

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

www.ibcworldnews.com The Truth Speaks SUNDAY ▸ AUGUST 30, 2026 ▸ VOL: 12 ▸ ISSUE: 046 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00 BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI



Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

SHE CARRIES OUR DREAMS SHE BUILDS OUR FUTURE

₹2,000 a month finds a different purpose in every woman's hands

THESE ARE GRUHA LAKSHMI'S STORIES



₹76,500+
crore
disbursed

**Gruha
Lakshmi**

1.2+
crore
beneficiaries



Guarantee Sarkara

Shakthi

**Anna
Bhagya**

Gruha Jyothi

Yuva Nidhi



Scan Here

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition, is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution."

CMofKarnataka

<https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/>

Karnatakavarthe

karnataka information

QUICK READ

Koramangala police arrest Visakhapatnam native for bizarre PG thefts

BENGALURU
Koramangala police arrested a Visakhapatnam native named Giriraj for stealing women's innerwear and sanitary pads from a paying guest accommodation. The accused, working as an audit consultant, lived on the men's floor of the PG building. Following a formal complaint by a 25-year-old resident, investigators reviewed CCTV footage showing the suspect entering unlocked rooms and arranging stolen items obscenely for sexual gratification. Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to the bizarre thefts. Police successfully took him into custody, registered a criminal case, and subsequently remanded him to judicial custody for further legal proceedings.

2017 Shantinagar murder case: 8 convicted to life imprisonment

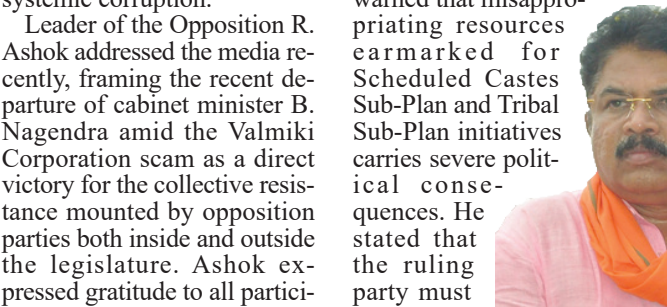
BENGALURU
A session's court sentenced 8 men to life imprisonment for murdering 32-year-old Harish in Shantinagar back in October 2017. The fatal attack occurred after the victim objected to the convicts smoking in public now. Angered by the warning, the armed group returned late at night and assaulted Harish in front of his family members. Ashoknagar police conducted a thorough investigation, utilizing eyewitness accounts and identification parades to build a watertight case. The court delivered the landmark verdict, holding all 8 accused fully accountable for the gruesome homicide after reviewing solid prosecution evidence.

High Court dismisses petition over Swamiji invitation

BENGALURU
The High Court dismissed a writ petition challenging the state government's omission of Pranavananda Swamiji from the 172nd Brahmarshi Narayana-guru Jayanti official invitation. Justice Suraj Govindaraj heard the plea filed by Rashtriya Eediga Mahamandali President C. Thippeswamy, which alleged discrimination after the Swamiji's name was dropped a day before the event. The bench ruled that inviting specific guests falls entirely within government discretion and cannot be mandated through a writ petition, noting such public issues require a public interest litigation. Consequently, the court dismissed the petition without granting any relief.

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

Senior opposition leaders have declared that political demonstrations will move forward unabated across the state, asserting that ministerial resignations alone cannot erase systemic corruption. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok addressed the media recently, framing the recent departure of cabinet minister B. Nagendra amid the Valmiki Corporation scam as a direct victory for the collective resistance mounted by opposition parties both inside and outside the legislature. Ashok expressed gratitude to all partici-



Minister Khandre orders action on rural lake encroachments

WORLD LAKE DAY SPARKS A FIERCE STATE CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL LAND GRABS THREATENING VITAL RURAL WATER BODIES.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State authorities are stepping up efforts to protect vital water bodies across rural areas. On the occasion of World Lake Day, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Ishwar Khandre ordered top officials to submit a complete report on all lake encroachments within 10 days. The minister issued formal written instructions to the department secretary to compile exact details regarding water bodies under gram panchayat management. The required report must cover total lake areas, the exact extent of illegal land grabs, and the specific steps taken to clear those encroachments. Emphasizing the importance of freshwater reserves, the minister pointed out that

lakes serve as the primary lifeline for rural communities. Protecting these natural water resources has become essential to secure clean drinking water supplies, keeping in mind projected population growth over the next 30 years. Marking World Lake Day, which is observed globally every August 27th to promote sustainable resource management, leaders stressed that preserving local ecosystems remains critical for human survival and regional development. The government plans to rely heavily on surface water bodies to meet future rural drinking water demands. Officials expect the upcoming compliance report to jumpstart major cleanup operations and safeguard vulnera-



Preserving our lakes is not merely about land conservation; it is about securing the survival and well-being of future generations.
- Minister Ishwar Khandre

Initiative overview	Key administrative objectives
Encroachment mapping	Identifying illegal structures and boundary violations across Panchayat water bodies.
Action-oriented reports	Documenting direct measures taken by local authorities to reclaim public water land.
Future planning	Transitioning toward surface water reliance for sustainable rural drinking water supply.

ble water bodies from further illegal commercial and residential occupation. Local administrations have been directed to take swift legal action against violators once the encroachment map-

ping is complete. The state aims to restore all damaged water basins to ensure long-term ecological balance and secure dependable water sources for future generations across every district.

Karnataka Proposes 'Bhovi-Vaddar' Caste Certificate Label

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is moving to protect job and education quotas for marginalized groups. Backward Classes Welfare Minister Shivraj Thangadgi announced that caste certificates for the Bhovi community should officially read "Bhovi-Vaddar." This decision follows a high-level meeting chaired by Social Welfare Minister K.H. Muniyappa. Officials noted that some individuals exploit loopholes to secure fake certificates meant for other groups, such as the fishing-focused Bestha community. Using the combined "Bhovi-Vaddar" label will highlight the community's traditional labor roots—like stone-cutting and well-digging—and block fraudulent claims. Additionally, leaders proposed constructing a dedicated "Siddarameshwar Bhovi Bhavan" community hall. The government hopes these measures will secure fair access to welfare programs, ensuring that genuine workers receive the educational and employment benefits they legally deserve without interference from outsiders abusing the system.



ditional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department, the Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department for Disaster Management, the Secretaries of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, the Agriculture Department, and the Water Resources Department, alongside the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC). The Managing Director of the Karnataka Irrigation Corporation serves as the Member Secretary, anchoring institutional oversight. Running parallel to the administrative steering group, a specialized Technical Advisory and Evaluation Committee has been established to supply empirical guidance, meteorological evaluations, and operational strategies to the KSNDMC.

Oversight and technical committees

- Monitoring Committee:** Headed by the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, this 7-member body oversees general supervision and execution. It includes top officials from the Water Resources, Revenue, Rural Development, and Agriculture departments, alongside KSNDMC, with the Managing Director of the Karnataka Irrigation Corporation acting as Member Secretary.
- Technical Advisory & Evaluation Committee:** Chaired by the Director of KSNDMC, this 10-member technical board provides scientific guidance. It features experts from the IMD, IISc (Prof. Nagesh Kumar), retired academia (Prof. G.S. Bhat), IITM Pune, KSPCB, and specialized engineering consultants.

Officer Gyanendra interrogated for 11 hours over KPSC scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

IAS Officer Gyanendra Kumar faced an eleven-hour interrogation by the CID in Bengaluru regarding the KPSC recruitment scam. Kumar appeared following a notice after evading earlier ED raids. Investigators questioned him about exam preparations, safety steps, and the exact timeline of the paper leak. Meanwhile, political tension escalated as Union Ministers accused the state government of shielding the bureaucrat and alleged ministerial involvement in past appointment irregularities.

State inspects medical college canteens

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

Student health took center stage this week as food safety authorities cracked down on institutional dining across the city. In a series of intensive surprise inspections, state health officials evaluated the kitchen standards of 34 different canteens attached to government and private medical college hostels. The operation aimed to root out unsafe practices and ensure that young scholars are not exposed to health hazards where they live and eat. While many facilities met basic health guidelines, inspectors uncovered

alarming lapses at several locations. Teams pulled expired provisions directly from storage shelves, including quantities of spoiled milk and old semolina that failed safety standards. Investigators also flagged serious issues regarding proper product labeling and kitchen cleanliness. Official notices have been formally served to 5 specific college canteens found in direct violation of state and federal guidelines. Legal proceedings are currently underway against the operators responsible under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety

and Standards Act. Officials confirmed that case files will be presented before the Additional District Magistrate, who acts as the designated Adjudicating Officer for such public health infractions. Health department leaders stressed that these spot checks are part of a broader, ongoing initiative to clean up commercial kitchens throughout the region. With thousands of students relying entirely on campus messes for their daily meals, authorities emphasized that zero tolerance will be shown toward any management cutting corners on hygiene and food safety.

Sriramulu vows to fight Nagendra in 2028 elections

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former minister B. Sriramulu launched a blistering attack against former minister B. Nagendra, accepting a political challenge and vowing to contest directly against him in the upcoming 2028 assembly elections.

Addressing reporters at the party state headquarters in Malleshwaram, Sriramulu dismissed demands for an immediate snap election while declaring readiness for a future face-off. "I will stand wherever B. Nagendra contests in 2028," Sriramulu stated forcefully. "Why should I stand against a corrupt person now? Let him come in the next election, wherever he stands, I will be there." The war of words follows Nagendra's recent resignation amid mounting political pressure and corruption allegations linked to corporate funds allegedly diverted for Lok Sabha election campaigns. Sriramulu claimed that numerous ruling party candidates secured victories using illicit cash flows, specifically alleging that funds were distributed extensively during elections in Bellary and other regions.

The BJP leader criticized Nagendra's emotional reactions and public displays of distress following his resignation, rejecting claims that opposition parties or ideological opponents were responsible for his downfall. He pointed out that political figures who supported Nagendra's early legislative career had done so years prior, and argued that his current troubles stemmed from his own actions and political missteps. "You made a mistake, you resigned," Sriramulu said, adding that the anguish of affected families and the consequences of past decisions constituted true retribution. Sriramulu also targeted the



If he wants to face the people's court now, let the government dissolve itself. Otherwise, I will stand and fight wherever Nagendra contests in the 2028 elections.
- B. Sriramulu, former minister

ruling Congress party, accusing leadership of sidelining Dalit communities and rolling back scheduled tribe reservation quotas previously established by the opposition. He condemned the public display of constitutional texts by leaders facing legal scrutiny, questioning whether holding a sacred book could absolve individuals of administrative wrongdoing. Alluding to internal party dynamics within the ruling administration, Sriramulu claimed that high-level pressure compelled the resignation and suggested that internal disagreements among senior leaders contributed to the outcome. He asserted that the state government was vulnerable to public sentiment and accused leadership of exploiting social justice narratives for political deflection. Alongside the political sparring, the state BJP unit formally unveiled the official logo for its upcoming protest march, titled "Bellary Chalo." Scheduled to run from September 1 to September 10, the foot march will traverse nine assembly constituencies starting from Raichur and culminating in Bellary. Union ministers, key parliamentarians, and senior state leaders are expected to launch the multi-day demonstration, which aims to intensify pressure on the government over allegations of corruption and administrative mismanagement.

Heavy rains fill Karnataka dams, bringing relief to farmers

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

Good news is finally rolling in for farmers and residents across Karnataka. Thanks to persistent rainfall over the past few weeks, major water bodies in both the Cauvery and Krishna river basins are seeing a welcome surge. Water managers report that the state's storage levels are looking remarkably healthy, easing worries about drinking water shortages and giving local agriculture a much-needed boost. Up north, the vital Almatti reservoir in Vijayapura district has reached its maximum capacity. Sitting near Nidgun-ditaluk, the Lal Bahadur Shastri Sagar dam hit a level of 519.58 meters against its total limit of 519.60 meters. Because it is completely full, authorities are currently releasing a massive 26,883 cusecs of water directly into the Krishna River to safely manage the steady inflow. Meanwhile, down south, the Hemavati reservoir locat-

ed in Hassan's Gorur area is filling up nicely. Its current water level stands at 2,913.58 feet, holding nearly 30 TMC of water. Officials noted an inflow of 2,173 cusecs, while releasing 1,800 cusecs into the river and another 3,700 cusecs into nearby canals to support local irrigation needs. While this is slightly lower than last year's numbers during the same week, the steady current flow continues to reassure farming communities in the region. The famous Krishnarajasagar (KRS) dam in Mandya district is also experiencing a positive trend. The reservoir has climbed to 110.28 feet, holding a solid 32 TMC of water out of its full capacity of nearly fifty TMC. Current measurements show an inflow of 7,955 cusecs, with 6,972 cusecs being discharged to downstream areas. Local water resource departments are keeping a close watch on all major catchments as the monsoon season progresses.

BEYOND THE MINISTER'S EXIT

Padayatra continues despite Nagendra's resignation

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

Senior opposition leaders have declared that political demonstrations will move forward unabated across the state, asserting that ministerial resignations alone cannot erase systemic corruption. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok addressed the media recently, framing the recent departure of cabinet minister B. Nagendra amid the Valmiki Corporation scam as a direct victory for the collective resistance mounted by opposition parties both inside and outside the legislature. Ashok expressed gratitude to all partici-

pating members of the legislative assembly and council who maintained sustained pressure on the ruling administration regarding the alleged misuse of funds meant for marginalized communities. The opposition leader warned that misappropriating resources earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan initiatives carries severe political consequences. He stated that the ruling party must

The first wicket has fallen, but our struggle against administrative corruption and the misuse of Dalit welfare funds will not stop here.
- R. Ashok, Opposition Leader.

recognize that financial irregularities targeting vulnerable populations will face relentless scrutiny and public accountability. Characterizing the resignation as merely the first major casualty of an administration struggling with governance, Ashok indicated that broader financial

scandals and administrative missteps remain unaddressed. Despite the ministerial exit, the opposition confirmed that its planned statewide march will proceed as scheduled. Leaders outlined an aggressive agenda for the upcoming demonstrations, emphasizing that the protest tour will focus heavily on unaddressed public concerns. Key issues slated for the march include worsening drought conditions across rural districts, controversies surrounding the NICE and Bidadi infrastructure projects, and persistent allegations of irregularities within the Karnataka Public Service Commission.

CHNEWS, BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has launched a fierce confrontation against app-based bike taxi operators in Bengaluru, setting a definitive 15-day ultimatum for state authorities to ban what they term illegal transport services. Representatives of auto-rickshaw and yellow-board taxi unions formally approached the transport department and police commissionerate, submitting comprehensive complaints

that demand the immediate removal of bike-taxi applications from digital marketplaces like the Google Play Store. Accompanied by visible protests featuring black flags mounted on commercial vehicles across the metropolis, union leaders have warned that a failure to comply within the fortnight window will trigger severe, escalated state-wide agitations. The core grievances outlined by the transport federation focus heavily on regulatory non-compliance, passenger safety liabilities, and in-

tense economic displacement. Unions contend that aggregator platforms are deploying private two-wheelers for commercial passenger transport without obtaining valid contract carriage permits or adhering to a formalized statutory framework. Highlighting potential security risks, the formal complaint alleges that platforms onboard riders without rigorous police background verifications, leaving daily commuters vulnerable and lacking adequate accident insurance cover.





