



CWMA TURNS DOWN K'TAKA PLEA ORDERS CAUVERY WATER RELEASE TO TAMIL NADU

Karnataka argued hydrological distress, but CWMA upheld CWRC order. TN sought increased water release, while the authority endorsed the existing directive.

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Thursday rejected the Karnataka government's plea and upheld the CWRC recommendation ordering the release of 3,500 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days, prompting the state government to convene an all-party meeting as political parties, farmers and Kannada organisations closed ranks against the order.

The decision came despite Karnataka's contention that it is facing acute drought and a drinking water crisis.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has called for an all-party meeting on August 2 to deliberate on the issue and chart the state's future course of action after the CWMA affirmed the CWRC's July 28 recommendation.

The Chief Minister's Office said, "The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), at its meeting held today, has affirmed and endorsed the decision of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee on July 28, directing Karnataka to ensure a daily flow of 3,500 cusecs at Biligundlu for a period of 15



CM calls all-party meet on Aug 2

days."

According to a note issued by the CMO, Karnataka had urged the CWMA to keep in abeyance for another fortnight the CWRC's direction to release 3,500 cusecs of water to TN, citing severe hydrological distress caused by deficient inflows.

The state told the authority that inflows into its reservoirs were 65.65 per cent below the 30-year average due to the Super El Nino and sought a review after assessing the evolving hydrological situation.

Karnataka also argued that Tamil Nadu enjoyed a 'dual advantage' as it would benefit from both releases from Karnataka and the forthcoming North-East Monsoon, while also having substantial carry-over storage from earlier releases.

It further said that ensuring 3,500 cusecs at Biligundlu would require releasing nearly 7,000 cusecs because of dry river conditions and transmission losses, and stressed the need to conserve about 40 TMC of water to meet drinking water requirements till June 2027.

Tamil Nadu, however, urged the CWMA to direct Karnataka to enhance the daily release beyond 3,500 cusecs, contending that the prevailing hydrological distress warranted a higher quantum of release.

When Cauvery becomes center of dispute

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) met in New Delhi on Thursday, July 30, 2026, and upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) order directing Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for a period of 15 days, totaling roughly 4 TMC.

Key aspects of the decision

THE DIRECTIVE
Releasing 3,500 cusecs daily at Biligundlu point for 15 days.

REJECTION OF APPEAL
The CWMA rejected Karnataka's plea to keep the order in abeyance or defer releases due to severe local drought and drinking water needs.

STANDS OF BOTH STATES
Tamil Nadu had pushed for an even higher daily quantum citing agricultural distress, while Karnataka argued that dry riverbed conditions mean it must release nearly double the volume to achieve the required flow at the border.

Next steps in K'taka

All-party meeting
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has convened an all-party meeting on Sunday, August 2, 2026, to discuss the issue.

Protests
Opposition parties and farmer associations in the Cauvery basin have threatened intensified protests against the directive.

CM DK Shivakumar on Thursday said he had convened an all-party meeting at his official residence, 'Krishna', in Bengaluru on August 2 to discuss the Cauvery water-sharing issue.

Karnataka suffered a setback after the Cauvery Water Management Authority rejected the state's appeal and upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's recommendation directing it to release 3,500 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu daily for the next 15 days.

He told reporters in New Delhi that former chief ministers, MPs and MLAs from the Cauvery basin region had been invited for the meeting. "We have discussed the issue with Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and V Somanna, as well as MPs Jagadish Shettar and Basavaraj Bommai. They are making every effort for the welfare of the state."

Asked about TM CM Vijay being advised to approach the Centre instead of Karnataka, he said, "We have no interest in fighting with each other. There is a law of the land. We must respect one another. The entire country must work together."

Forum moots K'taka Bandh

Kannada activists intensified protests in Mandya, laid siege to a theatre screening TN CM Vijay's film 'Jana Nayagan', leading to the cancellation of the show, tore down posters and submitted a memorandum urging the government not to release water to Tamil Nadu. They said, "CM Shivakumar, please tell them that we don't even have drinking water, nor do we have water for our livestock. People are in a desperate situation. Request them to give us some more time." A call for Karnataka bandh will be given after after holding a meeting, Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj said.

Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai!

China backs India for 'successful' BRICS Summit, but will Xi turn up?

BEIJING

China on Thursday said it supports India to make this year's BRICS summit a "full success" but remained evasive about President Xi Jinping's attendance.

"BRICS is an important platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here.

"China attaches great importance to and actively participates in BRICS cooperation. We support this year's chair India in making the BRICS Summit a full success", she said, but evaded answering a question on whether Xi would attend the meeting. "For (the) specifics you mentioned, I have no information to share at the moment", she said.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt,



Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

India, the current chair of the grouping, is scheduled to hold this year's summit on September 12-13.

Misri-Hua discuss ties

On this week's visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his talks with various Chinese officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying, Mao said the two of them exchanged views on a range of issues.

Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China, met Hua on Monday during his two-day visit to China.

The meeting was held under the Vice Minister-Foreign Secretary mechanism between two countries, Mao said.

Summit details and official stance

Event dates: September 12-13, 2026.

Host country: India (current BRICS chair).

China's position: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stated that Beijing values BRICS cooperation and supports India in achieving a successful summit.

Xi Jinping's attendance: Beijing gave no official confirmation regarding President Xi's participation, stating there was no information to share at the moment.

Diplomatic context

High-level talks: The announcement followed recent dialogue in Beijing between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying.

Bilateral focus: Both nations discussed building political trust, handling differences constructively, and stabilizing bilateral ties.

Anti-paper Leak Bill clears Parliament hurdle

NEW DELHI

A day after it was passed in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the anti-paper leak amendment bill amid disruptions and walkout by opposition members.

The bill is now set to be sent to President Droupadi Murmu for assent. Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh on Thursday introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 (anti-paper leak law) in the Rajya Sabha, describing it as a reaffirmation of the government's commitment to protecting the interests of students and youth.

Introducing the Bill, Union minister Jitendra Singh said the amendment to the anti-paper leak law is a testimony that the government has zero tolerance towards exam paper leaks and its resolve that nobody will be allowed to jeopardise the future of our children. Pivoting the bill, Singh said the government has brought this amendment in right earnest and was open to constructive suggestions from all quarters.

"We are open to constructive suggestions from all quarters, and that's exactly the reason why, in the wake of the recent sequence of events, the PM lost no time to declare that nobody will be allowed to jeopardise the future of our children, and also announced the

Now, Presidential assent, new rules, fast-track courts and stronger exam security measures will decide how effectively the law protects students.



resolve of zero tolerance to paper leak," Singh said.

Bill just to pacify youth, not to address issue: Kharage

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of bringing the amendment to the anti-paper-leak law only to pacify the agitating youth, not to address the issue.

Speaking on the anti-paper leak bill, he said the government has not explained how it would conduct examinations that could prevent paper leaks. He said that provisions for higher fines, stricter punishment, and fast-track courts would not make any difference in cases of paper leaks. He added that unless institutions and the examination system are reformed and accountability is fixed, paper leaks will continue to occur, and "we will be discussing the same thing here again".

Cabinet reshuffle: DKS, leaders meet Cong top brass

New Delhi: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and other senior state leaders met with Congress top leadership, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, at Kharge's New Delhi residence on Thursday.

The high-level discussions focused heavily on finalising the long-pending expansion and reshuffle of the Karnataka cabinet ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

KPCC president BK Hariprasad was also present. After the meeting, Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah returned to Bengaluru and another meeting is likely to be held soon.

Bhojshala case: SC allows Muslims to offer Friday prayers

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted the Muslim side to offer Friday prayers at the premises of a dargah adjacent to the disputed Bhojshala complex in Dhar of Madhya Pradesh.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and J V Mohana, directed the Madhya Pradesh government to ensure that Muslims are allowed to offer prayers at the site between 1 pm and 3 pm on Fridays.

KPSC recruitment scam 'daylight fraud': HC

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday made strong observations while hearing a petition seeking a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission's Veterinary Officer recruitment.

"If what is being alleged is true, then this is daylight fraud," the Bench remarked, while posting the matter for further hearing next week.

The court has asked the state government to place on record the status of the internal inquiry so far.

The petition was filed by a group of KPSC aspirants and a former KPSC member, alleging large-scale malpractice in the 2023-24 recruitment for more than 300 Veterinary Officer posts. The petitioners alleged that question papers and answer keys were leaked on WhatsApp groups 48 hours before the exam. They also cited a viral video and audio clip in which unidentified persons were allegedly heard demanding 80 lakh rupees per candidate for a confirmed selection.

Other allegations include mass copying and impersonation at select exam centres in

Bengaluru, Kalaburagi and Mysuru, and irregularities in evaluation. The petitioners claimed that candidates with very low marks in the written test were given unusually high marks in the interview and viva stage.

The petitioners have sought quashing of the entire selection process and a CBI probe, arguing that the state SIT does not have the resources or independence to investigate influential people allegedly involved.

This is not the first time KPSC has faced controversy. Over the last five years, the commission has been hit by multiple scandals.

'Probe all 329 candidates on KPSC selection list'

Following the handing over of the investigation into the alleged recruitment scam in the KPSC, where jobs were reportedly sold for money, a fresh complaint has sought probe into the selection of over 300 candidates. Initially, a complaint was filed regarding suspicion over the selection of 29 candidates at the Vidhana Soudha police station. The plaintiff alleged that names were published in the final KPSC list after paying money.

BATTLE OF MAN AND BEAST

When human-wildlife conflict becomes a never-ending saga

Uttarakhand orders to kill 13 leopards, 3 bears

DEHRADUN

Amid a sharp surge in human-wildlife conflict cases, the Uttarakhand Forest Department has granted approval to kill 13 leopards and three bears, identified as habitual attackers posing a direct threat to human life.

According to the Forest Department, the animals had repeatedly entered inhabited areas, especially hill districts like Pauri, Tehri, Nainital, and Almora, and were linked to attacks on residents. Orders to shoot them were issued after several attempts to tranquilise

BACKGROUND OF THE CONFLICT



POLICY PROTOCOL: Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, direct elimination is strictly an absolute last resort. Authorities first attempt tranquilization and capture; shooting orders are greenlit by the Chief Wildlife Warden only when an animal is proven to be a habitual human threat and impossible to secure safely.

RIISING CASUALTIES: Over the past decade, wildlife attacks have claimed over 300 lives in Uttarakhand, with leopards and bears accounting for a major share of the fatalities and severe mauling injuries.

ACTIVE CASES: The state Forest Department is handling 118 active conflict cases, deploying special monitoring and rescue teams for nearly 90 leopards, 21 tigers, and eight bears.

and capture them proved futile.

Regarding the current situation, the department said action is underway in 118 such cases across the state, with teams deployed to capture 90 leopards, 21 tigers, and eight

bears.

"These animals have been sighted in populated areas several times and have attacked people. Such behaviour appears to have become habitual. Elimination has been permitted only as a

Orders to shoot them were issued after several attempts to tranquilise and capture them proved futile.
—Forest Department

Killing wildlife is not a solution. It's an admission that we have failed to coexist. Human-wildlife conflict is often a consequence of habitat loss—not the fault of the animals.
—Animal welfare group

last resort," it stated.

As per the Forest Department sources, action is currently underway in 117 human-wildlife conflict cases across different forest divisions. The frequency of aggressive encounters involving bears have risen unexpectedly, with several recent incidents causing deaths and injuries to people, and damage to properties.

What does the Wildlife Protection Act say?

Under the Wildlife Protection Act, permission is not granted to kill any wild animal outright. The initial prescribed response is to attempt tranquilisation, capture and relocate. Permission to kill the animal is granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden only if it continues to endanger human life and efforts to capture it fail.

Deaths in a decade?

Statistics reveal that 327 people have lost their lives due to human-wildlife conflicts in Uttarakhand over the past decade.

The highest number of fatalities resulted from leopard attacks, with leopards accounting for the largest share of fatalities. Hundreds of people

are also injured in such encounters every year.

According to experts, the primary causes of this conflict are rapid expansion of settlements near forests, encroachment on wildlife habitats, a scarcity of prey within the forests, and the easy availability of livestock, garbage and food waste around villages.

Forest fires and growing human activity in their territory are also believed to be driving wild animals towards urban and semi-urban settlements for survival, causing trouble to both wildlife and local communities.

The orders have placed renewed focus on Uttarakhand's challenge to protecting vulnerable communities while ensuring that lethal action against wildlife remains strictly a measure of last resort.

Human-wildlife conflict not a new phenomenon

Human-wildlife conflict is not a recent phenomenon; it has persisted for centuries.

However, the increasing movement of wild animals from protected areas into inhabited regions is escalating the threat to human life. Many families have been severely affected, and the efforts of the Forest Department appear to be falling short.

3 leopards caught on camera calmly wandering

Three leopards were caught on camera calmly wandering through the premises of a home in Uttarakhand's Ranikhet, leaving residents stunned. While no one was harmed, the video has once again highlighted the growing frequency of human-wildlife encounters in the state's hill regions.

QUICK READ

Woman found dead in Bengaluru, husband suspected

BENGALURU

A woman was found dead, wrapped in a bed-sheet, at a house in Gerupalya under Kumbalgodu Police Station limits in Bengaluru. The deceased, identified as Riya Kumari, was allegedly murdered, and her husband Dheeraj Kumar has gone missing. Police suspect his involvement and have registered a murder case. The couple, originally from Bihar, had been staying in a rented house for four months. A friend alerted the owner after Riya stopped answering calls and a foul smell came from the house. Police sent the body for post-mortem and started searching for the accused.

Father arrested for attacking daughter over marriage dispute

BENGALURU

Rajanukunte Police arrested a man accused of attacking his daughter with a knife inside her college following a family dispute over her marriage. The accused, Nagendra from Vijayapura near Devanahalli, allegedly attacked Lakshmi Durga, an assistant professor at SIVT College. Police said she had moved to Bengaluru separately after facing opposition from her family regarding her marriage plans. On July 25, Nagendra allegedly entered the college and injured his daughter before fleeing. College staff rushed Lakshmi to a private hospital, and police later registered a case and arrested the accused for further investigation.



Five arrested in vehicle hijacking case

BENGALURU

Varthur Police arrested five people and detained a minor in connection with the hijacking of a cool drinks supply vehicle and robbery case. Police investigation revealed that vehicle driver Ajay Kumar was the mastermind who allegedly planned the crime with his associates. The accused stopped the tempo near Rayasandra on July 25, threatened the delivery boy with a pistol, and robbed Rs 16,000. Police recovered mobile phones and the two-wheeler used in the crime. After reviewing over 200 CCTV recordings, officials traced the suspects. The accused have been sent to judicial custody, police said.

KJ George leads solar farming expansion drive

Energy Minister K.J. George said focused monitoring and improved departmental coordination accelerated programme progress after initial challenges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has accelerated solar energy use in agriculture, with more than 27,700 solar agricultural pump sets installed across the state. The initiative has reduced grid demand by nearly 144 MW and helped farmers adopt cleaner irrigation methods.

Energy Minister K.J. George said focused monitoring and better coordination, among departments improved the programme's progress after early challenges. More than one lakh farmers have applied for solar pump sets, showing growing trust in renewable energy solutions. The government provides 50% financial support to make installations affordable for farmers.

The solar agricultural pump sets under PM-KUSUM B are



improving farming conditions by providing reliable daytime power. Farmers no longer need to visit fields late at night to manage irrigation, improving safety and productivity. The installed systems have lowered electricity demand and are expected to avoid purchase of 240 million units annually. This will save around ₹146 crore for ESCOMs and over ₹200 crore through reduced subsidy burden. Officials said solarisation supports sustainable farming and strengthens Karnataka's energy security. Minister K.J.

Key Highlights of the drive	
■	Over 27,700 solar agri pump sets operational in K'taka.
■	Over one lakh applications received following focused intervention by Energy Minister K.J. George.
■	50% financial assistance provided by the govt of Karnataka for installation of solar agricultural pump sets.
■	144 MW reduction in grid power demand.
■	240 mn units of electricity purchase avoided annually.
■	₹146 cr annual power purchase savings for ESCOMs.
■	More than ₹200 crore annual reduction in the State Government's agricultural electricity subsidy burden.

George described the programme as a major step towards clean energy growth and improved farmer welfare. He added that every solar pump installed is a long-term investment for the state.

The government aims to expand the scheme further and encourage more farmers to shift towards renewable irrigation systems. The growing

adoption of solar pumps highlights Karnataka's commitment to greener agriculture and efficient power management. With continued efforts, the initiative is expected to create a sustainable future for farmers while reducing energy costs and protecting natural resources for generations across rural Karnataka successfully.

AAP demands action over alleged land dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party has demanded strict action over alleged attempts to encroach upon government educational institution land in Kengeri.

The party claimed that the land belonging to a Government First Pre-University College was being targeted through misuse of power and political influence.

AAP leaders alleged that efforts were made to benefit a private school linked to the family of Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna. They said protecting government education property was important for the future of poor and middle-class students.

AAP Karnataka State Organizing Secretary Dr. Satish

Kumar visited the site and said no influential person, official or political family should be allowed to take control of government school or college land. He demanded strict action against officials who may have supported illegal activities.

Local party leader Shashidhar Aaradhyia said he had submitted complaints to authorities, including the BDA, police department and Lokayukta, seeking protection of the educational institution's property. He also alleged facing pressure and threats for raising the issue but stated that he would continue the fight. The party said it would begin a wider public campaign to protect government educational institutions across Karnataka.

Woman alleges ₹2.5 crore fraud by self-styled guru

BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch has launched an investigation into allegations that a self-styled godman and two associates cheated a Bengaluru homemaker of around ₹2.5 crore.

The accused allegedly promised to return ₹10 crore after receiving ₹505 crore from the Reserve Bank of India.

The complainant, M. Kumuda, 40, alleged that she was introduced to the accused through a friend while seeking a loan against her family property.

She claimed that Bharath and Shankar collected her property documents and later convinced her to enter a real estate business with them.

Bengaluru South plans better waste and vehicle management

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South Municipal Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh has directed officials to speed up development works, improve financial management and create better arrangements for public services within the corporation limits.

During a review meeting, the Commissioner instructed engineers to prepare development plans for each assembly constituency according to the approved budget. He also directed that tender processes should begin only after receiving proper administrative approval from concerned authorities.

Officials were asked to submit separate reports on pending works, ongoing projects

Bengaluru launches month-long drive to reclaim spaces

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru will begin a month-long Freedom from Waste campaign on August 1, aiming to clear footpaths, roadsides, public spaces and vacant sites of debris and accumulated waste across the city.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the campaign will focus on removing legacy waste including soil, construction debris, discarded materials and weeds that have blocked public areas for years. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will launch the drive on August 1, covering the entire Greater Bengaluru Authority region throughout the month.

The minister said the effort aims to return public spaces to citizens and improve cleanliness, safety and health conditions in Bengaluru. A survey has identified about 22,000 tonnes of legacy waste

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the campaign will reclaim public spaces, with 22,000 tonnes waste identified across 1,616 locations and 100 vehicles deployed

at 1,616 locations across the city. Around 100 vehicles are deployed for removal work, with agencies coordinating to complete the task effectively.

