



Two-wheeler sales up 20% on festive demand

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One of largest natural disasters we have experienced: Nepal FM



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Rajinikanth Confirms Jailer 2 Shoot, Dharman Continues


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Nepal flood toll rises to 389; over 288 Indians missing

Rescue operations intensified in Nepal Thursday as the flood death toll rose sharply and hundreds remained missing.

KATHMANDU

Rescue teams raced against time on Thursday as Nepal's flood toll surged, with hundreds still missing nationwide.

The death toll from devastating flash floods and landslides in Nepal rose sharply to 389 after several more bodies were recovered, Nepal Police said. The disaster, which struck the Bhotekoshi River and affected several districts, has emerged as one of Nepal's worst in recent years.

More than 800 people remain stranded or unaccounted for, including hundreds of foreign tourists. Nepalese authorities said 823 people remained out of contact, while the number of missing Indians was reported at more than 288. Nepal's Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal earlier said more than 300 Indians were missing.

India intensified its rescue and relief efforts. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a high-level meeting with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Indian ambassadors in Kathmandu and Beijing to review efforts to trace Indians affected by the floods.

India also sent its second



"We are making urgent efforts to ascertain the status and well-being of Indians stuck in flood-hit areas of Nepal."
— S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

INDIA STEPS UP NEPAL RELIEF

India has intensified assistance to Nepal after the devastating floods, sending a second military aircraft carrying 37.5 tonnes of humanitarian supplies, medicines and food packets. The consignment followed 10 tonnes of relief material dispatched on Wednesday. The Centre is coordinating with Nepalese authorities, state governments and tour operators to trace missing Indians and assist stranded tourists and pilgrims. Several states have also opened dedicated helplines for affected families.

tranche of relief material to Nepal. A military transport aircraft carried 37.5 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, medicines and food packets, following 10 tonnes of relief supplies.

Jaishankar said India was making urgent efforts to ascertain the safety of Indians

and was coordinating with Nepal, Union ministries, state governments, tour operators and other agencies.

Twenty-one Tamil Nadu nationals undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra were rescued, while efforts continued to trace others. Karnataka Deputy Chief Min-

Nepal Floods

389 → Deaths reported in Nepal

823 → People out of contact

288+ → Indians reported missing

37.5 tonnes → India's second relief consignment

10 tonnes → India's first relief consignment

\$500,000 → US emergency assistance

21 → Tamil Nadu pilgrims rescued

ister G Parameshwara said five Bengaluru residents remained missing and announced a dedicated helpline for assistance.

Floodwaters also raised concerns in India's border states. Uttar Pradesh authorities said floodwater moving through the Narayani-Gandak system passed safely, with no immediate threat reported.

The US has announced \$500,000 in emergency assistance for Nepal, while rescue teams continue searching for missing people amid widespread destruction of homes, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure.

K'taka releases ₹306 cr for drinking water amid drought

Karnataka steps up drought preparedness with funds, crop insurance, employment measures and efforts to prevent distress migration.

BENGALURU

Karnataka has released Rs 306 crore for drinking water and stepped up drought relief, crop insurance and employment measures.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said Rs 117 crore had been released to 31 districts and another Rs 189 crore allocated for rural constituencies. Deputy Commissioners have Rs 329 crore in their PD accounts for drought management, taking total government spending to Rs 635 crore.

The State will submit its drought memorandum to the Centre by month-end, seeking prompt release of relief. Parameshwara said the Centre is expected to sanction Rs 1,239 crore to the SDRF, with Rs 450 crore as the first instalment, while Karnataka will contribute Rs 310 crore.

He urged the Opposition to submit its drought assessment



DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES

Rs 306 crore — Released for drinking water
49 lakh — Farmers enrolled for crop insurance
16,460 — Employment works taken up
66.73 lakh — Person-days generated
Rs 1,239 crore — Expected SDRF sanction

report, saying there should be no politics over farmers' distress. The government will review drought conditions every 15 days and declare additional taluks if necessary.

A record 49 lakh agriculture and horticulture farmers have enrolled under the Fasal Bima Yojana. The deadline has been extended to August 31, with compensation available under the 'Prevented Sowing' category.

To prevent distress migration, 16,460 works under the

Drought Preparedness

Karnataka has stepped up drought preparedness with Rs 306 crore released for drinking water supply. The government will review drought conditions every 15 days and submit its relief memorandum to the Centre by month-end. Crop insurance enrolment has reached a record 49 lakh farmers, with the deadline extended to August 31. Employment works have generated 66.73 lakh person-days, while officials will monitor bus and railway stations to prevent distress migration.

VB-GRAM-G scheme have generated 66.73 lakh person-days between July 1 and August 24. Officials will be deployed at bus and railway stations to monitor migration.

The government will continue the Podi campaign, declare revenue villages and distribute title deeds to eligible beneficiaries.

Ashoka demands drought declaration in 175 taluks

BENGALURU

Opposition Leader R Ashoka demanded drought be declared in 175 taluks, along with farm loan waivers and transparency on relief funds.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Ashoka alleged the government had declared drought only as a formality after farmers began protesting. He said drought had been declared severe in 89 taluks and moderate in 12, whereas the BJP had assessed conditions in 175 taluks.

Ashoka questioned the government over the allocation of only Rs 1 crore per taluk and demanded clarity on funds released for drinking water, fodder and borewells. He said farmers' demand for Rs 50,000 per acre had also not been accepted.

He urged the government to waive at least Rs 1 lakh of loans for every farmer and said the VB-G RAM G scheme should be effectively implemented to prevent distress migration. He also sought measures to protect migrant families and ensure their children's education.

Ashoka alleged the government had failed to act despite warnings about El Niño and

Ashoka slams govt over delay in relief

Opposition Leader R Ashoka accused the Karnataka government of delaying drought relief and demanded immediate action across 175 taluks. He sought a farm loan waiver of at least Rs 1 lakh per farmer and transparency on funds for drinking water, fodder and borewells. Ashoka also urged effective implementation of the VB-G RAM G scheme to curb distress migration. He warned of intensified protests if the government failed to act.

said the BJP would submit its drought assessment report.

On the Valmiki Development Corporation alleged irregularities, Ashoka claimed Minister B Nagendra's resignation was certain. He said the BJP had petitioned the Governor seeking permission for CBI and ED investigations. "If there is no decision within a week, we will even lay siege to the Chief Minister's house," Ashoka warned.

He also said the BJP would continue raising issues including Bidadi Township and NICE in the next Assembly session.



Nawaz Sharif nominates Iftikhar Gillani for PoK PM post

LAHORE

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has nominated Barrister Iftikhar Gillani for the post of prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), with the legislative assembly likely to elect the new leader on Friday.

A senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader said Gillani was finalised on Sharif's recommendation after consultations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N regional president Shah Ghulam Qadir and former PoK prime minister Raja Farooq Haider.

He was elected to the assembly on a reserved technocrat seat on Sharif's recommendation. The 53-member legislative assembly has 45 directly elected seats and eight reserved seats for women, technocrats and clerics. However, the new prime minister will be elected without the assembly at full strength, as elections to seven directly elected seats could not be held due to law-and-order concerns. India maintains that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of India and that Pakistan is in illegal occupation of parts of these territories.

Shivakumar speaks to K'taka survivor of Nepal floods

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday spoke to a Kannadiga survivor of the Nepal flash floods and assured him of his safety.

Shivakumar, who is in New Delhi, spoke to Mallinath through a video call and enquired about his well-being, according to the Chief Minister's Office.

Mallinath told the Chief Minister that he escaped about 10 minutes before the

flash floods struck. He also said he was a devotee of God and a fan of Shivakumar, despite belonging to a different political party.

Shivakumar advised Mallinath not to hurry back and asked him to remain at his current location for some more time as he was safe.

"Regardless of the party, we are all Kannadigas. We should all join hands," the Chief Minister told him.

During the conversation, Shivakumar also said officials



had been unable to establish contact with some other tourists from Karnataka who were

in Nepal. Mallinath said he was making efforts to locate them.

The Chief Minister assured him that the Karnataka government was closely monitoring the situation and taking steps to assist Kannadigas affected by the disaster.

Karnataka authorities have also opened helplines to collect information about residents stranded or missing in Nepal and coordinate with central and Nepalese authorities for their safe return.

'Anyone to be inducted or removed must come to me': Kharge

KALABURAGI

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said any decision on inducting or removing ministers would have to come to him.

Speaking to reporters at Kalaburagi airport on Thursday amid speculation over Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Delhi visit and a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Kharge said he had no information about any such development.

"If you know something, tell me. I am in Kalaburagi. If anything has to come, it has to come to me," he said.

Kharge said no file would bypass him when it came to decisions concerning the inclusion or removal of ministers.

"Any file has to come to me. Whether someone has to be inducted or removed, it has to come to me. When a file comes to me, I will inform you," he said.

Shivakumar's Delhi visit has fuelled speculation about a possible minor Cabinet reshuffle. The Chief Minister is expected to hold discussions with the Congress high command on changes to his ministerial team.

Kharge also spoke about



"Any file has to come to me. Whether someone has to be inducted or removed, it has to come to me."
— Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC President

the devastating floods in Nepal, saying people from Karnataka as well as several other parts of India had been affected.

"Many people are stranded in Nepal and hundreds have been swept away. I offer my condolences to all those who have lost their lives," he said.

He said he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking assistance for those affected by the disaster.

"I have written to the Prime Minister that compensation should be provided to those who have lost their lives, not only from Karnataka but across the country.

I have also written urging India to stand with Nepal," Kharge said.

AHEAD X handle suspended ahead of Bhagwat event

NEW YORK: The X handle of AHEAD, organiser of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's upcoming New York event, was suspended on Thursday. American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue (AHEAD) is organising the Universal Oneness Celebrations at the Infosys Theatre, Madison Square Garden, on August 29, where Bhagwat will address the gathering.

The @AheadForum1 ac-

count became unavailable to users, prompting AHEAD to say the suspension may have occurred in error.

More than 5,000 Indian-Americans are expected to attend the event. Meanwhile, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom urged the Trump administration to consider revoking Bhagwat's visa, citing concerns over alleged religious freedom violations.

Two pilots killed as training aircraft crashes in Kanpur

KANPUR

The Tecnam aircraft, operated by Garg Aviation, took off from Kanpur around 11.30 am and crashed about 20 minutes later near Nathapurva village in the Katri area, police said. Instructor Sachin Bhatia from Gujarat and trainee pilot Abhishek Pujari from Karnataka died in the crash.

Kanpur Police Commissioner Raghubir Lal said the cause of the crash was not immediately known. Bhatia had around 3,000 hours of flying experience. Police and fire personnel rushed to the agricultural field near the Ganga Barrage after receiving information



about the crash. The area was cordoned off and the mangled wreckage secured for investigation. Preliminary information indicated that the aircraft was a twin-engine, four-seater training aircraft. Videos from the site showed the aircraft reduced to wreckage, with debris scattered across the field.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is ex-

"The cause of the crash was not immediately known."
— Raghubir Lal, Kanpur Police Commissioner

pected to examine the aircraft's airworthiness, maintenance records and other technical aspects as part of the investigation. Garg Aviation said the aircraft had been with the company since 2023 and

claimed there were no maintenance-related deficiencies. Officials are yet to establish what caused the aircraft to crash shortly after take-off. Police officials, including Commissioner Lal, Additional Commissioners Vipin Tada and Sankalp Sharma, and Chief Fire Officer Deepak Sharma, visited the crash site and reviewed the rescue and investigation efforts.

CRASH UNDER INVESTIGATION

The DGCA will examine the aircraft's airworthiness, maintenance records and technical aspects to determine what caused the crash. Police and fire personnel secured the wreckage after the aircraft went down near Nathapurva village. Garg Aviation said the aircraft had been with the company since 2023 and maintained that it had no maintenance-related deficiencies. The crash killed instructor Sachin Bhatia and trainee pilot Abhishek Pujari.

KANPUR AIR CRASH

KANPUR AVIATION TRAGEDY

- 2** — Pilots killed
- 20 minutes** — Approximate time after take-off before crash
- 3,000 hours** — Instructor Sachin Bhatia's flying experience
- 11.30 am** — Approximate take-off time
- 2023** — Year aircraft joined Garg Aviation's fleet
- Aircraft** — Tecnam twin-engine training aircraft

Quick Read

IIM Bangalore welcomes its first undergraduates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has finally welcomed its very first batch of undergraduate students. Out of 12000 hopeful applicants, only 80 bright minds secured a spot on the new Jigani-Anekal campus. The proud incoming group includes 56 boys and 24 girls. Most students completed their schooling through the CBSE board. Furthermore, over half the cohort scored above ninety percent in their final class exams. Classes for these unique data science and economics programs officially start on August 31st. Meanwhile, the institute has already opened applications for next year.

In-law care solely children's duty: High Court

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court recently ruled that husbands cannot force wives to do household chores or care for in-laws. Justice Chillakur Sumalatha stated that sharing daily tasks must be equal. Furthermore, caring for elderly parents remains the sole duty of biological children rather than spouses. The court made these remarks while dismissing a petition from a man challenging a maintenance order for his wife and child. The judge emphasized that marriage is never a license to control a woman's freedom or autonomy. Ultimately, mutual respect and equality must always guide every healthy partnership.

Stalker follows women home, peeks inside

BENGALURU
A terrified woman recently faced a nightmare when a midnight stalker followed her and her friend home near Nagarbhavi Circle. The stranger on a motorcycle first chased them while asking intrusive questions. Later that night, the same man tracked down their residence and peeked through their open bedroom window while one of them was changing clothes. The victim screamed for help, causing the culprit to flee instantly. CCTV footage captured his movements outside. Following a formal complaint, the Chandra Layout police registered a case and are actively reviewing footage to trace the suspect.

NLSIU cancels 34th annual convocation event

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) has officially called off its 34th annual convocation for the graduating batch of 2026, citing unavoidable administrative roadblocks. Originally slated for September 12, the high-profile ceremony was scrapped following severe pushback and organized opposition from students and alumni regarding the proposed presence of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Bar Council of India (BCI) Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra. In an official notification released by the registrar, the university stated that despite concerted efforts to move forward, the event could not take place. Instead of the traditional gathering, graduating students will have their degrees conferred in absentia following statutory approvals from the governing bodies. Students can choose to have their degree certificates mailed via courier or pick them up directly from the campus. The cancellation serves as a watershed moment in escalating campus dissent across India's premier legal institutions. Tensions originally boiled over following a fierce controversy at Hyderabad's NALSAR University of Law, where the BCI briefly moved to block the professional enrolment of graduating students after they protested the proposed invite extended to the CJI. Although that enrollment freeze was rolled back within hours, the aggressive regulatory retaliation triggered widespread solidarity movements nationwide.

Strict action warned over Eid Milad clashes

Festive harmony shattered in Bengaluru as a clash during Eid Milad sparked fierce political and communal tensions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Recent festive celebrations across Karnataka turned contentious following reports of friction and disturbances during Eid Milad processions held on August 26. The incidents have triggered a sharp political debate regarding law enforcement, communal harmony, and the safety of citizens participating in public gatherings across the state. The most notable clash occurred within the jurisdiction of the Basavanagudi Police Station in Bengaluru, where an altercation broke out between members of a local Hindu organization and participating Muslim youths. Local law enforcement agencies moved swiftly to contain the situation, dispersing crowds and initiating a detailed investigation into the root causes of the escalation. Police presence remains heightened in sensitive neighborhoods to prevent any retaliatory actions or further deterioration of public order.

