

Government of Karnataka



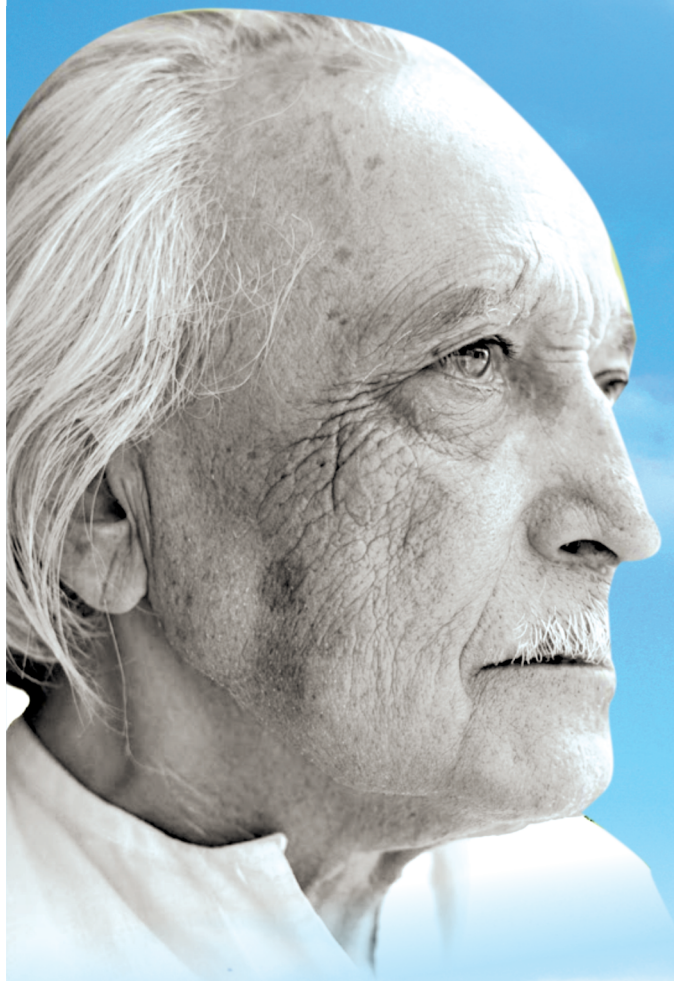
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



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



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Quick Read

Court awards life term to man for killing teen after love rejection

CHIKKODI
A Chikkodi court has sentenced Ameer Lalsab Jamadar, 26, to life imprisonment for murdering a 16-year-old girl after she rejected his love proposal. The incident occurred on August 1, 2021, under Haru-geri police limits in Belagavi district. According to the prosecution, Jamadar followed the Class 9 student while she was returning from the Kariddeshwar fair with her sister and friends. He stopped her on the Kar-nawadi farm road and threatened her after she refused his proposal. He then attacked her with a sharp meat-cutting knife, causing fatal injuries. The Chikkodi Seventh Additional District and Sessions Court considered witness statements and other evidence before delivering the verdict. Judge Vijayakumar sentenced him to life imprisonment and imposed a ₹30,000 fine. The prosecution welcomed the verdict, saying justice had finally been delivered to the victim's family.

Chicken fight during drinking ends in murder

BELAGAVI
A man was allegedly stabbed to death by his friend following an argument over eating chicken during a drinking session in Hunshyal PG village of Mudalagi taluk. The incident occurred on August 23, police said. The deceased was identified as Satiram Chandradev, from Pilibhit district in Uttar Pradesh. His friend, Arun Kumar Balistar Chavan, has been arrested in connection with the murder. According to police, both men worked at Priya Steels factory and were staying in a shed. After a chicken party, an argument broke out between them over one man allegedly eating more chicken. During the heated exchange, Arun Kumar reportedly stabbed Satiram in the chest with a knife, killing him. Police said the accused later took the body to Gokak government hospital and falsely claimed that Satiram had fallen from a height while welding. However, doctors noticed injuries, raising suspicion. Investigation by Ghataprabha police exposed the murder. The knife used in the crime has been seized.

