Penny Wong highlighted concerns over instability in West Asia and its potential impact on energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil transportation. Motegi reaffirmed the Quad's commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific amid shifting global dynamics.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has steadily expanded cooperation across trade, technology, infrastructure and maritime security as the Indo-Pacific gains greater strategic significance.

Weak monsoon forecast for FY27 raises concerns over inflation, rural incomes, agricultural output, and overall demand recovery outlook

Weak monsoon forecast raises rural demand concerns

NEW DELHI

The upcoming monsoon outlook for FY27 is raising caution over India's rural economic recovery, with forecasts pointing to below-normal rainfall.

According to a report cited by investment platform smallcase, the India Meteorological Department has projected rainfall at around 92 per cent of the long-period average, signalling a weak monsoon season ahead.

A weaker monsoon could directly impact agricultural output and rural incomes, especially in regions dependent on rain-fed farming. Nearly 55 per cent of India's cultivated land relies on rainfall, making monsoon performance a critical driver of crop

production, food supply chains, and rural consumption trends.

The report warned that erratic rainfall patterns could increase food inflation pressures, particularly for vegetables and essential commodities. Since food accounts for nearly 46 per cent of the Consumer Price Index basket, any supply disruption may quickly translate into broader inflationary stress across the economy.

The impact of rainfall variability is expected to be significant for key crops such as rice, pulses, sugarcane, soybean, and oilseeds. Delays or uneven distribution of rainfall during sowing periods could reduce productivity and affect farm incomes, further slowing rural demand recovery.



The report also highlighted that rising climate variability is making rainfall patterns less predictable, increasing risks for agriculture-dependent sectors. While total rainfall levels remain important, the timing and geographic

distribution of monsoon showers are becoming even more crucial for economic stability.

On the macroeconomic front, higher food inflation could complicate the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy outlook, especially as markets expect gradual rate easing. Inflationary pressures could limit policy flexibility in the coming quarters.

Despite these concerns, agriculture still contributes around 15-16 per cent to India's GDP and supports nearly 45 per cent of the population. A good monsoon typically boosts rural demand, supports FMCG sales, strengthens tractor and two-wheeler markets, and improves earnings across rural-focused industries.

Eid rush surges across Kashmir markets

SRINAGAR

Markets across Srinagar and other towns of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an extraordinary festive rush as residents flocked to shops and markets ahead of Eid al-Adha celebrations.

From early morning, busy commercial hubs remained packed with shoppers purchasing food items, clothes, bakery products, toys, and sacrificial animals for the upcoming festival.

The heavy footfall in markets resulted in traffic congestion on several roads in Srinagar, with vehicles moving slowly through crowded areas. People carrying shopping bags and essential supplies were seen navigating through packed streets while vendors tried to manage the swelling crowds. Temporary roadside stalls and pavement shops added to the festive atmosphere, although they also reduced pedestrian



space in many parts of the city.

Bakery shops, poultry outlets, butcher shops, and hosiery stores witnessed long queues throughout the day. Toy markets also attracted large numbers of children accompanying their parents for Eid shopping. Traders reported brisk business as families completed last-minute purchases before the festival.

Livestock markets remained among the busiest locations, with sheep and goats brought from regions such as Poonch and Rajouri, along with animals transported from Delhi and Rajasthan. Buyers

carefully inspected animals before making purchases for traditional Eid sacrifices.

Authorities deployed market inspection teams to monitor prices and ensure the quality of food products being sold during the festive season. Officials said there was no shortage of essential commodities in the Valley and warned traders against overpricing goods during the increased demand.

Eid al-Adha, also known as Bakr Eid, is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a symbol of sacrifice, devotion, and compassion.

India launches investor portal to boost semiconductor growth

NEW DELHI

The government has strengthened its semiconductor strategy under the India Semiconductor Mission by launching a new "Investors Support" portal aimed at improving transparency, coordination, and investor confidence in the sector.

According to the Ministry of Electronics & IT, the initiative comes under the broader Semicon India Programme, which has already approved 12 fabrication or packaging projects and 24 semiconductor design projects across India.

The new digital portal, accessible through the official ISM platform, provides investors with consolidated information on government schemes, policy frameworks, approved projects, and regulatory requirements. It is designed as a single-window

system to streamline communication between investors and government authorities.

Officials said the platform will allow companies to register grievances or queries, which will be addressed through a structured coordination mechanism involving nodal officers from central ministries, state governments, and approved project partners. The system is expected to ensure time-bound resolution of investor concerns.