Addressing the media regarding the disturbances, State Home Minister Priyank Kharge issued a stern warning against anyone attempting to disrupt communal peace. Reaffirming the government's stance, Kharge emphasized that no group—regardless of religious identity—possesses the legal or moral right to take matters into their own hands. He noted that the Constitution provides adequate space for all communities to practice their traditions peacefully, provided they adhere to established legal boundaries. Furthermore, the Home Minister warned that individuals caught actively sowing seeds of communal discord and hatred would face strict, uncompromising legal consequences. The incident has also intensified verbal sparring between the ruling administration and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Responding to criticisms leveled by opposition figures over the handling of festive security, Kharge dismissed the allegations as politically motivated. He claimed that opposition leaders rely on communal friction to maintain their political relevance, alleging that certain figures openly admit that neglecting polarization efforts would severely damage their electoral prospects.

HIGHLIGHTS & OFFICIAL STANCE



Zero Tolerance: Strict legal action will be taken against individuals caught sowing seeds of hatred or disturbing public peace.

Equal Protection: The government reiterated that constitutional laws apply equally to every citizen, regardless of religious background.

Political War of Words: The ruling administration hit back at opposition BJP leaders, accusing them of trying to score political points out of communal sensitivities.

No one has the right to take the law into their hands. The constitution provides space for everyone's practices, and harmony must be maintained.

-Priyank Kharge, State Home Minister

As local authorities continue their probe into the Basavanagudi clash, district administrations across Bengaluru have been instructed to maintain strict vigil. Community leaders from both sides have been urged to counsel youth against provocative behavior, ensuring that future celebrations remain peaceful and do not jeopardize the fragile social fabric of the city.

Low storage: Reservoirs trail behind last year

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka is facing a worrying water shortage as major reservoirs in both the Cauvery and Krishna river basins record lower storage volumes than last year. Recent data released by the Water Resources Department shows that weak monsoon inflows have left several vital dams half-empty, raising serious concerns for farming and drinking water security. In the Cauvery basin, the key Krishnaraja Sagara (KRS) dam in Mandya district currently holds 31.47 tmc of water, which is roughly 63 percent of its total capacity. This is a sharp drop compared to last year when the reservoir stood near full at 98 percent. Other catchment areas like Hemavati and Kabini have also seen their storage levels decline to 81 percent and 67 percent respectively. Only Harangi has bucked the trend, remaining steady at nearly 98 percent capacity. The situation is equally tense across the Krishna river basin in North Karnataka. The Malaprabha reservoir has plunged to 60 percent capacity with just 22.52 tmc of stored water, down heavily from the 96 percent recorded during the same period last year. Meanwhile, the Bhadra dam in Shimoga has dropped to 84 percent. However, a few major structures like Almatti and Tungabhadra remain in a comfortable position, holding strong at 99 percent and 90 percent storage due to localized water movements. Water management experts point out that poor rainfall and sluggish inflows are the main reasons behind this statewide drop. With less water entering the systems than last year, local farming communities are growing anxious about upcoming crop cycles. Authorities are keeping a close watch on daily updates to manage distribution carefully.

Cauvery basin reservoir levels	
• KRS Dam (Mandya):	Currently holds 31.47 TMC (63 percent) compared to 48.31 TMC (98 percent) last year.
• Hemavati Dam (Hassan):	Down to 30.10 TMC (81 percent) from last year's 36.89 TMC (99 percent).
• Kabini Dam (Mysore):	Records 13.10 TMC (67 percent), a steep drop from 19.13 TMC (98 percent) previously.
• Harangi Dam (Kodagu):	Holds a stable 8.34 TMC (98 percent), showing a slight improvement over last year's 8.13 TMC.

Reservoir name	Location	Current storage	Last year storage
Malaprabha	Belgaum	22.52 TMC (60%)	36.41 TMC (96%)
Bhadra	Shimoga	60.28 TMC (84%)	69.86 TMC (98%)
Vani Vilasa Sagar	Chikkamagaluru	22.42 TMC (74%)	25.79 TMC (85%)
Alamatty	Krishna Basin	122.66 TMC (99%)	Good robust storage
Tungabhadra	Karnataka	95.62 TMC (90%)	Stable water reserve

FSSAI cracks down on adulterated cooking oil

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a decisive move to safeguard public health and dismantle the thriving adulterated oil mafia, the Food Safety and Quality Department has launched an intensive statewide crackdown on the sale of unbranded, unsealed cooking oil. Authorities are intensifying inspections across local marketplaces to target traders who sell low-cost oil from open drums and unlabelled containers, posing severe health hazards to consumers. The state government is moving toward a total prohibition on the retail sale of loose cooking oil. Health Minister U.T. Khader has ordered the creation of a high-level administrative committee of senior officials. This panel is tasked with compiling a comprehensive evaluation report detailing the health hazards of open oil, assessing market impacts, and addressing challenges faced by small-scale merchants. Final policy decisions regarding the complete statutory ban will rely directly on this upcoming committee submission. Food safety inspectors have stepped up surveillance, collecting random samples from local vendors where oil lacks traceability markers such as manufacturing dates, expiration limits, or official company addresses.

Emergency helplines open for Nepal victims: DCM

Karnataka activated emergency helplines and coordinated rescue efforts after flash floods in Nepal stranded citizens and left hundreds uncontactable.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In the wake of a catastrophic flash flood that has left widespread destruction and structural collapse across Nepal, the Government of Karnataka has stepped up emergency efforts after reports emerged that several citizens from the state, including multiple individuals from Bengaluru, are currently caught in the disaster zone. Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara announced that state authorities are actively working to trace and establish contact with stranded residents. With large parts of Nepal losing connectivity due to severe weather, the confirmed death toll from the flash floods has climbed past 165, with nearly 300 Indian nationals including pilgrims traveling for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra reported missing or uncontactable. The Karnataka government is maintaining continuous coordination with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. To streamline rescue operations, the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) has launched a dedicated round-the-clock helpline. Families and concerned citizens seeking information or emergency assistance can reach the control room at the toll-free number 1070 or via 080-22253707, or report details through the official state government Google Form link. Additionally, information can be submitted via email to seockarnataka@gmail.com. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the Deputy Chief Minister indicated that the state administration is exploring options to dispatch a senior government official and potentially a cabinet minister directly to Kathmandu to oversee relief efforts and coordinate on-ground support. Diplomatic channels with the Indian Embassy in Nepal, along with authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Chinese Embassy, have been activated to locate missing travelers. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has also released direct emergency contacts and WhatsApp numbers for affected nationals: **+977 9851316807**, **+977 9709107500**, and **+977 9810326117**. Relatives of missing persons have been urged to share precise details, including full names, last-known locations, and timestamps of last communication, to accelerate rescue mandates.

Chennai man arrested for attacking constable

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A terrifying incident unfolded at the Majestic Railway Police Station when a pregnant female police constable was brutally assaulted with an iron rod while on duty. The victim, identified as Shilpa, suffered severe injuries during the unprovoked attack. Swift police action led to the prompt arrest of the accused, a Chennai resident named Gajendra. According to local police reports, the violent episode occurred when the suspect visited the station to file a complaint regarding a lost mobile phone. At the time of his visit, Shilpa was the sole officer present inside the building. Because she was managing the station alone, she politely asked the visitor to return the following morning to properly register his grievance. Instead of understanding the situation, the suspect flew into a sudden and violent rage upon hearing her response. Enraged by the delay, he picked up a metal rod and launched a ferocious attack on the defenseless woman as she sat at her desk. Her colleagues rushed to her aid shortly after the assault, securing the premises and providing immediate medical attention to the injured officer, who was rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency care. Senior police officials condemned the cowardly act, assuring the public that strict legal action will be pursued against the assailant. The attack has also sparked serious conversations regarding security measures and staffing levels at local police stations, particularly for officers handling lone shifts. Investigators are continuing to question the arrested individual to determine if any other underlying motives contributed to his aggressive outburst inside a government law enforcement facility.

FIXING KARNATAKA'S SCHOOLS

U.T. Khader to lead education reformers panel

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a major push to overhaul the academic landscape and resolve systemic student challenges, the Government of Karnataka has officially formed a high-level cabinet sub-committee dedicated to comprehensive education reform. This strategic administrative step is designed to address deep-seated issues plaguing both school and higher education systems across the state, ensuring a structured approach to modernizing public learning infrastructure and safeguarding student welfare. The newly constituted committee is led by senior political figure and legislator U.T. Khader as its chairperson. The panel features an influential group of four key ministers - Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy, Home and ITBT Minister Priyank Kharge, Medical Education Minister Sharan

Our aim is to tackle systemic issues head-on, improve government schools, and ensure affordable, high-quality education for every student in the state.

-Stated official sources

Prakash Patil, and School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. The collective expertise of these leaders spans administrative governance, legal frameworks, and institutional management, providing the committee with the diverse perspective necessary to tackle complex academic hurdles. The government has mandated the sub-committee to conduct extensive ground-level consultations and submit a detailed action report within the next month. To ensure complete transparency and inclusivity, panel members will interact directly with key stakeholders, including students, distressed parents, school and college teachers, academic experts, and private institutional management bodies from every district. The primary objectives assigned to this committee are broad and ambitious. Officials aim to dramatically elevate the quality of teaching and academic delivery in government-run schools and colleges. Critical infrastructural deficiencies such as dilapidated



classrooms, lack of digital tools, and insufficient sanitation facilities will be audited and addressed. Furthermore, the panel has been tasked with expediting the recruitment process to fill vacant teaching positions that have long strained public institutions. Beyond public schools, the committee will focus on regulatory frameworks for the private education sector. It plans to implement strict oversight to control excessive fee hikes by private schools and colleges, monitor unregulated commercial coaching centers, and establish foolproof measures to prevent exam malpractice and question paper leaks. This decisive administrative move reflects the state government's commitment to building a transparent, equitable, and high-performing education ecosystem for millions of students.

Committee structure & action plan		
Panel member	Portfolio / Role	Focus area
U.T. Khader	Committee Head	Overall leadership and strategic reform planning.
Basavaraj Rayareddy	Higher Education	College standards, university up-grades, and student welfare.
Priyank Kharge	Home & ITBT	Digital integration, security, and institutional monitoring.
Sharan Prakash Patil	Medical Education	Professional training and medical college infrastructure.
Madhu Bangarappa	School Education	Primary schooling, teacher staffing, and basic facilities.

Quick Read

New RPLI rules expand postal insurance access

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The Postal Life Insurance Directorate has expanded eligibility for Rural Postal Life Insurance, offering the scheme to more people. Under an order issued on August 14, living permanently in a rural area is no longer the only requirement. People with active savings accounts at any post office in India or savings accounts with scheduled banks can now access RPLI insurance. The change is expected to increase insurance coverage and support financial security for more families. Koppal Postal Division Superintendent Nagaraj Patil urged eligible customers to use the new facility and secure better financial protection for their future.

Chitradurga seeks mental health resource person

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Applications are invited for the temporary appointment of one Mental Health Educational Resource Person in Chitradurga district. The selected candidate will guide high school and pre-university students facing mental and emotional difficulties across six block resource centres. Applicants must hold an M.A. or M.Sc. in Psychology, Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology and have at least one year of experience in school or community mental health. Knowledge of Kannada, English and basic computers is also required. Interested candidates must submit the completed application with attested documents in person by 5 pm on September 3, 2026, at the designated department office.

Gangavathi Court sentences three in cannabis case

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The Gangavathi Principal Civil and J.M.F.C. Court has sentenced three people to jail and imposed fines in a cannabis consumption and supply case. Judge Nagesh Patil delivered the verdict after examining the evidence presented before the court. The case relates to a raid conducted on December 28, 2022, near a waterfall on the banks of the Tungbhadra river in Sanapur village limits. Acting on specific information, police found the accused consuming cannabis and seized 49 grams of dried cannabis valued at about Rs. 1,500. Srinivas, also known as Katti Sheena, and Satyanarayana, both from Sanapur, were each sentenced to six months of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 10,000 for cannabis consumption under Section 27(b) of the NDPS Act. Riyaz of Ambedkar Nagar, Gangavathi, received one year of rigorous imprisonment and a Rs. 10,000 fine for supplying cannabis under Section 20(b)(ii) (a). Investigating officers Sujatha and Sharavva submitted the chargesheet.

Kalaburagi leader seeks drought declaration for farmers

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI
Karave (Praveen Shetty faction) Kalaburagi taluk chief Vijayakumar Ankalagi has urged the state government to immediately declare drought and provide relief to farmers facing severe crop losses. In a press release, Ankalagi said poor monsoon rains across North Karnataka, including Kalaburagi district, have damaged crops sown across large areas. Neem, tur, groundnut and maize crops have reported-

ly suffered heavy losses, leaving many farmers worried about their livelihoods. He said the district in-charge minister had already visited farmers' fields and assessed crop conditions following the Chief Minister's direction. However, Ankalagi expressed disappointment that the ongoing legislative session was not giving enough attention to the drought situation and farmers' problems. He criticised the focus on political issues, saying the con-

cerns of struggling farmers should receive priority. Ankalagi said crop insurance companies and the government both have responsibilities. He urged the government to provide drought assistance while insurance companies release eligible compensation. He warned that continued failure to support affected farmers could push them toward extreme steps, including poisoning themselves. He demanded immediate action to prevent such a situation.



Farmers' demands

- Drought should be declared immediately in the session and drought compensation should be given to the farmers.
- Loans of farmers should be waived up to Rs.2 lakh.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, money should be deposited immediately in the accounts of farmers who have full crop insurance.
- Farmers who do not pay crop insurance without money should be given more compensation.



BJP WELCOMES HALT TO BIDAR SUGAR FACTORY AUCTION

Leaders urged speedy LROT completion to restart the factory this sugarcane season, noting its 1969 legacy and 25,000 shareholder members

CH NEWS, BIDAR

The BJP has welcomed the state government's decision to halt the auction process for the Bidar Cooperative Sugar Factory, near Hallikhed (B), calling it a hopeful development for sugarcane growers and workers. Party leaders urged the government to complete the proposed lease process and revive the factory soon. BJP district president Somnath Patil, State Secretary and Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale, and Humnabad MLA Dr. Sidhu Patil said they had raised the issue with Sugar Minister Rudrappa Lamani during the recent Assembly session. Following their appeal, the government directed the DCC Bank to



stop the proposed open auction. According to the leaders, the government has said that its proposal to hand over the factory to a private operator under the LROT model is at an advanced stage. They

AT A GLANCE
• Government halts BSSK cooperative sugar factory auction
• BJP demands immediate lease agreement for BSSK
• Factory has protected sugarcane growers since 1969
• Around 25,000 members depend on the factory
• Thousands of workers' families rely on BSSK
• BJP urges revival before this crushing season begins

urged authorities to complete the process quickly and restart the factory from the current sugarcane season. They said the factory has served growers since 1969 and has around 25,000 shareholder members. The leaders recalled that the

financially troubled factory was auctioned by DCC Bank in 2024 for recovery of dues. Farmer and BJP protests led to cancellation of that auction, followed by a decision in December 2024 to revive the unit through LROT. However, they alleged that the process remained pending, leading to the latest auction attempt. They said BSSK is important not only as an industrial unit but also for thousands of farming and worker families. Its revival could provide sugarcane growers with a dependable market and timely crushing facilities. The BJP thanked the government for responding to its demand but warned that farmers and workers would launch another joint protest if the revival process was delayed again.