Bike riders assault KSRTC bus driver

HAVERI
Two bike riders allegedly assaulted a KSRTC bus driver near the G.H. College stop in Haveri after accusing him of not giving them side while driving. The incident occurred on August 29 evening, police said. The injured driver was identified as 43-year-old Sunil Eshwarappa Gadag, who works at the NWKRTC Haveri depot. He was travelling from Gadag to Haveri when the incident occurred. After the bus stopped near G.H. College, the two riders allegedly confronted him and assaulted him. According to his complaint, the accused punched him on the chest, head and stomach, tore his uniform, abused him and obstructed him from performing his duty. They also allegedly threatened to kill him. Sunil was admitted to Haveri District Hospital for treatment. The accused have been identified as 20-year-old Ganesh and 25-year-old Balaji, residents of Hurulikoppi village in Savanur taluk. A case has been registered at Haveri Traffic Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

Horatti alleges DK Shivakumar pressured him to resign

The situation shifted later when his personal assistant was instructed to bring the resignation letter.

GADAG
Former Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti has expressed anguish over the manner in which he said his resignation was obtained, alleging that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar personally came to the Speaker's office and pressured him to step down. Speaking to party workers at Bellatti village in Shirahatti taluk of Gadag district, Horatti said he was deeply hurt by the treatment he received. He alleged that the

Chief Minister stayed inside the office with the doors closed for nearly one-and-a-half hours while insisting that he resign from the post. Horatti said Shivakumar had called him at around 11 p.m. on July 24 and asked him to resign as Legislative Council Chairman. However, he said he had decided to convene the Council session on August 14, thank the members and then submit his resignation. According to Horatti, the situation changed later when his personal assistant was



asked to bring the resignation letter. He alleged that the Chief Minister had the letter prepared without providing him with any reason for seek-

He had intended to leave the post only after completing the proceedings and expressing his gratitude to members of the Legislative Council. Instead, he alleged that he was forced to resign before he could follow the procedure he had planned.
—Basavaraj Horatti, Former Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman

ing his resignation and obtained his signature on it. The former Chairman described the manner in which the resignation was obtained as an act of coercion and said the incident had caused him

considerable emotional distress. His remarks indicate his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the leadership handled his exit from the constitutional position. Horatti's allegations have added another political point of discussion within Karnataka, particularly over the circumstances surrounding the change in the Legislative Council leadership. He maintained that while he was prepared to step down, he was disappointed by the manner in which the resignation was secured.

POP Ganesh idols threaten traditional clay artisans

HAVERI
With Ganesh Chaturthi just days away, traditional clay idol makers in Haveri are facing renewed competition from cheaper and attractive Plaster of Paris (POP) idols. Artisans say the growing sale of PoP idols is reducing demand for handmade clay Ganesh idols and putting the livelihood of traditional families at risk. POP idols require less labour and can be produced much faster than clay idols. While a handmade clay idol may take around three days to prepare, several POP idols can be completed in a single day using moulds. Their smooth finish and lower prices have made them popular among buyers. Artisans allege that POP idols are being brought from other places and given final touches at secluded locations before being sold. Traditional idol maker Sanjeev Kumar said the situation had severely affected families that had preserved the craft for generations. He said Haveri district once had nearly 5,000 families making clay Ganesh idols, but only around 40 families are now engaged in the traditional craft. He said the higher cost and labour involved in clay idols make it difficult for artisans to compete with cheaper ready-made POP products. Another artisan, Mounesh Kammar, warned that POP idols could harm water bodies after immersion. Unlike clay idols, POP does not dissolve easily in water and can contribute to pollution and affect aquatic life. He urged people to choose environmentally friendly clay idols and demanded strict action against those manufacturing or selling POP idols. Haveri Deputy Commissioner Dr Vijayamahantesh Danammanavar said authorities had already issued guidelines and held meetings with concerned officials ahead of the festival. He urged people to use clay idols made with natural colours and avoid practices that damage the environment. He said pollution-control teams had conducted inspections at several locations and assured that authorities would seize POP idols if they were found before installation.

