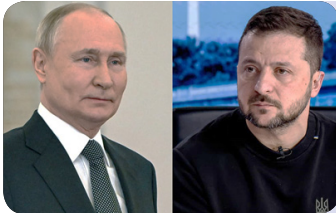




Assam dairy brand enters international market

P8



Trump wants peace, but Putin doesn't: Zelenskyy

P9

Neymar confirms retirement from international football career



RS 10 CRORE FINE | 10 YEAR JAIL | ACTION IN 3 MONTHS

ANTI-PAPER LEAK BILL PASSES LS TEST

The Bill was passed by a voice vote amid ruckus over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 'shooting' charge against Home Minister Amit Shah.

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 by voice vote, approving sweeping changes to the anti-paper leak law that prescribe stricter punishment of up to 10 years' imprisonment and a Rs 50 lakh fine for offenders.

The legislation was passed amid sloganeering by Opposition parties following a stormy exchange over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the police action against student protesters last week.

The Bill, introduced by Union Minister Jitendra Singh on July 27, days after large-scale student protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) forced Dharmendra Pradhan to resign as education minister, now awaits passage in the Rajya Sabha.

It seeks to establish fast-track courts in every state to exclusively try paper leak cases and mandates that investigations be completed within two months.

Besides enhancing punishment for individuals found guilty of leaking examination papers, the Bill also targets organised paper leak syndicates with penalties of up to Rs 10 crore.

Welcoming the passage of the legislation, newly-appointed Education Minister Pralhad Joshi said on X that the amended law would usher in a stronger legal framework to tackle examination malpractices.

Why the bill was brought

The legislation comes in the wake of a 36-day nationwide



Anti-paper leak law will boost fairness, transparency: Joshi

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said the proposed anti-paper leak law, aimed at tightening the legal framework against examination fraud, would help break the "paper leak ecosystem." Joshi, who recently took charge of the Education Ministry following Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, described the legislation as a major step towards restoring trust in the examination system. In an X post, he said, "The Lok Sabha has passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, ushering in a tougher legal framework to combat exam malpractices. With stricter penalties, fast-track courts, enhanced probe mechanisms and stringent action against exam fraud, the Bill aims to dismantle the paper leak ecosystem and increase transparency."

agitation against the alleged NEET paper leak led by the CJP, which began at Delhi's

Anti-Paper Leak Bill 2026

Anti-Paper Leak Bill 2026 aims to strengthen the Public Examinations Act, 2024 through stricter penalties, fast-track courts and enhanced security measures

KEY FEATURES

Up to 10 years jail for those who leak exam papers.
Maximum fines over ₹10 cr for organized groups.
Penalties up to ₹1 cr, cost recovery, and a four-year ban for flawed exam centers or logistics groups.
Establishes special courts for the speedy trial and disposal of paper leak and exam malpractice cases.
Provides enhanced imprisonment and higher monetary penalties for individuals and organised groups involved in examination fraud.
Targets criminal networks involved in paper leaks through stricter investigation and prosecution.
Promotes secure handling and transmission of question papers using advanced cybersecurity measures and encryption.
Fixes responsibility on exam authorities and service providers for maintaining exam integrity.
Ensures fair opportunities by safeguarding the examination process from unfair practices.
Strengthens coordination among investigating agencies for effective detection and prosecution of offences.
Creates a stronger legal deterrent to reduce cheating, impersonation, and question paper leaks in public examinations.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT

Rising paper leak incidents: Frequent leaks have compromised the integrity of recruitment and entrance examinations.
Stronger legal deterrence: Existing provisions require tougher penalties to discourage organised examination fraud.
Speedy justice: Fast-track courts are needed for the timely investigation and disposal of paper leak cases.
Protection of merit: Ensures that deserving candidates are selected based on merit rather than unfair practices.
Restore public trust: Rebuilds confidence in the fairness and transparency of public examinations.

The Lok Sabha has passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, ushering in a tougher legal framework to combat examination malpractices.



—Pralhad Joshi, Union Education Minister



Jantar Mantar on June 20 and gathered momentum after activist Sonam Wangchuk joined an indefinite fast on June 28.

The movement reached a flashpoint on July 20 when police stopped protesters marching towards Parliament, triggering allegations of ex-

cessive force, including claims that pellet guns were used against students.

While the Delhi Police has denied using pellet guns, the CRPF has not publicly responded to allegations involving the Rapid Action Force.

The protests ended on July 25 after the government accepted several key demands of the agitators, including the resignation of Pradhan, "maximum possible compensation" for families of NEET paper leak-related suicide victims, and withdrawal of all FIRs filed by Centre and state governments.

Bill to tighten delayed birth, death registration rules tabled in LS

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday introduced the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, seeking to make the process for delayed registration of births and deaths more stringent. It was introduced by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai after Speaker Om Birla invited opposition members to oppose its introduction. However, no member spoke against it. The legislation, cleared by the Cabinet on July 20, proposes changes to Section 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, which was amended in 2023. Under the existing law, registrations delayed by over one year require approval from the district magistrate, sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), or an executive magistrate before being recorded. The proposed amendment introduces a two-level approval system based on the period of delay. For registrations delayed between one and two years, the existing approval process will continue. However, cases where the registration is delayed beyond two years will require an order from a first-class judicial magistrate.

K'taka to challenge CWRC order: CM

'The state will request TN CM Vijay, during his proposed visit to Karnataka, to conduct an aerial inspection of the situation in Karnataka's Cauvery basin to understand the ground realities'

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said the state would appeal against the direction to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. He also said his government was preparing its legal response and would seek immediate relief through the appropriate forum.

The CM invited his Tamil Nadu counterpart C Joseph Vijay, to visit the Cauvery reservoirs to see for himself the prevailing water scarcity due to the extreme drought.

Shivakumar said the state had held consultations with Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy, the Advocate General, legal experts and senior officials following the order, while the final decision on the legal course would be taken after further discussions. "Against the CWRC order, we are appealing," Shivakumar told reporters in New Delhi.

He said Karnataka had already discussed the matter with Reddy and officials before deciding to challenge the directive.

The CM said the legal team was preparing the state's response after the latest order. "Following yesterday's order, we have to prepare our response. Today, the Advocate General, our legal experts and all the officials are making the necessary preparations," he said.

On legal strategy, he said the government had completed consultations with senior lawyers and ministers.



Dispute details

CWRC directive: Release 3,500 cusecs per day at Biligundlu for 15 days from July 29, 2026.

Ground realities and protests: Actual release requirements might touch 6,000 to 7,000 cusecs due to transmission losses, triggering public protests in Mandya, Mysuru, and Bengaluru.

The appeal: Karnataka plans to move the CWMA following legal consultations.

State stand: Inflows into Cauvery basin reservoirs are over 65% below normal averages, leaving water only for essential domestic and drinking needs.

Asked whether the appeal would be filed before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) or the Supreme Court, Shivakumar said the government would proceed step by step.

"We will proceed stage by stage. After one stage is completed, we will decide the next course of action. What we need immediately is interim relief. Whoever it may be before, we need immediate relief," he said.

'Vijay open to discuss the Cauvery issue'

The CM disclosed that Vijay had expressed his desire to meet him to discuss the Cauvery issue.

"I have requested that he should also visit the Cauvery reservoir region in our state and see the ground situation for himself. We have even offered to arrange a helicop-

CM proposes all-party meet on Cauvery issue: DyCM

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has proposed convening an all-party meeting following the CWRC's direction to the state to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. Highlighting that the state was not in a position to release water due to shortage, even for drinking water needs, he said the government would take an appropriate decision. "The CM has proposed to call an all-party meeting. Such issues keep arising. When water is available, they (TN) need not ask; we release it. Whether it was last year or the year before, we released more water than what was allocated to them," he said.

ter for his inspection. Ultimately, it is up to him to decide. He should speak based on facts and firsthand experience." Shivakumar said.

'Will discuss with Opposition leaders'

He said he would also hold discussions with Opposition leaders after returning to Bengaluru and would take the final call after completing the consultation process.

Singh gets SS clean chit in coal block scam case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave a clean chit to former prime minister Manmohan Singh in the coal block allocation scam case, nearly two years after his death.



The order by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana brings a legal vindication to Singh, who died in December 2024 while his appeal against the summoning order remained pending before the apex

court for more than a decade.

The bench observed that although Singh was no longer alive, the legality of the order summoning him warranted judicial scrutiny.

"Due to the unfortunate demise of the appellant, this appeal could be disposed of as infructuous. But with a view to consider the

aspect of the learned special judge taking cognizance and summoning the appellant, we have gone through both closure reports filed by the CBI," stated the order.

➔ More on page 7

K'taka Cabinet expansion talks spill over again

BENGALURU

Congress leaders, including Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former CM Siddaramaiah and KPCC president BK Hariprasad, are camping in New Delhi for the nod of Congress high command for Karnataka cabinet expansion.

The leaders held a final round of talks with AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal at the latter's residence in Delhi on Tuesday evening, and they were anticipated to meet with the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress figure Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday.

However, the meeting did not take place as Rahul Gandhi was occupied with the winter session of Parliament.

If the leaders manage to discuss the matter with Rahul on Thursday, the cabinet expansion and swearing-in ceremony of the new ministers are likely to happen in Bengaluru on Friday.

QUICK READ

IIT Kharagpur Prof found dead inside campus KOLKATA

The hanging body of a professor was recovered from the IIT Kharagpur campus in West Midnapore district on Wednesday. As per the police, Deepak Reddy Pullaguram (36), an assistant professor in the electrical engineering department, hailed from Hyderabad. He stayed in the IIT campus quarters due to work. His body was recovered from his room in the quarters on Wednesday afternoon. Police are investigating how he died and whether it was a case of suicide or if there were other reasons behind it. According to campus sources, Deepak was not responding since morning.

2 from Assam killed after tree falls on them MADIKERI

Two women labourers from Assam were killed and two others sustained serious injuries after a tree fell on them while they were working at a coffee plantation site at Biligere village in Somwarpet of Kodagu on Wednesday. The deceased are Aleeman (48) and Partena Kartaram (32), both migrant workers from Assam employed in the coffee estate. Mangala Sabbar (38) and Alesha Khatum (25) suffered severe injuries and are undergoing treatment. As per Tahsildar KK Krishnamurthy, the accident occurred when a tree, that had already become weak, collapsed onto the workers.

E20 PETROL ROW

'Pre-2016 vehicles may need minor tweaks for blended fuel'

NEW DELHI

Some Bharat Stage (BS)-III vehicles, which were introduced from April 1, 2005, and manufactured before 2016, may require certain rubber parts and gaskets to be replaced before being run on E20 petrol, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari stated in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Upper House, Gadkari said that extensive studies conducted by Indian Oil Corporation, the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the



Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) found no need to modify engines of either cars or two-wheelers for the use of E20 fuel.

The studies showed that even older vehicles did not experience any significant changes in performance or abnormal wear and tear after operating on petrol blended with

The studies showed that even older vehicles did not experience any significant changes in performance or abnormal wear and tear after operating on petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol.

—Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport and Highways Minister

20 per cent ethanol, the minister said.

"No issues were reported in parameters such as drivability, startability, metal compatibility, and plastic compatibility," Gadkari said.

"Only in case of testing done on BS-III vehicles introduced from 1st April, 2005, and manufactured prior to 2016, some

rubber parts and gaskets may require replacement, which can be easily managed during the routine servicing regime of the vehicle," he observed.

Addressing concerns over fuel efficiency, Gadkari said automobile manufacturers and vehicle-testing agencies had clarified that mileage depends on multiple factors and cannot be attributed solely to the use of E20 fuel.

Gadkari said the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been implemented through a "phased, calibrated, scientifically validated and consultative approach."

He also highlighted that ethanol-blended fuel has been

E20 controversy

Motorists and opposition leaders have raised concerns over potential drops in fuel efficiency, long-term engine damage in older pre-2023 cars, and a lack of consumer choice for unblended fuel, while the government maintains the transition is safe and lowers emissions.

used globally for over a century, with countries such as Brazil operating on even higher ethanol blends for decades.

QUICK READ

**Sai Mandir arranges special darshan for devotees**

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Sri Venkateswara Sai Mandir Temple in Sunkadakatte, Chowdeshwari Nagar, Pipeline, hosted special Guru Purnima celebrations with grand decorations for Sai Baba, Sri Venkateswara, and Lakshmi Devi deities. The temple has arranged darshan facilities for devotees from 7 am to 10 pm, expecting around 4,000 to 5,000 visitors. Food arrangements have also been made for devotees throughout the day. Temple president Dhanalakshmi Mahesh and chief priest Sandarsha said that aarti and annadan programs are held every Thursday and Saturday evening, offering blessings and spiritual experiences to devotees.

Somashekar launches development works in Yeshwantpur

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Yeshwantpur MLA S. T. Somashekar launched road, drainage, and basic infrastructure development works at blocks 7 and 9 near Muddina Palya Venkateswara Temple in Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout, Ullal Ward. He said complete development of the constituency remains a priority, with efforts underway to improve facilities across all 12 wards. Somashekar highlighted plans for better roads, drinking water supply, and quality education for students in rural areas under 17 Gram Panchayats. Several Congress leaders, ward representatives, BDA officials, and residents attended the event, supporting the ongoing efforts to strengthen public infrastructure and improve local facilities.

Bengaluru Police face theft allegations during visit

CH NEWS, BENGALURU A homemaker in Bengaluru has accused a Police Sub-Inspector and constable from Varthur Police Station of taking valuables during a house visit linked to a family dispute investigation. The woman, Umera, submitted CCTV footage and complaints to the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner and Karnataka State Human Rights Commission. She alleged that police personnel entered her home in Prakash Layout without a search warrant and valuables, including gold jewellery, cash, sarees, watches, sunglasses, and mobile phones went missing. Authorities are expected to review the evidence and investigate the allegations to determine the facts.

Bengaluru West strengthens tree management system

The Commissioner directed priority tree management, canopy maintenance, and proper identification details on forest wing vehicles for public assistance

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. inspected the forest wing's staff and equipment management system and directed officials to improve tree maintenance operations across the corporation limits. The inspection included canopy management teams and Rapid Response Teams working for public safety.

The Commissioner instructed officials to conduct priority-based management of roadside trees and ensure proper maintenance of tree canopies. He also directed that forest wing vehicles should display the corporation name, assembly constituency details and help-line number for easy public identification.

Officials were asked to introduce biometric attendance for forest staff, ensure timely salary payments and provide necessary safety equipment. Regular health check-ups for workers were also ordered. The Commissioner suggested restructuring existing night shifts, day shifts and Rapid Response

**City officials plan 100 saplings per constituency**

The Corporation Commissioner directed forest officials to conduct the 'Hale Beru Hosa Chiguru' campaign within city limits to increase greenery through tree plantation. The initiative focuses on planting saplings after removing dried or cut tree stumps, or growing new plants in suitable spaces around existing stumps. The Commissioner

instructed officials to plant 100 large-growing saplings in each Assembly Constituency area and identify 'Vrikshamitras' to protect them. Citizens will also be involved in selecting suitable plantation spots. Assistant Conservator of Forests Santhosh Kumar and Deputy Range Forest Officers attended the meeting held at the Corporation office.

Siddharaju warned of statewide protests if the government does not soon permit quarry and crusher operations to resume

Quarry owners warn statewide shutdown over closures

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In the wake of the rock collapse that killed seven people at a quarry near Bengaluru, 65 quarries in the city district have been closed. Karnataka State Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Association president D. Siddharaju said the move has affected around ten thousand workers who depended on these units for employment.

He said prices of M sand and gravel have increased by Rs 500 to Rs 600 per ton due to govt policies after temporary restrictions were imposed on quarry operations. He added that the affected quarries had received environmental approvals and mining licences and were following safety rules. However, the shutdowns have created difficulties for construction activities and workers.

Siddharaju warned that if the government does not allow quarry and crusher operations soon, protests will be held across the state. He said a petition was submitted to senior

**Key demands of the quarry owners**

- Association demands immediate permission to restart quarry operations statewide.
- Owners seek review of safety compliance before reopening units.
- Quarry operators urge balanced solution protecting workers' livelihoods.

officials requesting immediate permission to restart work. He also warned that all quarries and crushers could be closed statewide if their demands were ignored. The association said the decision would also impact government revenue from the mining sector. The owners claimed that last

year mining activities generated significant tax revenue for the state. They urged authorities to find a balanced solution ensuring safety and protecting livelihoods. Officials were requested to review the situation quickly and permit operations after meeting necessary safety requirements.

6 Panchayat Officers suspended over party allegations

BENGALURU

Six Panchayat Development Officers and other staff members from Bengaluru Rural district have been suspended following allegations of drinking alcohol and partying during official working hours.

The action was taken after reports claimed that government employees had gathered near Siddarbeta while they

were supposed to be on duty. Reports stated that a Panchayat officer, two secretaries, and a second-grade accounting assistant from different Gram Panchayats had attended the gathering on June 24. Notices were issued to those involved, seeking explanations about their actions. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Ishwar Khandre directed officials to take strict action if

the allegations were found to be true.

Bengaluru Rural District Chief Executive Officer Dr. Vasanti Amar later issued suspension orders against the employees on July 29. The officers suspended include PDOs from Shivagange, Agalakuppe, Gollahalli, Manne, Sompura, and Bettakote Gram Panchayats, along with other supporting staff members.

Bengaluru strengthens position in renewable energy sector

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With growing concerns over the global oil crisis due to conflicts in the Middle East, experts have stressed the need to adopt electric vehicles and renewable energy solutions. Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Principal Secretary of the Department of Public Enterprises and Administrative Reforms, said Bengaluru is becoming a major centre for green technology during the launch of the 8th India Green Energy Expo and Green Vehicle Expo at BIEC.

