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GARVI GUJARAT

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No need of constitutional amendment on citizenship: Trump

WASHINGTON, PTI: President Donald Trump has said that no constitutional amendment was required to do away with the birthright citizenship -- the process by which babies born in the country to the non-US nationals automatically become citizens -- as this can be done with an executive order, bringing his tough stance on immigration ahead of the crucial mid-term elections next Tuesday.

matic citizenship to children born of non-American parents in the US, saying the birthright citizenship "has to end." "Birthright citizenship is a very, very important subject. In my opinion, it's much less complex than people think. I think it says it very loud and clear in the Constitution that you don't have to go through the process of whatever they're talking about," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday.



A migrant pushes her son in a wheelchair as along the highway to Juchitan from Santiago Niltepec on Wednesday. REUTERS

meeting with some very talented legal scholars -- that you can do it through an executive order," said the US President.

make the changes through the Congress, which would be a permanent thing. "I would rather do it through Congress because that's permanent. But I really believe we can do it through executive order," he said. Trump said that the issue would be ultimately decided by the Supreme Court. "Just so you understand, a person comes in -- was never in our country before -- has a baby, now all of a sudden the baby's a US citizen. And through chain migration and other things, many other people come in through the baby, it's ridiculous," Trump said.

for his view on birthright citizenship. "This form of citizenship is explicitly enshrined in the 14th Amendment and cannot be undone by presidential fiat. But President Trump doesn't understand that, or care to, as he has apparently decided that flippantly threatening to upend the Constitution to exploit anti-immigrant sentiment is good politics," Senator Patrick Leahy said. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said that this is just another attempt to scare the electorate, with no basis in the Constitution, and to distract the country from the xenophobia and intolerance.

World at a glance



People work among piles of dried crude salt at a salt lake in Zhangye, Gansu province, China on Wednesday. REUTERS

Woman found alive 6 days after car lands on tree

An American woman has been found alive six days after her car flew off a highway and landed on a mesquite tree in the state of Arizona, AFP reports from Washington. The 53-year-old woman was travelling on national route 60 near Wickenburg, about 80 kilometres north of Phoenix, when she lost control on October 12, the Arizona Department of Public Safety said in a news release. She crashed through a highway railing and plunged 50 feet into the tree where the vehicle "remained suspended above the ground," the

state troopers said. "There were no apparent witnesses to the crash and it would be six days before the woman would be discovered by authorities," the troopers said. On October 18, an Arizona highway maintenance crew and a rancher were trying to corral a stray cow when they noticed the broken fence and then the mangled vehicle still lodged in the tree, the troopers' statement said. A trooper, along with the maintenance crew and rancher, could not find anyone in the car but discovered "human tracks" leading towards a river bed.

India faces heat as US waives off tax reliefs

50 products will no longer be duty-free

WASHINGTON, PTI: The United States on Thursday revoked duty-free concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products, mostly from handloom and agriculture sectors, reflecting the Trump administration's tough stand on trade-related issues with New Delhi.

ic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries. A count of these products indicated that at least 50 of them are from India. Notably, India is the largest beneficiary of the GSP. In 2017, India's duty-free export to the US under the GSP was to the tune of more than \$5.6 billion.

The federal register issued a notification, listing out 90 products which were so far subject to duty-free provisions under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). President Donald Trump issued a presidential proclamation on Tuesday, leading to the removal of these products from the privilege beginning November 1. As of November 1, these products "will no longer qualify for duty-free preferences under the GSP programme but may continue to be imported subject to regular Most Favored Nation duty-rates," an official of US Trade Representative said. A review of the products indicates that the presidential proclamation is not country-specific, but product specific. With India being the largest beneficiary of the GSP, it has been hit the most by the latest decision of the Trump administration. The GSP, the largest and oldest US trade preference programme, is designed to promote econom-

The volume of India's export to the US impacted by the latest move of the Trump administration is not known yet, but the list of products from which duty-free import provision has been removed reflects that a large number of small and medium-size business could be impacted, in particular handloom and agricultural sector. In his presidential proclamation, Trump said that certain "de minimis" waivers will no longer be granted for any product, regardless of the country source, that exceeds the GSP's Competitive Need Limitation (CNL) thresholds. The CNL thresholds are quantitative ceilings on GSP benefits for each product and designated beneficiary country. Products from other countries like Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Suriname, Pakistan, Turkey, the Philippines, Ecuador and Indonesia have also been removed from the GSP list.

