



Kangana Ranaut confronted Ram Kapoor over his behaviour on Lock Upp 2. The heated exchange with the actor has sparked widespread discussion online.

The Karnataka Government will implement the Centre's revised VBG Gram-G rural employment scheme despite objecting to its revised funding pattern, Rural Development Minister Eshwar B. Khandre said.



INSIDE

Good morning

Do not waste your time in thinking what will happen in life, if nothing happens than surely you will get an experience.

BRIEFS

Govt Tightens Scrutiny of Chat App Usernames

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Central government has expanded its review of username-based communication features in messaging platforms by issuing notices to Telegram and Signal, following earlier concerns raised with WhatsApp, according to a PTI report. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has sought detailed explanations from both Telegram and Signal on how they plan to prevent misuse of usernames for fraud, impersonation and cybercrime. The move comes amid growing regulatory concern over anonymous or easily changeable identifiers that could be exploited for online abuse.



The government had earlier asked WhatsApp to defer the rollout of its username feature until safeguards were clarified. With the latest notices, the scrutiny has now widened to other major messaging platforms operating in India. Officials have reportedly also asked Telegram to justify the continuation of its username-based system and outline measures ensuring user safety and account ability. The development reflects the Centre's increasing focus on tightening digital platform regulations and enhancing online user security in the country.

Board Marks May Get 50% Weight in NEET, JEE

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Centre is reportedly considering major reforms in the admission process for medical and engineering courses, including a proposal to give 50 per cent weightage to Class 12 board examination marks in competitive exams such as NEET and JEE, according to sources.

At present, admissions to medical and engineering colleges are based primarily on entrance examination scores, with board exam marks serving only as a qualifying criterion.

The proposed changes aim to reduce the high-pressure nature of entrance tests and address growing concerns over fairness in the examination system.

According to sources, the proposed framework may also include closer alignment of entrance exams with school syllabi, multiple attempts for candidates, and a gradual shift towards adaptive, computer-based testing systems.

The move comes amid ongoing concerns over evaluation errors, paper leaks and rising dependence on coaching institutes and "dummy schools."

A nine-member committee under the Ministry of Education is reviewing the existing system and examining possible reforms.

Boulder Crushes 7 Workers in Quarry

Seven migrant labourers from Bihar and Assam were killed after a massive boulder collapsed at a stone quarry near Madapatna in Bengaluru South district. Rescue teams recovered bodies and launched operations, while police have begun an investigation into possible safety violations at the site.

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Seven migrant labourers were killed after a massive boulder collapsed inside a stone quarry near Madapatna in Bengaluru South district on Thursday. The victims were reportedly from Bihar and Assam and were working at a stone crusher unit when the accident occurred.

Rock Falls During Ongoing Excavation
Police said the incident took place at the Kaveri Crusher quarry where excavation work was being carried out at the base of the pit, while rock removal operations were simultaneously underway from the top using heavy machinery.



During the process, a large rock allegedly dislodged from a height of around 40 feet and came crashing down into the quarry pit, trapping workers underneath.

Workers Buried Under Debris

Preliminary information suggests that around 18 labourers were present inside the quarry at the time of the incident. Seven workers died on the spot after being buried under the massive rock, while several others sustained injuries.

The injured were shifted to a nearby private hospital for treatment. Authorities are still verifying the exact number of injured persons.

Rescue Operations Launched

Following the accident, police, fire and emergency rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched operations to clear the debris. The bodies of the deceased were recovered after intensive

efforts and have been sent for post-mortem examination. Officials also began procedures to inform the families of the victims in Bihar and Assam.

Investigation Into Safety Violations

A case has been registered and a detailed investigation has been initiated to determine the exact cause of the collapse.

Authorities are examining whether mandatory safety protocols were followed at the quarry site and whether negligence or violations of mining safety rules contributed to the fatal incident.

Officials said further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

India-Japan Investment Boost

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the investment partnership between India and Japan is continuously strengthening and will play a key role in ensuring stability and prosperity in the region. He made the remarks during a joint press conference after bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi.

PM Modi noted that several new initiatives were launched during the meeting, aimed at deepening economic cooperation and expanding collaboration in strategic sectors.

Target of 10 trillion yen investment from Japan

The Prime Minister announced that India aims to attract 10 trillion yen in investment from Japan over the next decade and double the number of Japanese companies operating in the country. He said India's ongoing reforms have significantly improved the ease of doing business, making the country more attractive for foreign investors.

He added that both nations, being among the world's largest economies, share common priorities in growth, development, and global cooperation.

Growing business cooperation and agreements

PM Modi highlighted that in the past one year alone, around 120 new business agreements have been signed between the two countries, bringing over \$10 billion in Japanese investments into India. He said this reflects the steady expansion of economic engagement between the two sides.

Focus on technology, supply chains and healthcare

The two countries have prepared a joint roadmap on economic security, focusing on strengthening supply chain resilience in critical sectors such as

India-Japan ink 120 deals, boost ties

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday welcomed Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi, calling her a "visionary leader" and addressing her as his "younger sister" during their bilateral meeting.

120 Business Agreements Strengthen Economic Ties

Both leaders held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, where over 120 business and cooperation agreements were signed between Indian and Japanese entities. The two sides also reaffirmed their target of attracting 10 trillion yen in Japanese investment into India.

Defence, Technology and Clean Energy Cooperation Expanded

The leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in defence, AI, advanced technology, and maritime security, including joint naval exercises and Make in India collaborations. New initiatives were also launched in green hydrogen, batteries, biogas, and nuclear energy.

Shared Vision for Indo-Pacific Stability

PM Modi described economic security as



"shared security" and stressed a free, prosperous Indo-Pacific. Both leaders emphasized stronger supply chains and global energy resilience.

Japan Backs India's Development Vision

Japanese PM Takaichi expressed strong support for India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and announced expanded investments across 17 strategic sectors, marking a new phase in bilateral relations.

semiconductors, quantum technology, and advanced materials.