Belagavi faces rain deficit, but no drought taluk

BELAGAVI
Despite a significant shortage of rainfall across most parts of Belagavi district, none of its taluks has been included in the state's drought-affected list, leaving farmers worried about crop losses and relief measures. The state government has declared 101 taluks as drought-affected based on rainfall deficiency and crop damage. Of these, 89 have been classified as severely drought-hit and 12 as moderately drought-hit. However, none of the 15 taluks in Belagavi district has been included in the list, even though all except Khanapur have reportedly experienced rainfall shortages. Farmers have raised concerns as crops cultivated across large areas are facing water stress. Nearly 7.38 lakh hectares were sown in the district this season, of which around 65,000 hectares of crops including black gram, green gram, maize and groundnut are reportedly at risk of drying up. Farmers who borrowed money to cultivate the crops fear major financial losses. Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Roshan said 14 of



Despite widespread rainfall shortages across almost all taluks, Belagavi district was entirely excluded from the official list.

the district's 15 taluks recorded deficient rainfall in August. Under the existing guidelines, a taluk can be declared drought-hit if it receives no rain for three consecutive weeks. He said if the district does not receive rain for another three days, some taluks could qualify for inclusion under the guidelines. He added that around ₹11 crore in interim crop insurance compensation would be released for damage to black gram and green gram across 29,000 hectares in Yaragatti, Savadatti and Ramdurg. Compensation could also be provided for maize and sunflow-

er if losses cross the prescribed threshold. District in-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the drought list had been prepared according to Central government guidelines. He said Yaragatti and Savadatti were not currently eligible but changes could be made next week. He assured farmers that they need not panic and said the state government had provided relief in the past without waiting for Central assistance. From June 1 to August 29, Belagavi received 417 mm rainfall against the normal 470 mm, recording an 11% deficit. August alone recorded a 25% shortfall, with 99 mm against the normal 133 mm. Farmers have urged the government to revise outdated guidelines and ensure adequate compensation for crop losses.

Bank employee dies after alleged bribe demand

DAVANAGERE
A bank employee allegedly died by suicide after claiming that he was denied a promotion despite paying ₹50,000 as a bribe, in an incident reported near Madanabavi village in Honnali taluk of Davanagere district. The deceased was identified as Mohan Kumar, who was working with IDFC Bank. According to the report, Mohan had alleged that bank officials demanded ₹50,000 from him by promising a promotion. He reportedly borrowed money to make the payment and was later left without the promised promotion. Mohan is said to have recorded a selfie video before taking the extreme step. In the video, he allegedly

named bank employee Thippeswamy and Kotresh, who he claimed had prepared a fake marks card, and held them responsible for his death. He also appealed to former minister M.P. Renukacharya through the video to help him get justice. According to the allegations made in the video, Mohan had been under financial pressure after borrowing money to meet the alleged demand. His distress reportedly increased after the promotion did not materialise, leaving him struggling with the debt. Mohan later allegedly jumped into the Tunga canal along with his motorcycle. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Nyamathi police station. After receiving informa-

tion about the incident, fire and emergency personnel launched a search operation in the canal. The motorcycle was reportedly found in the water, while efforts were continuing to locate Mohan's body. The allegations made by Mohan in the selfie video are yet to be independently established. Police are expected to examine the video, financial transactions and other evidence as part of the investigation. The incident has raised concerns over allegations of corruption and exploitation in matters related to promotions. Further action will depend on the findings of the police investigation and verification of the allegations made against the persons named in the video.