The ministry stated that the portal will act as a secure, role-based interface to simplify engagement between domestic and international investors and government agencies. It is intended to reduce procedural delays and improve clarity on approvals and compliance requirements.

Amitesh Kumar Sinha highlighted the importance of ac-

tive facilitation and handholding of investors, particularly foreign companies, to build a strong semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem in India. He urged all stakeholders to play a proactive role in addressing investor issues.

The launch event included a detailed walkthrough of the portal's features, onboarding process, and coordination structure. It also outlined the responsibilities of nodal officers and participating organizations involved in project implementation and investor support. India's semiconductor push is part of a broader strategy to develop a resilient and sustainable electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The government has been promoting policy incentives and strategic partnerships to attract global chipmakers and strengthen domestic capabilities.



Techno Electric shares fall after weak profit decline

MUMBAI

Shares of Techno Electric and Engineering Company witnessed a sharp decline of nearly 13 per cent during intra-day trade on Tuesday after the company reported a fall in its fourth-quarter profits for FY26.

The stock fell as much as 12.8% on the BSE to an intra-day low of around ₹1,194 per share before recovering slightly later in the session. It was still trading about 11.8% lower at ₹1,208.8 per share around mid-day.

The decline followed the company's financial results announced after market hours on Monday. Techno Electric and Engineering Company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹114.51 crore for the quarter ended March 2026. This represents a 15% drop compared to ₹134.64 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Despite the fall in profit, the company posted strong revenue growth. Revenue from operations rose 23.8% year-on-year to ₹1,010.04 crore, compared to ₹815.79 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Market participants reacted cautiously to the mixed set of numbers, with profit pressure outweighing revenue gains. The stock movement reflected investor concerns over margin pressure and earnings quality in the near term.

Techno Electric and Engineering Company is a well-established player in India's power infrastructure sector,

Techno Electric shares fall sharply after weak Q4 profit despite strong revenue growth, triggering cautious investor sentiment and market selling pressure

IN SHORT

- Techno Electric shares drop nearly 13% after Q4 results
- Profit declines 15% year-on-year in March quarter
- Revenue rises 23.8% despite fall in earnings
- Market reacts negatively to weak quarterly performance
- Stock partially recovers during intraday trading session

OIL RESERVE TIMING

South Korea weighs oil release amid supply risks

SEOUL

South Korea is carefully evaluating the timing of releasing crude oil from its strategic reserves amid growing concerns of a potential global supply crunch expected around August.

The move comes under an agreement among International Energy Agency member countries to stabilize oil markets following earlier geopolitical disruptions.

The country had earlier committed to releasing 22.46 million barrels of oil by June 9 as part of a coordinated plan involving 32 member nations

of the International Energy Agency. The initiative was designed to cushion market shocks caused by tensions in the Middle East earlier in the year.

However, South Korean officials now say the release will be treated as a last-resort measure. Industry ministry representatives noted that while earlier concerns over supply disruptions have eased slightly, risks remain if shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz face prolonged instability.

Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry and Resources Security Yang Ghi-wuk said the



government is closely monitoring global oil market conditions and will decide on the timing cautiously. He added that although oil inventories are tightening globally, South

Korea has secured alternative supply sources to reduce immediate risk.

According to the industry ministry, about 85 per cent of South Korea's crude oil re-

SYNOPSIS
• South Korea monitors oil
• Considers strategic release timing
• IEA warns supply risks
• Diversified crude imports rising
• Middle East tensions impact

quirements for July have already been secured. The country has also diversified its import sources significantly, reducing reliance on the Middle East.

Data shows that oil imports from North and South America have increased substantially, along with higher shipments from Asia and Africa.

This diversification is seen as a key factor supporting short-term supply stability.

Despite current stability, global agencies including the International Energy Agency have warned that oil inventories are depleting rapidly, raising the possibility of tighter markets later in the year. Some analysts caution that conditions could worsen if geopolitical tensions escalate again.

For now, South Korea maintains that it will align with international commitments while prioritizing domestic energy security and market stability.

Sooryavanshi eyes historic T20 double ton, Gayle record

NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals' teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has set himself an ambitious target after a record-breaking IPL season, declaring his intention to become the first cricketer to score a double century in T20 cricket and surpass West Indies legend Chris Gayle's highest-ever T20 score of 175 not out.

The 15-year-old prodigy made the bold statement during an appearance on former England captain Kevin Pietersen's YouTube show The Switch. When asked about celebrating personal milestones such as half-centuries, Sooryavanshi made it clear that he has his sights set on much bigger achievements.