PM Modi also said India and Japan will continue working together to provide affordable and reliable healthcare solutions globally.

The Prime Minister further stated that Japan will set up biogas and organic fertilizer plants in India. He said this initiative will strengthen sustainability efforts while supporting rural livelihoods and agricultural development in the country. **PG2**

PoJK Leader Alleges Army Role, Threatens March



> Vikrama Vahini | Rawalakot (PoJK)
A leader of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), Sardar Aman Khan, has accused the Pakistan Army of arming Kashmiris and alleged state backing for militant groups during a large public rally in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Addressing a gathering in Rawalakot's Eidgah ground, Khan alleged that the Pakistan Army had previously supplied weapons to locals. "It was the Pakistan Army itself that handed guns to Kashmiris," he said, questioning allegations branding protesters as terrorists.

Khan further claimed that the Rawalakot administration had facilitated an event linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed earlier this year, during which armed individuals allegedly participated in public display marches. He alleged administrative complicity in providing security for such activities.

Organisers claimed the rally drew over 80,000 participants, with Khan's remarks reportedly receiving repeated applause from the crowd. The protest marks the 24th day of ongoing demonstrations in the region.

The JAAC leadership reiterated its 38-point demand charter and warned Islamabad to engage in negotiations. They also cautioned that failure to address their demands could lead to a march towards Muzaffargarh, with the movement potentially shifting toward demanding Pakistan's withdrawal from PoJK.

Don't Depend on Dam Water: CM

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday cautioned farmers against taking up crops dependent on reservoir water, warning that Karnataka could face a severe drought as inflows into major dams have fallen drastically. Addressing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, he said the state government has begun emergency preparations to ensure drinking water, fodder and power supply in anticipation of a difficult monsoon season.

Drought Warning for Farmers

Shivakumar said inflows into major reservoirs, including Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Narayanapura and Vanivilasa, have almost reached zero, while water levels in Hemavathi, KRS and Kabini have dropped sharply compared to last year. He appealed to farmers not to rely on reservoir water for cultivation and advised them to plan sowing only after assessing rainfall. The government has instructed district ministers to monitor the situation, ensure drinking water and fodder

availability and take up emergency borewell drilling wherever necessary.

Power Connection Deadline Extended

The Cabinet extended the deadline until August 15 for owners of residential buildings to apply for permanent electricity connections without Occupancy Certificate (OC) or Completion Certificate (CC), provided they submit the required documents and photographs. The relaxation, however, will not apply to commercial buildings.

Monsoon Session After Electoral Roll Revision

The Chief Minister said the Monsoon Session of the Legislature will be convened only after completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. With the draft voters' list scheduled

for release on August 5, the session is expected to be held in the first or second week of August.

BLOs to Handle Door-to-Door Enumeration

Shivakumar directed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) alone must distribute voter enumeration forms by visiting every household. He warned that distribution through community halls, political workers or other unofficial channels would not be permitted and described such practices as illegal.

'Praja Seve' Grievance Redressal Initiative

The Cabinet approved the launch of a dedicated 'Praja Seve' department to receive and resolve public



grievances. Every district in-charge minister will hold public grievance meetings in two Assembly constituencies twice every month, while an IAS officer will head the department to coordinate complaints with various government agencies.

Government Opposes Power Distribution Privatisation

The Chief Minister said the government has directed all ESCOMs to submit objections before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) opposing proposals to privatise electricity distribution. He reiterated that the State Government does not support handing over power distribution to private companies.

Gram-G Scheme to Cost State ₹3,806 Crore

Shivakumar said implementation of the Centre's Gram-G scheme would impose an annual financial burden of ₹3,806 crore on Karnataka. The government has decided to proceed with the scheme under specified conditions while continuing its legal challenge on the funding pattern. **PG2**

HEALTH

Camphor Bath for Wellness

Many people struggling with financial stress, health issues and family disputes are increasingly turning to traditional remedies rooted in spiritual and wellness beliefs.

One such practice gaining attention is adding a small amount of camphor to bathing water, which is believed to bring multiple physical and mental benefits.

According to traditional astrology and wellness practices, camphor is associated with positive energies and is linked to the planets Venus and Moon.

It is believed that bathing with camphor-infused water can help reduce the negative effects of planetary imbalances, bringing emotional stability and mental peace.

Regular use is said to improve positivity in daily life and reduce stress-related disturbances.

Practitioners of this belief system claim that camphor bath rituals may also help in overcoming financial difficulties. It is said to attract prosperity, open new income opportunities and improve business outcomes.

Those facing continuous monetary losses are often advised to adopt such traditional practices alongside practical financial planning.

From a mental wellness perspective, camphor is known for its strong fragrance, which is believed to calm the mind and reduce anxiety. Many users report improved sleep quality and reduced nightmares when such rituals are followed consistently.

The soothing aroma is also thought to enhance focus and productivity throughout the day.

In addition, camphor is considered to have antibacterial and antifungal properties. It is believed that bathing with camphor water may help reduce skin irritation, itching and minor infections, especially during humid and rainy seasons. However, experts caution that only a minimal quantity should be used, as excessive use may cause skin irritation.

As part of traditional household practices, some also burn camphor in home corners on specific days to remove negative energy and create a sense of calm and positivity in the environment.

While these beliefs are widely followed in many households, health experts advise users to treat them as complementary practices rather than substitutes for medical treatment.

Moderation and caution are recommended, especially for individuals with sensitive skin or children, before adopting such routines regularly.

ASHOK SEEKS WAR-LIKE ACTION ON DROUGHT

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok has urged the Karnataka government to take immediate "war-like" measures to tackle the worsening drought situation, warning that delayed action could severely affect farmers, rural livelihoods, and drinking water supply across the state.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ashok said deficient monsoon rainfall has delayed sowing, caused crops to wither, and lowered reservoir levels, with drought-like conditions reportedly prevailing in more

than 150 taluks.