Owners of vacant sites have been asked to clean their properties before August 15, or face cleaning costs recovered through property tax. The government will monitor cleared locations and take action against illegal dumping to prevent waste from returning. GPS tracking will become mandatory for C&D waste vehicles to stop unlawful disposal of construction materials.

BENGALURU NORTH CLEARS FOOTPATHS FOR SAFER WALKING

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has continued its footpath encroachment clearance drive to create safer and obstruction-free walking spaces for pedestrians. The campaign is being carried out under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and guidance of Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

On July 30, officials cleared 1.20 km of footpaths in Byatarayanapura and T. Dasarahalli divisions. The areas covered included St. Philomena's Hospital Road and Manjunatha Nagar 1st Main Road along with Sidedahalli Main Road.

During the drive, authorities removed illegal structures including shops, push carts, sheets, canopies, ramps, steps and advertisement boards. Around 56 tonnes of construction debris and soil were

also cleared from public spaces. The operation used JCBs, tractors, machines and nearly 29 personnel.

Since the beginning of the campaign on July 1, a total of 174.05 km of footpaths have been made free from encroachments. Officials have removed hundreds of illegal shops, carts, temporary structures, signboards and cleared more than 1,438 tonnes of waste materials.

The corporation said the drive will continue across Bengaluru North to restore footpaths for public use and improve pedestrian safety. Officials urged citizens and businesses to avoid occupying walking spaces and requested public cooperation in maintaining clean and accessible roads.

The initiative aims to improve daily movement for residents by ensuring that

Overall highlights of the drive

- 174.05 km of footpaths made encroachment-free
- 414 shops/petty shops removed
- 604 push carts removed
- 1,372 AC sheets/canopies removed
- 1,244 steps and ramps removed
- 1,364 advertisement pillars and signboards removed
- 43 temporary/permanent sheds removed
- 1,438.20 tonnes of construction debris and soil removed

footpaths remain safe, usable and free from unnecessary obstacles.

Voters urged to submit census forms before deadline

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

District Electoral Officer and Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has appealed to citizens to immediately submit their filled census forms for the ongoing Special Comprehensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Addressing political party representatives, Rao said booth-level officers have distributed forms to all 1,03,88,363 voters in Bengaluru through door-to-door visits. So far, details of 50,19,442 voters have been digitized, and the remaining citizens have been asked to submit their forms to BLOs or voter facilitation centres without delay.

He said voter participation is important for completing the revision process successfully. Citizens must provide correct details of themselves and their family members and

return signed forms before August 8. Failure to submit forms may lead to removal of names from the voter list.

Rao added that digitising each form takes only a few minutes and officers will revisit areas where fewer forms have been received. They will also verify details of absent, shifted, deceased or duplicate voters. After the draft voter list is published on August 17, citizens can apply through Form-6 if their names are missing or if they have changed addresses.

Officials have also been instructed to conduct awareness campaigns using loudspeaker-equipped vehicles across urban areas to encourage public participation. The final voter list will be published on October 19 after objections and claims are reviewed.

The administration urged citizens to cooperate with officials and complete the process on time.

Two arrested for assault on SIR official in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police have arrested two people for allegedly assaulting a government official during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls work in D.J. Halli, Bengaluru.

The incident reportedly took place near Kausar Masjid in Roshan Nagar on July 29.

The arrested individuals, identified as Yarab and Das-tagir, were taken into custody based on a complaint filed by Fakirappa, a Development Superintendent with the State Slum Development Board. Fakirappa was supervising the work of 11 Booth Level Officers in the area when the alleged assault occurred. According to police, the dispute started when the two accused approached Booth Level Officers for SIR forms and said they were residents of Jayanagar.

Cauvery water crisis needs unity, says Cheluvayaswamy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former minister N. Cheluvayaswamy has urged opposition parties and the public to avoid politicising the Cauvery water issue and focus on finding solutions as Karnataka faces drinking water concerns.

Addressing a press conference, Cheluvayaswamy spoke after the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cuses of water daily to Tamil Nadu. He said the state has received less rainfall than expected in the Cauvery basin, creating con-

cerns over water availability.

He explained that several districts, including Bengaluru, are facing drinking water shortages. According to him, Karnataka has presented reservoir storage details and other facts before the Cauvery authorities. He expressed hope that the state would receive a fair decision after discussions with officials and representatives.

Rejecting claims that water was being released secretly to Tamil Nadu, he said the government was strongly presenting Karnataka's concerns before the authorities.

Bengaluru East speeds up key infrastructure projects

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation has started efforts to speed up major infrastructure projects, including road, railway and junction development works, to ensure better travel facilities and safer movement for citizens.

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehak Sudhakar inspected several ongoing projects with officials from the Railway Department, Revenue Department and City Corporation. He reviewed the progress and directed teams to complete the works within the



planned deadlines.

During the inspection of Bagmane Junction under the Suraksha-75 project, officials were asked to maintain quality standards and complete the work quickly. Safety mea-

sures such as barricading, signboards and proper traffic management were also stressed to reduce inconvenience for commuters.

The officer also reviewed the proposed Railway Over

Bridge at Carmelaram Level Crossing-132 and instructed departments to coordinate closely for completing approvals and technical procedures. He inspected the Kadubeesanahalli-Panathur road widening project and highlighted its importance in improving traffic flow in the area.

Lokhande directed officials to clear pending files related to infrastructure works and avoid unnecessary delays. He urged all departments to work together and solve issues affecting project progress.

The Additional Commis-

sioner said regular monitoring and coordination would help complete development projects on time. He added that providing safe, efficient and modern infrastructure remains a priority for Bengaluru East City Corporation. Officials from various departments attended the inspection and assured cooperation to complete the projects successfully. The corporation aims to improve connectivity and create smoother travel experiences for residents through timely execution of these important development works across the region.

QUICK READ

Schoolgirl dies in an accident near Nelamangala

NELAMANGALA
A 10-year-old schoolgirl died after a speeding Thar jeep hit her near Beerawara village in Nelamangala taluk on Thursday. The victim, Likhita, was a Class 4 student of Likhita Government School and was walking to school with her grandmother when the accident occurred. Her grandmother escaped without injuries. Police said the girl died on the spot due to the impact. A case has been registered at Kuddur Police Station against the jeep driver. Villagers have raised concerns over frequent accidents in the area and demanded a skywalk for pedestrian safety.

Puncture shop owners arrested for spreading road nails

BENGALURU
Jalahalli Police arrested two puncture shop owners for allegedly throwing nails on roads to damage vehicle tyres and increase their business. The accused, who operated a shop near MES Ring Road, reportedly spread large quantities of nails on the road using bikes. Police said they pretended to repair punctured vehicles when motorists approached them. After receiving repeated complaints about tyre damage, officials inspected the area and found many nails scattered on the road. CCTV footage helped police identify and arrest the suspects.

High Court to decide Vinay Kulkarni bail plea

BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court will announce its decision on Friday regarding the bail application filed by Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni in the Yogesh Gowda murder case. The order will decide whether Kulkarni will be released from jail or continue serving his sentence. A division bench of Justice Mohammad Nawaz and Justice G. Basavaraj had reserved the order on July 9 after hearing Kulkarni's petition seeking suspension of the life imprisonment sentence given by the Special Court for cases involving elected representa-

MGNREGA boosts rural growth through water conservation: Shalini

The programme will support farm ponds, irrigation facilities, cattle shelters, fish farming, self-help group workspaces and skill development centres

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka government has strengthened rural development efforts through MGNREGA and VB-GRAMG schemes, focusing on agriculture, water conservation and employment opportunities. Chief Secretary Dr. Shalini Rajneesh said these initiatives are helping villages tackle climate challenges, irregular rainfall and declining groundwater levels. Karnataka, one of the most drought-affected states in India, has implemented several water conservation projects under MGNREGA between 2021-22 and 2025-26. The works include over 1.40 lakh farm ponds, 1.25 lakh lake and canal restoration projects, and thousands of check dams and rainwater harvesting structures.



Officials said these efforts have improved groundwater availability and helped farmers adopt multi-cropping and horticulture practices. The scheme has also provided regular village-level employment, reducing migration from rural areas to cities. Under the VB-GRAMG scheme for 2026-27, Karnataka has received a total allocation of Rs. 9,429.20 crore for rural development. The fund includes support from both the central and state governments for projects related to

Major works carried out over the past five years in rural regions

- 1,40,411 Farm ponds (Krishi Hondas) constructed
- 1,25,785 Lakes, canals, and feeder channels desilted
- 41,061 Check dams built
- 6,005 Rainwater harvesting and recharge structures created
- 1,774 Borewell recharge units installed
- 3,303 Individual grass and fodder development projects completed

agriculture, animal care, fisheries, women empowerment and coastal protection. The programme will support construction of farm ponds, irrigation facilities, cattle shelters, fish farming structures, self-help group workspaces and skill centres. Dr. Shalini Rajneesh encouraged rural citizens to use these schemes for improving livelihoods and adapting to climate changes. She advised people to contact Panchayat Development

Jalahalli student attack: Probe launched

BENGALURU
A 19-year-old student linked with the All India Students Association was allegedly assaulted by four unidentified men near BEL Circle in Jalahalli. The incident occurred while the student was returning home after attending a protest at Freedom Park related to the NEET paper leak issue. According to the complaint, the attackers questioned him about demanding the Prime Minister's resignation before allegedly hitting him with a wooden stick.

Ather introduces smart pothole alerts for riders

BENGALURU
Ather Energy has introduced Pothole+ Alerts for customers using its Gen2 scooters including the 450 Apex, 450X and Rizta Z. The new feature uses data collected from connected scooters to warn riders about potholes, broken roads, uneven surfaces and speed breakers while travelling. Alerts appear on the dashboard and can also be heard through a Bluetooth headset, helping riders prepare for changing road conditions. According to the company, the system has been developed over nearly nine years and became possible after gathering enough road information from

its connected scooter fleet. This large network allows the technology to identify repeated road conditions with greater accuracy. Before a ride begins, the system can also suggest a smoother route to help riders avoid damaged stretches. The company said the feature aims to improve rider safety and comfort during daily travel by providing timely warnings and smarter navigation. It reflects the growing use of connected vehicle technology to solve everyday commuting challenges and enhance the riding experience across Indian roads with practical real-time assistance for thousands of electric scooter users nationwide.

Priyank Kharge highlights secure digital governance

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has started upgrading the Hardware Security Module (HSM) to strengthen the security and reliability of the Aadhaar authentication system used by various government departments across the state. Information Technology, Biotechnology and e-Governance Minister Priyank Kharge said the upgrade will improve the state's digital public infrastructure by making it more secure, reliable and prepared for future requirements. He said strong digital systems are essential for delivering efficient and safe public services to citizens. According to the minister, around 10 to 12 lakh Aadhaar authentication transactions are processed every day through the HSM, which securely manages encryption keys for the authentication system. The upgrade includes installation of the latest security patches, software updates and bug fixes supported by the original equipment manufacturer to improve system performance and protection. The maintenance work will be carried out after office hours on July 31, August 1 and August 2, from 6 pm to 6 am, to reduce disruption to public services. Officials said necessary steps have been taken to minimise inconvenience for citizens while the upgrade is completed.

PRIYANK KHARGE SAYS TRUTH WILL DEFEAT POLITICAL ALLEGATIONS
Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said that false claims may spread but truth cannot be removed. In a post on X, he criticised the BJP's past allegations against Congress leaders, including issues related to 2G spectrum and coal allocation. Kharge said those accusations were baseless and claimed that the reputation of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had been restored.

nience for citizens while the upgrade is completed. Priyank Kharge said the government remains committed to building a trusted and secure digital governance system for Karnataka. He added that continuous improvements in cyber security and digital infrastructure are necessary to protect citizen data and strengthen public confidence in government services. The government believes the HSM upgrade will improve the safety of Aadhaar authentication while supporting uninterrupted delivery of digital services.



Bengaluru overbridge project gets two-month deadline

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. inspected the ongoing Yeshwanthpur Railway Overbridge widening project and directed officials to complete the work within two months. During the inspection, the Commissioner instructed the contractor to speed up the project while maintaining quality standards. He also directed officials to place barricades around the work area, prevent garbage dumping and maintain cleanliness at the site. The Commissioner noted that the location is in a busy central area and asked officials to stop unnecessary vehicle parking. He also ordered arrangements for security and directed corporation officials to take necessary steps regarding land acquisition for the approach road. Dr. Rajendra K.V. also inspected the railway level crossing and reviewed the progress with railway officials, engineers and contractors. He instructed all concerned departments to coordinate closely for timely completion of the project. Later, the Commissioner held a meeting with Malleshwaram MLA Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan regarding the maintenance and management of the Malleshwaram Sports Complex. The meeting discussed plans to improve facilities and provide better services for sports enthusiasts. Michezo Sports Infrastructure Private Limited, which secured the tender to manage the sports complex, presented its work plan during the meeting. The Commissioner and MLA suggested steps to ensure effective management and organised facilities. Officials said continuous monitoring and coordination would help complete infrastructure projects and improve public facilities. The corporation aims to provide better connectivity and promote sports development through these initiatives across Bengaluru West.

Hepatitis awareness drive promotes health among students

BENGALURU
Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation organised a World Hepatitis Day awareness programme to educate students about hepatitis, liver health and disease prevention. Commissioner Jagadish G. said such initiatives play an important role in building a healthier society through awareness, vaccination and cleanliness. The Health Department conducted information and education sessions for students of the

corporation's higher primary school and first-grade college. Officials explained the different types of hepatitis, methods of transmission, common symptoms and the importance of early diagnosis and timely treatment. Students were also informed about the benefits of the Hepatitis-B vaccine and the need to seek medical care without delay if symptoms appear. During the programme, health experts encouraged students to follow healthy habits such as washing hands regularly, drinking clean water, eating

safe food and avoiding the sharing of needles or personal items. They said these simple practices can greatly reduce the risk of infection. The sessions

also highlighted the importance of maintaining good personal hygiene and making healthy lifestyle choices to protect overall well-being. Commissioner Jagadish G. urged students to act as health ambassadors by sharing the knowledge gained during the programme with their families, friends and neighbours. He said young people can play a major role in spreading awareness and encouraging preventive healthcare in their communities. The corporation also appealed to the public to participate in health awareness programmes and support timely vaccination, regular screening and early treatment.

CII Karnataka Healthcare Conclave focuses on digital health

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The CII Karnataka Healthcare Conclave 2026 brought together government officials, healthcare experts and industry leaders to discuss technology-driven and patient-centric healthcare solutions for India. Held in Bengaluru on July 30, the conclave focused on transforming healthcare through technology and human care while building a stronger and accessible health system. Dr Rajani M, Director of Health and Family Welfare Services, said Karnataka has



progressed through digital health initiatives and innovation to improve medical services especially in rural areas. Healthcare leaders highlighted the role of artificial intelligence, precision medi-

cine and smart hospitals in improving patient care and outcomes. Dr Vijayabaskaran Sundararaju said collaboration between government, industry and startups is important for creating a future-ready

healthcare ecosystem across India. The event featured discussions on medical technologies, workforce development and digital transformation with participation from over 100 delegates representing hospitals, companies and healthcare organisations. Participants stressed the need for stronger partnerships to expand access and deliver quality care nationwide. The conclave also included experts from leading healthcare groups who shared ideas on innovation and patient safety. Officials said continuous co-

operation among stakeholders will help India create a resilient healthcare network. The discussions marked an important step toward modernising healthcare delivery and ensuring better services for citizens. The gathering showed that technology combined with human compassion can transform healthcare experiences and support healthier communities. Leaders expressed confidence that these efforts would encourage new solutions and improve healthcare standards in the coming years through shared responsibility.

High Court stays FIR over online satire criticism

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has stayed a case registered against a man who criticized an online satire related to the murder of a young woman at a Bantwal bus station. Justice M. Nagaprasanna's bench heard a petition filed by Pradeep Saripalla, a resident of Kadri, Mangaluru, seeking cancellation of the FIR filed by Panambur police. The court expressed concern over the police action and issued notices to the police station and the complainant before postponing the hearing. During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer said

Pradeep, who is a public figure, was booked after posting a Facebook comment criticizing a cartoon published by a news portal about the murder case. The lawyer also informed the court that the news portal had already been removed from the case. The bench questioned why action was taken against people discussing the incident instead of focusing on catching those accused of the crime. Following the observations, the court stayed the FIR and directed further proceedings to continue after examining the matter in detail.

QUICK READ



Hearing of KWIN City Phase 4 scheduled for August 19

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI Authorities have scheduled an environmental public meeting for August nineteenth regarding the proposed fourth phase of KWIN City. The project spans over one thousand and one hundred acres across Goraghatta, Hulikunte, and Doddamankana villages. The District Collector will chair the session at the project site starting at eleven in the morning. Regional environmental officers invited local residents and the public to attend, share opinions, and submit any complaints. Officials urged community members to participate actively to ensure transparent planning and address environmental concerns effectively.

Acting workshop starts at Noolvi village in Hubballi

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI Sunidhi Kalasaurabha Cultural Institute, in partnership with the Kannada and Culture Department, launched a children's acting workshop at Noolvi village. Former Rangayana director Subhash Narendra inaugurated the event, highlighting acting as a powerful tool for holistic youth development. Over twenty-five children are attending the multi-day camp running through August fifth to learn theatrical skills and stage a play. Local school leaders and cultural organizers attended the opening ceremony, praising the initiative for engaging students creatively during the holiday season.

CGWB hosts awareness event on groundwater conservation

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Highlighting the critical need for grassroots water management, the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) recently hosted a major public awareness event at the VTU Postgraduate Studies Centre in Muddenahalli.

Organized under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the interactive program focused on aquifer mapping, groundwater conservation, and sustainable resource use. Regional Director G. Krishnamurthy inaugurated the session, noting the significance of hosting the event in the birthplace of Bharat Ratna



Sir M. Visvesvaraya. He warned that rapid urbanization, population growth, and shifting climate patterns are severely depleting subterranean water reserves, making moderate and scientific usage a collective responsibility.

Throughout the seminar, CGWB scientists delivered detailed technical briefings. Dr. Baby Shweta S. outlined aquifer mapping studies specific to Chikkaballapur taluk to help determine regional recharge capacities, while Assistant

Chemist Yogesh addressed local water quality trends and safe drinking practices. H.P. Jayaprakash explained the broader objectives of the initiative, emphasizing that over-extraction and a lack of rainwater harvesting remain primary drivers of declining water tables.

The program concluded with an open-floor interaction where local farmers, self-help group members, ASHA workers, and VTU students engaged directly with resource experts to discuss practical conservation strategies for their communities.

Tungabhadra water release demanded

KOPPAL

Expressing deep concern over severe drought conditions caused by poor rainfall, farmer leader Doddappa Desai urged the government to release water from the Tungabhadra reservoir to save wilt-

ing crops.

Speaking at a press conference, Desai warned of impending shortages of food grains and cattle fodder, which could heavily impact the rural economy.

