

Choudhary reviews West Champaran flood

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US economy expands 2.2% amid persistent inflation



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Flydubai flight diverts after cockpit incident

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Kohli Roars Back to No. 2 in ODI Rankings



HALF-HELMET BAN, KSRTC BUS FARE HIKE SOON: MIN

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh announced the decision to increase the fine for parking vehicles on footpaths from the current ₹500 to ₹5,000

BENGALURU

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Wednesday said a high-level committee headed by retired IAS officer Atul Tiwari, appointed to examine the hike in bus fares for state-run transport corporations, is set to submit its report to the government within a couple of days. Based on this report, KSRTC bus fares would be increased soon.

Addressing the media after attending a meeting here with Home Minister Priyank Kharge to discuss controlling traffic congestion in the capital, enhancing road safety, and effectively curbing traffic rule violations, he noted that raising fares has become inevitable as the transport corporations are facing severe financial distress. Byrathi Suresh, Transport Minister

The Minister said that the BJP-led Central government has hiked diesel prices four times over the past year. Consequently, the price of diesel has risen by ₹15 to ₹16 per liter, causing an annual loss of

COMPLETE BAN ON HALF-HELMETS

Two-wheeler riders will no longer be permitted to use unsafe half-helmets, Minister Byrathi Suresh said, adding that the state government has decided to completely ban the production and use of these unsafe half-helmets due to safety concerns.

Manufacturing crackdown: Severe legal action will be taken against factories manufacturing substandard or unsafe half-helmets.

Enforcement: The decision follows coordination with the Home Department to improve road safety standards and ensure riders use full-face helmets that meet standard specifications.



KSRTC & state bus fare hike imminent

The Transport Minister strongly indicated that a ticket price increase for state-run transport corporations (KSRTC, BMT, NWKRTC, and KKRTC) is unavoidable.

Cause: The four state transport corporations are under severe financial strain and face mounting losses, heavily worsened by repeated hikes in diesel and fuel prices since the last fare revision.

Regulatory Committee report: The Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee, headed by retired IAS officer Atul Kumar Tiwari, is expected to formally submit its evaluation report to the government within a few days.

Next steps: Once the committee submits the report, the proposal will be reviewed by the Chief Minister and placed before the State Cabinet for a final decision on the exact percentage of the hike. Previous corporation proposals had requested fare hikes ranging between 33% (KSRTC) and 44% (BMT).

₹8,000 crore to the state's transport corporations.

Decision after CM's approval Suresh clarified that Atul Tiwari has studied the financial condition of all transport corpo-

rations and will submit a report. The report will be discussed in the Cabinet meeting, and passenger fares will be revised following the Chief Minister's approval.

'Shakti' cards to be distributed in 2 months

The government has decided to enhance the effectiveness of the 'Shakti' scheme, which offers free bus travel to women on state transport corporation buses. In line with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's vision, smart cards will be issued to all women. Reports indicate that women from other states are also availing of the free travel facility. The minister said that the smart card system is being introduced to restrict the benefit to women from our state and to streamline the travel process. He said the tender process for issuing smart cards to one crore women in the first phase has been completed. The cards will be ready within two months and subsequently distributed to the women.

Cong kick-starts 'Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0' from saffron turf

The campaign targets 84 seats the party lost to Opposition in 2023, combining public outreach with organisational mobilisation.

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Congress on Wednesday launched a 10-day state-level 'Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0' to rebuild its organisational structure across 82 assembly constituencies where the party suffered defeat in the previous election.

The campaign, also called the 'Janata Jodo Jagruti Yatra', began from the BJP bastion Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, the Assembly constituency represented by Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra. Prior to Vijayendra, his father and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa represented the constituency.

The Karnataka Congress has drawn up this strategy as part of its "Mission 2028", aimed at winning the 2028 Assembly elections in all the 84 constituencies which it had lost in the 2023 election. The Congress plans to hold a 10-km padayatra in each constituency.

Ahead of the padayatra, KPCC president BK Hariprasad told reporters that the campaign was being held to commemo-



The basic objective is to create awareness about the attempt being made by the BJP to delete names from the electoral rolls, thereby striking at the very foundation of democracy.

BK Hariprasad, KPCC chief

Cong 'Mission 2028' outreach

- Campaign: Bharat Jodo 2.0 / Janata Jodo Jagruti Yatra
- Duration: 10 0.5days
- Constituencies: 84
- Padayatra: 10 km in each constituency
- Launch: Esuru-Shikaripura
- Goal: Mission 2028

rate the fourth anniversary of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which entered Karnataka through Gundlupet on September 30, 2022. "To commemorate that occasion, we have decided to launch a 'Janata Jodo' (Uniting people) and 'Janata Jagruti' (public awareness yatra) across Karnataka from Esuru village," he said.

On Esuru village, Hariprasad said in 1942, following Mahatma Gandhi's call to the British to 'Quit India', the villagers declared independence from the British and announced that they would not pay taxes under any

Why the yatra matters

The Karnataka Congress has chosen 84 constituencies where it was defeated in the 2023 Assembly elections for the campaign. Beginning in Shikaripura, a BJP stronghold, the party plans 10-km marches in each constituency. The programme combines organisational mobilisation with public awareness activities. Congress leaders said the campaign would highlight electoral-roll issues, constitutional concerns and the party's political agenda ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

circumstances. Around five freedom fighters who were at the forefront of that struggle were hanged by the British in 1943, he added.

"We have decided to launch the Janata Jagruti yatra in Karnataka from this sacred place. To commemorate the Bharat Jodo Yatra, we are beginning this Janata Jodo awareness yatra from Esuru village, paying homage to the five freedom fighters who were martyred and from this sacred place where around 68 people were imprisoned," the Congress leader said.

KPSC RECRUITMENT SCAM

Vet exam candidates paid up to ₹40L for selection: ED

BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said its probe indicated that candidates in the Veterinary Officers' Recruitment Examination conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) for 400 posts were illegally selected after being provided with questions and answers in exchange for bribes.

The central agency, in its official statement, alleged that Basavaraj Kannale, a key suspect in its custody, had accessed the leaked question paper through his association with IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, who was then Controller of Examinations and responsible for the custody and supervision of confidential exam material.

"Material was gathered indicating that Basavaraj Kannale, in connivance with his associates, facilitated the illegal selection of candidates in the Veterinary Officers' Recruitment Examination by providing them with the leaked question paper containing the correct answers in consideration of illegal gratification," the ED alleged.

Kannale then identified and approached multiple candidates and assured them of their selection. The ED's investigation also revealed that Rs 80 lakh was demanded from candidates, but settlements ranging from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 40 lakh per candidate were reached following negotiations. Part of the amount was collected as an advance through cash and banking channels. The ED's probe also revealed that, to secure the balance, some candidates were made to furnish blank signed cheques and promissory notes. The ED recovered them during the searches.

The probe also revealed that the bank account of Om Lakshmi Souharda Sahakari Sangha Niyamitha, Bidar, was used to receive certain amounts connected with the alleged illegal gratification.

Key developments	
August 18-24	ED conducts raids and begins probe
September 17	Basavaraj Kannale arrested
September 18	Gyanendra Gangwar arrested

'Kinging' Kannale's Tumkur varsity Syndicate membership at risk

Tumakuru: Basavaraj Kannale, the alleged kingpin of the veterinary officer recruitment scam, has faced another setback as it appears almost certain that he will lose his position as a Syndicate member of Tumkur University.

Having secured the nomination under the Governor's quota due to his political connections, Kannale, a resident of Bhalki taluk in Bidar district, had been serving as a Syndicate member of the varsity for the past year. However, his tenure is now in jeopardy. As Kannale is alleged to be a prime accused in the KPSC Veterinary Officer recruitment case, Tumkur University issued him a show-cause notice following a directive from the Governor. Notices were issued twice — on September 10 and September 21 — with university staff visiting his home in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district to hand-deliver the notice to his parents. The notice cited the allegations regarding his involvement in the KPSC scam and required a response within seven days, warning that failure to reply would result in his removal from the position. Since no response even after the given time, the University Vice-Chancellor has apprised the Governor of the matter.

HOWDAH WEIGHT TEST...



Tusker Sugreeva carries a 750-kg wooden howdah from Mysuru Palace to Bannimantap during a Forest Department trial on Wednesday, ahead of Vijayadashami. Hampa Nagaraju

1 killed, 9 hurt in MRPL refinery blast

MANGALURU: An employee was killed and nine others were injured, one of them seriously, in a fire that erupted after an explosion on the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) premises in Dakshina Kannada district Wednesday. Manish Karkara (30), who worked at the refin-

ery on a contractual basis, was reported missing after the incident. His body was later found in a charred condition, the police said. Another refinery employee, Rajesh (42), suffered burns and is undergoing treatment in a hospital ICU. Eight others sustained minor injuries and received treatment.

BJP-era projects led to fin pressure: CM

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said financial pressures faced by the state were linked to projects initiated by previous BJP governments beyond budgetary allocations.

Responding to reporters near the KHB helipad in Hanur on Wednesday, Shivakumar said former chief minister BS Yediyurappa had started works exceeding the budget.

"Yediyurappa had started project works beyond the budget. It is because of such mismanagement by BJP governments that the Finance Department has written to us," the CM said.

On contractors' claims that more than Rs 30,000 crore in bills remained unpaid, he said works awarded during Yediyurappa's tenure were nearing completion and the bills had to be cleared. He said he would examine the



Yediyurappa had started project works beyond the budget. It is because of such mismanagement by BJP governments that the Finance Department has written to us.

DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Shivakumar on Chamarajanagar

Calling Chamarajanagar a place close to his heart, Shivakumar said his constituency shares a border with the district. He highlighted its agricultural economy, hardworking population and religious significance. He referred to Biligiriranga Hills, Gopalaswamy Betta and Siddappaji Temple, and said his family traditionally offers prayers at Siddappaji after Sankranti. He also said the government had initiated irrigation and other development works in the region this year.

issue, adding that contractors needed to be supported.

Responding to an allegation that contractors were still being asked to pay percentage commissions, he said the association president should submit an affidavit in this regard and promised an

investigation.

On the Rs 490-crore irrigation project, he said the proposal had to go through discussions in the Cabinet and various committees, followed by approvals from the boards and Cabinet before tenders could be invited.

CONTRACTORS ON WAR PATH

'Clear dues or get widespread bribery exposed'

...sets CM Dec deadline to settle ₹38,000 crore in pending bills.

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) has given Chief Minister DK Shivakumar until December to clear pending bills worth Rs 38,000 crore, failing which it threatened to expose what it called widespread bribery in the government.

"If we don't get paid in December, we'll expose everything. We won't care if we get arrested," KSCA president R Manjunath told reporters.

The Association, which represents 1.5 lakh contractors, said it would take out foot marches in all districts.

Manjunath claimed that corruption in tendered public works has worsened with in-

creased 'interference' by MLAs. He also claimed that genuine contractors were not getting works as most of them go to the "followers" of MLAs.

"Earlier, MLAs did not get involved in our matters. They used to seek our help only during elections. Now, 75% of MLAs interfere with our work. For every project costing Rs 1 crore to Rs 100 crore, we must first speak to the MLAs. Doesn't the CM know about this?" he said.

Bribery in the form of commission still exists, Manjunath said. "It was there in the previous government and continues in the current one. A commission has to be paid during tender approvals, release of bills and letters of credit," he said. The percentage of commission depends on the strength of the contractor, he added. The KSCA said only two departments - public works and

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) - follow a transparent tendering and payment process.

Manjunath rued that the Congress and former chief minister Siddaramaiah "used" contractors to come to power. He was referring to the '40% commission' allegation levelled by former KSCA president D Kempanna against the previous BJP government. "The same Siddaramaiah did nothing for us in three years as the CM," he alleged.

The Congress government, Manjunath charged, is paying for its 'guarantee' schemes using contractors' money. "They must first repay the money they owe us," he said.

"Neither are we getting money nor work. Let the CM say that we won't get work. We'll consume poison and die. That's the situation we're in," Manjunath said.



Earlier, MLAs did not get involved in our matters. They used to seek our help only during elections. Now, 75% of MLAs interfere with our work. For every project costing Rs 1 crore to Rs 100 crore, we must first speak to the MLAs. Doesn't the CM know about this?

R Manjunath, KSCA president



'Name those seeking bribe'

Reacting to this in Chamarajanagar, CM Shivakumar blamed the previous BJP government under BS Yediyurappa for giving "too many" contracts without budgetary allocation. "I agree that contractors must be taken care of. I'll think about what to do," he said. On corruption in tendered works, Shivakumar asked the KSCA to file an affidavit and name those seeking bribery. "I'll order an inquiry."

Quick Read

2 convicted for cyanide murder over property

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A local court has sentenced two men to life imprisonment and fined them 30,000 rupees each for abducting and murdering a woman over a property dispute. The convicts, S. Noor Ahmed and Satyanarayana from Andhra Pradesh, killed victim K. Seetha after she refused to sign property documents. In March 2021, the accused abducted her in a car and forced her to swallow a cyanide-laced pill while traveling. They later dumped her body near Hosapete to hide the crime. Two other accomplices involved in the plot passed away before the trial concluded.

Solidarity youth movement condemns Nadeem's detention

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Solidarity Youth Movement-Karnataka has strongly condemned Delhi Police for placing social activist Nadeem Khan under house arrest. Authorities confined Khan at his home to stop him from joining a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. The gathering aimed to highlight attacks on religious sites, rising hate crimes, and suspicious deletions of voter names. The organization stated that restricting peaceful demonstrations violates basic constitutional rights. Leaders argued that freedom of speech and democratic dissent form the core of the nation. They urged law enforcement to protect these fundamental freedoms rather than silencing citizens.

Minister questions HDK's silence on NICE project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has strongly criticized Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over his recent allegations regarding the long-standing NICE project. Speaking to reporters, Chaluvarayaswamy questioned why Kumaraswamy failed to take any legal action or cancel the initiative during his two terms as Chief Minister. He noted that the controversial infrastructure plan began decades ago under Deve Gowda's administration. The minister accused his political rival of making empty accusations simply to target the current government. He urged leaders to maintain public decorum and focus on facts rather than playing dirty politics.

ASP quits Soujanya murder probe team

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A major controversy surrounding a high-profile Special Investigation Team has taken a dramatic turn. Assistant Superintendent of Police Venkatesh Prasanna has officially submitted a formal request to the state government, asking to be removed from the newly formed probe team handling the sensitive Soujanya rape and murder case. Legal experts and local activists have welcomed this development as a necessary step toward achieving genuine justice. The state government is now expected to name an uncompromised replacement to ensure the renewed probe moves forward smoothly.

HC halts 2% cinema cess collection

Lights, camera, legal battle! Karnataka cinemas dodge a surprise two percent ticket tax for now.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Movie theater owners and multiplex operators received major legal relief today. The State Government officially assured the High Court that it will not issue any official notices or take coercive action regarding the collection of a newly proposed two percent welfare cess on cinema ticket sales.

Major industry players, including the Multiplex Association, PVR INOX, and Vinayaka Theatres, jointly approached the High Court. They filed formal petitions to challenge the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Cinema and Cultural Workers Act of 2024. The state enacted this controversial law to collect extra money from ticket

buyers to support local cinema and cultural workers.

During the court session before a single-judge bench, Additional Advocate General Bhanuprakash requested additional time to submit formal state objections. Recognizing that the core legality of the entire statute is under serious legal dispute, the presiding bench ordered that authorities take zero punitive action for the next two weeks.

In response, government counsel formally agreed to hold off on all ticket cess notices. Noting this promise, the bench officially recorded the assurance and adjourned further legal arguments to October 26.

Legal counsels for the theaters raised strong constitutional objections during the

proceedings. Advocate K.V. Dhananjay argued that state entertainment taxes were completely absorbed by the Goods and Services Tax framework. He pointed out that since the state already receives a fixed fifteen percent share of collected GST revenue, imposing an additional state-level entertainment tax violates current financial laws.

Furthermore, Senior Advocate Uday Holla, representing the multiplex operators, argued that the state plans to redirect the collected theater cess toward unrelated cultural bodies, such as dance and drama academies. Lawyers maintained that forcing moviegoers to fund these separate groups is completely unlawful, leaving the en-

CINEMA TICKET CESS 2% ON HOLD NEXT HEARING OCT 26



Why the act is challenged

Theater owners took legal action arguing that entertainment taxes were entirely replaced by the Goods and Services Tax. Lawyers pointed out that since the state already receives a share of GST, levying an extra state tax is illegal.