He said the state has strong potential in solar and wind energy sectors and can contribute significantly to India's renewable energy goals. The country aims to achieve 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. Pandey also highlighted the need to replace traditional agricultural pumps with solar-powered systems to reduce electricity expenses.

The exhibition displays electric vehicles, battery technology, charging systems, solar products and energy-saving innovations.

He said such platforms can connect industries, investors, researchers and the public while creating employment opportunities and encouraging



technology development.

Karnataka has emerged as a leading state in green technology, with progress in solar power, battery solutions and electric mobility.

The three-day event also includes a national conference discussing policies, investments and future opportunities in green energy and transportation.

Officials said the expo will help create awareness about sustainable solutions and promote cleaner technologies. The initiative aims to support environmental protection, energy independence and long-term development by encouraging wider adoption of electric vehicles and renewable energy across the country.

The campaign will inspire citizens and businesses to embrace modern energy choices while building a greener future through innovation cooperation and responsible practices that benefit communities and generations.

Ramalinga Reddy opposes water release amid drought

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to challenge the Cauvery Water Control Committee's order to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy said an appeal will be filed before the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

Speaking in Bengaluru, the minister said the state is facing drought conditions and reduced water inflow into Cauvery basin reservoirs. He said rainfall shortage has affected drinking water availability in several districts, including Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mandya. The minister stated that meeting the CWRG order would be difficult due to the current water situation.

Ramalinga Reddy explained that Karnataka has limited water storage after



Ramalinga Reddy said Karnataka has limited water storage, while Tamil Nadu has reservoir availability and expected northeast monsoon support

considering drinking water needs and maintaining river flow. He said Tamil Nadu has water available in its reservoirs and is also expected to receive northeast monsoon rainfall, while Karnataka may not get similar support from seasonal rains.

The minister said the gov-

ernment will take legal and technical advice before submitting the appeal. He added that experts will examine all aspects of the issue while presenting Karnataka's concerns before the authority.

Responding to BJP protests over the CWRG order, Ramalinga Reddy said the government has not agreed to release water to Tamil Nadu and questioned the criticism. He said the same legal experts and advisers were involved during the previous BJP government.

On Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's possible visit to Karnataka, the minister said discussions had taken place with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, but there was no official confirmation about the visit. The Cauvery water dispute continues to create political debate as Karnataka seeks relief from the order while highlighting its own water challenges.

Children spread Tiger awareness through cultural walk

BENGALURU

A special cultural program was organised at Ravindra Kalashetra in Bengaluru to mark International Tiger Day and spread awareness about tiger conservation.

The event was conducted by the Art Cultural Educational Enlightenment Foundation to educate children about the importance of protecting wildlife and forests. The programme featured a unique cultural walk where more than a hundred children dressed in tiger costumes par-

ticipated. A photography exhibition displaying rare tiger images was also organised to highlight the beauty and importance of the national animal. The event focused on creating awareness among young minds about the challenges faced by tigers.

Dr. Ambika C, founder of the ACE Foundation, said the organisation has been running a tiger conservation campaign for seven years. She explained that tigers help maintain the balance of nature and stressed the need to teach children about wildlife protection.

Karnataka HC cancels NICE Road land acquisition notice

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has provided relief to hundreds of farmers by cancelling the land acquisition notification linked to the NICE Road project.

A two-judge division bench upheld the earlier decision of a single-judge bench that had rejected the acquisition process carried out by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board. The bench, led by Justice D.K. Singh, dismissed the appeal filed by NICE against the earlier order. The court observed that serious concerns had been raised over alleged irregularities during the project, including claims of lake and land encroachment. It stated that a detailed high-level investigation was necessary to examine these issues. The court also highlighted allegations that farmers had not received proper compensation despite large amounts being collected through toll charges from road users. It noted that govt action over the alleged irregularities was not sufficient and suggested the need for an independent investigation, forensic audit of the entire process.

DEADLINE DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner orders speedy execution of infrastructure projects

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to speed up major flyover and underbridge projects across the city and complete them within the scheduled deadlines.

The instructions were issued during a review meeting on ongoing infrastructure works.

Officials were asked to complete the Ejipura flyover, Yelahanka flyover, Wind Tunnel underbridge and Okalipuram Ashtapatha corridor



projects at the earliest. The Commissioner stressed the need for better coordination and faster execution to avoid further delays.

At the Ejipura flyover site, officials were instructed to

Key highlights of the meeting

- Commissioner directs faster completion of major city infrastructure projects.
- Ejipura flyover works accelerated with pending tasks addressed.
- Yelahanka flyover reaches 80 percent project completion milestone.
- Wind Tunnel underbridge targeted for November completion deadline.
- Okalipuram corridor works focus on connectivity and drainage.
- Officials instructed improving coordination to avoid project delays.

quickly install Portal Frame 6 and complete ramp works at Indiranagar and Madiwala sections. Contractors were

also asked to arrange additional jacks required for bearing installation to speed up construction activities.

For the Okalipuram Ashtapatha corridor, the Commissioner directed officials to complete road connectivity works near the railway station, drainage construction and retaining wall works within the given timeline.

He also ordered the removal of debris, concrete slabs and waste from railway areas through coordination with railway authorities.

The Wind Tunnel underbridge project was reviewed with instructions to complete the remaining retaining wall work quickly and finish the entire project by Novem-

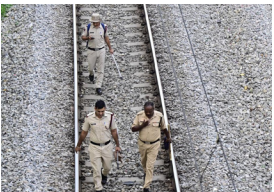
ber. Officials were also asked to complete pending work at the Manipal Hospital section.

The Yelahanka flyover project has reached 80 percent completion.

Officials were directed to immediately relocate KPTCL utilities and finish the remaining work.

Senior officials from various departments attended the meeting and reviewed progress on these important transport projects aimed at improving traffic movement and connectivity in Bengaluru.

QUICK READ



Human head found near cricket ground

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Police recovered a human head near a cricket ground in Bengaluru on Wednesday, a day after a headless body was found on nearby railway tracks. The head was discovered about 200 metres from the tracks, and officials suspect stray dogs may have dragged it to the ground. Police believe the remains belong to a 28-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh who may have died in a railway accident. Railway Police, Varthur Police, forensic teams, and other officials inspected the spot. Authorities have registered an unnatural death case and continued their investigation to confirm the identity and circumstances.

Over 84 lakh voters identified during roll revision: V. Anbukumar

BENGALURU

The special comprehensive revision of electoral rolls is underway in Karnataka, with over 84 lakh ASDDO voters identified during the verification process. Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar said that 76.99 percent of enumeration applications have been digitized across the state. According to officials, 5.54 crore enumeration forms were distributed, out of which 4.26 crore forms have been digitized so far. During the verification process, 84,31,612 voters were identified under categories including absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate and other cases. Anbukumar explained that among the identified voters, 11.61 lakh were found missing, while 51.74 lakh had permanently shifted from their registered addresses. Around 14.99 lakh voters were reported deceased, and 5.62 lakh people were found registered in more than one place. Another 33,042 cases were listed under other categories. The Chief Electoral Officer urged citizens to submit pending enumeration forms to Booth Level Officers at the earliest. He said around 43

Vijayapur Airport may begin flights in three months: Patil

The minister said environmental clearance was mandatory, while the latest court order eased delays and allowed approval processes to continue

BENGALURU

The Vijayapur Airport project has received a major boost after the Supreme Court removed environmental clearance-related hurdles. Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil said the airport could begin operations within three months if the required approvals are completed on time. A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered the final verdict, clearing the way for further procedures related to environmental permissions. Patil welcomed the decision and thanked the legal team, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advocate Kapil Sibal and other government representatives who supported the state's case. The minister explained that



environmental clearance is mandatory for public interest projects and the airport project had faced delays due to earlier court directions. He said the latest order has provided relief and allowed the authorities to continue the approval process. Following the verdict, the Union Environment Ministry will examine applications seeking environmental clearance for the airport. After receiving approval, the Director General of Civil Aviation will inspect the completed works at

Patil raises concern over Cauvery Water release

Karnataka Minister M B Patil said releasing 4.50 TMC of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu is difficult due to poor rainfall and low water storage in the state's reservoirs. Speaking to reporters, he said water sharing becomes easier during good monsoon years, but drought creates challenges. Patil highlighted the need for the Mekedatu reservoir project, saying it can help store water and benefit both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He added that Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy, and central officials should review the situation and find a suitable solution.

the airport before operations begin. Patil said the Supreme Court had earlier provided temporary relief to projects awaiting clearance while conducting a detailed review. The latest judgment has now given permanent relief, allowing the Vijayapur Airport project to move forward. The airport construction has

received an investment of more than Rs 614 crore. Once operational, the facility is expected to improve connectivity and support economic development in Kittur Karnataka and nearby regions. The government hopes the airport will provide better travel opportunities and strengthen growth in the area.

BMSCE launches skill courses for engineering students

BENGALURU

BMS College of Engineering has introduced five major skill courses under the Visvesvaraya Technological University Skill Lab Framework to provide students with practical knowledge and industry-based training. The college has opened the Skill Lab with an annual investment of ₹3.2 crore, helping engineering students gain important skills before completing their education. The initiative aims to improve career opportunities and prepare students for future professional challenges. The program will benefit

around 3,250 students studying at BMSCE and has been included as part of the regular curriculum instead of being an additional course. Students will earn five skill credits during their first three years and can also receive certifications from globally recognized companies. College Principal Dr. Bhimesh Arya said the institution has signed agreements with 12 companies for skill development. Partnerships with organizations such as L&T and Edu-tech will support training in areas including Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, VLSI Design and Cyber Security.

KEA changes PC exam timing

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examination Authority has changed the timing of the written examination for Civil Police Constable posts under the Kalyana Karnataka cadre. The exam, scheduled for August 2, will now begin at 4 pm instead of the earlier announced 2:30 pm timing. Offi-

cials said the change was made after candidates raised concerns about travelling between morning and afternoon examination centres located far from each other. KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said the revised examination will continue until 5:30 pm, while the morning sessions will be conducted as planned without any changes.

Head Constable attacked after bus misconduct allegation

BENGALURU

A head constable from Sanjaynagar Police Station was allegedly assaulted by a group of youths after a woman accused him of inappropriate behaviour while travelling on a BMTC bus. The incident reportedly took place on Tuesday evening near Gangammanagudi Circle. According to preliminary details, head constable Manjunath was travelling towards Jalahalli when the woman allegedly raised concerns about his conduct, leading to an argument inside the bus. The woman reportedly contacted her relatives, and after the bus reached Gangammanagudi Circle, a group of youths allegedly stopped Manjunath and attacked him.

Siddaramaiah criticises Joshi over education role

BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has criticised the appointment of Prahlad Joshi as Education Minister, saying the decision has disappointed people of Karnataka. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the allocation of the education portfolio and assign it to a suitable person. In a statement on social media, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka should have felt proud that a state leader received an important national responsibility. However, he alleged that Joshi's past statements on sensitive issues made his appointment unsuitable for the position. Siddaramaiah accused Joshi of supporting the release of convicts involved in the Bilkis Bano case and ques-



Siddaramaiah criticized Joshi over Bilkis Bano convicts' release support, questioning his suitability to lead education and stressing student-focused leadership

tioned whether a person with such views should handle the education sector. He said the ministry requires leadership focused on students, teachers

and social responsibility. The former Chief Minister also compared Joshi with former Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging that both leaders have similar ideological backgrounds. He claimed that their views on social issues were a matter of concern and demanded a change in leadership. Siddaramaiah further said opposition leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi had raised questions about Joshi's role in Parliament. He added that while debates inside the House may end, public discussions on important issues would continue. The remarks have sparked political debate between the ruling and opposition parties, with the education ministry appointment becoming the latest issue of disagreement in Karnataka politics.

BMTC denies claims over electric bus service issues

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation has rejected reports claiming that hundreds of electric buses remain off the roads daily. BMTC said 1,760 electric buses are currently operating across Bengaluru through four authorised operators and are providing regular services according to planned schedules. The transport body stated that its electric fleet is managed by NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited, Switch Mobility Automotive Limited, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Limited, and OHM Global Mobility Private Limited. BMTC said it continues to work with these operators to maintain smooth operations and ensure reliable public transport for passengers. BMTC clarified that temporary unavailability of a small number of buses is normal in

any large transport system. The Corporation explained that technical maintenance, battery servicing, inspections, and other operational requirements may cause short-term service interruptions. It said such situations should not be considered a major suspension of electric bus services. The Corporation also stated that regular monitoring and maintenance activities are carried out to improve safety and efficiency. BMTC reaffirmed its commitment to expanding electric bus services and providing dependable transportation across Bengaluru. Officials said coordination with operators will continue to ensure better service management and reduce inconvenience for daily commuters. The clarification came after concerns were raised over the availability of electric buses on city routes.

Bengaluru protesters challenge Cauvery Water regulation decision

BENGALURU

Protests have intensified across Karnataka after the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee ordered the state to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for two weeks. Several pro-Kannada groups and farmers' organizations have opposed the decision, raising concerns over water availability in the state. The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike held a major protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, where hundreds of activists gathered under the leadership of state president T.A. Narayana Gowda. Protesters raised slogans against the CWRC order and demanded that the government protect Karnataka's interests. Narayana Gowda said the state should not release water as Karnataka's reservoirs have limited storage due to poor rainfall. He claimed that Bengaluru requires significant water supplies for drinking purposes and warned that releasing water could affect citizens and farmers. He urged the government to

challenge the order legally and present the state's water situation before the court. He also said Cauvery is an emotional issue for Kannadigas and called for strong action to protect farmers' rights. However, he opposed frequent bandh calls and said protests should be planned properly as they are the final stage of any movement. Other Kannada organizations also protested in different parts of the state. Leaders including Praveen Shetty and Vatal Nagaraj criticized the water release decision and warned of stronger protests if the order is implemented. Nagaraj said a Karnataka bandh could be called if water is released to Tamil Nadu. The ongoing dispute has increased political and public pressure on the state government. Leaders have demanded legal action and a review of the decision while stressing the need to protect drinking water supplies and agricultural interests in Karnataka. The issue continues to remain a sensitive matter between the two states.

Leopard sightings increase fear among Byadarahalli residents

BENGALURU

A leopard sighting in Byadarahalli has created fear among residents after the animal was spotted for the fifth time in a month. The leopard was captured on a house CCTV camera in Bharat Nagar

at around 3:27 am. People going for work and morning walks are worried, while children and elderly residents are avoiding stepping outside. Locals have expressed concerns over the forest department's efforts to drive away the animal instead of catching it.

B'luru restaurants warn possible Swiggy, Zomato boycott

BENGALURU

Food delivery services through Swiggy and Zomato may face disruption after August 15 as Bengaluru hotel and restaurant associations have warned of a possible boycott. The associations are demanding solutions for issues related to commissions, discounts and additional charges. Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association president S. Subramanya Holla said discussions will be held with both platforms before taking any final decision. Meetings with Swiggy and Zo-



mato are expected soon to find solutions and improve the current system. Restaurant owners have raised concerns over high commission rates, which they said

can reach around 28 percent. According to the association, these charges force restaurants to increase menu prices to manage losses. Smaller businesses are reportedly facing more dif-

iculties due to limited financial tracking systems. The associations also objected to discounts being offered by delivery platforms without approval from restaurant owners. They said such practices affect business earnings and create problems for eateries. Additional charges for long-distance deliveries and advertisements without proper consent have also been raised as concerns. Holla said restaurants want a transparent commission structure and better communication from delivery platforms. If their demands are not addressed after

discussions, restaurants may stop accepting orders through these platforms. The associations stated that several restaurant groups across Bengaluru support their concerns. The upcoming meetings between restaurant representatives and delivery companies will decide whether services continue normally or face restrictions after the deadline. The issue has highlighted growing concerns among eateries about costs, control over pricing and the impact of online food delivery platforms on their businesses.

QUICK READ

Four held in
Veeranna murder
case

Tumakuru

Tumakuru police have solved the recent murder case of Veeranna near Bellagumba and arrested four accused. The arrested persons have been identified as Chetan, Shivakumar, Sandeep and Kumar. Police said Veeranna was allegedly attacked with deadly weapons near a farm on the Devarayanadurga-Tumakuru Road, close to Bellagumba village in Kasaba Hobli, between 7.20 p.m. and 8.50 p.m. on July 26. A case was registered at Kyatsandra Police Station under Crime No. 197/2026 and Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Following an investigation, police traced and apprehended the four accused in connection with the case.

Petrol theft
racket alleged
near Kolar

Kolar

An alleged petrol theft racket is reportedly operating along the border areas of Kolar district, with fuel being siphoned from tankers and sold at reduced prices. The illegal activity is said to be taking place near Alambadi in Malur taluk, where petrol and diesel tankers arriving from Devanagondi in Bengaluru Rural district are allegedly stopped along roadsides. A gang is suspected of systematically stealing fuel from tankers meant for petrol pumps. The stolen petrol and diesel are reportedly being sold at lower prices, causing concern among fuel station owners. Petrol pump operators have urged the authorities to investigate the alleged racket and take strict action to prevent fuel theft and curb the illegal trade.

Legal awareness,
health camp held on
August 3

Mandya

A legal awareness programme and free health check-up camp for senior citizens will be held at 10 a.m. on August 3 at Kaveri Bhavan, Zilla Panchayat, Mandya. The programme is being organised jointly by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Mandya District Judiciary, district administration and other departments. Retired High Court Judge Justice R. Gururajan will inaugurate the event. Principal District and Sessions Judge C. Chandrashekar will preside. District Judge and Karnataka State Legal Services Authority Member Secretary H. Shashidhar Shetty will be present. Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar, ZP CEO K.R. Nandini, SP Dr Shobharani V.J. and other officials will attend.