Break from work



French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron walk on the street after leaving a restaurant during their All Saints holidays in Honfleur, northwestern France, on Thursday. AFP

Lankan Parliament will not be convened: Sirisena's party

COLOMBO, PTI: Sri Lanka's suspended Parliament will not be convened before November 16, a senior leader from President Maithripala Sirisena's UPFA said on Thursday, hours after officials at Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office said the House will meet on Monday.

Susil Premjayantha, a senior parliamentarian from Sirisena's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), said Parliament is unlikely to meet on November 5. He said that Parliament needs time to prepare to meet and there is not enough time to meet on Monday.

Premjayantha said reports claiming Parliament will meet on Monday were misleading and the House was most likely to meet on November 16, as announced by the president earlier.

Sirisena had suspended Parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe sought an emergency session to prove his majority.

The president is facing increasing political and diplomatic pressure to reconvene Parliament which he had suspended apparently to allow

Pakistan recognises Rajapaksa as PM

Pakistan on Thursday became the third country after China and Burundi to recognise Mahinda Rajapaksa as the prime minister of Sri Lanka which is facing political turmoil after his appointment, PTI reports from Colombo. Pakistan High Commissioner Shahid Ahamat Hashmat called on Rajapaksa and offered congratulations to the former strongman, who was controversially installed as the premier by President Maithripala Sirisena after sacking Ranil Wickremesinghe. The High Commissioner reiterated Pakistan's support for continuation and consolidation of democratic process in Sri Lanka, the High Commission said in a statement. He expressed hope that the ongoing political situation will be overcome peacefully and amicably in accordance with the constitution and aspirations of Sri Lankan people. Chinese President Xi Jinping was one of the first world leaders to congratulate Rajapaksa, known for his pro-Beijing stance. Wickremesinghe has called his sacking a constitutional coup and maintains that he holds majority in the 225-member House.

Rajapaksa to engineer cross-overs from Wickremesinghe's side. Meanwhile, Sirisena has sworn in three more Cabinet ministers, four state ministers and a deputy minister, this evening.

The president is keeping open government positions to lure Wickremesinghe law-

makers to join him and provide Rajapaksa with 113 seats to prove the new prime minister's majority. Wickremesinghe maintains he still commands the majority and remains the legally appointed prime minister.

The ousted premier has already suffered five defections to Rajapaksa.

Weinstein accused of assaulting 16-year-old

NEW YORK, AFP: Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein has been accused of sexually assaulting a minor in an updated class action lawsuit filed in a New York court on Wednesday.

Weinstein denied the accusation through his lawyer Ben Brafman, who told industry magazine Variety the claim was "preposterous." The complainant, identified anonymously as "Jane Doe," said she is a resident and citizen of Poland who met Weinstein when she was 16 years old at an event with her modelling agency in New York in 2002.

He gave her his business card and invited her to lunch three days later, offering to pick her up with his driver, the complaint said.

"Instead of taking them to a restaurant, Weinstein's driver dropped the two at Weinstein's Soho apartment," the complaint added. She realised the pair were alone, whereupon he began "aggressively and threateningly demanding sex."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hugs US President Donald Trump at the White House on June 26, 2017. REUTERS

Pak on boil as radical protest acquittal of Asia Bibi

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Hundreds of radical Islamists poured out the streets and blocked major roads across Pakistan as they held protests for the second day on Thursday against the acquittal of a Christian woman sentenced to death for committing blasphemy, defying Prime Minister Imran Khan's stern warning.

The government said that negotiations were being held with the protestors to convince them to disperse peacefully.

Minister of State for Interior Shehryar Afridi told the National Assembly that negotiations were underway with the agitators to resolve the matter amicably.

