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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

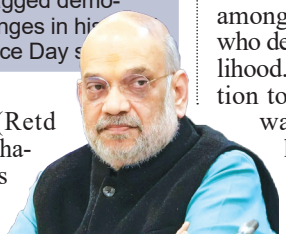
The Union government has moved to institutionalise a nationwide review of 'unnatural demographic shifts' linked to illegal immigration and other causes, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announcing the formation of a high-level committee tasked with studying population changes that the Centre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

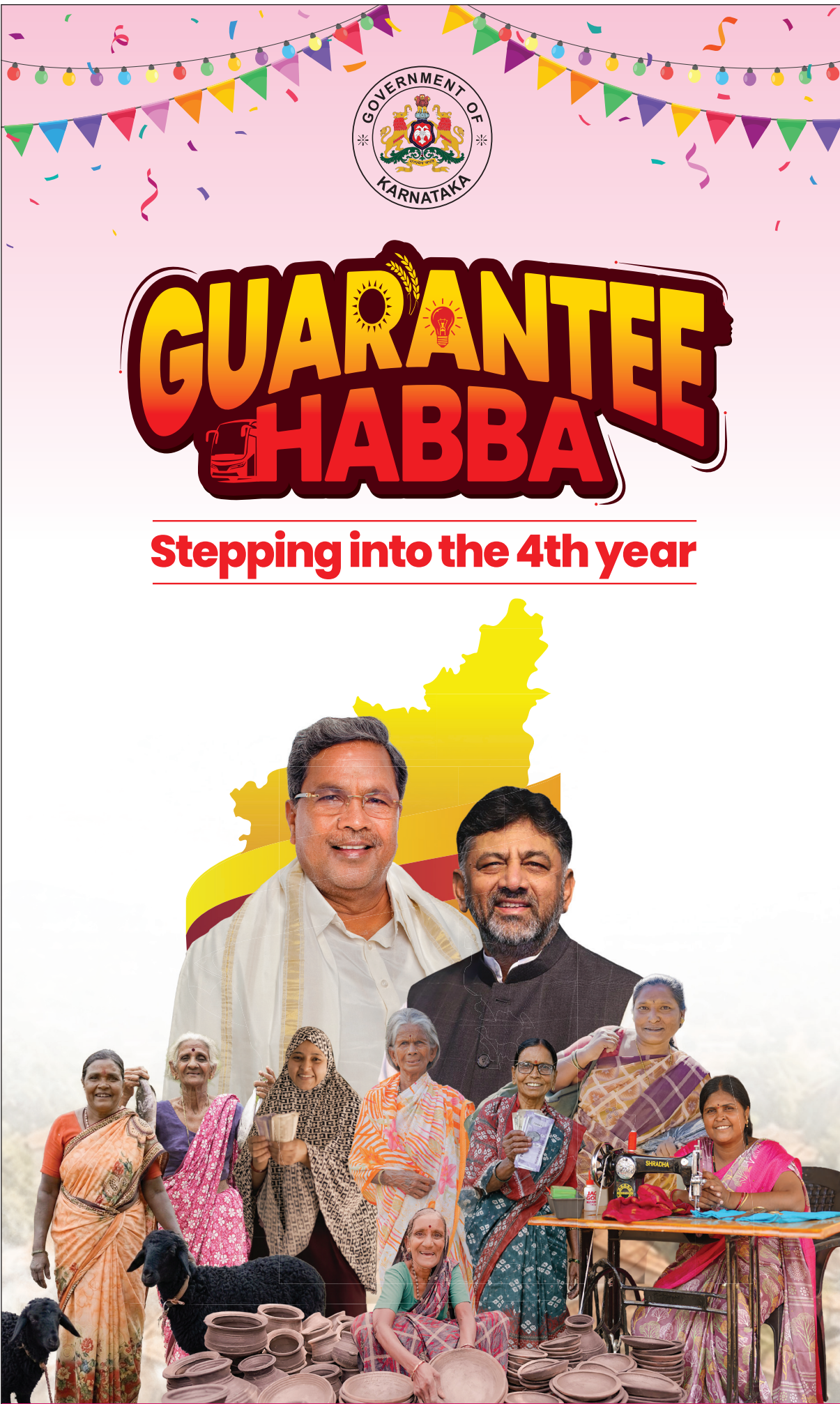
Schedule

- 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

IPL 2026



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.