GST Conflict
Counsel argued states cannot levy separate entertainment taxes.

Fund Usage
Disputes arose over using ticket cess for drama and dance academies instead of direct cinema workers.

No Coercive Steps
The bench recorded the state's assurance, ensuring zero punitive actions against theaters for two weeks.

tire welfare act vulnerable to being struck down by the judiciary entirely.

Court orders digital RTI transparency system

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Government transparency just took a massive leap forward. The Karnataka High Court has officially ordered the State Information Commission to establish a uniform digital format. This system will streamline how every public department and government authority collects, maintains, and shares vital Right to Information data.

A local Bengaluru resident, N. Ramesh Babu, originally sparked this legal battle. He filed a petition after public authorities repeatedly blocked his requests for data on penalised officials. Public Information Officers and appellate authorities previously refused his queries, claiming the records lacked a consolidated format. Hearing the case, Justice Suraj Govindaraj partially allowed the petition, issuing sweeping corrective orders.

The High Court bench strongly emphasized that citizens deserve effortless access to governance data. To achieve this, the Commission must build a centralized electronic index on its official website. This clever digital hub will eliminate the frustrating need to hunt through dozens of separate departmental web pages.

Under the new judicial directives, this unified portal must feature clear year-wise data. It will track received, disposed, and rejected applications, along with first and second appeal records. Furthermore, the portal will display exact penalties imposed and formal disciplinary actions recommended against

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Court directives

- Central Index: A single website portal for all state departments.
- Deadline for Petitioner: Eight weeks to provide requested compliance records.
- Legal Basis: Enforcement under Section 20 and Section 25 rules.

non-compliant officials under Section 20 of the legislation.

Every single state department must now designate a dedicated officer responsible for continuous record-keeping. All department files must transition into searchable, sortable electronic formats, ending the era of manual file inspections. Additionally, the Information Commission must host a clearly visible section titled 'RTI Implementation and Compliance' on its primary webpage.

Of course, the court clarified that these digital transparency rules will not override existing legal exemptions protecting sensitive public matters. Finally, the bench gave the Commission a strict eight-week window to provide the petitioner with all originally requested records. Citizens across the state now celebrate this landmark ruling, anticipating a more accountable and transparent administration moving forward.

Minister orders probe into job scheme fraud

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's rural administration is stepping up. State Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered a strict high-level investigation into an alarming scam involving fake GPS images under the rural employment guarantee program.

Recent media reports uncovered a clever fraud in Koppal district. Local worksite supervisors found a way to trick the official attendance system. Instead of bringing wage laborers to actual fields, these supervisors played pre-recorded work videos on a secondary phone screen. They then snapped GPS-tagged photos of that video using the official mobile application to log fake attendance.

This sneaky trick has cost the state dearly. Officials estimate a daily loss of 20,000 to 30,000 rupees of public funds paid out for work that never actually happened. Sometimes, heavy machinery was used illegally while human attendance was marked on paper to drain funds.

To stop such corruption, the government previously made it mandatory to upload live GPS photos through the National Mobile Monitoring System app. Corrupt individuals figured out loopholes to bypass the high-tech safeguard.

Taking matters seriously, Minister Khandre wrote a for-



Technology is meant to bring transparency, not to be cheated by corrupt minds. Strict action awaits those found guilty."

— Eshwar Khandre, Minister

mal directive to top department secretaries. He ordered an inquiry led by a senior officer of Joint Director Rank. The investigating team must submit a detailed report within four days, including strict punishment recommendations for anyone found guilty.

Furthermore, the Minister instructed officials to consult technology experts immediately. The goal is to upgrade the current mobile application and block all technical workarounds. Authorities want to ensure that every single rupee reaches genuine rural workers who toil hard under the sun, rather than falling into the hands of corrupt middlemen. Citizens across the state now wait for the final inquiry report and hope for clean governance.

KR Market flooded amid heavy rains

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Relentless torrential rain has completely paralyzed daily life across Karnataka's capital. Severe downpours, which began early Tuesday night, transformed core urban neighborhoods and historical commercial centers into flooded disaster zones, leaving residents and local business owners struggling to cope with sudden disaster.

The situation proved particularly devastating at the iconic K.R. Market, located right in the heart of the bustling metropolis. Floodwaters poured directly into the crowded trading floors, catching shopkeepers off guard. Vendors scrambled desperately to save their perishable goods from ruin. The famous local flower trade suffered catastrophic damage, as muddy water soaked thousands of rupees worth of fresh marigolds and roses. With torrential rain keeping buyers away, vendors reported massive daily financial losses. One distressed flower seller told reporters he lost three thousand rupees in a single day.

Beyond the flooded market

stalls, extreme weather wreaked havoc on city transportation networks. Critical commercial arteries, including Shantinagar, Richmond Circle, Corporation Circle, Majestic, Chamarajapet, and Malleshwaram, transformed into virtual lakes. Motorists found themselves stranded for hours as deep water stalled vehicles and created massive traffic gridlocks. Adding to the morning chaos, a public electric bus collided with a private vehicle near K.R. Circle due to slippery roads and driver visibility issues, though thankfully no injuries occurred.

Local civic agencies deployed emergency pumping units to clear flooded underpasses and major intersections. However, antiquated stormwater drainage systems remained completely overwhelmed by the intense precipitation. Meteorological departments forecast continued wet weather, prompting city authorities to urge citizens to avoid non-essential travel while emergency relief crews work around the clock to restore normalcy across the waterlogged technology capital.

VIJAYENDRA'S COUNTER CHALLENGE

Vijayendra slams Congress over farmer crisis

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions in Karnataka have reached a boiling point. State Bharatiya Janata Party President B.Y. Vijayendra launched a blistering verbal attack against the ruling Congress administration. He challenged senior Congress figures to visit his home constituency of Shikaripura and fairly compare its extensive development milestones with their own neglected legislative regions.

Addressing journalists at the party headquarters in Malleshwaram, Vijayendra responded directly to KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad's recent public challenge to stage a political foot march in Shikaripura. Welcoming the proposed march, Vijayendra proudly claimed the area as the historical birthplace of his political journey and the sacred legacy of veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa. He urged visiting leaders to use the march to remind citizens of unfulfilled election promises



"When farmers are dying, the government is busy accommodating party workers instead of providing power and financial support."

— B.Y. Vijayendra, BJP State President

while answering tough public questions.

The BJP leader severely criticized the state government for what he called an appallingly dismissive attitude toward an escalating agrarian crisis. As severe droughts plague districts across the state, desperate farmers face mounting financial ruin and tragic suicides. Vijayendra slammed the administration for failing to con-

vene a serious special legislative session to deliver direct financial relief, contrasting Karnataka's apathy with active relief efforts in neighboring Maharashtra.

Condemning the government's meager drought relief payout of just two thousand five hundred rupees per acre, the BJP renewed its demand for a minimum compensation of fifty thousand rupees per acre, alongside comprehen-

The compensation gap

BJP demanded	₹50,000
State offered	₹2,500

Drought relief, per acre

sive farm loan waivers and dependable daily power supplies. Furthermore, Vijayendra accused the administration of severe financial mismanagement due to heavy pre-poll guarantees. Pointing to alarming internal communications from the Finance Department, he demanded that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar immediately release a formal white paper detailing the state's true financial health.

Concluding his press conference, Vijayendra announced that he will launch a statewide 'Seva Sankalpa' tour starting October 1 to honor Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service milestone while strengthening grassroots booth organizations ahead of upcoming local municipal elections.



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

BDA Enters a New Era of

CITIZEN-CENTRIC GOVERNANCE

Transparency in process. Accountability in action.
Citizens at the centre.

100th Open House Meeting

1st October 2026

BDA Open House Meeting

One year ago, under the direction of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri D. K. Shivakumar, and aided by the vision and leadership of Shri N. A. Haris, Chairman, BDA and MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency, BDA started its Open House Meetings to strengthen the public grievance redressal system with transparency and accountability at its core.

Today, BDA is the only agency in the country that live-streams its public grievance Open House Meetings, enabling citizens and the public to witness the grievance redressal proceedings first-hand.

The live-streaming of the Open House Meetings on YouTube brings greater transparency, accountability and public scrutiny to the grievance redressal process.

As BDA reaches its 100th Open House Meeting, we gratefully acknowledge the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and thank the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister for his continued guidance and support.



How BDA Guarantee Works

- 1

Submit



Submit a BDA-related grievance online, offline, by email, WhatsApp, helpline, grievance portal or official social-media channels. Physical petitions received through the Unified Tapal System are digitised and integrated with e-Office.
- 2

Register and receive GID



Documents are checked, scanned and uploaded. Every registered grievance receives a unique Grievance Identification Number (GID) for tracking.
- 3

Classify and route



The grievance is sent to the appropriate East, West, North or South Zone and classified as Urgent, General or Open House Meeting. If it belongs to another authority, the citizen is guided accordingly.
- 4

Assign a responsible officer



The grievance is assigned to the concerned department – Engineering, Town Planning, Land Acquisition, Revenue, Legal, Site Allotment or Estate Management – and to a responsible officer.
- 5

Verify and act



The officer may check records, conduct a site visit, coordinate with other departments and verify the facts before taking a decision.
- 6

Close or take further action



After action is taken, BDA contacts the citizen. The grievance is closed when the citizen is satisfied. If not, it may be taken up again.



"The BDA Open House Meetings marks an important milestone in citizen-centric governance—where every grievance is heard, every action is accountable, and transparency remains at the heart of public service."



Public by design

Citizens and concerned officers present their cases before the BDA Chairman and Commissioner. Proceedings are livestreamed on YouTube, and scheduled citizens may participate online. The open process creates a public record of the discussion, action promised and outcome.

BDA guarantee

Resolution – or a written endorsement within 100 days, BDA will work towards resolving the grievance. If it cannot be resolved, the citizen will receive a written endorsement, enabling access to the appropriate higher forum.

BDA Guarantee brings the citizen, the responsible officers and BDA leadership onto one transparent platform.

Together, these measures make grievance resolution more accessible, transparent, and accountable.



As we mark our historic 100th Open House Meeting, the BDA guarantees unwavering transparency, swift resolution, and citizen-first development for a greater Bengaluru.



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



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

Quick Read

Central firm announces walk-in pharmacist jobs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Central government enterprise HLL Lifecare Limited has announced a walk-in interview for pharmacist positions across Karnataka. The openings are on a fixed-term contract basis for NIMHANS, Amrit Pharmacies, and Jana Sanjeevini outlets in several districts. Both freshers and experienced candidates with D.Pharm or B.Pharm qualifications can apply. Applicants must be under thirty-seven years old and hold a valid Karnataka Pharmacy Council registration. The walk-in interview will occur on October 2 at the NIMHANS campus in Bengaluru. This provides a great career opportunity for pharmacy professionals seeking stable government employment.

State implements RUCO initiative for biodiesel

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Following strict limits on salt and sugar, Karnataka's health department is drafting new guidelines to stop the repeated reuse of cooking oil. Officials warn that consuming oil heated more than three times raises total polar compounds, increasing risks of cancer, heart disease, and high cholesterol. Under the upcoming RUCO initiative, authorities plan to collect used oil from homes and commercial kitchens to produce eco-friendly biodiesel. Officials urge businesses to discard degraded oil safely and maintain proper usage records. This major public health push aims to prevent dangerous cooking practices across the state.

High Court rules merged bank cheques valid

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has ruled that a cheque does not become invalid simply because the issuing bank merged with another institution. Justice Suraj Govindaraj dismissed a woman's plea seeking to quash a bounce case after Vijaya Bank merged with Bank of Baroda. The bench clarified that while a merger changes the banking entity, it does not alter customer liability or void financial commitments. Allowing account holders to evade obligations would unfairly harm payees who played no role in institutional restructuring. Therefore, individuals remain legally responsible for non-payment, and trials regarding lost or misused cheques must proceed in lower courts.

NAXALITE PATRIOTISM DEBATE

Ex-judge calls Naxalites patriots, blasts CEC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A massive political and legal storm has erupted across the nation following explosive remarks made by a former high-ranking member of India's highest court. Retired Supreme Court Justice Gopala Gowda delivered a deeply controversial speech during a public event in Bengaluru, publicly describing Naxalite activists as true patriots and dedicated fighters striving for social equality rather than criminals. Elaborating on his provocative stance, the retired jurist questioned prevailing public

Bidadi Township scam: 12 arrested for forging documents

Bidadi Township compensation scam foiled as police arrest a twelve-member syndicate for elaborate property forgery.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tensions surrounding the controversial Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township, commonly known as the Bidadi Township project, have escalated dramatically. While ongoing disputes between local landowners and the state administration continue to polarize communities—with many farmers fiercely resisting land surrender—law enforcement agencies have successfully uncovered a massive criminal conspiracy. Local police confirmed the arrest of a twelve-member fraud syndicate that attempted to embezzle crores of rupees in government compensation funds using elaborate forgery schemes. The criminal plot targeted high-value land parcels situated in Aralalusandra village, which form a critical component of the expansive Bidadi Township acquisition zone. According to senior police officials, the gang plotted to siphon off millions meant for genuine landowners by fraudulently posing as the legal heirs to roughly three and a



half acres spanning multiple survey numbers. Investigators identified a resident of Dabaspet named Tarun as the mastermind behind the entire operation. Police records indicate that Tarun possesses a lengthy criminal history involving similar property scams and had carefully assembled an organized network of accomplices to execute this large-scale financial fraud. To pull off the deception, the syndicate manufactured an array of counterfeit identification documents. This included forging duplicate voter identification cards, state-issued identification numbers, and fraudulent bank pass-

books in the names of legitimate village landowners. Furthermore, the fraudsters went to great lengths to fabricate official government seals and signatures, submitting the entirely bogus compensation claim files directly to the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) office. The elaborate swindle unraveled when alert administrative officials noticed subtle inconsistencies during routine preliminary physical verifications of the submitted compensation claims. Recognizing potential fraud, GBDA administrators formally alerted the Ramanagara Tahsildar and the

Highlights of the scam

The Mastermind

Dabaspet resident Tarun, a repeat offender with a history of similar scams, led the criminal network.

Fake Identities

The gang fabricated fake Voter IDs, bank passbooks, and identification documents in the names of original heirs from Aralalusandra village.

Official Seals

Fraudsters even forged official signatures and rubber stamps, submitting bogus claims directly to the GBDA office.

Additional Deputy Commissioner on September 3, prompting an immediate administrative audit and a formal criminal complaint filed at the Bidadi police station. Acting swiftly on the official grievance, police teams launched a targeted operation that culminated in the arrest of all twelve conspirators, including the primary kingpin. Authorities have seized the fabricated seals and counterfeit documents, while ongoing interrogations aim to uncover potential internal accomplices within administrative offices.

“Poor things”: HDK’s sarcastic slap at Congress

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political turmoil in Karnataka has intensified sharply today. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched a scathing and direct verbal counter-attack against senior Congress leaders who rushed to defend Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Standing firmly by his explosive corruption allegations involving massive land grabbing by the Chief Minister's family, Kumaraswamy mocked the cabinet ministers attempting damage control. He claimed these politicians were speaking out purely out of fear of losing

their lucrative cabinet positions. Addressing media personnel during a heated press conference, Kumaraswamy ridiculed the intellectual capacity of the defending ministers. He remarked caustically that some colleagues lacked basic education and wisdom, possessing zero ability to comprehend complex legal documents. Yet, despite these shortcomings, they somehow secured high-ranking ministerial seats. He asserted that official administrative records loudly expose the illegal activities committed during past political terms.



Furthermore, Kumaraswamy reiterated demands for an intensive investigation by a premier federal agency, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, into the long-standing Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor

scandal. He alleged that the controversial real estate deal constitutes the largest financial irregularity in the nation's history, surpassing even major national scams and valuing upwards of three lakh crore rupees.

Restoring Sections 79A & 79B: MLA Patil’s push

Approximately 19.92 lakh acres of agricultural land have been sold across Karnataka since 2021

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Internal political tensions within the ruling Congress party have surfaced following an open challenge by senior legislator B.R. Patil. The Congress MLA has written a strongly worded letter directly to party leader Rahul Gandhi, demanding the immediate withdrawal of controversial amendments made to the state Land Reforms Act and urging a return to previous agrarian protections.