"The nation will soon hear good news in this regard... We do not want use of force against the protesters," he said. Asia Bibi, 47, was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting Islam in a row with her neighbours. She always maintained her innocence, but has spent most of the past eight years in solitary confinement.

Black box recovered from Indonesia jet

JAKARTA, AFP: A black box from the crashed Lion Air jet has been recovered, authorities said on Thursday, a find that could be critical to establishing why a brand new jet plunged into the Java Sea shortly after take-off, killing 189 people on board.

Divers plucked the orange data recorder from the ocean and placed it in a plastic tub as search teams continued to scour the seabed for the fuselage of the Boeing-737 MAX 8, which crashed off Indonesia's northern coast on Monday and had only been in service a few months.

There have been no survivors and only body parts have



An official holds the black box of Lion Air flight after it was recovered from the Java Sea, off Karawang on Thursday. AFP

Oceans are heating faster than thought, says study

PARIS, AFP: The world's oceans have absorbed 60% more heat than previously thought over the last quarter of a century, scientists said on Thursday, leaving Earth more sensitive still to the effects of climate change.

Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the planet's surface and play a vital role in sustaining life on Earth. According to their most recent assessment this month, scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) say the world's oceans have absorbed 90% of the temperature rise caused by man-made carbon emissions.

But new research published in the journal Nature used a novel method of measuring ocean temperature. It found that for each of the last 25 years, oceans had absorbed heat energy equivalent to 150 times the amount of electricity mankind produces annually.

That is 60% higher than previous studies showed.

China defends CPEC bus service as Pakistan rejects India's protests

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING, PTI: Pakistan on Thursday rejected protests by India against a bus service to China, passing through PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) under the ambitious CPEC project, even as Beijing defended the proposed service saying its cooperation with Islamabad has nothing to do with the Kashmir dispute and will not change its principled stance on the issue.

According to reports, the new bus service will be launched between Lahore in Pakistan and Kashgar in China via Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on November 3.

"We reject the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) purported protest and statement regarding bus service through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) said.

India on Wednesday said it had lodged strong protests with China and Pakistan over a proposed bus service between the two countries through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). MEA spokesperson Rav-

esh Kumar said in New Delhi that the bus service will be a violation of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Kumar said it has been India's consistent and well-known position that the "so-called China-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963 is illegal and invalid, and has never been recognised by the Government of India."

The \$60 billion CPEC, launched in 2015, is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking China's resource-rich Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.

Meanwhile, China on Thursday sought to defend the proposed bus service with Pakistan through PoK, saying its cooperation with Islamabad has nothing to do with the territorial dispute and will not change its principled stance on the Kashmir issue. Its launch apparently is coinciding with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden visit to China starting on Friday.

Maldives ex-president returns

The first democratically elected president of the Maldives returned home on Thursday after more than two years in exile to escape a long prison term, AP/PTI reports from Male.

The plane carrying Mohamed Nasheed from Sri Lanka landed in Maldives' capital, Male, where he was welcomed by his party members and supporters. He planned to address his supporters later. Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in jail in 2015 after being convicted of

terrorism for ordering the arrest of a top judge in 2012 while he was president. His trial was criticised internationally for lack of due process, along with those of many other political opponents jailed by strongman President Yameen Abdul Gayoom's administration. He was offered asylum in Britain when he travelled there for medical treatment on leave from prison. Nasheed's return follows Yameen's defeat in the September 23 presidential election.



A man dressed as Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas receives an influenza vaccine from nurse Tiia Kahkonen in Santa's Village at the Arctic Circle in Finnish Lapland on Thursday. The official Santa Claus has begun his Christmas preparations up in Lapland. AFP

Kim to visit South Korea

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Thursday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will "soon" visit Seoul as part of a series of high-profile diplomatic efforts aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons, AP/PTI reports from Seoul (South Korea). Moon said in a speech to parliament that a second North Korea-US summit is also "near at

hand" and that Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit North Korea soon. Moon also said he expects Kim to visit Russia soon and that Kim may meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Moon has previously said that Kim told him he would visit Seoul within this year when the leaders met in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in September.