He demanded that authorities formulate a crisis manage-

ment plan based on current water availability and hold local review meetings instead of distant sessions in Bengaluru.

Other prominent agricultural leaders also attended the briefing to press for urgent state intervention.



ing across vulnerable settlements situated along the riverbanks in the Raichur and Yadgir districts.

Local administration and disaster response units strongly advise residents, farmers,

and fishermen to completely avoid entering low-lying river zones or allowing livestock near the turbulent currents.

Vulnerable habitations across Lingasugur, Devadurga, and Raichur taluks are un-

Koppal Human Rights Team Sworn In

KOPPAL

The swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed office bearers of the Koppal district Human Rights Committee will take place on August 2nd, at Sahitya Bhavan starting at eleven in the morning.

Newly appointed district

Horticulture sets dates for 26-27 plantation drive

KOPPAL

The Horticulture Department has announced the commencement of the 10th Annual Horticulture and Plantation Campaign for the year 2026-27. Scheduled to run for six days from August 15 to 20, the event will take place at the District Horticulture Dept office premises in Koppal. Aimed at expanding horticultural crop acreage and fostering comprehensive agricultural development, the six-day campaign will provide farmers and the public with expert guidance on dryland horticulture farming, drought management strategies.

president Prema S. Mudgal announced the event during a press meet.

Senior Civil Judge Mahantesh S. Dargada will inaugurate the ceremony, while state president Srinivas Gowda will preside. Several dignitaries, including the district police chief and legal experts, will attend.

Authorities release 1.11 lakh cusecs from Narayanapura dam

RAICHUR

The Krishna River is flowing in high spate following massive water discharges from the Narayanapura Dam, triggered by relentless monsoon downpours across upper catchment regions, including neighbouring Maharashtra.

With basin reservoirs nearing maximum storage capacities, irrigation authorities have opened twenty-four crest gates of the dam, channeling approximately 1.11 lakh cusecs of water downstream. This dramatic surge has prompted a high-alert warn-



Key safety advisories

■ **Restricted Zones:** Residents, farmers, fishermen must avoid low-lying river areas and keep livestock away from turbulent currents.

■ **At-Risk Taluks:** Habitations across Lingasugur, Deva durga, and Raichur remain under close administrative watch.

■ **Bridge Submergence:** The historic Shilahalli Bridge in Lingasugur taluk sits just feet away from complete submergence.

der close administrative surveillance.

A critical point of concern is the historic Shilahalli Bridge in Lingasugur taluk, which is currently sitting only a few feet away from complete submergence due to the rising water levels.

The massive influx originates directly from heavy upstream discharges out of the Almatti reservoir.

Disaster management teams remain on high alert as further phased water increases are anticipated depending on ongoing catchment inflows.

Pro-Kannada activists protest Cauvery water release

MYSURU

Pro-Kannada organisations in Mysuru intensified regional tensions by staging a high-visibility demonstration against the controversial directive ordering Karnataka to release precious river waters downstream.

Gathering at the prominent Agrahara Madhavrao Circle, members of the Mysuru District Kannada Movement Association registered their vehement opposition through an empty pots protest, symbolising imminent threats of severe domestic water shortages. The widespread public demonstrations erupted in direct response to the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's directive mandating the daily release of 3,500 cusecs of water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu over a fifteen-day window.

Protesters lambasted the regulatory order as entirely unscientific, pointing out that local reservoir capacities remain critically depleted due to a weak and faltering monsoon season.

Addressing the assembled crowd, association president B.A. Shivashankar asserted that state authorities must prioritize local drinking water security for citizens and livestock above all else. He strongly urged the state government to fast-track the long-delayed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project envisioned with a substantial storage capacity of 67 TMC along with a 400 MW hydropower generation component arguing that the infrastructure is vital for securing the region's long-term hydrological stability. Furthermore, leadership called upon the Central Government to overhaul existing inter-state water-sharing frameworks to safeguard regional rights.

Women participants played a prominent role in the demonstration, carrying empty vessels to visually underscore public anxiety regarding potential civic supply crises.

Local authorities monitored the peaceful culmination of the event as activists formally submitted memoranda urging both state and central administrations to protect Karnataka's vital interests.

Sriramulu distributes empowerment loans in Devanahalli

DEVANAHALLI

Former Karnataka minister and prominent community leader B. Sriramulu recently visited the Sri Valmiki Rural Cooperative Society office located in Devanahalli town within the Bangalore Rural district, where he officially distributed financial loan cheques to members of local women's self-help empowerment groups.

Addressing the gathering, Sriramulu underscored that the cooperative institution was established by founders Tammaiah, Radhakrishna, and their dedicated associates with a primary mission of public service.

He noted that the initiative is designed specifically to uplift underprivileged members of the Valmiki community



while fostering the comprehensive growth and financial independence of women's collectives.

He emphasized that collaborative community participation and active fixed deposit mobilization will remain vital to accelerating the cooperative's long-term expansion and operational stability.

The society's president, Munikrishna (also known as Tammaiah), detailed the institution's financial offerings, explaining that account-hold-

ers benefit from secure savings opportunities alongside structured credit facilities. He noted that the society has successfully completed its first year of operation, experiencing steady progress driven by the enthusiastic cooperation and trust of its shareholders. He encouraged community members to invest locally, assuring them of attractive interest returns on their savings.

The event witnessed strong participation from notable community figures and political representatives, including BJP Backward Morcha President B.K. Narayana swamy, G. Venugopal, Nagaraj Bullahalli, Rajappa, Venkate Gowda, Vijayakumar, and various cooperative office-bearers, self-help group participants, and local residents.

Will penalize illegal debris dumping: Municipal authorities

GADAG

Local civic authorities have launched a strict new policy to manage building waste and protect the environment. The Gajendragad Municipal Administration wants all residents and builders to handle construction debris responsibly under national guidelines.

Officials stated that throwing building waste anywhere is now strictly illegal. Dumping debris on public roads, open plots, canals, lakes, rivers, or government land will lead to severe legal penalties.

The local administrative officer stressed that breaking these rules will trigger strict action, including heavy environmental compensation fines. Authorities urge everyone to support recycling and

Key Public Rules	
■ Source Segregation Builders must separate waste at the site. Concrete, bricks, metal, wood, glass, plastic, and soil cannot be mixed together.	designated municipal vehicles as the primary collection system for safe disposal.
■ Authorized Disposal Sorted materials must go directly to approved recycling units or authorized collection centers.	■ Project Plans Large construction projects must set up and follow a dedicated waste management plan.
■ Official Transport Residents must use	■ Producer Rules: Material manufacturers must fully obey Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines.

reuse efforts. Community cooperation remains essential to building a clean, safe, and eco-friendly city. Officials hope these steps

will stop illegal dumping and keep local water bodies and streets completely free from heavy building rubble and pollution.

Women's Commission probes female foeticide in Bagalkot

BAGALKOT

Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary has raised serious concerns regarding potential female foeticide at a government medical facility in Bagalkot, announcing that a comprehensive administrative inquiry will be launched.

The announcement followed an unannounced inspection of the fifty-bed hospital, during which officials reviewed institutional delivery files and demographic registers. According to the chairperson, preliminary observations revealed a noticeable anomaly in the facility's birth statistics, showing a disproportionately high frequency of male infant births compared to female births. Under normal demographic parameters, gender birth ratios are expected to maintain an equitable balance. The skewed data points

prompted strong suspicions that unauthorized gender-determination or illegal termination practices could be occurring.

While emphasizing that no definitive conclusions have been finalized, Choudhary stressed that a meticulous evaluation of official health documentation is imperative. The Women's Commission plans to secure complete, granular birth records

from the Department of Health and Family Welfare for detailed cross-examination. Authorities iterated that any established statutory violations, regulatory lapses, or malpractice uncovered during the probe will invite stringent legal penalties.

The investigation underscores the critical need for rigorous administrative oversight across public maternity wards to safeguard the rights of girl children and ensure absolute transparency in state-run healthcare delivery.



DC Itnal directs strict discipline for exam centers

KOPPAL

District authorities are finalizing strict security and administrative arrangements to ensure a completely fair and transparent Civil Police Constable examination across the region, scheduled for August 2.

District Collector Dr. Suresh B. Itnal led a high-level preparatory meeting, instructing all designated observers, officers, and staff to maintain rigid discipline. Examinations for the remaining and local cadres will be conducted across 24 centers in Koppal Nagar, Bhagyannagar,

and Gangavathi. According to District Superintendent of Police Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi, the morning session will host 8,145 candidates for the remaining batch, while the afternoon shift from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm will accommodate 6,249 candidates for the local batch. Comprehensive security protocols have been implemented, including the installation of webcasting systems, high-tech jammers, continuous CCTV surveillance in every testing hall. Special 3-member committees will oversee the safe transport of question papers via GPS-tracked route vehicles.



QUICK READ

Gadag: Invites applications for sports awards

CH NEWS, GADAG
The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has invited applications for various welfare schemes and scholarships for twenty twenty-six. Medal-winning athletes across international, national, and state levels can apply for financial incentives, sports scholarships, and educational fee reimbursements. Interested candidates must submit their applications online through the official Seva Sindhu portal before the August thirty-first deadline. For further details and assistance, applicants can reach out to the dedicated youth helpline number during regular working office hours.

Gadag hosts Anti-Human Trafficking training

CH NEWS, GADAG
Multiple departments jointly organized a district-level training program for officers on World Anti-Human Trafficking Day. Inaugurating the session, judicial officer C.S. Shivanagoudra stressed that child trafficking often begins with school drop-outs, urging officials to ensure every child receives compulsory education and protection from exploitation. Experts discussed rising cyber-crimes, drug prevention, and protective laws like POCSO. Police and welfare officials advised citizens to utilize emergency helplines such as 1098 and 112 to report illegal activities immediately. The impactful event concluded with local dignitaries emphasizing teamwork to secure children's futures.

Kodagu records 21.20 mm of monsoon rainfall

MADIKERI
Kodagu district witnessed a notable spell of monsoon showers, registering an overall average rainfall of 21.20 millimeters over the preceding twenty-four-hour period, surpassing the 16.66 millimeters recorded on the corresponding day last year. Cumulative precipitation across the district from January to date reached 893.03 millimeters, compared to the significantly higher 2,116.12 millimeters measured during the same timeframe in the previous year. Precipitation varied across the district's administrative divisions. Madikeri taluk recorded an average of 26.35 millimeters, while Virajpet and Ponnampet taluks logged 21.45 millimeters and 21.35 millimeters, respectively. Somwarpet taluk experienced 25.25 millimeters of rainfall, whereas Kushalnagar taluk recorded a lighter downpour averaging 11.60 millimeters. Specific hobli and station readings across the region highlighted localized variations, with Srimangala receiving 38 millime-

Chess tournament concludes with celebrations and awards

An open chess contest was hosted at Navanagar's Ishwar Temple to remember Basavaraja Raju Shivappa Baligar.

HUBBALLI

An open chess contest took place at the Ishwar Temple in Navanagar. Groups like the Vachana Chess Organization and Navanagar Residents' Welfare Association hosted the event. They held the competition to remember the late Basavaraja Raju Shivappa Baligar. People of all ages joined in with big smiles. They played games all day long from early morning until the evening.

When evening arrived, everyone gathered for the prize redistribution program. Dr. K.B. Gudasi, the Chancellor of Chitradurga Sri Murugarajendra University and a famous edu-



cationist, came as the chief guest. He shared inspiring words with the crowd. He told the kids to use their holiday time wisely by joining such fun events. He noted that chess makes the brain work faster and boosts memory power. Dr. Gudasi spoke about big

chess stars. He mentioned Viswanathan Anand, India's five-time world champion and grandmaster. He also praised Koneru Humpy, the young woman who became a grandmaster at age fifteen. He told the young players that they can also reach that high level with

hard work. He thanked Professor Dr. Vishwanath P. Baligara for his great work in leading the chess groups.

Many local leaders and guests joined the happy event. Names on the guest list included C.V. Baligara, Sunita Malvadekar, Basavaraj Patil, Aravind Yeri, Vinaya Kurtakoti, S.M. Bhagwat, Sohana Suresh Horakeri, Dr. Suresh D. Horakeri, Pushpalatha Patil, Prabhu Ronad, Pawanakumar Sardesai, Mallamma Wafa Syeda Anjum, Prof. Kakola, Prof. Tabiba, Girish Koppala, Siddharth Patil, Mrityunjay Matti, and Kiran Matti. Everyone cheered for the winners and enjoyed the day.

World ORS Day Marked in Gadag

GADAG

Health officials gathered in Gadag to observe World ORS Day, emphasizing that oral rehydration solution serves as a critical, life-saving remedy protecting millions worldwide from severe dehydration and diarrhea.

Addressing the audience at the City Health Center, Taluk Health Education Officer Dr. Rajendra S. Gadada highlighted that ORS effectively safeguards individuals ranging from young children to senior citizens.

He noted that drinking this electrolyte solution during the onset of diarrheal illness is frequently more vital than conventional medicine. When government-supplied free packets are unavailable, citizens can easily prepare the mixture at home using boiled and filtered water, common salt, sugar, baking soda, and a touch of lemon



juice. Presiding over the event, City Health Center Medical Officer Dr. Mahesh Koppal pointed out that children under five years old make up fifteen percent of the national population, rendering ORS the premier frontline defense against diarrheal malnutrition.

The ceremony featured insights from prominent medical professionals, including trainee physician Dr. Sfarthi Hombale and Dr. Soujanya, alongside health officers Dr. Bhimappa Hazare, Dr.

Bhadra G., Smt. R. R. Kalal, and Smt. S. V. Ambigera.

The gathering commenced with a welcoming address by Health Inspector Chetan Karni, while Primary Health Protection Officer Smt.

C. Huligemma skillfully managed the proceedings and delivered the concluding vote of thanks.

The district administration urged widespread community awareness to ensure timely intervention and protect public health across all local regions.

Registrar issues liquidation orders for inactive societies

GADAG

Local cooperative authorities have officially initiated winding-up proceedings for several long-dormant cooperative societies across the district that have failed to function in accordance with their registered bye-laws for multiple years. The Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies has issued formal liquidation orders, assuming direct control as the designated winding-up officer to oversee the dissolution process.

Administrative investigations revealed that the targeted organizations have completely abandoned their registered operational addresses. Furthermore, current information regarding the active status of their management boards and chief executive officers or secretaries remains entirely unavailable. Consequently, the administration has set a strict seven-day reporting window starting from the publication date of this official notice.

Any individuals, creditors, debtors, or stakeholders having financial claims, pending dues, or official matters involving

these entities must directly contact the Inspector of Cooperative Societies at the Gadag Sub-Division Assistant Registrar's Office. Claimants are required to present all relevant supporting documentation to substantiate their cases within the stipulated timeframe.

The official winding-up list specifically identifies three dormant entities: the Karnataka State Government Employees Credit Society Ltd. in Gadag Taluka, the Banashankari Women's Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. in Betageri Taluka, and the Janata Vidhyavardaka B. H. Patil Samyukta Purva Vidyalaya Employees' Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. located in Lakkundi Taluka.

Authorities have cautioned that failure to respond or raise objections within the prescribed seven-day period will lead to the legal assumption that no financial disputes or claims exist. Following this, the liquidator will proceed to liquidate the remaining assets of the dissolved societies in strict adherence to statutory rules and permanently cancel their official registrations.

Over 2 lakh voters listed in Gadag constituency

GADAG

The Special Comprehensive Revision of the voter list is underway in the Gadag Assembly constituency. Booth Level Officers are visiting homes to distribute and collect enumeration forms across two hundred twenty-six polling booths until August eighth. Officials confirmed that all two lakh thirty-three thousand enumeration forms have been successfully distributed, with nearly one lakh ninety-five thousand forms already digitized by July twenty-ninth. The voter registration authority urged local residents to cooperate fully with the visiting field officers to ensure an accurate, transparent final electoral roll for the district.

Gadag officials warned over pending public files

GADAG

Regional Commissioner Janaki K. M. has warned government officers against delaying public services and pending administrative files during a review meeting. Speaking at the District Collector's Office Hall, the commissioner stressed that negligence will not be accepted. She ordered authorities to quickly clear old files, fix administrative errors, and handle Right to Information requests within proper time limits. Staff must also stop postponing applications and visit sites when needed.

Special attention was given to Muzrai Department temples. Officials must ensure smooth services for devotees, proper temple staff duties, and transparent accounts.

Commissioner Janaki directed that temple property records and related identity

numbers must be updated correctly.

Closed-circuit cameras must also be installed for safety and round-the-clock monitoring.

Deputy Commissioner C. N. Sridhar added that taluk-level land revenue processes need urgent focus. He urged officers to remove difficult village procedures to help citizens easily. Discussions also covered educational programs for students and new taluk facilities to solve public problems quickly.

Top officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K. R. and various taluk tahsildars, attended the event. The leaders reminded all workers that their main goal is stopping public injustice and keeping administration clear. Officials were told to act responsibly and solve community issues without any delay.

New strict rules against plastics start in town

GAJENDRAGAD

Local civic authorities have issued a comprehensive public notice enforcing the nationwide ban on single-use plastic items under the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021. The municipal administration has reiterated that the production, storage, distribution, sale, and utilization of various prohibited plastic products remain entirely illegal across all commercial and public sectors.

The banned inventory encompasses a wide array of everyday items, including plastic banners, decorative bunting, plaques, cutouts, flags, cups, spoons, cling films, table-covering sheets, staples, and polystyrene or thermocol decorations. Additionally, restrictions strictly target ear buds featuring plastic stems, balloon sticks, ice cream sticks, plates, glasses, forks, knives, trays, wrapping

Plastic ban enforcement details

■ Banned items

Plastic cups, plates, spoons, forks, knives, trays, and straws.

■ Decorations

Plastic flags, banners, thermocol items, and decorative bunting.

■ Packaging

Cling films, sweet box wrappers, invitation cards, and cigarette packaging.

■ Other goods

Ear buds with plastic sticks, balloon sticks, and thin PVC banners.

films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packet packaging, and PVC banners measuring less than 100

microns in thickness. E-commerce platforms are likewise barred from displaying or selling these restricted goods online.

All manufacturers, warehouse operators, retailers, street vendors, shopping malls, educational institutions, hospitals, cinema halls, and corporate offices have been commanded to immediately halt handling these materials. Violators face severe legal consequences under the Environment Protection Act of 1986, which includes immediate product seizure, hefty financial penalties, official facility closure by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and an environmental compensation levy of 5000 rupees per tonne for non-compliance. Municipal leaders emphasize that community cooperation is vital to eliminating plastic pollution and preserving local environmental health.

Authorities crack down on public smoking in Kodagu

MADIKERI

The District Tobacco Control Cell in Kodagu has ramped up enforcement and educational initiatives to combat tobacco use, according to District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Satish Kumar. The department conducts regular school programs, street plays, and awareness workshops under the COTPA Act to educate youth about the severe dangers of tobacco.

