

Government of Karnataka



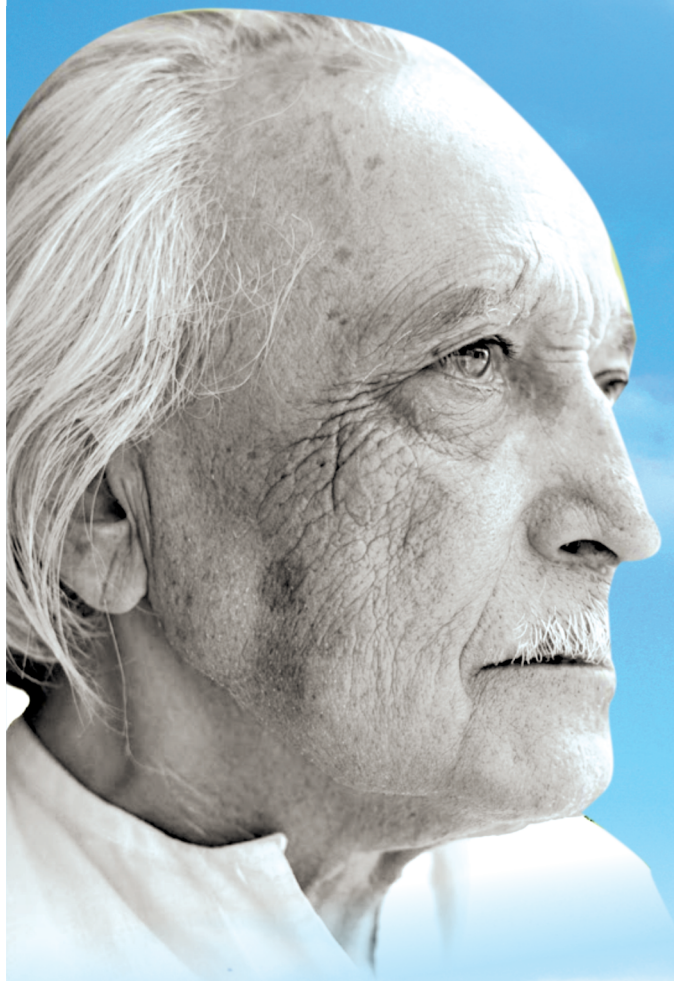
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Shri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for
Greater Bengaluru Development



Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shanthi Nagar Assembly
Constituency & Chairman,
Bangalore Development Authority



Distribution of Compensation to Landowners in

Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth Layout

Date: 31.08.2026 **Time:** 11.30 AM

Place : U.R. Rao Bhavan, Nehru Planetarium,
T. Chowdaiah Road, Bengaluru

Heartfelt thanks
to all the landowners
for their cooperation.

Applications are invited from the public
for the allotment of 2,800 sites.



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Bangalore Development Authority
T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

24/7 Helpline / WhatsApp : 94831 66622
<https://bdakarnataka.in> / @BDAOfficialGoK



Quick Read

HIV survivors face higher heart disease risk: Reports

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Doctors in Bengaluru have issued a strong warning that people living with HIV face a much higher risk of heart disease compared to others. Medical experts at the Jayadeva Heart Institute explain that the virus triggers ongoing inflammation, which damages blood vessels and raises heart attack dangers. Even with effective virus treatment, aging patients remain vulnerable to blocked arteries. Specialists advise everyone with HIV to schedule regular ECG screenings, manage their blood pressure, quit smoking, and maintain a healthy lifestyle to protect their long-term health and prevent dangerous complications.

Gang extorts lakhs, steals cash after luring man via dating app

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A young man looking for love on a dating app fell into a dangerous trap after a woman invited him to meet at a pub near Electronics City. Once he arrived, she picked him up in a car and drove him to a dark, isolated spot. Four men suddenly appeared, threatened to kill him, and bundled him into another vehicle. The gang forced him to reveal his ATM PIN, stole cash, and transferred lakhs online. After terrorizing him all night, they dumped him near a metro station. Local police have launched a manhunt for the criminals.

PM praises Bengaluru street vendor in 137th ‘Mann Ki Baat’

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised a Bengaluru street vendor named Ningamma during his 137th Mann Ki Baat broadcast. Originally from Hassan, Ningamma runs a small roadside food hotel near the Hosahalli Metro Station on Magadi Road. She successfully turned her life around after taking financial support through the PM Swamidhi scheme, which empowers street vendors. With the profits earned from her hard work, she achieved self-reliance and managed to provide a good education for her children. Modi highlighted her inspiring journey as a prime example of women's empowerment and grassroots economic growth across India.

Water released to canals as key Karnataka dams fill up

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Monsoon showers continue to drench several parts of Karnataka, bringing steady water into major dams across the state. Farmers are finding relief as important reservoirs in both the Cauvery and Krishna river basins fill up nicely to support ongoing agricultural work. The Harangi reservoir in Kodagu district stands out as it sits right on the brink of its maximum capacity. Sitting at 2,858.70 feet against a maximum mark of 2,859 feet, it is getting an inflow of 3,695 cusecs while releasing 2,963 cusecs of water down below. Up north, the massive Al-matti Dam across the Krishna River in the Vijayapura district is also touching its peak limit. Its water level has reached 519.57 meters, just a tiny fraction away from the maximum limit of 519.60 meters. Strong inflows of 24,846 cusecs are rushing into the dam, prompting authorities to manage the flow by releasing 26,883 cusecs. Meanwhile, water management is in full swing in the Cauvery basin. The Krish-

No confusion: Vijayendra clears air on padayatra

Karnataka BJP chief B.Y. Vijayendra brushes off alliance friction, uniting with H.D. Kumaraswamy for September's sweeping anti-government padayatra.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra has firmly dismissed any internal division or confusion surrounding the party's upcoming anti-government padayatra, asserting that he has directly coordinated with key coalition partner leader H.D. Kumaraswamy to ensure complete alignment ahead of the demonstrations. Addressing media personnel at the BJP state office Jagannath Bhavan in Malleshwaram, Vijayendra responded to recent remarks made by Union Minister Kumaraswamy, who had publicly questioned the rationale of holding a massive protest march following the resignation of embattled minister B. Nagendra. While Kumaraswamy had noted a lack of coordination regarding the precise timing and scope of the protest, Vijayendra clarified that Nagendra's departure is merely one of ten critical is-



Nagendra's resignation is just one part of our protest. We are marching forward with a comprehensive list of ten major issues affecting the state. - State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra

sues driving the upcoming state-wide agitation. "I myself have spoken directly to H.D. Kumaraswamy regarding the march, and we sat down together in the presence of Opposition Leader R. Ashok to iron out all details," Vijayendra stated, emphasizing that senior central leader-

Issues highlighting the march

Sector / Issue	Core demand & details
Financial scandals	Return misused Valmiki Corporation funds (Rs 185 crores) and account for SEP/TSP fund allocations.
Infrastructure	Implement the Hosapete parallel reservoir project in Koppal without further delays.
Employment	Fulfill poll promises by providing jobs to 2.5 lakh unemployed youth in the state.
Regional & social concerns	Address North Karnataka development gaps, drought relief, and safeguard social reservations.

ship has greenlit the initiative. "This padayatra is not built on a single talking point. We are marching to hold the ruling Congress government accountable across eight to ten major areas of governance failure and corruption." The scheduled demonstration, which kicks off in Lingasur on September 1, will tackle a broad spectrum of grievances. Prominent among them is the high-profile Valmiki Development Corporation scam, where the BJP is demanding the immediate

restitution of one hundred eighty-five crores of misappropriated public funds back into the corporation. Other core pillars of the march include pushing for the implementation of the Hosapete parallel reservoir project in Koppal, fulfilling unkept electoral promises to generate two and a half lakh jobs for local youth, addressing severe infrastructure stagnation across North Karnataka, and demanding relief for drought-stricken agricultural districts.

Karnataka launches 1,250 public EV charging stations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Electric vehicle drivers across Karnataka are set to experience a major boost in travel convenience. The state government is actively rolling out a comprehensive plan to install 1,250 public electric vehicle charging stations across various government-owned properties. Backed by the central government's 'PM E-DRIVE' scheme, this initiative aims to clear the biggest hurdle for electric vehicle owners by expanding reliable charging infrastructure. Energy Department Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta recently led a crucial meeting with senior officials from different departments, including BESCOM, to fast-track the project. Authorities have been instructed to quickly hand over identified spaces. Out of 687 locations initially surveyed by the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries, 515 sites have already earned official approval during the first phase of the rollout. These upcoming charging hubs are divided into two primary categories to maximize public accessibility.

Kumaraswamy questions govt handling of KPSC scandals

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched a ferocious broadside against the ruling Congress administration in Karnataka, zeroing in on deep-seated corruption scandals, widespread administrative irregularities, and alleged government-backed manipulation surrounding the Karnataka Public Service Commission. Addressing a high-stakes media conference at the Janata Dal (Secular) office, Kumaraswamy directed sharp scrutiny toward Home Minister Priyank Kharge, demanding full transparency regarding the handling of suspended KPSC Secretary Gyanendra Kumar. The senior politician alleged that Kumar, who had been detained in connection with sweeping recruitment irregularities, was covertly brought back from another state and sheltered in a resort near Devanahalli for three days under official protection. "Who sent the IAS officer to Delhi, and who gave him permission?" Kumaraswamy challenged, pointing out the suspicious timeline surrounding the investigation. "After sending him to Delhi, when

something went wrong, his associates moved him across state lines. Once the Internal Security Division raided and initiated a probe, he was brought back to Devanahalli and kept hidden in a resort for three days. Who arranged that hospitality? Don't you have any intelligence on this?" The former Chief Minister also fired back at attempts by the ruling establishment to deflect blame onto past administrations regarding historical KPSC appointments. Rejecting accusations concerning his own tenure between 2006 and 2007, Kumaraswamy emphasized that he consciously elevated qualified individuals from marginalized communities to high offices rather than favoring personal relatives or narrow caste circles, explicitly noting that he appointed a member of the Dalit community to head the commission during his term.

Shifting focus to current administrative scandals, Kumaraswamy exposed glaring systemic failures in recent government recruitments, cit-



The officer was brought back and kept in a resort for three days. Who gave permission, and who is protecting them? -Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

Allegations and counter-claims

- Resort Exams:** The Union Minister accused authorities of allowing candidates to bypass fair testing methods through improper resort-based arrangements.
- Legal Failures:** He pointed out that despite clear letters from KPSC leadership requesting the stoppage of controversial RDPR appointment lists, the government proceeded to distribute orders to 24 candidates.
- Court Stays:** Highlighting recent judicial interventions, Kumaraswamy noted that the HC recently issued a stay on Irrigation Department junior engineer appointments due to glaring process flaws.

ing the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department appointments where twenty-four candidates received appointment orders despite express written objections from the KPSC chairman and secretary.

Tejasvi Surya, Yellappa Reddy lead protest over 5 % park rule

Citizens, environmentalists, and leaders unite in Bengaluru, marching from Lalbagh and launching a postcard campaign to fiercely oppose park commercialization.



Horanadu, Pranitha Subhash, and Sudha Belawadi. While the state government defends the amendment as a necessary step toward urban development, critics argue it threatens crucial green lungs. Protesters stressed that while nobody opposes progress, carving out commercial spaces inside historical green zones like Lalbagh - home to ancient rock formations—is a destructive mistake made without public consultation. In addition to the physical march, a creative grassroots campaign has gained immense momentum. Residents have launched a massive postcard movement right outside Lalbagh's west gate, urging citizens to mail direct appeals to the Chief Minister. Organizers set an ambitious target of collecting and sending 3,000 protest letters, building on a previous batch of 1,000 letters written by worried urban residents just a day prior. Protesters hope these mounting actions will compel the administration to rethink the commercialization policy and safeguard the city's remaining ecological heritage.

Al-Hind terror conspirator receives 7 year sentence

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Bengaluru has sentenced Syed Fasiur Rehman, a key accused in the high-profile Al-Hind ISIS terror conspiracy case, to 7 years of rigorous imprisonment alongside a fine of 48000 rupees. The high-stakes legal proceedings trace back to January 10, 2020, when the Bengaluru Police initially registered a case before the probe was officially handed over to the NIA later that month. Federal investigators have since filed three comprehensive charge sheets targeting 20 individuals linked to the underground network. Rehman marks the second major conviction in the trial which commenced in October 2025 following the sentencing of co-accused Haneef Khan earlier in July after a guilty plea. According to the NIA's extensive findings, the broader terrorist plot was mastermind-

ed by prime accused Mehaboob Pasha. Pasha allegedly hosted a series of clandestine meetings at his residence in the Gurappanapalya neighborhood of Bengaluru. The radicalized cell plotted targeted assassinations designed to spark violent communal unrest, all in furtherance of the proscribed Islamic State's agenda to establish a local territorial province in India. Investigators established that Rehman actively participated in these secretive sessions. Beyond the planning phase, he directly facilitated logistical preparations by purchasing outdoor tents and tactical knives from a commercial Decathlon sports showroom to train cell members during militant jungle camps. Federal anti-terror authorities confirmed that the judicial process remains active as teams continue working to identify and track down the shadowy online handlers who orchestrated the module from overseas.

MINISTER GOWDA TAKES ACTION OVER STREET LIGHT FAILURE

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has launched an aggressive crack-down on municipal negligence after a surprise night inspection exposed widespread infrastructural failures across the city's key thoroughfares. The decisive intervention follows

months of mounting public frustration and repeated administrative warnings regarding dark, hazardous roads that compromise commuter safety. The crisis came to light when the minister conducted an unannounced spot check along the major corridor stretching from Hudson Circle to Chalukya Circle. Despite

this high-profile stretch sitting directly adjacent to vital civic hubs, the city court complex, and the official residence of the High Court Chief Justice, the ground reality proved shocking. Out of 222 electric poles inspected along this high-density route, a staggering 140 streetlights were completely non-functional. Thou-

sands of vehicles and pedestrians navigate this critical artery every single minute, turning the pitch-black stretch into a serious safety hazard. Frustration among top leadership has been simmering for weeks. State authorities had previously convened multiple high-level review meetings with Greater Bengaluru Au-

thority (GBA) electrical engineers and private contractors, issuing explicit directives to overhaul urban illumination. Officials were given strict deadlines to mend or replace faulty fixtures under an expansive LED transition initiative designed to slash municipal power consumption by over sixty percent.

SAFE TREKKING FRAMEWORK

Trekking in Western Ghats to face strict new rules

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State authorities are cracking down on unregulated hiking following an alarming surge in fatal accidents and missing person cases across regional wilderness zones. Officials announced a sweeping overhaul of trail protocols designed to curb rising casualties in the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats and surrounding timberlands. Recent months have brought a disconcerting wave of woodland emergencies, sparking intense public concern over outdoor safety. A string of devastating incidents catalyzed the policy shift. Tragedy struck when a young child fell victim to a



predator attack in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills, while a separate mishap claimed the life of a hiker navigating the treacherous Bandaje waterfall path. Meanwhile, a visitor from a neighboring state vanished entirely along the Tadiyandamol trail before forest rangers launched a successful rescue operation. Such close

calls highlight a growing vulnerability among weekend explorers unfamiliar with the raw hazards of deep timberland. Under the fresh framework, authorities have mapped thirty-nine authorized paths, instituting strict visitor caps on each trail. This carrying-capacity threshold prevents overcrowd-

New safety measures

- Carrying Capacity Limits:** Strict daily caps will restrict excessive tourist traffic and ease environmental strain.
- Mandatory Guides:** Local youth are receiving professional training to serve as official nature guides for groups.
- GPS Tracking:** Real-time location tools and digital monitoring systems will trace trekker movements to prevent anyone from getting lost.
- Rapid Response Teams:** Enhanced security personnel will be stationed to instantly mobilize during emergencies.

ing, safeguarding delicate ecosystems while lowering the odds of individuals straying from the group. Furthermore, mandatory GPS tracking devices will accompany every party

entering the wilderness, allowing rangers to monitor movements in real time. Communities neighboring these natural sanctuaries will also play a pivotal role. Local residents are receiving professional instruction to serve as certified nature guides, bringing invaluable terrain expertise to visiting groups. Signage across major routes is undergoing a massive upgrade to prevent travelers from losing their way. Emergency response squads will maintain a constant physical presence, ready to deploy instantly should trouble arise. Restricted zones with heavy predator activity face a total shutdown to protect both people and wildlife.



Iceland rejects EU accession talks in referendum

P14

P9

Russia Turns To India For Fuel



P16

Neser extends Brisbane stay until BBL17



INDIA-UZBEK STRIKE LONG-TERM URANIUM DEAL

Set \$5 bn trade target by 2030; Modi lands in Kyrgyzstan for SCO Summit.

TASHKENT

India and Uzbekistan on Sunday elevated their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and agreed to work towards a long-term uranium supply arrangement, as the two countries moved to expand co-operation in defence, trade, energy and connectivity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the upgrade after talks with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The decision coincides with the 15th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

"On this special occasion, we have decided to elevate our relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We will move forward by setting concrete goals within this new framework," PM Modi said at a joint press conference with Mirziyoyev.

The two countries will establish a Coordination Council led by their foreign ministers to guide different areas of bilateral cooperation. Their existing joint commission will also be upgraded from the secretary level to the ministerial level.

Modi described Uzbekistan as being "at the heart of Central Asia" and central to India's engagement with the region.



A stronger India-Uzbekistan partnership will be a powerful force for peace, progress and prosperity in Central Asia.

- Narendra Modi, Indian PM

Uzbekistan is determined to boost ties with India in diverse sectors such as energy, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, agri and culture.

- Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan president

Defence ties, zero tolerance on terror

PM Modi said close defence and security cooperation between India and Uzbekistan reflected the deep mutual trust between the two countries.

"In the coming years, we will promote direct linkages, co-production and co-development between the defence industries of our two countries."

The PM said India and Uzbekistan viewed terrorism, ex-

Highlights of upgraded ties

Trade target: Both nations set a bilateral trade target of \$5 billion by 2030, building on trade volumes that have recently crossed the \$1 billion threshold.

Uranium supply: The two sides agreed on a framework for the long-term supply of uranium from Uzbekistan to India.

Sectoral cooperation: New Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed covering mining, Ayurveda, tourism, higher education, digital public infrastructure (including IPI), defence, and the environment.

Cultural and heritage ties: A Letter of Intent was established for the restoration and conservation of ancient Buddhist heritage sites at Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa in Uzbekistan.

tremism and separatism as major challenges to regional stability and shared a policy of zero tolerance towards them.

Trade target set at \$5 bn

Modi said bilateral trade had crossed \$1 billion, with the two countries now aiming to raise

Other major ties in the pipeline

Announcements: PM Modi announced a series of key initiatives to deepen India-Uzbekistan relations, including a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium.

Sister-city, states: During his engagement with Uzbekistan, PM Modi announced the formalisation of three sister-city and sister-state arrangements, calling for a roadmap to unlock their full potential and strengthen cooperation at the regional level.

GIFT City: Highlighting major development projects such as New Tashkent and Gujarat's GIFT City, Modi said India would welcome an Uzbek delegation to study the best practices, technologies and development models used in such projects.

What does it mean?: The announcements underline the growing focus on cooperation in energy, urban development, technology and people-to-people ties between India and Uzbekistan.

it to \$5 billion by 2030. He said they would work systematically to improve market access, connectivity, banking and payment systems. India and Uzbekistan will also hold a joint business summit and explore infrastructure projects that create opportunities for both countries. "We will work together to enhance win-win cooperation in infrastructure development," Modi added.

'We remember a towering statesman': PM Modi pays homage to Shastri

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid a floral tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Shastri Memorial in Tashkent as part of his state visit to the country, remembering the late leader as a "towering statesman" whose unwavering commitment to the nation continues to inspire generations. "Paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji in Tashkent. We remember a towering statesman whose unwavering commitment to the nation continues to inspire generations," he said in an X post.



PM Modi receives Uzbekistan's highest honour

Tashkent: PM Modi was on Sunday conferred Uzbekistan's highest state honour, the 'Order of Oliy Darajali Dustlik', by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which he dedicated to the centuries-old friendship and shared heritage between India and Uzbekistan. It was Modi's 36th international award. Calling the award a moment of "immense pride", Modi highlighted the significance of the word "Dostlik", meaning friendship, saying it reflected the sentiment at the core of India-Uzbekistan relations. "I may only be a medium for all your words, but the true recipients are my thousands-of-years-old heritage, and the perseverance and hard work of 1.4 billion countrymen—they are the true deserving bearers of this honour," he said.



