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NSG training to sharpen K'taka police response to terror threats

CM D K Shivakumar launched an NSG-led training programme to strengthen Karnataka police preparedness for emergencies and terrorism.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday inaugurated a comprehensive capacity-building training programme for Karnataka State Police personnel, conducted by the National Security Guard (NSG), at the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru.

The programme is aimed at enhancing the operational preparedness, response capabilities and coordination of police personnel during emergencies, untoward incidents and possible terrorist attacks.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge, MLA and BDA Chairman NA Haris, NSG Director General Bhriгу Srinivasan, Director General and Inspector General of Police M A Saleem, Additional Director General of Police M Chandrasekhar and Operations IGP Vikash Kumar Vikash were among those present.

The training focuses on equipping police personnel with specialised skills and improving their ability to respond quickly and effectively to security challenges. The initiative also seeks to



"The training will strengthen the preparedness and response capabilities of our police personnel during emergencies and security threats."

— D K Shivakumar, Chief Minister

strengthen coordination between state police units and specialised national security agencies.

Following the inauguration, Shivakumar witnessed a mock operation demonstrating the functioning of an emergency response force during an untoward incident and a terrorist attack. The exercise showcased the proce-

Training programme

- **Organiser:** National Security Guard (NSG)
- **Participants:** Karnataka State Police personnel
- **Venue:** Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground, Bengaluru
- **Focus:** Capacity building and operational preparedness
- **Key areas:** Emergency response, counter-terror preparedness and crisis management
- **Practical exercise:** Mock operation during a terror attack scenario



dures followed by security personnel in responding to a crisis, securing the affected area and managing an emergency situation.

The programme is expected

to provide Karnataka police personnel with exposure to specialised operational techniques and strengthen their preparedness to handle complex security situations.

Building a stronger response

The NSG-led capacity-building programme is designed to strengthen the Karnataka police force's preparedness for emergencies and terrorist threats. Besides classroom and specialised training, personnel will gain practical exposure through mock operations simulating crisis situations. Such exercises help security teams assess response mechanisms, improve coordination and sharpen decision-making under pressure. The initiative also seeks to enhance cooperation between Karnataka police units and specialised national security agencies during critical situations.

Police welfare, security measures get push

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday announced a 50% increase in hardship allowance for police personnel, saying their financial needs would be prioritised. He also assured that the Home Department would provide necessary facilities to the force. The government plans to facilitate helipads on high-rise buildings in Bengaluru for emergency rescue operations during fires and terrorist attacks. Shivakumar said separate anti-rowdy squads, headed by IPS officers, would be established in every district to tackle criminal elements without political interference. He also stressed the need to strengthen police capabilities to combat rising cybercrime through technology and better training.



Karnataka won't implement Kasturirangan Report: DCM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Friday reiterated the State government's firm opposition to the Centre's latest move to implement the Kasturirangan Report, saying it would not be allowed under any circumstances.

The Centre's notification declaring 1,449 villages across 10 districts in the Western Ghats as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) has caused concern among lakhs of families, he said.

Parameshwara said the government would convene a one-day special session of the Legislature to discuss the notification and explore ways to protect the interests of people living in the Malnad and Western Ghats regions.

He urged the Centre to consult the State government and affected communities before taking any decision, stressing that environmental protection should not threaten people's livelihoods.

Karnataka has rejected six earlier notifications seeking implementation of the report, he said, calling the Centre's repeated attempts to proceed without addressing the State's concerns contrary to federal principles.

Nepal seeks global funds as flash flood death toll reaches 579

KATHMANDU

Nepal on Friday sought international financial assistance following devastating flash floods near its border with Tibet, as the death toll in the disaster rose to 579.

The country's disaster management authorities said more than 1,400 people remained missing after the floods and landslides struck the Himalayan border region. Chinese state media reported five deaths in Tibet.

Nepal said its security forces were capable of conducting search-and-rescue operations and that foreign rescue teams were not currently required. However, the government stressed that it was open to specialised international assistance if the situation demanded it. The floods have also affected a large number of foreign



tourists. A total of 117 tourists, including 85 Indians, 16 Chinese, nine South Koreans, two Italians and two US nationals, have been rescued, according to a Tourism Ministry source.

More than 90,000 people are estimated to have been affected by the Himalayan landslide, the Red Cross said, warning of the possibility of further flooding.

Authorities said flood risks would continue until two lakes in the affected region had fully drained. Plans are also being considered to install cameras

Nepal flood disaster	
Nepal death toll:	579
Missing:	More than 1,400
People affected:	Over 90,000
Tourists rescued:	117
Indians rescued:	85
Major concern:	Further flooding
Possible trigger:	High-altitude glacier collapse

and sensors downstream, including near the border town of Timure, to improve early warning and monitoring. Nepal Army teams resumed rescue operations and rescued two people alive from a hydro-power tunnel in Rasuwa. Specially trained personnel and technical equipment were being deployed to search for others potentially trapped inside.

US-IRAN TENSIONS

UN warns renewed US-Iran tensions could escalate

NEW YORK

The UN has warned that renewed US-Iran tensions could worsen regional instability, disrupt vital supplies and hurt global economy.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is concerned about the possibility of renewed escalation in hostilities between the United States and Iran, his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

Dujarric said the UN chief remained worried about new measures and rhetoric that could further inflame tensions between Washington and Tehran.

He also pointed to continu-

ing disruptions in the flow of energy and food, warning that the consequences of the conflict were extending beyond the region.

"The secretary-general is concerned about any new measures, any additional rhetoric that we see that could lead to an escalation," Dujarric said.

He confirmed that a letter from Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi concerning new US sanctions had been received by the UN and circulated to the Security Council and General Assembly, as requested.

Dujarric said the conflict, despite being in what he described as a somewhat "fro-

Escalation Fears Grow

- **UN concern:** Risk of renewed escalation
- **Key worry:** Disruption to energy and food supplies
- **UN position:** Dialogue and diplomacy
- **Mediation:** Qatar, Egypt, Pakistan and others
- **Iranian warning:** Harsh response to US action
- **Major flashpoint:** Strait of Hormuz
- **US action:** New economic sanctions

zen kinetic phase", continued to cause significant damage to the region and the global economy.

He stressed that dialogue remained the only way to achieve a lasting settlement. Guterres, he said, appreciated mediation efforts by Qatar,



Egypt, Pakistan and other countries seeking to find a political solution.

Meanwhile, Iranian security official Mohsen Rezaei warned that Tehran would respond harshly if Washington carried out any "malicious" action. He said Iran could tar-

get US military and economic interests in West Asia.

Rezaei also said Tehran remained distrustful of Washington, accusing the US of repeatedly undermining diplomacy. He said Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz only after Washington took practical steps to meet Iranian conditions.

The tensions come amid fresh US economic pressure. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recently threatened Iran with an "economic D-Day" while announcing new sanctions.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, meanwhile, said US economic pressure would not achieve its objectives.

Modi to begin four-day Central Asia visit today

NEW DELHI

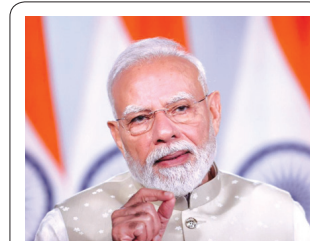
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on Saturday to strengthen bilateral ties and attend the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Modi will first visit Tashkent from August 29 to 30 at the invitation of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. During the state visit, the two leaders will hold delegation-level talks and review cooperation in trade, investment, defence, digital connectivity, energy, education and people-to-people ties.

The leaders are also expected to discuss their respective development visions, Viksit Bharat 2047 and Uzbekistan-2030, and set an agenda for further cooperation.

From Tashkent, Modi will travel to Bishkek for the two-day SCO summit, which is expected to focus extensively on the evolving security situation in the region. He will address the summit and highlight India's priorities of security, connectivity and opportunity.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are among the leaders expected to attend the summit. Modi is also expected to hold bilateral



Central Asia outreach

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day visit will combine bilateral diplomacy with India's engagement through the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In Uzbekistan, he will seek to deepen the strategic partnership across trade, defence, energy, education and digital connectivity. In Kyrgyzstan, discussions will focus on regional security, connectivity and opportunities. Meetings with SCO leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, are also expected on the sidelines of the summit.

meetings with several SCO leaders, with Putin likely to be among them.

The summit will mark the 25th anniversary of the SCO. India has been a full member of the grouping since 2017.

Modi will also attend the opening ceremony of the sixth World Nomad Games, which celebrates the cultural heritage of Central Asia.

During his Tashkent visit, Modi is expected to pay homage at the Lal Bahadur Shastri memorial and visit the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

Priyank Kharge backs suspension of two Karnataka teachers

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Friday defended the suspension of two government school teachers in Yadgir district for allegedly participating in an RSS route march, saying the Education Department was empowered to act if service rules were violated.

The suspended teachers have been identified as Anna-saheb Deshmukh, headmaster of a government junior primary school in Kuppi, and Gururaja Joshi, a teacher at a government girls' higher primary school in Hunasagi, both in Surapura taluk.

The suspension orders followed a complaint by Jum-manna Gudimani, Yadgir district president of the Ambedkar Swabhimani Sene. The teachers were accused of participating in an RSS route march held on October 10, 2025, while serving as government employees.

The Education Department had issued notices seeking explanations from the teachers before initiating disciplinary proceedings. The suspension order cited service rules stating that government employees should not be members of political parties or organisations directly or indirectly involved in political activities.

Diplomatic efforts

The United Nations is urging the United States and Iran to avoid actions and rhetoric that could trigger a fresh escalation. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has backed diplomatic efforts by Qatar, Egypt, Pakistan and other countries seeking a political settlement. The UN has also highlighted the wider economic impact of the confrontation, including disruptions to energy and food flows. Iran, meanwhile, has warned of a forceful response to any US action.

Quick Read

Bandepalya SI shoots attacker during arrest operation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A police sub-inspector shot an accused in self-defense after an attack in So-masundarapalya. Zeeshan, aged 34, allegedly tried to murder a police constable using a knife during an inter-cept. Officers tracked the suspect over his links to an illegal arms syndi-cate and a prior murder case. When cornered on Kale Road, Zeeshan at-tacked law enforcement aggressively. The sub-in-spector fired a warning shot before shooting the attacker in the leg. Both the injured suspect and of-ficer were rushed to hospi-tal for medical treatment while forensic experts gathered evidence quickly now.

Chittalar's stories voice the suffering of exploited: Hanif

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Renowned writer Yas-hwant Chittalar's stories vividly capture the im-mense pain and suffering of society's exploited classes. Senior journalist B.M. Hanif stated this dur-ing a special literary lecture held at NMKRV College auditorium. The author's works prominently feature landless laborers, beggars, and deprived children from slums as central charac-ters. Without loud revolu-tionary slogans, Chittalar's unique literary techniques and profound language skillfully explore deep hu-man inner turmoil and uni-versal sorrow. Organized by the Kannada Book Au-thority, the event wit-nessed several prominent academics, writers, and dignitaries in attendance, celebrating remarkable Kannada literature together.

Amazon denies liability in Ravi Belagere book dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
E-commerce giant Amazon told the High Court it acts only as an intermedi-ary in the unauthorized book sale controversy. Copyright holder Bhavana Belagere had previously filed an FIR over fake cop-ies of late Ravi Belagere's novel 'Heli Hogu Kaarana'. During court proceedings, Amazon's counsel argued for immunity under Sec-tion 79 of the Information Technology Act. They clarified the platform connects independent sellers and buyers without storing goods directly. Further-more, Amazon immedi-ately removed all twelve of-fending seller listings and shared their details with police investigators. The High Court adjourned the ongoing legal hearing.

Chandru Iyer Receives Warm Farewell in B'luru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Trade and bilateral relations between Karnataka and the United Kingdom expanded significantly during the four-year tenure of outgoing Brit-ish Deputy High Commis-sioner Chandru Iyer. Large and Medium Industries Min-ister M.B. Patil said during a farewell event in the city. Speaking at the gathering organized in honor of Iyer, who served as the British Deputy High Commissioner and Deputy Trade Commis-sioner for South India, Patil lauded the diplomat's excep-tional contributions to fos-tering mutual economic growth and industrial collab-oration. The minister highlighted that bilateral engagement evolved far beyond standard diplomatic protocol under Iyer's proactive stewardship.

Kharge issued tainted AEE appointments: Kumaraswamy

Explosive allegations from Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy ignite a fierce political firestorm over recruitment corruption in Karnataka.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions in Karnata-ka have reached a boiling point following explosive al-legations made by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy against state Home Minister Priyank Kharge. During a high-stakes emergency press conference held at the party office, Kumaraswamy re-leased comprehensive docu-ments alleging that appoint-ment orders for Assistant Ex-ecutive Engineers (AEE) in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) De-partment were rushed through despite explicit warnings of widespread fraud from offi-cial inquiry panels and foren-sic science laboratories.

The controversy centers around a recruitment notifi-cation issued by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) on September 3, 2022, for Grade-I AEE posi-tions within the RDPR De-partment - a portfolio pre-viously managed by Kharge. Following written exams in June and personality tests in September 2023, a provision-al selection list was published on September 22, 2023. Promptly after, candidate Anand Sayodedi filed an email complaint with the KPSC secretary, raising seri-ous integrity concerns over several candidates who



You rushed these appoint-ments even though tam-per-proof FSL evidence proved the OMR sheets were manipulated. - H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

cleared the examination de-spite allegedly failing prior academic metrics, demand-ing an immediate review of OMR sheets and CCTV footage.

Internal memos and com-mittee proceedings revealed a deeply fractured commission. Although initial discussions triggered a move toward re-examination, administra-tive resistance mounted. A three-member subcommittee formed on December 8, 2023, reported severe non-coopera-tion from the then-secretary, who allegedly bypassed the commission chairman to transmit the final selection list directly to the Chief Secre-tary. The chairman swiftly countered, declaring the list unauthorized and demanding it be withheld. Despite these red flags, a subsequent foren-

sic investigation ordered by the subcommittee analyzed carbon copies and OMR sheets. According to Kumaras-wamy, the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report con-firmed definitive tampering with the OMR records. Yet, despite the ongoing cloud of criminality and clear warnings, appointment orders for 24 can-didates were swiftly executed.

Kumaraswamy launched a blistering attack on Kharge's administrative record, ques-tioning the urgency behind finalizing appointments while legal challenges mounted and the High Court explored po-tential paths toward a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe. Highlighting the legal representation of CBI counsel Prasanna Kumar during court proceedings, Kumaraswamy asserted that the appointments were fundamentally compro-mised and demanded Kharge's immediate resigna-tion. The Union Minister did not stop at individual appoint-

Allegations & scandals

- Tampered OMR Sheets:** Forensic tests confirmed candidate answer sheets were altered during the recruitment cycle.
- Ignored Warnings:** A three-member KPSC panel flagged severe irregu-larities, but final lists were pushed through without clearance.
- Missing Official:** Ku-maraswamy questioned conflicting statements from the Home Depart-ment regarding a missing IAS exam controller.

ments, casting a wider net of criticism over the structural integrity of the KPSC itself. He alleged that systemic cor-ruption, caste-based patron-age in member selections, and compromised institutional mechanisms have severely eroded public trust. Pointing to controversies surround-ing missing IAS officers and al-legations of cash-for-posts schemes involving veteri-nary officer positions, Kumaras-wamy contrasted state-level recruitment boards with the UPSC, arguing that persistent flaws in local governance stem directly from political interference and flawed ap-pointment criteria.

High Court grants emotional damage pay to farmers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Farming is not just a job for millions of people. It is a way of life, a deep connection to the soil, and a legacy handed down through generations. When the state takes away this land for big public proj-ects, families do not just lose a piece of real estate. They lose their history, their peace of mind, and their daily rou-tine. Recognizing this heavy toll, a court has stepped in to offer a vital shield.

The High Court has made it clear that farmers forced to give up their land for highway projects have a lawful right to claim emotional compensa-tion and interest. This ruling brings a wave of relief to rural communities who often feel left behind and unheard by massive government machin-ery.

The case stems from a long legal battle fought by the fam-ily of D.G. Siddaramaiah. Back in 2009, authorities ac-quired his land in Amaravati village for a highway expan-sion project. Siddaramaiah sadly passed away while the court battle dragged on, but his children refused to give up. They kept fighting for fair treatment. When local arbitra-tors denied their request for mental anguish payments and interest, they took the matter to the High Court.

Justice C.M. Poonacha,



Denying relief violates fun-damental legal protections and property rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

-Karnataka High Court

leading the Dharwad bench, heard the arguments. The court ruled that denying these benefits simply because pre-vious orders failed to mention them violates fundamental rights under the constitution. Denying families what they are owed is unfair and unjust.

The court has ordered the Special Land Acquisition Of-ficer to calculate the correct emotional compensation and interest due to the family. Both sides must appear before the officer on September 10, 2026, to settle the matter.

This judgment sets a strong precedent. It reminds every-one in power that land acqui-sition is not just about mea-suring square feet and hand-ing out cold cash. It touches human lives deeply. When the government paves over a fam-ily farm, it disrupts hearts and minds just as much as the landscape.

KEA Moves Seat Cancellation Online After Protests

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Higher education admissions are often a tense and nerve-wracking marathon for thousands of students and their families across the state. The dreams of young aspi-rants hanging in the balance frequently collide with ad-ministrative hurdles, creating a breeding ground for frustra-tion and anxiety. This fragile equilibrium was severely test-ed when structural policy changes clashed with practical realities on the ground, trigger-ing intense public backlash against the state's primary testing authority.

The Karnataka Examinations Author-ity (KEA) was forced to alter its administrative pro-cedures and extend its opera-tional deadlines following widespread protests by stu-dents and anxious parents. The core of the conflict arose from a sudden mandate re-quiring candidates to carry out the seat cancellation pro-cess for CET counselling, in-cluding competitive engineer-ing slots, entirely offline at the central office. KEA Exe-cutive Director H. Prasanna ad-dressed the crisis by announc-

ing that the original deadline of August 28 had been pushed to August 29. Furthermore, the final date for paying requisite admission fees and reporting directly to allotted colleges was fixed for August 31. This policy shift came in response to chaotic scenes witnessed at the KEA headquarters.

Under the revised guide-lines, candidates wishing to participate in the upcoming 3rd round of counseling with-out locking themselves into a Choice-1 allotment can cancel their 2nd -round seats by pay-ing a penalty fee of Rs 5,000. While Choice-1 selection mandates physical admission into the assigned college, loopholes and system flexibility continue to be tightly monitored.