He expressed concern over the migration of agricultural labourers and the growing threat to rural employment and food production.

Criticising the government, Ashok said many district in-charge ministers had not reviewed the situation on the ground and pointed out that the Agriculture Department continues to function without a full-time minister.

He said the delay in declaring drought-hit areas would postpone crop loss surveys, farmer compensation, drinking water

measures, fodder supply, and Central assistance.

Ashok demanded immediate declaration of drought-affected areas, district-level review meetings, a statewide drought action plan, scientific crop-loss assessment, emergency drinking water measures, expansion of MGNREGA works, appointment of a full-time Agriculture Minister, and the formation of a state-level drought management task force under the Chief Secretary.

He also urged the government to promptly seek financial assistance from the Centre as per prescribed guidelines.



Halakatti Preserved Vachana Legacy: Patil



► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil on Thursday said noted scholar Pha. Gu. Halakatti played a historic role in collecting and preserving Vachana literature, ensuring that the legacy of Basavanna and the Sharanas reached future generations.

Speaking at a programme organised by the Karnataka State Printers' Association and the Pha. Gu. Halakatti Research Centre to mark Halakatti's birth anniversary and Vachana Preservation Day, Patil said much of the Vachana literature had remained scattered and unknown until Halakatti dedicated his life to collecting and publishing it.

He described Halakatti as a pioneer in Kannada literature who also had the vision to establish a printing press and

make Vijayapura the centre of his literary work. Patil said the Sharana Sahitya Parishat had submitted recommendations for the upcoming Anubhava Mantapa at Basavakalyana, assuring that the government would consider implementing them.

Senior litterateur Go.Ru. Channabasappa said Halakatti's efforts made the teachings of Jagajyoti Basavanna and other Sharanas accessible to the people of Karnataka. He also praised the BLDE Association, led by M.B. Patil, for continuing Halakatti's mission by promoting Vachana literature among the public.

Several literary figures, representatives of the Printers' Association, and public leaders attended the programme.

Don't Depend on Dam Water: CM

► From PGI

Major Cabinet Approvals

The Cabinet approved ₹8.5 crore for the Bilagi Lift Irrigation Project, ₹320 crore for the first phase of a textile park in Kalaburagi, ₹30 crore for a Common Facility Centre at the Aerospace Park in Devanahalli, ₹26 crore for a Tree Park at NGEF and ₹26 crore for strengthening child eye-care services.

It also sanctioned ₹33 crore for sports uniforms and educational materials for minority students and approved revised land concession norms for persons with disabilities under KIADB.

Footpath Clearance and Transport Fare Review

Shivakumar said all political parties have unanimously agreed to clear footpath encroachments in compliance with Supreme Court directions. Street vendors will be relocated to alternative locations, and a vehicle distribution scheme for registered vendors will be launched soon. On the proposed increase in bus fares, he said the government would take a decision only after examining the financial report submitted by transport corporations.

Foreign Investment Department to be Revamped

The Chief Minister also announced that a committee headed by Home Minister G. Parameshwara will recommend a new structure for the State's foreign investment department, with its report expected at the next Cabinet meeting.

The government said the decisions aim to boost infrastructure, welfare, and economic growth across Karnataka.

Dinesh Gets Additional Charge

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolar

The Karnataka Government has appointed Legislative Council Member Dinesh Gooligowda as the Additional Vice-Chairman of the Bengaluru-1 Division of the Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority.



The post fell vacant following the untimely demise of M.N. Suraj Hegde, who was overseeing the division. Pending the appointment of a full-time successor, the government has entrusted the additional responsibility to Dinesh Gooligowda as an administrative arrangement.

Gooligowda is already serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Bengaluru-2 Division and will now oversee the responsibilities of both Bengaluru-1 and Bengaluru-2 divisions, according to an official order.

The appointment is expected to ensure the uninterrupted implementation and monitoring of the State's five flagship guarantee schemes across the Bengaluru-1 Division. As Additional Vice-Chairman, Gooligowda will coordinate with district authorities and oversee the effective execution of welfare programmes until a permanent appointment is made by the government.

India-Japan Investment Boost

► From PGI

Strengthening defence and maritime cooperation, PM Modi said both countries will expand joint naval exercises and enhance collaboration in the Indian Ocean region. He added that India's "Make in India" initiative will further support defence equipment partnerships with Japan.

He also said that both sides are working on new frameworks in next-generation mobility, green hydrogen, and clean energy transition, which will help in building a sustainable and future-ready economy. The initiatives are expected to boost innovation and technological exchange.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in her remarks, reiterated Japan's commitment to deepening strategic ties with India and supporting key infrastructure and investment projects.

BMTC Fare Hike Likely After NICE Toll Increase

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Bus commuters in the city may soon face a hike in BMTC fares following the recent increase in toll charges on NICE Road and Navayuga corridors, along with rising operational costs and fuel expenses.

BMTC, which has already sought a 44% fare revision from the government citing financial stress and diesel price fluctuations, is now likely to revise ticket fares for routes

passing through toll roads.

Officials indicate that fares on certain routes, especially those connecting Electronics City via Madavara and Nelamangala corridors, could increase by ₹20 to ₹25.

The development comes after Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE) announced a 10% hike in toll charges across its seven corridors, including Mysuru Road-



Magadi Road and Hosur Road-Bannerghatta Road stretches. The revised toll rates, effective

from Wednesday, have increased charges for various vehicle categories, including buses, cars and trucks.

Under the revised structure, toll for cars has increased from ₹70 to ₹77, while truck charges have gone up from ₹140 to ₹154.

Bus operators say the increased toll burden is expected to directly impact operational costs of public transport services using these

corridors.