K'taka Guv accepts Nagendra's resignation

BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has accepted Congress MLA B Nagendra's resignation from the state Council of Ministers, following a recommendation from Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

According to an official notification dated August 29 and released on Sunday, Gehlot accepted the resignation under Article 164(1) of the Constitution. Nagendra had resigned on Friday, barely 25 days after being inducted into the Shivakumar-led Cabinet during its recent expansion. He was handling the Planning and Statistics portfolio.

Nagendra had been under sustained Opposition attack over his alleged involvement in the Rs 89-crore Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled



Tribes Development Corporation scam. He has denied any role in the alleged irregularities and said he resigned voluntarily to prevent embarrassment to the Congress and the state government.

The BJP-JD(S) combine had intensified protests over the issue. The CBI's request to the Governor for sanction to prosecute Nagendra is also believed to have influenced the developments.

Political pressure mounts

Nagendra's resignation came amid renewed Opposition attacks over the alleged Valmiki corporation scam. The BJP has announced a 10-day Raichur to Ballari padayatra from Sept 1, promising to target the Congress govt. Nagendra had earlier resigned from the Siddaramaiah cabinet in June 2024 over the same allegations before being re-inducted on August 3. The ED and CBI have named him as an accused in chargesheets in the case.

KPSC 'scam': CID arrests IAS officer Gangwar

BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Sunday arrested IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar in connection with alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission.

According to sources, Gangwar was questioned on Friday and Saturday before his arrest was formally recorded on Sunday afternoon. Investigators said he was allegedly non-cooperative during questioning and that prima facie evidence warranted his arrest. The CID will continue its probe into the

alleged irregularities.

Gangwar was summoned for questioning after the CID conducted search operations at multiple locations on August 25. He served as Controller of Examination (CoE) at the KPSC from February 2024 to March 2026. He was later transferred and appointed Director of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in June.

His whereabouts had earlier triggered speculation after reports suggested he was missing. Home Minister Priyank Karge subsequently clarified that the officer was on leave.

K'taka forms panel to review withdrawal of criminal cases

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has constituted a six-member Cabinet sub-committee to review criminal cases pending before courts across the state and recommend suitable cases for withdrawal.

The committee will be headed by Home Minister Priyank Karge, with five other ministers serving as members. They are Social Welfare Minister K H Muniyappa, Health Minister U T Khader, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Municipal Administration Minister H C Balakrishna and Urban De-

velopment Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

According to a statement from the Home Minister's office issued on Sunday, the committee will examine cases pending before courts and identify those that may be considered for withdrawal. It will subsequently submit its recommendations to the government.

The panel has been tasked with examining the nature and background of individual cases before making its recommendations. Its assessment will also take into account other relevant factors and the applicable rules governing the withdrawal of criminal cases.

TEST FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

2.64 lakh candidates take NEET-PG nationwide

Power outage disrupts test at 2 Jaipur centres and re-test has been scheduled at 3 pm on September 5.

NEW DELHI

Over 2.63 lakh candidates across the country attended the NEET-PG 2026 examination on Sunday.

However, the process could not be completed at two centres in Rajasthan's Jaipur due to internal power failure, according to officials.



The re-examination for the two centres has been scheduled in Jaipur at 3 pm on September 5, according to a notice issued by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

The Board has also called for an immediate meeting to determine the course of action against the technological part-

ner and agency responsible for ensuring adequate infrastructure at the examination centres.

A total of 2,445 candidates could not complete their examination at the two iON Digital Zone centres in Sitapura, Jaipur, due to internal power-supply issues attributable to TCS Ltd, the technological partner and the examination-conducting agency, the health ministry said.

The affected centres are iON Digital Zone iDZ Sitapura (TC Nos. 41682 and 41683). Details regarding

venue and revised admin cards will be shared later, the Board said.

The NEET-PG was scheduled for 2,73,096 candidates at 1,111 examination centres across 339 cities, covering all 36 states and Union territories, the ministry said.

A total of 2,65,980 candidates appeared in the examination, while approximately 2,63,535 candidates completed it successfully. The nationwide examination was supported by extensive real-time monitoring and stringent security measures, it added.

Nepal flash flood

Death toll reaches 781, 2,502 remain missing

KATHMANDU

The death toll from flash floods in Nepal rose to 781, even as over 2,500 people remain missing as rescue efforts entered a fifth day on Sunday.

Chinese state media had earlier confirmed 16 dead in Tibet and 546 people missing. Bodies have been recovered from eight affected districts as rescuers race against time to search for those missing and rescue those stranded on the fifth day since the disaster.

Meanwhile, rescuers in Nepal and China battled through leg-sucking mud, as well as the threat of rising rivers and a newly formed lake, to search for thousands missing after a deadly wall of water and debris swept through the Himalayas, engulfing entire villages.

Nepal said it had begun the grim task of burying some of the hundreds of bodies on Sunday, after first taking DNA samples so that families could later reclaim them and perform traditional funeral rites once they had been identified.

149 Indians brought to safety: MEA

New Delhi: As many as 149 Indian nationals have been rescued from flood-hit Nepal, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in its latest update on Sunday.

The MEA has also shared a list containing the names of the 149 Indians rescued following the devastating flash floods that struck parts of Nepal on August 26.

The latest update, issued as of 5.30 pm on August 30, provides the most recent details on Indian nationals brought to safety amid the ongoing rescue and recovery operations in the Himalayan country.

The floods have caused widespread destruction across several parts of Nepal, with authorities continuing to search for missing people and recover bodies.



Disaster aftermath

- > Death toll reaches 781.
- > Over 3,000 still missing.
- > Hundreds of graves dug in Devghat forest, nearly 200 km from disaster zone.
- > Detailed burial-record system set up to aid future DNA tracking.

Survivors across flood-hit parts of Nepal have begun returning to damaged towns and homes after the August 26 flash floods that started near the Nepal-Tibet border and moved downstream through the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river system. The floods left heavy destruction across northern and central Nepal.

Nepal begins mass burials of unidentified flood victims

Chitwan: Nepal's scenic Chitwan district, known for its forests and rivers, has become the site of mass burials for hundreds of unidentified victims whose bodies were swept away by the torrent that devastated the Himalayan region days ago. In the plains, nearly 200-km from the flood-ravaged valleys of Rasuwa where the disaster struck on Wednesday, authorities have dug hundreds of graves in Chitwan's Devghat forest. Until recently, the forest trails were a popular spot for morning walks. They now serve as a temporary burial ground for bodies too badly decomposed to be identified. "We were left with no other option and had to take this step. Our concern was the risk to public health posed by the rapid decomposition of the bodies," said Ganesh Arya, chief district officer of Baraapur in Chitwan. Nepal's Armed Police Force and regular police have buried over 196 bodies recovered from the flooded districts in mud, to be exhumed later upon identification. Authorities buried 96 unidentified bodies on Saturday and over 100 on Sunday, as recovery teams continue to retrieve victims from rivers and piles of debris.

Nepal issues fresh flood alert

Authorities in Nepal warned of possible fresh flooding on Sunday and urged residents in flood-affected districts to remain on high alert after water levels rose in the Bhotekoshi River. Flood warning notices were sent to people's phones early Sunday as rescue crews worked to clear a major highway connecting Kathmandu to one of the areas worst hit by Wednesday's catastrophic floods, which killed hundreds in Nepal and Tibet.

Quick Read

AAP leader Gurpreet Gopi shot dead in Ferozepur

Ferozepur

Aam Aadmi Party leader Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi was shot dead by four armed assailants in Ferozepur, police said on Sunday. The four car-borne assailants got down from their vehicle in the main bazaar of Mamdot in Ferozepur on Saturday evening and opened fire towards the car in which the 45-year-old Singh was travelling along with another person identified as Harpreet alias Happy (22). The injured were rushed to the Civil Hospital where the AAP leader was declared brought dead, while Harpreet was referred to a private hospital in Ludhiana.

Repeat Hindu-Muslim unity remarks in India: D Raja

New Delhi

CPI general secretary D Raja on Sunday challenged RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to repeat his Hindu-Muslim unity remarks in India. Reacting to Bhagwat's comments at a 'One World One Humanity' event in New York, Raja said making such statements abroad was different from making them on Indian soil. "Bhagwat should return and make the same statement in India," Bhagwat had said a person who believes Muslims should not live in India cannot remain a Hindu, stressing that Hinduism teaches acceptance.

Quick Read

Whitefield police investigate techie's high-rise fall incident

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A tragic incident shook Whitefield after a young software engineer died instantly from a fall off the seventh floor of a building. A young man named Manikya Velu also plummeted during the accident and remains in critical condition under intensive medical care at a nearby private hospital. Whitefield police quickly arrived at the location to inspect the scene, gather evidence, and interview witnesses. Authorities are currently investigating whether the tragic event was an accident, suicide, or foul play, as the exact cause remains unclear while official inquiries continue.

Vijayendra announces Modi's public service milestone drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Bharatiya Janata Party plans to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service with a month-long statewide campaign starting September 17. BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra announced that various community service activities, special programs, and blessing lamps at Anganwadi centers will showcase the administration's achievements. The initiative aims to highlight development milestones and rally public support for transforming India into a developed nation by 2047. Party leaders held a special planning workshop in Malleshwaram featuring guidance from Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar to ensure the statewide campaign runs successfully.

State invites applications for Gandhi Seva Award

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has invited applications for the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Seva Award for 2026. Eligible candidates include individuals aged sixty or older who champion Gandhian ideals in public life, alongside service organizations active for at least twenty-five years. Nominees working in non-violence, rural sanitation, women's empowerment, khadi promotion, and social welfare can apply or be recommended. The esteemed honor features a five lakh rupee cash prize. Interested applicants must submit their details to the Department of Information and Public Relations on Infantry Road or via email by September 3, 2026.

B-SMILE invites bids for Ragigudda-Kanakapura toll corridor

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Traffic congestion relief could soon be on the horizon for southern Bengaluru commuters as the state's infrastructure authorities push forward with ambitious urban connectivity projects. Following closely on the heels of inviting tenders for the city's very first toll flyover, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) has officially issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a brand-new toll-based elevated corridor connecting Ragigudda to Kanakapura Road. This major infrastructure undertaking forms a crucial part of a broader state government initiative to construct 13 elevated corridors spanning over 126 kilometers across the tech capital at an estimated cost of 18,000 crore rupees.



BNCC deploys 24x7 Prahari vehicles for waste monitoring

Bangalore North Municipal Corporation expands its 'Prahari' surveillance fleet to crack down on illegal dumping and civic apathy.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local authorities in the tech capital are cracking down heavily on civic apathy. The Bangalore North Municipal Corporation has significantly upgraded its robust 'Prahari' surveillance network to put a complete stop to the illegal dumping of solid waste and construction debris along public roadsides, vacant plots, and notorious black spots across the city.

Expanding dynamically on the existing fleet, Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar officially flagged off two newly acquired, state-of-the-art patrol vehicles, bringing the total active 'Prahari' fleet to four specialized units. Operating around the clock in two staggered shifts, these mobile units are engineered to maintain relentless, unbroken surveillance over vulnerable urban zones. Each vehicle comes equipped with advanced, high-definition front and rear GPS-enabled dash cameras designed to capture



irrefutable photographic and video evidence, complete with exact timestamps and precise geographical location data whenever a violation occurs.

The enhanced initiative specifically targets recurring offenses such as unauthorized garbage dumping in public zones, construction and demolition (C&D) waste disposal, commercial waste mismanagement, and debris spillage during transit. Footage collected by the patrols feeds directly into a centralized control room, where senior officers and dedicated IT teams monitor field operations daily through app-based

remote access. Offenders identified through this comprehensive digital tracking system face immediate, uncompromising punitive measures, including heavy financial penalties as stipulated under municipal solid waste management bylaws.

Authorities emphasize that cleaned black spots will remain under constant watch to prevent waste from piling up again.

Officials have issued a strict public warning, reminding residents and commercial establishments that public spaces are not dumping yards and that illegal waste disposal will no longer go unpunished.

Public spaces are not garbage bins, anyone dumping waste illegally will be tracked down and heavily penalized.
- Sunil Kumar, BNCC Commissioner

Highlights of the 'Prahari' system

- High-Tech Monitoring:** Each vehicle is equipped with front and rear GPS-based dash cameras that automatically record rule violations alongside precise timestamps and location data.
- Targeted Enforcement:** Patrol units will intensely monitor garbage black spots to prevent re-dumping, alongside checking unauthorized construction and demolition (C&D) waste disposal.
- Centralized Tracking:** The corporation's control room and IT team will track all four vehicles in real-time via app-based remote access, reviewing daily logs to ensure swift penal action against violators.

Dr. Ramya Ramesh honored with Great Daughter of India award

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dr. A. Ramya Ramesh, Chief Executive Officer of the HMR Group of Institutions and Syndicate Member of Maharani Cluster University, has added a remarkable milestone to her career by receiving the prestigious 'The Great Daughter of India' award.

The honor recognizes her outstanding contributions and achievements in the fields of education and dedicated social service.

The glittering presentation ceremony took place during a major International Conference centered on the theme of 'Protection of Human Rights and Peace and Responsibility of the Judiciary,' hosted by the Indian Intellectuals Conference in Bengaluru.

Keep real estate in Kanakapura, Shobha tells CM

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje launched a scathing attack on the Karnataka state administration during a massive public demonstration at the historic Lalbagh botanical garden. Joining hundreds of citizens, environmental experts, and local leaders for the 'Walk in Lalbagh, Walk for Lalbagh' campaign, she condemned the passage of the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which permits the utilization of up to 5 percent of protected park lands for infrastructure, public utilities, and commercial-adjacent activities.

Addressing medioprsns and gathered protesters, Karandlaje heavily criticized the ruling administration for rushing eight bills through the legislature without meaningful debate or consultation. She argued that the original 1975 preservation enactment was designed to form an impenetrable shield around public green spaces, whereas the new amendment opens a dangerous back door for real estate exploitation. Emphasizing the ecological needs of Bengaluru's estimated 1.5 crore residents, she stressed that the city requires an expansion of its 30,000 acres of green lungs rather than strategic carve-outs.

The Union Minister did not mince words regarding the administration's motives, linking

the policy shift directly to urban land exploitation. "This is a classic example of what happens when real estate operators take the helm of governance," she remarked, accusing authorities of encroaching upon urban lakes and water bodies, pointing to historical water resources and lake beds like Hebbal that have faced severe degradation. She warned that after Lalbagh and Deer Park, the government would systematically lay hands on every public park across Karnataka.

Highlighting collective resistance, Karandlaje confirmed that she and various political representatives had previously petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to intervene and safeguard public interests. She announced that the Governor has successfully returned the controversial bill, noting that even if the legislation is pushed forward again, constitutional safeguards and the office of the President would ultimately force its rejection.

Demanding an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the returned legislation, Karandlaje issued a direct challenge to the state leadership: "Keep your real estate business in Kanakapura and Bidadi, leave the public parks of Bengaluru alone." The protest concluded with citizens and leaders vowing to continue their peaceful agitation to protect the city's vital ecological heritage from commercial encroachment.

TDR, land acquisition crucial for road works: Ramesh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh has issued strict directives to municipal officials to accelerate land acquisition and Transferable Development Rights (TDR) procedures, emphasizing that bureaucratic delays will not be tolerated for crucial urban infrastructure projects.

Chairing a comprehensive review and series of site inspections across eastern tech corridors, Ramesh evaluated the status of major road widening, white-topping, and stormwater drain initiatives. During an inspection of the proposed 24-metre Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) road near Athashree Apartment in Whitefield, he instructed authorities to fast-track administrative processes while maintaining strict surveillance to prevent unauthorized encroachments along the designated alignment.

Moving to Nallurahalli, the Commissioner reviewed the progress of an 18-metre CDP road project and inspected a persistent garbage black spot along the main road. He ordered immediate cleanup operations and mandated regular monitoring to prevent illegal dumping, warning of penal action against violators. At

the Gunjur T-Junction, officials were directed to actively engage with property owners to secure required land through TDR mechanisms while complying with environmental rules regarding tree relocation and minimizing commuter disruption.

Inspecting white-topping works near Gunjur Club, Ramesh stressed that contractors must deploy adequate manpower and machinery to meet project timelines. He specifically noted that side-drain chambers must be engineered with scientific, enlarged dimensions to facilitate smooth stormwater flow and prevent clogging during desilting operations. Subsequent site visits covered proposed road alignments in Chikka Bellandur and property assessments for land acquisition extending into the Mullur Gram Panchayat limits.

The Commissioner reiterated that project quality must remain uncompromised. He instructed engineering teams, the TDR division, and the Revenue Department to coordinate seamlessly to clear all administrative bottlenecks. Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar and other senior municipal officials accompanied the Commissioner during the field inspections.

Clear walkways: North city drive clears 277 km

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Pedestrians across the tech capital are finally reclaiming walking spaces as local authorities step up urban enforcement.

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has intensified its aggressive anti-encroachment campaign, successfully clearing a massive 277.05 km of footpaths from illegal obstructions between July 1 and August 29, 2026.

Operating under the strategic directives of Greater Ben-

galuru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the close supervision of BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, municipal teams are executing continuous sweeps to guarantee safe and unobstructed walkways. The most recent single-day operation on August 29 alone freed 11.55 km of footpaths across multiple city zones.

This latest targeted drive deployed robust machinery and manpower, utilizing 5 JCB excavators, 10 tractors, and 38 municipal personnel. Crews cleared key stretches

including Thirumenahalli Main Road, Rachenahalli Lake Road, Canara Bank Layout connecting road, Dinur Main Road, and Hennur Road.

During these localized sweeps, enforcement teams dismantled 35 shops and kiosks, removed 15 illegal pushcarts, pulled down 41 AC sheets and canopies, leveled 27 unauthorized steps and ramps, and confiscated 38 advertising poles and name boards alongside temporary sheds. Additionally, 10 tonnes of piled-up construction de-

bris and soil obstructing pedestrian movement were hauled away.

Cumulative statistics highlight the sheer scale of the ongoing municipal initiative. Since July, authorities have dismantled 667 illegal shops, cleared 868 pushcarts, and removed nearly 2,000 obstructing canopies, steps, and signboards. Furthermore, crews have hauled away over 2,150 tonnes of construction debris and successfully repaired 22.10 km of damaged walkways to restore proper pedestrian infrastructure.

PINK LINE DEBUT

Pink line Metro opening set for September

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commuters traversing the tech capital of India can finally look forward to a major upgrade in urban mobility as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) prepares to launch the much-anticipated Pink Line. Stretching from Kalena Agrahara in the city's southern reaches to Nagawara in the north, this ambitious transit corridor is slated to open for public service by the end of September, bringing immense relief to millions of daily travelers navigating severe traffic congestion.

At the heart of this new corridor lies the architectural marvel of Jayadeva Junction. Earning the prestigious distinction of housing the highest metro station in the entire

country, this multi-modal transit hub features an unprecedented five levels of transport connectivity. Designed to seamlessly integrate various modes of public transit, the station is expected to drastically transform how passengers switch between lines and streamline traffic flow across one of the city's most congested arterial bottlenecks.

BMRCL officials report that the vast majority of infrastructure works along the 21-kilometer corridor have successfully crossed the finish line. Crucial technical test runs and trial traffic movements have already been completed, securing the necessary clearance to move forward. Although initial plans aimed for an early rollout of the elevated section connecting Kalena Agrahara to Tavare-

kere by Independence Day on August 15, minor technical hurdles and safety verification procedures pushed the timeline back slightly.

With those final administrative permissions now locked in, state leadership is coordinating closely with union authorities.

Bangalore Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda formally approached the central government, requesting a definitive inaugural date before the month of September concludes.

The initial phase of the rollout will focus on opening six stations stretching from Kalena Agrahara down to Tavarekere, bringing immediate connectivity to densely populated residential neighborhoods.

Beyond its individual stations, the Pink Line serves as



a vital structural backbone for the city's expanding network. It will establish critical interchange junctions, most notably connecting with the newly operational Yellow Line to create a seamless transit grid. Once fully operational, this corridor is projected to significantly reduce private vehicle dependency, lower carbon emissions, and redefine public transportation standards across Bengaluru.