Neil Young marries Daryl

Singer-songwriter Neil Young confirmed rumours that he has persisted for months, saying he is indeed married to actress Daryl Hannah, Reuters reports from New York.

Young revealed the marriage on Wednesday with a brief reference to "my wife Daryl" in a post on his website about his song "Ohio," which he wrote in 1970 to protest the shooting deaths of four student protesters by the National Guard at

Kent State University in Ohio. There has been speculation since August that Young, 72, and Hannah, 57, who had been dating since 2014, had married. Earlier this year, Hannah, whose film credits include Blade Runner in 1982 and Splash in 1984, made her debut as a feature film director with Paradox, a playful fantasy Western shot on a shoestring budget and starring Young and fellow musician Willie Nelson.



Singer Neil Young, 72, (right) confirmed his marriage to Daryl Hannah, 57, on Wednesday. They were discretely married on July 27, 2018 in Socia Island's Echo Bay. AFP

Sriramulu accuses CM of murdering democracy

BALLARI, DHNS: BJP leader and Molakalmuru MLA B Sriramulu has alleged that Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy had murdered democracy by pressuring the BJP candidate for Ramanagara Assembly bypoll, L Chandrashekhar, to withdraw his candidature.

The polling for Ramanagara Assembly bypoll is scheduled for Nov 3. Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, Sriramulu said, "Kumaraswamy has proven that he's anti-democratic by forcing the BJP candidate to withdraw from the fray in the last minute and thereby clear decks for his wife Anitha Kumaraswamy's victory." Replying to a query on Siddaramaiah's remarks, Sriramulu said, "I am not as intelligent as Siddaramaiah. I admit that I am an illiterate and unintelligent. But I am aware of the fact that the accent and the style of Kannada language change every 13 km. I speak rural Kannada. Siddaramaiah has called me 420. But people of the state identify me with 108 number for implementing 108 emergency ambulance service when I was Health minister," he hit back at the former chief minister.

HC gets 5 addl judges, 7 permanent judges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Union government has notified the appointment of five additional judges to the Karnataka High Court. Ashok Golappa Nijagannavar, Hethur Puttaswamy Gowda Sandesh, Krishnan Natarajan, Pralhadrao Govindrao Mutalik Patil and Appasaheb Shantappa Bellunke have been appointed as the additional judges in that order of seniority. The notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice states that the appointment of Nijagannavar, Sandesh and Natarajan will be for a period of two years from the date they assume charge. It also adds that Patil will hold office till February 19, 2020, and Bellunke till August 2, 2019. The Centre also notified the appointment of seven additional judges of the High Court as permanent judges. The additional judges who have been made permanent are: Justices Kempaiah Somashekhar, Kotravva Somappa Mudagal, Sreenivas Harish Kumar, John Michael Cunha, Basavaraj Andanagouda Patil, Nangli Krishnarao Sudhindrarao and Hosur Bhujanagaraya Prabhakara Sastry.

With this, the Karnataka High Court will now have 22 permanent judges and seven additional judges against the sanctioned strength of 47 and 15 respectively.

How IT gave push...

IT, from Page 1

Over the next decade, the southern state's GDP grew 3.85 times till the country witnessed liberalisation in 1991. The GSDP of Karnataka in 1991-92 stood at Rs 30,092 crore, according to data. However, the major impetus to the state's growth trajectory was in 1997, when the government introduced the first IT policy in the country. Since then, the state's GSDP has grown 17.3 times. The steady growth has led to the state's climb to the 5th spot among the largest states in terms of economic growth in the country.

Over the last two decades, the state's capital Bengaluru has attracted a large number of multinational corporations in the IT and technology area including several Fortune 500 companies. Bengaluru has become the fifth most preferred destination for global companies to set up their offices. Presently, Apple, Airbus, 3M, GE, IBM, Goldman Sachs, Visa, Uber, Toyota, Walmart, and Coca-Cola among others have made Bengaluru their base in India.