The toll hike has sparked public criticism, with commuters and motorists expressing concern over frequent revisions. BMTC officials are expected to review the impact before finalising any fare revision proposal.

Transport officials said a final decision on fare revision will be taken after assessing the overall financial impact on the corporation.

NEWS

SWR Sets June Freight Record

South Western Railway recorded its highest-ever June freight loading of 4.18 million tonnes in 2026, while gross revenue rose to ₹733.23 crore. Strong growth in freight movement and passenger earnings reflects the zone's improved operational efficiency and expanding transport

► Vikrama Vahini | Hubballi

South Western Railway (SWR) has registered its highest-ever freight loading for the month of June, recording 4.18 million tonnes (MT) in June 2026, reflecting strong operational performance and steady growth in passenger and freight revenues.

According to SWR, freight loading increased by 5.2 per cent over the 3.98 MT handled in June 2025, making it the best June performance in the zone's history.

The railway also achieved its highest average daily wagon loading for the month, handling 2,221 wagons per day compared to 2,143 wagons during the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 3.6 per cent.

The zone reported a total gross revenue of ₹733.23 crore during June 2026, an increase of 1.55 per cent over the previous year. Freight operations remained the largest source of income, contributing ₹402.61 crore, while passenger earnings rose significantly to ₹290.43 crore, marking a healthy 15.08 per cent year-on-year growth.

SWR carried 14.85 million passengers during the month, recording a 4.36 per cent increase compared to June 2025. Officials attributed the rise to improved train services, higher travel demand and continued efforts to enhance passenger convenience.

Freight traffic showed strong growth across several major commodities. Iron ore loading reached 1.69 MT, registering a 6.3 per cent increase, while steel loading rose by 7.4 per cent to 0.90 MT. RMSP traffic recorded the highest growth, surging 34.5 per cent to 0.23 MT. Mineral oil loading increased by 15.8 per cent to 0.21 MT, cement traffic grew by 32 per cent, and container loading also



registered a 15.8 per cent increase, highlighting diversified freight movement across the network.

In addition to passenger and freight earnings, parcel revenue stood at ₹14.30 crore, reflecting a 5.3 per cent increase over the previous year.

Other coaching revenue amounted to ₹26.66 crore, while sundry revenue contributed ₹13.53 crore, including ₹5.56 crore from commercial sundry receipts.

Ticket checking activities also contributed to the railway's earnings, with officials detecting 0.58 lakh ticketless travel cases, generating ₹4.96 crore in revenue during the month.

Railway officials said the record freight loading and consistent revenue growth demonstrate SWR's sustained focus on improving logistics efficiency, expanding infrastructure and delivering reliable services for both freight customers and passengers.

The zone aims to build on this momentum by further strengthening operational performance and meeting the growing transportation needs of the region.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Daily Habits Can Weaken Your Bones

Bone weakness is no longer a problem limited to the elderly. Increasingly, young adults are also experiencing bone pain, fatigue and reduced bone strength. While calcium deficiency is often blamed, health experts say lifestyle habits and nutritional deficiencies play an equally important role in maintaining healthy bones.

Habits That Weaken Bones

According to experts, a lack of regular physical activity can reduce bone density over time. Smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, vitamin D deficiency, unhealthy eating habits and prolonged use of certain medications can also weaken bones. Ageing further increases the risk of bone-related problems.

How to Keep Bones Strong

Doctors recommend regular weight-bearing exercises such as walking, climbing stairs, light jogging and strength training to improve bone health. Maintaining a healthy body weight, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, and spending some time in sunlight every day to boost vitamin D levels are also essential.

Best Foods for Bone Health

A balanced diet rich in calcium is vital for strong bones. Milk, curd, paneer, green leafy vegetables, almonds and

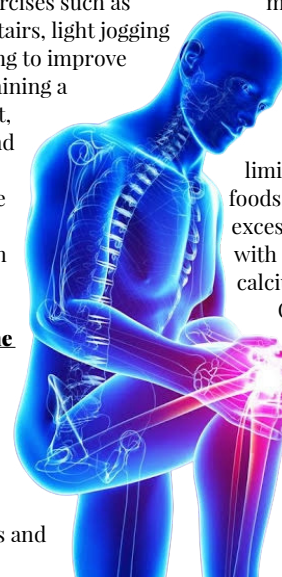
other calcium-rich foods should be included in daily meals. Drinking enough water and avoiding prolonged sitting can also help maintain bone health. Experts advise taking calcium or vitamin D supplements only after consulting a doctor.

Health experts stress that a healthy lifestyle, balanced nutrition and regular exercise remain the best long-term strategy for keeping bones strong and preventing future complications.

Early signs of weak bones are often ignored, as symptoms such as frequent back pain, muscle weakness, joint discomfort, poor posture and repeated fractures may develop gradually. Doctors advise people experiencing persistent bone pain or those with a family history of osteoporosis to undergo timely medical evaluation and bone density screening, particularly after the age of 40 or if they have other risk factors.

Experts also recommend limiting the intake of processed foods, carbonated soft drinks and excessive salt, as these may interfere with calcium absorption or increase calcium loss from the body.

Combining a nutritious diet with regular physical activity, adequate sleep and routine health check-ups can significantly reduce the risk of osteoporosis and other bone-related disorders later in life.



SCIENCE & Technology

AI Reshapes India's C-Suite

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming leadership roles in Indian companies, with Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) taking on broader business and workforce responsibilities, according to a new LinkedIn report.

The study found that 93% of Indian CTOs believe their role has shifted from managing technology to helping organisations adapt to the future of work. As companies move AI from pilot projects into daily operations, CTOs are increasingly working alongside Human Resources teams to prepare employees for changing job roles.

According to the report, 84% of CTOs said their responsibilities are being redefined, while 79% reported taking on new duties that did not exist a year ago. Many also said the pace of AI-driven change is faster than their organisations' decision-making processes.