All statutory inspections and final safety clearances are wrapping up to ensure a smooth rollout in September.
-BMRCL officials

Highlights of the pink line

- Target Window:** BMRCL and state authorities have requested the Central Government to finalize an inauguration date before the end of September.
- Interchange Hubs:** The corridor will serve as a crucial multi-level transit link, featuring major interchange connections—including Jayadeva Junction, which ranks among the country's highest multi-tier transit stations linking the Pink and Yellow lines.
- Initial Reach:** Six primary elevated stations stretching from Kalena Agrahara down to Tavarekere are primed to welcome general passengers first.



Quick Read

Hassan jail undertrial prisoners attack staff

Hassan
A fight broke out between undertrial prisoners at the district jail in Santepete, Hassan, following an argument over phone usage. Prisoners Mohan Kumar and Rangaswamy reportedly quarrelled while waiting for their turn to make a call, before the dispute turned violent. When jail officials Parashuram and Veeresh Sangamad tried to intervene, nine prisoners allegedly entered the PCS room and assaulted Rangaswamy. Shashidhar, Rakesh, Yallaling, Akash, Umesh, Sainath, Niroop, Bharat and Chetan were named in connection with the assault. The accused allegedly attacked jail staff Veeresh Sangamad, Shivakumar and Parashuram H. while they attempted to stop the fight. Veeresh was pushed down and assaulted, suffering injuries. He received treatment at Hassan District Hospital. Hassan City Police have registered a case.

Nandini milk tanker overturns on highway

Tumakuru
A Nandini milk tanker carrying around 21,000 litres of milk overturned near Gummanahalli on National Highway 48 in Sira taluk, spilling thousands of litres onto the road. The tanker was transporting milk from Tumakuru to Mumbai when the driver reportedly lost control. The milk, valued at around ₹8 lakh, flowed across the highway following the accident. On seeing the spill, several locals rushed to the spot carrying bottles, cans and other containers and collected the milk. The driver and cleaner escaped with minor injuries. The incident caused traffic congestion for some time as people gathered and milk covered the road.

Burglars target homes in Hanur village, steal cash and gold

Hanur
A series of thefts was reported in Maruru village under Ponnachi gram panchayat limits in Hanur taluk, with burglars allegedly breaking locks and stealing cash and gold ornaments from houses. The houses of Shivamadamma, Nagesh, Shivanna, Jagadish and Kabbalamma were targeted. Four of the residents were staying in Bengaluru, while Kabbalamma was staying at a relative's house. Taking advantage of the houses being unoccupied, the burglars allegedly broke into three homes and stole valuables. They also attempted to burgle two other houses. DySP Mohan and Inspector Anandamurthy visited the spot and inspected the affected houses on Friday.

High command will decide my state political entry: Somanna

CHAMARAJANAGAR
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna said on Sunday that any decision regarding his entry into Karnataka state politics would be taken by the party high command. Somanna also said the truth behind the recent shooting incident involving three people would emerge if a judicial inquiry was conducted. He stressed that justice should be ensured and innocent people should not be punished. Asked about speculation

Balakrishna hits back at HDK over phone-tapping

Minister H.C. Balakrishna remarked,Those who tapped their own family members' phones are now making allegations against me

RAMANAGARA
Minister H.C. Balakrishna on Sunday strongly criticised Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, accusing him of making allegations against others despite having allegedly ordered phone tapping in the past. Balakrishna said Kumaraswamy had no moral right to question him over the issue. Balakrishna alleged that Kumaraswamy had tapped the phone of his own wife and those of his personal assistants. He also claimed that the phone of a seer had been tapped on Kumaraswamy's instructions. "Those who tapped their own family members' phones are now making



allegations against me," Balakrishna said. Balakrishna also spoke about the state government's housing plans and described them as a major development in the housing sector. He said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was working on a housing initiative aimed at providing homes to people who do not own houses. According to Balakrishna,

Political leaders should maintain dignity while making public statements. accused Kumaraswamy of levelling serious allegations against him without basis and said he was not accustomed to practising politics in such a manner.

- H.C. Balakrishna, Minister

the government has already directed officials to identify around 200 acres of government land in every taluk for the housing programme. The identified land will be used to develop housing facilities for eligible families without homes. He said the initiative was inspired by the housing programme introduced during the

tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The government intends to ensure that people without houses receive suitable housing through the proposed scheme. Balakrishna also said Ramanagara and Magadi taluks had been declared drought-affected areas. Officials and public representatives have already visited important villages in both taluks to assess the situation and understand the difficulties faced by residents. He said the government would continue monitoring conditions in the affected areas and take appropriate measures to address the concerns of people facing the impact of drought.

ANF may be reactivated after Chamarajanagar blast

CHAMARAJANAGAR
The Karnataka government is reportedly considering reactivating the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) following a blast at a forest department anti-poaching camp near Hanur in Chamarajanagar district. Authorities are also considering handing over the investigation into the blast to the ANF, according to sources. The development comes amid the ongoing investigation into the death of three people in a firing incident involving forest department personnel near Hanur. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is currently probing the matter based on a magisterial inquiry report and has formed four separate teams to investigate four related cases. The possibility of reviving the ANF has emerged after investigators reportedly found

The CID is probing the matter using a magisterial inquiry report, forming four teams for four related cases
indications of the involvement of a pro-Naxal organisation called Tiger of Justice during the Hanur investigation. The ANF had earlier been shut down after Naxal activities in Karnataka became largely inactive. According to sources, the Home Department is now considering reactivating the force in view of the recent developments. Central security agencies are also reportedly collecting information about the blast. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) could potentially take up the case if further investigation reveals a wider security dimension.

Thousands of fish die, lake water raises concerns

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar
Thousands of fish have mysteriously died in the large lake at Hirevaddatti village in Mundaragi taluk over the past two days, causing concern among villagers. Several aquatic animals and reptiles have also been found dead and floating near the lake banks, raising fears about possible water contamination. The lake is an important source of water for the surrounding area. Despite poor rainfall and drought conditions this year, several lakes in the district are being filled through canals and pipelines from the Tungabhadra River. Hirevaddatti Lake is also receiving water from the river and has been used for fish farming. Around five months ago, nearly 15,000 fish fry were released into the lake under the Fisheries Department's Fisheries Development Assistance Scheme. Fourteen local

fishing families were depending on the fish farming activity for their livelihood. The fish had grown considerably and were reportedly ready to be harvested and sold in the market. The sudden deaths have caused heavy financial losses to the fishermen, who were expecting income from the harvest. Villagers suspect that the lake water may have been deliberately poisoned. The sudden death of fish, aquatic creatures and reptiles has increased their doubts. They also said the colour of the water has changed significantly and a foul smell has spread around the lake, indicating possible deterioration in water quality. Farmers from Hirevaddatti and three to four nearby villages also depend on the lake to provide drinking water for hundreds of cattle. However, fearing that the water could be contaminated, farmers are now reluctant to take their



livestock to the lake. Residents fear the situation could create serious difficulties if an alternative water source is not arranged soon. Villagers have criticised the Fisheries Department and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board for allegedly failing to inspect the lake despite the deaths. Local leaders have demanded immediate collection and laboratory testing of water samples to determine the cause. They have also sought government compensation for the affected fishermen.

CM visit sparks pothole repair controversy in Gadag

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar
The sudden repair of potholes on the Kaiga-Ilkal State Highway ahead of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's proposed visit to Lakshmeshwara has triggered criticism from local residents and JDS leaders, who have accused Public Works Department (PWD) officials of following a VVIP culture while ignoring public complaints. The highway had remained in poor condition for several years, with potholes posing a serious risk to daily commuters, truck drivers, and school and college students. Residents had repeatedly approached PWD officials and submitted several requests seeking repairs. However, they were allegedly told that the department had no funds and that money had not been released by the government. The situation changed quickly after officials learnt that the Chief Minister would travel through Gadag district headquarters to Lakshmeshwara. Hundreds of workers, JCB machines, rollers and trucks carrying gravel were deployed along the highway. Senior PWD officials also reportedly camped at the site and supervised the work, leading to allegations that the road was being repaired on a priority basis only because of the VIP visit. JDS Shirahatti Assembly constituency president Shankanna Balikai visited the repair site and strongly criticised the authorities. He questioned why the department had ignored repeated complaints from ordinary people but acted immediately when the Chief Minister's vehicle was expected to use the road. He also alleged that hurried patchwork was being carried out merely to provide a smooth passage for the VIP convoy. Balikai demanded an investigation into the sudden availability of funds and questioned under what rules emer-



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Garbage dump transformed into public shelter in Mysuru

MYSURU
A garbage dumping spot near the railway tracks in front of the Venkataramanaswamy Temple at Metagalli has been transformed into a clean public utility space under the Mysuru City Corporation's Garbage-Free Point project. The initiative, implemented by Zonal Office 5 in Ward No. 7, aims to make 80 identified locations across Mysuru free of garbage. With August 30 set as the deadline, civic officials cleared the accumulated waste from the location and completed the transformation. The site, which was earlier filled with garbage, has now been cleaned and given a fresh appearance. Colourful paintings have been added to the walls and seating arrangements have been installed for residents to use the space as a public shelter and resting area.

Server failure leaves Belagavi ration cardholders stranded

BELAGAVI
A server failure in the ration distribution system has left thousands of ration cardholders struggling to collect their monthly supplies across Belagavi district. Long queues have formed outside fair-price shops, with beneficiaries waiting for hours amid persistent technical problems. Sunday was reportedly the last day for collecting ration, increasing pressure on cardholders in several parts of the district. People in Konnur of Gokak taluk and Muglihalli of Yaragatti taluk were among those who faced difficulties due to the technical disruption. The government has made biometric authentication mandatory for ration distribution. However, the server connection has been extremely slow, while fingerprint scanners at fair-price shops have reportedly failed to recognise beneficiaries' thumb impressions. As a result, ration distribution has been delayed despite people waiting at the shops. According to local residents, only around 50 per cent of cardholders have received their ration so far because of the technical issue. The remaining beneficiaries have reportedly been visiting ration shops repeatedly for the past four to five days but have been unable to collect their essential food supplies. The disruption has also affected daily-wage workers. Several labourers said they had to spend their mornings waiting in queues instead of going to work, resulting in a loss of their day's income. For families dependent on subsidised food grains, the delay has added to their difficulties. Residents expressed anger over the server failure and alleged administrative negligence.

Farmer suicide: MLA offers financial help to family

BIDAR
Bidar South MLA Dr Shailendra Beldale extended personal financial assistance to the family of farmer Veerappa, who recently died by suicide allegedly due to mounting debt, at Sindhol village in Bidar district. The MLA visited Veerappa's residence and spoke to the bereaved family members, listening to their difficulties and offering condolences. He provided financial assistance from his personal resources and assured the family that he and his supporters would stand by them during the difficult period.

33 railway bridges in Chitradurga to complete soon

CHITRADURGA
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna on Sunday assured that 33 railway overbridges and underpasses being constructed across Chitradurga district would be completed within the next eight to nine months and opened for public use. Speaking after performing the groundbreaking ceremony for a new railway overbridge replacing Level Crossing No. 22 near Chitradurga railway station, Somanna said railway and national highway networks were the backbone of development. He said railway electrification across the country had reached 99 per cent and the target was to achieve 100 per cent by the end of this year. Somanna said more than Rs 52,000 crore had been brought for railway projects in Karnataka since he assumed office. About Rs 15,000 crore had been allocated for new railway projects, while the annual allocation for railway development in the state had increased from Rs 380-400 crore earlier to Rs 7,500-8,000 crore. Around 62 railway stations in Karnataka are also being developed, he said. Regarding the long-pending Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davanagere direct railway line, Somanna said 92 per cent of the land acquisition process had been completed. If the remaining eight per cent land was handed over by the district administration soon, the project could be completed within about one-and-a-half years. Chitradurga and Chikkajajur railway stations are also being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme. Somanna directed contractors to ensure that there was no compromise on the quality of bridge construction. He also said he would write to the Centre seeking inclusion of Chitradurga, Holalkere and Molakalmuru taluks in the drought-hit list.MP Govind M Karjol and MLA K C Veerendra Pappy urged authorities to ensure high-quality construction and address long-standing traffic problems caused by railway level crossings.

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over his possible return to state politics from the Centre, Somanna said he was already serving as a Union minister and had completed two years and two months in the position. He said his political jour-

ney was an example that people from disadvantaged backgrounds could get opportunities and capable individuals could be given responsibilities. Somanna said he would abide by whatever decision was taken by the party leadership. He emphasised that the party was larger than an individual and the country was larger than the party. Therefore, he said, he would follow the directions of the high command. On the Chamarajanagar shooting case, Somanna reiterated that no injustice

should be done to anyone. He said a judicial investigation would help establish the facts and ensure that responsibility was fixed based on evidence. His remarks came amid discussions within political circles about whether he

could shift from national-level responsibilities to Karnataka politics. Somanna, however, made it clear that he would not take such a decision independently and would follow the party leadership's direction.

Somanna dismisses state politics speculation

Union Minister V. Somanna dismissed speculation regarding his return to state politics, highlighting his ongoing service at the Centre and emphasizing that he will strictly abide by any decisions made by the party high command. Addressing the Chamarajanagar shooting case, Somanna called for a thorough judicial investigation to establish facts and ensure accountability.

Quick Read

Muslim leaders seek MLC post for Dr Syed Koppal

Muslim community leaders have urged Rajya Sabha member Dr Syed Naseer Hussain to recommend KPCC coordinator Dr K.M. Syed for a Karnataka Legislative Council seat, citing his contribution to Congress organisation and public outreach. Leaders said Dr K.M. Syed has actively participated in party activities and helped communicate government welfare schemes to people. They also highlighted his coordination with leaders and workers from different communities and his efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The leaders said his loyalty, organisational skills and social service deserve political recognition. They urged Naseer Hussain to raise his name with the party high command and seek an appropriate position. They expressed confidence that his appointment would strengthen Congress organisation and motivate party workers.

Woman's body found in train, rape suspected

Dharwad

An unidentified woman's partially clothed body was found inside a women's coach of a train that arrived in Dharwad from Solapur on Sunday morning, raising suspicion of rape and murder. The train had departed from Solapur in Maharashtra. Railway staff discovered the body while cleaning the coach after the train reached Dharwad. They immediately informed the railway police. Police suspect the woman may have been assaulted and killed during the journey. The body was reportedly found in the last women's coach of the train. Her identity has not yet been established. Railway police and Dharwad Vidyagiri police visited the spot and began collecting information. Officials are examining the circumstances surrounding the death and investigating whether the woman was raped before being killed. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.

BJP appointed Gyanendra Kumar to KPSC, says Hariprasad

Hariprasad claimed that corruption allegations against the BJP extend far beyond their frequently cited 40 percent commission claims.

BIDAR

KPCC leader B.K. Hariprasad has launched a sharp attack on the BJP, questioning the party's criticism of alleged corruption and claiming that IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar was appointed to the Karnataka Public Service Commission during the BJP's tenure. Hariprasad questioned BJP leaders on their moral authority to lecture the Congress on corruption. He also criticised BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra, making allegations concerning corruption cases involving BJP leaders and referring to the resignation of former minister K.S. Eshwarappa. Commenting on the resignation of former minister B. Nagendra, Hariprasad questioned whether BJP leaders had become judges. He argued that if Nagendra had committed wrongdoing,

his name should have appeared in the chargesheet. He alleged that political conspiracies were used to force the resignation and claimed that the BJP was attempting to target a Dalit leader. Hariprasad also dismissed the BJP's references to political leaders facing investigations and criminal cases. He said the Congress would fight any prosecution within the framework of law and would face such matters in court. He criticised the BJP for inducting leaders facing serious allegations and referred to former minister Janardhana Reddy's return to the party. He also mentioned cases involving other political leaders while accusing the BJP of using the party as a "washing machine" to clean the image of leaders facing allegations. On the possibility of a Karnataka Cabinet expansion, Hariprasad said the decision rested with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. He added that a woman should be given an opportunity in the ministry and said there would be a woman minister, while rejecting community-based considerations in making the appointment. Hariprasad's remarks come amid an intensifying political exchange between the ruling Congress and BJP over corruption allegations, investigations and the conduct of political leaders.



That corruption allegations against the BJP went beyond the often-mentioned 40 per cent commission claims. Congress leaders did not need to learn lessons on ethics from the BJP and challenged the opposition to examine the cases involving its own leaders.

-B.K. Hariprasad, KPCC leader

Hariprasad slams BJP washing machine

KPCC leader B.K. Hariprasad criticized the BJP for inducting tainted politicians like Janardhana Reddy, branding the party a "washing machine" for corruption. Addressing Karnataka cabinet expansion, he emphasized female representation.

Poor shoes, termite-damaged books raise concerns

MADIKERI

Allegations of poor-quality shoes and socks being distributed to students have surfaced at a government school in Kodagu, raising concerns among parents and local residents about the quality of materials provided to children. Parents alleged that the shoes distributed to students began getting damaged within just a few days of use. They questioned whether the quality of the footwear and other materials supplied to students was properly checked before distribution. The issue has caused disappointment among parents, who said children should be provided with durable and good-quality essential items. They expressed concern that poor-quality footwear could force families to spend additional money on replacements, defeating the purpose of government support for students. Another issue reported at the school is the condition of books kept inside one of the classrooms. Several books meant for students were found to have been damaged by termites. The

incident has raised concerns over the storage and maintenance of educational materials provided for the benefit of children. Parents and local residents questioned how books intended for students could be allowed to deteriorate without proper protection. They said educational resources are valuable and should be stored safely so that students can use them throughout the academic year. The complaints have also triggered questions about monitoring at the school and whether officials are regularly checking the condition of materials supplied to students. Parents have urged the education authorities to inspect the school and verify the quality of shoes, socks and other student welfare materials. They have also sought immediate steps to protect the remaining books from further termite damage and ensure that usable books are made available to students. Parents called for accountability if negligence is found during the inspection. They said government schemes

Termites damage school books

Termites destroyed several student textbooks stored inside a classroom, sparking outrage among parents and local residents over poor maintenance. Community members questioned school monitoring and urged education authorities to inspect welfare materials, including shoes and socks, while demanding immediate measures to safeguard remaining resources.

intended to support students should be implemented effectively, with proper quality checks and maintenance. Local residents have urged the concerned authorities to conduct a detailed inspection and take appropriate corrective action to ensure students receive the facilities and educational materials they are entitled to.

Bhadra Canal water release from Sep 1

SHIVAMOGGA

Water will be released into the Bhadra Right Bank Canal from September 1 to meet the drinking water needs of people and livestock in Davanagere and Channagiri taluks and support multi-village drinking water schemes. The Regional Commissioner has ordered the release of water from the canal between September 1 and September 10. According to an official statement issued by the Superintending Engineer of the Bhadra Project Circle, 1,500 cusecs of water will be released every day during the period. The water will be diverted to impounding reservoirs to ensure adequate drinking water supplies in the affected areas. Officials have clarified that the released water must be used strictly for drinking water purposes and cannot be diverted for irrigation or agricultural activities. Farmers have been specifically warned against illegally drawing water from the canal. Authorities said unauthorised pumping or lifting of water would not be permitted during the release period.

Puttur MLA seeks probe into KRIDL corruption allegations

MANGALURU

Puttur Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai has written to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seeking a comprehensive departmental inquiry into alleged corruption involving officials of the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) in Mangaluru. Rai alleged serious complaints against KRIDL Executive Engineer Vijay and Junior Engineer Prajwal regarding the implementation of development works and their dealings with contractors. He claimed contractors were allegedly harassed in various ways and were told that monthly payments had to be made to the district in-charge minister and the department minister. Rai further alleged that contractors were being asked to pay additional amounts of up to seven per cent under the name of KRIDL charges. He also claimed that contractors who questioned such demands had allegedly been threatened. The allegations, however, are yet to be independently established. The MLA said public-funded development projects require transparency, quality and strict adherence to rules. If the allegations against the officials are found to be true, he said, they would amount to misuse of public funds and could damage the reputation of the department and public confidence. Rai urged the Chief Minister to order an impartial and detailed departmental investigation into all complaints and allegations received against the officials. He also requested that the officials be suspended or transferred to other positions on administrative grounds until the inquiry is completed, considering the seriousness of the allegations. He further sought strict disciplinary action under applicable service and departmental rules if the allegations are proved during the investigation. Rai said that if any financial loss to the government or illegal collection of money is established, the amount should be recovered from those responsible. The MLA also urged the government to ensure that contractors can execute development works without intimidation or undue pressure. He said a transparent investigation would help establish the facts and protect the interests of both the government and contractors involved in public projects. The allegations have brought renewed attention to the monitoring of government-funded infrastructure works and the need for accountability among officials handling development projects.

