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CBI seeks sanction for prosecution against Nagendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a development expected to turn up the heat on the Congress, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is learnt to have recently sought sanction for prosecution from Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot against Planning and Statistics Minister B. Nagendra, even as the Opposition BJP and JD(S) continued to disrupt legislature proceedings for the fifth consecutive day on Friday seeking ouster of the Minister.

The Opposition has been at loggerheads with the government demanding that Mr. Nagendra, who is facing a slew of cases in connection with the ₹89.63 crore embezzlement in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation, be dropped from the Cabinet. The money was allegedly transferred to multiple accounts, and so far, about ₹79 crore has been recovered.

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Protest against Kashappanavar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP and JD(S) members protested in the Council, demanding legal action against Minister Vijayananda S. Kashappanavar for his allegedly derogatory remarks about Dalits.

As Mr. Kashappanavar entered the House, BJP and JD(S) members raised slogans against him. Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that Mr. Kashappanavar had made derogatory remarks about Dalits while criticising the Prime Minister.

CJP team on school inspection attacked

Activists attempted to inspect a govt. school in a Rajasthan village where classes are being held in a cattle enclosure; CJP blames BJP involvement

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A team of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) activists was allegedly assaulted and chased out of Rampura-Kanwarpura village near Jaipur on Friday, when it attempted to inspect a government school as part of the organisation's 'School Thik Karo' campaign. The vehicles of team members were damaged, and women supporters were allegedly roughed up.

The team, led by party co-convener Ashutosh Ranka, travelled to the village in the Bagru Assembly constituency to inspect the Government Primary School. However, some villagers had barricaded the road and checked the vehicles entering the area.

CJP workers being confronted during their 'School Thik Karo' campaign at Bagru village in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on Friday. PTI

When the team of about 40 CJP workers arrived, some people asked them to leave. During a scuffle that followed, the team members were allegedly manhandled and driven out with stone-pelting.

Mr. Ranka said one volunteer had suffered a fractured arm. He alleged that those involved in the attack had been brought in by the ruling BJP.

The school building had earlier been declared unsafe and was closed. Currently, classes are being held in a cattle enclosure. The villagers, however, claimed that the funds for school repair work had already been sanctioned.

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After Cong. stir, Delhi Police register FIR over pellet gun use

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

Following a seven-hour *dharna* (sit-in) by the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, outside the office of New Delhi's Deputy Commissioner of Police, police registered an FIR against the use of pellet guns on protesters during the July 20 march to Parliament. Mr. Gandhi held the *dharna* after Sahil Lochab, a 19-year-old who lost vision in one eye after being hit by pellets during the protest, said the police had refused to register an FIR on his complaint.

The Congress leader, accompanied by his sister and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other Congress leaders, ended the sit-in after the police relented. The FIR was registered under Sections 118(1) (voluntarily causing hurt using dangerous weapons) and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Rahul Gandhi and Sahil Lochav at the Parliament Street Police Station. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Lochab said he had written a seven-page complaint as soon as he was discharged from the hospital and went to various police stations. "I have been trying to get an FIR registered first at Connaught Place, then at Mandir Marg, Sansad Marg and even the Crime Branch but to no avail," he said.

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NEARBY

User Development Fees reduced at KIA from Sept. 1

BENGALURU
The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India announced revised User Development Fees for KIA, which cuts down the fee to ₹300 for departing domestic passengers. » PAGE 3

Cabinet again seeks Sahukar's suspension

BENGALURU
The Cabinet is learnt to have decided to again recommend the suspension of KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar, who has been accused of favouring his two daughters for selection as Industrial Extension Officers.
» PAGE 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 4

Redevelopment of Jayanagar market in a limbo

The BDA, which was tasked with the job, developed one of the proposed four towers, stalled the project midway and returned it to the newly formed south city corporation

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The redevelopment of the Jayanagar market, taken up following a fire accident in 2009, has been abandoned half way for years now, amid vendors refusing to vacate their shops in the old building.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which was tasked with the job, developed one of the proposed four towers, stalled the project midway and returned it to the newly formed Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC).

Not taking off: A view of the Jayanagar Shopping Complex, one of the south Bengaluru's popular retail destinations. K. MURALI KUMAR

Stalemate

Responding to a question raised by Jayanagar BJP MLA C.K. Ramamurthy in the ongoing Karnataka Legislature Session, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who holds charge of the BDA, said that the BDA and the BSCC will have to jointly take a call on the future of the project.

"The question of levying a penalty on the contractor for not finishing the project doesn't arise, as the shops were not vacated and handed over to the firm," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Ramamurthy demanded that the government complete the project and redevelop the remaining three towers.

"If the government doesn't have money, it can explore options like Public Private Partnership," he said. "The redevelopment of the remaining towers is the need of the hour. Parts of the market were destroyed in the fire and now the abandoned ones have become a den for anti-social activities like drug abuse, etc. There was even a murder there," he said.

Diverse plans, demands

However, both traders in the Jayanagar market and the BSCC seem to have diverse plans for its future.

Jayaram B.K., a member of Jayanagar Traders' Association, who had a vegetable shop in the old market which was gutted in the 2009 fire, has now been allotted a shop on the first floor of the redeveloped tower one. "The tower has six floors. There is absolutely no business even on the first floor. Our previous shops were 140 sq. ft; the new shop we have been allotted is a mere 60 sq. ft. How can we do business here? Our business has dropped sharply," he said.

When *The Hindu* visited the market, shops had been allotted for two floors, but all shops on the second floor were closed. Even the stairs to the third floor were barricaded. Nobody occupies shops on floors three to six.

"The old market that was gutted in the 2009 fire is lying abandoned. The civic body's own structural engineers have given reports that the building is safe. When shops on the second to sixth floor of the developed tower lie abandoned, how can the government go ahead and develop the other three towers? Their fate will also be the same and cause losses to the civic body. We have been demanding that the old building be renovated and shops allotted," he said.

However, K.N. Ramesh, Commissioner, BSCC, said the corporation was now awarding shops and spaces on the third to sixth floors of tower one, to private firms for offices. "We are in talks with the BDA to understand the ongoing arbitration with the previous contractor. We may either develop the remaining towers ourselves, or use the space to build the new office of the BSCC," he said.

The newly formed BSCC has sought land in Banashankari for its new office. "However, the Revenue Department had already allotted this land to other departments, but it lies undeveloped. The land has to be taken back and reallotted to the BSCC. If this doesn't fructify, we are thinking of using the remaining Jayanagar market land to build our new office," Mr. Ramesh said.

'KEO to take AI computing to every govt. school in State'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The State government on Friday rolled out the country's first home-made AI personal computer, KEO (knowledge, economic and opensource) aimed at students, government schools and the common people who cannot afford expensive AI computing.

Unveiling the KEO, priced at ₹18,999, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that this innovative, affordable device that offers AI computing to the masses would democratise access to artificial intelligence and hence would greatly boost learning, farming and enterprising.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar launching KEO, India's first home-made AI personal computer developed through KEONICS, in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The KEO will offer every government school student, teacher in the State an opportunity to learn and build with emerging technologies. It will also help farmers and entrepreneurs," he said, adding that the KEO was a typical example of government-driven technology transformation for the masses.

According to the Chief Minister, the KEO represents the evolution of KEONICS from supporting technology projects to developing solutions aimed at creating wider social impact. "Your child's ZIP code should never determine his or her access to technology and opportunity," he stated.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge said that solving the problem of computing at the grassroot level is something no other State has done it. "This is truly India's first affordable AI-PC make in Karnataka for our people while all others are welcome to buy and use it," said Mr. Kharge.

The KEO is developed through a collaboration between the Department of Electronics, IT and Biotechnology, State-owned KEONICS, semiconductor partners, AI-focused system integrators, and brings together an open-source RISC-V processor architecture, open-source hardware and software and on-device artificial intelligence in a compact desktop platform.

Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, Chairman of KEONICS, said, "Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi heralded the tech revolution in the country and KEONICS would like to dedicate the KEO to his memory. Today, we are also building a portfolio by launching the KEO Lite and KEO Pro," he said.

Mr. Gowda told *The Hindu* that KEONICS was releasing 2,222 units to start with. These devices would go across 239 taluks. Two Arivu Kendras and two government libraries in each of these taluks will get four devices each. Also, select government schools in 31 districts will get 10 devices each.

IISc student found dead in hostel room

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old MTech student at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) allegedly ended his life in his hostel room on the campus in Sadashivanagar on Thursday, the police said.

The death comes 15 days after a 19-year-old BTech student took his life in his hostel room on August 6. A handwritten note was recovered. The deceased in the latest case has been identified as Gopal, a native of West Bengal. The death came to light after his fellow hostelmates visited his room. A senior police officer told *The Hindu* a note had been recovered from the room.

The Sadashivanagar police have registered a case.

"The family of the deceased has been informed about the incident, and the body will be handed over to them after the post-mortem," the officer said. The institute expressed grief over the student's death and conveyed condolences to his family and friends.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these helplines: TeleMANAS at 1-8008914416/ 14416, NIMHANS at 08026685948, 9480829670 or SAHAI at 080 25497777, +91-9886444075).

Two killed, 26 students injured

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Two persons were killed and 26 students were injured when a private bus overturned on NH 48 near Aimangala in Hiriyur taluk of Friday. The driver, Guruprasad, and the cleaner, Shankar, died on the spot.

Around 56 students of Universal Nursing College, Arekere, were returning to Bengaluru after a trip to Goa, when the accident occurred.

Book Brahma fest opens with conversation between languages

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"According to me, Akka Mahadevi is among the most modern writers in history. It is difficult to translate her works not because she belongs to another historical time, but because she is far ahead from us in her thoughts and ideology," said M.S. Ashadevi, academic, writer, and translator.

Sharing ideas: Panellists during a session, at Book Brahma Literature Festival 2026 in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

> The way Akka Mahadevi uses language and metaphors to counter patriarchy was complex, admirable and tough to translate
>
> **M.S. ASHADEVI**
> Writer

She was speaking at a panel session, alongside writers O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy, Keshava Guha and N.S. Madhavan, in the session titled "Linguistic Hegemony: Indian Languages and the Federal Imagination" on the first day of Book Brahma Literature Festival that was inaugurated here on Friday.

Ms. Ashadevi argued that the way Akka uses language and metaphors to counter patriarchy was complex, admirable and tough to translate. "In order to translate her works, the translator has to build a dialogue with her, understand the complex issues in society. It is not a question of transforming a historical voice into a contemporary voice," said Ms. Ashadevi.

Talking about the nuances of translation, Mr. Swamy said translating Kannada works into English is always a tougher task. "When I translate works into Kannada, I can do many experiments," he said, adding that English is more like a powerful rich relative that many a time creates a feeling of inferiority among people who don't understand or communicate in the language.

Not about Britain

Mr. Guha argued that for today's youngsters, English is no more a colonial language or hegemonic, but a language that can help them secure jobs and build a bridge with other countries in sharing knowledge. "They don't associate English with England or British," he said.

"Speaking from my perspective, English like Hindi is hegemonic on the one side and orphan in India in many States. Each State has its own literary culture and institutions that promote the language of the State," he said, adding that English has no such institutional support.

Mr. Guha elaborated on how English writers like him cannot rely on a particular audience, while Kannada, Tamil or Malayalam authors have their own audience who share same language and culture. "English might be hegemonic in business and commerce and society, but I don't think it is the same in the literature," he contended.

Mr. Madhavan spoke about the osmosis created by migration. "We have many people from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha working as domestic helps and drivers in Keralam. Many people in my State have now learnt Hindi to communicate with them, while workers' children are learning English to have better access to education. This is how language problem can be solved when two different communities come together."

Speaking earlier during the inauguration of the three-day event at St. John's Auditorium in Koramangala, festival director and writer Satish Chapparike described the fest as a celebration of readers and the richness of Indian language literature, especially from South India.

Awards announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first day of the book festival saw the announcement of the results of the Book Brahma Swantantryotsava Novel Award, 2026.

Kannada author Mahesh Araballi's novel *Neerava* won the first prize, which carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh and a plaque.

Dharwad-based publishing house Manohara Granthamala will publish the winning novel.

The other winners were Jayaramachari for *Mahatmana Nettaru Harida Sanje*, Guruprasad Kantalagere for *Tudigaala Gidabaale*, Kusuma Aiyarahalli for *Paaleya Pattu*, and Karki Krishnamurthy for *Amaruka*. Each winning work will receive a cash prize of ₹5,000 and a plaque.

Author K.R. Meera presented the awards to the winners.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED SALIM S/o Mohammed Atheeq R/o Anekal Town Banglore district do hereby solemnly affirm and state that i have changed my name from **MOHAMMED ATHEEQ MOHAMMED SALIM** (Old Name) to **MOHAMMED SALIM** (New Name). In future i will be called and known by my new name i.e **MOHAMMED SALIM**. Sworn before notary.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Divl. Rly. Manager, N. W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 09.09.2026 as below:- **Tender No.:** 141, **Name of Work with its Location:** Renovation of wards, toilets, provision of waiting hall for patients and civil engg work related to provision of AC etc. at Dvisional Hospital, Lalgarh under ADEN/HQ/Bikaner, **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 56563899.23, **Earnest money Rs.:** Rs. 1131300.00. Note-Other term & condition will be shown on N.W.Rly. website www.ireps.gov.in.

1216-PS/26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client, **Smt. Pavithra Badrinarayanan** D/o Sri,Badrinarayanan Radhakrishnan is intending to purchase the schedule property from its Vendor **Smt.B.Radha** W/o. Sri.Madhusudhan [previously the Vendor had acquired from predecessor in title **Mr.Munawar Burhan and Mr.Ashraf Burhan** Rep. by their GPA Holder **Sri.Madhusudhan**] ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Immovable property bearing **Site No.21, e-PID No.3241284490,** Old No. 16/1, House list Khatha No. 116/4, situated at **Geddalahalli Village, K,R, Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, measuring East to West: **45 feet**, North to South: **30 feet,** in all measuring **1350 Square feet** coming under the limits of Bangalore East City Corporation (BBMP), ward No.25, and bounded:

East by : 25 feet wide road; West by : Site No.54; North by : Site No.20; South by : Site No.22.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
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OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHENNAI (DRT 1)
Chennai 7th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

DRC/06/2025 / 03.08.2026
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus
M/s GVR INFRA PROJECTS PVT LTD

To,

(CD-2) GVR REALITIES PVT LTD, Registered Office Flat No B1, Vijaya Sreenihethan, No 8, Giri Road, T Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600017

(CD-3) MR. G PAVAN KUMAR S/o Venkateswara Rao Garikapati, New No 8, Old No 22, Flat No 2a, Coral Apartments, Raghavaiah Road, T Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600017

(CD-4) MS. G VENKATA LAKSHMI W/o Garikapeati Venkateswara Rao, No. P. No. 70, Journalist Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500033

(CD-5) MS. KONDEPATI KOMALI W/o Ganga Prasad Old No. 18, New No. 5, 1st Main Road, Dr Muthulakshmi Street, Indira Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600087

(CD-6) MR. K. LAXMIKANTA MOHAN S/o. Late Madan Mohan, New No.15, Old No.6, Crescent Park Street, Venkatanarayana Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600017

(CD-7) MR. G. RAMESH S/o. M.G.Venkataswamy, House No.8-2-269/19/S/D, Flat No.ns-2, Lavakusa Apartments, Road No.2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana -500034

(CD-8) MR. G. KRISHNAIAH S/o.M.G.Venkataswamy No.6-2-117, Behind ZP Office, Khammam, Telangana-507002

(CD-9) MR. B. DOLIKA PRAVEEN S/o. Mr. B. Satyam Flat No.6, Old No.62/ New No.48, 2nd Floor, VCN Abodi Apartments, Ganapathy Street, West Mambalam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600033

(CD-10) MS. A. VENKATALAKSHMI W/o. Mr.a. Gopalakrishna, A-101, Sriram Srishti Apartments, SSA Road, Anand Nagar R.T. Nagar, Bangalore Karnataka -560032

(CD-11) MR.T. NANAJI S/o. Mr. T. Ramakrishna GNT Road, Chilakur Village And Mandal, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh -524126

(CD-12) MS.T. PRATIMA W/o. Mr. T. Nanaji Gnt Road, Chilakur Village And Mandal, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh -524126

(CD-13) MS. T. VIJAYALAKSHMI W/o. Mr. T. Ramakrishna GNT Road, Chilakur Village And Mandal, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524126

(CD-14) MR. V. CHANDRAIAH S/o. Mr. V. Yellaiah Kadaluru Village And Post, Tada Mandal, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524401

(CD-15) MR. BAYAPUNENI KASIAH S/o. Mr. Nagaiah Baipaneni House No.7-23, Sai Prabhath Nagar, Peddanthanda, Khammam (rural), Gandhickowk, Khammam, Telangana-507003.

CERTIFIED DEBTOR(S) 2 TO 15 / DEFENDANTS 6 TO 18

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHENNAI (DRT 1)** in **OA/351/2018** an amount of **Rs. 2491,22,38,270.98 Ps (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-One Crores Twenty-Two Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy and Paise Ninety Eight Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest of 9% Per Annum as per DRC w.e.f. **21.08.2025** till realization and costs of **Rs 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Only)** has become due against you as on **20.08.2025** (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **02.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing from **21.08.2025** till the date of realization.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

6. You are further put on notice that in terms of Rule 16 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Section 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, you/your representatives in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to you, except with the permission of the Recovery Officer.

7. This Notice is being published in the Newspaper since the earlier demand notice dated **10.11.2025** sent to the above Certificate Debtors **"UNSERVED".** The next date of hearing is fixed on **02.09.2026 at 11.30 A.M.**

(BALAKRISHNAN SHANMUGAM)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Telephone No. :011-24608754, 011-24608770
Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F'- Block, General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI- 110023

Consumer Complaint No. 36 of 2021

Pravesh Kumar Sethi And Ors. ....Complainants
Versus
M/s. Maithri Developers And Anr. ....Opposite Parties

THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS/ FLATS IN THE PROJECT NAMELY "SHILPITHA SPLENDOUR ANNEX, BANGALORE" SITUATED AT CHINAPPA LAYOUT, MAHADEVPURA BENGALURU-560048 COMPLAINT UNDER SECTION 35(1)(C) OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019, AS A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all the allottees/flat owners/purchasers of the project developed by M/s Maithri Developers and Anr. (Opposite Parties), in continuation of and with specific reference to the earlier Public Notice dated 10.12.2023 published in "The Sunday Express", Bengaluru, pursuant to the Order dated 10.10.2023 passed by this Hon'ble Commission in Consumer Complaint No. 36 of 2021.

By Order dated 10.10.2023, this Hon'ble Commission allowed I.A. No. 4039 of 2021 filed under Section 35(1)(c) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and permitted the above Complaint to be pursued in a representative capacity on behalf of all the allottees/flat owners of the project.

Whereas, this Hon'ble National Commission vide its subsequent Order dated 07.07.2026 has directed the Complainants to issue fresh notice drawing reference to the earlier notice dated 10.12.2023 and specifically drawing the attention of all allottees to the limitations and observations contained in the Order dated 10.10.2023. Accordingly, the attention of the allottees /flat owners is specifically drawn to Para 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the order dated 10.10.2023, which contains the said limitations and observations and the allottees/flat owners are advised to go through the contents of the said paras including others. Both the orders dated 10.10.2023 and 07.07.2026 are available at the e-jagriti portal - www.e-jagriti.gov.in.

All allottees/flat owners of the project who have a common interest and grievance as set out above, and who wish to be impleaded/join in the above representative Complaint or to bring their objections/ claims to the notice of this Hon'ble Commission, may appear before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, either in person or through an authorised representative/ counsel, on the next date of hearing, i.e., 02.11.2026, or may address written communication in this regard to the counsel for the Complainants -namely Mr. Tushar Jain, Having address at: C-61, Lower Ground Floor, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014, Mob. 9717708889.

They may, if required, inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainants and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint.

They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behalf and / or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this 29th day of July, 2026.

By Order
Sd/-
(Dr. Pavan Kumar Singh)
Registrar

The project aims to use technology to monitor waste collection vehicles and improve the efficiency and quality of door-to-door services. FILE PHOTO

Central corporation rolls out GPS tracking for 138 garbage tippers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The initiative was taken up after BSWML confirmed that none of the garbage collecting auto-tippers have functioning GPS

After a long conflict with private contractors between payment delays and segregation rules, a pilot project to track 138 auto-tippers engaged in door-to-door waste collection was launched by the Central City Corporation limits in Shantinagar limits. The project aims to use technology to monitor waste collection vehicles and improve the efficiency and quality of door-to-door services.

The GPS devices will be installed in 138 auto-tippers as part of the pilot.

Launched by Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G. and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda, the project is being led by Central City Corporation Zonal Joint Commissioner Ranganath K., and is being implemented with CSR support.

Through GPS, officials can track whether vehicles are following their designated routes and carrying out waste collection as scheduled. Their movement and operations will be monitored in real-time through the BSWML centralised command centre.

The initiative was taken up after BSWML confirmed that none of the garbage collecting auto-tippers have functioning GPS, leaving a gap in monitoring.

User Development Fee reduced at KIA, but arriving passengers should also pay

Revised tariff to come into effect from September 1 and remain applicable until August 2029; UDF cut to ₹300 and ₹997 for domestic and international departing passengers, respectively

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) on Friday announced revised User Development Fees (UDF) for the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) which cuts down the fee to ₹300 for departing domestic passengers from the existing ₹550.

For departing international passengers, the UDF has been set at ₹997 from the existing ₹1,500.

Arrival and departure

However, under this revised AERA tariff order, UDF will be charged for both arriving and departing passengers.

The revised AERA tariff order is for the fourth control period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 and will come into effect from September 1, 2026 and will remain applicable until August 2029.

Until then, the existing UDF for domestic departing passengers and international departing passengers will continue.

"From September 1, 2026, the UDF will be ₹300 for departing and ₹125 for arriving domestic passengers, and ₹997 for departing and ₹426 for arriving international passengers. These rates will remain applicable until August 2029, following which the tariff will undergo modification based on the completion of key projects including Terminal 2 Phase 2 and associated airside/landside facilities," the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said.

BIAL added that an important change under the new order is the introduction of UDF for arriving passengers.

"AERA has determined that the charge should be shared between arriving and departing passengers, consistent with the approach adopted across other newly launched and major airports in India. Importantly, this does not translate into an overall increase in the base UDF. Despite undertaking a massive expansion project, the combined domestic UDF under the new structure will be ₹425 compared with the existing ₹550 charged to a departing domestic passenger, while the combined international UDF will be ₹1,423 compared with the existing ₹1,500 charged to a departing international passenger," it added.

A BIAL spokesperson said that the tariff order also recognises the significant infrastructure investments planned at the airport as it continues to build capacity for the future.

"It addresses several major projects, including Terminal 2 Phase 2, T2 Phase 2 Apron, airfield works, road and landside infrastructure and other related aeronautical projects. Certain incremental tariffs associated with major projects will become applicable only after the respective infrastructure has been completed, commissioned and put into use, and following the process prescribed by AERA," the spokesperson said.

From September 1, arriving domestic passengers have to pay an UDF of ₹125 and international passengers have to pay ₹426. FILE PHOTO

Now, pay for landing at KIA

Domestic	
Existing	**New**
₹550	₹300 (Departures)
Nil	₹125 (Arrivals)

International	
Existing	**New**
₹1,500	₹997 (Departures)
Nil	₹426 (Arrivals)

Cabinet clears AI surveillance cameras and portable signal jammers for prisons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

Following several instances of use of mobile phones inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison have come to light, the latest being of former MP Prajwal Revanna, the State Cabinet on Friday decided to equip prisons with AI-based surveillance cameras and portable signal jammers.

Home Minister Priyanka Kharge said that the decision is part of the modernisation of the State's prisons and the new technologies would strengthen surveillance and prevent unauthorised communication and other activities inside prisons.

The proposed technology will allow the prison authorities to monitor premises more effectively while regulated calling facilities are expected to provide inmates with controlled access to telephone services.

Residents flag concerns

However, the decision has made residents around the prison complex, who have been suffering persistent network disruptions due to jammers at the jail, anxious. They fear that the proposed expansion of jammers could worsen an issue they have been raising with the authorities for years now, to no relief.

"We are unable to make emergency calls or even place online orders because OTPs do not arrive on time. The jammers appear to be blocking signals outside the prison rather than being confined to the prison premises," said Mohan Kumar, a resident and employee of a private firm.

According to the residents, mobile connectivity becomes particularly unreliable in the areas surrounding the prison, affecting phone calls, OTP-based transactions, Wi-Fi connectivity and other internet-dependent services.

BJP MP C.N. Manjunath on July 21 wrote to the Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and sought his intervention over the disruption of mobile and internet services around the prison.

Weaver found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A weaver was found dead in Belagavi on Wednesday. Family members found the body of Vithal Ningappa Lokari, 30, in his house in Wadagaon Nekar colony.

The members told the police that he had taken out loans and was upset that he could not repay them on time.

A case has been registered.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these helplines: TeleMANAS at 1-8008914416/ 14416, NIMHANS at 08026685948, 9480829670 or SAHAI at 080 25497777, +91-9886444075)

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, AUG. 22		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:37
RISE	14:18	SET 00:53
SUNDAY, AUG. 23		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:36
RISE	15:09	SET 01:45
MONDAY, AUG. 24		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:36
RISE	15:58	SET 02:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Garbage spot cleared near government school in J.C. Nagar

THE HINDU IMPACT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The commissioner asked to take measures not to dump waste or park garbage trucks near the school

After *The Hindu* reported that hundreds of students and teachers being forced to endure foul smell emanating from garbage dumped close to the school compound wall in the edition of August 21, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management officials have got the waste cleared and garbage trucks have been moved 100 metres away.

At the same time, taking a serious note of the report in the newspaper, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa has written a letter to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao.

Mr. Bangarappa has instructed the commissioner to take measures not to dump waste or park garbage trucks near the school. "There are possibilities of children falling sick due to dumping waste, leachate smell from the trucks and rats infesting classroom. It is instructed to take measures not to park truck or dump waste near school and college in J.C. Nagar," the letter read. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ayesha, in-charge principal of Government Urdu Higher Primary School, said, "We will monitor the residents as well as pourakarmikas during school open hours and prevent them from dumping waste or parking the trucks near the school compound wall."

(Top) Sacks of garbage dumped on a footpath near a government school on CIL Road at R.T. Nagar; the spot was cleared by BSWML after a report appeared in *The Hindu*. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Absconding rowdy-sheeter arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths have arrested a 33-year-old rowdy-sheeter who had been absconding for six years in connection with an attempted murder case and had a non-bailable warrant pending against him.

The accused, identified as Divakar Raj Urs, was arrested in Papareddypalya near Annapoorneshwari Nagar.

The accused had been evading court proceedings in the attempt to murder case.

The police said 12 serious criminal cases have been registered against him across various police stations.

The CCB personnel had been monitoring rowdy-sheeters against whom warrants were pending in the South Division. Acting on information, a team traced and arrested Urs.

₹9 cr. unaccounted cash found in car; I-T officials launch probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Income Tax (I-T) officials seized ₹9 crore in unaccounted cash that was found in an SUV, which was allegedly heading towards Hosur in Tamil Nadu from Bengaluru, near Electronics City, the police said.

On August 18, based on a request from the I-T Department, the police intercepted the vehicle, bearing registration number KL 20 T 8629, near BETL Toll on Hosur Road around 10.30 p.m. The police escorted the vehicle and its occupants to the Electronics City Police Station. Subsequently, they were handed over to the I-T officials.

During a search of the car, the officials found ₹9 crore in cash, for which the persons in the car didn't have any record. The department detained one of the occupants of the car, identified as Sachin, 42, of Sindhu Jewellers in Tamil Nadu. Following the seizure, the officials searched the residence of some persons in Tamil Nadu and seized another ₹1.3 crore in cash. The department is conducting inquiries into the source and intended destination of the cash, the police said.

12,000 applications received for first batch of UG programmes: IIMB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Indian Institute of Management Bangalore - Dorabji Tata School of Undergraduate Studies' set to commence on August 31, the institution said that it attracted a record of 12,000 applications from across the country for the inaugural cohort of only 80 students.