The report highlighted that 89% of CTOs are now working closely with Chief Human Resources Officers (CHROs), while 51% believe this partnership is essential to building an AI-ready workforce. Continuous employee training and upskilling have become key priorities as businesses integrate AI into everyday operations.

LinkedIn said 79% of CTOs believe AI is creating entirely new career opportunities. Roles such as Prompt Engineer and AI Engineer have emerged among India's fastest-growing jobs, reflecting the increasing demand for AI-related skills.

The report also noted that while AI is driving innovation and business growth, building employee trust and helping workers adapt to new technologies remain major challenges for organisations.

Journalists Bridge Government and People

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolara

Journalists play a crucial role as a bridge between the government and the public and must take greater responsibility in curbing the spread of fake news on social media, Kolar Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Praveen P. Bagewadi said on Thursday.

Inaugurating a media workshop on Central Government-sponsored schemes organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Bengaluru, along with the Kolar District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Department of Information and Public Relations, Dr. Bagewadi described journalism as the fourth pillar of democracy. He said the media has a key role in ensuring government welfare schemes reach the people while promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

PIB Assistant Director Madhu M. said the workshop was aimed at equipping journalists with accurate information on Central government



schemes so that the benefits reach the grassroots through effective media coverage.

Karnataka Working Journalists' Association President S.K. Chandrashekar stressed that welfare schemes become successful only when people are aware of them. He called for regular briefings by government departments on new schemes and development projects to strengthen coordination between officials and the media.

Journalists' Cooperative Society President Ganesh

K.S. welcomed the district-level initiative by the PIB and urged it to provide regular updates on government programmes to journalists in Kannada and English through digital platforms.

Officials from the Agriculture, Women and Child Development, Banking, and Youth Affairs departments also briefed media representatives on key Central government initiatives, including farmer welfare, women empowerment, financial inclusion, and youth development programmes.

Ashok Seeks ₹50 Lakh Aid for Quarry Victims

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok on Wednesday blamed the Karnataka government for the Madappatna quarry tragedy that claimed seven lives, alleging that official negligence and unchecked illegal quarrying were responsible for the accident.

After visiting the injured at the hospital, Ashok said the victims' bodies were severely mutilated and urged doctors to provide the best possible treatment to those injured. He demanded that the government provide ₹50 lakh compensation to the families of each deceased worker and ₹10 lakh to every injured victim.

Ashok alleged that illegal



R. Ashok blamed the Karnataka government for the Madappatna quarry tragedy, alleging negligence and rampant illegal quarrying. He demanded ₹50 lakh compensation for each deceased worker's family, ₹10 lakh for the injured, and immediate action against those responsible.

quarrying is rampant across the state and accused the authorities, including the Karnataka State

Pollution Control Board, of failing to act despite repeated incidents. He claimed that quarry licences were being misused and criticised the administration for not arresting those responsible even after the tragedy.

He also expressed disappointment that senior officials and ministers had not promptly visited the accident site, stating that immediate action should be taken against those responsible. Commenting on the Karnataka High Court's stay on the government's decision to withdraw 52 criminal cases, Ashok said there should be equal application of the law for all communities and criticised the Congress government over the issue.



Telangana Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu paid a courtesy visit to Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil at his Bengaluru residence on Thursday. The two leaders held discussions on matters of mutual interest.

SWR HONOURS DOCTORS, PROMOTES CPR

► Vikrama Vahini | Hubballi

The South Western Railway (SWR) Medical Department observed National Doctors' Day 2026 with programmes honouring doctors and promoting health awareness across its units.

At the Central Hospital, Hubballi, Dr. Sobha Jasmine S., Principal Chief Medical Director, felicitated senior doctors and administered the Physician's Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to ethical medical practice. Retired railway employees also participated in the celebrations.

Health camps were organised at the Divisional Railway Hospital, Bengaluru, and at Subrahmanya Road Station, where participants underwent screening for hypertension, diabetes, HIV and



obesity. The Medical Department also conducted a CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) training programme for officers and supervisors at the Carriage Workshop, Hubballi, to enhance emergency response skills.

The programmes highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare, regular medical screening and preparedness to handle emergencies. SWR officials said such awareness initiatives will continue across the railway network to promote the well-being of employees and passengers.

"Vendors Being Relocated"

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda clarified that street vendors are not being evicted but shifted from arterial roads to ward-level roads as part of footpath decongestion drive.

He directed officials to clear encroachments, abandoned vehicles and illegal parking, and develop pedestrian-friendly walkways in phases. The minister said the move aims to ensure safe and smooth footpaths across the city, with coordinated action by civic bodies and police. He also announced removal of abandoned vehicles from July 10 and encroachment of ramps from footpaths in the next phase.



He further said that redevelopment of cleared footpaths will be taken up immediately, along with periodic inspections involving citizens to gather feedback.

The minister stressed that the initiative is being implemented in compliance with Supreme Court directions and is focused on improving pedestrian safety and reducing road accidents in Bengaluru.

The minister said the drive will continue in a phased manner across all major roads in Bengaluru to ensure long-term pedestrian safety. He also urged citizens and shop owners to voluntarily clear encroachments and cooperate with the civic authorities for smooth implementation of the project.

Karnataka Clears VBG Gram-G, Seeks Funding Relief

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government has decided to implement the Centre's revised rural employment scheme, VBG Gram-G, despite expressing strong objections to its funding pattern, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at Vikas Soudha, Khandre said the State Cabinet had discussed the financial implications of the scheme and approved its

implementation in the interest of rural poor, farmers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other vulnerable sections. He said the government had already begun implementing the scheme from July 1 and that the official notification is expected to be issued on Thursday.

Khandre said the revised funding pattern would place a much heavier financial burden on Karnataka. Under the earlier Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

(MGNREGS), expenditure was shared in a 90:10 ratio between the Centre and the State. Over the past 20 years, the scheme incurred an expenditure of nearly ₹61,000 crore in Karnataka, of which the Centre contributed more than ₹56,000 crore while the State's share was around ₹4,800 crore.