The IT policy wasn't the only first by the state. In fact, in 2015, the state became the first to have its own startup policy, much before Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Startup India campaign. As of now, the state is among the top three startup hubs, globally.

DH News Service

Ramanagara bypoll: BJP cries treachery, betrayal by Cong

Yeddyurappa accuses DKS brothers of hijacking BJP nominee

BENGALURU: The DK brothers of Kanakapura have yet again emerged as successful political punters by pulling off a coup just two days ahead of the crucial bypolls in Karnataka - leaving the BJP in an utter state of shock and bewilderment.

BJP's official candidate L Chandrashekhar from Ramanagara on Thursday morning announced that he was quitting the party and withdrawing from the November 3 contest. Chandrashekhar, who will rejoin the Congress, has vouched for support for the JD(S)-Congress candidate, Anitha Kumaraswamy.

Chandrashekhar's announcement, in fact, set off rumours that BJP's candidate in Mandya - Siddaramaiah, too would be quitting the party and rejoining the Congress. Siddaramaiah immediately clarified that such wasn't the case. A livid BJP, on the other hand, hit back angrily at Chandrashekhar for his 'betrayal' and the Congress for its 'treachery'. While local Ramanagara leaders and workers staged protests by burning Chandrashekhar's effigies and taking out a 'shava yatra' (mock funeral), the state leaders levelled horsetrading charges against the Congress.

The party accused that the



THE SOMERSAULT: The BJP workers in Ramanagara seek votes with cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national president Amit Shah and state president B S Yeddyurappa, on Thursday.

Congress had plotted to "hijack" Chandrashekhar only to bring disrepute to the BJP. BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa claimed that he had harboured suspicions about Chandrashekhar's loyalty all along. "Shivakumar and his brother have bought him (Chandrashekhar) off. A week before itself I knew that something was fishy. That is the reason that I didn't go for campaigning. Chandrashekhar has betrayed the BJP. God will not forgive him," said an irate Yeddyurappa. Admitting that the development was a setback for the BJP, Yeddyurappa, however, said that the party was confident of winning the remaining four seats. Ramanagara is among the five constituencies - Bellary, Mandya, Shimoga (Lok Sabha) and Jamkhandi (Assembly), going to polls this weekend. Yeddyurappa's son B Y Raghavendra, who is BJP's Shimoga Lok Sabha candidate, said that all political parties, including the BJP, should learn lessons from Chandrashekhar's betrayal. "This proves that anything is possible with money power," he added. Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda admitted that he was hurt by the development. Stating that Chandrashekhar

MLC Lingappa calls his son a coward

Interestingly, Chandrashekhar attracted the wrath of his father, C M Lingappa, a Congress MLC, for backstabbing the BJP.

Lingappa, who had earlier rebuked his son for joining the BJP, has yet again taken him to task for exhibiting a 'cowardly' behaviour.

"I have no idea why my son joined the BJP, or why he came back. But he shouldn't have done this, especially two days before the elections. He has betrayed the BJP and himself. If he was truly my son, he would have stuck it out in the elections till the end. This is nothing but a cowardly move. It is because of such actions that our political system is rotting away," he added.

exhibited his true "Congress" nature, he said, "It's unfortunate that Chandrashekhar has gone back to the Congress. He has poached him by offering petty appeasements. The BJP had treated him with a lot of respect and love. Even God will not forgive him for his betrayal. I had extensively campaigned for him, while hundreds of BJP workers had extended their support to him. I had even released the Ramanagara manifesto. But Chandrashekhar exhibited his Congress nature. Such leaders can never grow in politics," he added. Meanwhile, the DK brothers shrugged off the accusations. Congress MP and Ramanagara

BJP dumps 'outsiders' unceremoniously: CM

BENGALURU: Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, who was slated to travel to Ramanagara to campaign for his wife, Anitha, decided to cancel the exercise after Chandrashekhar's departure from the race.

