



CITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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CM's Lok Bhavan move, DKS meet intensify power shift talk

Karnataka political circles watch Siddaramaiah–Shivakumar breakfast meeting amid succession speculation

BENGALURU

Political circles in Karnataka were abuzz on Wednesday after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reportedly sought an appointment with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, even as a high-profile breakfast meeting with Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar added momentum to speculation over a possible leadership change in the state Congress government.

According to sources in the Chief Minister's Office, Siddaramaiah is expected to meet the Governor on Thursday, triggering renewed chatter that he may submit his resignation and pave the way for Shivakumar to take over as Chief Minister. However, there has been no official confirmation from the government or the party leadership.

The developments come amid intense consultations in New Delhi involving senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, who are said to be exploring options to resolve the long-standing leadership equation within the Karnataka unit.



A senior Congress leader said, "The leadership transition formula is under active consideration, but no final decision has been announced yet." Another source added that discussions are being held with party unity as the primary focus.

At the centre of the speculation is an alleged power-sharing arrangement following the 2023 Assembly elections, under which Siddaramaiah would complete the first half of the term before handing over charge to Shivakumar.

Siddaramaiah is set to host Shivakumar and senior cabinet colleagues for a breakfast meeting in Bengaluru, a development seen as politically significant given the timing of the ongoing talks. Shivakumar, widely viewed as the frontrunner for the top post, reportedly rescheduled his Delhi visit to attend the meeting.

A Congress source said, "Discussions are ongoing and the leadership will take an appropriate decision keeping party unity in mind."

Senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala are closely monitoring the situation. A CLP meeting is also likely if the high command decides to formalise any transition plan.

Key developments

■ Siddaramaiah seeks Governor appointment on May 28

■ Breakfast meeting hosted for Shivakumar and ministers

■ Rahul Gandhi, Kharge involved in talks

■ Power-sharing formula under discussion

■ CLP meeting likely if transition is finalised

On Tuesday, LoP Rahul Gandhi held separate closed-door meetings with both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, during which he reportedly asked the incumbent CM to step down. Shivakumar had been regularly reminding the high command — including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Kharge — of the understanding reached when Siddaramaiah was selected as CM in 2023.

Kharge takes a dig at PM Modi over heat advisory

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his appeal to citizens to stay safe during the ongoing heatwave, alleging that people were struggling more because of inflation under the BJP government.

Kharge questioned why the Prime Minister does not speak about rising prices and accused the Centre of burdening common people economically while issuing public advisories on extreme weather.

His remarks came shortly after Modi urged people across the country to take precautions as several regions continue to witness

soaring temperatures and severe heat conditions.

In a series of posts, Modi advised citizens to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged exposure to heat and remain alert to signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke. He said children, elderly people and outdoor workers were especially vulnerable during extreme weather conditions.

The Prime Minister also encouraged people to carry water while stepping out and help others cope with the heat, saying small acts of kindness could make a difference during harsh summer conditions.

We can endure the heat, but the common people are sweating it out due to the fire of BJP-sponsored inflation. Why don't you ever say something about your own government's looting, Modi ji?

—Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

The exchange reflects the Congress party's continued attempts to target the BJP government over inflation and rising living costs, while the Centre has focused on public health advisories amid the ongoing heatwave affecting several states.

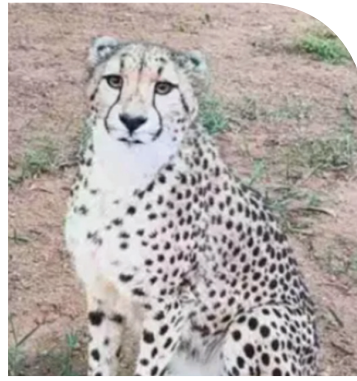


CHEETAHS AT BANNERGHATTA FROM JUNE 4

BENGALURU

Four cheetahs brought from South Africa to Bengaluru as part of a wildlife exchange programme will be open for public viewing at Bannerghatta Biological Park from June 4, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Wednesday. The cheetahs arrived in Bengaluru on April 18 and were kept under quarantine to help

them adapt to the local climate and surroundings. Officials continuously monitored their health during the observation period. Following a review meeting with senior forest officials, the minister said the animals would now be shifted to a specially prepared enclosure at the park. Authorities have been instructed to make necessary arrangements for visitors from the first week of June.



Power, Promises and Political Minefields
Await Karnataka's "Crisis Manager"

Crown of Thorns for D.K. Shivakumar?

SHYAM SUNDAR VAT-TAM MYSURU

If the political signals emerging from the Congress corridors are any indication, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D. K. Shivakumar appears closer than ever to occupying the Chief Minister's chair, replacing incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. But for the man widely celebrated as the Congress party's "trouble-shooter" and "crisis manager," the road to Vidhana Soudha's top office could prove far more difficult than the journey to get there. Inside the Congress, Shivakumar's elevation is seen not merely as a leadership transition, but as a delicate political balancing act. A senior Congress leader remarked, "D.K. Shivakumar has organisational strength, resources and mass appeal. But becoming Chief Minister is one thing; managing Karnataka's competing power centres is another."

The biggest challenge before Shivakumar will be maintaining unity within a Congress government already marked by factional undercurrents. Siddaramaiah continues to enjoy enormous support among AHINDA communities, legislators and grassroots workers. Any abrupt change in leadership could trigger silent resistance from loyalists who fear losing political relevance.

"Leadership transition must happen smoothly and with dignity. Siddaramaiah's contribution cannot be ignored," said another senior Congress MLA from Old Mysuru region, reflecting the

unease within sections of the party.

Equally significant is the regional equation. Shivakumar's influence is strongest in the Vokkaliga belt, especially southern Karnataka. As Chief Minister, he is expected to expand beyond that image and consolidate support among Lingayats, Dalits, minorities and backward communities ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

The Deputy Chief Minister also faces the burden of governance expectations. From the ambitious guarantee schemes to mounting financial pressure on the state exchequer, the next Chief Minister will inherit an economy walking a political tightrope. The Opposition BJP and JD(S) are already sharpening attacks over price rise, infrastructure gaps and alleged administrative drift.

"People will not judge D.K. Shivakumar by speeches or strategy. They will judge him by roads, jobs, investment and governance," admitted a Congress functionary privately.

Another challenge lies in managing perceptions within Delhi's Congress leadership. Shivakumar has long enjoyed the confidence of the Gandhi family, particularly during political crises in Karnataka and Maharashtra. But as Chief Minister, every move will come under sharper scrutiny from both allies and rivals inside the party.

For now, Congress workers are celebrating the possibility of their strongman finally reaching the summit. Yet Karnataka politics has rarely allowed smooth coronations. If Shivakumar indeed ascends the throne, he may soon discover that the real battle begins after the oath-taking ceremony.

ED raids ex-Kerala CM's residence in CMRL probe

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted raids at premises linked to former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation connected to the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) case involving his daughter's company.

Officials said raids were carried out at around 10 locations across Kerala, including Vijayan's rented residence in Thiruvananthapuram, under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The probe centres around allegations that private firm CMRL made payments worth Rs 1.72 crore to Exalogic Solutions, a company linked to Vijayan's daughter T Veena, between 2018 and 2019 without receiving corresponding services.

The ED registered a money laundering case in 2024 following allegations of financial irregularities linked to the transactions. The searches come a day after the Kerala High Court dismissed a petition filed by CMRL seeking to quash the ED proceedings in the matter. Officials said documents, digital records and financial transaction details were being examined as part of the investigation.

Neither Vijayan nor his family members had officially responded to the raids at the time of filing this report.

SC upholds ECI's power to conduct SIR, calls exercise 'valid and non-arbitrary'

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the authority of the Election Commission of India to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, ruling that the exercise was legally valid and aimed at ensuring free and fair elections.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Surya Kant observed that the ECI did not violate the Representation of the People Act while ordering SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar and other states.

The court held that the exercise was backed by Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, adding that the revision process was intended to preserve the "accuracy, completeness and integrity" of electoral rolls.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

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QUICK READ

Boy killed in expressway crashT

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

A 10-year-old boy was killed after a car travelling on the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway crashed into a road divider near Lakshmisagara village in Malur taluk on Wednesday. The victim, identified as Mujamil, was a resident of Bengaluru and was travelling with his family towards Chennai when one of the car's wheels reportedly got dislodged, causing the vehicle to lose control and ram into the divider. Four other passengers sustained minor injuries in the accident and were shifted to SNR Hospital in Kolar for treatment. The expressway has witnessed multiple accidents since its inauguration in March last year, particularly along the stretch between Hoskote and the Kolar district border. Police have installed speed guns and warning signboards at several locations to improve road safety.

Truck fire sparks panic in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

A truck parked near a garbage dump in Chikkakallasandra under Subramanyapura Police Station limits caught fire on Wednesday, triggering panic among local residents. Police suspect the blaze may have spread from burning garbage near the parking spot. Fortunately, the truck driver was not inside the vehicle when the fire broke out, and there was no traffic movement nearby, preventing a major mishap. According to sources, the truck had been parked beside a large garbage pile for some time. Initial investigations suggest the fire may have originated from the dump before spreading to the vehicle. Police and fire officials reached the spot and brought the situation under control. An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire.

Council polls give Congress chance to seal Upper House majority

The election assumes significance as it could hand Congress complete control of the council.

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

The Election Commission's announcement of elections to seven Karnataka Legislative Council seats has opened the possibility of the ruling Congress securing a clear majority in the Upper House for the first time since returning to power in 2023.

The polls, scheduled for June 18, will be decided by MLAs through the preferential voting system. Formal notification will be issued on June 1, while June 8 is the last date for filing nominations.

The terms of seven MLCs are ending, including Congress leaders B. K. Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed, Govind Raju and Tippanappa Kamakanoor, along with BJP members Prathap Simha Nayak, Sunil Vallyapure and



MTB Nagaraj.

With the current effective Assembly strength at 222, excluding two vacancies, a candidate requires 28 votes to secure victory. Congress, which currently has 135 members including the Speaker, is comfortably placed to win four seats. However, party leaders are seriously considering fielding a fifth candidate in an attempt to cross the majority mark in

the 75-member Council.

The Congress strategy hinges on surplus votes, support from independents and possible backing from expelled BJP legislators. The party is expected to allocate 112 first-preference votes to ensure victory for four candidates, leaving 23 additional votes that could be used strategically for a fifth nominee.

Congress is hopeful of support from Independent MLAs

Darshan Puttanaiah, Latha Mallikarjun and KH Puttaswamy Gowda. The ruling party is also banking on support from expelled BJP legislators S. T. Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar, both seen as politically close to Congress. Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal remains an unpredictable factor.

On the opposition side, the BJP, with 63 MLAs, is expected to comfortably secure two seats. However, a third candidate backed by the BJP-JD(S) alliance may struggle due to insufficient numbers.

If Congress succeeds in winning five seats, its tally in the Council would rise to 38, giving it an outright majority and enabling it to elect its own Chairman and Deputy Chairman. At present, the Council Chairman's post is held by Basavaraj Horati of the BJP.

RGUHS won't invite fresh nursing college applications for 2026-27

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences has decided not to invite fresh applications for new nursing colleges for the 2026-27 academic year, while choosing instead to process pending applications submitted during the previous cycle.

RGUHS Vice-Chancellor B. C. Bhagavan said around 130 applications for nursing colleges submitted for the 2025-26 academic year were not processed last year and would now be reviewed.

"Out of the 130 applications, nearly 70 colleges are likely to be eligible.

These applications will have to be examined by bodies such as the academic council and senate before a final decision is taken. No new applications will be entertained," Bhagavan said.

The university has already submitted the nursing seat matrix to the Karnataka Examinations Authority, while approvals for additional colleges and seats will be communicated separately once cleared.

After 11 years of delays, construction finally starts at one of east Bengaluru's busiest junctions.

Work begins on long-delayed Hope Farm underpass to ease Whitefield traffic

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

After more than a decade of delays, work has finally commenced on the long-pending Hope Farm Junction underpass in east Bengaluru, raising hopes of easing chronic traffic congestion in the Whitefield region.

The underpass project, estimated to cost around Rs 35 crore, is expected to be completed within nearly 200 days. Once operational, it will make a major portion of the junction signal-free and significantly reduce travel time for thousands of commuters using the busy corridor every day.

Hope Farm Junction is among Whitefield's most congested intersections, with traffic from Whitefield, Kadugodi, ITPL and Chandapura converging at a single point. Motorists currently endure long signal cycles of nearly 120 seconds and extended traffic queues during both peak and non-peak hours.

Officials from the Bengaluru East civic body said



prolonged land acquisition disputes were the primary reason behind the 11-year delay.

The project requires acquisition of six private properties, and disagreements over compensation through Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and direct monetary compensation stalled progress for years.

"We are now nearing resolution and hope to move forward faster," an official associated with the project said.

The 300-metre underpass is designed primarily for traffic moving between Whitefield and Kadugodi,

allowing uninterrupted movement beneath the junction.

Vehicles travelling between ITPL and Chandapura will continue to use the surface-level carriageway.

As part of the project, nearly 30 trees are set to be cut or relocated.

Officials said permissions have been granted to remove a limited number of trees while others will be shifted wherever possible. Around eight trees have already been removed to facilitate initial work.

Construction of retaining walls has started on the Kadugodi side, while temporary service roads are also being developed to maintain traffic flow during the construction phase.

The Hope Farm project forms part of a larger Rs 140-crore infrastructure package planned for Bengaluru's eastern corridor, which also includes an underpass at Big Bazaar Junction and a flyover at Hoodi aimed at easing congestion across Whitefield.

SC relief boosts Mekedatu push, TN CM writes to PM

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Karnataka received a major boost for its long-pending Mekedatu balancing reservoir project after the Supreme Court dismissed the Tamil Nadu government's review petition challenging the proposed project across the Cauvery River.

The review petition had challenged the apex court's November 2025 judgment, which described Tamil Nadu's objections as premature and declined to halt Karnataka's proposal at that stage.

Welcoming the latest order, Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D. K. Shivakumar said Karnataka was preparing to submit a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project.

"The Supreme Court's three-member bench has dismissed the review petition filed by Tamil Nadu on the Mekedatu project. This is good news for Karnataka," Shivakumar told reporters in Delhi.

He said the court had already clarified that Karnataka must continue releasing Tamil Nadu's allocated share of 177 tmcft water under the Cauvery water-sharing arrangement.

The proposed Mekedatu reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, now Bengaluru South district, is planned as a multi-purpose project aimed at supplying drinking water to Bengaluru and nearby regions besides generating around 400 MW of power.