A release stated that the highly competitive selection process has brought high-calibre students in the first batch with outstanding profiles. Meanwhile, Devi Shetty, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIMB signed an MoU with Noel Tata, Chairman, Tata Trusts on Friday. The MoU states that the trust will support the establishment and initial development of the academic infrastructure for the School of Undergraduate Studies, along with contributing to the strategic direction and vision-setting, policy formulation and governance oversight.

Mr. Noel said, "For over a century, the Tata Trusts have seeded some of India's most defining institutions that have influenced generations, and continue to serve public good long after the initial investment. India's next phase of growth will require institutions that can be ranked amongst the best in the world. Our partnership with IIM Bangalore reflects that approach. Through the IIMB - Dorabji Tata School of Undergraduate Studies, we hope to support an institution that can set new benchmarks for undergraduate education and make a lasting contribution to the country."

Devi Shetty, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIMB, appreciated the trusts' generous support.

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Manager	Degree with minimum 7 years of experience
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For Admission enquiries, contact:
Ph: 08256-236488, 7022609277
E-mail: sdmcnursingujire@sdmesociety.in

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HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

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THE HINDU

Instagram home effect

How social media is making Indian homeowners rethink when, why and how they renovate their spaces

COVER

Amit Kumar Agarwal

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

For decades, home renovation was largely triggered by necessity: a new home, a growing family, ageing furniture, a leaking kitchen or a functional problem that needed fixing.

Today, there is another trigger: comparison.

You see a beautifully styled living room on Instagram, save an earthy kitchen on Pinterest, watch a home makeover on YouTube or see a celebrity's walk-in wardrobe. Suddenly, the perfectly functional living room you have been happy with for five years feels dated.

That is the "Instagram/Pinterest Home" effect, and it could be changing India's renovation cycle.

At NoBroker Home Interiors, this shift is becoming visible even before the renovation conversation begins. Homeowners increasingly arrive at our interiors centres with saved Instagram posts, Pinterest boards and screenshots. Around 35% of customers share social media references or inspirations when discussing their interiors.

The interesting part is that the motivation isn't always a pressing need to renovate. Sometimes, it is simply the feeling that my home could look better. The home makeover is becoming aspirational

For India's younger homeowners, especially modern couples, "good enough" is losing its grip on the home. A house can be perfectly functional and still feel due for a change. The trigger is often not wear and tear, but weariness.

This is creating a more dynamic interiors market. Homeowners are refreshing spaces sooner, experimenting more and spending more on how their homes look and feel, from statement TV units and wall panelling to walk-in wardrobes and island kitchens.

Customers are now willing to spend 20%-30% more for interiors that feel premium, personalised and distinctly their own.

An island kitchen, for instance, is no longer just about additional counter space. It is becoming a social centre within the home. A walk-in wardrobe is as much about the experience of getting ready as it is about storage.

Post-pandemic change

This isn't just an Instagram trend. The pandemic fundamentally changed the relationship Indians had with their homes.

For the first time, homes became offices, classrooms, gyms, restaurants and entertainment spaces simultaneously. People became acutely aware of poor lighting, inadequate storage, uncomfortable furniture and spaces that weren't designed around how they actually lived.

Then social media gave them the vocabulary to articulate what they wanted.

For years, interiors remained a fragmented, largely offline category dominated by local contractors, carpenters and word-of-mouth recommendations. The digital consumer is now leapfrogging that model.

A homeowner can discover a design in Seoul, save a kitchen from a Mumbai influencer, compare finishes online and walk into an interiors centre already knowing the difference between fluted glass, PU and veneer.

Customer wants to see before buying

Digital commerce has also reset expectations. When consumers can virtually try on clothes, preview furniture in a room or customise products before buying, why should interiors require them to imagine the final outcome?

Customers increasingly want to visualise the kitchen before it is built, understand how a wardrobe will use available space and see how different materials change the character of a room.

The industry is therefore moving from selling a design promise to selling confidence in the final outcome.

Inspiration inflation

There is also an unintended consequence of the Instagram effect: inspiration inflation.

When consumers see hundreds of beautifully designed homes every week, ordinary begins to look inadequate. A home that would have felt aspirational five years ago can now feel dated simply because the visual benchmark has moved.

This doesn't necessarily mean people are renovating their entire homes more often. It means they are becoming more conscious of what is possible and more demanding about what they eventually build.

Homeowners increasingly arrive with mood boards already in mind. There might be one saved image for the kitchen, another for the living room and something entirely different for the bedroom.

But liking individual spaces doesn't mean they work together. A Mediterranean kitchen, minimalist living room and maximalist bedroom may each look beautiful independently, but bringing them together requires an understanding of colour, materials, proportions, lighting and the overall character of the home.

Role interior expert

The value is no longer simply in executing what the customer asks for. It is in translating those inspirations into a home that feels cohesive, practical and uniquely theirs. The Pinterest effect is only the beginning. Social media hasn't necessarily created a need to renovate. It has changed what people consider a reason to renovate.

Boredom with an existing space can be enough. A lifestyle change can be enough. Moving into a new home can be enough. Or simply seeing a home online that makes someone think, "I want my house to feel like that."

The next phase of India's home interiors market may therefore be driven not only by the number of homes in need of renovation, but by the number of homeowners who have seen a home they now aspire to recreate in their own.

The writer is co-founder and CEO of NoBroker.

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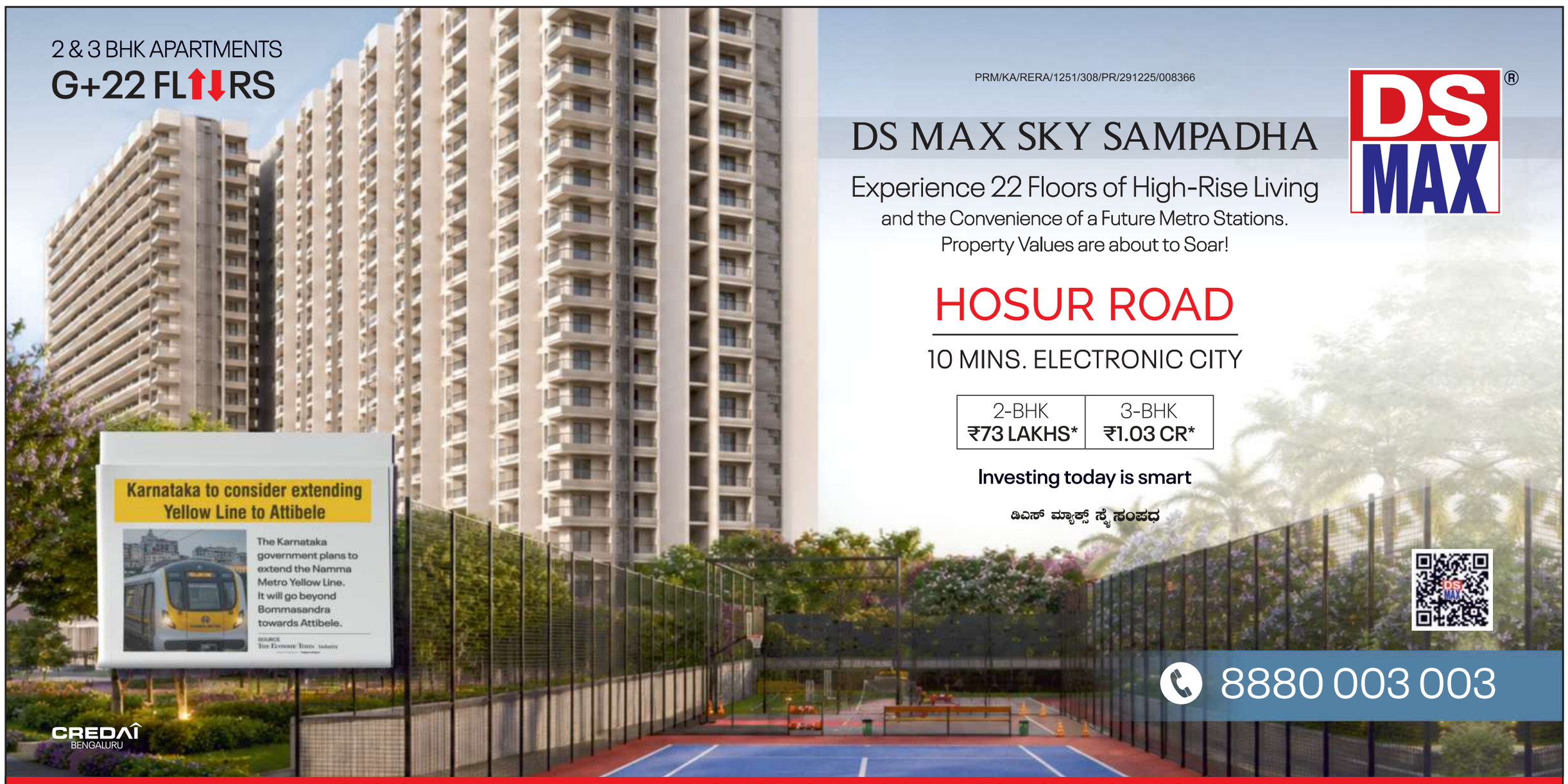

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G+14	G+14	G+14	G+14	G+14	G+3
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/281125/008287	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/270726/008848	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/230126/008427	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/050526/008622	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178
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(2016-17 to 2025-26)

₹1.03 Lakh CRORE
TRANSFERRED TO FARMERS UNDER PM KISHAN SAMMAN NIDHI
(23 INSTALMENTS)

23.30 LAKH
FARMERS CONNECTED IN 14,170 VILLAGES
(LAB TO LAND INITATIVE)

2.50 LAKH+
HABITATIONS COVERED UNDER IRRIGATION
(2017-2025)

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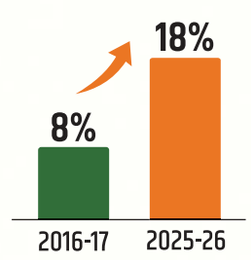
Direct Support • Greater Security.

- Farm Loan Waiver benefiting 86 lakh farmers
- PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi: ₹1.03 lakh crore transferred
- Crop Insurance & DBT schemes ensuring timely financial support
- Farmer IDs issued to 2.88 crore farmers for transparency

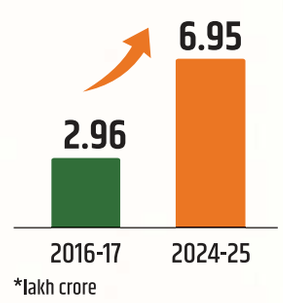
2 AGRICULTURE GROWTH & ECONOMY

Stronger Growth • Higher Contribution

Agricultural growth rate increased from 8.5% (2016-17) to 8% (2025-26)



GSDP (Agriculture & Allied) (at current prices)



- 76% land under agriculture, 86% irrigation coverage
- Uttar Pradesh contributes 21% of India's foodgrain production
- 400 lakh tonnes fruits & vegetables annually
- Rank 1 in India

3 IRRIGATION REVOLUTION

More Wate • More Productivity

- Irrigated area expanded from 82→105 lakh hectares
- 1,309 projects completed
- 76,527 km canal network
- 36,094 government tubewells
- Har Ghar Irrigation potential created: 52.13 lakh hectares
- 241.29 lakh farmers benefited

4 MODERN AGRICULTURE FOR THE FUTURE

Technology • Innovation • Efficiency

- UP-Agrees: World Bank-supported project across 28 districts
- Digital Mandis bringing transparency and better prices
- Drone usage expanding for precision farming
- FPOs & agri-startups empowering rural entrepreneurs

5 DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE, STRONGER INCOME

Expanding Horizons • Creating Value

- **Sugarcane:** ₹28.61 lakh crore paid to farmers since 2017
- **Dairy:** 12.38 lakh cattle protected under various schemes
- **Horticulture area:** 21.41 → 25.66 lakh hectares
- **Horticulture Exports:** ₹400 crore → ₹1,700 crore
  Total income: ₹41,000 → ₹1,25,000

6 FUTURE READY AGRICULTURE

Resilient • Sustainable • Global

- Climate-resilient agriculture & water conservation
- Value chains, cold storage & food processing
- Strengthening agri-markets & export competitiveness
- Building a prosperous, self-reliant agriculture ecosystem

> "Our farmers are not just food providers they are the architects of Uttar Pradesh's prosperity. - **Yogi Adityanath,** Chief Minister, U.P.

EMPOWERING FARMERS • MODERNISING AGRICULTURE • BUILDING A PROSPEROUS UTTAR PRADESH

A BG-BGE

N. Chaluvarayaswamy

'Upper Bhadra Project will be completed by year-end'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Major and Medium Irrigation Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy said that Phase-1 of the Upper Bhadra Project will be completed by November or December 2026, and water will reach Davangere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru and Chikkamagaluru districts.

Responding to the question raised by Congress member Balkis Banu in the Legislative Council on Friday, he said 17.04 tmcft of water needs to be lifted from the Tunga river to the Bhadra reservoir and ₹324 crore is being spent on this project. "During the implementation, there was a delay in obtaining permissions and other statutory approvals related to land acquisition, forest and power transmission lines. All these have been rectified," he stated.

Citing various works under progress, he said, "All these works will be completed by the end of November and water will be released by the end of December."

Sack Nagendra, reiterates Oppn. as Cong. says let House function

While BJP-JD(S) legislators stage protest demanding the Minister's resignation, Congress leaders, including Mr. Nagendra, stage another protest seeking smooth conduct of legislature session to discuss pressing issues, including drought

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

(left) Police personnel attempting to stop BJP and JD(S) legislators' protest demanding the resignation of Planning and Statistics Minister B. Nagendra, in Bengaluru on Friday; Congress leaders, led by State party president B.K. Hariprasad, along with Mr. Nagendra, staging a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on the same day. K. MURALI KUMAR

Even as the legislature session this week was almost washed out by the Opposition BJP and JD(S) seeking the resignation of Planning and Statistics Minister B. Nagendra, ruling and Opposition parties staged separate protests on Friday.

The Congress leaders, including Mr. Nagendra, staged a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Vidhana Soudha, seeking smooth conduct of the legislature session to discuss the drought issue and scarcity of drinking water and fodder in districts, and condemned the BJP-JD(S) for disrupting the session. Meanwhile, BJP legislators staged a protest in front of Maharshi Valmiki's statue at Legislator's Home, pressing for Mr. Nagendra's resignation.

The two sides are sparring over Mr. Nagendra, who had resigned as a Minister in 2024 after his name surfaced in the alleged embezzlement of ₹187 crore from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. He was inducted into the Cabinet a fortnight ago when Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar expanded his Ministry.

The Opposition has been disrupting the legislature sessions since August 17, with only a few sessions of Question Hour and Zero Hour being conducted, and a couple of Bills cleared by the Legislative Assembly amid the din. They continued the protest on Friday as well inside both Houses.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, who led the BJP protest, told presspersons, "The financial scam has robbed the poor belonging to the ST community in Karnataka. The money has been transferred to multiple accounts, including ₹1.2 crore to Mr. Nagendra's family member. The legislature's business is getting affected because the Congress is trying to protect him."

Releasing multiple documents pertaining to the alleged illegal transfer of money, he said the corporation – under the watch of Mr. Nagendra then – violated rules and circulars of the Finance Department. "Three chargesheets have been filed by the CBI against him. There is a chargesheet by the Enforcement Directorate. In Lokayukta, there are 31 chargesheets."

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The BJP members, wearing black T-shirts sporting "corrupt Nagendra", were prevented from entering the Legislative Assembly by marshals. However, the legislators forced their way onto the premises.

Before the commencement of the Assembly proceedings, Speaker G.S. Patil convened a meeting of floor leaders of the ruling party and Opposition in an attempt to resolve the issue. Following his suggestion, Opposition members decided against wearing black T-shirts inside the House.

> If a corruption charge is proved, the party will seek resignation from the individual or suspend them. Seven BJP CMs in the country are facing serious charges. Let them not teach us lessons
>
> **B.K. HARIPRASAD**
> KPCC president

However, despite the talks, Opposition members continued to raise slogans during the proceedings. They are expected to continue their protest inside the Assembly on Monday.

Meanwhile, Congress Ministers and legislators, who staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue, accused the BJP of preventing serious discussions.

"The BJP believes that after discussions, the State government may bring pressure on the Centre to release funds. Already, the State has sought a compensation of ₹10,000 crore from the Centre, apart from a team to study the situation in Karnataka. The BJP is disrupting the House to protect Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah," Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president B.K. Hariprasad said.

"If a corruption charge is proved, the party will seek resignation from the individual or suspend them. Seven BJP Chief Ministers in the country are facing serious charges. Let them not teach us lessons."

State Cabinet again recommends Sahukar's suspension

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Friday is learnt to have decided to again recommend the suspension of Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) chairman Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar, who has been accused of favouring his two daughters for selection as Industrial Extension Officers.

One daughter has been accused of providing a false income certificate showing the family's annual income as ₹40,000.

Earlier suspension

Sources said that the Governor had earlier suspended Mr. Sahukar and then sent the decision to be ratified by the Cabinet, which cleared it. However, this was seen as a procedural lapse.

"The Cabinet took the decision again to overcome the lapse and has sent it to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who will take further action," sources said. Mr. Gehlot is expected to refer the matter to President Droupadi Murmu.

The development comes after the Karnataka High Court on August 18 set aside the Governor's order of suspending Mr. Sahukar and had ordered reinstatement. The court had observed that the Governor's order was "illegal" in the absence of aid and advice from the Council of Ministers. The advocate-on-record for the Governor had told the court that the President, acting on the Governor's recommendation, on August 14, had referred to the apex court to hold an inquiry into the allegations against Mr. Sahukar. However, the court had then said that the issue raised in Mr. Sahukar's case was on a different legal point.

For industries

In another decision, the Cabinet is learnt to have cleared the amendment to Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2002, in a bid to strengthen the single window system for clearance and introduce "Know Your Approvals" for applicant industries besides bringing in a "once only" system for document submission.

The affidavit-based clearance has been extended from 15 services to 20 services, and affidavit-based clearance certification for MSMEs to three years and big industries to five years. The amendment proposed a "deemed approval" system if the applications are not cleared within the stipulated period, among many other proposals.

Other Bill

The Cabinet has also approved tabling of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to replace an ordinance promulgated earlier to amend the rules that deal with taxation, rates and fee.

From Page One

CBI seeks sanction for prosecution against Nagendra

Multiple sources confirmed that the Lok Bhavan has received the letter from CBI seeking sanction for prosecution recently. "The Governor has not decided on the matter yet," sources said.

The CBI, which investigated the Valmiki Corporation scam, has already filed chargesheets in three FIRs in which the name of Mr. Nagendra figures. Incidentally, Mr. Nagendra has earlier been probed by CBI in the Ballari iron ore mining related cases.

Amid din, apartment Bill, 2 others passed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid protests by the Opposition BJP and JD(S) demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over the alleged misappropriation of funds in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, the Legislative Assembly on Friday passed the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2026, and two other Bills.

The Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill seeks to establish a regulatory framework for the governance and management of apartment complexes, including the operation and use of common areas and facilities. Minister for Bengaluru Development and Parliamentary Affairs Krishna Byre Gowda explained the need for the legislation, saying it would provide a mechanism to govern apartment complexes in towns and cities. The Bill was tabled in the Legislative Council.

The Assembly also passed the Karnataka Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026, empowering municipal commissioners and chief officers to proactively intervene and take over private streets and drains that are in poor condition and pose a threat to public health and safety.

The legislation also seeks to prevent former landowners from claiming compensation or development rights certificates for land used for such streets.

A similar provision was incorporated for municipal corporations through the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Both Bills are aimed at ensuring better maintenance of civic infrastructure and preventing private ownership issues from obstructing the provision of essential public services.

As the Opposition continued to shout slogans against the Congress government and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for inducting Mr. Nagendra in the State Cabinet, Speaker G.S. Patil ensured passage of three Bills and adjourned the session for Monday.

'Govt. keen on bringing foreign varsity campuses to KWIN City'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eight leading companies, including Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited, and 14 other entities have entered into agreements for KWIN City, being developed between Doddaballapur and Dobbspet. Some foreign universities have sought buildings tailored to their specific requirements under a build-to-suit model, said Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil.

The government is considering an appropriate model to meet these requirements, he told the Legislative Council on Friday.

Responding to a question raised by member K. Shivakumar, the Minister said KWIN City is being developed across 5,000 acres. Development work on the first phase is currently under way, and the tendering process has been completed. Toyota is establishing a state-of-the-art innovation centre here, which will be of a standard that the company does not even have in its home country, Japan.

> The govt. is considering constructing buildings tailored to the specific requirements of such institutions, enabling them to operate on these premises for the next 30 to 40 years
>
> **M.B. PATIL**
> Large and Medium Industries Minister

"Global-standard medical institutions, the Indian Institute of Science and a campus of the National Law School of India University will also come up here," he explained.

Speaking about universities, Mr. Patil said Imperial College London, ranked second globally, the University of New South Wales in Australia, ranked 19, the University of Liverpool, 139, Lancaster University, 164, La Trobe University, 241, and Flinders University, 374, have already signed agreements with the State government. Of these, the University of New South Wales and the University of Liverpool have already established campuses at Manyata Business Park in Bengaluru and the Alembic City complex in Whitefield, respectively.

"The government wants these institutions to establish campuses in KWIN City as well. Imperial College London will establish an innovation hub here," he said.

"The government is considering constructing buildings tailored to the specific requirements of such institutions, enabling them to operate on these premises for the next 30 to 40 years. Only the eligibility and credentials of the institutions will be considered while allotting such facilities.

KWIN City will have residential facilities and common amenities. The process of allotting space to suitable and reputed institutions will be taken up over the next year," he stated.

'State police identified 771 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in 3 yrs.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Home Department's data shows that the State police have identified 771 Bangladeshi immigrants illegally residing across the State in the last three years, of whom 572 have been deported and 57 are currently under arrest.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge presented the data in response to a question raised by Aravind Bellad, Hubballi-Dharwad West MLA. The data shows that of the 771 identified, 656 were found to be living in Bengaluru city and 44 in Bengaluru district. The Mangaluru police have identified 23 alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, while 12 have been found in Kolar.

Mr. Kharge's response noted that the police are using the District Police Module and Foreigners Identification Portal to identify and detain illegal Bangladeshi migrants and initiate the process of deporting them. He said that a special task force has also been formed for the same.

"In Bengaluru, Deputy Commissioners of Police have been tasked to monitor the operation launched for the purpose under the title 'Operation Mukta'. Special drives have also been launched to identify illegal Bangladeshi migrants," the response noted. "Most of the identified Bangladeshi immigrants were working as rag-pickers. We are also keeping vigil and conducting investigations into individuals hiring such illegal immigrants," the response added.

Priyank Kharge

Recently, the police launched a drive in Whitefield division and identified 105 suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants

Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Karnataka

	Identified	Deported
Bengaluru City	656	505
Bengaluru district	44	33
Chikkamagaluru	5	0
Chitradurga	6	6
Mangaluru	23	1
Kolar	12	12
Shivamogga	12	12
Udupi	10	0
Raichur	1	1
Dharwad	2	2
Total	771	572

Recently, the Bengaluru City Police launched a special drive in the Whitefield division and identified 105 suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. He noted that four cases have been booked against individuals involved in either spreading fake news about Bangladeshi nationals or assaulting them. Of the four cases, three were against Hindutva activist Puneeth Kerehalli and another accused, Nagendrappa Shiruru.

₹1,750 cr. ADB aid for developing 500 KPS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the comprehensive development of 500 government schools as Karnataka Public Schools (KPS).

The programme has a total investment of ₹2,500 crore, of which ₹1,750 crore will be provided by ADB and ₹750 crore by the State government. The programme will be implemented over four years, up to 2029-30.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, along with senior officials of the Government of Karnataka and ADB.

Under this programme, 500 schools with the potential to attract large numbers of students have been selected based on parameters including grade coverage, enrolment, land availability and infrastructure. Each selected school is targeted to have the capacity to accommodate at least 1,200 students.

As part of the school-complex integration process, potential schools have already been identified in clusters and nearby sub-scale schools within a 3 to 5 km radius have been mapped for possible consolidation. Around 100 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have already been prepared.

Mr. Bangarappa said the investment will cover civil works and infrastructure development, classroom furniture, laboratory equipment, IT infrastructure and other facilities. Recurring expenditure will include teacher salaries, non-teaching staff, transport, administration, utilities, maintenance and other school-level operational requirements.

Probe ordered after witness in Prajwal case 'threatened'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A witness in a rape case against Prajwal Revanna, former MP, has alleged that she was threatened by those supporting the accused, outside the court.

The Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former, present MPs and MLAs, trying the case, has now asked the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the matter and submit a report to the court.

The witness is a social worker who helped the first-ever alleged victim to come forward and lodge a complaint against the former MP. The victim was a former househelp at the Revanna family's Holenarsipur house. This was the first case registered, based on which the SIT was formed.

A. Revanth Reddy

Centre denies approval for Telangana CM's U.S. trip

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Centre has denied permission to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to visit the United States as part of his Telangana Rising initiative, prompting him to cut short his London tour and return to Hyderabad on August 23.

The Ministry of External Affairs, which had been approached by the State government for clearance for the Chief Minister's official visit to the U.K. and the U.S., approved only the U.K. leg of the tour.

The State government was informed of the decision after the delegation had already reached the U.K.

Reacting to the decision, Mr. Revanth Reddy said the objective of the U.S. visit was to bring some of the world's leading educational institutions to Telangana, in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy.

"I have always believed we should all think beyond politics and elections when it comes to nation building and the future of the youth," he said.

Sowcar Janaki, the versatile face of southern cinema, is no more

In her five-decade career, she effortlessly essayed a variety of roles; she started out as a drama artiste in AIR, and debuted in films *with Shavukaru* in 1950; she went on to captivate viewers with more than 400 films in Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Sowcar Janaki, known for her versatile roles in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada films, passed away in Chennai on Friday. She was 94.

The name 'Sowcar' became part of her name when she made her film debut in *Shavukaru (1950)*, a Telugu film directed by L.V. Prasad. In Tamil, her entry began with the film *Valayapathi* (1952). She went on to be associated with some of the finest songs and roles, displaying style, majesty, and a range of expressions, in her five-decade career. She even earned the title 'weeping face'. But, she preferred to call herself a feminist.

Her first movie with Sivaji Ganesan was *Paavai Vilakku* (though the film *Padikkatha Medhai* was released first).

A recipient of Padma Shri and Tamil Nadu's Kalaimamani awards, she acted with three Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu – M.G. Ramachandran, M. Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa – and, in Telugu, with N.T. Rama Rao. She was one of the favourite actors of director K. Balachandar.

The song *Maalaipozhuthin Mayakkathile Naan Kanavu Kanden Thozhi* from the film *Bhagyalakshmi* always conjures up the image of Ms. Janaki, who played a widow in the film. Another film, *Babu*, starring Sivaji Ganesan in the lead role, featured Ms. Janaki prominently as Sridevi's mother. In a way, her life resembled that of the film's mother – rich-turned-poor.

SOWCAR JANAKI: 1931-2026

Born Sankaramanchi Janaki in 1931 at Rajahmundry [now Rajamahendravaram], Andhra Pradesh, into a Brahmin family, she grew up in a household where her father, who had studied paper-making technology in England, valued education. English was the language spoken at home.

The atmosphere was conservative, and watching films was taboo. Listening to the radio was her favourite pastime. She participated in dramas broadcast by the All India Radio and soon became an A-grade artiste because of her robust voice.

In an interview with actor Suhasini Maniratnam, she had recalled how Telugu film producer Nagi Reddi, captivated by her voice, offered her a role in a film. But her family was against it, and she was forced to marry at the age of 15 to prevent her from acting. She became a mother at 17.

Ms. Janaki herself had spoken about the abject poverty she faced when she began her film career as a mother of two children. Her fortunes changed later.

Even though many female actors acted opposite Sivaji Ganesan, Ms. Janaki's acting in films such as *Puthiya Paravai*, *Uyarntha Manithan* and *Mahakavi Kalidas* measured up to the thespian's.

With her extraordinary hairstyle and Singapore-style costume, she would enter humming to the beats of bongos while Sivaji Ganesan lit a cigarette in *Puthiya Paravai*. Her expression in the song *Paartha Gnaabagam Illaiyo* was stunning. Her role in tormenting Sivaji Ganesan throughout the film, particularly in the song *Enge Nimmathi, Enge Nimmathi*, is another milestone.