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

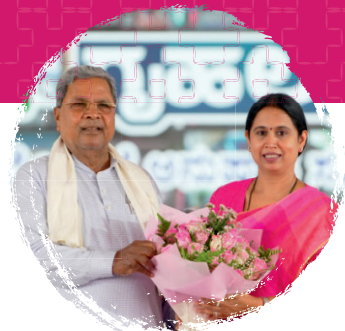
D K Shivakumar

D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Shakthi Anna Bhagya
Gruha Jyothi Yuva Nidhi



Scan the QR Code to
Witness the Impact
of Gruha Lakshmi



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

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.

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.

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-

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

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

develop human values and ethical principles.

MLA S T Somashekhar said the government had introduced several initiatives to support the educational progress of students studying in government schools. He highlighted the importance of encouraging talented students from economically weaker sections.

Somashekhar recalled that the culture of providing education and food to poor students at Siddaganga Mutt and Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt had inspired him deeply.

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.

BURDEN FOR CONSUMERS

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-



inis and fast-food outlets to mid-range restaurants and family dining establishments, businesses are preparing for higher expenditure that is likely to be passed on to customers.

According to the Karnataka

State Hotels' Association (KSHA), popular dishes could witness substantial price increases if the proposed wage revisions are implemented. Association president G.K. Shetty said the price of a masala dosa could rise from around ₹80 to ₹150, while a vegetarian meal currently costing ₹150-200 may increase to ₹250-300. Non-vegetarian dishes are also expected to become costlier.

A plate of chicken biryani, which now costs between ₹300 and ₹350 at many establishments, could approach the ₹500 mark. Even basic break-

fast items may not be spared, with a plate of idli potentially increasing from around ₹50 to over ₹80.

The hospitality sector in Karnataka comprises nearly 60,000 hotels and restaurants, of which around 15,000 are members of the KSHA.

Shetty said the industry had requested the government to implement wage increases in phases to ease the financial burden on businesses.

Explaining the impact, he noted that the revised minimum wage for an unskilled worker in Bengaluru could exceed ₹23,000 per month. Once statutory contributions

such as Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) are added, along with food, accommodation and uniforms, the total monthly expenditure per employee could reach nearly ₹36,000.

He further claimed that Karnataka's hospitality sector already faces higher labour costs compared to neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

"Any hotel that follows government directives and operates transparently will eventually have to increase prices in stages over the coming months," he said.

QUICK READ



Dubai road accident victim dies in Mangaluru

Mangaluru
Shreelatha Thantri (26), from Punaroor in Kin-nigoli, Karnataka, died on May 24 after remaining in a coma for several months following a road accident in Dubai last November. She was working in Dubai when the accident caused severe injuries, after which she was hospitalised and later transferred to Mangaluru for continued treatment. Despite prolonged medical care, she did not regain consciousness and passed away. A trained Bharatanatyam and Yakshagana artiste and television anchor, she is survived by her mother and sister. Her body was brought back to her hometown for final rites, where family and residents paid their respects. Locals expressed condolences and remembered her artistic contributions to the community.



Youth dies of electrocution in Puttur

Puttur
Roshan Pinto (29), originally from Belur in Karnataka, died after suffering electrocution at Bolumbude in Nidalli village near Puttur on the night of May 24. He had been working in Israel and had returned home on vacation with his parents and children. After dinner at a relative's house, he reportedly went to a washing area where he accidentally came into contact with a live electric wire and collapsed. He was rushed to the Puttur Government Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Roshan had recently constructed a new house, which was inaugurated earlier this month. He is survived by his parents and sister. Funeral rites were later held in Sakleshpur.

Children's storytelling contest marks Dr. Na D'Souza birthday

Mangaluru
The state-level video storytelling competition 'Puttajji Puttajji Katha Helu' has been organized in memory of noted writer Dr. Na D'Souza, on the occasion of his 89th birth anniversary, under the theme 'Ondu Katha – Ondu Prerane'. Participants are divided into two categories: Category A for classes 1 to 4 and Category B for classes 5 to 8. Children must submit storytelling videos by May 30, with results to be announced on June 6. Winners will receive first, second and third prizes along with certificates, while all participants will get e-certificates. The event is coordinated by the family of Dr Na D'Souza. Results will be shared online for all students later.

FARMERS DEMAND HIGHER COMPENSATION FOR CROP LOSS IN BHADRAVATI

Farmers demand higher compensation from government for crop damage caused by rain and storm in Bhadravati region.