2 barrier lakes raises fresh flood threat in Nepal

P9

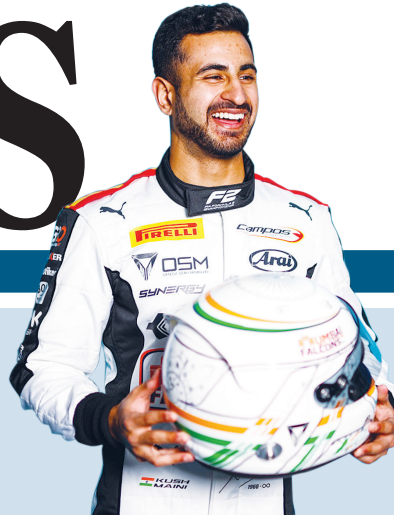
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Joshi pitches NTH for global certification



P10

Maini Completes Major Alpine F1 Test



Tashkent welcomes Modi

PM Modi is in Tashkent on the first leg of his two-nation visit to Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic; President Mirziyoyev received him at the airport.

TASHKENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Uzbekistan on Saturday, where he will hold delegation-level talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aiming to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Modi was received by President Mirziyoyev on arrival at the airport on his fourth visit to the nation. He is in Tashkent on the first leg of his two-nation visit to Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, focusing on strengthening India's strategic partnerships in Central Asia and deepening the civilisational connect with the region.

During his two-day visit to Uzbekistan, Modi will discuss cooperation in trade, investment, digital connectivity, defence, and energy sectors with President Mirziyoyev.

"I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Yangi Uzbekistan'," Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi said he will also visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties that bind the two countries.

From Tashkent, the prime



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent on Saturday.



I will visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies as "a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties" connecting both countries.

- Narendra Modi, PM

minister will travel to Bishkek to participate in the 26th SCO Summit, at the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Zhaparov.

Modi visits Yangi Park

Soon after his arrival, Modi visited Yangi Uzbekistan Park, one of modern Uzbekistan's most prominent national landmarks. He laid a wreath at the Independence Monument, paying tribute to Uzbekistan's nation-building journey and symbolically reaffirming India's support for its strategic partner in Central Asia.

Significance of visit

This marks PM Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan, following previous trips in 2015, 2016, and 2022

Agenda & Discussions

Bilateral cooperation: Delegation-level talks focus on strengthening trade, investment, defence, digital connectivity, energy, education, and cultural people-to-people ties.

Shared visions: The leaders are aligning their respective national development frameworks—India's Viksit Bharat 2047 and Uzbekistan's Yangi Uzbekistan-2030 (Yangi Uzbekistan).

Cultural engagements: PM Modi is scheduled to visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Tashkent.

Next Stop

Following his bilateral engagements in Uzbekistan, PM Modi will travel to the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek) from August 31 to September 1, to attend the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

PM: Looking to advance India's vision for terror-free region

New Delhi: PM Modi while embarking on his two-nation visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on Saturday expressed confidence that the diplomatic engagement will reinforce India's strategic partnerships across Central Asia.

Commencing the itinerary, the PM will first travel to Tashkent for a two-day bilateral visit at the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Outlining expectations for the bilateral engagement, Modi said in his departure statement, "In recent years, India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership has seen significant advancement. I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of Viksit Bharat and Yangi Uzbekistan."

As part of the schedule in the Uzbek capital, Modi noted that he will also visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, which he described as "a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties" connecting both countries.

Over 2.73 lakh candidates to take NEET-PG today

NEW DELHI: Over 2.73 lakh medical graduates will appear for NEET-PG 2026 on Sunday, with the examination scheduled across 1,300 centres in 340 cities, even as authorities said they have put in place a robust multi-layered security setup to smoothly conduct the medical entrance test.

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has registered a total of 2,73,183 candidates for this year's exam, an increase of more than 12.5% over the previous year. The test will be conducted in a single shift from 9 am to 12:30 pm through a computer-based examination (CBT) mode.

The NEET PG - 2026 examination will determine eligibility for admission to advanced medical courses, including MD (Doctor of Medicine) and MS (Master of Surgery), offered by government and private medical colleges.

RSS defamation case: Priyank, Haris get conditional bail

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress leader Mohammed Haris Nalapad appeared before a Bengaluru court on August 29 in a defamation case concerning alleged derogatory remarks against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court granted them conditional bail after hearing the case.

The summons were issued following a private complaint filed by RSS worker Tejas A of Siddapura. The court read out allegations accusing Priyank and Nalapad of making defamatory statements that harmed the reputation and dignity of the RSS and its members.

According to the complaint, Priyank posted a derogatory remark about RSS members on the social media platform X on October 14, 2025. Nalapad is accused of making offensive comments against the organisation on a YouTube channel.



Both leaders were granted bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 10,000 each.

The case arose after the Bengaluru court took cognisance of the private complaint on June 29 under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, instituting proceedings for criminal defamation and issuing summons to both leaders. Priyank has previously criticised the RSS and questioned its relationship with the BJP. He has sought clarification from the organisation regarding its legal status, financial transparency and constitutional accountability.

In an earlier X post, Priyank stated that the BJP "rattles" whenever the RSS faces scrutiny, alleging the party responds defensively to questions about the organisation.

➔ More on page 4

BJP chief unhappy as 3 MPs visit Sajjan Kumar's home

NEW DELHI: BJP Members of Parliament Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Yogender Chandolia and Kamaljeet Sehrawat were summoned and pulled up by party national president Nitin Nabin on Saturday for attending the bhog ceremony of former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and offering condolences on his death.

The action comes less than six months ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, with the BJP apparently keen to avoid annoying the Sikh electorate in the state.

Sajjan Kumar was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the anti-Sikh riot cases of 1984. Highly placed sources in the party said Nitin Nabin summoned and reprimanded the three Lok Sabha MPs from Delhi and told them that they should not have visited Kumar's residence. All three have reportedly been asked to explain their conduct.

QUICK READ

FIR against Didi for HC order violation

Kolkata
The Kolkata police on Saturday filed a suo motu FIR against former West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee for alleged violation of Calcutta High Court-imposed conditions for holding a Trinamool Chhatra Parishad foundation day event. The FIR was filed at the Hastings station against Banerjee as well as the organisers of the meeting of the TMCP, an officer said. "The FIR has been registered for the alleged violation of the court's order. The role of all those involved in the violation will be examined during the course of the investigation," he said.

113 Indians evacuated

According to the Nepal Army's Public Relations Directorate, 2,465 people have been evacuated so far, including 163 foreigners. The foreigners include 113 Indians, 26 Chinese, 15 South Koreans, four Germans, two each from Italy and the US, and one Omani national. As many as 191 workers were evacuated from tunnels of various hydropower projects in Trishuli and Rasuwa, it said.

While 2,265 of those evacuated were rescued by helicopters, 200 were evacuated through land routes. Meanwhile, the Mugling-Kathmandu highway, a major road link connecting the capital with other parts of the country, resumed operations on Saturday, Nepal Police said in a notice.

Nagendra resigned to avoid embarrassment to Cong: CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Saturday B Nagendra, who held the planning and statistics portfolio, has submitted his resignation from the state cabinet to avoid embarrassment to the Congress party, though the final decision will be taken after discussions with the party high command. Nagendra resigned from the state Cabinet on Friday as opposition protested over his alleged involvement in the Rs 89 crore Valmiki Corporation scam, marking his second resignation, 25 days after being re-inducted on August 3.

"Minister Nagendra has submitted his resignation to avoid embarrassment to the party. After discussing with the party high command, a final decision will be taken tomorrow (Sunday) morning," the CM said.

According to Shivakumar, Nagendra submitted his resignation after being hurt by opposition's "false allegations" and the disruption of Assembly proceedings, highlighting his role as "a Dalit and Scheduled Caste leader" who defeated senior BJP leaders in elections.

Though Nagendra has handed over his resignation letter, it will be brought to the notice of the Congress high command in Delhi, and after discussing with them, a final decision will be taken tomorrow (Sunday) morning.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

"Nagendra is innocent. After verifying the investigation reports and after discussion, it is known that there is no truth in the allegations against him," he said, adding that the manner in which the BJP had treated a Dalit leader had hurt the wider poor population.

Nagendra's resignation not proof of guilt: Cong chief
Karnataka Congress president BK Hariprasad on Saturday said former minister B Nagendra's resignation over the alleged Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam did not establish his guilt. He accused the BJP of celebrating it as a political victory and targeting an ST leader.

He said the resignation was a moral responsibility taken by Nagendra to uphold the dignity of elected representatives. "Only probing agencies and courts could establish guilt."

NEPAL FLASH FLOODS

Death toll climbs to 689

OVER 2,400, INCLUDING 303 INDIANS, STILL MISSING

KATHMANDU

The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal surged to 687 on Saturday, as rescue teams continued search and relief operations in a race against time.

While nearly 3,000, including 163 foreigners, were evacuated, over 2,400 still remain missing as search and relief operations continued on the fourth day.

An ice-rock avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging hydropower projects.

Rescuers continued search operations amid fears of another wave of flooding following an increase in water levels in the Bhotekoshi River.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority's (NDRRMA) latest update, 626 people have been reported dead in Nepal.

The disaster also left seven people dead on the Chinese side, according to Tibet's emergency management department.

Over 11,000 security personnel, including 5,000 Nepal Army personnel, have been mobilised for search and rescue operations. An 11-member Indian team comprising medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts also arrived in Nepal to assist local authorities.



Indian tunnel experts join rescue operation

Kathmandu: A 11-member specialised technical team from India has begun on-site reconnaissance of hydropower tunnels in Nepal's flash flood-affected areas to facilitate the search and rescue of people trapped or unaccounted for inside hydropower project tunnels, the Indian Embassy in Nepal said on Saturday.

India sent an 11-member rescue team comprising doctors, paramedics and personnel specialised in tunnel rescue operations at Nepal's request.

The team reached the Trishuli 3A Hydropower Project in Rasuwa district after conducting an aerial reconnaissance of the Chilime and Langtang areas and began assessing the situation for rescue operations, according to Nepalese authorities.

An 82-member joint security team comprising Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police personnel has been working since Friday night to clear debris and reach people believed to be trapped inside a tunnel at the Trishuli-3A Hydropower Project in Rasuwa near the Nepal-Tibet border, the PMO said.

➔Nepal seeks foreign expertise for DNA testing, forensic work and other specialised tasks.

➔Kathmandu has also requested India and China to help construct 42 Bailey bridges to resume transport services in the flood-hit areas

"The rescue efforts have become highly challenging due to the adverse weather conditions prevailing in the area," the PMO said in a statement.

The rescue efforts have become highly challenging due to the adverse weather conditions and mud and debris blocking the tunnel entrance, it stated.

With the rescue operation progressing slowly due to the limitations of local expertise, Nepal sought co-operation from India and China.

The Embassy said India continues to support Nepal's ongoing relief and rescue efforts and remains engaged with Nepali authorities in the search and rescue of Indian nationals affected by the flash floods.

Nepal lauds India's help in times of crisis; calls PM Modi 'exceptionally generous'

Kathmandu: Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Saturday thanked India for its support and solidarity following the devastating flash flood that hit the Himalayan nation on August 26 and killed 626 people. Nepal also praised India's efforts to assist the country during the crisis, and described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "exceptionally generous".

'Cong got Nagendra resigned to avoid humiliation'

Mandya: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday accused the Congress government of getting minister B Nagendra to resign to avoid embarrassment in the alleged Rs 87 crore case, and said the party had "swindled money and distributed it". "Nagendra has said he resigned to avoid embarrassment to Congress. Why is Congress embarrassed? Did Congress make him resign to escape embarrassment in the Rs 87 crore case?" he asked.

Nagendra's exit trigger Cabinet rejig speculations

Bengaluru: Scam-accused minister B Nagendra's exit just 25 days after he was re-inducted into the newly-formed Shivakumar cabinet leaves two vacant berths in the state ministry. This has immediately triggered intense speculation regarding an upcoming cabinet reshuffle. While the August 3 cabinet rejig had left a single vacant berth after MLC Gayatri Shanthe Gowda's name was dropped from the list in the last minute, Ballari Rural MLA Nagendra quitting the cabinet has created another vacancy in the state Cabinet with a sanctioned strength of 34. One vacant berth is "reserved" for women.

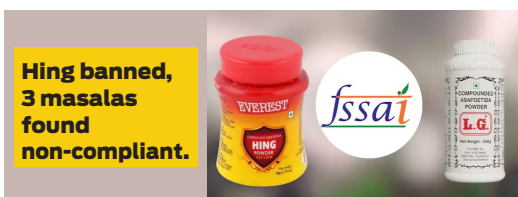
SUB-STANDARD QUALITY

FSSAI cracks down on Everest

MUMBAI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has temporarily banned the sale of hing (asafoetida) manufactured by Everest Food Products and Laljee Godhoo after laboratory tests found the products to be substandard.

The companies have been directed to explain the violations and submit action plans detailing how they will comply with the prescribed standards. They have also been advised to voluntarily recall substandard products already in the market. The ban will remain in force until they



comply with the regulations.

FSSAI also detected non-compliance in Everest's egg curry masala, chicken masala and garam masala. However, these three products have not been banned.

What the laboratory tests found in a statement, FSSAI said it began surveillance of major hing brands following a consumer complaint. Samples collected from the companies' manufacturing units in

Mumbai and Everest's unit in Umbergaon, Gujarat, failed to meet the prescribed standards.

Under existing regulations, compounded hing must contain at least 5 per cent alcohol-soluble extract. Tests found that the samples contained only 0 to 3%, indicating that the manufacturers were using 30 to 40% less raw hing than required, the food safety regulator said.

Six varieties of raw hing collected from the Laljee Godhoo unit were also found to contain between 15 and 32% starch, far above the permitted maximum of 1%.

QUICK READ

Koramangala ‘peptide party’ cancelled over safety rules

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The planned “Peptide Party” in Koramangala is officially cancelled. Organizers voluntarily stopped the August 29 event and removed all online posts. Many people had already signed up to attend it. Health officials asked the hosts to prove that their peptide products were completely safe, clean, and legal. Without approval from medical groups, sharing these items is against the law. Because they lacked the right papers, organizers paused the party and asked for more time to explain. Authorities warned that anyone hosting or joining such illegal events in the future will face strict legal trouble to protect public health safety.

High Court drops loudspeaker case against Bidar MLA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has quashed a police case against Bidar Congress MLA Rahim Khan. He was accused of using a loudspeaker for just two extra minutes past the ten pm election campaign deadline during the assembly polls. A single judge bench stated that a minor two-minute delay cannot be treated as a crime without a verified standard clock to measure exact time. The court noted that a 120-second difference holds no legal weight and dismissed the charges, protecting the politician from unnecessary criminal trial proceedings over trivial timing variations.

Bengaluru Navnirman Party files PIL challenging flawed voter rolls

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has questioned election officials regarding a public interest litigation filed against the voter list for upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority elections. The Bengaluru Navnirman Party challenged the rolls, claiming thousands of errors threaten to disenfranchise lakhs of citizens. Petitioners argue that reliance on flawed data from the state electoral office compromises election integrity. A division bench directed the State Election Commission counsel to gather necessary facts and respond to the court. The bench scheduled the next hearing to review the discrepancies and decide on further legal measures protecting voter rights.