Explaining the rationale be-hind stringent regulatory mea-sures, authorities pointed to systemic abuse from previous academic cycles. Last year, candidates were permitted to retain their second-round seats while simultaneously exploring options in the third round. Approximately 600 students exploited this policy gap, ultimately abandoning their reserved slots without

Key admission guidelines

- New Deadline:** Online seat cancel-lation is open until 3 PM on Aug 29.
- Fee Payment:** August 31 marks the absolute final date to pay fees and report to colleges.
- Cancellation Penalty:** Students canceling second-round seats to join the third round must pay a fine of five thousand rupees.

taking admission, which left valuable academic seats va-cant and wasted. To curb this seat-blocking phenomenon, KEA attempted to introduce rigid verification protocols, inadvertently creating a logis-tical nightmare.

The friction reached a boil-ing point when massive crowds of students and parents de-scended upon the KEA office. Because physical presence had been made mandatory for can-cancellations, hundreds of families stood stranded outside the building under sweltering con-ditions. Technical infrastruc-ture failed to support the rush, leading to severe server crash-es. Parents reported that even after shelling out Rs 5,000 for cancellation charges and endur-ing hours of waiting, crucial One-Time Passwords (OTPs) failed to generate.

Namma Metro Slows Down For Line Maintenance

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Daily commuters relying on public transit across the tech-nology capital often face fru-strating delays when routine infrastructure upkeep inter-sects with high-density transit schedules. Ensuring the struc-tural integrity of elevated transit corridors requires rig-orous engineering interven-tions, but these necessary safeguards frequently test the patience of thousands of daily riders navigating the city's bustling transit network.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMR-CL) has announced a tem-porary reduction in train speeds along a critical section of the Namma Metro Purple Line. The speed restriction has been implemented due to ongoing maintenance work on the Open Web Girder (OWG) si-tuated between the Bennigan-halli and Baiyappanahalli sta-tions. As part of periodic safety protocols, a specialized team of engineering experts is conducting thorough inspec-tions and structural mainte-nance on the heavy steel bridge component.

According to an official statement released by the BMRCL, passenger safety re-mains the top operational pri-ority. Under normal operating



conditions, trains cross this specific girder stretch at a maximum permitted speed of 65 kmph. However, as an es-sential precautionary measure during the active maintenance window, the speed limit has been slashed down to a maxi-mum of 40 kmph.

Commuters utilizing the Purple Line have been ad-vised to expect minor adjust-ments to their daily travel times. While overall train ser-vices continue to operate on their usual schedules without cancellations, the speed re-striction causes a slight cumu-lative delay in transit times across the stretch. BMRCL representatives emphasized that implementing temporary speed limits during intensive technical supervision is a standard, mandatory safety practice followed by mass rapid transit systems globally.

Renukaswamy case: Accused summoned for state witness

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High-profile criminal trials often turn on a single insider willing to break the silence. In the sensational Renukaswamy murder case that shocked the state, a crucial legal shift has unfolded. The judicial system is moving closer to uncover-ing the full truth behind the tragic events that transpired over two years ago.

A local court has officially summoned Pradosh, the 14th accused in the high-profile case, to appear and record his formal statement as an ap-prover. The 59th CCH court issued the directive, setting the date for September 2, 2026. This development comes after the court accepted Pradosh's petition to turn pardon witness under Section 307 of the CrPC, a move that could significantly alter the trajectory of the ongoing trial.

Judge Sujatha Madivalappa Sambrani directed jail author-ities to ensure the summons reaches Pradosh, who has been held at the Parappana Agraha-ral central prison. During a pri-or hearing, the bench scruti-nized the contents of his appli-cation before officially grant-ing him approver status.

RAILS OF NEGLECT

Patil slams Centre's 'Stepmotherly' treatment for Railways

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Infrastructure development and regional economic parity have once again ignited a fierce political debate across the state, bringing federal funding allocations into sharp focus. State authorities have raised serious concerns over what they describe as system-atic neglect and discriminat-ory planning by federal bodies in critical transportation sec-tors, warning that such lopsid-ed policy decisions threaten the region's long-term eco-nomic momentum and logis-tics efficiency.

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil launched a scathing critique against the central government, accusing federal authorities of adopting a stepmotherly attitude toward Karnataka. The core of the grievance stems from the center's recent announcement to upgrade seven high-density



rail corridors across the coun-try into four-lane tracks to streamline freight transport and passenger movement. No-tably, Karnataka's vast and congested network was com-pletely excluded from this ambitious national modern-ization plan.

Addressing media person-nel at his official residence, Patil outlined the profound disparity in infrastructure planning. The central road-map includes major arteries like Delhi-Howrah, How-rah-Chennai, Chennai-Mum-

Transport priority	Current state reality & minister's appeal
Highway pressure	Overburdened roads due to lagging rail infra-structure development.
IT hub status	Bengaluru demands dedicated four-lane rail lines to sustain its booming tech economy.
Unified appeal	All state MPs must raise their voices in Parlia-ment, rising above party politics.

We are cooperating on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis to speed up projects, yet Karnataka continues to receive unfair treatment compared to neighboring states. -M.B. Patil, Infrastructure Development Minister

bai, Mumbai-Delhi, De-lhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Howrah, and Delhi-Guwahati. Mean-while, critical high-traffic routes within Karnataka—such as Bengal-uru-Pune-Mumbai, Bengal-uru-Mysore, Bengaluru-Mangalore, Bengaluru-Chennai, Bengaluru-Shivamogga, Bengaluru-Vijayapura, and Bengaluru-Kalaburagi—continue

to suffer from severe conges-tion and bottlenecks. Patil stressed that upgrading these vital corridors is an absolute economic necessity that the central government has a fun-damental duty to fulfill.

Furthermore, the minister highlighted how the omission of robust rail infrastructure forces an unsustainable reli-ance on roadways, placing immense strain on state high-ways and accelerating wear and tear. Karnataka boasts a strategic 330-kilometer coast-line dotted with important maritime ports. However, the lack of modern, high-capacity

rail connectivity linking coastal hubs like Mangalore, Bha tka l, Hon na va r, Kundapur, and Karwar to in-terior centers like Hubballi, Shivamogga, and Bengaluru stifles industrial trade and ex-port potential.

The regional friction ex-tends beyond freight corridors to high-speed rail initiatives. While the recent national bud-get unveiled high-speed rail links connecting Bengaluru to Chennai and Bengaluru to Hyderabad, Patil pointed out that these projects offer mini-mal geographic and economic benefits to Karnataka itself, as the rail tracks run for less than a hundred kilometers within the state boundaries. In re-sponse, state leadership pre-viously advocated for a high-speed corridor along the high-density Bengaluru-Hub-balli-Pune axis, but federal authorities have yet to issue a positive response.

Escalating civic neglect is choking key thoroughfares across North Bengaluru, transforming vital pedestrian walkways and roadways into hazardous zones of debris and uncollected waste. From Sultanpalya Main Road to Manorayanapalya, local communities are grappling with a mounting crisis of municipal apathy. Unattended construction materials block crucial transit paths, stray pipes foster unauthorized garbage dumps near hospitals, and persistent foul odors threaten public health. Despite repeated grievances from distressed residents, sluggish bureaucratic responses leave neighborhoods vulnerable to rising accident risks and deteriorating sanitation standards, casting a harsh spotlight on urban governance breakdowns.



Residents along Sultanpalya Main Road, opposite Medax Hospital, are facing severe inconvenience due to garbage accumulating near the footpath. The pileup has created a persistent foul odor, making it nearly impossible for pedestrians to use the walkway. Over time, the location has effectively turned into an unauthorized dumping ground, causing continuous discomfort to the local community.



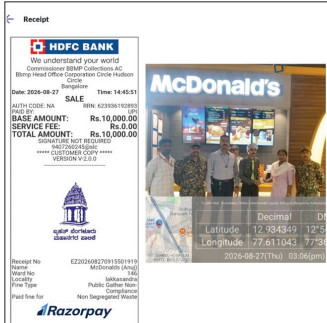
Residents near the Sultanpalya Main Road bus stop are facing severe inconvenience after cement and jelly stones from an ongoing house construction were dumped directly onto the thoroughfare. The scattered materials have blocked walkways for pedestrians and created treacherous riding conditions for motorists. This blockage poses a high risk of vehicle skidding and potential accidents, particularly endangering children traveling on two-wheelers.



Residents of Manorayanapalya Main Road, near 11th Cross, are facing severe inconvenience due to unattended pipes left behind by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). These uncollected materials have turned the spot into an informal dumping ground, with household waste rapidly accumulating around them and creating unhygienic conditions. Locals report that the resulting mess and foul odor are severely impacting the neighborhood's cleanliness and quality of life.

GBA Crackdown: Nexus Outlets Fined in BTM Sweep

Bengaluru municipal authorities cracked down on Koramangala's Nexus Mall, penalizing ten major eateries for environmental and waste violations



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Municipal enforcement divisions across the technology capital have intensified compliance sweeps targeting large-scale commercial complexes, emphasizing that high-end retail venues must adhere strictly to local environmental and public health mandates. Regulatory bodies are stepping up inspections to ensure that major establishments set positive standards for urban sustainability and cleanliness.

Officials operating under the Bengaluru South City Corporation launched a targeted inspection within the BTM Assembly Constituency, focusing specifically on waste management protocols at the prominent Nexus Mall located in Koramangala. During the surprise compliance check, sanitation squads discovered that multiple high-profile eateries and food court outlets were blatantly

COMMERCIAL OUTLET	Fine amount (in rupees)	PRIMARY CITATION & RULE VIOLATION
Chaska Bun	₹25,000	Non-segregation and single-use plastic usage
McDonald's, Burger King, Fish & Chips	₹10,000 each	Mixed garbage disposal and plastic violations
Popeyes, Good Flippin' Burgers, Wow Wow China	₹5,000 each	Failure to comply with solid waste management laws
Nagas, KFC, Shiv Sagar	₹5,000 each	Unauthorized waste handling in food court zone

flouting municipal solid waste regulations. Inspectors found widespread violations, including the failure to segregate organic wet waste from dry refuse at the source and the continued illegal use of banned single-use plastic (SUP) items.

To penalize these environmental infractions, municipal authorities issued formal notices and collected a cumulative fine of Rs 85,000 from 10 prestigious commercial food establishments operating within the mall complex. The enforcement action targeted several household brand

names. Chaska Bun faced the highest individual penalty of Rs 25,000. Prominent global chains including McDonald's, Burger King, and Fish and Chips were each penalized Rs 10,000. Additionally, fines of Rs 5,000 each were imposed on Popeyes, Good Flippin' Burgers, Wow Wow China, Nagas, KFC, and Shiv Sagar.

The operation was executed under the supervision of Assistant General Manager (AGM) Smt. Shashikala, alongside dedicated health inspectors and municipal marshals. Following the raid, city officials issued a stern warn-



ing to all commercial hubs, restaurants, hotels, and retail outlets across the metropolitan area. Authorities stressed that source-level waste segregation and a total ban on single-use plastics are mandatory requirements under local law. Municipal leadership confirmed that surprise inspections will continue aggressively in the coming weeks. Establishments that ignore environmental regulations or endanger public cleanliness will face severe legal consequences, heavy compounding fines, and potential trade license suspensions without leniency, ensuring corporate accountability across Bengaluru's expanding commercial landscape.

Pedestrian rights: High Court backs GBA encroachment drive

The Karnataka High Court refused to stay the GBA's safe footpath campaign, ruling that pedestrians have an absolute right to unobstructed urban walkways

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Urban mobility and pedestrian safety have taken center stage in local governance battles as municipal authorities push forward with aggressive public space reclamation efforts. Balancing the livelihood rights of street vendors against the daily safety of commuters has long tested municipal administration, prompting intense legal challenges over the execution of public clearance operations across crowded metropolitan thoroughfares.

The Karnataka High Court has firmly refused to issue an interim stay against the ongoing "safe footpath" campaign launched by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Presiding over a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by prominent urban expert R. Rajagopalan, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bhakru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha ruled that there were no valid legal grounds to halt the municipal demolition and clearance drive.

The judicial bench emphasized that pedestrians possess an absolute right to navigate safe, unobstructed footpaths



without encountering artificial hazards or blockages. The court noted that ensuring adequate walking space on urban roads is a fundamental necessity that justifies the administration's ongoing enforcement measures.

During the proceedings, the petitioner argued that the GBA's campaign was being implemented in a chaotic, disorganized manner devoid of transparent management protocols. Criticizing the lack of clarity regarding the operational scope, clearance methods, and post-clearance rehabilitation steps for displaced vendors, the petitioner urged the court to intervene and freeze the drive.

Rejecting the plea for a complete stay, the High Court clarified that its order upholds the core principle of maintaining clear, accessible walkways for the public. However, the bench adjourned the matter for further consideration while the clearance drive moves ahead.

The underlying legal challenge stems from opposition

to the GBA's sweeping anti-encroachment drive, which commenced on July 1, 2026, across five municipal corporation zones under its jurisdiction. Petitioners had previously demanded an immediate halt to the evictions, calling for strict compliance with the Street Vendors Act and the formulation of a structured Karnataka street vendor scheme. They urged the establishment of functional Town Vending Committees and the construction of designated trading centers within strict timelines to accommodate displaced vendors lawfully.

Despite strong protests from street vendor associations, municipal authorities continue their operations to reclaim public walkways. The court's refusal to halt the campaign reinforces the administration's mandate to prioritize pedestrian accessibility, even as debates persist over balancing municipal enforcement with the livelihood protections of informal urban workers.

Guarantee schemes review meeting held in B'luru South Corporation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local authorities met to review major welfare rollouts, ensuring municipal communities receive promised benefits efficiently. Smt. Jayashree Gowda, President of the Guarantee Implementation Committee for Bengaluru South City Corporation, led the session at municipal headquarters. Officials from utility providers, transport corporations, and civic departments evaluated performance metrics across all wards.

Food security initiatives received strict attention. Food Department representatives were directed to resolve technical server glitches at distribution centers and ensure residents receive exact rations without weight discrepancies. Energy administrators faced scrutiny regarding electricity subsidies. BESCOM personnel must crack down on commercial operations illicitly drawing domestic power while maintaining courteous communication and avoiding abrupt supply terminations for late payments.

Women's empowerment grants underwent detailed evaluation. Administrative teams were ordered to deactivate accounts tied to deceased recipients and redirect funds to eligible female heads. Child development workers must finalize identity verifications swiftly. Meanwhile, free transit smart card issuance for

Motherhood Hospital fined ₹1 Lakh for NH-7 encroachment

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Municipal authorities executed a sweeping clearance operation along National Highway-7, targeting unauthorized commercial exploitation from Kodigehalli Gate to the Mall of Asia corridor. Operating under Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar, enforcement teams cracked down on severe territorial usurpations blocking public walkways.

During inspections, officials discovered that Motherhood Hospital in Sahakar Nagar permitted visitors and motorists to park vehicles directly on land designated as National Highways Authority of India right-of-way. Investigators revealed the institution unlawfully collected parking fees from citizens utilizing public property, forcing pedestrians into hazardous vehicular lanes.

Confronted with this infrastructure violation, municipal leaders levied a substantial financial penalty of one lakh rupees against the hospital administration. Officers issued a formal ultimatum demanding the immediate cessation of illicit parking operations alongside a stern warning regarding repeat violations.

Complementing this action, Commissioner Kumar instructed engineering divisions to permanently dismantle all temporary structures and commercial encroachments across municipal bounds. Field coordinators were directed to maintain continuous surveillance.

Scheme wise implementation targets

- **Anna Bhagya:** Food Department teams directed to resolve server downtimes, prevent weight discrepancies, and conduct routine ration depot checks.
- **Gruha Jyothi:** BESCOM instructed to curb commercial power misuse, maintain billing grace periods, and ensure polite staff conduct.
- **Gruha Lakshmi:** Mandated swift removal of deceased recipients from rosters, error rectifications, and completion of digital e-KYC.
- **Shakti Scheme:** Transport authorities instructed to submit ward-wise passenger statistics covering all seventy-two city zones.
- **Yuva Nidhi:** Tracking active monthly allowances for nearly nineteen thousand registered youth out of total applicants.

female commuters continues expanding, and unemployment support disbursements reach eligible young adults. Authorities emphasized transparent, glitch-free delivery across all administrative tiers to benefit citizens effectively.

HONORING AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY

True tribute to Ambedkar lies in equality, says Gowda

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Upholding human dignity and rejecting societal divisions based on caste or religion serves as the most meaningful homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, according to Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. Speaking at a special civic commemoration event hosted at the central municipal headquarters, leadership emphasized that true reverence requires practicing equity in daily life rather than relying solely on symbolic gestures and public slogans.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority organized the joint Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Civic Workers' Day 2026 assembly to honor social reformers while addressing labor welfare. During the inaugural ceremony, the Minister laid floral tributes before the reformer's statue, reminding attendees that Ambedkar's visionary framework transcends individual communities to champion universal human advancement. Highlighting historical philosophies shared by figures like the Buddha, Basavanna, Mahatma Gandhi, and Kuvempu, officials stressed that humanity

must always supersede artificial societal stratifications.

Addressing the audience of sanitation personnel and municipal administrators, Mr. Byre Gowda acknowledged that absolute societal equality remains unachieved. He cautioned citizens against divisive sectarian rhetoric, urging the eradication of archaic superiority complexes to build a genuinely egalitarian community.

Furthermore, the administration formally addressed labor concerns, committing to present sanitation workers' core grievances directly to the Chief Minister for prompt leg-

islative action. Although administrative duties and electoral roll revisions initially delayed the calendar schedule, municipal departments successfully coordinated the priority celebration.

Key dignitaries attending the proceedings included Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman P. Raghu, Development Corporation Chairman Murali Ashok Salappa, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, and various municipal corporation commissioners alongside solid waste management executives.



Garlanding statues and raising slogans mean little if we fail to practice true equality and humanity in our everyday lives.

- Krishna Byre Gowda, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister

Quick Read

13 Kannadigas stranded in Nepal floods, details released

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border have stranded 13 tourists from Karnataka. State authorities confirmed that 11 victims hail from Bengaluru, with one each from Mysore and Dharwad districts. Most affected travelers are currently trapped in Rasuwa's Timure region, while others remain stuck near Darchen. The State Emergency Operation Center is coordinating rescue efforts with central ministries and Indian embassies. Officials released an emergency Google form to collect details of trapped residents. The government urged relatives to share updates and advised all stranded citizens to remain indoors safely until evacuation teams arrive.