MESCOM recruits 395 powermen to ease shortage

MANGALURU

The Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (MESCOM) has recruited 395 powermen to address the shortage of field staff and strengthen its power distribution and maintenance operations across its service areas. The recruitment comes as MESCOM continues to face challenges in maintaining its extensive electricity network, particularly during the monsoon. Heavy rains and strong winds frequently damage power infrastructure in the coastal districts, increasing the workload on field personnel. During the recent period, as many as 17,770 electricity poles and 496.37 km of power lines were damaged, highlighting the scale of the challenge faced by the electricity utility. The shortage of field staff has often made restoration work and routine maintenance more difficult, particularly when multiple locations are affected simultaneously. The addition of 395 powermen is expected to improve the availability of personnel for emergency repairs, maintenance and restoration of electricity supply. The move is also aimed at reducing the pressure on existing field staff who have been handling a large network across MESCOM's operational districts. MESCOM serves Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts, where its infrastructure is regularly exposed to monsoon-related damage.

Karkala schools hold kabaddi tournament for boys

KARKALA

A boys' kabaddi tournament was organised in Karkala as part of National Sports Day celebrations, with 17 teams from 13 schools within Karkala Municipal Council limits participating in the competition. The event was jointly organised by Kreedha Bharati Karkala taluk and Sri- mad Bhuvanendra Educational Institutions at Bhuvanendra High School. Karkala MLA V. Sunil Kumar inaugurated the tournament, while Udupi district Kreedha Bharati president Manjunath Shetty presided over the inaugural pro-



gramme. Several representatives of the educational institution and sports organisations were present and encouraged the participating students. The tournament featured separate age categories for primary and high school boys. In the under-14 primary school category, Sundara Puranik Memorial Government High School, Pervaje, secured

first place, while Sri Bhuvanendra English Medium School, Karkala, finished second. In the under-17 high school category, Sri Bhuvanendra High School emerged victorious, with Sundara Puranik Memorial Government High School, Pervaje, securing the second position. The winning teams were presented with trophies and cash prizes.

Former minister and former Udupi MLA Pramod Madhwaraj attended the tournament and congratulated the young players. Entrepreneur and Karkala Tigers founder Bola Prashanth Kamath was the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony. The programme also included felicitation of students who had won a state-level online yoga competition organised by Kreedha Bharati Mysuru, as well as students who had secured first place in zonal-level kabaddi competitions. National kabaddi referees Chetan and Shashidhar Shetty were also honoured.

Traffic signal equipment worth ₹8 lakh stolen in Udupi

UDUPI

Traffic signal equipment worth around ₹8 lakh has reportedly been stolen from near Kalyan Jewellers Junction in Udupi, raising concerns over the security of infrastructure being installed to improve traffic management in the city. According to the complaint, ACS Technology Limited, Hyderabad, had brought and stored various components required for the installation of a new traffic signal near the junction. The equipment was

reportedly kept at the location in preparation for the installation work. The unidentified persons allegedly stole the equipment from the site. The stolen items included various components required for the traffic signal system, with their total value estimated at approximately ₹8 lakh. The incident came to light after the company found that the equipment stored at the site was missing. A complaint was subsequently lodged with the police, who have begun an investigation into the theft.

The incident has raised questions about the security arrangements at locations where costly traffic management equipment is temporarily stored. Such equipment is essential for the installation and functioning of traffic signals and plays an important role in regulating vehicle movement at busy junctions. Police are examining the circumstances surrounding the theft and are expected to check available CCTV footage and other evidence from the surrounding area to identify those responsible.

SRI RAGHAVENDRA BRINDAVANA

Mantralaya marks 355th Raghavendra Aradhana Mahotsava

RAICHUR

The 355th Aradhana Mahotsava of Sri Raghavendra Swamy is being observed with devotion and grandeur at Mantralaya. The main event of the celebrations, Madhyaradhana, is being held with several special religious rituals, drawing devotees from different parts of the country. Peethadhipathi Sri Subudhendra Theertha performed Mahapancharitra Abhisheka to the Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra Swamy. A larger variety of offerings are used for the special ritu-



al compared with the daily Pancharamrita Abhisheka. Milk, curd, ghee, honey, fruits, cashews, raisins and other ingredients are used during the ceremony. Following the Abhisheka, the Brindavana is decorated

Mantralaya celebrates Sri Raghavendra Swamy

Devotees gathered at Mantralaya for the Madhyaradhana celebrations of Sri Raghavendra Swamy, featuring an Abhisheka, a golden covering for the Brindavana, and a grand golden chariot procession. The three-day religious festival commemorates the saint entering the Brindavana 355 years ago. Evening events include a Teppotsava at Parimala Theertha Pushkarini, leading up to the Uttarahana on August 31 and concluding rituals on September 2.

with a golden covering and special puja is performed. A grand golden chariot procession is also being held within the monastery premises as part of the Madhyaradhana celebrations.

Devotees attach special significance to Madhyaradhana and believe that Sri Raghavendra Swamy blesses devotees on the occasion. According to

tradition, the saint entered the Brindavana in a living state 355 years ago and continues to spiritually bless devotees. The celebrations will also feature a Teppotsava at the Parimala Theertha Pushkarini in the evening. A large number of devotees and dignitaries from across the country are expected to visit Mantralaya to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Sri Raghavendra Swamy. The three-day main celebrations will continue with Uttarahana on August 31. A grand Maharathotsava will be held along the main street of the monastery as

part of the concluding rituals. The wider Aradhana Mahotsava celebrations will continue through September 2 with various programmes. The monastery has made arrangements to accommodate the large number of devotees expected during the festival. The annual Aradhana is one of the most significant religious occasions at Mantralaya, with devotees participating in special prayers, rituals and processions to commemorate Sri Raghavendra Swamy and seek his blessings.

2 railway overbridges to get foundation stones

CHITRADURGA

The long-pending demand for railway overbridges at two major locations in Chitradurga district is set to move forward, with foundation stone ceremonies. Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna will lay the foundation for an overbridge at Level Crossing-22 on the Chitradurga-Davanagere route and another at Railway Gate-1 near Chikkajajur in Holakere taluk. MP Govind M. Karjol said the Railway Ministry has sanctioned ₹32.51 crore for the Chitradurga overbridge and ₹25.15 crore for the Chikkajajur project.

Quick Read

Venezuela's interim president says US energy deal will last 25 years

CARACAS
Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodríguez said that an energy agreement with the U.S. would remain in force for 25 years, target an increase in crude output to 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) and preserve the country's sovereignty over its natural resources. Rodríguez hailed the accord in a late-night address as a "historic" deal that would help revive the economy and boost government revenue, saying it would help shape the country's future. "This 25-year bilateral project envisages the development of 17 strategic oilfields with a production target of more than 1.5 million barrels per day," Rodríguez said on state broadcaster VTV.

The battle to build a global defence bank

LONDON
Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has thrown his weight behind a new global defence bank intended to help allies rearm, but other major economies have yet to commit just weeks before prospective members are due to sign up. The Defence, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB) has been seeking to raise around €100 billion (\$116 billion) and use the money to lend at low cost to governments and contractors for defence projects. It will also offer guarantees for lenders financing smaller firms seen as riskier borrowers.

Govt notifies rules to make IST common time reference

NEW DELHI
The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, paving the way for Indian Standard Time (IST) to become the common time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes across the country, it was announced. The rules were notified on August 27 and will come into force 180 days after their publication in the Official Gazette. The transition period is intended to give government departments, businesses, institutions and other organisations time to make the necessary changes to their systems and processes. The move comes amid growing dependence on accurate and synchronised time across technology-driven systems.

TN govt plans to sell onions at subsidised rates through ration shops

CHENNAI
The Tamil Nadu cooperative sector is preparing to sell onions at subsidised prices through ration shops after a rise in retail rates placed pressure on household budgets across the state. Onions, a staple used in kitchens, have become more expensive over the past few

TNPdCL Grievance Meet

TNPdCL to Hold Chennai Grievance Meets

CHENNAI
The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPdCL) will conduct consumer grievance meetings in four Chennai divisions on September 1, providing residents a direct platform to raise complaints related to electricity supply and other services. The meetings will begin at 11 a.m. in the Mylapore, Ambattur, Tondiarpet and KK Nagar divisions. Consumers from the respective areas can attend the sessions and submit complaints to senior officials for examination and necessary follow-up.



Russia Turns To India For Fuel

Russian refinery disruptions are pushing Moscow toward India for gasoline, deepening a two-way energy trade as New Delhi remains a major buyer of Russian crude and refined energy products globally.

MOSCOW
Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian oil refineries are causing major disruptions in Moscow's energy supply chain, prompting Russia to deepen its energy trade with India, according to a report. The attacks have damaged Russia's refining capacity and increased pressure on Moscow to keep fuel supplies and energy exports moving. In response, Russia has turned to India not only as a major buyer of its crude but also as a supplier of refined petroleum products. According to the article by Nikola Mikovic, Russia imported more than one mil-

India-Russia Energy Trade Enters New Phase
Russia imported more than one million barrels of Indian gasoline in June–July.
India's Russian crude purchases have surged since 2022.
India is now Russia's second-largest crude buyer.
Energy trade is shifting from a one-way crude flow to a two-way relationship.
Moscow is increasingly dependent on Asian markets after Western sanctions.

lion barrels of Indian gasoline during June and July. The development marks a notable shift in the bilateral energy relationship, transforming what was largely a one-way crude trade into a two-way flow of energy products. Such trade could

also help reduce India's trade deficit with Russia. Before Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Europe was the main destination for Russian energy exports. In 2021, Russia supplied 25.8 per cent of the European Union's oil imports, making

2047 hardly 20 years from now, reforms require a lot more support: FM Sitharaman

CHICAGO
The year 2047 is the target year set for achieving 'Viksit Bharat' which is hardly 20 years from now, so the speed and scale with which the reforms are happening require a lot more support, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. Addressing the vibrant Indian diaspora here, the Finance Minister said that we require more support from people who are talented and have exposure, and a lot more support from people who can give ideas for us to carry it forward.



"And, above all, support in terms of capital, which is so required for a country to meet all its aspirations," she told the gathering at the Consulate General of India's office here. The Finance Minister said that we have set ourselves a certain target, which is to bring the borrowing down to the 50 per cent level of GDP by 2030. "Therefore, I will be work-

ing on that path. There are advanced economies whose debt is well over 200% of their GDP even now. We have given ourselves a fiscal discipline path on the fiscal deficit as well. We have fulfilled the trajectory. The last mile that had to be reached by 2025-26, we have reached," she noted. FM Sitharaman said the world has witnessed the fiscal prudence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat, and when he is the Prime Minister of the country. "Our credit ratings are improving. But that's not by cutting corners. That's not by

stopping the resources which have to go for social welfare. It is through proper management of the economy," she said. According to her, the fertiliser shortage was not felt in India because "we managed to keep the markets informed about how much we would require". "The global supply shrank. The challenges were even greater, whether it was crude oil, LPG, or fertilisers. Ships going to procure these supplies were unable to secure adequate insurance cover. Risk premiums had gone up significantly," said FM Sitharaman.

India Growth Seen Strong At 7.2%

NEW DELHI
India's real GDP growth is likely to remain resilient at 7–7.2 per cent in FY27, supported by strong domestic demand and the government's continued focus on capital expenditure, according to an EY report. The report said nominal GDP growth could reach 12.5–13 per cent, despite geopolitical uncertainties, elevated crude oil prices and a weaker global trade environment. Strong domestic economic activity and sustained public investment are expected to provide key support to growth during the year. Industrial activity has also shown signs of improvement. EY said growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) accelerated to a 23-month high of 7.3 per cent in June 2026. Average industrial growth during the first quarter of FY27 consequently rose to 5.7 per cent, its highest level in eight quarters.

Manufacturing remained an important driver, with output rising 7.8 per cent in June. Electrical equipment, motor vehicles, textiles and food

KEY NUMBERS
• 7–7.2%: FY27 real GDP growth forecast
• 12.5–13%: Expected nominal GDP growth
• 7.3%: June IIP growth
• 18.6%: June bank credit growth
• 23.7%: Q1 FY27 government capex growth



Strong domestic demand, rising industrial activity and government spending are expected to keep India's growth momentum resilient through FY27.

products were among the better-performing segments. However, some high-frequency indicators pointed to a moderation in momentum. Manufacturing PMI fell to 53.5 in July from 54.2 in June, while services PMI declined more sharply to 53.3 from 57.4. Both remained above the 50-point threshold, indicating continued expansion. Credit conditions have also supported economic activity. Gross bank credit growth accelerated to a 25-month high of 18.6 per cent in June, indicating strong financing availability. Government capital expenditure growth recovered sharply to 23.7 per cent in Q1 FY27, after contracting 23.3 per cent in Q4 FY26. EY said renewed capex momentum should sustain domestic demand and support growth. **"India's growth outlook remains relatively strong despite geopolitical uncertainties, elevated crude oil prices and a weaker global trade environment."**

7 of top-10 firms lose Rs 1.13 lakh cr in market value

MUMBAI
The combined market capitalisation of seven of India's 10 most-valued companies declined by around Rs 1.13 lakh crore last week, tracking a weak trend in the broader equity market. Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries were the biggest laggards during the period. The benchmark Sensex fell 276.32 points, or 0.35 per cent, last week, while the Nifty declined 76.35 points, or 0.31 per cent. Commenting on the Sensex technical outlook, experts said that a sustained breakout above 78,000 could strengthen the recovery and pave the way towards 78,500–78,800. "On the downside, 77,000 remains the crucial psychological support, followed by the 76,700–76,500 region. Holding above 77,000 will be important to preserve the broader recovery structure,

while a decisive break below this level could invite renewed selling pressure," an analyst stated. Bharti Airtel suffered the steepest erosion among the top 10 companies, with its market valuation declining by Rs 40,500.85 crore to Rs 11,74,462.30 crore. Reliance Industries followed closely, with its market capitalisation falling Rs 40,056.32 crore to Rs 17,38,119.27 crore. HDFC Bank also witnessed a significant decline in valuation, losing Rs 11,558.35 crore to end the week at Rs 11,09,600.70 crore. Bajaj Finance's market capitalisation fell by Rs 10,086.05 crore to Rs 6,70,535.57 crore. The market value of Larsen & Toubro declined Rs 6,473.45 crore to Rs 5,55,987.49 crore, while Life Insurance Corporation of In-

dia saw its valuation fall by Rs 3,162.50 crore to Rs 5,32,817.81 crore. Hindustan Unilever's market capitalisation slipped Rs 1,550.73 crore to Rs 4,72,361.83 crore. In contrast, three companies among the top 10 bucked the weak market trend and added to their market value. Tata Consultancy Services emerged as the biggest gainer, with its valuation rising Rs 16,643.20 crore to Rs 8,48,079.71 crore. ICI Bank's market capitalisation increased by Rs 4,475.28 crore to Rs 10,22,805.73 crore, while State Bank of India's valuation edged up Rs 599.99 crore to Rs 9,65,568.75 crore. Despite the weekly decline, Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most-valued company by market capitalisation.

Higher education enrolment in India grows to 4.50 cr in a decade

NEW DELHI
Higher education enrolment in India has risen steadily in a decade, growing 31.5 per cent from 3.42 crore students in 2014–15 to 4.50 crore in 2023–24, an official factsheet said on Sunday. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education rose from 23.7 per cent in 2014–15 to 29.5 per cent in 2022–23, and further to 30 per cent in 2023–24. This steady increase reflects growing access to and participation in higher education, supporting NEP 2020's target of raising the GER to 50 per cent by 2035, the official statement said. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), conducted annually by the Ministry of Education, provides a comprehensive evidence base on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country. According to AISHE reports, India's higher education network has expanded significantly over the decade. The number of universities increased from 760 in 2014–15 to 1,289 in 2023–24, representing a growth of 69.6 per cent. The number of colleges rose from 38,498 to 48,246, an increase of 25.3 per cent.

onions will be distributed to ration shops across Tamil Nadu. They are expected to be sold for between Rs 30 and Rs 40 per kg, providing consumers with relief of up to Rs 30 per kg compared to prices in the open market. Officials said the first consignment would help assess demand before further quanti-

ties are sought. Details regarding the number of ration outlets covered, purchase limits for individual cardholders and the date on which sales will begin are expected to be announced after supplies reach the state. The proposed intervention is intended to provide immediate relief to families and curb the impact of the sudden price surge.

India, Chile step up CEPA talks, aim to conclude pact this year: Govt

NEW DELHI
India and Chile have stepped up efforts to deepen bilateral economic ties, with both countries pushing ahead with negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) aimed at expanding trade and investment opportunities, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said on Sunday. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal met Chile's Vice-Minister of International Economic Relations Paula Estevez Weinstein in Santiago on August 26 to advance discussions on the proposed

trade pact. During the meeting, India reiterated its commitment to an open, sustained and balanced approach to the negotiations, with the objective of creating meaningful and commercially viable opportunities for businesses and people in both countries. India and Chile's shared position as members of the Global South and their common strategic outlook were also highlighted as a strong foundation for closer economic cooperation. Both sides stressed the need to build on the growing momentum in India-Chile relations and ensure that the

CEPA delivers concrete outcomes for businesses in the two countries. The agreement is expected to provide a framework for greater market access while strengthening cooperation across trade and investment. Agrawal highlighted significant potential for expanding economic engagement in sectors such as healthcare, pharmaceuticals, energy, minerals, agriculture, machinery and engineering. A successful conclusion of the negotiations, he said, could provide further momentum to the expanding bilateral trade and economic partnership.



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

DASARA: NAADA HABBA OR NETA’S HABBA?

Mysuru’s Dasara is not merely a festival. It is an emotion, a tradition and an integral part of the cultural identity of the people of the city. It is therefore only natural that any attempt to alter its character or introduce programmes without considering the sentiments of Mysureans should invite serious questions.

The proposal to hold a Kambala during the forthcoming Mysuru Dasara has raised precisely such questions. Is Dasara still a Naada Habba belonging to the people, or is it gradually becoming a Neta’s Habba shaped by the political establishment?

Kambala is a popular and deeply rooted traditional sport of coastal Karnataka. It has its own history, culture and identity. There is nothing inherently wrong with promoting Kambala or showcasing it to a wider audience. The question, however, is whether Mysuru Dasara is the appropriate occasion and venue for it.

Dasara already has a packed calendar of religious, cultural, sporting and entertainment programmes spread across ten days. Why, then, should an event that has no historical or cultural connection with Mysuru Dasara be inserted into the festival? More importantly, was there adequate consultation with Mysureans before taking such a decision?

Reports that preparations have already begun on a 23-acre site, including the clearing of vegetation and trees to create a suitable track for the event, have further aggravated concerns among environmentalists and citizens. The issue is no longer merely about Kambala. It is about whether decisions concerning Mysuru’s most cherished festival are being taken with due regard to the city’s ecological and cultural sensitivities.

The involvement of political leaders in the organisation of Dasara is not new. But over the years, the festival appears to have steadily moved away from the spirit in which Mysureans



once celebrated it. With the end of the royal era, successive governments have introduced changes, often according to the priorities of the day. In the process, the distinctive character, grandeur and sanctity of Dasara have gradually been diluted.

The very expression Naada Habba raises expectations. It implies a festival that belongs to the entire State and, above all, enjoys the participation and ownership of its people. Yet the manner in which the festival is planned today often gives the impression of an official spectacle dominated by ministers, elected representatives and government officials.

The absence of a functioning elected local body has only strengthened this perception. With the civic administration not playing the role that citizens would expect, the festival machinery is increasingly seen as being controlled by the ruling establishment. Political considerations appear to have acquired disproportionate importance in decisions ranging from programmes to performers.

A festival of Mysuru’s stature deserves better.

Artists and cultural programmes should be selected by people with knowledge and experience in the respective fields, rather than being influenced by political recommendations. Decisions relating to the festival must be guided by tradition, culture, artistic merit and public interest—not by the desire to please political superiors.

The people of Mysuru are not opposed to change. They have embraced modernity while preserving the city’s traditions. What they oppose is the casual alteration of the character of a festival that has evolved over centuries.