BHADRAVATI

Farmers' leaders have urged the state and central governments to provide higher compensation for damage caused by heavy rain and storm-related losses in the region. They demanded that the disaster relief norms be revised to ensure fair support for affected farmers and families.

The call was made during the 44th Farmers' Martyrs' Day programme held near the martyr farmers' memori-

al at Nagasamudra village in Bhadravati taluk, jointly organised by the Farmers' Association and Hasiresene. Leaders recalled the historic 1982 Nagasamudra firing incident and paid tribute to farmers who lost their lives in various protests across the state.

Speakers said farmers' struggles have left a lasting mark in history and stressed that true respect for martyrs lies in addressing farmers' current problems. They highlighted that the



1982 incident, where three farmers were killed during a protest, remains a symbol of sacrifice for farmers'

rights.

Farm leaders expressed concern over recent losses caused by heavy rain and

strong winds in Hollehonnuru and surrounding hoblis, where arecanut, coconut, banana crops, and houses were severely damaged. They said preliminary survey reports have already been submitted to the government, but urged faster and more comprehensive assessment of affected villages.

They criticized the existing Disaster Relief Fund norms, stating that compensation for crop and property loss is extremely low. According to them, cur-

rent rates such as ₹16 per tree are inadequate and do not reflect farmers' actual losses.

They demanded that the situation be treated as a special case, calling for at least ₹1 lakh per acre compensation for crop loss and ₹5 lakh for house damage. They also urged that existing compensation guidelines be increased at least twenty-fold to provide meaningful relief to farmers affected by natural disasters.

Shivamogga civic body accused of illegal fee collection

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga Civic Rights Protection Forum has accused the Shivamogga City Corporation of collecting excessive charges under the name of property account transfer fees, terming it "daylight robbery." Forum General Secretary K.V. Vasanthkumar alleged that the corporation is acting against government circulars and continuing unlawful fee collection despite repeated complaints to the commissioner.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the Urban Development Department had issued clear circulars in 2006 and again in 2022 stating that a 2% account transfer fee should be levied on the stamp duty value of the property. He alleged that while other municipal corporations in the state are following the rule, Shivamogga City Corporation is violating it.

He gave an example stating that for a property valued at ₹1.10 crore, the permissi-



Shivamogga civic rights forum has accused the City Corporation of illegal excess collection in property account transfer fees, calling it daylight robbery.

ble fee would be around ₹12,320 as per the circular. However, the corporation is reportedly charging about ₹55,000, which he claimed amounts to nearly 446% excess collection. He further alleged that officials are aware of the issue but have not acted on it.

The forum claimed that over ₹30 crore has been collected in excess from citizens over the years. It demanded that the additional amount be refunded to property owners

and strict action be taken against officials responsible for the irregularities since 2006 and 2014.

Forum Organising Secretary Dr. A. Satish Kumar Shetty said the issue has become a "systemic corruption network," alleging that bribes influence reduced charges in some cases. He urged immediate intervention by elected representatives and the Deputy Commissioner to stop the alleged malpractice.

He also requested affected citizens to submit transaction details and challan numbers to the forum to support future legal action. Forum President S.R. Gopal, Secretary S.P. Ashok Kumar, Janamejirao, Channaveerappa Gamana-gatte, and others were present at the press meet.

District authorities have intensified monsoon preparedness measures across Dakshina Kannada to prevent weather-related damage and emergencies

Dakshina Kannada DC orders monsoon safety measures

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Darshan H V has directed all district departments to remain fully prepared for the upcoming monsoon season, stressing that heavy rainfall could trigger road damage, landslides, house collapses and other disaster-related incidents. He particularly warned officials to focus on areas that were severely affected by flooding in previous years.

The directions were issued during a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority held at the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC), where monsoon preparedness was reviewed in detail.

The DC instructed the Mescom department to ensure quick restoration of electricity in case of outages

caused by fallen trees or weather-related damage. He also directed that control rooms be set up and helpline numbers widely publicized so that the public can access emergency assistance without delay. Dangerous tree branches near power lines must be removed in advance to prevent accidents.

Urban local bodies were asked to clean and maintain storm water drains to ensure smooth flow of rainwater and reduce waterlogging in cities and towns. Officials were also told to maintain sanitation during the rainy season to prevent outbreaks of diseases. Control rooms will function round the clock during heavy rainfall periods.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department and SDRF teams have been instructed to remain fully equipped with rescue gear,

including boats and other emergency tools for flood situations.