MLA Darshan opposes Cauvery
water release to Tamil Nadu

MLA warned that people would launch an intense public agitation if water was released despite the prevailing shortage in Karnataka.

MANDYA

MLA Darshan Puttannaiah has strongly opposed the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) direction to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, stating that Karnataka was facing a severe shortage of water even for drinking purposes.

Speaking in Mandya, Puttannaiah said the State government should not release water to Tamil Nadu under any circumstances.

The MLA questioned the basis on which the CWRC had issued the order and alleged that the committee had failed to adequately consider the situation in Karnataka. He said Karnataka's residents were struggling to secure sufficient drinking water, while Tamil Nadu was seeking wa-



ter for agricultural purposes. "The priority must be to protect the drinking-water needs of the people and livestock in Karnataka. The State government should clearly place the prevailing situation before the concerned authority," he said.

Puttannaiah expressed dissatisfaction over the direction to release water for 15 days and urged the Karnataka government to challenge the order through appropriate legal

measures if necessary.

He also questioned whether the State government had effectively communicated the actual water situation and the difficulties faced by people in the Cauvery basin to the authorities.

"The government should not release water merely because an order has been issued. It must protect the interests of Karnataka and pursue all available legal options," he said.



People in the Cauvery basin are facing a serious scarcity of drinking water. The authorities must understand the ground reality before issuing such directions.

Darshan Puttannaiah, MLA

Stating that the Cauvery water dispute recurs almost every year, Puttannaiah called upon citizens dependent on Cauvery water, including residents of Bengaluru and people living across the Cauvery basin, to unite and participate in a public movement to safeguard the State's water interests. He said the government must give priority to meeting the drinking-water requirements of Karnataka's people and livestock before considering any release for other purposes.

Farmers seek
drought relief
measures

MAGADI

The Karnataka State Kempegowda Farmers' Organisation submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar, urging the government to take immediate measures to address the problems faced by farmers due to insufficient rainfall across the state.

Led by organisation founder and state president Balenahalli Shivanna Gowda, the delegation highlighted the severe crisis in the agricultural sector caused by the lack of expected rainfall.

Speaking on the occasion, Shivanna Gowda said crops sown months ago were drying up due to inadequate rains, leaving farmers worried about heavy financial losses.

phones, cameras, wristwatches, handbags, belts, caps, goggles, food items or water bottles into the examination centres.

Candidates must strictly follow the prescribed dress code. Long-sleeved clothes and garments covering the ears, head or face will not be permitted. Other than nose pins and mangalsutra, metal ornaments are prohibited. Candidates will also not be allowed to wear shoes and must come wearing simple footwear.

Candidates appearing in special religious attire have been instructed to report to the examination centre two hours before the commencement of the examination for security verification. Such candidates will be permitted to take the examination after necessary checks. Wearing of sacred threads such as Janivara and Shivadhara will be allowed.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to ensure that no lapses occur at examination centres and that the examination is conducted successfully according to KEA regulations.

A total of 4,526 candidates have registered to appear for the examination in the district.

Meeting sets Police
Constable Exam guidelines

■ Written examination scheduled for August 2.

■ Nine centres arranged across the district.

■ Strict security measures and CCTV surveillance mandated.

■ Candidates must report by 8 am.

■ Prohibited items banned inside examination halls.

coordination to maintain security and preserve the sanctity of the examination.

The examination will be conducted from 10.30 am to 12 noon on Sunday, August 2. Candidates must report to their respective examination centres by 8 am and will be allowed entry into the examination halls only after mandatory security checks.

As per KEA guidelines, strict frisking will be conducted before entry. Candidates will not be allowed to carry items such as chits, geometry boxes, pencil boxes, plastic pouches, calculators, scales, writing papers, pen drives, mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, earphones, micro-

Preparations complete for
Police Constable Exam

After days of disruption over demands of opposition parties after a meeting of floor parties after a meeting after a meeting

CHIKKABALLAPUR

All necessary arrangements have been completed to conduct the written examination for the direct recruitment of Civil Police Constables in a transparent, smooth and peaceful manner, Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu said.

He was speaking while chairing a preparatory meeting for the Civil Police Constable recruitment examination held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in the District Administration Building.

The written examination will be held on August 2 at nine examination centres across the district. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and ensure that all required facilities are provided at the examination centres, including proper seating arrangements, drinking water and sanitation facilities.

He directed officials to ensure proper installation and functioning of CCTV cameras at all examination centres to monitor every stage of the examination process.

G. Prabhu stressed that all departments should work in

BJP delegation surveys drought in Kanakapura

RAMANAGARA

A BJP delegation led by Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council Chala-vadi Narayanaswamy on Wednesday visited drought-affected areas in Kanakapura, the home constituency of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and urged the State government to announce relief measures without delay.

The BJP has launched a statewide exercise to assess the

drought situation following a shortage of rainfall in several parts of Karnataka. As part of the initiative, the delegation visited Kanakapura taluk and interacted with farmers to understand the difficulties faced by them.

The team visited Mallegowdanadoddi and Sasalapura villages, where it inspected banana and arecanut plantations reportedly drying up due to an acute shortage of water. The delegation also visited dried-up lakes and water bodies and assessed

the impact of inadequate rainfall on agriculture and local water resources.

The BJP leaders listened to the concerns of farmers, who highlighted the difficulties caused by crop losses, water scarcity and the prolonged absence of adequate rainfall.

Former MLA N. Mahesh, MLA Srivatsa, Legislative Council members Gopinath Reddy and Raghukautilya, along with local BJP leaders, were part of the delegation.

Action plan ordered
for Melukote temple
development

MANDYA

Mandya Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the protection of temple properties and the overall development of the historic Sri Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple at Melukote in Pandavapura taluk.

The directions were issued during a meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara and attended by the MLA representing the Melukote Assembly constituency.

Officials informed the meeting that surveys had been completed for 22 of the temple's total 49 properties. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to conduct surveys of the remaining 27 properties on a priority basis.

The authorities were instructed to erect fencing around all temple properties and install signboards to clearly identify and protect them. Officials were also asked to effectively pursue cases relating to temple properties that are pending before courts and take all necessary measures to prevent encroachment or misuse.

The meeting also discussed plans to improve facilities for devotees and strengthen tourism-related infrastructure in and around Melukote.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to prepare a detailed and integrated development plan covering the construction of a pilgrims' accommodation facility, development of the tourist guest house and construction of additional public toilets.

The proposed action plan will also focus on introducing an improved queue-management system to provide a smoother and more convenient experience for devotees.

The status of temple properties and discussed measures for their protection, development and improved facilities for devotees.

MELUKOTE TEMPLE
PLANS FOCUS ON
DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIALS REVIEWED MELUKOTE TEMPLE PROPERTY SURVEYS, DIRECTING PRIORITY MAPPING OF REMAINING LANDS, STRICT FENCING, AND ANTI-ENCROACHMENT STEPS. PLANS ALSO INCLUDE NEW PILGRIM ACCOMMODATION, PUBLIC TOILETS, AND AN IMPROVED QUEUE-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO ENHANCE DEVOTEE EXPERIENCES.

Officials were asked to examine the construction of dedicated counters for temple services and the distribution of prasada.

Development and conservation works relating to the Ashta Theerthas, mandapas and other heritage and public infrastructure were also included in the proposed plan.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated action among the Revenue, Muzrai and other concerned departments to ensure the protection of temple assets and the timely implementation of development works.

The meeting was attended by the Pandavapura Sub-Divisional Officer,

Tahsildar, officials from the Muzrai and Revenue Departments, the temple Executive Officer and members of the temple management committee.

HDK reviews arrangements
for Chennamma's final rituals

HASSAN

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the final rituals of Smt. Channamma, mother of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, which will be held on Thursday at her sacred memorial site near Sri Ranganathaswamy Hill in Mavinakere, Haradanahalli.

A day before the ceremony, H.D. Kumaraswamy, along with his brother and former minister H.D. Revanna, inspected the preparations at the memorial site. The rituals are expected to witness the participation of more than two lakh people from across the state.

Considering the arrival of dignitaries, five helipads have been kept ready. Around six lakh invitation cards have reportedly been distributed across households. Special arrangements have been made for devotees to visit the memorial and receive prasada.

A seating arrangement has

been created to accommodate around 22,000 people in a single row for prasada distribution. Due to the possibility of rain, 15 large German tents have been installed, including three sections reserved exclusively for women. Separate arrangements have also been made for dignitaries.

The organisers have arranged prasada equally for all visitors without any distinction. More than 20 varieties of food items, including dishes preferred by Channamma, will be served. Over 5,000 workers are involved in preparing and managing the arrangements.

The prasada menu includes rice payasa, boondi, kai holige, kajjaya, badam halwa, idli-sambar, dosa, puliyogare, bisi bele bath, masala vada, uddina vada, kosambari, vegetable kootu, rice and majjige huli among other items.

Speaking emotionally, Kumaraswamy said the affection shown by people towards his

mother was a reflection of the love and care she had extended to everyone during her lifetime.

He described his mother as a person who treated everyone who visited their home with warmth and affection.

He said all arrangements have been made for the 11th-day ceremony and requested people to participate and pray for the peace of his mother's soul.

The rituals will begin at 10 am on Thursday,

and prasada distribution will continue from morning till evening.

Kumaraswamy said the place where his mother rests has become a sacred spot for their family and expressed his belief that it would develop into a centre dedicated to helping the poor and the needy in the future.

He assured that not even an inch of the land would be misused and that it would be dedicated to public welfare.

Farmer leader denies taking ₹15 lakh

MAGADI

Magadi Taluk Farmers' Association president Hospadalya Lokesh on Wednesday strongly denied allegations that he had accepted ₹15 lakh from an MLA to withdraw a protest against a proposed water-supply project for the Sattagala-Dabaspet industrial area.

Addressing a press conference at the Tourist Bungalow in Magadi, Lokesh said he had not received "even a single paisa" from anyone and challenged those making the allegations to prove their claims.

"I am ready to light campor and take an oath before Sri Ranganatha Swamy that I

have not accepted any money. Those making the allegations should also take the same oath. The truth will then be known," he said.

Lokesh alleged that some people who had left the Farmers' Association were spreading false information to damage his reputation. He maintained that he had consistently fought for farmers' rights and had never compromised the organisation for personal or political gain. "If the allegations are proved, I am ready to resign. I did not wear the green shawl for show or personal benefit. I have worn it to raise the voice of farmers," he said.



QUICK READ

Gadag tourism invites ST canteen applications

Gadag

The Department of Tourism has invited applications from eligible Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates for financial assistance to purchase mobile canteen vehicles under the SSCP/ TSP scheme for 2024-25 and 2025-26. Applicants must belong to the Scheduled Tribe community, have passed Class 10 and be aged between 20 and 55 years. Application forms will be available from August 1 at the office of the Assistant Director, Department of Tourism, Gadag. Interested candidates must submit their applications by August 17. For further information, applicants may contact the Assistant Director's Office, Department of Tourism, AC Office Building, Gadag-582103, during office hours or call 08372-233017.

Hiriyur minor pregnancy case under probe

Chitradurga

A 17-year-old student allegedly became pregnant after a relationship with a goods vehicle driver and gave birth to a baby boy in Hiriyur taluk of Chitradurga district. According to police sources, the minor was staying in a hostel while pursuing her pre-university studies. During this period, she reportedly developed a relationship with Kariyanna, a goods vehicle driver. After her pregnancy came to light, her mother took her to the Hiriyur Taluk Hospital, where she delivered a male child. A case has been registered against Kariyanna under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused is reportedly absconding, and police have launched efforts to trace him.

Karwar to observe De-Addiction Day

Karwar

De-Addiction Day will be observed at 11 a.m. on August 1 at Shivaji Arts, Commerce and BCA College, Baad, Karwar, to mark the birth anniversary of Sri MNP Dr Mahant Shivayogi. The programme is being jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Information and Public Relations, Karnataka State Temperance Board and the college. Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Agency Limited Chairman and MLA Satish K. Sail will inaugurate and preside over the event. Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, legislators and other dignitaries will participate. Psychiatrist Dr Suhas will deliver a special lecture.

Ashoka criticises government over drought declaration

R. ASHOKA SAID IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO DEMAND FUNDS WITHOUT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCING DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

DAVANAGERE

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka criticised the Karnataka government for not declaring the state as drought-affected while seeking financial assistance from the Centre.

Ashoka made the remarks after leading a BJP drought assessment team that visited Nerlige village in Davanagere district to study the impact of rainfall deficiency and crop losses. He urged the state government to immediately declare drought and take measures to support farmers.

He said only around 19 per cent of sowing had been completed in Davanagere district due to poor rainfall, while arecanut plantations had suffered severe damage. Criticising the compensation announced for crop losses, he said the amount provided for

damaged arecanut trees was insufficient.

Ashoka questioned the state government's demand for ₹10,000 crore assistance from the Centre without declaring drought. "On what basis is the government seeking funds? Without a drought declaration, how can assistance be provided?" he asked.

He alleged that the state treasury was empty and accused the government of failing to provide funds for welfare schemes, pensions and farmer support.

He challenged the government to release a white paper on its financial position.

The opposition leader demanded compensation for damaged arecanut and coconut trees, allocation of ₹50 crore for each

State govt over drought relief and treasury crisis

■ **Low Sowing & Crop Damage:** Only 19% of sowing is complete in Davanagere due to poor rainfall, and arecanut plantations have suffered severe damage with insufficient compensation provided.

■ **Central Assistance Questioned:** Criticized the state for demanding 10,000 crore rupees from the Centre without officially declaring a drought.

■ **Financial Allegations:** Accused the government of an empty treasury, failing to fund welfare schemes, and challenged it to release a white paper on its finances.

Assembly constituency, and immediate solutions to fodder and drinking water problems. He said the BJP would raise the issue in the Assembly after completing drought studies across the state.

Ashoka also criticised the government over water release from reservoirs to Tamil Nadu and

alleged that the state's interests were being ignored.

He said Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru could face water shortages if adequate precautions were not taken.

The BJP drought assessment team included former minister Byrathi Basavaraj, MLA B.P.

Harish and other party leaders.

Water conservation gets top priority under scheme

KARWAR

Water conservation works will receive top priority under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission-Gramin (VB-G RAM-G) scheme, said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr Dileesh Shashi.

Chairing a district-level progress review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat conference hall on Wednesday.

He noted that groundwater levels have already declined in the taluks located above the Western Ghats, resulting in several borewells drying up.

To improve groundwater levels and find long-term solutions to drinking water problems, water conservation-centred works will be given greater emphasis under the scheme, Dr Shashi said. The initiative will provide wage employment to rural residents while strengthening water resources and improving the long-term water security of villages.

The process of identifying ponds within gram panchayat

The coastal and lower-Ghat regions, saline water has begun appearing in drinking water wells, creating concerns over the availability of safe drinkable water.

The scheme would focus on generating employment while implementing sustainable water conservation projects to address the district's growing groundwater and drinking water challenges. Dr Shashi, Zilla Panchayat CEO

limits has already begun. Comprehensive development plans will be prepared for the identified water bodies to improve their storage capacity and ensure their effective use.

The proposed action plans will also include the construction of groundwater recharge units for individual and community borewells. Other works will focus on the restoration of traditional water sources and the creation of flood-protection structures.

Gadag to observe Addiction-Free Day

GADAG

An Addiction-Free Day programme will be organised on August 1 to mark the birth anniversary of Sri M.Ni.Pra. Dr Mahanta Shivayogi. The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Golden Jubilee Hall of Adarsha Education Society near the hockey stadium in Gadag-Betageri.

The programme is being jointly organised by the Gadag district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Karnataka State Temperance Board, Bengaluru, Department of Information and Public Relations, Gadag, and Sri D.S. Kurtakoti Memorial PU College of Adarsha Education Society.

Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti will attend the programme as the chief guest. Gadag MLA Dr H.K. Patil will inaugurate the event and preside over the function.

Several elected representatives, public leaders and officials are expected to participate as chief guests. They include Government Chief Whip and MLA Saleem Ahmed, Karnataka Mineral Development Corporation Chairman and Ron MLA G.S. Patil, former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai, MP P.C. Gaddigoudar.

Practical skills essential alongside education: Horatti

Urging students to draw inspiration from the vachanas of Basavanna and Akkamahadevi and incorporate their values into their lives.

VIJAYAPURA

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj S. Horatti called upon women students to acquire practical skills along with formal education, stating that skill development was essential for success in the modern competitive world.

He was speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Decennial Building and participating in the Foundation Day celebrations at Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University on the outskirts of Vijayapura.

Horatti said women played a crucial role in the development of the country and should equip themselves with diverse skills in addition to becoming educated. He encouraged students to develop innovative thinking and strive for excellence in their chosen fields.

"Women can achieve success in any field if they are determined,"

He said knowledge, education and self-confidence could help women reach higher positions in life. Recalling the establishment of India's first science academy in Karnataka

and its inauguration by former President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Horatti highlighted Karnataka's significant contribution to education and research.

He noted that women could achieve major success even through small enterprises. Citing the example of a childhood friend who became a successful entrepreneur by providing tailoring training to women, he urged students to overcome the belief that they were incapable of achieving their goals.

"Women are not confined to the kitchen. They are making their presence felt in the judiciary, police, healthcare, education, administration and several other sectors," he said. He urged students to make effective use of the opportunities available to them and move forward with confidence.

He also appreciated Horatti's contribution towards securing grants for several unaided schools in Karnataka and encouraged students to pursue quality education and aspire to become senior officers.

Former Vice-Chancellor of

Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Prof. S.V. Halase, who attended as the chief guest, said Akkamahadevi Women's University had emerged as an important gateway to higher education for women students in North Karnataka.