In his communication, Patil reminded party leadership of specific promises made during the election campaign, attaching a copy of the official party manifesto to underscore his argument. The legislator is pressing for the full reinstatement of Sections



B.R. Patil, Congress MLA

79A, 79B, and 79C, which historically restricted non-agriculturalists from purchasing farming land. He expressed deep frustration that despite pre-election pledges, the current administration has failed to repeal what he termed “anti-farmer amendments.” Highlighting alarming agrarian trends, Patil pointed out that approximately 19.92 lakh acres of agricultural land have been sold across Karnataka since 2021. An overwhelming sixty percent of these land sales occurred in North Karnataka, with Vijayapura and Kalaburagi districts leading the surge. The legislator argued that corporate land acquisitions are displacing small-scale farmers and eroding rural livelihoods.

Kidwai Institute launches childhood cancer drive

1,882	349	588	40%+	34%+
new cases in Karnataka	cases in Bengaluru	Kidwai's new patients last year	of cases in boys are leukemia	of cases in girls are leukemia

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Global health organizations report a deeply sobering statistic: approximately 2.73 lakh children are diagnosed with cancer worldwide every year, averaging nearly one thousand young patients diagnosed daily and accounting for roughly 1.5% of all global cancer cases. In India, the situation remains a significant public health challenge, with an estimated 35,240 annual pediatric diagnoses leading to roughly 16,850 deaths. Data released by Bengaluru's premier Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology indicates that childhood malignancies comprise about 2.5% of total cancer burdens nationwide.

To address these alarming figures and promote timely intervention, the Kidwai

Memorial Institute of Oncology has officially launched a comprehensive state-level awareness campaign under the global theme “Demonstrating Impact: From Challenge to Change.” Medical experts at the institute emphasized that early detection is crucial for saving young lives. Parents are strongly advised not to ignore warning signs such as unexplained lumps, persistent fevers, sudden paleness, easy bruising, chronic fatigue, unexplained weight loss, or recurrent headaches and vomiting. Additionally, doctors urge immediate medical consultations if parents notice an unusual white reflection in a child's eye, as prompt diagnosis dramatically improves recovery rates and treatment success.

Drought relief inspection begins on October 4

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is bracing for a critical multi-day review as an expert central team of ten officials prepares to visit the state to evaluate widespread agricultural distress. Following poor monsoon downpours that withered crops across vast rural belts, state leaders hope this on-ground inspection will unlock much-needed financial aid for struggling farming families. The unfolding agrarian crisis has impacted regions across the state deeply. With rainfall falling significantly short of seasonal averages, the state administration officially declared over two hundred taluks as severely drought-hit. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar formally wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, apprising him of the worsening crisis and requesting an immediate

An expert central team arrives in Karnataka on October 4 to inspect drought-hit farms and evaluate a 3,705-crore relief package request.

financial relief package of ₹3,705 crore from national disaster funds to help vulnerable rural households survive the upcoming months. Responding to the formal appeal, federal authorities dispatched a high-level delegation of senior central officials. The visiting team is scheduled to tour multiple affected districts over a four-day period starting October 4. During their intensive field visits, the delegates will inspect damaged crop fields, review local drinking water availability, and converse directly with distressed growers to understand the ground reality of the rural economy.

Kristu Jayanti University organised ‘Humantra 2026’

BENGALURU

The Department of Social Sciences and Languages, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kristu Jayanti University, organised its annual intra-university fest, Humantra 2026, on September 30, on the theme “Yugbodh: Understanding the Spirit of an Era.”

The fest was inaugurated by Aswathi Naduthodi, film producer and founder of VU Talkies, who was Post Production Supervisor of the Oscar-winning short documentary The Elephant Whisperers. She lit the ceremonial lamp along with the dignitaries.

Addressing the students, Naduthodi spoke about her humble beginnings and the setbacks she faced early in her career. She described how several of her first attempts did not work out, and how perseverance and a willingness to learn from those failures shaped her into one of the leading professionals in her field. Her journey from behind-the-scenes work to the global stage of the Academy Awards drew a warm response from the audience.

Presiding over the function, Fr. Jibin Joy, Campus Administrator, Central Campus, Kristu Jayanti University, spoke about why it is important to understand the spirit of an era. He urged students to

look beyond the rush of everyday information and reflect on the times they live in. He described the humanities as disciplines that help young people read their society with empathy and depth. Dr. Gopakumar A.V., Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Kaveri Swami, Head of the Department, were present.

Through the day, students competed in a range of events built around the theme. They included Vestiges: Can You Crack the Clues?, a history puzzle challenge by the History Club; Snapshot Sociology; Cut to Society; Ties That Bind; Samadham; Vimarsha; Histoverse; the Hindi event Shabdon Ki Udaan; and the Kannada Club's Srujanasheela Baravanige (creative writing) and Aashubhashana (extempore speech) competitions. The events blended creativity, critical thinking and cultural expression.

Addressing the valedictory session, Fr. Dr. Marialal Joseph, Director, Research and Development, and Director, Centre for Global Networking and Collaborations, Kristu Jayanti University, returned to the theme of the day. Understanding the spirit of an era is only the first step, he said: as citizens, the students themselves must shape the era they live in. He later distributed prizes to the winners.



Transforming Jog Falls into year-round hub: Minister

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's tourism and energy sectors are joining forces to elevate Jog Falls into a premier, year-round global attraction. State Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George convened a high-level administrative review meeting at Energy Bhavan, issuing strict directives to accelerate ongoing infrastructure projects and explore innovative engineering solutions to maintain steady water flows beyond the standard monsoon months.

During the brainstorming session, officials evaluated ambitious proposals to pump water back to the upper reaches of the iconic cascade during specific daily hours. Minister George instructed technical teams to conduct rigorous feasibility studies analyzing electricity consumption, operational expenses, pumping capacity, and

long-term economic viability. Recognizing potential power constraints during evening hours, the Minister also mandated detailed technical assessments exploring green alternatives, including dedicated solar installations and advanced pumped-storage power systems.

To ensure seamless execution, the Minister called for expedited statutory clearances from the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, and the Archaeology Department. Jog Management Authority and Jungle Lodges & Resorts personnel were directed to work in close synchronization to guarantee timely project completion. Furthermore, authorities emphasized robust visitor safety measures, including regulated morning and evening viewing schedules and strict access controls after dusk.

CH Observer

chstatenews@gmail.com

From abandoned utility poles to gaping open gutters and stubborn garbage black spots, civic neglect is taking a heavy toll across neighborhoods. In Cunningham Crescent and Seshadripuram, broken walkways pose immediate physical hazards to pedestrians and students navigating the streets. Meanwhile, uncleaned waste heaps on Chikkagowdana Palya Main Road and recurring dump sites in Seshadripuram have left residents overwhelmed by foul stench and erratic sanitation services. Frustrated citizens are now stepping up, urgently demanding immediate administrative intervention to restore safety, cleanliness, and accountability to their public spaces.

+91 80730 57594



Residents of Cunningham Crescent Road have urged authorities to clear a broken utility pole left abandoned on a public footpath. Dug out due to damage, the hazardous obstruction remains neglected, posing a serious risk to pedestrians navigating the walkway.



A broken footpath on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road, located behind Seshadripuram Law College, dangerously leads straight into an open gutter. Surrounded by schools, colleges, and residences, residents demand an immediate fix before a pedestrian is seriously injured in the dark.



Residents on Seshadripuram 1st A Cross Road are frustrated by a persistent garbage black spot that repeatedly reappears despite cleanup efforts. Locals report that passersby dump waste there because uncooperative sanitation workers frequently fail to collect garbage from the site.



An uncleaned garbage dumping spot on Chikkagowdana Palya Main Road, located right at the corner of Srinivasa Theater, is causing severe distress to local residents. Open dumping and a lack of regular clearance have left the entire residential street overwhelmed by a foul stench.

Bengaluru bans meat sales for Gandhi Jayanthi

CH NEWS, BENGALURU: The Greater Bengaluru Authority has announced a complete ban on animal slaughter and meat sales across all city shops and slaughterhouses. The restriction will be enforced on Friday, October 2, 2026, in observance of Gandhi Jayanthi. According to the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, authorities will strictly monitor

compliance throughout the municipal jurisdiction. Local meat vendors and slaughterhouse operators have been directed to keep their establishments closed for the day to honor the national holiday. Officials urge all residents and business owners to cooperate fully with this official order and maintain the peaceful observance.

AI voice calls recover ₹35 crore arrears

Bengaluru West Corporation harnesses AI voice agents in Kannada to recover crores in pending property taxes.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a pioneering move to modernize civic revenue collection, the Bengaluru West City Corporation has successfully harnessed artificial intelligence to connect with property owners who missed tax deadlines or remained unaware of their pending arrears. Facing widespread delays caused by confusion over exact dues and online payment procedures, the corporation deployed advanced AI voice agents to reach out directly to taxpayers in their mother tongue.

Between March and June, the automated system placed over 4.54 lakh calls across 64 wards, successfully engaging nearly 60 thousand property owners in Kannada. The AI voice agents provided precise details regarding pending dues, originating assessment years, and simple digital payment methods. This personalized approach prompted over twenty-six thousand property owners to agree to clearing their dues, unlocking an estimated ₹35.11 crore in municipal revenue. Furthermore, more than ten thousand resi-



dents committed to specific payment dates.

Beyond revenue mobilization, the automated campaign dramatically eased the operational burden on municipal staff. Instead of overwhelming tax collection centers or disrupting field surveys, the AI managed initial outreach, allowing Assistant Revenue Officers to focus on high-priority recovery cases. The initiative also significantly improved administrative database accuracy by identifying and updating thousands of inactive or outdated contact records while confirming that over four thousand properties had zero outstanding dues.

The innovative technology was developed by VocalLabs, a Bengaluru startup founded by IIT Madras alumni Nilesh Kumar, Mrityunjay Das, and

Key AI tax campaign highlights

MASSIVE OUTREACH
4.54 lakh
Over 4.54 lakh automated calls made across 64 wards via startup 'VocalLabs'.
REVENUE BOOST
26,962
26,962 property owners agreed to clear dues, unlocking ₹35.11 crore in arrears.
DATA CLEANUP
17,314
Campaign helped update 17,314 inactive phone numbers and clear false notices.

Rag Sanil. Municipal Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. praised the initiative, emphasizing that conversational engagement persuades citizens far more effectively than traditional static demand notices. Meanwhile, the corporation issued a public advisory urging taxpayers to remain vigilant against fraudulent calls, reiterating that official payments must only be made through verified portals or authorized ward offices.

BNCC chief inspects drainage network

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid ongoing seasonal downpours, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar conducted an extensive late-night inspection of the city's stormwater drains and vulnerable flood-prone zones, spanning from late evening past midnight to ensure robust municipal preparedness.

Accompanied by Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naeem Momin and senior engineering officials, the Commissioner traversed critical urban corridors, including the BEL Circle to Hebbal Outer Ring Road stretch, Devi Nagar, Bhadrappa Layout, and the Hebbal Flyover. Inspecting roadside shoulder drains and major stormwater networks, he stressed the absolute necessity of maintaining unobstructed water flow



to prevent recurring urban flooding.

During the rigorous site visits, officials briefed the Commissioner on infrastructure upgrades, including ongoing asphaltting works at Tumakuru Loop slated for completion within a week. The midnight inspection further covered crucial junctions such as Karianna Palya, Veerannapalya, Thanisandra, Nagavara Circle, HRBR Layout, and the Hennur Underpass, where drainage systems and water accumulation risks were thoroughly evaluated.



Key inspection highlights

- Night Operations:** Commissioner inspected key areas from BEL Circle to Hebbal between 10:00 PM and 12:30 AM.
- Asphaltting Timeline:** BSMILE engineers confirmed Tumakuru Loop road works will finish within a week.
- Drainage Maintenance:** Strict orders issued to ensure unobstructed storm water and shoulder drain flows.

ULTIMATUM FOR ROAD DELAYS

Minister orders swift East Bengaluru works

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has strongly reprimanded municipal and transport officials during an intensive on-site inspection of infrastructure projects across East Bengaluru. Covering heavily congested corridors including Sarjapur Road, Dommasandra, Gunjur, Varthur, and Balagere, the minister demanded immediate solutions to daily commuter hardships while simultaneously outlining comprehensive, long-term development strategies for the rapidly growing suburban areas.

During the rigorous field tour, Minister Byre Gowda expressed deep frustration with sluggish progress and



bureaucratic delays, particularly concerning severe traffic bottlenecks between Dommasandra Circle and Varthur. When officials cited pending land acquisition hurdles as an excuse for stalled roadwork, the minister lashed out sharply. Highlighting that local shopkeepers had illegally encroached upon more than

eight feet of public land along the Varthur Lake bund, he questioned municipal oversight and demanded the immediate clearance of all unauthorized structures. In a passionate plea to indifferent engineers, he urged them to prioritize immediate public relief, famously stating that land acquisition can wait, but

KEY PROJECT REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

Inspection Areas: Sarjapur Road, Dommasandra, Gunjur, Varthur, Balagere, and surrounding corridors.

Traffic Priorities: Strict orders issued to clear debris, fill potholes, and level roads with crushed stone immediately.

Encroachment Crackdown: Sharp rebuke to officials over illegal shop encroachments worsening congestion.

BNCC launches Friday phone-in for citizens

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major step toward improving local governance and citizen services, the Bengaluru North City Corporation has introduced a dedicated weekly phone-in program. Led by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, this initiative gives residents a direct channel to voice neighborhood grievances, report civic problems, and interact directly with municipal authorities without cutting through bureaucratic red tape.

The inaugural phone-in session is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2026, running from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. During these live hours, citizens can call in to discuss a wide range of pressing urban issues. Key areas covered under the program include pothole repairs, street light maintenance, regular garbage collection, stray dog control, mosquito management, park upkeep, removal of illegal banners, and footpath encroachments. Residents can also address bureaucratic delays regarding e-Khata documentation directly with the commissioner.

To ensure transparency and accountability, every complaint received during the live session will be automatically registered on the official "Sahaaya 2.0" portal. The system instantly forwards grievances to the respective departmental officers for swift resolution. Furthermore, citizens will

Bengaluru North City Corporation launches a weekly phone-in program, letting residents report civic issues directly to the Commissioner for swift resolution.

receive SMS updates containing complaint tracking details and the contact information of the assigned officials.

Residents can reach the commissioner and municipal support staff during the scheduled hours using mobile and WhatsApp at 9480685705, or via landlines at 080-22975936 and 080-23636671. Alternatively, individuals who prefer digital communication can submit their grievances anytime through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application.

Local community leaders have warmly welcomed this initiative, noting that open communication between civic bodies and residents is vital for tackling Bengaluru's infrastructure challenges. The administration hopes that regular direct feedback will dramatically accelerate repair work and elevate overall living standards across all neighborhoods falling within the North City Corporation limits. City officials urge residents to make full use of these communication channels to report unresolved civic bottlenecks promptly.

BSCC plans Marenahalli underpass, asset digitization

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation is moving forward with major infrastructural and administrative reforms aimed at easing severe traffic congestion and plugging municipal revenue leaks. A high-level meeting of the Corporation's Technical Advisory Committee, chaired by retired BBMP Chief Engineer S. Somashekhar, evaluated key urban projects, including a proposed underpass at Marenahalli Junction and a comprehensive digital asset mapping initiative.

To address chronic vehicular bottlenecks on 11th Main Road, the advisory committee reviewed feasibility plans for constructing an underpass at Marenahalli Junction. Experts noted that the proposed engineering intervention would significantly streamline traffic flow, particularly for motorists arriving from Silk Board via the double-decker flyover. Additionally, the committee discussed ongoing ecological and aesthetic development plans for Madiwala Lake



alongside targeted junction improvements across the southern zone.

On the administrative front, the corporation has launched a massive digitization drive to geo-tag and catalog over 300 key municipal assets, including public schools, hospitals, sports stadiums, commercial complexes, and community halls. Utilizing precise GPS technology, every property is being mapped across ward and zonal levels to record exact land areas, building dimensions, and boundary markers into a centralized software platform.

Furthermore, the digital registry incorporates lease agreements, rent structures, and expiration dates to identify expired contracts, enforce revised rental tariffs, and eliminate unauthorized commercial operations that cause revenue leakage. To ensure ongoing accuracy, field inspection officers will utilize a dedicated mobile application to verify physical ground conditions and upload real-time photographs directly to the database. Municipal engineers will soon receive specialized training to manage the digital asset register independently, ensuring long-term transparency and improved civic governance across the entire southern corporation limits.