Between April and June 2026, authorities carried out 34 raids targeting public

smoking under Section 21, resulting in 360 registered cases and on-the-spot fines of up to 1000 rupees. Enforcement teams also focused on Section 6 regulations, which ban tobacco sales to minors under 21 and prohibit retail outlets within 100 yards of educational institutions. School principals hold the authority to penalize violators up to 1,000 rupees and must ensure campuses remain strictly tobacco-free. During the same quarterly window, officials booked 7 specific violations related to educational perimeter rules.

Magistrate declare prohibited zones around exam centers

CHITRADURGA

District Magistrate T. Venkatesh has taken a bold step to ensure that the upcoming Computer Science Examination runs in a completely fair, transparent, and orderly manner. Scheduled to be held across the district from August 3 to August 5, these tests follow the official timetable released by the Director of Other Examinations in Bengaluru. Local authorities have put these strict safety measures into place to stop any illegal activities, cheating, or unpleasant incidents from happening near the testing venues.

To maintain total peace and security, authorities have declared the area within a 200-meter radius of every examination center a prohibited zone on all test days. This

special directive has been issued under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Protection Code. As part of this strict order, all photocopy shops, computer centers, and internet cafes situated near the testing locations must remain fully closed daily from 9 am to 6 pm.

Additionally, Deputy Commissioner Venkatesh issued a stern warning regarding personal gadgets. Candidates are strictly banned from carrying mobile phones, smart devices, or any other electronic equipment inside the examination premises under any circumstances.

Officials hope that these robust safety protocols will provide a secure, peaceful, and honest testing environment for every single student participating across the entire district this week.

MAHANTA JOLIGE CRUSADE

Seer's progressive social reforms inspire new generations

GADAG

Dr. Mahant Shivayogi Ajjanavar, a visionary social reformer, dedicated his life to building an addiction-free society through compassion rather than punishment. Born on August 1, 1930, in Bagalkot district, he took monastic vows at age ten and later became the 19th Seethadhipati of Chittargi Sri Vijaya Mahanteshwar Sansthan Math in 1970.

A tragic encounter with a family ruined by alcohol inspired him to launch the historic 'Mahanta Jolige' campaign in 1975. Carrying a red sack,



he walked door-to-door, asking people to surrender alcohol, tobacco, and gutka into the bag instead of money. For over four decades, his tireless anti-drug crusade reached communities

Social Reforms Practiced From Seer

■ The Red Sack

Instead of begging for money, the saint carried a red sack, asking people to throw in their alcohol, tobacco, and gutka.

■ Global Reach

For over 40 years, he traveled across India and even

abroad to spread the powerful message of a drug-free life.

■ Social Reformer

Beyond anti-addiction work, he fought for the Devadasi liberation, fed the hungry, and empowered widows and the unemployed.

across India and abroad, earning him widespread acclaim and numerous prestigious awards. Beyond fighting substance abuse, the late seer championed monu-

mental social causes. He spearheaded food distribution programs, the devadasi liberation movement, empowerment initiatives for widows and the un-



QUICK READ

Fisheries department invites financial aid applications

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Fisheries Department is accepting applications for financial aid for twenty twenty-six and twenty-seven. Eligible candidates can apply under the District Ma-laya Yojana program to re-ceive equipment kits, fish fry, and vehicle support. As-sistance targets numerous Scheduled Caste and Tribe beneficiaries, fish vendors buying two-wheelers, and lake development projects. Interested residents must submit documents to their local taluk office by August thirty-first. For further de-tails, applicants can contact the respective assistant di-rectors across different ta-luks using the official hel-p-line numbers provided by the department.

Welfare scheme exceeds targets across Raichur district

CH NEWS, Raichur

The district secured third place statewide for April twenty-six under a major welfare scheme, receiving nearly twenty-six thousand applications. Officials praised the massive re-sponse, noting it reached nearly eight point eight times the expected target. Revenue commissioner Dr. I.N. Meena Nagaraj Achi sent official congratulations to local leaders, including Dr. Vijayachithanthes Achitha, applauding the team's relentless dedication and hard work. The administration expressed deep appreciation for the staff's commitment and urged every-one to maintain this excep-tional momentum and top-tier performance for up-coming targets this month.

KEA revises timings for police constable exam

KOPPALA

The Karnataka Examinations Authority has official-ly revised the timing for the upcoming Civil Police Con-stantle competitive examina-tion for the Kalyan Karna-taka cadre following re-quests from worried appli-cants. The recruitment no-tification, originally publi-shed by the Police Dept thro-ugh the authority on June 5, 2026, had scheduled the wri-ten test for August 2, 2026, from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Minister Joshi applauds anti-paper leak bill

Lok Sabha passes amendment bill to dismantle question-paper leak networks and curb public examination malpractice.

HUBBALLI

Union Education Minister Pra-lhad Joshi said the passage of the Public Examinations (Pre-vention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, by the Lok Sabha marks a significant step towards dismantling ques-tion-paper leak networks and curbing malpractice in public examinations. In a statement, Joshi said the amended legisla-tion would provide a stronger legal framework to prevent ex-



“Under the leadership of Prime Minis-ter Narendra Modi, the government is taking decisive steps to improve transparency and credibility in the education system,”



—Pralhad Joshi
Union Education Minister

amination-related irregularities and ensure strict action against individuals and groups in-

involved in question-paper leaks and other unfair practices.

He said the Bill contains provisions for stringent pen-al-ties against those found re-sponsible for compromising the integrity of public exam-inations. The legislation is aimed at strengthening trans-parency, fairness and public confidence in the examination system across the country. Ac-cording to Joshi, the Central government is committed to protecting the interests of stu-

dents and ensuring that candi-dates are assessed through a fair, credible and transparent examination process.

The Union Minister also highlighted the proposed establishment of fast-track courts as an important measure to ensure the speedy disposal of cases involving examination malpractice. He said quicker investigation and trial pro-cedures would help prevent de-lays in delivering justice and strengthen deterrence against

organised examination fraud. He added that the amendment would enable authorities to take more effective action against organised networks involved in question-paper leaks and other examination-related offences.

The government's objective is to create a robust system in which examination processes remain secure and deserving candidates are not disadvan-taged by illegal practices, he said. Joshi maintained that the legislation would further

strengthen transparency, fair-ness and reliability in public ex-aminations across India. He said the Centre remained committed to eliminating question- paper leak networks and ensuring ac-countability among those in-volved in examination irregular-ities. The passage of the amend-ment Bill, he added, reflects the government's effort to safe-guard the integrity of public examinations and reinforce pub-lic trust in the country's educa-tion and recruitment systems.

Krishnagouda H. Patil claims US ties damage Indian economy

GADAG

Local Youth Congress leader Krishnagouda H. Patil has strongly criticized the central government, claiming that close ties between Prime Minister Modi and Donald Trump have severely dam-aged India's econo-my.



Speaking in Gadag, Patil ar-gued that the Modi adminis-tration's policies have shifted manufacturing focus away from the promise of “Make in India” toward building facto-

ries on American soil, leaving domestic industries struggling to survive.

According to Patil, steep tariff walls and heavy duties imposed by the United States have ruined local exporters and threatened India's mas-sive generic drug market.

He pointed out that thou-sands of pharmaceutical manufacturing units and small businesses are facing severe hardships due to a lack of proper safety nets and gov-ernment support.

Furthermore, he claimed that limited budgets for re-search and development have

left young engineers without expected job opportunities, forcing local talent to look abroad.

The Youth Congress presi-dent also questioned the effec-tiveness of major government schemes, stating they have failed to counter aggressive foreign trade policies and un-fair market pressures.

He concluded that instead of protecting national industrial interests, political pho-to-shoots and stadium-level diplomacy have completely failed to address the growing economic and trade crisis fac-ing the nation.

PA imposter arrested over ‘recreation club’ fraud

SHIVAMOGGA

Police in Shimoga have ar-rested a thirty-year-old man for cheating a local resident out of fifteen lakh rupees. The suspect tricked the victim by posing as a close aide to top state leaders and promising a valuable busi-ness license in return.

Officers from the Tungana gar police station took the accu-sed, Hemanta Kumar alias Ga-nesh, into custody following a formal complaint. The victim, Manjunath Hanji, approached authorities after realizing he had fallen victim to a clever financial fraud.

According to police reports, the suspect first crossed paths with Hanji through an acquain-tance named Salu. To gain trust, the fraudster claimed he worked as a private secretary to high- ranking officials.

He boas- ted about splitting his weekly sche dule between Bengaluru and Shi moga, surrounded himself with four associates, and traveled around in a private car to appear influ-ential and important.

The con man pitched an idea

to start a joint recreation club, convincing the victim that he had direct connections with the Chief Minister to secure the official permit quickly.

He later cut out his other friends, urging Hanji to partner with him exclusively. Trusting these false promises, Hanji handed over fifteen lakh rupees for the license processing fees.

For three months after col-lecting the cash, the accused made endless excuses and avoided returning the money whenever asked. Growing suspicious of the delayed pa-perwork and vague replies, Hanji finally decided to report the ma tter to local law en-forcement.

Police launched an investiga-tion immediately after filing the First Information Report. Officers are now questioning the arrested man to find out if he targeted other people using the same fake identity.

Authorities also plan to check if his associates played any role in the crime. Police have urged other potential vic-tims to come forward if they faced similar frauds.

Strict rules set for constable exam

CHITRADURGA

Authorities have clamped prohibitory orders across twenty-six exam venues for the upcoming police constable test on August second. District Magistrate T. Venka tesh announced that a two hndred meter zone around all testing sites will remain stri ctly restricted on exam day.

To prevent cheating and ensure smooth operations, local internet cafes, comput-er hubs, and photocopy shops must shut down be-tween nine morning and one afternoon. Officials strictly banned mobile phones and electronic gad-gets inside centers. This vi-tal precautionary step guar-antees a fair, transparent testing environment for all hopeful candidates partici-pating across the city limits.

Judge Mahavarkar expresses concern over human trafficking

CHITRADURGA

District Judge G.D. Mahavark-ar recently shared deep worry about ongoing human rights violations and illegal human trafficking in modern society. Speaking at a special event for Human Trafficking Prevention Day at the Zilla Panchayat Hall, he noted that society must think deeply about such crimes.

He stressed that laws must protect the most vulnerable people, especially youth, women, and young children.

Judge Mahavarkar urged ev-eryone to spread legal knowl-edge so citizens can spot crimes and find proper safety. Sudheen Kumar, a senior civil judge, also spoke about the heavy pain families feel when loved ones go missing.



District Judge G.D. Mahavarkar and other leaders urged strong community action and legal awareness to combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable individuals.

He stated that stopping this evil requires personal respon-sibility rather than just relying

SC to hear Sringeri postal ballot case

CHIKKAMAGALURU

The Supreme Court is sched-uled to hear the high-profile dispute over the recounting of postal ballots in the Sringeri Assembly constituency, a case that dramatically altered the constituency's election result and changed its sitting MLA nearly three years after the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections. In the 2023 Assem-bly election, Congress candi-date T.D. Rajegowda was de-clared elected from Sringeri after defeating BJP candidate D.N. Jeevaraj by a margin of 201 votes.

Jeevaraj subsequently chal-lenged the result and sought a recount of the postal ballots. The matter remained under ju-dicial consideration for nearly three years before the Karna-taka High Court directed the au-thorities to conduct a recount of the postal votes and declare the revised result. Following

the recount held on May 2, BJP candidate D.N. Jeevaraj was declared the winner by a margin of 52 votes. The re-vised outcome reversed the earlier result and brought an end to Rajegowda's nearly three-year tenure as the elected representative of the constitu-ency.

According to the revised re-sult, Rajegowda lost by 255 votes after the postal ballots were re-examined. Jeevaraj subsequently took the oath of office as the MLA from Srin-geri.

The development triggered widespread political attention across Karnataka, as the elec-tion result was altered several years after the original decla-ration and a sitting legislator was replaced following a judi-cially ordered recount. How-ever, Rajegowda challenged the outcome of the postal-bal-lot recount before the Supreme Court. He has questioned the

result declared after the re-count conducted in accordance with the Karnataka High Court's order.

The Supreme Court's hear-ing is expected to focus on the legal validity of the recount process and the issues raised by Rajegowda regarding the revised election result. The case has attracted significant attention because of its unusu-al sequence of events: a candi-date declared victorious in the 2023 election served as MLA for nearly three years before a postal-ballot recount reversed the result and led to the rival candidate being declared elect-ed.

The outcome of the Su-preme Court proceedings could have important implica-tions for the Sringeri Assem-bly constituency and may de-termine whether the revised election result and Jeevaraj's election as MLA will continue to remain valid.

Hebri tops district rainfall at 49 mm

UDUPI

Udupi district experienced widespread rainfall over the past twenty-four hours, thou-gh authorities reported no ma-jor casualties, injuries, or se-vere flooding issues across the local taluks according to the preliminary district disaster report.

The district administration confirmed that human and livestock casualties remained completely zero.

Essential infrastructure, in-cluding major roads, power

lines, and water reservoir lev-els, stayed stable without dis-ruptions or heavy damages reported across any sub-divi-sions.

However, official records noted minor structural harm in one specific locality. The residential house belonging to Pooja Raghavendra Hegde, located in Byndoor Kollur, suffered partial damage due to the wet weather conditions. Officials es-timated the finan-cial loss for the damaged property at seventy-f ive thou-sand rupees.

Rainfall data released by the District Ma gistrate's of-fice showed varied precipita-tion levels across diffe rent parts of the region. He bri taluk recorded the highest down pour at 49.7 mm, follow ed by Kundapur at 26.3 mm, Karka-la at 15.1 mm, and Brahmavar at 15.4 mm. Meanwhile, Byn-door registered 10.3 mm, Udupi recorded 6.2 mm, and Kaup received 5.1 mm of rainfall.

The overall average rainfall across all taluks in the district stood at 20.1 mm for the day.

Dharwad groups honor chess association president

HUBBALLI

Nature lovers and cultural grou-ps in the city came together to mark World Chess Day with joy and respect. Members from the Horakeri Mastara Shikshan Pratishthan, Ranichannamma Environmental Service Com-mittee, Basava Environmental Conservation Committee gathered to honor local figures. Alo-ngside them, members of the Vachana Chaduranga Sanstha also joined the cheerful event.

During the gathering, the groups welcomed Dr. Vishwa-

nath P. Baligar, who serves as the President of the Dharwad District Chess Association and a professor. People showed their love and respect by offer-ing him flower garlands with great devotion. Everyone sha-red warm wishes for Chess Day, hoping that the Almighty would bless him with wonder-ful health, happiness, and good fortune in the coming days. They also took a moment to seek his personal blessings.

The event also included a mo-ment of remembrance. Attend-ees paused to honor the portrait



of the late Basavaraj (Raju) Shivappa Baligar, paying their deepest respects and devotion. Dr. Suresh D. Horakeri shared heartfelt condolences regarding

his passing, offering sincere tributes to his memory. He of-fered prayers for the peace of the departed soul and rang a ceremonial bell.

HARANGI INFLOWS SURGE

Harangi reservoir water released amid rising inflows

MADIKERI

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds has intensified across Kodagu district, increas-ing inflows into the Harangi Reservoir and prompting au-thorities to release 5,365 cu-secs of water into the Cauvery Riv-er. Rainfall has gained strength across the district, causing riv-ers, streams, rivulets and other water bodies to swell. Continu-ous rain has also led to a rise in the water level of the Cauvery River, with officials advising residents in low-lying areas to remain alert.



The Harangi catchment area has received widespread rain-fall, resulting in increased in-flows into the reservoir. Accor-ding to available data, the res-ervoir is receiving an inflow of

around 4,613 cu-secs. With in-flows rising and rainfall contin-u-ing in the catchment region, authorities have released 5,365 cu-secs of water from the Haran-gi Reservoir into the Cau very

River to regulate water levels and ensure the safe manage-ment of the reservoir.

The increased discharge has contributed to a rise in the Cau-very's water level, prompting authorities to monitor condi-tions in vulnerable and low-lying areas. Residents living clo-se to the river and other water bodies have been urged to re-main cautious and avoid enter-ing flooded or fast-flowing streams. Officials said rainfall is likely to continue in Kodagu for the next few days, raising the possibility of further incre ases in river and reservoir levels.

Heavy Inflows Put Cauvery On Alert

■ Surging Inflows: The reservoir is currently receiving a heavy in-flow of around 4,613 cu-secs from its drenched catchment areas.

■ River Alert: The sudden ma ssive discharge has forced the Cauvery River to swell dangerously, putting nearby commu-nities on high alert.

■ Safety First: Officials have issued strict warnings for fami-lies living in low-lying zones to stay away from fast-flowing streams and flooded riverbanks.

■ Travel Advisory: Residents have been strongly advised to avoid unnecessary travel, especially through hilly roads prone to sudden landslides and waterlogging.

■ Constant Monitoring: Disaster management teams remain on high alert to handle any emergency situations over the next few days.

Fishermen warned amid rough sea conditions

UDUPI

The Home Ministry's emergen-cy control room issued a strict 5-day alert for fishermen across multiple coastal states. Officials advised crews to avoid deep-sea ventures in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal due to high-spe-ed squally winds rea ching up to seventy kilometers per hour. Dangerous weather patterns will impact regions from Guja-rat,Karnataka to Kerala and Ta mil Nadu. Authorities urged all local fishing communities to stay off the waters immediately to ensure complete safety while rough monsoon.

Priyanka Targets Jersey Change Row

Priyanka Gandhi criticised the hockey jersey row, saying India's youth and the nation's values cannot be changed through symbolism

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday criticised the reported replacement of India's traditional blue hockey jersey with an orange one, saying that regardless of such changes, the country's youth have already expressed what they stand for.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Priyanka Gandhi linked the jersey controversy with broader issues, including changes in education and historical narratives. She said attempts to alter symbols or rewrite history would not change the values that define the nation.

Referring to the recent student gathering at Jantar Mantar, she said the voices of young people reflected the sentiments of the country. According to her, India's freedom struggle was built on the ideals of truth and non-violence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, and those values continue to shape the nation's identity.

Priyanka also renewed her attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), alleging that it had no role in



India's freedom movement. She maintained that the country's soul lies in brotherhood, unity and peace, adding that no political or ideological effort could erase these principles.

The remarks came amid a growing debate over Hockey India's decision to unveil a predominantly orange jersey for the men's and women's teams ahead of the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Former India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha had criticised the move, saying Indian hockey has long been identified with its traditional blue jersey. While acknowledging

Hockey India's contribution to the sport, he described the change as embarrassing and questioned the rationale behind abandoning the iconic colour associated with the national team.

Jersey Colour Won't Redefine India: Priyanka

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra objected to the reported shift from India's iconic blue hockey jersey to an orange one, saying changing colours or symbols cannot redefine the nation's identity. She said India's youth had already demonstrated the values they uphold through their recent protest at Jantar Mantar. She argued that attempts to rewrite history or reshape educational narratives would not succeed, as the country remains rooted in Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of truth and non-violence.

STEADY VOTING IN GUJARAT BYPOLL

VADODARA

Polling for the by-election to Gujarat's Manjalpur Assembly constituency progressed peacefully on Thursday, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Voting began in the morning under tight security across the Vadodara constituency. A total of 2,19,494 registered electors are eligible to cast their votes in the bypoll, which has witnessed a direct contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress.