He stressed that women students should give greater importance to skill development alongside academic education to showcase their talents in different fields. Skill-based education, he said, had become a key factor for success in today's competitive environment.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vijaya B. Korishetty outlined the university's academic progress, infrastructure development and initiatives undertaken for the educational empowerment of women students since its establishment. Legislative Council member Hanumant Nirani, Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. B.L. Lakkannavar, Registrar Shankargouda D. Somanal, Finance Officer Ramannagouda Athani, faculty members and students were present.

Appanna's work ethic, service inspiring: Santosh

CHITRADURGA

The ideological thoughts of Basavadi Sharanas and the dedication to work, honesty and spirit of service demonstrated by Shivasharana Hadapada Appanna remain highly relevant to modern life, said Santosh S., lecturer at Sri Siddaganga Pre-University College, Davanagere.

Delivering a special lecture at the Shivasharana Hadapada Appanna Jayanti celebrations held at the City Deputy Commissioner's office hall on Wednesday, he said the principles and teachings of the Sharanas should be adopted in daily life to give true meaning to such commemorative celebrations.

The programme was organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture and the City Municipal Council.

Santosh said Hadapada Appanna played a significant role in the Kalyana revolution of the 12th century. As a close secretary and trusted associate of Jagajyoti Basavanna, Appanna stood firmly beside him and supported his ideas and decisions.

He said Basavanna placed Hadapada Appanna at the forefront of efforts to eliminate superstitions, blind beliefs and harmful social practices prevailing in society.

The lecturer recalled that the spiritual unity and devotion shared by Appanna and his wife Lingamma served as an ideal for the Sharanas. He added that Jayanti celebrations would attain their true purpose only when people incorporated the philosophi-

cal messages of the Sharanas' vachanas into their everyday lives.

Santosh said Hadapada Appanna's vachanas encouraged people to understand themselves and engage in self-introspection before finding faults in others. He noted that Appanna composed more than 250 vachanas and strongly opposed superstition, exploitation and social inequality through his teachings on Shatsthala and other spiritual principles.

He also remembered Lingammathayi as an eminent woman Sharana who demonstrated spiritual devotion and the ideals of Jangamatva while leading a family life. Among the 770 Amaraganas, 60 were women, including 30 women vachana poets, he said.

Hadapada Appanna also played an important role as a loyal Sharana of Basavanna and as a link between knowledge and devotion when Alama Prabhu and Siddharama came to Kalyana, Santosh added.

Department of Kannada and Culture Deputy Director Dr B.M. Gurunath welcomed the gathering and delivered the introductory address. Floral tributes were offered to the portrait of Shivasharana Hadapada Appanna.

Tahsildar Tanuja T.S., District Physical Education Officer Chidananda Swamy, District Hadapada Samaja Seva Sangha president K. Nagaraj, Taluk association president Vrishabhendrappa, former Zilla Panchayat member Papanna and several community leaders were present.

'Hadapada Appanna's teachings inspire society'

MANGALURU

The contributions of 12th-century Vachana poet and social reformer Hadapada Appanna to society are immense, and his principles should be followed in daily life, said Mangaluru Urban Development Authority Chairman Sadashiva Ullal.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Shivasharana Hadapada Appanna Jayanti programme held at Tulu Bhavana, Urwa Store, Mangaluru, on Wednesday. The event was

organised jointly by the Dakshina Kannada District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture, and with the cooperation of Hadapada Appanna Samaja Seva Sangha, Mangaluru.

Delivering a special lecture, Harish T.G., Assistant Professor of the Kannada Department at Alva's College, highlighted the significance of Hadapada Appanna's contributions to the Vachana movement. He said Appanna, who served as the close secretary

of Basavanna and was honoured with the title 'Nijasukhi', believed that truth was the source of happiness and words carried the light of wisdom.

He explained that Hadapada Appanna was one of the prominent Sharanas of the 12th-century Vachana movement and worked towards creating an ideal society. Through his dedicated commitment to his profession and social values,

he became a role model for generations. His Vachanas op-

posed caste discrimination and inequality while promoting social reform.

Harish T.G.

noted that Appanna's writings highlighted the importance of dedication to work, service, devotion, and ethical values in a simple and meaningful manner.

Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar Bhoomareddy, Hadapada Appanna Samaja Seva Sangha President Malesh B., and Honorary President Gururaj were present on the occasion.

FARMERS BEGIN AGITATION

Koppal farmers demand water for 11-a canal

KOPPAL

A massive rally and foot march will be organised from Anjanadri Hill to the Tungabhadra Dam headquarters at Munirabad on July 31, demanding the release of water up to the 11-A sub-canal of the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal, farmer leader Dr Basavaraj Kavatar said.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP district office in Koppal on Wednesday, Dr Kavatar said farmers would begin the agitation by offering prayers at Anjanadri Hill. They would then travel in a



tractor and motorcycle rally up to Hital Cross, from where a foot march would be taken out to the Karnataka Command Area Development Authority (CADA) office at Munirabad.

He warned that if the Tungabhadra authorities failed to release water as demanded, an indefinite dharna would begin in front of the CADA office on the same day.

Dr Kavatar said farmers

Farmers protest over Tungabhadra water release

■ Farmers demand release of 1.5 TMC of water.

■ Protesters cite legal water rights under tribunal.

■ Government ignores previous memorandums and representations.

■ Leaders plan major rally with local MLAs.

■ Authorities warned of responsibility for agitation consequences.

had earlier staged a protest at

Munirabad on July 20 and submitted a memorandum seeking the release of 1.5 TMC of water, sufficient for one crop season, up to the 11-A sub-canal. A representation was also submitted to the Deputy Commissioner on July 21, but no response had been received from the government, he alleged.

According to the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal award and the water rights associated with the Koragal Anicut canal system, farmers in the region have the first right over the water, he said. "The government is refusing to re-

lease water despite the legitimate rights of farmers. We will not allow farmers' rights to be taken away," he added.

Former MLA Paranna Munavalli said the demand for the release of water from the Tungabhadra reservoir into the canals was justified. He said a preparatory meeting had already been held at Pampa Sarovara and that farmers must receive their rightful share of water.

Munavalli said he and MLA Janardhan Reddy would lead a large number of people in the rally.

He warned that if the au-

thorities failed to release water as promised, the government would be held directly responsible for any untoward developments arising from the agitation.

Dr Kavatar appealed to farmers, youth and women from the Tungabhadra Left Bank command area to participate in large numbers and make the movement successful.

Legislative Council member Hemalatha Nayak, BJP district president Naveen Gulagannavar, Khaja Hussain Hosalli and others were present at the press conference.

QUICK READ

Tributes Paid to Channabasappa Nalawad in Hubballi

Hubballi

Members of Horkeri Master Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee paid heartfelt tributes to Sri Channabasappa Totappa Nalawad, father of renowned physician Dr Mahesh C. Nalawad, who passed away at the age of 95. During the Shivaganadhadhane ceremony, members garlanded his portrait and offered respectful homage. Former Minister and MLA C.C. Patil, senior member Gangamma C. Nalawad, Dr Suresh D. Horkeri, Dr Mahesh C. Nalawad, Sugandha Nalawad, Anasuya Patil, Kubergowda Patil and others attended. Dr Horkeri expressed deep condolences, prayed for eternal peace and offered heartfelt to the departed soul.

BLOs complete enumeration form distribution in Gadag

Gadag

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is underway in the Gadag Assembly constituency, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conducting door-to-door visits and distributing enumeration forms to eligible voters. The constituency has a total of 2,33,829 registered voters and 226 polling stations. BLOs will continue visiting households and distributing enumeration forms until August 8. As of July 28, all 2,33,829 enumeration forms had been distributed, while 1,92,901 forms had been digitised. The progress was announced by the Electoral Registration Officer and Gadag Sub-Divisional Officer in an official statement.

Six workers detained for ganja consumption

Kumta

Kumta police have detained six centring workers from West Bengal for allegedly consuming ganja in public places and registered three separate cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The police conducted operations at three locations in Kumta town. Two workers were detained near Cashew Factory Road in Hosa Herwatta, two at Murur Gudd and another two near Gas Godown Road on Railway Station Road. Medical examinations conducted at Kumta Government Hospital reportedly confirmed the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a cannabis-related substance. Based on the medical reports, police registered cases under Section 27(b) of the NDPS Act, 1985, and initiated legal action.

Vijayendra condemns FIR against Bengaluru based doctor

The government's intentions and alleged that action against a person who had raised concerns over national security reflected a "traitorous mindset."

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka BJP President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday strongly condemned the registration of an FIR against Bengaluru-based doctor T. Nagendra, alleging that the State government was targeting individuals who raise concerns related to national security.

Addressing mediapersons in Shivamogga, Vijayendra referred to the case involving Dr Nagendra, who had reportedly alerted the police about the presence of suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in his area. Subsequently, some of the individuals concerned lodged a complaint accusing him of assault, following which an FIR was reg-



“Instead of threatening BJP leaders, the government should concentrate on the real issues affecting the people of Karnataka.”
B.Y. Vijayendra, MLA

istered.

Vijayendra said the Karnataka High Court had expressed serious displeasure

over the manner in which the Bellandur and Varthur police allegedly registered the FIR without conducting a preliminary enquiry.

The BJP leader further accused the Congress government of indulging in minority appeasement and attempting to silence activists and social workers who speak out on issues affecting the public.

He alleged that the government had reached a "new low" by initiating action against Dr Nagendra and questioned whom it was seeking to appease.

Dr Nagendra approached the Karnataka High Court seeking to quash the FIR. During the hearing before Justice M. Nagaprasanna, the court reportedly questioned

how the police had registered a case without first verifying the status of the complainants, who had stated in their complaint that they had been living in Bengaluru with their families for four years.

The court also raised concerns over the alleged failure of the police to verify relevant facts before initiating criminal proceedings.

Commenting on the NEET controversy,

Vijayendra said remarks made by BJP leader C.T. Ravi should be understood in their proper context. He also accused the State government of focusing on political statements instead of maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety.

ADC Abid urged to strengthen HIV awareness

The government has introduced several initiatives to support early identification and timely care.

UDUPI

Additional Deputy Commissioner Abid Gadyal has called upon officials to ensure the effective implementation of the Mission AIDS Suraksha Mobilisation Campaign, aimed at increasing awareness about HIV, identifying people who are unaware of their HIV status and facilitating timely treatment.

Chairing the District First 95 Committee and District Joint Task Force meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office complex in Rajatadri, Manipal, Gadyal said coordinated efforts were essential to achieve the campaign's objectives.

The Mobilisation for AIDS Suraksha (MAS) programme has been introduced to help control the spread of HIV in India. The campaign aims to effectively contain the HIV epidemic in the district by World AIDS Day on December 1, 2027.

The initiative is focused on achieving the 95-95-95 targets and will remain operational until December 2026. Officials were instructed to imple-

Manipal meeting drives HIV control campaign

■ District committee targets HIV epidemic control.

■ MAS programme launched to achieve targets.

■ Goal set for World AIDS Day 2027.

■ Estimated 1,141 undiagnosed cases require identification.

■ Officials urged to expand public awareness.

ment the programme efficiently and ensure that awareness and testing services reach all sections of society.

According to estimates, around 5,790 people are living with HIV in Udupi district. At present, 4,691 people are aware of their HIV status and are receiving treatment. However, an estimated 1,141 people may be living with HIV without knowing their status.

Gadyal said special efforts must be made to identify such individuals and connect them

with appropriate testing, counselling and treatment services.

He urged officials to organise extensive public-awareness programmes and encourage people to voluntarily assess their HIV risk by scanning the designated QR code and answering the questions provided. Those identified as potentially at risk should be encouraged to undergo HIV testing.

Awareness programmes should also be conducted in schools and colleges, particularly because of the large youth population. These programmes should educate students about HIV prevention, modes of transmission, early identification and available treatment.

Gadyal also called for the active participation of voluntary organisations, youth associations and non-governmental organisations to make the campaign successful.

District AIDS Control Officer Dr Chidananda Sanju, District Surgeon Dr H. Ashok, District RCH Officer Dr Jyothsna B.K. and other officials attended the meeting.

Sobardamath seeks IAS officer for irrigation corporation

HUBBALLI

Raita Sena Karnataka State President Veeresh Sobardamath has urged the State government to appoint an IAS officer as the Managing Director of the loss-making Karnataka Irrigation Corporation.

Addressing a press conference in Hubballi on Wednesday, Sobardamath said the corporation covers 22 districts and requires experienced administrative leadership to ensure effective management and improve its financial performance.

He alleged that the appointment of Chief Engi-



An organisation of this scale, functioning across 22 districts, should be headed by an IAS officer. The government should immediately appoint a suitable senior IAS officer as its Managing Director.
- Veeresh Sobardamath, Raita Sena Karnataka State President

neers and officials promoted from engineering positions to head the corporation was inappropriate. According to him, the existing administrative arrangement had contributed to the corporation's poor financial condition.

Sobardamath also raised objections to the appoint-

ment of B.R. Rathod as the Managing Director, alleging that corruption-related accusations had previously been made against him.

He demanded a detailed inquiry into the allegations and maintained that a Chief Engineer would not be able to effectively handle the administrative and managerial responsibilities of the corporation. "The government must conduct a proper investigation into the allegations and appoint an IAS officer without delay. If the government fails to respond, we will be compelled to launch a legal battle against it in the interest of farmers," Sobardamath warned.

JDS demands withdrawal of 'Unscientific' welfare rules

SRINGERI

The Janata Dal (Secular) has urged the State government to withdraw what it described as "unscientific" eligibility criteria introduced for social security pension schemes, alleging that thousands of eligible beneficiaries had been denied assistance for the past six months.

JDS workers staged a protest in front of the taluk office on Monday against the revised norms and alleged shortcomings in the implementation of various State government welfare schemes.

Addressing the protest, JDS Sringeri taluk unit president Bharat Ginikhal said old-age pension was an important social security scheme intended to support economically disadvantaged senior citizens.

Haveri gears up for police constable exam

HAVERI

The written examination for the direct recruitment of Police Constables (Civil) in the Karnataka State Police Department will be held at 30 examination centres across Haveri district on August 2.

Chairing a preparatory meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday.

The recruitment process covers 3,395 vacancies in the residual cadre and 596 vacancies in the local cadre. The examination will be conducted from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dr Danammanavar said the examination was highly sensitive and that all officials, route officers, observers, invigilators and other personnel should discharge their duties responsibly and ensure that no lapses occurred.

A three-member district-level committee comprising the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Director of the District Treasury and Deputy Director of the Pre-University Education Department has been constituted to supervise the receipt and distribution of question papers. Nine teams comprising Tahsildars, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers and Block Education Officers have been formed at the taluk level.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to ensure CCTV surveillance and clocks in all examination halls. Adequate drinking water, ventilation, lighting, seating and other basic facilities must be provided to candidates.

Mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, earphones, microphones, pagers, wireless sets, calculators, log tables and watches have been prohibited inside examination centres. Candidates and invigilators have been instructed to comply strictly with these restrictions.

Candidates must also follow the prescribed dress code. Long-sleeved and head-covering garments, belts, caps and jewellery will not be permitted, except for nose ornaments and mangalsutras. Can-

District authorities have been directed to ensure that the examination is conducted in a transparent, systematic and incident-free manner.

didates have been advised to wear simple slippers instead of shoes.

A 200-metre radius around every examination centre will be declared a prohibited zone. Authorities have been directed to take appropriate action to keep photocopying shops and cyber cafés within the restricted area closed during the examination.

District Superintendent of Police Yashoda Vantagodi said tight police security would be deployed to ensure that the examination was conducted peacefully and fairly. Separate rooms will be arranged for candidates to keep their bags.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr L. Nagaraj said candidates would undergo frisking at all examination centres to maintain transparency. Direction boards will also be installed from main roads to help candidates locate their centres.

According to Deputy Director of Pre-University Education Mahadevaswamy, a total of 10,824 candidates have registered for the examination in the district.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has been instructed to operate special buses from the central bus stand to examination centres. Health personnel will be deployed at every centre, while an ambulance will be kept ready for emergencies.

The examination will be conducted at 30 centres in Haveri and Ranebennur, including government, private and pre-university colleges, schools, engineering colleges and polytechnic institutions.

DYSP Girimallappa Talakatti, district treasury officials, Tahsildars, Block Education Officers, departmental officials, examination centre heads and principals attended the meeting.

Spirituality and literature heal stressful lives: Kumaraswamy

CHITRADURGA

Spiritual thinking, meditation, yoga and engagement with literature are essential for achieving peace and mental well-being in today's fast-paced and stressful life, said Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy.

He was speaking after releasing two books by writer Dr Nellikatte S. Siddesh — "Martyada Vismaya Mahadevamma" and "Vastuvagu Savillada Sahityakke" — at a Guru Purnima programme held at Sri Guru Karibasaveshwarajja Swamy Mutt in Belagatta village of Chitradurga taluk on Wednesday.

Kumaraswamy said modern life was becoming increasingly mechanical and stressful due to the many challenges faced by people. In such circumstances, liter-

ature that directly engages with society and religious institutions can provide individuals with mental strength, moral support and the confidence needed to face difficulties.

He observed that selfless service and active participation in religious and social activities were becoming increasingly rare in an age dominated by self-interest. He said every individual should develop the spirit of supporting people in distress, offering encouragement and serving society.

"Literary works that guide people towards goodness and spiritual thoughts that strengthen moral values are valuable contributions to society and the State," he said.

Sub-Divisional Officer Dr K.J. Kantaraj said readers turn to books to increase

their knowledge, while writers use their knowledge and experience to contribute to the progress and welfare of society.

He praised Dr Nellikatte Siddesh for his continued contribution to literature and said the author had been consistently producing works that promote social reform and share valuable experiences with younger generations.

"May many more meaningful and value-based works emerge from his literary journey and contribute to the betterment of society," he said.