"I want to score 200 in T20s. I want to break Gayle's record," he said.

Gayle's unbeaten 175 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Pune Warriors India in

IPL 2013 remains the highest individual score in T20 cricket. The explosive knock came off just 66 balls and included 13 fours and 17 sixes. His century in 30 balls is still the fastest in IPL history.

Sooryavanshi's confidence is backed by an extraordinary run of form. The left-hander has enjoyed a sensational IPL 2026 campaign, amassing 583 runs in 14 matches at an average of 41.64 and a remarkable strike rate of 232.27. His tally includes one century and three half-centuries, while his 53 sixes are the most by an Indian in a single IPL season.

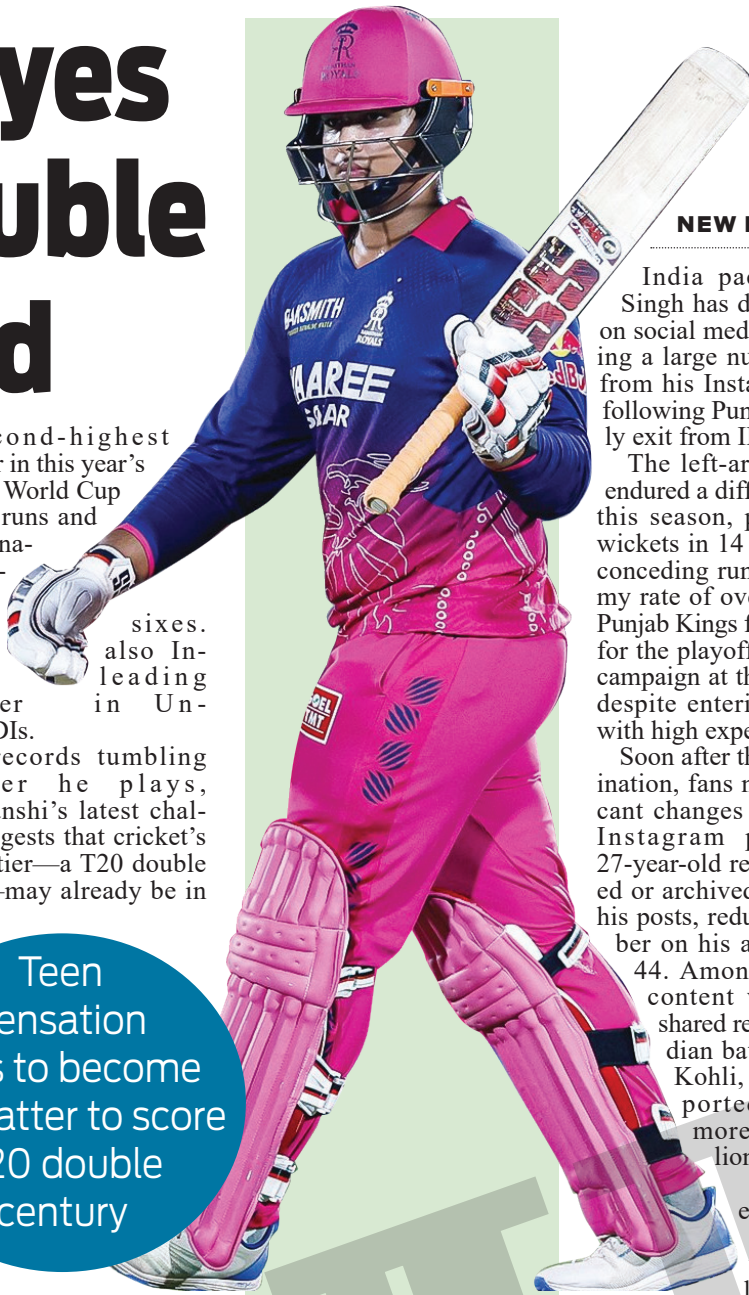
The youngster has already shattered several age-related records. Last year, he became the youngest IPL player and later the youngest T20 centurion after smashing a 35-ball hundred against Gujarat Titans. He also holds the record for the fastest IPL century by an Indian.

Beyond the IPL, Sooryavanshi has dominated youth cricket. He finished as

the second-highest run-scorer in this year's Under-19 World Cup with 439 runs and set a tournament record with 30 sixes. He is also India's leading run-scorer in Under-19 ODIs.

With records tumbling wherever he plays, Sooryavanshi's latest challenge suggests that cricket's next frontier—a T20 double century—may already be in his sights.