A journey spanning generations, iconic stars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Sowcar' Janaki, who passed away at 94 on Friday, starred in some prominent Kannada movies in her illustrious career as a multilingual actor. Her long on-screen association with thespian Dr. Rajkumar is one of the highlights of her remarkable film journey.

Ms. Janaki had featured in legendary filmmaker B.R. Panthulu's *Rathnagiriya Rahasya* (1957), an adventure film starring Uday Kumar. She had, in fact, acted in Uday Kumar's debut, *Bhagyodaya* (1956).

"Janaki's English-speaking abilities stood out. She was also known for choosing progressive characters," said film historian K. Puttaswamy.

After debuting in Kannada with *Devakannika* (1953), Ms. Janaki essayed prominent characters in the 1960s and 70s. Panthulu's *School Master*, an acclaimed social drama, is another noted Kannada work from Ms. Janaki.

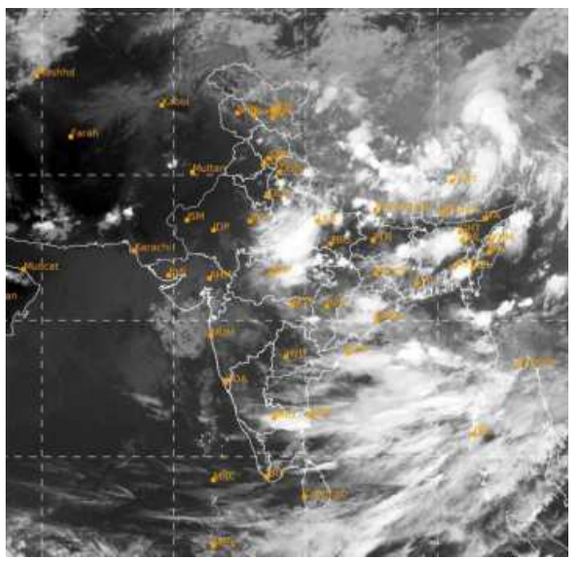
Her next Kannada project was also a milestone movie. B.S. Ranga's *Mahishasura Mardini* (1959) is considered the first major pan-Indian movie. The movie, starring Dr. Rajkumar, Uday Kumar and Narasimharaju, was dubbed into seven languages following its immense popularity in Kannada.

Kanyarathna (1962), *Saaku Magalu* (1963), and *Navakoti Narayana* (1964) were other prominent Janaki-Rajkumar combination movies. In her second stint with Kannada cinema, Ms. Janaki excelled as a character artiste. She played Dr. Rajkumar's mother in *Thayige Thakka Maga* (1978) and featured in Shankar Nag's action movie *Aarada Gaya* (1980).

While she was part of the ensemble in Puneeth Rajkumar's blockbuster *Abhi* (2003), she once again essayed Dr. Rajkumar's mother in the actor's final film, *Shabdavedhi* (2000). Ms. Janaki's final Kannada movie was *Pungi Daasa* (2013), starring comedian-turned-hero Komal Kumar, brother of noted actor Jaggesh.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over East Madhya Pradesh. Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, East Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir, Nagaland,Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Odisha, Punjab, Sub Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	004.0	21.0	27.0	Kurnool	—	33.7	25.8
Ahmedabad	000.2	31.0	26.6	Lucknow	—	35.6	27.6
Aizawl	039.0	28.8	28.8	Madurai	—	39.4	25.1
Bengaluru	006.3	32.4	20.3	Mangaluru	000.2	29.5	24.6
Bhopal	—	26.6	23.4	Mumbai	000.2	32.6	26.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	24.4	Mysuru	—	30.2	19.6
Chandigarh	—	34.3	25.7	New Delhi	—	35.0	25.2
Chennai	—	36.4	26.8	Patna	—	35.6	29.0
Coimbatore	001.5	32.1	22.6	Port Blair	008.5	28.0	26.0
Dehradun	007.5	37.2	23.9	Prayagraj	002.5	35.2	27.4
Gangtok	012.8	27.3	18.2	Puducherry	009.2	35.9	25.2
Goa	006.0	32.0	24.6	Pune	000.6	29.3	21.2
Guwahati	010.8	35.3	26.5	Raipur	004.1	27.9	24.4
Hubballi	00.0	00.0	00.0	Ranchi	—	31.4	22.6
Hyderabad	—	31.8	24.5	Shillong	013.0	30.4	18.4
Imphal	—	32.3	23.8	Shimla	002.2	26.0	16.6
Jaipur	001.4	34.3	27.2	Srinagar	—	32.5	19.5
Kochi	001.2	30.2	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	24.7
Kohima	00.0	00.0	00.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	39.5	27.6
Kolkata	—	36.5	27.6	Vijayawada	000.6	34.0	25.1
Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	34	12	55	110	
Bengaluru	10	103	38	10	—	
Chennai	1	—	17	31	96	
Delhi	9	27	68	125	148	
Hyderabad	13	12	38	47	72	
Kolkata	5	28	41	78	96	
Lucknow	6	23	33	43	49	
Mumbai	3	7	20	35	51	
Pune	—	26	30	35	80	
Visakhapatnam	18	70	24	69	121	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 226 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mangaluru to come under SWR's Mysuru Division from October 1

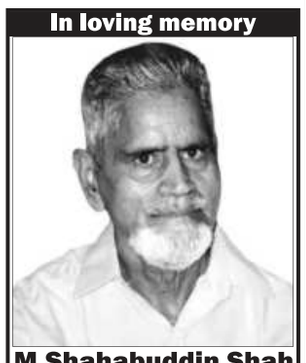
Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

The Railway Ministry on Friday ordered the transfer of the Mangaluru Railway Region from Southern Railway's Palakkad Division to South Western Railway's (SWR) Mysuru Division. The move fulfils the long-standing demand to bring the region under SWR, which has been pending since 2003. Railway Board Executive Director (Efficiency and Research) Dinesh Kumar Vashishtha said the competent authority had decided to transfer the Mangaluru area up to Ullal (inclusive) from the Palakkad Division to the Mysuru Division with effect from October 1. The Mangaluru area includes the Mangaluru Central, Mangaluru Junction, Panambur (New Mangalore Port), and Ullal railway stations.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory



M.Shahabuddin Shah
10.01.1919 - 22.08.2011
"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed we towards Him we will return."
Quran 2: 156
Fondly remembered By
Family and Friends

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru- 560 073.

No: BNCC-Z2/EE/DD/TEND/12/2026-27 Date:21.08.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2 invites tenders from registered contractors of Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD/ Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler strips, Lane Marking, Junction Markings, different types of sign boards, pilicon signals and Kerb stones, HRPC and other safety furniture's as per Traffic police requests in Dasarahalli Division. Approximate value of work: **Rs. 202.47 Lakhs**. EMD : **Rs. 3,03,800/-** Category : **Others.**

1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Pre-bid Meeting: **07.09.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. 3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals: **15.09.2026 up to 16:00 hrs. 4)** Opening of technical bids: **16.09.2026 after 16:00 hrs. 5)** Opening of financial bids: **After Approval of Technical bids.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No:61644/CMC HOSPETE/TENDER/2026-27
Dated:

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.Tender Last Date:27-08-2026 TIME5.00 PM Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date:29-08-2026 TIME 5.30 PM OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.

TENDER DETAILS: DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT 61644. Providing and Laying HDPE Pipe line Balance Network for Siddalingappa Chowki, Rajajinagar, Sameer Layout, Aravind Nagar,Valisab layout, Meenakshi Layout and other Lanes At Ward No 09 in Hosapete City.

Estimate amount (in lakhs): 50.00

Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer,, CMC Hosapete **Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.**

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/242

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:2026-27: 1833 **Date: 21-08-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.inPortal. Head of Account : 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements/2026-27 &KKRDB Micro Institutional Akshara Avishkara General / 2024-25 & 2025-26. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Two (02) Works (Work Indent Nos: 37644 & 0278) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **02-09-2026** Time 16.00, Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **03-09-2026** Time 16.30, Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **07-09-2026** Time 16.00. Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount **Rs. 360.00 Lakhs & Rs. 500.00 Lakhs.** respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/ Clarification & Other informations as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP Portal.

DIPR/Koppal/303/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.
No.: ACF: Channagiri:Tender.C.R-01/26-27-5 D: 21.08.2026

(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible contractors regarding implementation of construction and maintenance of Elephant Prevention Trenches and getting the soft and hard boulder stones in the Elephant Prevention Trenches in various zones in the limits of Bhadravathi Forest Division for the year 2026-27 fixing time up to 4.00 PM on 04.09.2026. For Tender conditions and further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Approximate amount of work: Rs. 59.91755 lakhs.

1. Works of construction and maintenance of Elephant Prevention Trenches and getting the soft and hard boulder stones in the Elephant Prevention Trenches

Last date for Tender Submission: 04.09.2026

Date of opening Technical Bid: 05.09.2026, 17.00 Hrs.

Date of opening Financial Bid: 05.09.2026, 17.30 Hrs.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/87/08/692

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL.NRBC.Divn.No.6, Chikkahonnakuni,Tq: Devadurga.
Dist:Raichur-584 111. KARNATAKA.

No. KBJNL/NRBC/D-6/PB-2//Road/TND/2026-27/365 DATED:18-08-2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, Chikkahonnakuni Tq: Devadurga, Dist: Raichur was invited in KW-3 on percentage in Two cover system from KPWD Class-III & above for the following Road work. The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and submitted through electronic tender box).

Formation of new Road, CD works & CC Drainage, shifting of electric poles along alignment of canal aqueduct of Lateral No.2 of WBC of NRBC Dy-9A. (KBJNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT3723) having of Rs.71.78Lakh and EMD of Rs.1.43Lakh.

The details of events for the above work is mentioned as below:-

1) The Contractors can have access to e-tendering documents from 21/08/2026 to 29/08/2026 upto 5.30PM. 2)Last Date of Receipt of the above Tenders will be 29/08/2026 up to 5.30 PM. 3)Technical Bid for cover-I will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Division No.6, Chikkahonakuni on 31/08/2026 @ 11.00 AM onwards. 4) Financial Bid for for cover-II will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Division No.6, Chikkahonakuni on 05/09/2026 @ 11.00 AM (If possible).

For any clarification regarding the tenders please Contact htt://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or office of the under signed during office hours on working days.

DIP/RCR/229/KSMCA/230/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, CHIKKAHONNAKUNI-584111

TAMILNADU FOREST PLANTATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)

Thiru. R.Saravanakumar, B.Sc., Regional Manager
Subramaniapuram 5th Street South, Karaikudi. Sivagangai (District) PIN Code : 630 002.

E-tender cum e-auction for sale of Eucalyptus standing trees for pulpwood raised in the plantations of Pudukkottai, Karaikudi and Tirukoilur Regions of Tamilnadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited (TAFCORN)

Sale of Eucalyptus standing trees for pulpwood raised in the plantations of Pudukkottai, Karaikudi and Tirukoilur Regions of Tamilnadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited, for the year 2026 -27 will be conducted by way of e-tender cum e-auction through **https://tntenders.gov.in** (TN Tenders) portal. Those who are interested may register as bidder in the said portal by submitting required documents and digital signature certificates and participate in the e-tender cum e-auction. The terms of e-tender cum e-auction and Range wise details of plantations to be brought for Sale are available in the Tender Document. The bidders should regulary check the above portal for updates. The details relating to e-tender cum e-auction will also be available in the Notice Board of the respective Offices of Regional Managers.

Sl No	Name of the Region	Total No. of Eucalyptus Plantations	Total Area in ha	Total Anticipated yield in M.t	Date of e- tender cum e-auction	Time
	PUDUKKOTTAI					
1.	2nd Rotation	14	468.74	15000	**16.09.2026 (Wednesday)**	**From 10.00 am to 05.00 pm**
	3rd and 4th Rotation	22	490.22	13475		
	TOTAL	**36**	**958.96**	**28475**		
	KARAIKUDI					
2.	2nd Rotation	21	568.92	17000	**21.09.2026 (Monday)**	**From 10.00 am to 05.00 pm**
	TOTAL	**21**	**568.92**	**17000**		
	TIRUKOILUR					
3.	1st and 2nd Rotation	82	2266.06	57000	**25.09.2026 (Friday)**	**From 10.00 am to 05.00 pm**
	3rd Rotation	83	1874.97	41975		
	TOTAL	**165**	**4141.03**	**98975**		

Note : The date, time and details of plantation for the subsequent e-tender cum e-auction will be available in the TN-Tenders website and will also be made available in the Notice Boards of the respective Regional Manager Offices.

The sale, harvesting and all consequential operations shall be subject to any order or direction passed by the Hon'ble High Court or any other competent authority from time to time. TAFCORN reserves the right to postpone, cancel, modify or withdraw the e-Tender cum e-Auction, either wholly or partly, without assigning any reason, and no bidder shall be entitled to claim compensation or damages on that account.

Contact
Pudukkottai Region office - 98427 56239 / 95855 57334
Karaikudi Region office - 94436 49768 / 63837 13415.
Tirukoilur Region office - 98404 84529 / 89032 03811

DIPR/ 742 /DISPLAY/2026

Regional Manager, (TAFCORN) Karaikudi.

Saving faces

Use of facial recognition equipment at protest sites is worrisome

India appears to be normalising the technical ability to subject political gatherings to searchable biometric surveillance without first having settled, through legislation and judicial oversight, the circumstances in which the state may lawfully do so. While the Delhi Police have continued to deny the use of excessive force and manhandling people involved in the Cockroach Janta Party protests, contrary to protestors' testimonies, facial recognition equipment was present at the protest site while the demonstrations were on. According to its affidavit to the Supreme Court of India, the police deployed a facial recognition system (including Artificial Intelligence-enabled cameras to scan faces in real-time against a database), a mobile surveillance van and a command and control vehicle, smart spectacles for identifying individuals on the move, and drones and videographers; the van and the spectacles have been tied to private contractors. The police have also not addressed whether actual biometric processing occurred with every individual within the range of cameras. Even if the police discarded the images associated with infructuous checks, that the data may have been accessible to private contractors, whose terms of engagement are unclear, is worrisome. However, no statute governs the use of facial recognition systems; the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, whose data-processing obligations are not yet in force, still makes broad exemptions for state agencies. The Automated Facial Recognition System of the National Crime Records Bureau can be used to identify criminals, unidentified bodies, and so on, and the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act 2022 expanded the set of records that the police may collect from specified persons. However, these actions are still only allowed *vis-à-vis* specific groups of people.

Irrespective of the constitutional validity of the police's actions, the chilling effect on potential participants may also curtail the right to protest. The state has to pass a well-established proportionality test when interfering with the right to privacy. While the first question – the existence of a legitimate objective – already poses important challenges to facial recognition en masse, the technology is indiscriminate at the point of capture. After all, there is a less restrictive but equally effective alternative (e.g., conventional policing). At this time, far too many questions are unanswered – including over the data-processing agreements, access, legal provisions that authorised major decisions, and the expected rate of false positives – for the use of facial recognition with all protesters to be justified.

Noise annoys

India must enforce noise pollution regulations uniformly and consistently

In a February 2025 hearing in the matter of *Surendra Prasad vs State of Bihar*, the Patna High Court acknowledged DJ trolleys and loudspeakers to be a major source of noise in Patna. After criticising the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) for failing to curb the menace, Justice Rajiv Roy directed the BSPCB to obtain reports from the police about permissions granted to operators of these noise sources and the action taken. In October, the police said they had seized equipment, levied fines, and so on over three months in Patna, Barh, and Fatuha but had taken no action in Masaurhi, a picture Justice Roy called "unbelievable" for suggesting that there were no noise violations there. In the course of these hearings, Justice Roy also summoned police officers and upbraided boilerplate affidavits, among others. The High Court's August 14 order was a continuation of this escalation, culminating – for now – in Statewide directives on the emission of high-decibel noise. Effectively, the High Court's actions illustrate how dismal enforcement has become despite the existence of comprehensive laws. Courts have repeatedly said that people have a right under Article 21 to be protected from unlawful noise. Today, with episodic enforcement having become endemic, the Patna High Court becoming a quasi-regulator is, at least as a stopgap measure, creditable.

It is absurd to expect the public to complain about every DJ or horn before the police can respond. The High Court's directions to the authorities to pursue routine rather than complaints-based enforcement and to have DJs, sound-system operators, and event halls register themselves with the subdivisional authorities are the sort of proactive enforcement that regulating noise pollution in particular warrants. In fact, the High Court's order also touched on a practical, everyday understanding of how loud-noise violations occur when it directed loudspeakers to stop playing at 9.55 p.m., five minutes before the law's 10 p.m. cut-off, effectively allowing time for operators to wind up rather than permit the deceptively innocuous practice of carrying on past 10 p.m. because "it is just a few minutes". Loud noise is often produced by ordinary social events such as festivals, weddings, political campaigns, and religious events, and enforcing rules creates friction with people who believe they have a right to practise their culture as they deem fit. Also, governments have an incentive to tolerate, rather than antagonise, their constituents. At the same time, having operators register themselves so that officials can regulate all of them equally rather than sporadically can also eliminate selective interventions. In the final analysis, the success of the High Court's latest order should be measured by whether the State develops a consistent habit of enforcement.

Ensuring equity amid India's educational progress

Sahab Deen

Project Scientist at the Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Navneet Sharma

Teaches education at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala

The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26 report highlights notable progress in India's school education system, covering 1.47 million schools, 240 million students, and 10.2 million teachers. Progress has been recorded in gross enrolment, student retention, dropout reduction, teacher availability, and educational infrastructure. However, the report also shows that regional and social disparities persist in access, resources, learning opportunities, and educational outcomes. Disparities in gross enrolment ratios (GER), dropout rates, pupil-teacher ratios, and infrastructure availability across regions and social groups indicate the ongoing challenge of guaranteeing equitable, inclusive, and quality education in India.

Regional and social imbalances

The report confirms that significant variations exist across socioeconomic groups and geographic regions in terms of various indicators. The distribution of enrolled students shows that Andhra Pradesh leads in Aadhaar seeding (99.6%), followed by Chandigarh (99%), while Meghalaya records the lowest rate (35%), compared with the national average of 90.2%. Uttar Pradesh accounts for the highest share of schools and student enrolment, while Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh have the lowest shares of schools relative to enrolment, indicating higher student-school ratios.

At the school level, West Bengal has recorded the highest proportion of foundational and preparatory schools (79%) of total, and among the lowest secondary schools (11%); Chandigarh has the highest secondary schools (83%) and the lowest foundational and preparatory schools (5%) of total. The social composition of enrolled students shows significant variation across regions. Chandigarh and Delhi have the highest proportions of General category students, while Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Ladakh have high proportions of Schedule Tribe (ST) enrolment. Punjab records one of the highest shares of Scheduled Caste (SC) enrolment, whereas Other Backward Classes representation is particularly high in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

At the national level, the GER has recorded highest for OBCs (49%), followed by General (27%), SCs (17%), and STs (10%). Thus, GER indicates large differences in school education enrolment in comparison to their corresponding population of each social group.

The Gender Parity Index across all school levels shows higher girls' enrolment and participation than boys across most of the States/Union Territories. The UDISE+ data show that students from minority communities account for more than 20% of enrolment, with Muslims and Parsis among the major minority groups. The average enrolment per school shows that Chandigarh registers the highest average enrolment per school (1,194), followed by Delhi (788); while Ladakh records the lowest average enrolment (64), indicating variation in the size of the schools across the country.

The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is an important factor influencing students' performance and achievement. The PTR varies highly, registering lowest in Union Territories and highest in densely populated States. A significant inter-State variation in PTR exists across pedagogical stages; i.e., foundational, preparatory, and middle PTRs are generally lower than secondary across most of the States. Jharkhand records the highest Secondary PTR (43), followed by Uttar Pradesh, signifying a heavy workload on teachers. On the other hand, Sikkim has the lowest secondary PTR (6), followed by Ladakh. The GER varies significantly at the levels of schools and regions across the country. Meghalaya records the highest Foundational GER (131), followed by Mizoram, while Bihar has the lowest GER (24), preceded by Uttar Pradesh. Meghalaya again records the highest Preparatory GER (171), followed by Manipur; whereas Gujarat has the lowest GER (74), preceded by Bihar. Chandigarh and Meghalaya record the highest Middle GER (118), followed by Delhi. On the contrary, Bihar has the lowest GER (70), preceded by Nagaland. Similarly, Chandigarh registers the highest Secondary GER (109), followed by Goa; while Bihar has the lowest GER (48), preceded by Nagaland.

The dropout rate determines the attainment and transition rate to the next stage of schools. Bihar accounts for the highest preparatory dropout rate (7.9%), followed by Meghalaya. On the other hand, many States/Union Territories such as Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra do not report dropout. Similarly, Bihar records the highest middle-level dropout rate (9%), followed by Uttar Pradesh. While several States/Union Territories such as Chandigarh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh do not register dropouts at this stage, Ladakh records the highest secondary dropout rate (14.8%), followed by Karnataka. West Bengal has the lowest dropout rate (1.5%), preceded by Telangana.

Persistent gaps

Generally, access to schooling has improved significantly over the years. Most children now have a school at a suitable distance, but regional differences continue. Remotely located places, hilly, tribal and border areas still have limited schools and transport facilities, where school-going children face greater difficulties in attending school regularly, such as in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, Ganjam and Kandhamal districts of Odisha, Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, and Palghar district of Maharashtra. Simultaneously, children from SCs, STs, minorities, and economically poor families have a greater likelihood to face different barriers that limit their enrolment, attendance, and completion of schooling.

School infrastructure has improved in several areas of the country, i.e., access to drinking water and electricity. However, the availability of infrastructure varies regionally across the country. Educationally backward districts are still struggling to provide a learning environment in rural schools in comparison to urban areas.

Teacher availability is a factor that significantly influences educational outcomes. The report shows that many States have recruited qualified teachers, while teacher shortages continue in several regions. Rural and remote schools often face a shortage of teachers performing multiple classes and subjects and many other non-teaching responsibilities allotted by the government. High student-teacher ratios reduce the individual attention students receive and adversely affect the learning process. Despite progress in girls' schooling, challenges persist in reducing dropout rates, enhancing transition from primary to secondary education, and providing sufficient and suitable facilities for disabled children. Inclusive infrastructure, accessible classrooms, and supportive teaching practices are essential for equitable education.

Targeted investment will help

The UDISE+ 2025-26 report shows that educational inequality persists across accessibility, infrastructure, teacher availability, digital resources, and social inclusion. Addressing these dimensions collectively is essential for equitable educational development. In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, targeted investment in educationally deprived regions, improved digital infrastructure, adequate teacher deployment, and stronger support for disadvantaged groups can help bridge persistent gaps.

Regional and social imbalances continue to influence educational opportunities and learning conditions. Reducing these disparities requires a balanced approach that collectively improves infrastructure, promotes equitable teacher deployment, strengthens inclusive social and economic policies, and provides dedicated support for disadvantaged social groups. A regionally and socially balanced approach that integrates educational quality, equity, and accessibility will help create a more inclusive education system, address the paradox of progress in India's evolving school education landscape, and contribute to the country's long-term social, economic, and regional development.

India's educational progress needs stronger focus on equity, inclusion, accessibility, and quality

Unimpeded trade needs IPMDA as the answer

Pooja Bhatt

Teaches maritime geopolitics at the O.P. Jindal Global University

Despite the diplomatic difficulties in United States-India relations due to mounting sanctions, it is increasingly clear that Washington needs regional powers such as New Delhi to support common global interests and values. Amid the U.S. visa issues for Indians and the energy crisis stemming from the war in West Asia, Indian and U.S. Foreign and Commerce Ministers have underscored the need for reciprocal trade and energy agreements. While the prime objectives in the present relations are clear, the strategy needs renewed focus on maritime domain awareness (MDA), which is crucial for the 'unimpeded trade' and has been unequivocally agreed to by both sides.

The Indo-Pacific is a trade artery

The West Asia crisis has demonstrated that the Indo-Pacific is not only a crucial geostrategic location for India and the U.S. but also for the rest of the world. Geoeconomically, it is the circulatory system of the global economy, a vast maritime corridor through which nearly $7 trillion in trade flows annually, connecting energy producers in the Persian Gulf to manufacturing hubs in East Asia and consumer markets across the Americas. Some of the world's busiest maritime chokepoints, the Straits of Malacca, the Lombok, and the Sunda, Hormuz, Bab-al-Mandeb, and Mozambique channels sit squarely within its waters, crucial for both energy and container supplies. Yet, this indispensable artery of global commerce is increasingly being threatened by a convergence of state-sponsored coercion, illegal maritime activity, and a dangerous surveillance gap – geographically, jurisdictionally and institutionally – that even the U.S. is finding challenging to address alone.

The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) launched under the Quad framework in 2022, represents the most credible multilateral architecture yet devised to address this problem. It is a practical, technology-based mechanism for sharing near-real-time maritime data across partner nations to detect, deter, and respond to threats to the free flow of trade. And its full operationalisation is anchored in robust U.S.-India cooperation under Quad (India, Australia, Japan, the U.S.), which is now a strategic imperative. At the technological level, in 2025, India has already purchased SeaVision technology from the U.S., which includes software enhancements, training, and logistical support necessary for mutual MDA cooperation.

A surveillance deficit

The Indo-Pacific suffers from a persistent and widening maritime surveillance deficit. As a multilayered technological assimilation, MDA provides an effective understanding of the maritime domain and its impacts on security, safety, the economy, and the environment.

Across the broader waters of the Indian Ocean, which connect to the South China Sea and the Western Pacific, hundreds of vessels routinely disable their Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders – a phenomenon analysts call "going dark" – likely to evade sanctions, conceal cargo, and cause safety and environmental threats.

Such vessels may also be engaged in smuggling or ship-to-ship transfers of contraband. Many smaller fishing vessels fall outside mandatory AIS transponder carriage requirements, and depending on the applicable national and international regulatory framework, they are also found engaged in illegal fishing practices in other nations' waters or even at high seas. This depletes regional stocks and undermines the food security of littoral states.

Furthermore, as witnessed in recent times, non-state as well as state-affiliated actors are conducting grey-zone operations designed to intimidate and coerce, while escaping any legal or conventional military response. The Quad's Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration 2026 (IPMSC), under the IPMDA architecture, is as elegant in its pragmatism as in its cooperation, based on a shared understanding that no country can monitor the vast oceans alone. By integrating data from commercial satellite-based radio-frequency monitoring, radar fusion, and existing partner-nation sensor networks, and sharing it with like-minded partners, it creates a layered, near-continuous picture of maritime activities.

The beneficiaries

For the U.S., regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean is essential if it aims to focus on its immediate neighbourhood in the Pacific and the Atlantic. For India, its Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), established in Gurugram in 2018, is a natural institutional complement to IPMDA's regional hub architecture. IPMDA is precisely the kind of arrangement that respects India's sovereignty while amplifying its reach. With the basics already in place, U.S.-India cooperation is necessary but not sufficient.

The full potential of IPMDA/IPMSC will be realised only through the active participation of existing Quad partners as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) partner states, the Pacific Island nations that constitute critical maritime corridors. The European Union, which has upheld the importance of free and open trade since the Hormuz crisis, signals an appetite for engagement that Washington and New Delhi must cultivate.

The contributions and benefits of IPMDA/IPMSC for smaller, capacity-constrained partners, such as Bangladesh, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Fiji, are significant. These countries have independent surveillance infrastructure, but their waters are frequently exploited because these systems remain ineffective at addressing maritime crimes beyond their jurisdictions. This provides an opportunity for collaboration.

The strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific has systematically dismantled the assumption that open trade is unilaterally sustainable. The freedom of navigation upon which global supply chains depend is increasingly contested, and such contestation, unrebutted, has become precedent in recent years. In a region where coercion has increasingly become the currency of power, transparency must present itself as a form of deterrence.