Under the new VBG Gram-G



scheme, however, the Centre has allocated ₹5,709 crore to Karnataka for the current financial year, while the State will now have to contribute ₹3,806 crore, nearly six times more than under the earlier arrangement.

The Minister said Karnataka has urged the

Union Government to retain the previous 90:10 cost-sharing formula, arguing that the revised funding structure places an unsustainable burden on States.

Khandre also criticised the Centre's decision to suspend implementation of the scheme for 60 days during the peak agricultural season. Since the scheme came into effect from July 1, only nine months remain for implementation this year. He warned that if States are unable to contribute their mandatory

40 per cent share within this limited period, they would also lose the Centre's contribution, defeating the very objective of the rural employment programme.

He said these concerns were raised at a meeting chaired by Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on June 29. Karnataka also urged the Centre to allow States greater flexibility in selecting and executing works under the scheme according to local needs, he added.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ganesh's October Double Bonanza

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Kannada actor Ganesh has given his fans a special birthday surprise with the announcement that two of his much-awaited films will hit theatres within just two weeks of each other in October 2026.

The back-to-back releases have generated excitement among fans, although industry observers believe the short gap could pose challenges at the box office.

The first film, Pinaka, produced by People Media Factory, is scheduled for a worldwide release on October 2. The film features Ganesh in a completely new avatar and is directed by choreographer-turned-filmmaker Dhananjay. Described as a thriller, the film is produced by T.G. Vishwaprasad and T.G. Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner.

Ganesh's second release, Brundavahari, directed by Srinivas Raju and produced by Samruddhi V. Manjunath, will arrive in cinemas worldwide on October 16. The film will be distributed across Karnataka by KVN Productions.



The announcements, made on Ganesh's birthday, have delighted his fans, who will get to watch two major films starring their favourite actor during the festive season. Social media was flooded with birthday wishes and messages celebrating the double release.

However, the close release window has also sparked discussion within the film industry. Trade analysts and movie enthusiasts feel that a gap of at least one month between the two films would have allowed each project to enjoy a longer theatrical run, stronger promotional campaigns and better box-office collections.

Industry experts also pointed out that releasing two films of the same actor within 14 days could lead to competition for theatre screens and divide audience attention. Despite these concerns, expectations remain high for both films, with fans eagerly awaiting Ganesh's back-to-back appearance on the big screen during the October holiday season.

With two major releases lined up in the same month, October is set to be one of the biggest phases of Ganesh's career, with trade and fans closely watching the box-office performance of both films.

'Daadi Ki Shaadi' Hits Netflix Today



► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The family comedy-drama Daadi Ki Shaadi, starring veteran actor Neetu Kapoor and comedian-actor Kapil Sharma, is all set to make its digital debut on Netflix on July 3, offering audiences another opportunity to watch the film after its modest theatrical run. The film attracted considerable attention before its release as it marked the first on-screen collaboration between Neetu Kapoor and Kapil Sharma.

It also introduced Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, daughter of Neetu Kapoor and the late actor Rishi Kapoor, in her acting debut. Despite its star cast and positive pre-release buzz, the film failed to make a significant impact at the box office.

Netflix India announced the streaming release through its official social media platforms, confirming that subscribers will be able to watch the film from July 3.

Directed by Ashish R. Mohan, Daadi Ki Shaadi revolves around Vimla Ahuja, a 72-year-old widow living alone in Shimla.

The story takes an unexpected turn after a social media post suggests that she wishes to remarry. The news shocks her family and creates turmoil, especially as it coincides with her granddaughter Kanu's engagement. The family rushes to Shimla to confront the elderly matriarch, leading to a series of humorous, emotional and heartwarming moments that explore family relationships, generational differences and personal freedom.

The film has been produced by Shraddha Agrawal, Akshit Lahoria, Komal Shahani, Gurjot Singh and Ginni Kapil Sharma. Apart from Neetu Kapoor and Kapil Sharma, the cast includes Sadia Khateeb, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, R. Sarathkumar, Yograj Singh, Tejaswini Kolhapure, Aditi Mittal, Deepak Dutta and Nikhat Khan Hegde.

With its blend of comedy, family emotions and a socially relevant theme, Daadi Ki Shaadi is expected to find a wider audience through its OTT release after receiving a limited response during its theatrical run.

BUSINESS

Gold Slips, Silver Shines

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

Gold prices registered a marginal decline while silver continued its upward trend on Thursday, reflecting mixed movements across the domestic and international bullion markets. The latest trend comes amid fluctuating global prices and changing investor sentiment.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold for August 5, 2026 delivery fell by ₹239, or 0.17 per cent, to ₹1,41,191 per 10 grams. In contrast, silver for September 4, 2026 delivery gained ₹1,339, or 0.58 per cent, to trade at ₹2,31,723 per kg.

A similar trend was witnessed in the retail market. The price of 24-carat gold declined by ₹220 to ₹1,44,590 per 10 grams, providing some relief to jewellery buyers. Silver, however, became costlier, rising by ₹1,410 to ₹2,31,630 per kg, making purchases more expensive for both investors and industrial users.

In the international market, bullion prices also moved higher. Gold gained \$2.49 per ounce, while silver rose by \$0.34 per ounce, supported by global demand and continued uncertainty in financial markets. Analysts said movements in the US dollar, geopolitical developments and expectations regarding global interest rates continue to influence precious metal prices.

Among major Indian cities, the retail price of 24-carat gold stood at ₹14,456 per gram in Chennai, ₹14,092 in Delhi, ₹14,082 in Ahmedabad and Vadodara, and ₹14,077 per gram in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kerala and Pune. Silver prices remained at ₹2,44,900 per kg in Chennai, Hyderabad and Kerala, while it was ₹2,40,100 per kg in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Ahmedabad and Vadodara.