MCC Bank shifts Karkala branch into new building

CH NEWS, KARKALA

MCC Bank has shifted its Karkala branch to a new building at Fortune Orchid on Salmara Road, marking another step in its growth. The branch was inaugurated by Chairman Sahakari Ratna Anil Lobo. Muniyalu Udaya Kumar Shetty inaugurated the safe room, while V. Fr. Robin Santhumair blessed the premises. Speaking at the programme, Lobo thanked customers and

residents for their continued trust. He recalled that the branch, established 24 years ago, had grown strongly in recent years. Its business, which stood at around Rs. 20 crore in 2018, has now increased to Rs. 56 crore. He said the achievement was the result of efforts by directors, employees, customers and the local community. Lobo said the bank would continue offering customer-friendly services based on humanity and service. He

added that MCC Bank supports talented people and needy families through charitable activities. Udaya Kumar Shetty and guests John D'Silva and Lance Lord Josey Lobo congratulated the branch and praised its contribution to regional economic development. They urged people to make good use of banking facilities and support the institution's future growth. The event also recognised students who performed well in SSLC, PUC and higher ed-

ucation examinations. Shiny Ashma Saldanha, the first woman commercial pilot, was felicitated for her achievement. People involved in establishing the branch were also honoured. Bank directors, staff, customers and well-wishers attended the programme, which included the bank anthem, a prayer, and a documentary highlighting its journey and achievements. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Branch Manager Rohan J. Pinto.



Naval Dockyard Karwar signs MoU with local ITIs

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Naval Dockyard Karwar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with four local Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) on Thursday to strengthen technical education, skill development and employment opportunities for local youth. The MoU was signed between Naval Dockyard Karwar (ND(Kar)) and Shri Somnath ITI Binaga, Government ITI Baad, Mallikarjun ITI Siddar and Government ITI Ankola. The ceremony was held at the Naval Dockyard in the presence of Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth, VSM, Admiral Superintendent, and Dr Dileesh Sasi, Chief Executive Officer of Uttara Kannada Zilla Panchayat. The initiative is part of the Karnataka Naval Area's outreach programme aimed at strengthening civil-military cooperation. Under the agreement, students from the par-

ticipating ITIs will receive exposure to the high-tech maintenance and support facilities at the Naval Dockyard. They will also gain practical experience in advanced technologies, modern industrial practices and on-the-job training. Addressing the gathering, Rear Admiral Seth stressed the importance of developing a skilled workforce and urged the ITIs to make full use of the training and learning opportunities offered under the MoU. He said such collaborations would help bridge the gap between classroom education and practical shop-floor experience. Officials expressed confidence that the partnership would boost skill development, employment generation and the technical workforce in the region, in line with the objectives of the Skill India campaign and civil-military cooperation.

Basavaraju offers support for Balakrishna's development agenda

CH NEWS, MAGADI

BJP State Backward Classes Treasurer A.H. Basavaraju congratulated H.C. Balakrishna on becoming a minister and said he was ready to support development efforts in Magadi without political bias. Speaking to reporters, Basavaraju said Balakrishna's appointment fulfilled a long-standing dream of his family and was a matter of pride for the district. Basavaraju said political differences should not come in the way of development. He urged the minister to create employment opportunities for women and youth locally so they would not have to migrate to Bengaluru or Tumakuru for jobs. He also sought an upgrade of Magadi Town Municipality into a municipal corporation and requested

that Kudur be declared a town panchayat. He suggested naming the proposed town panchayat after former legislators Singri Gowda or Bettasami Gowda as a lasting tribute. Basavaraju also urged officials to speed up the Hemavati Express Canal, Keshif Road, Kempegowda Fort and other delayed infrastructure projects. He said people expected visible progress rather than political disputes. Calling for an end to politics based on hatred, Basavaraju asked elected representatives to work with courtesy and confidence. He urged the minister to hold discussions with Tumakuru leaders and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resolve the Hemavati irrigation issue and ensure that lakes and reservoirs in Magadi receive water.

Eye donation can give two people new sight: Dr. Nalinakshi

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Eye donation can give the gift of sight to others, said Dr. N. Nalinakshi, Administrative Medical Officer at Belagatta Primary Health Centre. She was speaking at an awareness programme organised at the health centre in Chitradurga taluk as part of National Eye Donation Fortnight. The programme was held jointly with the Taluk Health Officer's Office and the Women and Child Welfare Department. Dr. Nalinakshi urged families not to burn or bury the eyes of deceased loved ones without considering donation. She said donat-

ed corneas can help two people regain vision. People willing to donate can register through the Jeeva Sarthakate website. After death, families should contact the nearest eye bank or district hospital eye department within four to six hours. Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa said eye donation does not disfigure the face and corneas can be collected within 20 to 30 minutes. He said National Eye Donation Fortnight, observed from August 25 to September 8, aims to remove misconceptions and encourage donation.

Officials told to protect eligible Griha Jyoti beneficiaries

CH NEWS, KARWAR

District Guarantee Implementation Authority Chairman Satish Naik directed HESCOM officials to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not excluded from the Griha Jyoti scheme during ongoing verification. He asked officials to coordinate with the public while collecting documents and conducting door-to-door inspections. Naik was speaking while presiding over the monthly progress review meeting of the District Guarantee Schemes Authority at the Haliyal Taluk Panchayat Hall on Tuesday. He said the government had spent ₹641.45 crore on free electricity under the scheme from August 2023 to July 2026. During the review, Naik checked whether eligible households were receiving free electricity benefits up to 200 units. He stressed that verification should be carried out carefully and genuine beneficiaries should not lose their benefits because of documentation or procedural issues. Officials were asked to work together and address concerns promptly. Regarding the Shakti scheme, Naik instructed bus operators and concerned officials to provide basic facilities at bus stands and maintain clean toilets. He also reviewed Anna Bhagya data and

HIGHLIGHTS
• HESCOM urged careful verification of Griha Jyoti beneficiaries
• Government spent ₹641.45 crore on free electricity
• Free electricity covers consumption up to 200 units
• Officials directed to coordinate during document collection
• Shakti scheme demands better facilities at bus-stands
• Yuvaniidhi beneficiaries to receive necessary skill training

beneficiary lists, directing officials to resolve server-related problems quickly. He sought accurate information so that eligible people could receive their food security benefits without unnecessary difficulties. Naik reviewed Yuvaniidhi records and asked officials to arrange skill training for eligible young people. He also directed officials to correct errors in Griha Lakshmi records and identify eligible beneficiaries who may have been left out. Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Allabakash urged officials to ensure that all five guarantee schemes reach eligible people properly.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI

Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main Road, Kalaburagi-585102, Email: commissionerгда@gmail.com

No.:KUDA/Technical/TP Scheme/2026-27 Dt.: 27.08.2026

E-PROCURMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority has invited tenders in two-Cover System from qualified consultants/ firms with similar experience for the following works. Name of the work: Providing of consultancy services for preparation of detailed project report including Economic Survey, Layout Plan, Design, Estimate, Cost, Structural (Feasibility Report & DPR) Preparation of Report etc. for the proposed project on Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) of Kalaburagi City. Last date for receipt of tenders: 15.09.2026 up to 5:00 PM. Bidding documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Commissioner
Urban Development Authority Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/477/KSMC&A/2026-27

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk

Email -Id:- eerdwsd.bngrr@gmail.com; Phone:080-29787463

Tender Notification No. 2/2026-27 Date: 27.08.2026

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of Karnataka according to KTTA Act 2000 through <http://kppp> portal for Supply of Field Test kits (FTK) & H2s Vials to R.D.W.S&D Division, Bangalore Rural District Application & EMD Payment to be done through KPP Portal.

General conditions: 1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only 2) All qualifying documents has to be attached in online

1	Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website	After 4.30 PM DATED-27.08.2026
2	Last date for tender uploading	Upto 4.30 PM DATED-10.09.2026
3	Date of opening of Tender	At 4.35 PM DATED - 11.09.2026

More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through <http://kppp> portal by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/VCL/2446/2026-27 RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural.

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION RAMANAGARA

No: EE/RDW&S&D/RMG/TND-07&08/TS/JJM/1078&1079/2026-27 Date: 27.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State under Double cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-2 & KG-2 for water supply works under JJM through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

1) Max. Amount Put To Tender: Rs.89.46 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1.79,000/-. 2) Min. Amount Put To Tender: Rs.23.99 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 47,980/-3) Period of Contract: 45 Days, 01 & 06 Months. 4) Last Date for submission of Tender: 11.09.2026 Upto 5.30 P.M. 5) Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: 15.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M. onwards. 6) Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: 17.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M. onwards.

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Ramanagara.
DIPR/BSD/270/SA/2026-27

JD(S) demands immediate action on NICE toll collection

Manjunath said JD(S) workers would oppose toll collection, pursue legal action despite cases, and continue protesting perceived public injustice

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Former MLA A. Manjunath accused the state government of ignoring alleged irregularities in NICE Road toll collection and said the continued collection was unfair to the public.

He claimed the project framework agreement had been violated and alleged that the government was working with NICE to suppress protests against toll collection.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the new JD(S) district office on B.M. Road, Manjunath said the toll issue had become a major public concern. He said the JD(S) and its leaders had called for a protest after studying the legal aspects of the matter. He alleged that the government was misleading people by presenting incorrect information and demanded transparency on the issue.

Manjunath said party work-



ers and leaders would continue opposing the toll collection. He added that even if cases were registered to stop the agitation, the party would pursue the matter through legal channels. Responding to criticism from D.K. Suresh that the JD(S) was creating controversy, Manjunath said the party was raising its voice against what it considered injustice to the public.

He questioned why court directions were being followed on some Bengaluru

footpath issues but, according to him, not on NICE Road. He said the road comes under the state government's responsibility and urged authorities to take immediate steps regarding toll collection.

The new JD(S) district office was opened following a long-standing request from party workers for a dedicated headquarters. Manjunath said the office would serve as a centre for party meetings, programmes and organisational activities. District

AT A GLANCE

- JDS Escalates Fight Against NICE Toll Collection
- Manjunath calls NICE toll collection daylight robbery
- Alleges project framework agreement was completely violated
- Claims government is misleading people over toll
- JDS vows continued legal fight against toll
- Demands immediate clearance of NICE Road toll
- New JDS district office inaugurated in Ramanagar

president Jayamuthu, taluk president Sabbakere Shivalingappa, councillor Manjunath and several party leaders and workers attended the event.

Hanagal MLA seeks action to protect voter rights

CH NEWS, HANAGAL

MLA Srinivas Mane has directed officials to ensure that no eligible voter loses voting rights during the special revision of electoral rolls.

He said names of more than 8,000 eligible voters who had already been digitized were reportedly left out and asked Tahsildar Vitthal Chaugala to take immediate action.

During a meeting with the Tahsildar, Mane instructed BLO supervisors and nodal officers to work carefully and issue necessary directions. He also asked officials to distribute pending documents related to revenue village titles to eligible beneficiaries without delay. Survey work for newly identified revenue villages should be completed quickly, with pending proposals sent to the government for approval.

Mane said complaints had been received that some sur-



veys numbers belonging to previously announced revenue villages were missing. He directed officials to verify the complaints and take suitable action. He also called for applications received by the Illegal and Regularisation Committee to be investigated and settled promptly, so eligible beneficiaries can receive pattas.

The MLA further directed officials to act on complaints about encroachment on

Mane directed officials to verify missing survey numbers, investigate regularisation applications promptly, and issue pattas to eligible beneficiaries after proper scrutiny

school land and clear illegal occupation.

He noted that some survey numbers are recorded as designated forest areas and require survey work. Mane suggested holding a joint meeting involving the Revenue, Land Survey and Forest departments to examine such cases, make clear decisions and take necessary action. He stressed that timely coordination would help protect public land and ensure benefits reach eligible residents without unnecessary delays or confusion.

Chitradurga plans devotional Krishna Jayanti celebrations

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Sri Krishna Jayanti will be celebrated on September 4 at the district headquarters in a meaningful and devotional manner, Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantaraj said. He directed officials and organisers to complete all preparations for the celebration on time.

Dr. Kantaraj was speaking while presiding over a preliminary meeting at the Dep-

uty Commissioner's office on Thursday. The programme will be organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department and Chitradurga Municipal Council. Invitations will be printed and distributed according to official protocol, he said.

To encourage large public participation, the main Jayanti stage programme will again be held at Sri

Krishna Circle on Holalkere Road, following the practice of previous years. Officials discussed arrangements to ensure the event is conducted smoothly and devotees, community leaders and members of the public can participate comfortably.

As part of the celebrations, a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the portrait of Sri Krishna in the District Collector's Office hall at 10.30 a.m. on September 4. Dr. G.K. Pre-

ma, Kannada professor at Shivamogga Sahyadri Arts College, will deliver a special lecture on the teachings, principles and messages of Sri Krishna. A musical programme will also be organised during the celebrations.

Dr. Kantaraj appealed to office-bearers of various organisations, institutions, community leaders and the public to participate in large numbers and make the Jayanti successful.

Hindalco opens India's first Superfine ATH Plant

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Hindalco Industries Limited has commissioned India's first greenfield Super Fine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH) manufacturing unit in Belagavi, Karnataka. The Aditya Birla Group company said the new facility will initially produce 30,000 tonnes a year, with plans to raise capacity to 60,000 tonnes soon.

The plant runs fully on renewable energy from biomass, solar and wind sources. It is designed to support local production of fire-safety cables and specialty alumina products, helping India reduce dependence on imports.

Hindalco's proprietary InnoSafe Superfine PPT ATH is a halogen-free flame retardant. It helps suppress flames and smoke in Halogen-Free Flame Retardant cables, electric vehicles, polymer insulators and thermal insulation materials. Satish Pai, Managing Director, and Saurabh Khedekar, CEO of the Alumina Business, said the technology came from in-house research and development, showing Indian innovation for global markets.



Alongside industrial growth, Hindalco continues its community work through CSR programmes. Its Project Saksham currently reaches more than 82,000 people across seven villages near Belagavi, focusing on healthcare, education and women's empowerment. The company said the initiative aims to improve everyday opportunities for families while supporting inclusive growth in communities around its operations. The new facility, meanwhile, is expected to strengthen Belagavi's role in advanced manufacturing and support demand for safer materials in India's growing industrial and electric mobility sectors, and create new opportunities for skilled workers in the region over time.

Society must change first to defeat corruption: Veerappa

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa said corruption cannot be removed from society unless citizens, public representatives and government officials honestly accept their responsibilities.

He was speaking after inaugurating a programme to clear pending inquiries at Venkateshwara Kalyana Mantapa in Maddur.

Veerappa said corruption was not the responsibility of officials alone. People who accept money for votes, those who buy votes and those who misuse power all contribute to corruption. He urged officials to remember that public service is the main purpose of their positions and warned against favouring relatives, friends or influential people.

He said demanding money, deliberately delaying government work, ignoring complaints and illegally benefiting from public resources weaken people's trust. The Lokayukta is an independent institution and will act according to law against corruption, negligence and irregularities. At the same time, honest

officials will receive legal support and should not fear pressure while performing their duties.