The DC also ordered removal of barriers obstructing river flow during floods and asked irrigation officials to inspect the Kindi dam for safety and submit reports. Animal husbandry officials were told to protect livestock and birds during extreme weather conditions.

Strict monitoring of abandoned mining pits was also emphasized, with instructions to install warning boards prohibiting swimming and to take action against negligence by owners.

The Education Department has been asked to secure dangerous locations near schools with warning tapes and conduct awareness programs with parents. Schools may also be used as temporary relief centers during emergencies.

Concerns raised over tourism restrictions in Kodagu

MADIKERI

The Kodagu Hotel and Resort Association has stated that the district remains safe for tourists and continues to be known for its hospitality, urging stakeholders to counter negative and misleading narratives about the region's tourism sector.

Association president Kundiyolanda Dinesh Kariappa said that some individuals have been spreading baseless claims on social media that are harming Kodagu's tourism reputation. He emphasized that such misinformation must be collectively opposed by all those involved in the tourism industry. He also clarified that while some reports claim higher tourist arrivals, official figures are often misrepresented.

He noted that Kodagu saw around 25 lakh tourists last year, rejecting claims that the number reached 45 lakh. He further said the association will work towards ensuring the appointment of a deputy director for the district tourism department to improve administrative efficiency.

Tourism stakeholders also

raised concerns about restrictions imposed on tourist destinations following isolated incidents. Kariappa said that blanket bans on tourism activities without proper investigation are affecting the district's economy. He urged the government to reconsider restrictions imposed on destinations such as Dubare, Mandalpatti, and Tadiandamol.

Kodagu District Chamber of Commerce president B.R. Nagendra Prasad said local businesses heavily depend on tourism and any decline in visitor numbers would negatively impact traders. He also highlighted plans to develop 36 tourist destinations, including 12 new sites, and stressed the need to address parking issues across the district.

Coorg Homestay Association president Mothi Ganesh called for stricter action against illegal homestays and said staff shortages in the tourism department are hampering development efforts. Coorg Hotel and Resort Association honorary advisor G. Chidvilas suggested that stakeholders submit development budgets for tourist sites within two weeks for government review.

Sringeri farmers demand fertilizer quality inspection

SRINGERI

Farmers in Sringeri taluk have demanded strict inspection of the quality of mylouttu and chemical fertilizers, along with urgent resolution of several long-pending agricultural and land record issues. The demand was made through a memorandum submitted to Tahsildar Anoop Sanjog by members of the Taluk Farmers' Association.

Farmers expressed concern that substandard or unverified fertilizers in the market could be affecting crop yield and soil health. They urged the concerned agriculture department to regularly test fertilizer quality and ensure that only certified products reach farmers. They also called for stronger monitoring mechanisms to prevent the sale of fake or ineffective inputs.

Taluk Farmers' Association President Kanavalli Chandrashekar raised issues related to land records and administrative delays. He said that although many farmers have received cultivation rights certificates under Form No. 53 from the taluk office, cor-



responding entries such as pahani and mutation have not been updated in several cases. He pointed out that similar applications submitted in the same year have received different outcomes, creating confusion and injustice among farmers.

He demanded immediate correction of land records and transparent processing of all pending applications. He also highlighted delays in granting ownership rights under Section 94C for long-standing residential houses, some of which are reportedly over 100 years old. He accused officials of delaying approvals under various procedural excuses, leaving many families uncertain about their legal status.

Former association president Kelavalli Gundappa also addressed the issue, stressing the need for proper verification before declaring forest

boundaries. He said that while preparing forest maps under Section 4(1), authorities must ensure that cultivated lands and residential properties of farmers and agricultural workers are excluded from reserved forest notifications.

He warned that failure to correctly demarcate land could lead to unnecessary hardship for rural families who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The farmers urged the government to take immediate corrective action and conduct field-level verification before finalizing any land classification.

Association members Jagadish, Chandrappa, Srinivas, and others were present during the submission of the memorandum, reiterating their collective demand for fair treatment and administrative accountability in rural land and agriculture matters.

Karanth expanded horizons of knowledge: Scholars

PUTTUR

Noted thinker Dr. Varadaraj Chandragiri said that Kot Shivaram Karanth was a pioneering figure who expanded the horizons of knowledge through his experimental literature and wide-ranging contributions to society. He noted that Karanth brought global recognition to Yakshagana and made significant contributions across multiple fields.