Market experts advised investors and consumers to keep track of daily bullion prices before making purchases, as gold and silver rates are expected to remain volatile in line with global economic developments, currency movements and investor demand.

Traders said bullion prices are likely to remain sensitive to global economic data, central bank policy signals and geopolitical developments in the coming days.

SPORTS

Kohli Gears Up with Bangar

► Vikrama Vahini | London

Former India captain Virat Kohli has stepped up preparations for the upcoming three-match One-Day International series against England, beginning July 14, by training under the guidance of former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar.

Kohli, who missed India's recent ODI series against Afghanistan due to injury, has now regained full fitness and is expected to return to international cricket against England. A video of the star batter training in the nets with Bangar has gone viral on social media, drawing attention from fans ahead of the series.

In the viral clip, the 37-year-old Kohli is seen arriving at the practice venue carrying his kit bag before being welcomed by Bangar. The duo spent time discussing batting techniques and match preparations before Kohli began an intensive net session.

According to reports, Kohli had recently completed a specialised batting camp in Alibaug, where Bangar worked closely with him on technical aspects of his game. The training has now continued in England as Kohli fine-tunes his preparations for his comeback.

Bangar served as India's batting coach between 2014 and 2019, a period during which Kohli enjoyed one of the most prolific phases of his international career. Their long-standing professional association is expected to play a key role as Kohli prepares for the ODI series and begins building towards the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup.

India-SL Test Dates Out

► Vikrama Vahini | Colombo

The schedule for the two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka has been officially announced, with the opening match set to begin on August 15, while the proposed three-match T20 International series between the two sides does not feature in the itinerary, indicating that it has been dropped.

India, currently touring England, will next travel to Zimbabwe for a T20 series before heading to Sri Lanka for the Test assignment. The upcoming series marks India's first Test tour of Sri Lanka in nearly nine years, having last played a Test series there in 2017.

The Test series is considered crucial for India's campaign in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC). The team is currently placed fifth in the WTC standings with 52 points from nine matches and will need a strong performance against Sri Lanka to strengthen its chances of qualifying for the WTC final.

The first Test will be played at the Galle International Stadium from August 15 to 19, coinciding with India's Independence Day. The second and final Test will take place at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo from August 23 to 27.

India has enjoyed success at both venues in previous tours, registering a 304-run victory in Galle and an innings-and-53-run win in Colombo during its last visit.

HDK Slams DKS on Multiple Fronts

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday launched a strong attack on Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, saying political power is temporary and no leader remains at the top forever. Speaking at the JD(S) State headquarters, he accused the Chief Minister of focusing only on his political stronghold instead of the entire State.



Rejecting Shivakumar's allegation that he had "abandoned Ramanagara," Kumaraswamy said he had played a key role in developing both Ramanagara and Kanakapura by providing roads, electricity and drinking water facilities. He claimed that much of the region's infrastructure was created during his tenure and remarked that, unlike others, he had not amassed wealth through quarrying activities.

The Union Minister also criticised the Chief Minister over the proposed Bidadi Satellite Township, stating that the project had already been withdrawn during his tenure after opposition from farmers. He challenged the government to release the H.K. Patil Committee report and alleged that thousands of objections submitted by farmers had remained unresolved.

Targeting the State Government's guarantee schemes, Kumaraswamy objected to the alleged inclusion of caste in beneficiary verification. He said welfare programmes should benefit people based on need rather than caste and accused the Congress government of attempting to divide society for political gains ahead of the 2028 Assembly

HDK Targets Congress Over SIR

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday alleged large-scale irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Ramanagara district, accusing the State Government of compromising the integrity of the voter verification process. Addressing a press conference at the JD(S) State headquarters, he claimed to possess video evidence supporting his allegations and urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to intervene immediately.

Kumaraswamy alleged that the prescribed door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was being bypassed, with large groups of people instead being gathered at community halls to complete the SIR process.

The Union Minister further alleged that fake documents were being created to facilitate the inclusion of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in electoral rolls, describing it as a serious threat to the country's democratic process and national security. He urged the Election Commission to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter and halt the alleged irregularities.

Kumaraswamy also accused the Congress government of misusing the SIR exercise for political purposes by creating fear among beneficiaries of the State's guarantee schemes. He alleged that people were being made to believe they could lose welfare benefits if they failed to participate in the voter verification process, calling the practice an attempt to influence the revision exercise.

elections.

He further urged the government to reduce KSRTC bus fares, arguing that the recent decline in diesel prices should be passed on to passengers. Referring to the

MAJOR ALLEGATIONS

- **HDK alleges major irregularities in the SIR voter revision process in Ramanagara.**
- **Demands suspension of the Ramanagara Deputy Commissioner and officials concerned.**
- **Claims illegal Bangladeshi migrants are being facilitated into electoral rolls using fabricated documents.**
- **Alleges SIR verification is being conducted in community halls instead of door-to-door by BLOs.**
- **Accuses Congress of spreading fear over loss of guarantee benefits to influence the SIR process.**
- **Seeks immediate intervention by the Election Commission of India and Union Home Minister.**
- **Says video evidence of the alleged irregularities will be submitted to the Centre and the ECI.**

Criticising Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Kumaraswamy said the head of the government should have encouraged citizens to cooperate with the voter verification process in accordance with Election Commission norms instead of politicising the exercise.

Arkavathi land issue, Kumaraswamy criticised Shivakumar's reported remarks on denotification and sarcastically said, "God alone must save him," while questioning the government's approach to the matter.

Kejriwal Targets Modi Over Ram Mandir Trust

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched a sharp attack on the Central Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over alleged irregularities and theft of donation funds at the Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal alleged that only lower-level employees were being arrested while "influential individuals involved in the case are being protected." He demanded a fair and comprehensive investigation into the alleged scam, stating that it has hurt the faith of millions of devotees.