Janata Party launches campaign for Hegde’s Bharat Ratna

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Janata Party is launching a nationwide letter-writing campaign to honor late leaders Ramakrishna Hegde and Chandrashekhar with the Bharat Ratna. Addressing a press conference in the city, party national president Jayaprakash Bandhu stated that the initiative aims to gather approximately ten lakh signatures across the country. He emphasized that Hegde was an exceptional statesman who left an indelible mark on Indian politics, noting that the campaign will officially kick off right here in Karnataka before seeking broad moral backing from states like Bihar, Assam, and Gujarat. Bandhu used the platform to critique current national policies, claiming that the central government's economic framework has degraded the nation's

Priyank, Nalapad granted bail in RSS defamation case

KARNATAKA MINISTERS SECURE BAIL AS AN IDEOLOGICAL CLASH WITH THE RSS SHIFTS FROM PUBLIC SPEECHES TO COURTROOMS.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High-profile political friction in Karnataka reached a brief judicial pause as a local court extended formal protection to two prominent leaders. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACJM) court officially granted bail to Minister Priyank Kharge and State Youth Congress President Mohammad Nalapad following their physical appearance in connection with an ongoing defamation proceeding. The legal action stems from contentious statements and digital posts targeting the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its cadre, a flashpoint that has increasingly blurred the lines between fierce ideological battles and formal courtroom litigation.

The proceedings initiated when both leaders responded directly to court-mandated summons requiring them to present themselves in person. Following brief legal arguments during the hearing, the magistrate approved the bail plea, imposing a personal surety bond of ten thousand rupees for each defendant. The appearance marked a critical procedural step in a complaint filed by a Bengaluru



resident from the Siddapur locality, who argued that public remarks and online commentary propagated by the accused severely maligned the reputation of the right-wing organization.

The roots of the controversy stretch back to late last year. According to the foundational complaint, Priyank Kharge utilized the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on October 14, 2025, to publish remarks deemed derogatory toward members of the Sangh. Parallel allegations were leveled against Mohammad Nalapad, who reportedly delivered sharp, objectionable criticisms concerning the ideological body during a video broadcast on a prominent YouTube channel. The com-

“The court granted bail following their personal appearance and the submission of required sureties in the ongoing defamation proceedings.”

- Court officials

plainant maintained that these coordinated expressions crossed the boundary of legitimate political discourse, effectively inciting public hostility and damaging the standing of the organization.

Political observers note that this legal challenge highlights a broader trend of utilizing civil and criminal defamation statutes to police political rhetoric in the state.

The RSS and its affiliates have increasingly turned to judicial remedies to counter verbal attacks from ruling party figures, setting up pro-

Case background and allegations

• **Social Media Post:** Minister Priyank Kharge was accused of publishing derogatory statements against RSS members on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on October 14, 2025.

• **Objectionable Remarks:** Youth Congress President Mohammad Nalapad faced allegations of making provocative statements against the organization during a YouTube channel interview.

• **Private Complaint:** A Bengaluru resident from Siddapur initiated legal action, claiming that the public remarks and digital posts severely damaged the reputation of the RSS.

longed legal battles that amplify pre-existing ideological divisions. As the case progresses toward its next procedural phase, both defendants will need to navigate the formal requirements of the trial while continuing their high-profile political engagements across the state.

Storm over sanctions: Reddy, Renukacharya facing trouble?

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political landscape in Karnataka is witnessing a sharp escalation of tensions as questions surrounding high-level corruption cases reach the doorstep of Raj Bhavan and the state cabinet. Following his recent resignation amid mounting pressure over the multi-crore Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam, former minister B. Nagendra is facing severe legal jeopardy. Central investigative agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), have formally approached Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot seeking prosecution sanction against him.

In response to the central agencies' requests, the Governor has referred the matter to the state cabinet seeking its formal

opinion. However, the political plot has thickened considerably with indications that the state government is planning a counter-strategy. Rather than isolating the proceedings against Nagendra, the cabinet is reportedly evaluating parallel prosecution files concerning prominent opposition figures, notably former minister and mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy, as well as former legislator M.P. Renukacharya. State Lokayukta files regarding illegal wealth and disproportionate assets involving

these opposition leaders have similarly found their way to the governance machinery for legal review.

The unfolding situation has triggered intense friction between the ruling party and the opposition BJP-JD(S) alliance. Opposition leaders have openly accused the administration of double standards, alleging that the government will likely stall or deny prosecution clearance for Nagendra while expediting approvals for leaders affiliated with the opposition.

Political leader	Case context	Current legal status / Action
B. Nagendra	Valmiki Corporation Scam	Resigned, prosecution sanctions sought by ED/CBI.
Gali Janardhana Reddy	Disproportionate Assets / Illegal Mining	Lokayukta has sought sanction for prosecution.
M.P. Renukacharya	Disproportionate Assets / Illegal Wealth	Lokayukta has sought sanction for prosecution.
H.D. Kumaraswamy	Long-standing Allegations	Government exploring pending status of legacy cases.

False allegations hurt lower communities: Bangarappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political friction in the state intensified sharply as School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa launched a scathing attack on the opposition, claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) orchestrated the recent resignation of B. Nagendra out of deep-seated animosity toward rising Dalit leaders. Speaking to reporters at the home office in Bengaluru,

Bangarappa argued that the emotional exit of the four-time MLA over what he termed fabricated allegations regarding the Valmiki Corporation scam would ultimately backfire and ruin the opposition party's electoral prospects across Karnataka.

Defending his former cabinet colleague, Bangarappa asserted that Nagendra is completely innocent and that internal administrative reviews confirm there is no sub-

stance to the corruption claims. He accused rival politicians of deliberately targeting a prominent Scheduled Caste representative to derail his political growth.

Furthermore, the minister took direct aim at Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, sarcastically questioning whether the senior BJP leader was acting as an official Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer while demanding immediate action.



Nammuru Hemme: GBA rewards 625/625 scorers with tablets

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Celebrating academic excellence and youthful ambition, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), alongside the Bengaluru Urban District Zilla Panchayat, hosted a grand civic felicitation event titled ‘Nammuru Hemme’ (Our City, Our Pride) at the historic Town Hall on Saturday. Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda presided over the ceremony, honoring 181 meritorious students from across the city for their exceptional performance in board examinations and institutional assessments.

The honored group comprised 106 high-achieving SSLC students, 45 PUC scholars, and 30 standout pupils from GBA-run schools. Every recognized student received certificates, medals, mementoes, smartwatches, school bags, shawls, and reusable water bottles. In a special gesture to reward elite performance, the top five SSLC scorers and the top three PUC achievers were presented with advanced digital tablets. Eligibility for the program required stellar marks, specifically 621 or higher in SSLC, 596 or more in PUC, and 496 or above in central-syllabus 10th and 12th-grade exams.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Byre Gowda emphasized that securing over 99% requires years of disciplined

Bengaluru honored 181 top-achieving students at the historic Town Hall during the 'Nammuru Hemme' event, celebrating academic excellence and inspiring future ambition.

dedication. Drawing from personal experiences in his rural constituency, he noted that a lack of infrastructure should never serve as an excuse to lower one's ambitions, citing examples of under-resourced schools outperforming well-funded institutions through sheer willpower. He also highlighted that extraordinary results frequently come from students belonging to humble backgrounds, such as children of daily-wage workers or street vendors achieving perfect board scores.

Explaining the choice of the iconic Town Hall as the venue, the minister noted that receiving civic honors in a landmark cultural hub inspires both the recipients and the broader community. Beyond traditional academics, Gowda reminded the young audience that talent spans diverse domains, including sports, arts, and technology, urging them to pursue excellence with unwavering dedication in whatever career path they ultimately choose to follow.

HC slams Whitefield Police, summons ACP and DCP

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has once again sharply criticized the Whitefield police division, issuing a stern warning over procedural overreach and the arbitrary handling of a recent criminal case. Hearing a petition filed by Mohan Gowda to quash an FIR registered against him, Justice Nagaprasanna expressed deep dissatisfaction with the conduct of local law enforcement, pointing out a recurring pattern of disregard for established legal protocols within the jurisdiction.

The controversy stems from a series of events involving a scheduled stand-up comedy performance by artist Kunal Kamra in Whitefield. Gowda had formally requested the local authorities to cancel the event, and upon its cancellation, celebrated the outcome on social media platform X. Following his post, police filed an FIR at two in the morning, alleging he had spread false information to the public. Officers traveled

swiftly to Udupi to take Gowda into custody, bringing him back to Bengaluru for interrogation under formal notice.

Observing the swift and unusual urgency applied in this matter, the bench remarked that the local police seemed exceptionally eager to work around the clock solely for this specific case. Highlighting repeated lapses, the court recalled a recent incident where a Whitefield inspector faced a heavy financial penalty for overstepping boundaries in a routine civil dispute.

The bench underscored that such selective and aggressive enforcement undermines public trust in the justice system. Taking a hardline stance against the authorities, the court ordered both the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) to make a mandatory personal appearance for the afternoon session. The bench explicitly cautioned that failure to show up would result in a direct summons being issued to the city Police Commissioner.



UNTANGLING THE VALMIKI FALLOUT

BJP campaign forces Nagendra’s exit, admits Balakrishna

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political developments in Karnataka continue to stir debate following the recent exit of B. Nagendra from his ministerial post. Addressing media queries regarding the high-profile exit, Minister Balakrishna offered a candid perspective on the circumstances surrounding the decision, pointing directly to relentless political pressure from the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the driving force behind the move.

While initial reports suggested that Nagendra chose to step down voluntarily to



shield the ruling administration from public scrutiny, Balakrishna framed the decision as a strategic maneuver. He asserted that the government chose to handle the resignation proactively rather than yielding political lever-

age to their opponents. According to Balakrishna, the administration acted decisively to prevent rival parties from weaponizing the controversy during their aggressive campaigns.

Emphasizing the legal standing of his embattled colleague, Balakrishna strongly defended Nagendra's character against escalating attacks from political adversaries.

He maintained that Nagendra should not be labeled a criminal, noting that he currently holds the status of an accused individual rather than someone proven guilty by a

court. Highlighting procedural shifts in the ongoing investigation, Balakrishna pointed out that Nagendra's name was notably absent from initial filings and only appeared in subsequent charge sheets after he assumed ministerial responsibilities.

The defense highlights deep divisions within the state legislature as parties clash over accountability in the Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation case. While opposition parties continue to stage widespread protests demanding strict legal action and accountability, ruling party members are

Points revealed

- **Strategic Exit:** The party decided the resignation to block the opposition.
- **No Conviction:** Leaders stress that Nagendra is only an accused, not a proven criminal.
- **Targeted Charges:** His name was added to the chargesheet only after he became a minister.

pushing back against what they describe as politically motivated targeting.

Kumaraswamy urges proper use of MP development funds

Kumaraswamy urged departmental coordination, proper scheme implementation, improved MIMS Hospital care, biometric attendance, punctuality, and compassionate treatment for patients

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries and Mandya MP H.D. Kumaraswamy directed officials to use Members of Parliament development funds properly and give priority to important works in the district.

He was speaking at a District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Saturday.

Kumaraswamy stressed better coordination among government departments while implementing Central and State schemes. He said officials must ensure that benefits reach eligible people. He also instructed MIMS Hospital authorities to improve patient care following complaints about doctors and staff. Biometric attendance should be introduced, doctors must report on time, and patients



should receive quality treatment with kindness.

He directed officials to maintain high standards in National Highway works and regularly inspect roads. Service roads, drainage, cleanliness, traffic arrangements and safety measures should also be maintained properly to prevent inconvenience to the public. Kumaraswamy further asked banks not to put unnecessary pressure on farmers struggling to repay loans because of crop losses and poor rainfall.

Deputy Commissioner Dr.

Kumar said irregular rainfall had reduced water availability across the district. Drinking water has been given top priority, with measures taken to ensure sufficient supplies for people and livestock. He urged farmers to conserve water and reduce cultivation of water-intensive crops, while giving preference to millets, jowar, urad and sesame based on local conditions.

The meeting was also informed that an Irrigation Consultative Committee meeting had been held on the Hemavati reservoir. Water was be-

Directives

- MP funds must prioritize important district works
- Departments urged stronger coordination implementing government schemes
- MIMS Hospital told to improve patient care
- Highway works require regular inspections and maintenance
- Banks urged easing pressure on distressed farmers
- Drinking water given top priority amid scarcity

ing released into canals and reaching K.R. Pet and Nag-amangala areas. MLA H.T. Manju, MLC K. Vivekananda, Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini, Superintendent of Police Dr. Shobharani V.J. and other officials attended the meeting.

Mani urges youth to build corruption-free India

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Karnataka Information Commission Commissioner Badruddin K. Mani has urged young people to use the Right to Information Act responsibly and support efforts to build transparent, corruption-free governance.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the Mandya District Youth Council programme.

Recalling his long association with Mandya, Mani said he had maintained close contact with youth, student, farmer, cultural and artists' organisations for decades. He said young people have great power to influence society and should be guided towards constructive goals. Referring to Swami Vivekananda, he urged youngsters to receive proper guidance early in life and become a strength for the nation.

Mani said corruption remains a major problem and transparency and accountability are essential to improve public administration. The Right to Information Act, introduced in 2005, can help strengthen the system when used properly. However, he



Mani highlighted corruption concerns, stressing transparency and accountability, while urging proper RTI use and action against blackmail and misuse that undermine governance

expressed concern that some people misuse the law for blackmail, which can weaken transparent governance. He said efforts were being made to prevent such misuse.

He reminded youth that India's independence came through the sacrifices of thousands of freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh,

Chandrashekhar Azad and Rajguru. He advised youngsters not to become dependent on mobile phones and social media and encouraged them to read books and learn about the country's history.

Mani urged youth to think about what they can contribute to society rather than only what they receive from it. He called for action against social evils, illiteracy and untouchability, while stressing the importance of educating girls and strengthening village self-governance. Mandya Muda President B.P. Prakash, Siddaramappa, Dr. E.C. Ningaraje Gowda, Dr. Nandish, Youth Council District President Paramesh and several youth and student leaders attended.

QUICK READ

Guest lecturer

applications open at Somanahalli Govt ITI

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Applications have been invited from eligible candidates holding a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering for a guest lecturer position at the Somanahalli Government Industrial Training Institute in Maddur taluk. The selected candidate will teach students enrolled in the Advanced CNC Machining Technician trade. Interested applicants can visit the institute and contact the Principal during office hours for details about the post and application process. Candidates seeking further information may also contact the Government Industrial Training Institute through its official telephone numbers. The Principal has encouraged qualified and interested candidates to apply and make use of this opportunity to contribute to technical education and skill development.



Gadag imposes restrictions around NEET-PG exam centre

CH NEWS, GADAG

Authorities in Gadag have imposed restrictions around the NEET-PG 2026 examination centre to ensure a peaceful and transparent test on August 30. The exam will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mrs. Kamala and Mr. Venkappa M. Agadi College of Engineering and Technology on Savanur Road in Lakshmeshwar. Section 163 has been enforced within 200 metres of the centre. Gatherings of five or more people, protests, processions and public meetings are banned. Xerox and photocopy shops must remain closed. Mobile phones, smart watches, cameras, Bluetooth devices and drones are prohibited. The order remains effective from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Free uniforms distributed to Ramanagara college students

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Urban Development Authority Chairman and College CDC Vice-Chairman A.B. Chethan Kumar distributed free uniforms to students of the Government Pre-University College for Boys in Ramanagara.

The programme also included the inauguration of sports and cultural activities. Chethan Kumar said charity, good deeds and the respect earned through a meaningful life remain valuable for generations.

Speaking at the event, he said free uniforms would promote equality, discipline and a sense of unity among students. The initiative would especially benefit students from economically weaker families by reducing financial pressure and helping them feel equal with their classmates.