Maritime cooperation through the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) can strengthen the Indo-Pacific's trading system

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teaching with care

The report of a UKG student passing away after corporal punishment, was shocking to read. Such incidents remind us that children need to be taught with patience, compassion and understanding rather than fear or physical punishment. Education is not merely about completing lessons or securing good marks; it is also about nurturing a child's confidence, curiosity, discipline and emotional well-being. Instead of resorting to punishment, students can be encouraged through positive reinforcement and constructive criticism. A teacher who takes the time to understand how a child is doing — academically, physically, emotionally and in the home environment — can build a strong bond of trust with the student. Even a simple enquiry about a child's health, difficulties, interests or progress can make the child feel valued. Such a relationship can have a lasting influence on the child's attitude towards learning and school.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Sowcar Janaki

The passing of veteran actor Sowcar Janaki has caused a deep shock and left an even greater vacuum in the world of acting. She left little unexplored in the art of acting and portraying diverse characters on the silver screen. Every scene and every character she portrayed was a lesson and an example for those who aspired to pursue acting as a career.

S. Muthusubramaniyan,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A farmer sits in his dry paddy field at Vilakudi near Thiruthuraipoondi in Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu. R. VENGADESH

A dry spell along the Cauvery river

A weak monsoon has left farmers on both sides of the Cauvery struggling with dwindling water supplies. In Karnataka, farmers are worried about irrigation even as the State faces pressure to release water to Tamil Nadu, where large tracts of paddy fields remain barren. The competing demands have sharpened tensions between the two States. **Laiqh A. Khan** and **T. Ramakrishnan** report on the plight of farmers

Marilingaiah, a farmer from Karnataka's Kuntanahalli village in Maddur taluk of Mandya district, has raised a nursery of paddy seedlings on his two-acre plot. He is waiting for water to reach his fields, which lie at the tail end of the Visvesvaraya irrigation canal system. The canal draws water from the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir, located across the Cauvery river near Mysuru.

Worried, he says, "If water does not flow into the fields in the next 10 days, I will not only have to give up hopes of sowing paddy, but also lose the ₹8,000 I have spent on raising the nursery."

Marilingaiah knows that adequate rainfall, along with canal water, is essential for the paddy to survive. Yet, he is among the many farmers in Karnataka's Cauvery basin who have defied official advice against sowing water-intensive crops such as paddy and sugarcane this season, amid a predicted deficient monsoon and inadequate inflows into the basin's reservoirs.

The optimism of the farmers was fuelled by a brief revival of the monsoon in the first week of August, when the water level in the 124.8-foot KRS reservoir rose from 93-94 ft to over 100 ft within a few days, before stagnating at 109 ft.

While farmers like Marilingaiah have chosen to trust nature instead of switching to semi-dry crops such as ragi, pulses, or oilseeds, others are waiting for a clearer picture to emerge. D.K. Ramu of Kodihalli village in Maddur taluk and Raju of Siddapura village in Srirangapatna taluk are among them. "If there is a promise of water in the next few days, I will sow paddy. Otherwise, I will grow ragi," Ramu says. However, he notes that heavy rain could also damage the ragi crop.

Farmers across Karnataka's Cauvery basin are facing not only the pressure of a deficient monsoon and uncertainty over the availability of irrigation water, but are also concerned about the need to share the limited Cauvery water with neighbouring Tamil Nadu – a vexed issue that goes back more than 130 years.

Meanwhile, in Tamil Nadu, farmers in the Cauvery delta are facing a water crisis of their own. Low storage at the Mettur dam, Karnataka's failure to release a sufficient share of the water it received in June and July, and the Tamil Nadu government's decision not to open the dam for irrigation on the customary date of June 12 have left large tracts of paddy fields barren. The State continues its legal battle with Karnataka to secure its share of the Cauvery water.

Balancing competing water needs

With the monsoon falling short and reservoir levels under pressure, Karnataka has had to balance irrigation needs with drinking water requirements and its obligations under the Cauvery water-sharing arrangement.

On August 19, the Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee, a regional body chaired by Karnataka Water Resources Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, met in Bengaluru and decided to release canal water in only four rotational cycles during the crop season, instead of continuously. This decision was taken to conserve reservoir storage and to ensure water availability for other needs, including for drinking.

> If water does not flow into the fields in the next 7-10 days, I will not only have to give up hopes of sowing paddy, but also lose the ₹8,000 I have already spent on raising the nursery.
>
> **MARILINGAIAH**
> Farmer from Karnataka

Devaraj, a farmer from Attahalli village near Mysuru, says the plan to release water for about 15 days and then stop it for the next 15 days will not provide enough water for paddy and sugarcane crops. "Farmers will be able to grow only dry crops," he says.

The State is also under pressure from the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to share the limited water with Tamil Nadu in what is shaping up to be a distress year. This central body was set up in June 2018 by the Union government to handle water-sharing from the Cauvery among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry

On August 11, Karnataka appealed to the CWMA to immediately reduce water releases to Tamil Nadu from 12,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) per day to 10,000, warning that there will be severe drinking water shortage if more water is released for crops in the Cauvery basin.

With water to be released under the rotational cycle only as long as reservoir levels permit, State Sugarcane Farmers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar questions whether the Karnataka government and its legal team were making a strong enough case for farmers and presenting the State's position before the Cauvery water-sharing bodies – the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the CWMA – and the Supreme Court. He says the legal team does not appear to have succeeded in convincing the authorities about the water crisis in Karnataka.

Farmers in Maddur taluk are also bracing for a confrontation with the State government over the proposed diversion of KRS water to the Cauvery Stage VI drinking water project for Bengaluru, which requires an additional 6 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water annually. The Cauvery Stage VI drinking water project is a ₹6,939-crore infrastructure initiative approved by the Karnataka government this February to supply 500 MLD (million litres per day) of Cauvery water to roughly 30 lakh residents in Bengaluru as well as the adjoining towns of Bidadi, Hoskote, Anekal, Devanahalli, and Nelamangala.

Marilingaiah, a farmer from Kuntanahalli in Karnataka, is hoping that water will reach his fields soon. M.A. SRIRAM

"Is it fair for the government to starve us of water while diverting it to Bengaluru? Shouldn't it identify other sources of drinking water for the city instead," asks Mallesh, a Kuntanahalli resident, who is also a journalist.

A season of uncertainty

While farmers at the canal's tail end bear the brunt of the distress, paddy transplantation is nearly complete in areas closer to the KRS reservoir, such as Karekura and Hosahalli. In a paddy field in Hosahalli, Cheluvaraju says most farmers in the region typically grow two crops a year given the usual availability of water. But his hopes for a second crop this year have dimmed as reserves have depleted. "We are not sure if we will be able to raise the second crop," he says.

Cheluvaraju adds that he may have to work as a labourer to make ends meet if he is unable to grow the second crop. Most agricultural labourers in the region earn ₹400-500 for a day's work from 7 a.m. to noon. The deficient monsoon has also cast a shadow over sugarcane fields. Farmers who have already harvested their crops are relieved, but many others are pinning their hopes on rain. Chikkalingaiah, a farmer from Chikkabyadarahalli in Pandavapura taluk, says his sugarcane crop needs another nine months before harvest – and without timely rain, it may not even be fit to use as cattle fodder.

Many farmers have taken not only interest-free short-term loans from primary agricultural co-operative credit societies, but also high-interest loans from microfinance companies. "If we are unable to grow crops, how will we repay our loans," asks Nagesh, a resident of Chikkanahalli. He believes that the government should waive farmers' agricultural loans and take steps to stop microfinance companies, notorious for deploying aggressive recovery agents, from harassing borrowers.

Though the despair among farmers over poor rainfall and the release of water to Tamil Nadu is reflected in the occasional protests, staged mostly by farmers' organisations and pro-Kannada outfits across different parts of the Cauvery basin, these demonstrations, unlike in previous years, have remained muted. Even the Karnataka bandh, called by Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj on August 13, drew a lukewarm response, barring parts of Maddur taluk.

Sunanda Jayaram, Organising Secretary of the Mandya District Raithara Hitharakashana Samithi, a farmers' welfare committee, says with regret that farmers, the main stakeholders in the Cauvery water-sharing issue, were not responding to the calls for struggle.

An agriculturalist in Kuntanahalli, however, points to a different reason: ruling Congress leaders, he says, are actively discouraging farmers from taking to the streets, cautioning them against falling into what they call an "Opposition trap" – joining the protests only to later face the hassle of police stations and court appearances.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has chastised activists for staging protests over the Cauvery issue "for the sake of publicity." In particular, he warned them against wading into the river – a common form of protest – after the Water Resources Department issued a flood alert earlier this month over the release of water from the near-brimming Kabini reservoir.

While acknowledging that Karnataka's dams were not yet full, Shivakumar vowed to protect the interests of the State's farmers. But he has also emphasised the need to uphold the law by complying with directions on the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Crisis in the Cauvery delta

"Very bad, very depressing situation" is how Thanga Jayaraman, an agriculturist from Tiruvarur, describes the situation in Tamil Nadu's Cauvery delta, considered the rice bowl of the State.

"Ordinarily, when water is released from the Mettur dam (built in Salem district in Tamil Nadu across the Cauvery) on June 12 for irrigation, it reaches our area, about 300 kilometres downstream, by June 23 or 24. But this year, nothing," says Jayaraman, who taught English at several institutions of higher education before taking up farming after retirement.

A drive of over 200 km from Tiruchi through Thanjavur, Thiruvaiyaru, Tiruvarur, and Mannargudi shows largely barren paddy fields. "You should have come last year. You would have found greenery everywhere," says A.T.B. Balamurugan, a farmer of Andaankarai, about 15 km from Thiruthuraipoondi in Thiruvarur district.

Ordinarily, paddy is cultivated across 5.3 lakh acres in the Cauvery delta during the ongoing short-term Kuruvai season, followed by cultivation across 12.9 lakh acres during the longer Samba-Thaladi season, which begins with transplantation in late July or early August and ends with the harvest in mid-January. According to Tamil Nadu government data, the area under paddy cultivation this year has fallen to 4.5 lakh acres.

However, some agriculturists dispute the figure. They say there have been instances of stunted growth and crops showing signs of withering, making the official figure unreliable. The impact, they say, extends beyond the fields.

"Economic activity in the region is getting crippled because of the erosion of livelihood opportunities," says P.R. Pandian, president of the Tamil Nadu All Farmers Organisations' Coordination Committee and a resident of Mannargudi. "Shops and other businesses here down their shutters by 7 p.m."

Located along the eastern coast of the State, the Cauvery delta, spanning districts such as Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Mayiladuthurai, and Nagapattinam, is characterised by fertile alluvial soil and a tropical climate with the flow of the Cauvery. Its importance can be gauged from the fact that during the procurement year of 2025-26 (September 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026), the region contributed 39.5 lakh tonnes of paddy out of the State-wide procurement of 57.5 lakh tonnes.

> Ordinarily, when water is released from the Mettur dam on June 12 for irrigation, it reaches our area by June 23 or 24. But this year, nothing.
>
> **THANGA JAYARAMAN**
> Agriculturist from Tiruvarur

Yet many parts of the zone remain economically backward with a majority of the population depending on agriculture for livelihood, despite climate challenges. Scheduled Castes, who live in large numbers in the region, constitute the dominant segment of landless agricultural labourers.

These are the reasons why successive Tamil Nadu governments have been keen to protect the interests of the Cauvery delta.

Opening the Mettur dam

This year, given the poor forecast for the south-west monsoon, attributed to super El Nino, the government chose not to open the Mettur dam on June 12. "The authorities should not release water from the dam until the water level reaches at least 100 ft," says Pandian. The level is now about 85 ft, against the full capacity of 120 ft.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court have provided for greater share of the river water to be released by Karnataka to Tamil Nadu during the south-west monsoon (123.14 TMC out of the annual quota of 177.25 TMC). This share is mostly meant to support paddy cultivation during the Samba season.

The Samba crop is important not only for food security but is also the mainstay of the delta's rural economy. Farmers also grow the shorter-duration Kuruvai crop, which can offer higher yields. This crop is largely dependent on groundwater, with farmers using energised pumpsets to irrigate their fields. But declining groundwater levels and salinity are making even this option increasingly difficult.

"My area is located between the Cauvery and one of its branches, the Coleroon (Kollidam). Even there, the water level is going down," says R. Arivalagan, a farmer from Peramur, about 10 km from Thiruvaiyaru. Submersible pumpsets, once more common in the dry districts of Coimbatore and Dharmapuri, have become commonplace in the delta too. Over-extraction of groundwater has also led to salinity ingress in many areas.

So far, the Tamil Nadu government has not announced when the Mettur dam will be opened, even as it continues its legal battle with Karnataka to secure Tamil Nadu's share of the Cauvery water. The government has strongly opposed Karnataka's push to reduce water releases, pressing the Supreme Court to ensure strict adherence to the mandated 12,000 cusecs daily flow.

At the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council held at Mamallapuram and presided over by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay said the legitimate rights of lower riparian States and the livelihoods that depend on assured river flows must be fully protected.

Meanwhile, several farmers' groups have also begun demanding compensation for crop losses. They are unhappy with the crop loan waiver scheme announced by Vijay and are seeking a full, unconditional waiver of up to ₹1 lakh for all farmers who have taken crop loans.

Officials are also hoping that the monsoon will revive, with about a month left in the season. Any compensation for crop losses, meanwhile, will be subject to the Union and State governments' norms for natural disasters and a survey by the departments concerned.

S. Vivekanandan, a farmer of Vilakudi, is increasingly worried over the prospects of the Samba crop. A senior official says that as the government is closely watching, it will take steps to safeguard the farmers of the Cauvery delta.

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From Page One

CJP team attacked over school inspection

"We had informed the police about our visit to Rampura-Kanwarpura. The police were aware of stone-pelting in the area but did not intervene," Mr. Ranka said told presspersons.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke announced that he would arrive in Jaipur and launch an agitation if the school repair work did not begin, and if the BJP members who allegedly attacked the volunteers were not arrested within the next 48 hours.

The CJP, which cancelled its visit to another government school in a nearby village later in the day, claimed that the confrontation in Rampura-Kanwarpura was pre-planned and had the backing of State Education Minister Madan Dilawar.

The confrontation occurred amid a political row over a recent Education Department order imposing restrictions on the entry of outsiders into government schools and barring photography without the written approval of the heads of institutions. The order was issued after CJP activists joined an agitation by students and villagers at a school in Alwar district on August 14.

The CJP has opposed the restriction and accused the BJP government of attempting to prevent public scrutiny of the condition of government schools. The party's 'School Thik Karo' campaign seeks to assess the condition of school buildings, availability of teachers, and other facilities and academic arrangements.

The incident also spilled over into the Rajasthan Assembly, where the BJP and the Opposition Congress traded allegations. Education Minister Mr. Dilawar later accused the CJP and Congress of attempting to "disrupt education and spoil the atmosphere".

After Cong. stir, FIR over pellet gun use registered

A student of the School of Open Learning at the University of Delhi, Mr. Lochab had said in his complaint that he received multiple pellet injuries on his chest, back, arms, and face. He was seriously injured in his right eye; pellets had entered his body, and several of them could not be taken out. "My medical documents show that there are over 200 pellets in my body. Doctors have told me that the possibility of my eyesight coming back is less than one per cent," he wrote.

On Friday, Mr. Gandhi accompanied Mr. Lochab and his mother first to the Mandir Marg police station and then to the Sansad Marg police station. "Sahil and his family have been moving pillar to post to get his complaint registered. Why is the police refusing to do so?" he told presspersons outside the DCP's office.

"It took them so long to register the FIR. It has been a month since the march when he received his injuries. Even after multiple visits, the police refused to receive the complaint. Who was holding it back? The final order has come from the Union Home Ministry. We all know now that even for an FIR to be registered, the Home Minister has to give an order," Mr. Gandhi said.

Senior Congress leader Salman Khursid said that with the registration of the FIR, which mentions the use of pellet guns, "it is now documented that the police used pellets on July 20, contrary to the police's denial earlier."

The Hindu had reported that an entry in the general diary of Delhi's Sansad Marg police station recorded the use of pellet guns by the Rapid Action Force, contradicting the Delhi Police's initial denial on use of pellet guns against protesters.

The reported use of pellets has raised questions over the police's crowd-control protocols.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court constituted a five-member High-Powered Enquiry Committee, headed by a former Supreme Court judge, to conduct an independent inquiry into the police action. The committee will examine the use of pellet guns, lathis, tear gas and electric batons.

SC lauds scrapped MGNREGA as a 'good, effective scheme'

The scheme was applauded by a three-judge Bench while hearing a petition on delayed wages under the defunct scheme; petition seeks to elevate the right to work as a fundamental right

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday praised the repealed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), calling it a "salutary scheme" that was neither a freebie nor an exploitation of rural workers.

The court's accolade came amid claims by civil rights groups that MGNREGA's successor, the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or the VB-G RAM G Act, has seen a 50% decline in employment generation, despite an increase in guaranteed work days from 100 to 125 per household annually.

The new law reflects a shift from a demand-driven, rights-based framework to a centrally controlled model. Also, the funding burden on States has increased three-fold, shifting from a 90:10 ratio to 60:40. The "MGNREGA was a good, effective scheme. It did a wonderful job in rural areas and was implemented pan-India. It was neither a freebie nor exploitation," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, orally observed.

MGNREGS labourers working in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu. The VB-G RAM G is a replacement for MGNREGA. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Compensation sought

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by activist Aruna Roy seeking directions for the government to pay delayed wages under the MGNREGA, along with compensation.

Advocates Prashant Bhushan, Cheryl D'Souza and Neha Rathi, appearing for Ms. Roy, urged the court to examine whether a law could prescribe minimum wages lower than the threshold determined by the State concerned.

The petition also sought to elevate the statutory guarantee of rural work to the status of a fundamental right under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

"The Constitution does not make the right to work a fundamental right. It is more a democratic aspiration under Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy)... To achieve that aspiration, the state formulates the policy by which work is provided at a graded, compensatory level. Should we treat it on par with Article 21?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked Mr. Bhushan. Mr. Bhushan said the right to lead a dignified life is part of Article 21. "A dignified life requires you to get employment at minimum wages. Anything below minimum wages is forced labour," he submitted.

Justice Bagchi said a minimum wage threshold might risk shrinking employment opportunities, while Chief Justice Kant noted that wages were usually linked to prevalent local conditions.

Justice V. Mohana stated that the issues raised by Mr. Bhushan must be examined afresh in light of the new law, rather than under the MGNREGA. "We have to see fresh details, fresh statistics," Justice Mohana said.

Mr. Bhushan submitted that States were required to provide nearly half the funds under the new law. "The number of employments has come down by half. States have no money," he said.

The court asked him to file a new petition while disposing of the current one.

Two vessels with 22 Indians on board hijacked by pirates

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian crew members aboard both vessels are safe, as per the latest information

Two commercial vessels carrying a total of 22 Indian nationals have been hijacked by armed pirates in separate incidents in Yemen and Somalia, a senior Shipping Ministry official said on Friday. The Indian crew members aboard both vessels are safe, as per the latest information.

The Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker, M.T. Sibu 1, carrying 20 crew members, including 16 Indians, was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on August 20, about 30 nautical miles off the Yemeni coast, the official said.

A second vessel, the Cameroon-flagged M/V LUTUF, was hijacked on August 17 off Somalia's Puntland coast. The vessel has 10 crew members, including six Indians.

Maritime tracking information indicates that the tanker was approached by an unauthorised vessel before control of the ship was lost. The vessel was seized and subsequently taken toward Somalia's Nugaal coast, according to a Somali official cited by *The Associated Press*. The M/V LUTUF was carrying Turkish weapons and satellite equipment, destined for a Turkish military facility in Mogadishu.

The hijackers – eight armed men suspected of involvement in a previous hijacking – steered the ship toward Nugaal.

The renewed threat adds to security pressures already facing commercial shipping in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and wider Indian Ocean region, where vessels have had to contend with attacks linked to the conflict in Yemen.

The two hijackings also come as Indian seafarers face heightened security concerns elsewhere in the region, including the Strait of Hormuz, where tensions involving Iran, Israel and the U.S. have disrupted one of the world's key shipping corridors.

The 2026 BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report estimates that India supplies 3,11,936 seafarers, underscoring the country's large exposure to risks affecting merchant crews worldwide.

Trade unions sound the alarm over Supreme Court judgment on the definition of industry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Left-leaning trade unions have expressed concern over a nine-judge Bench judgment of the Supreme Court that said the definition of industry as per a 1978 judgment of the top court will not be applicable to the recently implemented Industrial Relations Code. They alleged that the latest judgment reflects "a structural tilt" towards managerial interests over the collective rights of workers.

"Justice Nagarathna rightly questioned the necessity of reopening a settled jurisprudence of nearly five decades, particularly when the Industrial Relations Code has already replaced the Industrial Disputes Act," said All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said. She said the AITUC is deeply concerned that the majority judges have left crucial questions to future litigation instead of confronting the implications of the exclusionary architecture of Section 2(p) of the Industrial Relations Code.

Elamaram Kareem

"The Code's exclusions relating to sovereign functions and charitable, social, or philanthropic institutions require strict and constitutionally compatible interpretation. Governmental activity cannot automatically be equated with sovereign function, nor can the institutional label of a charitable organisation by itself erase the industrial character of the work performed by its employees," she said, adding that in an economy increasingly characterised by privatisation, shifting the focus from the substance of work to the institutional status of the employer can operate to the disadvantage of labour.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) general secretary Elamaram Kareem said that both the legislature and the judiciary failed to protect the rights of workers as mandated by the Constitution. Trade Union Centre of India (TUCI) president Fredy K. Thazhath said it has slashed labour protections.

Govt. notification cancelling recruitment via JSSC-CGL exam stayed by Jharkhand HC

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday stayed the notifications for personnel recruited through the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination and cancelled the appointments of Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) in the State.

The single Bench of Justice Deepak Roshan stayed the Jharkhand government's decision to cancel the appointments and ordered that the services of the personnel and officials concerned be ensured. "It is made clear that the learned Advocate General is directed to inform the concerned department to allow the petitioners as well as others, who are similarly situated and affected by this notification, to continue their work till disposal of the writ application," the court order said. The court delivered the order while hearing petitions filed by affected persons.

Members of the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch and JMM clash at Albert Ekka Chowk, in Ranchi on Friday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The court had on Thursday stayed the notifications cancelling the 11th and 13th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) exams. Amid a 25-day agitation over alleged recruitment irregularities, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led government on August 18 cancelled 22 exams and ordered a probe into 23 others conducted since 2014.

Meanwhile, clashes took place between JMM workers and protesters of the JPSC-JSSC Reform Manch when the latter hit the road to burn the effigies of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The clashes took place in Giridih and Ranchi.

48 teachers to be honoured by President on Sept. 5

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President of India, Droupadi Murmu, will confer the National Teachers Awards on 48 school teachers at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on September 5. The purpose of the award is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country, the Ministry of Education said in a statement.

This year, a total of 48 school teachers have been selected through a three-stage selection process at the district, State and national levels. The selected school teachers are from 27 States, seven Union Territories and six organisations of the central government.

A fresh protest at Jantar Mantar demands a complete overhaul of the reservation system

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Thousands of protesters gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday under the banner of the Reservation Hatao Andolan (RHA), a Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-style Instagram-page led mobilisation of anger against India's reservation policy. The protesters called for an overhaul of the reservation system, demanding that quota in public education and employment be solely based on income rather than socio-economic categories; raised demands such as "one family, one reservation"; and called for a roll back of UGC's caste-equity rules.

The movement began when a student, Harsh Dubey, started the RHA Instagram page while the student movement being led by the CJP was demanding the resignation of former Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Soon after Mr. Pradhan's resignation, Mr. Dubey said he had handed over control of the page to veteran anti-reservation activists Anuradha Tiwari, Ajeet Bharti, and Neha Das.

Protesters demand the rollback of the UGC Equity Regulations (2026) at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Significantly, the RHA movement has flagged the concentration of quotas being availed by a small section of communities within each category of SC, ST, and OBC. This argument, which has led to calls for introducing a creamy layer concept, is being used by the RHA movement to call for an overhaul of the system itself.

Stand-off with police

The protests came amidst the BJP-led Union government reiterating their stance that reservation for socio-economic categories such as SCs, STs, and OBCs is not a poverty alleviation scheme but a scheme meant to ensure representation for marginalised communities. Further, on Thursday, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that it was rethinking the 2026 UGC equity regulations.

On Friday morning, the protesters, many of whom were mobilised by organisations representing people from "general" castes, such as Karni Sena and Ranbir Sena, arrived at Jantar Mantar despite the Delhi Police stating that no permission had been granted. However, the protesters refused to leave and had a stand-off with the security personnel. By evening, the protesters had set up a stage with a banner that read: "Reservation Reform Satyagraha". Around 7:30 p.m., the police announced that the gathering was illegal, and personnel could be seen putting protesters on buses and taking them away.

Mr. Dubey later posted on X that some protesters were marching towards Raj Ghat. He said they will return to Jantar Mantar if the police removed them from Raj Ghat as well.

SC trims law practice requirement to 1 year for judicial service

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld its May 2025 judgment mandating legal practice to apply for entry into judicial service, but shortened the required experience from three years to one.

In a majority judgment of 2:1, Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice A.G. Masih said successful applicants with a year's legal practice under their belt could undergo a one-year intensive training at the State judicial academy concerned. This would be followed by a final year of law clerkship with senior judicial officers and High Court judges. The judgment came in lieu of the review petitions filed against the 2025 verdict.

The majority opinion, authored by Chief Justice Kant, noted that a year has already passed since the May 2025 judgment. Candidates who had applied for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in the interregnum would be 'deemed' to have completed the required one year of active legal practice. They would not be asked to furnish 'certificates of proof of practice'. But the rule of one-year prior legal practice would come into force in earnest from April 1, 2027.

Justice Vinod Chandran dissented with the majority view. "Experience at the Bar is essential for students right out of college," Justice Chandran observed.

Ethanol blending policy is behind rise in sugar prices, says Opposition

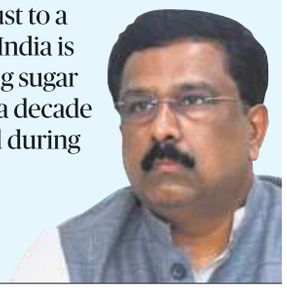
Sugar prices went up from ₹48 to ₹67 a kg over last three months, says Congress, blaming the diversion of sugar cane for fuel; asks why petrol prices were not reduced despite falling global crude rates; Kejriwal says government run by 'illiterates'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The diversion of sugar cane and foodgrains for ethanol production is driving food prices higher, the Congress said on Friday, adding that vehicles not designed for 20% ethanol-blended fuel face mileage and compatibility problems. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) too claimed that diverting sugar cane towards ethanol production has reduced sugar output, pushing sugar prices up by ₹20 per kg in just 17 days.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre had, on Thursday, allowed duty-free imports of 10 lakh tonne of raw sugar under a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) till October 31, amid the rising prices of the sweetener in local markets. The move is aimed at enhancing domestic availability and capping price rise.

> As more sugarcane is diverted towards ethanol, domestic sugar prices have surged nearly 20% in August to a record ₹5,350 per 100 kg. India is now considering importing sugar for the first time in nearly a decade to meet domestic demand during the festival season
>
> **SYED NASEER HUSSAIN**
> Congress MP



Immediate review

In a post on X, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh demanded an immediate review of the E20 fuel policy and sought the provision of non-ethanol petrol options.

"The people are paying the price for both expensive food and expensive travel because of the wrong decisions of the arrogant Modi government," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that "a fuel policy under which both the vehicle and the kitchen become expensive" could not be acceptable to the country.

According to the figures cited by Mr. Ramesh, sugar prices have risen from ₹48 to ₹67 a kg and jaggery prices from ₹50 to ₹65 a kg over the past three months. Rice and maize flour, he said, have become costlier by 16% and 11%, respectively, while animal feed prices have risen 10.34%.

The Congress leader also asked why there was no cut in petrol prices despite a decline in international crude oil prices and lower costs resulting from 20% ethanol blending. He alleged that alternatives to petrol had been limited to benefit ethanol producers, while serious questions remained over the impact of E20-blended petrol on vehicle mileage and compatibility.

Food security

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Syed Naseer Hussain said the Modi government's aggressive push for E20 was compromising India's food security. "As more sugarcane is diverted towards ethanol, domestic sugar prices have surged nearly 20% in August to a record ₹5,350 per 100 kg. India is now considering importing sugar for the first time in nearly a decade to meet domestic demand during the festival season," he said in a post on X.

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal said in a video message that the government started making ethanol from sugarcane in order to save foreign exchange spent on oil imports. "Now, they will import sugar using that foreign exchange," he said. "It's a government entirely run by illiterates. No one knows what will happen if they do something," he added.