Quick Read

Gadag imposes restrictions near recruitment exam centers

CH NEWS, GADAG

Restrictive orders will be in force around six examination centers in Gadag district during the Land Surveyor recruitment examination on October 2, 2026. The Karnataka Examinations Authority will conduct the examination in two sessions, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A 200-metre area around the centers has been declared a prohibited zone to prevent cheating, impersonation and other malpractices. The restrictions will remain from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Entry is restricted to examination officials. Groups of five or more people, photocopy shops, bookstalls and loudspeakers are prohibited. Mobile phones and communication devices are also banned. Media personnel may film only during students' arrival and departure.

Library for every schoolchild program set for Oct 3

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A programme on the implementation of “A Library for Every Schoolchild’s Home” and a felicitation ceremony will be held on October 3 at 11 a.m. at Sri Gavimath, Koppal. The event is jointly organized by the Department of Kannada and Culture, Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Gadag District Vigilance Committee, Koppal Gavimath and Government High School, Hesaruru, Mundaragi taluk. His Holiness Abhinava Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji will inaugurate the programme, while Dr. Manasa, Chairperson of the Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, will preside. A.S. Makana-dara, Basavaraj Bodur, Nagaraj Hallikeri, Savitri Mujumdar, S.C. Harle and Shruti R. Arer will attend. G.S. Gonal will flag off a book procession from Gavishri Circle. Science teacher Ravi Devareddy will deliver the introductory address.

ODOP exhibition to showcase Gadag entrepreneurs' products

CH NEWS, GADAG

An ODOP (One District One Product) exhibition will be held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from October 7 to 11, 2026. Free stalls will be available at the exhibition, providing interested entrepreneurs an opportunity to display and sell their products. The Joint Director of the District Industries Centre said entrepreneurs from Gadag district can participate in the event. Interested entrepreneurs may contact Pankaj Kumar at 9990647522 or Jayita Ghosh at 9560092835 for further details. The exhibition aims to provide entrepreneurs with an opportunity to showcase their products at the event.

‘Jnana Vikasa strengthens rural women’s confidence’

Dr. Prabha praised the rural development project for empowering rural women economically, socially and educationally, fostering unity, confidence and self-reliance

AT A GLANCE

Event Inauguration

MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun inaugurated the annual anniversary celebration of the Mahila Jnana Vikasa programme at Kaidale village in Davanagere district.

Organizing Body

The initiative is managed by the Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP), guided by Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade and Hemavathi Amma.

Core Mission

The programme fosters rural women’s economic, social, and educational development by focusing on health, education, values, and life skills.

Key Demands

Attendees were urged to prioritize personal well-being, use mobile phones wisely for learning, and preserve strong family relationships.

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun said the Mahila Jnana Vikasa programme of the Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) is helping women improve their knowledge, self-confidence and self-reliance.

She was speaking after inaugurating the annual anniversary celebration of the programme at Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Community Hall in Kaidale village on Wednesday.

Dr. Prabha said the rural development project, guided by Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade and Hemavathi Amma, is contributing to the economic, social and educational development of women



in rural areas. She appreciated the programme for bringing women together and helping them gain confidence.

She said women have an important role in the development of families and society. Through the Jnana Vikasa programme, women are being made aware of values, health, education and life skills. The

programme supports the overall development of women and goes beyond economic progress. She also advised women to use mobile phones to improve their knowledge while staying connected with culture, heritage and family values. She stressed the importance of spending quality time with children and elders

to strengthen family relationships.

Dr. Prabha appreciated the SKDRDP for its social welfare activities in rural areas, particularly in health, sanitation and women’s empowerment. She said the organization’s work is visible in several villages across Davanagere district.

She called upon women to give greater importance to their health and urged everyone to spend some time every day on personal well-being and growth.

The MP appreciated the activities of the Jnana Vikasa Kendra and its cultural programmes aimed at building women’s confidence. She assured continued support for socially oriented initiatives.

Progressive groups protest remarks made by Pratap Simha



CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Progressive organizations staged a protest at Samvidhana Circle in Hunsur, condemning remarks made by former MP Pratap Simha about the Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (DSS) and the ‘Neeli Saalu’ movement.

Activists from the DSS, CPI(M), Farmers’ Association and other progressive groups gathered at the circle and raised slogans against those they accused of disturbing peace and harmony through communal tensions.

The protesters demanded the externment of Pratap

Simha, alleging that his remarks were aimed at inflaming religious sentiments and creating communal unrest in the state and district.

Senior DSS activist Harihara Ananda Swamy said, according to the protesters, communal forces were attempting to create unrest for political purposes. He condemned efforts to create communal tension in a region associated with figures such as Kuvempu and Basavanna.

CPI(M) district committee member Vijayakumar called for unity among the Dalit, Left and farmers’ movements.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHAHINABEGAM M NADAF**, D/o. Mahiboobsab, Resident of No. 14, Ward No. 05, Hosagoudr Colony, Jayanagar, Badami Village & Post, Bagalkot -587201, Karnataka, Camp at Bengaluru, have changed my name to **SHAHINABEGAM NADAF**, vide affidavit dated: 28.09.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASGAR GAYASUDDIN**, Resident of No. 157, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, Rama Tent Street, Venkateshpuram, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru -560045, Karnataka, have changed my name to **ASGAR**, vide affidavit dated: 28.09.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from one state to another state

Before the Central Government South-Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND

In the matter of **SORTING HAT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U22219KA2022PTC161167) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B Maruti Info-Tech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to shift its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034, Karnataka, India within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B Maruti Info-Tech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071

For and on behalf of
SORTING HAT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Gaurav Munjal
Director (DIN: 06575810)

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AND

In the matter of **SORTING HAT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U72200KA2015PTC082063) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B Maruti Info-Tech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner

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For and on behalf of
SORTING HAT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Gaurav Munjal
Director (DIN: 06575810)

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[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for shifting of registered office from One State to Another State

Before the Central Government South - Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND

In the matter of **PRELADDER PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U80903KA2017PTC178406) having its registered office at Maruthi Info-Tech Center, No. 11/1, 12/1, 2nd Floor Block B, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore 560071, Karnataka, India, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034, Karnataka within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
Maruthi Info-Tech Center, No. 11/1, 12/1, 2nd Floor Block B, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore 560071, Karnataka, India, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071

For and on behalf of the Applicant
PRELADDER PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Gaurav Munjal
Director (DIN: 06575810)

CHCLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

New law college opens to support rural students

CH NEWS, HUNSUR: Former MLA H.P. Manjunath inaugurated the newly established Jnanadhara Law College, founded by the Jnanadhara Educational Foundation, along with Dr. Karivrushabhadeshikendra Shivayogishwara Swamiji of Kadasiddeshwara Matha, Dr. Trinetra Mahanta Mahaswamiji of Chandravana Ashrama and Nataraja Swamiji of Gavadagere Matha.

Speaking at the programme held at Guruboodi Mangala Mantapa, Manjunath appreciated Dr. Nagendra and Yamuna for starting the law college to help students from neighbouring districts. He said job-oriented courses should also be introduced and assured support for educational institutions established in the taluk.

Dr. Karivrushabhadeshikendra Shivayogishwara Mahaswamiji said the college was established with the aim of helping rural students pursue legal education. He noted that the institution has also been providing quality education through its degree college for the past 14 years.

He urged Manjunath to help secure two acres of government land for the institution. He stressed the importance of following the principles of Dharma, including dedication to duty, devotion to God and respect for elders. He said neglecting these values could affect society and its cultural ethos.

Dr. Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Mahaswamiji of Chandravana Ashram also addressed the gathering.

Vokkaliga Sangha seeks action against police inspector

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Taluk Vokkaliga Sangha President K. Ganesh Gowda demanded the suspension of T. Narasipura CPI Dhananjay, alleging that the police officer disrupted Ganeshotsava celebrations.

Speaking at a press conference at the Journalists’ Hall, Gowda said Ganeshotsava has been celebrated for decades as a festival that brings people together. He said collective worship, rituals and processions with Ganesha idols have been held across the country.

Gowda alleged that the present dispute arose after Inspector Dhananjay used the phrase “breaking the spell of bad luck” (grahachara bidisu-vudu). He also alleged that an FIR filed against former MP Pratap Simha was politically motivated and had no basis in the Constitution or law.

He said Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s vision was to ensure



equal rights and access to law for every person. Gowda questioned the filing of cases against Simha, saying that greater attention should be given to the Constitution drafted by Ambedkar.

Taluk Vokkaligara Sangha General Secretary Yoganand Kumar also demanded the dismissal of CPI Dhananjay. He alleged that the officer had filed a false case against former MP Pratap Simha.

Yoganand Kumar said Ganeshotsava was intended to promote unity and reflect Hindu sentiments but had instead become a source of conflict.

He urged the government to take action against the police officer and address the issue.

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Road accidents continue to claim lives across Kolar district, including the KGF police division, with 274 deaths recorded in 259 accidents during the first eight months of 2026.

Police data shows that two-wheeler riders accounted for 60% of fatalities, while pedestrians accounted for 22%. About 41% of those killed were aged between 18 and 40, while 40% were aged between 41 and 60.

National highways accounted for 38% of accidents, followed by village roads at 31% and state highways at 30%. Driver error contributed to 26% of accidents, while 24% involved head-on collisions.

Accidents have been reported frequently on National Highway-75, the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway corridor, and the Mulbagal-Srinivaspura and Srinivaspura-Madanapalle high-



Accident analysis and infrastructure

274 CASUALTY STATISTICS deaths in 259 accidents (Jan–Aug 2026) in Kolar and KGF.

60% VULNERABLE GROUPS two-wheeler riders; 22% pedestrians; 41% aged 18–40.

38% ACCIDENT HOTSPOTS on national highways (NH-75); black spots at Arabikothanuru and Maderahalli.

14 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS flyovers sanctioned with ₹989 crore; underpasses underway.

SAFETY ENFORCEMENT Speed control, drunk-driving checks, and helmet mandates by SPs Sikriwal and Rajput.

CASHLESS BUS CHAOS

NWKRTC conductors struggle with QR code issues

MALINGARAYA PUJAR CH NEWS

The North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) has introduced Dynamic QR Code technology to promote cashless ticket payments and prevent digital fraud. However, conductors are facing difficulties due to heavy passenger rush and server problems.

Passenger numbers have increased significantly after the state government introduced the Shakti scheme. With buses often crowded, conductors already face pressure while moving through buses and issuing tickets. Technical problems with digital payments have added to their difficulties.

Earlier, regular PhonePe QR codes were displayed on buses. Some passengers allegedly misused the system by paying a lower amount or showing old payment screenshots. To prevent such fraud, NWKRTC introduced Dynamic QR Codes.

Under the new system, the conductor enters the passenger’s stage and ticket number into the Electronic Ticket Machine (ETM). A QR code showing the exact ticket amount appears on the machine. After the passenger scans it, the ticket is printed for the payment made.

However, network problems in rural areas and on highways are affecting the system. In some cases, money is deducted from a passen-



ger’s bank account, while the ETM shows “Payment Failed”. This creates confusion, as passengers may not receive tickets despite the payment being deducted. Conductors then have to explain that the amount may be refunded. Conductors said the situation becomes more difficult during crowded journeys. They also expressed concern

that delays in issuing tickets could lead to problems during ticket inspections.

A regular passenger said money was deducted from the PhonePe account, but the conductor asked for cash after the ETM showed payment failure, creating confusion about the refund. The Dynamic QR Code system is intended to reduce fraud and solve the problem of change. However, conductors and passengers have called for stronger network connectivity and faster servers to ensure smooth operation.

NWKRTC Chief Traffic Manager Vivekananda said the Dynamic QR Code system is a new project and steps will be taken to resolve the technical issues.

Quick Read

Mandya to host Democracy Day Youth Parliament

CH NEWS, MANDYA

An International Day of Democracy celebration and Taluk-level Youth Parliament will be held on October 1 at 9:30 a.m. at Vishwagangothri Syndicate Hall, Mandya University. The programme is jointly organized by the Taluk Administration, Taluk Panchayat and departments concerned with social welfare, school education, higher education, and law, justice and human rights. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will attend, while Minister N. Chaluvayaswamy will inaugurate the programme. Agriculture Minister P.M. Narendraswamy, MLA A.B. Ramesha Bandisiddegowda and Dr. Murthy will be present. MLA P. Ravikumar will preside over the event. Other elected representatives, officials and university authorities will also attend.

Scholarship campaign supports Scheduled Caste students

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Social Welfare Department has launched a Scholarship and Incentive Campaign to create awareness among Scheduled Caste students and parents about educational support schemes. The campaign aims to ensure that no eligible student is deprived of departmental benefits. The department provides pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, financial incentives and hostel admissions through online schemes. The Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department urged eligible students to submit their applications online and make use of the available benefits. Applications can be submitted through the Social Welfare Department website: <https://swd.karnataka.gov.in>. The campaign will help students and parents understand the available educational support schemes.

Applications open for Srirangapatna Dasara Food Fair stalls

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Applications are invited for stalls at the Srirangapatna Dasara Food Fair, to be held from October 15 to 18 as part of the historic state festival. Vendors can showcase dishes representing Karnataka's culinary diversity. Stalls measuring 10x10 or 10x8 will be provided free of cost. Only vegetarian food will be allowed, and vendors must maintain hygiene and food quality. Aadhaar card copy is mandatory. Stalls will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, with the committee retaining allocation rights. Applicants must submit forms and documents at the Taluk Office by 5:30 p.m. on October 12. For details, contact Poornima at 9972508370 or Pooja at 9620175890.

Strict action warned for corruption and duty lapses

Justice Phaneendra urged public servants to work honestly, acknowledge mistakes, serve society, and ensure justice reaches people without Bengaluru travel

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Karnataka Lokayukta Deputy Lokayukta Justice K.N. Phaneendra warned that strict action would be taken if corruption, dereliction of duty or unnecessary delays were found in the daily work of public servants.

He was speaking at a district-level Lokayukta meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Karwar. The meeting was organized to hear complaints and cases pending investigation or trial before the Lokayukta in matters falling under the purview of the Deputy Commissioner.

Justice Phaneendra said public servants should perform their duties honestly, admit mistakes, introspect and contribute to society through public service. He said the objective was to provide justice at people's doorsteps and prevent them from having to travel to Bengaluru to get



their complaints and cases addressed.

He said government employees have a major responsibility to protect the rights, property, health and social life of the public. Employees should understand this responsibility and use the opportunity to provide honest public service.

He said the Constitution provides equal opportunities for all and that public servants have a responsibility to ensure that government schemes reach everyone equally.

Justice Phaneendra instructed employees to treat people visiting government offices courteously, listen patiently to their concerns and provide appropriate remedies or legal recourse within the prescribed time.

He said complaints and grievances should be verified and addressed promptly at the concerned locations. A legal inquiry was also conducted in the presence of complainants and the opposite parties in cases pending before the Lokayukta.

Upa-Lokayukta inspects Karwar, flyover area

Upa-Lokayukta Justice K.N. Phaneendra inspected the City Municipal Council's dumping yard at Shirwad and the area beneath the highway flyover, expressing displeasure over poor waste management and unauthorized activities.

He directed officials to scientifically inspect the dumping yard and submit a comprehensive report. A high-level committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner will examine environmental and public health concerns. He also ordered action against unauthorized parking and commercial activities beneath the flyover, including installation of gates and development of the space as a garden.

Justice Phaneendra later inspected the Konekala area and sewage treatment plant.

Women's health key to strong families, society: Dr. Kumar

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar said women's health is the foundation of a healthy family and society and stressed the need to give special attention to the nutrition of pregnant women, nursing mothers and children.

He was speaking at an Annaprashana ceremony, Seemantha programme for pregnant women and registration drive for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, organized as part of Poshan Abhiyan and Poshan Maah.

Dr. Kumar said women often put aside their own health while caring for their families. He urged families to ensure that pregnant women receive nutritious food, timely medical care and necessary guidance. High-risk pregnancies should be identified early, he added.

He said a balanced diet containing proteins, vitamins and minerals is essential for healthy growth. Departments concerned with health and women and child development should work together to re-

duce malnutrition and infant mortality.

He also stressed the need for community participation to prevent child marriage. Parents, teachers, health workers, local bodies and the public should immediately inform officials about such cases.