Teen sensation aims to become first batter to score T20 double century



Arshdeep wipes Instagram posts after PBKS exit

NEW DELHI

India pacer Arshdeep Singh has drawn attention on social media after removing a large number of posts from his Instagram account following Punjab Kings' early exit from IPL 2026.

The left-arm fast bowler endured a difficult campaign this season, picking up 14 wickets in 14 matches while conceding runs at an economy rate of over 10 per over. Punjab Kings failed to qualify for the playoffs, ending their campaign at the league stage despite entering the season with high expectations.

Soon after the team's elimination, fans noticed significant changes to Arshdeep's Instagram profile. The 27-year-old reportedly deleted or archived a majority of his posts, reducing the number on his account to just 44. Among the missing content was a widely shared reel featuring Indian batting star Virat Kohli, which had reportedly garnered more than 15 million views.

The reel, posted in December last year, captured a light-hearted exchange between the two cricketers. Arshdeep had jokingly told Kohli that a larger target might have allowed him to score another

century, to which the former India captain responded with a playful remark about the impact of dew conditions on bowlers.

The removal of the reel and several other posts has sparked speculation among fans, although neither Arshdeep nor his representatives have offered any explanation for the social media clean-up.

The development comes amid reports that stricter guidelines have been introduced regarding social media content involving Punjab Kings players. According to media reports, videos and promotional content featuring members of the squad may now need to be created and published exclusively through the franchise's official social media channels.

A team source was quoted as saying that players would be briefed about the new regulations and advised to comply with the guidelines issued by

the BCCI. However, the source clarified that no individual player was being specifically targeted.

While the reason behind Arshdeep's Instagram activity remains unclear, the move has become a talking point among cricket followers during the IPL off-season. With India's international assignments approaching, the pacer will be hoping to put a challenging IPL campaign behind him and regain his best form on the field.



India pacer sparks speculation after deleting posts following disappointing season

Pacer says missing campaign was not entirely his personal choice

YASH DAYAL DISPUTES RCB EXPLANATION OVER ABSENCE FROM IPL 2026 SEASON

NEW DELHI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Yash Dayal has broken his silence on his absence from IPL 2026, stating that the decision to miss the season was not entirely his own and offering a different perspective from the one previously shared by the franchise.

Ahead of the tournament, RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat had said that Dayal would not be available for the defending champions due to a "personal situation." However, the left-arm pacer suggested that the circumstances surrounding his absence were more complex than that explanation indicated.

Dayal said he continues to feel strongly connected to the Bengaluru franchise de-



spite not featuring this season.

"Obviously, when you are sitting outside and watching the matches on television, it is difficult. But it is still my team. They retained me and did not bring in a replacement, which shows they value me as an important part of the squad," Dayal said.

He then addressed the rea-

son for his absence, saying the decision was not solely his own.

"The other thing is that my opting out of this season was not my personal decision. The decision is always made by the authority. I do not know what the exact reason behind RCB's decision was. I miss the team a lot," he said.

Despite not being part of the playing group this year, Dayal stressed that communication with the franchise remains intact. He revealed that he has been in regular contact with members of the management, including team mentor Dinesh Karthik, coaches and senior officials.

"There is no communication gap. Everything is clear and sorted. We stay in touch at intervals and the connection has not broken," he added.

Dayal's absence comes amid ongoing legal proceedings involving allegations against him. Authorities have registered separate cases, including one under provisions related to alleged sexual exploitation and another under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The cricketer has not publicly addressed the merits of the allegations, and the matters remain under investigation.

For now, Dayal remains on RCB's retained list, with the franchise yet to announce any change to his status. While he watches from the sidelines, the pacer has made it clear that he still considers himself an integral part of the Bengaluru setup and hopes to return to competitive cricket in the future.

Parag's airport remark leaves Sooryavanshi momentarily stunned

MULLANPUR

A light-hearted exchange involving Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag and teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has gone viral on social media ahead of the IPL 2026 Eliminator against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Rajasthan Royals secured the fourth and final playoff berth with an impressive 30-run victory over Mumbai Indians in their last league-stage match. Following the win, the team travelled from Mumbai to Mullanpur, where they are set to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in a high-stakes knockout clash on Wednesday.

Upon arriving at the airport, players were greeted by photographers and fans eager to

catch a glimpse of the Royals squad. Much of the attention was focused on 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, whose remarkable performances this season have made him one of the most talked-about young cricketers in the tournament.