He said that BJP was never known to treat outsiders well. "Chandrashekhar's exit is an example of how the BJP poaches leaders from other parties and dumps them unceremoniously. I guess Chandrashekhar quit the BJP notwithstanding the conduct of the party leaders, who didn't fulfil the promises made to him. "Earlier too we have seen

Muslims aren't against Ram Mandir: Baig

BENGALURU/MANDYA: Congress MLA and former minister Roshan Baig's statement that Indian Muslims were not opposed to the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, has stirred a debate. Saying that Muslims respected the sentiments of the Hindu "brothers", Baig asked, "Where else should a Ram temple be constructed other than India? Should it be built in Pakistan?"

Speaking to reporters in Mandya on Wednesday, Baig had said that the BJP had the habit of politicising the Ram Mandir issue during elections and that the Muslims weren't really opposed to the building of the temple.

"The temple will be built at some point. We are also in favour of it. Ironically, the BJP leaders themselves don't want the temple being built. It wants to continue its di-

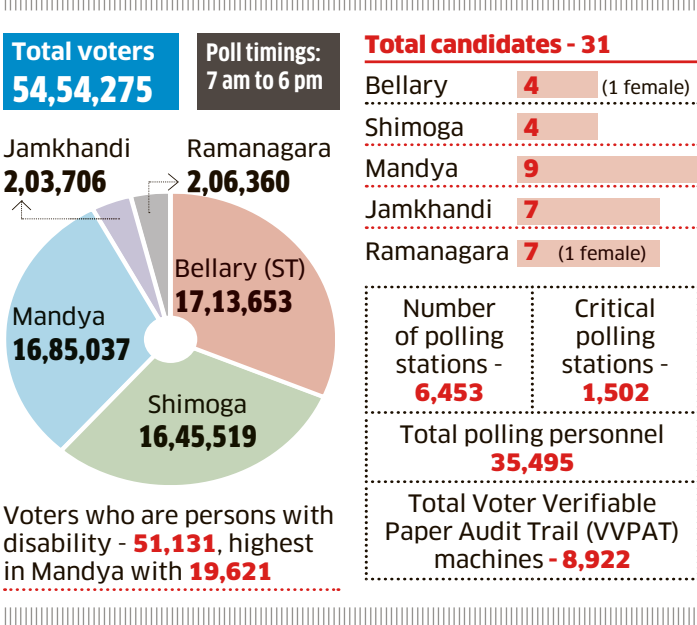


H D Kumaraswamy

the same happen with other leaders, including senior politician S M Krishna. The BJP welcomed him into the party very eagerly. But now he has been completely sidelined," added Kumaraswamy. DH News Service

Campaigning ends amid high drama

BENGALURU: The campaigning for the November 3 bypolls to three Lok Sabha and two Assembly constituencies in Karnataka came to an end Thursday, with the BJP facing a major setback following its Ramanagara candidate L Chandrashekhar's withdrawal from the contest.



away from campaigning for his wife Anitha Kumaraswamy on the last day (given that she faces no contest), his father and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda addressed a rally for his party candidate L R Shivaram Gowda in Nagamangala. Gowda urged the Congress and the JD(S) leaders and workers to bury their differences and help the coalition

Microchips to protect trees from smugglers

The improvised chips will be inserted into sandalwood trees in Marayur range in Idukki forest division of neighbouring Kerala. "Marayur is one of the last bastions of natural sandalwood trees along with other species. It is most important for us to retain the tree species. Similarly, we have also demonstrated the chips in Honnavar and Yellapur divisions of Canara circle in Karnataka. The CCF has accepted the proposal and we are awaiting further communication for installation," revealed another scientist. Similarly, places on the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border like Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Kadapa and Kurnool have the highest density of red sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus) commonly known as 'Raktachandana' and are often targeted by international smugglers. "The chips will be inserted on these trees in forests and farms in Andhra Pradesh for effective monitoring," he clarified. The camouflaged bark-coloured chips running on the Internet of Things (IoT) technology are just 1.5 inches in size and can easily be inserted into trees. "The chips pick up vibrations triggered by axes and saws. The accelerometer and a radio frequency emitter in the chips send signals to the server and owner of the forest patch or planter. Security guards will also get an alert on their mobiles. The chips are water and dust resistant and adapt to various agro-climatic conditions," the scientist clarified. The sensors are capable of distinguishing between the vibrations triggered by axe or saw cut or natural forces like wind and rain.



Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda speaks during a campaign for the byelections at Nagamangala, Mandya district, on Thursday.

Byelections a litmus test for coalition, says Deve Gowda

NAGAMANGALA (MANDYA DIST): The byelections to Assembly and Lok Sabha in the state are a litmus test for the coalition government, JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda has said.

Speaking at a campaign meeting in Nagamangala on Thursday, Gowda called upon party workers to set aside differences with Congress and work for the victory of the coalition candidate. "It is true that leaders of both the parties had criticised each other during the Assembly elections. I myself forgot the enmity and visited Siddaramaiah's house. You should also forget it," he said. "However, Deve Gowda did not mention the name of JD(S)-Congress coalition candidate L R Shivaram Gowda, during his speech. It may be mentioned that

Jolt to BJP, Chandrashekhar backs Anitha

Yogeshwar had promised to handle the entire election expenditure. But none of the leaders even bothered to campaign for me. I had no selfish motives when I joined the BJP. But the infighting was too much for me to handle," he said. During the presser, he was flanked by Congress MP D K Suresh, who is in charge of the Ramanagara bypoll for the JD(S)-Congress combine. Suresh said that he welcomed Chandrashekhar's decision. "Chandrashekhar is originally from the Congress. I welcome his decision. He is

On Rajyotsava, CM says English in govt schools won't harm Kannada

Plans afoot to set up three skill development universities

BENGALURU: Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday said that the state government had initiated steps to implement the decision of English education in government schools from the first standard.

Addressing the gathering during the 63rd Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, Kumaraswamy, however, stressed that the decision would neither hurt Kannada nor the sovereign status of the state language. "I am however aware that the decision has attracted criticism from some quarters. Our purpose of providing English education is only limited towards communication purposes only. We will not let English ride over Kannada's sovereignty. The government wants to ensure that students from rural areas learn English so that they can remain competitive," he added.

Noting that many of the youths seeking employment during Janata Darshans, lacked adequate skills and communication ability, he said that the government was taking measures, including English education, to address the issue. While a job mela with the participation of 53 companies was held recently, the government has also decided to set up three skill development varsities, he said. "Our children, especially from rural



Students perform at the Rajyotsava celebrations in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO

areas should overcome their inferiority complex and forge through the challenges," he said. In his address, he urged the teaching fraternity to work harder towards the overall reformation of the education department, which he said could help to ensure a Nobel prize in literature for a Kannada writer in the future. He also said that folk fairs would be revived in the state, which, he said would act as a "bridge between the folk cultures of rural and urban areas". This would also provide a good platform for folk artists to perform in various stages across the state. Hot milk for special kids Stating that there would be no compromise in providing quality education, the chief minister said from Thursday the free hot milk distribution scheme would be extended to 10,567 special children studying in 153 special children schools, run by NGOs in the state. The government is already providing milk to 58.30 lakh students in government schools under the Ksheera Bhagya scheme.

State's unification

Kumaraswamy also asked the people of the state to reject voices demanding a division of Karnataka. Urging people not to pay heed to "false propaganda", Kumaraswamy promised to ensure all-round development of the state. "On this occasion, I request the people of Karnataka to reject voices, from various parts of the state, demanding separate statehood. Let us join hands to build Karnataka as the children of a single mother," he added. DH News Service

Deshpande throws sports kits at beneficiaries

Revenue Minister R V Deshpande courted a controversy by throwing sports kits at sportspersons during the inauguration of the newly built indoor stadium at his home constituency Haliyal. A video showing the minister has gone viral on social media. As per the schedule, Deshpande was to distribute the sports kits. He got angry as there was delay by the beneficiaries to come on the stage and throw the kits. On August 20, a video showing PWD minister H D Revanna flinging biscuit packets at flood victims at a relief camp at Arkalgud in Hassan district had gone viral. DH News Service