There is also a larger question of environmental responsibility. At a time when Mysuru is struggling to preserve its green character, every tree and every patch of natural vegetation matters. If land has to be cleared for a temporary event, the administration must clearly explain the ecological impact, the necessity of the project and the measures being taken to compensate for the loss.

Dasara should certainly evolve, but evolution does not mean indiscriminate addition of events. A festival becomes richer when new programmes complement its identity, not when unrelated attractions are inserted merely because they happen to be politically convenient or fashionable.

Mysuru has long been proud of a Dasara that was identified with its people, its culture, its palaces, its traditions and its unique atmosphere. Today, many citizens feel that the festival has become increasingly commercialised and politicised a huge Jathra wrapped in the language of culture and tradition.

That perception must change. The government should pause and listen to the people of Mysuru. Before adding new attractions, it should ask a simple question: Does this strengthen the identity of Mysuru Dasara or merely serve the interests of those in power?

Kambala may have a rightful place in Karnataka’s cultural calendar. But Dasara should remain unmistakably Mysuru’s.

A Naada Habba must first and foremost remain a people’s festival. If the people feel alienated from it, no amount of grandeur, publicity or political patronage can restore its lost soul.

FREE FOOD DELIVERY GIFT POSES HIDDEN DANGER

A freebie is supposed to be a gesture of goodwill. It should never become a threat to a customer’s health. Yet a recent incident in Bengaluru raises precisely that concern. A customer reportedly received a datura fruit as a complimentary item with an online food-delivery order. Unaware of what it was, she consumed it, became ill and had to be rushed to hospital. Datura, commonly known as dhatura or devil’s trumpet, is a highly poisonous plant. Its seeds contain toxic compounds, including atropine and scopolamine, which can severely affect the brain, heart and nervous system. Consumption can cause confusion, agitation, hallucinations, delirium, dilated pupils, severe dry mouth and a rapid heartbeat. In serious cases, poisoning can lead to seizures, unconsciousness and death. Against that reality, a basic question needs to be asked: why was such an item given to a food consumer without unmistakable identi-



PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

“Convenience should never come at the expense of the consumer”.

cation and an appropriate warning? For most people, an unfamiliar fruit is simply an unfamiliar fruit. Consumers are not expected to be botanists, nor should they have to identify poisonous plants before consuming something that arrives with their food order. When an item is deliberately placed in a delivery package, a customer can reasonably assume that it has been checked and is safe for the purpose for which it is being provided. That is where the responsibility of a food-delivery platform begins. A complimentary item does not fall outside a platform’s responsibility simply because the customer has not paid for it. If an item is edible, it should be clearly identified. If it is not intended for consumption, that should be stated prominently. And if consuming it can cause poisoning, an appropriate warning is essential. A colour-coded symbol alone cannot substitute for meaningful information. A consumer who does not know what an unfamiliar plant is

cannot reasonably be expected to understand its potential danger from a symbol without a clear explanation. This is not merely a question of convenience. It is a question of basic consumer safety. Food-deliv-

aged and communicated to customers. Every such item should have a clearly defined purpose. Anything not intended for consumption should be unmistakably marked as such, and anything carrying a potential



ery platforms operate on convenience and trust. Customers do not see who selects complimentary items, where they are sourced, how they are classified or why they are added to an order. They receive the package and rely on the platform to have made those decisions responsibly. That trust carries an obligation. The industry should therefore examine how complimentary items are sourced, identified, pack-

health risk should come with an appropriate warning. The Bengaluru incident is a reminder that seemingly small decisions in a delivery chain can have serious consequences. A freebie may have little monetary value, might be a marketing for the product. But when something potentially poisonous is presented without adequate information, the consequences can be far greater than the value of the item itself.

FROM SHEEP’S WOOL TO BONE REGROWTH: A NEW SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH

What if a material commonly associated with sweaters, blankets and carpets could one day help the human body repair damaged bones? Scientists are exploring exactly this possibility by transforming sheep’s wool into a biomedical material designed to support bone regeneration. The breakthrough highlights how an everyday natural resource can become a promising tool in regenerative medicine.

Researchers at King’s College London have developed a material based on keratin, a strong natural protein found in wool. Their recent work showed that wool-derived keratin could support the growth of new bone tissue in living animal models. Importantly, the newly formed tissue showed structural characteristics that were closer to healthy natural bone than

guide new bone growth across damaged areas. The findings suggest that keratin could provide a useful biological environment for bone-forming cells and could eventually contribute to new approaches for repairing skeletal defects.

Why Bone Regeneration Matters

Bone has a remarkable ability to repair itself. Small fractures can heal naturally because bone tissue is continuously remodelled. However, large defects caused by severe injuries, disease, surgery or other conditions can be much more difficult to repair. Doctors may currently use bone grafts or synthetic and biological materials to help bridge larger defects. Each approach has advantages and limitations. This has encouraged scientists to search for materials that are biocompatible,

rarely framework. Cells can interact with it, attach to it and gradually produce new tissue. As healing progresses, the scaffold can be integrated into the biological repair process and, depending on its design, eventually break down. Earlier research also explored keratin-hydroxyapatite materials as potential bone-graft substitutes. Studies found that such materials could be biocompatible and participate in the natural remodelling of bone, although their performance depended strongly on the composition and structure of the material.

A Sustainable Medical Resource

The discovery has another important dimension: sustainability. Wool is a renewable biological resource, and some wool from farming operations has relatively low commercial



DR. VIJAY GARG

to Human Treatment

Despite the excitement, an important distinction must be made between a promising experimental material and an established medical treatment. The recent findings involve animal testing, not routine treatment in human patients. Before a wool-derived bone-regeneration product could become widely available, researchers would need to establish its safety, effectiveness, durability and long-term behaviour through further preclinical research and appropriately designed human clinical trials. Questions about manufacturing, sterilisation, consistency, immune responses and performance under different types of bone defects would also need careful investigation. Therefore, the discovery should be viewed as an encouraging step rather than a finished therapy.



those produced using a commonly used collagen-based material.

From Wool Fibre to Medical Material

Sheep’s wool is rich in keratin, the same family of structural proteins found in hair, skin and nails. Instead of using wool simply as a textile fibre, scientists can extract and process its keratin to create specialised biomedical structures. The researchers developed keratin-based scaffolds that can be placed at sites where bone has been damaged. A scaffold does not simply replace the missing bone. Its purpose is to provide a temporary structure that can support cells and guide the body’s natural repair processes. In animal experiments, the wool-derived material helped

structurally appropriate, affordable and capable of supporting natural tissue regeneration. Keratin is attractive because it is a naturally derived protein with properties that can encourage cell attachment and growth. Research over several years has investigated keratin-based scaffolds, hydrogels and composites for applications including bone and other forms of tissue regeneration.

The Importance of the Scaffold

One of the most interesting aspects of this research is that scientists are not claiming that wool itself simply “turns into bone.” Instead, keratin extracted from wool is processed into a carefully designed biomedical material. The scaffold acts as a tempo-

value or may be treated as waste. Turning such material into high-value biomedical products could create an additional use for an agricultural resource. King’s College London researchers have highlighted this sustainability advantage, noting that wool can provide a naturally derived and potentially scalable source of keratin. This approach reflects a broader trend in modern science: looking at biological materials not as waste but as sources of useful molecules and structures. Agricultural by-products, algae, plant fibres and animal-derived proteins are increasingly being investigated for applications in medicine, engineering and environmental technology.

From Laboratory Discovery

Sheep’s wool may have been valued for generations for keeping people warm; in the future, its proteins could also help scientists develop new ways of helping damaged bones heal.

A New Direction for Regenerative Medicine

The significance of this research extends beyond sheep’s wool. It demonstrates the potential of biomimetic materials, materials designed to work with the body’s own biological processes rather than simply replacing damaged tissue. The ultimate goal of regenerative medicine is not merely to fill a defect but to encourage the body to rebuild functional tissue. Keratin-based materials could become part of that strategy if future research confirms their safety and effectiveness in humans. A humble material from the farm may therefore be opening an unexpected door in advanced medicine. From wool fibre to purified keratin, from keratin to a biological scaffold, and from scaffold to new bone formation, the journey illustrates how science can transform ordinary resources into extraordinary possibilities. The story is a reminder that scientific breakthroughs do not always begin with exotic materials. Sometimes, innovation starts by looking at something familiar in an entirely new way. Sheep’s wool may have been valued for generations for keeping people warm; in the future, its proteins could also help scientists develop new ways of helping damaged bones heal.

Revamp Entrance Examinations

The proposed 50% weightage for board exams in JEE and NEET admissions is a welcome step toward reducing extreme pressure on students. For years, the dominance of single-day entrance tests has fueled a predatory coaching culture while undermining regular school education. Valuing board results restores integrity to classroom learning and encourages holistic academic growth. However, the authorities must standardize evaluation across different state and central boards to ensure a fair playing field. A balanced system will nurture genuine understanding rather than rote test-taking skills.

- Deekshitha B.S.

Tighter Food Safety Oversight

The alarming incident of toxic Datura being delivered alongside a food order highlights critical gaps in consumer safety. As online food delivery becomes an indispensable part of daily life, public health cannot be left to chance. Delivery platforms and partner restaurants must enforce rigorous quality checks, secure packaging, and supply-chain transparency to prevent contamination. The central safety regulators must step in immediately with stricter compliance mandates and severe penalties for negligence. Consumers deserve absolute assurance that convenience does not come at the cost of their well-being.

- Arshad

Bridging Science and Healthcare

The recent breakthrough using sheep’s wool to develop biomaterials for bone regeneration marks an extraordinary leap in modern medicine. Repurposing natural, sustainable materials into complex surgical solutions demonstrates the remarkable potential of interdisciplinary research. Innovations like these not only make advanced treatments more affordable but also reduce reliance on synthetic substitutes. Governments and private institutions must increase funding for such eco-friendly medical technologies. Investing in bio-inspired healthcare today will pave the way for accessible, life-saving therapies tomorrow.

-Sunil Kumar

BOARD EXAMS MAY GET 50% WEIGHTAGE IN NEET, JEE-BASED ADMISSIONS

India's education system may witness a major transformation as the government is considering giving Class 12 board examination marks up to 50 percent weightage in admissions to professional courses currently based mainly on entrance exams such as NEET and JEE. The proposal is part of a broader effort to reduce excessive pressure on students and make the admission process more balanced and fair.

At present, admissions to medical and engineering colleges are determined largely by performance in entrance examinations, while board exams mainly serve as eligibility criteria. The proposed change would recognize consistent academic performance over an entire school year rather than relying solely on a single high-stakes test.

The idea has emerged following concerns about paper leaks, evaluation errors, and the growing dependence on coaching centres. Education experts believe that giving importance to board examinations could encourage students to focus more on classroom learning and school education instead of spending excessive time and money on private coaching.

The proposed reforms also include aligning NEET and JEE syllabi more closely with school curricula, offering multiple attempts, and



gradually introducing adaptive, computer-based testing methods. Such measures are intended to reduce stress and make the examination system more student-friendly.

However, the proposal has also sparked debate. Critics argue that different education boards across the country follow varying standards of evaluation, making it difficult to ensure complete fairness if board marks are given significant weightage. They believe that a common entrance examination provides a more uniform basis for comparison among students from diverse backgrounds. It is important to note that this is still under consideration,

and no final decision has been announced by the government. Students preparing for NEET and JEE should continue their current preparation strategies while keeping an eye on official notifications regarding any future changes.

If implemented, the reform could mark a significant shift in India's higher education admission process, placing greater emphasis on sustained academic performance alongside competitive examination success.

- DR. VIJAY GARG

INDIA MUST BRIDGE ITS GROWING YOUTH SKILL GAP

The premise of a rising superpower rests squarely on the shoulders of its youth, yet a shadow looms over India's demographic dividend. Recent policy data and economic reports continuously remind us of a sobering reality: tens of millions of Indian youth aged 15 to 29 remain categorized as NEET, not in education, employment, or training. While economic growth figures paint a picture of resilience, the structural disconnect between classroom learning and real-world industrial needs threatens to undermine India's ambitious economic trajectory.

The root cause of this crisis is neither a lack of ambition nor a total absence of intent. Millions of young Indians graduate every year with degrees in hand, only to discover that their academic qualifications carry little currency in a modern market. The modern economy demands proficiency in data analytics, specialized technical capabilities, critical thinking, and advanced vocational expertise. However, a significant portion of the country's secondary and higher education institutions still operate on outdated curricula, prioritizing rote learning

over practical execution. Fewer than one in twelve secondary schools offer structured vocational training, leaving students unprepared for immediate employment.

When millions of young citizens enter their peak productive years without viable economic outlets, the consequences extend far beyond individual financial distress. It stalls household income growth, exacerbates inequality, and creates widespread social frustration. A nation cannot build a \$5 trillion economy on the backs of an underutilized workforce.

Addressing this challenge requires a total structural pivot in how India approaches skill creation. First, public and private sectors must dismantle the rigid wall separating academic education from vocational training. Integrating industry-certified apprenticeships directly into middle and high school curricula must become a non-negotiable standard rather than an optional elective.

Second, government-backed skill initiatives need to transition from vanity metrics such as measuring the sheer volume of certificates issued to outcome-based metrics centered around long-term job retention and wage growth. Localized industry hubs must co-create course modules with regional colleges, ensuring



that training directly aligns with local economic demand. Finally, expanding access to micro-entrepreneurship capital is essential for small-town youth who possess the drive to build local enterprises but lack the institutional backing to start.

India stands at a historic crossroads. The window to capitalize on its favorable demographics will not remain open forever. If India successfully aligns its workforce development with the demands of the modern global economy, it will unlock unprecedented productivity. But if it continues to churn out educated yet unemployable youth, the demographic dividend risks transforming into a formidable socio-economic hurdle. The time to re-engineer Indian education for actual utility is now.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J.

AI BIOLOGICAL SAFETY DEMANDS URGENT GLOBAL REGULATION

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence has moved well beyond natural language processing, automated image creation, and basic administrative shortcuts. Today, generative AI foundation models are breaking into molecular biology demonstrating the ability to sequence proteins, predict cellular structures, and even design synthetic genomic material. While these breakthroughs hold immense potential for curing diseases and synthesizing targeted therapeutics, they simultaneously introduce an unprecedented, existential risk to international biosecurity. The world is racing toward a reality where complex biological design is accessible through computational software, yet global governance remains dangerously unprepared.

Historically, weaponizing biological agents required state-level infrastructure, elite teams of specialized scientists, and decades of trial-and-error laboratory work. Generative biology dramatically lowers these barriers to entry. By training algorithms on vast repositories of viral and bacterial genomic data, AI models can now propose viral variants, bypass natural immune system responses, or optimize the transmissibility of known pathogens. Even if an AI model is built purely for benign medical research, the dual-use nature of genetic code means that minor tweaks to an algorithm's objective function could theoretically yield dual-use biological weapons.

The current regulatory landscape for life sciences is ill-equipped for an era of automated, AI-driven biological discovery. Existing international treaties such as the Biological Weapons

Convention were crafted decades before the rise of generative algorithms and deep learning platforms. Modern governance cannot rely solely on monitoring physical laboratories; it must address the digital infrastructure where biological instructions are generated.

To prevent a global catastrophe, international leaders must establish a stringent, multi-tiered framework for biological AI oversight. First, governments must mandate universal DNA-synthesis screening. Commercial gene synthesis providers worldwide must be legally required to screen every print order against secure global databases to prevent the production of dangerous sequences generated by AI tools.

Second, advanced biological foundation models must undergo rigorous red-teaming and risk evaluations before they are deployed or open-sourced. Developers must implement hard safeguards within the software to block the generation of harmful pathogen models. Finally, an international oversight body akin to the International Atomic Energy Agency must be empowered to monitor biosecurity risks, enforce baseline safety standards, and facilitate global intelligence sharing.

Innovation in the life sciences should be encouraged, but not at the cost of global safety. Aligning powerful generative models with strict biosafety measures is no longer a theoretical debate for ethicists; it is a critical mandate for global national security. We must act before code translates into catastrophe.

- WILLY

CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IS MANDATORY FOR INDIA

The impact of global climate change is no longer a distant threat for India; it is an unfolding reality present in every farming season. From flash floods ripping through the Himalayan river basins to prolonged drought spells in the central plains, erratic weather events are disrupting traditional agricultural rhythms. For a country where nearly half the population relies on agriculture for their livelihood and over 1.4 billion people depend on domestic crop yields, climate-proofing the national food supply is an urgent imperative.

India's traditional agricultural framework was built for predictability relying heavily on predictable monsoon cycles and stable seasonal temperatures. Today, extreme weather events regularly wipe out harvest yields, causing sudden spikes in food inflation and plunging rural households into deeper debt. Furthermore, the persistent over-reliance on cereal monoculture primarily wheat and paddy has depleted regional groundwater reserves, degraded soil health, and left crops hyper-vulnerable to pest outbreaks and extreme heat waves. The current system prioritizes short-term yield output over long-term environmental sustainability, a trade-off that is rapidly proving unsustainable.

To safeguard its food security, India



must fundamentally restructure its agricultural practices from the ground up. The nation needs to transition away from water-intensive monoculture toward crop diversification. Promoting heat-tolerant and drought-resilient crop varieties such as indigenous millets and pulses can restore soil fertility while maintaining yield stability during extreme weather conditions.

Simultaneously, micro-irrigation systems, including drip and sprinkler technology, must be scaled up aggressively to eliminate water waste. Beyond farming techniques, India's post-harvest supply chains demand a modern overhaul. Upgrading localized cold-storage

infrastructure, expanding parametric weather-indexed crop insurance, and integrating real-time climate forecasting into rural extension services will protect farmers from environmental losses.

Feeding 1.4 billion people amid escalating environmental volatility requires shifting agriculture from reactive emergency relief to proactive structural adaptation. Climate-resilient farming is not merely an environmental policy option it is the bedrock of India's future economic stability and national security.

- MICHAEL ANGELO

FLOATING SOLAR ARRAYS PROTECT INDIA'S VITAL FARMLANDS

India's rapid acceleration toward green energy generation faces a physical constraint: severe land scarcity. Expanding conventional utility-scale solar farms requires immense tracts of flat terrain, placing clean energy targets in direct competition with agricultural land and ecological habitats. To sustain aggressive renewable expansion without sacrificing food production, India must shift its infrastructure priorities toward a proven yet underutilized solution: Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) technology mounted across the country's extensive network of reservoirs and water bodies.

Deploying standard ground-mounted solar panels across thousands of acres inevitably drives rural land acquisition disputes, inflates infrastructure costs, and displaces local agrarian communities. In a nation home to over 1.4 billion people, dedicating fertile topsoil exclusively to energy generation is an unsustainable trade-off. Furthermore, ground-mounted systems in arid regions face high operating temperatures that reduce panel efficiency and require substantial water supplies for routine cleaning.

Floating solar technology solves the land acquisition dilemma by utilizing the surface area of existing hydroelectric dams, irrigation reservoirs, and industrial water facilities. Covering water surfaces creates a vital dual benefit: the underlying water provides a natural cooling effect that boosts solar panel energy output, while the physical shade of the panels drastically cuts water evaporation rates. Preserving millions of liters of water in



agricultural reservoirs is critical for regional drought management and irrigation stability.

Scaling floating solar infrastructure demands strategic policy coordination. Central and state governments must streamline licensing frameworks for public water bodies, establishing standardized environmental impact protocols to protect aquatic ecosystems.

Additionally, domestic manufacturing must be aligned to produce specialized, corrosion-resistant floating pontoons capable of enduring monsoon weather conditions. Interconnecting floating solar platforms direct-

ly with existing hydroelectric grid infrastructure will also eliminate the need to build costly new transmission lines.

The transition to clean energy does not require the destruction of agricultural capacity. By leveraging its vast freshwater surfaces, India can expand its renewable power grid, conserve critical water reserves, and protect its farmlands simultaneously. Modernizing green energy deployment is essential for sustainable development.

- MAHESH

MINILATERAL PACTS ARE REDEFINING GLOBAL POWER ARCHITECTURE

The traditional institutions of global diplomacy are undergoing a profound crisis of efficacy. For decades, broad multilateral forums such as the United Nations served as the primary venues for international dispute resolution and collective security governance. Today, systemic paralysis, deep geopolitical rivalries, and institutional inertia have rendered these large bodies increasingly unable to address fast-moving global crises. In their place, a new geopolitical structure has emerged: the rapid proliferation of targeted, regional, minilateral defence and security alliances.