Dr Nagendra Acharya, medical officer and writer from Shivamogga, spoke about "Martyada Vismaya Mahadevamma", while writer Huruli Basavaraj reviewed "Vastuvagu Savillada Sahityakke."

Devotees Honor Amminabhavi Seers on Guru Purnima

DHARAWAD

On the occasion of Guru Purnima, devotees of the Amminabhavi Sansthan Panchagruha Hiremath in Dharwad taluk offered special respects to their spiritual leaders on Wednesday. The celebrations were marked by devotion and traditional rituals, reflecting the deep bond between the seers and their followers.

Devotees performed Padapuja to the senior pontiff, Shantalinga Shivacharya Swamiji, and the junior pontiff, Abhinava Shantalinga

Shivacharya Swamiji, seeking their blessings for peace, prosperity, and spiritual guidance. The religious ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from followers of the mutt.

Following the Padapuja, devotees felicitated both seers by presenting them with shawls, fruits, and flowers as a mark of respect and gratitude. The event highlighted the significance of Guru Purnima, a festival dedicated to expressing reverence to spiritual teachers for their wisdom and guidance.

RAIN DEFICIT ENDS

Ujani water revives parched Bhima River

AFZALPUR

The release of 61,600 cusecs of water from Maharashtra's Ujani Reservoir has brought much-needed relief to people and farmers in Afzalpur taluk, where inadequate rainfall had caused severe water scarcity and affected agricultural activities.

The Bhima River, which had largely dried up in several stretches due to the prolonged rain deficit, is once again receiving a substantial flow. Water is expected to flow through more than 135 kilometres of the river within



the taluk, raising hopes among farmers that at least some of their remaining crops may survive and reach harvest.

The poor monsoon had resulted in a decline in sowing

across the region, while farmers and residents were facing difficulties in securing water for irrigation, livestock and domestic needs. The fresh inflow has now provided a ray of hope to the

drought-affected communities.

Officials said the water released from the Ujani Reservoir was expected to reach the Sonna Barrage by Tuesday evening. At present, around 3,000 cusecs of water are being released downstream.

Bhima Lift Irrigation Assistant Executive Engineer Santosh Sajjan said the Sonna Barrage would first be filled before water is supplied to local tanks through the canal network.

Farmers have urged the authorities to ensure that water

reaches irrigation canals and village tanks at the earliest. Filling the tanks through the canal system is expected to improve groundwater recharge and help revive borewells and open wells that had dried up due to the prolonged shortage of rainfall. The increased groundwater level could also ease the drinking water crisis faced by several villages in the taluk. Residents expressed hope that the timely release of water would provide temporary relief and support agricultural activity until the region receives adequate rainfall.

‘Student stir reflected aspirations of India’s future’

Rahul Gandhi firmly urged all political groups, including ruling party members, to acknowledge and honor these sentiments respectfully

NEW DELHI

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi stated that nationwide student demonstrations over competitive examination rows represent the true hopes and ambitions of India's coming generations. Speaking during a parliamentary debate in the Lok Sabha on the Public Examinations Amendment Bill, the prominent politician emphasized that the recent student demonstrations should never be misread as signs of pure anger or hostility. Instead, he described these peaceful expressions as a genuine reflection of what young citizens' desire for their collective future. He firmly urged all political groups, including ruling party members, to acknowledge and honor these sentiments respectfully. The Lok Sabha discussions



took place against the backdrop of intense political friction regarding handling procedures for recent competitive exam leaks. Lawmakers engaged in active debates concerning legislative measures designed to prevent unfair practices. During the session, the opposition leader noted that even members sitting on the government benches would

likely find matching views if they consulted their own families about student concerns. Political exchanges heated up further as various representatives addressed related controversies. While some leaders focused strictly on student welfare and administrative transparency, others raised concerns regarding official responses to public demonstrations.

Uproar in Lok Sabha over exam bill debate

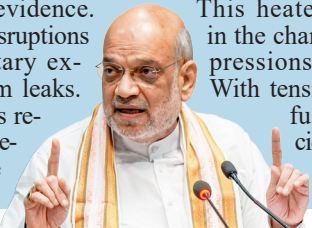
NEW DELHI: A heated verbal clash broke out in the Lok Sabha between opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju during discussions on the Public Examinations Amendment Bill. The confrontation started when Gandhi shared a personal conversation he recently had with a young student about humility, open-mindedness, and the continuous search for truth. However, while narrating the talk, the Congress leader used a specific expression that immediately triggered sharp objections from treasury bench members. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju quickly stood up to object, stating that the opposition leader used an improper word under the guise of quoting a student. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh also joined in, politely requesting the Chair to remove the controversial remark from the official records while urging ruling party lawmakers to remain quiet and listen. Following the uproar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla intervened and ordered the disputed expression to be expunged from parliamentary proceedings.

Venugopal defends Rahul amid parliament clash

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal strongly hit back at the central government. He firmly stated that the opposition party will never back down from highlighting the pressing issues and legitimate concerns of the nation's young students. This defiant stance follows a stormy and turbulent session inside the Lok Sabha. High political drama unfolded as opposition leader Rahul Gandhi heavily criticized the ruling administration over its handling of recent youth demonstrations, competitive examination paper leaks, and subsequent police actions. His sharp remarks triggered instant and fierce reactions from treasury bench ministers, who accused him of making baseless personal claims and violating established parliamentary decorum. Addressing reporters amid the ongoing parliamentary uproar, Venugopal dismissed the government's aggressive counter-attacks. He pointed out that the ruling administration lacks proper answers to the deep crisis facing students and their families. According to the senior Congress leader, because the government fails to address these critical matters directly, ministers resort to counter-allegations and distractions instead of facing the core problem. Reaffirming the party's unwavering commitment, Venugopal emphasized that the future, security, and overall welfare of young citizens remain their absolute top priority.

RaGa targets Home Minister in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI: High drama unfolded in the Lok Sabha as a fierce verbal battle erupted between the ruling government and the opposition. The session ended in an adjournment after leaders locked horns over police action during recent student demonstrations. The major confrontation began when opposition leader Rahul Gandhi took direct aim at Home Minister Amit Shah. Gandhi claimed that the senior minister's absence from the chamber showed a lack of courage. This sharp remark immediately sparked a massive uproar across the lower house. Ministers on the treasury benches strongly objected to the comments. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju hit back, calling the remarks irresponsible and arguing that such baseless claims lower the dignity of a constitutional office. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also stepped in to caution the opposition leader against leveling personal charges without solid factual evidence. This heated exchange followed earlier disruptions in the chamber regarding unparliamentary expressions and student protests over exam leaks. With tensions running high and both sides refusing to back down, the Speaker decided to adjourn the House to restore order.



‘No firing took place’: Goyal slams Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Piyush Goyal has strongly criticized opposition leader Rahul Gandhi over claims regarding police action on student protesters. Speaking to reporters, the senior minister called the allegations completely false, emphasizing that no firing took place during the recent demonstrations. The political clash erupted inside parliament during a heated debate. Rahul Gandhi targeted the home minister, accusing him of avoiding the house out of fear, while also condemning authorities over the handling of student protests. This sparked an immediate uproar from treasury benches, with parliamentary affairs ministers calling the claims irresponsible and a breach of parliamentary dignity. Piyush Goyal dismissed the opposition speech as a bundle of lies and a misuse of parliamentary time. He demanded that the remarks be removed from official records and insisted that the opposition leader issue an apology. The minister maintained that the administration handled student concerns with complete sensitivity and accused rivals of spreading rumors.



NEW DELHI: Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi launched a fierce attack on the central government during a parliamentary debate on the Public Examinations Amendment Bill. He claimed that the true enemy of Indian students is the RSS. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi criticized the current educational framework, calling it a cruel and privatized extortion system. He argued that powerful external forces have captured the soul of the country's academics. Addressing calls for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the senior politician dismissed the idea as superficial. He alleged that the minister does not truly run the ministry and that independent thinking is being suppressed. The opposition leader stated that young citizens feel frustrated because they cannot freely question authority or follow their passions. Instead, he accused the ruling establishment of trying to force citizens to accept biased historical narratives and become blind followers.

‘Students, idiots, andhabhakts’

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi's speech in house on Wednesday sparked chaos after he mentioned "three categories of people - students, idiots and andhabhakts," which the ruling NDA alliance has deemed as "unparliamentary language." Addressing the Lok Sabha, Gandhi recalled his conversation with an 18-year-old student, who stated that there are three categories of people, in the context of the recent student protests. "These categories are students, the idiots and then the andhabhakts," he said.

QUICK READ

Big clash expected in Pune during Amit Shah's visit

PUNE A heavy political clash is coming up in Pune. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the city on August first. He will give a special award to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The local Congress party plans to protest against him. They are angry about the recent NEET exam paper leak issues and police action on students. Meanwhile, the BJP has asked police for permission to hold a counter protest at the same spot. They claim the Congress wants cheap political attention. Police are now planning tight security to keep the peace.



India shows mature diplomacy during China trip

NEW DELHI Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri recently visited China to help stabilize ties between the two Asian nations. Experts view this trip not as a major breakthrough, but as a smart and steady reset in diplomatic tone. During his stay, Misri met top Chinese officials in Beijing to discuss border peace, trade, and cultural exchanges. Both sides agreed that maintaining calm at the border is vital for normal relations. While a final boundary settlement is still far off, open communication channels help prevent minor skirmishes. Overall, the visit highlights India's confident and balanced foreign policy approach.

Justice prevails: Coal case ends for Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court finally closed a long chapter of legal trouble for former Prime Minister late Dr Manmohan Singh. The top court threw out a 2015 trial court order that had summoned him in connection with a coal block allocation case. A special bench consisting of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice V. Mohana reviewed the matter. They ruled that the lower court had no valid or strong reasons to reject the Central Bureau of Investigation reports. The investigative agency had previously cleared Dr Singh of any wrongdoing twice. Because of this, the judges officially set aside the old summoning order. Back in March 2015, a lower court judge had ignored the

Details of the session

- The Bench: Led by Chief Justice Surya Kant alongside Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana.
- The Ruling: The 2015 summoning order was declared legally invalid and completely set aside.
- The Context: Dr. Singh passed away in December 2024, but his legal team pursued the appeal to clear his stellar public reputation.
- The Argument: Senior counsels successfully proved the decision was a routine administrative act rather than a criminal conspiracy.

CBI closure reports and asked the former leader to face trial under corruption laws. Dr Singh firmly challenged that

decision. Even though he passed away in December 2024, his legal team pressed forward. Senior lawyers argued that clearing his name completely remained essential to protect his dignity and legacy from unfair adverse findings. The apex court agreed with these arguments. The bench noted that the trial court should have accepted the clean chit given by investigators. The judges highlighted that administrative decisions made in good faith do not automatically mean corruption. By accepting the closure reports today, the highest court has officially put an end to the decade-old case, restoring complete honor to the late leader's memory and ensuring his reputation stays untainted forever.

Maran criticizes NEET, links it to suicides

NEW DELHI

Senior leader from Tamil Nadu Dayanidhi Maran has strongly criticized the central government over the national medical entrance test. He called the exam completely unnecessary and blamed it for the tragic deaths of many young students across the country.

Speaking to reporters in the capital, the politician argued that his home state already has a very strong education system and plenty of medical colleges. Maran pointed out that many children from poor families and farming backgrounds manage to achieve their dreams of becoming doctors without needing

outside help. He stressed that studying in local language schools does not stop anyone from becoming a great medical professional. The leader stated that more than one hundred students have lost their lives due to extreme mental stress and pressure caused by the testing process.

Madan Mitra interrogated in job scam

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra has appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in connection with an ongoing municipal job scam. The leader from the Kamarhati constituency reached the central agency's regional office in Salt Lake to join the probe. Speaking to reporters before entering, Madan Mitra stated that he has no connection to any financial fraud and came to fully cooperate with investigators. However, he refused to answer questions about whether

his recent shift to a rebel party faction was linked to receiving the central agency notice. Investigators suspect that more than one hundred people secured employment in a local municipality illegally by offering cash or gold. Madan Mitra's name reportedly surfaced during the probe into these irregular appointments. Earlier this summer, enforcement teams conducted searches at multiple properties linked to him in Kolkata and nearby areas. His family members, including his wife and two sons, were also recently questioned

by agency officials. This development follows a series of raids conducted by central probe agencies regarding recruitment irregularities across West Bengal. Investigators have also recently filed charges against another former state minister and his family member in a special court as part of the broader anti-corruption probe. Madan Mitra remains under intense scrutiny as the financial investigation continues to unfold across the state, drawing significant attention from local media and political circles alike.

CM Yadav appoints farmers dialogue panel

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has formed a special ministerial committee to hold talks with agitating farmers. Thousands of protesters recently marched to the state capital to demand fair prices for their crops. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced the committee while speaking with reporters. He stated that the administration remains fully open to discussion to resolve the ongoing dispute peacefully. The newly formed panel includes Agriculture Minister Aidal Singh Kansana, Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh, Sports Minister Vishvas Sarang, and Women and Child Development Minister Krishna Gaur, alongside key senior officials. The protests intensified after more than 2,000 farmers reached Bhopal under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh. They are demanding proper procurement of moong crops at the Minimum Support Price, a legal guarantee for support prices, and better fertilizer supplies. Although security personnel initially stopped protesters from marching toward the chief minister's residence, preliminary meetings have already started. Chief Minister Yadav emphasized that the government values constructive suggestions. However, he also

Madhya Pradesh forms a ministerial panel to negotiate with protesting farmers demanding fair crop prices, minimum support guarantees, and adequate fertilizer supplies in Bhopal

stressed that public convenience must be protected while finding a balanced solution. Meanwhile, opposition leaders like state Congress president Jitu Patwari and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath criticized the administration for a lack of early dialogue. The ruling party hopes that structured talks with farmer organizations will soon bring an amicable end to the deadlock.

Farmers protest over moong prices

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh are staging a major protest in Bhopal. They demand that the central government buy their entire moong crop at the Minimum Support Price. A massive surplus harvest has exceeded current government buying limits. Officials have agreed to purchase only a small portion, leaving farmers worried about massive losses in open markets.

Jagan accuses Naidu of stealing airport credit

AMARAVATI

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused current Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of stealing credit for the Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport. With the facility ready for inauguration, the opposition leader claimed his past administration handled all the heavy lifting. Writing on social media, Jagan stated that his government completed vital tasks, including land acquisition, securing approvals, and providing essential infrastructure. He noted that the previous administration spent over one thousand crore rupees on land, rehabilitation, water supply, and alternative roads despite facing the pandemic. According to the former leader, the current Chief Minister made zero contributions to the project aside from laying a hasty foundation stone years ago. He argued that taking praise for completed work without putting in any actual effort defines the rival leader's brand of politics. He criticized the government for failing to build proper road from Visakhapatnam city to the new airport over the past two years. He urged the veteran leader to stop taking unearned credit and finally focus on improving actual infrastructure and public service delivery across the state.

How CJP protests mirror global uprisings

NEW DELHI

The massive youth protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party in Delhi have sparked major debates about whether local anger over exam leaks follows an international template. What began as a digital campaign quickly transformed into a major political agitation, ultimately leading to the education minister's resignation. Analysts note that the rapid expansion of the movement shares striking similarities with uprisings seen in other countries over the past two decades. From Eastern Europe to the Arab Spring, and more re-



cently in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, modern protests often rely on tech-savvy, non-traditional leaders, massive social media outreach, and strategic public gatherings. These movements typically start with genuine public grievances such as corruption, joblessness, or testing failures before evolving into broader challenges against

state authority. Experts point out that while public discontent is entirely authentic, the high level of digital coordination often mirrors global patterns. Past movements in various nations have similarly used online platforms to bypass traditional media and mobilize crowds within days. Although government officials and security agencies frequently scrutinize how such large-scale agitations sustain themselves financially and logistically, observers emphasize that external actors can only amplify existing domestic anger, not create it from scratch.

QUICK READ

Army chief reviews Eastern Theatre security

IMPHAL

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth finished a two-day visit to review security across the Eastern Theatre. During his trip, he checked operational readiness, vigilance, and local flood relief efforts in Manipur. The Army Chief praised troops for their dedication under tough conditions. He also attended the Durand Cup opening ceremony in Imphal to promote youth sports and unity. Officials stated the visit highlights the army's strong commitment to maintaining peace, supporting civil authorities, and ensuring regional stability throughout the Northeast.

Punjab launches e-zero FIR for cyber fraud

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police have launched an e-zero FIR system for cyber financial fraud cases involving amounts above five lakh rupees. Announced by DGP Gaurav Yadav, this step speeds up responses to digital crimes. Eligible complaints from the national helpline or reporting portal now convert automatically into digital FIRs. Cases involving one crore rupees or more will go directly to the Mohali state cyber unit. Officials say quick registration helps freeze bank accounts fast, preserve digital evidence, and recover stolen money without procedural delays for victims.

BHOGAPURAM AIRPORT TO TAKE OVER VIZAG FLIGHTS

VISAKHAPATNAM

Regular commercial flight operations at the Visakhapatnam Airport will completely stop starting August 17, with all passenger services shifting to the newly built Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation issued a formal notification stating that scheduled commercial flights at the current civil enclave inside INS Dega will close down. The existing international airport

IMD sounds yellow alert for Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Heavy monsoon showers hit many parts of Rajasthan. The sudden downpour left busy markets and low-lying roads badly waterlogged. The India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for rainfall in twenty-two districts across the state.

In Jaipur, a heavy spell of rain lasted for over thirty-five minutes. Roads in areas like Tonk Road, Ajmeri Gate, and C-Scheme filled up with water quickly. People traveling

ACs spark global climate, power debates

NEW DELHI

Extreme global heatwaves are turning air conditioning into essential infrastructure while sparking heated geopolitical and environmental debates. Recent reports highlight a stark contrast in how regions handle soaring temperatures. While Western nations like Europe struggle with sudden heat spikes due to older buildings and high power costs, countries like India are rapidly expanding their cooling capacity to protect populations.