He was speaking at the 'Arivina Belaku' lecture series programme (Lecture Series-15) held at the Government First Grade College in Puttur, organized by the Udupi District Kannada and Culture Department's Dr. Shivaram Karanth Trust.

Delivering a lecture on "Rational Thinking in Karanth's Novels," Dr. Chandragiri said that Karanth's literary works consistently reflected rational and progressive thought. He emphasized that Karanth's contributions were not limited to literature but extended to social, cultural, and artistic domains as well.

The programme was inaugurated by college principal Prof. Subbappa Kaikamba, who said that Karanth's novels and other literary forms are deeply rooted in rational thinking. He highlighted that Karanth made remarkable contributions across all fields he engaged in.

The event was presided over by Dr. Gananath Shetty Ekkaru, president of the Shivaram Karanth Trust. The programme was welcomed and introduced by Purnima, member secretary of the trust and assistant director of the Udupi District Kannada and Culture Department.

MONSOON THUNDER SHOWERS

Coastal Karnataka to see rain this week

UDUPI

The India Meteorological Department has forecast continued rainfall across Coastal Karnataka, including Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, over the next five days. The weather outlook suggests a mix of moderate rain, thunderstorms, and isolated showers at different points throughout the week.

According to the forecast, several coastal locations are likely to experience moderate

rain accompanied by thunder and lightning on May 27. On May 28, rainfall activity is expected to reduce, with showers limited to isolated areas. However, thunder showers are likely to return across both districts on May 29.

The region has already been experiencing intermittent moderate rainfall in recent days. This has brought some relief from the intense summer heat and helped ease water shortages that had af-

fecting parts of the coastal belt earlier in the season.

Authorities have issued a cautionary advisory for fishermen, warning of strong winds and rough sea conditions expected along the coast during the rainy period. Fishermen have been urged to strictly follow weather alerts and avoid venturing into deep waters when conditions are unstable.

On Monday, the coastal belt witnessed mixed weather conditions, with both sun-

shine and cloud cover across different areas. In Dakshina Kannada district, places such as Mangaluru, Puttur, Ullal, Bantwal, and Sullia saw warm and partly sunny conditions during the day, while some pockets experienced intermittent cloudiness.

Udupi district also reported similar fluctuating weather, with alternating periods of sun and clouds. Despite the variability, temperatures remained relatively high for the season.

Mangaluru recorded a maximum temperature of 32.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 24.1 degrees Celsius, indicating warm and humid conditions prevailing even amid occasional rainfall.

Meteorological officials continue to monitor the coastal weather system closely, as shifting monsoon patterns and local atmospheric conditions are expected to influence rainfall distribution over the coming days.

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.



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 Pancha-

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.



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-

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.

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 governme

nt 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 Yadeveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar will inaugurate the event. President of the Vidyavardhaka Sangha Gundappa Gowda will preside over the programme.

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

and M.A. degrees in Sanskrit studies. Specialized higher-learning programmes in Advaita Vedanta, Puranic history and Sanskrit grammar have also been introduced for serious scholars. Professional Yoga Course

The yoga programme extends beyond physical postures and includes human anatomy, Ayurveda and modern medical perspectives, making it a comprehensive professional training course. This postgraduate programme is specially designed for individuals aged 40 to 50 years and above who wish to pursue self-knowledge and

deeper understanding of Hindu philosophy and traditions. A unique course tailored for Vedic scholars who wish to gain an in-depth understanding of the meanings and interpretations of Vedic mantras. Students enrolled in B.A. and M.A. degree programmes can pursue self-study from anywhere, but examinations must be taken at the Mysuru Ashram campus. However, diploma and certificate course students have been granted special flexibility by the university, enabling them to write examinations online from anywhere in the world through internet-based protocols.

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.

Three arrested in Mandya murder case probe

MANDYA

Maddur police have arrested three accused in connection with a murder case that took place on May 19, 2026, after a quarrel at a bar in K. Honnalgere village in Mandya district.

The incident began when Sunil and his friends were drinking at Deepa Bar, where a verbal argument started with Nishanth over a casual remark. Later, Nishanth along with Karthik and Ravi allegedly followed Sunil and attacked him near Chowdeshwari Samudhaya Bhavan, leaving him seriously injured. He was taken to Mandya District Hospital but later died during treatment. Police registered a case under BNS sections, formed special teams under senior officers to trace the accused who fled after the attack. On May 21, 2026, the police teams arrested Nishanth, Ravi, and Karthik after investigation and took them into custody for further questioning.