From new defense pacts forming across West Asia to dynamic security groupings across the Indo-Pacific, nation-states are shifting toward flexible, issue-based security arrangements. Countries no longer wait for universal global consensus to safeguard their regional strategic interests. Instead, medium and rising powers are constructing localized coalitions to manage security vulnerabilities, secure vital trade corridors, and diversify their diplomatic dependencies away from exclusive reliance on traditional superpowers.

This shift to minilateralism brings both strategic clarity and dangerous volatility. On one hand, smaller groupings allow like-minded nations to coordinate defense

protocols, share intelligence, and deploy security assets with speed. On the other hand, the rapid overlapping of security pacts threatens to fragment global geopolitics into competing regional blocs. When mutual defense commitments or regional security pacts proliferate without clear global integration, the margin for diplomatic miscalculation shrinks significantly. A localized conflict between two nations risks triggering cascade mechanisms through interconnected alliances, drawing regional powers into wider wars.

For middle powers and emerging global leaders, navigating this fragmented landscape requires dynamic, non-doctrinal diplomacy. Navigating a world governed by minilateralism requires active participation in multiple functional security groupings while maintaining clear bilateral communication channels with competing blocs.

The era of relying on unified global governance bodies to maintain international peace is drawing to a close. The future of global stability will not be decided in international assembly halls, but in how responsibly nations manage the complex, overlapping network of targeted regional security alliances.

- STEPHEN JOSHUA J.

Quick Read



Seven militants arrested in Manipur operations

CH NEWS, IMPHAL Security forces arrested seven militants, including a woman cadre, during joint operations across Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal and Kakching districts in Manipur over the past 24 hours. The arrested militants were linked to banned groups, including KCP, UNLF, PLA-RPF and KYKL, officials said. Forces also arrested two alleged drug peddlers in Bishnupur and seized about 53 grams of heroin. Arms, ammunition and explosives were recovered during the operations. Security forces continue search operations and have increased checkpoints across the state.

Couple arrested in Manipur over train murder

CH NEWS, CHENNAI Tamil Nadu Police arrested a couple in Manipur in connection with the murder of a woman whose dismembered body was found inside a red suitcase on a Delhi-bound Tamil Nadu Express on August 5. M Manik Uddin Laskar, 22, and his wife Bhagabati Maji, 21, were arrested in Jiribam district with help from Manipur Police. DNA and forensic tests identified the victim as 38-year-old Hayathun Nisha from Odisha. Police traced the suspects after examining over 350 surveillance videos. The couple will be brought to Chennai for further investigation.

Jarange demands cancellation of Shinde event in Parbhani

PARBHANI Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil on Sunday demanded the cancellation of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's event in Parbhani, as his protest entered its second day. Jarange also criticised Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Jadhav for proceeding with the programme despite his request to cancel it. Addressing reporters in Parbhani, Jarange said Jadhav had been elected to work for the Marathi people and should focus on the interests of the Maratha community. He warned that continuing with the event could lead to a response from his supporters. Jarange directly appealed to Shinde to cancel the programme, saying that the elected representatives should prioritise the concerns of the Maratha community instead of organising political events. He also accused Jadhav of failing to follow his appeal and said this could affect his political

PM calls for drug-free India and women's empowerment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged young Indians to fight drug addiction, empower women entrepreneurs and support local products, linking these efforts to India's development goals.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged young people to help build a drug-free India by using creativity to spread awareness against addiction. Speaking in the 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Modi said the Nasha-mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat campaign was gaining momentum across the country, with young people playing an important role. Modi said drug addiction affects not only individuals but also their families and society. He encouraged musicians, students, theatre groups and content creators to produce messages in different Indian languages.



- AT A GLANCE
- 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat
 - 46% of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries are women
 - 3.5 million women have benefited from PM SVANidhi
 - 12,000 girl students' part of Mission ShaktiSAT
 - 108 countries represented in Mission ShaktiSAT

He also asked people to share their work with the hashtag #NashaMuktYuva, saying creative efforts could become a strong tool for social change. The Prime Minister also spoke about women's economic empowerment through the PM SVANidhi scheme. He said women make up about 46 percent of its beneficiaries, with around 3.5 million women using the scheme to expand their businesses. He mentioned Babita Sharma of Ghaziabad, who grew her flower and worship-items stall into a shop, and TS Ningamma of Bengaluru, who expanded her idli, dosa and sambar business. Modi further highlighted

Mission ShaktiSAT, which is giving 12,000 girl students from 108 countries an opportunity to learn about satellite technology and innovation. He said preparations were underway to send a satellite developed with the participation of female students into lunar orbit. He also urged citizens to support Vocal for Local during the festive season by choosing Indian-made products and encouraging influencers and celebrities to promote self-reliance. His message linked a healthier youth, stronger women-led businesses and local buying with India's wider national development goals.

Haryana launches SAMRIDDDHI to improve maternal healthcare

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government is implementing the SAMRIDDDHI system to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths and provide timely, quality healthcare to pregnant women, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Sunday. The initiative aims to ensure that every pregnant woman in the state is registered on a central portal and receives continuous health monitoring during pregnancy, delivery and the post-partum period. Under the programme, the SAMRIDDDHI portal, a state-level command centre and the 102 Maternal and Child Health Call Centre will be connected through modern technology. The system will allow health officials to track pregnancies, identify high-risk cases early and ensure that women receive timely treatment or referrals to high-

er-level healthcare facilities. Every pregnant woman will receive a unique identity under the system. Her essential health information will be securely maintained in a single digital record, which will be updated even if she receives treatment at a different hospital. The system will cover women receiving care at government and private hospitals, as well as medical colleges. Health workers, including auxiliary nurse midwives, doctors and other officials, will receive alerts about required examinations, expected deliveries, follow-ups and other healthcare services. Women with high-risk pregnancies will be monitored more frequently, while those with normal pregnancies will be contacted every three months. Monitoring will become more frequent as the expected delivery date approaches.

Anbumani warns Karnataka over Mekedatu dam plan

CHENNAI

PMK leader Dr Anbumani Ramadoss on Sunday urged the Tamil Nadu government to take immediate steps to protect the state's rights over Cauvery water, warning that Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam could affect water flows to Tamil Nadu. His remarks came after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the state would intensify efforts to build the dam and approach the Union government for approval. Shivakumar, speaking at an event in Mysuru, said the Mekedatu project would benefit Karnataka's farmers, similar to the Krishnaraja Sagar dam. He also referred to a Supreme Court ruling that he said supported Karnataka's

"The project could reduce the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu." - Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, PMK leader



position and stated that the state would seek permission from the Centre to proceed with the project. Anbumani criticised the statement, saying it indicated a change in Karnataka's earlier position that the Mekedatu reservoir would be used only for drinking water. He argued that mentioning benefits to farmers suggested that the stored water could also be used for irrigation. According to him, this could reduce the flow of Cauvery water reaching Tamil Nadu.

TN Govt searches for new Chennai airport site

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has started searching for a new location for Chennai's second airport after shelving the proposed Parandur project, according to sources. Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district and Cheyyur in Chengalpattu district have emerged as the leading options under consideration. Both locations are situated in areas close to Chennai. The move follows a decision by the government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to look for an alternative site for the major airport project. The Parandur proposal



Tamil Nadu begins searching for a new site for Chennai's second airport after dropping Parandur, with Gummidipoondi and Cheyyur emerging as key options. had been a key infrastructure plan of the previous DMK government but faced opposition over various concerns. The new administration is now examining other possible locations. Sources said Gummidipoondi and Cheyyur were among 11 locations considered when discussions about Chennai's sec-

ond airport began more than seven years ago. However, these two places were not included in the four sites short-listed by the DMK government between 2021 and 2026. The earlier government had shortlisted Parandur, Pannur, Thiruporur and Padalam as possible locations. Parandur was eventually selected for the project. The latest search has brought Gummidipoondi and Cheyyur back into consideration as the government evaluates alternatives. No final decision has been announced on the new site yet. The government is expected to assess the suitability of the two locations before selecting a site for the airport. The search comes as Tamil Nadu seeks to move forward with plans for Chennai's second airport after abandoning the Parandur proposal.

Odisha CM orders salary deductions over unpaid maintenance

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed officials to deduct court-ordered maintenance payments from the salaries of state government employees who fail to pay their divorced wives or children. The deducted amount will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. The decision follows complaints received by the Chief Minister's grievance cell about government employees who allegedly ignored court orders requiring them to make monthly maintenance payments. According to the Chief Minister's Office, around two to three such cases are reported during each grievance hearing. Majhi took serious note of the issue and said government employees must follow court orders. He described the failure to provide maintenance to divorced women and children as unacceptable, particularly when the individuals concerned are state employees. Under the new direction, officials will ensure that the required maintenance amount is automatically recovered from the employee's salary. The measure is intended to prevent

delays in payments and ensure that beneficiaries receive the financial support ordered by courts. The government's action covers cases involving divorced wives as well as children who are entitled to maintenance under court orders. The move also aims to strengthen compliance with judicial decisions and provide timely financial relief to families affected by unpaid maintenance. The Odisha government is expected to implement the salary deduction mechanism in cases where employees continue to default despite existing court orders.

BSF seizes 15.6 kg gold worth ₹25 cr in Bengal

CH NEWS, NADIA

BSF personnel seized 15.607 kg of gold worth nearly ₹25 crore from a woman in the Banpur border area of Nadia, West Bengal, near the

India-Bangladesh border. Acting on a tip-off, personnel from the 32nd Battalion kept watch before noticing the woman moving suspiciously. She was detained and searched, leading to the re-

covery of the gold. The BSF has launched a wider investigation to determine the source of the gold, its intended recipient and possible links to a cross-border smuggling network.

Priyanka Gandhi seeks FIR over Haldwani purification row

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday renewed the party's demand for an FIR against those allegedly involved in a "purification" ritual held at a venue in Haldwani after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a rally there. She questioned why no legal action had been taken nearly 20 days after the incident. Priyanka described the alleged ritual as a shameful and objectionable act and claimed it violated the Constitution and the SC/ST Act. In a post on X, she urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that an FIR was registered and action was taken against those responsible. The controversy began after Kharge raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha, alleging that a purification ritual had been conducted at the Haldwani venue following his August 8 Congress rally. The event was organised as part of the party's preparations for the 2027 Uttarakhnd Assembly elections.



Kharge had also sought legal action after the incident. The issue has drawn sharp criticism from Rahul Gandhi, who on Saturday demanded an FIR and said the alleged ritual amounted to a violation of the SC/ST Act. He questioned the government's response and said action should be taken against those responsible. The BJP has rejected the Congress's allegations. BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said there was no caste angle in the video related to the controversy and accused the Congress of repeatedly using caste-related issues to create divisions in Hindu society. The dispute has now become a fresh political confrontation between the two parties over caste, constitutional values and alleged discrimination.

Probe confirms 24 deaths from contaminated water in Indore

INDORE

A judicial inquiry has confirmed that 24 people died in Bhagirathpura, Indore, after drinking water contaminated with sewage between December 2025 and February 2026. The one-member commission, headed by retired Madhya Pradesh High Court judge Justice Sushil Kumar Gupta, blamed delays in the tender process for a new Narmada water pipeline for the outbreak. The 150-page report was submitted to the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh HC last week. The court has barred its public release. Residents, how-



ever, have claimed that the actual death toll was higher, putting the number at 36. According to advocate Manish Yadav, the commission held some Indore Municipal Corporation engineers and an additional commissioner re-

sponsible for delaying the tender process. The delay affected plans to replace damaged sewage and drinking-water lines. This resulted in sewage mixing with drinking water supplied to homes in Bhagirathpura. Post-mortem findings cited in the

- IN FOCUS
- 24 people confirmed dead
 - 36 deaths claimed by residents
 - 150-page judicial inquiry report
 - ₹2 lakh → ₹4 lakh recommended compensation
 - ₹20 lakh compensation in certain cases

report linked the deaths to gastrointestinal infections, diarrhoea and dehydration. Pathogens, including E. coli, Salmonella and Vibrio cholerae, were reportedly found in the water. The inquiry also recom-

mended increasing compensation for families of those who died from ₹2 lakh to ₹4 lakh, with compensation of up to ₹20 lakh in certain cases. The report reportedly cleared former IMC commissioner Dileep Yadav and Indore collector Shivam Verma of responsibility. The High Court had ordered the inquiry after the outbreak began on December 24, 2025, covering the contamination source, death toll, medical response and official accountability. Officials had not responded to requests for comment at press time on Sunday about the commission's findings and details. The nurse was found dead

BJP leaders protest over nurse's alleged rape-murder

HYDERABAD

BJP leaders staged a protest at Osmania Hospital in Hyderabad on Sunday over the alleged rape and murder of a 21-year-old nurse. The protesters, along with the victim's family, demanded justice and strict action against those responsible. The demonstration was held at the hospital's post-mortem examination centre, where the family also sought a halt to the procedure until justice was delivered. The nurse was found dead

under suspicious circumstances inside a room in Thukkuguda, under Pahadishareef police limits. Police suspect that unidentified persons may have assaulted her and killed her by hitting her with an unknown object. BJP leader Andela Sriramulu Yadav alleged that the woman was attacked with a hammer and sexually assaulted before being killed. He questioned the police response and urged Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar to ensure justice for the victim.

Quick Read



Three sisters die saving brother in Rajasthan

CH NEWS, Rajasthan Three sisters and their 23-year-old brother drowned in a pond in Rajasthan's Dholpur district on Sunday morning. The incident occurred in Dhaundh Birja village under Angai police station limits. The brot her, Bholu alias Ravi, reportedly fell into the deep pond while taking a selfie. His sisters, Manorama, Boto and their cousin Nisha, jumped into the water to rescue him but also drow ned. Police, local divers and SDRF personnel recovered all four bodies. The bodies were tak en to a government hospital for post mortems and later handed over to their families.

Couple jumps into Godavari, leaves toddler alone

CH NEWS, Andhra Pradesh A couple allegedly jumped into the swollen Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari district on Thursday night, leaving their three-year-old son alone on a bridge. The couple, identified as 29-year-old Dodda Sai and 28-year-old Shiree-sha, had reportedly arrived at Chinchinada Vasishta Bridge with their child arou nd 10 pm. Passersby found the crying toddler and alerted police. The child was taken into police care and later handed over to relatives. Police and rescue teams are searching for the missing couple, while the circum-stances behind the inci-dent remain under investi-gation.

Manipur CM urges peaceful protests, rejects shutdowns

IMPHAL Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Sunday appealed to people and organisations to avoid shut-downs and blockades while raising their demands. He urged protesters to use democ-ratic methods, warning that bandhs can cause hardship and sometimes lead to violence. Singh said shutdowns main-ly affect daily wage workers, women vegetable vendors and students. He stressed that dis-ruptions to education could harm the state's academic cal-endar and appealed to stake-holders not to disturb students' studies. The Chief Minister was trav-elling to New Delhi to meet senior Central leaders and dis-cuss ongoing issues concerning Manipur. He also praised lead-ers of 14 civil society organisa-tions and a delegation of MLAs

Digital fertiliser system covers 14 crore farmers

India's fertiliser management system has expanded digital services to track supplies, improve transparency and ensure timely availability for millions of farmers across the country.

NEW DELHI

India's Integrated Fertiliser Management System (iFMS) has expanded its digital ser-vices to improve transparency, fertiliser availability and mon-itoring of the supply chain. The system now covers more than 14 crore Aadhaar-linked farm-ers who purchase fertiliser, over 2.5 lakh retailers and nearly seven crore fertiliser sales transactions each year. It also supports the management of fertiliser subsidies worth around Rs 2 lakh crore annual-ly.

Developed with technical support from the National In-formatics Centre (NIC) for the Department of Fertilisers, iFMS connects production, im-ports, transportation, stock lev-els, retail sales and subsidy processing. New digital dash-boards allow officials to mon-itor fertiliser availability and movement at national, state, district and retailer levels. These tools can help authori-



KEY INSIGHTS	
■ 14 crores	Aadhaar-linked farmers covered
■ 2.5 lakh	Retailers connected
■ 7 crores	Annual fertiliser transactions
■ ₹2 lakh crore	Annual subsidy managed
■ 294	Assembly constituencies planned for digital infrastructure?

ties identify unusual patterns and possible shortages at an early stage.

The government has also started linking fertiliser records with farmer, land and crop da-

tabases. Integration with Hary-ana's Meri Fasal Mera Byora platform and ongoing work with AgriStack are aimed at connecting fertiliser purchases with agricultural information.

India's universities grow nearly 70 percent in decade

NEW DELHI

India's higher education net-work has expanded significantly over the past decade, with the number of universities rising 69.6 per cent from 760 in 2014-15 to 1,289 in 2023-24, accord-ing to the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).

The survey, conducted annu-ally by the Ministry of Educa-tion, also recorded growth in colleges and standalone insti-tutions. The number of colleges increased from 38,498 to 48,246, a rise of 25.3 per cent. Standalone institutions grew from 12,276 to 15,221, marking an increase of about 24 per cent.

Student participation in higher education also increased duri ng the period. Total enrolment rose 31.5 per cent, from 3.42 crore students in 2014-15 to 4.5 crore

in 2023-24. The Gross Enrol-ment Ratio increased from 23.7 per cent to 30 per cent during the same period. The rise suppor ts the National Education Pol-icy's target of reaching a 50 per-cent GER by 2035. The survey also showed improvement in ge-nder parity. The Gender Parity Index increased from 0.92 in 2014-15 to 1.08 in 2023-24. Am ong Scheduled Caste students, it rose from 0.91 to 1.11, while the Scheduled Tribe category re-corded an increase from 0.81 to 1.08. STEM education also saw steady growth, with enrolment rising from 91.5 lakh to 1.02 crore over the decade, an in-crease of around 11.5 per cent. The government said the overall expansion reflects greater ac-cess to higher education and supports a more inclusive and diverse education system.

Couple held in Tamil Nadu suitcase murder

CH NEWS, TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu police arrested a couple in Manipur on August 29 for the murder and dismemberment of 38-year-old Hayathun Nisha. Her body parts were found inside a red suitcase aboard the Tamil Nadu Express at Agra station on August 5. Police identified the sus-pects as 22-year-old Ma nik Uddin Laskar and his wife Bhagabati Majhi after analysing CCTV footage and recovering more body par ts from a rented house in Gu duvanchery, Chen-nai. The couple had gone into hiding after the crime. They will be brought to Tamil Nadu for further in-vestigation.

Kolkata Messi event fans to get refunds

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has an-nounced that around 33,000 spectators who attended Lionel Messi's event in Kolkata last year will receive refunds for their tickets. Speaking at a Na-tional Sports Day programme, Adhikari said the reimburse-ment process was underway and would be funded through the state sports budget.

The Messi event at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, also known as Salt Lake Stadium, was affected by overcrowding, crowd misman-agement and logistical prob-



lems. VIPs and officials report-edly crowded the pitchside area, blocking the view of sev-eral spectators. Messi's appear-ance also lasted for only a short part of the scheduled pro-gramme, leaving many fans disappointed. Tickets were priced between Rs 4,000 and Rs 8,000. Adhikari criticised political interference in sports



Congress Will Scrap UCC If Elected in 2028

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Leader of Op-position Umang Singhar on Sunday said a Congress gov-ernment would repeal the state's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) if the party returns to power in 2028. Speaking at the "Jang-e-Azadi-Ulema ki Qur-bani" programme in Bhopal, Singhar described the UCC as a "draconian law" and said Con-gress would abolish it after forming the government.

His remarks have renewed the political debate over the UCC in Madhya Pradesh. The state government cleared the Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026 during a special Cabinet meet-ing on July 20, and the Assem-bly passed it the following day. Congress legislators had op-posed the legislation and deman ded that it be sent to a Select Committee, leading to protests and disruption in the House.

The UCC seeks to establish a common legal framework for matters including marriage, di-

vorce, inheritance, mainte-nance, adoption and related family issues. Key provisions of the Madhya Pradesh legisla-tion include a ban on polygamy, compulsory registration of mar-riages and mandatory registra-tion of live-in relationships. Scheduled Tribes have been excluded from its scope.