Mallikarjuna quit days before Lokayukta uncovered cr in assets

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Special Land Acquisition Officer Mallikarjuna resigned unexpectedly on July 22, reportedly anticipating a corruption crackdown. Weeks later, Lokayukta officials raided 11 locations linked to him on August 19th. Investigators uncovered massive disproportionate assets totaling over 18 crore rupees, including two houses, vast agricultural lands, heavy cash, and valuable movable properties. Authorities revealed that Mallikarjuna failed to declare his financial assets since 2021, ignoring official notices. Fearing transparency and accountability, he stepped down citing personal reasons.

Water levels: KRS inflow dips, major dams monitored

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Reduced rainfall across the Cauvery basin has led to a noticeable drop in water inflows into the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir. Meanwhile, major dams across North Karnataka and the Malnad region, including Almati and Linganamakki, maintain stable storage levels. State officials reported that Almati is filled close to its maximum capacity, with steady outflows matching heavy inflows. Linganamakki and Bhadra dams also hold steady water levels to support ongoing irrigation and power generation requirements.

Absconding IAS Officer appears before CID

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High-stakes financial investigations into public sector recruitment scandals have taken a dramatic turn as key bureaucratic figures face direct accountability. The web of scrutiny surrounding systemic corruption has tightened, forcing elusive officials to step out of the shadows and answer hard questions from law enforcement agencies. Senior bureaucrat Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, a 2016-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, officially appeared before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Bengaluru for formal interrogation. The appearance follows intense legal and political pressure triggered by an ongoing probe into widespread irregularities and cash-for-job allegations within the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). The controversy erupted when federal and state investigative agencies turned their focus toward the recruitment process for veterinary officers, where aspirants allegedly faced demands for massive

"Nothing nice" portal to expose project irregularities: Nikhil

JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy launched the "Nothing Nice" website to expose irregularities and rally public opposition against the NICE project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) has escalated its political campaign against the contentious Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) project by introducing a dedicated digital platform designed to rally public opposition and expose systemic irregularities. JD(S) Youth Wing President Nikhil Kumaraswamy officially launched the "Nothing Nice" website, a comprehensive digital repository created to provide citizens, landowners, and researchers with transparent documentation regarding the decades-old infrastructure venture.

During the launch event, party leadership emphasized that the newly unveiled portal serves as an informational tool to educate the public on the historical context, legal battles, and financial discrepancies surrounding the project. The website hosts detailed breakdowns of the original framework agreement signed in 1997, comparative analyses of projected versus completed milestones, specific legal rulings, and exhaustive documentation detailing land acquisition patterns. By

PORTAL HIGHLIGHTS & ACCUSATIONS

- Comprehensive Documentation:** Access to official High Court orders, framework details, and proof of project delays.
- Toll Boycott Appeal:** Detailed guidelines and rationale for why motorists should challenge ongoing toll collections.
- Farmer Compensation Tracking:** Records tracking the unfulfilled promises of land return and monetary relief for affected families.



Farmers have been left on the streets while the project continues to flout core framework conditions set decades ago.

- Nikhil Kumaraswamy, Janata Dal (Secular) youth wing leader

centralizing these records, the party aims to challenge prevailing narratives and build grassroots awareness regarding the long-standing grievances of farming communities whose properties were affected.

Highlighting the core arguments of the campaign, Nikhil Kumaraswamy noted that the multi-decades-old project has failed to meet its foundational urban planning and infrastructural objectives. According to party data com-

piled on the platform, the comprehensive 111-kilometer highway and integrated township initiative—which originally mandated the development of five distinct economic hubs along the corridor—has faced massive execution delays. Critics point out that a fraction of the planned roadwork has been properly completed and operationalized to standard specifications, yet commercial toll collection has persisted for years, imposing financial burdens on daily commuters.

The campaign heavily focuses on the plight of agrarian families. JD(S) leaders asserted that thousands of farmers across districts impacted by

BESCOM announces power outage across Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Essential infrastructure maintenance frequently disrupts daily life in bustling metropolitan centers, requiring temporary inconveniences to ensure long-term grid stability. Residents across several prominent neighborhoods in the city must prepare for scheduled electricity outages as local utility providers carry out necessary engineering upkeep and quarterly safety checks.

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has officially announced a temporary power supply disruption affecting several important areas on August 29, 2026.

According to updates shared via the utility provider's official communication channels, the outages are driven by critical quarterly maintenance tasks and emergency repair works executed by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) across local substations.

The scheduled power suspension will remain in effect for 6 hours, starting from

10:00 AM and lasting until 4:00 PM. The outages will primarily impact neighborhoods situated under the jurisdiction of the Rajanakunte and Kadugodi sub-stations, which service a vast expanse of residential and commercial zones.

Residents and commercial establishments located in Honnenahalli, Singanayakanahalli, Rajanakunte, Marasandra, Chellahalli, and Italgapur will experience disruptions. Similar interruptions will affect communities in Dibbur, Kakolu, and Bellathur. Furthermore, key eastern technology and residential corridors including Kadugodi, Channasandra, Immadihalli, Hagadur, Prashanth Layout, and the bustling Whitefield Main Road area will face complete electricity cutoffs during the stipulated timeframe.

Utility officials have urged local residents, business owners, and industrial operators to take proactive measures and plan their daily household chores, remote work schedules, and commercial activities in advance. BESCOM has requested the public to coop-



Maintenance overview	Operational details
Reason	Quarterly maintenance and KPTCL substation emergency repairs.
Duration	Six hours (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday).
Advisory	Citizens should store necessary water and finish time-sensitive tasks early.

erate fully with technical crews and field staff as they work to complete the grid enhancements safely and efficiently.

These periodic maintenance cycles are vital for upgrading equipment resilience, minimizing unexpected technical failures, and ensuring a stable, uninterrupted power supply for the city's rapidly growing population in the long run.

Political realignments: Yathindra to safeguard father's influence

Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah is actively consolidating his father's political legacy by engaging key ministers to protect core alliances amid shifting dynamics.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Shifting political dynamics within Karnataka's ruling dispensation have brought intense scrutiny to evolving loyalties, generational leadership transitions, and internal party calculations. Following significant shifts in the state's executive leadership, strategic maneuvers are actively reshaping the political footprint of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Amid whispers of certain leaders distancing themselves from the veteran leader, his son and political heir, Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, has stepped into a prominent role, launching concerted diplomatic efforts to consolidate his father's support base and mend fractured alliances across the party.

In a series of calculated political engagements, Dr. Yathindra recently held discrete consultations with high-profile members of the state cabinet, including Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan and senior leader Satish Jarkiholi. While these meetings were officially characterized as routine courtesy calls or informal exchanges, political analysts view them through a strategic lens. These diplomatic outreaches are seen as essential tactical steps aimed at maintaining the cohesion of Siddaramaiah's core political coalition.

tions particularly the formidable AHINDA (minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) social matrix at a time when broader state-level power equations are undergoing structural realignment.

The necessity for active damage control and alliance building has become increasingly apparent following recent political developments, including cabinet expansions and shifts in legislative leadership. Observers note that certain factions within the ruling party have exhibited signs of drifting away from Siddaramaiah's immediate sphere of influence, prompting the veteran leader's camp to deploy proactive measures. By positioning Dr. Yathindra as a bridge-builder, the Siddaramaiah camp seeks to neutralize emerging dissent, reassure key community leaders of their enduring political value, and counter any attempts to marginalize the former Chief Minister's institutional footprint.

This behind-the-scenes consolidation coincides with heightened anticipation surrounding major socio-political events, such as upcoming statewide backward classes' conventions and renewed debates over the implementation of the state's socio-economic survey, commonly known as the caste census.

SIT steps up extradition of accused Prashant from Azerbaijan

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The discovery of a massive counterfeit medicine network operating out of a remote farmhouse in Bidadi, Ramanagera, has sent shockwaves through the state's public health sector. Authorities are closing in on the mastermind behind the criminal enterprise as international law enforcement mechanisms swing into action.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is making final preparations to extradite the primary kingpin, identified as Prashant, from Azerbaijan. Following an intensive investigation, intelligence gathered through Interpol confirmed that Prashant is currently

stranded abroad. Customs officials in Azerbaijan have detained him and confiscated his passport, halting his international movement.

To formalize the legal process, the SIT is moving to secure an official arrest warrant by issuing a Red Corner Notice through international channels. Investigators discovered that Prashant has maintained contact with his family and wife back home, providing digital breadcrumbs that helped law enforcement pinpoint his exact whereabouts. The fake medicine ring came to light after enforcement teams raided the clandestine manufacturing unit in Bidadi, seizing massive quantities of spurious drugs destined for unsuspecting consumers.

SHAKTI YOJANA'S FISCAL STRAIN

'Karnataka transport dues cross Rs 5650 crore'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Public welfare schemes designed to provide free mobility to citizens often place a heavy financial burden on state-run utilities. Balancing social welfare mandates with operational sustainability remains a critical challenge for governments, particularly when mounting arrears threaten the day-to-day liquidity of essential public service providers.

Karnataka's four major road transport corporations are facing severe financial strain as pending dues from the state government under the flagship Shakti Yojana have climbed to an astronomical Rs 5,650.95 crore. The staggering fiscal gap was revealed through official data presented by Transport Minister Bairati Suresh in a written reply during the recently concluded session of the Legislative Council.

Launched on June 11, 2023, to provide free bus travel for women across the state, the Shakti Yojana has experienced an exponential surge in ridership. Cumulative data



indicates that between the scheme's inception and July 2026, commuters have completed an astounding 797.16 free journeys. Passenger volumes have climbed steadily year after year, jumping from 183.06 million trips in the 2023-24 financial year to 244.65 million in 2024-25, and surging further to 275.70 million trips in 2025-26. During just the first four months of the 2026-27 fiscal year leading up to July, an additional 93.75 million free trips were logged.

To sustain this massive public demand, the four transport corporations incurred a total expenditure of Rs 20,955.96 crore up to July 2026. However, government disbursements have lagged behind actual op-

Growth and financial breakdown

- Surging Ridership:** Free trips jumped from 183.06 crore in 2023-24 to 275.70 crore in 2025-26, adding immense operational pressure.
- Outstanding Dues:** A massive balance of over ₹5,650 cr remains unpaid by the administration.
- Treasury Stance:** The Finance Department stated there is no scope for additional grants outside current budget allocations.

erational costs. While the administration has released Rs 15,305.01 crore thus far, the remaining deficit of over Rs 5,650 crore has left the transport corporations grappling with tight cash flows. When the Transport Department for-

mally requested the Finance Department to expedite the release of the pending arrears, fiscal authorities responded that budgetary allocations for the Shakti Yojana have already been factored in alongside various other forms of state financial assistance. According to ministerial disclosures, the government has funneled a total of Rs 18,459.37 crore over the past three years into the corporations through multiple channels covering student bus passes, loan repayments, infrastructure construction, fleet modernization, viability gap funding, tax exemptions, and clearance of salary and diesel arrears.

Despite this extensive auxiliary support, the massive backlog of unpaid scheme reimbursements has raised red flags among transit experts and union representatives. As free travel continues to break previous records, ensuring timely fiscal compensation is vital to maintaining fleet efficiency, funding regular vehicle maintenance, and preventing operational gridlock across the state's public transport network.

Quick Read

Kanpur plane crash victim hailed from Udupi

Udupi

Abhishek Poojary, who was killed in a plane crash in Kanpur, hailed from Karnataka's Udupi district, according to family sources. The incident has left his family and local community in shock. Family members said Abhishek had been undergoing private pilot training in Kanpur for around two-and-a-half years. He was pursuing his training with the aim of building a career in aviation. News of his death reached his family after the crash, triggering grief among relatives and friends in Udupi. People from the area expressed condolences to the bereaved family. Authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to the aircraft crash. Further details regarding the incident and the identities of others involved are expected as the investigation progresses.

Rangayana invites applications for various posts

Mysuru

Mysore Rangayana Repertory, an institution of the Government of Karnataka, has invited applications for various posts on a temporary basis for the 2026–27 academic year. The vacancies include two music composers, one lighting designer, one sound operator and one carpenter. Candidates will be selected through interviews. Interested candidates should submit applications containing their personal details to the Deputy Director, Rangayana, Mysuru, by September 7. The date of the interview will be announced later. For further details, candidates may contact the Rangayana office at 9449630465, Deputy Director Dr. M.D. Sudarshan said in a release.



Disruption in power supply today

Mysuru

Power supply will be disrupted in several areas under the V.V. Mohalla Sub-Division on August 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to facilitate underground cable work on the 11 KV Mayura and 11 KV Hoysala power lines. Affected areas include Hebbal II Stage, Mayura Circle, Cauvery Circle, Sankranti Circle, Chennamma Circle, Military Quarters and surrounding areas, Sheshadripuram College, Nisarga Layout, KIADB Layout, Chitra Residency, Lakshmi Kanthanagar and adjoining areas, according to the Executive Engineer of the V.V. Mohalla Division.

MYSURU

The majestic jumbos taking centre stage in the world-famous Mysuru Dasara festivities arrived at the Mysuru Palace on Friday, marking the beginning of their stay at the royal venue amid colour, music and traditional grandeur. The elephant contingent was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Jayamarthanda Gate by the Mysuru Palace Board and the State Government. Urban Development and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, along with Forest,

Karnataka aims to triple textile exports by 2031

Basavaraju highlighted weaver benefits, textile policy approval, Bengaluru fair's success, and plans for exhibitions in Bidar and Devanahalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has set an ambitious target to increase textile exports from the current ₹25,000 crore to ₹75,000 crore by 2031, Textile Development Commissioner A.B. Basavaraju said. He described textiles as one of the state's biggest employment-generating sectors after agriculture. Speaking at the National Handloom Fair-2026, Basavaraju said around 1.5 lakh weavers and eight lakh garment workers are employed in Karnataka. The government is focusing on modern technology, powerloom upgrades and protection of traditional handlooms to improve competitiveness against countries including Bangladesh, Vietnam and China. He said proposals had been sent to the Central Government to establish two Textile Export Facilitation Centres, one in North Karnataka and another in Doddaballapur.



The centres would provide exporters with information, guidance and better market connections. Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Mysuru and Hassan have been identified as Champion Districts, while Ballari, Gadag, Haveri and Dharwad are Aspirational Districts for export development. Basavaraju said eligible weavers receive ₹5,000 annually, housing support and other benefits under the Ne-

kara Samman scheme. A draft new textile policy has also been prepared and submitted for government approval. He said the 14-day Bengaluru handloom fair had received a good response, with similar exhibitions planned in Bidar and Devanahalli. Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Chairman Nagendra Kumar stressed better markets and financial returns for weavers,

AT A GLANCE
• Textile exports targeted to triple by 2031
• 1.5 lakh weavers currently work across Karnataka
• Garment sector employs around eight lakh workers
• Two textile export facilitation centres proposed
• Handloom fair planned for Bidar, Devanahalli
• Weavers receive ₹5,000 annual financial assistance

while Kaveri Handlooms Chairman B.J. Ganesh said participants from 25 to 30 states were displaying traditional products across 40 to 50 stalls. Bengaluru Rural MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath urged greater use and online promotion of handlooms. Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Munirath and senior officials also attended, with speakers calling for stronger public support to preserve Karnataka's textile heritage.



Davangere farmers demand Bhadra reservoir water

DAVANGERE

Farmers in Davangere are intensifying their demand for water from the Bhadra reservoir as the delay in releasing water into canals threatens paddy cultivation. While farmers in Davangere are seeking immediate water for the kharif crop, some farmers in Shivamogga are demanding that water be reserved for the summer season. The Bhadra reservoir is a lifeline for farmers in Shivamogga and Davangere, besides serving agricultural areas in Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga and Haveri districts. Water is generally released through the canals during July or August for the monsoon crop and in January for summer cultivation. Farmers say timely release of water would support paddy growers and provide employment to agricultural workers, tractor operators and others. Historical data shows that water has been released for crops even during years when reservoir levels were relatively low. In 1994, when the reservoir had 184 feet of water, 37.45 TMC was released for summer crops over 154 days and 35.55 TMC for monsoon

crops over 165 days. In 2002, despite storage being only 104 feet, 17.29 TMC was released for summer crops and 25 TMC for monsoon cultivation. In recent years, 34 TMC was released for summer crops in 2023 and 20.40 TMC for monsoon crops. In 2024, 15.90 TMC was supplied for summer crops and 32.69 TMC for the monsoon season. In 2025, 33.376 TMC was released for summer crops and 29.644 TMC for monsoon cultivation. Farmers have also blamed illegal pump sets for reducing water availability in tail-end areas. They claim around 40,000 to 50,000 illegal pumps operate along the left and right canals, preventing adequate water from reaching distant fields. Farmer leaders demanded immediate water release, saying many farmers have already sown paddy seeds and completed transplantation. They warned that further delay could cause heavy losses. Farmers said that if water cannot be released, compensation should be provided to those who have already invested in paddy cultivation.

Fishermen perform traditional Sea Puja in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

Fishermen in Mangaluru performed a traditional collective Sea Puja at Tannirbhavi beach on Friday, praying for the safety of those venturing into the sea and a prosperous fishing season. The ritual was organised by the Yelupattana Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha and witnessed the participation of hundreds of fishing families. Milk and coconuts were collected from around 3,000 households across 10 villages, including Jeppu, Bolara, Hoige Bazaar, Neereshwalya, Padavu Hoige, Kudroli, Bokkapatna and Boluru. Devotees first conducted bhajans, devotional singing and Maha Mangalarathi at village prayer halls before bringing the collected offerings to Tannirbhavi beach. Religious rituals were held at the beach, including bhajans and Varalakshmi Puja. Under the guidance of Rajayogi Nirmalanath Ji Maharaj, head of the Kadri Kadal Jogi Mutt, prayers were offered to Lord Manjunatha of

Kadri, village deities and Goddess Ganga. A special puja and Ganga Aarti were performed, after which milk, coconuts and fruits were offered to the sea. The ritual is based on a centuries-old belief among the coastal fishing community. According to local tradition, fishermen once faced a severe shortage of fish and sought the blessings of Goddess Ganga by offering milk and coconuts. They later witnessed an abundant catch of fish along the shore. Since then, the community has continued the Sea Puja every year during Shravan Purnima. Fishermen from all 10 villages observed a complete holiday from their traditional occupation on Friday for the Sea Puja and Varalakshmi Vrata. As per the long-standing custom, fishing will resume only after the completion of the ritual. Fishermen are scheduled to venture into the sea from Saturday morning, carrying prayers for safety and an abundant catch during the new fishing season.

Kumaraswamy warns Karnataka of deeper debt trap

CH NEWS, Mysuru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has accused Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of planning to borrow another ₹1 lakh crore, warning that Karnataka could fall deeper into a debt trap. Speaking after a Disha Committee meeting, he criticised the government's financial decisions and questioned its spending priorities.