Chethan Kumar urged students to concentrate on education instead of worrying about appearances and unnecessary expenses. He said students should make full use of libraries,



ies, technology, educational facilities and the guidance of lecturers to improve their knowledge. He also encouraged them to use such support responsibly and grow into citizens who contribute positively to society and the country.

District College Deputy Director Mariswamy inaugurated the programme and advised students to develop good character by following the guidance of parents, teachers and elders. Government Pre-University College for Girls Kannada lecturer Dr. Narasimhaswamy S. said the

future of the country depends on its youth and stressed the importance of punctuality and discipline.

College Principal Dr. Krishna S. presided over the programme and urged students to study sincerely, maintain discipline and achieve good results that would bring pride to their parents and institution. Sociology lecturer Ratnamma was also present. The event combined educational encouragement with sports and cultural activities, motivating students to develop both academic and personal qualities.

Municipal Corporation provides housing aid to workers

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Municipal Corporation Chairman K. Seshadri, popularly known as Shashi, distributed financial assistance to civic workers for house repairs and scholarships to their children.

The benefits were provided under the Civil Workers Welfare Programme using funds allocated through the corporation's 24.10 percent scheme for 2026-27.

Speaking at the programme, Seshadri said 14 civic workers would receive Rs. 42,800 each to help repair their homes. Special scholarships are also being provided to 20 children from civic worker families who have completed SSLC and are continuing their education up to graduation.

He said the financial assistance will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries through RTGS. Cheques were symbolically distributed during



the programme. The chairman said the welfare measures were intended to support civic workers and their families and help children continue their education without financial difficulties.

Seshadri praised civic workers for their daily contribution to keeping the city clean and protecting public health.

He said their work is essential for maintaining cleanliness and making the city a healthy place to live. He added that he had already requested the District Collector to provide free residential

plots to civic worker families who do not own land.

Municipal Council Vice-President Girijamma, Standing Committee President Arif, members Munajil Aga and Gabriel, Commissioner Dr. Jayanna, officials Nagaraju and Nirmala, Municipal Workers' Association District President Annadore Veeraswamy and Branch President Devendra were among those present. The programme highlighted the corporation's efforts to provide welfare support to workers who play an important role in maintaining the city.

Banks urged to speed up loans for beneficiaries

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Banks should provide loans quickly to eligible beneficiaries selected under government-sponsored schemes, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash said on Saturday. He asked bank officials to ensure applications are processed within the prescribed time.

Dr. Akash was speaking at the first-quarter District Level Review Committee and District Level Consultative Committee meeting for 2026-27, held at the Zilla Panchayat hall. He reviewed bank performance in priority-sector lending between April and June and exam-

ined the progress of various government-sponsored schemes implemented through corporation boards.

He directed banks to give greater attention to loans for agriculture, education, housing and small industries. He said timely financial support was important for poor families, farmers and people seeking self-employment. Banks were urged to work closely with departments to ensure eligible applicants receive assistance without unnecessary delays.

Lead Bank Manager M.P. Praveen said district banks recorded total deposits of Rs. 12,293.59 crore during the first quarter, while ad-

vances stood at Rs. 15,218.09 crore. The loan-deposit ratio was 123.79 percent. Priority-sector lending reached Rs. 10,177.70 crore, accounting for 66.91 percent of total advances.

RBI LDO P. Arun Kumar, NABARD DDM K. Vinant, Karnataka Grameen Bank Regional Manager J. Jagannath, Canara Bank Chief Manager Nirdeish and district-level officers from various departments attended the meeting. Officials stressed coordinated efforts to ensure government schemes deliver timely financial support to eligible beneficiaries.

PRACTICAL-LEARNING-INITIATIVE

New Kriya Labs Strengthen Science Learning In Raichur

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

SBI Funds Management Limited, SBI Foundation and Prayoga Institute of Education Research have inaugurated Kriya Lab Stations at two government high schools in Raichur.

The initiative aims to improve science learning through practical activities and supports a wider programme covering 12 government schools in the district.

The project provides schools with science materials, lab stations and courseware linked to state and NCERT curricula. It also includes regular teacher training

and academic guidance through Prayoga's Teacher Empowerment Programme. The initiative follows the National Education Policy 2020 and seeks to make science more engaging for students in underserved communities.

SBIFML Managing Director and CEO Debasish Mishra inaugurated a lab station at Government High School, Ekalspur, along with senior officials Rajat Grover and Nishant Bangera. The team visited the facility, watched practical demonstrations by teachers and students, and interacted with school staff. Mishra said the partnership would help create hands-on

learning environments and encourage curiosity among children.

Prayoga Executive Chairman Vallish Herur said students understand science better when they explore, experiment and discover things themselves. He added that the programme would help teachers and students move beyond textbook-based learning. The initiative is expected to improve critical thinking, problem-solving and scientific inquiry.

The programme running from March 2025 to March 2028 and targets about 1,440 students, with 1,296 students currently enrolled in Grades 6

and 7. Fourteen primary teachers are receiving support. Lab stations for Grade 7 have been delivered to all 12 schools, while courseware covers Grades 6 and 7. The project combines experimentation, observation and inquiry to build scientific thinking among students.

Mr. Debasish Mishra, MD & CEO, SBI Funds Management Ltd., engages with students during the inauguration of a STEM Lab Station in Raichur, empowering young learners with hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



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To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ

social media influencer dies after brutal assault

CH NEWS, Punjab Punjabi social media influencer Manjit Kaur, 28, died at PGIMER, Chandigarh, on August 26, nearly two months after she was allegedly kidnapped, assaulted and set on fire. According to her mother's complaint, Kaur was allegedly taken from Chandigarh to Morinda on July 3 by two acquaintances and tied to a tree before being set on fire. She was treated at hospitals in Morinda, Mohali and Chandigarh. Police have registered a murder and kidnapping case and are examining CCTV footage and other evidence. The investigation is underway, while the motive remains unknown.

Delhi SIR draft roll may exclude 47.7 lakh names

NEW DELHI

Nearly 47.7 lakh voters may not appear in Delhi's draft electoral roll to be published on August 31 under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Officials said the draft is expected to include around 97.5 lakh electors after the door-to-door verification process.

The verification exercise covered 67.18 per cent of Delhi's 1.45 crore registered voters before ending on August 17. Electors whose enumeration forms could not be collected have been placed under the "Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others" categories. Their names will not be included in the draft roll but can be challenged through the claims and objections process.

Officials said voters can submit claims and objections from August 31 to September 30. The authorities will then examine the applications before finalising the revised electoral roll. The final roll is scheduled to be published on November 4. Some voters whose names appear in the draft could also receive notices if discrepancies

IN FOCUS

- 47.7 lakh names may be missing.
- Draft roll expected on August 31.
- Around 97.5 lakh electors likely included.
- Claims and objections open till September 30.
- Final electoral roll due on November 4.
- 14,947 polling stations will be in place.

are found or their details cannot be matched with the 2002 intensive revision roll. Officials said additional documents may be sought in cases involving doubts about age or citizenship. Aadhaar alone, they added, would not establish eligibility.

The rate of digitisation varied across Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies. Rohini recorded the highest rate at 83.43 per cent, while Tughlakabad recorded 52.15 per cent. Okhla had 45.32 per cent of forms classified as uncollectable.

The SIR exercise has also increased Delhi's polling stations from 13,033 to 14,947.

Delhi court accepts NIA red fort chargesheet

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday took cognisance of the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) chargesheet against 13 accused in the Red Fort blast case, which killed 11 people and injured several others. The Special NIA Court has listed the matter for further hearing on September 9.

The case relates to a car bomb explosion near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025. The high-intensity vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) blast triggered a nationwide security alert and caused significant damage to nearby property. The NIA has alleged that the accused were linked to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), described by the agency as an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.

The anti-terror agency ini-

tially filed a chargesheet of around 7,500 pages against 10 accused under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Prime accused Dr Umer Un Nabi was killed in the blast, and the NIA proposed abatement of proceedings against him. The investigation covered Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi-NCR. The agency examined 588 witnesses, more than 395 documents and over 200 seized exhibits and material objects.

On June 27, the NIA filed a supplementary chargesheet against Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, Tufail Ahmad Bhat and Muzafar Ahmad, taking the total number of accused chargesheeted to 13.

FIR filed against Mamata Banerjee over Kolkata rally

Kolkata Police has registered a suo motu case against TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and rally organisers for allegedly violating Calcutta High Court directions during a student wing event.



"Henceforth, we will take the people's nod for holding meetings at the venues we want,"

- Mamata Banerjee, Former CM

lowed and that the event also continued beyond the time limit fixed by the court.

The FIR was registered at Hastings Police Station against Banerjee and the organisers of the TMCP meeting.

A police officer said the case was registered over the alleged violation of the court order and that the role of everyone involved would be examined during the investigation.

Addressing the gathering, Banerjee accused the BJP of using the police to create fear among people and alleged that the force had become a "monstrous entity".

She said she would oppose what she described as police atrocities against her supporters.

Banerjee also said she would soon travel across the state and walk through the streets if her public meetings were stopped. She criticised the BJP government over alleged attacks on TMC leaders and accused it of divisive politics.

The TMC chief further criticised eviction drives against hawkers and said they should either be rehabilitated or receive financial compensation. She also accused the Election Commission of helping the BJP during the previous Assembly elections, alleging that voter names were illegally removed.

NTA releases admit cards for Jaipur AIAPGET re-exam

NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has released admit cards for 49 candidates who will appear in the re-examination of the All-India Ayush Post Graduate Entrance Test (AIAPGET) in Jaipur on September 1. The re-examination was arranged after these candidates were unable to complete the test because of a power failure at their examination centre on August 22.

The re-examination will begin at 10 a.m. at Rajasthan College of Engineering for Women in Jaipur. The NTA has advised all eligible candidates to download their admit cards from the official AIAPGET website and carefully check the details printed on them. Candidates must report at the centre according to the time mentioned on their admit cards.

The agency has also asked candidates to carry a printed copy of the admit card and other required documents or

AT A GLANCE

■ 49 —	Candidates eligible for re-exam
■ September 1 —	Re-examination date
■ 10 AM —	Exam start time
■ 36,979 —	Registered candidates for Shift-I
■ 35,837 —	Candidates who appeared
■ 200 —	Exam centres nationwide
■ August 22 —	Original exam date

items listed in the instructions. Candidates have been advised to regularly check the NTA website for further updates related to the examination.

The AIAPGET was conducted on August 22 for 36,979 registered candidates. Of these, 35,837 appeared in Shift-I at 200 centres across the country. The examination was completed by 35,788 candidates, while 49 candidates at Shri Satya Sai PG College in Jaipur could not finish because of the power failure.

The NTA attributed the lapse to Eduquity Career

Remarriage cannot deny daughter property share: Madras HC

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has ruled that a widow's remarriage cannot deprive her deceased husband's other Class I legal heirs, including a daughter, of their rightful share in joint family property.

The order was passed by Justice PB Balaji on August 25 while hearing a revision petition involving a property dispute over the share of a deceased coparcener, Venkatesan. His widow remarried after his death and did not claim any share in his estate. Their only

"The embargo is only on the widow and not on other legal heirs to succeed to the estate of the pre-deceased son."

- Justice P. B. Balaji

daughter, who was the sole Class I legal heir, inherited his entire coparcenary interest.

A relative later challenged the daughter's rights, arguing that the widow's remarriage meant her inheritance rights had been forfeited under Section 24 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, as it existed before its repeal in 2005. The relative claimed that Venkatesan's share

should instead have returned to the other coparceners.

Justice Balaji rejected the argument, clarifying that the earlier disqualification applied only to the widow and did not extinguish the deceased husband's coparcenary interest. That interest remained available for inheritance by other preferential Class I heirs, including children or a mother. The court noted that Venkatesan's widow had never sought a share after his death, while their daughter had inherited the entire share and subsequently dealt with the property, creating third-party interests.

Oil tanker catches fire after brake failure

CH NEWS, MAHARASHTRA

A crude oil tanker caught fire near Khalapur on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway on Saturday after an alleged brake failure.

The tanker was travelling from Pune towards Mumbai when the driver lost control, causing it to overturn and catch fire. The driver was briefly trapped inside the cabin but was

safely rescued without serious injuries. Firefighters from the Khopoli Municipal Fire Brigade reached the spot and extinguished the blaze, preventing it from spreading.

Gujarat police raid illegal duplicate tobacco unit

RAJKOT

The Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajkot City Police has busted an alleged illegal unit manufacturing and storing duplicate tobacco at a godown on Kuwadva Road. Two brothers were detained in connection with the operation, and police seized tobacco products, raw materials, chemicals, packaging material and machinery worth Rs 1.72 lakh.

The raid was conducted on August 27 at "Hiren Perfumery Works" in Chauhan Wadi, Street No. 11, Lati Plot, following confidential information. Police identified the detained men as Hiren Soneji, 51, and his brother Raju Soneji, 49. Officials alleged that the brothers were manufacturing duplicate tobacco products without supporting documents or a required food-related licence.

According to police, the products were allegedly prepared for sale to different retailers in Rajkot. During the raid, officers found several varieties of packed tobacco, along with empty containers, boxes, plastic bags and other packaging materials. Some of the packaging reportedly carried names such

as "Himson Hiramoti", "Sugam Tobacco 1030" and "Hiren Perfumery Works".

The seized material also included 40.5 kg of tobacco, around 150 litres of light liquid paraffin oil and about 26 kg of perfumed liquid substances. Police also recovered loose tobacco, hundreds of empty containers, 288 small plastic bottles marked "Hiren P-Jan Flavour", a digital weighing scale, two mobile phones and a bill book containing entries from April 18 to August 21.

Police further seized a grinder, a motor-operated mixer, a packing machine and two machines used for packing plastic bags. The total value of the seized property was assessed at Rs 1,72,770. Officials from the Forensic Science Laboratory and Rajkot Municipal Corporation's health department assisted in examining the seized material.

The SOG operation was conducted under the supervision of Police Inspector N.B. Chaudhary, along with other officers and personnel. Further legal action is being taken over the alleged illegal manufacture and sale of duplicate tobacco products.

TN teachers question Minister's wife transfer

CHENNAI

The transfer of Law Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar's wife, a government school science teacher, has drawn criticism from teachers in Tamil Nadu, with questions raised over the decision while general transfer counselling remains suspended following court orders.

She was transferred from Maraimalai Adigal Government Higher Secondary School in Pallavaram to Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in Triplicane. Teachers have questioned how an individual transfer was approved when the regular counselling process has been put on hold.

Government school teacher transfers are normally handled through general counselling on the Education Management Information System (EMIS) portal. The counselling process for this academic year was scheduled for June but was halted

after judicial intervention. Teachers have alleged that the minister's wife may have received preferential treatment. They also pointed to the Triplicane school's proximity to the minister's official residence on Greenways Road. However, there is no confirmation that the location influenced the transfer.

The move has also raised concerns at the Pallavaram school, where the science teacher's position has reportedly remained vacant for nearly two months. Teachers said the school has a large number of students and was already dealing with concerns over its student-teacher ratio.

With no replacement appointed, other teachers are reportedly taking additional classes along with their regular academic and administrative responsibilities. They have urged the School Education Department to fill the vacancy quickly to prevent further disruption to students' studies.

IIT Delhi director warns students over protest slogans



NEW DELHI

IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee has warned of disciplinary action against students accused of disrupting the peaceful functioning of the campus during protests following the alleged suicide of a 31-year-old MSc student.

In an email to students on Friday, Banerjee said the protests had escalated significantly on Thursday night, with demonstrations reaching residential areas of the campus. He said a group of protesters gathered outside faculty housing between 10.30 pm and 12.30 am.