Dr. Kumar called for efforts to prevent female foeticide and eliminate discrimination against girls. Equal opportunities should be provided to boys and girls in education, health, safety and their future.

Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights member Venkatesh advised parents to monitor children's physical and mental health. He urged families to encourage sports, exercise, reading and creative activities while limiting mobile phone and social media use.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Bettaswamy said nutritious food available at home, including green vegetables, fruits, pulses and grains, can support children's health without requiring expensive food.

Gadag officials told to manage drought situation effectively

CH NEWS, GADAG

The drought situation in Gadag district must be managed effectively, and steps should be taken to prevent people from migrating in search of employment, said District In-charge Secretary Dr. M.V. Venkatesh.

He was speaking at a video conference meeting on drought



management held at the Zilla Panchayat hall. He directed officials to prepare for the upcoming Hingaru season and give greater attention to sericulture when agricultural activities are affected by drought. Dr. Venkatesh instructed officials to construct one Amrit Sarovar in every panchayat under MGNREGA. He also stressed improving SSLC and PUC results among students staying in Social Welfare, Minority and Backward Classes hostels.

He directed officials to provide nutritious food and early childhood education to children at An-

ganwadi centres. Transparency must be maintained in selecting beneficiaries under SCP/TSP schemes, he said, adding that released funds should not lapse under any circumstances.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar instructed officials to follow the measures suggested by the District In-charge Secretary to address the drought situation.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mukul Jain said 59 villages had been identified as areas where drinking water shortages could arise. He said water was being supplied to rural areas through two DBOT and 10 MVS schemes from river sources, ensuring supply until the end of December.

Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary C.R. Mundaragi said 233,844 workers were registered under the VB-G RAM G scheme, with 8,044 MGNREGA works in progress.

Agriculture Joint Director Chetana Patil said crop damage had occurred across 125,349.14 hectares during the monsoon, including agricultural and horticultural land. Financial assistance of ₹11,574.46 lakh had been sought from NDRF/SDRF. She said there was no shortage of fertilisers and 179,116 farmers had registered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

CHIKKABALLAPURA PRINCIPAL FACING POCSO ACT CHARGES

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Ishwar Reddy B., a Social Science teacher and in-charge principal of the Morarji Desai Residential School for Scheduled Tribe students at Gorlagummanahalli in Chintamani taluk, has been suspended following a complaint alleging inappropriate physical contact with female students.

The Executive Director of the Karnataka Residential Education-

al Institutions Society issued the suspension order after a student filed a complaint at Dibburahalli Police Station. According to the order, the student alleged that the in-charge principal subjected her to inappropriate physical contact in the first-floor first-aid room at around 2:30 p.m. on September 26, 2026. A case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on September 28 in connection with the incident.

Chitradurga focuses on securing drinking water supply

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya directed Tahsildars, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers and engineers of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department to work together and ensure that no village faces a drinking water shortage.

She was speaking at the District Disaster Management Authority meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office. She instructed officials to respond immediately to public concerns and maintain transparency in water distribution.

In urban areas, officials were directed to prevent rainwater from flowing onto roads and ensure proper drainage. Water should be distributed across urban and rural areas according to availability, she said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy instructed officials to avoid drilling new borewells where private water sources could be secured through negotiations. Tanker water supply must be managed through the Tanker Management App after following the tender process.

Farmers urged to adopt scientific sericulture methods

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Farmers can earn substantial income from sericulture by adopting scientific methods, managing production costs and returns, and using modern technology and innovations, said Dr. K.C. Narayanaswamy, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya.

He was speaking after inaugurating the seminar, "Sericulture Entrepreneurship – A Golden Step Towards Self-Reliance," at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, V.C. Farm, Mandya.

Dr. Narayanaswamy said sericulture can provide good income when practiced scientifically and with efficient use of limited water resources.

He advised farmers to focus on crop diversity, intercropping and proper water management. He urged silk growers to become sericulture entrepreneurs rather than remaining only growers.

He stressed the importance of quality production because of the strong demand for silk in domestic and international markets.

He said the success stories of farmers and

entrepreneurs who have succeeded in sericulture should inspire others. Farmers should consider production costs, market conditions and expected returns to make sericulture economically sustainable.

Dr. C. Ramachandra, Director of Extension, UAS, Mandya, said more seminars should be organized to provide farmers

with information on modern technologies and government schemes. Such programmes would also support their economic empowerment. Sundar Raj explained various schemes and facilities available to sericulture farmers and advised them to make use of government schemes, drip irrigation and scientific methods.



BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BBCL/CE/TENDER/PMC/01/2026-27Date: 30.09.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Business Corridor Limited, Bengaluru-560051 invites tenders from eligible consultants for the works detailed (Indent No. BBCL/2026-27/SE0002) in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of work
1	Project Management Consultancy services for Design Validation and Supervision of Construction Bengaluru Business Corridor (PRR-1) from NH-4 Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road in the Bengaluru City length of 68.364 Km. Work includes oversight of ITS work	100.00	Till completion of the Project

Tender Schedule: (a) Availability of tender document from **01.10.2026 onwards.** (b) Last date for receiving queries: **06.10.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.** (c) Pre-bid Meeting: **09.10.2026.** (d) Last date of Bid submission: **16.10.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.** (e) Technical bid opening: **17.10.2026, 16.00 hrs.** (f) Financial bid opening: **Will be intimated.**

A prospective tenderer requiring any clarification of the tender documents or additional information may notify the Employer in writing to Employer's address indicated in the invitation to tender or through e-mail: **executiveengineer.bbcpr@gmail.com; bharathballal.bbcpr@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Bengaluru Business Corridor Limited, Bengaluru



BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-311/2026-27Date: 30.09.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Short-Term Tender is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT283)

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **30.09.2026** (2) Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid Enquiries: **03.10.2026, 11.00 A.M.** (3) Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **05.10.2026, 3.00 P.M.** (4) Last date and time for submission of Tender: **15.10.2026, 4.00 P.M.** (5) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **16.10.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours. Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7)  @BDAOOfficialGoK

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru

(CH) CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042



ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ವಾವಿನಿ ಸಿ ಆವರಣ, ಕಿ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್. ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು- 570 020

ಬೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಮೈಸಾ/ಕಾ.ಆ(ವಿ)/ಟಿಎನ್-15/117/2026-27Date: 29.09.2026

ಬೆಂಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ -15
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಸಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಬೆಂಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಸಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲಾನ್‌ಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಬೆಂಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಕೆಪಿಸಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪ್ರೀ-ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್	ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	Service Tender Works	Annual Operation Maintenance of Existing 8 MLD and Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Based Sewage Treatment Plant at Hebbal Lake, Mysuru City Limits and Payment linked to complaint treated sewage output and KSPCB Standards.	21363487.00		ಕೆಪಿಸಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ		

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಸಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತಿಜ್ಞಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿ) ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/795/SA/2026-27

HAMPI DASARA: REVIVING A FORGOTTEN LEGACY



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

Hampi has everything required to host a world-class cultural festival. What is needed is political will, proper planning and sustained financial and institutional support.



The grand Mysuru Dasara, today celebrated as one of Karnataka’s most iconic cultural festivals, has a historical debt that should not be forgotten. Its roots lie in the glorious Vijayanagar Empire and, in particular, in the Dasara tradition patronised by the illustrious ruler Sri Krishnadevaraya in the 15th century.

The magnificent ruins of Hampi stand as a testimony to the wealth, architectural brilliance and cultural achievements of the Vijayanagar Empire. The tradition of celebrating Dasara, with its royal grandeur and cultural significance, was subsequently carried forward by the Wadiyars of Mysuru, who had links with the Vijayanagar tradition. Over the centuries, Mysuru transformed the festival into a magnificent annual spectacle that has earned international recognition.

The birthplace of glorious tradition?
A veteran politician and lover of literature and culture, the late M.P. Prakash, recognised the importance of reconnecting Hampi with its magnificent past. He took the initiative to revive the Dasara tradition at Hampi and sought to recreate the grandeur of the nine-day celebrations associated with the Vijayanagar era.

His efforts gave a new identity to the Hampi festival. The initiative was welcomed by historians, cultural enthusiasts and people of Ballari region, who saw it as an attempt to restore the historical and cultural importance of Hampi. The festival was conceived not merely as an entertainment event, but as a tribute to the empire that had contributed immensely to Karnataka’s cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, after the demise of M.P. Prakash, the Hampi festival gradually lost its importance.

Successive governments have continued to give considerable attention and financial support to Mysuru Dasara, while Hampi has often received only modest attention. The Hampi festival has, on several occasions, been reduced to a symbolic event or skipped altogether under one pretext or another. District in-charge ministers have often treated it as an obligatory annual programme rather than an opportunity to showcase the historical and cultural wealth of one of Karnataka’s greatest heritage sites.

The creation of Vijayanagar district should have provided a fresh opportunity to give Hampi festival a new direction. Instead, there have been concerns that the selection of artists and programmes has sometimes become influenced by political considerations. There appears to have been little sustained effort to develop the festival into a major cultural event drawing inspiration from the grandeur of the Vijayanagar period.

This is an unfortunate situation.
Karnataka cannot celebrate Mysuru Dasara while allowing Hampi’s own Dasara tradition to fade into the background. Mysuru has undoubtedly made the festival its own and taken it to unprecedented heights. But that success should not come at the expense of Hampi, whose historical association with the tradition is far older and deeper.

The government need not view Mysuru Dasara and Hampi Dasara as competing festivals. They can, in fact, complement each other. Mysuru can continue to showcase the living royal and cultural traditions of Karnataka, while Hampi can present the magnificence of the Vijayanagar era through history, classical arts, folk traditions, literature, music, dance, handicrafts and scholarly programmes.

Hampi has everything required to host a world-class cultural festival. What is needed is political will, proper planning and sustained financial and institutional support.

The government should therefore consider celebrating Hampi Dasara on a scale commensurate with its historical importance, alongside Mysuru Dasara. A dedicated annual calendar, adequate budget, professional curation of cultural programmes and participation of historians, artists and cultural institutions could transform the festival into a major national and international attraction.

It is equally surprising that elected representatives from the

What could transform Hampi Dasara			
1	A dedicated annual calendar	2	Adequate budget
3	Professional curation of cultural programmes	4	Participation of historians, artists and cultural institutions

region have not mounted a sustained demand for restoring Hampi Dasara to its former glory. The responsibility of preserving this legacy cannot rest solely with the government. Public representatives, cultural organisations, historians and people of the region must also demand that Hampi receive the recognition it deserves.

The Vijayanagar Empire gave Karnataka an extraordinary cultural legacy. Dasara is one of its most enduring gifts.

Allowing the Hampi tradition to wither while celebrating only its later manifestation in Mysuru amounts to overlooking an important chapter of our own history.

It is high time the Karnataka government restored Hampi Dasara to its rightful place in the State’s cultural calendar.

Are you listening, Mr. Chief Minister and Mr. Kannada and Culture Minister?

CITIES GROWING ON GARBAGE HEAPS



be used for road construction and new construction.

Additionally, biomedical waste, e-waste, and hazardous industrial waste require special care. Infected materials, needles, contaminated plastics, and pharmaceutical residues from hospitals, if mixed with general waste, can pose a serious threat to healthcare workers, waste pickers, and the general public. Similarly, e-waste from computers, mobile phones, batteries, and other electronic devices can contain precious metals, as well as lead, mercury, and other harmful substances. Hazardous waste such as chemicals, solvents, paints, and industrial residues must be kept separate from general municipal waste.

The first and most important technological solution to address this crisis is waste segregation at the source. Separating wet, dry, and hazardous waste makes the entire subsequent management process more effective. GPS-based garbage vehicles, sensor-equipped smart bins, RFID technology, and digital tracking systems can make

collection systems more transparent and efficient. But it’s important to understand that technology is no substitute for civic discipline. If waste isn’t segregated at the household and institutional level, even state-of-the-art processing plants won’t deliver the desired results.

Composting and biomethanation are important solutions for organic waste. Composting can convert organic waste into useful organic fertilizer, while anaerobic digestion produces biogas and organic residues. This reduces landfill pressure and provides useful resources for energy and agriculture. Decentralized composting and biogas plants in large cities can also reduce transportation costs and unnecessary waste transfer.

Material recovery facilities are extremely useful for dry waste. They use conveyor belts, magnetic separation, air classifiers, optical sorting, and modern sensor technology to separate paper, metal, and various types of plastic. Artificial intelligence and computer vision-based systems may make automated

sorting even more effective in the future. However, mixing wet waste with recyclable materials reduces its quality and economic value. Therefore, source separation is fundamental to this entire technology chain.

Mechanical recycling for plastic waste is effective for relatively clean and uniform plastics. Some chemical recycling and pyrolysis technologies can be used for harder plastics. These technologies offer the potential to yield fuel or chemical raw materials, but a life-cycle assessment of their energy requirements, costs, and environmental impact is necessary. Simply being technically feasible does not automatically make a solution sustainable.

Energy production from waste is also an important option. Through controlled combustion and refuse-derived fuel technologies, energy can be obtained from residual waste that cannot be recycled or bioprocessed. Modern emission control systems help control pollutants. However, India’s mixed and high-moisture municipal waste often has a low calorific value. Therefore, burning all mixed waste without separation is not a viable strategy. Energy production should not be considered a substitute for recycling and bioprocessing, but rather a means of managing the residual waste that remains.

Finally, the need for scientific landfills remains, as recycling of all types of waste is not possible. Engineered landfills, including liners, leachate collection, gas capture, and groundwater monitoring, lim-

The approach can become the foundation for a clean, sustainable, and resource-efficient India amid growing population and urbanization.”



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

it pollution. Biomining and bioremediation are also useful technologies for reclaiming old waste sites in India, allowing recyclable materials to be extracted from old waste and the land reused.

India must now move from a linear “produce-use-throw” economy to a circular economy. “Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, and resource recovery” must become the cornerstone of urban policy. Producer responsibility, reasonable fees for waste producers, the integration of waste pickers into formal systems, accountability of bulk waste generators, and enhancing the technical capacity of local bodies will be important steps in this direction.

In fact, solid waste management is not just an engineering problem, but a question of urban governance, social behavior, and resource management. Technology can separate, process, and recover waste, but its proper use requires citizen participation, effective institutional arrangements, and rigorous monitoring. Indian cities must move beyond a “waste removal” mindset to a “waste-to-resource” approach.

THE ENIGMA OF ENUMERATION AND THE MISSING VOTER



Dr. Vijay Garg

details, duplication or other circumstances.

This makes electoral-roll revision a continuing administrative challenge.

Who Is a “Missing” Voter?
The phrase “missing voter” can describe different situations, and these should not automatically be treated as evidence of wrongdoing.

A person may have moved to another constituency. A voter may have failed to return an enumeration form. A name may have been affected by verification procedures, duplication checks or other corrections. In some cases, an eligible voter may simply discover that their name is not present in the relevant electoral roll.

The Election Commission has itself identified categories such as absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate entries as matters that may arise during electoral-roll revision. It has also provided mechanisms through which genuine electors can seek inclusion or correction.

Therefore, the disappearance of a name from one list should not automatically be interpreted as proof that a person has lost eligibility or that an irregularity has occurred. Each case requires verification.

The Importance of the Enumeration Process
Enumeration is intended to improve the accuracy of electoral rolls. Accurate rolls are essential for both voters and election administrators.

An outdated electoral roll can contain names of people who have moved or died, while a poorly updated roll may fail to include newly eligible citizens. Both situations create administrative difficulties.

The challenge is therefore to achieve two objectives si-

multaneously: remove entries that are no longer valid and ensure that eligible citizens are not wrongly excluded.

The ECI has explicitly stated that its revision process aims to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included.

Citizens Also Have a Role
Electoral-roll accuracy is not solely an administrative responsibility. Citizens should also regularly verify their registration details.

The Election Commission provides online facilities for searching names in electoral rolls, checking application status, registering as a new elector and correcting existing details.

A citizen who is eligible but not registered can generally apply through Form 6. The ECI states that eligible Indian citizens aged 18 or above, with reference to the applicable qualifying dates, can apply for registration.

This makes voter awareness particularly important. Waiting until election day to discover that a name is missing can create unnecessary difficulties.

Technology and



Transparency

Digital systems have transformed electoral-roll management. Citizens can now search their names online, track applications and access

voter-related services through official platforms and applications.