Kumaraswamy alleged that the government was taking loans for several activities, including garbage collection in Bengaluru and the proposed Bidadi township. He also questioned the allocation of ₹1,000 crore to Bharat Jodo organisations and ₹10 lakh to every panchayat. He said taxpayers' money should not be spent on unnecessary purposes. He also urged the government to conduct Dasara celebrations simply because the state was facing drought and farmers needed greater support. The Union Minister accused the state government of failing to manage the drought properly. He said crop losses had affected farmers in Mysuru district and many were struggling to repay bank loans. Kumaraswamy said he had asked bank officials not to pressure farmers for loan repayment this year. He also announced plans to visit drought-hit areas of North Karnataka and review the situation there.



Kumaraswamy criticised drought management, citing crop losses and loan difficulties in Mysuru, urging banks to ease repayment pressure and planning visits to North Karnataka

On politics, Kumaraswamy said his party was working to become stronger and that several leaders were interested in joining it. He said some members of the Janata Parivar could return, but their records and suitability would be carefully examined before admission. He also claimed that several Congress leaders were in contact with his party. Regarding Chamundeshwari, he said he would decide the candidate later and expressed confidence that voters would continue to support him. MLAs Harish Gowda, C.N. Manjeggowda and Srivatsa, former MLA Ashwin Kumar and others attended the meeting.

Forest officials to decide Dasara ambari jumbo: Ramalinga Reddy

MYSURU

Forest Department officials have been entrusted with the responsibility of selecting the elephant that will carry the golden howdah (Ambari) during the Mysuru Dasara procession, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy said. Speaking to the media after welcoming the elephant contingent at the Mysuru Palace on Friday, the Minister said the elephants would undergo training every day and the elephant to carry the Ambari would be finalised based on its performance during the training. Referring to the Hanur shootout case, Ramalinga Reddy said an investigation

had already begun. The Assistant Commissioner's report had no connection with the investigation report. Strict action would be taken against those responsible for damaging departmental property, he warned. The Minister assured forest officials that they need not be afraid and should discharge their duties fearlessly by venturing into the forests. The department was committed to ensuring the safety and security of its officials, he said. "If the forests survive, the nation will survive," Ramalinga Reddy said, underlining the importance of protecting forests and ensuring the safety of those working to conserve them.

Doctors treat patients using mobile torchlight

HAVERI

Doctors at a government hospital in Haveri were forced to treat patients using mobile phone torchlights after a power outage disrupted services at the facility. The incident has raised concerns over inadequate backup power arrangements at a hospital responsible for providing essential healthcare services. The hospital reportedly does not have a UPS facility and depends entirely on the

regular electricity supply. When the power went off, doctors and hospital staff had to use mobile phone flashlights to continue examining and treating patients. The situation created difficulties for medical staff, particularly while attending to patients who required proper lighting. Staff members used the torchlights on their mobile phones to illuminate treatment areas and ensure that medical procedures could continue despite the

disruption. The incident has highlighted concerns about the availability of basic infrastructure at government healthcare facilities. Hospitals require uninterrupted power supply for patient care, medical equipment, emergency services and other critical operations. The absence of adequate backup arrangements can create serious challenges during power cuts. Healthcare workers continue their duties despite the difficult circumstances, ensuring

ing that patients were not left without immediate medical attention. However, the reliance on mobile phone torchlights has drawn attention to the need for reliable power backup systems at the hospital. Patients and their families have reportedly expressed concern over the conditions and the lack of a UPS facility. They have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to install suitable backup power equipment and prevent such incidents from recurring.

MYSURU DASARA 2026

Nine Dasara jumbos arrive at palace amid traditional fanfare

Ecology and Environment Minister and Kolar District In-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy, led the traditional reception. The arrival of the elephants turned the Palace premises into a vibrant spectacle, with performances of Dollu Kunitha, Kamsale and traditional musical ensembles adding to the festive atmosphere. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yathindra said the historic Gajapayana began on August 26 and the elephants reached the Palace on August 28. "Today, under the leadership of the Forest Minister, we wel-

comed the elephants participating in the Dasara festivities, along with their mahouts and kavadis, to the Palace after performing traditional rituals," he said. The minister urged mahouts, kavadis and officials to work together to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the Dasara celebrations. As the elephants are expected to stay at the Palace for nearly two months, basic kits have been distributed to mahouts and kavadis to help them provide proper care, nourishment and training to the elephants. In the first phase, nine ele-

phants — Mahendra, Srikanta, Lakshmi, Ekalavya, Dhananjaya, Gopi, Kaveri, Prashantha and Srirama — entered the Palace. The sight of the decorated elephants walking through the historic Palace gates, accompanied by their mahouts and kavadis, added a royal touch to the Dasara preparations. MLAs T.S. Srivatsa and K. Harish Gowda, Legislative Council member C.N. Manjeggowda, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmi Kanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yakesh Kumar and other officials and dignitaries were present.



Drought declaration based on rules: T. Raghumurthy

Raghumurthy said three taluks failed drought criteria but could be reassessed if rainfall deficiency and dry conditions worsen

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Scheduled Castes Welfare and District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy said drought-hit taluks in Karnataka were identified according to central government guidelines, leaving no scope for political influence or bias.

He was speaking at a press conference at the District Collector's Office.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre assessed drought conditions using the Central Government's Drought Management Manual 2020. In the first phase, 101 taluks across the state were declared drought-affected, including 89 severely affected and 12 moderately affected taluks. In Chitradurga district, Hiriya, Challakere and Hosadurga were included in the severe drought category.

Raghumurthy said Chitradurga, Holalkere and Molakalmuru were not included because they did not meet the



required technical conditions. Under the guidelines, drought assessment considers rainfall deficiency and three consecutive weeks of dry weather. He said the three excluded taluks could be reviewed again if conditions worsen.

The minister said further assessment would consider crop conditions, satellite-based vegetation data, soil moisture and groundwater levels. Field inspections would also be conducted to verify the actual situation. He said drought conditions would continue to be reviewed through the 2026 Kharif season, based on rainfall and crop impact, and additional

taluks could be declared drought-hit when necessary.

Raghumurthy said uneven rainfall remained a concern in Chitradurga district and suggested considering hoblis instead of entire taluks for drought declarations. He said this could help provide assistance to farmers facing severe local problems. The minister assured that the government would examine crop damage and ground conditions before taking further decisions. Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Akash and Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy attended the briefing.

AT A GLANCE

- 101 taluks declared drought-hit in first phase
- 89 face severe, 12 moderate drought conditions
- Three Chitradurga taluks face severe drought
- Three taluks excluded due to technical criteria
- Government may add more taluks during Kharif
- Minister proposes hobli-wise drought assessment for farmers

Quick Read

Gadag Dasara planning meet scheduled for Sunday

GADAG
A preliminary meeting for the 2026 Dasara festival will be held at Sri Annapoorleshwari Temple of Sri Adavindraswamy Mutt near Mulgund Naka on Sunday, August 30, at 6 pm. Gurus of the mutt, Sri Ve. Maheshwara Swamy of Hosalli Mutt, honorary president S.P. Sanshimath, president Sadashivayya Madari Mutt, women's president Suvarna Madari Mutt and several committee members will attend. Shivanubhava Samiti president Dr. Rajendra Gadada and other senior members will also participate. Dasara Mahotsava Committee and Shivanubhava Committee members have invited devotees to attend and offer suggestions for successfully organizing the festival, secretary Prabhugowda Patil said.

Rural workers urged to seek jobs through scheme

RONA

Rural workers and families needing employment have been urged to use the VBG-Ramji scheme and seek work through their Gram Panchayats.

Chandrashekar B. Kandakura, Executive Officer of Rona and Gajendragad taluks, said eligible people should submit Form-6, obtain a job card and apply for employment.

Kandakura said the scheme aims to provide wage-based employment to adult members of rural families in their villages. It can provide regular income to families while supporting the development of villages. He appealed to people looking for work to approach their Gram Panchayats directly and complete the required process without depending on middlemen.

He explained that families



without job cards should immediately contact their concerned Gram Panchayat and apply for one. Those who already have job cards must submit Form-6 whenever they need employment. Gram Panchayat staff can provide information about eligibility, job cards and the process for applying for work.

Several development activities are being carried out under the rural employment programme, creating opportuni-

ties close to home. These include road work, drainage, lake development, water conservation, rainwater harvesting, agricultural activities and other rural infrastructure projects. Kandakura said such works can provide employment while improving basic facilities in villages.

He also directed Gram Panchayats to identify families needing employment and inform them about the scheme. Job card holders should be encouraged to submit Form-6 whenever they require work. Kandakura urged eligible residents not to hesitate to seek employment and make use of government support. He said job card fairs would be held for a month, giving workers an opportunity to register and access employment. The initiative is expected to help rural families find work locally and strengthen village development.

Deputy Lokayukta orders better wastewater treatment in Maddur

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Lokayukta B. Veerappa on Friday inspected the wastewater treatment plant under Maddur Municipality and reviewed its cleanliness and waste management arrangements.

During the visit, officials explained the treatment process and the steps being followed to manage wastewater at the facility.

Veerappa directed officials to ensure that wastewater is treated scientifically before disposal and that all procedures follow environmental rules. He stressed the need for proper treatment and safe disposal to protect public health and the surrounding environment. He also asked officials to regularly monitor the treatment system and ensure that waste management standards are maintained.

The Deputy Lokayukta specifically instructed officials to take permanent and precautionary measures to prevent untreated wastewater from entering the Shimsha River under any circumstances. He said wastewater must be released only after proper treatment and according to the prescribed rules. Strict action should be taken against practices that could pollute the river or damage the nearby environment, he added.

Veerappa also directed the authorities to maintain cleanliness around the treatment plant and manage waste without creating prob-



Veerappa reviews lake protection and development

Deputy Lokayukta B. Veerappa inspected Chikka Arasikere Lake after receiving complaints about encroachment. He reviewed documents, survey maps, boundaries and the lake's condition, directing officials to act according to rules if encroachment is confirmed. He stressed protecting water bodies, Rajakaluves and public property. Later, Veerappa inspected Sulekere in Maddur and reviewed development and maintenance works being carried out under a Rs. 34 crore project. He directed officials to ensure quality construction and proper use of public funds. He also ordered checks for unauthorized construction and encroachment around the lake, stressing long-term protection of public water resources.

lems for local residents. He emphasized that environmental protection rules must be followed strictly. Maddur Municipal Commissioner Radhika, Mandya Deputy Divisional Officer Shivamurthy, Maddur Tahsildar

Shivakumar Biradar and other district-level officials were present during the inspection. The visit highlighted the need for responsible wastewater management and stronger protection of the Shimsha River.

Magadi schools celebrate Rakshabandhan with unity message

MAGADI

Rakshabandhan was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at Sri Saraswati Vidyamandir and Mangala Vidyakendra School in Magadi.

The programme highlighted the festival's message of love, protection, unity and brotherhood. Teachers, staff and students participated by tying rakhis to one another and taking a pledge to protect the country's unity and social harmony.

School president Balaramanna said Rakshabandhan reflects India's tradition of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,

which means treating the entire world as one family. He said the festival is not limited to religious beliefs, but also carries social, historical and cultural importance. It reminds people of the special bond between brothers and sisters and the responsibility to care for one another.

Secretary Gowreesh said the festival has an important role in promoting harmony despite differences of caste, religion, language and community. He said Rakshabandhan should also express respect and gratitude towards soldiers guarding the nation, workers contributing to its

progress and people serving society. Teacher Veena Bhatt said the rakhi represents mutual respect, trust, love and protection among people.

She urged students to preserve Indian traditions and strengthen the spirit of unity. Headmaster H.J. Madesh, teachers Muniraju, Veena Bhatt, Geeta, Darshan and Murthy, along with other staff and students, attended the programme. In a special gesture, students and teachers also tied rakhis to road workers near Gandhinagar, sharing the festival's message of respect and brotherhood beyond school boundaries.



Udupi leaders recall Narayana Guru's equality movement

UDUPI

Udupi MLA Yashpal A. Suvarna said Brahmarshi Narayana Guru played a major role in spreading equality and helping backward communities enter the social mainstream.

He said the saint's efforts against caste discrimination and untouchability continue to guide society.

Suvarna was speaking at Narayana Guru Jayanti celebrations held at the Bannanje Narayana Guru Auditorium. The programme was organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department and Billavara Seva Sangha. He said Narayana Guru promoted equality by building temples, opening educational institutions and challenging social injustice.

MP Kota Srinivas Poojary said Narayana Guru brought social change through peaceful means when untouchability was widespread. He said the saint promoted social justice and equal rights and created a movement that challenged deep-rooted discrimination. Coastal Development

Board Chairman M.A. Gafoor said Guru stood with poor, exploited and marginalised people and worked for their social, educational, religious and economic progress.

Lecturer Sachendra Ambagilu described Narayana Guru as a saint, philosopher and social reformer who promoted equality, brotherhood and human values through education, employment and organisation. He said Guru opposed caste discrimination, untouchability and superstition and believed his message belonged to society as a whole.

Dinakar Herur, Chairman of the Urban Development Authority, also spoke at the event, which was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Abid Gadyal. Prizes were presented to winners of essay and painting competitions organised across five zones of the district on Narayana Guru's life and teachings. MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty, officials, community leaders, students and others attended. Speakers urged people to follow Guru's ideals and pass his message of equality to future generations.

MEDIATION CAMPAIGN AIMS TO CLEAR PENDING COURT CASES

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority has launched a special campaign to help settle pending court cases through mediation.

Justice M.H. Annaiah, Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, urged people to make use of the campaign, which will continue until September 30.

Speaking to reporters at the District Court, Justice Annaiah said "Mediation for the Nation 3.0" began on August 1. Under the campaign, suitable pending cases will be identified and re-

viewed before mediation. Notices will then be issued to the parties, and eligible matters will be referred to mediation centres for settlement.

He said meetings are being held with stakeholders, including the Bar Association, to create greater public awareness about mediation and its benefits. The campaign aims to reduce the burden of pending cases by helping parties resolve disputes quickly, peacefully and through mutual agreement.

Cases being considered include matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce matters, eligible criminal cases, accident compensation claims, partition

disputes, eviction matters, commercial disputes and service-related cases. Parties interested in mediation can request that their cases be transferred from courts to mediation centres, where trained mediators will assist both sides in reaching an agreement.

Justice Annaiah said earlier campaigns had produced encouraging results. More than 95 cases were settled during the first "Mediation for the Nation" campaign, while over 60 cases were resolved under the second campaign. He appealed to litigants to use the current opportunity to settle suitable disputes without prolonged court proceedings.

GADAG-DROUGHT-DISPUTE

Gadag farmers demand relief over crop loss

MALINGARAYA PUJAR CH NEWS

Farmers across Gadag district are angry after the government declared only Gajendragad taluk drought-affected, despite widespread crop losses and poor rainfall in several parts of the district. Farmers' groups say more than 80 percent of monsoon crops have dried up, leaving many families facing serious financial trouble. They have questioned why the remaining taluks were excluded from the drought list.

According to a preliminary joint survey by the Agricul-

ture Department, crop damage worth about ₹218 crore has been estimated across Gadag district. Except for Nargund, several taluks, including Mundargi, Shirahatti, Ron, Gadag and Lakshmeshwar, have received less rainfall than usual. Official figures show the district has an overall rainfall shortage of more than 31 percent. Gajendragad has recorded a 47 percent deficit, while Gadag has 43 percent, Mundargi 33 percent, Shirahatti 27 percent and Lakshmeshwar 18 per-

cent. Farmers say the rules used to identify drought do not reflect conditions in their fields. The government con-

siders satellite-based Green Index readings and the length of dry spells while declaring drought. Farmers argue that satellite images may show fields as green because of weeds or thorny plants, even when crops have failed. They also say brief rains can interrupt the required dry spell period, although such showers may not provide

enough water for crops. As a result, technical calculations may differ from the situation seen by farmers.

Farmer leaders have demanded an immediate relaxation of the technical rules and a fresh field-level survey. They want agriculture and revenue officials to jointly inspect every affected farm and calculate losses on an acre-wise basis. They have also demanded that the entire Gadag district be declared drought-affected and compensation be distributed quickly. Leaders warned that protests would follow if their demands were ignored.

Officials told to introduce consumption-based water charges

Manjula warned villages needing water supplies could increase, urging preventive action and asking residents to use the helpline for assistance

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Bangalore Water Supply and Drainage Board Chairman and District In-charge Secretary Dr. N. Manjula directed urban local bodies to install water meters and introduce consumption-based charges to prevent unnecessary wastage.

She stressed that careful water management was essential as all eight taluks in the district have been declared severely drought-affected.

Chairing a drinking water and drought management meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall, Manjula said metering would help control consumption and ensure planned supply. She directed officials to take immediate steps to introduce charges based on the quantity of water used. Officials said drinking water was currently being supplied to 38 villages through private borewells.

Manjula warned that the



number of villages requiring such supplies could rise if rainfall remained poor. A helpline, 8884777235, has been opened for residents facing drinking water problems. She asked officials to take preventive measures and ensure that drought conditions do not create difficulties for people or farmers.

The meeting reviewed drinking water supplies, available water sources, fodder, crop damage surveys, crop insurance registration and agricultural activities. Later, Manjula inspected Nayana-

halli Government Higher Pri-

mary School, checking infrastructure, student facilities and the learning environment. She also visited homes in Nayanahalli during the SIR-2026 voter list revision and instructed officials to ensure eligible voters were not excluded.

She later inspected the Government Post-Matric Vocational Girls' Hostel named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, reviewing accommodation, food, drinking water and other facilities. She suggested improvements wherever necessary. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, Zilla Panchayat

AT A GLANCE

- Eight taluks declared severely drought-affected
- Water meters urged to curb unnecessary wastage
- Consumption-based charges proposed for urban users
- 38 villages currently receive private borewell supplies
- Officials warned drought water needs could increase
- Helpline opened for drinking water complaints

CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaskar, Deputy Divisional Officer D.H. Ashwin, Deputy Secretary Atik Pasha and other officials attended. Manjula said coordinated action would remain important throughout the drought period.

Hanagal MLA launches roads, promises more development funds

CH NEWS, HANAGAL

Efforts are being made to provide basic facilities needed for a better life, MLA and Karnataka Home Board President Srinivas Mane said.

He launched various cement concrete road works worth Rs. 80 lakh under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme for 2025-26 in the Yelavatti Gram Panchayat area of Hanagal taluk.

Mane said funds for several development works in the taluk would be released after August. He explained that the government was moving away from the practice of deciding rural development funds only from the taluk centre. Instead, funds are being released based on requests from village leaders and residents. He said every village had received funds this year and development works had begun.