Banerjee alleged that protesters used "unsavoury, humiliating and threatening language in their slogans". He said such behaviour could affect the safety, privacy and peace of faculty members and their families, including children and elderly residents.

The director warned that the institute would take disciplinary action against individuals who disrupt campus activities, including residential areas, classes and academic programmes. The warning came as student protests entered their sixth consecutive day following the death of the MSc student.

Assam fisherman held in Bangladesh over smuggling

ASSAM

A 35-year-old fisherman from Assam's Sribhum district, Balai Namasudra, went missing near the India-Bangladesh border on August 27 and was later found in Bangladesh. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) alleged he was involved in drug and arms

smuggling, claiming a foreign-made pistol, ammunition and 500 Yaba tablets were recovered. Namasudra's family rejected the allegations, saying he is a fisherman and may have been framed. The BSF and local police are investigating, while talks between Indian and Bangladeshi authorities are underway.

Rajnath urges youth to use constitutional methods

LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday urged students to rely on constitutional and democratic methods to bring social change and question injustice. Addressing the convocation ceremony of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow, he also called upon young people to contribute to building a developed India by 2047.

Referring to Dr BR Ambedkar's message of "Educate, Agitate and Organise", Singh said education means gaining



knowledge, while agitation should involve questioning injustice through peaceful and constitutional means. He said people should unite and work for change through democratic methods rather than vio-

lence. Singh recalled Ambedkar's warning that social and economic goals must be pursued through constitutional means when democratic avenues are available. He said violence, anarchy and unconstitutional methods cannot be justified in such circumstances and described them as a "grammar of anarchy" that should be rejected.

The defence minister also highlighted the importance of continuous learning as technology and innovation rapidly transform the world. He encouraged students to keep de-

veloping new skills and remain adaptable to changing opportunities.

Singh said universities should help shape young minds around the values of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. He stressed that education should not only provide knowledge but also develop critical thinking, practical abilities and problem-solving skills.

Calling for collective efforts in nation-building, Singh urged students to work as part of "Team India" towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He said united efforts could speed up the country's development.

Singh also highlighted progress in education, research and innovation over the past 12 years. He said research and development spending had doubled and the National Education Policy was introduced after 34 years. He noted Indian youths' achievements in Olympiads, startups and advanced technologies, adding that the government would continue supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

QUICK READ

Man held for allegedly assaulting 63-year-old mother

CH NEWS, Hathras Police arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting his 63-year-old mother at their home in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. The case was registered after the accused's elder brother filed a complaint, alleging the incident occurred on Thursday night while the woman was asleep. Police said the accused was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when the incident took place. He was arrested following the complaint, and the woman was taken to a district hospital for medical examination. Authorities said the investigation is underway, with further legal action to follow based on the investigation and medical findings.

Container hits family on Nashik Mumbai highway

CH NEWS, NASHIK A 45-year-old man, Bhagirath Devaram Made, was killed and his three children injured after a speeding container truck hit them while they were walking along the Nashik-Mumbai Highway near the eighth mile area on Saturday. The injured children, Mayur, 16, Shyam, 6, and Devyani, 8, were taken to Nashik District Hospital in a free ambulance. They are undergoing treatment. Police reached the spot and took the container driver into custody.

Centre proposes tighter safety rules for E-cycles



NEW DELHI

The road transport ministry has proposed stricter technical and safety rules for low-speed electric cycles and e-bikes, covering vehicles with speeds of up to 25 kmph and motor power below 600 watts. The proposal aims to bring greater safety and testing requirements to a rapidly growing segment of urban transport. Under the draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, manufacturers would need to get these vehicles certified by authorised testing agencies. Certification would be required for the vehicles to qualify for exemption from the Motor Vehicles Act and continue to remain outside the definition of a motor vehicle. At present, electric two-wheelers with motor power below 250 watts are not treated as motor vehicles and do not require registration. The proposed changes would expand this limit to vehicles with motor power of up to 600 watts. Officials said the higher limit was considered more realistic for current low-speed electric vehicles. The draft rules also propose that all such vehicles use lithium-ion batteries instead of lead-acid batteries. They would also need suitable brakes and retro-reflective devices to improve visibility. For pedal-assisted electric bicycles, motor support would have to gradually reduce and stop completely when the vehicle reaches 25 kmph or when the rider stops pedalling. The proposed changes come as low-speed electric two-wheelers become increasingly popular as affordable transport options in cities. The ministry's move would bring these vehicles under clearer technical and safety standards while retaining their exemption from regular motor vehicle requirements, subject to certification. If implemented, manufacturers will have to meet the new conditions before their vehicles can receive the exemption, potentially making safety compliance a more important part of the market.

Finance Minister urges global firms to manufacture in India

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged global companies to invest in India, highlighting its strong market, skilled talent, infrastructure, technology and ongoing reforms.

WASHINGTON

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has invited global investors to establish manufacturing units, technology centres and innovation hubs in India, urging them to use the country's talent and opportunities to build products for global markets. Addressing a high-level Business Roundtable with investors and business leaders in Chicago on Friday, Sitharaman highlighted India's broad-based economic growth, ongoing reforms and increasing investment opportunities. She said India's investment appeal was not limited to any



single sector. Instead, it was supported by the combined strength of the country's large market, economic growth, skilled workforce, infrastructure, technology and reforms carried out over the past decade. Sitharaman encouraged international businesses to view India as a long-term investment

KEY INSIGHTS

- 1st: India's large domestic market
- 10+ years: Economic reforms
- 3 key areas: Manufacturing, technology & innovation
- Global focus: Products for worldwide markets
- Chicago: Investor outreach by Nirmala Sitharaman

destination and make use of its expanding capabilities across manufacturing, technology and innovation. She stressed the potential for companies to establish operations in India while serving customers and

markets around the world. The minister's remarks came during her engagement with global business leaders in Chicago, where she outlined India's investment proposition and highlighted the government's efforts to create conditions for sustained economic expansion. The outreach is aimed at strengthening India's position as a global manufacturing and investment hub. By combining domestic scale with skilled talent, improving infrastructure and continued policy reforms, the government is seeking greater participation from international companies in India's growth story.

Jarange begins hunger strike, seeks Maratha quota

CHHATRAPATI

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange began an indefinite hunger strike in Jalna district on Saturday, demanding immediate caste certificates based on 58 lakh Kunbi records. Jarange started the protest at Antarwali Sarati village and said the government should act without seeking more time. He described the agitation as his "final agitation" and urged authorities to address the community's pending demands. "The government should issue the caste certificates to the Maratha community based on 58 lakh Kunbi records immediately," Jarange said. He also demanded the removal of the caste verification committee, arguing that eligible applicants should receive certificates based on available records. Jarange warned that protesters could march to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis's official residence in

Mumbai if the government fails to resolve the issues. He said any government delegation coming for talks must bring concrete solutions. The activist also demanded reservation based on the Satara Gazette, withdrawal of police cases against quota protesters and government jobs and compensation for families of those who died during earlier agitations. He sought faster action on scholarships, loans and pending appointment letters under existing quota categories. Jarange has led several protests seeking recognition of eligible Marathas as Kunbis, an agrarian community covered under the Other Backward Class reservation system. He appealed to people facing delays or rejection of caste certificates to join the protest at Antarwali Sarati. The indefinite hunger strike is expected to put renewed pressure on the Maharashtra government to respond to the Maratha community's demands.

Punjab launches 10-day drive to clear garbage hotspots

CHANDIGARH

Punjab has launched a 10-day statewide cleanliness campaign to remove garbage hotspots, curb open dumping and encourage residents to actively support cleaner surroundings. Punjab Local Government Minister Harjot Singh Bains launched the campaign from Nangal on Saturday. The drive will continue until September 7 and aims to remove garbage-vulnerable points across the state. Bains joined Safai Sewaks and local councillors during the launch and called for greater public participation. He said the campaign would strengthen efforts to eliminate open garbage dumping and improve cleanliness in towns and cities. The minister said elected representatives, government officials, civic bodies, non-governmental organisations and other groups would



"The campaign would strengthen efforts to eliminate open garbage dumping and improve cleanliness in towns and cities."

work together during the 10-day campaign. He also urged residents to cooperate with the authorities and help maintain clean public spaces. The campaign is focused on areas where garbage is frequently dumped in the open. Authorities will work to clear such locations and encourage people to avoid throwing

waste in unauthorised places. The initiative seeks to make cleanliness a shared responsibility involving both government agencies and citizens. Officials and local representatives are expected to monitor the drive and support sanitation workers in removing waste from identified hotspots. The statewide campaign will continue through September 7. The government has appealed to residents to participate actively and help keep their neighbourhoods, streets and public places clean.

TVK could target all 234 seats: TVK Minister

COIMBATORE

Tamil Nadu Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Sampath Kumar on Saturday said the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) could expand its political reach from 108 successful constituencies to all 234 Assembly seats. **"TVK could expand its political reach from 108 successful constituencies to all 234 Assembly seats."** - Sampath Kumar, TN Minister

out proper pattas. He said the government had started visiting local areas to distribute the documents and assured that eligible applicants would receive them in phases. He thanked Chief Minister and other ministers for addressing the long-pending issue. On the Periyar Knowledge Centre, Sampath Kumar said interior work was in progress and the facility would be inaugurated by the Chief Minister after completion. Responding to criticism from the VCK over the omission of names including BR Ambedkar, Periyar and Jawaharlal Nehru from a policy note, he accepted moral responsibility and said a revised publication was being prepared.

CBN Seizes 66.8 lakh psychotropic tablets

GWALIOR

The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) has seized 66,79,980 psychotropic tablets during a two-day operation under Operation Vajra 2.0 on the Chandigarh-Baddi route in the Punjab-Himachal Pradesh corridor, officials said on Saturday. One person was arrested and the truck allegedly used to transport the consignment was seized. The seized medicines included 59,08,100 Alprazolam tablets, 7,47,780 Tramadol tablets, 23,700 Nitrazepam tablets and 400 Clonazepam tablets. The operation was launched after intelligence received by the CBN's Neemuch team indicated the movement of a large illegal consignment of psychotropic medicines.

Naravane calls operation Sindhoor a new approach

VADODARA

Former Army chief General M M Naravane on Saturday said Operation Sindoor marked a major change in India's approach towards terrorism and Pakistan. He said the military action showed that those supporting terrorist groups could no longer assume they were safe because they were located away from India's borders. Speaking to reporters after attending an event focused on the start-up ecosystem in Vadodara, Naravane said Operation Sindoor was carried out after the Pahalagam terror attack. He described the operation as a necessary response and said it reflected a different approach from India's earlier responses to terror attacks. Naravane said the strikes reached locations deep inside Pakistan that were linked to organisations supporting terrorist groups. According to

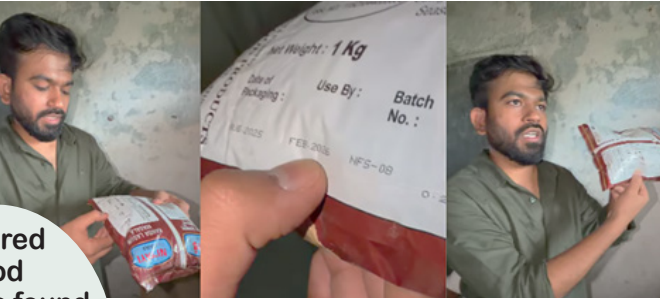
him, the operation sent a clear message that geographical distance would not necessarily protect individuals or groups involved in supporting terrorism. "Operation Sindoor, which took place after the Pahalagam attack, was a very necessary action," Naravane said. He added that the operation demonstrated India's willingness to act against those supporting terrorism beyond the immediate border areas. Naravane, who served as the 28th Chief of the Army Staff, was speaking at a time when Operation Sindoor continues to be discussed as an important development in India's security policy. His remarks highlighted the broader strategic message of the military operation and its focus on holding terror supporters accountable. He said the action represented a significant shift in how India responds to terrorism and threats originating from across the border.



Harjot Singh Bains, Punjab Minister

HINGOLI

Expired food packets, a faulty water filter and poor bathroom water supply were among the issues claimed by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke during a school visit in Hingoli. Dipke visited a government-run school in Aundha on Saturday as part of his "School Thik Karo" campaign. He claimed that packets of spices meant for students had expired in February and were still being used.



Expired food packets found at Maharashtra school SLUG- CJP school campaign

Showing the packets to the media, Dipke questioned why children from poor families were being served food from expired prod-

ucts. He also raised concerns about the school's drinking water facilities and spoke to a concerned local officer about the problems. Dipke checked the school's overhead water tank and said students were using borewell

IN FOCUS

- Expired spices — Packets allegedly expired in February
- 87 students — Just 2 classrooms
- Faulty filter — Students using borewell water
- No bathroom water — Supply issue flagged
- School Thik Karo — Campaign launched on August 15

water because the available filter was not working. He also claimed that there was no water supply in the school's

bathroom. He further highlighted the school's infrastructure shortage, saying the institution had only two classrooms for 87 students, despite four grades being sanctioned. He alleged that students were being provided inadequate facilities. Dipke launched the "School Thik Karo" campaign on August 15 to highlight basic infrastructure problems in rural government schools and seek greater accountability from authorities. The latest visit has brought attention to concerns over food safety, water facilities and classroom availability.

QUICK READ

Pakistan Army chief reviews locally made arms

Islamabad

Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir reviewed locally manufactured weapons and defence equipment during a visit to the country's largest defence complex. The visit highlighted Pakistan's efforts to strengthen domestic defence production and reduce reliance on foreign supplies. Munir inspected various arms, equipment and technological systems developed by local defence industries. He was briefed on ongoing projects aimed at improving military capabilities through indigenous research and innovation. The army chief appreciated the efforts of engineers, scientists and defence personnel involved in developing advanced systems. The visit underscored the military's commitment to self-reliance, technological advancement and expanding Pakistan's domestic defence manufacturing capabilities.

Rights body condemns orchard destruction threat

Quetta

A leading human rights group has condemned Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti's threat to burn or demolish orchards in Mastung and arrest their owners. Bugti warned that orchard owners could be treated as facilitators if security forces or the provincial interior minister were attacked from orchards. The Baloch Voice for Justice said the remarks threaten civilians' property, livelihoods and fundamental rights. It warned that destroying orchards could amount to collective punishment. The group urged authorities to avoid intimidating civilians or damaging private property and called for protection of economic and human rights.

ASK flags gaps in Bangladesh police account

Dhaka

Rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) has raised concerns over Bangladesh police's preliminary account of the killing of four members of a Hindu family in Rangpur. The group said discrepancies exist between the police version, relatives' accounts and media reports. Police arrested two young men, Siddhartha Das and Mugdha Das, over the August 20 killings. Police allege the suspects carried out the murders after the retired teacher objected to drug use on the rooftop. ASK said several key questions remain unanswered, including the motive, sequence of events and suspects' movements. It urged a comprehensive, impartial investigation based on physical, digital and forensic evidence.

CANADA ATTRACTS SCHOLARS

Canada recruits top US academics amid crackdown

WASHINGTON

Canada is stepping up efforts to attract leading American academics as universities in the United States face increasing scrutiny, funding restrictions and policy changes under the Trump administration, according to a report.

Canadian universities have already recruited dozens of scholars from some of America's most prestigious institutions. Canadian Industry Minister Melanie Joly announced that 64 leading international scholars had been hired through an eight-year initiative worth 500 million Cana-

2 barrier lakes raises fresh flood threat in Nepal

DECREASING WATER LEVELS HAVE EASED IMMEDIATE LAKE BURST FEARS, BUT AUTHORITIES KEEP MONITORING DUE TO UNSTABLE TERRAIN.