Veerappa also warned against encroachment of lakes and government land. He said protecting water bodies is everyone's responsibility and that destroying lakes in the name of development could create serious water problems for future generations. He urged officials to solve people's problems at the taluk level so citizens do not have to visit offices repeatedly for simple services.

He also recalled the sacrifices of soldiers guarding the nation and said corruption within society can weaken the country like an internal threat. Veerappa stressed that wealth earned honestly brings peace, while money gained through injustice cannot provide lasting happiness. He urged every citizen to reject corruption and work responsibly to build a fairer society. District officials, police officers, judicial representatives, advocates and other senior officials attended the programme.



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DAVANAGERE DIVISION, DAVANAGERE.

No.EE:PWD:Dvg/JE:IFT-18:2026-27 Dated:- 25.08.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : This office tender notification No. IFT-18/2026-27 dated : 25.08.2026.

The works under Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCCL 3 Works minimum Rs.50.00 lakhs to maximum Rs. 1000.00 lakhs pertaining to Davanagere and Honnali sub divisions under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division, has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules. Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Details of dates	W.I. 40908	W.I. 41207, 41538
1. Last Date & time for tender queries	Date 27.08.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date 28.08.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
2. Prebid meeting held : office of Executive engineer, PWD division, Dvg	Date : 31.08.2026 Timing 11.00 A.M.	-
3. Last Date & time for receipt of tenders	Date : 10.09.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date : 04.09.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
4. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid:	Date : 11.09.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.	Date : 05.09.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.

Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/302/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Davanagere.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 21/2026-2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.08.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಿಎಂಎಲ್ ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-1/2/3 ರೀತಿ ಏಕಲೋಚಿ/ದ್ವಿಲೋಚಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 24.08.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.08.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 01.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.09.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆರೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/3 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 278 (ಇನ್ನೂರ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೆಂಟು). ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.0.40 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆರೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:- (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾ.ಇಂ.ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಒ.ಸಿ-ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಎಂ/398/2026-27

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ರಾಜ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಮೈಸೂರು-570024,
E-mail: ee.environmentmcc@gmail.com

ಸಂ. ಹೆಚ್‌1/ಸಂ/101/2022-2023 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.08.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	Tender	No of Works	Amount In Lakhs	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	Service Tender	2	70.18	27.08.2026	10.09.2026
2	EOI	14	-	27.08.2026	02.09.2026

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾ.ಅ (ಪರಿಶರ) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಶರ)
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಮೈಸೂರು/622/ಬಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026-27 ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562157, ದೂರ: 080-29597110
Email:-itstaff.ulb.hmhalli@gmail.com Web:- www.hunasamaranahallitown.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂ:ಹುಸಮಾ/ಉ.ಶಾ(1)/ಸಿ.ಆರ್‌/01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.08.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಮತ್ತು 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಡಿ ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಉಪಹಾರ ಬಡಗಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಉಪಭೋಗ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೊಹರಾದ ಇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	Indent Number	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಯೋಜನೆ
1	DMA/2025-26/SE7583/CALL-2 ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಗೆ 18 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.	49.97	ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ, (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ : 01)

1. ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೋರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

2.ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.

3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

4. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.09.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

| 2 | DMA/2026-27/IND6372 ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಉಪಭೋಗ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. | 4.44 | 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನ |
| 3 | DMA/2026-27/SE8379 ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯು ಪೌರಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಉಪಹಾರವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. | 5.74 | ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ |

ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.02 ಮತ್ತು 03)

1. ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೋರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ

2. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ.

3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

4. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

5. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು KPP Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 080-239016842

Email:-itstaff.ulb.hmhalli@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/-ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/-ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹುನಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಉ.ಶಾ/2442/ಬಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026-27

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Quick Read



Samrat Choudhary reviews Valmikinagar barrage

CH NEWS, Patna
Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday reviewed the situation at the Valmikinagar barrage along the India-Nepal border as the state received some relief following a decline in water discharge from Nepal. Choudhary took stock of the water levels and the situation around the barrage amid concerns over flooding in parts of Bihar. Officials briefed the chief minister on the water flow and measures being taken to monitor the situation and respond to any emerging threat. The reduction in the discharge of water from Nepal brought relief to authorities and residents in vulnerable areas. The Valmikinagar barrage plays an important role in regulating water flow into Bihar, making its condition and water levels a key concern during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding. The chief minister directed officials to remain alert and closely monitor developments along the border and in downstream areas. Authorities have been asked to ensure that necessary precautions are taken and that response measures are implemented promptly if water levels rise again. Bihar has been closely watching developments in neighbouring Nepal, where heavy rainfall and floods have affected several areas. Any sudden increase in water discharge from Nepal can raise the risk of flooding in districts located downstream in Bihar. The state government has continued monitoring the situation and coordinating with local officials to minimise risks to people and property.

Haryana Singer-Youtuber shot dead outside gym

CH NEWS, Chandigarh
Haryana singer and Youtuber Baliyan was shot dead outside a gym, police said. The incident took place around 6:45 pm when Baliyan was leaving the gym. Four unidentified assailants travelling in two vehicles allegedly opened fire at him before fleeing the spot. Haryana sustained serious gunshot injuries and died in the attack. Police teams have launched an investigation to identify and arrest those responsible. CCTV footage from the area is being examined to trace the attackers and establish their movements. Officials are also investigating the possible motive behind the killing and whether the victim had any previous disputes or threats.

Delhi HC quashes criminal defamation case against ex-MP

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has quashed criminal defamation proceedings against senior advocate and former Member of Parliament Pinaki Misra in a case arising from allegations that he made objectionable remarks about a lawyer during an interview. The court's decision brings an end to the criminal proceedings initiated against him in connection with the complaint. The case was based on allegations concerning comments attributed to Misra during an interview. The complainant had approached the authorities, alleging that the remarks were defamatory and had

Security tightened at disputed site in Mathura

This development occurs amidst ongoing court hearings regarding petitions over the religiously disputed site.

MATHURA

Security arrangements have been strengthened at the disputed Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah premises in Mathura amid concerns over a possible 'Kar Seva', district authorities informed the Allahabad High Court. The Mathura administration recently told the court that additional security measures had been put in place at the site to prevent any untoward incident. The development comes as the court continues to hear a series of petitions concerning the religiously disputed premises. The Allahabad High Court is currently hearing 18 suits



Shahi Idgah dispute hearing

The Allahabad High Court is hearing suits seeking the Shahi Idgah mosque's removal, with petitioners claiming it stands on Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple land. Authorities maintain strict security amid concerns over potential gatherings and Kar Seva at the sensitive site.

Highlights
■ Mathura administration enhances site security measures.
■ Court hears clubbed Shri Krishna suits.
■ Petitioners seek Shahi Idgah removal.
■ Authorities remain vigilant against gatherings.
■ Dispute involves religious land ownership.
■ Muslim side opposes mosque claims.

that were clubbed together in 2023. The petitions seek the removal of the Shahi Idgah,

with petitioners claiming that the mosque stands on land belonging to or forming part of the premises of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple. Officials informed the High Court about the security arrangements while the matter remains under judicial consideration. Authorities have been maintaining vigilance around the disputed site because of the possibility of gatherings or attempts at 'Kar Seva'. The Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute has remained a sensitive religious and legal issue in Uttar Pradesh. Various petitioners have approached the courts seeking relief over the owner-

ship and status of the land, while the Muslim side has opposed the claims concerning the mosque. The High Court proceedings are focused on the suits and the legal issues raised by the petitioners. The court has been hearing arguments in the cases after consolidating the 18 suits in 2023. With the dispute continuing before the judiciary, local authorities have opted for heightened security to maintain law and order at the site. Officials are closely monitoring the situation and taking preventive measures to avoid any incident that could disturb communal peace in Mathura.

Tharoor flood remark triggers social media backlash

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has faced criticism on social media after his remark about the devastating floods in Nepal sparked a strong online backlash. Tharoor's comment, which included the phrase "Drama? Really?", drew criticism from several social media users who questioned his choice of words while discussing the natural disaster. The controversy emerged as Nepal continues to deal with the impact of severe floods and flash floods that have affected several areas. Rescue and relief operations have been intensified, with authorities working to reach people stranded or displaced by the disaster. The floods



have caused widespread disruption and raised concerns over the safety of communities in affected regions. Following Tharoor's remark, several users expressed their disapproval online. One social media post criticised what it described as a "poor choice of words" from someone known for his extensive vocabulary and command of language. Others accused the Congress leader of appearing insensitive toward the suffering caused by the floods. The remark quickly became a topic of discussion, with users sharing and commenting on his statement across social media platforms. Critics argued that comments concerning a major natural disaster

should be made with greater sensitivity, particularly when people are facing loss, displacement and difficult rescue conditions. Tharoor is widely known for his eloquent public speaking and distinctive use of the English language. However, the latest controversy has shifted attention from the ongoing situation in Nepal to his choice of words. The backlash highlights how comments by public figures can quickly attract scrutiny on social media, especially during humanitarian crises. Nepalese authorities continue to coordinate rescue, relief and recovery efforts in flood-hit areas. Emergency teams and security personnel have been deployed to assist affected communities as the country assesses the damage caused by the severe weather.

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday criticised the BJP over Uttarakhand unit president Mahendra Bhatt's reported defence of a purification ritual allegedly carried out at a venue after a rally addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. The Congress accused the BJP of displaying a "casteist nature" and alleged that the party's leaders were attempting to hide such attitudes. The party also demanded Bhatt's removal from the post over his comments concerning the reported ritual. The controversy centres on an alleged purification ceremony at the venue of Kharge's rally

The controversy stems from the Congress party's strong backlash against Uttarakhand BJP President Mahendra Bhatt.



in Uttarakhand. Congress leaders objected to the reported practice and questioned the justification offered by the BJP state president. The Congress also accused the BJP of trying to conceal what it described as caste-based thinking among some of its leaders. It said that public representatives should promote equality rather than defend practices that could be viewed as

discriminatory. Congress leaders said Such practices were contrary to the principles of equality and social justice. They alleged that the incident reflected discriminatory attitudes and sought an explanation from the BJP leadership over Bhatt's reported position. The demand for Bhatt's ouster has added to the political confrontation between the two parties in Uttarakhand. Congress leaders have sought action from the BJP leadership, arguing that attitudes and such a ritual sends a negative message about social equality. The BJP's response to the Congress allegations and its demand for Bhatt's removal is expected to shape the political debate over the issue. The controversy has meanwhile brought caste, social equality and political conduct into focus in the state.

Railways modernisation drive faces basic gaps

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways is in the middle of one of its biggest modernisation drives, with large investments being made in station redevelopment, new trains, electrification and infrastructure. However, a recent audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has highlighted gaps in basic passenger amenities at railway stations. The audit indicates that the ongoing transformation has not always translated into improvements in essential facilities for passengers. While major projects have received considerable attention and investment, problems related to everyday services continue to remain at several stations. Water quality has emerged as a major concern. The CAG audit found shortcomings in drinking-water facilities at rail-

way stations, including instances where water was found to be contaminated with harmful bacteria such as E. coli. The findings have raised questions about the safety and reliability of basic amenities available to passengers. The audit also pointed to concerns over maintenance. According to the findings, infrastructure may receive substantial investment and undergo visible redevelopment, but maintaining the facilities after their completion remains an important challenge. The quality of services can deteriorate if regular upkeep is not given adequate attention. Financial and operational planning for some redevelopment projects also remains an area of concern. The audit suggests that simply completing and inaugurating large infrastructure projects may not be

sufficient to deliver sustained improvements to passengers. Indian Railways has been undertaking a wide-ranging modernisation programme aimed at improving infrastructure, passenger experience and operational efficiency. Station redevelopment, electrification and the introduction of new trains form important parts of this effort. The CAG findings, however, underline the need to ensure that modernisation is accompanied by reliable basic services. Clean drinking water, functioning amenities and regular maintenance remain essential for passengers regardless of how advanced a station's infrastructure may appear. The audit has therefore brought attention to the gap between high-profile railway redevelopment projects and everyday passenger needs.

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday questioned what he described as conflicting statements by senior military officials about the role of China and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, asking whether there was a broader effort to change the public narrative. Ramesh shared video clips on X contrasting remarks made by Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Rahul Singh in July 2025 with comments by former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on August 25, 2026. He said the two accounts appeared to be sharply different. According to Ramesh, Lt Gen Singh had described the



Pakistan-China partnership during Operation Sindoor as deeply significant. He had also said China provided substantial military support to Pakistan and used the conflict to assess its weapons and systems under real-world conditions. Ramesh contrasted this with Gen Chauhan's recent remarks at an event on Operation Sindoor and its aftermath. Chauhan said Pakistan had been unable to obtain evidence of the targets struck by India despite attempts to access commercial satellite imagery. He also described the presence of Chinese personnel supporting Pakistani military equipment as part of contractual obligations, while cautioning against drawing conclusions beyond estab-

lished facts. The Congress leader questioned why the two accounts differed and asked whether there was a "deeper plan" to change the narrative about China's involvement. He also linked the issue to the government's broader China policy. Ramesh alleged that the Centre had followed what he called a "calibrated capitulation to China". He referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2020 remarks concerning China and also cited India's continuing trade deficit with the neighbouring country. Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7, 2025, following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Indian forces targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir during the operation.

Four killed in militant ambush in Manipur

CH NEWS, IMPHAL

At least four people were killed and another injured after militants ambushed a vehicle in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Thursday, police said.

The victims were travelling when armed attackers allegedly opened fire on their vehicle. Four occupants died in the attack, while one person sustained injuries and was taken for medical treatment. Police are also investigating

All five victims belong to the Liangmai Naga community. Security forces have launched operations in the area to trace those responsible for the ambush.

The circumstances surrounding the attack and the possible motive behind it. Further details about the incident and the identities of the victims are awaited as the investigation continues.

Two Chinese survivors brought safely to Paradip

BHUBANESWAR

Two Chinese crew members rescued after the Panama-flagged bulk carrier MV Ocean Winner sank in the Bay of Bengal were safely brought to Paradip in Odisha on Thursday. The survivors, identified as Pan Tonglai and Chen Jianhe, were brought ashore by the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varad. The Coast Guard vessel safely transported the two men to Paradip following their rescue from the sunken ship. The MV Ocean Winner had sailed from Paradip for China on August 20 carrying iron ore. There were 24 crew members aboard the vessel, including 20 Chinese nationals, three Myanmar nationals and one Bangladeshi national. The vessel later sank in the Bay of Bengal, triggering a search and rescue operation by Indian authorities. The Coast Guard deployed resources to locate and assist the crew members following the incident.

The rescue operation was carried out amid challenging conditions at sea. The safe recovery of the two Chinese nationals provided some relief as authorities continued efforts related to the maritime incident. After reaching Paradip, the rescued crew members were brought under the care of the authorities. Their arrival is expected to help officials gather further information about the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the bulk carrier. The incident has drawn attention to maritime safety in the Bay of Bengal and the importance of coordinated rescue operations. Indian Coast Guard personnel have continued monitoring the situation and supporting search and rescue efforts. Authorities are expected to establish further details about the sinking, including the condition of the vessel before the accident and the circumstances that led to the emergency. The safe return of the two survivors marks an important step in the ongoing response to the incident.