According to Mane, about Rs. 750 crore has been allocated to Hanagal taluk over the last three years. He said the amount has supported development works and public



Mane said ₹750 crore was allocated to Hanagal taluk over three years for development, welfare schemes, village facilities and addressing local demands

welfare through various guarantee schemes. He added that providing essential facilities in villages remains a priority and that local demands would be considered while planning

future works.

As part of the programme, Rs. 33 lakh was provided to Yelavatti, Rs. 15 lakh to Nidasangi Basapura, Rs. 5 lakh to Badamagatti, and Rs. 15 lakh to Yellur and Yellur Plot for CC road works. Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee taluk president Veerappa Bailawala, Block Congress president Basanagouda Patil and several local leaders and residents attended the programme. The road projects are expected to improve village connectivity and daily travel.

Quick Read

Study Abroad Fair opens doors to global education

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka Vocational Skill Development Corporation will conduct 'Study Abroad-2026' in Bengaluru on September 6 to help students explore international higher education opportunities. The fair will be held at Gayatri Grand, near Gate No. 4 of Palace Grounds, Bengaluru. More than 75 universities from over 10 countries are expected to participate. Students can learn about admission procedures, student visas, courses and scholarship opportunities at the event. Interested students must register online before 5 pm on September 6 to participate.

Great leaders' ideals remain society's guiding light

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Scheduled Castes Welfare and District In-charge Minister T. Raghunurthy said the teachings of Brahmarshi Narayana Guru and Kayakayogi Nuliya Chandaya continue to guide society.

He was speaking at joint birth anniversary celebrations organised by the district administration and other departments on Friday.

The programme was held at the District Collector's Office Hall, where the minister paid floral tributes to portraits of both social reformers. Raghunurthy said Narayana Guru strongly opposed untouchability and other social evils during the 19th and 20th centuries. His message encour-

aged people to gain education, remain united and develop economic independence.

The minister said Narayana Guru worked for disadvantaged communities and promoted education, social equality and reform. He urged people to follow these principles in their daily lives. He also praised Nuliya Chandaya, who earned his livelihood by making and selling ropes from grass and became an example of the "Kayakave Kailasa" philosophy through his dedication to work.

Raghunurthy said Chandaya and other Sharans demonstrated the importance of honest labour and contributed to social change and Vachana literature. He noted that figures such as Molige

Marayya, Hadapada Appanna, Ambigara Choudayya and Akkadakki Lakkamma also strengthened the message of equality through their work.

Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director Dr. B.M. Gurunath recalled Narayana Guru's efforts against caste discrimination, illiteracy and inequality. He also highlighted the contributions of the Sharans. Raghunurthy assured people that they could bring their grievances directly to the district administration and government, adding that he would work with officials to address their problems. The programme was attended by senior officials, community representatives and other dignitaries.

Officials urge rural workers to obtain jobcards

CH NEWS, GADAG

Rural workers who are not registered under the VB-G RAM G scheme should submit the required documents to their Gram Panchayat and obtain new job cards, TAP Director Kumar Pujara said on Friday.

He was speaking at a Job Card Mela organized as part of an

awareness campaign under the Developed India Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural). Pujara also inspected the development work on the canal bringing water from Durgadevi Lake in Lakkundi village. He urged workers to participate in available employment activities and take up individual works under the VB-G RAM G

scheme. He said action plans had been prepared at Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat levels to provide employment to eligible workers on priority.

Several residents had already registered for new job cards during the mela, while others raised issues related to family separation and other matters. Officials assured participants that

their grievances would be examined and resolved step by step. The programme aimed to help more rural families understand their employment rights and access government support.

Gram Panchayat Development Officer Amir Nayak said every rural family holding a job card has a legal right to receive work for 125 days a year.

Nayaka Samaj to honour ministers, students in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga Nayaka Samaj will organize a felicitation and talent award programme at Sri Maharshi Valmiki Bhawan on August 30 at 11 a.m. Society president B. Kantaraj announced the programme at a press conference held at Patrika Bhawan.

The event will honour Minister T. Raghunurthy and recognize talented students.

Kantaraj said around 100 students from the Nayaka community will receive Pratibha Puraskar awards for their achievements in education. Students who completed SSLC, PUC, degree, post-graduate, PhD, medical and engineering courses will be felicitated. The programme is aimed at encouraging students and appreciating their academic success.

Sri Jagadguru Prasannanandapuri Mahaswamy will preside over the programme. MLAs, former ministers, retired officers, government officials and representatives of various organizations are expected to participate as chief guests. Kan-



taraj said the gathering would provide an opportunity to encourage students and honour individuals who have contributed to society.

MP Govinda M. Karajol, MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi, former minister H. Anjaneya, retired district collector Rangaiiah, retired BBMP Deputy Commissioner Dr. J. Raju and Chitradurga Social Welfare Department Grade-I Assistant Director O. Parameshwarappa will also be felicitated during the event. Kantaraj appealed to community members, students and the public to attend in large numbers and make the programme successful. Retired principal Guddadeshwarappa, Arun Kumar, Thippeswamy, former municipal councillor Deepu, Gopalaswamy Nayaka and Katihalli Kariyanna were present at the press conference.

Chikkaballapura honors saints, highlights equality and reform

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

The district administration celebrated the birth anniversaries of 12th-century Sharan Nuliya Chandaya and Brahmarshi Narayana Guru at the District Collector's Office Hall on Friday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar offered floral tributes and said the ideals of great social reformers should be followed in everyday life to build a fair and united society. Bhaskar said Nuliya Chandaya promoted Kayaka, Dasoha and equality through his vachanas and life. He considered honest work as a form of devotion and used his earnings for the welfare of others. His teachings stressed respect for all occupations, simple living and sharing with society. His message also strongly opposed discrimination based on caste and creed.

The officials highlighted Narayana Guru's contribution to social, educational and economic reform. His message of "One Caste, One Religion, One God" promoted human equality and challenged social divisions. He encouraged education as a way to overcome ignorance and superstition and supported equal educational opportunities for women and disadvantaged communities. Narayana Guru also encouraged economic self-reliance through employment, industry and self-employment. He spoke against wasteful practices and harmful social customs. Associate Professor Krishnappa delivered a lecture on the teachings of both reformers. Community achievers were felicitated during the programme. Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director Ravi Kumar, community leaders Devaraju, Chickappaiah, Venkataramanaswamy, Suguna Ashwath, Vijay Kumar, office-bearers and district officials attended the event.

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division
Udupi - 576101. C.No : (0820) 2531802

No.PWD:UDN:NIT-17:2026-27:AE-2 Dated: 28.08.2026

Short term Tender Notification (2nd Call)

It is here by notified for the information of intending eligible registered contractor in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka transparency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on 05.09.2026 through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" under 5054-80-190-0-01-132 head, 1 work costing Rs. 379.23 Lakhs (excluding GST) for KRDC Bridge Work. For more information contact office during office hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Public works department
Udupi Division, Udupi.

DIPRI/ADUKSMCA/297/26-27 Dt: 28.08.2026

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
(Building Maintenance & Transport), Ground Floor,
Annex-2 building, BCCC Head Office, N.R.Square,
Bengaluru - 560 002

No: EE/B.M.&T/TEND/04/2026-27 Date:28.08.2026

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Building Maintenance & Transport) Invites tenders on behalf of the Hon'ble Commissioner, BCCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Painting to Grills and Other Allied works @ GBA HO Premises. Approx. Amount put to Tender: Rs.10,04,779/- EMD: Rs.25,200/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender Document: 29.08.2026 onwards. (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Proposals: 05.09.2026, 16:30 hrs. (3) Opening of Proposals: 07.09.2026 at 16:30 hrs.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Building Maintenance & Transport
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Government of Karnataka
(Forest Department)
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS &
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI
Near District court Kalaburagi, Office Phone No. 08472 -256601, email: dcf_tgulbarga@yahoo.co.in

No. DD/ZOO/OUTSOURCE/E-Tender//2026-27 Date: 25.08.2026

:: SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of work: Supply of Employees through Out Source & New Zoological park Madbol Kalaburagi, 2) Budget Head: ZAK, 3) Amount of Estimate: Mini (In Lakhs) 4.750, Max (in lakhs) 68.093, 4) Eligibility of Contractor /firm: As per tender documents, 5) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee & EMD As per Tender Document, 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications. : 02.09.2026 up to 4.00 PM, 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender: 04.09.2026 upto 4.00 PM, 8) Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid: 05.09.2026 after 4.30 PM, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : 07.09.2026 after 11.00 AM, 10) Add.Information: ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI, 11) Address of E- Portal.: http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests &
Deputy Director of Children Park Cum
Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi

DIPRI/Kalaburagi/482/KSMC&A/2026-27

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHITRADURGA-577501
(Telephone & Fax No. 08195- 200094
E-mail : ka.chitradurga.cmc@gmail.com

No.CMC: Technical(11)/Tender:CR:07/2026-27, Date:-25-08-2026

Karnatak Public Procurement
portal Full term Tender

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Full-Term Tender Notification(Applications invited as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 Rules)On behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka within the limits of Chitradurga Municipal Council Proposed Construction of Central Meat Market at Chitradurga Cityto implement the procurement execute works, CMC Enterprises fund of Rs.350.00 lakhs. Item-wise tenders have been invited via the 'two-cover system' on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Eligible contractors registered with the Karnataka Public Works Department or the Electricity Departments welfare invited to participate. Please visit the department's website for documents related to the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.Applications will not be accepted at this office through this mode alone. Details are provided below. For further information, one may consult the engineers in the City Municipal Council's works division or visit the municipal website at www.chitradurgacity.mrc.gov.in. The GST amount will be paid separately. (Indent No.DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK_IDENT60184) (Maximum amount: Rs. 350.00 lakhs). Full-Term Tender Notification (Sl.No.1 Pre Bid meeting Date: 22-09-2026 at 11.00 AM, Sl.No.2 Last date for submission of Applications as per K.P.P. Portal for blank tender forms and submission of filled schedule-B 28-09-2026 up to 5.00 PM (3) Date of opening the Tender (Technical) 29-09-2026 at 5.30 PM (4) Date of opening the Tender (Financial) 30.09.2026 at 5.30 PM or After approval of Technical Bid (6) Application Fee (Non-returnable) As per K.P.P. Portal Rules.

DIPRI/CTA/KSMCA/
296/2026-27

Sd/- Municipal commissioner.
City municipal Council Chitradurga.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad
contact: 080-41209042

Quick Read



ED Arrests Three In ₹30,000 crores cyber fraud case

PANAJI
The Enforcement Directorate has arrested three more people in a money laundering probe linked to a nationwide cyber fraud network involving transactions worth 30,000 crore. Bhushan Suryakant Moye, Vilas Narayan Pawar and Shailesh Dagdu were arrested on Thursday and sent to ED custody until September 1. With these arrests, the total number of people held by the ED's Panaji office has reached five. The probe began after a Goa woman was allegedly cheated of 2.60 crore in 2025.

Mumbai woman loses Rs 7.21 crore in scam.

Mumbai
A 68-year-old woman from south Mumbai allegedly lost Rs 7.21 crore after cyber fraudsters posed as government and police officials. They reportedly told her that her mobile number was linked to money laundering and terror funding. The accused sent fake notices and orders supposedly issued by a court, the RBI and the Enforcement Directorate. Fearing arrest and legal action, the retired private company employee allegedly broke her fixed deposits, redeemed mutual funds and transferred money to several bank accounts.

Rahul Gandhi gets support for 2029 PM bid

TN Minister P Viswanathan said Rahul Gandhi is INDIA bloc's PM candidate for 2029, amid debate over oppn leadership

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister P Viswanathan on Friday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would be the INDIA bloc's "definitive" prime ministerial candidate for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. His statement came as political discussions continued over who could lead the opposition alliance in the next general election.

Viswanathan said Congress leaders were united in their support for Gandhi. He described him as the party's "beloved leader" and the Leader of the Opposition. According to the minister, Congress had no confusion about its choice and considered Gandhi the alliance's prime ministerial candidate for 2029.

His remarks came at a time when some Tamil Nadu ministers and legislators from the ruling TVK have been supporting Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay as a possible national leader. The discussion



"Our beloved leader and Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, is the INDIA bloc's prime ministerial candidate for 2029." P. Viswanathan, TN Minister

has added to the wider political debate over potential prime ministerial faces for the next Lok Sabha election. Other names, including former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, have also figured in these discussions.

Viswanathan also spoke about the Tamil Nadu government's response to the situation in Nepal, where tourists from the state were stranded amid severe flash floods. He said a four-member ministerial team was sent to Nepal on

TN CM Vijay ranks third in the 2029 PM preference survey with 9.2% support, behind Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. His strong showing, despite entering politics only in 2024, highlights his growing presence in national politics.

Thursday night to supervise relief and assistance efforts. Dedicated control rooms were also opened in Chennai and New Delhi to monitor developments around the clock.

The minister further defended the functioning of the Tamil Nadu Assembly after criticism from the opposition over the time spent on what it called unnecessary discussions. Viswanathan said the Assembly was the proper place for elected representatives to debate public issues. His comments come as political parties begin shaping their positions well ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections

MLA climbs into road hole to protest bad roads

KANPUR

Samajwadi Party MLA Hasan Roomi climbed into an 18-foot-deep pit on VIP Road in Kanpur to stage a symbolic protest against the city's poor road conditions during the monsoon.

A section of the roughly five-metre-wide road collapsed after continuous rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving behind a crater about 18 feet deep. Rainwater rushed into the opening, creating alarming scenes as water poured from the damaged road into the pit. Videos of the incident later spread widely on social media.

Roomi, who represents Cantt Assembly constituency, reached the spot on Thursday afternoon and climbed down using a ladder. Samajwadi Party workers and local residents gathered nearby while officials were informed about the protest. Despite the rain, Roomi continued his dharna for nearly five hours, demanding answers from authorities over the condition of the road and the lack of



SP MLA Hasan Roomi entered an 18-foot-deep road pit in Kanpur to protest poor road conditions after heavy rain caused a section of VIP Road to collapse.

such damaged roads could put motorists and pedestrians at risk, especially during heavy rainfall and poor visibility.

Following the protest, authorities assured Roomi that steps would be taken to fill the crater and address the danger. Officials also agreed to examine how the road collapsed and conduct a inquiry into the matter. The assurance came after residents and party workers gathered at the site. The incident has once again raised concerns about road quality, maintenance and public safety in Kanpur during the monsoon season.

SC pushes faster trials in dowry cases

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has issued a series of directions to speed up trials in dowry cases, expressing concern that many people involved in giving or demanding dowry escape punishment. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih said courts must make efforts to complete such cases within a reasonable timeframe and asked high courts to regularly review pending criminal ap-

peals.

The court directed trial courts to ensure the accused appears promptly after a chargesheet is filed. Courts should then consider framing charges within 60 to 90 days, as far as possible, while following legal safeguards under the CrPC and BNSS.

The bench also asked courts to discourage unnecessary adjournments and record written reasons whenever an adjournment is granted. If an accused person's lawyer repeatedly

remains absent without sufficient reason, Legal Aid Counsel or an Amicus Curiae may be appointed to prevent delays.

The Supreme Court further directed states, Union territories and high courts to organise regular training and sensitisation programmes for judicial officers, police personnel, prosecutors, protection officers and counsellors. These programmes are to be conducted through judicial academies, police training institu-

tions and other suitable bodies.

The court noted that dowry remains deeply rooted in society despite the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. It said tackling the practice requires coordinated efforts from the judiciary, legislature, law enforcement agencies and civil society. The directions aim to make the legal process more efficient and ensure that cases involving dowry do not remain pending for long periods.

India holds talks with BRICS states over declaration

NEW DELHI

India is holding "frank" discussions with all BRICS member states to reach an agreement on a joint declaration for the group's summit in New Delhi next month. The talks come amid differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over the ongoing West Asia conflict.

Preparatory meetings have focused on territorial integrity, protection of civilians and infrastructure, and the uninterrupted movement of maritime trade. India is also pushing for dialogue and diplomacy to help resolve the West Asia crisis.

India will host the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to attend. Xi's visit will be his first to India in seven years, with a

meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expected.

The differences between Iran and the UAE have complicated efforts to prepare a common statement. A BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in May ended without a joint statement because of disagreements between the two countries.

Indian officials have indicated that the chair's statement and outcome document issued after the May meeting could provide a basis for the upcoming declaration. Two paragraphs in that document had not received full agreement.

India's External Affairs Ministry said its BRICS chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". Officials said India is continuing discussions with members to build consensus on key issues before the summit.

TN MLA demands ₹1 crore from Stalin over defamation

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu PWD Minister and TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna has approached the Madras High Court, seeking ₹1 crore in damages from DMK president M K Stalin over alleged defamatory remarks against him. The court on Friday issued notice to Stalin and the DMK Information Technology wing. Justice K Govindarajan Thilakavadi directed the respondents to respond and fixed September 15 for the next hearing.

Arjuna's petition is linked to a civil suit in which he alleged that a post published by the DMK IT wing on its official X account, @DMKITwing, on June 8, 2026, contained false and damaging claims about him. According to Arjuna, the post seriously affected his reputation, dignity, credibility and standing in public life.

In his application, Arjuna argued that the publication



was not simply the work of an individual social media worker. He alleged that it was issued as part of a wider plan and carried out with the directions, approval and supervision of Stalin. He claimed that Stalin, as the party chief, exercised overall authority over the DMK's IT wing and its activities.

Arjuna has asked the court to award ₹1 crore as compensation for the alleged damage caused by the publication. He has also sought an order preventing Stalin

and the DMK IT wing from making or publishing similar statements about him in the future. The allegations made by Arjuna are part of the ongoing legal proceedings and will be considered by the court. The Madras High Court's notice marks the beginning of the court's consideration of the claims. The matter will come up again on September 15, when the responses of Stalin and the DMK IT wing are expected to be placed before the court.

LIQUOR ORDERS GO ONLINE

TN liquor shops shift to digital orders from Sept 1

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) will introduce a fully digital system for ordering liquor stocks at retail shops across the state from September 1. The new system is designed to make stock requests faster, reduce paperwork and help shops receive supplies according to local customer demand.

Under the new process, shop supervisors will use handheld devices to place stock orders. The system will automatically display the eligible quantity for each outlet, arranged according to brands and pack sizes. Supervisors will not

be allowed to reduce these system-generated quantities, but they can increase orders by up to 20 per cent depending on demand.