Crop damage, production dip, and festival demand led to price hike, says govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As 18 States and Union Territories witnessed an increase of ₹10 to ₹18 for a kilogram of sugar within one year, the Union government said on Friday that it was closely monitoring the situation and had taken steps to stabilise the prices.

On Friday, Odisha registered the highest price for sugar – ₹64.72 for a kilogram, which was ₹17.80 higher than in the same date of 2025, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

Other than Odisha, consumers from Assam, Delhi, Goa, Keralam, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal also paid over ₹60 for a kilogram of sugar on Friday. The national average price was ₹58.23.

Compared to the same date of last month, Madhya Pradesh witnessed an increase of ₹15.70 per kg, followed by Punjab, where the increase was ₹14.67 per kg. Compared to Friday of last week, Madhya Pradesh saw the sharpest increase of ₹11.82, followed by Odisha, rising by ₹10.67.

18 States and U.T.s witnessed an increase of ₹10 to ₹18 for a kilogram of sugar in one year.

The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said in a statement that sugar prices had increased in recent weeks, from ₹48.18 per kg on July 20, to ₹55.70 per kg on August 20. "The government has taken a series of measures to ensure adequate availability of sugar and stable prices for consumers," the statement said, and maintained that rise in sugar prices could not be attributed to ethanol. "It is incorrect to attribute the recent increase in sugar prices to diversion of sugar for ethanol production. In fact, the share of sugar diverted for ethanol has declined from around 12% in 2022-23 to around 9% in 2025-26," the statement added.

The government added that the present increase in sugar prices was due to a combination of factors, including lower-than-expected domestic production, increased demand ahead of the festive season, weather-related damage to the sugarcane crop, tightening global sugar supplies and hoarding by some sections of the industry.

'National Song shows India must embrace cultural nationalism'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said it was "unfortunate" that even after Independence, *Vande Mataram* was not accepted "wholeheartedly" in the country. He hailed the 80th Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort as a "unique occasion" that included the full rendition of the National Song.

"Through this single song, this single literary creation, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee established that independent India must move forward by embracing cultural nationalism. It is unfortunate that even after Independence and the Partition of the country, *Vande Mataram* was never wholeheartedly embraced," the Home Minister said, addressing a gathering in West Bengal's Siliguri.

Amit Shah

His remarks came amid the Congress party's recent announcement to feature only the first two stanzas of the National Song at party functions, a move which Mr. Shah has described as "anti-national".

The Home Minister termed the enhancement of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026, a "historic decision".

In Siliguri, the Minister inaugurated exhibitions with information on the three criminal laws.

Rahul's sit-in is cheap politics, meant to divert attention from row over *Vande Mataram*: BJP

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday alleged that Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi attempted to divert public attention by holding a sit-in at the Parliament Street police station after getting cornered over the *Vande Mataram* issue.

Mr. Gandhi staged a dharna at the police station, demanding the registration of a case in connection with pellet injuries sustained by 19-year-old Sahil Lochab during the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest in Jantar Mantar.

Union Minister J.P. Nadda described the move as "cheap and diversionary politics", saying that "Rahul Gandhi *ji*'s protest today is neither for students nor for justice; it is a symbol of the Congress party's political desperation and Rahul Gandhi's insatiable hunger for 'footage'."

> **Union Minister Nadda says dharna at a police station shows Cong. leader's 'hunger for footage'**

Judicial matter

The BJP leader said the Supreme Court has already taken cognisance of the Judicial 20 incident and constituted a five-member high-powered committee. "When the country's highest court is investigating the matter, what does Rahul Gandhi seek to prove by sitting outside a police station in front of the cameras? Has the Leader of Opposition lost faith in the country's judiciary?" he asked.

He said the police informed Mr. Gandhi that the Crime Branch was already conducting an intensive probe into all the cases related to July 20 protest and assured him that the incident flagged by him was also being referred to the Crime Branch. "Despite this clarification from the administration, sitting on a protest demonstrates Rahul Gandhi's obstinacy and exposes the Congress party's desperation," said Mr. Nadda.

Questioning the timing of the sit-in, he said the Congress was cornered across the country over the issue of *Vande Mataram* and people were demanding answers from the party over the "insult to the National Song".

Former Union Minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad criticised Mr. Gandhi for staging a dharna without permission. He said the Congress was indulging in "the politics of anarchy to divert attention after being cornered on the issue of *Vande Mataram*".

Cong. view on National Song a very serious issue: Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday criticised the Congress over its stand on *Vande Mataram*.

The Congress Working Committee, citing its 1937 resolution, had decided to sing only two stanzas (of the total six) of the National Song at party events.

"The Congress formally refusing to respect *Vande Mataram* is extremely unfortunate and, from a constitutional perspective, a very serious matter," Mr. Singh said.

Stating that Parliament is the supreme institution of the country, he said any law passed by it is binding on every individual. "If anyone refuses to abide by it, then certainly their allegiance to the Constitution comes under a cloud of suspicion, and if anyone refuses to respect the National Song, then their patriotism too comes under a question mark," he said.

He said the 1937 CWC resolution was passed by bowing before the "extremist demands of the Muslim League". The country had to suffer its consequences in the form of Partition, he said. "Compromising before extremist elements has always proved disastrous for the country, and today, when the Congress is surrendering to extremist elements in the same manner, it is a sign of a serious threat to the future," Mr. Singh said.

Rahul Gandhi's politics on the streets signals a new Opposition playbook

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A month after his sudden dharna outside the Prime Minister's residence over students' protests, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's unannounced protest outside the Parliament Street police station to get an FIR registered on a complaint by young pellet-gun victim Sahil Lochab reveals a new political strategy.

For the second time in a month, the Opposition leader not only caught the authorities by surprise but also his own party colleagues. The element of surprise, combined with direct action and sustained engagement, suggests that Mr. Gandhi is willing to experiment with a new political playbook.

The Congress's escalation came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah sharpened his attack on the party over its decision to sing only two stanzas of *Vande Mataram*, describing the move as "anti-national".

Mr. Gandhi, however, sought to shift the political focus from the nationalism debate to the use of pellet guns against protesting students and, crucially, to the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which Mr. Shah heads.

Rahul Gandhi

> **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha appears to be seeking a form of consistency in his political actions**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal both sought to frame the registration of the FIR as a consequence of Mr. Gandhi's intervention.

"Those shedding crocodile tears over nationalism are, in reality, the biggest enemies of the country's youth!" Mr. Kharge said in a post on X. "Sahil is not alone," he added.

Mr. Venugopal said basic constitutional rights were being granted as "favours" only after massive pressure was applied. "They have bent. They were forced to bend," he said in an online post, claiming that the Delhi Police was compelled to register the FIR after Mr. Gandhi protested for hours demanding action over Mr. Lochab's pellet injuries.

By personally following up on the case and eventually ensuring that the FIR sought by Mr. Lochab was registered, Mr. Gandhi appears to be seeking consistency in his politics and, in the process, addressing a criticism that he is an inconsistent politician.

The street protests also point to a larger political calculation: reaching out to, and attempting to create, a distinct constituency among Gen Z voters – a generation that will form a substantial part of the electorate by the 2029 Lok Sabha election. By some estimates, there could be 370-400 million voters in the 18-29 age group by then.

There is also a subtler message in Mr. Gandhi's decision to repeatedly take his politics to the streets. The Opposition leader has increasingly alleged that institutions have become partisan and that constitutional safeguards are being weakened.

By physically confronting police authorities, he is signalling that institutions should recognise that political power is not permanent and that the political Opposition is entitled to a fair and transparent response.

Finally, Mr. Gandhi is seeking to weave the question of accountability of the Home Ministry into the larger political debate over students' grievances.

PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY
PUDUCHERRY

No. 04/PM/EE/DB/2026-27 Dated: 21.08.2026

PRESS NOTICE FOR 'e' TENDER

On behalf of the Pondicherry Municipal Council, e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors / firms by the Commissioner, Pondicherry Municipality, Puducherry for the work of **"Development of White Town in Puducherry under the Challenge Based Destination Development Scheme of Government of India. Sub work: Electrical work components in the Development of White Town, Puducherry."** which can be downloaded from the **website www.pudutenders.gov.in**, only by those contractors who are having valid i-key and Digital Signature Certificate. The detailed procedure is available in the said tender notice.

i. **Availability of NIT from 11.30 A.M. on 28.08.2026 to 4.00 PM on 24.09.2026**
Closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 P.M on the same day of last date of availability of NIT.
ii. **Pre-bid meeting : 08.09.2026 at 4.00 P.M.**
iii. **Date & Time of opening of tender : 24.09.2026 at 4.30 P.M.**

Please contact ICICI Bank for e-payment helpdesk guidance in Phone No. 8939202113.

Please contact e-procurement cell, 3rd floor, Chief Secretariat, e-tender help desk for guidance in phone No.0413-2220225 & 1800 3070 2232 (Toll free) mail id: support-eproc.pon.nic.in

Sd./
COMMISSIONER

No. 172/DIP/AD (Press)/ADVT/2026-27

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NADI AIRTECHNICS PVT. LTD.
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180, Ph:080-280904182, 4541

CORRIGENDUM-I Date:21.08.2026

1. On behalf of the President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/E-TN-56/ 2026- 2027 Dated: 23.07.2026**
Name of Work	**Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Power Fencing System of IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu**
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 132.06 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**Eight (08) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs. on 24.07.2026 to 16.08.2026 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 05.09.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	From 11.00 hrs. on 25.07.2026 to 17.08.2026 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 06.09.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	18.08.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 07.09.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	19.08.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 08.09.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	21.08.2026 after 11.00 hrs. **Extended up to 10.09.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,64,120.00**

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
(Mahadevapura/K R Pura Zone) Bengaluru East City Corporation,
Vengaiahna Lake ECO Park, K R Pura, Bangalore -560036

No:SADH(MDP/KRP)TENDER/167/2026-27 Date: 21.08.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura/ K R Pura) B.E.C.C. (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies /Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

(Standard Tender Document KW-3).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Beautification, landscape, development, with Borewell digging and other civil works in Venghaiahna Lake ward No.14 **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) : Rs. 2,00,00,000.00, EMD Amount : Rs.3,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Notification : **21.08.2026 (2)** Tender can be downloaded from : **22.08.2026 (3)** Last Date for Queries : **22.08.2026 (4)** Prebid Meeting : **24.08.2026. (5)** Tender Closing Date : **29.08.2026 (6)** Technical bid opening date : **01.09.2026 (7)** Financially bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura/K R Pura Zone), BECC

INBRIEF

Nadda reviews H1N1 situation, healthcare preparedness

Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda, on Friday reviewed the prevailing situation and preparedness for H1N1 Influenza in the country with particular focus on the National Capital. Mr. Nadda reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, ILI and SARI trends, testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases. He emphasised the need for continued vigilance, robust surveillance and proactive preparedness, with close monitoring of influenza trends. He also advised individuals with persistent or severe respiratory symptoms to seek medical advice promptly.

Grievances registration line soon for sanitation workers

The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) will introduce a missed call facility for sanitation workers to register grievances, Vice-Chairperson Hardeep Singh Gill said on Friday. The commission will follow up on the calls to take up the issues for resolution in a time-bound manner. The facility will be launched on NCSK's foundation day on August 23. Mr. Gill said the commission has been looking into several aspects, such as making it easier to report complaints, regularising workers engaged on a contract basis, and engaging with various Union Ministries to ensure directives are issued for maintaining dignified and safe working conditions.

Nripendra Misra was key authority on Ram Temple construction: Rai

Champat Rai, in an article dated August 18, says that no work on the temple was undertaken without Misra's nod and that decisions taken without his involvement were rejected; Misra said he found 'nothing negative or controversial' in the article

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Former Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (SRJTKT) general secretary and senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Champat Rai, in an article released on August 18, said Ram Temple construction committee chairman Nripendra Misra exercised near-complete control over the temple's construction and "considered himself the principal authority on all decisions".

In the nine-page Hindi article, shared in the VHP media group, he claimed that no work on the Ram Temple was undertaken without Mr. Misra's approval and that decisions taken without his involvement were rejected.

"Shri Nripendra Misra brought several people of his choice into the temple construction committee to assist him. One of them visited Ayodhya only once or twice during the previous six years, while another was consulted on security-related matters. A third member, Shri Anoop Mittal, former chairman of NBCC, regularly attended the committee meetings," Mr. Rai wrote.

The article comes days after reports that Champat Rai had got a clean chit from the SIT probing embezzlement at the temple. FILE PHOTO

The decision maker

Mr. Rai also credited Mr. Misra with playing a key role in overcoming hurdles during the project. "Whenever any obstacle came, he requested the most capable persons in the concerned field and called them to Ayodhya," he wrote.

"Every decision was taken by this committee. No work was undertaken without this committee's decision... and even decisions taken outside it were not accepted. Shri Nripendra Misra always considered himself the principal authority for all decisions concerning temple construction," he wrote.

Following the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, the Union government constituted the SRJTKT with 15 trustees. Mr. Rai said Mr. Misra was subsequently appointed chairman of the committee overseeing temple construction and related activities.

The article also details the organisational and engineering arrangements for the project. Mr. Rai said Larsen & Toubro was selected as the construction agency and Tata Consulting Engineers was appointed as the project management consultant, both by Mr. Misra, who was informed about the vision of late VHP leader Ashok Singhal, considered the architect and key strategist of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

"The temple architect, Ahmedabad-based Shri Chandrakant Bhai Sompura, had been selected by the late Ashok Singhal in 1986 and was retained. For the construction of other buildings, Shri Nripendra Mishra selected Noida-based firm Design Associates, headed by Jai Kakadikar," the article said.

According to Mr. Rai, construction of the temple began in June 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and was completed and dedicated to society by June 2026. He attributed the achievement to Mr. Misra's efforts.

The article comes days after reports that Mr. Rai had received a clean chit from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged embezzlement of donations to the Ram temple. He stepped down as general secretary of the Trust in July following the controversy over alleged donation theft.

Congress Rajya Sabha MP and party media and publicity in-charge Pawan Khera took to X to highlight Mr. Misra's earlier comments on the donation controversy. He pointed out that Mr. Misra had described the allegations of donation theft as a "stain" on the Trust. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Misra had also proposed the appointment of a chief executive officer, a process that was subsequently initiated. He had said the Trust should provide details of every rupee spent as the money belonged to devotees of Lord Ram.

Congress reacts

"Now Champat Rai has turned around and held Nripendra Misra squarely responsible for how the Ram Mandir construction was handled. Nripendra Misra is Modi's man. Champat Rai is an RSS man. So this isn't Rai vs. Misra. It is Modi vs. Mohan (RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat) – both desperately trying to wash their hands of the scandal," Mr. Khera wrote on X.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Misra said he had read the article and that there was "nothing negative or controversial" in it.

IndiGo plane grounded after tail-strike in Gorakhpur

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo Airbus A321's fuselage scraped the runway during landing at Gorakhpur earlier this week, according to industry sources, marking at least the 8th tail-strike incident involving the airline's A321 fleet.

The aircraft has remained grounded since the incident, which came to light in Gorakhpur on August 19. Its last recorded operation was a Delhi-Gorakhpur flight.

The aircraft involved was an Airbus A321neo. According to industry sources, this is at least the 10th tail-strike incident involving an IndiGo aircraft since 2023, with at least eight of these incidents involving A321s. One incident involved the smaller-sized, regional aircraft, an ATR, and another an A320. There is no official data available on the number of tail-strike incidents involving the airline.

The airline said the aircraft aborted a landing, and made a landing on second attempt on August 19 while arriving in Gorakhpur from Delhi. It was grounded after "scratches were found around the inlet of the auxiliary power unit (APU)", located at the rear of the aircraft.

Cong. slams 'ecological folly' in Great Nicobar island

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday said there seemed to be no end to the "march of grave ecological folly in Great Nicobar" and the "battle for saving Great Nicobar continues even though the Narendra Modi Government is now 'planting' new reasons for going ahead with it". He referred to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration's recent move to first issue an Expression of Interest calling for feasibility proposals for a data centre project and then "mysteriously" withdrawing it.

He noted the opposition to the project from the local Tribal Council of Great Nicobar Island and cited the cases filed against the clearances granted for it in the Calcutta High Court.

Rashtrapati Bhavan withdraws email on Bangladesh PM visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

An email to the press by the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday briefly created the impression that the long-under-discussion visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would take place soon. The email sent in the afternoon was headlined, "No change of guard ceremony this Saturday".

"The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place this Saturday (August 22, 2026) due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh," said the email that was issued in the name of Navika Gupta, deputy press secretary to the President of India. The email created the impression that a visit by Mr. Rahman is imminent.

However, soon another release came from the Rashtrapati Bhavan negating the previous note saying, "Press release issued on the subject 'No change of guard ceremony this Saturday' which was issued on August 21, 2026 stands withdrawn."

The announcements added to the buzz around Mr. Rahman's New Delhi visit as the two sides had been in talks for a visit, though the plans reportedly ran into trouble after Bangladesh demanded that India create "propitious" circumstances for the visit by extraditing deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the suspected killers of radical student leader Osman Hadi.

NGT seeks Centre's response on change in floodplain rules

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued notice to the Centre on a petition challenging a Jal Shakti Ministry amendment issued earlier this month that removed the "construction-free zone" tag on the Ganga's floodplains and redefined what counts as a floodplain.

The petition, filed by environmentalist Amit Kumar, says that the change alters the no-construction zone set out in the 2016 order and wrongly pegs the "active floodplain" to a one-in-five-year flood. The order had defined the floodplain largely by a once-in-100-year flood line.

Mr. Kumar contended that the amendment runs counter to earlier rulings of the Tribunal and the High Courts, including a 2017 judgment that treated 100 metres from the river's edge as a no-development zone on the Haridwar-to-Kanpur stretch. The amendment in question is to the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016.

A petition said that the revision alters the no-construction zone on active floodplains.

Hearing on Oct. 27

A Bench of Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Expert Member Afroz Ahmad hearing the matter on August 19 directed the government and other respondents to file their replies and listed the case for October 27. The Tribunal did not stay the amendment.

On August 11, *The Hindu* reported on the amendment notified by the Ministry's National Mission for Clean Ganga, which, along with the relaxation of construction rules, had recast the definition of a floodplain into three bands. The "active floodplain" is the area inundated by a flood with a one-in-five-year return period; a "regulatory zone" covers land flooded once in five to 25 years; and a "warning zone" covers land flooded once in 25 to 100 years.

A government official had explained the change to *The Hindu* as "correcting a legal inconsistency" in the original order.

Centre rejects grace marks for students in CBSE OSM row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday told the Supreme Court that it cannot consider giving grace marks to students who raised discrepancies in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) of Class 12 answer sheets in 2026.

A one-week window was opened for re-evaluation and 1.68 lakh students had applied for change in their marks, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said, appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

"Now, they (petitioners) are asking for grace marks, that is not possible," Mr. Mehta, for the Centre, said.

Advocate Laxmikant Matadan Shukla, representing petitioner Rakesh Binjola, said students who had suffered due to faulty OSM evaluation have gone on to clear other entrance exams. However, they were stuck for not having scored the required minimum qualifying marks in the Class 12 exams. "The number is huge. A week is too less," Mr. Shukla submitted. He said that many students who had applied for re-evaluation did not receive their revised answer sheets.

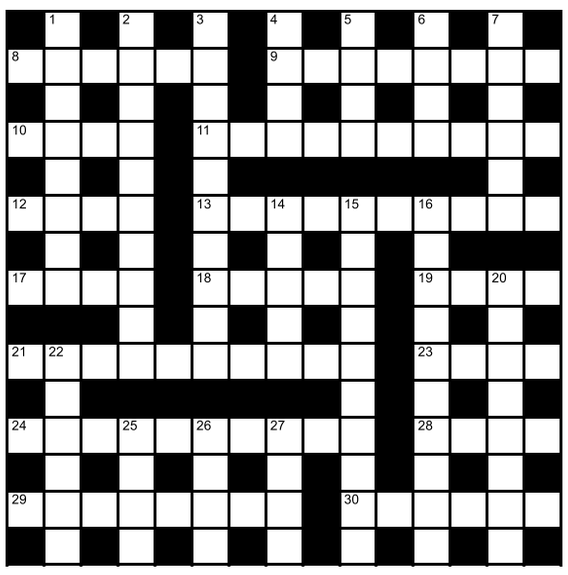
The court asked the government to file an affidavit on remedial measures taken after irregularities were found in the OSM-valued answer sheets. The petitioner was instructed to file a rejoinder citing cases where students seeking re-evaluation could not access the portal.

TH CROSSWORD + 14879

(set by Afterdark)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 A rule introduced in eatery for getting a pitcher (6)
9 Eater was supplied brine, perhaps (8)
10 Shortly, issue will be all over head-office (4)
11 Relative's action is engaging; first song better in second part (10)
12 Confusion after he hid a last letter (4)
13 Lot of kind people entering a street (10)
17 Kept time post noon to get gas (4)
18 Stupid, caught robbing primarily, idiot (5)
19 Bowled in pitch to get lift, say (1-3)
21 Wealthy global travellers seen with black dogs, say (3-7)
23 Unusual file type extracted in the beginning (4)
24 Deal gone wrong in prison, branch siphoned 50% of device to hold lights (10)
28 Bankrupt Penny gathering ducks to have dinner at the end (4)
29 Foolishly, use cell at the beginning of show if ignorant (8)
30 Outstanding person in York loses head, breaks college equipment at the entrance and runs (6)

Down

1 Drunk sailor aboard, argues frequently leading to disruption (8)
2 Game's rule; point 10 is covering advantage essentially (4,6)
3 No charge included in removing parasite from pet, perhaps (7,3)
4 Lewis Lennox is detaining man, say (4)
5 Girl tumbler loses cap (4)
6 According to sources, many anarchists support seething crowd (4)
7 Humble democrat remains oddly away (6)
14 Son managed to withdraw Euros and wire (5)
15 Opposition is surrounded by others, one apprehends alderman ultimately (10)
16 Say, racing to promoters, to redeem debenture ultimately and consolidate (10)
20 Arrive hurriedly to take CO into protection, perhaps (3,5)
22 St. Helena blenders seized with warrant (6)
25 Sketched a water droplet right inside (4)
26 Made up a story and ushered first person inside (4)
27 Former president of America spotted in Belize (4)

SUDOKU

	4	3		1		9	8	
			5			4	2	
	9					6		
				3		8		7
	8						4	
9		1		7				
		2					1	
	3	9			8			
	7	4		6		3	5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6980 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

U	A	H	C	D	A	A	I	
T	H R O A T Y		I R R U P T S					
O	M	N	G	S	T	P	O	
P O L Y G O N				S A N D E E L				
I	E	E	O	O	A	A		
A N T E N A T A L				U N L I T				
O	V	V	E	E				
L I N E M A N				E M E N D E D				
A	E	I	A	A				
U N P I N	U P C O U N T R Y							
D	E	A	T	A	A	I		
A G N A T I C	T W O S T E P							
B	T	I	H	G	U	T	P	
L E H A V R E	U P R A I S E							
E	E	E	S	T	S	E	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	1	7	8	5	2	6	3
8	3	2	9	1	6	5	4	7
5	7	6	2	3	4	9	1	8
4	2	9	5	7	1	8	3	6
1	6	7	3	2	8	4	9	5
3	8	5	4	6	9	7	2	1
6	1	4	8	9	7	3	5	2
2	5	8	6	4	3	1	7	9
7	9	3	1	5	2	6	8	4

FAITH

Yaga of the Valakilyas

Sage Kashyapa performed a yaga. Kings and sages made a beeline for the yaga. Indra, the king of the devas, also made his way to the yaga, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse. Indra had loaded his chariot with bundles of sticks from the fig tree. Each bundle had a hundred sticks. On his way to the site where the yaga was being performed, he saw a group of short sages walking towards the yaga. They were the height of a thumb. But while they were small in stature, their spiritual power was great, because of the rigorous penances that they had undertaken. Four of them carried between them one fig tree stick. On their path was a small dent in the ground, made by the hoof of a cow, and this dent was full of water.

The sages, known as Valakilyas, skirted round this hole, so that they would not fall into it. Indra could not help laughing at them. Insulted, the Valakilyas sat down to perform a yaga. They wanted the emergence of someone who would defeat Indra. Alarmed, Indra ran to Kashyapa, who was his father. Kashyapa said he would seek the forgiveness of the Valakilyas, and stop their yaga. But before he could do so, they completed their yaga. Kashyapa requested that the one to fight Indra should be his son who was going to be born through his wife Vinatha. That son was the king of birds – Garuda. Thus, Garuda became capable of overpowering Indra. When Garuda emerged from the egg that Vinatha gave birth to, his brightness was greater than that of the sun or Agni. The flap of his wings was stronger than a cyclonic wind. It was because Garuda was so powerful that he was able to snatch away the pot of nectar, which Indra guarded carefully.

INBRIEF

PNGRB authorises 1,800 km of LPG pipelines at ₹7,000 cr.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) informed on Friday that it has given the nod for development of approximately 1,800 km of pipeline infrastructure for transporting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Spanning across six states – Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa – it is estimated to involve a capital investment of approximately ₹7,000 crore. GAIL (India) Ltd. would be developing these projects.

Tata Motors PV to hike prices by up to ₹25,000 from Sept. 1

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPV) on Friday said it will hike prices of its vehicles across its models by up to ₹25,000 from September 1 to partially offset increase in input costs and inflationary pressures. The price increase across the portfolio, covering both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EVs) will vary across models and variants, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPV) said in a statement. PTI

Atomberg files IPO papers; plans ₹450 cr. via fresh issue

Home appliances maker Atomberg Technologies Ltd. has filed preliminary papers with SEBI for an IPO, including a fresh issue of shares worth up to ₹450 crore. The IPO also comprises an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 7.65 crore equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). A91 Partners, Temasek-backed V-Sciences Investments, Jungle Ventures, Inflexor, Steadview Capital Mauritius and Survam Partners LLP will offload their shares. PTI

Centre notifies key scheme to manufacture mobile phones

The ₹62,500 cr. scheme, offering incentives for Indian brands, was cleared by Cabinet last month; it builds on PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing which ran from 2020 to FY26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Friday notified the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), aimed at incentivising the domestic assembly of smartphones and greater local value addition in the process. "The time has come to focus on developing Indian brands," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at an event announcing the scheme's notification. "Indian brand, Indian design, Indian IP; that's the thought process."

The ₹62,500 crore scheme had been approved by the Union Cabinet on July 15, and continues an earlier scheme that ran from 2020 to the last financial year.

With the notification and the announcement, the Ministry provided some fresh information about how the scheme would be operationalised. For instance, phone makers receive additional incentives for sourcing certain parts domestically.

This is on top of the base incentive (tapering down from 2.75-2.25% over the five year tenure, with rates of 2.25-5% depending on the year and the incremental sales) for the assembly itself. These additional incentives amount to 1.5% (with individual component incentives ranging from 0.2-0.5%).

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, centre, addresses the media during the launch of the MPMS, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

The 1.5% additional incentive would only be applicable if a firm is sourcing domestically for at least a quarter of the phones it sells in a given fiscal year.

While foreign phonemakers face a higher bar to avail incentives, the corpus is fungible overall, meaning there is no earmarked amount as such for domestic players. Indian brands – which will need to be majority-owned by Indian citizens and incorporated in India, along with intellectual property and trademark held locally – will have a flat 5% incentive throughout the scheme's tenure, and are not subject to a minimum sales threshold applicable for other brands; they will have a baseline fixed at 2025-26.

Indian brands will also enjoy a domestic design and research and development incentive of 3%. Indian brands only need to demonstrate a ₹1,000 crore turnover, while others need a minimum of ₹10,000 crore.

The scheme pushes expectant firms to grow production quickly. Incentives are only disbursed for sales that are beyond 115% the production of the previous fiscal year. For instance, if a unit produced ₹10 crore worth of phones in the preceding fiscal and then ₹12 crore in the next, it would only be eligible for incentives on production of ₹50 lakh. Briefing reporters on the details of the scheme, IT Secretary S. Krishnan said that it would create 60,000 "direct" jobs.