The by-election was necessitated following the death of veteran BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister Yogesh Patel, who represented the Manjalpur constituency for several terms.

During polling, BJP Va-



dodara City President Jayprakash Soni expressed confidence in his party's prospects, saying the BJP enjoys public support because of its continuous engagement with citizens beyond election campaigns. He said party workers remain accessible to people, helping resolve civic issues and ensuring development.

The Election Commission has set up 260 polling stations

across 62 locations in the constituency. All polling booths have been equipped with basic amenities, including ramps, drinking water, electricity and toilets, to ensure smooth voting.

Special arrangements include two polling stations managed entirely by women staff, two by Persons with

Total voters: 2,19,494
Polling stations: 260 across 62 locations
Candidates: BJP's Satish Patel vs Congress' Bhikha Rabari

The Bharatiya Janata Party stands with the people at all times, whether there is an election or not.
—Jayprakash Soni, BJP Vadodara City President

Disabilities (PwD) staff and five model polling stations. The ECI has also ensured 100 per cent live web-casting and CCTV surveillance at all polling stations to enhance transparency during the voting process.

The BJP has fielded Satish Patel, while the Congress has nominated Bhikha Rabari in the high-profile bypoll.

BJP Plans Bengal Organisation Revamp

KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is preparing for another round of organisational restructuring in West Bengal ahead of the Durga Puja festival, with major changes expected at the district, mandal and booth levels, according to party sources.

The proposed reshuffle is aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots organisation and improving coordination at the local level following the

BJP's rise to power in the state earlier this year. Party insiders said the exercise will primarily focus on reorganising district units, mandals and booth committees to enhance electoral preparedness.

Some changes are also likely in the state committee. BJP leaders indicated that a few MLAs who were recently inducted into the state Cabinet could be relieved of their organisational responsibilities in line with the party's one person, one post policy. However,

er, the norm is unlikely to be applied uniformly, with certain ministers expected to continue in organisational roles. According to party sources, leaders against whom complaints have been received by the state leadership over the past two months may be removed from key organisational positions. The move is intended to strengthen the party structure and ensure that controversial figures do not occupy important posts.

The BJP is also considering

recommending two leaders from West Bengal for key positions in the party's national leadership, including the posts of national vice-president and national secretary.

Meanwhile, the state leadership has reportedly instructed party workers not to allow the entry of former Trinamool Congress grassroots leaders facing serious corruption allegations, despite several such leaders expressing interest in joining the BJP after the change in government.

SIT Probes Kerala PSC Exam Irregularities

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged irregularities in Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitments has intensified its investigation, with the Planning Board examination emerging as the most significant case under scrutiny so far.

According to sources, investigators are examining allegations that the answer script of the candidate who secured the first rank in the 2023 recruitment for the post of Chief (Industry and Infrastructure) in the State Planning Board was manipulated to ensure selection. The candidate is currently employed in the Planning Board.

The examination was conducted on July 13, 2023. The SIT suspects that 10 questions carrying a total of 58 marks were excluded from the evaluation process after it was

ANSWER SCRIPT PROBE DEEPENS

- SIT probing alleged manipulation in 2023 Planning Board exam.
- Top-ranked candidate's answer script under scrutiny.
- FIR registered; no accused named yet.
- Probe to expand with questioning of PSC officials and Board members.
- Around 90 complaints, including KAS recruitment, under investigation.

found that the candidate had answered six of them incorrectly while leaving four unanswered. Investigators are probing whether the questions were deliberately dropped to protect the candidate's top rank. The allegations remain under investigation.

The SIT, headed by Inspector

General of Police Ajitha Beegum, has already registered an FIR in the case. However, no accused have been named so far as investigators continue to identify those responsible.

The probe is expected to enter a crucial second phase, during which the investigation team will be expanded. Officials involved in conducting and evaluating the examination, along with members of the PSC Board, are likely to be questioned to determine whether the alleged irregularities were the result of individual misconduct or part of a larger conspiracy.

The SIT has so far received around 90 complaints related to various PSC examinations, including the Kerala Administrative Service (KAS) recruitment, prompting a wider investigation into alleged recruitment irregularities across the commission.

Heavy rain affects rail connectivity to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur

GUWAHATI

The rail connectivity between southern Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the rest of the country has remained affected for the past week after heavy rainfall damaged railway tracks along the strategically important Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section, officials said on Thursday.

A senior Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) official told IANS that train services on the vital Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section under the Lumding Division have been partially disrupted following heavy rain in and around New Harangajao station in the hilly terrain of Assam's Dima Hasao district.

Due to heavy rainfall, the soil beneath two of the three railway tracks near New Harangajao station has subsided over a stretch of around 300 metres. As heavy rain and inclement weather continue to persist, restoration work has also been hampered, the official said.

A large number of workers, railway personnel, engineering teams, and heavy machinery have been deployed on a war footing to restore the affected track section at the earliest, the official added.

Normal train operations are expected to resume once the restoration work is completed safely, the official said.

According to the NFR official, the settlement of the rail-



way tracks (Line 1 and Line 2) near New Harangajao station has disrupted train operations over the Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section.

At present, all train movements on the route are being operated through Line 3 under strict monitoring and enhanced safety measures to ensure safe passage of trains.

In view of the ongoing restoration work, the NFR has cancelled the Guwahati-Silchar Express on Thursday and Friday, while several other trains connecting southern Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and Manipur have either been rescheduled, regulated, or partially cancelled.

Andhra liquor case: Accused files surrender petition

VIJAYAWADA

An accused in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam has approached the ACB Court in Vijayawada, seeking permission to surrender before the court. Saif Ahmed, who had allegedly left the country after the liquor scam case was registered, filed a petition through his lawyers on Thursday, seeking permission to surrender.

Accused number 10 in the case, Saif is one of the key aides of Kesireddy Rajasekhara Reddy alias Raj Kesireddy, the main accused in the case. Saif and other aides of Raj Kesireddy had allegedly acted as handlers and logistics coordinators for the bribes collected from distilleries and supply companies.

SIT, which has so far arrested 17 accused in the case, is likely to take Saif into custody for questioning. In a related case, the Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed the anticipatory bail petition of former minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and V Mohana upheld the order passed by the Telangana High Court on the anticipatory bail petition in connection with the AP liquor transportation scam. The counsel appearing for Rao claimed that he had no connection with the scam and cited his health condition while seeking anticipatory bail.

The Telangana High Court had on July 3 dismissed Rao's anticipatory bail petition.

The liquor transportation case, being investigated under a separate Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), relates to the alleged manipulation of the Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation (APSBC) liquor transportation tender process between 2020 and 2024.

Last week, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged multi-crore liquor transport scam took custody of three key accused - former APSBC Managing Director Donthireddy Vasudeva Reddy, Raj Kesireddy and Karumuri Sunil.

 BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekundi Division Phoenix Mall Opp., RHB Colony, Whitefield main road, Bengaluru-560048.		20	Improvements to roads and drains at Ramajineya layout main road and Cross roads in Ashwathnagar Ward no 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.
No: BECC/EE/DNK/TN/05/2026-27 Date: 30.07.2026		21	Improvements to roads and drains at Gururaja layout and Construction of Public Toilet in Doddanekundi Ward no 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER		22	Improvements to roads and drains at Gururaja layout 2nd main road and surrounding area in Doddanekundi Ward no 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: ST. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)		23	Improvements to roads and drains in Pragathi layout and Improvements to Kalyani in Doddanekundi Ward no 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: ST. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
The Executive Engineer, Doddanekundi Division, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BECC invites Item Rate Tenders from eligible contractors registered in GBA or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.			
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	24	Improvements to roads and drains at BEML layout and surrounding area in Kundalahalli Ward no 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-II(A). EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
1	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Priya Darshini Ward No. 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: ST. EMD: Rs. 35,000/-.	25	Improvements to roads and drains at Thubarahalli roads in Kundalahalli Ward no 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 20.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
2	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Ashwathnagar Ward No. 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 70,000/-.	26	Improvements to roads and drains at Siddapura Cross roads in Kundalahalli Ward no 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.
3	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Doddanekundi Ward No. 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 35,000/-.	27	Improvements to roads and drains at Asha Tiffin road Thubarahalli in Kundalahalli Ward no 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-II(A). EMD: Rs. 30,000/-.
4	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Kundalahalli Ward No. 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 70,000/-.	28	Improvements to roads and drains at Shetty layout 1st cross. and surrounding area in Bharath Aikya Ward no 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 60,000/-.
5	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Bharath Aikya Ward No. 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 35,000/-.	29	Improvements to roads and drains at Munikadarappa layout Cross roads and surrounding area in Bharath Aikya Ward no 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 60,000/-.
6	Engaging Tipper Tractor and laboures in Garudacharpalya Ward No. 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 70,000/-.	30	Improvements to roads and drains at Asharya layout cross roads in Bharath Aikya Ward no 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 40.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 80,000/-.
7	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Priya Darshini Ward No. 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-II(A). EMD: Rs. 25,000/-.	31	Improvements to roads and drains at Green domino layout in Bharath Aikya Ward no 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.
8	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Ashwathnagar Ward No. 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-I. EMD: Rs. 25,000/-.	32	Improvements to roads and drains at Kananka layout and surrounding area in Garudacharpalya Ward no 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.
9	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Doddanekundi Ward No. 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.	33	Improvements to roads and drains at Garudacharpalya Cross road in Garudacharpalya Ward no 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 60,000/-.
10	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Kundalahalli Ward No. 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.	34	Improvements to roads and drains at Lakshmi Sagara Cross roads in Garudacharpalya Ward no 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 40.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 80,000/-.
11	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Bharath Aikya Ward No. 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 25,000/-.	35	Improvements to roads and drains at RHB Colony 8th cross and surrounding area in Garudacharpalya Ward No. 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 60,000/-.
12	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Providing missing slabs, Desilting of drains and other allied works in Garudacharpalya Ward No. 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.	36	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Priya Darshini ward no 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 4,375/-.
13	Construction of roads and drains at AECS layout C block near storm water drain side and surrounding area in Ward No. 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 10.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-II(A). EMD: Rs. 12,500/-.	37	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Ashwathnagar Ward no 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 8,750/-.
14	Construction of roads and drains at AECS layout C block main roads and surrounding area in Ward No. 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 20.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.	38	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Doddanekundi Ward no 43. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: SC. EMD: Rs. 4,375/-.
15	Construction of roads and drains at AECS layout main road and cross roads at AECS layout C block and surrounding area in Priyadarshini layout ward no.42. Estimate amount: Rs. 20.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 50,000/-.	39	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Kundalahalli Ward no 37. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 8,750/-.
16	Improvements to roads and drains at AECS layout A block & B block and surrounding area in Priya Darshini ward no 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.	40	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Bharath Aikya Ward no 36. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 8,750/-.
17	Improvements to roads and drains at AECS layout D block & E Block and surrounding area in Priya Darshini ward no 42. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.	41	Providing Temporary arrangements for Ganesha Immersion in Garudacharpalya Ward no 35. Estimate amount: Rs. 3.50 lakhs. Reservation Category: CAT-II(A). EMD: Rs. 4,375/-.
18	Improvements to roads and drains at Hemanth Nagara 2nd cross, 3rd cross in Ashwathnagar Ward no 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.	Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2) Last date for submission of queries : 10.08.2026 within 3.00 pm. (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : 10.08.2026 at 4.00 pm. (4) Last Date for receipt of tenders: 12.08.2026 upto 4.00 pm. (5) Date of opening of technical document : 13.08.2026 at 4.30 pm. (6) Date of opening of Financial bid : 14.08.2026 at 4.00 pm. (7) Validity of tenders: 180 days. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	
19	Improvements to roads and drains at Hemanth Nagara 4th cross and surrounding area in Ashwathnagar Ward no 44. Estimate amount: Rs. 50.00 lakhs. Reservation Category: Others. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/-.	Sd/- Executive Engineer Doddanekundi Division, BECC	

BJP Protests Against Punjab Paper Leaks

Delhi BJP staged a protest outside AAP headquarters, demanding Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains' dismissal over alleged paper leaks and accusing the party of practising double standards

NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Harsh Malhotra on Thursday led a protest outside the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) office in the national capital, demanding the dismissal of Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains over a series of alleged examination paper leaks in the state.

Addressing party workers, Malhotra accused the AAP of adopting double standards on the issue of accountability. He said the party had aggressively demanded the resignation of the Union Education Minister over alleged paper leaks at the national level but had failed to take action against its own minister in Punjab despite multiple examination controversies.

Malhotra alleged that the Punjab Teacher Eligibility Test (PTET), Class 12 English examination, Pharmacy Officer recruitment examination and Punjab Subordinate Services Selection Board (PSSSB) recruitment examination papers had all been leaked during the AAP government's tenure. He claimed these incidents had jeopardised the future of thousands of students across the state.



Demanding immediate action, the BJP leader called for the dismissal of Harjot Singh Bains, strict punishment for those responsible and a public apology to nearly 30 lakh students in Punjab. He also criticised AAP's claims of bringing an Education Revolution to the state, alleging it had instead become a Paper Leak Revolution.

Questioning AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, Malhotra said the party had earlier promised that any minister under whose watch a paper leak occurred would resign. He asked why the same principle was not being followed in Punjab.

Thousands of BJP workers from the Yuva Morcha, OBC

BJP TURNS HEAT ON AAP

- BJP protests outside AAP office in Delhi.
- Harsh Malhotra demands Harjot Singh Bains' dismissal.
- BJP cites multiple alleged paper leak incidents in Punjab.
- Protesters detained and later released by Delhi Police.
- IBJP accuses AAP of hypocrisy over accountability.

Morcha and Purvanchal Morcha participated in the protest. Police detained the protesters and took them to Mandir Marg Police Station before releasing them after about an hour with a warning.

Soren Seeks Higher Scholarship Support

RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking enhanced financial assistance for scholarship schemes benefiting students from Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), Backward Classes (BC), and minority communities in the state.

In his letter, Soren said inadequate release of central funds has prevented lakhs of eligible students from receiving scholarships on time, adversely impacting their educa-

tion. He noted that the state has adopted a scholarship distribution system based on the annual income of parents or guardians instead of community affiliation to promote social justice and equality.

The Chief Minister said Jharkhand continues to face financial challenges due to its difficult geographical conditions, limited resources, and a large underprivileged population, making greater central assistance essential.

Highlighting the funding gap, Soren said the state had sought Rs 66.14 crore under the pre-matric scholarship

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren urged the Centre to increase scholarship funding, citing severe shortfalls affecting lakhs of students.

scheme for Backward Class students for 2024-25 but received only Rs 12.61 crore. For 2025-26, against a demand of Rs 45.91 crore, only Rs 3.95 crore has been sanctioned. Similarly, under the post-matric scholarship scheme, the state requested

Rs 353.21 crore for 2024-25 but received only Rs 33.57 crore. For 2025-26, it sought Rs 370.87 crore, while only Rs 58.22 crore has been released.

Soren also pointed out that no central funds have been released during 2025-26 for pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribe students. He further urged the Centre to remove disparities in scholarship amounts for ST students and revive minority scholarship schemes, which, he said, have not received central funding since 2021-22.

PM MODI ASSURES FLOOD RELIEF SUPPORT

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland that the Centre would provide all necessary assistance and work closely with the respective state governments to address the challenges arising from the ongoing floods and heavy rainfall.

The assurance came during a meeting at Parliament House in New Delhi, where five MPs from the two North-eastern states briefed the Prime Minister on the prevailing flood situation. The delegation was led by Union Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said the Centre would continue coor-



minating with both state governments to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation measures for those affected. He also prayed for the safety and well-being of people impacted by the floods.

Rijiju said the Prime Minister had already issued necessary directions to ensure prompt relief, restoration of damaged infrastructure and continued support for flood-

hit communities. The delegation included Lok Sabha MP Tapir Gao and Rajya Sabha MP Tai Tagak from Arunachal Pradesh, along with Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir and Rajya Sabha MP S. Phangnon Konyak from Nagaland.

Expressing gratitude after the meeting, Tapir Gao said the Prime Minister patiently heard the concerns raised by

The Central Government will keep working with the respective state governments to address the challenges. Praying for everyone's wellbeing and safety.
—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

the MPs and assured all possible assistance from the Government of India for relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have witnessed heavy rainfall and floods since last month, resulting in loss of lives and extensive damage to homes, public infrastructure, agricultural land and other properties. Authorities continue relief and restoration efforts in the affected regions with support from both the Centre and state governments.

Meghalaya HC quashes POCSO case after finding accused and survivor married

GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya High Court has quashed criminal proceedings under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against a 27-year-old man after taking into account that he had married the survivor, the couple had been living together for several years and were raising their four-year-old daughter, officials said on Thursday.

A division bench passed the order while allowing a joint petition filed by the accused and the survivor seeking the quashing of an FIR registered at the Ri-Bhoi Women Police Station in 2021 and the consequent proceedings pending before the Special Judge (POCSO), Ri-Bhoi.

According to the petition, the FIR was lodged when the girl was a minor and pregnant. After attaining the age of majority, she chose to reside with the accused, and the couple solemnised their marriage before the Marriage Registrar at Nongpoh in March this year.

The court also considered a report submitted by the Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee, which confirmed that the couple were living together with their daughter.

The report further stated that the woman had discontinued a diploma course in Laboratory Technology because of the pending criminal case.

She expressed her desire to resume her studies or pursue a law degree and also showed interest in

vocational training in tailoring. The report recorded that she had voluntarily stated she had no objection to the criminal proceedings against her husband being quashed.

While setting aside the case, the High Court relied on its earlier judgment in Shalenbor Wahtang vs State of Meghalaya, which recognised that consensual adolescent relationships are not uncommon in the state and that courts must consider exceptional circumstances while deciding such matters.

The bench observed that although offences under the POCSO Act are treated as crimes against society, judicial decisions cannot be completely detached from social realities.

TASMAC corruption case: Senthil Balaji knocks on SC's door

NEW DELHI

Former Tamil Nadu Minister and DMK MLA V. Senthil Balaji has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court's order rejecting his anticipatory bail plea in the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) case alleging large-scale corruption in the functioning of the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC).

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal on Thursday mentioned Balaji's special leave petition (SLP) for urgent listing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant.

According to the request, the CJI Kant-led Bench agreed to list the matter for hearing on Friday, subject to the removal of defects, if

any. Balaji has moved the apex court after the Madras High Court on Thursday declined to grant him pre-arrest bail in the DVAC case.

Dismissing the anticipatory bail plea, a single-judge Bench of Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan held that the nature of the allegations warranted custodial interrogation and observed that the case involved serious charges of large-scale corruption.

The High Court also took note of the prosecution's contention that the accused had allegedly abused their official positions, entered into a criminal conspiracy and caused substantial financial loss to the state exchequer.

The case arises out of an FIR registered by the DVAC on July 28 against Balaji and several others over alleged irregularities in TAS-

MAC between 2021 and 2025, when he served as Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise.