Technology can improve accessibility and reduce dependence on physical paperwork, but technology alone

Counting voters is an administrative task; ensuring that every eligible citizen can be properly counted is a democratic responsibility.”
— Dr. Vijay Garg

cannot guarantee accuracy. Data must be correctly collected, verified, updated and presented in a transparent manner.

At the same time, citizens need accessible channels for raising objections and correcting errors. During intensive revision, the ECI has provided processes for claims and objections, including opportunities for eligible electors to seek inclusion.

The Human Side of the Numbers
Behind every electoral number is a person.

A voter list may contain millions of entries, but each entry represents an individual citizen with a legal identity and a right to participate in the electoral process. For this reason, electoral administration must balance efficiency with care.

Special attention may be needed for elderly citizens, migrant workers, students, persons with disabilities, people who frequently change residence and communities that may face difficulties accessing official procedures.

Clear communication is equally important. When a name is not found, citizens should be able to understand the reason, know what docu-

mentation or application is required, and have a reasonable opportunity to seek correction where appropriate.
Accuracy Without Exclusion
The debate over electoral enumeration often focuses on numbers: how many names were added, how many were removed and how many forms were received. These figures are important, but numbers alone do not tell the complete story.

A successful electoral-roll revision should be judged by the quality of the process: accurate verification, transparent procedures, accessible claims and objections, timely corrections and effective communication with citizens.

The objective should not simply be a smaller or larger electoral roll. It should be an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.

Democracy Begins With a Name

The electoral process ultimately begins with something very simple – a citizen’s name appearing correctly on the electoral roll.

That name connects an individual to the right to participate in an election. If an eligible citizen’s name is missing, the issue deserves attention and an opportunity for correction. If an entry is duplicated or no longer valid, appropriate verification and correction are equally important.

The real challenge of enumeration, therefore, lies in maintaining the delicate balance between accuracy and inclusion.

The “mystery” of missing voters need not remain a mystery. Through transparent procedures, responsible administration, active citizenship and regular verification, electoral rolls can become more accurate and accessible.

Fixing Bengaluru’s Marathon Management

The recent mismanagement of the Wipro Bengaluru Marathon serves as a stark wake-up call for civic event organizers. While thousands of runners enthusiastically poured onto the streets around Sree Kanteerava Stadium, many were left struggling due to severe overcrowding and completely dry water stations along the route. In a city striving to host world-class athletic events, failing to guarantee basic hydration and safety measures for participants is unacceptable. A marathon is a test of human endurance, not a test of surviving logistical oversights. Large-scale public sporting events require rigorous route planning, adequate supply management, and effective crowd control to ensure runner safety. The organizers and civic authorities must address these operational lapses, issue clear protocols, and implement stringent standards for future events. Bengaluru’s running community deserves far better planning and respect.

— S. Ranganathan

Expanding BMTC Fleet Imperative

The Karnataka government’s recent decision to approve 4,500 new electric buses for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is a long-overdue and welcome step toward reforming our public transport. As urban congestion reaches breaking points – with commuters routinely trapped in long jams – strengthening bus transit remains our most effective solution. However, adding vehicles to the fleet is only half the battle. To truly encourage citizens to leave their personal vehicles at home, civic authorities must pair these new electric buses with dedicated bus corridors, improved last-mile connectivity, and reliable schedules. Clean, sustainable, and efficient mass transit is essential if Bengaluru is to curb rising vehicular emissions and reclaim its traffic-clogged arterial roads. The administration must execute this expansion swiftly without bureaucratic delays.

— Ananya Rao

Overhauling Bengaluru’s Drainage Grid

The recent heavy downpours in mid-September once again exposed the fragile state of Bengaluru’s urban infrastructure. In areas like Shivajinagar, brief spells of rain transformed roads into flooded rivers, submerging parked vehicles and completely stalling traffic. It is deeply frustrating that despite repeated promises and continuous administrative restructuring, our stormwater drainage network fails at the first sight of monsoon showers. Temporary measures like deploying pumps to clear waterlogging are mere Band-Aids on a systemic issue. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and civic agencies must focus on long-term structural overhauls – desilting primary drains, removing encroachments, and enforcing sustainable urban planning. Until civic bodies prioritize comprehensive drainage infrastructure over reactive fixes, Bengalureans will remain at the mercy of every heavy rainstorm.

— Rajesh Kulka

INDIA'S ENDLESS TEA HABIT IS HURTING

For most Indians, the day does not start with an alarm, but with tea. Bed tea, office tea, cutting chai, evening tea, guest tea – an average Indian drinks 3 to 4 cups a day. India is the world's second-largest consumer of tea, drinking over 1.1 billion kilos every year. Tea is not just a drink here; it is culture, hospitality, comfort, and an excuse to pause life.

But like all good things, too much tea has become a quiet health crisis that no one wants to talk about, because questioning tea in India is like questioning cricket.

Let us be clear: tea in moderation is healthy. Green tea and plain black tea are rich in antioxidants. The problem is not tea itself, but how we drink it in India – over-boiled, over-sweet, over-milked, and over-consumed.

A typical Indian chai is made by boiling tea leaves for 5 to 10 minutes with full-fat milk and 2 to 3 teaspoons of sugar per cup. Boiling it that long releases excess tannins, which are highly acidic. Drink that on an empty stomach at 6 AM, and you are directly attacking your stomach lining. Doctors across India are reporting a sharp rise in acidity, GERD, bloating and gastric ulcers in young people, and

Tea by numbers

3–4 cups a day for the average Indian	32 g sugar in 4 cups, at 2 spoons each
25 g the WHO's daily limit for sugar	200 mg caffeine in 4 cups, close to the daily limit



one of the most common culprits is 4 to 5 cups of strong milk tea.

Second is sugar. If you drink 4 cups a day with 2 spoons of sugar each, you are consuming 8 spoons or 32 grams of sugar just from tea – that is already above the WHO's daily limit of 25 grams, without counting sweets, biscuits or cold drinks. It is no coincidence that India, the biggest tea-drinking nation, is also becoming the diabetic capital of the world. For the urban middle class that sits 10 hours a day, this liquid sugar is adding empty calories, weight gain around the belly, and insulin resistance.

Third is caffeine. A cup of strong chai has 50 mg of caffeine. Four cups mean 200 mg, close to the daily limit. Overconsumption leads to anxiety, palpitations, poor sleep, and irritability. We see

it everywhere – people who cannot sleep without pills but drink tea at 9 PM, or young professionals who feel anxious and blame work pressure when their body is simply over-caFFEinated and dehydrated, because tea is a diuretic.

Fourth, excess tea blocks iron. Tannins bind with iron from food and prevent its absorption. This is a serious problem in India, where 57% of women are anaemic. Many women in Karnataka drink tea immediately after lunch and dinner, unknowingly cancelling out the iron from their ragi mudde and soppu. Nutritionists have been warning for years that tea should never be consumed within one hour after a meal, but the habit is deeply ingrained.

We are not asking anyone to stop drinking tea. Chai is emotion, and it will remain.

But we need to drink it sensibly.

The rules are simple and ayurvedic in wisdom: One, never drink tea on an empty stomach. Start with water, soaked almonds or a fruit, then have tea. Two, limit it to 2 cups a day. Three, reduce milk, sugar and boiling time. Steep, don't boil to death. A lighter tea with less sugar is both tastier and healthier. Four, keep a one-hour gap between meals and tea. Five, switch one cup to herbal alternatives like jeera water, hibiscus or simple hot water especially in the evening.

India runs on chai, and that is beautiful. But a nation that runs too much on tea, sugar and caffeine will soon run out of health. The best chai is not the strongest or the sweetest; it is the one that leaves you refreshed, not acidic.

— CHIRU

LIFE WITHOUT MUSIC WOULD BE SILENCE



Imagine a world without music. No film songs in autos, no temple bhajans at dawn, no lullaby for a baby, no dhol at a wedding. The world would not just be quiet; it would be lifeless. We talk about food, water, and air as essentials, but for the human heart, music is equally essential. It is the background score of our daily life, and we don't realise how much we depend on it until it stops.

Look at your own day. You wake up to an alarm tune. You play a motivational song while exercising. You wear earphones in the Metro to cut off the crowd. You hum in the shower. You play lo-fi music to concentrate at work. A shopkeeper plays old Kannada songs to attract customers, a bus driver plays loud beats to stay awake on a night shift. Music is not entertainment for us; it is a tool we use to regulate our mood, energy and focus.

Science now proves what our grandmothers knew. Music directly affects our brain chemistry. When you listen to music you love, your brain releases dopamine – the same happy chemical released when you eat good food. Slow, soft music at 60 beats per minute,

like classical Carnatic or Hindustani raga, can slow your heart rate, lower blood pressure, and reduce anxiety. That is why doctors in NIMHANS Bangalore use music therapy for patients with depression and insomnia. In ICUs, playing calm music reduces the need for sedatives.

For children, music is education. A child who learns tabla or violin learns patience, discipline, mathematics, and memory. For the elderly, old songs are memory keepers. A person with Alzheimer's who forgets his children's names will still remember the lyrics of a song from his youth. Music reaches parts of the brain that language cannot.

More importantly, music is identity and connection. In Karnataka, a farmer singing a Janapada song while working is not just singing; he is carrying a 500-year-old oral history. A mother singing a lullaby in Malayalam or Hindi is passing on language and love. When 50,000 people sing together at a concert or in a stadium, they forget caste, religion, and language and become one. No speech by a leader can unite people as fast as a single national anthem.

Today, we have made music

BRING MUSIC BACK

Schools: at least one hour of music a week, as a core subject for mental health

Offices: 10 minutes of music break instead of only coffee breaks

Families: sing together, at least once a week, instead of only watching TV

At any age: learn one instrument, even at 40 – not to become A.R. Rahman, but to keep your brain alive

too passive. We stream it endlessly as background noise while scrolling, but we don't sing, we don't learn an instrument, we don't teach our children. Our schools have removed music periods to make way for extra maths tuition. Our apartments have no space for a child to practice drums without neighbours complaining. We are consuming more music than ever but creating less.

The solution is simple: bring music back into active daily life. Every school must have at least one hour of music a week, not as an extra-curricular activity but as a core subject for mental health. Every office should allow 10 minutes of music break instead of only coffee breaks. Families should sing together, at least once a week, instead of only watching TV together. Learn one instrument, even at 40. It is not about becoming A.R. Rahman; it is about keeping your brain alive.

A life with money but without music is rich on paper and poor in spirit. Food feeds your body, but music feeds your soul. Let us not lose it in the noise of traffic and notifications.

— EMMANUEL

THE WORLD CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT PLASTIC

We love to hate plastic. We ban plastic bags, we post videos of turtles choked by straws, and we blame plastic for all our environmental sins. And we are right to worry. But in our anger, we forget a simple truth – modern life as we know it would collapse without plastic. Plastic is not just useful; it is irreplaceable.

Try to imagine one day without plastic. You wake up, your toothbrush is gone – it is plastic. The water pipe bringing water to your house – PVC. Your phone, laptop, spectacles, slippers, the bucket in your bathroom, the switchboard, the insulation on electrical wires that keeps your house from catching fire – all plastic. You go to a hospital, and 90% of what saves your life is plastic: syringes, IV tubes, blood bags, gloves, heart valves, and even the artificial knee. You go to the market – without plastic packaging, 40% of food would spoil before reaching you.

Why did we adopt plastic so fast after the 1950s? Because it solves four problems no other material could. First, it is light. Replacing plastic packaging with glass or metal would increase transport weight by 400% and carbon emissions by 200%. Second, it is safe and hygienic. A plastic wrap prevents bacteria; a glass bottle that breaks can injure. Third, it is cheap. A poor family can buy a plastic bucket for Rs. 80 that lasts 5 years; a steel one costs Rs. 400. Fourth, it saves lives. In cars, plastic parts have made vehicles lighter and more fuel-efficient, saving millions of litres of fuel. Helmets and airbags made of plastic composites protect us.

The problem was never plastic itself, but single-use plastic and our throwaway culture. We took a material designed to last 500 years and used it for 10 minutes to carry vegetables and then threw it away. That is our failure, not plastic's.

India generates about 3.5 million tonnes of plastic

waste annually, and only 50% is formally recycled. The rest clogs our rajakaluves, burns in landfills releasing dioxins, and breaks into microplastics that are now found in our blood and in mother's milk. But banning all plastic is not the answer. What we need is smart management.

First, we must strictly separate single-use from durable plastic. Ban the truly useless – straws, thin carry bags, cutlery, thermocol – and keep the essential medical, electrical, automotive, and long-life household plastic. Second, enforce Extended Producer Responsibility. Companies that produce plastic must be forced to collect and recycle it, like in Europe where 90% of PET bottles are collected. Third, invest in recycling industry. In Bangalore, startups like Hasiiru Dala show that when segregation at source happens, even low-value plastic can be recycled into tiles and benches. Fourth, innovate with bioplastics and reuse. The best plastic is the one you use 100 times.

We cannot build a modern, healthy, and affordable India without plastic. A hospital



without plastic is a death trap. A food supply chain without plastic packaging will waste more food than it saves. Even the green revolution needs plastic – drip irrigation pipes are plastic.

So the next time you hate plastic, hate the single-use bag, not the bucket, the syringe, or the water pipe. Plastic is not the villain. Our inability to manage it wisely is.

— KIKI

NEGROS ISLAND KEEPS ITS SWEET SOUL ALIVE



To understand the Philippines, you must understand Negros. They call it the Sugarbowl of the Philippines, but Negros is not just about sugar. It is an island with two faces, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental – and one stubborn, proud identity that has survived colonization, famine, and feudalism.

For 300 years, the culture of Negros was defined by one crop: sugarcane. The Spanish brought it, the Americans expanded it, and a few elite families, the hacenderos, owned almost everything. Miles of green cane fields stretching to the horizon, grand old ancestral houses in Bacolod and Silay, and at the same time, the sacadas – the migrant workers who cut the cane and lived in poverty. This created a culture of extremes. Negros became known for being both the richest and the most unequal island in the Philippines. The culture of the mansion and the barracks lived side by side.

But identity in Negros was never just about sugar. When the sugar price crashed in the 1980s, the island starved. The image of hungry children on an island that fed the world's sweet tooth shocked the nation. It was called the Negros Famine. From that hunger, a

new identity was born. The people stopped depending only on sugar. Farmers started organic farming, communities built social enterprises, and Negros became the Organic Capital of the Philippines. That resilience – the ability to turn bitterness into sweetness – is the core of being Negrense.

The soul of Negrense culture is best seen in its festivals. The MassKara Festival in Bacolod City is world-famous. It was born in 1980, right after that famine and after a tragic ship collision that killed hundreds of Negrenses. The city was in mourning. Instead of cancelling the fiesta, the people wore smiling masks. MassKara – from mass (many) and cara (face) – was a declaration: we will smile despite hardship. No other festival in the Philippines captures Filipino resilience like MassKara. The masks are colourful, but they are not hiding sadness; they are defying it.

Language also tells its story. Negros Occidental speaks Hiligaynon, soft and sweet like its desserts, while Negros Oriental speaks Cebuano, more direct and sharp. One island, two languages, but both share the same values: hospitality that is almost

excessive, food that is always shared, and a deep Catholic faith blended with folk traditions.

Today, Negrense identity faces a new challenge. Young people leave for Manila or abroad because the hacienda system still offers little opportunity. Big plantations are being sold to corporations. The old ancestral houses of Silay, once called the Paris of Negros, are decaying. How does an island keep its identity when its economic foundation is changing?

The answer is already emerging in Bacolod's art scene, in the farm-to-table restaurants of organic farms in Bago, in the young designers turning piña and sugarcane fibre into sustainable fashion, and in chefs who are reinventing chicken inasal and piaya for the world.

Negros teaches us that identity is not frozen in a museum. It is not just the ruins of sugar mills or the old traje de mestiza. Identity is a living negotiation between the haciendero and the farmer, between Hiligaynon and Cebuano, between a painful past and a sweeter future.

The sugar may no longer be king, but the sweetness of the Negrense spirit remains.

— ANNA B.

BANGALORE IS SLOWLY DYING OF THIRST

We worry about heart attacks, cancer, and cholesterol, but we ignore the most basic reason for our daily health complaints – we are simply not drinking enough water. Dehydration has become a silent epidemic in urban India, especially in a city like Bangalore that has forgotten how to drink water.