International experts note that India added millions of units recently and expects

Assam dairy brand enters international market

Assam achieved a proud milestone by exporting its very first international dairy shipment of ice cream to neighboring Bhutan from Guwahati

NEW DELHI

Assam has achieved a proud milestone by sending its very first international dairy shipment abroad. The state successfully exported over five thousand litres of popular ice cream to neighboring Bhutan. The Chief Minister officially flagged off this historic consignment from Guwahati, marking a major step forward for local dairy producers looking to expand beyond national borders.

The tasty treats come from a well-known local milk producers' cooperative and are marketed under a trusted regional brand. The initial export includes a wide variety of items such as small cups, family packs, cones, and large gallon containers. These products will soon reach store



shelves and buyers in major towns like Thimphu, Paro, and Phuentsholing.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called this achievement a sweet milestone for the country.

Experts note that export promotion agencies played a key role by helping with necessary paperwork and safety rules.

This support ensures smooth transport and helps local farmers meet strict global quality standards easily.

Details and future growth plans

- **Historic export volume:** The maiden consignment contains 5,627 litres of delicious ice cream heading to major Bhutanese cities like Thimphu and Paro.
- **Farmer power:** Made by local cooperatives and marketed by NEDFL, the treats directly support thousands of hard-working dairy farmers in Assam.
- **Diverse product range:** The shipment includes everything from regular cups and cones to large family and gallon packs for retail buyers.
- **Seamless support:** APEDA played a key role by helping with paperwork, safety rules, and smooth border logistics to make the trip hassle-free.
- **Future growth:** Planners plan to introduce more long-lasting dairy products soon to boost local incomes and expand global reach.

Geographical closeness gives Assam a natural advantage in trading with its neighbor. Officials plan to send more dairy goods with longer shelf lives in the future as demand grows. This expanding market access will create fresh job opportunities and boost earnings for thousands of dairy farmers across the northeast region.

Assam Land Bill to protect centuries-old Vaishnavite satras: CM

GUWAHATI

The Assam government is taking bold steps to secure its rich cultural heritage. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma strongly defended a new land bill in the assembly. The legislation aims to protect ancient Vaishnavite satras by stopping outsiders from buying land nearby.

Lawmakers introduced a five-kilometre buffer zone around famous heritage sites like Majuli, Batadrava, and Barpeta Satra. Only local residents can buy property inside these protected areas. The

Chief Minister explained that shifting populations over the decades changed the identity of these sacred locations.

Sarma noted that if officials had passed this law fifty years ago, much more land would remain safe.

He pointed out that several new religious structures appeared near the historic Barpeta Satra over time, worrying locals about losing their traditions.

The state leader made it clear that the rule targets no specific community. Instead, authorities want to ensure that remaining ancient institutions survive for future generations.

The rules apply only to select historic sites older than 250 years rather than the whole state.

Under the new terms, buyers must prove their family lived locally for at least three generations.

The government also plans to clear illegal encroachers from these zones. Sarma asked all opposition members to support the bill together, showing a unified promise to guard local history.

The assembly aims to preserve the true legacy of Assam.

Raj Guv calls for anti-addiction campus campaigns

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde is pushing for a cleaner and healthier state. He recently urged all state universities to take charge of eliminating substance abuse in their adopted rural areas. The leader called for a massive campaign under the national drug-free initiative.

During a video conference from Lok Bhawan, the Governor spoke directly with university vice-chancellors. Higher Education department official Kuldeep Ranka also joined the important meeting. Governor Bagde stressed the urgent need to find communities suffering from high addiction rates and launch targeted interventions.

The state head directed academic leaders to pinpoint individuals selling narcotics near campuses. Universities must work closely with local police to stop illegal drug trafficking and protect young students. Officials need to connect the goal of a drug-free village directly with ongoing rural development projects.

Authorities advised campus leaders to visit these towns regularly and talk with local elders. Monitoring drug users and tracking suppliers will help law enforcement take quick action. The Governor also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a completely substance-free nation.



DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_NEET/KCET/CR-01/2026-27 **Date: 30-07-2026**

Announcement of Short-term Tender

Short-Term Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities "For the academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide NEET/KCET coaching and other training programs, Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	30.07.2026
2.	Tender Amount:	Rs. 900.00 Lakhs.
3.	EMD Amount:	Rs.13,50,000/-
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	06.08.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	19.08.2026 by 5:30 p.m.
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	20.08.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	25.08.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities <https://dom.karnataka.gov.in> and e-Procurement website at: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1897/MAA/2026-27

Millions enjoy free power under PM Surya Ghar

NEW DELHI

Think about opening your monthly electricity bill and seeing a total of zero dollars to pay. For nearly 19 lakh families across the nation, this dream has finally become a reality.

Recent government data shared in Parliament shows that huge numbers of households are no longer paying for electricity. This amazing change is happening thanks to the popular PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana rooftop solar program. Local power companies confirmed that families who installed these special solar panels are generating enough power on their own to completely wipe out their monthly utility costs.

Maharashtra leads all other states with over four lakh families enjoying completely free electricity. Other regions like Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are also seeing massive savings for everyday citizens. Officials report that more than forty lakh rooftop systems are already up and running, helping nearly forty-eight lakh homes cut down their household expenses.

Getting these solar panels installed used to take a long

Over 19 lakh families across India enjoy zero electricity bills thanks to the PM Surya Ghar rooftop solar program, driving massive green energy savings

time, but the process is moving much faster now. While reaching the first one lakh homes took several months when the project first started, the nation now hits that exact same milestone in just one week.

To help reach the grand goal of powering one crore homes by next year, the government made the rules much simpler.

Families can now get easy loans without putting up collateral, and approvals happen a lot quicker than before. Officials are also running special awareness campaigns and working closely with local power providers to make sure every neighborhood can join in.

For countless families, trading standard power for clean rooftop energy has taken a massive financial weight off their shoulders, proving that green energy can also bring instant relief to ordinary households.

VIZAG PORT BECOMES TOP SEAFOOD EXPORT HUB

AMARAVATI

Visakhapatnam Port has officially become the top marine export hub in the country. The central government recently told the Lok Sabha that the port handled half of all seafood exports from India during the 2024-25 financial period.

Official data presented in Parliament shows marine product shipments through Vizag surged dramatically. The port's share jumped from under thirty percent to over fifty percent in just one single year. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada shared these details answering a query from a par-

liament member.

Out of billions in total national seafood shipments, Visakhapatnam alone contributed billions in international trade value. State officials credit this massive economic growth to improved infrastructure and strong regional leadership. The port maintained a dominant market share going into the next financial year as well.

Authorities attribute this success to active support for local producers and better market access. Programs like the One District One Product initiative help regional makers connect with international buyers through global exhibitions and trade meets.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ತಾಲೂಕಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸ.ಶಿ.ಕ.ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ/ಆ.ಪೂ/ಆ.ಇ.ಟಿ.ಎಂ./2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-07-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ.ವಿ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ ಬೆಳಕೆ ಧುಕ್ಕುಳ ತಾ|| ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸುಮಾರು 80 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಿಗೆ ಊಟೋಪಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸ್ವ-ಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪು, ಸ್ವೀಕೃತ ಸಂಘ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರೀತರ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಘ/ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಿಕೇಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಾನೀಕರಣ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಷಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸೇವೆ	ರೂ. 115.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2	2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ.ವಿ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ ಬೆಳಕೆ ಧುಕ್ಕುಳ ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸುಮಾರು 80 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಿಗೆ ಊಟೋಪಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ	ರೂ. 15.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

ಸಹ- ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/315/26-27
dt. 29.07.2026
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ



Nandi Medical College and Research Institute
(Previously called as Chikkaballapura Institute of Medical sciences) Aroor, Peresandra Post, Chikkaballapura - 562104
email: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com/
nmcridean@gmail.com, Phone and fax :08156-275558
Website: <https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in>
NMCR/EST(1)/Recruitment/02/2026-27 Date: 24.07.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the following Teaching Posts at Nandi Medical College and Research Institute, Chikkaballapura on Regular Basis.

Sl. No	Post	No of Posts
1	Associate Professor* (OBC Backlog)	04
2	Assistant Professor* (OBC Backlog)	02
3	Assistant Professor	48

For Eligibility Criteria, Age, Qualification, Experience and Reservation visit the institute website: <https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Dean/ Director, Nandi Medical College and Research Institute, Chikkaballapura
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:161/KSMCA/2026-27

QUICK READ

Russian court sentences journalist to 12 years

MOSCOW
A Russian court sentenced journalist Darya Shipacheva to twelve years in a penal colony on treason charges. The trial was held entirely behind closed doors. Reports indicate the charges came from an alleged money transfer to Ukraine. Shipacheva pleaded guilty, which secured her the minimum sentence. Video from the courtroom showed her looking shocked at the harsh verdict. Press freedom groups note that Russia has heavily increased censorship and pressure on independent media workers since the conflict in Ukraine began in twenty twenty-two.

Teen convicted in UK over Iran-linked murder plot

LONDON
A Norwegian teenager was convicted of plotting a murder in Britain. Johannes Natland was caught in a hotel room with two loaded firearms in March last year. Prosecutors stated he was recruited online for money by a Swedish gang linked to the Iranian government. While Natland admitted having weapons, he denied murder conspiracy claims. A London court found him guilty following a retrial. Authorities warn that foreign states increasingly use online recruitment to hire young adults for serious crimes.

FRANCE-SPAIN BATTLE MASSIVE WILDFIRES

LANTON
France and Spain are battling massive wildfires as a brutal fourth summer heatwave sends temperatures soaring past 40 degrees Celsius. Weather agencies have placed multiple regions on high alert, warning that dry winds and extreme heat will likely stoke the flames further. In southwestern France, firefighters managed to keep a major blaze near Bordeaux stable overnight, but officials warn the danger is far from over. The

Telegram founder faces Russian terrorism charges

MOSCOW
Russia's Federal Security Service has officially charged Telegram founder Pavel Durov with aiding terrorism, claiming his app helped Ukrainian agents coordinate attacks. In a bold and defiant reply, Telegram's official X account shared an image of the billionaire giving an obscene middle-finger gesture toward Moscow.

China proposes new laws against AI bullying

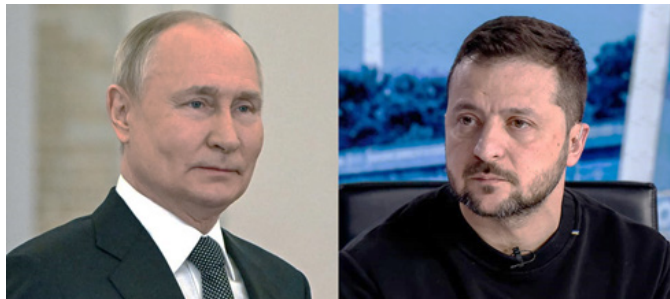
BEIJING
China's cyberspace regulator released a draft law to crack down heavily on online harassment, specifically addressing emerging threats like artificial intelligence-enabled abuse. As the world's largest internet community, Beijing is working quickly to tighten oversight of digital spaces and protect users. Under the proposed rules issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China, the legislation would apply to domestic activities as well as overseas groups targeting the country. Online platforms will be required to strictly verify user identities before allowing them to post messages or use instant messaging tools. Crucially, the draft targets modern technology by forcing companies to trace, block, and

Trump wants peace, but Putin doesn't: Zelenskyy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that Ukraine, the US, and Europe share a common desire to end the war

WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that while Ukraine, European partners, and the United States all want to end the ongoing war, Russian leader Vladimir Putin refuses to cooperate. Speaking during an interview in Washington, Zelenskyy emphasized that Moscow has rejected every push for a temporary ceasefire to allow diplomats space for peace talks. Because of this resistance, the Ukrainian leader stressed that stronger international pressure and economic sanctions remain vital. His re-



marks followed a major procedural vote in the US Senate, where lawmakers overwhelmingly advanced a tough new sanctions package targeting Russia. Zelenskyy called the legislative step a meaningful move toward peace and paid tribute to the late Senator

Lindsey Graham, who had championed the sanctions bill before his passing. During his visit to the United States, Zelenskyy met with President Donald Trump and congressional leaders from both political parties to discuss ongoing defense cooper-

ation. Talks with US defense executives also focused on boosting joint military technology production and strengthening anti-ballistic air defense systems to protect civilian lives on the ground. Zelenskyy pointed out that despite suffering massive monthly troop losses, Moscow continues its military campaign. However, he noted that the overall battlefield momentum has finally shifted in Ukraine's favor, bolstered by a rapidly growing domestic defense technology sector that now features hundreds of companies supporting frontline soldiers.

Japan PM confirms 13 deaths in quake

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi confirmed that 13 people have tragically lost their lives following a powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake. The disaster struck Kumamoto prefecture at a shallow depth of ten kilometers, causing widespread destruction, building collapses, and fierce fires. Prime Minister Takaichi expressed deep sorrow for the victims and their families while leading an emergency disaster meeting. She stressed that rescue operations are a race against time. The government has rapidly deployed thousands of personnel, including roughly 4,600 Self-Defense Forces, 2,000 police officers, and 1,400 firefighters, to comb through rubble and pull survivors to safety. Rescue teams are focusing heavily on heavily damaged sites where citizens are still waiting for help. Meanwhile, roughly 7,700 residents have taken refuge across 450 evacuation shelters. Authorities are rushing to supply these centers with food, water, hygiene products, and cooling units to keep people safe and comfortable. Officials are also paying close attention to citizens sleeping in their cars due to home damage, organizing regular health checks and fuel supplies to prevent medical complications.

Nepal's tiger population climbs to 429

KATHMANDU

Nepal is celebrating a major win for wildlife conservation. The country has officially announced that its tiger population has climbed to 429 in 2026. This is a massive jump from just 121 tigers back in 2009 and 355 in 2022. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment shared this exciting news on World Tiger Day. Officials noted that the steady growth is tied to expanding green spaces. Over the years, Nepal grew its forest cover from 29 percent to more than 46 percent, giving these majestic big cats plenty of room to roam and thrive safely. Experts used modern tech to track the animals. Teams set up around 1,100 automatic cameras across nearly 1,900 spots. Because every tiger has unique stripes like a human fingerprint, specialists could count them accurately.

Factors which led to growth

- Historic growth: Nepal's tiger count climbed from 355 in 2022 to 429 today, proving the nation's preservation strategies are working wonders.
- Expanding forests: This wildlife boom coincides with a massive jump in forest cover, which grew from 29 % to over 46 %
- Top habitats: The Chitwan-Parsa landscape leads the nation with 145 tigers, while Bardiya National Park successfully houses 112 majestic big cats.
- Advanced tracking: Experts used around 1,100 automated camera traps and unique stripe-matching technology to accurately count and monitor individual animals.

French residents return to smoldering ruins

BISCARROSSE

Residents in southwestern France are facing utter heartbreak as they return to find their properties turned into smoldering ruins. Following devastating wildfires that forced massive evacuations, families in Biscarrosse walked through the charred skeletons of their houses to sift through memories lost to the flames. Eighteen-year-old Raphael Fohanno returned to look at what was left of the family home where he grew up. Staring at twisted metal and blackened timbers, he expressed deep sorrow over the brutal reality of the disaster and the painful helplessness of losing everything in a matter of hours. Another local resident, Beatrice Dubaquier, found only

broken fragments of sentimental items like wedding dishes and birthday mugs while searching through the ash with her family. Her daughter Lucie shared the profound grief of watching a childhood home and countless family memories vanish into thick smoke. France is currently battling its worst wildfire crisis since World War Two, driven by intense heatwaves and severe drought. Over 220,000 people have been forced to flee their neighborhoods nationwide as authorities work relentlessly to control the massive blazes. While firefighters have managed to stabilize several major fires with the help of hundreds of personnel, the threat remains high as scorching temperatures return. For returning families, the long journey of healing.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASMA BANU**, W/o Mohammed Naseer, aged about 43 years, residing at No.494, Shabbimagar, Hunsur Town, Mysore -571105. As per Aadhar card No.7802 3529 4331 and Passport No.P3123884 my name is **ASMA BANO**, I declare that both the names **ASMA BANO** and **ASMA BANU** are refer to me only. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 29.07.2026, before Notary **VEERESH RAO BOBADE**, Hunsur

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PIYUSH S/o RAJENDRA PRASAD**, R/o 98, The Lake View, Gollahalli, Anekal, Veerasandra, Electronics City, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **PIYUSH TYAGI**.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GOVINDRAJ CHINNASWAMY S/o LATE CHINNASWAMY G R/o 65**, Vipra Heights, First floor, Door No. F1, 2nd Main Road, Behind Golden Park Apartment, Opp. Adda Restaurant, Muneshwara Layout, Kodichikkannahalli, Bangalore South, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076, have changed the name of my minor son **SARAN G** aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as **SAMRUDH G**.

NAME CHANGE

I, **APSAR BEGAM**, W/o Late S. Sardar, residing at: No. 28, New No. 1, 1st Cross, New Chethan Theater, Nagavrapalya, C V Raman Nagar post, Bangalore 560093. As per property Sale Deed my name is **APSER** and as per Aadhar card my name is **APSAR BEGAM**, I declare that both the names **APSER BEGUM** and **APSAR BEGAM** are refer to me only. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 29.07.2026, before Notary **THIPPESWAMY.T**, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED NASEER**, S/o S.M. Pasha, aged about 51 years, residing at No.494, Shabbimagar, Hunsur Town, Mysore -571105. As per Aadhar card No. 9452 5822 2456and Passport No. N9322426 my name is **MAHAMMED NASEER**, I declare that both the names **MAHAMMED NASEER** and **MAHAMMED NASEER** are refer to me only. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 29.07.2026, before Notary **VEERESH RAO BOBADE**, Hunsur

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ASIF S/o RIYAZ PASHA**, R/o Kamatampalli, Pulugurkote, Pugurkote, Srinivasapur, Kolar, Karnataka-563135, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **ASIK K R**.