The new system will also allow supervisors to add registered brands that are not included in their automatically generated list. This provision is intended to help shops meet local preferences. However, every final indent submission will require one-time password (OTP) authentication sent to the registered mobile number of the designated supervisor. TASMAC Managing Director K Nanthakumar issued the directive on Friday, stating that physical submission of indents at

AT A GLANCE
Sept 1: Digital orders begin.
20%: Extra stock allowed
OTP: Required for orders.
No paperwork: Manual orders end

District Manager offices would be completely discontinued. Once the quantities are confirmed through the digital system, the orders will be sent directly to local depots for dispatch. Shop supervisors will have



the main responsibility for checking and confirming the orders.

TASMAC is currently conducting a pilot programme before the system becomes mandatory statewide. During this phase, printed copies signed by

district managers are being processed to assess how well the new system works. The digital process is expected to improve stock distribution, reduce delays and make ordering more organised across Tamil Nadu's retail liquor network.

ABVP workers protest poor college facilities

INDORE

ABVP workers entered the Indore Collectorate while protesting alleged poor basic facilities in Madhya Pradesh government colleges. Police stopped the protesters at the main gate, but some workers removed barricades and entered the premises. The protest focused on improving basic campus infrastructure and facilities for students.

Eyewitnesses said the protesters initially raised slogans outside the collectorate before attempting to enter. After being stopped, some workers reportedly removed the barricades and shook the closed gate of the complex. Police said no untoward incident occurred during the demonstration.

Pandhrinath police station in-charge Satish Patel said no case had been registered so

far in connection with the protest. He also said the situation remained under control throughout the demonstration.

ABVP Indore Maha Nagar unit secretary Devesh Gurjar said the organisation had informed the administration about its planned peaceful protest. He said the workers wanted to submit a memorandum listing their demands but were stopped at the main gate, which angered the protesters.

The demonstration comes amid growing discussions over issues affecting young people and students. ABVP has demanded better facilities in government colleges, while the administration is expected to consider the concerns raised by the student organisation. The incident has highlighted continuing student demands for improved campus infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh.

IIT Delhi Director takes responsibility for student death

NEW DELHI

IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee has rejected demands for the resignation or suspension of senior faculty members following the death of 31-year-old MSc Physics student Rishikesh Kumar. He said he would accept responsibility for any lapses found by an independent inquiry.

Speaking in an interview released by the institute, Banerjee said suspending officials before the inquiry would be unfair because it would suggest that evidence already existed against them. He asked protesting students to wait for the external panel's findings, which are expected in about two weeks.

"I am accountable, I am responsible," Banerjee said, assuring students that the institute would act on the findings. The external panel has been reconstituted and is headed by retired Delhi High Court judge Justice Mukta Gupta. Students have been demand-

ing an independent probe, action against senior officials and compensation for Kumar's family.

Banerjee also admitted that the institute had not done enough on student mental health and wellness. He said the number of counsellors had been increased to 15 and that more counsellors would be recruited. The institute also plans to review its counselling system and introduce mental-health awareness programmes for faculty and staff. The director said IIT Delhi would provide financial assistance to Kumar's family through eligible medical reimbursements and its benevolent fund.

He also assured protesting students that no disciplinary action would be taken against them.

Banerjee said student wellness and infrastructure would remain his priorities for the rest of his tenure and urged students and faculty to work together to rebuild trust.

Marathi rule deadline extended for drivers

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has given auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers one more year to learn basic Marathi, easing protests but increasing tensions between the BJP and Shiv Sena. The language requirement had been strictly enforced from August 20, leading to protests, clashes and a shortage of taxis and autorickshaws across the Mumbai metropolitan region. Many drivers are from North Indian states.

Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, who is considered close to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, had earlier pushed for strict enforcement. Fadnavis announced the extension after meeting representatives of auto and taxi unions.

Quick Read



Teen dies after falling into old borewell

CH NEWS, Kanpur A 16-year-old girl, Yashi Savita, died after falling into an old borewell in Purvami village, Kanpur, amid heavy rainfall. The ground reportedly collapsed, causing her to fall into the muddy pit. Police, Fire Department, SDRF and NDRF teams launched an eight-hour rescue operation, using a JCB and manual digging to reach her. The girl was eventually pulled out and taken to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. Officials said the inquest and post-mortem procedures are underway.

Three more arrested in teen death case in J & K

CH NEWS, JAMMU Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested three more people in connection with the alleged rape and death of a tribal teenage girl in Kishtwar. The girl allegedly died on August 20 after a failed abortion attempt following months of alleged abuse by her school headmaster. A hospital sweeper and two relatives of the headmaster were among those arrested, taking the total arrests to five. The headmaster and his brother were earlier arrested and the headmaster suspended. A Special Investigation Team is conducting a time-bound probe.

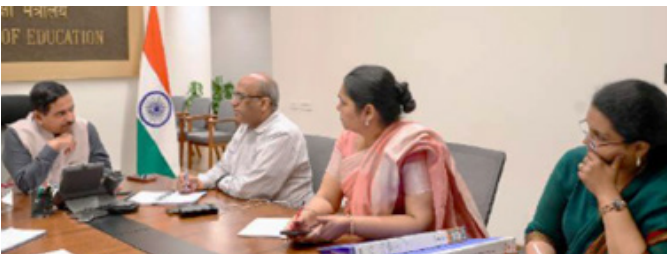
Centre appoints three officers in NTA overhaul after NEET row

After the NEET UG controversy, the Centre has strengthened the National Testing Agency by appointing three senior officers and introducing further examination reforms.

NEW DELHI

The Centre has appointed two directors and a joint director to the National Testing Agency (NTA) as part of its ongoing overhaul following the NEET UG controversy. The appointments were announced through official orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on August 27.

IAS officer Prasanna Venkatesh V and IPS officer Ravi Kumar Singh have been appointed as directors in the NTA. Venkatesh, a 2012-batch IAS officer, has been posted under the Central Staffing Scheme for five years. He has earlier served in senior positions in Andhra Pradesh.



Singh, also a 2012-batch officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed to the NTA for five years. He was earlier associated with the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing as Deputy Commissioner of Police and has now been shifted to the Department of Higher Education.

The government has also appointed 2016-batch Indian

Revenue Service officer Amit Samdariya as joint director at the deputy secretary level. His tenure in the NTA will be for four years, according to the official order.

The appointments are part of wider changes being introduced at the examination agency after protests over alleged irregularities in NEET UG-2026. The Centre has also re-

IN FOCUS
■ 2 new directors appointed
■ 1 joint director appointed
■ 5 years tenure for each director
■ 4 years tenure for joint director
■ 47 NTA officials removed
■ 4-level question paper checking system proposed

moved 47 NTA officials. Further reforms are expected to include changes in outsourcing procedures and a four-level system to check question papers, aimed at strengthening examination security and preventing leaks.



Bihar govt agrees to single-phase TRE-4 exam

PATNA

The Bihar government has agreed to conduct the Teacher Recruitment Examination-4 (TRE-4) in a single phase after talks with protesting students. Following the agreement, student representatives decided to withdraw their protest.

The government will also form an examination reforms committee headed by a Patna High Court judge. The panel will examine students' complaints about recruitment exams and suggest changes to improve transparency and fairness. The meeting also discussed

the demand for a "one candidate, one result" system, the 70th BPSC examination, police sub-inspector recruitment and alleged paper leaks. Officials said action would be taken according to existing rules.

The BPSC has announced recruitment for 32,388 teachers through TRE-4. Applications will be accepted from September 1 to September 30, while the examination date is yet to be announced.

The government also agreed to work on a recruitment calendar and improve transparency in question papers, OMR sheets and answer sheets.

Bihar replaces 'fail' with 'skills eligible' on marksheets

PATNA

Bihar students appearing for Class 10 and 12 board examinations will no longer see the word "fail" on their marksheets. The Education Department has decided to replace it with "Kaushal ke liye patra", meaning "eligible for skills", in a move aimed at protecting students' confidence.

Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari announced the change during a review meeting on Thursday. He said scoring fewer marks should not be treated as a measure of a student's talent. The department will amend the rules, after which the Bihar School Examination Board will issue instructions for implementing

"It is necessary to maintain the morale of children."

- Mithilesh Tiwari, Education Minister

the change.

The minister said the decision was taken to maintain students' morale and encourage them to focus on developing their skills. The department also plans to introduce special classes for students appearing for the Matric supplementary examination. These month-long classes will provide additional preparation and help students improve their chances of clearing the examination.

The decision comes alongside other changes in Bihar's school education system.

Government schools now have shorter Saturdays, with the day being observed as a "no-bag day". Students are expected to take part in activities such as theatre, music and other creative programmes instead of regular classroom work.

The department is also planning wider reforms in teaching and student development. Teachers will use additional time for lesson planning, assessment, remedial classes and other academic work. The latest move on marksheets reflects the government's effort to reduce the emphasis on examination results and give students greater opportunities to build skills and continue their education.

Mamata warns BJP over rally restrictions in Bengal

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Friday accused the BJP government in West Bengal of using the police to create fear and restrict her party's public meetings. Addressing a rally of the TMC students' wing in Kolkata, she said she would challenge such restrictions and continue reaching out to people across the state.

Banerjee alleged that the police had a more humane approach during her government but had now been turned into a "monstrous entity" under the BJP. She accused the ruling party of practising divisive politics and using the police against TMC supporters. She said stopping



I would "walk through the streets" if denied permission for public

- Mamata Banerjee, Former CM

public meetings would not prevent her from meeting people.

The former chief minister said she would soon begin a tour of West Bengal. If authorities refused permission for public meetings, she said she would walk through the streets and

meet people directly. Banerjee also said she did not want to repeatedly approach the courts whenever local administrations denied permission for rallies. Instead, she said her party would seek people's support to hold meetings at the venues it chooses. Taking a sharper tone against the BJP, Banerjee said she would see how many eggs and bricks were available, referring to alleged attacks on TMC leaders in different parts of the state.

Banerjee also accused the BJP of influencing the previous Assembly elections through the Election Commission and alleged that voter names were illegally removed from electoral rolls.

Faridabad station work to disrupt train services for 45 days



NEW DELHI

Railway redevelopment work at Faridabad station will affect train services for 45 days, with nine trains cancelled and 20 others scheduled to skip the station. The work is being carried out to improve the station and support smoother train operations.

The station is located on the Hazrat Nizamuddin-Palwal section and comes under Northern Railway's Delhi Division. Officials said the changes are necessary to facilitate the planned construction and other work at the station.

According to Northern Railway, a power and traffic block will be imposed at Platforms 2 and 3, corresponding to Line numbers 4 and 5. The restrictions will affect the movement

and stoppage patterns of several trains passing through Faridabad.

As part of the changes, nine trains will remain cancelled during the affected period. Another 20 trains will operate without stopping at Faridabad station. Some services may also face platform changes because of the ongoing work.

Northern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said the temporary changes were linked to the station redevelopment work. Passengers travelling through Faridabad have been advised to check train schedules and stoppage details before beginning their journey. The restrictions will remain in place for the planned 45-day work period.

Odisha intensifies food safety checks statewide

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has intensified food safety checks across the state amid continuous rainfall and the upcoming festive season. The drive aims to prevent the sale of unsafe, stale and adulterated food items and was ordered by the state Health and Family Welfare Department.

Food safety teams conducted raids between August 25 and 27 across all 30 districts and six municipal corporations, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Puri, Sambalpur and Berhampur. Officials inspected

food shops, markets and other establishments during the enforcement drive. A total of 3,605 kg of unsafe sweets and stale food were seized and destroyed. Officials also collected 475 suspected food samples for chemical testing. Penalties worth Rs 2,84,500 were imposed on shop owners, while notices were issued to 189 food establishments found violating safety requirements.

State Food Safety Commissioner Dr Poma Tudu directed district teams to continue inspections and take legal action against offenders. Sixty-one

food safety teams have been formed for the drive, with officials from different departments working together to strengthen enforcement. Food Safety Designated Officer Dr Pratikshya Mohapatra said further action would be taken after laboratory reports and responses from establishments receiving notices.

Authorities have also urged consumers to check food quality, cleanliness and labelling before buying products during the festive season. The enforcement drive is expected to continue across Odisha to protect public health.

Punjab CM transfers Rs 181 crore to women beneficiaries

AMRITSAR

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced the transfer of Rs 181.50 crore as three months' Sanman Rashi to 5.30 lakh additional women under the Mawan-Dheeyan Satkar Yojna. With this payment, the total number of women receiving benefits under the scheme has reached 70.92 lakh.

Mann said the government is working to bring one crore women under the scheme. He also announced that Rs 51 crore has already been provided as incentives to 1.38 lakh Satkar Sakhis who helped with



registrations. Another Rs 25 crore will be given to Anganwadi workers for their support.

Addressing a gathering at Baba Bakala in Amritsar district during Rakhri Punia, Mann criticised opposition leaders and accused them of using religion for political purposes. He said people had rejected leaders who, according to him, had ignored public concerns while in power.

Mann also attacked the Aka-

li Dal, accusing its previous governments of failing to address sacrilege cases, drug-related issues and other concerns. He alleged that the party was now seeking an alliance with the BJP mainly to return to power.

The Chief Minister also criticised the BJP over its handling of the farmers' protests against the farm laws. He said Punjabis would remember what he described as the party's unfair treatment of farmers and the state. Mann said the AAP government's focus remained on Punjab and its people, while urging voters not to be influenced by political alliances.

HIMACHAL SWINE FLU
Himachal reports seven new swine flu cases

KANGRA

Swine flu cases are increasing in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, with seven new infections reported in the past two days. Health officials said more than 33 people have tested positive for Influenza A (H1N1) in the district during the last six months. More than 200 people have been tested so far.

Kangra Chief Medical Officer Dr Omesh Bharti said four positive cases were detected on Thursday and three more on Friday. He said health authori-



ties are seeing around five to six cases every month, but there is currently no evidence of an outbreak. He advised residents to stay alert and seek

KEY INSIGHTS
■ 33+ positive H1N1 cases reported in six months.
■ 7 new cases detected in the past two days.
■ 200+ people tested in Kangra.
■ 5-6 cases reported every month on average.
■ No new mutations detected in the circulating H1N1 virus.

medical help if symptoms appear.

People suffering from cold, cough or fever have been advised to wear masks and undergo testing. Dr Bharti also stressed the importance of eating nutritious food and drinking enough water. He said there was no need for panic, but taking preventive measures could help reduce the spread of infection.

The Indian Medical Association has also issued an advisory over the seasonal rise in H1N1 cases during the monsoon. It advised people not to take antibiotics or antiviral medicines

without medical advice and urged patients with serious symptoms to seek immediate treatment.

The IMA said most H1N1 infections are mild and usually resolve on their own. Common symptoms include sudden fever, chills, dry cough, sore throat, body aches, tiredness, headache and a blocked or runny nose. Children may also experience nausea, vomiting or loose stools. The IMA said monitoring remains important, although no new virus mutation has been detected.

Telangana, Maharashtra to discuss water project



HYDERABAD

Officials from Telangana and Maharashtra will meet in New Delhi on September 1 to discuss technical and interstate issues linked to the proposed Tummidihatti barrage on the Pranahita River. The meeting has been called by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and will be chaired by its chairman at Sewa Bhawan.

Senior officials from the Water Resources Departments of both states are expected to attend. The project has remained a point of disagreement, mainly over Telangana's demand to raise the barrage height. Maharashtra has objected to the proposal because of concerns linked to land submergence.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has been seeking the Centre's intervention to find a solution. In May, he wrote to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, seeking talks between the two states. He later wrote to Union

Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil on August 5, asking for active support from the Centre.

The barrage was originally planned at a height of 152 metres. Maharashtra agreed to a reduced height of 148 metres in 2016. Telangana now says the 148-metre level would not provide enough water for northern districts, including Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Medak. Officials have also said that pumping water at this level would increase electricity costs, while gravity flow would not be sufficient.

The project is expected to irrigate about 2.5 lakh acres in Adilabad and support water supply to other areas through gravity flow. Telangana has said it wants the barrage to provide long-term benefits to drought-prone regions without creating a heavy power burden. The September 1 meeting is expected to help both states examine the differences and work towards a mutually acceptable solution.

CBI arrests three in Rs 40 lakh bribe case

NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested two GST officials and a private person in Maharashtra's Raigad district in a Rs 40 lakh bribery case. The accused are Additional Commissioner Vinay Kumar Kantheti, Superintendent Rakesh Kumar Sinha and Narinder Rajput. The case was registered after Sinha allegedly demanded

Rs 1.50 crore to settle a GST and royalty matter involving a stone-quarrying firm. The demand was later reduced to Rs 40 lakh. The CBI laid a trap and arrested Rajput while accepting the money. The officials allegedly acknowledged the payment. Searches at the accused persons' premises led to the recovery of Rs 43 lakh in cash and jewellery worth Rs 90 lakh.

Quick Read

APAC Gen Z lags in mobile cybersecurity

New Delhi
Gen Z users in the Asia-Pacific region are less likely than older generations to use antivirus software or regularly change passwords despite spending significant time online. The survey of about 7,200 people found 56 per cent of APAC Gen Z respondents spend more time online than offline, while 75 per cent use smartphones as their main internet device. Only 26 per cent rated their understanding of digital threats as advanced. Just 22 per cent use mobile antivirus software and 35 per cent regularly change passwords. Meanwhile, 90 per cent experienced at least one cyber incident during the past year.

Sugar prices fall 20% as supply measures intensify

New Delhi
Sugar prices have declined by around 20 per cent as the government stepped up measures to prevent hoarding and ensure adequate supplies in the domestic market. The fall in prices follows increased monitoring of sugar stocks and efforts to curb excessive holding by traders and other market participants. Authorities have been working to maintain sufficient availability and prevent artificial shortages from pushing up prices. The government's measures are aimed at protecting consumers while maintaining stability in the sugar market. Officials are closely monitoring supply and prices across markets to ensure that essential stocks remain available. The decline is expected to provide relief to consumers and help contain price pressures.

IIP growth slows to 6.7% in July

New Delhi
India's industrial production growth slowed to 6.7% in July 2026, compared with 8.8% recorded in June, official data showed. Despite the moderation, July's performance was the second-highest growth recorded by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) since December last year, indicating continued strength in key industrial sectors. The July expansion was mainly supported by the manufacturing sector, along with electricity and gas supply. The improvement in these segments helped industrial activity maintain momentum despite the month-on-month slowdown in overall production growth. Economists said the latest figures point to a mixed picture for the Indian economy. While industrial activity remains relatively strong, concerns over weak rural consumption could affect the pace of growth in the coming months. Rural demand remains an important factor for consumer goods companies and the broader domestic economy.

INDIA, CANADA COMMIT TO TRADE DEAL BY 2026

The meeting occurs as both nations work to restore and grow their trade ties

NEW DELHI

India and Canada have reiterated their commitment to conclude a trade agreement by the end of 2026, marking a renewed push to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. The commitment was made in a joint statement issued after the first India-Canada Finance Ministers' Economic and Financial Dialogue held in Toronto.