The FIR invokes provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Corruption Act, including offences relating to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating, falsification of records and corruption.

According to the prosecution, Balaji conspired with six others, including private individuals, distillery and brewery companies, transport contractors, bottling firms and unidentified TASMAC officials, to manipulate official processes, misappropriate public funds and facilitate the laundering of illicit money, causing substantial losses to the state.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-156/2026-27 Date: 30.07.2026

SHORT-TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent No.: BDA/2026-27/SE0119).

Tender schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **30.07.2026**. (2) Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid Enquiries: **01.08.2026, 11.00 a.m.** (3) Date & time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **03.08.2026, 3.00 p.m.** (4) Last date & time for submission of Tender: **11.08.2026, 4.00 p.m.** (5) Date of opening of Technical Bid of Tender: **12.08.2026 after 4.30 p.m.**

Interested Bidders can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGoK
Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE/NPKL/TEN/T-162/2026-27 Date: 30.07.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short-Term Tender Notification)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

On behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, The Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru invites Tenders in two cover system from eligible Tenderers for the work of "Providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for the Construction of Balance RCC Drains & Road Works in Banashankari 6th Stage, 3rd Block, 4th Block, 5th Block, 11th Block & Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage 4th H-B-T Blocks of BDA Layout in Bengaluru South Taluk." EMD: Rs. 40,000/- Period: Till completion of Project. Last date for submission of Tenders: **12.08.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** For further details kindly log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact e-procurement helpline 080-25501216 / 25501217. Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru

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

No. EE:PWD/DVG/JE:IFT-13:2026-27 Dated:- Dated: 30.07.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : Ref: This office tender notification No. IFT-13/2026-27 dated: 30.07.2026.

The works under Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDC 1 Work Rs. 300.00 lakhs pertaining to Channagiri sub divisions under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division, has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

W.I 36830 :- Tender dates are as mentioned below:
(1) Last Date & time for tender queries Date 31.07.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M. (2) Prebid meeting held : office of Executive engineer, PWD division, Davanagere. Date : 04.08.2026 Timing 11.00 A.M. (3) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders Date : 14.08.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M. (4) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid : Date : 17.08.2026Timing 4.30 P.M.
Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/252/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Davanagere.

(CH) CLASSIFIEDS

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

Directorate of Child Protection
Women and Child Development Department
District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit
No. CA-15:17, First Floor, Anjanadri Main Road, Vijaya Nagara
4th Stage, 2nd Phase, Mysuru-32.
Phone No: 0821-2543003 Email-ID: dcpumysore@gmail.com

No. DCPU/MYS/Manpower tender/2026-27 Date: 28.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The tender Notification for tender 2026-27 (for One Year) has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999 and Rules 2000, for the Manpower Service to the District Child Protection Unit, Child Care Institution, and Child line of the District Child Protection Unit and Department of Women & Child Development, Mysuru. The Tender document may be downloaded from e-Procurement and Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 30.07.2026 and the last date for submission of tender through e-Procurement with EMD amount of **Rs.1.97 Lakhs is 17.08.2026 up to 5.00 p.m.** Those tender which is not submitted with EMD will be rejected. Tender estimated amount is **1,97,00,000/-**. Opening the technical bid on **19.08.2026 on 11.00 a.m.** and opening the financial bid on **24.08.2026 on 11.00 a.m.** Further information may be obtained from District Child Protection Unit, Vijayanagara 4th stage, 2nd Phase, Mysore-570032, contact No:0821-2543003 or Website. If there are any changes, in date, it'll be updated on the e-portal. If the last date for submission of tender treated holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No further notification in this regard will be announced.
Sd/-
District Child Protection Officer
District Child Protection Unit, Mysore

DIPR/MYS/503/SA/2026-27

Rahul Gandhi making baseless statements to stay relevant: Shekhawat

NEW DELHI

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Thursday accused Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP), Rahul Gandhi, of making baseless statements in Parliament to stay relevant after what he described as repeated electoral defeats of the Raebareli MP.

He further alleged that LoP Gandhi's statements were neither in the interest of the nation nor the Congress party. This came as LoP Gandhi raised serious questions over the use of force against students and sought answers from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on who had ordered the reported firing during the NEET leak protests in the national Capital on July 20.

Speaking to reporters on the Parliament premises, Shekhawat claimed, Rahul Gandhi's repeated electoral defeats, whether inside or outside Parliament, and in India or abroad, have led to frustration. His declining acceptability within his own party has added to that frustration. To remain relevant, he is making baseless and factless statements that are neither in the interest of the country nor of democracy. These baseless statements are not even in favour of his own party. The BJP and its allies strongly objected to LoP Gandhi's remarks, particularly his allegation that the Union Home Minister had directed action against the protesting students, and questioned the basis of his claims.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hassan District, Arkalgud Taluk, Konanur Hobli, residing in Konanur village, Revanna S/o. Annayya's property located in Hassan District, Arkalgud Taluk, Konanur Hobli, Konanur village, pure schedule property Panchayathi Khata No: 274, Property Number: 151600300500400645, Form 9 No. 1961765 and Form 11A No. 1961770, measuring 36.576 X 7.162801 meters. The said property purchase deed was registered on date: 28-03-2016 at the Arkalgud Sub-Registrar's Office under ARG-1-01004-2016-17, CD No. ARGD116, the said original sale deed was lost at the Arkalgud sub stand On date: 20-07-2026. In this regard, a complaint has been filed at the Arkalgud Police Station, and the complaint number is 2332966/2026. If anyone finds the above-mentioned document, it is requested to deliver it to the nearest police station or to my address given below.

M.Guruprasad, Advocate,
No.2, Lingaiah Building,
1st floor, V.V. Road, Mandya 571401
Mobile No:9242221603

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA20025GC030436,
Corporate Office Station Road, KALABURAGI

No:GESCOM/SEE(Procurement)/EE/AEE/2026-27/39027-32 Date:29.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP Portal mode only)

I) Manufacture and supply of following materials as per GESCOM Specifications
1) PC-1498:-Double pole TC Set, 2) PC-1499:- DP Set (2 Pole Structure Kit) 3) PC-1500:- PVC Wire -50 Sqmm, 4) PC-1501:- PVC Wire -95 Sqmm 5) PC-1502:- PVC Wire -120 Sqmm 6) PC -1503:- :LT Protection kit. Tender Amount : Min Rs. 119.51 Lakhs Max : Rs.330.54 Lakhs Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **31.07.2026** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid : As per KPP Portal. Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents. For additional information Contact: **Superintending Engineer EI., Procurement Section, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102.** Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at **+91-8046010000/8068948777** or e-mail address: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Superintending Engineer EI.,
Procurement, Corporate Office,
GESCOM,Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/376/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

RUSSIA POUNDS UKRAINE DEFENCE FACILITIES

Russia claimed coordinated missile and drone strikes hit Ukrainian defence factories, missile facilities, cargo ships and military infrastructure

MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday claimed it had carried out one of its largest overnight coordinated strikes on Ukrainian military-industrial infrastructure, targeting defence factories, drone production units and cargo ships across multiple regions, including the capital Kyiv and the western city of Lviv.

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, the operation involved land, sea and air-launched missiles along with strike drones. Moscow said the attacks were aimed at facilities supporting Ukraine's military production and logistics.

The ministry stated that the Mayak factory in Kyiv, allegedly involved in manufacturing FP-1 and FP-2 strike drones, was among the key targets. It also claimed to



have struck Kyiv's Electrical Technical Plant, which it alleged produced strike and surveillance drones for Ukrainian forces.

In western Ukraine, Russia said it targeted the LORTA Aviation Factory in Lviv, claiming the facility manufactures and services engines used in Ukraine's Flamingo cruise missiles and drones. It further said two factories in the Ivano-Frankivsk region

involved in producing or storing Flamingo and Neptune missiles were also hit.

The Defence Ministry added that the Akvaplast factory in Kryvyi Rih, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, was targeted for its alleged role in designing and assembling strike drones, unmanned sea drones and repairing self-propelled howitzers.

Russia also claimed to have struck three cargo ships in the

POINTERS
• Russia claims major overnight missile and drone assault.
• Defence factories in Kyiv and Lviv reportedly targeted.
• Missile facilities hit in Ivano-Frankivsk region.
• Kryvyi Rih drone production unit allegedly struck.
• Three cargo ships in Black Sea reportedly targeted.
• Ukraine had not immediately responded to the claims.

Black Sea, including one docked at the port of Yuzhnyi in the Odesa region, alleging the vessels were transporting military goods, weapons and equipment destined for Ukrainian ports. Ukraine had not immediately commented on the Russian claims, and the reported strikes could not be independently verified.

Wildfires devastate Greek island communities

ATHENS

Greek firefighters continued battling deadly wildfires on the island of Crete for a second consecutive day on Thursday, as intense blazes fueled by strong winds spread across parts of southern Europe following devastating fires in Spain and France.

Three Greek firefighters lost their lives on Wednesday while responding to separate wildfires. Two firefighters died after becoming trapped between advancing fire fronts near the village of Krya Vrysi in central Crete while travelling in a vehicle. Another firefighter was killed while battling a separate blaze in the Peloponnese region. Two additional firefighters sustained minor injuries.

Authorities evacuated hundreds of residents and tourists from Krya Vrysi and nearby villages by land and sea as the fast-moving fire threatened popular holiday destinations. The flames destroyed agricul-



Unfortunately there is no improvement, and the latest information indicates that winds will increase later in the day, said Giorgos Tsapakos, Deputy Regional Governor for Civil Protection on Crete..

-Giorgos Tsapakos

tural land, olive groves and damaged warehouses along with several homes.

More than 200 firefighters, supported by dozens of fire engines and water-dropping aircraft, were deployed to contain two major fires on Crete. However, firefighting efforts were hampered by strong winds, preventing aircraft from operating during the morning hours.

Officials warned that weather conditions were ex-

Key Highlights

- Three firefighters killed in Greece.
- Hundreds evacuated from Crete.
- Over 200 firefighters deployed
- Olive groves and homes damaged.
- Strong winds continue hampering firefighting efforts.

pected to worsen later in the day, raising concerns over further fire spread. The European Union has also been monitoring the situation as Greece and Italy prepare for continued wildfire threats in the coming weeks.

Europe, the world's fastest-warming continent, has experienced repeated heatwaves this year, with prolonged heat and drought contributing to increasingly severe wildfire seasons across several countries.

Gaza Strikes amid Fresh Peace Talks

Fresh Israeli strikes killed civilians in Gaza as mediators resumed negotiations in Cairo to advance the next phase of a U.S.-backed peace plan

CAIRO

Israeli airstrikes killed at least four people, including two children, across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, according to Palestinian health officials, as mediators held fresh negotiations with Hamas aimed at advancing the implementation of a U.S.-brokered peace plan.

Medical officials said an Israeli strike on a tent encampment in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, killed a man and an eight-year-old girl. In central Gaza's Bureij refugee camp, another airstrike struck a residential house, killing an 18-month-old child and injuring at least eight others.

Later in the day, an Israeli strike targeted a Palestinian riding a bicycle near a camp sheltering displaced families in Gaza City, killing one per-



son and wounding 10 others. The Israeli military said the attacks targeted Hamas militants but did not provide further details.

According to Gaza health authorities, more than 1,200 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in Israeli strikes since the ceasefire took effect. Hamas has not publicly disclosed its casualties. Despite the truce halting large-scale combat, near-daily Israeli strikes have continued, while four Israeli soldiers have reportedly been

killed by militants during the same period.

Meanwhile, Hamas leaders met mediators from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey in Cairo to discuss the second phase of U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace initiative. The proposal includes increased humanitarian aid, civilian governance in Gaza, Hamas' disarmament, Israeli troop withdrawal and deployment of an international security force. However, negotiations remain stalled over Hamas' disarmament, a key issue in the talks.

Gaza Peace Talks

“We are coming with a positive and good response,” a Hamas official said regarding the latest round of Cairo negotiations, without confirming whether the group had agreed to disarm.

QUICK READ

Two arrested on suspicion of arson as firefighters battle blazes near Bordeaux

Bordeaux

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of arson as firefighters battled on Thursday to prevent the spread of wildfires near Bordeaux, the local administration responsible for the area said. The fires had not spread compared to the previous days, the local administration for La Nouvelle Aquitaine et de la Gironde added in a statement on X. The amount of ground burnt remained at 42,000 hectares (103,784 acres). The Bordeaux region is famed for its vineyards and the city is one of the main transport hubs for tourists visiting nearby holiday resorts on the Atlantic coast.

US MILITARY UPDATE

US military says it hit dozens of Iran's IRGC targets

WASHINGTON

The U.S. military said it struck dozens of Islamic Revolutionary Guard targets in Iran, including military command centres and drone facilities, in a two-hour operation launched after Tehran fired ballistic missiles at U.S. forces in the Middle East.

The operation began at 0000 GMT and ended at 0200 GMT on Thursday, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said. The strikes aimed to further diminish threats posed by Iran and its proxies to American forces, commercial shipping, and neighbouring Gulf countries, CENTCOM said in a statement.

Iran's state media reported

that three people were killed in U.S. strikes on Qeshm Island. Jordan's armed forces said on Thursday that they had thwarted an Iranian attempt to target the kingdom, intercepting five missiles.

The U.S. strikes came after Iran confirmed on Wednesday that it had fired ballistic missiles at U.S. troops in Jordan. CENTCOM said all of the missiles were intercepted. U.S. bases in Jordan have lately become primary Iranian targets.

Earlier on Wednesday, U.S. and Saudi forces launched strikes against Iran-aligned groups in eastern Iraq, in retaliation for drone attacks on Saudi oil targets launched from Iraq. The joint attack

marked the first time Riyadh has publicly joined strikes alongside Washington.

In Egypt, a drone hit a U.S.-owned gas storage tanker at Egypt's Mediterranean port of Damietta, British maritime security firm Ambrey said in an initial assessment on Wednesday.

A statement from Egypt's Petroleum Ministry confirmed a fire at the port but made no mention of a drone attack. It was not immediately clear who was responsible. The latest strikes in Iraq and Egypt threatened to draw more Middle Eastern countries into the conflict, after the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen declared a naval blockade last week on Saudi Arabia.

China protests over NZ foreign minister's jibe at Chinese-born lawmaker

WELLINGTON

China made a diplomatic protest to New Zealand on Thursday after Foreign Minister Winston Peters characterised a Chinese-born lawmaker as a loudmouth whom he urged to go back to your own country during a debate in parliament.

Peters, the leader of the populist New Zealand First party, made the remarks during Wednesday's debate on the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement says more about the person that makes it than anything or anybody else, Wang Xiaolong, the Chinese ambassador to New Zealand, wrote on X.

In a statement on Thursday, the Chinese embassy said an official made solemn representations about the negative China-related remarks at a meeting with New Zealand's foreign affairs ministry.

Peters had responded to heckling from Lawrence Xu-Nan, a lawmaker from the Green Party born in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin but who grew up in East Auckland, with advice to go back to your own country. That's where they lie like a

flatfish, but they don't lie like that here, he added.

This is called a democracy, unlike what you're used to. Go back to where you've come from, you loudmouth. The remarks drew rebukes from fellow lawmakers, including Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who criticised the inappropriate attention-seeking comments, media said.

Xu-Nan told TVNZ Peters was scapegoating the migrant communities to distract from the government's record. In its statement, the Chinese embassy urged New Zealand to do more things conducive to bilateral relations rather than the other way around. Peters doubled down instead, calling his critics pearl-clutchers and communist shells.

In a statement, his ministry said Peters was briefed on the conversation with the Chinese embassy and stood by his comments, which were aimed at defending New Zealand's democracy.

China is New Zealand's biggest trading partner, with two-way trade exceeding NZ\$41 billion (\$23.83 billion) in the year ending September 2025.

China warns of retaliation if US sticks with robot ban

BEIJING

China will resolutely retaliate and safeguard its interests if the United States insists on acting unilaterally over an import ban on new Chinese robots and power inverters, the commerce ministry said on Thursday. The ministry urged the United States to immediately withdraw the measures and stop its erroneous actions, saying they discriminate against and suppress Chinese companies and products. The U.S. Federal Communications

Commission (FCC) released measures on Tuesday, seeking to protect the U.S. AI buildup from national security threats and reshore key industries slated for explosive growth.

China said the FCC had ignored Beijing's repeated representations and continued to intensify its restrictive measures.

The ministry accused the U.S. of generalising the concept of national security, calling it market distortion and unilateral bullying behaviour that ignored the interests of Chinese and American industries.

Islamist militants kill 10 police officers in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN

A drone attack and ambush by Islamist militants at a police post in northwest Pakistan killed at least 10 officers, police said, the second such assault within a week. The attack took place late on Wednesday in the Hangu district near the Afghan border, an area that has long served as home to militant groups. Militancy in Pakistan's border areas has risen sharply in recent months, targeting mainly the military and police after an armed conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan killed hundreds.

Islamabad says the militants use safe havens in Afghanistan to train and plan attacks in Pakistan. Afghanistan's Taliban government has denied the charge and said militancy is Pakistan's domestic problem. The militants ambushed the police check post after hitting it with improvised explosive devices attached to quadcopters, police said in a statement.

Ten officers and 15 of the attackers were killed in several hours of fighting, said Zulfikar Hameed, the provincial police chief.

Australia begins legal action against Telegram

SYDNEY

Australia's internet regulator said on Thursday it had begun legal action against messaging platform Telegram over alleged failings to tackle pro-terror posts.

The office of the eSafety Commissioner said it had begun action after Telegram failed to remove videos of

terrorist executions and mass shootings. This case concerns content linked to some of the most notorious acts of known extremist violence in recent history, including material associated with the Christchurch and Buffalo terror attacks, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said in a statement.

We allege that this content

remained accessible on the service long after Telegram had been put on notice. Failure to comply with Australia's codes and standards could result in civil penalties of up to \$54.6 million (\$38 million), the statement said. We reject these allegations and will contest them in court, a spokesperson for Telegram said in response to a request for comment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Smt. Ramya. T.H. wife of Sri. Basavaiah, residing at: Neelakantamahalli Village, Maddur Taluk and Mandya District, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated: 21-07-2016, Executed by Sri. L. Sadhananda and his family members in favour of Smt. Savithamma, which is duly registered as Document No. MDR-1-03158/2016-17, CD. No. MDRD-140, Book-1, Registered on 22-07-2016 and Registered at Sub Registrar Office, Maddur, while Xerox at Maddur Town on 10-06-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client. Contact Address: Rajini. M.S., B.A., U.B., Advocate, 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159. Mob: 8884242935. Place: Ramanagara. Date: 26-06-2026.