Kejriwal said the Shri Ram Mandir Trust was formed by the Prime Minister and key members were appointed under his supervision. He also pointed to trust general secretary Champat Rai, describing him as a close associate of the Prime Minister. "Given this, the government cannot escape responsibility for irregularities linked to the temple," he said.

He further questioned whether authorities were unaware of the alleged wrongdoing or failed to act despite knowing about it.

Referring to earlier allegations of irregular land transactions linked to the trust in 2021, Kejriwal said land worth crores was allegedly sold to the trust at inflated prices within minutes. He demanded a fresh and impartial probe into these transactions as well.

The AAP leader also alleged corruption during the temple construction, including commission payments to contractors and irregularities in donation handling.

COASTAL ORANGE ALERT; DK SCHOOLS SHUT

► Vikrama Vahini | Mangaluru

The India Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for the coastal belt on Friday (July 3), as Dakshina Kannada district continues to receive heavy rainfall, prompting the district administration to declare a holiday for all educational institutions.

In view of the adverse weather conditions and forecasts of intense rain, the district administration has announced a holiday for anganwadis, schools, and colleges up to the Pre-University level. The order applies to all government, aided and private institutions across the district.

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. issued the directive as a precautionary measure to ensure student safety and prevent inconvenience due to waterlogging, strong winds, and possible disruptions in transport services. The administration has also



issued a strict warning that any institution violating the holiday order and conducting classes will face legal action under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Officials have been instructed to monitor compliance and ensure the safety guidelines are strictly followed.

Authorities said the decision was taken considering continuous rainfall in several parts of the district and the possibility of further intensification of monsoon activity along the coastal region.

District officials said emergency response teams have been placed on standby to handle rain-related incidents and ensure public safety.

UP TET Exam: 15 Fake Candidates Held in Fraud Racket

► Vikrama Vahini | Lucknow

A fraud racket was busted during the Uttar Pradesh Teachers Eligibility Test (UP TET) on Thursday, with police arresting 15 impersonators attempting to appear in place of registered candidates.

The three-day examination began across 60 districts at 95 centres, with strict security arrangements including AI-based surveillance to ensure a fair and malpractice-free process.

On the first day, the exam was conducted smoothly in two shifts—9:30 am to 12 noon and 2:30 pm to 5 pm. Officials said seven impersonators were caught during the morning session and eight more in the afternoon session.

All the arrested individuals were allegedly appearing on behalf of genuine candidates, and police have launched further investigation.

Out of 8,07,636 registered candidates, 6,84,614 appeared for the exam, recording an attendance of 84.76 per cent, while 1,23,022 candidates remained absent.

Authorities said biometric verification and real-time monitoring helped in quickly identifying impersonators, preventing the racket from affecting the integrity of the examination process. Further action is being taken to trace the candidates who allegedly hired the fake examinees.

SIU BRIDGES EDUCATION-INDUSTRY GAP



► Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati

Sri City International University (SIU) has launched a work-study dual education model aimed at bridging the gap between academics and industry while enhancing students' employability.

The university was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resources Development, IT, Electronics and Communications Nara Lokesh at its interim campus in Sri City on Thursday. Members of the university's Global Advisory Board, Governing Board and representatives from leading industries attended the event.

The new model allows students to divide their time between classroom learning and hands-on training in partner industries, enabling them to gain practical work experience while pursuing their degree.

Students will receive a

minimum monthly stipend of ₹10,000 from the first year, with the amount increasing based on experience and performance. By the time they complete the four-year programme, students are expected to graduate with more than two years of real-world industry experience. The university said its curriculum has been developed in collaboration with industry partners and will be updated annually to align with emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, and changing industry requirements.

To encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, SIU has also established a startup incubation centre on campus. Around 10 startups have already begun operations, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with mentorship and institutional support.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

ONE MONTH OF LEADERSHIP

D.K. SHIVAKUMAR

STRONGER GOVERNANCE. BETTER KARNATAKA.

Completing one month as Karnataka Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar has announced a series of policy decisions and administrative reforms aimed at strengthening governance, infrastructure, welfare and public services.

1.	Free bus passes for all students across Karnataka.	12.	Directions to ensure timely supply of seeds and fertilisers to farmers.
2.	Permanent electricity connections for residential buildings up to 2,500 sq. ft. without Occupancy Certificate (OC).	13.	Preparations to tackle the emerging drought situation and ensure drinking water and fodder availability.
3.	Statewide conversion of 'B' Khata properties to 'A' Khata.	14.	Decision to continue incentives for mango growers.
4.	₹2,000-crore programme to make Bengaluru roads pothole-free.	15.	Plans to establish Karnataka Bhavan for students in New Delhi.
5.	Decision to recruit 72,000 government employees within six months.	16.	Formation of guarantee committees at ward and panchayat levels.
6.	Launch of a separate 'Prajaseve' department for public grievance redressal.	17.	Launch of anti-drug initiatives with a target of making Karnataka drug-free by 2028.
7.	Instructions to officials to function independently without political pressure.	18.	Measures to curb tax evasion and illegal money-lending practices.
8.	Measures to prevent leakages in the State's guarantee schemes.	19.	Steps to promote coastal tourism and speed up affordable housing projects.
9.	District-level anti-rowdy squads to strengthen law and order.	20.	Approval for surveys related to the Mekedatu project and efforts to expedite pending forest clearances.
10.	New helpline to receive corruption complaints.	21.	Decision to reclaim government land allotted for projects where no development has been undertaken for years.
11.	GPS-based attendance system in government offices from 10 a.m.	22.	The government also held discussions with the Prime Minister and Union Ministers on irrigation projects, Bengaluru Metro expansion, RRTS, police modernisation and special financial assistance for Karnataka.

Committed to good governance, transparency and inclusive development.
TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A STRONGER KARNATAKA.