“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 gen-

eration 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.

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.

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.

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 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-

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 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.

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 Pon-nampet 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

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.

Health Officer urges blood test for every fever case

EARLY DIAGNOSIS ALERT



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

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.

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.

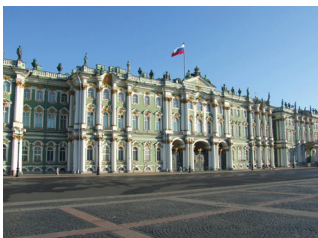
The country has been trapped under a near-total internet blackout for more than 87 days, according to reports. The strict digital blockade was initially launched on January 8 to suppress anti-regime protests, before being intensified on February 28 following joint U.S. and Israeli military strikes. The 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.



Russian museum hosts historic Indian art show

ST. PETERSBURG

Russia's historic State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg will host its first dedicated contemporary Indian art exhibition starting June four. Titled "Sediments of Becoming," the groundbreaking event is presented in collaboration with Threshold Art Gallery. It features unique creations from eleven contemporary Indian artists, including Manjunath Kamath and Afrah Shafiq. Marking a first in the prestigious institution's two hundred sixty-year history, organizers describe the exhibition as a form of cultural archaeology that explores history. Curators Marina Schulz and Tuntty Chauhan emphasized that this landmark display represents a vital moment of artistic dialogue between India and Russia.

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.

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.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ANSAR PASHA** S/o. ABDUL HAFIZ SAHEB aged about 54 years, residing at Ward No.06, Opp masjid, municipal layout, Chikkaballapur. Have changed my name **ANSAR PASHA. A.** to **ANSAR PASHA.** Vide affidavit dated 26-05-2026 before Notary P. V. Ramachandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary Govt. Of Kamataka. Chikkaballapur-562101.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VIKRANT GOWDA.K.J.** S/o Jayaram Gowda, R/at No. 29, Rashtrakoota Layout, Manganahalli, Ramsandra, Bangalore-560 060, hereby declare that have changed my name from **MAHADEVA.K.J** to **VIKRANT GOWDA.K.J.** Vide affidavit dated: 28/07/2023 sworn before Notary S.R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

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 stadiums 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

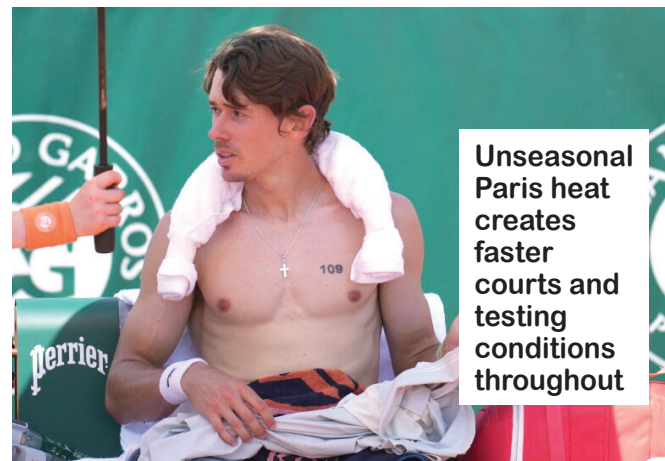
French Open hit by intense heat as temperatures soar

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

ment 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

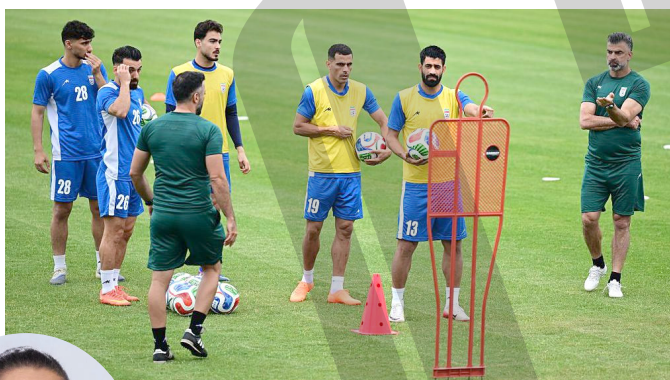
MEXICO CITY

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.