CH

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAILENDRA KUMAR SINGH, resident of NO 1A504, Hinduja Lakefront Estates, Opposite Hulimavu Police Station, Hulimavu, Bengaluru - 560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my minor Daughters name from DARSHITA to DARSHITA SINGH vide affidavit dated: 30.07.2026 before Advocate and notary, Mohammed Hussain K, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABDUL SAMAD S/o BABOO KHAN R/o 3171, Prestige Misty Waters, Anjaneya Temple Street, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560024, have changed the name of my minor son ABDUL SAMEH aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as ABDUL AHAD.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, A.S. JAYANTH alias A.S JAYANTH S/o A.R. SREEKANTH, R/o No. B-5, 1st Floor, Gem Wellington, Old Airport Road, Opp Nal, Murgeshpalya, Near HP Petrol Bank, Banglore, N A L, Vimanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as A.S. JAYANTH IYENGAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THANUJA R W/o VAUJA GONDA R/o 110, 18th Main Road, Near Laggere Main Road J C Nagar, Mahalakshmi Puram, Bangalore North, Mahalakshimpuram Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560086, have changed the name of my minor daughter SAHANA VAUJA GONDA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as SAHANA SREEV.

NAME CHANGE

I, UBED ULLAKHAN, aged 62 years, S/o. Rehamath Ullakhan, Residing at No. 1822/A, Nijam Mohalla, Hunsur Town, Mysore District, Karnataka, have changed my name from OBEDULLA RAHAMATULLA to UBED ULLAKHAN, vide affidavit dated: 30.07.2026 before notary H. DINESH, Hunsur.

LOST OF DOCUMENT

I Apсар Begam W/o Late S.Sardar; Residing at No.28, New No.1, 1st cross, New Chethan Theater, Nagavaraпalya, C V Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore-560093, hereby declared that i lost my Original Sale Deed No. KR1-1-13002-2004-05 CD No : KRID69 Date 09.08.2004. of property bearing site no 21, Property no 86 , Khata no 104 at Nagavaraпalya, KR Puram Bangalore. If any body got my documents, Please contact to above address or nearest police station.

IN THE COURT OF THE JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA CMis.No.122/2026

Petitioners: Sri. Venkataswamy.T.C S/o Chinnanna Aged about 77 years, Rlat Tubagere Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and others

V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioner No.1 and mother in law of petitioner No.2 and grandmother of petitioner No.3 to 7 by name LATE AKKAMMA W/O LATE CHINNANNA who died on 09.12.1972 at Tubagere Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 27.08.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29th Day of July 2026.

By Order of the Court

Chief Ministerial Officer, Pri. Civil Judge & J.M.F.C.Court, Doddaballapura

Advocate, Chandreshkar.H.M, #12, Hadonahalli Village, Near Government School, Doddaballapura Taluk



Rahane retires from int’l cricket

Rahane was instrumental in several of India’s most memorable overseas victories

Former India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a distinguished career marked by resilience, composure and several memorable performances. The 38-year-old confirmed his decision through a video shared on social media, bidding farewell to all formats of international cricket.

Rahane last represented India in the second Test against the West Indies at Port of Spain in July

2023. Although he did not return to the national side after that series, he continued to contribute to domestic cricket and remained a respected figure in Indian cricket. Known for his calm temperament and dependable batting, Rahane played a key role in several of India’s major overseas successes. His finest achievement came during the historic 2020-21 Test series in Australia. After regular captain Virat Kohli returned home following the opening Test, Rahane took charge of the team under difficult circumstances.

He led India to a remarkable comeback and scored a memorable century in the Melbourne Test, helping the visitors level the series. Under his leadership, a young and injury-hit Indian side went on to win the series 2-1, including the famous victory at the Gabba in Brisbane. The triumph is widely regarded as one of the greatest achievements in Indian cricket history.

A reliable middle-order batter, Rahane was particularly effective in challenging overseas conditions. His leadership was appreciated for its calm approach, trust in young players and ability to keep the team united during difficult phases.

As he steps away from international cricket, Rahane leaves behind a legacy built on determination, humility and memorable contributions to Indian cricket. His role in India’s historic triumph in Australia will remain one of the defining chapters of his career.

Motherhood made me stronger: Seema Kaliramna



Indian discus thrower Seema Kaliramna has said that returning to competitive sport after becoming a mother taught her patience and made her mentally stronger as she prepares for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The 27-year-old athlete said balancing training, her PhD and family responsibilities was challenging, but every difficulty helped her develop greater resilience. She credited her family and the Inspire Institute of Sport team for supporting her journey and helping her remain focused on her goals.

“Returning to competition after becoming a mother taught me to be more patient with myself,” Seema said, adding that she had learned to handle challenges with discipline and determination. After making a successful comeback, Seema won gold at the 2025 National Games and claimed the national title. She enters the Commonwealth Games in the best form of her career, having achieved a personal best of 59.73 metres earlier this season. Seema said consistency was as important as distance in discus throw. She believes steady improvement, repeated technical work and trust in the training process are essential for delivering strong performances when they matter most.

Her husband and coach, Ravinder Kaliramna, praised her discipline and consistency, saying she had never looked for shortcuts while balancing motherhood, academics and sport. Seema said her focus in Glasgow would be on enjoying the competition, executing her throws effectively and continuing to improve. She hopes to carry her strong season into the Commonwealth Games and make a significant impact on the international stage.

Visibility concerns prompt India’s Jersey change

NEW DELHI

Hockey India President Dilip Kumar Tirkey on Thursday said the decision to change the Indian men’s and women’s hockey teams’ jersey colour from traditional blue to saffron for the upcoming FIH World Cup was based on technical concerns raised by players, coaches and support staff.

Hockey India recently unveiled the new saffron jerseys for the World Cup, scheduled to begin in the Netherlands and Belgium next month. The move triggered widespread debate, with former India captain Viren Rasquinha questioning the decision to move away from the team’s iconic blue colour.

Explaining the decision,

Tirkey said blue jerseys could create visibility problems when players compete on blue hockey turf. He said the players and team management had suggested saffron and yellow as alternative colours.

“The change from blue to orange was made on the recommendation of the players, coaching staff and support staff,” Tirkey said. “The players and coaches selected saffron because it is also one of the colours of the Indian national flag.”

He stressed that the decision was made for technical reasons and should not be turned into an unnecessary controversy.

Tirkey noted that India had worn different jersey colours at major tournaments in the past, including yellow in 2014



and sky blue in 2018.

He added that Hockey India would remain open to changing the jersey colour in the future if players were uncomfortable with saffron. The men’s and women’s World Cups are scheduled to begin on August 14 and 15, respectively.

CWG: Sreeshankar wins silver, Lokesh finishes fifth

GLASGOW

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar secured the silver medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games after producing a best leap of 8.09 metres in a closely contested men’s long jump final at Scotstoun Stadium.

Jamaica’s Tajay Gayle won the gold medal with a jump of 8.15 metres, while Scotland’s Stephen Mackenzie claimed bronze with an effort of 8.08 metres. The narrow margins between the top three athletes highlighted the intensity of the competition.

Sreeshankar, who had a season-best mark of 8.38 metres before the Games, competed in challenging conditions, with temperatures below 17 degrees in Glasgow. Despite the difficult weather, the Indian athlete delivered a strong performance to earn his second consecutive Commonwealth Games silver medal.



The 27-year-old said the medal was dedicated to everyone who supported him during difficult periods, as well as those who doubted whether he would return to competitive jumping.

“For everyone who supported me during the tough times and everyone who said that I won’t be jumping again ever in my career, this medal is for them,” Sreeshankar said.

India’s Lokesh Sathyanathan also produced a commendable performance, finishing fifth with a best jump of 7.97 metres.

The result added another medal to India’s athletics campaign at the Glasgow Games and underlined Sreeshankar’s consistency on the international stage. His silver medal followed his second-place finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.



Indian trio qualifies for Javelin final

GLASGOW

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav and Yash Vir Singh qualified for the men’s javelin throw final at the 2026 Commonwealth Games after finishing among the top 12 performers in the qualification round on Thursday.

Competing in challenging windy conditions, no athlete managed to cross the automatic qualifying mark of 84 metres. The Indian trio advanced based on their positions in the overall standings. Neeraj secured fifth place with a best throw of 79.61 metres in his second attempt and chose not to take his final throw. Rohit finished ninth with an effort of 78.37 metres, while Yash Vir claimed the 10th position with a throw of 78.36 metres. The final is scheduled for Friday. Neeraj returned to the Com-

FORTY WICKETS MARK HISTORIC PACE BATTLE

TRINIDAD

The first Test between West Indies and Pakistan at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba produced a rare record as fast bowlers claimed all 40 wickets to fall during the match.

West Indies defeated Pakistan by 90 runs after the visitors were bowled out for 120 while chasing a target of 211. The result gave the Caribbean side a memorable victory in a contest dominated by pace bowling.

Pakistan’s fast bowlers captured all 20 West Indies wickets across the two innings, while the West Indies pace attack took all 20 Pakistan wickets. It was the first time in the history of Test cricket in the Caribbean that all 40 wickets in a match had been taken by fast bowlers.

The achievement surpassed the previous record of 39 wickets claimed by pacers during the West Indies-Australia pink-ball Test at Sabina Park in Kingston in 2025.

Justin Greaves was named Player of the Match after taking seven wickets, including a five-wicket haul in Pakistan’s first innings. Jaden Seales sealed the West Indies victory with a superb five for 20 in the second innings.



MATCH SUMMARY			
WEST INDIES vs PAKISTAN			
INNING	TOTAL RUNS (WICKETS)	TOP BATTERS	TOP BOWLERS
WEST INDIES (1st INNINGS)	311/10	• Shai Hope (92) • Kavem Hodge (84)	• Mohammad Ali (4/50) • Aamir Jamal (3/62)
PAKISTAN (1st INNINGS)	282/10	• Shan Masood (109) • Saud Shafeel (60)	• Justin Greaves (5/27) • Alzarri Joseph (2/65)
WEST INDIES (2nd INNINGS)	181/10	• Shamar Joseph (38) • Joshua Da Silva (27)	• Mohammad Abbas (5/22) • Mohammad Ali (3/45)
PAKISTAN (2nd INNINGS)	120/10	• Babar Azam (58*) • Abdullah Shafique (15)	• Jayden Seales (5/20) • Justin Greaves (2/35)

For Pakistan, Mohammad Abbas claimed eight wickets in the match, including five for 22 in the second innings. Mohammad Ali also impressed with six wickets.

Pakistan had begun their final innings with a manageable target but struggled against the West Indies pace

attack. Babar Azam remained unbeaten on 58, but received little support as the visitors collapsed to 120.

The match highlighted the enduring strength of Caribbean fast bowling and produced one of the most remarkable pace-dominated records in Test cricket.

DE MINAUR SURVIVES TOUGH WASHINGTON OPENER

WASHINGTON

Defending champion Alex de Minaur of Australia overcame Greece’s Stefanos Tsitsipas in a hard-fought three-set contest to advance at the Mubadala DC Open in Washington.

De Minaur required just over two hours to secure a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory in his opening-round match. Despite serving eight double faults and only four aces, the Australian raised his game in the deciding set, earning the only service break to take a 3-1 lead before closing out the contest.

In second-round action, third-seeded American Taylor Fritz defeated Poland’s Kam-

il Majchrzak 6-3, 6-4. Fritz fired 14 aces, won 90 per cent of his first-serve points and did not face a single break point. He will meet fellow American Alex Michelsen in the quarterfinals.

Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti also advanced after defeating Australia’s Aleksandar Vukic 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. He will face Spain’s Rafael Jodar, who beat Japan’s Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-2.

At the Mifel Tennis Open in Los Cabos, Hong Kong’s Coleman Wong produced the biggest victory of his career by upsetting top-seeded Czech player Jiri Lehecka 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Ranked 108th in the world, Wong fired 16 aces and reached the quarterfinals.

Australia’s Bernard Tomic also caused an upset by defeating fourth-seeded Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-4.



PM Modi hails India’s CWG medalists

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated para sprinters Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath, along with long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, for their medal-winning performances at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Gavit won the gold medal in the men’s 100m T47 event with a Games-record time of 10.71 seconds. His compatriot, Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath, secured the silver medal with a season-best timing of 10.83 seconds, completing a historic one-two finish in India.

Congratulating Gavit in a post on X, the Prime Minister praised his speed, determination and dedication.

“A phenomenal performance by Dilip Mahadu Gavit,” Modi said, noting that the para athlete had won gold with a remarkable timing, set a new Commonwealth Games record and achieved his season’s best performance.

Modi said Gavit’s achievement had made the nation proud and conveyed his best wishes for the athlete’s future endeavours.



The Prime Minister also congratulated Basil for his silver-medal-winning performance and praised his determination and consistency.

“A superb silver for Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath,” Modi said, describing the race as an impressive display of speed and determination. He added that Basil’s success reflected his hard work and focus and expressed hope that the athlete would continue to achieve greater milestones.

Murali Sreeshankar added another silver medal to India’s athletics campaign after producing his best jump of the season in the men’s long-jump event. The medal marked another significant achievement for the Indian athlete at the Commonwealth Games.

Congratulating Sreeshankar, Modi described his performance as exceptional and said the long jumper’s success would inspire young athletes across the country to pursue excellence in athletics.

“An outstanding silver for Sreeshankar,” the Prime Minister said, praising him for winning the medal with his best leap of the season.

The three medals further strengthened India’s athletics campaign at the Glasgow Games, with Gavit’s record-breaking gold and the Indian one-two finish in the men’s 100m T47 emerging as major highlights.

QUICK READ

South Korea plans curbs on leveraged ETFs

SEOUL

South Korea's financial regulator said it will introduce additional measures "as early as possible" to cool the rapidly growing single-stock leveraged exchange-traded fund (ETF) market amid concerns over heightened volatility, sharp sell-offs and mounting retail investor losses. The Financial Services Commission (FSC) announced the move after an emergency market inspection meeting with related agencies. It plans to establish legal grounds for market-stabilisation measures by revising the Capital Markets Act in coordination with the Financial Supervisory Service. Brokerages may also be required to limit the maximum investment in single-stock leveraged ETFs to prevent investors from placing a major share of their assets in high-risk products.

Mercedes-Benz recalls over 310,000 US vehicles

WASHINGTON

Mercedes-Benz is recalling 310,667 vehicles in the United States due to a potential defect that may prevent the system from detecting an open driver's door, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The recall covers several models, including the CLA, A-Class, C-Class, GLC, GLA, GLB and GLC. Dealers will replace the driver's door lock free of charge. The issue is linked to corrosion in a micro-switch within the driver's door lock. If the system fails to detect that the door is open, the automatic parking brake may not engage as intended, increasing the risk of the vehicle rolling away. Mercedes-Benz is expected to notify affected vehicle owners and provide the necessary repairs at no cost.

ISM 2.0 marks landmark year for India

NEW DELHI

India's semiconductor sector is entering a landmark year with the rollout of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, backed by an outlay of ₹1.27 lakh crore, MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan said. Three semiconductor units, including facilities linked to Micron, Tata and CG Power, have entered commercial production, while two more are expected to begin operations by year-end. ISM 2.0 will strengthen semiconductor fabs, advanced packaging, equipment, materials and high-purity chemical ecosystems. The revised Design Linked Incentive scheme will also support larger companies and encourage private investment. Krishnan said sustained government-industry collaboration is vital for India's semiconductor growth.

Zuckerberg defends massive AI infrastructure investment

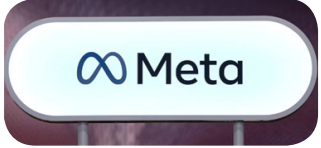
The sharp fall contributed to a 9% drop in the company's shares in premarket trading

BENGALURU

Meta Platforms' massive investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure has intensified investor concerns over how the company plans to generate returns from its rapidly expanding computing capacity, even as Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg argues that the infrastructure will be a valuable strategic asset.

The Facebook and Instagram parent is spending billions of dollars on AI-related chips, servers, energy systems and data centres. The investment drove Meta's free cash flow down to \$784 million in the second quarter, a decline of 91% from a year earlier.

Zuckerberg said Meta could use its computing capacity to support its own AI ambitions while also renting some capacity to outside businesses. He



acknowledged that the company had received offers from organisations willing to pay a substantial premium to access its computing resources.

However, the company faces a strategic dilemma. Selling computing capacity could generate additional revenue and ease pressure on cash flow, but it could also divert scarce resources from Meta's efforts to develop advanced AI models, consumer products and business services.

Zuckerberg said selling AI-powered "intelligence" could eventually generate higher profit margins than directly selling computing power. He added that Meta sees opportunities in both areas.

The company is betting that AI-powered personal assistants could become widely used by consumers, while AI agents may help businesses manage customer service, sales and marketing. However, investors have sought greater clarity on how these products and services will justify Meta's rapidly rising capital expenditure.

Meta has raised the lower end of its capital spending forecast by \$5 billion, taking its projected investment range to between \$130 billion and \$145 billion.

Chief Financial Officer Susan Li said the investment was justified because the technology industry had historically underbuilt infrastructure for expected AI demand. She said computing capacity was likely to remain constrained for the foreseeable future and could create oppor-

tunities for Meta to earn returns through AI products, enterprise services and compute sales.

Analysts, however, have noted that Meta is investing at the scale of major cloud providers without having a comparable cloud-computing business. Unlike Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon, which can directly sell large amounts of data-centre capacity through established cloud platforms, Meta remains heavily dependent on advertising revenue.

Some investors have also drawn comparisons with Meta's costly metaverse push, which generated significant losses without developing into a major revenue source. The company now faces pressure to demonstrate that its AI investment can produce sustainable growth and stronger long-term returns.

AI detects false 'Made in USA' claims

NEW YORK

Artificial intelligence shopping assistants operated by Amazon and Walmart can often identify potentially false "Made in USA" claims in online product listings but are not being used to systematically flag or remove such listings, according to a new study.

The study was published by Columbia Law School's Center for Law and the Economy, a research centre launched after former U.S. Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan returned to the university.

Researchers found that Amazon's Alexa for Shopping and Walmart's Sparky AI assistant were capable of identifying inconsistencies between explicit "Made in USA" labels and other information contained in product listings.

The findings have renewed concerns about the incentives shaping the use of AI shopping tools, particularly when retailers may prioritise increasing customer spending and sales over stronger enforcement against misleading product claims.

According to the study, when researchers asked the AI assistants why retailers were not doing more to identify questionable origin labels, the chatbots referred to business considerations and the role of regulators.

Walmart's Sparky reportedly stated that the FTC generally enforces "Made in USA"



rules against manufacturers rather than retailers. Walmart did not immediately comment on the findings.

An Amazon spokesperson said country-of-origin information is displayed on product-detail pages when available and that the company is continuing to improve Alexa for Shopping to make such information more accessible to customers.

Under FTC rules, products advertised as "Made in USA" must be "all or virtually all" made in the United States. The FTC had urged Amazon and Walmart last year to take stronger action against inaccurate claims made by third-party sellers, citing company policies that require sellers to provide accurate product information.

Lina Khan said the findings demonstrated that improvements in AI capability do not automatically ensure that technology will be used to protect consumers.

"Even as AI tools continue to grow in sophistication and capability, business incentives will shape how these advancements are deployed," Khan said, adding that policymakers and enforcement agencies have an important role in ensuring that consumers are protected.