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Canadian Minister of Finance and National Revenue François-Philippe Champagne participated in the dialogue and discussed ways to deepen bilateral economic and financial cooperation. The meeting comes as both countries seek to rebuild and expand their commercial relationship.

The joint statement said India and Canada remain committed to completing negotiations on a trade deal by the end of 2026. Both sides discussed measures to increase trade and investment flows and create greater opportunities for businesses in the two economies.

India also expressed its



India and Canada renew trade talks

India and Canada pledged to finalize a trade deal by late 2026 and initiate Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiations. This renewed economic push follows a period of strained relations, highlighting mutual efforts to boost cross-border capital flows and financial cooperation.

readiness to begin negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty at the earliest, according to the statement. Such an agreement is expected to provide a framework for protecting investments and encouraging greater cross-border capital flows between the two countries.

The two finance ministers also discussed wider global and economic issues during their meeting. The dialogue provided an opportunity for India and Canada to exchange views on financial stability, economic growth and cooperation in ar-

eas of mutual interest.

The renewed commitment comes after a period of strained bilateral relations, during which economic engagement between the two countries faced challenges. The latest discussions indicate efforts by both sides to place greater focus on trade, investment and economic cooperation.

Officials from India and Canada are expected to continue discussions in the coming months to advance negotiations. Completing the trade agreement by December 2026 would provide businesses in

Meeting Points

- Trade deal negotiations targeted for completion by late 2026.
- India ready to begin Bilateral Investment Treaty talks.
- Ministers discussed global financial stability and economic growth.
- Engagement aims to rebuild previously strained bilateral ties.
- Focus placed on expanding cross-border capital and investment flows.
- Both sides committed to long-term commercial expansion.

both countries with improved market access and greater certainty for long-term investment and commercial planning.

The finance ministers' dialogue is also expected to establish a broader platform for regular economic engagement. Both countries said continued cooperation would help strengthen bilateral economic ties and support sustainable growth.



India's industrial output grows 6.7 percent

NEW DELHI

India's industrial production grew 6.7 per cent in July compared with the same month last year, supported mainly by strong manufacturing activity, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday.

Manufacturing, which accounts for more than three-fourths of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded 7.3 per cent growth during the month. Of the 23 manufacturing industry groups, 19 reported year-on-year growth.

Motor vehicle manufacturing was among the leading contributors, registering 22.2 per cent growth. Electrical equipment production rose 28.3 per cent, while machinery and equipment manufacturing increased 12.1 per cent. The strong performance of these sectors points to continued industrial activity and investment demand.

The electricity sector also performed strongly, recording 8.7 per cent growth in July. Water supply, sewerage and waste management registered 7.4 per cent growth. However, the mining sector remained weak, contracting 0.9 per cent during the month.

Capital goods production, an important indicator of in-

vestment activity, surged 16.1 per cent. The increase suggests stronger demand for machinery and equipment used by factories and businesses and could support investment, employment and income growth in the coming months.

Consumer durables also recorded double-digit growth of 10.5 per cent during July. The increase covered products such as electronic goods, refrigerators and television sets and indicated stronger consumer demand. Consumer non-durables, including soaps and cosmetics, however, declined 1 per cent. Infrastructure and construction goods production increased 6.9 per cent during the month, supported by continued investment in highways, ports and railway projects.

The ministry also announced a methodological change in the IIP series. Out-put Producer Price Index has been adopted as the deflator instead of the Wholesale Price Index for items whose output is collected in value terms.

The revised methodology covers 234 of the 463 item groups in the IIP basket, representing 36.02 per cent of the index weight. The ministry has consequently revised the entire IIP 2022-23 series and superseded the earlier series released in June.

Jio platforms gets SEBI nod for biggest IPO

The firm operates businesses across telecommunications, digital services, entertainment, technology, and additional consumer-centric platforms.

MUMBAI

Jio Platforms has received final observations from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), clearing the way for what is expected to be the largest initial public offering (IPO) in India. The regulatory approval marks a major step forward for the Reliance Industries-backed digital services company as it

prepares to enter the public markets.

SEBI issued its final observations to Jio Platforms on August 28, according to reports. The development allows the company to proceed with the next stages of its IPO plans, including finalising the issue structure, pricing and launch timeline.

The proposed listing is expected to attract significant attention from investors because of Jio Platforms' strong position in India's telecommunications and digital ecosystem. The company houses businesses spanning telecom, digital services, entertainment, technology and other consumer-focused platforms.

ED freezes ₹ 51.75 crore in DHFL case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen a bank deposit of around Rs 51.75 crore in connection with its money-laundering investigation into the alleged Rs 34,615-crore bank loan fraud involving Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) and its promoters.

The action followed a search operation conducted on August 19 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. According to the ED, investigators found the amount in the bank account of Al Jalore Trading FZE and identified it as alleged proceeds of crime. The deposit was frozen under Section 17(1A) of the PMLA.

The agency said its investigation uncovered transactions involving Hurtmore House, a property in the United Kingdom held in the name of Vanita Wadhawan, wife of DHFL promoter Kapil Wadhawan.

Investigators alleged that a fictitious liability was created in her name through a purported loan agreement between Al Jalore Trading FZE and Vanita Wadhawan. The property was subsequently mortgaged under the arrangement and later sold in 2026. The ED said the sale proceeds were transferred to the Indian bank account of Al Jalore Trading FZE instead of being received by the registered owner. The agency suspects the arrangement was used to create an encumbrance over the foreign asset and facilitate settlement of a liability linked to the DHFL loan fraud.

During the August 19 searches, officials also seized documents and records allegedly connected with the transactions and assets under investigation.

The money-laundering case was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI following a complaint by Union Bank of India on behalf of a consortium of 17 banks.

Sandhya Devanathan leaves Meta, joins OpenAI

NEW DELHI

Sandhya Devanathan, Meta's Vice President for India and Southeast Asia, has left the company after more than a decade to join OpenAI. The ChatGPT maker confirmed that Devanathan will take charge as Vice President for Southeast Asia and Australia, marking a significant leadership appointment as the company expands its presence across the Asia-Pacific region.

Devanathan will be based in Singapore and report to Kiran Mani, OpenAI's managing director for Asia-Pacific. In her newly created role, she will oversee consumer growth, enterprise adoption, partnerships, regulatory engagement and operations across Southeast Asia and Australia. She is expected to help increase the adoption of artificial intelligence among consumers, businesses, institutions and government bodies.

Devanathan joined Meta in 2016 and held several leadership positions during her decade-long tenure. She worked on the company's businesses in Singapore and Vietnam, e-commerce initiatives across Southeast Asia and later led its gaming operations in the Asia-Pacific region. She became Meta's India head in 2023 and subsequently took on responsibility for South-

Stepping into her new position, she will direct consumer expansion, enterprise adoption, partnerships, regulation, and operations across Southeast Asia and Australia.

east Asia.

Her move comes as OpenAI strengthens its leadership team across Asia-Pacific and seeks to expand the use of its AI products in rapidly growing markets. The company has recently appointed senior executives for the region, including Kiran Mani and former Uber India executive Prabhjeet Singh, who is set to lead its India operations.

Devanathan's appointment is expected to strengthen OpenAI's efforts to build partnerships, expand enterprise usage and navigate regulatory requirements across diverse markets. Southeast Asia is already an important region for the company, with Indonesia and the Philippines among its top 10 markets globally for ChatGPT users.

The leadership change highlights the intensifying competition among major technology companies to expand artificial intelligence adoption across Asia.

Rupee rises six paise against US dollar

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee gained 6 paise to close at 95.39 against the US dollar on Friday, supported by lower global crude oil prices and intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, a stronger dollar and continued foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows limited the currency's gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.54 against the dollar and moved between 95.31 and 95.57 during the trading session. It eventually settled at 95.39, compared with 95.45 in the previous session. The currency had declined by one paisa on Thursday.

Market participants said RBI intervention helped prevent sharper depreciation of the domestic currency. Better-than-expected inflows under the FCNR(B) deposit scheme also supported the rupee. The deposits under the

scheme have crossed \$65 billion, according to market experts.

Forex traders said investors are closely watching US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium for signals about the future direction of US monetary policy. The dollar remained firm near a one-week high ahead of the speech, while markets looked for clues on inflation and interest rates.

A stronger dollar could put additional pressure on emerging-market currencies, including the rupee, while a softer US monetary policy outlook could provide support. Global investors are therefore expected to closely assess Warsh's comments for indications about the Federal Reserve's interest-rate path.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 99.21.

Defence reforms boost India's military exports

NEW DELHI

The Department of Defence Production has introduced a series of reforms to simplify rules governing defence exports, aiming to make India a more competitive, reliable and trusted global supplier of military equipment. The Ministry of Defence said the changes are designed to reduce procedural delays, speed up access to international markets and help Indian defence companies respond quickly to overseas business opportunities.

Under the revised Defence Export Standard Operating

Procedure, stakeholder consultation is no longer required for exports of non-lethal defence items to most destinations. Safeguards will continue for sensitive countries. Consultation has also been removed for exports linked to international tenders and exhibitions, allowing companies to showcase their products and pursue overseas contracts more efficiently.

The reforms also simplify the Open General Export Licence (OGEL) system. OGEL allows eligible exporters to obtain authorisation for multiple consignments of specified defence products without

applying separately for every shipment. Three existing OGEL procedures covering major platforms, equipment, components and intra-company technology transfers have been merged into a single framework.

The validity of OGEL has been extended from two years to three years, reducing renewal requirements. Its coverage has also been expanded from 41 countries to all countries except sensitive or restricted destinations, nations under United Nations Security Council sanctions and those facing arms embargoes. A new provision supports Indian compa-

nies with long-term agreements with Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers.

The government has also widened the list of products eligible under OGEL and permitted civil-end-use exports of specified components of small-calibre arms and protective equipment. The reforms are expected to particularly help MSMEs by reducing paperwork and enabling faster participation in global tenders and exhibitions.

The Ministry said the measures support the Make-in-India vision and strengthen India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.



India simplifies Defence Export norms

India revised its Defence Export Standard Operating Procedure, removing stakeholder consultations for non-lethal items and international tenders. The reforms also streamline the Open General Export Licence framework, extending its validity to three years and expanding coverage globally.

Quick Read

Norway's King Harald V dies at 89

Oslo

Norway's King Harald V died at the age of 89 on Friday, ending his more than three-decade reign. The Royal Palace said he died peacefully at Oslo University Hospital after being treated for a bacterial infection. Harald became king in 1991 and was widely respected for modernising the monarchy and promoting tolerance and unity. He remained popular among Norwegians despite health problems in his later years. He had reduced official engagements but had ruled out abdication. His son, Crown Prince Haakon, 53, has now automatically become Norway's new king. Haakon had increasingly taken over royal duties as his father's health deteriorated and had served as regent several times. Harald was also known for comforting Norwegians during national tragedies, including the 2011 terror attacks. His death marks a major transition for Norway's royal family, with Haakon taking the throne at a challenging time.

Afghan police destroy 2.5 tonnes of narcotics

Kabul

Afghan police destroyed more than 2.5 tonnes of illicit narcotics in northern Takhar province, authorities said on Friday. Provincial police spokesman Naqibullah Masroor said the drugs were burned as part of ongoing efforts to combat illegal narcotics. The destroyed drugs included 2,000 kg of opium, 335 kg of hashish and more than 200 kg of methamphetamine. Police warned that strict action would be taken against people involved in producing, transporting or trafficking illegal drugs in the province.

Pitroda alleges India's institutions have been "captured"

Pitroda questioned the Election Commission's independence, noting that political influence over institutions is a major concern.

NEW YORK

Senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda has alleged that India's democratic institutions have been "captured", claiming that the judiciary and Election Commission can no longer be regarded as completely independent. Pitroda alleged that investigative agencies were being used against government critics and that political influence had extended to education, civil society and the media. He questioned the independence of the Election Commission and said the degree of political influence over institutions was an important issue. Pitroda compared the current situation with the tenure of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He said he was not aware of the Prime Minister's Office exerting pressure on constitutional authorities during Singh's administration. However, he acknowledged that political influence could have existed even then, while arguing that its extent mattered. He also criticised the appointment of people associated with the RSS as university vice-chancellors, alleging that



Democracy should involve "give and take" and should not be based on fear or the principle of having things done only according to one's wishes. He argued that the trend towards stronger executive control was not limited to India.

- Sam Pitroda, Senior Congress leader

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER PITRODA CRITICIZES LEADERSHIP STYLE

Sam Pitroda slammed Prime Minister Modi for avoiding press conferences, warning of rising global authoritarianism. He argued that true democratic governance requires transparent citizen communication and consensus building rather than a centralized, command approach.

such appointments interfered with the independence of higher education. Pitroda further claimed that civil society had less space to operate and that critical journalists faced pressure and harassment. He alleged that agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate were being used against people who criticised the govern-

ment. The Congress leader also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's limited interaction with the press. He argued that regular press conferences and direct communication with citizens were important for a healthy democracy. According to him, democratic governance requires consultation, compromise, communication and consensus rather than a command-and-control approach. Citing developments in countries including Hungary, China, Russia and the United States, Pitroda said governments across the world were increasingly displaying authoritarian tendencies. His comments reflect the Congress party's broader criticism of the functioning of democratic institutions under the present government, though the allegations remain political claims and have been contested by supporters of the government.

Hindu diaspora protests killings in Bangladesh

LONDON

Members of the Hindu diaspora staged demonstrations in parts of the United States and the United Kingdom, expressing concern over reported killings and attacks targeting Hindu and other minority communities in Bangladesh. Protesters called on Bangladeshi authorities to take stronger measures to protect minorities and ensure their safety.

At a rally in Jackson Heights, New York City, members of the Hindu community raised concerns about the security of Hindus in Bangladesh. Speakers urged the authorities to take immediate action against those responsible for attacks and called for stronger protection for minority communities.

One protester said Hindus could no longer remain silent in the face of violence and urged the community to stand up and resist attacks. Another speaker criticised the former Muhammad Yunus-led interim administration, alleging that its approach towards mob violence had encouraged criminal elements. The allegations reflect the protesters' views and have not been independently established.

Similar demonstrations were held in London, where protesters raised slogans against attacks on Hindus and carried placards demanding protection for minority communities. Messages included calls to "Stop attacks on Hindus" and "Protect Hindu Communities".

The demonstrations followed the reported killing of four members of a Hindu family in Rangpur city. The victims were identified as retired Rangpur Zilla School teacher Ganapati

swift government action against attackers and increased safety measures for minority communities.

Points
Protesters urge community resistance against violence.
Yunus administration accused of encouraging mobs.
Four Chakraborty family members killed tragically.
London demonstrators demand Hindu minority protection.

Chakraborty, 65, his wife Pritilata Chakraborty, 50, their daughter Agami Chakraborty Prarthi, 23, and their 12-year-old son Priyam Chakraborty, 12.

The incident reportedly took place on August 20, with police recovering the bodies two days later on August 22. The deaths have triggered condemnation and renewed concerns among Hindu groups over the security of minorities in Bangladesh.

The protests came amid continuing political debate over the treatment of religious minorities in Bangladesh. Hindu organisations and diaspora groups have repeatedly called for stronger protection, accountability for crimes and measures to prevent further communal violence. The demonstrations in the US and UK have also brought international attention to the concerns of Bangladesh's Hindu diaspora, with protesters urging governments and rights organisations to monitor the situation closely and press Dhaka to ensure equal protection for all communities.

Bangladesh Positively Weighs Joining Mecca Pact

DHAKA

Bangladesh will positively consider joining the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement if its founding members invite Dhaka to become part of the framework, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman told Parliament on Thursday. The agreement was signed by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan earlier this month and provides for closer defence cooperation among the three countries.

Responding to a question in Parliament, Rahman said Bangladesh had not yet received a formal invitation to join the pact. He said it would therefore be premature to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of membership. However, if the existing members expressed an intention to include Bangladesh, the government would examine the proposal positively.

The minister said Bangladesh would give the highest priority to the interests and needs of the country and its people while considering any defence agreement or alliance. He described the pact as a mechanism for self-defence among Muslim countries and said there was no reason for others to be concerned if the framework expanded.

The government's position received support from Opposition Leader and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman. In a social media post, he said joining the Mecca pact was Bangladesh's own decision. He said any decision taken in the interests and needs of the country and its people should not cause concern to others.

Earlier this week, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kabir said Dhaka had expressed interest in the agreement and was viewing

the proposal positively. He said it would not be unusual for Bangladesh to participate in a security arrangement involving Muslim-majority countries, although no formal decision had been taken.

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement on August 7. The pact aims to strengthen collective security, deepen defence cooperation and promote peace and stability. It includes a mutual defence commitment under which an armed attack on one member would be treated as an attack on all.

Bangladesh's possible participation could have wider regional and diplomatic implications, particularly given its relations with India, China and other major powers. For now,

Dhaka is waiting for a formal invitation before taking the next step.

Iran says diplomacy needs end to pressure

TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said diplomacy between Tehran and Washington can return to the right track if the United States recognises that pressure and coercion do not work. His remarks came after discussions with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who has been involved in efforts to support dialogue. Araqchi said he held what he described as "creative discussions" with the Qatari leader.

Trump administration begins Arizona border wall construction

PHOENIX

The Trump administration has begun construction work on a section of the US-Mexico border wall in southern Arizona despite strong objections from the Tohono O'odham Nation, which says the project threatens its sovereignty and sacred lands.

US Customs and Border Protection said the project is intended to close a longstanding security gap in an area it considers a major route for drug smuggling and migrant crossings. The Arizona section forms part of a broader \$46-billion border security programme involving steel barriers, vehicle barriers and surveillance technology.

The Tohono O'odham Nation, whose territory stretches across the US-Mexico border, has accused federal officials and contractors of entering its reservation without permission. Tribal officials said contractors, accompanied by armed and masked federal agents, began work at several locations earlier this week. Drilling and soil-sampling equipment was brought to the



sites as construction preparations moved ahead. The tribe has warned that the wall could cause significant damage to its reservation, including the destruction of mountain peaks and other locations considered sacred. It also argues that the project could interfere with the boundaries and sovereignty of the Native American nation.

The dispute has already reached federal court. A judge recently allowed the government to proceed, finding that the wall would be constructed within a 60-foot-wide strip of federally owned land known as the Roosevelt Reservation. However, tribal officials argue

that contractors must cross tribal land to reach some construction sites, which they consider trespassing.