"Domestic value addition in mobile phone manufacturing is at 23%, which is a substantial deepening" of the sector, Mr. Krishnan said. "Our goal of doubling overall domestic value addition from 18-23% to 35-40% will be achieved in the coming days." The latter target is in line with the value addition achieved by Chinese phone assembly units. The number has a ceiling due to the global nature of electronics value chains, where various components crisscross the globe multiple times. Mr. Krishnan said that the phone manufacturing industry was important because "technology and skill transfer enables new sectors across the ecosystem [such as] laptops, gaming consoles, drone manufacturing, medical devices, components, tablets, smart watches and automobile windshields."

A massive amount of phone assembly by firms like Apple and Samsung has moved into India, making India an exporter of finished handsets. "Around 70-75% of phones were imports in 2014-15, and now we're exporters," Mr. Krishnan pointed out.

"India is the second largest phone manufacturer in the world and practically all phones sold here are made here."

The government is aiming for ₹39 lakh crore in cumulative production (the combined sale value of the finished products) by the end of MPMS, which runs through 2030-31, and cumulative exports worth ₹15 lakh crore.

An empowered committee will make recommendations to the government on applications by Indian brands for incremental incentives, as well as any "non-fiscal" support from the government.

New tariff formula cuts air passenger fee at Bengaluru by 33%

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

For the first time, the airport tariff regulator has applied a new formula at Bengaluru airport, cutting the passenger fee by 33% from ₹450 to ₹300 and ensuring travellers pay only for commissioned infrastructure available for use, rather than large projects such as runways and passenger buildings to be built in the future.

The new formula comes amid scrutiny of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) by a Parliamentary panel earlier this year over recent increases in airport user charges, which also raised questions about how the fees were being calculated.

On August 20, 2026, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) issued the tariff order for Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport's fourth five-year tariff cycle, setting the charges payable by airlines and passengers to recover the airport's capital expenditure.

The tariff order will come into effect on September 1, 2026 and will be applicable until March, 2031. Passengers departing from Bengaluru airport will now pay a User Development Fee (UDF) of ₹300, down from ₹550 earlier. Passengers arriving at the airport will pay ₹125. International passengers departing from the airport will pay ₹997, and those landing will pay ₹426. The fee for disembarking passengers is being introduced for the first time at Bengaluru in line with tariff orders for other airports. Bengaluru's proposal before AERA suggested a UDF of ₹450. This fee is a component of airfares collected by airlines. Further, landing charges levied on airlines that also impact airfares have also been rationalised. The formula implemented is called the incremental Aggregate Revenue Requirement.

The formula ensures travellers pay only for commissioned infrastructure available for use

This framework links the recovery of cost through airport charges with actual date of completion, commissioning and putting to use of few identified high value capex projects like new terminal buildings, runways, taxiways which are likely to become operational only in the latter half of the tariff cycle. "As the airport tariff is based on user-pay principle, linking recovery of costs with commissioning of projects ensures that travellers only pay for the infrastructure that is ready for use by them," AERA Chairman S.K.G. Rahate explained to *The Hindu*.

IRDAI places branch curbs on life insurers Pramerica, Edelweiss

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has directed Edelweiss Life Insurance and Pramerica Life Insurance, in separate orders on August 20, not to open new place of business for six months for non-compliance with Expenses of Management (EoM) limits in 2024-25.

"The [two life] insurers were warned for their failure to remain within the prescribed EoM limits and directed not to open any new place of business...", the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said.

The direction follows off-site monitoring, examination of the submissions, by the two insurers and enforcement proceedings.

On August 19, IRDAI had barred Niva Bupa Health Insurance and Acko General Insurance from opening new branches for six months after finding both exceeded the permissible EoM limits for 2024-25.

Strict expense limits

In a release, on the latest action, IRDAI said it laid down strict expense limits for insurers. They were expected to operate within the EoM which includes operational expenses and distribution costs to ensure the expenses are managed prudently and the benefits of operational efficiencies are ultimately passed on to policyholders.

Govt. got 29 projects worth ₹4,895.65 crore post nod to firms with 10% China stake

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre received a total of 29 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects worth ₹4,895.65 crore under a revised framework allowing firms with up to 10% Chinese ownership to invest via automatic route, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Friday.

In March, the government amended Press Note 3 of 2020. Without specifically naming any country, the original framework required government nod for foreign direct investment (FDI) from countries sharing land border with India. Among India's neighbours, China is the largest source of investment.

The reform provides greater certainty to investors.

Under the March amendment, firms with up to 10% ownership by an entity based in a land-border country (LBC) can invest via the automatic route, without prior government approval. The investments cover I-T, AI, information and communication, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, data centres and transport services.

The proposals were submitted by entities based in Mauritius, the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg, and the Cayman Islands, among other jurisdictions.

"The reform provides greater certainty to investors, reduces transaction time and strengthens the ease of doing business in India," as per the government statement. Before the amendment, foreign investors with beneficial ownership from LBCs of India needed prior government approval.

'Centre may add subsidy scheme to make polysilicon'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is working to add 30 gigawatts (GW) of polysilicon manufacturing capacity by 2030 and is working on a subsidy scheme, Santosh Sarangi, Secretary at the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, told reporters here today.

Mr. Sarangi said a polysilicon plant along with metallurgical grade silicon requires about ₹850 crore per GW capacity. "Keeping in mind that such a large investment is required, we are working out ways to support manufacturers."

Further, he said, at least 30 GW polysilicon manufacturing capacity addition would be imperative to ensure India's energy security and manufacturing resilience. Mr. Sarangi also said projects with plain solar are unlikely to find buyers as approximately 42 GW planned capacity are yet to see offtake pacts.

Santosh Sarangi

This includes 18 GW solar-only projects and about 15 GW got at high prices.

Lumino to unveil ₹700-cr. IPO on Aug. 27

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Lumino Industries Ltd will launch its ₹700 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) on August 27, with the company looking to use the fresh issue proceeds to pare debt, buy equipment and machinery and upgrade a manufacturing facility.

The price band has been fixed at ₹78-82 per share, valuing the company at around ₹2,500 crore at the higher end.

The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth up to ₹500 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of shares aggregating up to ₹200 crore, according to a public announcement on Friday. The bidding would close on August 31.

'Retirement-income replacement 35–40% vs. 60% globally'

Balasubramanyam C. P.
CHENNAI

India's retirement-income replacement rate is now about 35-40%, versus roughly 60% globally, said Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Chairman S. Ramann, as the regulator seeks to cover 30 crore people via the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) over the next four to five years.

"Roughly, the world says your replacement rate should be about 60%. So 60% of your last pay should roughly be the kind of money that you get when you are in retirement mode. In India, it's in the region of about 35% to 40%," Mr. Ramann said during an interaction.

"So we have to encourage people to invest more," he said.

Asked whether the PFRDA would set a goal for how much an individual should save to secure a decent retirement income, Mr. Ramann said it was difficult to predict. The PFRDA could instead provide illustrations of how regular contributions can potentially grow over time.

"I can only help you by saying that if you save 20,00 rupees every month from past performance, I can tell you that it is possible that after 18 years, your corpus may be ₹10 lakh. That's the kind of guidance that we can give."

He said the amount an individual saves depends on lifestyle and priorities.

S. Ramann

Contributions among NPS subscribers now range from ₹200 a month to ₹2 lakh a month, he said.

Non-government sector

The PFRDA, which now has about 2.2 crore NPS subscribers, including government and non-government, is focusing on the non-government segment, while government enrolment is growing.

"Our job is to focus on the non-government sector because those are the people who don't have the benefit of NPS, they don't know about NPS."

PFRDA wants to cover 30 crore people through NPS and APY over the next four to five years, he said, adding the APY had about 10 crore customers.

He also saw significant scope to expand pension coverage among self-employed and gig workers.

Digital push for NPS

PFRDA is relying on digital platforms to expand NPS distribution. The StAR NPS platform is being developed with BSE, while NPS Tatkal is being developed with NPCI and BHIM, Mr. Ramann said.

PFRDA provides distributors with a ₹200 onboarding fee and roughly 0.3% of assets under management (AUM) as annual commission, Mr. Ramann said, adding digital onboarding could substantially cut the cost of client acquisition.

Resilient returns

He also said focus would be on "resilience in returns." Pension funds had to diversify across asset classes to generate better returns while keeping volatility low.

PFRDA is examining how pension funds can develop the expertise to directly invest in firms.

UPS cost higher

On the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), Mr. Ramann said its cost to the government would be higher than NPS but substantially lower than the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

The PFRDA had 14 pension fund managers. Mr. Ramann said greater competition could boost returns and expand NPS reach. PFRDA's NPS Vatsalya, which allows parents or guardians to build retirement savings for children, has crossed four lakh unique customers. It is also preparing NPS Swasthya combining pension savings with a dedicated health corpus and top-up health insurance.

SEBI mulls code for online bond platform advertisements

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed an advertisement code for online bond providers platform (OBPP) to boost reach and on account of need for investor awareness about this asset class, according to a consultation paper released on Friday.

"The increasing reach and impact of such advertisements necessitate a review of the extant Advertisement Code to ensure that communications remain fair, balanced and conducive to informed investment decisions," the regulator said in the paper.

The proposal is expected to boost bond awareness.

There are about 38 SEBI registered OBPPs with the NSE and the BSE each.

ANKARA

Turkiye issues arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

REUTERS

Turkiye has sought an international arrest warrant for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accusing him of "genocide" linked to Israel's interception of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, the Justice Minister said on Friday. Mr. Netanyahu's office had earlier called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan an "anti-Semitic dictator". AFP

TOKYO

Japan protests Russian missile tests off disputed Kuril islands

REUTERS

Japan said on Friday it had protested against Russia's notification that Moscow would conduct missile tests off disputed Kuril islands visited by President Vladimir Putin earlier this month. Russia's Pacific Fleet said on Thursday it had already conducted the missile test, although it was unclear when it took place. AFP

SEOUL

U.S., South Korea wrap up military drills 6 days earlier than planned

REUTERS

The U.S. and South Korean militaries wrapped up their annual drill six days earlier than initially scheduled on Friday in a conciliatory gesture toward North Korea, though the North said the step is not enough to persuade it to return to talks. South Korea's military said the Ulchi Freedom Shield ended on Friday. AP

KYIV

Russian drones kill 14 people at a mall in a central Ukrainian city

REUTERS

Russian drones struck a shopping centre in the city of Kryvyi Rih in Ukraine on Friday, killing 14 people and wounding 121, authorities said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the attack as a double-tap strike, in which an initial wave of drones hit the area, followed by a second wave as rescue workers responded. AP

Iran vows 'devastating' response as U.S. threatens tough economic hit

Iran's armed forces chief says Tehran is ready across land, sea, air and cyberspace to deliver 'crushing, punishing' retaliation; President Masoud Pezeshkian says it is time to end the war now, claiming that Iran is in a stronger position than the U.S.

Reuters
DUBAI/WASHINGTON

Iran said on Friday that its response to any new U.S. threats would be "devastating" after Washington pledged to impose the toughest financial penalties in history with the aim of toppling the Iranian leadership.

U.S. Treasury chief Scott Bessent said he would give details on Monday of the planned sanctions, which follow a warning from President Donald Trump of economic consequences against any country that provided "any type of lifeline to Iran".

The chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces, Major General Ali Abdollahi, said the Islamic Republic's reaction would be broad and decisive.

"With preparedness across land, sea, air, air defence and cyberspace, Iran's armed forces will respond to the enemy's new threats with crushing, punishing and devastating responses," Mr. Abdollahi was quoted as saying by Iranian media.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf during a visit to the grave of an Iraqi paramilitary commander killed in a 2020 U.S. drone strike. AP

Iran's Parliament Speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the country's main negotiator in mediated talks with the U.S., said Washington appeared to have concluded it could not prevail in its direct military confrontation.

"We must make plans to deal with the unjust sanctions so that we can overcome them," he said in neighbouring Iraq, accusing the U.S. and Israel of resorting to what he said was economic and "cognitive" warfare.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that it was time to end the months-long war because Tehran appeared to be in a stronger position than Washington.

"It is better that we bring the war to an end now as we are in a position of power and dignity," Mr. Pezeshkian said.

"The whole world acknowledges our victory and emphasises that America has attacked our schools, hospitals and infrastructure in violation of all regulations and is hated around the world."

His remarks come weeks after Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said he had approved the deal to end the war.

Imran Khan shifted back to jail after medical check-up

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan was shifted back to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on Friday morning after undergoing a medical examination at the state-run Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where doctors from Al-Shifa hospital were also present, the government said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Khan's international media spokesperson Zulfi Bukhari had said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was shifted to privately-owned Shifa International Hospital following a Supreme Court order.

The Supreme Court on August 18 directed that Mr. Khan, 73, be taken to the hospital within two days following a medical report submitted before it which said he was suffering from "level three plus" anxiety.

Strict watch: Security personnel cordon off a street outside the Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad. REUTERS

Level three plus anxiety refers to high-level or severe anxiety where worry overwhelms daily tasks, triggers intense physical strain and disrupts clear thinking.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar blamed PTI workers for the failure to take Mr. Khan to the Shifa hospital.

In a social media post, the Minister said that "in view of the security situation created by PTI workers on the way to and outside Al-Shifa hospital", Mr. Khan was taken to PIMS, where he was found to be "healthy".

Myanmar military strike kills 14 people at a Buddhist monastery, says opposition group

Associated Press
BANGKOK

An air strike on Friday by Myanmar's military on a Buddhist monastery in Myanmar's central Sagaing region killed 14 people who were taking part in a week-long meditation retreat, an opposition group and a resident said.

The attack is the latest in a series of frequent and deadly aerial strikes targeting armed pro-democracy forces and ethnic armed groups in the country. The strikes often cause civilian casualties.

The attack occurred in Swel Le Oh village in Myaung township, about 75 km west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, according to Nway Oo, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence and Security Organisation of Myaung Township, or CDSOM.

Nway Oo said that 14 people, including three women, were killed and 20 others were wounded when a fighter jet dropped a bomb in the compound of the village's monastery.

The monastery had more than 100 people, who were on a week-long retreat during Buddhist Lent

A villager who spoke on condition of anonymity, because he feared for his safety, also confirmed the toll. The villager said that the fighter jet dropped two bombs 15 minutes apart, with the second bomb damaging a house near the monastery where more than 100 people were on a week-long retreat during Buddhist Lent.

The military did not immediately comment. In the past, the Army has said that it only attacks legitimate targets of war, accus.

Balochistan militants are 'foreign-sponsored proxies', says Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Friday described militants active in Balochistan as "foreign-sponsored proxies" working to destabilise the restive province.

Mr. Munir made the remarks while interacting with prominent figures and political leaders from Balochistan, according to a statement issued by the Army. Balochistan has been facing a long-running separatist insurgency led by groups, including the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which seeks independence for the mineral-rich province.

Asim Munir

Mr. Munir stressed that the present and future of Balochistan and Pakistan are "one and forever".

Without naming any country, he alleged that militants active in the province "are foreign-sponsored proxies being employed by hostile elements to destabilise Balochistan, obstruct its development and create a wedge between state and its people".

Insurgents demanding independence for Balochistan have been alleging political marginalisation and exploitation of the province's natural resources by the central government.

The BLA has in recent years stepped up attacks targeting security forces, government installations, and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sri Lanka's iconic singer Nanda Malini dies at 82

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Iconic Sri Lankan singer Nanda Malini, whose voice travelled with generations of Sinhalese through the island's political and social upheavals of the 1970s and 1980s, passed away in Nawala, near Colombo, on Thursday. She was 82.

The Sri Lankan government announced three days of mourning beginning Friday to pay respects to one of the country's most celebrated artistes, who was born in 1943 in British Ceylon. As a young and aspiring artiste, Malini travelled to India to study music at the Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music in Lucknow, local media reported.

Nanda Malini

'Musical legend'

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake called Malini "a true musical legend of our time". "Her timeless music inspired generations of Sri Lankans, young and old alike. Her remarkable legacy will live on in the hearts of millions," he posted on social media.

Addressing Parliament on Friday, Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya said Malini's career is "not only a chapter in Sri Lankan music, but also a living expression of the country's social movements and human emotions." Reflecting a widely shared sentiment about Malini's music, PM Amarasuriya said in her condolence message: "Going beyond themes of love and separation, she gave voice to the suffering, fears, hopes, and struggles of ordinary people, making her songs resonate as the voice of society itself."

In a post on social media, former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga described Malini as a "glorious voice", and a "fearless and principled artiste who used music as a weapon against social injustice".

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in
OMC ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD.

Short Notice
For sale of Cement Grade Limestone

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell Cement grade Limestone produced at Ampavalli Limestone Mines, Ampavalli, Pattangi, Koraput district, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from **11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M on dtd. 29.08.2026.**

For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e **www.mstcecommerce.com**.

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (S&M)

30001/81/2627
OIPR-30001/30005/1/26-27/0069

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru,
Phone: 080-22255210
IFT No. EE/Bld.1/AE- 2 & 4/2026-27/20 Date: 20.08.2026

ADDENDUM NOTIFICATION

This office Tender Notification EE/Bld1/AE-2 & 4/2026-27/19/ 17.08.2026 for the work has been published on 21.08.2026 and the following corrigendum is issued.
Sl.No.01 Name of work: Proposed Construction of Karnataka Bhavan-4 Plot No.5, Dwaraka Sector 17, New Delhi- PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT39141

Sl. No.	Particulars	KW-4 Bid Document & As per KPP Portal	Read as
1	Special Conditions of Contract	Not Mentioned	Any bidder from a country which shares a land border with India will be eligible to bid in this tender only if the bidder is registered with the Competent Authority, as specified in Government Order No. FD 455 Exp-12/2020 dated 25.08.2020 issued by the Government of Karnataka, Finance Department-The bidder shall submit/upload the certificate prescribed under the said Government Order, certifying that the bidder is not from a country which shares a land border with India or, if from such a country, that the bidder has been registered with the Competent Authority and fulfills all the requirements in this regard. Where applicable evidence of valid registration issued by the Competent Authority shall also be submitted/uploaded along with the tender
2	Appellate Authority	Chief Engineer PWD South Zonal Office, Bengaluru	Secretary PWD Secretariat Office, Bengaluru

Note: 1. All other conditions remain un-altered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/2361/KSMCA/2026-27

डॉक्टर हरिसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय, सागर (म.प्र.)
Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M.P)
केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय | A Central University | A++ Grade by NAAC
संदर्भ क्र./Ref.No./DoFA/IoET-BM/GF/2026/307 दिनांक/Date: 20/08/2026

वॉक-इन इंटरव्यू सूचना | Walk-in Interview Notice

अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान/Institute of Engineering and Technology

डॉ हरीसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय में अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (IoET) में अतिथि व्याख्याताओं (प्रति व्याख्यान के आधार पर) के आवेदन स्ववित्तपोषित योजना के अंतर्गत आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। विस्तृत विज्ञापन एवं आवेदन पत्र के लिये इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विश्वविद्यालय की आधिकारिक बेवसाइट का अवलोकन करें।
Applications are invited for the engagement of Guest Faculty (per lecture basis) under the Self Financing Scheme in the Institute of Engineering & Technology (IoET) of the university. Applicants are advised to visit the University Website Link: https://dhsgsu.edu.in/recruitment for detailed advertisement and application form.

साक्षात्कार की तिथि/Date of Interview : 01-09-2026
साक्षात्कार का समय/Time of Interview : 10:00 AM
साक्षात्कार का स्थान/Venue of Interview : गौर समिति कक्ष प्रशासनिक भवन, डॉ हरीसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय, सागर

आवेदन हेतु लिंक/Link for Application Form :https://dhsgsu.edu.in/index.php/en/recruitment/8031-walk-in-interview-notice-for-the-engagement-of-guest-faculty-in-the-institute-of-engineering-and-technology

कुलसचिव

E mail : sepwdbalangir@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
1ST CORRIGENDUM
BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B) BGR/04/2026-27

Letter No.2419 // Dtd.20.08.2026

1. CANCELLATION OF BID
The Bid for the works: - STMC-FOR 3 NOS OF ROADS FOR KHAPARAKHOL - HARISHANKAR ROAD (ODR) FROM 0/00 KM TO 13/00 KM AND FOR TUREIKELA TO LATHOR ROAD (ODR) FROM 7/00 KM TO 15/000 KM AND FOR KANTABANJI TO TUREIKELA VIA KUEIBAHAL ROAD (ODR) FROM 0/00 KM TO 13/878 KM (PACKAGE 3) .
The above 1 no. tender invited vide BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE (R&B) BGR /04/ 2026-27 (SL-3) are hereby cancelled due to administrative ground.
2. CORRECTION IN SALE DATE OF BID.

SL. NO.	EXISTING DATE AND TIME OF SALE & RECEIPT OF BIDS	REVISED DATE AND TIME OF SALE & RECEIPT OF BIDS	EXISTING DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF BID	REVISED DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF BID
1.	From Dt. 20.08.2026, 06.55 P.M. to Dt.04.07.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	From Dt. 01.09.2026, 06.55 P.M. to Dt.17.09.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	Dt. 06.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 18.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
34001/678/2627
OIPR-34001/34131/1/26-27/0011

NOT SO SOLID

A lot of the points we thought we would finish, we couldn't: Chirag

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

After we lost the first game, they came back a lot more harder in the second. They were playing a solid game. A lot of moments where we thought we would get a point, we didn't; lot of the points we thought we would finish, we couldn't. They were not just retrieving, they were converting it into offence — Chirag Shetty.

TOUGH LOSS

We could've been tighter from our side: Satwik after exit from Worlds

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

They (Wei Keng Liang & Chang Wang) like to play a faster game. They were quite good in the first four shots. Whoever controlled the first four shots were winning. They were everywhere. Wherever we were hitting, they were just playing their game. We could have been tighter from our side — Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

LAID LOW

World No. 1 Sinner withdraws from US Open with knee injury

FILE PHOTO

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner confirmed on Friday he will not compete in the US Open because of a right knee injury. Sinner had been working hard to recover but realised that he still needs more time, the Italian said in a statement. Sinner had also pulled out of the US Open warm-up tournaments in Cincinnati and Montreal.

INFORMAL OFFER

Hussey could join England as the Test batting coach

FILE PHOTO

Australian great Mike Hussey could face his own country in the Ashes after saying on Friday he was open to joining England as its Test batting coach. Hussey has had an informal approach from England's new red-ball coach Stephen Fleming, the duo having spent 15 years as teammates and coaches at Chennai Super Kings.

Treesa and Gayatri extend dream run, ensure medal

The unseeded duo stuns World No. 4 Jia and Zhang in the quarterfinals to maintain India's proud record of at least one podium finish in each edition since 2011; Wei-Chang too good for Satwik-Chirag

BADMINTON WORLDS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

When in doubt, attack. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stuck to the mantra regardless of the scoreline and reaped the rewards, assuring themselves of a maiden medal at the badminton World championships here on Friday.

Their 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 victory against the Chinese World No. 4 Jia Yifan & Zhang Shuxian in the quarterfinals at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium came in 70 minutes. It was their third big scalp in as many matches after ousting the World No. 17 and World No. 7 pairs earlier.

In the process, the unseeded, unfancied duo also became the first Indian women's pair to do make it to the Worlds semifinals since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's historic bronze in 2011. In fact that medal started India's streak of winning at least one medal in every edition since then.

It would also be the only medal for India this time after two-time bronze medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost to the World No. 3 Chinese pair of Wei Keng Liang and Chang Wang 21-18, 21-9 in just 35 minutes.

Ranked 39th, Treesa and Gayatri trailed 6-0 in the opening game before fighting back to close the gap to 9-8.

They eventually lost 21-16 but at no point did it look like they were ready to give up.

Making it a habit: Gayatri and Treesa produced an upset win for the third successive match. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Gayatri being quick and busy on the net, smashed cross-court winners and constantly set Treesa up for the winners.

The two went from 7-10 to 13-10 in the second game and, with nothing to lose, pushed hard.

They cut down the unforced errors and kept it tight, forcing Yifan, a four time World champion and the reigning Olympic champion, to conceding points and took the match into the decider.

Thereafter it was India all the way. Treesa and Gayatri raced to an 11-5 lead before change of ends and closed out the tie 21-13.

Satwik and Chirag, meanwhile, had their chances in the opening game and even led 18-16 before the opponents reeled off five points to win 21-18. The flat drives targeting the Indians' bodies meant Satwik and Chirag were always cramped for space.

Wei and Chang's lightening quick returns, coupled with retrievals from all over the court made it impossible for Satwik and Chiraj to either lift or fall back on their trademark smashes to get points as the Chinese wrapped up the match in quick time.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Victor Lai (Can) bt Rasmus Gemke (Den) 21-19, 21-18; Alex Lanier (Fra) bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 19-21, 21-16, 21-16; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Anders Antonsen (Den) 21-19, 21-15.

Doubles: Wei Keng Liang & Chang Wang (Chn) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-18, 21-9; Kim Won Ho & Seo Seung Jae (Kor) bt Sze Fei Goh & Nur Izzuddin (Mas) 21-16, 21-16; Aaron Chia & Wooi Yik Soh (Mas) bt Ke Yuan Hu & Xiang Yi Lin (Chn) 21-11, 21-17; Jhe-Huei Lee & Po-Hsuan Yang (Tpe) bt Fajar Alfian & Muhammad Shohibul Fikri (Ina) 21-19, 21-16.

Women: An Se-young (Kor) bt Yue Han (Chn) 21-19, 21-12; Pornpawee Chochuwong (Tha) w/o Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn); Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Michelle Li (Can) 21-17, 21-10; Wang Zhi Yi (Chn) bt Line Christophersen (Den) 21-10, 21-7.

Doubles: Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand bt Yi Fan Jia & Shu Xian Zhang (Chn) 16-21, 21-15, 21-13; Baek Ha Na & Lee So Hee (Kor) bt Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma & Meilysa Trias Puspitasari (Mas) 21-11, 21-11; Sheng Shu Liu & Ning Tan (Chn) bt Nga Ting Yeung & Pui Lam Yeung (Tpe) 21-14, 21-17; Yi Jing Li & Xu Min Luo (Chn) bt Rachel Rose & Febi Setianingrum (Ina) 21-13, 21-14.

We won't stop here: Treesa and Gayatri

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

'Keep calm and carry on,' Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand kept telling each other en route a historic quarterfinal win against Jia Yifan and Shuxian Zhang, who have between them clinched five medals at the World championships and two at the Olympics.

It was forgotten the moment Yifan sent the shuttle wide on match point, Gayatri sprawling on the court and Treesa rushing to hug P. Gopi Chand and B. Sumeeth Reddy in the coaches' corner. They broke down, took a long break before returning to answer questions and for once, no one grudged the Indian youngsters.

Ready for more: Gayatri and Treesa. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"It was really difficult with all the emotions and processing what had finally happened but we are ok now," Treesa admitted.

"We are really happy to get into the semifinals and confirm a medal but we are not stopping here. There are matches still to come," she declared.

Next up will be the top-seeded pair of Sheng Shu Liu and Ning Tan but when asked about the match, Gayatri insisted there would be little change in the mindset.

"We don't want to think too much about the outcome. Today was also a tough match, we knew it would not be easy. We were trailing by a game and even in the second, it was tricky. We told each other to stay calm and will do the same tomorrow, get on court and give our 100 percent and just enjoy," she added.

Gayatri has made no secret of Gopichand the father's strict regimen, but on Friday there were no complaints about Gopichand the coach from either.

A new order in the men's game

Devyanshi Bihani
NEW DELHI

The old order is over and a new order has kicked in. The men's singles semifinal line-up at the World championships has reinforced that.

No one from the world's top-5 made the semifinals here. Instead, Victor Lai of Canada and Alex Lanier of France, the 21-year-olds, will meet in a last-four clash while Taiwan's 36-year-old Chou Tien Chen, who became the oldest medallist in World championships history, faces Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the other.

Lai, already Canada's first Worlds medallist after last year's breakthrough, is now guaranteed another medal. His quarterfinal against Rasmus Gemke was less about brilliance and more about resilience as he recovered from early deficits in both games. "Each game I play, I learn more," said Victor.

Lanier has already created history. He fought back from 3-11 in the second game to upstage 2023 champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn and became the first Frenchman to win a men's singles medal in the tournament.

"We have the talent and we are also training hard," said Lanier.

Lanier... causing a flutter. AP

The women's draw, on the other hand, offers a mix of familiar names and fresh storylines.