Congress and other opposi-tion parties have expressed con-cerns that the law could affect religious practices, traditional customs and safeguards avail-able to tribal communities. They have also questioned whether a common legal frame-work would adequately protect the rights and traditions of dif-ferent groups. The state govern-ment, however, has defended the legislation, saying it would pro-vide equal rights and strengthen legal protection for women in matters such as marriage, di-vo-rce and property. Chief Min-ister Mohan Yadav has backed the UCC, describing it as a mea-sure aimed at promoting equal-ity and social harmony.

"Why should individuals with no athletic background control sports organisations purely on political grounds?"

- Suvendu Adhikari, CM

administration and said people without a sporting background should not control sports organ-isations for political reasons. He said the government would work to reduce such interfer-ence and introduce reforms across the state's sports sector.

The government has allocat-ed Rs 400 crore to build 294 mini indoor stadiums, named Shri Aurobindo Stadium,

across all Assembly consti-tuencies. The state aims to complete 100 of these stadiums this year.

Adhikari also announced that long-pending appointment files for successful athletes, which had remained with the Chief Minister's Office since 2015, had been cleared. Eight athletes received police constab-le appointment letters, while 145 sportspersons were hon-oured with a total of Rs 4.31 crore in prize money under welfare initiatives including the Atal Khel Samman. The measures are aimed at improv-ing sports facilities and sup-porting athletes across West Bengal.

NCW chief urges women to know zero FIR rights

NEW DELHI

National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar on Sunday urged women to remain aware of their right to file a "Zero FIR" for a cognisable offence at any police station, regardless of where the incident occurred.

"Zero FIR is your right! You can file a complaint for any cognizable offence at your nearest police station, regard-less of where the incident oc-curred," Rahatkar said in a

post on X. She explained that after registration, the com-plaint is transferred to the po-lice station having jurisdiction over the case.

Rahatkar also advised wom-en to submit a written com-plaint and approach a senior police officer if police refuse to register the FIR. The NCW chairperson shared an aware-ness pamphlet explaining the process and encouraged wom-en to speak up about offences committed against them. Her message came a day af-

ter she chaired a capaci-ty-building workshop for elected women representatives from Chhatrapati Sambhaji-nagar, Jalna and Beed districts in Maharashtra. The pro-gramme, organised under the NCW's "She Is Change Mak-er" initiative with YASHDA, focused on strengthening women's leadership in grass-roots governance.

More than 300 elected rep-resentatives, including sar-pants, district council mem-bers and municipal representa-

tives, attended the workshop. Rahatkar said the training covered their rights, responsi-bilities, transparency, public welfare and coordination with administrative officials.

The NCW plans to organise 12 such training camps across Maharashtra. Rahatkar said the initiative aims to help women representatives understand their duties, monitor govern-ment schemes, improve their skills and maintain honesty and discipline while serving the public.

Delhi lakshmi yojana RD matures in july 2029

NEW DELHI

The recurring deposit (RD) un-der the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana is currently scheduled to mature on July 31, 2029, according to a government document. The date falls in the year of the next Lok Sabha elections. The Council of Ministers can review and change the maturity period after two years of the scheme's launch.

Under the scheme, eligible women will receive Rs 2,500

every month. Of this, Rs 1,500 will be deposited into a recur-ring deposit account, while Rs 1,000 will be transferred thro-ugh a Central Bank Digital Cur-rency wallet linked to the bene-ficiary's bank account. Benefi-caries can also choose to deposit the full Rs 2,500 into an RD.

The Delhi government launched the scheme on Au-gust 26, with the first monthly payments scheduled from Sep-tember 1. Around 4,000 bene-ficiaries received sanction let-

ters on the launch day. The scheme aims to support up to 17 lakh eligible women across the national capital.

Women aged between 21 and 60 years can qualify if they are the eldest female member of their family and registered voters in Delhi. Only one woman per household can re-ceive the benefit, while the an-nual family income must not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh. The appli-cant, her husband or parents must have lived in Delhi for at

least 10 years. Applicants with-out Aadhaar can register using an enrolment slip, where avail-able, along with another ac-cepted identity document. The Wom en and Child Develop-ment Department will assist those who have not obtained Aadhaar. The scheme also places restrictions on spend-ing through the digital wallet. Ben-efits cannot be used for items such as alcohol, tobacco, nar-cotic drugs, lottery tickets or gambling.

J&K FILM FESTIVAL

Kashmir to host first international film festival

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir is set to host its first international film festival, 'Rang-e-Cinema', from September 7 to 10. Organised by the J&K government's In-formation and Public Relations Department, the festival aims to promote the region as an in-ternational destination for cinema, filmmaking, creative collabora-tion and cultural exchange.

The festival has received more than 1,100 film submis-sions from over 80 countries. Of these, 135 films from 41 countries have been shortlisted. India has 64 entries, while France has 13 and Iran has



eight. Films from Türkiye, Ger-many, Russia, Sweden, Spain, Brazil, Qatar, Argentina, the United States, South Korea, Co-lombia and Taiwan will also feature. The organisers have selected a five-member jury comprising cinematographer

and director Santosh Sivan, sound designer Resul Pookutty, German film curator Dorothee Wenner, Bang Singapore founder Keiko Bang and film-maker Himansu Sekhar Khatua. The selected films will be screened at venues in Srinagar,

Jammu and Gulmarg. The govt is also planning a floating screen on Dal Lake, allowing tourists on Shikaras to watch films. Around 50 civil service officers have been appointed as liaison officers for visiting de-legates and dignitaries.

The festival will offer awards across nine categories, with to-tal prize money of Rs 96 lakh. The Best Film will receive Rs 25 lakh, while Best Director and Best Debut Director will receive Rs 15 lakh each. Organ-isers said the event will also fea-ture leading filmmakers and sho-wcase J&K's handicrafts, han-dloom, cuisine, music, tradi-tional arts and cultural heritage.

Rajnath, Yogi Launch 14 Lucknow cantonment projects

LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday performed Bhoomi Pujan for 14 development projects worth more than Rs 100 crore at Lucknow Canton-ment. The projects aim to im-prove civic services, health-care, education, sports, sanita-tion, water supply and urban infrastructure.

The projects include an arti-ficial intelligence-based solid waste management plant, a multi-utility sports complex, a modern crematorium, a 1,500-kilolitre underground reservoir, new water pipelines

and eight automated tubewells. Overhead water tanks with SCADA systems, a special school for differently abled children and additional class-rooms and toilets at two schools are also part of the projects.

A multi-level robotic car parking and commercial com-plex, along with legacy waste bio-mining and bio-remedia-tion facilities, are among the other initiatives. Two projects, the RA Bazar City Polyclinic and Mukhyamantri Abhyu-daya Coaching Centre, will be implemented jointly with the state government.

Singh said the development of Lucknow Cantonment was

closely connected with the progress of the city. He said coordinated efforts between the Centre and state could speed up development and im-prove governance. He added that the government's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 in-cluded quality education, clean water, sports opportunities and inclusion for differently abled children.

The defence minister also highlighted the renaming of several cantonment markets. Royal Artillery Bazar has been renamed Ekta Bazar, British Cavalry Bazar as Uda Devi Bazar, and British Infantry Bazar as Matadin Valmiki Bazar and Mangal Pandey Bazar.

Quick Read



Israeli strike kills 2, including a 3-year-old boy

CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike killed two Palestinians, including a three-year-old child, in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday, health officials said. Gaza medics said the Israeli airstrike near a bakery in Deir Al-Balah killed one man, Hussam Nusair, a three-year-old boy, Tayyem Hamdan, and wounded several others. The Israeli military said it attacked and killed a Hamas militant. It said that Nusair advanced attacks against Israeli forces and civilians. Hamas did not immediately comment on the military's allegation.

'Regained control of airbase after soldiers mutiny'

NIAMEY

Niger said it had regained control of a key military airbase in the capital Niamey after an attack by mutinous soldiers, in the latest challenge to military ruler Abdourahmane Tiani as his government struggles to contain a jihadist insurgency. The attack highlighted tensions within Niger's armed forces, which have suffered repeated battlefield losses while fighting West Africa's al Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates. Explosions and gunfire rang out across Niamey early, including at the military airbase and around the presidency.

MOJTABA CALLS FOR 'UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS' IN POST TO GULF STATES

TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei urged Muslim countries, particularly those in the Gulf, to unite against what he called their "real enemy" and said divisions among Muslims served the interests of their adversaries. The message was published on Khamenei's Telegram account for Islamic Unity Week, which marks the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

It called for Muslim unity, cooperation in various fields and mutual defence, saying anyone who creates divisions among Muslims, "knowingly or unknowingly," helps Islam's enemies.

It asked whether Palestinians would have been left "so helpless" if Muslims had been united.

Khamenei has not been seen in public since being injured in U.S.-Israeli air-

TRADE PRESSURE

Bessent faces high-stakes G20 test

ASHEVILLE

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent faces a major test of economic diplomacy this week as he seeks to reshape the G20 agenda around trade imbalances, global growth and tougher pressure on Iran.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's major economies will meet Monday and Tuesday in Asheville, North Carolina, as the Trump administration confronts uncertainty over tariffs, elevated energy prices and rising U.S. debt and bond yields.

Bessent is also pushing countries to sever business ties with Iran and warning of secondary U.S. sanctions against governments and companies that continue buying Iranian oil or facilitating transactions with Tehran.

Washington imposed fresh restrictions on an Egyptian bank over alleged Iran links

Iceland rejects EU accession talks in referendum

Icelanders rejected reopening EU membership talks, prioritising fishing rights and national independence over closer integration with Brussels.

REYKJAVIC

Icelanders have rejected a government proposal to reopen European Union membership negotiations, with referendum results showing voters chose to keep the country outside the bloc amid concerns over fishing rights and national independence.

At least 52.8% voted against holding membership talks with Brussels, while 47.2% supported the proposal. Turnout was high at 82.5%, according to Icelandic media reports.

The result marked a setback for the centre-left government, which had argued that reopening negotiations would help Iceland confront trade tensions and growing strategic competition in the Arctic.

Prime Minister Kristrunn Frostadottir had described the vote as a "now or never" moment and said a rejection would effectively end the is-



"This is a clear setback for Brussels," an EU diplomat told Reuters, saying fishing and independence were decisive.

sue while her coalition remained in power.

The outcome also exposed a clear geographic divide. Only two constituencies in central Reykjavik recorded majorities in favour of reopening talks, while rural ar-

reas and Reykjavik's suburbs largely voted against the proposal.

Iceland's fishing industry emerged as a decisive issue. Opponents of EU membership have long feared that joining the bloc could threaten national control over the country's valuable fishing waters, making the issue more immediate than broader arguments over security.

Deadly shooting rocks Swiss rave party

A deadly shooting at a Swiss rave killed one woman and injured five others as police launched a major manhunt.



AARAU

A 22-year-old woman was killed and five others injured, some seriously, after a shooting at a rave party in the Swiss town of Aarau early Sunday, police said.

The victims, all Swiss residents in their 20s, were targeted during a techno event at a covered horse racetrack where organisers had expected about 3,500 people. Police launched a manhunt for the attacker and cordoned off large areas of the town, while appealing to the public for photographs and videos that could help identify the suspect.

A 34-year-old witness told Reuters he heard gunshots shortly after the music stopped at around 2:30 a.m. He initially mistook the sounds for fireworks as panic spread through the venue.

According to the witness, some partygoers sought cover behind a DJ booth while another woman hid behind a refrigerator. She was struck in the back by a bullet and died at the scene despite attempts to revive her.

"It's just incredibly tragic. She was young," the witness said, describing the shooting at a local Aarau event as unimaginable.

Police increased their presence in and around the town, located about 50 kilometres west of Zurich, as a precaution. Reuters footage showed armed officers patrolling streets, police convoys moving through the area and armoured vehicles positioned near the crime scene.

The shooting has renewed attention on gun ownership in Switzerland, which has one of Europe's highest rates of civilian gun ownership.

Boat carrying 270 people capsizes off North Cyprus

NICOSIA

One person died after a boat with around 270 people on board capsized off North Cyprus on Sunday, Turkish Cypriot media reported.

Turkish Cypriot Transport Minister Erhan Arikli told Anadolu that one passenger had died when the ferry capsized. He said there were 267 people on board, 259 of whom were passengers and eight of whom were crew.

The privately owned ferry

left the North Cyprus port of Kyrenia at 12:30 p.m. (0930 GMT) and immediately started taking on water for an unknown reason, Turkey's state-run news agency Anadolu reported.

It was heading for the Turkish port of Tasucu in Mersin province in the eastern Mediterranean.

Those rescued from the vessel were taken to Kyrenia port to be transferred to hospitals, he added.

Murat Senkul, the mayor of

Kyrenia, told broadcaster CNN Turk that 159 passengers on board the vessel had been reached.

Video footage showed people in red life jackets sitting or standing on top of the overturned vessel as authorities scrambled coastguard and private vessels for assistance to bring them to shore.

The Kibris newspaper reported that the vessel, which some reports said was a catamaran, began taking in water about four miles off the shore.



North Korea names new defense minister

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has overhauled the country's senior military leadership, appointing Kim Song-gi as defense minister and restoring veteran strategist Pak Jong-chon to a key position on the Central Military Commission, state media KCNA reported on Sunday.

Kim Song-gi, who previously served as director of the military's political bureau, will replace No Kwang-chol as defense minister. No has been reassigned to a senior position within the powerful Munitions Industry Department, underscoring the importance Pyongyang places on its weapons production and military-industrial capabilities.

The leadership changes come as North Korea continues to strengthen its military capabilities and deepen strategic ties with Russia. Pyongyang has moved significantly closer to Moscow amid Russia's war in Ukraine, with the two countries expanding cooperation in areas including defense and military technology.

Kyiv strike death toll rises to 38: Zelenskyy

KYIV

The death toll from a Russian strike on an ammunition depot in Ukraine's Kyiv region has risen to 38, with search and rescue teams continuing efforts to locate four people who remain missing, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday.

The strike, described as the deadliest Russian attack in the Kyiv area this year, occurred late on Friday as Moscow intensified its campaign of aerial attacks against Ukraine. The assault targeted a military facility storing artillery shells, mines, drones and other ammunition, triggering powerful explosions and fires that caused extensive destruction.

The attack came amid a broader escalation in Russian strikes across Ukraine, with the capital Kyiv and surrounding areas facing repeated waves of drones and missiles.

Zelenskyy said Russia had launched nearly 2,000 strike drones, more than 1,600 aerial bombs and 31 missiles against Ukraine over the past week. Among the missiles

were North Korean ballistic missiles, he said, highlighting the growing scale and intensity of the bombardment.

Emergency crews have been working at the blast site to extinguish fires, clear debris and search damaged structures for survivors. Zelenskyy said first responders had succeeded in putting out most of the fires, but warned that significant contamination remained in the affected area. Cleanup and emergency operations, he added, would continue for as long as necessary.

Video footage released by the president showed firefighters battling flames at the site and emergency personnel removing rubble from destroyed buildings.

The continuing search for the four missing people remained a priority as authorities assessed the full extent of the damage.

Zelenskyy also vowed that Ukraine would respond to Russian attacks. "We are seeking just responses to every Russian strike and crime. They will certainly come," he said.

'Turkey, Saudi, Pak to hold first defence pact meet'

ISTANBUL

Top officials from Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan will gather in Istanbul on Monday for a first committee meeting under the joint defence accord that they signed this month, a Turkish foreign ministry source said.

The "Mecca Joint Defence Agreement", signed on August 7, brought together Sunni Muslim U.S. allies concerned by the Iran war and regional conflict that has led to Iranian missile fire on Gulf oil exporters. It is intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression and stipulates that an armed attack against any of the three would be regarded as an attack on all, similar to NATO's Article 5 collective defence clause.

Foreign and defence ministers, as well as the chiefs of staff, of the three countries will attend the meeting in Istanbul, the ministry source said.

"International security issues will be on the agenda," the source said, with discussions expected to cover enhancing defence capabilities, greater interoperability among their armed forces and deepening cooperation in the defence industry, including joint production and development. The three nations share concerns about the military stances of Israel and revolutionary Shi'ite Iran, as long-time ally the U.S. struggles to contain regional upheaval that has caused a global energy crisis. Six months after the U.S. and Israel launched the war against Iran, negotiations are at an impasse and President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up efforts to punish Iran financially with what it has billed as an "economic D-Day".

War weighs on Iran's economy as US intensifies sanctions

CAIRO

Iranian leaders are acknowledging the economic toll of war with the U.S., with the supreme leader urging the government to address the hardship and the president saying foreign trade has shrunk by a third due to the American sanctions and blockade.

Yet Tehran signalled no retreat, vowing to withstand U.S. pressure, pursue diplomacy and maintain what it said was control over the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic waterway giving Iran leverage through its ability to disrupt global energy markets.

The government said in a statement on state media that addressing economic pressures caused by sanctions and war

was a central focus, including curbing inflation, managing markets, creating jobs, directing investment towards domestic production and gradually reducing dependence on the dollar.

Six months after the U.S. and Israel launched the war, negotiations are at an impasse and President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up efforts to punish Iran financially with what it has billed as an "economic D-Day".

Washington has warned countries to cut business ties with Iran or face secondary sanctions, though the Treasury Department stopped short of imposing penalties against major Iranian trade partners such as China and India, which could have repercussions for the U.S. and global economies.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIVYA G alias G DIVYA alias DIVYA GOPALA KRISHNA D/o late M J GOPALAKRISHNA, W/o AANAND SANTHANA KRISHNAN, R/o Flat No. T11-1103, Eleventh Floor, L & T Raintree Boulevard, Bellary Road, Shabari Nagar, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DIVYA AANAND.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, RANGANATHA Y N S/o NAGARAJAPPA, R/o Yalambalse, Yellambalse, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka-577548, declare that the name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as M MALTHISH and MARULAPPA in my Aadhar No. 607991509907. The actual name of mine and my father is RANGANATHA Y N and NAGARAJAPPA, which may be amended accordingly.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAKASH B K S/o KEMPEGOWDA R/o Bijjahalli, Kanakapura, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562119, have changed the name of my minor son ANVIK KAVAN GOWDA aged 6 years and he shall hereafter be known as AVYAAN ARJUN GOWDA.

Back where it began: Verstappen's karting return

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen trades his F1 car to overtake one hundred rivals in a chaotic Silverstone karting showdown



LONDON

Formula One star Max Verstappen is stepping away from his regular grand prix car to take on a massive new challenge. The four-time world champion will compete in a special event called "Max vs 100," where he must try to pass one hundred other drivers on a go-kart track.

The unique race is scheduled for September 16 at a specially built circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom. Instead of starting at the front like usual, Verstappen will begin at the very back of

a 101-kart grid. His main mission is simple yet extremely difficult: fight through heavy traffic and overtake every single competitor. Fans can watch the entire chaotic showdown stream live on Disney+.

Born in Belgium to racing parents, Verstappen has motorsport running through his veins.

His father, Jos, competed in Formula One, while his mother raced in karts. Max first jumped into a go-kart at just four years old and quickly climbed through the junior ranks before making his Formula One debut at only 17 years old. He eventually joined Red Bull Racing, where he secured four consecutive world titles between 2021 and 2024. Known for his fearless driving style and aggressive overtaking, he

Lando Norris commits long term to McLaren

LONDON

Formula One star Lando Norris has officially signed a bumper new long-term contract with McLaren, extending his tenure with the Woking-based outfit until 2030, with an additional option that could stretch his association into his third decade with the team since his debut back in 2019.

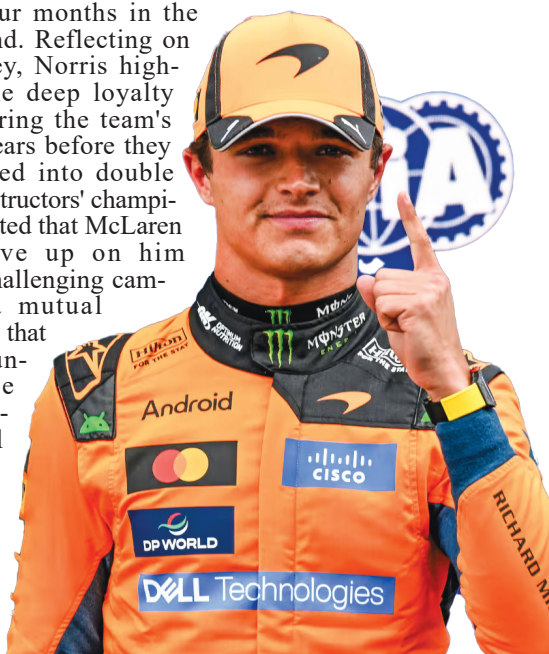
The announcement, confirms that the reigning world champion turned down advances from rival outfits across the paddock. Norris candidly admitted that while there was clear outside interest from other constructors on the grid, he chose not to seriously evaluate competing offers, emphasizing that staying with McLaren was an effortless choice.