Asian hedge funds face record monthly losses

HONG KONG

Asia-focused equity hedge funds are heading for their biggest monthly losses on record after a broad sell-off in artificial intelligence-related stocks erased a substantial portion of the gains generated by heavily concentrated investments in the sector, according to a Goldman Sachs note.

Asia-focused fundamental long-short funds had declined by an average of 18.6% during July through July 28, Goldman Sachs said in its latest prime brokerage report to clients.

The funds had ranked among the world's strongest performers during the first half of the year after making early investments in AI hardware companies, including South Korean semiconductor manufacturers SK Hynix and

AI fund sell-off

Crowded AI investments led to massive early-year gains, but a sharp market reversal erased twenty-one percentage points. Investors now question infrastructure returns, causing steep monthly losses as Asian semiconductor stocks and leveraged positions face heavy pressure.

Samsung Electronics. Some funds reportedly generated returns of more than 100% during the period.

However, the sharp reversal in AI-related shares has significantly affected those gains.

The investment bank said crowded positions in AI-related companies, which had driven strong returns during the first half of the year, were now contributing to unusually large monthly losses. Funds with

greater exposure to AI themes were experiencing steeper declines.

Asian semiconductor stocks fell sharply this week, with South Korea leading the regional market sell-off. Investors have increasingly questioned whether the enormous amounts being invested in AI infrastructure will generate sufficient returns, while the unwinding of leveraged positions has added pressure to technology shares.

South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index fell nearly 11% on Tuesday, recording its worst single trading session in about five months.

Hedge funds responded to the market volatility by taking profits and reducing investment risk. According to Goldman Sachs, Asian hedge funds had reduced their overall market exposure for eight consecutive trading days as of July

27. The bank said the cumulative reduction in gross exposure over five trading days was the largest on record. Recent selling has been concentrated in markets including Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and China.

Vikas Pershad, a portfolio manager for Asian equities at M&G Investments, said the scale of the market reversal was unprecedented when measured by market capitalisation.

He noted that high trading volumes had amplified the rise in AI-related shares during the earlier rally and were now accelerating the decline as investors exited positions.

The sell-off highlights the risks associated with crowded investment strategies and the growing uncertainty surrounding the financial returns from large-scale AI spending.

AI SHOPPING TOOLS DETECT MISLEADING "MADE IN USA" CLAIMS

- AI Capabilities vs. Action:** Research shows Amazon's Alexa for Shopping and Walmart's Sparky can successfully identify contradictions in product listings (such as a "Made in USA" badge alongside overseas shipping details), but fail to proactively flag them for consumers.
- Business Incentives Over Enforcement:** When questioned by researchers, the chatbots pointed to business considerations and noted that the FTC primarily targets manufacturers rather than retailers, highlighting economic priorities that favor sales over strict policing.
- Regulatory Context:** Under FTC guidelines, items advertised as "Made in USA" must be "all or virtually all" manufactured domestically.
- Corporate Responses:** Amazon stated it displays available country-of-origin data & continues to improve information accessibility via Alexa.

India targets \$500 billion electronics output

NEW DELHI

India is targeting annual electronics and semiconductor production worth \$500 billion by 2030 as part of the Viksit Bharat roadmap, which aims to support the country's transformation into a developed nation by 2047, a senior government said on Thursday.

Addressing the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the government had converted its long-term Viksit Bharat vision into sector-specific action plans with clearly defined milestones for 2030.

Highlighting the importance of electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, Bhatia said India aims to increase annual production from the current level of around \$330 billion to \$500 billion by 2030.

The government has set a much larger long-term target

of expanding electronics and semiconductor production to between \$5.3 trillion and \$8 trillion by 2047.

"These targets will unlock significant manufacturing opportunities," Bhatia said, adding that the government's long-term development strategy covers both economic and social sectors and is intended to accelerate industrial growth.

He said India continued to remain among the world's fastest-growing major economies, supported by sustained reforms and a strong focus on policy implementation over the past decade.

According to Bhatia, reform initiatives have gained further momentum during the past three years through high-level committees working on sector-specific measures and strategies.

He also highlighted the role of a deregulation cell in the Cabinet Secretariat, which is coordinating with State governments to simplify regulations, reduce compliance burdens and improve the ease of doing business.

US growth slows further

WASHINGTON

The United States' real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annualised rate of 1.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2026, according to an advance estimate, indicating a slowdown in economic activity.

The latest figures reflect moderation in growth compared with the previous quarter, amid concerns over consumer spending, business investment and broader economic conditions.

The advance estimate provides an early assessment of the country's economic performance and may be revised as additional data becomes available.

Economists are closely monitoring inflation, employment trends and interest-rate policies to assess the outlook for the world's largest economy.

The revised GDP data is expected to offer a clearer picture of US economic momentum.

M&M Q1 profit rises 34% to ₹5,455 cr

MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) reported a strong financial performance in the first quarter of FY27, with consolidated profit after tax (PAT) rising 34% year-on-year to ₹5,455 crore, despite significant commodity-price inflation that compressed margins in its core automotive and farm businesses.

The company's consolidated PAT increased from ₹4,083 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY26.

Total consolidated revenue rose 28% to ₹58,188 crore, while annualised return on equity (ROE) improved to 23%.

Speaking during the company's quarterly earnings briefing, Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Anish Shah said M&M had faced extraordinary commodity inflation of around 400 to 500 basis points during the quarter.

The rise in input costs resulted in an estimated 150-basis-point compression in profit before interest and



If we consider commodity prices, the PBIT compression in both Auto and Farm is roughly around 150 basis points. Cost reductions and other actions were able to partially cushion the impact.

— Anish Shah, CEO

tax (PBIT) margins across both the automotive and farm tractor businesses. However, internal cost-optimisation initiatives and other strategic measures helped partially offset the impact.

M&M also benefited from improved performance across group companies, including Mahindra Finance, Tech Mahindra and its real-estate business.

The company is deploying 19 proprietary artificial-intelligence models across 15 transformation projects to improve efficiency in areas such as product development, loan processing and shop-floor operations.

Executive Director and CEO of the Auto and Farm Sectors Rajesh Jejurikar said core tractor margins remained within the company's

expected range of 17% to 19%, standing at 19.2% during the quarter.

The consolidated farm business recorded a margin of 14.2% and generated a PAT of ₹1,781 crore. The performance was supported by growing farm mechanisation, strong cash flows following the Rabi season and improved monsoon conditions.

In the automotive segment, core PBIT margin stood at 8.9%. Electric SUVs accounted for 12% of the company's total vehicle volumes during the quarter.

M&M is expanding its SUV production capacity to 68,000 vehicles per month by September 2026 and aims to double its overall manufacturing capacity over the longer term.

AI DEMAND SURGES

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS SEES CHIP SHORTAGES THROUGH 2028

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics expects the global shortage of memory chips to intensify and continue until 2028, as demand from artificial intelligence data centres accelerates. The company has also secured multi-year supply agreements with major data-centre operators to ensure long-term sales and reduce exposure to the semiconductor industry's traditional boom-and-bust cycles.

The South Korean technology giant a more than 250-fold increase in operating

profit at its semiconductor division during the second quarter. The chip business posted an operating profit of 89.2 trillion won, or about \$61.7 billion, supported by strong demand and rising prices for memory chips used in AI infrastructure.

Samsung's overall operating profit reached 89.5 trillion won, broadly in line with its earlier estimate, while group revenue rose 130% to 171.5 trillion won.

The company said it had signed supply agreements with the world's five largest data-centre operators and was

close to completing similar deals with five other major customers. Samsung did not identify the companies.

Jaeyune Kim, Executive Vice President of Samsung's memory business, said almost all major customers were seeking multi-year supply contracts. The company aims to secure long-term agreements covering around two-thirds of its memory-chip output.

The contracts are expected to run for at least five years and generally include advance payments and minimum pricing provisions designed to protect Samsung's large capi-

tal investments.

Despite the strong earnings, investor concerns remain over the enormous spending required to build AI infrastructure and whether technology companies can sustain high returns. Samsung shares rose as much as 8.4% during trading but ended 0.7% lower. Rival SK Hynix declined 5.6%.

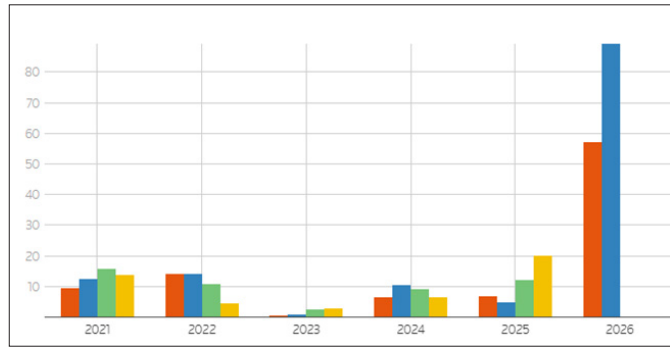
Samsung's semiconductor division recorded a record operating-profit margin of about 70%. However, analysts warned that investors were increasingly questioning how long the industry's exception-

ally high margins could be maintained.

Rising memory-chip prices also affected Samsung's mobile business, which reported its first quarterly loss, with a deficit of 700 billion won. Analysts said the company had become increasingly dependent on memory-chip prices and continued demand from large data-centre operators.

Samsung said its strong semiconductor performance had significantly improved its financial position, with net cash reaching 167 trillion won at the end of June.

Samsung's Q2 profit jumps 19-fold thanks to AI boom



Allu Arjun urges positivity amid online troll culture





Icon Star Allu Arjun has faced criticism on social media after a remark made during his annual fan meet in Hyderabad.

While addressing thousands of fans, he urged people to avoid spreading hate online and encouraged them to spend time on positive activities instead of trolling others.

During his speech, the actor told fans, critics and online trolls not to waste their time hating people they dislike.

However, one example he used while explaining his point attracted criticism, with many social media users calling the comment inappropriate. Several internet users said the remark could be interpreted as encouraging stalking and felt that public figures should be more careful while addressing large audiences. Many posts on social media ques-

tioned the choice of words and stressed that celebrities have a responsibility to promote safe and respectful behaviour.

The video of the speech quickly spread across social media platforms, leading to widespread discussion. As of now, Allu Arjun has not issued any public response to the criticism or clarified his statement.

Despite the controversy, the actor continues to focus on his film commitments. He is currently working on the upcoming film "Raaka", directed by Atlee, which also features Deepika Padukone.

He is also preparing for another major project with director Lokesh Kanagaraj, tentatively titled "AA23".

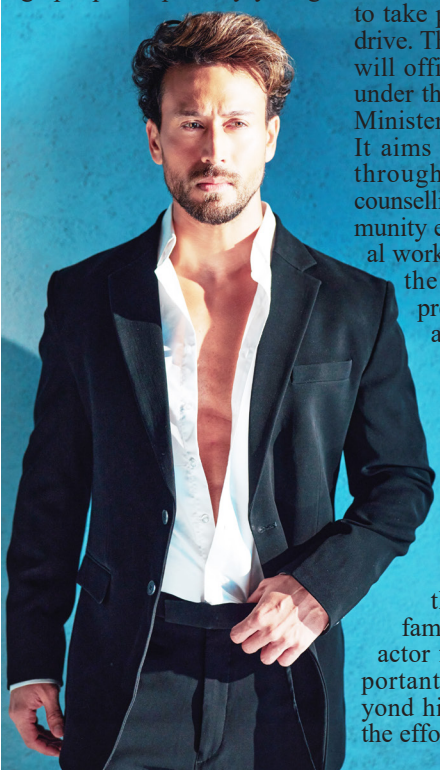
The incident has sparked fresh conversations about the influence of celebrities and the importance of responsible public communication. Fans and critics continue to debate the remarks online, while many await a response from the actor regarding the controversy and the concerns raised over his statement.

TIGER SHROFF supports Nasha Mukti Mumbai campaign

Actor Tiger Shroff has joined the Maharashtra government's Nasha Mukti Mumbai campaign to encourage people, especially young citizens, to stay away from drugs and support a healthier future.

He shared a short video on social media urging everyone to take part in the awareness drive. The year-long campaign will officially begin in Worli under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. It aims to spread awareness through schools, colleges, counselling programmes, community events, and educational workshops. Officials hope the initiative will help prevent substance abuse and protect future generations effectively.

Tiger said a drug-free Mumbai begins with every citizen taking responsibility. He asked people to support the campaign and make positive choices for themselves and their families. Fans praised the actor for promoting an important social message beyond his film career, calling the effort inspiring.



Grammy CEO addresses BTS' 2027 Awards decision

Grammy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. has reacted to BTS' decision not to submit their music for the 2027 Grammy Awards.

The K-pop group announced that they would skip the awards process, saying they wanted their music to be appreciated without being separated by region or language.

Mason said he was saddened by the decision but respected the group's choice as music creators. He also clarified that the introduction of the Best Asian Pop category was not created to limit K-pop artists. Instead, he said the category aims to celebrate the growth and diversity of Asian music.

The Grammy chief explained that artists submitting in genre categories can still compete in major sections such as Record of the Year, Album of the Year, and Song of the Year. He added that recognition in different categories can happen together and does not prevent artists from receiving wider nominations.

BTS members RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook shared the same statement about their decision.



Kriti Sanon expresses desire to work with Allu Arjun

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has expressed her wish to work with Telugu superstar Allu Arjun in a future film.

The National Award-winning actress praised his acting skills and described him as one of the most versatile performers in Indian cinema during a recent interview.

Kriti said she was deeply impressed by Allu Arjun's performance in the blockbuster film "Pushpa." She also admired his ability to play different kinds of characters throughout his career. Calling him a fantastic actor, she said sharing screen space with him would be a memorable experience.

Although Kriti has shared her inter-

est, there is no official announcement about a film featuring the two stars together. Allu Arjun is currently busy with director Atlee's upcoming project and several other professional commitments, making any collaboration uncertain at present.

Kriti also has a connection with one of Allu Arjun's biggest hits, as she appeared in the Hindi remake of "Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo." While fans are excited about the possibility of seeing the actors together, no plans have been confirmed.



Vijay Deverakonda celebrates Pelli Choopulu with gratitude

Actor Vijay Deverakonda shared an emotional message as his breakthrough film Pelli Choopulu completed 10 years since its release. The actor reflected on the journey that changed his career and thanked everyone who supported him during the early days of his film industry journey. Released on July 29, 2016, Pelli Choopulu became a major success and established Vijay as a leading actor in Telugu cinema. In his social media post, he said the film gave him confidence to believe in his dreams and described it as the most important turning point of his life. Vijay expressed heartfelt gratitude to director Tharun Bhascker, saying he would always cherish their friendship and creative partnership. He also thanked co-star Ritu Varma, actor Priyadarshi, composer Vivek Sagar and other members of the film's team for their contribution to its success. The actor appreciated producers Yash Rangineni and Raj Kandukuri for supporting the project when many others had rejected it. Reflecting on the past decade, Vijay said he was no longer the carefree young man he once was and now carried greater responsibilities. He added that he would continue choosing films with passion and sincerity rather than focusing only on success.



KHUSHI DUBEY HIGHLIGHTS AI CYBERCRIME THREAT AGAINST WOMEN

Actress Khushi Dubey has spoken about her role in the web series "Service Girl," which explores the growing threat of AI-powered cybercrime against women.

She said the story focuses on courage, resilience, and rebuilding confidence after digital abuse. Khushi plays Divya, a young woman whose life changes after someone allegedly creates fake AI-generated content using her identity. The character struggles when people refuse to believe her innocence.

She said the series reflects real incidents reported across the country and encourages victims to seek support instead of losing hope.

The actress said her upbringing in Prayagraj helped her understand the character's behaviour, appearance, and emotions. She explained that observing women with similar backgrounds allowed her to present the role naturally on screen. Khushi added that the performance challenged her as an actor and gave her an opportunity to tell a meaningful

story through her work.

The series also stars Mallobika Banerji and Nishad Vaidya and premiered on Hungama OTT on July 30. Khushi said she hopes viewers connect with the message and become more aware of the dangers of online crimes involving artificial intelligence. She believes awareness, timely action, and stronger support systems can help protect people from such offences while encouraging responsible use of technology in everyday life for everyone.

Bengaluru gears up for grand Toxic trailer launch

Kannada superstar Yash is preparing to begin the final promotional campaign for his much-awaited pan-India action film "Toxic," with a grand trailer launch event scheduled in Bengaluru on August 8.

The movie is set for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26 and has already created strong excitement among fans. The promotional event is expected to feature Yash along with the film's leading cast, making it one of the biggest entertainment gatherings before the release. The team recently completed promotions for "Ramayana" and is now focusing entirely on "Toxic."

Actors Nayanthara, Ki-

ara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth and Tara Sutaria are expected to attend the event with the filmmakers. Directed by Geethu Mohandas, the period action drama is jointly produced by Yash and Venkat K. Narayana. Reports suggest Yash will appear in dual roles as both father and son, adding to the film's appeal.

The intense promotional material has already attracted attention among audiences.

"Toxic" is Yash's first theatrical release since the blockbuster success of "KGF: Chapter 2," raising expectations for another memorable box office performance across India and overseas.



Sonali Bendre begins new journey with Solha

Actress Sonali Bendre has announced a new chapter in her career by presenting the upcoming film "Solha." She said the project is special because it reflects the kind of meaningful stories she has always admired. According to the actress, the film explores hope, resilience, and the inner strength of ordinary people.

Speaking about the project, Sonali said she enjoys stories that remain with audiences long after they end. She explained that "Solha" immediately connected with her because of its emotional message and inspiring themes. She also expressed her wish to support films that encourage people to think differently and appreciate meaningful storytelling.

Director and writer Saaikat Bagbaan said the film was created to celebrate hope and the courage shown by everyday people. He added that having Sonali Bendre present the film and the support of Rose Movies has strengthened the project and encouraged the entire team during its journey.

Produced by Rose Movies and CarryOn Pictures, "Solha" is written and directed by Saaikat Bagbaan. The film is scheduled to release in cinemas on October 16.

Sonali said she hopes audiences leave theatres feeling inspired and emotionally connected to the story. The project marks her first venture as a presenter and reflects her commitment to promoting powerful stories that deserve wider recognition and appreciation from movie lovers across the country.

Andrew Garfield reacts after Artificial finds new studio

Actor Andrew Garfield has shared his thoughts after Amazon MGM Studios decided not to release the upcoming film "Artificial," which is based on events involving OpenAI chief Sam Altman.

Garfield said he was both surprised and understanding about the decision, adding that the studio had supported the project throughout its production.

The film, directed by Luca Guadagnino, tells the story of Sam Altman's dismissal and return to OpenAI in 2023. Garfield, who plays Altman, said he appreciated Amazon's encouragement during filming and believed the movie had found the right home after being acquired by Neon. The new studio has also announced plans to campaign for the film during this year's awards season.

Garfield revealed that he never contacted Altman while preparing for the role because he had no direct way to reach him. However, he said he would gladly meet and speak with the technology leader if given the opportunity. The actor explained that he relied on interviews, videos, and public reports to understand the character while accepting that no person can ever be fully understood.

Actor Cooper Hoffman, who also appears in the film, said he was not surprised by Amazon's decision and welcomed Neon's involvement.