However, the project continues to face strong opposition from Tamil Nadu, which fears the reservoir could impact downstream water flow and affect farmers dependent on the Cauvery basin.

Hours after the Supreme Court order, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Centre not to clear Karnataka's proposal without addressing Tamil Nadu's concerns.

In his letter, Vijay requested the Centre to reject Karnataka's DPR and prevent the state from proceeding with any new project on the river without approval from co-basin states.

"The announcement for the Bhoomi Puja of the Mekedatu reservoir and statements made by Karnataka leaders have caused concern among lakhs of farmers in Tamil Nadu," he stated.

Karnataka doubles liquor permit fee for private parties, events

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Hosting a wedding reception, birthday celebration or private gathering with alcohol service in Karnataka is set to become significantly more expensive, with the state government nearly doubling fees for temporary liquor permits issued under the CL-5 licence category.

Under the revised fee structure notified by the finance department, organisers of non-commercial events must now pay Rs 20,000 per day for a liquor permit, compared to the earlier Rs 11,500. The permit application must also be submitted at least seven days in advance.

For last-minute approvals under the tatkal category, organisers will now have to pay Rs 40,000 per day.

Excise department officials

clarified that no licence is required if liquor served at private gatherings remains within the permissible limit of nine litres of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and 18 litres of beer or wine.

The government has also introduced a separate classification for commercial events for the first time. Organisers of concerts, exhibitions, fairs, corporate functions, cultural programmes and New Year celebrations will now have to pay Rs 75,000 per day for regular permits and Rs 1.5 lakh for tatkal approvals.

Excise Commissioner Venkatesh Kumar said even non-commercial events conducted in public places would require CL-5 licensing under the revised rules.

According to the guidelines, a non-commercial event is defined as a private.

Thunderstorms, gusty winds disrupt Bengaluru as monsoon nears

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Widespread thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds lashed Bengaluru, disrupting traffic movement and affecting Namma Metro services as the city witnessed one of the season's final intense pre-monsoon weather spells.

The showers brought relief from recent humid and hot conditions, with moderate to heavy rain reported across several parts of the city. According to the India Meteorological Department, northern and northeastern parts of Bengaluru received intense thundershowers, while nearly 60 per cent of the city recorded

light to moderate rainfall.

Bengaluru received 17.8 mm rainfall overall, while HAL areas recorded 4.8 mm. Wind speeds touched nearly 35 kmph, resulting in uprooted trees and falling branches in several localities.

The weather disturbance also affected Metro operations on the Purple Line after a tree branch fell on tracks between ITPB and Sathya Sai Hospital stations around 6 pm. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited temporarily suspended services between Whitefield and Garudacharapalya stations for nearly 30 minutes, impacting commuters during peak evening hours.

Passengers complained of overcrowding at stations and alleged that timely updates regarding the disruption were not communicated properly. Many initially believed the delay was due to a technical issue.

IMD officials indicated that Bengaluru and parts of south interior Karnataka are likely to gradually transition into southwest monsoon conditions over the coming days.

"Thunderstorms are likely to be among the last widespread and intense pre-monsoon spells over Bengaluru. Isolated showers may continue for a few more days before monsoon conditions.

that bail should be granted on the grounds that other accused persons in the same case had already secured relief.

However, the court rejected the contention, noting that the allegations against Arora were far more serious in nature.

The bench observed that the primary accusation of creating forged marksheets was against the petitioner, whereas the co-accused were allegedly involved only in distributing the fake documents.

CH NEWS**Bengaluru**

A 28-year-old woman from Uganda, who was suspected of showing symptoms linked to Ebola after arriving in Bengaluru, has tested negative for the virus, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Wednesday.

The woman, who had travelled from an Ebola-affected region, was shifted from a hotel to the state-run Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Indiranagar after she reportedly developed mild symptoms

HC denies bail in major MDMA case, cites strict NDPS provisions

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court has rejected the bail plea of a Nigerian national arrested in a major narcotics case, observing that denial of bail is the norm in cases involving commercial quantities of drugs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Justice V. Srishananda dismissed the petition filed by Cristian Soporuchukwu, who was arrested by Begur police on April 6, 2025, allegedly in possession of 1 kg of MDMA crystals.

According to investigators,

the accused had entered India on a business visa claiming to be involved in cloth trade before allegedly establishing links with drug peddlers of South African origin in Goa, Delhi and Mumbai. Police alleged he procured MDMA at lower prices and sold it to college students and IT-BT professionals for Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 per gram.

During the raid, police seized MDMA crystals, a mini electronic weighing machine, a mobile phone and a two-wheeler from the accused.

Cristian argued before the court that police had failed to

properly communicate the grounds of arrest, thereby violating procedural safeguards. However, the court noted that the accused was allegedly an overstaying foreign national found with a substantial quantity of narcotics.

"The actual arrest took place at the police station after the accused and seized material were handed over by the raid party," the court observed while rejecting the contention regarding procedural irregularities.

The High Court further noted that procuring 1 kg of MDMA was not easy and rejected suggestions.

Smoke scare on IndiGo Bengaluru-Chennai flight; passengers evacuated safely

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Passengers aboard an IndiGo flight from Bengaluru to Chennai were evacuated safely after smoke was detected inside the aircraft shortly before takeoff at Kempegowda International Airport.

The flight, operated by an Airbus A321neo aircraft bearing registration number VT-IME, was functioning as IndiGo flight 6E6017. The incident occurred after pushback was completed and the aircraft was taxiing towards the runway.

According to the airline, smoke was suddenly noticed onboard, prompting immediate activation of emergency safety procedures.

HEALTH SCARE ENDS

Ugandan woman tests negative for Ebola in Karnatak



such as body ache. Her blood samples were later sent to the National Institute of Virology for testing. "The suspected Ebola case reported in the state

has tested negative following laboratory examination. Health authorities have confirmed that the individual is not infected with the Ebola

virus," Rao said in a post on X. He added that all precautionary protocols and medical procedures were followed strictly in line with public health guidelines.

The Karnataka Health Department said it continues to remain alert and prepared amid the ongoing Ebola outbreaks reported in parts of Africa. Authorities urged citizens not to panic and advised people to rely only on official information issued by the government and health department. The World Health

Organization had earlier declared Ebola outbreaks in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Following the global alert, Karnataka had issued advisories asking travellers returning from Ebola-affected countries to undergo health monitoring and self-observation for 21 days after arrival. Rapid Response Teams have also been kept on alert for surveillance and emergency response measures.

Vishwas Vaidya backs Satish for KPCC presidency post

Belagavi workers say internal leadership talks continue; Satish Jarkiholi says no confirmed discussion on leadership change

BELAGAVI

Supporters of Karnataka Congress discussed leadership and party posts amid ongoing internal debate. Vishwas Vaidya said Satish Jarkiholi should be made KPCC president and he would strengthen the Congress party.

He added there is no information about CM Siddaramaiah breakfast meeting or leadership change. Minister Satish Jarkiholi said in Delhi that he has not received any formal discussion about KPCC post and party decision is final.

He said final clarity will come after CM comments and party meetings in Bengaluru. Party workers in Belagavi said internal discussions on leadership roles continue and high command will take final call on appointments.



In Delhi Satish Jarkiholi said there is no confirmed discussion and party leadership will decide everything.

Vishwas Vaidya also said he is not lobbying for minister post and only supports party strengthening. He added that clarity will emerge after CM Siddaramaiah speaks in upcoming Bengaluru breakfast meeting. The discussion reflects ongoing speculation in Karnataka politics regarding leadership balance and organizational roles within Congress.

Party leaders said unity and stability are important while the high command evaluates all suggestions. Supporters across the region continue to express opinions on possible leadership changes, but official announcements are awaited from the party high command.

Leaders emphasized that any decision will be taken after consultation and discussion among senior party members in coming days. The matter remains under consideration and party workers are waiting for clarity on appointments and organizational responsibilities. Overall, the discussion highlights leadership aspirations within Karnataka Congress and the importance of high command decision making in shaping future political direction of the state.

Hubballi announces traffic changes for Bakrid festival

HUBBALLI

Traffic police in Hubballi and Dharwad have announced temporary changes in vehicle movement on May 28 for Bakrid festival to manage crowd and ensure smooth traffic flow in city areas during morning hours from seven am to noon.

KSRTC and private buses coming from Gadag and rural routes will follow diversion plans. Buses from Gadag Road will stop at Pinto Circle to drop passengers and return via same route. Light vehicles will be re-directed through Desai Cross Cotton Market and Lakme Way Bridge to reach connecting roads safely.

On Navalgund Road route, KSRTC buses will drop passengers at Sarvo-

daya Circle and return towards Navalgund. Vehicles from Pinto Circle will be diverted via Hosur Circle and Cotton Market. Heavy vehicles will not be allowed inside city limits and alternative bypass routes will be used for Bangalore and Karwar traffic.

Authorities have restricted movement near Neelag Road, Chennamma Circle and Old Bus Stand. Temporary bus stops are arranged at key junctions and parking space has been created near prayer grounds including Nehru Maidan M T Mill Ground and KEB Grid for devotees attending Bakrid prayers.

We request commuters to cooperate with traffic police and follow diversion routes for smooth festival arrangements across Hubballi Dharwad region during Bakrid celebrations.

Traffic officials said emergency vehicles and ambulances will not be affected by restrictions and will be given priority passage throughout the route changes. Police teams will be deployed at major junctions to monitor movement and assist commuters. Citizens are advised to plan travel in advance and avoid unnecessary congestion during morning festival hours for safety reasons.

KRISHNA HADAPADA WARNS IDEOLOGICAL POVERTY SOCIETY DANGER

GADAG

Krishna H. Hadapada, district president of Savita Samaj in Gadag, said that ideological poverty is more dangerous to society than economic poverty. He spoke at a felicitation programme organized by the Savita Samaj cricket team to celebrate his 46th birthday, where young sportspersons and community leaders honoured him. He said financial hardship may be temporary, but lack of good values weakens society deeply.

He added that sports help youth develop discipline and positive thinking. He urged young people

not only to chase money but also to build intellectual strength and contribute to society. He warned that many youth are falling into social media addiction and wasting time on mobile reels. According to him, showing fake wealth through phones and loans is not real success. He said inner culture is more important than outward appearance. He encouraged reading books and participating in sports to build a better life and avoid laziness.

Elders of the Savita Samaj and members of the cricket team praised Krishna H. Hadapada for his strong views and leadership. They said his thoughts act as guidance for the

younger generation and help them choose the right path in life. Several community leaders, including Hanumanthappa Rampur, Anjaneya Adoni, and Narasimha Gurujalkar, appreciated his message that true wealth lies in good thinking and values. The event saw participation from many players, office bearers, and youth who honoured him on his birthday. Speakers said society needs such inspirational leaders to correct misguided youth and strengthen moral values in daily life. They also emphasized self reliance discipline and positive thinking for building a strong community.

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER CHAIRS PARTY MEETING

KOPPAL

As per the Election Commission of India notification issued on May 14, 2026, the schedule for the Special Comprehensive Revision of Voters Lists 2026 has been announced with the eligibility date fixed as 01.10.2026, said District Election Officer Dr. Suresh B Itnal during a meeting with political party representatives in Koppal.

According to the announced plan, preparation, training and printing of revision work will be held from June 20 to June 29, 2026. House to house verification by Booth Level Officers will take place from June 30 to July 29. Polling booth rationalisation will be completed by July 29, draft voters list will be published on August 5, and claims and objections period will remain open from August 5 to September 4, while final list will be published on October 7, 2026.

Out of total 11,92,589 voters in Koppal district covering Kusthagi, Kanakagiri, Gangavathi, Yelaburga and Koppal assembly constituencies, 94.98 percent mapping work has been completed, while 59,853 voter records are still pending correction. Officials said all eligible voters must be included in the list. Political parties have been instructed to appoint Booth Level Agents for 1315 polling stations across the district without delay.

Koppal Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi said voter facilitation centres will be set up in all gram panchayats, towns and urban areas to help citizens during the revision process. These centres will provide seating, drinking water, internet and computer access. Awareness will be created through hoardings, posters, pamphlets and audio jingles across the district.

Representatives of political parties suggested using garbage vehicles for jingles and expanding awareness through cooperative societies and ration shops. Several leaders including Amaregowda Patil Bayyapura, Naveen Gulaganavara, Krishna Ittangi, Manjunatha Soratura and others attended the meeting along with election officials and staff.

District officials said the revision exercise will improve accuracy of voter lists and ensure transparency in elections. They appealed to all citizens to cooperate with Booth Level Officers and verify their details carefully so that no eligible voter is left.

Special Revision drive focuses fair electoral rolls

GADAG

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K.R. urged Booth Level Officers, also known as BLOs, to work carefully during the Special Comprehensive Revision of the Voters' List for 2026. Speaking at a meeting held on Wednesday at the District Administration Building auditorium, he said BLOs play a key role in preparing a fair and transparent voter list for the district.

Dr. Duragesh said the Election Commission of India announced the revision schedule for Karnataka on May 14, 2026. He explained that voter data under ECI Net technology would be frozen on June 16, 2026. Because of this, officials must complete the mapping of the 2025 voter list to the 2002 voter list without delay. He instructed BLOs to visit every house and collect accurate information from voters. He also asked them to pay special attention to the names of shifted and deceased voters to avoid mistakes in the final list.

The officer further directed officials to ensure that names of writers, sportspersons, award winners, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, former town panchayat presidents, gram panchayat members, and other important voters are included properly. Election Tahsildar Santhosh Hiremath and Master Trainer B.G. Girithammanavara also explained the duties of BLOs during the meeting. Several district officials, tahsildars, BLO supervisors, and voter registration officers attended the programme. Officials at the meeting said the revision process would help remove errors, improve transparency, and strengthen public trust in the electoral system. They encouraged voters to cooperate with BLOs during house visits and provide correct details to ensure that every citizen is included properly.

Karnataka's Model of Women Empowerment

'Gruha Lakshmi': A Beacon of Dignity in Women's Lives



Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Because I am a transgender, society always looked at me differently. After enduring years of hardship and pain, it was the Karnataka Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme that became my support. With the money I receive every month, I now run a fruit shop and live with dignity. Those who once mocked us now lovingly call me 'Akka'..." These are the heartfelt words of Sapna from Kalaburagi.

For lakhs of oppressed womenlike Sapna and crores of homemakers, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme of the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has brought a light of self-respect into their lives. Launched with the noble vision that when a woman becomes financially empowered, the entire family progresses, this ambitious scheme was inaugurated on August 30, 2023, in the cultural city of Mysuru. Today, the scheme has successfully completed three years and emerged as an economic strength for households across the state.