BEIJING

A new danger has emerged in the flood-hit area along the China-Nepal border after a glacier collapse created two potentially dangerous lakes, raising concerns about further flooding in the region. Chinese authorities said on Saturday that the immediate threat from one lake has eased as water has gradually drained away.

Satellite imagery showed that the surface area of the first lake had fallen by about 21,000 square metres to around 99,000 square metres by Saturday. The shrinking water body has reduced fears of an immediate lake burst, although authorities continue to closely monitor the situation because unstable terrain remains a concern.

However, officials have identified another and larger



lake below the site of the glacier collapse. Its surface area has exceeded 120,000 square metres, and its depth remains unclear. The second lake could pose a further threat if water levels rise or natural barriers holding back the water fail. Monitoring teams have been deployed to assess the lakes and surrounding terrain. The lakes formed after a major glacier and rock collapse triggered devastating flooding earlier this week. The resulting torrent of mud,

Key points

- Glacial collapse triggers destructive Himalayan floods.
- First lake shrinks, lowering immediate risks.
- Larger secondary lake poses ongoing threats.
- Severe infrastructure damage cuts off communities.
- Tragic toll records seven deaths, 554 missing.
- Hazard monitoring continues across unstable terrain.

cials monitor the lakes and other unstable areas. The disaster has highlighted the growing risks faced by Himalayan communities from sudden glacier collapses and glacial lake outburst floods.

Kathmandu family travels to cut-off Trishuli to check on relatives

TRISHULI

A family from Kathmandu travelled towards the flood-hit Trishuli region on Saturday to check on relatives and residents of a village that remained cut off after devastating flash floods damaged roads and disrupted communication.

The journey came amid heavy rain and renewed concerns over rising river levels in the area.

The family members said they wanted to personally assess the situation in their village as communication remained difficult. Power supplies were disrupted, making it difficult for residents to charge mobile phones and maintain contact with relatives outside the affected area.

TRUMP CLAIMS HISTORIC OIL DEAL WITH VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced what he described as the "biggest oil deal in world history" with Venezuela, saying the agreement gives the United States majority control of more than 65 billion barrels of the South American country's proven oil reserves.

Trump said the deal was reached through cooperation between US officials, Venezuela's interim government and private businesses.

Trump said Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth worked with Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez to finalise the agreement. He said the arrangement would not cost American taxpayers and would more than double US oil re-

serves. The announcement comes as Washington seeks to strengthen energy supplies and bring down high fuel prices amid continuing global tensions.

Under the proposed arrangement, a new venture involving US interests and a private operator is expected to develop 17 Venezuelan oil fields. The United States would receive a majority operational share, while the agreement is expected to attract about \$100 billion in private investment for Venezuela's oil industry. Caracas could also receive substantial tax revenues from expanded production.

The agreement focuses on reviving Venezuela's ageing oil infrastructure and increasing production from major reserves in areas including the Orinoco Belt and Lake Mara-

caibo. However, analysts have questioned how quickly the plan can deliver additional oil because Venezuela's energy infrastructure has suffered from years of underinvestment, while its heavy crude requires significant processing and technical investment.

The deal also carries major political and legal implications. Venezuela had historically maintained strong state control over its petroleum industry, while the new arrangement represents a significant shift towards private and foreign participation. Trump's announcement comes as the United States faces pressure over fuel prices and seeks additional supplies. Although the agreement could eventually boost Venezuelan output, experts say substantial increases may take years to materialise.

Wildfire: UAE expresses solidarity with Algeria

ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates has expressed solidarity with Algeria following deadly wildfires that swept through parts of the country's northeast, causing deaths and injuries. The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed its condolences to the Algerian government, people and families affected by the tragedy.

In a statement, the ministry expressed its sincere sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives in the fires. It also conveyed condolences to the government and people of Algeria during the difficult period and reaffirmed the UAE's solidarity with the North African nation.

The wildfires affected several areas in northeastern Algeria, with emergency teams working to contain the flames and assist residents in affected communities.

Nepal President thanks India for flood support

KATHMANDU

Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Saturday thanked India for its support and solidarity following the devastating flash floods that have killed hundreds and caused widespread destruction across the Himalayan nation.

Paudel expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu for her concern and the assistance extended by the Indian government after the disaster.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Nepal, I extend our deepest gratitude to Your Excellency Smt Droupadi Murmu for your kind concern and also for the generous support and solidarity extended by your government," the Office of the President of Nepal said in a post on X.

Paudel also conveyed condolences to India over the deaths of Indian nationals in the disaster on August 26. He expressed sympathy to the Indian government and people following the loss of lives caused by the catastrophic floods.

The Ministry of External Affairs said 149 Indian nationals had safely crossed into Nepal from China following the floods, while 320 people continued to remain missing or could not be contacted.

The death toll in Nepal had risen to 616 by Saturday morning, with hundreds still reported missing, according to local media citing officials.

The flash floods in Nepal's Rasuwa district originated in Tibet and swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi

River, causing extensive damage to homes, roads and other infrastructure.

Rescue and relief operations have continued amid difficult conditions.

President Murmu had earlier expressed solidarity with Nepal and said India was ready to assist its neighbour with relief and rescue operations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also spoke with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah and offered condolences over the loss of lives.

Modi said India stood with the people of Nepal during the crisis and was prepared to provide all possible humanitarian assistance.

Indian teams have been coordinating with Nepalese authorities as rescue efforts continue in flood-affected areas.

Iran vows diplomacy, defence against US sanctions

TEHRAN

Iran has vowed to use diplomacy and defence together to counter US sanctions and what it described as US-Israeli "conspiracies," saying both approaches are essential to protecting its national interests, security and territorial integrity.

The Iranian government said the two tracks would be pursued simultaneously.

In a statement carried by Iranian state media, the government described diplomacy and defence as "complementary, coordinated and inseparable" tools. The announcement comes amid continued tensions with the United States and growing economic pressure from sanctions imposed on Iranian-linked individuals and entities.

Iran also said it would focus on strengthening its domestic economy while resisting external pressure. Its priorities include controlling inflation, creating employment, supporting domestic production and gradually reducing the country's dependence on the US dollar. Tehran has increasingly sought alternative financial and trading arrangements as sanctions restrict its access to international financial networks.

The United States imposed fresh Iran-related sanctions on Friday, targeting an individual linked to Bank Melli Iran and a Hong Kong-based entity. Washington has also moved against financial channels in the United Arab Emirates, increasing pressure on institutions accused of facilitating

SANCTIONS AND RESILIENCE IN IRAN

Iran counters fresh US financial sanctions by prioritizing domestic economic strength, curbing inflation, and reducing its reliance on the US dollar. Simultaneously, Tehran pursues alternative trading routes and maintains active diplomatic engagement via regional mediators.

transactions involving Iran. The measures are part of a broader campaign aimed at restricting Tehran's access to international finance.

Iran's latest position reflects its effort to combine economic resilience, diplomatic engagement and military preparedness. Tehran has maintained that it will defend its interests while keeping diplomatic channels open. Recent contacts involving regional mediators, including Qatar and Pakistan, have also indicated that diplomatic efforts remain active despite the continuing confrontation.

The standoff has also affected regional trade and energy markets, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for global oil shipments.

Iran has asserted control over the waterway, while the United States has disputed Tehran's position. The continuing tensions have raised concerns about further economic disruption if the confrontation intensifies.

Kremlin Sees EU as Hostile, Relations Strained

MOSCOW

The Kremlin said the European Union remains hostile toward Russia, with little prospect of improved relations under current political leadership. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said EU politicians are confrontational toward Moscow, "not only in words but also in deeds." His comments reflect continuing tensions between Russia and the bloc over the war in Ukraine, sanctions and wider security issues. Peskov's remarks suggest Moscow does not expect a significant shift in its relationship with Brussels in the near future.

NAME CHANGE

I JAYARAM THIMMARAYAPPA S/o, Thimmarayappa, resident of No 10, 11th A Cross Thimmaiah Garden R T Nagar Bengaluru Dist, 560032, Have Changed My Name From **JAYARAMA THIMMARAYAPPA** to JAYARAM THIMMARAYAPPA , vide affidavit Sworn before Notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru Dated: 29.08.2026.

NAME CHANGE

HUMERA TAJ W/o, Late Ismail Khan, resident of No 19, 9th Cross Hosahalli Main Road Padarayana Pura Bengaluru Dist, 560026, Have Changed My Name From HUMERA AMAN to **HUMERA TAJ** , vide affidavit Sworn before Notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru Dated: 29.08.2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED NOOR B S S/o SAYED BASHEERUDDIN R/o Flat F03, 1st Floor, Sri Byreshwara Swamy Nilaya, RSR Colony, Opp. Kaveri Bakery Lane, Immadihalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560066, have changed the name of my minor daughter SYEDA AFIYA aged 6 years and she shall hereafter be known as SYEDA AFIYA NOOR.

NAME CHANGE

I **MOHAMMED TANZEEM SHARIFF** S/o, Mohammed Ehasanulla Shariff, resident of No 31 & 32, 5th Cross Vinayaka Nagar J P Nagar 5th Phase Bengaluru Dist, 560078, Have Changed My Name From **TANZEEM SHARIEFF** to **MOHAMMED TANZEEM SHARIFF** , vide affidavit Sworn before Notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru Dated: 29.08.2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, TALIA ESTHER ABRAHAM D/o ABRAHAM E JOSEPH, residing at Esther Garden, No. 52, Royal Residency Layout, Yerappanahalli Main Road, Kannur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560077, India, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as ABRAHAM E JOSHEPH in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is ABRAHAM E JOSEPH, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, **JABEEN TAJ**, W/o. Khader Mohammed Moinuddin, Resident Of. No 22,11th Cross Sowkar Lane Kushal Nagar K G Halli Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to **AMEENA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 28.08.2026 before notary CHANDRASHEKAR .M, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THIPPAYYAN alias TIPAYYA alias THIPPAIA N S/o NAGAPPA NAYAK, R/o Ward No. 30, Hospet Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Bellary Cantonment, Hagari bommanahalli, Bellary, Karnataka-583104, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as B SHRAVAN JAYRAJ.

Maini Completes Major Alpine F1 Test

Kush Maini completed 200 laps and 850 kilometres for Alpine at Red Bull Ring, gaining Formula 1 mileage before returning to his Formula 2 championship challenge at Monza after summer.

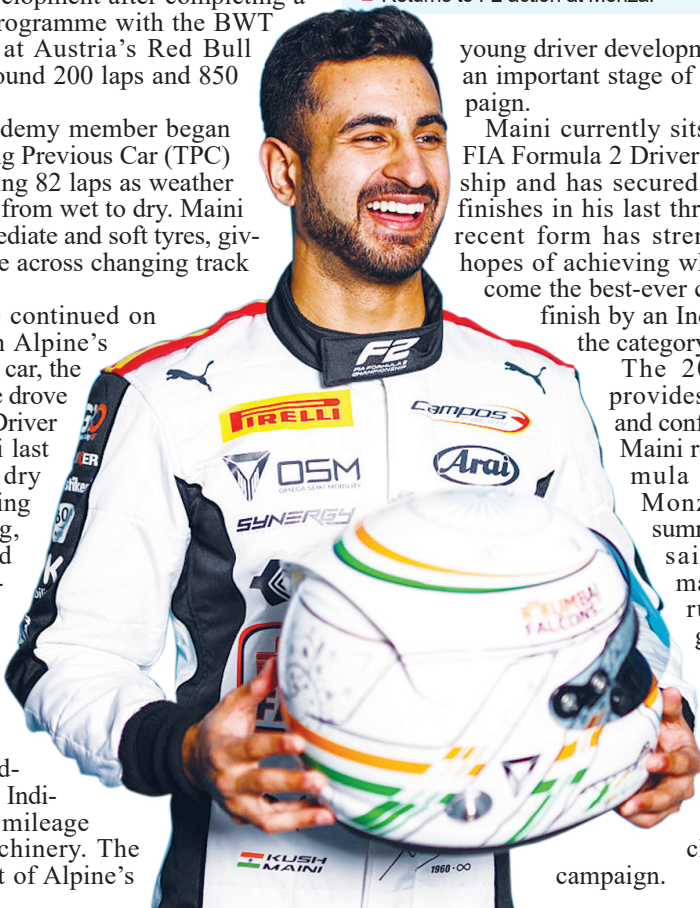
NEW YORK

Indian racer Kush Maini took a further step to his Formula 1 development after completing a two-day testing programme with the BWT Alpine F1 Team at Austria's Red Bull Ring, covering around 200 laps and 850 kilometres.

The Alpine Academy member began day one in a Testing Previous Car (TPC) machine, completing 82 laps as weather conditions shifted from wet to dry. Maini ran on wet, intermediate and soft tyres, giving him experience across changing track conditions.

His programme continued on the second day in Alpine's 2025-specification car, the same machinery he drove during the Young Driver Test in Abu Dhabi last December. With dry conditions providing extensive running, Maini covered more than 500 kilometres, bringing his two-day total to about 850 kilometres.

The latest outing follows his earlier test at Zandvoort and gives the Indian reserve driver mileage in Formula 1 machinery. The programme is part of Alpine's



Key Takeaways From His Alpine Test

- 200 laps completed across two days.
- 850 kilometres covered at Red Bull Ring.
- Tested TPC and 2025-spec Alpine cars.
- Ran wet, intermediate and soft tyres.
- Currently sixth in FIA Formula 2.
- Two podiums in his last three races.
- Returns to F2 action at Monza.

young driver development efforts at an important stage of Maini's campaign.

Maini currently sits sixth in the FIA Formula 2 Drivers' Championship and has secured two podium finishes in his last three races. His recent form has strengthened his hopes of achieving what could become the best-ever championship finish by an Indian driver in the category.

The 2026 F1 test provides preparation and confidence before Maini returns to Formula 2 action at Monza after the summer break. He said the team maximised the run plan and gained significant mileage and experience, while hoping the test data would help Alpine's championship campaign.

Caitlin Clark, Kelsey Mitchell combine for 68 as Fever trounce Sun

INDIANAPOLIS

Caitlin Clark and Kelsey Mitchell each scored 34 points, carrying the Indiana Fever past the Connecticut Sun for a 111-91 runaway in Indianapolis.

Clark, who distributed 12 assists, and Mitchell both shot 12-for-19 from the field. Clark connected on 6 of 12 3-point shots, while Mitchell went 4 of 9 from long distance. Aliyah Boston provided 14 points for Indiana, which overcame a shoddy opening stretch of the game. Makayla Timpson tacked on 10 points and eight rebounds for the Fever (26-14), who have won seven of their past nine games.

Diamond Miller recorded 19 points while rookie Nell Angloma tallied a season-high 17 points off the bench for Connecticut. Aaliyah Edwards and reserve Hailey Van Lith both added 12 points. The Sun (10-29) began a three-game road trip with their fourth loss in a five-game stretch. They shot 9-for-28 (32.1%) from 3-point range. Indiana reached the 100-point mark for the third consecutive game.

Liverpool Agree £123m Barcola Blockbuster

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have agreed a deal worth up to £123 million for Paris Saint-Germain forward Bradley Barcola, moving to reinforce their attack after the departures of Luis Diaz and Mohamed Salah.

The agreement reportedly consists of an initial £106 million fee and £17 million in potential add-ons. If the full amount is reached, the transfer would become a record fee for a player leaving the French top flight. PSG had initially placed a £145 million valuation on the France international.