Inian Panneerselvam claims double gold at Commonwealth Chess Championship

NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster Inian 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, Inian 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 Inian 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 Inian 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

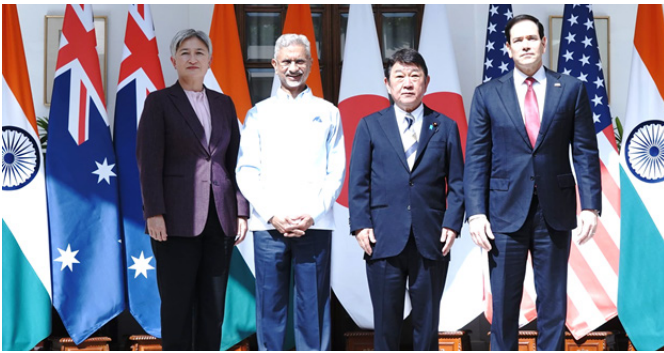
NEW DELHI

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 rural 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.

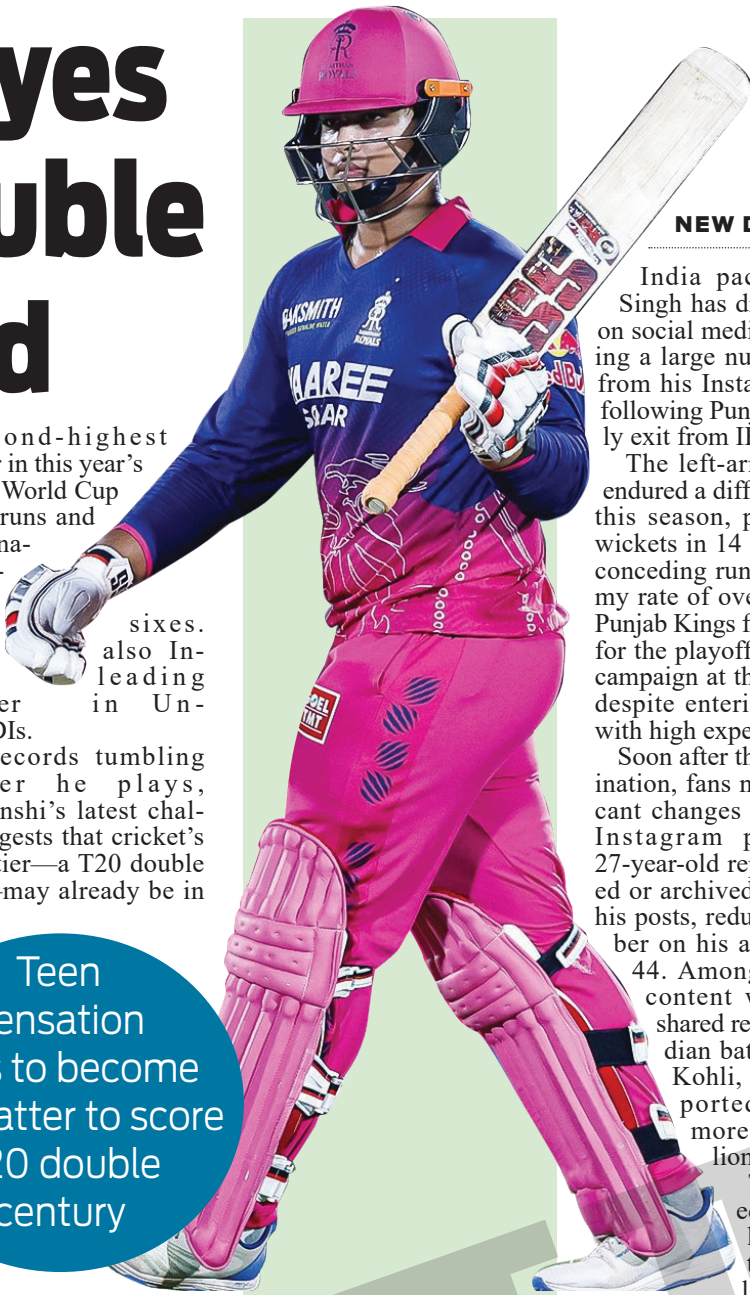
The youngster has already shattered several age-related records. Last year, he became the youngest IPL player and later the youngest T20 centurion after smashing a 35-ball hundred against Gujarat Titans. He also holds the record for the fastest IPL century by an Indian.

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.