Women's Economic Freedom is the Foundation of a Prosperous Society



of more than 1.24 crore mothers over the last three years is proof of our government's sincerity.

- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The Biggest Revolution in the Country's History



The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is not only Karnataka's pride but also the largest direct cash transfer scheme implemented for women in the history of the country. Through technology, our government has successfully reached crores of mothers in a highly transparent manner and provided them with financial security in their lives.

- D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

I have neither a father nor a mother. We are three sisters struggling even for a meal, and I am also physically disabled. When I felt life had ended, it was the Gruha Lakshmi money that held my hand. With that support, I started a clothing business. Siddaramaiah Sir gave life to my dream of earning independently without stretching my hand before anyone.



Jayamma, Ballari

I started a country chicken farm by saving the money from the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme. Starting such a farm had been my dream for many years, but I lacked the capital then. Today, because of the guarantees, I am living independently without depending on anyone



Leelavathi, Shivamogga

It has been eight years since my husband passed away. Raising three daughters and managing a home without a man's support was like living through hell. Money would come only if I got labour work during the coffee season; otherwise, we had nothing for the rest of the year. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money is our lifeline. Even imagining what would happen if this scheme stopped brings tears to my eyes.



Lakshmi, Chamarajanagar

Monthly Honorarium, A New Dimension of Women's Empowerment

The scheme was launched with the firm resolve that the lady of the house should not have to depend on others even for her small personal needs. Eligible women are receiving ₹2,000 every month directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

This is not merely free money, but the highest form of honorarium being given by the State Government in recognition of the sacrifices made by homemakers who work tirelessly for their families. As a result, lower and middle-class women in both rural and urban areas have gained a small but meaningful degree of financial independence.

The Economic Revolution of Three Years

Women receiving ₹24,000 annually have gained a total financial support over ₹70,000 the last three years. This financial assistance has transformed the economic condition of poor families. Mothers across the state are using this money with greater responsibility. Thousands of women have used this support for sheep and poultry farming, children's education, purchasing household electronic appliances, and starting home-based businesses, thereby moving towards both empowerment and self-reliance. Many women in rural areas are also pooling this money into small savings groups and self-help collectives.

A Global Record in Numbers

There is no other scheme in the country that has such a large number of women beneficiaries and provides direct cash transfers on this scale. More than 1.24 crore homemakers receive ₹2,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer, and so far, the government has allocated ₹69,783 crore for this scheme.

Supporting Women, Securing Families



A nation can achieve true progress only when it's women are economically empowered. The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme has provided much-needed relief to crores of families across the State amid the burden of price hikes. Women possess the strength to lead and sustain their families. The Government introduced this scheme with the belief that when a woman is empowered, the entire family becomes stronger.

- Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development

I run a pickle business. But I had to walk kilometres every day for sales, and my legs would get exhausted. At such a time, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme supported me. By saving the ₹2,000 I receive every month, I purchased my own scooter. It has helped me greatly in going door-to-door to sell pickles.



Zeenath, Mangaluru

We were living in extreme poverty, and managing the household was very difficult. The Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme brought financial strength into my life. By saving the money that came every month without fail, I bought two goats and started rearing them. Their numbers have now increased and become a source of income for our family.



Devamma, Yadgir

When my son was just five months old, my husband left me and married someone else. Debt frightened me, and I often felt like ending my life. There was no food to eat, and our electricity connection was cut for not paying the bill. The days I cried in darkness were endless. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money has removed the darkness from my life. With the help of a small petty shop gifted by an elderly woman, I use this money to buy supplies for the shop. Siddaramaiah has done a noble deed.



Renuka, Koppal

QUICK READ



Subsidy applications open for horticulture farmers

CH NEWS, Gadag The Horticulture Department has invited applications from farmers in Gadag taluk to avail subsidy benefits under various schemes for the year 2026–27. The last date to apply is June 15. Under the National Horticulture Mission, support will be given for crops like banana, mango, papaya, pomegranate, lemon, guava, tamarind and others, along with flowers and medicinal plants. Farmers can also apply for facilities such as drip irrigation support, plastic mulching, polyhouses, vermicomposting units, water harvesting structures and farm machinery.

Haveri RTO honors dedicated social road volunteer

CH NEWS, Haveri Abdulkhadar Hazratsaab Dharwad, a social worker from the city, was felicitated by the Haveri Regional Transport Officer for his selfless service in helping injured accident victims, orphans and needy people reach hospitals. He has been serving for about 11 years with the motto service is the supreme religion. The RTO office appreciated his efforts and presented a felicitation letter as encouragement for humanitarian work. On the occasion, Regional Transport Officer Ku Vinay Katokar R and staff members Shripad Byashi, Mehboobali Hoteegashi and Shambhuli Gaya Hosalli Math were present.

MLA launches rural development works at Kodyallapur

CH NEWS, HANAGAL In Kodyallapur village of Hanagal taluk MLA Srinivas Mane performed the foundation stone laying ceremony for various development works worth Rs 10 lakh under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme 2025–26. Earlier, funds were not allocated transparently and were decided from one place, but now this system has changed and money is released based on villagers opinions and priorities. MLA Mane said that leaders visit villages, listen to people and allocate funds for priority public works such as CC roads, drains and culverts in rural areas. Several leaders and officials were present on the occasion including Taluk Guarantee Implementation Committee president Eerappa Bailawala KPCC member Takanagouda Patil Block Congress president Manju Gorannavara and others.

Organic Mango-Jackfruit mela in Mysuru from May 29 to 31

Fair organised by Horticulture Dept under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana aims to help farmers get better market opportunities for traditional, organic agriculture

MYSURU

A vibrant celebration of organic farming, natural living and rural traditions will come alive in Mysuru as the three-day “Organic Mango and Jackfruit Fair” gets underway from May 29 to 31 at Nexus Centre City Mall in Mysuru.

The fair is being organised jointly by the Horticulture Department under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme with the objective of providing better market opportunities for farmers practicing traditional and organic agriculture, said Joint Director of Horticulture Manjunath Angadi.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday, he noted that last year's three-day Organic Mango and Jackfruit Fair held at Lalbagh Botanical Garden had received an overwhelming response, prompting organisers to bring the colourful celebration to Mysuru this year with added attractions and activities. Apart from a wide range of organic mangoes and jackfruits, the fair will feature stalls displaying and selling organic food products, value-added farm produce, traditional snacks and



eco-friendly goods. Farmers will get a direct platform to market naturally grown fruits to consumers.

Special live demonstrations on preparing mango- and jackfruit-based dishes will also be organised, allowing visitors to taste and purchase the delicacies. Families of farmers from different parts of the state will introduce regional cuisines and traditional food cultures during the event. Another major attraction will be displays of garments and handicrafts made using natural and organic dyes. Organisers will also demonstrate the production, collection and processing methods involved in creating these eco-friendly products.

Workshops on urban gardening, natural soap-making and eco-friendly detergents will be conducted for the public.

Experts will demonstrate how native plant varieties can be grown in household spaces and how natural raw materials can be used to prepare daily-use cleaning products.

President of the Biological Society Dr. Ramakrishna said the exhibition will showcase more than 80 local and international mango varieties and over 35 varieties of jackfruit.

“The event is designed to educate the younger generation about the diversity of mangoes and jackfruits found across Karnataka, methods of identifying varieties, and the efforts of farmers who are conserving these precious plant species,” he said.

Visitors will also learn about the unique qualities of different varieties, including the famous Tipu Badami mangoes and the diverse jackfruit varieties.

eties of Alur, along with information on the climatic conditions best suited for their cultivation and the process of naturally ripening fruits.

The organisers said the fair would offer visitors a sensory experience by highlighting the differences in aroma, colour and taste among various naturally grown fruits.

Raitha Santhe member Kavitha Srinivasan said children would be encouraged to participate in drawing activities based on themes such as natural farming, environmental conservation and livestock rearing.

To promote traditional rural lifestyles, live demonstrations of clay pot-making — considered an integral part of village culture — will also be organised during the fair.

As part of the cultural programmes for children, the play “Pippigandu Pappi,” written and directed by noted theatre personality Prasanna Heggoth, will be staged by Bharatiya Shikshana Samsthe, Mysuru, on May 30 from 7 pm to 8 pm.

Members of the Biological Society, including Sahani and Darshan A.M., were present during the announcement of the event.

Lightning claims three lives, cow dead

MYSURU

Mysuru district witnessed a tragic spell of rain-related deaths in the last 24 hours, with three persons — including two men and a farm woman — and a cow losing their lives after being struck by lightning in separate incidents across the district.

In a heartbreaking incident near Yelwal on the outskirts of Mysuru on Tuesday, 43-year-old Roshan, a techie working in Bengaluru and a native of Madikeri in Kodagu district, died after lightning struck him while he was plucking mangoes on his roadside property. Sources said Roshan had entered the farmland during rain when the lightning bolt hit the tree area, leaving him critically injured.

He was initially rushed to a nearby hospital and later shifted to the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, where doctors declared him brought dead. Police said a postmortem was conducted to ascertain the exact cause of death. Ilwala Police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Another shocking incident was reported from Maladahadi village in H.D. Kote taluk, where Appaiah, son of late Subbaiah, died on the spot after lightning struck him around 1 pm on Wednesday. Villagers said he had taken shelter beneath a tree to escape the sudden downpour when the tragedy occurred.

At almost the same time, a

cow was killed instantly in Nooralakuppe village of H.D. Kote taluk after being struck by lightning during heavy rain. The cattle owner has appealed to the district administration for compensation.

In yet another tragedy, Yashodamma, a farm woman from Hosapura village in Kasaba Hobli of Hunsur taluk, died after lightning struck her around 1.30 pm. Revenue and taluk administration officials visited the spot and initiated formalities. What has alarmed authorities is the common pattern in all the incidents — the victims had reportedly taken shelter under trees during rain.

“People must strictly avoid standing under trees, electric poles or near power installations during thunderstorms. These become high-risk lightning conductors,” disaster management experts repeatedly caution. A senior district administration official said, “All incidents have been reported to the disaster management cell. Necessary procedures, including compensation and awareness measures, are being taken up.”

Local residents have urged the administration to intensify public awareness campaigns, especially in rural areas where people often seek temporary shelter under trees during sudden rain spells. With monsoon activity intensifying across the region, officials have appealed to citizens to remain indoors during thunderstorms and follow weather advisories strictly.

Rising diesel prices hit cultivation costs severely

HUNSUR

Farmers in Hunsur staged a protest in front of the taluk office against rising prices of fertilizers, diesel and petrol, demanding urgent relief from both state and central governments.

District President of Karnataka State Farmers' Association Hosur Kumar said that the price hike in diesel and fertilizers has severely affected farmers preparing for the monsoon and post monsoon season.

Due to continuous increase in diesel prices, the cost of tractor ploughing, irrigation pump usage and crop transport has doubled, while fertilizer prices have also risen sharply making cultivation difficult for small and middle class farmers. They said urea shortage is

Farmers in Hunsur and H D Kote taluks raised concerns that forest department objections are blocking land repair; they demand joint survey with revenue department

increasing due to diversion of agricultural fertilizer to plywood factories and demanded strict action against illegal movement of urea and proper enforcement to stop misuse.

Farmers also raised concern over land repair issues in Hunsur and H D Kote taluks where forest department objections are stopping maintenance work on long cultivated lands requiring joint survey by revenue and forest departments.

The protestors urged author-

ities to address farmers' demands immediately to reduce financial burden and ensure smooth agricultural activities in the coming season.

A petition was submitted to the central and state governments through Sub Divisional Officer Kavya Rani highlighting demands for price control action on fertilizer diversion and resolution of land survey disputes while urging immediate government intervention to protect farmers livelihood and agricultural sustainability in the region. Several farmer leaders including taluk and district office bearers participated in the protest and supported the demands raising slogans and calling for urgent relief measures from authorities for the farming community affected by rising input costs in the region.

Activists said Karnataka has right to implement Mekedatu project; urged central government support inter-state water sharing development

Slogans raised against Mekedatu project objection

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Pro Kannada organisations staged a protest in Chamarajanagar against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay over opposition to the Mekedatu project. Members of pro Kannada groups gathered at Sri Bhuvaneshwari Watta and raised slogans against the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, demanding withdrawal of objections to the project.

Karnataka Army State President Ch R Srinivasa Gowda said that Tamil Nadu leaders have always opposed Karnataka development projects in border regions. He said Mekedatu project will provide

drinking water and irrigation benefits to several districts and opposition is unnecessary and politically motivated.

He warned that continued opposition will intensify protests in Karnataka and pro Kannada organisations will expand their agitation if required.

Activists said Karnataka has the right to implement the project and urged the central government to support inter-state water sharing development. Many Kannada activists including local leaders participated in the protest and raised slogans demanding justice and early approval of the Mekedatu project.

Officials said the protest remained peaceful and police were deployed to maintain law and order in the city.

They added that traffic movement was not affected and no untoward incidents were reported during the demonstration. Leaders of pro Kannada organisations said they will continue to oppose any move that blocks the Mekedatu project and will hold further awareness campaigns across districts.

They urged both state and central governments to resolve the dispute quickly and ensure drinking water supply for Bengaluru and surrounding regions.

Cooperatives urged to strengthen honest development work

KOPPAL

District Cooperative Union President Shekharagowda Mali Patil said that honest work in cooperative societies can strengthen and develop the cooperative system in the district.

He was speaking at a special one day cooperative training program organised by the Cooperative Department Karnataka State Cooperative Federation Bengaluru and District Cooperative Union Koppal for chief executives and staff of selected cooperative societies.

The program was inaugurated by Halaiah Hudejali

Vice President of the District Cooperative Union who watered a sapling and encouraged participants to attend all training sessions and apply knowledge for the benefit of members and society.

Speakers and officials highlighted the importance of transparency accountability and member service in cooperative institutions and said that cooperation and training will help improve performance and strengthen rural economic development across the district.

Union chief executive officer Akshay Kumar welcomed guests lecturers delivered sessions on various topics and



the program concluded with a vote of thanks and coordination by cooperative department staff.

Officials said that cooperative societies play an important role in rural development and urged all members to work honestly use training effectively and ensure that benefits reach every member through transparent administration and collective respon-

sibility for sustainable growth in the district. They added that such programs will improve efficiency reduce mismanagement and strengthen financial stability of cooperative institutions while encouraging active participation of youth women and farmers in decision making processes and promoting long term economic progress at the grassroots level across all cooperative bodies in the region. They emphasized accountability and continuous improvement in cooperative governance for future sustainability through regular training programs and member participation initiatives.

Datta peetha awards presented to scholars

MYSURU

The 84th birthday celebrations of revered Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Swamiji and the 28th anniversary of Nadamanadapa are being observed in a meaningful manner at Sri Avadhoota Datta Peetham and Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashrama.