Barcola joined PSG in 2023 and has quickly built an impressive trophy collection. The forward has won two Champions League titles, three Ligue 1 championships and two French Cups during his time in Paris. He also featured for France at the recent FIFA World Cup, scoring three goals as his team reached the semi-finals.

Despite his achievements, Barcola has seen his playing time reduced, with PSG increasingly relying on Desire



Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. He is also entering the final two years of his contract and reportedly does not want to extend his stay.

Liverpool see Barcola as an important addition to their forward line and someone capable of providing competition and cover for Alexander Isak. The Reds have already lost Diaz to Bayern Munich, while Salah ended his nine-year association with the club by moving to Trabzonspor.

The potential arrival could have consequences for Cody Gakpo, with Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City reportedly interested in the Netherlands international. Liverpool are also tracking Ismaila Sarr and Yankuba Minteh as they continue reshaping their attacking options.

Sports Min Mandaviya leads National Sports Day celebrations

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya led National Sports Day celebrations at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, joining hundreds of participants in sporting activities as part of the nationwide 'Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein' initiative.

The celebrations marked the 121st birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and focused on encouraging citizens, particularly young people, to dedicate time to sports, fitness and physical activity.

Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal was also present at the programme, which began with the two ministers paying floral tributes to Major Dhyan Chand by garlanding his statue.

Participants began assembling at the stadium from 8 am, taking part in a range of sporting and fitness activities organised under the initiative, which aims to strengthen the Fit India Movement and



promote regular physical activity.

Speaking at the event, Mandaviya said the nationwide campaign aimed to make sports and fitness an integral part of people's lives.

"On the 121st birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, celebrated as National Sports Day, the nationwide 'Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein' programme has been organised to promote the Fit India Movement," he said.

Dehradun T20 League announces captains of all six franchises

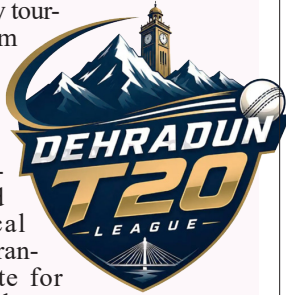
DEHRADUN

The excitement for the debut Dehradun T20 League 2026 is at its highest, with all six franchise teams announcing their captains before the tournament starts on September 2 at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy in Dehradun.

The eight-day tournament, set from September 2 to 9, will feature IPL experience, domestic cricket excellence, and emerging local talent, as six franchises compete for the first-ever title.

Doiwala Kings will be led by TNR Mohit, and Mussoorie Thunder will be captained by IPL player Akash Madhwal. Rishikesh Dragons has appointed Yuvraj Chaudhary as captain, while Vikasnagar Dhamaka will be helmed by Kunal Chandela. Herbertpur Knightriders named Jagadeesha Suchith as captain, and Piyush Joshi will lead Selakui Strikers.

The appointment of experienced players as captains is expected to enhance the tournament's quality and competitiveness while providing young local cricketers with an opportunity to learn from established players in a high-pressure, competitive environment.



Dehradun T20 League CEO Navneet Mishra voiced confidence in the six captains and emphasised their importance in developing the upcoming cricket talent in Uttarakhand.

Speaking about the captaincy appointments, Mishra said, "Having experienced and capable players lead the six teams is a major advantage for the Dehradun T20 League. Captains such as Akash Madhwal and Jagadeesha Suchith bring valuable experience from IPL and domestic cricket, while TNR Mohit, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Kunal Chandela and Piyush Joshi understand the local cricketing environment and the potential of players from the region. Their leadership will be crucial not only in the competition but also in helping young players learn, adapt and perform at this level."

The tournament will consist of 18 matches in total, with six franchises competing in a round-robin league. Each team will play five matches to earn a spot in the knockout stage.

Neeraj Chopra to miss Asiad

NEW DELHI

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been ruled out of the remainder of the 2026 season after suffering a ligament tear in his ankle during training, forcing the two-time Olympic medallist to miss next month's Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The setback will also keep Chopra out of the Diamond League Finals in Brussels on September 5 and the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championships in Budapest from September 11 to 13, bringing an abrupt end to a season in which he had only

recently begun to regain momentum following a delayed return from injury.

Chopra announced the news in a post on his X account on Saturday, saying the decision to sit out the remainder of the season was taken after consultations with his doctor and team.

"After a period of hard work, I finally felt I was gaining the momentum I had been looking for with a Season's Best throw in Lausanne. Unfortunately, shortly after, I sustained a ligament tear in my ankle during training. After discussions with my doctor and team, we've decided that

I will sit out the rest of this season," Chopra stated in a post on his 'X' account on Saturday. The 2026 season had already been a challenging one for Chopra, whose return to competition was delayed until June because of a lower back injury that had troubled him since September last year.

Despite not being fully fit, the Indian star managed to produce encouraging performances after his return. He won silver at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with a throw of 85.83m before registering his season's best effort of 88.05m at the Lausanne Diamond League.



Dhull down with hamstring injury, could miss semi-final

NEW DELHI

North Zone top-order batter Yash Dhull is likely to miss their Duleep Trophy semi-final clash against South Zone, starting on Sunday at the BCCI CoE Ground, after sustaining a hamstring injury.

Dhull's injury means a vacancy at the top can be filled by specialist opener Sanat Sangwan, who can partner with Qamran Iqbal at the top. Former India Under-19 captain Uday Saharan is understood to have been called up as Dhull's replacement in the squad.

"Though he was training today, Yash Dhull may just miss the semi-final clash due to a suspected grade two hamstring injury. It is understood that Uday Saharan could come into the squad in his place. This means chances of Sanat Sangwan playing the clash starting on Sunday are bright," a source familiar with the development told IANS on Saturday.

Dhull's hamstring injury comes on the

heels of a contentious selection decision in the quarter-final against West Zone, where North Zone coaches Ajay Sharma and Sarandeep Singh controversially dropped Sangwan, the third-highest run-scorer in the previous Ranji Trophy season, in favour of Dhull, who captained India to victory in the 2022 Men's U19 World Cup.

That decision raised several eyebrows, as Dhull, who managed only 381 runs in the 2025/26 Ranji season, was slotted as an



opener despite not being a specialist in that role. Subsequently, Dhull struggled against West Zone's pace attack, scoring 9 and 0 and appearing thoroughly uncomfortable at the crease, further fuelling criticism of the team management's tactics.

Despite that, North Zone, who are also boosted by the arrival of India pacer Gurnoor Brar, arrive for the semi-finals with immense confidence after beating a star-studded West Zone side by 52 runs.

"Sahil Lotra has also been released from the squad, while Ayush Badoni should be fine to play after recovering from a bout of fever," added the source.

Meanwhile, last year's runners-up, South Zone, will be led by India's T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma, with Ricky Bhui, Shaik Rasheed, Narayan Jagadeesan, and Karun Nair as the other batters.

QUICK READ

Walmart settles US government's opioid lawsuit

CH NEWS, San Diego Walmart will pay \$50 million to settle a U.S. government lawsuit accusing the nation's largest retailer of fueling a nationwide opioid epidemic by unlawfully dispensing prescriptions from its pharmacies, the Department of Justice said. The payout is far less than the billions of dollars in civil penalties that the Justice Department had said Walmart could owe when the lawsuit began in December 2020, near the end of President Donald Trump's first White House term. Walmart did not admit liability, and in a regulatory filing called the settlement amount "immaterial."

India's DPI becomes global model for inclusive growth

CH NEWS, New Delhi India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has emerged as a global blueprint for inclusive growth, with countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America exploring elements of the country's digital architecture to accelerate service delivery and financial inclusion, a new report has said. "At the heart of this transformation lies a simple but powerful idea: digital infrastructure should function as a public good, accessible, affordable and interoperable for everyone," the report from Times of Oman said.

Somaiya seeks review of CAS framework

MUMBAI

Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya has urged SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey to examine the introduced Closing Auction Session (CAS) mechanism after a sharp movement in the Sensex during the final minutes of trading on August 27.

In a letter to the regulator, Somaiya highlighted the market's movement between 3.20 p.m. and 3.30 p.m., when the Sensex reportedly plunged more than 2,200 points before recovering around 2,000 points. The episode occurred during the first derivatives expiry since CAS was introduced, prompting questions over liquidity and price discovery.

SEBI

Somaiya questioned whether the volatility exposed a weakness in the CAS framework and urged SEBI not to treat the episode casually. He said that if a systemic weakness was responsible, officials involved in designing the mechanism should explain what went wrong.

He also raised the possibility that the sharp movement could have been deliberate, asking whether there had been an attempt to undermine CAS. He called for an inquiry and appropriate action based

on its findings.

The former MP flagged liquidity concerns after 3.15 p.m., citing a market observer who said inadequate depth could intensify volatility when investors seek to buy or sell.

Somaiya proposed temporarily suspending CAS and redesigning it before reintroduction. Under the current framework, continuous trading in CAS securities ends at 3.15 p.m., followed by a separate closing auction, while equity derivatives continue until 3.40 p.m.

He argued that this transition removes continuous liquidity when it may be most needed and relies on a shallow auction to determine closing prices.

NEW DELHI

India's apex apparel exporters body -- Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEP) -- on Saturday urged Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh to take suitable measures to regulate cotton yarn exports amid a sharp rise in prices, saying competitive availability of the key raw material is essential for strengthening India's value-added garment exports.

In a letter, AEP Chairman Dr A. Sakthivel sought the intervention of the government particularly to regulate exports of cotton yarn of 20s count and above. Sakthivel said India needs to prioritise value-added exports such as finished garments, which generate substantially higher value realisation and employment compared with exports of raw cotton and yarn.

Raw cotton fetches around Rs 275 per kg, while cotton converted into yarn fetches approximately Rs 325 per kg. In comparison, a kilogram of finished garments can fetch between Rs 800 and Rs 1,200 after value addition, he wrote in the letter.

The industry body attributed the increase in yarn prices to supply-side constraints, including limited stock availability with ginners and reduced cotton arrivals, which have led mills to increasingly depend on Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) auctions. It also flagged rising exports of Indian cotton and cotton

OpenAI said that it plans to stop providing AI models to Cursor, the coding-tool company now owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, marking a further escalation in the bitter rivalry between OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Musk.

Musk and Altman have been at odds for years, a feud that culminated earlier this year in a trial over Musk's \$150 billion lawsuit against OpenAI. During the trial, Musk's lawyer said that Musk and other witnesses had testified that Altman was a liar, while OpenAI argued that Musk had sought control of the company.

"We are making this choice because we cannot be confident that SpaceX will use our technology within our terms of service, based on our experience with Elon Musk's companies violating contracts," OpenAI said in a blog post.

Musk responded early on Saturday in an X post, writing, "I couldn't care less."

ton yarn to apparel-producing countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam following US restrictions on the use of Chinese cotton under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA).

Apparel exporters, who largely procure fabric from the domestic market, said higher cotton and yarn prices are translating into increased fabric and garment manufacturing costs, affecting their competitiveness in global markets.

The industry has highlighted that the issue assumes significance as India gains greater access to international markets, including through new free trade agreement (FTA) markets such as the UK and New Zealand.

Gold posts 1.86% weekly dip over hawkish stance of US Fed Reserve

NEW DELHI

Gold prices dipped nearly 1.86 per cent as markets digested higher than expected inflation data and a hawkish debut speech by US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh at the Jackson Hole symposium.

MCX gold futures expiring in October dropped 1.63 per cent while MCX silver futures for September shed 1.66 per cent. Gold futures stood at Rs 1,56,400, while silver futures stood at Rs 2,36,651 per kg.

The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,59,578, down from Rs 1,62,603 seen on Monday at market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

After a strong surge earlier this week momentum reversed after July's US personal consumption expenditures (PCE) inflation reading came in at 3.7 per cent year on year, along with US labour and trade data pointing to a stronger than expected economy.

Renewed concerns about currency debasement and US Treasury support for long dated bonds had caused the bullion rally to multi month highs earlier in the week.

However, stronger-than-expected economic data led to market pricing in a higher probability of the Fed remaining restrictive for longer. A hawkish speech from Kevin Warsh reset rate expectations, while oil eased from recent highs on fresh signs of diplomatic progress around the Strait of Hormuz. Gold tum-

bled roughly \$70 within minutes of Warsh's speech before recovering some ground, while silver also gave back gains from its earlier highs, analysts said. Odds of a September rate hike jumped from roughly 1-in-3 to more than 2-in-5 on the CME FedWatch tool, and year-end rate expectations rose to their highest level in three weeks. Silver mirrored the swings, climbing to a 10-week high before slipping back multiple times over the week, while copper touched fresh all-time highs before easing back.

OpenAI to cut off AI models for SpaceX-owned Cursor

NEW YORK

yer said that Musk and other witnesses had testified that Altman was a liar, while OpenAI argued that Musk had sought control of the company.

"We are making this choice because we cannot be confident that SpaceX will use our technology within our terms of service, based on our experience with Elon Musk's companies violating contracts," OpenAI said in a blog post.

Musk responded early on Saturday in an X post, writing, "I couldn't care less."

He accused Altman and OpenAI President Greg Brockman of being "untrustworthy," while repeating his assertion that they "stole an open source nonprofit."

Musk, the world's richest person, had sued OpenAI and Altman for "stealing a charity" by betraying the company's original nonprofit mission for their own enrichment. A federal jury ruled against Musk earlier this year, finding that he had filed the case too late.

INSOLVENCY CASE

Union Bank to challenge NCLT order

MUMBAI

Union Bank of India is set to challenge the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) approval of a resolution plan in the personal insolvency proceedings against Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra, the lender said on Saturday.

The personal insolvency proceedings against Chandra were initiated by Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited. Union Bank of India, along with other creditors including Canara Bank and LIC Housing Finance, had voted against the resolution plan

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL

and opposed its approval before the tribunal.

Despite their objections, the NCLT approved the plan after it received the required majority support from certain private-sector creditors. Union Bank said it would

now approach the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to challenge the NCLT order.

The development comes amid concerns among lenders over the substantial haircuts involved in the approved res-

olution plan, with creditors expected to recover only a limited portion of their claims.

HDFC Bank has also said it is exploring an appeal against the NCLT decision.

On Thursday, the private lender said only 3.2 per cent of its total claim of Rs 680 crore had been admitted under the tribunal's order.

Union Bank said the plan was approved because of the majority vote of certain private creditors, despite opposition from several lenders.

The dispute could now move to the appellate tribu-

nal, where creditors will seek a review of the NCLT's decision. Chandra, however, has disputed the characterisation of the proceedings, adding another dimension to the ongoing insolvency case involving lenders and the Essel Group chairman.

"Union Bank of India (UK) Limited is immediately challenging the decision of NCLT before NCLAT," the lender said.

HDFC Bank said it was exploring an appeal, noting that only 3.2 per cent of its Rs 680-crore claim had been admitted under the tribunal's order.

India's industrial activity remains resilient

NEW DELHI

India's industrial activity remains resilient with strong manufacturing and investment-led growth cushioning economy against global uncertainties, economists and experts said on Saturday after latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data showed a 6.7 per cent year-on-year rise in July.

Industrial production grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year in July supported by a 7.3 per cent rise in manufacturing and 8.7 per cent growth in electricity and gas supply, while

manufacturing growth was broad-based with 19 of 23 industry groups recording positive growth during the month.

Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings said industrial activity has remained largely resilient in the current fiscal despite global uncertainties and elevated energy prices.