"There was some interest from elsewhere, but I don't want to go anywhere," Norris stated. "I don't want to be with another team. I don't

want to spend time with other people. That's why it really was probably one of the easiest decisions I've made since being in Formula 1."

Contract negotiations unfolded quietly over the preceding four months in the background. Reflecting on his journey, Norris highlighted the deep loyalty forged during the team's tougher years before they transformed into double world constructors' champions. He noted that McLaren never gave up on him through challenging campaigns, a mutual persistence that built an unbreakable organizational bond.

Looking ahead, the 26-year-old driver intends to



Atletico Madrid secures win without Julian Alvarez

MADRID

Atletico Madrid put transfer distractions aside to secure a commanding 3-1 victory away against Sevilla in the Spanish top flight.

The match took place without star striker Julian Alvarez, whose future has dominated headlines all week amid strong links to a potential move to Barcelona. Left out of the matchday squad entirely, Alvarez suffered from afar as his teammates dismantled a Sevilla side that had won its opening 2 fixtures of the campaign.

Atletico came out flying and effectively settled the contest during a blistering first-half display. Alex Baena led the charge with two brilliant goals, while new signing Ademola Lookman added a third to give the visitors a comfortable 3-0 lead within just thirty-three minutes. Sevilla tried to mount a comeback after the break when Miguel Sierra headed home in the sixty-sixth minute, but the early deficit proved too steep to overcome.

Meanwhile, Levante captured its first victory of the season in a chaotic 5-2 goal fest at home against Betis. The game was tied 2-2 at halftime following strikes from Betis players Marc Bar-

How Michael Schumacher sparked Jack Doohan's dream

LONDON

Haas reserve driver Jack Doohan has opened up about his unique childhood and why 7-time Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher remains his ultimate racing idol. Growing up, Doohan had a front-row seat to greatness because Schumacher was close friends and neighbors with his father, motorcycle legend Mick Doohan.

The special bond began back in 1994 after both champions claimed their maiden titles. For young Jack, the German racing icon was much more than a global sports superstar. He was simply a familiar face around the house who gifted Jack and his sister their very first go-kart. That thoughtful present ultimately sparked the young Australian's lifelong journey into professional motorsport.

Beyond the seven world titles and record-breaking statistics, Doohan deeply values the down-to-earth human



qualities that Schumacher maintained away from the high-pressure Formula One paddock. Growing up around him taught Jack that elite athletes are ordinary people at their core, sharing the same daily routines as everyone else.

On the racing track, however, Schumacher was an entirely different force of nature. Doohan admired the legendary driver's fierce confidence, calculated aggression, and unmatched precision when placing a car through tough corners. Moreover, the intense

Antonelli faces Monza grid penalty for upgrades

LONDON

Mercedes is launching a strategic fightback against its fiercest rivals in the ongoing Formula One upgrade battle. The Brackley-based racing team has mapped out a two-step offensive, starting with an updated power unit at the Italian Grand Prix before unleashing a major aerodynamic package later in the championship.

The initial phase begins at Monza, where young driver Kimi Antonelli will receive a fresh power unit. Because of the component change, the 20-year-old will face a grid penalty and start the race from the back of the pack. Mercedes plans to rotate this updated engine onto George Russell's car over the remaining races of the season.

While the engine hits the track in Italy, the team's aero upgrades are being saved for a later date.

Trinbago Knight Riders retire Dwayne Bravo's jersey

PORT OF SPAIN

The Trinbago Knight Riders have officially retired Dwayne Bravo's iconic number 47 jersey, honoring the legendary all-rounder for his massive impact on the franchise, the Caribbean Premier League, and Trinidad and Tobago cricket.

During a special pre-match ceremony on Saturday ahead of the team's fixture against the Jamaica Kingsmen, Knight Riders CEO Venky Mysore praised Bravo's unmatched legacy. Bravo becomes the first player in CPL history to receive this prestigious jersey retirement honor. Having transitioned smoothly from the field to the dugout, Bravo currently serves as the franchise's head coach.

Bravo built an extraordinary record as a player, capturing five CPL titles since 2015. He famously captained the Knight Riders to back-to-back championship victories in 2017 and 2018 before leading the St Kitts and Nevis Patriots to glory in 2021. Over a stellar career spanning from 2013 to 2024, he racked up one hundred seven appearanc-

es, making him the third most capped player in the league's history behind Sunil Narine and Imran Tahir.

Current team captain Nicholas Pooran led the tributes, thanking Bravo for acting as a vital mentor, inspiration, and father figure to the squad. Longtime teammates and cricket icons Sunil Narine and Kieron Pollard also shared heartfelt messages. They highlighted how Bravo's unmatched energy, winning mentality, and deep care for his peers paved the way for a generation of young Caribbean cricketers and built a culture of consistent success.

This emotional tribute ensures that Bravo's remarkable footprint on the sport will remain permanently tied to the Knight Riders organization.



Chang Bingyu claims Wuhan Open snooker title

WUHAN

Chinese snooker player Chang Bingyu captured his very first career ranking event title in dramatic fashion, defeating the newly crowned world number one Zhao Xintong 10-7 in a thrilling all-Chinese final at the World Snooker Wuhan Open.

The 24-year-old secured the championship under immense pressure during a tense deciding frame. With Zhao leading on points and only the black ball left on the table, Chang executed a brilliant tactical snooker. He forced his opponent into a crucial foul, cleared 4 tricky colors close to the cushion, and finally potted the black to win the frame by just two points. Overwhelmed by the moment, Chang buried his face in a towel and wept tears of joy after shaking hands.

This victory marks a massive career milestone following a difficult period away from professional competition. After regaining his tour status, Chang reached his maiden ranking final at the Scottish Open in late 2025 but suffered a tough loss. Using that heartbreak as motivation, he put together an incredible run in Wuhan, eliminating top-tier opponents like Ali Carter, Judd Trump, and his childhood idol, Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Despite entering the final as the underdog against Zhao who had won all seven of his previous ranking finals, Chang



played with calm determination.

Zhao graciously praised his young compatriot after the match, noting that the rising generation of players has reached an exceptionally high standard.

The tournament highlighted the booming growth of Chinese snooker, with the Wuhan Open crown staying in local hands for the third consecutive year. The semifinals also featured three distinct generations of Chinese talent. Although Chang celebrated his breakthrough triumph, he remains grounded, admitting that he still needs to improve his emotional composure to compete consistently with the world's elite players.

Munoz strike saves Liverpool from defeat

LONDON

The early weeks of the English Premier League season continue to deliver dramatic twists, highlighted by Liverpool's ongoing search for a victory and Hull City's astonishing continuation of a flawless return to top-flight football.

At Anfield, Liverpool was forced to settle for a frustrating 2-2 draw against Nottingham Forest during the early kick-off. Nottingham Forest seized the initiative in the 24th minute when Dan Ndoye clinically tucked away a side-footed finish past the defense. Liverpool struggled to break down a resilient visitor backline until the 60th minute, when star striker Alexander Isak leveled the score with a composed finish.

The match swung violently back into Forest's favor shortly after when Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker conceded a penalty inside the box.

Morgan Gibbs-White stepped up and coolly converted from the spot to restore the visitors' advantage. However, newly acquired summer signing Victor Munoz rescued a point for the hosts with only eight minutes remaining in regulation time.

Munoz executed a sharp turn inside a crowded penalty area before unleashing a powerful, decisive strike to net



his maiden goal for the club.

Meanwhile, Hull City captivated the footballing world by maintaining its spotless start to the campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory away against Coventry City in a fascinating clash between two recently promoted sides.

Fresh off a stunning victory over Manchester United the previous weekend, Hull displayed immense defensive discipline and tactical organization.

Canadian international Liam Millar proved to be the decisive hero, breaking the deadlock in the eighty-second minute after receiving a clever assist from Mohamed Belloumi.

Elsewhere, Newcastle United piled further misery onto Tottenham Hotspur with a convincing 2-0 away win in North London.

Tottenham, having heavily invested in new talent over the summer transfer window, has now stumbled to consecutive defeats to open their league campaign.

Following an impressive debut performance from Nico Gonzalez, Newcastle secured the three points through second-half strikes from Anthony Elanga and Yoane Wissa, the latter hooking home sharply following a corner kick.



Tottenham reach agreement to sign Iliman Ndiaye

LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur have agreed on a deal to bring in Iliman Ndiaye from Everton. At the same time, their own forward, Richarlison, is packing his bags to return to his former home on Merseyside. Club officials have clarified that these two separate transfers are not connected in any way.

The arrival of Ndiaye brings a major boost to the squad under manager Roberto De Zerbi. The talented Senegal winger is expected to slot right into the attack alongside fresh faces Omar Marmoush and Savio. Reports from sports outlets confirmed the breakthrough, coming just as Ndiaye still had three years remaining on his previous contract with Everton.

While one star arrives, another is heading out the door. Manager De Zerbi recently opened up about squad changes following a tough 2-0 defeat against Newcastle.

Tottenham secures Everton's Iliman Ndiaye while Richarlison heads back to Merseyside in a busy transfer window shake-up.

He explained that Richarlison made it clear he wanted a fresh start elsewhere. The coach also noted that other players, including Kevin Danso and Pape Sarr, have expressed similar wishes during this busy transfer window.

Manchester City had kept a close eye on Ndiaye as well, hoping to secure his signature. However, Pep Guardiola's rivals appear to have shifted their focus toward Liverpool player Cody Gakpo, who reportedly wants to make a switch to Enzo Maresca's side instead.

Ndiaye originally joined Everton back in 2024 in a move from Marseille costing 15 million pounds. During his time there, he became a familiar face to fans, making 73 appearances and finding the back of the net 17 times.

On the other side of this swap, Richarlison is heading back to the club where he previously made a strong name for himself.

Neser extends Brisbane stay until BBL17

BRISBANE

Experienced Australia all-rounder Michael Neser has committed his future to the Brisbane Heat by signing a 2-year contract extension. This new deal keeps the fast-bowling star with the franchise through the end of the 17th edition of the Big Bash League.

Neser has remained a key part of the tournament since its very first season in 2011. Though he spent nine years with the Adelaide Strikers and won a title there, he returned to the Heat in 2021. This upcoming summer marks his seventh campaign with the Bris-

bane-based team, boosting a strong pace attack that already features national teammates Xavier Bartlett and Spencer Johnson, alongside young talent Callum Vidler.

Head coach James Hopes welcomed the news, praising the veteran player's leadership during intense moments. Hopes pointed out that the team always performs at its best when the seasoned quick is involved. He also noted the pride the club felt seeing Neser bring his competitive qualities to the Australian national team during last season's Ashes series. Over his career, the 36-year-old has established himself as one of the competition's top performers. He currently sits joint-ninth on the all-time tournament wicket-taker list, having claimed 117 scalps across 105 matches. His standout moments include taking a career-high 26 wickets to guide his side to the final in the twelfth season, followed by another 12 wickets when the team lifted the trophy the following year.

Speaking about his decision to stay, Neser shared his excitement about performing in front of local fans at the Gabba. He described the electric atmosphere of a packed home stadium as the highlight of playing in the league, noting how crucial the crowd's energy feels during high-pressure moments on the field.



Rabada sidelined for Australia test series

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa has suffered a major setback as frontline fast bowler Kagiso Rabada is set to miss the upcoming home Test series against Australia. The 31-year-old speedster sustained a severe grade-3 tear in his right hamstring during a winter training conditioning session, forcing a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

Allan Donald, bowling coach for Rabada's domestic team, confirmed that medical assessments rule out any chance of an early return. The injury means the pacer will miss not only local 4-day fixtures but also the high-profile Test matches against Australia. Medical staff project a recovery timeline of up to 10 weeks.

The series begins with a 3-match ODI fixture in late September, followed by the Test matches. Durban will host the opening Test on October 9, with subsequent games scheduled in Gqeberha and Cape Town later that month. Rabada's absence leaves a massive gap in the bowling lineup.

Until the last ball: Ali's defiant stance

LONDON

Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq faces a major battle to play any further part in the ongoing second Test against England at Lord's. Scans have confirmed that the left-handed batsman suffered a grade-one tear in his left calf during the opening day of the match.

The injury first flared up after tea on Day 1, forcing him to leave the pitch immediately. He was unable to take his usual spot in the batting order as Pakistan slumped to a paltry 110 all out in response to England's first-innings total of 290. Substitute fielder Salman Agha stepped in to cover for him while medical staff assessed the damage.

Team management revealed that his continued involvement in the match depends entirely on ongoing

treatment for the muscle strain. However, fast bowler Mohammad Ali admitted in a post-match press conference that precise updates remain strictly with the medical panel.

The physical setback actually traces back to the opening Test at Headingley. During that fixture, the opener required urgent medical attention and had his left calf heavily strapped while compiling a gritty 42-run knock.

His potential absence deals a severe psychological and tactical blow to the visiting side. Because cricket rules restrict player replacements exclusively to concussion incidents, Pakistan will be forced to play a man down if he fails to bat again.

England currently holds a commanding grip on the contest after a rain-shortened Day 3 left them sitting comfortably at 177 for 7. With Dan Lawrence unbeaten on 50, the hosts

boast a massive lead of 357 runs heading into the closing stages.

Despite facing a daunting uphill task, bowler Ali remains remarkably optimistic about pulling off an extraordinary escape. Speaking to reporters, he emphasized that historic run chases past the 350-run mark remain entirely possible with the right mindset. He stressed that belief within the dressing room stays alive until the very final delivery is bowled, even as tricky overhead conditions continue to test the touring squad.



SURREY STINT AWAITS J&K PACER AUQIB NABI

NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Auqib Nabi is gearing up for an exciting stint in English county cricket. The talented pacer is expected to represent Surrey for the remainder of the County Championship Division One season, adding more international flavor to the domestic competition.

Fresh off a stellar domestic campaign, Nabi finished as the leading wicket-taker in the previous Ranji Trophy season. He bagged an impressive 60 wickets at a remarkable average of 12.56, playing a vital role in leading his home side to their historic maiden championship triumph.

Sources close to the development confirm that all his visa paperwork is finalized, and he is scheduled to catch a flight from New Delhi to England. If everything goes according to plan, he could make his debut for Surrey in

their upcoming fixture against Yorkshire, which gets underway on September 2 at The Oval.

Following that opening match, Surrey faces fixtures against Sussex in Hove on September 8 and Glamorgan back at The Oval on September 15. The primary goal behind this move involves giving the young bowler valuable exposure to seam-friendly English conditions. Indian team management and national selectors are keen to test his ability to swing the red Kookaburra ball in helpful environments, keeping a future Test tour of New Zealand firmly in mind.

Although Nabi was part of India's recent Test squad against Sri Lanka, he did not get a chance to play on the field. He will now join several compatriots already playing across the English domestic circuit, including spinners Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav, alongside Surrey teammates Rahul Chahar and

Mahipal Lomror.

Once his time in county cricket concludes, Nabi is slated to link up with the India A squad for two red-ball matches against Australia starting later in September. Meanwhile, rumors suggest senior quicks Mohammed Shami and Mukesh Kumar might also join county teams later this season.



Rewiring muscle memory was tough: Karan Sharma

NEW DELHI

Kashi Rudras captain Karan Sharma has opened up about the rigorous mental and physical effort required to overhaul his batting technique under veteran coach Pravin Amre.

Speaking in an exclusive conversation, the star batsman revealed that stepping out of his comfort zone to train in Mumbai paid rich dividends, helping him top the run-scoring charts with 298 runs across nine games at an impressive strike rate of 146.8.

While Sharma continues to rely on his childhood coach Rajan Sachdeva for regular fine-tuning, he spent ten intense days working with Amre prior to the season to tweak his posture and swing.

Acknowledging the difficulty of the transition, Sharma noted that dismantling years of established motor patterns is no easy feat.

Breaking deeply ingrained muscle memory triggered an initial month-long struggle before things began to click, ultimately enhancing his power-hitting, timing, and shot execution.

Looking ahead, Sharma plans to return to Amre's camp ahead of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season, stressing that modern batsmen must remain in a perpetual state of evolution to avoid regression.

Akshay Bhatia slips as Hovland leads Championship

ATLANTA

Indian golfer Akshay Bhatia slipped down the leaderboard into a tied 22nd spot following a challenging third round at the Tour Championship. After sitting in a promising position earlier in the weekend, he carded a one-over 71, bringing his overall tournament score to five-under par. Bhatia experienced a rollercoaster round on

the course. He dropped an early shot on the fifth hole but managed to bounce back by claiming a stroke on the twelfth. However, consecutive bogeys on the fourteenth and fifteenth holes halted his momentum. Despite securing a late birdie on the seventeenth, he finds himself lower in the standings among the elite 29-player field heading into the final day of competition.

Despite this setback, qualifying for the prestigious season finale guarantees the young golfer a spot in all four major championships next season.

At the very top of the leaderboard, Viktor Hovland delivered a stellar performance to claim a one-shot advantage. The Norwegian golfer sank four crucial birdie putts from 7 feet or longer during a strong finish on the back nine, signing for a five-under 65.

Chelsea complete signing of Emiliano Martinez

NEW DELHI

Chelsea have officially secured the services of star goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez from Aston Villa on a 3-year contract, just ahead of the summer transfer window deadline.

The Argentine shot-stopper arrives at Stamford Bridge following a successful 6-year spell with Aston Villa, where his achievements included lifting the UEFA Europa League trophy.

Widely recognized as one of the game's top keepers, Martinez brings an impressive winning pedigree to his new side, having famously claimed the Golden Glove award during Argentina's triumphant 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign.

Expressing his enthusiasm about the transfer, Martinez shared his excitement in a club statement. He noted that choosing to join the Blues was an easy decision for both him and his family. He emphasized his desire to win trophies and promised to bring total passion, maximum effort, and dedication to every training session and match to make the supporters proud.

His football journey began in the youth ranks of Independiente before he moved to Arsenal in 2010.

After a long series of loan spells to gain senior experience, he broke into the Gunners' regular lineup during the 2019-20 season and



secured an FA Cup title.

He then transferred to Aston Villa, making 213 appearances and establishing himself as his country's undisputed number one since his international debut in 2021.

Beyond his 2022 World Cup heroics, he recently helped Argentina reach the final of the 2026 World Cup, where they finished as runners-up to Spain.

His exceptional club and international form also earned him consecutive Yashin Trophy titles as the world's best goalkeeper at the 2023 and 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremonies.

Karnataka under-14 girls win CISCE basketball title

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Under-14 girls basketball team clinched the gold medal and claimed the championship title at the CISCE Nationals Basketball Tournament 2026, hosted at St. Joseph's School in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Chief Guest Mrs. Poonam Chaturvedi, alongside school principals and CISCE members, handed over the gleaming championship trophy to the victorious squad. Team coach Mrs. Sunayana Swarup, assistant coach Mrs. Gomedha, captain Kenisha Anil, and standout player Devi Shiza celebrated the historic win. The talented young roster proudly brought home top honors, marking a remarkable triumph for youth sports in Karnataka.

Sri Lanka loses women's champions trophy rights

NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council has reportedly stripped Sri Lanka of its hosting rights for the upcoming inaugural Women's Champions Trophy. Officials made the difficult call because the country's cricket board is currently operating under a government-appointed interim administration.

The flagship tournament is scheduled to run from February 14 to 28, featuring six elite national teams in its first-ever edition. Reports from local media highlighted that the landmark event will now take place at an alternative venue, with the final decision on the new location set to be finalized during the next official board meeting.

Global cricket rules strictly prohibit government interference in the management of

member boards. Because of this ongoing political involvement, the governing body previously blocked Sri Lankan representatives from attending international board meetings while the Transformation Committee remains in charge.

The interim committee recently submitted a draft constitution to the sports minister to address the governance issues. Although the proposed legal changes will eventually head to parliament, officials admit the lengthy legislative process will not wrap up quickly enough to satisfy international requirements.

Beyond losing the privilege of hosting matches, the island nation faces an even bigger threat regarding participation. Tournament qualification rules dictate that the top five teams in global rankings secure automatic spots alongside the host nation.