Karnataka's VB-G RAM G scheme faces hurdles

HUBBALLI
Karnataka's implementation of the VB-G RAM G rural employment scheme has encountered technical and financial challenges, with concerns emerging over the gap between jobs being recorded on paper and actual employment opportunities available to rural workers. Data available on the VB-G RAM G website shows that 805 of the state's 5,958 gram panchayats have reported no employment under the scheme despite drought-like conditions in several parts of Karnataka. The figures have raised questions over the effectiveness of the programme in reaching workers who depend on rural employment opportunities. The scheme is intended to provide wage employment and support livelihood opportunities in rural areas. However, difficulties in implementation at the grassroots level have reportedly affected the pace at which works are being taken up and employment is being generated. Officials and stakeholders have pointed to technical and financial constraints as some of the reasons behind the slow implementation. Rural local bodies need to complete several administrative and technical procedures before works can be approved and employment generated. Delays in these processes can leave workers without timely access to wage employment, particularly during

periods when agricultural activities are affected by inadequate rainfall. The situation is significant because rural households often depend on government employment programmes during periods of weak agricultural activity. In drought-affected or rainfall-deficient areas, demand for wage work can increase as farm-related employment declines. The data showing that hundreds of gram panchayats have reported no employment has therefore prompted concerns about whether the scheme is adequately responding to ground-level requirements. The disparity between the number of registered works or beneficiaries and actual employment opportunities could also indicate implementation gaps that need to be addressed. Experts and local stakeholders have stressed the need for faster administrative approvals, adequate funding and stronger technical support to ensure the programme reaches rural workers. They have also called for closer monitoring of gram panchayat-level implementation. With rainfall shortages affecting parts of Karnataka, ensuring timely employment through rural job programmes could provide important financial support to vulnerable households. Addressing the technical and financial hurdles will be crucial if VB-G RAM G is to achieve its intended objectives across the state.

Farmers give week deadline to declare drought

KUSHTAGI
Farmers in Kushtagi taluk have demanded that the government declare the region drought-hit, citing severe rainfall shortage and crop losses. Members of the Raitha Para Horata Sangha submitted a memorandum to MLA Doddana Gowda Patil and Tahsildar Ashok Shiggavi on Saturday. The farmers said inadequate rainfall had caused crops to dry up and resulted in heavy financial losses. They alleged that agricultural activities had been severely affected, leaving farmers in distress. Despite the prevailing conditions, Kushtagi

has not been included in the government's list of drought-hit taluks, which they termed an injustice to the farming community. The organisation demanded immediate declaration of Kushtagi as a drought-hit taluk and sought financial assistance for affected farmers. It also urged the government to release crop insurance compensation at the earliest based on the extent of crop damage. The farmers gave the government a deadline of one week to include Kushtagi in the drought-hit list. They warned that if their demand was not fulfilled within the deadline, they

would call for a Kushtagi bandh and intensify their agitation. Raitha Para Horata Sangha state vice-president Mallikarjun Dotihal, general secretary Hanumesh Shakhapur, district president Honnappa H Talawar and taluk president Sharanappa Megur were among those who submitted the memorandum. The farmers appealed to elected representatives and officials to take immediate steps to assess the crop damage and provide relief. They said timely compensation and crop insurance payments were essential to support farmers facing losses due to the rainfall deficit.

MONTHLY WAGE DEMAND

Davanagere mid-day meal workers await 2 months salary

DAVANAGERE
Around 1,200 mid-day meal workers engaged in government and aided schools in Davanagere district have complained of delays in receiving their salaries for the past two months. The workers said they were struggling to meet their daily expenses and were forced to depend on loans. The district has 1,520 government and aided schools, with around 1.37 lakh students enrolled. Nearly 1.29 lakh students avail themselves of the mid-day meal scheme. About 1,200 cooks and helpers prepare food for the stu-

dents. Workers said they had been demanding better wages and basic facilities for years. Their monthly honorarium, which was initially Rs 2,100, has now increased to Rs 4,700 after repeated protests. They are demanding a minimum monthly wage of Rs 12,000. Workers said salary delays had made their financial situation difficult. Gangadevi, a mid-day meal worker from Siddanamatta village in Channagiri taluk, said she had not received her salary for two to three months. She claimed that such delays had occurred earlier as well, sometimes extending to four



months. She said workers had no adequate social security, provident fund or other benefits despite their long service. Another worker, Channamma from Jagalur, said workers

had submitted petitions and staged protests seeking the release of their salaries. Officials had assured them that the payment would be released soon, she said. Akshara Dasoha Block Ed-