Look around your office. How many people have a water bottle on their desk that is still full at 4 PM? Most of us survive on 3 cups of tea, 2 cups of coffee, and one glass of water the whole day. We have replaced water with caffeine. The result is a city that is chronically dehydrated and doesn't even know it.

The human body is 60% water. Your brain is 73% water. When you are even 2% dehydrated, your concentration drops, you get a headache, you feel tired and irritable. Studies show that 75% of Indians are chronically dehydrated, drinking less than the required 2.5 to 3 litres per day. In Bangalore, the problem is worse. We live in an air-conditioned world – offices, cars, malls – where we don't feel thirsty because we don't sweat visibly. But ACs dehydrate you faster by sucking moisture from your skin and air. Add to that our high-salt diet, spicy food, and alcohol consumption on weekends, and you have a perfect recipe for dehydration.

The symptoms are everywhere but we misdiagnose them. That 3 PM headache you blame on screen time? It's often dehydration. That constipation and acidity you blame on outside food? Lack of water. That dark yellow

urine, dry lips, muscle cramps during a morning walk, and the constant fatigue even after 8 hours of sleep – all are classic signs of low water intake. Doctors at Victoria and Bowring Hospitals say that during summer, over 40% of kidney stone cases and urinary tract infections in Bangalore are directly linked to low water intake. Our kidneys need water to flush out toxins. When we don't give it, minerals crystallize into stones.

Who is most at risk? Children in schools who are not allowed to drink water during class, delivery boys and construction workers who work 8 hours under the sun with one small bottle, and senior citizens who have a diminished sense of thirst. In many BBMP schools, toilets are so dirty that children deliberately avoid drinking water so they don't have to use them. That is a public health failure.

The solution is not complicated; it is just discipline. First, make water visible. Keep a 1-litre steel bottle on your desk and finish it twice before 6 PM. Don't wait for thirst, thirst is a late signal that your body is already dehydrated. Second, schools and offices must make drinking water and clean toilets a right, not a privilege. A school that cannot provide clean water and toilets should not be allowed to function. Third, we must revive our traditional hydrating wisdom. Instead of sugary colas and energy drinks that dehydrate you further, drink tender coconut water, buttermilk, lemon water with a pinch of salt and jaggery, and eat water-rich fruits like watermelon and cucumber.

Bangalore was once a city of 1000 lakes. Today we buy water in tankers and still refuse to drink enough of it. The BBMP and BWSSB can bring water to your building, but only you can bring it to your body. Don't wait for a kidney stone to remind you to drink water. Your body is not asking for another tea; it is begging for water.

— DEV



Quick Read

Traders withdraw 'No UPI Day' protest after meeting FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI

Leading traders' bodies have withdrawn their call to observe October 2 as "No UPI Day" following a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday in the national capital. A delegation of around 20 trade representatives from various states met the finance minister on Wednesday to express concerns over the proposed 0.4 per cent fee on merchant UPI transactions above Rs 2,000. The traders said the move could increase the burden on small and medium businesses and affect digital payment adoption among merchants.

Vishvendra Singh targets Rajasthan Congress leadership after civic poll defeat

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Congress is facing internal tensions following the results of the Urban Local Body elections, with senior party leader and former minister Vishvendra Singh publicly questioning the functioning of the party organisation in Bharatpur-Deeg and the state leadership. In a strongly worded social media post titled "The Ruin of Bharatpur-Deeg Congress Who is Responsible?", Singh criticised the party's local organisation and targeted the Bharatpur and Deeg district presidents as well as Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President, Govind Singh Dotasra.

No relief for Soren in PMLA case from Jharkhand HC

RANCHI

In a setback to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the High Court on Wednesday refused to give him any relief in a PMLA case linked to 8.86 acres of land in Ranchi's Bargain revenue circle.

The court asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to file a supplementary affidavit and asked the agency to provide a copy to the related parties by October 20. The matter will now be heard on October 28.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice M.S. Sonak and Justice Manoj Prasad was hearing Soren's criminal writ petition challenging the Special PMLA Court's order dated September 21.

The petition contests the lower court's refusal to stay the process of framing

Choudhary reviews West Champaran flood

BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER SAMRAT CHOUDHARY REVIEWED FLOOD-HIT WEST CHAMPARAN AS RECORD GANDAK LEVELS INTENSIFIED PRESSURE ON VULNERABLE AREAS.

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Wednesday visited flood-hit areas of West Champaran to assess the situation and review relief and rescue arrangements as the Gandak River reached a record level.

Choudhary arrived by helicopter at the PM SHRI Government Plus-2 High School in Bathna at around noon, where senior administrative and police officials briefed him on the flood situation and preparations for affected residents. He inspected the newly constructed helipad, security arrangements and the flood relief shelter.

The visit came as the Gandak River recorded an all-time high water level of



Gandak at record level: The Gandak reached 91.25 metres at Bagaha, 0.35 metres above its previous 2024 peak of 90.90 metres. Officials have intensified flood-control measures as embankments remain under pressure.

91.25 metres at the Bagaha gauge, surpassing the previous record of 90.90 metres recorded in 2024.

“The embankments along the Gandak and Kosi rivers will be strengthened and concretised.”

— Samrat Choudhary
Bihar Chief Minister

Officials said the sharp rise followed heavy rainfall in the Gandak basin in Nepal and high water discharge from the Valmikinagar barrage. The pressure has affected embankments at several locations, with authorities undertaking flood-control measures.

Choudhary said surveys of

the Gandak and Kosi rivers were underway and that vulnerable embankment stretches would be strengthened and concretised.

After reviewing arrangements at Bathna, the Chief Minister travelled through Machhargaoon to Bankatwa and visited flood-affected areas, including Shivrajpur, by SDRF boat.

He later returned to the relief shelter, interacted with flood victims, heard their grievances and assured them of administrative support. Relief materials were also distributed among affected residents.

The administration and police remained deployed across the affected areas as rescue and relief operations continued.

Bhajan Lal Sharma targets Congress at Barmer rally

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday targeted the Congress during a public meeting at Bachhdau in Barmer, accusing the previous Congress government of leaving the state in a “dilapidated” condition.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma criticises Congress in Barmer

- Sharma attacks previous Congress government in Barmer
- Accuses Congress leaders of being “selfish”
- Highlights roads and rural development
- Claims Rajasthan has become a power supplier
- Raises paper leak issue
- Promises sports grounds in every gram panchayat



Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma accused the previous Congress government of poor governance, while highlighting roads, electricity, rural development, paper leaks and sports facilities under the BJP government.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma alleged that Congress leaders were “selfish” and claimed that the previous government had failed to address key issues facing Rajasthan.

Sharma said the BJP government was working to provide paved roads in every

village and undertake development initiatives in rural areas. He also claimed Rajasthan had moved from depending on electricity supplied from outside the state to supplying power to others.

Taking aim at the previous Congress government, Sharma said young people had faced difficulties and alleged that paper leaks had become a recurring issue during its tenure. He asked the gathering whether paper leaks were occurring under the current BJP government, drawing a negative response from the audience.

Sharma was welcomed at Bachhdau by Minister of State KK Vishnoi and Chouhtan MLA Aduram Meghwal.

The Chief Minister was accorded a traditional welcome featuring the Gair dance before addressing the gathering.

Milan Pradhan alleges police pressure

KOLKATA

Congress candidate Milan Pradhan on Wednesday alleged that West Bengal Police pressured him to withdraw his nomination for the upcoming Nandigram Assembly bypoll, claiming he was taken to a hotel and offered incentives in exchange for stepping aside.

Pradhan made the allegation



Congress candidate Milan Pradhan alleged police pressure to withdraw his Nandigram nomination after securing interim bail from Calcutta High Court.

“When I refused to withdraw my nomination, I was taken back to Chandipur and officially arrested.”

— Milan Pradhan, Congress candidate for Nandigram bypoll

tions after being released from the correctional home in Haldia, East Midnapore, following the completion of bail-related formalities. The Calcutta High Court had granted him interim bail on Tuesday in six cases dating

back to the 2007 Nandigram violence, allowing him to participate in the October 6 bypoll.

Speaking to reporters, Pradhan alleged that police officers in civilian clothes picked him up from Chandipur on September 18 while he was campaigning. He claimed that he was blindfolded and taken by car to a hotel in Mandarmani.

According to Pradhan, he was asked there to withdraw his nomination and was al-

Nandigram bypoll timeline

- **SEPTEMBER 18**
Pradhan arrested in cases linked to 2007 Nandigram violence
- **SEPTEMBER 29**
Calcutta High Court grants interim bail
- **OCTOBER 4**
Campaigning ends
- **OCTOBER 6**
Nandigram Assembly bypoll
- **OCTOBER 9**
Vote counting
- **OCTOBER 21**
Pradhan directed to surrender before the trial court

legedly offered anything he wanted in return. He said that after refusing, he was taken back to Chandipur, where he was formally arrested.

The allegations had not received an immediate response from East Midnapore district police at the time of reporting.

The West Bengal government has challenged the bail order in the Supreme Court.

Iranian boat carrying drugs worth Rs 3,000 crore seized in Lakshadweep

AHMEDABAD

A Nigerian national allegedly acted as a link between a Gujarat-based wanted accused and a wider drug network that planned to move a 526-kg consignment of methamphetamine and heroin to Punjab, Gujarat ATS officials said on Wednesday, adding that the Iranian boat carrying the drugs used a Starlink device to communicate with handlers while at sea.

The consignment, comprising around 400 kg of methamphetamine and 126 kg of heroin, was seized from the Iranian boat ‘Azad’ in the Arabian Sea west of Lakshadweep on September 25.

Five Pakistani nationals on board were apprehended, and the vessel was brought to Mumbai for further investigation.



Gujarat ATS DIG Sunil Joshi said the agency had received intelligence about a meeting in Ahmedabad between a Nigerian national and a wanted accused from the state in connection with the planned import of more than 500 kg of narcotics.

According to the ATS, the original plan was to transfer the consignment to a Tamil Nadu fishing boat in Indian waters, unload it on the Tamil

Nadu coast and then transport it onwards.

Joshi said the investigation had established a link with Pakistan-based drug smuggler Haji Salim, describing him as a supplier and a key figure in the network.

He said the five Pakistani nationals arrested from the ‘Azad’ were also believed to be part of the same network, though their precise roles were still being investigated.

DU students: ‘Govt should take responsibility’

NEW DELHI

Students from Delhi University have intensified their protests over rising cases of crime against women in the national capital, taking to the streets with posters and placards, challenging restrictions imposed on women, and demanding accountability for incidents of sexual violence.

This comes after the gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl near Kalkaji's Aastha Kunj Park earlier this month. The incident has renewed long-standing concerns and

anger among students over the safety of women in Delhi, particularly their freedom to move around the city without fear.

The protesters have also displayed placards and raised slogans that range from sarcastic and creative to direct and confrontational, including ‘My favourite season will be the fall of patriarchy’ and ‘Abort Patriarchy’.

A student speaking said that the protests were aimed at demanding greater responsibility from the government and the right of women to move freely and safely in public spaces.

“We want the government to take responsibility for all the rape cases. Why can't we go outside? Being able to walk safely outside is our right, and we are here to demand it,” the student said.

OPPOSITION ALLIANCE UNITY

Chouhan calls Opposition march ‘Save Dynasty March’

WHO SAID WHAT

Chouhan: “The condition of the INDIA Bloc is similar to a heart breaking into a million pieces.”

Chouhan: “If the matter is so serious, where was Akhilesh Yadav at the meeting?”

Akhilesh Yadav: “The biggest sorrow of the BJP is that the INDIA Bloc is united.”

NEW DELHI

Union Minister and BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday criticised the INDIA bloc after its meeting in New Delhi, questioning the opposition alliance's unity and describing its proposed “Save Democracy March” as a “Save Dynasty March”.

The INDIA bloc announced a nationwide campaign against the Election Commission, with district-level “Save Democracy” marches planned from October 2 to 8. Opposition



MPs are also scheduled to march to the Election Commission on October 6.

Reacting to the announcement, Chouhan accused the Congress of making what he described as baseless allegations instead of acknowl-

edging its mistakes. He also questioned the absence of several opposition leaders from the meeting, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal.

Chouhan referred to reported differences among INDIA bloc constituents and said the alliance was struggling to agree on leadership.

He particularly targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, claiming the alliance was unwilling to accept him as its leader.

Centre approves increase in MSP for Rabi crops



NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops for Marketing Season 2027-28.

The highest increase in MSP has been announced for safflower at Rs 675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs 413 per quintal.

For lentil (Masur), barley, gram, and wheat, there is an

MSP increase	
Rs per quintal, 2027-28 season	
Safflower	675
Rapeseed, mustard	413
Lentil (masur)	390
Barley	136
Gram	83
Wheat	25

increase of Rs 390 per quintal, Rs 136 per quintal, Rs 83 per quintal, and Rs 25 per quintal, respectively, according to an official statement.

The statement further said that the increase in MSP for mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2027-28 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.

Cabinet clears Rs 1,790-crore AI-powered traffic project



NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the implementation of an Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) project for Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs 1,789.52 crore, aimed at improving traffic flow, road safety and urban mobility across the national capital.

The project, to be implemented by Delhi Police, will cover 42 identified traffic corridors and will be rolled out in

three phases over a period of 24 months.

The move comes as the city grapples with rising traffic volumes, with around 71 lakh active registered vehicles currently on its roads.

A key feature of the project will be the deployment of Adaptive Traffic Control Systems, which will automatically adjust signal timings based on traffic flow and coordinate signals along major corridors to reduce congestion and delays.

The system will also facilitate priority movement for ambulances and other emergency vehicles by creating green corridors through congested routes.

Commuters will receive real-time information through Variable Message Sign boards and digital platforms on traffic conditions, diversions and parking availability.

Quick Read



Three men arrested in MP for circulating video of tourist

Jaipur
Rajasthan Police arrested three men from Madhya Pradesh in connection with the alleged recording and circulation of an objectionable video of an Israeli woman in Ajmer. According to police, the incident took place on September 9, 2026, when the woman was allegedly filmed without her consent while bathing at the Ajaypal Baba Ajsaysar Kund. The video was later circulated on social media.

Investigators examined social media accounts, Instagram IDs and mobile phone details linked to the suspects. Police said technical evidence, along with CCTV footage, helped them trace the accused to Machalpur in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. A police team subsequently conducted a raid in the area and arrested three suspects.

The arrested men have been identified as Arjun (30), a resident of Gadiya Majara Khoyara; Dayaram (30), a resident of Kundi Beg; and Juihar (25), also a resident of Kundi Beg, according to police. The allegations are subject to the ongoing investigation and legal proceedings.

HC seeks status report from Punjab govt on LPU violence

Chandigarh
The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday sought a status report from the Punjab government on the violence, arson and vandalism at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Phagwara, directing authorities to clarify whether the alleged sexual assault that triggered the unrest had actually taken place. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor was hearing a public interest litigation filed by LPU student Ravi Raj, who has sought a CBI probe into the violence. The court has not passed any order on the demand for a CBI investigation and fixed October 8 for the next hearing.

INDIA bloc unveils roadmap for pan-India protests

New Delhi
'Save Democracy March' in each district, a detailed presentation before President Droupadi Murmu about the 'compromised' electoral process, are some of the steps that the INDIA bloc will undertake in the coming days to exert pressure on the Election Commission and "expose" its wrongdoings before the common people. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, unveiling the Opposition's blueprint for intensified demonstrations against EC's 'partisan approach and malpractices', shared a detailed outline of how the INDIA bloc will stand up against electoral irregularities. "From October 2 to October 8, 'Save Democracy March' will be organised in each district. We will organise protests in front of every District Magistrate, informing the people about the gross irregularities in the election procedure," Kharge said.

INDIA bloc to pursue accountability: Rahul

Rahul Gandhi said the INDIA bloc will pursue accountability over alleged attacks on democracy and continue its campaign on electoral integrity.

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the INDIA bloc would work to ensure accountability for those whom the opposition alleges are responsible for undermining Indian democracy.

Addressing the media after an INDIA bloc meeting at the Constitution Club in New Delhi, Gandhi said "vote chori" was the central issue discussed by opposition leaders. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister

KEY POINTS

- Opposition parties discussed "vote chori" allegations.
- Rahul Gandhi accused the government and CEC of attacking democracy.
- Opposition parties are opposing the current SIR exercise.
- INDIA bloc plans nationwide protests over electoral issues.
- A march to the Election Commission and larger rally have been announced.