On Wednesday, on the occasion of Adhika Jyeshtha Shudha Ekadashi, Rudra Homa, Ayushya Homa and Rudrabhisheka were performed at 7 am.

At 10 am, ceremonial Pada puja was performed to Parama poojya Sri Ganapati Sachchi-



dananda Swamiji in the presence of junior pontiff Sri Datta Vijayananda Teertha Swamiji as per scriptural traditions.

Later, the Chaitanyarchane and Datta Peetha Awards presentation programme was held. It was noteworthy that the Datta Peetha Awards were presented

to deserving personalities identified from Karnataka to Kashmir. ‘Veda Nidhi’ award was conferred on V. Jambunatha Ganapathi. A native of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, he is a scholar of Vedic studies and had also lived in Mysuru for many years.

‘Shastra Nidhi’ award was presented to Kuppa Vishwanatha Sharma of Tirupati. He is well versed in Vedanta Shastra and Bhagavad Gita, a grammar scholar, editor of Bhaktimala magazine and notably holds two PhDs.

‘Nada Nidhi’ award was conferred on Vidwan Suresh Vaidyanathan from Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He is renowned in Ghatam and Carnatic music and is an Asthana Vidwan of Datta Peetham.

‘Pravachana Chakravarti’ award was presented to Samavedam Shanmukha Sharma of Hyderabad. He is an Asthana

Vidwan of Kanchi Kamakoti Vidyapeetham and has delivered discourses in nearly 25 countries. He is proficient in Brahmasutra and Bhagavad Gita. ‘Dharma Bandhu’ award was conferred on Ravinder Pandit, a Kashmiri Pandit popularly known as Bharata Bandhu. He is a propagator of Sanatana Dharma and has worked for the preservation of Sharada Peeth. ‘Sasya Bandhu’ award was presented to Smt. Anupama Vedachala from Karnataka, currently residing in Bengaluru. She is well known in Bonrai art and has promoted the art form internationally as well.

Soul knowledge removes fear of death opinion: Shivamaniji

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Rajyogini Brahmakumari Shivamaniji said that people around the world are afraid of death and try many ways to escape it. She spoke at the inauguration of the Bhagavad Gita and Shiva Yoga discourse program at Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya University in Chamarajanagar city.

She said the essence of the

Bhagavad Gita is the cycle of birth and death and there is no need to fear death. She explained that lack of knowledge about the soul creates fear and sorrow. The soul enters a body at birth and leaves it at death like changing clothes and it is never destroyed.

Mahadevaswamy district president said children should learn good values and not focus only on money.

QUICK READ



Housing scheme open for Nomadic families

CH NEWS, Chitradurga The Karnataka Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Nomadic Development Corporation has invited applications for house construction under a housing scheme for Scheduled Caste nomadic families. Families who own land but live in tents or huts without proper shelter are eligible to apply. A total of 100 houses have been allotted for Chitradurga district under this scheme. Eligible people from all taluks have been asked to contact their local Social Welfare Department office and submit applications with required documents. Officials said the scheme aims to support homeless families and improve living conditions across the district with government assistance.

Power shutdown announced in Kodagu region areas

CH NEWS, Madikeri Power supply will be interrupted from 10 am to 5 pm on May 29 in Shanivarasanthetown, Thyagaraja Colony, Gundurao Layout, Sampigedalu, Kittur, Handli, Managali, Kittur Koppalu, Bellaralli, Madravalli, Bageri and Hulse areas due to strengthening work on the Kodagu power grid officials said statement. Power supply will remain suspended from 10 am to 5 pm on May 30 in Avaredalu, Byadagotta, Dodda Kunda, Chikka Kunda, Neerugunda, Besuru, Doddabhandara, Katteपुरa, and nearby areas due to feeder maintenance work at the Somwarpet power distribution center official notice has been issued.

Chitradurga records light rain across district areas

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Chitradurga district received an average of 11.5 mm rainfall on Wednesday night. Challakere taluk recorded 21.4 mm, Chitradurga 15.1 mm, Hiriyur 9.9 mm, Holalkere 2.2 mm, Hosadurga 3 mm and Molakalmuru 11.4 mm rain while some houses and horticulture crops were partially damaged across several taluks according to District Collector Office statement Nayakanahatti received 27.7 mm Turuvanur 27.6 mm Bharamasagur 20.5 mm and several villages reported minor crop loss and ten houses were partially damaged in the district.

RAMANAGARA

D K Shivakumar supporters in Ramanagara celebrated reports that he may get chance to become Chief Minister as political discussions intensified in Karnataka Congress circles. They burst crackers distributed sweets and raised slogans in favour of D K Shivakumar in his constituency expressing happiness over the leadership change discussions. Congress workers said Shivakumar has worked for many years and contributed to party growth and they believe his

Nikhil Kumaraswamy backs farmers against township project

Nikhil said the issue is not political but about farmers' livelihoods and ancestral land, accusing ruling party leaders of treating it as a prestige matter.

RAMANAGARA

JDS youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy visited villages and expressed support for farmers protesting against the proposed Bidadi Township project in Bengaluru South region. He said he visited 26 villages and stood with farmers who have been protesting for more than 435 days, saying the project will harm their lands and livelihoods. He added that the issue is not political but about farmers' lives and their ancestral property and accused ruling party leaders of treating the project as a prestige matter. He questioned why local leaders and ministers have not vis-



ited the protest site despite it continuing for over 435 days and said farmers were being ignored. On political questions about the Chief Minister and state leadership he said he would

not comment in detail noting that Congress has a clear majority with 136 seats and is running the government. He responded to remarks that the project would proceed even if farmers suffer, saying such

comments ignore ground realities. He asked why the minister who calls himself son of the district has not visited the protest site or met the farmers in person. He said it has been a long agitation and still no direct dialogue has taken place with the affected families. He added that they may not be originally from the district, but their concern and emotion are strongly connected with the land and people.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy concluded that the farmers' struggle is about survival and livelihood and not politics. He said development should not come at the cost of agriculture and rural families. He assured

continued support to the protesting villagers and urged the government to hold meaningful discussions. He also said that local elected representatives should listen to the concerns of people before moving forward with any township plan.

Farmers present in the villages shared their problems and appealed for protection of their land. The visit was seen as a strong show of solidarity with the ongoing agitation in Bidadi region. Officials and villagers said they hope the government will reconsider the township plan and protect agricultural land for future generations as well.

Minister Eshwar Khandre Denies Zoo Proposal Plan

HASSAN

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said the government has no proposal before it to establish a new zoo in Hassan and plans are focused on elephant rehabilitation facilities.

Khandre said instructions have been issued to begin the tender process for a proposed elephant camp within the next ten days to manage conflict areas. He said elephants are frequently moving outside forest limits in Hassan Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru causing crop loss and risk to human life in villages.

According to the forest department report submitted by senior officials, the elephant rehabilitation project has been proposed with scientific measures and coordination be-

The minister said government is reclaiming forest land across Karnataka, 100 acres at Madenur near Hassan, and will appoint settlement officers to speed notifications process

tween divisions. He said Karnataka already has established zoos such as Mysuru Zoo and Bannerghatta Biological Park which are internationally recognised and support conservation education. He added that revenue from these major zoos is being used to maintain other zoological parks across the state.

The minister also said the government has started steps to reclaim forest land and pro-

tect encroached areas across Karnataka. As part of this initiative, 100 acres of forest land at Madenur near Hassan will be taken back under government control. He said notification of forest areas is progressing slowly and the government will appoint forest settlement officers to speed up the process.

The minister said the elephant camp project will help reduce human elephant conflict in Malnad regions and improve safety of farmers and villagers. He urged coordinated efforts from forest staff and local administrations to ensure timely implementation of conservation measures while balancing ecological protection and rural livelihood needs across districts in Karnataka state as planned under government policy framework.

MAGADI

Congress leader Doddasomanahalli Ramachandraiah has urged the party high command to appoint D.K. Shivakumar as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and to include senior MLA H.C. Balakrishna in the state cabinet.

He said that D.K. Shivakumar has played a key role in strengthening the Congress party in Karnataka and has worked tirelessly during elections, including bypolls and neighbouring state campaigns, ensuring party victories. Ramachandraiah added that Shivakumar, a leader from the Vokkaliga community, enjoys strong public support and his leadership would help in the faster implementation of the Mekedatu project, which is important for the region. He also demanded that senior MLA

H.C. Balakrishna, who has represented Magadi constituency five times, be given a ministerial position this time, noting his long service and contribution to local development. He further said that people of Magadi constituency expect Balakrishna to be included in the cabinet and urged the high command to consider both leaders for stronger governance and balanced regional development in Karnataka politics. He said this will strengthen Congress in the state and bring faster development to Magadi region he further added.

Several local Congress workers, public representatives and supporters were present during the interaction in Magadi town. Speakers said that the appeal reflects growing demand within the constituency for better representation in the state cabinet.

Kolar schools witness major educational transformation

KOLAR

Educational reforms in Kolar district are bringing major improvements in government schools through coordinated efforts of the education department, teachers, and local bodies under DDPI Almas Parveen Taj.

Bilingual education for Classes 1 to 5 has been introduced across government schools along with teacher training programs and English speaking skill development sessions to improve classroom learning quality. Early Childhood Care and Education centres have been started in many schools with LKG and UKG classes, improved facilities, and admission drives encouraging parents to enroll children in government institutions.

Karnataka Public Schools, PM SHRI schools, and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are being strengthened with modern infrastructure, digital classrooms, transport support, and better learning environments for students across the district. In the SSLC examinations 2025 to 26, Kolar achieved a 95.50 percent pass

result reflecting strong teamwork of teachers students and parents and ongoing efforts to further improve education standards in future. The education department continues to focus on improving access, quality, and inclusiveness in learning across all government schools in Kolar district.

Officials and teachers are working together to ensure digital learning, better infrastructure, and equal opportunities for rural and urban students alike. We aim to strengthen early education systems, improve enrolment rates, and provide safe and child friendly environments in every school.

Karnataka Public Schools and PM SHRI initiatives are expected to further enhance modern education facilities and support long term academic growth. Continuous monitoring and community participation are helping to improve student performance and strengthen government schooling system outcomes steadily. The district aims to become a model for quality education in coming years across Karnataka state.

Minister reviews drinking water and crop issues

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Minister held meeting on drinking water shortage crop damage due to untimely rains fertilizer shortage and other issues in district at Karnataka State Higher Education Council Bhavan in Bengaluru and collected information from officials and gave suggestions.

On this occasion District Collector G Prabhu Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr Y Naveen Bhat Additional District Collector Dr N Bhaskar Sub Divisional Officer D H Ashwin and Deputy Director of Horticulture Department Gayathri were present. The minister directed officials to address drinking water supply problems on priority and take immediate steps to protect crops affected by rain damage and ensure fertilizer supply to farmers in the district. Officials were asked to coordinate between departments and provide timely relief measures for farmers improve water management systems.

R N Bindumani said police registered 186 NDPS cases against people involved in sale, transport, consumption of narcotics

S J Somashekar chairs narcotics coordination meeting

MADIKERI

Deputy Commissioner S J Somashekar instructed officials to strictly implement the Drug Free Campus policy in all schools and colleges of the district. He spoke while chairing the district level Narcotics Coordination Committee meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall. Officials reviewed previous meeting points from April 2026 and discussed action taken by departments.

District Superintendent of Police R N Bindumani said police have registered 186 NDPS cases against those involved in sale transportation and consumption of narcotic substances in the district. Police officials are visiting schools and colleges to spread awareness on drug abuse and legal consequences through programs street plays and marathon rallies. Police are monitoring re-

peat drug peddlers while officials stressed need for rehabilitation center in the district for treatment of addicts.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr Satish Kumar said rehabilitation center can be started if government building or private facility is available. Deputy Commissioner said rehabilitation centers function in all districts and funds will be arranged to establish one in Kodagu district. Officials informed that a temporary de addiction center has been set up at district hospital and details shared with police. Health officials said drug test kits supplied to primary health centers are being used and more kits will be supplied regularly.

Sub Divisional Officer Nithin Chakki said tourism revenue and police departments are conducting surprise inspections at homestays resorts and hotels employing

Cleanliness awareness rally held in Chitradurga city

CHITRADURGA

Community participation is very important for building a healthy society. Chitradurga Taluk Health Education Officer B Moogappa appealed to the public to maintain cleanliness and avoid dumping garbage everywhere during a cleanliness awareness rally held in Prashanthnagar.

If garbage is thrown everywhere, it can release toxic elements and foul smell, increasing the risk of infectious diseases. He said the municipal corporation sends garbage trucks daily to every doorstep and citizens should use this service properly. He also expressed concern over rising plastic use and environmental damage, noting that plastic does not decompose even after many years.

Environmental Engineer J Jaffer demonstrated Solid Waste Management 2026 and explained garbage segregation using four color coded buckets. He showed which waste should be placed in each bucket and how it should be handed over to the garbage collection vehicle.

In the awareness rally organized in Prashanthnagar, participants raised slogans such as Our health is in our hands, waste segregation is everyone's responsibility, and keep surroundings clean for a disease free society. Senior Health Inspector T Srinivasamurthy, Rukmini, Babureddy, Junior Health Inspectors Jayaprakash and Heena Kausar, along with community mobilizers and the public, took part in the program. Officials said continued public cooperation is needed to keep the city clean and reduce health risks in future.

POLITICAL TRANSITION TALKS

Ramanagara celebrates over DKS' possible CM role

RAMANAGARA

D K Shivakumar supporters in Ramanagara celebrated reports that he may get chance to become Chief Minister as political discussions intensified in Karnataka Congress circles. They burst crackers distributed sweets and raised slogans in favour of D K Shivakumar in his constituency expressing happiness over the leadership change discussions. Congress workers said Shivakumar has worked for many years and contributed to party growth and they believe his



long service is now being rewarded. They also said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to step down as per high command instructions and a lunch meeting with cab-

inet colleagues has been planned. Supporters said they are ready to welcome Shivakumar if he becomes Chief Minister and more celebrations are expected in coming days across

the region. Political observers said the situation reflects ongoing power sharing discussions within the party and final decision will be taken by the high command in Bengaluru after consultations.

Meanwhile supporters said they will continue celebrations and express confidence that leadership transition will bring development and strengthen Congress organisation in the state. Party leaders have not officially confirmed any change and all decisions are awaited while Siddaramaiah continues to attend scheduled meet-

ings in Bengaluru.