KEY POINTS
• 1,520 government and aided schools operate in the district
• 1.29 lakh students rely on the mid-day meal program
• 1,200 cooks and helpers prepare meals across schools
• Rs 4,700 is the current monthly honorarium after increases
• Rs 12,000 is the minimum monthly wage demanded by workers
• Sparsh K2 system migration caused recent salary delays for July and August

ucation Officer Mahesh said salaries had been paid up to June. He explained that the government had directed the department to process payments through the Sparsh K2 system instead of the earlier method of directly crediting workers' bank accounts. Salaries for July and August are pending, he said. Mahesh said about Rs 11 crore had been received for the district and officials were being trained to process payments through Sparsh K2. He assured workers that the pending salaries would be released within two to three days.



Iceland rejects EU accession talks in referendum

P10

P11

Russia Turns To India For Fuel



P12

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 padyatra 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.

Nagendra episode
Aug 3: Re-inducted into DKS Cabinet
Aug 28: Announced resignation
Aug 29: Governor accepted resignation
Portfolio: Planning and Statistics
Earlier portfolio: ST Welfare, Youth Empowerment and Sports
Scam: Alleged Rs 89-crore Valmiki Corporation case
Next: BJP padyatra from Raichur to Ballari from Sept 1

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 admi 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 Bara 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

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

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.

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.

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

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.



portedly 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-

Citizens and various organizations have unanimously demanded that the drama of merely making a fool of the CM stop and that the entire highway be permanently repaved.

- Shankanna Balikai, JDS party president of Shirahatti assembly constituency

gency funds were released. He warned that poor-quality work could be washed away during the next rain. The JDS leader said a Lokayukta complaint would be filed if any irregularities or misuse of public funds were found. The party also plans to ensure that the Chief Minister is informed about the highway's long-standing condition and has demanded permanent repairs instead of temporary patchwork.

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.



JUDICIAL INQUIRY DEMAND

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

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.

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.

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 programme. 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.

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 Mahapanchamrita Abhisheka to the Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra Swamy. A larger variety of offerings are used for the special rituals.



al compared with the daily Panchamrita 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



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 SAMRIDDHI to improve maternal healthcare

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government is implementing the SAMRIDDHI 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 SAMRIDDHI 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 second

airport began more than seven years ago. However, these two places were not included in the four sites shortlisted 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 Uttarakhanda 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.

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 a 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.

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-

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 Yum-nam 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 institu-tions. 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.

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,

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

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-

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-ciaries 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



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 legislation 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-voorce 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.

across all Assembly constituen-cies. 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.

"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,

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.

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-ture, 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 Kristrun 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.



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.

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.

REFERENDUM AT A GLANCE

- Against talks: **52.8%**,
- For talks: **47.2%**,
- Turnout: **82.5%**,
- Key concern: **Fishing rights,**
- Political impact: **Government's EU push suffers major setback.**

The vote also carried significance for the EU, which had hoped Iceland could strengthen its enlargement push at a time when Arctic security has become increasingly important.

Iceland is a NATO member but has no standing army.

Supporters of closer European integration argued that EU membership could provide additional security amid uncertainty over U.S. commitments to NATO and heightened tensions in the Arctic.

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".

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.

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

TNPDC L GRIEVANCE MEET

TNPDC L to Hold Chennai Grievance Meets

CHENNAI
The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC L) 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.

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-

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."

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.

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.

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 quantities

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.





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.