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This is to inform to General public that my client **Sri.Gangappa J.C. s/o Srinivasiah**, and **Sri.Keshavamurthy S/o Srinivasaya**, Residing at Janagutta Village, Kamasamudram Hobli, Kamasamudram Village Panchayath, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owners of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at Janagutta Village, Kamasamudram Hobli, Kamasamudram Village Panchayath, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale deed, Dated:-10-01-2013, Regd Sale Deed, Executed by Sri, Srinivasaya s/o Late, Venkatarmaya, in favour of Sri, K.S.Subramayam s/o Sonnappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-10018/2012-13, IN CDNO. BPTD 201. In regd before of the SRO Bangarapete Taluk, In Respect of Property Bearing Bangarapete Taluk, Kamasamudram Hobli, Janagutta Village, V.P.Katha no.80/J.in, Measuring 20x30 Feets. police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2336771/2026, DATED:-29-07-2026, and complaint dated:-29-07-2026, by respective person, if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address. Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-29-07-2026

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This is to inform to General public that my client **Sri.Muneshwara.K S/o Sri. Krishnappa**, Residing at Muthyalapete ,Mulbagilu Town and Taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at Muthyalapete ,Mulbagilu Town and Taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale deed, Dated:- 16-10-2006, Regd Sale deed executed by Sri, Venkataramappa and his Son Sri, Hanumappa P.M. s/o Munishamy, in Favour of Sri, R.Ananya, s/o Late, K.Ramaya, Doc No.MBL-1-02044/2006-07, CDNO. MBLD 12, IN SRO Mulabagal, and Sale deed, Dated:- 17-08-2020, Regd Sale deed executed by Sri, R.Ananya, s/o Late, K.Ramaya, in Favour of Sri, Hanumappa P.M. s/o Munishamy Doc No.MBL-1-01509/2020-21, CDNO. MBLD 667, IN SRO Mulabagal, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2336749/2026, DATED:-29-07-2026, and complaint dated:-29-07-2026, by respective person, if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address. Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-29-07-2026

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I, **SHAHANAZ**, W/o Zakeer Hussain, residing at: Muslim Block, Old Police Station Road, Kanakapura, Ramanagar District. 562117. As per Aadhar card and Birth Certificate my daughter name is **BIBI HAJIRA**, But, in my daughter's passport bearing No: L3655983. My daughter's name is mentioned as **MUSKAAN**, I declare that both the names **MUSKAAN** and **BIBI HAJIRA** are refer to my daughter only. I affirm that the facts stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, vide affidavit dated: 09.03.2026, before Notary **RAMACHANDRA B**, Kanakapura.

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My client, **H. Shivappa bin Late. He-gappa**, residing in Hitne hebbagilu village, which falls under the jurisdiction of Hitne hebbagilu postal and gram panchayat, Ravandur hobli, Periyapatna taluk, Mysore district, has been issued a title deed for house plot number 146 by the government on 31-05-1980. However, the said original title deed was accidentally lost while being xeroxed in Periyapatna. Therefore, if anyone else finds the above original title deed, it is requested to hand it over to Mr. Veeresh Rao Bobade, Advocate, Notary, Gokul Road, Hunsur (Mo.No. 9686379169).

Public Notice

Under the instruction from my client namely **Rajashekhara S S/o Shivmullu** issuing the following publication as the property vide Document No: 38/58-59 the said property situated at,B G Pura village B G Hobali, malavalli Taluk, Mandya District. (schedule of property details to be mentioned clearly) that the parent/ chain/link title deed vide Hakkupathra (Allotment latter) as Doc. No. 38/58-59 Issues dated 21/08/1962 in the name of Rajashekhara S S/o Shivmullu was lost/ misplaced while at the time of all paper are zeroxed time (facts to be mentioned). If any body found the above said title deed, please be inform me in the below mentioned address within 28/07/2026 TO 7days from the date of Publication here with (both days inclusive), in case All persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchanges, gift, mortgage or otherwise however are requested to inform the same in writing to the undersigned having their office below that objection on the above schedule property, If I have not received any objection with in the stipulated days beyond that no claim is entertained or binding on my client. Place: Detail address of Advocate effecting Publication with contact number. Date:28/07/2026 M Guruprasad Advocates M Lingaih Building V V Road Mandya Ph No: 9242221603

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Neymar confirms retirement from international football career

RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil football star Neymar Jr has confirmed his retirement from international football, ending a memorable career with the national team. The 34-year-old forward said his journey with Brazil was over after giving everything for the famous yellow jersey.

Neymar made the announcement after Brazil's disappointing World Cup exit against Norway. He entered the tournament with an injury

Major International Achievements

- Earned **128+** international caps representing Brazil at senior level.
- Scored **79** international goals for Brazil in men's football
- Won **2013 Confederations Cup** with Brazil as champions
- Guided Brazil to **2016 Olympic** football gold medal.
- Became Brazil's all-time leading men's goalscorer in **2023**.
- Surpassed Pelé's record with his **79th** international goal.
- Scored **8 FIFA World Cup** goals across tournaments.
- Recorded **50+** assists for Brazil internationally during career.
- Received **U-20 World Cup** Golden Ball award.

and spent much of the competition away from the starting lineup. He later returned as a substitute and scored a penalty, but Brazil could not avoid elimination.

Reflecting on his career, Neymar said he created history with the national team and gave his blood and life while representing Brazil. He thanked his supporters and said he was proud of his achievements during his years with the country.

The forward also responded to recent criticism after reports linked him with comments about teammates and his participation in a poker event during a club match. Neymar denied making negative remarks and said his words after games were only meant to demand better performances as a captain.

Neymar leaves Brazil as the country's all-time leading goalscorer and one of its most celebrated players. Although he could not win a World Cup title, his contributions, skills and memorable performances made him a key figure in Brazilian football history.

His retirement marks the end of an era for Brazil, while fans and teammates remember his passion, talent and dedication. Neymar's international journey will remain a significant chapter in the story of Brazilian football for generations to come.

INDIAN WOMEN PREPARE IN EUROPE FOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP

NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team has left for Europe to begin the final phase of its preparations for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The squad travelled from Bengaluru to Mumbai before flying to Frankfurt, where it will train and play two practice matches against Germany on July 31 and August 1.

The friendlies are expected to help the players adjust to European conditions and improve team combinations before the tournament. After completing the training camp in Germany, the team will travel to Amsterdam on August 2 for the final stage of its preparations.



India has been placed in Pool D and will begin its World Cup campaign against China on August 16 before facing South Africa and England in the remaining group-stage matches. Captain Salima Tete said the team gained confidence from a productive training camp and is eager to carry that form into the practice games and the tournament.

She added that the players

are determined to perform well and make the country proud.

The World Cup will be held from August 15 to August 30, bringing together the world's top teams. India hopes its training in Europe will strengthen the squad and help it make a strong impact on the global stage with consistent performances throughout the competition.

McDonald seeks bigger squads for 2027 World Cup

MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has urged the International Cricket Council to increase squad limits for the 2027 ODI World Cup, suggesting teams should be allowed to select 17 players instead of 15. McDonald believes the expanded tournament format could become physically demanding for players, with teams required to play more matches before reaching the final.

The 2027 World Cup, hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, will feature a new Super 7 stage, increasing the number of games for leading teams compared to the previous

edition.

McDonald said larger squads would help teams manage injuries and changing conditions throughout the tournament. He pointed to Australia's 2023 World Cup experience, when Travis Head missed early matches due to injury, while New Zea-

land also faced similar challenges. He added that a heavy schedule before the 2027 event, including several Test series, could increase injury risks for key players.

Australia's fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc may need careful management due to their workload and injury history. McDonald also raised concerns about the reduced opportunities for Associate nations under the new format, saying their growth in limited-overs cricket deserves more recognition. He believes bigger squads would allow teams to field their strongest players and maintain the quality of the global tournament.



INDIA ADVANCES WITH GRIT AT JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

ONTARIO

India's men's and women's teams advanced to the quarterfinals of the World Junior Squash Team Championships with impressive performances.

The fifth-seeded men's team defeated 11th-seeded Kuwait 2-1 in the pre-quarterfinals after recovering from an early setback. Yusha Nafees lost the opening match, but Aryaveer Dewan levelled the

tie with a straight-games victory over Khaled Walead Al Fouzain. Gurveer Singh then secured the winning point by defeating Abdul Rahman Al Sanea in commanding fashion. Head coach Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu praised the team's composure and determination after overcoming Kuwait's strong start.

The Indian women's team continued its excellent form with a convincing 3-0 victory over South Africa to finish the group stage on a high. Rudra Singh gave India the perfect start by defeating Makayla Naidoo, while Anahat Singh followed with a dominant win against Brianna Robinson.



Saanvi Kalanki completed the clean sweep with another straight-games victory over Vivienne Van Der Schyff. India will now face England in the men's quarterfinals, while the

India's men defeated Kuwait 2-1 after a comeback, while women's team beat South Africa 3-0 and advanced confidently in squash competition

women's team will take on the United States.

Coach Sandhu said the men's team is ready for the challenge after recent meetings with England during the individual championships. Both Indian teams will aim to maintain their winning momentum as they continue their campaign for medals at the prestigious junior world tournament.

Ashwin wants spin dominance in Sri Lanka

CHENNAI



Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has backed the inclusion of three specialist spinners in India's playing eleven for the opening Test against Sri Lanka, starting in Galle on August 15.

Ashwin said Ravindra Jadeja, Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav should all feature in the side, considering the

spin-friendly conditions expected in Sri Lanka. He also suggested Saransh Jain at number seven, with Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul and either Sai Sudharsan or Devdutt Padikkal forming the batting lineup. According to Ashwin, the combination would leave room for two fast bowlers while maintaining a strong spin attack.

Ashwin also stressed the importance of Sai Sudharsan's fitness, saying the young batter could play a key role if declared fit before the series. He pointed out that Sudharsan recently scored two centuries during the India A tour of Sri Lanka, including one at Galle, showing his ability to handle local conditions and quality spin bowling.

However, the batter's availability remains uncertain after suffering a minor injury before joining the senior squad. Ashwin said Devdutt Padikkal would be a dependable replacement if needed but added that he would prefer Sudharsan to continue his excellent form at the Test level. India will begin the two-match World Test Championship series with hopes of making a strong start in challenging Sri Lankan conditions.



Justin Langer rejects England Test coach rumours

LONDON

Justin Langer has dismissed reports linking him with England's Test coaching role, saying nobody from the England and Wales Cricket Board has contacted him.

The former Australia coach said the speculation was only "paper talk" and rumours, despite widespread claims that he was a leading candidate to replace Brendon McCullum. Langer added he first learned about the reports through media coverage rather than official discussions.

He explained that coaching top international teams remains an attractive career opportunity for any experienced coach, but stressed that the current rumours were unfounded. He said anyone accepting England's Test coaching position would need a clear vision and a strong working relationship with the existing setup. England continues searching for a successor before the home Test series against Pakistan begins next month. Several names, including Marcus Trescothick, Stephen Fleming, Richard Dawson, Jonathan Trott and Tom Moody, have been linked with the vacancy. Langer maintained his focus remains on coaching Manchester Super Giants in The Hundred while leaving future possibilities open. For now, he insists there has been no official approach whatsoever yet.

Sana stays positive despite ODI series defeat

HAMBANTOTA

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana said her team was disappointed after losing the three-match ODI series 2-1 against Sri Lanka but remained determined to learn from the experience.

Pakistan won the opening match before Sri Lanka bounced back with victories in the next two games to seal the series. Sana admitted her side failed to make the most of good batting conditions af-

ter losing early wickets and said the younger players needed to take greater responsibility when senior batters were dismissed.

Despite the defeat, Sana highlighted several encouraging performances during the series. She praised openers Gull Feroza and Sadaf Shamas for giving the team strong starts, while appreciating Sidra Amin for handling pressure with consistent batting. Muneeba Ali also earned praise for adapting well in the

middle order. Sana commended bowlers Nashra Sandhu and Umm-e-Hani for their valuable contributions and urged younger players to continue improving.

Looking ahead to the T20I series, she encouraged the squad to remain patient, maintain a positive attitude and continue following their roles with confidence. She expressed belief that consistent improvement would bring better results in future matches.

Hockey India announces 20-member Asian Games squad

NEW DELHI

Hockey India has announced a 20-member Indian men's hockey squad for the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, to be held from September 19 to October 4.

Defender Harmanpreet Singh will captain the defending champions as India aims to retain the gold medal won at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games. Veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh has also been included to add experience to the squad. Mohith HS and Suraj Karkera will share goalkeeping duties, while the team features a balanced mix of experienced internationals and promising young players across defence, midfield and attack.

India has been placed in Pool A alongside hosts Japan, Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka



and Indonesia. The tournament winner will earn direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, making the competition especially important. Chief coach Craig Fulton said the squad has the experience needed to meet the challenge and achieve the team's goal of securing an Olympic berth.

Captain Harmanpreet urged players to stay confident, en-

joy the game and perform their responsibilities without pressure. India will begin its campaign against Indonesia on September 20 before facing Sri Lanka, Korea, Japan and Bangladesh in the remaining group-stage matches. All matches will be played at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium in Kakamigahara. The team will look to build on its recent success and defend

India squad for Asian Games 2026:

- **Goalkeepers:** Mohith HS, Suraj Karkera.
- **Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (c), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Yashdeep Siwach.
- **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad.
- **Forwards:** Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Abhishek.

the continental title with another strong performance.

QUICK READ

India job market stays strong in key sectors

NEW DELHI

India's job market is showing strong resilience despite a slight dip in overall postings. A new report by Indeed shows job openings dropped by nearly two percent in June. However, hiring remains well above pre-pandemic levels. Growth is shifting toward specific fields like healthcare, hospital-ity, and consumer services. Roles for doctors, therapists, and food service workers saw double-digit jumps. Meanwhile, tech hiring cooled down after years of massive growth. Experts say this healthy sector shift proves the broader economy remains stable and full of new career opportunities.

India office leasing rises in early 2026

NEW DELHI

Office space leasing across India's top six cities grew by seven percent. It reached a record 41.6 million square feet in the first half of 2026. A new report by Savills India highlights this steady growth despite global economic uncertainties. Bengaluru led the market by capturing nearly a third of total absorption. Pune and Delhi-NCR followed closely behind. The technology sector remained the top driver of office demand. Experts say strong corporate confidence, tech expansion, and a deep talent pool continue to support this healthy real estate market.

Adani enterprises hits record EBITDA in Q1

AHMEDABAD

Adani Enterprises announced its highest-ever quarterly earnings. The company reported an EBITDA of Rs 5,642 crore for the first quarter of the fiscal year. This marks a massive 49 percent growth compared to last year. Total income also surged by 50 percent to reach Rs 33,546 crore. Group Chairman Gautam Adani credited this strong start to expanding infrastructure projects, higher airport earnings, and the new Navi Mumbai airport operations. Experts note that disciplined investments and growing asset use are successfully driving major financial gains for shareholders.

Apple reaches historic five trillion market cap

NEW DELHI

Tech giant Apple crossed the historic five trillion dollar market value recently during trading. It is only the second company globally to hit this major milestone. Apple shares touched a high of nearly three hundred forty-two dollars, briefly pushing its total worth past five trillion dollars. Just a day earlier, the iPhone maker beat Nvidia to reclaim its spot as the world's most valuable firm. Strong investor trust, high product demand, and artificial intelligence plans are driving this success. Nvidia remains the only other company to have reached this huge valuation level.

FTA opens access to \$60 trillion markets: Goyal

India's recent free trade agreements grant local businesses access to massive global markets, driving a surge in exports.

NEW DELHI

India's recent free trade deals with major global economies are now giving local businesses access to massive markets worth nearly sixty trillion dollars. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal stated that this trade expansion is a direct result of strong leadership, helping the nation push forward to become a leading global export hub.

Sharing details on social media, the minister highlighted that these trade agreements were specifically designed to boost domestic manufacturing, attract foreign investment, and create millions of new jobs. Over the past five years, national exports have jumped by seventy-three per-



cent. Deals offering lower or zero duty benefits have given a massive advantage to key sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and gems.

At the same time, the government has made sure to protect sensitive domestic sectors, such as farming and dairy, from unfair competition. These pacts are successfully helping local companies

connect deeply with global supply chains. Parliament data also revealed that India recently hit a record-breaking high in total exports, crossing eight hundred sixty-three billion dollars in the last fiscal year. This impressive growth was driven by a powerful mix of strong merchandise shipments and booming service sector exports.

Officials emphasize that these strategic trade deals form the core of the government's long-term vision. By strengthening international partnerships and expanding industrial capabilities, the country aims to transform itself into a powerhouse of global trade and secure a prosperous economic future for all citizens.

Smart Tech augments Indian workforce: Report

NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence is changing how people work across India. A new report shares good news. Instead of taking away jobs, smart tech will help millions of workers do their daily tasks much faster and better.

Experts point out that generative AI will change the work habits of nearly half of the country's non-farm workers. Rather than replacing humans, this technology will act as a helpful assistant. It can handle routine duties, leaving creative and physical jobs to people. Only a small fraction of current positions faces any real risk of being completely replaced.

Sectors heavy on information will see the biggest changes. Fields like education, healthcare, finance, media, and professional services stand to gain the most. Workers in these areas deal with a lot of data and reports every single day. AI can process this information quickly, making experts more efficient.