PINAKI MISRA CASE QUASHED



caused damage to the lawyer's reputation. After examining the matter, the Delhi High Court decided to quash the criminal defamation proceedings against Misra. The ruling effectively nullifies the case that had been initiated over the alleged remarks. The development comes amid continuing

legal and public debate over the use of criminal defamation provisions in cases involving statements made during interviews, public discussions and media interactions. Defamation proceedings can be initiated when a person alleges that statements made about them have harmed their

Points
■ High Court quashes defamation proceedings against Misra.
■ Interview remarks spark legal battle.
■ Court finds insufficient material for charges.
■ Judicial intervention ends criminal trial.
■ Former MP receives substantial legal relief.
■ Case highlights limits of criminal defamation.

reputation, subject to the legal requirements governing such offences. Misra, who has

Quick Read

Bombay HC seeks Aadhaar Act amendment

Mumbai
The Bombay High Court has asked the Union government and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to consider amending the Aadhaar Act to help authorities quickly trace and deport foreign nationals staying illegally in India. The court noted gaps in coordination between agencies and document-verification procedures that had allowed some foreign nationals to allegedly obtain Aadhaar cards fraudulently. It said stronger mechanisms were needed to identify and track such individuals. The court’s direction came while hearing a matter concerning the alleged misuse of Aadhaar documents by foreign nationals. The Centre and UIDAI have been asked to examine whether changes to the law could improve information sharing and verification, while ensuring the Aadhaar system is not misused.

Heatwave now notified calamity, funding expands

New Delhi
Heatwaves and lightning have been added to India’s list of notified natural calamities, giving States greater access to financial support for dealing with extreme weather. The Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Lok Sabha on August 4 that the move increased the number of notified natural calamities to 14, including floods, cyclones, droughts and landslides. The decision provides States with a stronger financial shield as India faces growing exposure to extreme heat. However, effective use of the additional funding will depend on stronger planning, preparedness and implementation at the State and local levels.

Congress calls Subhash Chandra payout ‘mundan’

New Delhi
The Congress on Thursday criticised the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for approving a repayment plan allowing media baron Subhash Chandra to settle admitted creditor claims of about 22,006.57 crore by paying 6.5 crore. The party described the nearly 99.97% reduction in lenders’ claims as “not a haircut but mundan.” The insolvency tribunal has cleared the repayment plan under Chandra’s personal insolvency resolution process. Congress questioned the scale of the reduction and raised concerns over the amount creditors would ultimately recover. The approved plan permits Chandra to make the 6.5 crore payment to settle the admitted claims.

Uttarakhand BJP chief defends ‘purification’ of Kharge rally venue

New Delhi
Uttarakhand BJP chief Mahendra Bhatt has defended the ‘purification’ ritual conducted at a ground in Haldwani where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a public rally earlier this month. Bhatt said the Ramlila Maidan in Haldwani had been ‘polluted’ by slogans during Kharge’s rally and claimed that conducting a purification ritual at the venue was justified. Kharge had addressed a public meet there on August 8.

Surjewala accuses government of ignoring sugar shortage

RANDEEP SURJEWALA CRITICIZED THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO ACT SOONER DESPITE KNOWING A SHORTAGE WAS COMING.

NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala on Thursday accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to act despite allegedly being aware of an impending sugar shortage months in advance. He claimed that the government had information about the situation in April but did not take timely steps to prevent a supply crunch. Surjewala alleged that the delay had contributed to a sharp increase in sugar prices, with retail rates rising from around Rs 40 per kg to nearly Rs 75 per kg. He questioned why the Centre did not intervene earlier when it was aware of the likely shortage. The Congress leader said the price increase had placed an additional burden on ordinary consumers. He accused the government of ignoring warnings and failing to protect households from the impact of rising sugar prices.



The Congress-BJP confrontation over inflation and commodity prices. The Congress has demanded that the Centre explain the circumstances behind the price rise and clarify what steps were taken after the alleged early warning about the sugar shortage. - Randeep Surjewala, Congress General Secretary

Surjewala’s allegations come amid concerns over the availability and prices of essential commodities. Sugar is widely consumed across Indian households, making any significant increase in its price a matter of concern for consumers and businesses. The Congress leader sought accountability from the Centre over its handling of sugar supplies. He questioned whether the government had taken adequate measures to maintain sufficient stocks and prevent prices from increasing sharply. The Opposition party has repeatedly criticised the government over inflation and the prices of essential commodities, arguing that rising

CHIDAMBARAM SAYS CORRUPTION VIRTUALLY NIL IN TN

CHENNAI

Congress Rajya Sabha MP and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram has said corruption was “virtually nil” in several government offices in Tamil Nadu after the Tamila-ga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) took charge of the State. Chidambaram said his assessment was based on feedback he had received from members of the public. He said that during his interactions with people in his home district of Sivaganga, residents had shared their experiences regarding the functioning of government departments. Chidambaram specifically referred to the Registration Department and the State power utility. According to him, people had reported that there was “no corruption or virtually nil corruption” in these offices after the change

Drew attention because he is a senior Congress leader and former Union Minister who has held key portfolios at the Centre. His positive assessment of the functioning of some departments contrasts with the political criticism often directed at governments over alleged corruption and administrative inefficiency. - P. Chidambaram, Congress Leader

in government. The Congress leader said public feedback was an important source of information when assessing the functioning of government departments. He indicated that his observations were based on what people had told him during his interactions rather than on any official survey or government data. His comments come against the backdrop of continuing political debate over corruption and transparency in public administration. Govern-

ment offices dealing with property registration and electricity services directly interact with large numbers of citizens, making their functioning an important issue for the public. The Congress leader, however, limited his comments to the departments and experiences cited by people during his interactions. His remarks should therefore be viewed as an account of public feedback rather than an independent assessment covering every government office in Tamil Nadu. The statement is likely to attract attention in the State, particularly as political parties debate governance, accountability and the delivery of public services. Chidambaram’s comments highlight the importance of citizens’ experiences in judging whether government departments are functioning transparently and efficiently.

CONGRESS QUESTIONS SUGAR SUPPLIES

The Congress party has targeted the Centre over soaring sugar prices and declining reserve stocks ahead of the festive season, alleging mismanagement and an inflated burden on ordinary households.

Assam launches Rs 796 crore beel revival project

GUWAHATI

The Assam government has launched Project S.W.I.F.T., a Rs 796.88-crore initiative aimed at reviving traditional water bodies, increasing fish production and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities dependent on the State’s wetlands. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the initiative on Thursday, saying Assam’s beels are closely linked to the lives and livelihoods of its people. The project, supported by the Asian Development Bank, will focus on rejuvenating 71 beels spread across 23 districts. The initiative targets the restoration of around 4,000 hectares of water bodies. The government expects the rejuvenated beels to produce 6,000 metric tonnes of fish, while around 570 million fish fry are expected to be produced annually to strengthen fish stocks and improve productivity.

BJP accuses Rahul Gandhi of misleading youth

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of misleading young people through what it described as misleading and false statements. BJP MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Gandhi was a “flag-bearer of lies” and alleged that his remarks were driven by frustration and envy towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trivedi made the allegations while referring to the BJP’s ‘Jhooth Ki Goonj’ website, which the party has used to challenge statements made by opposition leaders and present what it claims are factual responses to their allegations. The BJP spokesperson alleged that Gandhi repeatedly makes claims without sufficient basis and attempts to influence young voters through such statements. He said the Congress leader’s remarks should be examined against facts rather than accepted at face value. Trivedi also accused Gandhi of targeting Modi because of political frustration. He alleged that the Congress leader’s criticism reflected his disappointment with the government and personal envy towards the Prime Minister. The BJP has frequently accused the Congress and Gandhi of spreading misinformation on issues ranging from government policies to the economy and national affairs. Through its communication

BJP spokesperson accused Gandhi of making baseless claims to manipulate young voters.

campaigns and digital platforms, the party has sought to counter statements made by opposition leaders. The latest BJP criticism comes amid continued political exchanges between the ruling party and Congress. Gandhi has regularly raised questions about the government and its policies, while the BJP has responded by accusing him and the Congress of making misleading claims. The ‘Jhooth Ki Goonj’ platform is being highlighted by the BJP as a source for countering what it considers false narratives. Party leaders have urged citizens, particularly young people, to verify political claims and rely on what they describe as factual information. Trivedi maintained that Gandhi’s statements could mislead the younger generation if they were not checked against available information. He called on voters to distinguish between political allegations and verifiable facts. The exchange reflects the continuing battle between the BJP and Congress over public messaging and competing narratives. With political debates increasingly taking place on digital platforms, both parties have intensified efforts to challenge each other’s claims and influence public opinion.

Mukul Roy’s daughter-in-law missing in Nepal

KOLKATA: Former Trinamool Congress MLA Subhranshu Roy’s wife is among those reported missing after flash floods struck parts of Nepal near the border with Tibet, leaving hundreds of people unaccounted for. Sarmistha Bhowmik Roy, who lives in North 24 Parganas district, has had no contact with her husband since the night of August 25. Roy is a former TMC MLA from Bijpur and the son of former Railway Minister Mukul Roy. His wife had travelled to

Nepal on August 21 as part of a tour arranged by a travel agency. A 32-member group from Kolkata travelling towards Mount Kailash and Mansarovar is also among those who have gone missing. The group consists of 30 tourists and two tour managers. It left Kolkata on August 21 and reached Nepal the following day. On Wednesday morning, the group reached Rasuwagadhi, near the Nepal-Tibet border, where its members were at an immigration office around 8:30 am.

Vijay breaks with traditional political alliances

NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has broken with traditional political alignments, signalling a different approach to the State’s political landscape, according to reports. Vijay, who has emerged as a prominent political figure, is seeking to establish an independent political identity rather than remain tied to established alliance structures. The development comes at a significant time in Tamil Nadu politics, with political parties preparing for an increasingly competitive electoral environment. Vijay’s political positioning has attracted considerable attention because of his

popularity and the potential impact of his decisions on existing political equations. By moving away from conventional alliance arrangements, Vijay appears to be seeking greater freedom in determining his party’s political strategy. Such a move could allow the leadership to negotiate directly with voters and frame its policies without being constrained by the positions of larger political partners. The decision could also have implications for established parties in the State. Tamil Nadu has traditionally witnessed strong electoral alliances, with smaller and emerging parties often joining broader coalitions. A major political

force choosing to maintain distance from these arrangements could make the electoral contest more unpredictable. Vijay’s political journey has been closely followed since he entered active politics. His public standing has given his political organisation significant visibility, while his supporters have projected him as an alternative to the established political parties. The latest development is therefore being watched closely by political observers, particularly for its possible impact on vote distribution and alliance calculations. Established parties may have to reassess their strategies depending on how Vijay’s organisation performs independently.

RURAL AYUSH OUTREACH

AYUSH colleges increased as private institutions dominate

NEW DELHI

The number of colleges offering education in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) has increased significantly in India, even as non-government institutions continue to account for a large share of the sector. According to the latest figures, the number of AYUSH colleges increased from 789 in 2021 to 971 in 2024, marking a rise of about 23%. During the same period, total admissions to these institutions grew from

63,477 to 79,593, an increase of nearly 25%. The expansion comes as the Centre seeks to widen the role of AYUSH systems in India’s healthcare sector. The government has been promoting greater coverage, rural outreach and integration of traditional systems with mainstream healthcare services. The growth in colleges and admissions indicates increasing interest in AYUSH education among students. The rise also reflects efforts to expand the availability of trained professionals in traditional systems of medicine

and healthcare. However, non-government colleges continue to dominate AYUSH education. The strong presence of private institutions means that access to education in these fields is significantly dependent on colleges outside the government sector. The expansion of AYUSH education has taken place alongside wider efforts to strengthen traditional healthcare systems. Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy have been promoted as complementary systems that can contribute to health-

care delivery across the country. Greater rural outreach is also among the priorities as the government seeks to improve healthcare access beyond major cities. Increasing the number of trained AYUSH practitioners could help expand services in areas where healthcare facilities remain limited. At the same time, the rapid growth of institutions and admissions underlines the importance of maintaining educational standards and ensuring adequate infrastructure, teaching facilities and clinical exposure for

students. The increase from 789 colleges in 2021 to 971 in 2024 shows that AYUSH education has expanded considerably within a short period. Admissions rising by nearly one-fourth during the same period further indicate growing demand. As the government continues to integrate AYUSH into India’s broader healthcare strategy, ensuring balanced growth between government and non-government institutions, along with quality education, will remain important for the sector’s long-term development.





- DR. VIJAY GARG

EXPENSIVE TREATMENT, A HEAVY BURDEN ON LIFE

Healthcare is one of the most basic needs of human life. When a person falls seriously ill, the first concern should be getting timely and appropriate treatment. Yet for millions of families, the cost of medical care has become a source of deep anxiety. Expensive medicines, diagnostic tests, hospital charges, surgeries and long-term treatments can place enormous financial pressure on families. For many, the struggle is not only against disease but also against the economic burden that comes with treatment. Medical science has made remarkable progress. Diseases that were once considered untreatable can now often be managed or cured. Advanced surgery, modern diagnostic technologies, specialised medicines and critical-care facilities have saved countless lives. However, these advances can come with high costs. The availability of sophisticated treatment does not always mean that every family can afford it. The problem becomes particularly serious when a major illness affects a middle-class or low-income household. A family may spend years building savings for education, housing, marriage or retirement. One serious medical emergency can suddenly consume much of those savings. Some families are forced to borrow money, sell property or depend on relatives to pay hospital bills. In extreme situations, illness can push an otherwise financially stable family into long-term debt. The burden is not limited to hospitalisation. Chronic diseases often require continuous medication, regular investigations and repeated consultations. Patients with conditions requiring long-term care may have to spend money month after month. Even when individual expenses appear manageable, their cumulative effect can become overwhelming.



The situation is especially difficult for families living in rural and economically weaker areas. A shortage of specialised healthcare facilities may force patients to travel to distant cities. Travel, accommodation, food and loss of income add to the medical expenditure. A patient may therefore face two problems simultaneously: the cost of treatment and the cost of reaching treatment. Another important issue is the relationship between health and employment. When a person becomes seriously ill, the family may lose not only money through medical expenses but also income because the patient cannot work. In some cases, another family member has to stop working temporarily to provide care. Thus, a medical crisis can create a double financial burden—rising expenses and falling income. Health insurance can provide an important safety net, but awareness and effective coverage remain crucial. People need to understand what their policies cover, what limitations may apply and how claims work. At the same time, insurance systems should become simpler, more transparent and accessible to ordinary families. Coverage should be designed not merely to exist on paper but to provide meaningful protection when people actually need it.