The celebrations in Ramanagara highlight strong support among workers for Shivakumar and growing anticipation over possible leadership change in Karnataka Congress politics. Security arrangements remained normal and police said no untoward incidents were reported during celebrations in the city and surrounding areas. Officials said monitoring will continue and citizens have been advised to maintain peace and follow guidelines during any future public gatherings across the region.

Maheshwar Rao reviews gobbler machine demo

BENGALURU

Several initiatives are being undertaken to keep Bengaluru city clean as per the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru City Development Minister D K Shivakumar. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to use the Gobbler smart litter picker machine on a trial basis on major roads within GBA limits and submit a report.

Speaking during inspection of Gobbler machine demo on Commercial Street road in

Shivajinagar division of Bengaluru Central City Corporation he said that smart technology should be used to keep city roads clean effectively. He directed officials to conduct trial use and later expand deployment across all city corporations based on performance report.

The Gobbler machine is a battery operated smart cleaning system capable of collecting dust leaves plastic paper glass metal waste and other debris efficiently from road-side areas.

QUICK READ

Lightning damages coconut and areca crops

CH NEWS, Pavagada Lightning struck an areca plantation in Y.N. Hosakote taluk, causing damage to coconut and areca crops. The strike hit the top of a large coconut tree in the field of H.M. Maranna in survey number 72/1 at Hosadurga village. The upper branches of the tree were burnt, and nearby around 20 harvested areca trees were uprooted and bent due to the impact. Revenue Department village accountant Gurukishore visited the spot and inspected the damage. He submitted a report to higher authorities for further assessment and possible compensation consideration under relief measures.

Three Dead in Chitradurga road accident

CH NEWS, Chitradurga A major road accident occurred in Byarapur village of Molakalmuru taluk when a goods tempo crashed into a stationary lorry. Three people travelling in the tempo died on the spot. The identity of the deceased has not yet been confirmed. Molakalmuru police visited the site and conducted an investigation. The incident caused shock in the local area. Authorities are taking further legal action. Police said efforts are underway to identify the victims and determine the exact cause of the accident involving the parked vehicle on the highway stretch. Further details will be shared by police.

Ashok slams Manjunath over irrigation project row

Ashok alleged pipeline delays for Dabaspeta industrial water supply due to political interference, warning investors shifting to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

MAGADI

H.N. Ashok has criticised former MLA A. Manjunath for allegedly obstructing irrigation development works in Magadi and said such actions are harming investment and growth in Karnataka.

He said during a programme at Balenahalli Eligenahalli village that a one crore rupee project under Cauvery Irrigation Corporation for concrete road and drainage works is important for local development.

Ashok alleged that pipeline works to supply water to Dabaspeta industrial area have been delayed due to political interference and said investors are shifting to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. He also said



development of Bidadi and Dabaspeta industrial areas requires basic facilities like water electricity and roads and urged leaders to support infrastructure projects without political obstruction. Supporters of local leadership including J P Chandregowda said ongoing works under Adarsh Gram Yojana

and new concrete road projects are improving village connectivity under MLA H C Balakrishna efforts.

We request cooperation between political leaders and administration to ensure timely completion of irrigation and road works for the benefit of farmers and industrial growth

in the region. Officials said irrigation projects are essential for farmers and long pending infrastructure issues should be resolved through dialogue and cooperation between elected representatives and departments.

Local residents said political disputes are affecting development works and requested leaders to focus on public welfare rather than conflicts so that roads irrigation canals and industrial infrastructure projects can be completed on time which will improve agriculture employment opportunities and overall economic growth in Magadi taluk and surrounding regions for better future. Authorities also emphasised timely completion and strict monitoring of ongoing works across the taluk.

Strict action ordered against illegal sand mining

YADGIR

District Collector Rahul Tukaram Pandey has directed officials to take strict action to completely stop illegal sand mining, transportation and storage activities across Yadgir district. He was speaking while chairing a meeting on illegal sand mining control held at the District Collector office hall in Yadgir.

The Collector said complaints have been received about illegal sand mining activities continuing in several taluks including Surpur, Shahapur and Vadagera and immediate action must be taken. He instructed officials to seize vehicles and machinery used in illegal sand mining and initiate legal proceedings against those involved without delay. He also directed that confiscated sand should be used for government development works as per existing rules and regulations.

The District Collector ordered formation of special enforcement teams to carry out day and night patrols to prevent

illegal transportation of sand across the district. He warned that strict disciplinary action will be taken against officials who fail to act against illegal mining activities or show negligence in duty.

District Superintendent of Police Prithvi Shankar, Additional District Magistrate Ramesh Kolar and Deputy Director of Mines and Geology Department Viresh attended the meeting. Officials said coordinated enforcement between police and mining departments is essential to stop illegal sand extraction and protect natural resources in the district. Authorities added monitoring systems will be strengthened and surprise inspections will be conducted in sensitive areas to curb illegal activities effectively across river belts and transport routes in Yadgir district. The administration said protecting natural resources is a priority and strict enforcement will continue in coming days to ensure compliance with mining laws and safeguard public assets for future generations without compromise.

Mallikarjuna Swamy elected as Teachers Association President

MAGADI

Mallikarjuna Swamy has been elected as president of the Taluk Primary School Teachers Association in Magadi. Devaraju is vice president, Kamamma is general secretary, KV Ravishankar is treasurer, and Chikkagamma is vice president. The election was held at GKBMS school and all posts were filled unopposed.

BEO Rajegowda acted as election officer and Rajagopal as assistant election officer.

New president Mallikarjuna Swamy said that 11 directors from our team were elected and everyone together chose him unopposed. He said he will work as the voice of teachers and with cooperation of the

new BEO he will solve teachers problems. He also said 45 teachers have been transferred and he will try to give them LPS benefits. Medical bills worth 3 crores are pending and efforts will be made to clear them. He added that with state association support he will focus on NPS and OPS implementation and with MLA H C Balakrishna support Guru Bhavan will be completed.

Employees association president BN Jayaramu said the responsibility of office bearers has increased and they will handle it efficiently. He added that the Teachers Association and Government Employees Association will organize Seva Ratna awards, Pratibha awards and a sports meet in July.

Free eye camp brings hope for villagers

PAVAGAD

A free eye surgery camp was organised at Sri Chowdeshwari Kalyana Mantapa in Y N Hosakote village, jointly by Help Society, Seva Trust Pavagada and Shankar Eye Hospital Bengaluru.

Addressing the camp Dr Arun Kumar said it is commendable that Help Society president Manam Shashikira is providing service without any financial interest to help people in border areas.

The organisers said the camp received good response from local residents and helped many poor patients get timely eye screening and guidance for advanced treatment. They also provided counselling and post surgery follow up advice to all patients.

Help Society president Manam Shashikira said that the organisation is engaged in educational, social and health service and public service is always his only goal.

More than 240 people were examined in the camp and 86 patients were sent by bus to Shankar Eye Hospital Bengaluru for surgery. On this occasion Srinivas Shankara Hospital doctors Manvit and Shruti coordinator Harish and Auto Drivers Association president Baker Nagaraj were present.

Special Comprehensive Revision 2026 begins in Gadag

GADAG

Meeting with political party leaders on Special Comprehensive Revision of Voters List 2026 was held at the District Collector Office hall in Gadag under chairmanship of District Election Officer and District Collector C N Sridhar.

District Collector said that Election Commission of India notification dated 14 May 2026 initiated the Special Comprehensive Revision of Voters List across the district. He informed that district has four assembly constituencies and 967 polling booths with 905206 total voters including male female and third gender voters.

A total of 826953 voters have been mapped achieving 91.36 percent progress with BLOs supervisors and election staff working for completion.

826953 voters have been mapped with 91.36% progress; BLOs and supervisors are working, and Booth Level Agents will be appointed at all polling stations with cooperation from political parties

He urged political parties to cooperate and said Booth Level Agents will be appointed for all polling stations.

District Superintendent of Police Rohan Jagadish Additional District Election Officer Duragesh KR and officials attended the meeting. Officials said cooperation is essential for accurate voter list preparation and transparent elections in the district. They added that revision process will strengthen voter database accuracy and

democratic participation in future elections. Election officials said awareness programmes and verification drives will continue as per Election Commission guidelines across all polling booths.

District administration appealed to all political party representatives and polling staff to ensure smooth completion of revision process and maintain accuracy in voter records. They said the exercise will improve electoral transparency strengthen democratic participation and support fair elections in Gadag district.

Officials confirmed monitoring teams will supervise each stage of work and ensure timely completion without errors.

Citizens are encouraged to cooperate with booth level officers during verification and mapping activities.

MCC Bank crosses 10 crore milestone

UDUPI

The Santhekatte branch of MCC Bank celebrated a historic milestone after crossing a remarkable Rs 10 crore in business turnover within just seven months of opening. To honor this rapid success, the branch hosted a grand celebration and community event at its premises.

The event was presided over by Bank Chairman Sahakara Ratna Anil Lobo, with local parish priest Father Henry Mascarenhas serving as the chief guest. To mark the achievement, ten founding customers representing the local community joined bank officials on stage for a ceremonial



cake-cutting. The bank formally honored these foundational customers, expressing deepest gratitude for their early trust and continued confidence.

In his presidential address, Chairman Lobo thanked the residents of Udupi district for their overwhelming support. He highlighted the bank's strict adherence to regulatory guidelines, which allowed them to successfully expand from 16 to 21 branches in two years, with a total business turnover reaching Rs 1,525 crore. Chief Guest Father Mascarenhas praised

the milestone, stating it reflected a deep bond of trust between the staff and the public. Guest speaker Nithin Shetty also commended the bank for its incredibly fast, customer-friendly two-day loan processing.

True to its commitment to social responsibility, the bank used the celebration to give back to the community. Officials distributed free schoolbooks and educational materials to underprivileged students from several local schools. Top-scoring children of bank customers were also publicly honored for academic excellence, concluding an event that celebrated both financial growth and community development.

Bengaluru property records improve after E-Khata launch

BENGALURU

Special Commissioner Revenue and IT Munish Moudgil said that misinformation is being spread about the E-Khata system and its integration with property registration in Bengaluru.

Earlier Bengaluru property system had major disorder with many transactions involving

unauthorised layouts, illegal sites and unclear ownership records, but after E-Khata introduction such issues have reduced significantly.

E-Khata system is backed by law under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act Registration Act and planning laws and courts have also upheld the framework while ensuring digitised records improve transpar-

ency and reduce corruption. As per directions of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar fifty E-Khata open houses are being conducted every Saturday to help citizens resolve issues related to property records. Thousands of citizens are benefiting from these sessions each week across Bengaluru. The system has also received the National e-Governance Gold Award

2025 from the Government of India for improving digital governance and public service delivery. E-Khata is meant to support lawful property owners ensure transparency and remove middlemen while making urban property management more efficient. Officials said that digitisation will continue to improve services and reduce delays in Bengaluru.

No fuel shortage in Raichur district says DC

RAICHUR

Deputy Commissioner Poovita S said there is no shortage of petrol diesel or LPG gas in Raichur district and assured the public that fuel supply is stable and sufficient.

She was speaking while chairing a meeting with officials oil company representatives and petrol pump owners at the video conference hall of the new DC office in Raichur. She directed oil companies to maintain continuous supply and ensure that no disruption occurs in petrol and diesel availability across the district.



She instructed all petrol pump owners to submit daily fuel stock details and ensure distribution based on public demand without delay or shortage. With the monsoon season approaching and farm-

ers preparing for agricultural activities she stressed that fuel availability must be ensured for smooth farming operations.

She warned that strict action will be taken if any petrol

pump is found selling fuel above the fixed government price or violating regulations.

Officials also discussed consumer protection fuel safety measures and compliance with petroleum distribution rules during the meeting. Food Department Deputy Director Nazir Ahmed informed that 194 petrol pumps are operating in the district including BPCL IOCL HPCL and Nayara outlets.

District Police Superintendent Arunangshu Giri Assistant Commissioners Dr Hampanna Sajjan and Basavanappa Kalashetty and other

taluk officials attended the meeting. Authorities said monitoring systems will be strengthened to ensure fair distribution of fuel and prevent hoarding or irregularities in the supply chain across Raichur district.

Officials assured that continuous coordination with oil companies will help maintain uninterrupted fuel supply for farmers transport operators and the general public in the coming months while ensuring strict price regulation and consumer protection across all petrol stations in the district.

Israeli-Origin mango creates buzz in Srinivasapur

SRINIVASAPUR

Srinivasapur in Kolar district is seeing rising attention this season as the rare Israeli-origin Maya mango variety attracts strong interest from farmers and buyers. The fruit grown in Hoggalgera village has become popular for its sweet taste, rich aroma and premium quality in local markets.

Officials from Srinivasapur Mango Development Centre say the Maya mango saplings were first introduced in 2016 as part of experimental trials involving foreign varieties. The

variety adapted well to local soil and climate conditions and showed strong growth and fruit bearing potential in early stages. Nearly 200 trees are now in productive stage and have given good harvest this year. Prices for the fruit have reached between 100 to 500 rupees per kilogram in the market. Experts say the Maya mango stands out for its unique sweetness, flavour and fragrance compared to traditional varieties. Officials say the soil and climate in the region are highly suitable for Maya mango cultivation and expect production to increase.

QUICK READ



Muslim Member Supported Cow Slaughter Ban Debate

New Delhi
During the Constituent Assembly debates in 1948, Muslim member Syed Muhammad Saadulla supported a clear constitutional stand on cow slaughter. He said he would not oppose including cow protection in Fundamental Rights or Directive Principles if it was openly declared as a religious matter. Referring to the Quranic principle "La Ikraha fiddin," meaning no compulsion in religion, Saadulla stated he would not support cow protection proposals based on economic reasons. The debate has resurfaced amid fresh demands from some Muslim groups to declare the cow a national animal.

Gujarat: Husband Sold Wife, Seven Arrested

Palanpur
A shocking human trafficking case has surfaced in Palanpur, where a man allegedly sold his wife for Rs 50,000 after 12 years of marriage. Police said the 26-year-old woman was held captive for several days, repeatedly assaulted, and robbed of her gold ear studs. The accused husband, Nikesh Patel, along with Sanjay Thakor, Ashok Thakor and Sachin Thakor, has been arrested. Police revealed Patel first filed a missing complaint to hide the crime. Officials said the accused wanted to "get rid" of his wife and allegedly planned to bring another woman home.

Rajasthan Petrol Dealers Warn June Strike

Jaipur
The Rajasthan Petroleum Dealers Association has threatened an indefinite strike from June 1 over fuel supply shortages, pricing issues and action against dealers. In a letter to Bhajanlal Sharma, the association demanded immediate government intervention and a meeting before June 1. Association president Rajendra Singh Bhati said many petrol pumps are running dry daily due to disrupted petrol and diesel supplies. Dealers are also demanding a reduction in VAT on fuel across the state.