The Tohono O'odham Nation, which has about 37,000 members, filed a lawsuit in June seeking to stop the project. Tribal leaders are now considering further legal action as construction continues.

CBP Commissioner Rodney Scott defended the project, saying the remote desert corridor has been associated with drug trafficking, migrant deaths and cartel activity for decades. Officials say the new infrastructure will strengthen border security.

TAIWAN WARNS CHINA RULES COULD RAISE RISKS

TAIPEI

Taiwan has warned that new cybersecurity and border-related rules introduced by China could increase risks for Taiwanese citizens, as tensions between Taipei and Beijing continue to rise. Taiwanese officials and experts have expressed concern that the measures could expand Beijing's ability to monitor, restrict or scrutinise people connected with Taiwan.

The warning comes as China continues to strengthen measures aimed at protecting what it describes as national security interests. Taiwan has increasingly raised concerns about Chinese pressure involving cybersecurity, information operations, espionage and cross-border activities. Taiwan has also been facing millions of cyber intrusion attempts, highlighting the growing



ing importance of digital security.

Taiwanese officials fear that stricter Chinese regulations could affect people travelling to the mainland, conducting business or maintaining professional and personal links with China. They have cautioned Taiwanese citizens to remain alert about the potential legal and security conse-

quences of activities that Beijing may interpret as violations of its rules.

The concerns are part of a broader deterioration in cross-strait relations. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan and has repeatedly opposed moves that it considers supportive of the island's separate political identity. Beijing has also increased military and political pressure around Taiwan in recent years.

Taiwan, meanwhile, has been strengthening its own security capabilities. Its government is investing heavily in drones, cybersecurity and other asymmetric defence systems as it prepares for possible Chinese military action. Taiwan's legislature recently approved more than \$7 billion in funding over six years to strengthen its domestic drone industry and defence capabilities.

The latest warning also comes as Taiwan continues efforts to counter Chinese influence and alleged interference. Taiwanese authorities have previously highlighted concerns involving disinformation, cyberattacks and attempts to obtain sensitive technology. Analysts say the combination of tighter Chinese regulations and rising military pressure could make travel, business and other exchanges increasingly complicated for Taiwanese citizens.

Taipei has urged people with links to mainland China to understand the changing rules and assess potential risks carefully. The developments underline the increasingly complex security environment surrounding Taiwan, where cybersecurity, border controls and political tensions are becoming closely interconnected.

Ukraine strikes Russian missile-carrying aircraft

KYIV

Ukraine has struck a Russian aircraft capable of carrying missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday, as Kyiv intensifies attacks on Russian military infrastructure. Zelenskyy said the aircraft targeted by Ukrainian forces were among those used by Russia to launch strikes against Ukraine.

"These are the aircraft that are carrying out strikes against Ukraine," Zelenskyy said in a post on X, highlighting the significance of the operation. The Ukrainian presi-

dent did not provide detailed information about the weapons used or the full extent of the damage in his initial statement.

The strike reportedly targeted a Russian Tu-95MS missile-carrying aircraft at the Engels military base. The base in Russia's Saratov region is an important facility for Russian strategic aviation and has previously been associated with long-range strikes against Ukrainian targets.

The development came as Russia continued launching large-scale drone and missile attacks against Ukraine. Russian forces carried out succes-

ESCALATION DEEPENS

Long-range strikes by Russia and Ukraine target distant infrastructure, intensifying a conflict marked by recent ballistic and drone attacks. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, both sides remain heavily divided over core issues as military and industrial facilities face growing pressure.

sive drone attacks on Kyiv and surrounding areas on Friday, damaging warehouses, homes and apartment build-

ings. Ukrainian authorities reported at least one death in the region, while several other sites were damaged.

The latest exchange reflects the increasingly long-range nature of the conflict, with both Russia and Ukraine targeting military, industrial and logistical infrastructure far from the front lines. Ukraine has stepped up strikes inside Russia as it seeks to disrupt facilities supporting Moscow's war effort.

Russia also carried out a major air assault against Ukrainian cities, using ballistic and hypersonic missiles along with drones. Ukrainian

forces said they intercepted seven ballistic missiles and hundreds of drones during the attacks.

The strike on the Russian aircraft could further affect Moscow's ability to conduct long-range aerial attacks, although the broader impact of the reported damage remains unclear. Neither the exact operational losses nor the full circumstances surrounding the strike were independently established in the initial reports. The escalation comes amid continuing diplomatic efforts to end the war, with Russia and Ukraine still far apart over key issues.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1 ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.364/2026

Petitioners: Smt. Channakrishnamma D/o Late Lakshmaiah, Aged about 51 years, R/1st Neralaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Bengaluru Rural (D) and others. V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioners by name **LATE LAKSHMAIAH S/O CHELLAIAH** who died on 12.10.1989 at Neralaghatta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 28.09.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 28th day of August 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, P/1 Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate, Channegowda, #19, 1st Floor, Taluk Office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KANATHANDA NANAIAH KARUMBIAH S/o KANATHANDA KUSHALAPPA NANAIAH R/o A-302, Purva Venezia, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed the name of my minor son **K K AARUSH CHINNAPPA** alias **AARUSH CHINNAPPA KANATHANDA KARUMBIAH** aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as **AARUSH CHINNAPPA**.

CH

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Palmeiras Lose Arias Before Mirassol Clash

SAO PAULO

Palmeiras will be without Colombian midfielder Jhon Arias for Sunday's Brazilian Serie A meeting with Mirassol after the league leaders confirmed he has suffered a right thigh hamstring strain.

Arias picked up the injury during Palmeiras' 3-0 home victory over Santos in the Copa do Brasil on Wednesday. Medical examinations carried out confirmed the problem, with the club subsequently announcing that the midfielder would miss the upcoming league fixture. The absence is a blow to Palmeiras as

Palmeiras face Mirassol without injured Colombian midfielder Jhon Arias, while Joaquin Piquerez remains doubtful and captain Gustavo Gomez is cleared for the Brazilian Serie A clash this Sunday night.



Palmeiras Hit By Double Injury Blow:

- Jhon Arias suffered a right thigh hamstring strain against Santos.
- Joaquin Piquerez is doubtful with swelling in his right thigh.
- Palmeiras lead Serie A with 51 points, six ahead of Flamengo.

they look to protect their position at the top of the standings. The club currently have 51 points, six clear of second-placed Flamengo, although Flamengo have a game in hand. Palmeiras could also be without Uruguayan defender Joaquin Piquerez, who is doubtful for the trip to Mirassol because of swelling in his right thigh. Captain Gustavo Gomez, however, was cleared of injury after being replaced at halftime against Santos because of muscle soreness.

The leaders have maintained strong momentum in Serie A. In their previous league outing, Jose Manuel Lopez scored twice in a 4-1 home win over Vasco da Gama. Vitor Roque converted a penalty and Mauricio also scored, while Facundo Colidio netted a late consolation for Vasco. With a demanding schedule continuing, Palmeiras will hope Arias' injury is not serious enough to threaten his availability for future matches. For now, the league leaders must prepare for Mirassol without one of their key midfielders. His absence could force Palmeiras to adjust midfield balance and attacking approach against Mirassol on Sunday.

Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League final after finishing sixth

NEW DELHI

India's two-time Olympic medalist and javelin legend Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Diamond League final after securing a sixth-place finish in the overall standings following the end of the Zurich Diamond League.

Chopra finished sixth with 12 points from the league after participating in only two legs and missing three, including the Zurich one. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage won the Zurich Diamond League meeting with a throw of 92.07m to win the leg from Anderson Peters, who threw his javelin to 86.93m, while Czech Dawid Wegner finished third with a throw of 85.16m. Chopra skipped the Zurich Diamond

League and participated in only two legs this season. He was seen in action in the Lausanne Diamond League earlier this month, where he finished second after hurling his spear to 88.05m, behind Rumesh. Chopra earlier participated in the Doha Diamond League and secured a fourth-place finish with a throw of 85.69m in his return from a back injury, which hampered him last year.

Chopra, who made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Olympic gold in the Tokyo Games, also clinched a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, when he threw his javelin to 85.83m, finishing behind Rumesh. Chopra opened up about his recent battles with injuries after winning the silver medal at the Glasgow Games.



The petition has three key demands: an independent medical assessment including Khan's personal physicians, uninterrupted weekly family visits, and immediate implementation of recommended treatment.

Cummins Backs Imran Khan Medical Plea

SYDNEY

Australia Test and ODI captain Pat Cummins has backed a petition led by former international cricket captains seeking dignified treatment and medical care for jailed former Pakistan captain and Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The petition, led by Australia captain Greg Chappell and addressed to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calls for family access, independent medical examinations and implementation of a court-directed treatment for Khan. Cummins expressed his support in a post on X, saying he hoped the court-ordered medical assessment would be allowed to continue and family visits would remain uninterrupted. He also stressed that Khan should be treated with dignity.

The petition carries signatures from 21 former international captains, including India greats Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Dilip Vengsarkar, along with Sir Alastair Cook, Michael Atherton, Steve Waugh, Adam Gilchrist and Nasser Hussain.

The former captains raised concerns about Khan's health,

21 Ex-Captains Seek Care For Imran Khan:

- Petition signed by 21 former international captains.
- Concerns include reported significant vision loss in Khan's right eye.
- Khan led Pakistan to its 1992 World Cup triumph.

particularly reports of significant vision loss in his right eye. Khan, 73, has spent more than three years in custody. The petitioners have made three principal demands: a comprehensive health evaluation by a Supreme Court-directed medical board including Khan's personal physicians, uninterrupted weekly family visits, and immediate implementation of recommended medical treatment.

Describing themselves as former colleagues and rivals united by their shared cricketing history, the signatories said the bond forged on the field transcends political disputes and national borders.

Khan captained Pakistan to its maiden Men's ODI World Cup title in 1992 and served as prime minister from 2018 to 2022.

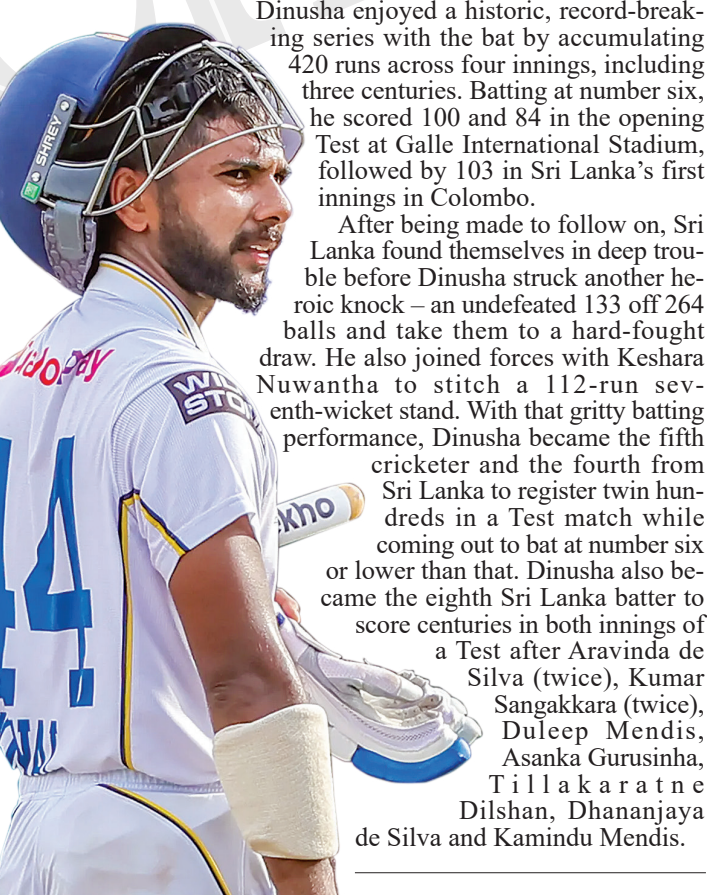
'Special shoutout to Sonal Dinusha': Gambhir praises Sri Lanka batter

NEW DELHI

India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Friday gave a special shoutout to Sri Lanka's breakout batter Sonal Dinusha for his exceptional, match-saving performance for the hosts in the recent second Test at the SSC Ground in Colombo.

Gambhir also praised his own side's character and mental toughness following the 1-0 series win. "Test cricket needs character, patience and mental toughness that's shown by our boys! Special shoutout to Sonal Dinusha for his exceptional performance!" Gambhir posted on his 'X' account on Friday.

The left-handed Dinusha single-handedly thwarted India's victory push in the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), which ended in a draw. Despite missing out on full World Test Championship (WTC) points in the final game, India clinched the two-match series 1-0, having won the opening fixture at Galle by 165 runs.



Dinusha enjoyed a historic, record-breaking series with the bat by accumulating 420 runs across four innings, including three centuries. Batting at number six, he scored 100 and 84 in the opening Test at Galle International Stadium, followed by 103 in Sri Lanka's first innings in Colombo.

After being made to follow on, Sri Lanka found themselves in deep trouble before Dinusha struck another heroic knock – an undefeated 133 off 264 balls and take them to a hard-fought draw. He also joined forces with Keshara Nuwantha to stitch a 112-run seventh-wicket stand. With that gritty batting performance, Dinusha became the fifth cricketer and the fourth from Sri Lanka to register twin hundreds in a Test match while coming out to bat at number six or lower than that. Dinusha also became the eighth Sri Lanka batter to score centuries in both innings of a Test after Aravinda de Silva (twice), Kumar Sangakkara (twice), Duleep Mendis, Asanka Gurusinha, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis.

UEFA asks US court for FIFA documents

MANCHESTER

UEFA has asked a U.S. federal court for permission to obtain testimony and documents from FIFA entities in Florida for use in a planned criminal complaint in Switzerland against FIFA President Gianni Infantino, according to a court filing.

In an ex parte application filed under U.S. law, European soccer's governing body said it is considering criminal proceedings against Infantino and potentially other FIFA officials and advisers over a now-abandoned plan to transfer commercial rights linked to men's and women's World Cups and the Club World Cup into a new subsidiary called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE).

UEFA alleges Infantino developed the proposal in secret with a small group of advisers and investors, bypassing FIFA's normal governance processes and failing to consult FIFA's Council, regional confederations or member associations.

The filing seen by Reuters asks a U.S. court to authorise discovery from FIFA (AMERICAS), Inc. and FWC2026 US, Inc., two Florida-based FIFA entities. UEFA said the organisations may possess documents and witnesses relevant to how the FFE transaction was conceived, structured, valued and approved.

Reuters has contacted FIFA for comment. Infantino previously called FFE a "golden opportunity" to increase football development funding, saying it was only a proposal and would require majority support from FIFA's 211 member associations and approval from the FIFA Council.

UEFA said it and other interested parties were preparing claims in Switzerland against Infantino for alleged criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code. The filing alleges that Infantino and a small group of advisers and investors developed the plan for more than a year without consulting FIFA's Council, regional confederations or the 211 member associations before it was unveiled on July 28. UEFA said FIFA statutes give the Council sole authority to decide how FIFA's commercial rights are promoted.

According to the filing, Infantino designated Thrive Eternal, an investment vehicle controlled by Joshua Kushner and affiliated with Thrive Capital, to lead an investor group. UEFA alleges that the investors stood to acquire a permanent financial interest in FIFA's commercial arm.

Ashish Shelar To Head ESGF

NEW DELHI

Adv. Ashish Shelar, Maharashtra's Minister for Electronics, IT, AI and Cultural Affairs, has been elected president of the E Sports Games Federation (ESGF), a body formed as a rival to the Esports Federation of India.

Shelar was elected during the ESGF Board Meeting in New Delhi on Friday. His candidature was proposed by ESGF founder and acting president Adv.

Nandan Jha and chairperson Ashok Dhyanchand, and was seconded by secretary

Ashish Shelar will lead ESGF as it seeks to strengthen India's expanding esports ecosystem and create better opportunities for players.

general Gursharan Singh. The proposal received unanimous support from Board members and State Representatives present.

The meeting also focused on measures to expand India's esports ecosystem, upcoming initiatives and ways to provide direction to the development of competitive gaming in the country.

Shelar, who has held positions with the Mumbai Cricket Association and the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said his election represented an opportunity to contribute to esports growth.

He also serves as a board member of the Asian Cricket Council.

Velavan Senthilkumar reaches final of Budapest Open squash

BUDAPEST

India's Velavan Senthilkumar will take on local favourite Balazs Farkas in the final of the Budapest Open Squash Championship, a USD 43,500 PSA Copper event in the Hungarian capital. In the semifinals played, eighth seed

Senthilkumar, ranked 54 in the world, beat third seed compatriot Veer Chotrani 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 1-11, 12-10 to advance to his 15th PSA tour final.

This will be the third meeting involving Senthilkumar and Farkas on the tour this season. The Indian won their face-off in 2024, after the Hungarian triumphed in the 2019 match-up.

Earlier on Wednesday night, Eighth seed and World No 54 Velavan Senthilkumar stunned Malaysian World No 18 and top seed Eain Yow Ng 11-2, 11-9, 11-8 in the quarterfinals of the Budapest Open squash, a USD 43,500 PSA Copper event in the Hungarian capital.

Imam Injury Worries Pakistan Camp

LORD'S

Pakistan have suffered an injury setback during the second Test against England at Lord's after opening batter Imam-ul-Haq sustained a strain to his left calf muscle while fielding on the opening day of the second Test against England at Lord's.

The Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed that Imam injured his left calf muscle while fielding on the opening day of the Test on August 27.

Subsequent scans revealed a low-grade strain, and the left-hander is currently undergoing treatment under the supervision of the team's medical staff.

According to the PCB, Imam's availability for the rest of the Test will depend on how well he responds to treatment and recovery protocols. The opener spent time off the field during the evening session on Day One and did not take the field as an opener when Pakistan began their first innings on Day Two.

"Pakistan opening batter Imam-ul-Haq sustained a strain to his left calf muscle while fielding on the opening day of the second Test against England at Lord's."

— Pakistan Cricket Board

"His participation in the remainder of the Test depends on treatment leading to recovery."

— Pakistan Cricket Board

With replacements permitted only in cases of concussion, Pakistan could effectively be reduced to ten available players if Imam is unable to return to action. In his absence, former Test captain Shan Masood partnered Azan Awaiz at the top of the order.

The injury concern came despite a strong performance from Pakistan's bowlers after captain Babar Azam won the toss and elected to field. Mohammad Abbas starred with four wickets and also reached the milestone of 900 first-class wickets during his spell. Mohammad Ali claimed three wickets, while Khurram Shahzad chipped in with one.

England were bowled out for 290 after resuming on Day Two, having ended the opening day on 248 for nine. Pakistan will now hope Imam recovers quickly to avoid further disruption.