Government healthcare programmes also have an important role. Public hospitals and health centres can reduce the financial pressure on families by providing affordable or free treatment, medicines and diagnostic services. Strong primary healthcare can also help detect diseases earlier, when treatment may be less complicated and less expensive. Preventive healthcare should therefore receive as much attention as advanced treatment. Prevention is often less costly than cure. Regular health check-ups, vaccination, balanced nutrition, physical activity, clean surroundings and awareness about common diseases can reduce the risk of many health problems. This does not mean that every illness can be prevented; rather, it highlights the importance of building a healthcare system that focuses on prevention as well as treatment. The pharmaceutical sector also has a significant responsibility. Medicines are essential products, not ordinary consumer goods. Research and innovation require investment, but affordability must remain an important part of the healthcare conversation. Greater availability of quality generic medicines and transparent pricing can help reduce the financial burden on patients. Hospitals, too, can contribute by improving transparency in billing. Patients and families should be able to understand the expected cost of a procedure, the charges for different services and the alternatives available. Clear communication can help families make informed decisions during stressful circumstances. Technology may offer additional solutions. Telemedicine can connect patients with doctors without requiring frequent travel. Digital health records can improve continuity of care. Artificial intelligence and data-driven systems may help doctors detect certain diseases earlier and support clinical decision-making. If these technologies are developed responsibly and made affordable, they can improve both access and efficiency. However, healthcare is not simply an economic issue. It is also a question of dignity and social justice. A person's ability to receive necessary treatment should not depend entirely on the size of their bank account. No family should have to make an unbearable choice between paying a hospital bill and meeting basic household needs. At the same time, affordability should not mean compromising on quality.

- Sheldon Magnol Robinson

FROM INDIA TO NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE: VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM, THE MESSAGE OF ONENESS COMES TO NEW YORK



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

Democracy is strongest when people are free to speak, to assemble and to share ideas peacefully and within the law. But it is also strengthened when we take the time to listen to ideas that seek to bring people together rather than simply reinforce the divisions of the moment. That is what makes the Universal Oneness Celebration in New York worth looking at beyond the political controversy surrounding it. On August 29, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat is scheduled to address a gathering organised around the ancient Indian principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam "the world is one family." Organisers say more than 200 Hindu-American organisations are participating, bringing together people connected by heritage, culture, service and a desire to promote greater understanding. At its heart, this is a message of unity without demanding uniformity. The idea is deeply rooted in India's philosophical tradition. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam does not suggest that everyone must follow the same faith, share the same culture or hold the same political views. Its larger proposition is that differences need not prevent us from recognising a common humanity. That is a particularly relevant message in today's world. Societies everywhere are struggling with polarisation. Political identities increasingly determine how people see one another. Religious and cultural differences are too often treated as reasons for suspicion rather than opportunities for understanding. Against that background, an event centred on the idea that the world is one family deserves to be con-

That is a message New York can hear. It is a message the Indian diaspora can carry forward. And it is a message worth discussing far beyond one evening, one organisation or one political controversy. If the world is truly one family, the first step is learning to listen to one another. That conversation deserves a place in New York.

sidered for what it is trying to say. The concept also has a practical dimension. Oneness is not merely about words. It can be expressed through service: helping people during disasters, supporting education, strengthening communities, caring for the vulnerable and contributing to society without expecting personal reward. The RSS has built much of its public identity around volunteerism and social service. Its supporters point to decades of work in education, rural development, disaster relief, healthcare and community initiatives. Whatever one's political views may be, service to society is a positive value, and the contribution of volunteers deserves recognition. That is one reason the New York gathering has significance beyond the RSS itself. For the Indian diaspora, culture is not simply something preserved in museums or remembered at home. It is carried through language, philosophy, family traditions, community institutions and service to the society in which people now live. An event that brings hundreds of organisations together around a shared cultural and philosophical idea demonstrates that heritage can be a source of connection rather than isolation. And the message does not need to stop with the Indian-American community. The phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam speaks to a universal aspiration: that people can retain their individual identities while recognising obligations to a larger human family. In a city as diverse as New York, that idea has particular relevance. New York is home to people from virtually every part of the world. Its strength comes from

the interaction of those communities. The challenge is not to eliminate differences but to create enough mutual respect for those differences to coexist. That is where the idea of oneness becomes meaningful. Oneness does not mean sameness. It means recognising that another person's dignity does not diminish our own. It means being able to take pride in one's own heritage without treating another person's heri-

vice, let us discuss service. If the message is cultural confidence combined with respect for others, let us discuss that. And if the proposition is that humanity is ultimately one family, let us ask how that principle can be put into practice. That is a more constructive conversation than reducing the entire event to a political dispute. Mamdani is free to disagree with the RSS, just as others are free to disagree with



tage as a threat. It means serving one's community while understanding that society extends beyond one's immediate circle. And it means having enough confidence in one's own tradition to share it openly and allow others to engage with it. That is the spirit in which Bhagwat's appearance should be viewed. There will inevitably be political debate around the RSS. There are legitimate questions about its philosophy, its influence and its role in Indian public life. Those questions belong in a democracy, and an organisation with the RSS's influence should be prepared to answer them. But those debates should not prevent people from examining the positive principles being presented at the event. If the central message is unity, let us discuss unity. If the message is ser-

him. But disagreement need not be the final word. A diverse society benefits when competing perspectives are allowed to meet openly and when citizens are trusted to make their own judgments. The real value of an event like this is therefore not that everyone who attends will think alike. It is that people have an opportunity to encounter an idea that asks them to think beyond their immediate identities. For centuries, Indian civilisation has produced philosophical traditions that ask questions about the relationship between the individual, society, nature and the wider universe. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam belongs to that larger intellectual inheritance. Bringing that idea to one of the world's most diverse cities is, in itself, a meaningful act of cultural dialogue.

RAKHI BECOMES A PLEDGE FOR WOMEN'S DIGNITY, FREEDOM AND EMPOWERMENT

Raksha Bandhan is not merely a thread tied around the wrist; it represents the Indian ethos where love, trust, responsibility, affection, and protection are woven together. Yet, in a changing society, its meaning demands a contemporary understanding. Today, women are actively shaping their destinies across education, science, the armed forces, industry, and space exploration. Therefore, the core question on Raksha Bandhan should no longer be whether a brother will protect his sister, but whether we can build a society where every woman lives with security, freedom, and dignity, pursuing her dreams without depending on anyone's benevolence.

The Sanskrit expression "Rakshati iti rakshah" conveys that one who protects is a protector. But protection extends far beyond the physical body; it encompasses dignity, freedom, values, rights, and the sanctity of life. Historically, the raksha sutra has transcended biological ties to become a covenant of human solidarity and mutual responsibility. From the protective threads tied to Rajput warriors to the historical memory of Rani Karnavati and Humayun, and the Mahabharata episode of Draupadi and Krishna, the central message remains clear: genuine affection

carries reciprocal responsibility, and protection is never a one-sided act of treating someone as weak.

Modern Indian women have redefined this traditional dynamic. Serving on the front lines, flying in defense of the skies, steering space missions, and executing public policy,



women actively protect the nation. If a woman can sacrifice her life for national security, society cannot hesitate to safeguard her dignity and rights.

The true philosophy of Raksha Bandhan requires transforming society's mindset rather than restricting women's freedom. Instead of merely telling daughters to be cautious, society must teach sons that respecting a woman's freedom, dignity, choices, and consent is the true measure of manhood. When

tied around a wrist, the rakhi should inspire a commitment to stand against injustice, humiliation, and violence toward any woman. In the digital age, this commitment extends to protecting a woman's digital dignity—shielding her from cyber harassment, online defamation, and digital fraud

just as carefully as physical harm.

Economic independence forms another critical pillar of empowerment. Access to education, skills, and financial decision-making gives women lasting confidence. The most meaningful gift a brother can offer is partnership in his sister's aspirations—supporting her education, career, enterprise, or creative endeavors.

Indian heritage has long honored female agency, from the intellectual prowess of



- LALIT GARG

And that is the true strength of the sacred thread—a thread that begins at one wrist but has the power to bind the entire society in the bonds of humanity, self-respect, equality and national consciousness.

Gargi and Maitreyi to the leadership of Rani Lakshmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, and Savitribai Phule. The celebrated ideal "Yatra naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devatah" reminds us that the divine flourishes where women are honored. Tradition is not a static ritual; it is a living entity that must generate new meaning over time. Furthermore, the festival carries a deep spiritual dimension. As emphasized in Jain philosophy, true protection arises from inner self-restraint and moral awareness. Tying a sacred thread around our moral conscience helps eliminate fear, ego, and hatred, transforming individuals into sources of peace for others.

Ultimately, a nation is truly secure not only when its borders are guarded, but when its daughters are safe, rights are protected, and families provide equal opportunities to sons and daughters alike. The future of Raksha Bandhan lies in viewing protection as enforcing rights rather than enforcing restrictions, and brotherhood as equal partnership rather than paternalism. By moving beyond material promises to championing equality, respect, and shared progress, the sacred thread can bind society in true humanity, self-respect, and national consciousness.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Surviving Healthcare, Barely

The sky-rocketing cost of medical treatment in India has pushed countless middle-class families into severe debt. When a single hospital admission drains life savings, healthcare shifts from a basic right to an unbearable burden. While medical technology advances, basic access remains financially out of reach for ordinary citizens. We urgently need robust price caps on critical procedures, lower drug costs, and expanded public insurance schemes. A society cannot claim progress when a medical emergency routinely translates into financial ruin.

- Sheldon Magnol Robinson

Bridging Worlds in Times Square

The recent display of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family) at New York's Times Square showcases India's growing cultural impact. Seeing traditional Indian philosophy light up one of the world's most iconic crossroads sends a powerful message of global unity. At a time when geopolitics feels deeply fractured, sharing timeless ideas of collective togetherness offers a refreshing perspective. It reminds us that despite geographic boundaries, our shared human connection remains our strongest asset.

- Sharon Faustina J.

Strengthening Public Healthcare Infrastructure

While high-end private hospitals thrive, the average citizen struggles for basic medical attention in overburdened government facilities. The stark gap between private affordability and public quality forces families into crippling debt. To build a truly resilient nation, our primary focus must pivot toward upgrading government hospitals, expanding rural clinics, and recruiting skilled medical staff. Quality healthcare should never depend on individual wealth; it must be guaranteed by a strong, well-funded public health system.

- Anna B.

Quick Read

China launches year-long auto quality drive

CH NEWS, BEIJING
Chinese regulators on Thursday ordered automakers to file proactive recall plans for any defects uncovered in self-audits, as part of a year-long campaign to improve vehicle quality and safety in the world's largest auto market. Tesla and eight Chinese electric vehicle makers on August 21 announced fixes affecting a combined 4.3 million vehicles in China's largest-ever automotive recall, prompted by safety concerns involving emergency door-release mechanisms. Under the campaign, automakers are required to conduct comprehensive inspections of product quality, reliability, durability and the testing and validation of new technologies across their operations and key suppliers.

Wall St banks turn on each other as capital fight nears endgame

CH NEWS, WASHINGTON
Wall Street's most powerful banks fought side by side for years to relax capital rules, but with victory in sight, that alliance has fractured. As the Federal Reserve wraps up a sweeping overhaul of capital rules, JPMorgan, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are feuding over a tweak with billions of dollars at stake, according to public documents and four people familiar with the matter. At issue is a capital surcharge the Fed imposes on global systemically important U.S. banks, or GSIBs. In March, the central bank proposed changes it said would make the surcharge more risk-sensitive by, among other changes, revising how it treats short-term wholesale funding, such as repo and commercial paper, which regulators say is prone to drying up during market stress. That came as a surprise to executives at JPMorgan and BofA, the two largest U.S. lenders with ample deposit funding, because it would benefit commercial rivals Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, which are more reliant on short-term wholesale funding, the people said.

‘Indian firms can explore Panama as regional biz platform’

NEW DELHI
Indian companies can explore Panama not only as an export destination but also as a regional business platform from which they can serve multiple Latin American markets, Alonso Correa Miguel, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to India, has said.
Panama can serve as a strategic gateway for Indian companies seeking to expand their presence across Latin America, the Caribbean and the wider Americas, said Miguel during a high-level interaction at MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

TRANSFORMING ECONOMY

Bengal targets investment to drive transformation

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Thursday said the new “double-engine government” was focused on transforming the state’s economy to improve public welfare, while promising greater support to investors seeking to establish large projects in the state.
Speaking at the inauguration of an Information Technology facility of a national business group at New Town near Kolkata, Adhikari said his government was prepared to cooperate with investors and industrialists to facilitate big-ticket investments and improve the



The new double-engine government is operating with a goal to ensure public welfare through transformation.

- Suwendu Adhikari, CM

ease of doing business.
The newly inaugurated IT facility is expected to provide employment to around 5,800 people, according to the chief

“Its strategic geographical location, the Panama Canal, strong maritime and logistics ecosystem, special economic zones and the Colon Free Trade Zone provide significant opportunities for Indian companies to establish regional distribution, warehousing, manufacturing and commercial operations,” said Miguel.
Opportunities exist for establishing regional headquarters and distribution centres, particularly for companies in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automobiles, motorcycles, engineering, consumer products and technology. “Panama can help businesses address some of the chal-

lenges associated with entering individual Latin American markets, including logistics, local regulations, distribution networks and market-specific business practices,” said the Ambassador.
According to Dr Vijay Kalandri, Chairman, MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, with bilateral merchandise trade currently at around \$600 million, there is significant potential to double this to over \$1.2 billion in the next two years through stronger B2B engagement, greater market awareness and focused co-operation in high-potential sectors.

minister. He said such investments were important not only for creating jobs but also for addressing the state’s long-standing brain drain.
Adhikari said West Bengal had a large pool of skilled and technically qualified young people who had moved to cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad, as well as overseas, in search of employment opportunities.
He expressed hope that improved investment and employment opportunities would encourage skilled professionals to return to the state.
The chief minister also said the government would support small industrial enterprises

Two-wheeler sales up 20% on festive demand

EV, CNG and premium vehicle demand stayed strong ahead of the festive season, with dealers reporting lean inventories and healthy inquiries overall.

NEW DELHI
Two-wheeler retail sales stayed on a strong growth path in August, rising 18–20 per cent year-on-year, helped by the Onam festival and a favourable low base, according to a Yes Securities report released Thursday.
Organic inquiries increased 10–12 per cent, with demand remaining healthy across both urban and rural markets. Premium internal-combustion-engine models and electric vehicles continued to drive growth as manufacturers increased supplies ahead of the festive season.
Passenger vehicle retail sales also remained healthy, growing 11–13 per cent year-on-year. Onam provided an additional 20 per cent boost, while urban markets performed better than rural areas. Despite healthy dispatches, dealer inventories



stayed lean at around four weeks. Waiting periods, however, remained high for popular alternate-fuel models.
Demand for CNG and EVs showed a sharp acceleration, with inquiries and bookings rising more than 30 per cent. New product launches and concerns surrounding E20 fuel were cited among the factors supporting interest in these vehicles. The report said EV demand remained particularly

strong in urban, tier-1 and tier-2 markets. EV waiting periods stood at three to four months, compared with one to 1.5 months for ICE models.
Commercial vehicle demand also remained firm, with an expected replacement cycle ahead of the November 2026 ban on BS4 vehicles entering Delhi-NCR.
Tractor sales continued to record healthy double-digit growth. Automakers have

EV, CNG demand outpaces supply
■ Two-wheeler retail growth: 18–20% YoY
■ Organic inquiries increased 10–12%
■ EV and CNG inquiries, bookings rose over 30%
■ EV waiting period: 3–4 months
■ ICE waiting period: 1–1.5 months
■ Dealer inventories remained lean and optimal

raised prices to offset input-cost inflation, with another 0.5–1.5 per cent hike expected. Discounts remained broadly flat and selective, suggesting demand, rather than incentives, is supporting the broader market across categories overall.