She highlighted the strong performance of capital goods and infrastructure/construction goods, which grew 16.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively and said the numbers were encouraging for investment activity.

Joshi pitches NTH for global certification

India's manufacturing ambitions need globally trusted testing, Pralhad Joshi said, urging NTH to expand into emerging sectors and make its certificates widely accepted across international markets.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday called for transforming the National Test House (NTH) into a premier global testing and certification organisation as India strengthens manufacturing and seeks to become a global manufacturing hub.

Addressing the 115th Foundation Day celebration of NTH after inaugurating its building, Joshi said dependable domestic testing infrastructure was essential to sup-

port the country's expanding manufacturing base.

He urged NTH to increase capacity and broaden testing services to emerging sectors, including electric vehicles, renewable energy, aerospace, defence and electronics.

Joshi said consumers and businesses should have confidence in products carrying an NTH certificate, stressing that certification must achieve worldwide acceptance.

He said the government would explore converting NTH into a company to give

it greater responsibility and strengthen the international credibility of its certificates.

The minister asked NTH to

NTH marks 115 years, eyes major expansion

- NTH marks its 115th Foundation Day
- Government may explore converting NTH into a company
- Focus areas include EVs, renewables, aerospace, defence and electronics
- Bengaluru gets EV battery testing facility
- NTH receives samples from Sri Lanka, Dubai, Bahrain and Bhutan

improve awareness among state governments and government departments about its capabilities.

He pointed out that some government tenders still require certification from foreign agencies and laboratories despite domestic expertise.

As India moves towards greater self-reliance, Joshi said NTH must be equipped to test products and components manufactured domestically and help reduce dependence on imports. He high-

lighted the newly inaugurated electric vehicle battery testing facility in Bengaluru as a step towards ensuring EV safety and reliability.

NTH has expanded facilities for testing coal, solar water heaters, solar modules and pressure cookers. Its NTH Suvidha application enables online product submissions and receipt of results.

Joshi said samples from Sri Lanka, Dubai, Bahrain and Bhutan were being received, indicating international recognition.

Mizoram plans major ginger expansion

AIZAWL

Mizoram is set to significantly expand ginger cultivation after NITI Aayog recognised the state as the 'Ginger Capital of India', with the government planning to strengthen production, processing and market access for farmers.

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister P.C. Vanlalruata said the recognition in 2025 reflected Mizoram's large-scale ginger production and its growing contribution to India's ginger sector. The state government has since initiated measures to further increase cultivation and improve the value chain around the crop.

Speaking at the inauguration of an Edible Oil Processing Plant at Falkawn in Aizawl, Vanlalruata said farmer welfare remained a priority. He said the government was promoting crops including sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, toor dal and mustard seeds

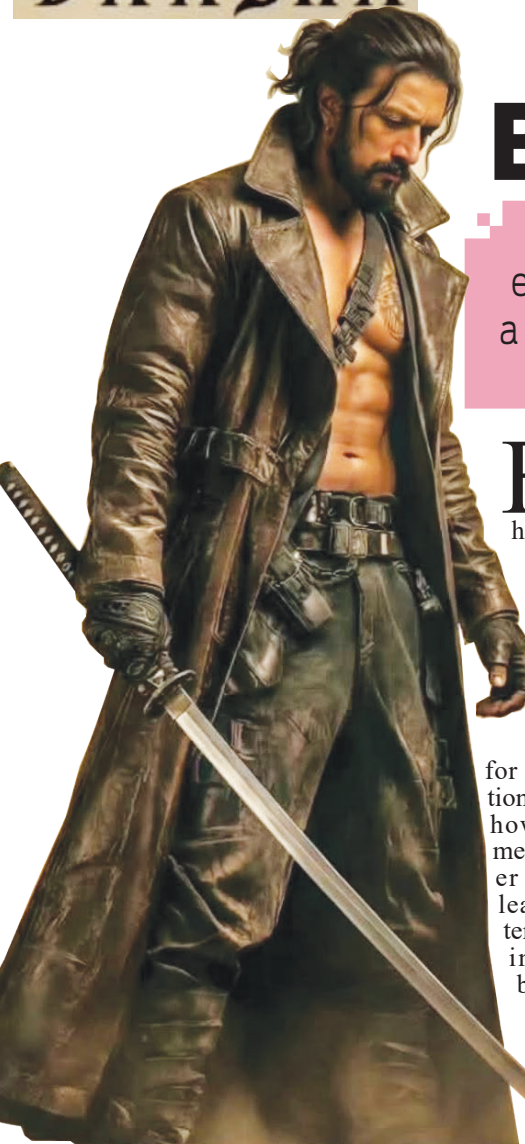


Ginger central to Mizoram's agri expansion

Ginger remains central to Mizoram's agricultural expansion, while new processing infrastructure is being developed to improve value addition and farmer incomes. The government is also promoting sunflower, sesame, toor dal and mustard, alongside efforts to strengthen cooperatives and connect producers with suitable markets.

expressed hope that such facilities would provide farmers with more reliable income sources while helping the state capture greater value from its agricultural production for local producers.

KICCHA SUDEEPA
B A A S H A



BRB

FIRST BLOOD

A FILM BY ANUP BHANDARI

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‘Wait Will Be Worth It,’ BRB Makers

Kiccha Sudeep fans have excitement as makers announce a planned journey for Billa Ranga Baasha through 2027.

Fans of Kiccha Sudeep have reason to look forward to Billa Ranga Baasha, as the makers announced a clear promotional plan for the sci-fi action film. Primeshow Entertainment said a poster will be released on September 2, marking Sudeep’s birthday. Primeshow said the birthday poster is only the beginning. Every update will arrive at the right time, with attention to quality and

impact. The teaser is planned for the first quarter of 2027. The trailer and songs will follow in the third quarter, while the film is scheduled to reach theatres in the fourth quarter. Directed by Anup Bhandari, the film marks another collaboration between Sudeep and the filmmaker after Vikrant Rona. Billa Ranga Baasha is expected to take them into a different world. The film is planned as a large-scale sci-fi action spectacle set in a dystopian future. An earlier visual featuring a dragon-like BRB emblem against an icy setting offered a glimpse of the film’s futuristic world. The poster is expected to reveal more. Sudeep remains an attraction. Known for larger-than-life roles, he is expected to lead the action drama. Primeshow Entertainment thanked fans for their patience, assuring them that the wait would be worthwhile. The makers appear focused on building anticipation. September 2 will be an important date for Sudeep fans, as the birthday poster will begin the BRB promotional journey.

‘We’re All One,’ Shiva Rajkumar Dismisses Monster Rivalry

Shiva Rajkumar rejects comparisons with Salman Khan, saying both Monster films tell different stories and are not rivals. Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar has dismissed comparisons with his Original Monster and Salman Khan’s Monster, saying the two films tell different stories. During a media interaction for Original Monster, Shiva was asked about Salman’s upcoming pan-India film Monster. He said the projects would be completely different and stressed that there was no competition between them. No, the stories will be different, 100%. It will be really different. We’re all one, Shiva said. Shiva’s upcoming film, Original Monster, is directed by R Chandru. The big-budget action thriller presents the actor in a rugged and intense avatar. The film is produced by Yamuna



Shiva Rajkumar has rejected the idea of rivalry with Salman Khan over their films sharing the word Monster in their titles

Chandru under RC Studios and presented by Anand Pandit. Salman Khan’s Monster is directed by Vamshi Paidipally and produced by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations. It is scheduled for worldwide theatrical release during Eid 2027. Shiva was also asked if he would consider working with

Salman in a future film. He said such a collaboration could happen if destiny and audiences wanted it. I think if God wishes and all people wish, might be one day we will, he said. A collaboration between the two stars could become a pan-Indian event, bringing together popular actors from different film industries. For now, both stars remain focused on their projects. B Ajaneesh Loknath is composing music for Original Monster, while Salman’s film continues preparations for its 2027 release.

Simbu Urges Producers To Support Small Films

Actor Silambarasan has extended his support to Modha Rathri, a Tamil rural comedy entertainer getting positive responses. He praised director Raja Karuppasamy’s storytelling and asked viewers to watch the film in theatres. Silambarasan highlighted the challenges faced by small films. He said producers should give such movies support and help them reach a wider audience. A small request to our producers too... films like these need that extra push to reach the audience. Good content deserves to be discovered, Silambarasan wrote. Sharing his experience, the actor said he enjoyed the film and felt Tamil movies with fresh ideas should receive the same support given to films from other industries. Watched #ModhaRathri and really enjoyed it. We often discover small, beautiful films from other languages and celebrate them so much. When a Tamil film attempts something fresh with a new team, I feel we should give it the same love and support, he said. Silambarasan praised the film’s setting and characters. A story unfolding over a single night, set around a village wedding, with so many characters and little moments that felt so real. The writing, the humour and the characters were all handled really well, he added. Released on August 21, Modha Rathri follows a village wedding that turns chaotic because of misunderstandings and comic mishaps. Rishikanth makes his debut as the lead actor, opposite Anishma Anilkumar. Chetan, A. Venkatesh, Bucks, Abdoole Lee and Shelly Kishore are also part of the cast. Silambarasan’s endorsement has brought attention to the film.

Uday Prasanna Begins A New Horror Journey

Director Uday Prasanna, who made Mahishasura in 2021, is returning with a new horror film titled after years of writing and struggle. Mahishasura, released on January 8, 2021, was set against a background and explored relationships, love, conflict, caste and social realities. Inspired by a real incident, the film featured actors and technicians. Despite the post-COVID situation, it completed a 25-day theatrical run and recovered its investment. “Mahishasura strengthened my faith in myself as a director. Recovering the investment and returning it to the producer gave me great satisfaction,” Prasanna said. After the film, Prasanna spent several years developing stories and scripts. Some producers showed interest, but projects did not move ahead.



He used the setbacks to spend more time shaping stories. “I believe a good story needs time to take shape. I never gave up on my dream,” he said. It was launched with a script pooja on child artiste Baby Shreeya’s birthday. The cast includes Shreeya, Ranjitha, Santhosh Batageri, Raj Manju and Shruthi Madam. Shreeya will appear from the first scene to the last, with her character connected to Shruthi Madam’s role.

Discussions with Shruthi regarding her character are yet to take place. The horror story explores the lives, emotions and struggles of transgender people and lesbians. Prasanna hopes to present the subject sensitively and reach Tamil and Malayalam audiences. “It is not just about fear. It will have emotion, mystery and curiosity,” he said. Shooting is scheduled to begin next month during the Ganapathi festival.

Prakash Raj’s Indraajith Shetty poses new legal threat

Panorama Studios has unveiled the first look of Prakash Raj as Indraajith Shetty in Drishyam: The Conclusion, adding a new layer to the popular thriller franchise. The character appears determined to use his knowledge of the law to put Vijay Salgaonkar and his family behind bars. The makers introduced the character with a strong dialogue: Puri Salgaonkar family ko jail bhej ke rahunga. It shows that Indraajith is not simply searching for answers but is determined to make the entire family face legal consequences. In the poster, Prakash Raj is seen in a sharp suit, standing beside a desk surrounded by bookshelves. The setting gives Indraajith an intelligent and authoritative appearance. His biggest strength could be his understanding of the legal system rather than physical power. His entry is important for a story centred on Vijay’s ability to stay ahead of investigators. Ajay Devgn returns as Vijay Salgaonkar, who has always gone to great lengths to protect his family. However, the new chapter appears to bring stronger challenges. Tabu returns as Meera Deshmukh, while Shriya Saran reprises her role as Nandini Salgaonkar. Rajat Kapoor and Jaideep Ahlawat are also part of the film, along with Prakash Raj. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, Drishyam: The Conclusion is backed by Panorama Studios and Star Studio 18. The film is scheduled to release in cinemas on October 2, 2026. The latest reveal has increased curiosity about whether Vijay can once again protect his family from the law.

Aishwarya Lekshmi May Join Atlee’s Raaka In Negative Role

Aishwarya Lekshmi may join Raaka, adding intrigue to Atlee’s star-studded science-fiction fantasy. Malayalam and Tamil actress Aishwarya Lekshmi is reportedly in discussions to join Atlee’s upcoming pan-Indian film Raaka. According to source, she may have been offered a negative role in the project. The reported casting has attracted attention because Raaka already has several major names attached to it. Allu Arjun is leading the film, while Deepika Padukone is reportedly playing the female lead. Rashmika Mandanna is also said to have an important negative role. If confirmed, Aishwarya could take on a character that is different from many of her earlier performances. A major antagonist role in a large-scale film could give the actress an opportunity to present a new side of her acting. However, the makers have not officially confirmed Aishwarya’s casting. Details are expected only after the team completes its discussions and finalises the cast. Raaka is being developed as a science-fiction fantasy film and is reportedly planned for release in nine languages. The combination of Atlee and Allu Arjun has made the project one of the most closely watched films. Several other names, including Vijay Sethupathi and Shah Rukh Khan, have previously been linked to the film, but their involvement has not been officially confirmed.

Nagarjuna’s 100th film titled ‘KING100’ releases December 24



Actor Nagarjuna Akkineni’s much-awaited 100th film has officially been titled King100. Directed by R.A. Karthik and produced by Annapurna Studios, the film is scheduled to release worldwide on December 24 this year. The title and release date were announced on Saturday, coinciding with Nagarjuna’s birthday. The makers

also unveiled the first glimpse of the film, giving audiences their first look at Nagarjuna’s character and the world created by the team. The project has

been kept largely under wraps during its year-long production. The glimpse, which runs for more than one-and-a-half minutes, presents Nagarjuna in a stylish and larger-than-life role. The actor appears in a striking gold look and delivers powerful lines about money, identity and power. He explains that people once called him a loser when he had no money, but called him a King after he became wealthy. He then says that his identity is more powerful than money and that he must keep running to protect it. The dialogue gives an early idea of his character’s journey and ambition. Stylish visuals, energetic music and Nagarjuna’s commanding screen presence add to the excitement. Music for King100 has been composed by Devi Sri Prasad. Raja Mahadhevan is handling cinematography, while Saathes Kumar N is the production designer. Navin Nooli is editing the film. The action sequences are choreographed by Venkat, Prithivi, Nabakanth, Real Sathish and Dinesh Kasi. Costumes are designed by Poorva, Rajini, Tanya and Bhramma, with publicity design by Toney John. With its grand presentation and Nagarjuna’s landmark milestone, King100 is already attracting attention.



Cruise and Kidman could reunite for Thunder 2.

Tom Cruise may return to the racetrack with Nicole Kidman for the planned sequel to Days of Thunder. Paramount has confirmed plans to develop the film, more than three decades after the original NASCAR drama was released. Cruise is expected to reprise his role as race car driver Cole Trickle. Kidman played Dr. Claire Lewicki, a neurosurgeon who became Cole’s love interest in the 1990 film. Reports suggest Cruise wants Kidman back, but her involvement has not been confirmed. A source cited by Radar Online said there is room for Kidman and that Cruise and the studio are open to the idea. However, the final decision would be hers. Cruise and Kidman’s relationship became real after they worked together on Days of Thunder. They married soon after the film’s release and remained together for 11 years before divorcing in 2001.

Jonathan Levine is reportedly in talks to direct the sequel. Cruise is expected to produce it with veteran producer Jerry Bruckheimer, besides returning as Cole Trickle. The source stressed that Kidman’s return is not certain. It noted that she has focused strongly in recent years on working with and supporting female directors and producers. The report also suggested Kidman may return only if the role offers creative value. Even a brief cameo would need to suit her priorities. Kidman’s return remains uncertain pending official confirmation from the makers in future.