In a video that quickly gained traction online, photographers requested Parag and Sooryavanshi to pose together for pictures. However, the Royals skipper politely declined the request and responded with a humorous comment. "We aren't film stars," Parag said while walking away.

The remark appeared to catch Sooryavanshi off guard, with the teenager briefly displaying a puzzled expression before continuing to pose for

photographs. The moment has since been widely shared across social media platforms, with fans amused by Parag's candid response and Sooryavanshi's reaction.

Despite the playful incident, Parag has been one of Sooryavanshi's strongest supporters within the Rajasthan Royals setup. The captain has consistently backed the young batter, who has emerged as one of the breakthrough stars of IPL 2026 with a series of explosive innings.

The Royals enter the Eliminator with momentum on their side after sealing qualification in dramatic fashion. Against Mumbai Indians, they posted a challenging 205 for eight before restricting their opponents to 175 for nine.



Wasim Jaffer backs captaincy change at MI after poor season

MUMBAI

Former India opener Wasim Jaffer has suggested that Hardik Pandya should not continue as captain of the Mumbai Indians next season, following the franchise's disappointing IPL 2026 campaign.

Mumbai Indians endured one of their worst seasons in recent memory, finishing ninth in the 10-team standings with just eight points. Their campaign ended with a 30-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals, marking their 10th loss in 14 league matches and triggering discussions about the team's leadership and direction.

Hardik, who returned to lead the five-time champions, also struggled individually. The all-rounder managed only 146 runs in eight innings and picked up just three wickets, failing to make the impact expected from one of India's premier cricketers.

Jaffer said Mumbai Indians should retain Hardik as a key player but allow him to focus solely on his cricket rather than the added responsibility of captaincy.

"I will not make him the captain, but he will surely be retained. I want him to open up and get the best out of him," Jaffer said.

The former batter, however, admitted that identifying a replacement captain would not be straightforward. "At this stage, it would be hard to pick a captain," he added.

Despite the criticism, Mumbai Indians' batting coach Kieron Pollard defended Hardik after the team's early exit, insisting that the season's failure should not be placed solely on the skipper's shoulders.

"From a leadership perspective on Hardik, yes, it has not gone as well as he would have wanted as an individual. It might not have gone how we would have wanted as a management staff," Pollard said after the final league match.

He stressed that Mumbai's disappointing campaign was the result of collective shortcomings rather than individual mistakes.

"No one is going to sit here and point fingers. When you lose, you have to look at it from a collective perspective," Pollard added. While Mumbai Indians are yet to make any decisions regarding leadership for IPL 2027, Jaffer's remarks are likely to fuel debate over whether a change at the top could help the franchise bounce back after a forgettable season.



ASHWIN'S WARNING ON SPLIT HOME VENUES RETURNS AFTER PUNJAB KINGS COLLAPSE

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings' failure to qualify for the IPL 2026 playoffs despite a dominant start to the season has revived debate over the franchise's decision to split its home matches between two venues, a strategy former captain Ravichandran Ashwin had previously criticized.

Punjab appeared destined for a top-four finish after winning six of their first seven matches and spending 22 days at the top of the points table. However, a dramatic collapse saw the team lose six consecutive matches, ultimately finishing fifth with 15 points and extending its

long wait for a playoff appearance.

The disappointing end to the campaign has prompted renewed scrutiny of the franchise's decision to host matches at both Mullanpur and Dharamsala. While the move is often seen as a way to broaden a team's commercial reach and engage supporters in different regions, Ashwin had warned earlier in the season that changing home venues could disrupt a team's rhythm and ability to adapt to playing conditions.

Punjab enjoyed considerable success at their primary home ground in Mullanpur, winning three of their first four matches there. Their

only defeat at the venue came against Rajasthan Royals in late April. In contrast, the team struggled badly in Dharamsala, losing all three matches played at the picturesque hill venue. Ashwin argued that the differing pitch characteristics required significant adjustments from players who had become comfortable with conditions in Mullanpur.

"Punjab are not playing in Mullanpur; they are playing in Dharamsala, where the wicket is not that good to bat first on. The ball stays a little low in the first half, so it will take time for them to adapt," Ashwin had said during the season.

He also noted that changing venues could affect batting output, with players often needing time to understand new conditions.

The former Punjab skipper rejected the suggestion that the team's slump was simply another example of the franchise faltering under pressure. Instead, he pointed to the challenges created by moving away from their established base during a crucial stage of the tournament.

While several IPL franchises remain committed to a single home venue, others continue to divide matches across locations to expand their fan base and commercial footprint.