Fair trade watchdog’s probe into Coupang stalls after inspection refusal

SEOUL
The fair trade watchdog’s probe into the South Korean arm of US-listed Coupang appears to have hit a setback after the e-commerce giant refused investigators’ recent attempts to conduct on-site inspections, citing procedural issues, industry sources said on Thursday.
According to sources, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) had planned to conduct on-site inspections of Coupang’s South Korean unit from last week through this week over allegations that the company violated the Act on Fair Transactions in Large Retail Business.
The allegations center on suspicions that Coupang shifted the costs of discounts onto its suppliers. Sources said Coupang declined to cooperate with the investigation, claiming that the company had not been notified of the inspections as stipulated under the Framework Act on Administrative Investigations.
“The requirement to provide seven days’ advance notice of an on-site inspection is a legal

procedure designed to protect the rights and interests of those subject to an investigation,” Coupang said in a statement earlier this week.
“Coupang plans to seek a court ruling over the FTC’s failure to comply with such procedures,” it added.
Sources said the FTC attempted to conduct the inspections four times, while Coupang filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the watchdog’s decision to conduct the on-site inspections. The FTC withdrew from the site on Monday after learning of the lawsuit. While the framework act stipulates that the seven-day advance notice requirement does not apply to investigations into violations of eight laws under the FTC’s jurisdiction, Coupang argued that the Act on Fair Transactions in Large Retail Business does not fall under the exemption.
The dispute stems partly from the timing of the legislation, as the framework act was enacted in 2007, while the Act on Fair Transactions in Large Retail Business was enacted in 2011.

HDFC Bank faces US securities lawsuit

MUMBAI
HDFC Bank is facing a federal securities class-action lawsuit in New York over allegations that senior management orchestrated a scheme to disguise excess interest payments to a Maharashtra state agency as marketing expenses.
The complaint, filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York by investor Jwalant Natvarlal Soneji, names HDFC Bank, Chief Executive Officer Sashidhar Jagdishan and Chief Financial Officer Srinivasan Vaidyanathan as defendants.
The lawsuit seeks to repre-



Lawsuit allegation

The complaint alleges HDFC routed about Rs 45 crore in differential interest to MSRDC through third-party vendors, recording the payments as road-safety marketing expenses. Plaintiffs argue the arrangement breached RBI rules and the bank’s anti-bribery policies.

sent investors who purchased HDFC’s American Depositary Shares between July 17, 2023, and May 26, 2026.
According to the complaint, HDFC promised the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation an interest rate of 6.01 per cent on deposits, significantly above the standard 3.5 per cent savings rate available to regular customers. The complaint alleges this arrangement violated banking rules prohibiting negotiated returns for individual depositors.
It further alleges that between 2023 and 2025, around Rs 45 crore in differential interest was routed to MSRDC through third-party vendors

and recorded as spending for a road-safety awareness campaign rather than as interest.
The complaint says an internal vigilance investigation concluded that the arrangement breached RBI directions and HDFC’s anti-bribery policies. Plaintiffs allege the bank’s US regulatory filings consequently contained materially misleading statements about its internal financial controls and expenses. They also argue that generic disclosures about fraud risks did not reveal the alleged misconduct.
The allegations have not been established in court, and the lawsuit represents claims by investors against the bank and its executives.

Meta’s SM settlement leaves its money machine unscathed

LOS ANGELES
Meta Platforms emerged from its biggest legal challenge in the U.S. with its core business intact. The social media giant agreed to pay as much as \$18 billion over a decade and limit how teenagers use Facebook and Instagram under a sweeping agreement with nearly all U.S. states to resolve claims that it designed those platforms to addict children. Meta denied wrongdoing in agreeing to settle.
While the headline figure is among the largest ever settlements paid by a technology company, it is unlikely to strain a business that earned more than \$60 billion last year. The settlement left untouched the personalized feeds and ad targeting that underpin its profits.
Instead, the settlement removes a significant regulatory hurdle that has weighed on Meta’s stock and allows the company to avoid a potentially lengthy trial that could have exposed more internal documents about its treatment of young users, according to over a dozen analysts and legal ex-

perts.
It also sent Meta’s shares about 1% higher, suggesting investors welcomed an outcome that will cost the company far less than the \$1.4 trillion in penalties it said the states were seeking before trial.
Roughly a month ago, Instagram head Adam Mosseri had a meeting with representatives of the attorneys generals in which he said Meta would appeal any adverse verdict, as it is already doing following a billion-dollar child safety ruling won by New Mexico, according to people familiar with the matter. But Mosseri said Meta was ready to make constructive changes to its platform, assuming it could work out a deal, the sources added, requesting anonymity as the meeting was private.
Hanging over the conversation was uncertainty about Section 230, a longstanding U.S. law that shields web platforms from liability for user-generated content.
While the states had survived Meta’s bid to dismiss the case on those grounds, they would likely pose a formidable challenge on appeal.

CNOOC sees potential for US-China energy co-op

BEIJING
China’s state-owned oil and gas major CNOOC sees scope for greater energy cooperation between China and the United States, including potential investment alongside US partners, as the two countries seek to stabilise economic ties after last year’s trade tensions.
CNOOC Chief Executive Huang Yongzhang said on Thursday that the company would consider working with partners, including those in the United States, on investments where it sees opportunities to create value for shareholders. He did not provide details of specific projects or potential deals. The comments came after CNOOC reported its half-year results and as energy trade between the world’s two largest economies remains constrained. China was previously a significant buyer of US oil and gas, but Beijing imposed tariffs on American energy products during last year’s trade war, effectively freezing much of the trade.
Although relations between Washington and Beijing have

improved since then, the tariffs remain in place. During US President Donald Trump’s visit to Beijing in May, American officials raised the possibility of new energy agreements, including increased Chinese purchases of liquefied natural gas. No major deal has emerged so far.
Huang pointed to the contrasting positions of the two countries in the global LNG market as a potential basis for future cooperation. The United States is currently the world’s largest LNG producer and exporter, while China is the largest LNG importer.
CNOOC already has long-term supply agreements with several US LNG producers. Since tariffs were imposed, however, Chinese energy companies have largely avoided importing those cargoes directly. Instead, some buyers have resold contracted US LNG shipments to other markets rather than paying the additional tariffs. Huang’s comments suggest that CNOOC remains open to rebuilding commercial links with US energy companies, particularly where cooperation can generate long-term shareholder value.

Guj CM returns from US-Canada tour

AHMEDABAD
Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel returned to Ahmedabad on Thursday after completing a nine-day visit to the United States and Canada aimed at attracting global investment and promoting the 2027 Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, saying companies across key sectors had shown interest in investing in the state.
Patel was welcomed at Ahmedabad airport by Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and senior state government officials following his visit from August 17 to 26.
The overseas outreach focussed on investors, technology leaders, entrepreneurs and the

Gujarati diaspora in San Francisco, Washington, DC, New York and Toronto.
Speaking to reporters after his return, Patel said the state government’s objective was to ensure that a larger share of investment coming into India was directed towards Gujarat.
“We have witnessed the impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s global relationships and the trust he enjoys during this visit. Because of the complete trust people have in the Prime Minister, investors are keen to make greater investments across various sectors,” he said.
Patel said the delegation had held meetings with major companies and investors in semiconductors, artificial intelli-

gence, data centres and manufacturing, as well as financial companies in connection with GIFT City.
He said the response to the meetings had been encouraging. “Many companies are enthusiastic about investing in Gujarat. Very good investment will come to Gujarat,” he said. The visit was undertaken as part of Gujarat’s preparations for the 11th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, which is scheduled to be held from January 10 to 12, 2027.
During the overseas programme, global investors, technology leaders and innovators were invited to participate in investment, collaboration and partnership opportunities at the summit.



Sports Now A National Priority: Mandaviya

Mandaviya said sports had emerged as a national priority, while government platforms were giving youth opportunities, mentorship, skills and a direct voice in India’s development and policymaking at multiple levels.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said India has begun treating sports as a national priority rather than merely an activity, while outlining efforts to expand opportunities for youth.

Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Khelo India Dialogue, Mandaviya said youth development was increasingly being closely linked with sports, skills and nation-building. He highlighted platforms intended to provide youth with opportunities, mentorship and a greater role in national development and policymaking. Mandaviya pointed to the My Bharat platform, launched in



Youth Power, National Priority: How My Bharat Is Rewriting India’s Sports Story:

- Sports being treated as a national priority
- My Bharat launched in 2023
- Over 2.66 crore youth have joined
- Youth ideas linked directly to policymaking
- Skill development opportunities expanded

2023, saying it was created to give youth direction, mentorship and avenues to contribute to the country alongside their careers. He said more than 2.66 crore youth have joined the platform and participating in development.

He also highlighted the Developed India Young Leader Dialogue, which he said had established a direct channel between young people and policymaking. Referring to Modi’s interaction with youth on Swami Vivekananda’s birthday,

Mandaviya said their ideas were heard and later reflected in policy.

He said the participation of young people had reinforced the belief that their suggestions were not merely discussed but implemented. Mandaviya described this as part of a wider effort to make youth participation central to India’s development.

The Sports Minister also cited new opportunities for skill development, including the Prime Minister’s Skills Development Programme. He said such initiatives were opening new doors for young Indians, combining career opportunities with national service and encouraging them to contribute their energy, ideas and skills to the country’s future.

Muchova-Mensik beat Bencic-Cobolli to clinch US Open mixed doubles title

NEW YORK

Jakub Mensik and Karolina Muchova clinched the US Open 2026 mixed doubles title on Thursday after beating Flavio Cobolli and Belinda Bencic in the final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. The Czech pair secured their first Grand Slam title as a team, defeating the Italian-Swiss duo in a one-hour, 13-minute encounter, 6-3, 1-6, (10-6).

Mensik and Muchova teed off well, holding their serves to lead 2-1 before breaking Bencic and Cobolli in the fourth game, with the Swiss player hitting wide. Bencic and Cobolli fought back strongly, holding to love in the sixth game, but could not se-

cure the break as the Czech pair won the opening set 6-3.

Bencic and Cobolli took the break back in the second set when the former hit a forehand return winner, taking a 3-1 lead. Their impressive comeback continued when Cobolli consolidated on his serve, before Mensik was broken. Bencic then served for the second set and bagged it 6-1.

It went to a tiebreak, but the Czech pair did enough to keep their opponents at bay. They led 9-5 before Mensik nailed an ace to take the tiebreak and clinch the US Open title. The two had come into this game on the back of a tiebreak win over Mirra Andreeva and Andrey Rublev in the semi-final.

I’m a Manchester City guy, like the way they play, says Rachin Ravindra

NEW DELHI

New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra has revealed his deep admiration for Premier League champions Manchester City, citing their controlling style of play as the main reason for his allegiance to the English football giants.

Manchester City will face Crystal Palace in the Premier League Season 2026/27 on August 29. “I’m a Manchester City guy. I’ve followed them for a while. I like the way they play and the style of football they bring. Watching them is always exciting, and I enjoy seeing how they control games,” Ravindra said to JioStar.

Recalling his experiences of watching top-tier matches live at the stadium, Ravindra, the attacking left-handed batter who also bowls left-arm orthodox spin, singled out a visit to the Etihad Stadium as the pivotal moment that cement-



ed his support for the club.

“I’ve had two incredible football experiences. One of them made me a Manchester City fan. They hosted me at the Etihad (Stadium) for the first Premier League game of last season against Tottenham. We didn’t win, but it was still a great day.

“More recently, I went to the Round of 16 match between Spain and Portugal in Dallas. That was one of the best days of my life. It might have been Ronaldo’s last international game, which was a bit sad, but it was special to be there,” he added.

Asked to identify a fellow international cricketer with exceptional football skills, Wellington-based Ravindra picked former England fast bowler Chris Woakes to captain a key defensive position.

“I’d say Chris Woakes. He would make a very solid centre-back. He’s good on the ball, comfortable under pressure, and reads the game well. I think he has the skills to play that role.”

Dinusha Frustrates India, Nears Century

COLOMBO

Sonal Dinusha produced a display of patience and technique on Thursday, guiding Sri Lanka to 383/8 at tea against India at the SSC Ground, leaving Sri Lanka 170 runs ahead with the final session to come.

Dinusha remained unbeaten on 98 from 195 deliveries as Sri Lanka resisted India’s attempts to force a result on the final day. India managed only two wickets across the first two sessions, allowing the hosts to add 54 valuable runs and strengthen their position.

After India made an early breakthrough, Manav Suthar dismissed Keshara Nuwantha, but Dinusha continued to hold the innings together. The left-hander combined tight defence with calculated attacking strokes, repeatedly using sweeps, reverse sweeps, late cuts and paddles to counter India’s spinners.

Tailender Lahiru Kumara offered crucial support, surviving 56 balls for an unbeaten two. His stubborn resistance



Sri Lanka’s stubborn resistance has put India under pressure, with Sonal Dinusha unbeaten on 98 and the hosts holding a 170-run lead.

At Tea:	
■ Sri Lanka:	383/8
■ Overall lead:	170 runs
■ Sonal Dinusha:	98 off 195*
■ Lahiru Kumara:	2 off 56*
■ Manav Suthar:	3/105
■ Ravindra Jadeja:	2/90

frustrated India’s bowlers and denied them the quick finish they sought. Kumara also survived a close run-out opportunity after a wide throw from

Prasidh Krishna, while an edge off Saransh Jain went through an unoccupied second-slip region. Ravindra

Jadeja provided India’s second wicket of the session by dismissing Prabath Jayasuriya for two, caught at slip. However, Dinusha continued to manage the strike expertly and punishe d occasional loose deliveries.

With the pitch offering limited assistance, India’s bowlers struggled to create sustained pressure despite changes and close-in field placements. Dinusha now stands on the verge of another century in the series, while Sri Lanka’s lead has made the final session crucial to the match’s outcome.

Tashkent to Host Key APC Gathering

DUBAI

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, has been selected to host the 2027 Asian Paralympic Committee Conference, Asian Awards and General Assembly, marking the first time the Central Asian nation will stage the APC’s flagship gathering.

The event is scheduled to take place in November or December 2027, with the exact dates to be announced later. Tashkent emerged as the successful bidder following a competitive process involving five National Paralympic Committees from across Asia.

The Uzbek capital secured the support of a majority of voting APC Executive Board Members and Standing Committee Chairpersons. The gathering is expected to bring together representatives of all 45 Asian NPCs, along with APC officials, athletes, International Federations, Games Organising Committees

“We are delighted to confirm Tashkent as the host of the 2027 APC Conference, Asian Awards and General Assembly.”

— Majid Rashed, APC President

“It is a great honour for Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent to be selected to host the 2027 APC Conference, Asian Awards and General Assembly.”

— Mukhtorkhon Tashkodjaev

and representatives of international sports organisations.

The APC Conference will feature presentations, discussions and workshops focused on Para sport development across the continent. The General Assembly will then provide an opportunity for members of the Asian Paralympic family to discuss organisational and strategic matters and determine priorities for the movement’s future.

Tashkent will also host the



Asian Awards, which will honour individuals and organisations for notable achievements and contributions to the Asian Paralympic Movement since the previous edition.

APC President Majid Rashed congratulated Uzbekistan and said the gathering would offer stakeholders an important platform to share knowledge and collaborate on the development of Para sport.

National Paralympic Committee of Uzbekistan President and APC Vice President Mukhtorkhon Tashkodjaev welcomed the decision, calling it a great honour for the country and its capital and thanking the APC and its members for their trust.