Centre Reviews Maharashtra Water Supply Schemes Progress

NEW DELHI

India has issued a strong warning to Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), saying that continued support for cross-border terrorism will have serious consequences. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, made the statement during a UNSC open debate on strengthening the UN-centred international framework and upholding its principles. He accused Pakistan of repeatedly supporting extremist groups and directing them against India. He said India has the sovereign right to defend itself from such threats. Harish said Pakistan must understand that there are consequences for sponsoring cross-border terrorism. He alleged that Pakistan has followed a long-standing policy of promoting terrorism and radicalisation against India since its formation. Referring to the doctrine of "bleeding India by a thousand cuts," he said Pakistan's actions contradict its claims of respecting the UN Charter.

Modi to Chair NDA Chief Ministers Council Meeting on June 10

NDA leaders will discuss governance, welfare delivery and political strategies during the important June 10 meeting

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the National Democratic Alliance Chief Ministers' Council meeting in the national capital on June 10 as the BJP-led government completes 12 years at the Centre. The meeting is expected to bring together Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from NDA-ruled states along with senior leaders of the alliance. According to sources, the gathering will mainly focus on reviewing the achievements of the Modi government during the past 12 years. Leaders are expected to discuss ways to strengthen public outreach and improve awareness about welfare and development programmes launched by the Centre. The meeting will also examine how flagship schemes can reach beneficiaries more effectively across different states.

The council is likely to deliberate on major governance priorities for the coming months, including welfare delivery, infrastructure development, employment generation and better implementation of important government schemes. Discussions may also focus on improving coordination between the Centre and



NDA-governed states to ensure smoother execution of development projects. Sources said the meeting will provide an opportunity for state leaders to share governance experiences and successful strategies adopted in their regions. The alliance leadership is also expected to stress the impor-

tance of taking government programmes to the grassroots level and ensuring that people receive the benefits without delay. Apart from governance matters, the meeting may also discuss the political roadmap ahead of Assembly elections scheduled in several states later

this year. Leaders are likely to review organisational preparedness and strengthen coordination among alliance partners before the upcoming polls. Political observers see the June 10 gathering as an important organisational exercise for the ruling alliance. The BJP and its partners have been highlighting the Centre's policy decisions and governance record as the Modi government marks 12 years in office. The meeting is expected to reinforce the NDA's development narrative under Prime Minister Modi's leadership while preparing the alliance for future political and governance challenges across the country.

Shah Orders Demolition of Illegal Border Structures

BIKANER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed strict action against illegal constructions within 15 km of India's international borders, ordering authorities to demolish all such structures under a zero-tolerance policy during a high-level security review meeting in Bikaner.

The meeting was held with Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and senior officials, along with district magistrates and police chiefs from five border districts Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sri Ganganagar and Phalodi.

Shah reviewed the overall security situation in border regions and stressed the need for strong coordination among all agencies. He instructed officials to remove all illegal structures within the 0 to 15 km border belt and ensure strict implementation of laws without exceptions.

Authorities were also asked to study crime patterns, drug networks and cross-border activities in detail and prepare a "360-degree security cover" for every border district. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, district administrations must closely monitor banking transactions, verify large business establishments, track suspicious funding sources, identify mule accounts, fake companies and fraudulent Aadhaar cards. Officials were also told to curb smuggling activities and strengthen surveillance systems in border areas.

Former diplomat Veena Sikri raises doubts over Pakistan's mediation role as Iran-US ceasefire remains fragile amid rising West Asia tensions.

Ex-Diplomat Questions Pakistan Mediation Role in Iran Talks

NEW DELHI

Former Indian diplomat Veena Sikri has raised serious questions over Pakistan's credibility as a mediator in ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, especially amid fragile ceasefire efforts involving Iran and the United States. Speaking on the evolving situation, Sikri said the ceasefire remains highly uncertain, with conflicting statements from global leaders. She noted that US Secretary of State

Marco Rubio had indicated a possible agreement within hours or days, while Iranian officials denied any imminent deal. Former US President Donald Trump, however, has suggested that negotiations are close to completion. Sikri said the situation is further complicated by discussions around the Abraham Accords, which aim to normalise relations between Israel and several Arab countries. She pointed out that Pakistan has refused to support the agree-

ment without the creation of an independent Palestinian state, adding another layer of diplomatic tension. She also questioned Pakistan's neutrality, citing reports of Iranian aircraft presence on Pakistani soil and alleged movement of US assets in the region. According to her, Pakistan's growing defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia, including troop and aircraft deployment, raises doubts about its ability to act as an impartial mediator.

Jagan Blames SIR Votes Deletions, Electoral Losses

AMARAVATI

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists played a major role in the electoral defeats of leaders such as Mamata Banerjee and M. K. Stalin in some Assembly segments. He raised concerns over large-scale deletion of votes during the revision process and warned party cadres to stay alert as SIR is expected to be carried out in Andhra Pradesh as well. Addressing YSR Congress Party leaders in Tadepalli, Jagan said that several political parties across the country

have already expressed fears that removal of genuine voters can influence election outcomes. He claimed that even a small number of deleted votes in villages could change results at the constituency level. He alleged that about 91 lakh votes were removed in West Bengal and around 94 lakh in Tamil Nadu during SIR. He further said that in Bhabanipur constituency, nearly 45,982 votes were deleted, while Mamata Banerjee lost by around 15,000 votes. In Kolathur, about 71,000 voters were removed, and Stalin lost by 8,000 votes, he said.

Madhya Pradesh Launches Air Ambulance Digital Platform

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has launched the 'Air Ambulance MP' portal and mobile app to reduce delays in emergency medical air transfers and improve access to critical healthcare services in remote areas. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla unveiled the digital platform at Mantralaya on Wednesday and described it as a major step towards technology-driven healthcare services in the state. The new system has been introduced under the PM Shri Air Ambulance Service. Officials said the platform will replace lengthy paperwork with a fully digital process. Hospitals and district nodal officers can now submit emergency air ambulance requests through the mobile app and portal. Once a request is raised, alerts are sent simultaneously to pilots, medical teams and approval authorities, helping save valuable time during emergencies. The system also includes live fleet tracking that allows officials to monitor aircraft location and availability in real time. Automated notifications will help ensure medical crews remain ready before



final approvals are issued for take-off. According to the state government, the PM Shri Air Ambulance Service has already completed around 140 missions across the state. These missions included transportation of critically ill newborn babies, heart patients, stroke victims, accident survivors and patients waiting for organ transplants. The service is being provided free of cost to Ayushman Bharat cardholders and economically weaker patients to ensure that financial difficulties do not delay life-saving treatment. Officials said trained nodal officers will manage the new air ambulance app, aiming to ensure take-off within an hour and improve emergency healthcare access in remote areas across Madhya Pradesh.

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

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of Construction of "Prajasoudha" Kadur Taluk Adalitha Kendra at Kadur Taluk, Chikmagalur District.

Notification No.: KHB/CE/AEF-Prajasoudha/TAC/KHB/2026-27/SE0382
Date: 26.05.2026

Last date for submission of bid is on: 10.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM.

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/846/AKAR/2026-27

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State

Ref. No.VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27 /IFT No.29 /880, Date: 25-05-2026

Short Term Tender Notification
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of Renovation of main building at UBDT., College of Engineering, Davangere amounting to **Rs.3,84,52,725/-** (Excluding GST). Other details log on to website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on 26-05-2026.

Sd/- Registrar,
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/323/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB-1/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 05/2026-27/823 DATE:25-05-2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KPPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWDK.W-1, 2 & 3, 4 Item rate tender in One and two cover system as per KPPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs. 1.50 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs. 300.00 Lakhs) for the 15 works through KPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP-PORTLA website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> from 25-05-2026 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 15-06-2026 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 16-06-2026 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid for Tenders Date: 17-06-2026 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Financial bid Date:18-06-2026 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPP-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 124/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI, Chitradurga

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC, Zone-02 Hesaraghatta Main Road, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru - 560073.

No:BNCC/EE/DD/Tend/04/2026-27 Date: 27-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) SINGLE COVER TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM (KW-1)

(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Jalahalli Sub Division (CAT-2A) Est. Cost: ₹.5.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.6250.00
2.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Yashwanthapura Sub Division (Others) Est. Cost: ₹.7.50 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.18750.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **08-06-2026** upto **4:00 pm**.(2) Financial bids will be opened on **09-06-2026** at **4:30 pm** (If possible)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2 BNCC

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562123, ದೂ: 080-27722735, ಸಹಾಯಕಾರಿ: 080-27723627, Web : www.nelamangala.mrc.gov.in, Email : itstaffnelamangala@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ಮಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/22/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಎಂ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಕರ್ತರ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ &KG ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟನೀತಿಗಳ ಅರ್ಜಿ & ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥನತ್ವದ)

ಪೇರಾಯಕ್ಕು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 45.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟಿನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಿಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕೊಟ್ಟ: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ:-

ಕ್ರಮ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_IDENT58590	15.00
02	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_IDENT58599	15.00
03	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_IDENT58604	15.00

ಸಹ/- ಪ್ರಿ ಗಣೇಶ್ ಎನ್ ಸಹ/- ಪ್ರಿ ಗಂಗಾಧರ ಹೆಚ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹೌರಾಯಕ್ಕು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಇ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ದಾಪ್ರ/837/ಓಪಿಎಂ/2026-27 ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D DIVISION, TUMKUR

Ref No.02/2026-27 KW-4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
KPP Portal DATE : 26.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Dated 26.05.2026

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702-Aneekut & Pickup-Pradhana works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPP Portal on: Dated: 27-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 2. Last date of queries on Dated: 08-06-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPP portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated: 29-06-2026. 4. Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: 30-06-2026 at 17.05 Hours. 5. Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: 01-07-2026 at 17.10 Hours.

For further details, visit Kpp portal website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/86/KSMCA/2026-27

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To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

Jannik Sinner claims 30th consecutive victory

PARIS

World Number One Jannik Sinner made a booming statement at the French Open by charging into the second round. Playing under the lights on Court Philippe-Chatrier, the Italian delivered a masterclass performance. He brushed aside local wild card Clement Tabur in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3, 6-4, to kick off his clay-court campaign in style.

The victory marks Sinner's 30th consecutive match win, placing him alongside legends Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic. Returning to Paris holds deep personal meaning for the 24-year-old. Exactly twelve months ago, he suffered a heartbreaking final defeat on these same courts, wasting three championship points against Carlos Alcaraz. However, Sinner showed zero signs of lingering scars during his clinical display against Tabur.

Sinner utterly dominated the baseline rallies, blasting 40 winners and remarkably denying his opponent a single break point. The four-time Grand Slam champion is enjoying a historic season, having swept all five Masters 1000 trophies this year, including Indian Wells, Miami, Monte-Carlo, Madrid, and Rome. His recent triumph in Italy made him the youngest man ever to complete a Career Golden Masters.

Now, Sinner is fiercely chasing the ultimate missing puzzle piece in his trophy cabinet. Winning the French Open would secure him a coveted Career Grand Slam, making him only the seventh man in the Open Era to achieve the feat.

World Number One Jannik Sinner charged into the French Open second round, defeating Clement Tabur in dominant straight sets

India eyes Olympics through World Yogasana event

NEW DELHI

Top leaders from Yogasana Bharat have expressed massive excitement ahead of the inaugural World Yogasana Championship. In a historic milestone for the global fitness movement, India will host the premier edition of this international tournament from June 4 to 8 at TransStadia in Ahmedabad. The mega-event is viewed as a critical step toward getting Yoga recognized as an official Olympic sport.

Supported heavily by the Indian sports ministry and the Ministry of Ayush, the championship highlights a collaborative national effort to place competitive yoga on the global sporting map. Yogasana Bharat President Udit

Sheth stated that years of grassroots work across 700 Indian districts have culminated in this proud moment. He emphasized that hosting over 75 countries brings a massive responsibility to maintain standardized digital scoring and high-quality broadcasting.

Organizers have completely transformed traditional yoga into a modern athletic discipline. Secretary General Jaideep Arya explained that they structured a comprehensive "Code of Points" rulebook, cataloging 2,500 distinct postures. Following ancient principles, judges will primarily score athletes based on their absolute stillness and composure while holding complex poses.

More than 500 elite interna-



tional participants will compete across 12 unique events. The tournament features diverse categories, including Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Yogasana, Rhythmic Pairs, and synchronized Team Events. Vice President Sanjay Malpani noted that millions of Indian children have mastered these challenging physical routines over the last six years, making India a top favorite to sweep the medal tallies.

HARMANPREET SINGH BACK FOR FIH PRO LEAGUE

NEW DELHI

Star defender Harmanpreet Singh has returned to captain a 24-member Indian men's hockey squad for the crucial European leg of the FIH Pro League. Harmanpreet is back to guide the national team after missing the Hobart leg earlier this year due to personal reasons.

The Indian contingent will initially travel to Brussels, Belgium, for a short preparatory training camp and a friendly match from June 7 to 9. Following this brief setup, the team will land in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on June 10. They will play intense matches against powerhouse nations Germany and the Netherlands between June 14 and 21. Afterward, the squad will fly to London, England, to face arch-rivals Pakistan and hosts England from June 23 to 28.

The selected roster presents a balanced mix of seasoned veterans and promising youngsters, carefully chosen to lock down India's core combinations ahead of the upcoming World Cup. Vice-captain Hardik Singh and former skipper Manpreet Singh will anchor the midfield, while lethal forwards Mandeep Singh and Sukhjett Singh lead the attack. Experienced goalkeeper Suraj Karkera will guard the post alongside Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar.

Chief Coach Craig Fulton expressed immense satisfaction with the team's fitness levels, noting that training has progressed wonderfully. Fulton emphasized that these demanding matches against world-class European opponents and Pakistan are exactly what India needs to test its true strength. The rigorous tour serves as a vital barometer to check where the squad stands in its high-stakes World Cup preparations.



Alireza Firouzja led Norway Chess after beating Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, while Magnus Carlsen and Divya Deshmukh secured dramatic tiebreak wins in the second round

OSLO

The Norway Chess tournament continued its high-intensity battles during the second round in Oslo. French star Alireza Firouzja emerged as the early frontrunner by securing his second consecutive victory in the classical format. Firouzja delivered the only decisive result of the match in the open section by defeating Indian teenager Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa.

In a deeply strategic encounter, Firouzja gradually tightened his grip from the middlegame onward. He masterfully converted a positional advantage into a convincing win using composed endgame techniques. This vital victory pushed the Frenchman clear at the top of the tournament

Firouzja beats Pragganandhaa to lead Norway Chess

standings after just two rounds of play.