On the flip side, industries involving heavy physical labor, such as construction, mining, and manufacturing, will see much less disruption. Desk jobs like clerical support face higher risks of automation, while hands-on roles remain safe.

Experts note that this wave of technology will boost overall work output. India's yearly labor productivity growth could jump by a healthy margin over the next ten years. If tech improves even faster, those gains could double.

Fears about tech jobs disappearing might be too dramatic. While a few major IT firms cut some staff recently, the broader technology market in the country added hundreds of thousands of new positions over the past three years. This shows the job market is adapting well. Ultimately, smart tech will create a stronger, more efficient workforce across the nation, paving the way for a bright future where humans and machines work hand in hand.



Marine, port divisions boost Adani earnings

AHMEDABAD

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone has shared great news for the first quarter of the financial year.

The major port operator announced a ten percent jump in its net profit. The total profit reached 3,650 crore rupees for the three months ending in June. This strong financial growth came from solid work across its local and overseas ports, shipping, and cargo services.

The company also saw its total revenue climb by nineteen percent. Revenue reached 10,821 crore rupees compared to 9,126 crore rupees during the same period last year. Business leaders noted that higher cargo volumes and better pricing played a big role in this success. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization also grew by nineteen percent to hit 6,541 crore rupees.

A major highlight of the quarter was the amazing performance of international op-

erations. Overseas port revenue skyrocketed by eighty percent to 1,747 crore rupees. Profits from these global locations grew even faster thanks to smooth operations in Australia and Colombo.

Ashwani Gupta, the Chief Executive Officer, explained that the balanced business model helped the company succeed. He pointed out that while local ports remain the main foundation of their earnings, the international and shipping divisions are now turning into massive profit drivers.

Meanwhile, domestic ports kept a steady pace with a twelve percent revenue increase. They maintained a strong profit margin of seventy-four percent. The marine sector also expanded fast, with revenue growing by sixty-seven percent to 901 crore rupees due to new offshore vessels and subsea operations in Europe. Experts believe these positive results show the firm is growing steadily in both local and global markets.

Govt fund boosts 128 startups with ₹1,300 cr

NEW DELHI

The government-backed Electronics Development Fund has successfully channeled over thirteen hundred crore rupees into one hundred twenty-eight emerging startups and tech companies.

An official statement released highlighted that the fund, established by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, aims to drive domestic innovation and intellectual property creation.

Operating as a fund of funds, the initiative has invested nearly two hundred fifty-eight crore rupees

across eight specialized venture capital funds. These smaller funds then used the capital to support businesses focused on electronics system design, manufacturing, and information technology. Officials noted that startup selection depended heavily on innovation capability, founder expertise, and business scalability.

Geographically, Karnataka led the country with the highest number of backed companies, followed by states like Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi. The initial public investments successfully attracted nearly five times

LIC hands over dividend cheque to government

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received a massive dividend cheque of 12,207 crore rupees from the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the financial year.

The top boss of the insurance giant handed over the huge amount during a formal meeting. This payout highlights the solid financial health and steady growth of the country's top insurance provider.

Apart from this, the minister also accepted dividend payouts from other state-run financial institutions. She received 2,853 crore rupees from Union Bank of India and 211 crore rupees from New India Assurance. These contributions show the strong performance of public sector financial companies over the past year.

Official updates shared online reveal that public sector banks have shown remarkable improvement in their asset quality. Gross bad loans dropped to a record low of less than two percent. Meanwhile, the combined net profit of these state lenders crossed an impressive milestone, reaching 1.98 lakh crore rupees. This marks four

Finance Minister receives Rs 12,207 crore LIC dividend for FY 2025-26



RECORD PROFITS, LOW BAD LOANS

■ **Massive LIC Payout:** The Life Insurance Corporation handed over a cheque of 12,207 crore rupees, showcasing its solid business performance.

■ **Banking Sector Profits:** Union Bank of India contributed a healthy dividend cheque of 2,853 crore rupees, while New India Assurance added 211 crore rupees.

■ **Record Low Bad Loans:** Public sector banks saw their bad loans drop to a historic low of just 1.9 percent, proving that lenders are managing risks much better now.

■ **All-Time High Net Profits:** Combined net profits for state-owned banks touched an amazing 1.98 lakh crore rupees, marking four straight years of steady growth.

■ **Massive Business Growth:** Total business across these major public banks grew by 12.8 percent, reaching a staggering 283.3 lakh crore rupees by the end of March.

straight years of steady profit growth for these institutions.

Better lending practices, higher income, and smart risk management helped banks improve their balance sheets. The total business volume of these state-run banks expanded by nearly thirteen percent, crossing 283

lakh crore rupees. Experts note that these positive figures reflect a much healthier and safer banking system in the country. Prudent financial rules and strong governance have successfully protected public money while driving impressive economic growth across all sectors.

India-Africa trade surpasses one hundred billion dollars, with cumulative investments exceeding seventy-five billion dollars, driving growth in infrastructure, technology, and agriculture.

India-Africa trade and investment rise

NEW DELHI

Economic ties between India and Africa have reached new heights, with total business exchanges and investments growing rapidly over the past few years. New figures show that cumulative Indian investments on the continent have crossed the milestone of seventy-five billion dollars.

Experts note that these funds are mainly focused on vital sectors such as telecommunications, healthcare, farming, and infrastructure.

Recent data highlighted during a major business event in Cape Town reveals that total bilateral trade has also climbed significantly, passing the one hundred billion dollar mark. Business leaders and delegates from

twenty-six nations recently gathered at the summit to discuss regional growth, digital skills, green energy, and climate-smart agriculture. Officials point out that India and Africa together represent a massive combined economic potential close to seven trillion dollars.

The gathering also celebrated the influential role of the local Indian diaspora, estimated at around three million people, who act as a historic bridge for trade between the two regions. Organizers even released a special list honoring top entrepreneurs of Indian origin working across various African nations.

While private groups report massive commercial growth, official government

figures from recent intergovernmental meetings reveal even higher numbers. Authorities note that total Indian investments over recent decades have reached nearly eighty billion dollars, alongside numerous lines of credit supporting major public projects like clean water, transport, and energy in dozens of countries.

Economists explain that combining public financing, official loans, and private capital makes it challenging to track the exact total. However, both sides agree that this powerful partnership continues to expand rapidly, creating exciting new opportunities in technology, manufacturing, and finance for millions of people in both regions.

KPIT technologies reports lower Q1 net profit

MUMBAI

KPIT Technologies shared a softer financial update for the first quarter of the fiscal year. The firm reported a drop in its consolidated net profit and total revenue compared to the previous quarter. Pressure from some major clients heavily impacted overall business results during this three-month period.

The company stated that its net profit fell by over twenty-eight percent sequentially to reach 117 crore rupees. Total operating revenue also slipped by two percent to 1,675 crore rupees. Operating performance softened as well, with earnings before interest and taxes decreasing significantly from the preceding quarter. Consequently, profit margins narrowed as market challenges persisted across key operational

areas. Geographical results showed mixed trends for the technology firm. Revenue from the United States grew by twelve percent, while European markets remained largely flat. However, earnings from other global regions saw a noticeable decline.

Chief Executive Officer Kishor Patil noted that performance remained slightly better than their initial internal outlook. He explained that although top clients faced ongoing business hurdles, a diverse strategy helped cushion the impact. The firm is now focusing heavily on artificial intelligence and smart mobility solutions to drive future growth. Leaders remain optimistic that new tech offerings in vehicle engineering and digital cockpits will improve numbers in coming months.



WHEN INDIA SHINES ABROAD

Burj Khalifa now accepts UPI for bookings

NEW DELHI

Indian travellers planning a trip to Dubai can now use the familiar Unified Payments Interface to buy tickets for the famous Burj Khalifa online.

This makes the iconic landmark the very first destination in the United Arab Emirates to accept India's popular digital payment system for website transactions.

The new payment option was launched through a special partnership involving international payment networks, local financial processors, and entertainment authorities. Tourists from India can now reserve their spots for the observation decks straight from the official website using their regular mobile banking apps before even boarding their flights.

Officials noted that this

update expands on earlier rollouts where Indian visitors could use simple QR code scans at physical stores across the region. Leaders from the payment sector explained that the goal is to offer a smooth and trusted financial experience for citizens travelling abroad, catering directly to the massive wave of Indian tourists visiting the gulf nation every year.

Representatives from en-

tertainment groups shared that Indian visitors form one of their biggest groups of international guests. By adding this quick digital payment gateway, the booking process becomes much easier, saving time and removing currency exchange hassles. Experts believe this successful digital bridge will encourage other global attractions in the area to adopt similar payment methods soon.



RCB LEADS IPL'S MOST valuable franchise rankings

Royal Challengers Bengaluru became IPL's most valuable team in 2026 with USD 312 million brand value, followed by Mumbai Indians

BENGALURU

The Indian Premier League's business value has crossed the USD 20.6 billion for the first time, according to a new valuation report.

The report stated that the league's enterprise value increased by 11.4% while its standalone brand value reached USD 4.3 billion.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru topped the franchise rankings with a brand value of USD 312 million, becoming the most valuable IPL team in

2026. Mumbai Indians followed with USD 264 million, while Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings secured the third and fourth positions respectively.

The report highlighted that RCB's growth was supported by strong fan engagement, digital popularity and recent ownership changes. The IPL also recorded major audience growth, reaching over one billion screens during the 2026 season. Digital viewing continued to expand, changing how fans follow the tournament.

Other teams also showed improvement in their commercial value. Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals, Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans recorded positive growth, while Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants saw slower progress. The league's rising financial strength has attracted more investors and increased confidence in cricket as a global sports business.

The latest valuation report shows that IPL franchises are no longer viewed only as

cricket teams but as major entertainment brands. With growing audiences, strong sponsorships and global interest, the league is expected to continue expanding its influence and commercial success in the coming years. Officials and investors believe the tournament's future remains promising as new opportunities emerge across markets worldwide while teams focus on building stronger brands and deeper connections with fans through innovative strategies in cricket.

Gill returns to top ICC ODI rankings

DUBAI

India captain Shubman Gill has reclaimed the No.1 spot in the ICC ODI batting rankings after New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell lost the leading position. The change came after Mitchell's absence from recent matches allowed Gill to return to the top place in the 50-over format.

Young Indian batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi also made a major jump in the T20I rankings, moving up 230 places to reach 48th position after his impressive performances against Zimbabwe. The 15-year-old scored 151 runs at an average of 50.33, helping India complete a 3-0 series victory. His rise highlighted his growing reputation as one of the country's promising talents.

ICC rankings showed strong movements among other Indian players as well. Ishan Kishan remained the top-ranked T20I batter with 910 rating points, while Tilak Varma climbed to sixth place and Shreyas Iyer moved to 24th. Ravi Bishnoi also im-

proved his bowling rank after gaining 31 positions to enter 41st place among T20I bowlers.

The latest updates also included progress from international players across formats. Zimbabwe's Ryan Burl and Blessing Muzarabani improved their rankings after strong performances, while West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves moved higher in Test rankings following a memorable series against Pakistan.

Gill and Sooryavanshi continue to attract attention with their consistent performances and rising influence in international cricket. Their achievements reflect India's growing strength across formats and the emergence of talented young players on the global stage. The updated rankings underline the importance of regular performances and confirm that both experienced stars and new talents are shaping the future of cricket with confidence and great promise.



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi climbed 230 spots to 48th in T20I rankings, scoring 151 runs and helping India secure a 3-0 series win

Indian swimmers miss Commonwealth 200m freestyle final

GLASGOW

India's Sajan Prakash and Aneesh Gowda missed the men's 200 metre freestyle final at the 2026 Commonwealth Games on Wednesday. Prakash competed in Heat 4 and finished fifth with a time of 1:51.99 minutes. Gowda raced in Heat 5 and recorded 1:51.64 minutes, ending seventh.

Both swimmers finished outside the qualifying marks, with Gowda placed 18th and Prakash 20th overall. Only the top eight swimmers from six heats reached the final. Despite their efforts, the Indian athletes could not secure a place in the medal race and ended their campaign with determination after a tough swimming event.

Sanjana exits Commonwealth Games after snatch failure

GLASGOW

Indian weightlifter Sanjana suffered an early exit from the women's 77kg competition at the Commonwealth Games after failing to complete any of her three snatch attempts on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old athlete, who was considered a medal hopeful before the event, could not lift the opening weight of 94kg despite three efforts. As a result, she was eliminated before reaching the clean and jerk stage, where she had expected to perform strongly.



Sanjana's unexpected exit became India's second consecutive Did Not Finish result in weightlifting at the Games. Earlier, Nirupama Devi also

failed to complete her competition in the women's 63kg category after missing all three clean and jerk attempts despite successfully lifting 93kg in the snatch round. The setback was a disappointing moment for the Indian weightlifting team, which entered the competition with high expectations. However, athletes and officials will look to recover quickly and focus on upcoming events. Sanjana's experience at the Games will provide valuable lessons as she continues her journey in international weightlifting competitions.

Gulveer, Harjinder shine with historic Commonwealth silvers

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated athletes Gulveer Singh and Harjinder Kaur after they won silver medals at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.

Shah praised their achievements and said their success would inspire young Indian players to work harder and bring more glory to the nation through sports.

Gulveer created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a Commonwealth Games medal in the men's 10,000m event. Competing in difficult rain-soaked conditions, the national record holder stayed among the leaders before delivering a strong final lap to secure silver with

a time of 27:49.78. His achievement added another milestone to his career, which already includes major medals at international events.

Harjinder Kaur also earned praise after winning silver in the women's 69kg weightlifting category with a total lift of 227kg. She recorded 101kg in snatch and 126kg in clean and jerk, showing great strength and determination. India's performance in weightlifting continued to improve at the Games.

The two silver medals became memorable moments for India's campaign in Glasgow. Gulveer's historic athletics result and Harjinder's weightlifting success highlighted the dedication of Indian athletes. Their performanc-



es gave fans new hopes and added another proud chapter to the country's sporting journey. The achievements also showed the growing strength of Indian sports and encouraged future champions to dream bigger while representing the nation with confidence and complete dedication.

INDIA DRAWN WITH INDONESIA IN FIFA ASEAN CUP

CHENNAI

India has been placed in Group A for the first edition of the FIFA ASEAN Cup 2026, according to the tournament draw announced on Wednesday. The Blue Tigers will compete against hosts Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia in the opening stage of the international football competition.

Pakistan has been placed in Group B alongside Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. All Division 1 group matches will be played in Indonesia, while Division 2 will include six teams divided into two groups. Hong Kong will host all Division 2 matches featuring teams like Myanmar, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, and Timor Leste.

The tournament is sched-



uled to take place during FIFA's International Friendly window from September 21 to October 6, 2026. The ASEAN Cup was introduced by FIFA president Gianni Infantino in 2025 with the aim of improving football development and creating more opportunities for teams across Southeast Asia.

The new competition will run alongside the ASEAN Championship, a biennial

tournament that began in 1996. Thailand remains the most successful team in that competition with seven titles. Indonesia holds a special place in regional football history as the only team from Southeast Asia to appear in the FIFA World Cup, competing in 1938 as the Dutch East Indies. The ASEAN Cup is expected to provide a new platform for teams to grow and compete at a higher level.



LIMERICK

Three-time major winner Pádraig Harrington has been appointed as a vice captain

Harrington joins Europe Ryder Cup leadership team

for Europe's 2027 Ryder Cup team. The Irish golfer will join Luke Donald's support team along with brothers Edoardo and Francesco Molinari

for the tournament scheduled at Adare Manor in Limerick from September 13 to 19 next year. Team Europe will aim for a third straight Ryder Cup victory after winning the 2023 and 2025 editions.

Harrington, who represented Europe six times as a player and captained the team in 2021, said he was excited to work with Donald again. He shared that their previous experiences together created a strong understanding and he believes he can contribute positively to the team. Harrington made his Ryder Cup debut in 1999 and helped Europe secure victories in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2010. His experience and leadership are expected to play an important role as Europe prepares for another major challenge. The team management hopes Harrington's knowledge of the competition will help guide players and strengthen their chances of success on home ground.

Aja Wilson leads Aces to dominant victory

LAS VEGAS

The Las Vegas Aces secured a convincing 98-83 win over the Portland Fire on late Tuesday night behind a brilliant performance from Aja Wilson.

The four-time league MVP scored 28 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to guide her team to another important victory this season.

Wilson was highly efficient, making seven of ten field goal attempts and converting 13 of 14 free throws. Jackie Young added 25 points on strong shooting while Chelsea Gray contributed 17 points and Jewell Loyd scored 11 from the bench. The Aces shot 58% from the floor and improved their record to 19-8 af-

ter the win.

Portland struggled despite Megan DiLeo's team-high 20 points and Frieda Buhner scoring 16. The Fire started



slowly and trailed 36-21 after the opening quarter. A second-quarter comeback brought Portland closer, but Las Vegas responded with a strong finish to the first half and led 53-37 at halftime.

Portland never managed to recover fully as the Aces maintained control throughout the second half. Wilson's leadership and scoring ability helped Las Vegas remain in command until the final buzzer. The victory highlighted the Aces' strength and their continued push toward success during the campaign. The team will next host the New York Liberty while Portland prepares to face the Indiana Fever in its upcoming match as both teams continue their seasons.

Karnataka Table Tennis Tournament set for August

BENGALURU

The Malleswaram Association will host the Karnataka State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament-2026 from August 5 to 9 at its venue in Bengaluru. The event will feature boys and girls categories under U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, and U-19, along with men's and women's singles competitions. Players can register their entries online through the Karnataka Table Tennis Association website until August 2, 2026.

For further details, participants may contact Mr. Gunalan at 94481 27747. The tournament aims to provide young and senior players a platform to showcase their skills and compete at the state level with great sporting spirit.