Mbappe hat-trick powers Real Madrid past Real Sociedad

MADRID

Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick as Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad 4-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu in their first home match of the LaLiga season.

Mbappe put Madrid ahead in the 40th minute before Luka Sucic levelled four minutes later, but the France forward restored the hosts’ lead on the hour and Vinicius Jr added a third in the 68th before Mbappe completed his treble 10 minutes from time. It was also a winning return to the Santiago Bernabeu for Jose Mourinho, more than 13 years after his previous home match in charge of the club, as Real recovered from a disjointed first half with a ruthless display after the break.

Madrid were jeered before halftime after a sluggish opening in which they looked short of rhythm, careless in possession and vulnerable on the

counter-attack. “There’s always a sense of justice in the boos and the applause, and the odd boo now and then doesn’t do anyone any harm – it helps you grow,” Mourinho told a press conference.

“We all know the Santiago Bernabeu and just how demanding the fans are there, and I’m very pleased with how my players responded under pressure and put in a great second half, in which we could even have scored more goals.” Sociedad carried the sharper threat early on and almost went ahead in the 10th minute when Take Kubo intercepted a loose pass near the edge of the box and slipped in Mikel Oyarzabal, whose close-range effort was kept out by Thibaut Courtois. The visitors went close again in the 34th minute, Sergio Gomez flashing a fine volley just wide of the far post, as the Bernabeu crowd began to voice its frustration.



Croatia keeper Livakovic joins Barcelona on four-year contract

PHILADELPHIA

Barcelona have signed Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic from Fenerbahce on a four-year contract until 2030, the Spanish champions said on Thursday. The 31-year-old arrives as coach Hansi Flick strengthens his goalkeeping options following Marc-Andre ter Stegen’s loan move to Ajax Amsterdam earlier this month. Livakovic, who has signed for a fee of two million euros (\$2.33 million) plus half a million in add-ons according to Marca, is expected to compete with first-choice Joan Garcia, while veteran Wojciech Szczesny provides further back-up.

vides further back-up.

The Croatian joins Barca after two seasons at Fenerbahce, where he made 74 appearances and kept 24 clean sheets. He previously had a successful spell with Dinamo Zagreb, winning multiple domestic titles before moving to Turkey in 2023.

A regular for Croatia since 2017, Livakovic has represented his country at three World Cups and two European Championships.

He becomes Barcelona’s sixth signing of the transfer window following the arrivals of Anthony Gordon, Karim Adeyemi, Jesse Bisiwu, Rodri and Joao Cancelo.

Barca host Athletic Bilbao in LaLiga on Friday after starting their title defence and bid for a third successive crown with a 5-0 win at Elche last weekend.

UAE batter Asif handed 15-month ban after testing positive for banned substance

DUBAI

United Arab Emirates (UAE) batter Asif Khan has been handed a 15-month ban from all cricket activities after testing positive for a prohibited substance, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday.

Asif, 36, admitted to breaching Article 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code after an out-of-competition test on September 8, 2025, detected a metabolite of mesterolone. Article 2.1 specifies that an anti-doping violation occurs when a prohibited substance, its metabolites, or markers are found in a cricketer’s urine or blood sample.

“Asif admitted the violation of Article 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code and accepted a 15-month period of ineligibility pursuant to a Case Resolution Agreement entered into with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the

International Cricket Council (ICC). “The player’s individual results from 8 September 2025 until his provisional suspension on 29 December 2025 have been disqualified, along with all resulting consequences, including the loss of any medals, points, prize money or prizes. There is no right of appeal under the Case Resolution Agreement,” the ICC said in its statement. Generally found in urine samples, Mesterolone is a synthetic anabolic-androgenic steroid (AAS) that is banned by WADA both in-competition and out-of-competition.

Asif is permitted to return to training at the UAE’s official facilities from October 8, but will remain ineligible for competitive matches until December 8. The right-handed batter played domestic cricket in Pakistan from 2007 to 2014 before moving to the UAE in 2017 to pursue international cricket.

Yash's 'Toxic' opens big at Box Office, falls short of KGF 2 record

Yash-starrer Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has made a strong start at the Indian box office. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the action thriller released in theatres on August 26 after months of anticipation.

Toxic earned around Rs 101.10 crore from 24,579 shows across India on Day 1. The Hindi version led the overall collections with Rs 55 crore, while the Kannada version contributed Rs 23.30 crore.

Hindi shows recorded overall occupancy of about 54 per cent, with night shows reporting the strongest response.

However, Toxic could not cross Yash's biggest opening-day record. KGF: Chapter 2, directed by Prashanth Neel, earned Rs 116 crore on its first day in India. Its Hindi version collected Rs 53.95 crore, followed by Telugu with Rs 26.4 crore, Kannada with Rs 22.85 crore, Tamil with Rs 7.9 crore and Malayalam with Rs 4.9 crore.

Toxic stars Yash in the lead and reportedly features him in dual roles as Raya and Ticket. Kiara Advani, Nayanthara,

Yash Says, I'm Responsible for Audience Money

Yash has earlier said he feels responsible for the money audiences spend on his films. In an old interview, he explained that he wants viewers to be entertained and does not want to lose their trust. The actor also said he prefers working closely with directors and believes everyone involved in a film shares the responsibility of delivering a good final product.

Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth and Akshay Oberoi are also part of the cast.

The film is produced by Venkat K Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. With a strong opening and support from fans, Toxic will now aim to maintain its momentum in the coming days.



Last Man in Tower Teaser Shows Community Conflict

Manoj Bajpayee's new film explores resistance, family, community and difficult choices through one retired teacher.

The teaser of Manoj Bajpayee-starrer Last Man in Tower was released on Thursday, ahead of its theatrical release on September 11. Directed by Ben Rekhi, the film is based on Aravind Adiga's novel of the same name.

The story follows Masterji, a retired schoolteacher whose decision to oppose his community creates tension among the residents around him. The film explores how people react when they receive a life-changing offer and must make difficult choices about their homes, relationships and future.

The film marks the first on-screen collaboration between Bajpayee and Boman Irani. Divya Dutta and Sukant Goel also play key roles.

The screenplay has been written by Sooni Taraporevala, while Juhi Chaturvedi has written the Hindi dialogues. Rekhi said bringing the film to life was a deeply fulfilling experience and praised the work of the entire team. He said Bajpayee and Irani, working together for the first time, bring great strength to the story.

VIBE Drops First Song, Promises Fun Romance

Kunal Kemmu and Preity Zinta's upcoming film VIBE has released its first song, Raaton Mein Aana, giving audiences a glimpse of its playful side. The song was released on Thursday ahead of the film's release on September 18.

Composed and sung by Amit Trivedi, Raaton Mein Aana features lyrics by Kumaar. The track has a catchy tune and teasing words, adding a light mood to the action-packed film. Tips Music has presented the song.

The teaser, released earlier this month, introduced Kemmu as Hardik and Sparsh Shrivastava as Bugs.

Hardik and Bugs lead simple lives until they are pulled into a dangerous mission to protect the country. Neither is trained to be a hero, but circumstances force them to face

a situation much bigger than expected.

The film combines action, comedy, romance and chaos as Hardik and Bugs struggle to survive while carrying out their mission. Their friendship is tested as they become involved in a high-stakes situation.

Preity G Zinta plays an important role in the film. She appears as a confident woman who seems to be leading the mission and gives directions to the two unlikely heroes.

Kemmu has written and directed VIBE and plays the lead role. The cast includes Zinta, Sparsh Shrivastava and debutant Vanshika Dhir.

The film is produced by Kemmu and Chirag Nihalani under Drongo Films. VIBE is an Amazon MGM Studios film and will release in theatres on September 18.

Kareena Says Daayra Reveals Mumbai's Unseen Side

Kareena Kapoor says Daayra helped her discover unfamiliar places and explore new creative and social ideas.

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has opened up about her experience of working on Daayra, saying the film showed her a side of Mumbai she had never explored before. Born and raised in the city, Kareena said she believed she knew most parts of Mumbai before working on the film.

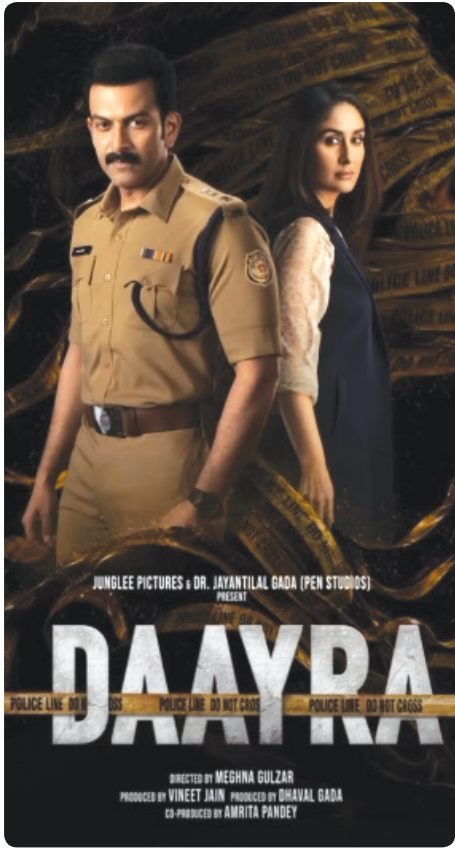
I was born in Mumbai. Having lived here all my life, I thought I knew most of the city. But the journey of Daayra took me to unseen and unvisited places, she said.

Kareena added that the film also challenged her creatively and changed the way she looked at society. As a sociology student, she said she understood that life cannot always be divided into black and white.

Daayra took my creativity to areas I have never explored before. It took my social awareness to reaches I didn't know I had, she said.

Kareena plays DCP Ajooni Kohli, while Prithviraj Sukumaran plays DCP Raman Kumar. She described the casting of the two actors from Hindi and Malayalam cinema as a dream opportunity. At its core, Daayra is only about duality. Ajooni and Raman are the Ying and Yang of Daayra, Kareena said.

She described Ajooni as calm and difficult to read, while Raman carries controlled anger. The actress said the film draws inspiration from several true events across India.



Vijay Deverakonda's Ranabaali Set For October Release

Vijay Deverakonda's Ranabaali will release worldwide on October 16, 2026, during the Dussehra festive season.

Vijay Deverakonda has announced the theatrical release date of his upcoming period action drama Ranabaali. The film will now arrive in cinemas worldwide on October 16, 2026, after previously being expected to release in September.

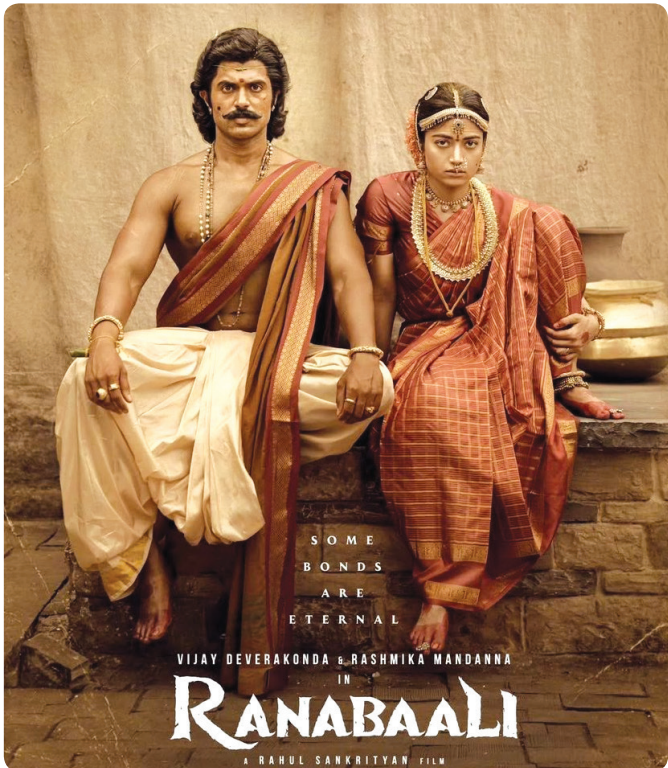
The actor shared a new poster to announce the date. It shows him in a rugged warrior look, complete with a moustache that suits the film's historical setting.

This OCT 16. Worldwide in Cinemas near you. RANABAALI. Vijay wrote while sharing the poster on social media.

The announcement received an enthusiastic response from fans, who expressed their excitement for the actor's upcoming film.

Ranabaali is set in 19th-century South India and covers events between 1854 and 1878, during British colonial rule.

The story explores resistance against British economic exploitation, with drought-hit regions forming an important part of its backdrop.



Vijay plays the lead role of Ranabaali. Rashmika Mandanna stars opposite him as Jayamma, his character's wife. The film marks their third collaboration after Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade.

Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo is also part of the cast.

He plays Sir Theodore Hector, the main antagonist. Vosloo is widely known for his role in The Mummy.

Rahul Sankrityan is directing the film, while music has been composed by Ajay-Atul. The project is planned as a pan-India release in several languages.

Brad Pitt Returns As Cliff Booth In Hollywood Sequel

Brad Pitt will return as Cliff Booth in the upcoming sequel to Quentin Tarantino's Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.

Brad Pitt is set to reprise his popular role as Cliff Booth in the upcoming sequel to Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.

The new film, titled The Further Mis-Adventures of Cliff Booth, will be written by Quentin Tarantino and directed by David Fincher. The makers have released the first official teaser look for the film.

While the initial teaser does not show Pitt as Cliff Booth, the announcement confirms his return to the character. The film is scheduled to be released first in IMAX on November 25.

The announcement was shared on social media with a picture of Pitt sitting in his car as Booth, smoking a cigarette while driving.

THE FURTHER MIS-ADVENTURES OF CLIFF BOOTH. Starring Brad Pitt. Written by Quentin Tarantino. Directed by David Fincher. See it first only in IMAX on November 25, the caption read.

The sequel was first reported several months ago and has since attracted attention because of the combination of Tarantino's writing and Fincher's direction.



Rajinikanth Confirms Jailer 2 Shoot, Dharman Continues

Rajinikanth has confirmed that Jailer 2 shooting is complete, while Dharman continues, keeping his film lineup on track.

Superstar Rajinikanth has confirmed that shooting for Jailer 2 has been completed, while work on his next project, Dharman, is underway. He also revealed that he will share the screen with Kamal Haasan in another film.

Rajinikanth recently spoke briefly to the media about his upcoming projects. Asked about his film commitments, the actor gave an update on his schedule.

Jailer 2 shooting over. Dharman shoot is going on. Kamal is producing the film. We are acting together in Red Giant. That's it, Rajinikanth said.

The update has excited fans, who praised the veteran

actor for continuing to work on several major projects. Fans expressed excitement about his upcoming releases on social media.

Jailer 2 brings Rajinikanth back as Muthuvel Pandian. The sequel is directed by Nelson Dilipkumar and follows the success of the first Jailer. The film is scheduled to release in theatres on October 15, 2026. With filming completed, promotional activities are expected to begin soon.

The first single, Ala Bolelo, was released recently. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander, the upbeat dance number features Rajinikanth and actress Shamma Kasim, also known as Purnaa. The nearly four-minute lyrical video combines Tamil and Malayalam musical elements.

Rajinikanth's confirmation has added to the excitement around his packed lineup. With Jailer 2 ready and Dharman moving ahead, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates about both projects and his collaboration with Kamal Haasan.