Meanwhile, local favorite Magnus Carlsen had to work incredibly hard to edge past Germany's Vincent Keymer in the Armageddon tiebreaker. Their initial classical game ended in a draw after Keymer defended resourcefully against Carlsen's slight endgame advantage. Similarly, World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju drew his classical match against Wesley So,

with the American later prevailing in the rapid tie-breaker format.

The Norway Chess Women's section witnessed an equally fierce round, where all three classical games ended in draws before being settled in Armageddon. Young Indian star Divya Deshmukh stole the spotlight by holding her nerve against veteran grandmaster Koneru Humpy to secure a dramatic tiebreak win.

Kazakhstan's Bibisara Asaubayeva maintained her overall tournament lead by overcoming China's Zhu Jiner in their Armageddon clash, while Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk defeated Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun to round out a thrilling match of elite chess.

Club Tijuana proud to host Iranian team

TIJUANA

Mexican football franchise Club Tijuana has expressed immense pride after being chosen as the official base camp for the Iranian national team during the FIFA World Cup. The Asian squad unexpectedly shifted its training base from the United States to Mexico due to rising global political tensions.

The tournament will be co-hosted by America, Mexico, and Canada from June 11 to July 19. Under the new arrangement, Iran's players will live and train in Tijuana, situated right along the American border. However, the team will still commute to play all of their scheduled matches inside the United States.

Club Tijuana released an official statement online welcoming the world. The club described their home city as incredibly open, friendly, and passionate about sports. They emphasized that the entire region is ready to showcase its unique culture and hospitality while proving its growing status as an international landmark.

Despite not staying overnight in the United States, Iran will fully participate in all their group-stage games across the border. They are scheduled to open their World Cup campaign against New Zealand on June 15 in Inglewood, California.

India face Tajikistan in June friendlies

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's national football team will play two international friendly matches against Tajikistan next month. The All India Football Federation announced that the Blue Tigers will compete on June 5 and June 9 at the Hisor Central Stadium during the official FIFA international match window.

Currently, the Indian squad is stationed in London for the Unity Cup. They face Jamaica in a crucial semifinal, followed by a final or third-place playoff against either Nigeria or Zimbabwe. The team will fly directly from London to Tajikistan on May 31. Returning to Hisor brings fond memories for India, as coach Khalid Jamil's side secured a historic bronze medal there at the CAFA Nations Cup just eight months ago.

Meanwhile, four crucial players have been rushed to London to complete India's final roster. Midfielder Macarton Nickson, defender Nikhil Barla, and forwards Mohammed Sanan and Vikram Partap Singh joined the camp after emergency visa processing. These urgent additions became necessary after club side Mohun Bagan unexpectedly recalled their players from the initial national training camp in Bengaluru, forcing India to travel to England initially with only 17 available players.

Coach Jamil now has a full 22-man squad, anchored by veteran goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and defender Sandesh Jhingan. The upcoming matches provide a golden opportunity for India to test their bench strength and improve their global FIFA rankings.



Nihal Sarin qualifies for Esports World Cup

MUMBAI

Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin has officially qualified for the prestigious Chess main event at the Esports World Cup 2026. Representing S8UL Esports, Nihal secured his highly coveted spot through the demanding Champions Chess Tour leaderboard. With this milestone, he joins his talented teammate Aravindh Chithambaram as one of only two Indian players to make the tournament cutout so far.

The rigorous qualification process spanned two major global tournaments and the extensive Titled Tuesday Grand Prix circuit. While the top three finishers in those marquee events earned direct entries, other players had to consistently grind for leaderboard points. Nihal narrowly missed a direct qualification spot earlier after a heartbreaking fourth-place finish at the Chess.com Open, but the performance still rewarded him with 100 crucial points.

The 21-year-old chess prodigy then showed remarkable consistency across the winter and autumn splits to keep his qualification dreams alive. A spectacular second-place finish in the final Spring Split ultimately sealed his fate, bringing his total tally to 139 points and comfortably booking his ticket to the global showpiece. This achievement marks Nihal's second consecutive appearance at the mega-event.

INDIA TO HOST TWIN ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

HONG KONG

India has bagged the official hosting rights for two major continental track and field events - the Asian Indoor Championships 2027 and the Asian Relays 2028. The landmark announcement was confirmed by World Athletics Vice President Adille Sumariwalla following an important Asian Athletics Council meeting held in Hong Kong.

According to the official allocation, the tech-forward city of Bhubaneswar will play host to the Asian Indoor Championships in 2027. Meanwhile, Chandigarh has been selected to welcome the fastest sprinters on the continent for the Asian Relays in 2028. This double sporting



victory comes right on the heels of the World Athletics Council choosing India earlier this March to host the prestigious 2028 World Indoor Championships.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi expressed immense pride over the development, stating that it marks another golden chapter in es-

tablishing the state as a premier global sports destination. The iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar boasts world-class infrastructure and a proven track record, having seamlessly organized the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships and last year's successful World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event.

National sports administrators believe that hosting these high-profile international competitions back-to-back will provide invaluable home advantage and global exposure to India's rising track talents. The double hosting honors reinforce India's rapidly growing reputation as a highly capable and hospitable powerhouse for world-class athletics events.

India win U23 Asian Wrestling Team trophy

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's freestyle wrestling team has been crowned the undisputed champions at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championships held in Da Nang, Vietnam. India dominated the freestyle standings to comfortably lift



the premier Team Championship Trophy. They successfully finished ahead of traditional global wrestling powerhouse nations Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, who secured second and third place respectively.

This historic freestyle victory capped off a sensational continental campaign for the entire national contingent. India amassing a staggering, record-breaking total of 27 medals across the tournament. The massive haul comprised eleven gold, seven silver, and nine bronze medals spread across the highly competitive Freestyle, Women's Wrestling, and Greco-Roman categories.

The championship-winning freestyle squad wrapped up

their specific campaign with nine medals. Akshay T. Dhre (57kg), Vicky (97kg), Kumar Mohit (65kg), and Chandermohan (79kg) all put on brilliant displays to stand proudly atop the podium with gold medals. Meanwhile, the dominant Indian women's wrestling contingent was equally impressive, capturing six spectacular gold medals out of their own ten-medal haul.

In the Greco-Roman category, Indian grapplers laid a rock-solid foundation early on by securing eight medals, led by Sumit's spectacular gold in the 63kg division. Wrestling Federation of India President Sanjay Singh hailed the monumental achievement, stating that the future of Indian wrestling is incredibly bright.

QUICK READ



Hyundai to Increase Car Prices from June

New Delhi

Hyundai Motor India announced on Wednesday that it will raise prices of its cars by up to Rs 12,800 from June 1, 2026. The company said the hike is due to rising input costs, higher commodity prices, and increased operational expenses. Hyundai added that the increase will differ based on model and variant. The company said it tried to reduce the burden on customers but had to pass on part of the extra costs. Earlier, Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra also announced vehicle price hikes.

High Fuel Costs Force Flight Service Cuts

New Delhi

Air India and IndiGo have reduced flight operations between June and August 2026 due to rising aviation fuel prices. Air India will cut up to 22 per cent of domestic flights, while IndiGo plans a 5-7 per cent reduction in domestic services and a 17 per cent cut in international capacity. Airlines said high ATF prices and rising operational costs forced the temporary changes.

Growing international sustainability rules are pushing Indian pharmaceutical companies toward cleaner energy and stronger environmental practices

Indian Pharma Firms Increase Renewable Energy amid Global Pressure

NEW DELHI

India's pharmaceutical sector is steadily increasing the use of renewable energy as global markets demand stronger environmental standards, according to a report released by ICRA ESG Ratings Limited. The study showed that renewable energy use among 53 pharmaceutical companies rose from 17 per cent in FY2023 to 25 per cent in FY2025.

The report stated that Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient manufacturers recorded the sharpest rise in renewable energy adoption. Their renewable energy usage increased from 21 per cent to 31 per cent during the period. Formulation manufacturers improved from 9 per cent to 17

CCPA Targets Dangerous Chemical Sales on Online Shopping Platforms

Authorities intensified monitoring after hazardous chemicals and explosive materials were reportedly sold freely through several online platforms

NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has started action against the online sale and advertisement of hazardous chemicals and explosive substances on several digital platforms. The move was taken under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to improve consumer safety, public security, and responsible e-commerce practices.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the action



followed reports about dangerous and regulated substances being listed online through IndiaMART, Justdial, Sigma Aldrich India, Dial4Trade, and ExportersIndia. Officials said these chemicals could create serious risks to public safety

and national security if sold without proper checks and safeguards.

The CCPA has issued notices to the companies and sought details regarding seller licences, buyer verification systems, quantities sold, import information, and regulatory approvals. During the initial review, the authority found that several listed substances are restricted or controlled under laws related to hazardous materials and public safety.

The chemicals under investigation include Ammonium Ni-

trate, Gun Powder, Picric Acid, and Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate, commonly known as PETN. The authority also held discussions with the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation to examine existing rules governing explosive substances.

Following the CCPA intervention, several online platforms have reportedly started removing or blocking such listings. The ministry said the action reflects the government's commitment to preventing unauthorized public access to dangerous substances through

digital marketplaces. Officials stated that online marketplaces and intermediaries must follow legal guidelines before allowing the sale or advertisement of regulated chemicals. The ministry also confirmed that eight notices have been issued in similar cases involving dangerous substances. Authorities believe stronger monitoring and verification systems will help prevent misuse of explosive materials and ensure that online shopping platforms operate responsibly nationwide for all consumers.

India Microfinance Sector Shows Strong Asset Quality Improvement

NEW DELHI

India's microfinance sector recorded a major improvement in asset quality as delinquency levels declined sharply over the past year, according to a report released by Equifax on Wednesday.

The report stated that the 30-plus days past due delinquency rate dropped to 2.5 per cent in April 2026 from 6.4 per cent in April 2025, marking a decline of nearly 61 per cent. The improvement was seen across different lender categories due to stronger loan screening practices, better credit monitoring, and greater focus on sustainable lending.

Government Launches SARTHAK-PDS to Modernise Food Distribution

NEW DELHI

The Central government on Wednesday announced the SARTHAK-PDS scheme with an outlay of Rs 25,530 crore to modernise the Public Distribution System across the country. The programme will run for five years from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031, and aims to improve food grain distribution, logistics, transparency, and grievance handling through technology-based systems.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared details of the scheme during the Cabinet

New food distribution scheme will use artificial intelligence, improve logistics, reduce leakages, and strengthen grievance systems across the country

briefing. According to the government, the project will support intra-state movement of food grains, strengthen fair price shops, and introduce modern systems for better management of beneficiaries and supply chains.

As part of the SMART PDS programme, the government

announced three major artificial intelligence platforms named NIRMAL, ASHA, and SAKSHAM. The NIRMAL system will work as a real-time beneficiary registry and help connect different government schemes through live data integration.

The ASHA platform will function as a multilingual grievance and citizen support system through calls, WhatsApp, IVRS, and chatbots. Officials said it can handle nearly three lakh interactions every day and help people receive faster responses in their preferred languages.

The SAKSHAM platform will improve supply chain management through vehicle tracking, QR code tracing, demand forecasting, and route planning. The government said the system could reduce food grain travel distance by 15 to 50 per cent, encourage local procurement, and improve delivery speed.

Officials added that the scheme may help save around Rs 280 crore every year while reducing carbon emissions by 35 per cent. The Centre said the initiative will make food distribution more transparent, efficient, technology-driven, and citizen-friendly across India.

India's Artificial Intelligence Market Expected To Surge Rapidly Nationwide

NEW DELHI

India's artificial intelligence market is expected to grow rapidly from USD 13 billion in 2025 to USD 131 billion by 2032, according to a report released by Avendus Capital. The report said the domestic AI industry is likely to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 39 per cent during the period.

According to the report, the banking, financial services and insurance sector currently leads India's AI market with investments worth USD 2.5 billion. Startups follow with USD 1.8 billion, while media, manufacturing and technology services are also emerging as major contributors to the sector. The

public sector currently accounts for USD 1.2 billion in the market.

The report stated that India's AI data centre industry could deploy nearly 700,000 GPUs over the next five years, creating an investment opportunity worth USD 23 billion. It also noted that around 64 per cent of enterprises prefer building in-house AI systems using cloud-based infrastructure and storage facilities.

India currently has more than 1,800 Global Capability Centres, including over 500 centres dedicated entirely to artificial intelligence. The country is also home to nearly 1.8 lakh startups, with about 89 per cent of newly launched startups already using AI in their services.

Adani Group Market Value Nears Rs Twenty Lakh Crore

AHMEDABAD

The Adani Group is witnessing a strong rise in market valuation as the combined market capitalisation of its listed companies is nearing the Rs 20 lakh crore mark. The group has added nearly Rs 5 lakh crore in market value so far in 2026 due to strong financial performance and growing investor confidence. Among all group firms, Adani Power has emerged as the biggest contributor to wealth creation this year. The company's market capitalisation currently stands at Rs 4,79,167 crore after adding more than Rs 2 lakh crore in value during 2026.

Gold and Silver Prices Rise Amid Global Uncertainty

MUMBAI

Gold and silver prices moved slightly higher on Wednesday as investors continued buying safe-haven assets amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding possible peace talks between the United States and Iran.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures for June 5 rose by Rs 164 to trade at Rs 1,57,780 during morning trade. The yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,57,898 and a low of Rs 1,57,454 compared to the previous close of Rs 1,57,616.

Silver futures for July 3 also gained strength and touched an intraday high of Rs 2,72,628 after rising by Rs



2,000. Later, silver was trading at Rs 2,72,379, showing a gain of Rs 1,751 over the previous close. The white metal recorded an intraday low of Rs 2,71,350 during the trading session.

In the international market, COMEX gold traded at 4,508.20 dollars per ounce, while COMEX silver rose to 77.09 dollars per ounce.

Commodity market experts said gold prices stabilised above

the 4,500-dollar mark after facing pressure earlier in the week. Investors remained cautiously hopeful about progress in ongoing US-Iran peace discussions.

According to analysts, US President Donald Trump said discussions regarding reopening the Strait of Hormuz and extending the ceasefire were continuing. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also stated that reaching a final agreement could still take several days.

Market experts added that despite rising geopolitical tensions, gold prices remained nearly 15 per cent below earlier conflict highs because inflation concerns and rising energy prices increased expectations of tighter monetary policy by major central banks.

Bharat Connect Crosses One Million E-Challan Payments Successfully

NEW DELHI

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited on Wednesday announced that the e-challan service under Bharat Connect has crossed one million transactions with a total value of more than Rs 600 million. The company said the milestone highlights the growing use of digital payment systems for public utility ser-

vices across the country.