Defending champion An Se-young, returning from a leg injury, stormed into the semifinals without dropping a game. She will meet Wang Zhiyi, who ended the Korean's 10-match winning streak earlier this season before being beaten by her in the Asian championships final. "The leg is getting better with every match," revealed Se-young.

Akane Yamaguchi won in just 28 minutes against Michelle Li while Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong reached her first Worlds semifinal and secured a maiden major medal without playing a shot after Nozomi Okuhara withdrew with a knee injury. "I feel sad more than happy," said Chochuwong, who has endured many injury layoffs herself.

Indian team sweats it out in gruelling conditions

INDIA IN SRI LANKA

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

Surrounded by expansive trees and skyscrapers, the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground was like a sauna on Friday. A maximum of 30 degree Celsius belied the actual heat felt in the premises and in this cauldron, the Indian team practised as part of the build-up towards the second Test commencing here on Sunday.

K.L. Rahul and Kuldeep Yadav skipped the pre-game drills, and spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule clarified that the duo was resting. The others did their batting and bowling stints while coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar watched. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill constituted the first quartet that batted.

Stretching every sinew: Pant pulls off an acrobatic take during the training session. PTI

Gill freed his arms and unleashed big shots while the warning 'watch-out' rang aloud through the ground. Later, the skipper had a chat with Gambhir while Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan and others batted. Off-spinner Saransh Jain turned his arm over and it remains to be seen if he will come into contention against a left-hander heavy Sri Lankan batting.

Bowling coach Morne Morkel, always busy at nets, ran in and bowled too.

He had mentioned about coping with the heat in Galle, guess the same challenge awaits his wards in the Sri Lankan capital.

Bahutule supports 'match-winner' Kuldeep

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

Nostalgia may have enveloped Sairaj Bahutule when he entered the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground. He would have remembered his last Test played at the same venue in 2001, a game India lost. The Indian spin-bowling coach, though, quickly immersed himself in the nets here on Friday.

Later, near the dugout, he spoke to the media about the twirly men under his watch. Many questions centred around Kuldeep Yadav, a fine talent but seemingly rusty at the moment. "Kuldeep has been bowling extremely well. It's just that due to the situation that arose in Galle, he had to play a different role. He tried his best to execute that role," Bahutule said.

Getting more technical in his analysis, the Mumbaikar added: "We had to see how the trajectory and the speeds work in every session. As the days went by, there was a demand for different types of speeds and trajectories, he definitely was making an effort to bowl that."

Tough times: Kuldeep struggled in the Galle Test, picking up only one wicket from 25 overs. PTI

Praises Suthar

Turning his eye towards Manav Suthar, Bahutule said: "He is somebody who has bowled a lot in domestic cricket and has done the hard yards. He understands his bowling well. What we try to do is to see how that awareness of bowling gets better in different conditions, on different pitches, and against different batters. He is very accurate and his trajectories are getting better. He puts in a lot on the ball, the revolutions are good and he is somebody who is like a banker for us."

Bahutule also spoke about the essential nature of ideal preparation: "It's very difficult for a player sometimes to adjust to different formats. But I think what we did coming early on this tour was, you know in that warm-up game and in the open net sessions, we trained well and got to understand the conditions and could adapt to it. The amount of cricket being played is quite a bit but our job as coaches is to manage their minds and help them adapt."

With Sri Lanka adding more left-handed batters to the squad, the temptation to play off-spinner Saransh Jain is real and Bahutule did not deny that: "There is another day to go before the Test. We will have a look at the pitch and understand what will be the need. Yes, the (left-handed) additions are there in their team. We will definitely consider him (Saransh) once the pitch is completely ready."

The speculation over Kuldeep's berth in the playing XI lingered and when another question was raised, Bahutule said: "He has been a fabulous bowler over the years. Yes, the pitches sometimes are slow and sometimes the ball operates differently for the spinners on certain surfaces. For me, he has always been a match-winner and he definitely is in the scheme of things. But when the ball becomes softer, it becomes even more difficult for a wrist-spinner like him".

India goes down fighting to Netherlands, suffers first loss

Jansen and Matla's penalty-corner goals take the defending champion into the semifinals; Marijne's side pays the price for squandering the limited chances; however, the draw between Australia and China leaves the door open for all three sides

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Aashin Prasad
AMSTELVEEN

There was an orange wave sweeping the stands as the Wagener Stadion was bathed in the summer sunlight, well past the Friday evening's pushback.

Yibbi Jansen, the Netherlands' lethal drag-flicker, scored her seventh goal of the World Cup to put the host 1-0 up after just 83 seconds. The home supporters were anticipating a blue wave on the turf with India's new colours forcing the Dutch to switch to their away uniform. But India resisted in a hard-fought 2-0 loss in the second round of the tournament.

The win sent the three-time defending champion into the semifinals while India sits fourth in the standings. But the 1-1 draw between Australia and China, earlier in the day, left the door still open for India to challenge for a spot in the semifinals.

Goalmouth melee: The Dutch players try to get past the Indian defence. GETTY IMAGES

After being pushed to the limit just over 24 hours ago, the Indian team struggled to get out of its own half as passes went astray or solo runs ended in cul-de-sacs against the Dutch's full-court press. India withstood two more penalty corners from the stick of Jansen with Bichu Devi making a block before another drag-push struck the post.

India grew in confidence with neat passing moves but Salima Tete blazed over and Navneet Kaur flashed wide. Deepika had two PCs but were shut out by the Netherlands' defence.

After the break, India had a glorious chance to go level from a counter-attack but Sunelita Toppo's tame effort was saved by Anne Veenendaal. Against the world's best, goal-scoring chances are hard to come by and soon after, the Netherlands let it know. Frederique Matla beat Ishika Chaudhary on the line with a drag-flick to double the advantage.

Exhaustion finally caught up with Sjoerd Marijne's women as they struggled to hold on to possession with unforced errors. Freeke Moes threatened to widen the margin when she forced Savita Punia into a save from close range before her rebound came off the post.

The mood at the final hooter wasn't one of despair for the Indian women after suffering their first loss of the campaign as they will know this isn't the end.

The result:
Netherlands 2 (Jansen 2-pc, Matla 37-pc) bt India 0.

Time to buckle up for tougher games, says coach Fulton

Aashin Prasad
AMSTELVEEN

India head coach Craig Fulton has called for his men to refocus ahead of what he calls a 'new tournament' in the second round of the men's World Cup, starting against the Netherlands on Saturday.

India's mixed start in the pool stage led to a second place finish behind England, which has left it needing two wins to give itself a good chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

"We're a little bit behind the eight ball because we didn't take the three points through. But at this level as well, any team can beat any team," Fulton told *The Hindu*.

"That doesn't mean we're out. We have to take care of our two games. We'll just go one game at a time and let's see what happens."

A deficient defensive structure and unforced errors leaving it open to transitions have proved costly. India has let in eight goals, which is the worst defensive record among the top eight teams left in the tournament.

Lack of bite: India's tally of three field goals ranks ninth in the 16-team tournament. AP

Fulton emphasised on getting the pressing right and its counterattacks with upcoming matches against two of the dangerous sides, the Netherlands and Argentina.

India's recent meetings against these sides yielded just one 3-2 win over the Dutch, while losing the other three with an aggregate scoreline of 4-15.

"It's a game [vs Pakistan] that is steeped in history, where we need to take more structure into that game, and it got away from us a little bit.

"We're playing well going forward, and we need to keep improving on the defence and keeping the confidence in going forward. So the press, the counter, is where we need to just keep hammering," said the South African.

A Harmanpreet scare

India had a scare a day before the Netherlands tie when tournament top-scorer Harmanpreet Singh sat out training after picking up a back injury after the last game.

But the team staff assured that it was a precaution and Harmanpreet will be fit to play.

On India's lack of field goals, Fulton said, "One team plays man-to-man, the other zonal... it's a different approach if there were three in the D. We've got different plans for different teams, but we've got to implement them".

Chance for Indian athletes to fine-tune preparation ahead of Asian Games

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

While the presence of several elite international athletes is set to make the $75,000 World Athletics Continental Tour Silver meet exciting at the sparkling Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday, the absence of some Indian stars will take some gloss off it.

The field will consist of top-ranked international names, including Nigeria's Commonwealth Games shot put champion Chukwuebuka Enekwechi and Jamaica's CWG discus gold medallist Samantha Hall.

Reputed Indians such as

Sreeshankar.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CWG silver-winning long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, javelin bronze medallist Yashvir Singh, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, javelin thrower Annu Rani, discus thrower Seema Kaliraman, National record-holder long jumper Ancy Sojan and quarter-miler Vithya Ramraj – will be some of the main attraction among 88 Indians in a field of 187 from 26 countries.

Several top Indian athletes, including Worlds and Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, double CWG medallist Gulveer Singh, Sarvesh Kushare, Parul Chaudhary, Avinash Sable, Ankita Dhyani and National record-holder Vishal T.K., will miss the event due to different reasons.

The one-day meet, upgraded from Bronze level and rewarding top six finishers, including $1600 to the winners of 18 events, will be a good exposure for some Asian Games-bound Indians. The men's javelin will have seven throwers who have 80m-plus season's best. In long jump, six have registered eight metres-plus efforts, while seven have recorded marks exceeding 20m in shot put. The presence of multiple Indians will make these events interesting for the fans.

Five long jumpers with more than 6.40m marks, seven discus throwers have 55m-plus throws should make these women's events gripping. After the Silver meet, the Indians will take part in the Indian Athletics Series Final in Delhi on September 10 prior to the Asian Games in Japan.

England crushes Pakistan

CRICKET

Agence France-Presse
LEEDS

England wrapped up an innings and 103-runs win over Pakistan inside three days in the first Test on Friday, delivering a strong start to the post-Bazball era under returning captain Joe Root.

Dismissed for 409 around 40 minutes into day three, England took a 238-run advantage into the second innings and skittled Pakistan out for 135 in 37.3 overs before tea.

England's battery of four seamers pestered consistently at a fuller length that's required at Headingley and Pakistan couldn't endure it.

Jofra Archer removed

Robinson... match-winning show. AFP

the openers with the new ball, Ollie Robinson got three more wickets, Josh Tongue was introduced after lunch and took three wickets, and Gus Atkinson bowled superbly for the late reward of Pakistan top scorer Mohammad Rizwan.

Robinson and Tongue each took eight wickets in the match after literally splitting the match ball in half after their five-wicket hauls in the first innings.

Root's new mark

Root broke Australia's Steve Smith's record for the most number of catches in Test history when he snapped up opener Azan Awais off Archer to take his tally to 219 from 167 matches.

The second Test starts at Lord's next Thursday.

The scores: Pakistan 171 & 135 in 37.3 overs (Rizwan 41, Robinson 3/29, Tongue 3/43, Archer 3/50) lost to England 409 in 89.5 overs (Brook 91, Cox 73, Root 66, Lawrence 51, Usman 5/95, Shahzad 3/133).
Player-of-the-Match: Robinson.

Russell. AP

Russell takes sprint pole

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
ZANDVOORT

George Russell took the fight to his Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli on Friday, qualifying on pole position for the sprint race at the Dutch GP, as Formula One returned from its mid-season break.

Russell snatched top spot by 0.041 of a second from McLaren's Lando Norris while Charles Leclerc came third for Ferrari, 0.014 further back.

Championship leader Antonelli was fifth and revealed that he had been struggling with damage from a bumpy ride across a gravel trap in the first part of the session.

His closest challenger Lewis Hamilton could manage only seventh for Ferrari.

The pole position is a welcome one for Russell, who hasn't won since the Austrian GP in June.

SNAPSHOTS

Paes applies to join AITA's roster of SOM

BENGALURU: Indian tennis great and current Bengal Tennis Association (BTA) president Leander Paes has applied to join the All India Tennis Association roster of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM), BTA announced on social media on Friday.
According to the AITA's amended constitution, a roster of 20 male and 20 female SOMs will be prepared, and out of that, two men and two women will be elected to the AITA General Body and will enjoy voting rights. Two SOMs – one man and one woman – will also be part of the 15-member Executive Committee.
SOMs elected to the General Body can apply to be in the EC, and can also contest for the posts of AITA president, general secretary and treasurer.
In fact, AITA started inviting applications from athletes to be part of the SOM roster on August 15, but wrote to the Union Sports Ministry on August 19 seeking to expand the selection criteria.
The National Sports Governance Act prioritises those with significant achievements in Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, but the AITA has requested the addition of Grand Slams, ATP and WTA tournaments, and the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup, all of which carry higher weightage in tennis.
Regardless, Paes will qualify as a Tier 1 SOM, courtesy his watershed singles bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, which was India's first individual medal at the quadrennial extravaganza after K.D. Jadhav's in 1952.
— N. Sudarshan

FIFA gets tough with Argentina players for World Cup brawl

PARIS: Leandro Paredes and his Argentina teammates have received bans and fines for their part in clashes with Spain players at the World Cup final, FIFA said on Friday.
Argentina has been ordered to play its next two home games behind closed doors, though one match of that sanction is suspended. Paredes was banned for 10 international games and fined $90,000.
Nahuel Molina received a seven-match ban and must also pay a fine of $90,000 while Thiago Almada and Gavi (Spain) were suspended for one match and fined $30,000 each.

Eyebrows raised as Sreeja figures in the qualifiers

TABLE TENNIS

Amol Karhadkar
KANPUR

Minutes before the under-17 boys' and girls' finals at the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament at The Sportz Hub on Friday, Sreeja Akula was completing her final qualification-round match.

The Indian women's captain for the Asian Games, ranked No. 57 in the world, made short work of Shivasri S. to enter the main draw before returning to the gallery to support fellow coach Somnath Ghosh's protege Vivaan Dave in the boys' title decider.

While Sreeja had no issues playing the qualifiers, India's highest-ranked women's paddler doing so did not go down well with some veterans. This is not the first instance as A. Sharath Kamal, too, began the 2021 edition from the qualifiers before going on to win the title.

"It is ridiculous to see India's top player being made to play the qualifiers," said former international Sunil Babras, now a

Ruling the roost: Vivaan and Divyanshi, winners of the under-17 crowns. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

coach with the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board.

Competition manager N. Ganesan, however, said the technical team was "merely following the tournament prospectus".

The prospectus, based on a TTFI AGM decision in July 2024, stipulates that players ranked in the ITTF top-50 at the time of the first draw receive the top seeding and the remaining seeding will be determined by the latest national rankings.

The top-16 in the domestic rankings are seeded accordingly.

Sreeja's domestic ranking slipped to No. 27 after injuries and international commitments restricted her participation to just the senior Nationals in the previous season.

Vivaan, the eighth seed, capped his dream run with a title in boys' under-17 while Divyanshi Bhowmick justified her top billing in the girls' section.

The results:
Under-17: Boys: Final: Vivaan Dave (Guj) bt Atharva Nawarange (Kar) 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4; **Semifinals:** Vivaan bt Vishruth Ramakrishnan (TN) 11-7, 10-12, 11-8, 11-7; Atharva bt Prateek Tulsani (Mah) 7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8.
Girls: Final: Divyanshi Bhowmick (Mah) bt Ananya Muralidharan (TN) 11-6, 9-11, 12-10, 11-3; **Semifinals:** Divyanshi bt Ankolika Chakraborty (WB) 14-12, 11-8, 11-4; Ananya bt Naisha Rewaskar (Mah) 5-11, 16-14, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8.

'Confident Bengaluru will respond to GCL with enthusiasm'

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The Global Chess League, the fourth edition of which opens at Bengaluru on September 5, is aiming to bring the mind sport closer to the common man even as it is attracting new investors, including a football World Cup winner.

The GCL chairperson Peeyush Dubey is delighted that former Spanish defender Gerard Pique has picked up a stake in the franchise Fyers American Gambits, whose owners include former India cricketer R. Ashwin.

"The fact that Piquet has become an investor shows the global interest the GCL has generated," Dubey told *The Hindu* over the phone from New Jersey. "Most of the sponsors associated with the league in Mumbai last year are with us for this season too, and there are some new entrants as well."

This is for the second straight year that GCL, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and global chess governing body FIDE, is being held in India, after the first two editions were staged in Dubai

Dubey. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and London. "Our team owners, who are predominantly companies based out of India, always wanted us to be in India," he said.

"This is where their customers and audience are; and they are able to attract them, and we saw that happening in Mumbai."

Dubey is confident that Bengaluru would also respond to the GCL with as much enthusiasm.

"Bengaluru has been a city that we were very keen in exploring in terms of how it has been talking about the game, how Bengaluru offers that kind of alignment as well with how we are looking at chess," he said.

"And, of course, we work with our franchises and the larger ecosystem to select the city".

Shashi bags a hat-trick as Haryana enters final

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
PUNE

Shashi Khasa's hat-trick enabled Haryana thrash Chhattisgarh 8-0 in a Division 'A' semifinal of the 16th Hockey India-junior women National hockey championship on Friday. Saturday is a rest day.

The results (semifinals): Div. 'A': Madhya Pradesh 1 (Kajal 15) drew with Jharkhand 1 (Horo Esther 60). *Jharkhand won 2-1 in shoot-out*; Haryana 8 (Anjani 7, 58, Bhavya 9, Diksha 18, Sukhpreet Kaur 35, Shashi Khasa 43, 57, 59) bt Chhattisgarh 0.

INBRIEF

Duplantis edges Karalis to win in Lausanne Diamond League

Pole vault world record holder Armand Duplantis edged a gripping battle with his Greek rival Emmanouil Karalis to win the Diamond League competition in Lausanne on Thursday with a jump of 6.21 metres. The double Olympic champion cleared his best mark of the season on his first attempt while Karalis had to settle for 6.16m on his second try. Australian Kurtis Marschall completed the podium with 5.91m.

Spurs agree deal to sign Man City's Savinho: reports

Tottenham has agreed a deal to sign Manchester City winger Savinho for an initial fee of around £75 million, according to reports on Friday. The north London club will pay an extra £10 million in potential add-ons. Tottenham is also interested in signing Savinho's City teammate Omar Marmoush.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: World championships, Sports 18-1, 3, JioHotstar & BWF Official YouTube channel, 10.30 a.m.

Hockey World Cup: (Men) SS Select 2, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m. 4.30, 6, Netherlands vs India, 7.30 p.m. & 10.30 p.m. (Women): SS Select 2, Star Sports First & JioHotstar, 3 p.m., 6, 9.30 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Sunday)

TNPL: Sony Sports Ten 4 Tamil & TNPL Official YouTube channel (@tamilnadupremierleague.com), 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.

Formula One: Dutch GP (Sprint shootout), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 3.30 p.m.; Sprint Race: F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 7.30 p.m. Qualifying, 8.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Australia vs Bangladesh: Second Test, Day 2, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 5.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Barca ready for the Real challenge

LALIGA

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Hansi Flick's second season at Barcelona built on the success of his first, with the German coach guiding the Catalan giant to a second straight LaLiga title.

His third campaign, however, brings significant structural change to the team as Barcelona looks to maintain its domestic dominance and handle the threat of Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid while aiming to end its wait for Champions League glory.

Barca begins its campaign at Elche on Sunday in the Spanish top flight, a day after Mourinho's *Los Blancos* visits Espanyol in the Catalan capital.

The arrival of Rodri from Manchester City is Barca's most significant addition while the departures of veteran striker Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres leave Flick with a reshaped attacking unit.

Barcelona has been prolific going forward but vulnerable at the back since Flick arrived in 2024, and the club hopes the arrival of World Cup winner Rodri can help address the latter.

The Spain captain was a market opportunity Barcelona was reluctant to pass up, particularly with Real also linked with the 30-year-old holding midfielder before his move to Catalonia. He brings the experience of winning the biggest trophies, qualities Barcelona hopes can help it claim a first European crown since 2015.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Azhar claims Kolar Open

BENGALURU: M. Azhar carded a one-under 71 to claim his maiden professional title at the second edition of the ₹1 crore Kolar Open at Zion Hills Golf County at Kolar on Friday.

The 27-year-old Hyderabad golfer (70-68-70-71) finished at 279 to secure a two-shot victory.

He collected the winner's cheque of ₹15 lakh, and took his season's earnings to ₹35,14,675.

Chandigarh's Angad Cheema (73-68-67-73), a four-time winner on the tour, and Delhi's Shaurya Bhattacharya (68-67-71-75), a three-time winner, shared second place at 281.

Rewarding a champion: Azhar receiving his trophy and winner's cheque from Amandeep Johl, CEO, DP World PGTI, left, and George Menomparampil, managing director of Zion Hills Golf County. PGTI

Tanisha Gowda bags double

Tanisha Gowda claimed a double in the State ranking sub-junior girls' billiards and snooker tournament here.

The results: Finals: Billiards: Tanisha Gowda bt Niyati Aradhya 77-72.

Snooker: Tanisha Gowda bt Niyati Aradhya 50-21, 52-17.

Vihitha, Samarth triumph in junior National athletics

Karnataka swimmers Vihitha Nayana (30.64s) and Samarth Gowda (27.81s) won the girls' 50m backstroke and boys' 50m backstroke events, respectively, at the 52nd Junior National aquatics championships in Bhubaneswar.

Varshneya renews contract with BFC

Midfielder Soham Varshneya signed a contract extension with Bengaluru FC, committing his future to the club until 2029. Varshneya, 22, featured eight times for the club during the 2025-26 Indian Super League.

Reigning supreme: DYES-A emerged victorious in the 10th Hockey Karnataka League Championship. It won 11 out of the 12 matches. Canara Bank and RWF finished second and third, respectively.

Samarth.

Vihitha.

SNAPSHOTS

Aaditya and Jaiveer share the lead

MUMBAI: Aaditya Dhingra and Jaiveer Mahendru shared the lead with three points each at the end of the third round of the Asian junior chess championship here on Friday.

Important results (third round): Open: V.S. Nandish 2.5 drew with Mayank Chakraborty 2.5; Shageli Kurbandurdyyev (Tkm) 2.5 drew wit Apoorv Kamble 2.5; Aaditya Dhingra 3 bt Alekhya Mukhopadhyay 2; Daksh Jagesia 2.5 drew with Guru Prakash 2.5; Jaiveer Mahendru 3 bt Chukka Radha Karthik 2; Manav Kumar 2 lost to Amanmuhammed Hommadev 2.5; Ilan Charyyev (Tkm) 2.5 bt Imangali Akhilbay (Kaz) 1.5; Madhvendra Sharma 2.5 bt Hardik Shah 1.5; Sanjeeban Mandal 2 drew with Arshpreet Singh 2.

Girls: Kasthuri Bhai 2 lost to Pratitee Bordoloi 3; Mariya Kholyavko (Kaz) 2.5 drew with Akshaya Sathi 2.5; S. Pranavasri 3 bt Lala Shohradova (Tkm) 2; Leyla Shohradova (Tkm) 3 bt V. Tripurambika 2; G. Shivambika 3 bt Aditri Shome 2; Sannidhi Bhat 2 drew with Sunetra Dey 2; Prishita Gupta 2.5 bt Aaradhya Das 1.5; Dakshita Kumawat 2.5 bt Marium Fatima 1.5; Shraddha Bajaj 1.5 lost to V.C. Nivedita 2.5.

Fifty-six entries for National Racing Challenge

CHENNAI: The MRF Indian National Racing Challenge 4W will get underway at the Madras International Circuit here on Saturday with 56 entries across six categories.

The opening round will feature the MRF Formula 2000, MRF Formula 1600, Formula LGB 1300, Indian Super Touring, Super Stock, and Volkswagen Polo Cup classes.

Singapore's 16-year-old Kareen Kaur and former National champion Raghul Rangasamy will be among those competing in the Formula 2000 category.

Four-time National title-winner Arjun Narendran and former National Rally champion Karna Kadur will battle it out in the Indian Super Touring Cars class.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable property being all that piece and parcel of the converted industrial land bearing Property No. 758/381/Survey No. 31 and E-PID No. 1001640267 (Carved out of Survey No. 31 (old Survey No. 29) of Nagasandra Village), admeasuring 1,58,405 square feet (equivalent to 03 Acres 25.5 Guntas), situated at Nagasandra Village, 8th Mile, Chokkasandra Ward - 39, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District-560 073 together with structure standing thereon (more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'). The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of acquiring by way of sale, the Schedule Property from Tracstar Distilleries Private Limited [having CIN: U15533MH2001PTC132191] (hereinafter referred to as the '**Owner**'). The Owner has represented to our Client that it is the absolute owner and in possession of the Schedule Property, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the aforesaid period, it shall be deemed that no person other than the present Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the proposed transaction in relation thereto without any reference to such claim(s), if any.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property converted for industrial purposes and bearing Property No. 758/381/Survey No. 31 and E-PID No. 1001640267 (Carved out of Survey No. 31 (old Survey No. 29) of Nagasandra Village), admeasuring 1,58,405 square feet (equivalent to 03 Acres 25.5 Guntas), situated at Nagasandra Village, 8th Mile, Chokkasandra Ward - 39, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, together with the structure standing thereon. The said property is bounded as follows:

On the East by : Land held by Gemini Distilleries Private Limited;
On the West by : Land held by Gemini Distilleries Private Limited;
On the North by : Bangalore – Tumkur National Highway; and
On the South by : Land held by Gemini Distilleries Private Limited.

Sd/- **Mr. Srinivas B.R,** Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 &7/7, Brunton Road, Craig Park Layout, Bengaluru – 560025,Tel: 080-69548770.
Date: 22.08.2026
Place: Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KULACHI Abdul Azeez Jafar Ali s/o Abdul Azees Kulachi Abdul born on 6/6/1961 residing at 108, 7th A cross, Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore – 560068, have changed my name to Jafar Ali vide affidavit dated 20/08/2026 at Bangalore

I, hitherto known as Yogendraraya alias Yogendra Raya Umaluti son of Kupperaya, resident of I.M.A Building Edurige, Court Road, Azad Nagara, Lingsugur, Raichur, Karnataka – 584122; have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yogendra Raya Umaluti.

I, Surya Narayan Singh R/o Vill Puranpur, Kanpur Nagar, UP have changed my son's name from Yashwardhan Singh to Yashvardhan Singh vide affidavit dated 18.08.2026 before Bangaluru City Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SIREESH B s/o B Eswara Naidu, Residing at Flat No: B821, Nikhar Aventino Apartment, Doddakannalli, Bangalore – 560035. Changed my Name as Sireesh Beemineni.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSSAL COMMISSION 'A' BLOCK 1ST FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002
NO. IA-1295/26 FA-214/18/8-2/586 DATED 29/07/2026

In the matter of:
VIJAY KUMAR
Vs.
OCEAN TRAVELS

1. M/S OCEAN TRAVELS (THROUGH RAVINDER KUMAR AND ANIL KUMAR GUPTA) 1360/10B, GOVINPURI, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019
ALSO AT: HOUSE NO. 1260/13G, GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019

Whereas an appeal/complaint against you has been made to this Commission for adjudication. In compliance of the order dated 18/05/2026, the Appellant/ Complainant are hereby directed to effect Substituted service of Summons upon the Respondent/ Opposite Party by way of publication in the newspaper "HINDU (ENGLISH NEWSPAPER)" and "PRAJA VANI (KANNAD NEWSPAPER)" to appear in this Commission in person or by a pleader or an authorized agent duly instructed and able to answer all the material question in relation to the appeal/complaint on **16/09/2026 at 10:30 a.m. sharp.**

The Appellant/Complainant is further directed to file an Affidavit stating that the service has been affected on the Respondent/ Opposite Party by way of publication before the next date of hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this **29.07.2026.**

REGISTRAR
STATE COMMISSION

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ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸಮಂ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್–10/3ನೇ ಕರೆ/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–08–2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ) ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KTTP Act 1999 & 2000ರಂತೆ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು KW-4ರ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28.08.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ : 01. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT43005/Call-3. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 341.39. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 286.85. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 4,31,000/–.

ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/388/2026–27

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1) No: KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4678 Date: 19.08.2026 for Erection and Dismantling of Cuplock Scaffolding system, Water washing, descaling of furnace and "D" meter survey of boiler tubes/bends along with replacement of eroded tubes/bends of first and second pass of Boiler for Unit#1 500MW of BTPS. **Amount Put To Tender** (Approx Excluding Gst) : Rs.116.05 lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.200000/-. **Period of Contract :** 1 Year extendable by six months. **Last date for submission of bids:** 27.08.2026 Time :10.30 AM. . Further details can be had from the office of EE(BM)-1, BTPS, KPCL Kudithini, Bellary Dist. Contact : 9480830331.

2) KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4535 Date: 19.08.2026 for "Annual overhauling works of NDCTs at BTPS". **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 21.06 lakhs, **EMD**: Rs. 50,000. Period of completion : 3 months. Further details can be obtained from office of Executive Engineer (OLA)C/BTPS, MOB-9141607350.

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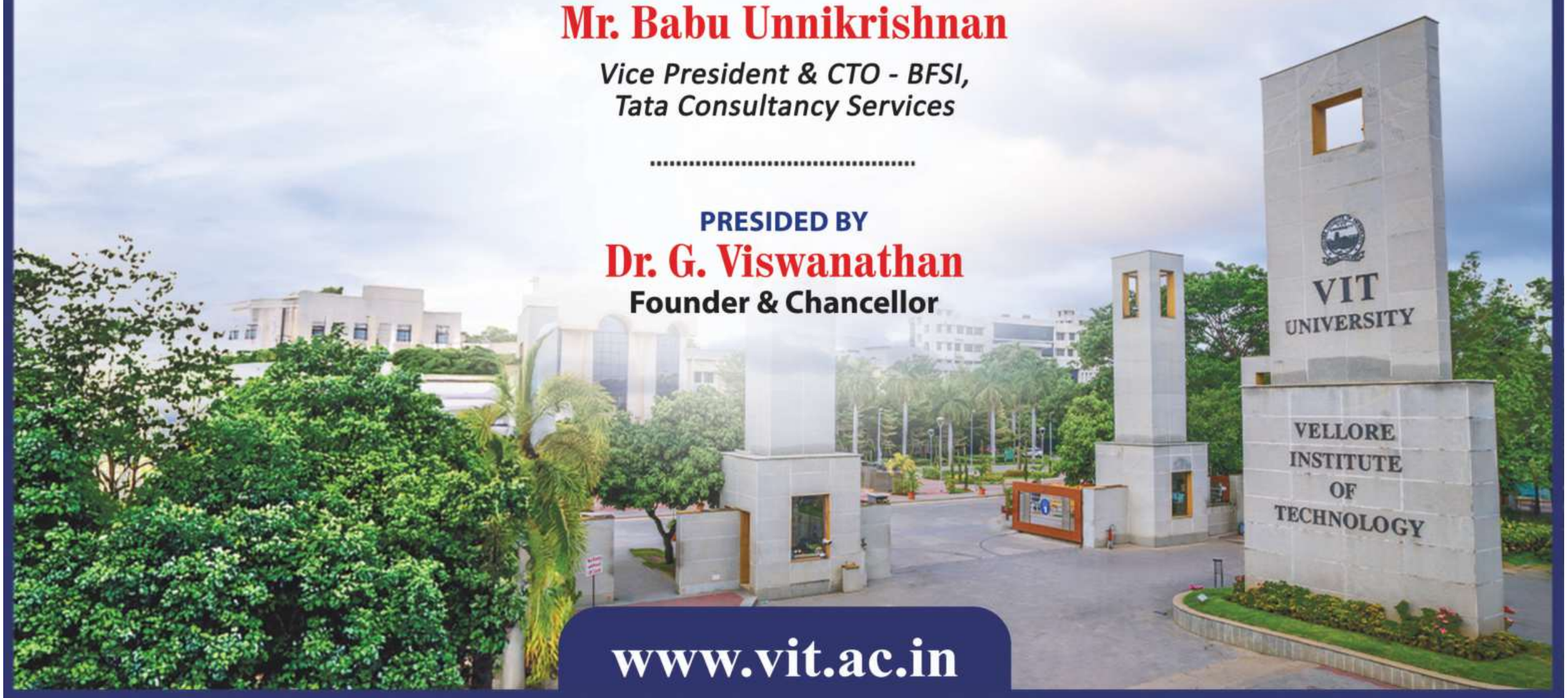

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Who will seize control of the post-Pep Premier League era?

With Guardiola abdicating the throne and leaving his kingdom after six top-flight English titles in 10 years, there will be an almighty war of succession. The 2026-27 Premier League season will be the battleground to decide whom the power is transferred to

N. Sudarshan

The 10 years Pep Guardiola spent at Manchester City represent one of the greatest acts of dynasty-building in the sporting universe.

Not only did the Catalan coach City to six Premier League titles, five League Cups, three FA Cups, one UEFA Champions League crown and one at the FIFA Club World Cup, he did so by assembling multiple great sides, revolutionising tactics, and constantly reinventing himself.

Dominant reign

Guardiola's six Premier League trophies are second only to Alex Ferguson's 13 at Manchester United, and even in the four years when City did not win the top prize, it stayed in the top three. No other coach won more than one Premier League title during Guardiola's time in England.

When such a king abdicates the throne and leaves his kingdom, as Guardiola did at the end of the 2025-26 campaign, there is bound to be an almighty jostle among those below to be the immediate heir. The 2026-27 Premier League season, which got underway late on Friday (August 21), will be the battleground to decide whom the power is transferred to.

The set-up is conducive for an intriguing competition. City without Guardiola will be one of nine clubs to have new coaches, and two others in Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur did not have Michael Carrick and Roberto De Zerbi in place at the start of the year.

Mikel Arteta, who secured Arsenal its first English top-flight crown in 22 years, is the most experienced, having been in the job for a little over six years and seven months. Unai Emery, who masterminded Aston Villa's 2025-26 Europa League triumph, is next, with a stint now at roughly three years and 10 months.

Pep assembled multiple great sides, revolutio-nised tactics, and constantly reinvented himself

Though Guardiola has exited the scene, his giant shadow still looms. Enzo Maresca, who has replaced the 55-year-old at the Etihad, and Arteta have served as his assistants. Xabi Alonso, installed as Chelsea's new manager, was once Guardiola's midfield marshal at Bayern Munich.

The post-Pep Premier League era will not have a clean break in terms of tactics too, for Guardiola has left a deep imprint, both in terms of the first principles he introduced, and how he evolved and shed his orthodoxies to cater to the League's fast-changing demands.

When he first arrived, Guardiola was a cleric of the possession-heavy school and was canonical in his belief that retaining the ball was the best route to success. So much so that even goalkeepers weren't spared; one of his first decisions at City was to replace Joe Hart, a top-class shot-stopper, with Claudio Bravo, a ball-playing goalie.

And it felt like the league as a whole – with the glorious exception of Jose Mourinho's Manchester United – was trying to inculcate parts of it.

Guardiola then changed tack to embrace high-energy players and those with great individual skills in order to adjust to the breathless, end-to-end football that the likes of Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool) and Mauricio Pochettino (Tottenham) introduced. The controlled aggression of the earlier years made way for a more expressive and expansive style.

Philosophical blasphemy

And in his last four seasons in charge, he played with one of world football's purest strikers in Erling Haaland. For a man who once made Lionel Messi turn out as a False 9, and then won two Premier League trophies in 2020-21 and 2021-22 with midfielders as top-scorers (Ilkay Gundogan with 13 goals and Kevin de Bruyne 15), to have Haaland score 112 times over four campaigns would have been akin to philosophical blasphemy.

However, football is now more direct and physical than in recent times and it is to Guardiola's credit that he tweaked his methods and put in place a blueprint for success. "You need to adapt, evolve," City's Maresca said recently. "Set-pieces, man to man – it's a little bit the direction where football is going. We managers... it's our duty to find solutions."

Who among Arteta, Carrick, Alonso, Andoni Iraola and Maresca will answer the call? For one, the sight of Arteta, Carrick and Alonso walking briskly up and down the touchline is sure to remind fans of their glory days as players for Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool not so long ago. For a certain generation, it will appear like they are reliving a childhood dream.

Arteta has the first-mover advantage, having already won the League and possessing a winning combination. The addition of Bruno Guimaraes from Newcastle for GBP 75 million will reduce the inordinate burden on midfielder Declan Rice. But Arsenal's unsuccessful pursuit of Vinicius Junior suggests that the outfit is mindful of the need of a world-class threat upfront.

Carrick, who took over at Old Trafford after the sacking of Ruben Amorim, had an impressive stint as caretaker manager, winning 12 and drawing three of his 17 matches in 2025-26, and helping United qualify for the Champions League after a two-season hiatus. The question before the astute 45-year-old is whether his United has the quality to sustain simultaneous domestic and continental challenges.

For Alonso, Chelsea is the opportunity to light up an aura that has seemingly dimmed after a failed seven-month stint as Real Madrid's boss. The 44-year-old is known to possess a shrewd tactical brain, and his role in ending Bayern Munich's hegemony in Germany – 11 straight Bundesliga titles from 2012-13 to 2022-23 – by leading a young Bayer Leverkusen side to its maiden crown is noteworthy. The addition of 24-year-old English attacking midfielder Morgan Rogers for a whopping GBP 117 million shows that he has Chelsea's wholehearted trust.

The ground is fertile for competition. Who among Arteta, Carrick, Alonso, Iraola and Maresca will answer the call?

Andoni Iraola's ascent to the top job at Liverpool after making a mark at Bournemouth is eerily similar to Graham Potter's entry into Chelsea in 2022 after a stellar show at Brighton & Hove Albion. But Potter was dismissed in less than seven months, a fate Iraola will want to avoid.

The 44-year-old is agnostic to any style of play that is not front-footed, a factor that endeared him to the Liverpool hierarchy after a dreary end to Arne Slot's time. Can he manage to keep the club faithful happy without the services of Mohamed Salah, who left after nine glorious years?

Tough act to follow

Maresca's situation at City is comparable to what David Moyes faced at United after the latter succeeded Ferguson in 2013. The Italian's first test will be to not get crushed under the burden of expectations after Guardiola's supremely successful tenure. It helps that City is not known to be trigger-happy, for both Roberto Mancini and Manuel Pellegrini enjoyed tenures lasting three years or more before Guardiola arrived.

Maresca also comes with a certain pedigree, having led Chelsea to FIFA Club World Cup glory in 2025, and has added England midfielder Elliot Anderson for a hefty GBP 116 million fee. But he will have to compete without the talismanic World Cup winner Rodri, who has shifted to Barcelona, and fellow playmaker Bernardo Silva, who has moved to Real Madrid.

Will he be guided by the spirit of Guardiola or will the ghost of Guardiola haunt him?

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	13,450	17
2	Carlos Alcaraz	23	8,160	17
3	Alexander Zverev	29	8,090	20
4	Felix Auger-Aliassime	26	4,740	22
5	Novak Djokovic	39	3,760	16
6	Ben Shelton	23	3,670	22
7	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,580	23
8	Alex de Minaur	27	3,560	24
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,375	22
10	Flavio Cobolli	24	3,330	26
11	Rafael Jodar	19	2,621	24
12	Learner Tien	20	2,545	22
13	Alexander Bublik	29	2,525	26
14	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,470	21
15	Lorenzo Musetti	24	2,415	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 239 ▼ 4 spots

Manas Dhamne
Rank 368 ▼ 6 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	28	8,670	18
2	Elena Rybakina	27	8,316	21
3	Jessica Pegula	32	6,680	19
4	Coco Gauff	22	5,919	18
5	Iga Swiatek	25	5,419	19
6	Mirra Andreeva	19	5,323	20
7	Karolina Muchova	29	5,048	20
8	Linda Noskova	21	5,016	21
9	Elina Svitolina	31	4,634	17
10	Amanda Anisimova	24	4,353	15
11	Marta Kostyuk	24	3,830	16
12	Belinda Bencic	29	2,995	18
13	Naomi Osaka	28	2,846	18
14	Diana Shnaider	22	2,798	25
15	Jasmine Paolini	30	2,773	19

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 344 ▲ 4 spots

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 390 ▼ 2 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	A.K. Antonelli	Mercedes	219	6
2	L. Hamilton	Ferrari	169	1
3	G. Russell	Mercedes	160	2
4	C. Leclerc	Ferrari	138	1
5	L. Norris	McLaren	128	1
6	M. Verstappen	Red Bull	109	0
7	O. Piastri	McLaren	92	0
8	I. Hadjar	Red Bull	68	0
9	L. Lawson	RB	43	0
10	P. Gasly	Alpine	42	0
11	A. Lindblad	RB	23	0
12	F. Colapinto	Alpine	19	0
13	O. Bearman	Haas	18	0
14	G. Bortoleto	Audi	10	0
15	C. Sainz	Williams	6	0
16	A. Albon	Williams	5	0
17	E. Ocon	Haas	3	0
18	N. Hulkenberg	Audi	2	0
19	F. Alonso	Aston Martin	1	0
20	V. Bottas	Cadillac	0	0
21	S. Perez	Cadillac	0	0
22	L. Stroll	Aston Martin	0	0

A.K. Antonelli

L. Hamilton

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Mercedes	379	8
2	Ferrari	307	2
3	McLaren	220	1
4	Red Bull	177	0
5	RB	66	0
6	Alpine	61	0
7	Haas	21	0
8	Audi	12	0
9	Williams	11	0
10	Aston Martin	1	0
11	Cadillac	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	94,255	12
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	91,215	16
3	Jonatan Christie	89,231	17
4	Anders Antonsen	87,705	17
5	Christo Popov	87,002	20
6	Chou Tien Chen	84,280	27
7	Victor Lai	76,465	19
8	Lin Chun-Yi	71,274	19
9	Li Shi Feng	70,483	16
10	Alex Lanier	70,215	16
11	Kodai Naraoka	70,030	20
12	Alwi Farhan	69,419	19
13	Loh Kean Yew	66,300	20
14	Lakshya Sen	65,573	21
15	Toma Junior Popov	62,697	20

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 14

Ayush Shetty
Rank 22

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,17,787	15
2	Akane Yamaguchi	1,04,576	18
3	Wang Zhi Yi	1,02,689	16
4	Chen Yu Fei	91,451	15
5	Han Yue	77,038	14
6	Putri Kusuma Wardani	76,473	18
7	Ratchanok Intanon	74,606	20
8	Tomoka Miyazaki	68,106	22
9	P.V. Sindhu	67,601	14
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	66,727	16
11	Nozomi Okuhara	60,310	17
12	Kim Ga Eun	59,731	16
13	Michelle Li	55,227	21
14	Sim Yu Jin	55,084	10
15	Line Christophersen	54,060	21

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 9

Unnati Hooda
Rank 26

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Harry Brook	852	898
2	Joe Root	840	932
3	Steve Smith	833	947
4	Travis Head	819	884
5	Temba Bavuma	775	806
6	Kamindu Mendis	744	784
7	Shubman Gill	743	807
8	Rachin Ravindra	740	740
9	Yashasvi Jaiswal	733	858
10	Babar Azam	716	882

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	870	908
2	Matt Henry	861	870
3	Mitchell Starc	826	852
4	Marco Jansen	825	825
5	Pat Cummins	818	914
6	Scott Boland	820	820
7	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
8	Noman Ali	800	853
9	Josh Hazlewood	795	864
10	Gus Atkinson	729	766

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	801	841
2	Daryl Mitchell	794	840
3	Virat Kohli	767	908
4	Rohit Sharma	758	879
5	Ibrahim Zadran	719	756
6	Babar Azam	689	894
7	Joe Root	674	810
8	Shai Hope	673	782
9	Charith Asalanka	659	705
10	Harry Tector	653	730

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	714	775
2	Abrar Ahmed	675	675
3	Jofra Archer	649	682
4	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
5	Mitchell Santner	644	656
6	Maheesh Theekshana	641	680
7	Bernard Scholtz	613	631
8	Shaheen Afridi	604	691
9	Mehidy Hasan	602	722
10	Adil Rashid	599	671

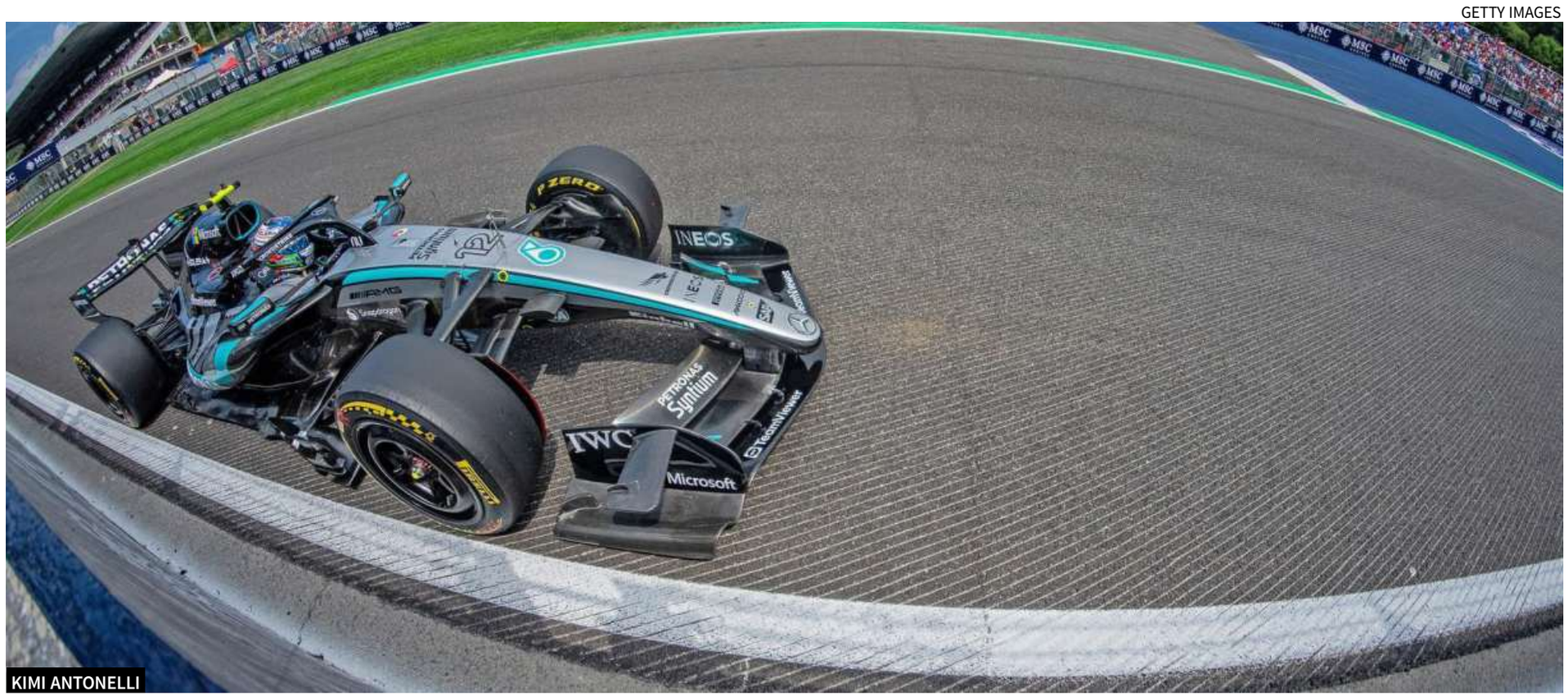
T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Ishan Kishan	910	910
2	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
3	Abhishek Sharma	819	931
4	Phil Salt	799	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	751	796
6	Tilak Varma	750	845
7	Jos Buttler	748	794
8	Harry Brook	734	734
9	Mitchell Marsh	706	706
10	Dewald Brevis	702	738

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
3	Adil Rashid	710	747
4	Adam Zampa	700	746
5	Nathan Ellis	675	678
6	Corbin Bosch	669	745
7	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	809
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757
8	Varun Chakaravarthy	663	818
10	Mohammad Nawaz	658	672

GETTY IMAGES



KIMI ANTONELLI

Abnormal service resumes: the 2026 F1 season rolls on

Antonelli's emergence, Hamilton's new lease of life, Russell's burden of expectations, Verstappen's displeasure — a hotly debated set of disruptive regulations has led to a curious first half of 2026. How will these storylines play out after the mid-season break?

S. Dipak Ragav

The 2026 season of Formula One ushered in some of the most drastic regulatory changes in the sport's history. As teams and drivers still try to get around the new cars, the year's first half has been a mixed bag for on-track action. Nonetheless, there has been enough to keep the fans interested. With the F1 carnival reconvening after the summer break in Zandvoort this weekend, *The Hindu* reviews the major themes so far to see what could lie ahead.

Energy-starved cars

The new rules, which brought hybrid power units closer to a 50-50 split between the internal combustion engine and the electric motor, raised concerns at the outset that the cars would be energy-starved. When pre-season testing began, four-time champion Max Verstappen was scathing in his criticism. The battery's limitations meant drivers had to ease off through fast corners to maximise electric power on straights, where time could be gained.

Add to it the complex algorithms governing how the battery deploys and harvests energy, and drivers were forced to adapt their driving styles to the car's limitations. In the first few races, this led to cars being passed and then passing back as the battery pack emptied and recharged, resulting in 'yo-yo racing'. The fans were none the wiser, as one couldn't ascertain whether the moves were genuine. It took time for teams to adapt, and a rule tweak in Miami has also helped reduce some of the worst effects of 'yo-yo racing'. Still, on energy-hungry tracks, the sight of F1 cars unwilling to be driven in anger around fast corners has dampened the spectacle.

The sight of F1 cars unwilling to be driven in anger around fast corners has dampened the spectacle

GEORGE RUSSELL AND LEWIS HAMILTON

Breakout star

One of the great joys of watching elite sport is to marvel at the ability of a wonderkid ruffling the feathers of the established order. Even as F1 has been besieged by negativity around the new regulations, the one bright light has been Kimi Antonelli. The Italian, who will graduate out of his teens on Tuesday (August 25), has taken the F1 world by storm in his sophomore campaign, winning six of the 11 races and leading the championship by 50 points.

The Mercedes driver has taken a clear step up from his error-strewn rookie year, stringing together five consecutive wins at one stage. His aggressive driving style, with sharp steering inputs, seems to work well with the current cars, and the youngster has made full use of the class-leading Mercedes to build a comfortable lead. Team boss Toto Wolff's decision to throw him in the deep end last year appears a stroke of genius.

While Antonelli has a healthy lead, he has already experienced how fickle it can be. He was once 66 points ahead and saw that whittled down to 25 before he built it back up. With a possible 12 races left this year, it is too early to pop the champagne. However, if he keeps doing what he has been doing, keeping a calm head, he could etch his name into the history books.

Plight of the presumptive favourite

George Russell bided his time in an uncompetitive Williams for three years before earning a promotion to Mercedes in 2022 to partner Lewis Hamilton. Unfortunately, it came at a time when the German marque, which had won eight successive titles, messed up the 2022 ground-effect regulations. He was saddled with a car that could at best fight for the occasional win. But in his three years alongside Hamilton, Russell showed he could go toe-to-toe with one of the greatest drivers in history. By the end of 2024, he was faster.

So when he won the first race in Australia from pole and then dominated the sprint in China, he would have felt that his patience was finally paying off. Yet, it has pretty much been downhill since then. A mixture of reliability issues, bad luck during races, and his driving style not suiting the current car has left the presumptive pre-season favourite 59 points off top spot.

MAX VERSTAPPEN

We will soon know whether Russell has found a way during the summer break to address the pace deficit to his colleague. The title fight could still be between the Mercedes drivers; they have the best package. But the last few races have shown that Ferrari and McLaren are not far off. It is an extra set of variables that the 28-year-old could have done without.

Hamilton's revival

Even as Russell has endured a torrid time, his former teammate has found a new lease of life after four years of struggle in ground-effect cars. Hamilton's initiation into Ferrari was tumultuous, and there were times last year when one wondered if the seven-time champion was past his best. In fact, the Briton himself pondered if he was the right man for the job. However, the nimble 2026 cars seem to have rekindled his mojo and the 41-year-old is now second in the standings.

His hard work at the factory has helped him build a better relationship with the team, which was far from smooth last year. More importantly, the team has also given in to some of his demands, especially regarding the brakes, allowing him to use his preferred Carbone Industrie discs even though Ferrari has a long-standing relationship with rival Brembo. Hamilton's better feel for the brakes has allowed him to exploit the car better, and the result was his first win for Ferrari in Barcelona.

While the title challenge is still a long shot, Hamilton will feel that if he can get good results in the next few rounds, the pursuit of that elusive eighth crown will start to become more real.

Max's Red Bull situation

Verstappen and Red Bull have long maintained that the new-era cars aren't fun to drive. They have also spoken extensively about the limitations of the power unit. While some called it fearmongering, given that Red Bull was building its own engines for the first time, reality has, to an extent, caught up with what they were warning about.

Although Red Bull has done a tremendous job on the powertrains, its electric component is not as strong as Mercedes'. Combine that with a lack of aerodynamic stability and a faulty rear wing, and it's no surprise that Verstappen is far from happy with his team. This led to rumours that the Dutchman was trying to leave Red Bull or even walk away from the sport.

But, on the eve of this weekend's Dutch GP, Verstappen extended his contract up to 2030, showing a commitment to the project under Laurent Mekies, who took over from Christian Horner last year. The Red Bull boss has done a good job of ensuring the team's biggest asset stays.

However, there is now adwwded pressure on him and the engineers to repay Verstappen's faith and provide the 28-year-old with a car worthy of his generational talent.

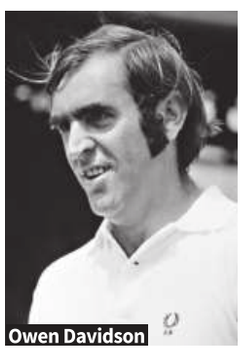
GAME THEORY

Mix & match: mixed doubles at the Majors

The second edition of the US Open's radical mixed doubles scheme gets underway next week. The revamp, which came into force last year, was controversial: the main points of criticism were that it prioritised high-profile singles players and devalued the title because of the shortened match format and the exclusion of several doubles specialists. Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori struck a blow for the traditionalists by winning it; they now have four Major mixed doubles titles together. With the continuing conversation around the event, it's an opportune moment to look at the players and teams with the most success in Grand Slam mixed doubles.

Margaret Court

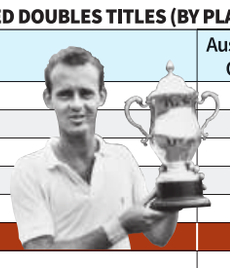
Doris Hart



Owen Davidson

Billie Jean King

MOST GRAND SLAM MIXED DOUBLES TITLES (BY PLAYER)



Player	Australian Open	French Open	Wimbledon	US Open	Span	Titles
Margaret Court	4	4	5	8	1961–1975	21
Doris Hart	2	3	5	5	1949–1955	15
Owen Davidson	2	1	4	4	1965–1974	11
Billie Jean King	1	2	4	4	1967–1976	11
Margaret Osborne duPont	0	0	1	9	1943–1962	10
Ken Fletcher	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**1953–1968**	**10**
Martina Navratilova	1	2	4	3	1974–2006	10
Leander Paes	3	1	4	2	1999–2016	10

MOST GRAND SLAM MIXED DOUBLES TITLES (BY TEAM)

Player	Australian Open	French Open	Wimbledon	US Open	Span	Titles
Margaret Court & Ken Fletcher	2	3	4	1	1963–1968	10
Doris Hart & Frank Sedgman	2	2	2	2	1949–1952	8
Billie Jean King & Owen Davidson	0	1	4	3	1967–1974	8
Doris Hart & Vic Seixas	0	1	3	3	1953–1955	7
Margaret Court & Marty Riessen	1	1	1	3	1969–1975	6

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Giddy-up!

The Duhner Wattrennen is a niche horse race held on the tidal mud flats of the North Sea in Duhnen, a seaside resort in the district of Cuxhaven, Germany.

First run in 1902, the annual event is strictly timed — held in July or August when the seafloor is exposed by the ebbing tides.

Duhnen, located about 351 kilometres northwest of Berlin, was at one time a remote fishing and farming village.

But it has grown into one of the tourist centres of Cuxhaven, helped in no small part by the horse racing, which draws crowds of more than 30,000. The event is accompanied by live bands and other entertainment programmes, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The wet sand, which is softer under-hoof than turf, is said to reduce the impact on a horse's tendons and joints.

This photograph from Duhnen features the harness format, in which horses run with a specific gait (a trot or a pace), pulling a light two-wheeled cart equipped with bicycle wheels.

The cart is called a sulky, because — anecdotally — it once was the choice of unsociable people prone to fits of sulking.