According to the company, citizens can now easily view and pay traffic challans through Bharat Connect using a safe and accessible digital platform. The e-challan service is currently available in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

Among these states, Andhra

Pradesh recorded the highest usage with over 700,000 transactions since the service was launched. Telangana and Gujarat also reported strong adoption, while Delhi and Himachal Pradesh recently joined the network. The company stated that more states are expected to join the Bharat Connect e-challan platform in the future.

RIISING COSTS

West Asia Crisis May Raise Household Prices

NEW DELHI

The ongoing West Asia conflict and rising global commodity prices may soon make daily consumer goods more expensive in India, according to a latest report released by Crisil. The report said manufacturers are facing a sharp increase in production costs due to higher prices of crude oil, gas, copper, aluminium, plastics, and chemicals.

According to Crisil's Quickenomics report, the Wholesale Price Index-based input-output ratio crossed the



1.0 mark in April 2026 for the first time in forty-four months. The ratio stood at 1.02 after input prices increased by 6.2 per cent during the month, while output prices rose only 0.7 per

cent.

The report explained that companies are now spending more to manufacture products but have not fully transferred the burden to consumers yet. How-

ever, rising costs are expected to gradually affect household budgets in the coming months.

Crisil linked the sudden rise in prices to the continuing West Asia crisis and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, an important global oil shipping route. The report said the impact has now spread beyond fuel markets into industrial supply chains and manufacturing sectors.

Several important industrial inputs recorded steep price increases in April. Copper prices rose 17.3 per cent, aluminium increased 20.6 per cent, crude

oil-related products surged 49.3 per cent, and gas-related inputs climbed 19.1 per cent.

The report stated that higher copper and aluminium prices are particularly worrying because these metals are widely used in automobiles, electronics, consumer appliances, renewable energy equipment, construction, and power infrastructure.

Crisil further warned that wholesale inflation may rise first before consumer prices increase. It added that strong domestic demand could encourage companies to pass higher costs to customers.

Indian Railways Approves First Indigenous Hydrogen Powered Train

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has approved the country's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell-based train on the Jind-Sonipat section under Northern Railway. The new 10-car trainset is expected to begin operations soon as part of India's push towards clean and sustainable transportation systems.

According to the Ministry of Railways, the hydrogen-powered train will operate at a maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour using a 1200 KW hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system. Officials

said the technology generates electricity through a chemical reaction using hydrogen, with water vapour being the only emission, making it an environmentally friendly alternative to diesel-powered trains.

The Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana has been selected as the pilot project for the hydrogen train service. An indigenous hydrogen storage and refuelling facility has also been developed at Jind to support operations. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation has granted permission for storing and dispensing compressed hydrogen gas at the site.



BOBAT CREDITS KOHLI AND PANDYA FOR SUCCESS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru stormed into their second consecutive IPL final after a 92-run win over Gujarat Titans, drawing praise from team director Mo Bobat

NEW DELHI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru has stormed into their second consecutive tournament final, crushing Gujarat Titans by 92 runs. Following the massive victory, team director Mo Bobat praised the squad's collective effort. He highlighted that Bengaluru's biggest strength this season is playing as a complete unit instead of relying on individual stars.

Playing in Dharamshala, Bengaluru put up a spectacular show. The batting unit combined to post a mammoth total of 254 runs. Captain Rajat Patidar led from the front with a brilliant, unbeaten 93. He received excellent support from Virat Kohli, Venkatesh Iyer, Devdutt Padikkal, and Krunal Pandya, who all made impactful contributions to keep the pressure on Gujarat. The bowlers then mirrored

this flawless teamwork to dismiss Gujarat for just 162 runs. Jacob Duffy led the bowling attack with three wickets, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rasikh Salam Dar, and Krunal Pandya chipped in with two wickets each to seal the dominant win. Bobat emphasized that building a culture where players run toward pressure rather than away from it has been key to their success. He credited the fierce hunger of

Kohli and Pandya, balanced beautifully by the calm experience of Kumar and Josh Hazlewood. As the defending champions, Bengaluru is now just one win away from retaining their coveted title. Bobat believes that if every player continues to fulfill their specific role, the final result on Sunday will take care of itself. The team heads into the ultimate championship match with immense confidence.

DHARAMSHALA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru director of cricket Mo Bobat has credited skipper Rajat Patidar's incredible work ethic for his recent success. Patidar smashed a spectacular, unbeaten 93 against Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1, driving the defending champions into their second consecutive tournament final. Bobat revealed that Patidar worked tirelessly on his batting skills alongside batting coach Dinesh Karthik and head coach Andy Flower. This intense preparation paid

off handsomely in Dharamshala, where Patidar's explosive knock pushed Bengaluru to a record-breaking total of 254 runs, setting up a dominant victory. According to Bobat, Patidar possesses excellent cricket basics and a natural ability to middle the ball consistently against both fast bowlers and spinners. The team director praised the captain for leading by example and perfectly embodying the fearless, aggressive batting identity that Bengaluru has successfully built over the last two seasons. Beyond hitting outrageous shots, Patidar showed incredible maturity by reading the match situation perfectly under pressure. When Bengaluru lost quick wickets in the middle overs, the captain cleverly controlled his aggression to rebuild

the innings before launching a brutal attack during the final overs. Patidar has been in sensational form throughout this season, scoring 486 runs at a massive strike rate near 197.

Gill reflects on powerplay collapse against RCB

DHARAMSHALA

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill admitted that a disastrous Powerplay performance completely ruined their chances during their massive 92-run loss against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Speaking after the heavy defeat in Qualifier 1, Gill reflected that chasing Bengaluru's mammoth total of 254 runs could have been realistic with a stronger start.

Gill pointed out that the beautiful Dharamshala pitch and lightning-fast outfield were actually perfect for high-scoring chases. He emphasized that the ball was travelling exceptionally well, meaning any target could be tracked down if the openers had laid a solid foundation in the initial six overs. Instead, Gujarat's top order collapsed under intense pressure from Bengaluru's lethal fast bowlers, managing a



meager 51 runs while losing five wickets during the crucial Powerplay phase. The young skipper was not surprised by how nicely the pitch behaved, stating that his team felt quite comfortable until the 13th over of the first innings. However, he lamented their below-par fielding standards as the true turning point. Gujarat threw away all momentum by missing crucial catches and giving away extra

runs through sloppy ground fielding, allowing Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar to smash a ruthless, unbeaten 93. While defending champions Bengaluru safely sailed directly into their second consecutive tournament final, the road has not fully ended for Gujarat. Despite the embarrassing batting collapse where they were bundled out for just 162, Gill's side will get a second chance at redemption.

PCB ousts long-serving physio Cliff Deacon

NEW DELHI

Several Pakistan cricket players, especially fast bowlers, are highly upset following the cricket board's sudden decision to fire long-serving physiotherapist Cliff Deacon. The forty-five-year-old South African professional had worked closely with the national squad since 2017. Medical director Javed Muhal reportedly blamed Deacon for recurring player injuries, leading to an emotional, tearful farewell on the field. Defending their physio, players argued that major rehabilitation happens at the main sports academy, not during his on-field sessions. This controversial exit marks yet another sudden departure of foreign coaching experts from Pakistan's unstable cricket system.

Dhawal Kulkarni named Eagle Thane Strikers coach

THANE

Eagle Thane Strikers have officially appointed former Indian fast bowler Dhawal Kulkarni as their new head coach for the upcoming T20 Mumbai League. The franchise announced the major decision as the team gears up for the highly anticipated tournament, which runs from June 1 to 13. An absolute veteran of domestic and international cricket, Kulkarni brings a wealth of tactical knowledge and leadership to the franchise. The Strikers had reached the semifinals in the previous edition of the league and are now aiming to claim the championship trophy under his expert guidance. The balanced squad features experienced Indian all-rounder Shardul Thakur alongside



several promising young local talents. Reflecting on his new leadership role, Kulkarni shared that his experience has been wonderful so far and he is thoroughly enjoying training the squad. He noted that the

entire camp feels incredibly excited and determined to perform. Kulkarni has focused heavily on creating a relaxed team environment where individuals take complete ownership and play a fearless brand of cricket. Discussing his tactical approach for the busy season, the former India bowler emphasized that the primary strategy is keeping things simple and focusing deeply on daily preparation. He wants his players to take the tournament one game at a time and remain completely focused on the present moment. The Strikers are hungry for ultimate glory after narrowly missing the final last year. Eagle Thane Strikers will kick off their campaign against Bandra Blasters in the tournament's opening match.

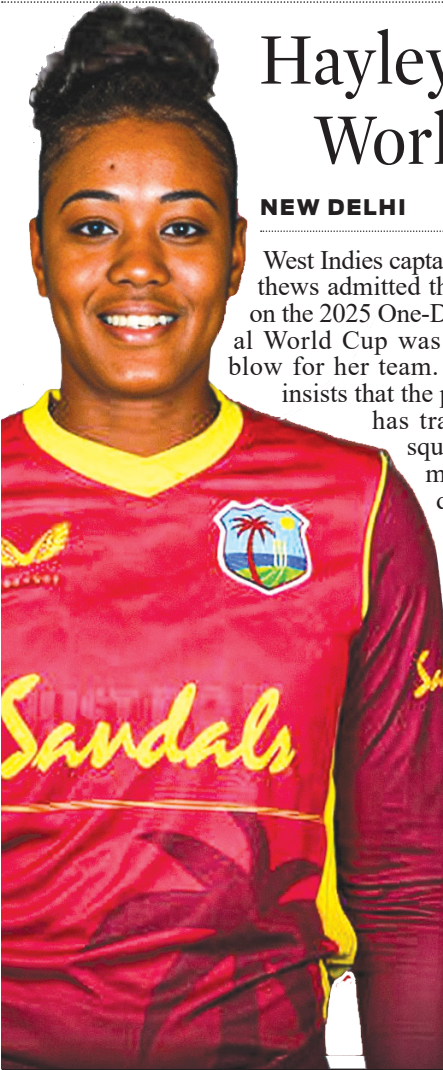
Mushfiqu and Litton rise in ICC rankings

NEW DELHI

Several Bangladesh cricket players have achieved major jumps in the latest ICC Men's Test Rankings following their historic series win over Pakistan. The spectacular 2-0 whitewash in Sylhet has also pushed Bangladesh to an impressive fifth place in the ongoing World Test Championship standings. Veteran middle-order batter Mushfiquur Rahim led the charge for his country, emerging as the top run-scorer of the series with 259 runs. The 39-year-old's highly disciplined batting performance

helped him jump ten places to secure the 16th spot in the global batting rankings. His teammate, Litton Das, also enjoyed a massive rise, climbing 14 positions to reach the 24th spot after scoring 239 runs. The Bangladeshi bowlers tasted similar success after dismantling the Pakistan batting lineup. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam moved up two spots to reach a career-best 11th position, while Mehidy Hasan advanced to 25th. Young fast bowler Nahid Rana also enjoyed a remarkable ten-spot jump to sit at 54th. For Pakistan, bowler Khurram Shahzad

re-entered the rankings at 49th following his return to the format. Meanwhile, the One-Day International rankings saw significant shifts after a thrilling tri-series between Nepal, the United States, and Scotland. Following three crucial wins, Nepal's Aasif Sheikh and Dipendra Singh Airee moved up the batting ladder, while spinner Sandeep Lamichhane rose to 32nd in the bowling list. Scotland's Brandon McMullen and America's Nosthush Kenjige also made important progress, while USA's Milind Kumar jumped to 18th among all-rounders.



Hayley Matthews eyes T20 World Cup redemption

NEW DELHI

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews admitted that missing out on the 2025 One-Day International World Cup was a devastating blow for her team. However, she insists that the painful setback has transformed her squad into a more mature and deeply resilient unit, determined to avoid another disappointment at the upcoming T20 World Cup in England. The Caribbean side faced severe heartbreaks recently, losing a close semi-final in the 2024 T20 World Cup before fail-

ing to qualify for the 2025 mega-event. Matthews revealed that the entire group felt the sting of that massive failure, which is now fueling their desire to succeed. Remarkably, Matthews believes the current squad actually possesses greater depth and versatility than the legendary West Indies team that famously won the title ten years ago at Eden Gardens. She highlighted the growth of young impact players like Chinelle Henry as a primary reason for her immense confidence. To prepare for English conditions, the team will attend a local training camp and play a tri-series in Ireland against the hosts and Pakistan. Personally, Matthews has been working hard to expand her batting shots to match the fast-paced nature of modern T20 cricket. Although the West Indies are not considered favorites this summer, the skipper feels that being underdogs works perfectly to their advantage. They aim to recreate their historic 2016 magic when they face defending champions New Zealand in their tournament opener on June 13 in Southampton.

Harmanpreet's India team face England in T20 series

CHELMSFORD

The Indian women's cricket team is aiming to find its perfect rhythm and finalize its ideal playing combinations this week. The squad faces hosts England in a crucial three-match T20 international series. This series serves as the ultimate dress rehearsal before next month's highly anticipated ICC Women's T20 World Cup. With the prestigious global tournament scheduled to begin on June 12, this brief United Kingdom tour holds massive importance for Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her players. Over the past year, the talented Indian side has shown incredible flashes of brilliance on the field. However, they have heavily struggled to maintain their winning momentum over long stretches. India's overall preparation cycle for the upcoming World Cup has been a true mixed bag of results. The team initially



started their campaign in dominant fashion, secure a commanding 5-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka on home soil last December. Following that success, they scripted magnificent history by clinching a 2-1 series victory in Australia. This marked their first bilateral T20 series win Down Under in an entire decade. Despite those historic peaks, the squad is still

searching for the vital consistency needed to lift a world championship. Facing a formidable English team in their own backyard provides the perfect test for India to iron out any lingering flaws. Kaur's side knows that a strong showing here will build immense confidence, ensuring they enter the World Cup completely prepared to challenge the global elite.

Purple Cap holder Bhuvneshwar details RCB's strategy

DHARAMSHALA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar credited smart analytical data for his team securing their second consecutive tournament final. The defending champions crushed Gujarat Titans by ninety-two runs after posting a massive, historic playoff total of 254. Skipper Rajat Patidar led the charge with an explosive, unbeaten ninety-three. Wearing the prestigious Purple Cap with twenty-six wickets this season, Bhuvneshwar explained that backroom data helped track opposing batters' habits. On Dharamshala's unforgiving pitch, bowlers strictly targeted the stumps to minimize errors. Bengaluru easily restricted Gujarat to just 162 runs, keeping their title defense firmly on track.