This is a personal commitment of all INDIA leaders — we are going to ensure that the people who have destroyed Indian democracy are punished."

— Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

ter Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of attacking democratic institutions. These are political allegations made by Gandhi and the opposition bloc; the BJP and Election Commission have rejected the broader allegations concerning electoral manipulation.

Gandhi said opposition leaders considered themselves collective defenders of the Constitution and would seek major changes in the country in the coming months.

He also said there was growing resistance among young people to what he described as developments that needed to be stopped.

The meeting came amid escalating opposition criticism of the Election Commission over its Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Opposition parties have demanded changes to the exercise and greater transparency in the preparation and revision of voter lists.

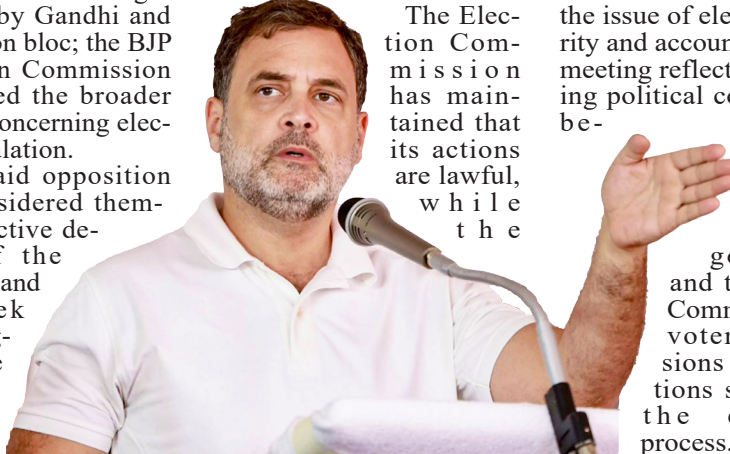
The Election Commission has maintained that its actions are lawful, while the BJP-led government and the Election Commission over voter-roll revisions and allegations surrounding the electoral process.

BJP has rejected opposition allegations.

The INDIA bloc meeting also discussed a joint campaign against the Election Commission.

Opposition parties announced plans for nationwide protests and further action, including a march to the Election Commission in October and a larger public rally in November.

Gandhi said the opposition would continue raising the issue of electoral integrity and accountability. The meeting reflects the widening political confrontation between the opposition parties, the BJP-led government and the Election Commission over voter-roll revisions and allegations surrounding the electoral process.



NCPI seeks Bharat Ratna for Gyanesh Kumar

The NCPI has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to recommend CEC Gyanesh Kumar for the Bharat Ratna, citing his electoral work.



KOLKATA

The Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the conferment of the Bharat Ratna on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, citing his role in strengthening the electoral process.

In its letter, NCPI President Jyotiprakash Chatterjee praised Kumar's leadership during the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election and referred to polling, electoral-roll revision and voter participation as reasons for the request. "Free and fair elections are the foundation of the Constitution's promise of government by the people," he said.

Gyanesh Kumar is currently serving as Chief Election Commissioner of India, having assumed office in February 2025.

The organisation described the West Bengal election as peaceful and credible under Kumar's leadership, while also highlighting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. These characterisations were made by NCPI in its letter to the Prime Minister.

The Election Commission of India recorded 93.19 per cent poll participation in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly election and 91.66 per cent in the second phase, with combined participation reported at 92.47 per cent.

Deepak Kumar removed as Bihar CM's Principal Secy

PATNA

Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Deepak Kumar has been relieved of his responsibilities as the Principal Secretary to the Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and appointed Vice-Chairman of the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) on Wednesday.

A 1984-batch IAS officer, Kumar had served as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister for around five-and-a-half years. He retired from government service on March 20, 2021, and was entrusted with the responsibility of Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister the following day, on March 21.



Despite his retirement, Kumar continued to play a significant role in the functioning of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), where the Principal Secretary's position involves coordination between the CMO and various departments of the state government.

Kumar has now been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority. The position had fallen vacant following the completion of the tenure of Uday Kant Mishra, who had previously served as Vice-Chairman. The appointment comes as Bihar continues to face recurring challenges related to floods, heavy rainfall and other natural disasters.

Kumar has held several important assignments during his long administrative career. He has served as District Magistrate in around 13 districts, including Buxar, Nalanda, Hazaribagh and Motihari.

Khemchand Singh recalls Irawat's vision



IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday paid tribute to Jana Neta Hijam Irawat on his 130th birth anniversary, recalling the legendary leader's vision of harmony, unity and peaceful coexistence among the state's 36 communities.

Speaking at the state-level observance of Jana Neta Hijam Irawat Day 2026 at Irawat Square in Imphal, the Chief Minister said Irawat's ideals of unity, social justice and collective progress remain relevant for Manipur. He called upon government employees, civil society organisations and students to carry forward the spirit of sacrifice, service and social responsibility associated with Irawat.

Khemchand Singh paid floral tribute at Irawat's memorial and recalled his contribu-

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh paid tribute to Jana Neta Hijam Irawat, highlighting his ideals of unity, social justice, sacrifice and peaceful coexistence across communities.

tions to social and political movements, literature and journalism. He highlighted Irawat's efforts to create social awareness through his writings and journalistic activities. In 1922, Irawat published Meitei Chanu, a journal aimed at spreading awareness about Manipuri society and its issues.

The Chief Minister also highlighted Irawat's personal sacrifices. Despite marrying into the royal family and having access to privileges and status, Irawat chose to give them up and dedicate himself to public causes. He travelled to different places, mobilised people and worked for social and political change.

Jana Neta Hijam Irawat, also known as Irabot and Lamyamba, lived from 1896 to 1951. He championed the causes of peasants, workers and the poor and worked for equality, education and social justice.

Mandol motorable bridge on Chenab river



DODA

In a major push to improve last-mile connectivity across the Chenab River in Doda district, the Roads and Buildings Department, with assistance from NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), has started construction of the Mandol bridge. Once finished, the bridge will reduce travel time from Doda city to the other side of the Chenab River and the National Highway at Assar from 2.5 hours to 10 minutes.

The construction of the 200-metre-long bridge that started in 2025 will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

Doda city to NH at Assar

NOW	2.5 hrs
via Doda city	
WITH BRIDGE	10 min
across the Chenab	

Once completed, the bridge will stand at 100 feet above the mighty Chenab, providing direct and all-weather connectivity to nearly 90,000 people of the Siraj area, consisting of three administrative blocks of Doda district — Kastigarh, Baghwah, and Assar — and the Rajgarh block of Ramban district.

Assistant Executive Engineer R&B (Baghwah division), Doda, Dinesh Bhushan said, "The Mandol to Malhori motorable bridge is 200 metres long and its width is 5.15 metres. The construction work of the bridge is going on at full pace. It will connect the Kastigarh, Baghwah, and Assar blocks."

He added that the bridge will connect Siraj with Assar on NH 244. The sanctioned cost of construction of the bridge is Rs 24.69 crore, and the allotted cost is Rs 22.83 crore.

A local named Mudassar told IANS, "We have to travel for 2.5 hours via Doda city to reach the other side of the river and the National Highway at Assar. When the bridge is completed, it will take us just 10 minutes to reach there."

Delhi HC quashes dowry harassment FIR after couple reaches settlement

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a man and his family members accused of subjecting a woman to cruelty and dowry harassment, after the parties amicably settled their matrimonial dispute and obtained divorce under Muslim personal law.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Ravinder Dudeja allowed the petition filed by Mohd Kasim and others seeking quashing of an FIR registered under Sections 498A, 406 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Jamia Nagar police station, observing that continuing with the criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose as the dispute was primarily private in nature.

The FIR was registered on October 1, 2024, and a chargesheet was subsequently filed under Sections 498A,

The case in dates

- MARCH 11, 2023**
Marriage solemnised
- SEPT 28, 2023**
The parties start living separately
- OCT 1, 2024**
FIR registered
- FEB 7, 2026**
Settlement recorded in writing
- MARCH 7, 2026**
Divorce (Khula) by agreement

506, 406, 509, 354C and 34 IPC, besides Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

During the proceedings, the parties were referred to mediation and amicably resolved their disputes before the Mediation Centre at Saket Courts, Delhi.

The petitioner also paid the entire settlement amount of Rs 1.50 lakh to the complainant as agreed.

The parties were present before the High Court and the complainant confirmed that the matter had been settled voluntarily, without any force, fear or coercion, and that she had received the entire settlement amount along with the articles.



Man wheels ailing mother to MLA's house in protest



HYDERABAD

Protesting the alleged negligence by the staff of a government hospital, a man took

his ailing mother to the local MLA's house in a wheelchair. The incident occurred in the Mancherial district of Telangana. Raj Kumar pushed his

mother, Bukiya Bujji (55), in a wheelchair for two kilometres to reach the house of Mancherial MLA K. Prem-sagar Rao.

The woman was suffering from a kidney-related ailment. Hailing from Pulimadugu village in Mandamarri mandal, she, accompanied by her son, had come to the district government hospital in Mancherial for treatment.

Raj Kumar alleged that the hospital staff kept her waiting in the wheelchair for five hours. With no one from the staff attending to his ailing mother, he wheeled her on the

road for two kilometres to reach the residence of the local MLA to draw his attention to their plight.

On learning about the case, the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of the district hospital rushed there and assured the woman and her son that he would ensure proper medical care. Following this assurance, the woman was shifted back to the hospital.

The hospital authorities arranged a bed and began her treatment. They also assured an inquiry into the alleged negligence in attending to the patient.

DRUG-FREE PUNJAB PUSH

Shah puts drug-free Punjab at centre

JALANDHAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Bharatiya Janata Party would make a drug-free Punjab its central electoral issue for the 2027 Assembly polls, promising to eliminate the illicit 'chitta' trade by December 31, 2029 if the party comes to power.

Addressing an anti-drug rally in Jalandhar, Shah appealed to the state's mothers and youth to support the BJP, while accusing the ruling Aam Aadmi Party government of allowing the synthetic drug trade to flourish. These allegations were made by Shah



during his political address and were not independently established in the speech.

The rally marked the culmination of the BJP's 13-day 'Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra', which began on September 18 and travelled through all 117 Assembly constituencies.

Shah said the upcoming election would involve several issues, including farmers,

industry, law and order and women's safety, but declared that the BJP would contest primarily on the promise of making Punjab drug-free.

The Home Minister also referred to Punjab's contribution to India's food security and national defence. He said farmers had helped fill the country's granaries, while Punjabis had made significant

The Bharatiya Janata Party will contest the upcoming election solely on the issue of making Punjab drug-free."

— Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

sacrifices in safeguarding India's borders before and after Independence.

The BJP's anti-drug campaign comes ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly election, with the party increasingly placing narcotics, law and order and governance issues at the centre of its political outreach.

Quick Read

SBI takes 40% of Reliance debt sale

MUMBAI
State Bank of India led demand for Reliance Industries' 130-billion-rupee (\$1.35 billion) 10-year bond sale, purchasing nearly 50 billion rupees, or about 40 per cent of the offering, according to sources. The bonds carry a 790 per cent annual coupon and were rated AAA by Crisil and CareEdge. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, SBI Pension Fund and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance were among the other major investors. The borrowing comes as Indian companies seek to secure funding costs amid expectations of tighter monetary policy. The transaction follows Reliance's 120-billion-rupee five-year bond sale two weeks ago.

Healthcare stocks fall after SC questions medicine prices

MUMBAI
Healthcare and pharmaceutical stocks declined sharply on Wednesday after the Supreme Court questioned the wide gap between retailer prices and consumer prices for medicines. The Nifty Healthcare index fell 424.90 points, or 2.57 per cent, to 16,137.75, with 19 of 20 stocks ending lower. Fortis Healthcare dropped 6.33 per cent, Apollo Hospitals 5.70 per cent and Max Healthcare 5.33 per cent. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals fell 4.37 per cent, while Zydus Lifesciences, Sun Pharma and Cipla also declined. The Supreme Court questioned whether medicine retail prices should be capped at 16 per cent above retailer prices, particularly for life-saving drugs. The matter will be heard again on October 12.

2.57% fall in Nifty Healthcare	19 of 20 stocks ended the day lower
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The day's fallers

Fortis	6.33%
Apollo	5.70%
Max	5.33%
Glenmark	4.37%

Vedanta raises ₹2,000 crore through NCD issue

NEW DELHI
Vedanta Ltd on Wednesday raised ₹2,000 crore through the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs), as the company looks to diversify its funding sources and strengthen its balance sheet while refinancing existing debt. The company said in a regulatory filing that it allotted 2,00,000 unsecured, redeemable, rated and listed NCDs, each carrying a face value of ₹1 lakh. The debentures were issued through a private placement basis. The latest fundraise forms part of Vedanta's efforts to manage its financing requirements and debt obligations. Vedanta's net debt stood at ₹8,299 crore as of June 30, 2026, according to an earlier company statement. The company is a major global producer of metals, critical minerals and technology.

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WHAT IS AN NCD?

NCDs are fixed-term, fixed-income corporate debt instruments that allow companies to raise funds without offering equity conversion options at maturity.

US economy expands 2.2% amid persistent inflation

US economic growth reached 2.2% in Q2 2026, driven by consumer spending, investment and exports despite persistent inflation.

WASHINGTON

The US economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2026, with consumer spending, investment and exports driving expansion, while inflation remained elevated, according to the latest data from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Real GDP growth for April-June was revised upward by 0.7 percentage point from the previous estimate, reflecting stronger readings for invest-

ment, consumer spending and government spending. GDP had grown 2.5 per cent in the first quarter, also revised from the earlier estimate.
Real final sales to private domestic purchasers, covering consumer spending and gross private fixed investment, rose 4.6 per cent during the second quarter. Real gross domestic income increased 2.6 per cent, while the average of real GDP and real GDI rose 2.4 per cent.
Price pressures remained significant. The price index



for gross domestic purchases increased 5.6 per cent, while the personal consumption expenditures price index rose 5.0 per cent. The PCE index

“The contributors to the increase in real GDP in the second quarter were consumer spending, investment, and exports.”

— US Bureau of Economic Analysis

private goods-producing industries increased 2.3 per cent. Government real value added grew by less than 0.1 per cent. Real gross output increased 5.0 per cent, led by a 6.0 per cent rise in private services-producing industries. Real estate and information, durable goods manufacturing, and finance and insurance

were leading industry contributors. These gains were partly offset by declines in transportation and warehousing, retail trade, and nondurable goods manufacturing. Private goods-producing industries recorded a 3.0 per cent increase in gross output, while government output rose 2.6 per cent.

Goyal meets US CEOs ahead of G20 trade meeting



MILWAUKEE

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal arrived in Milwaukee to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting, beginning a week-long official visit to the United States focused on strengthening economic cooperation and expanding business ties between India and the US.
Goyal, who will be in the US from September 29 to October 5, was received by Consul General of India in Chicago M. Anand Prakash. His schedule includes meetings with American industry leaders, investors and members of the startup community in Milwaukee, Chicago and New York.
After his arrival, Goyal met chief executives and senior representatives of leading American manufacturing and technology companies at a business roundtable organised by the National Association of Manufacturers. The association represents a major share of prominent US manufacturers, which contribute significantly to the country's manufacturing gross domestic product of about USD 3 trillion.

During the discussions, Goyal highlighted the expanding scope of commercial co-operation between India and the United States. He said the relationship has moved beyond conventional trade to include investment, manufacturing, technology, innovation, resilient supply chains and the development of high-value capabilities in both countries. American executives shared views on market opportunities in India and possible areas for wider business partnerships. Goyal reaffirmed support for international enterprises seeking commercial integration in the Indian market.
Goyal also attended a reception jointly hosted by the Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers at Rockwell Automation's global headquarters. There, he interacted with trade ministers from other G20 member countries and senior American corporate executives. His engagements form the opening part of a wider visit aimed at pursuing economic cooperation across key sectors and encouraging international companies to deepen their commercial presence in India.

Deloitte India, Avolution partner on AI governance

NEW DELHI

Deloitte India and Avolution have announced a strategic alliance to strengthen enterprise architecture and AI governance, helping organisations manage complex technology environments and make structured transformation decisions through Avolution's ABACUS platform.
Under the partnership, Deloitte India will lead ABACUS implementation through its technology strategy and transformation advisory services. The platform will provide clients with a consolidated view of business and technical systems, connecting applications, data, technology and artificial intelligence capabilities to support long-term organisational decisions.
Aakash Tyagi, Partner, Technology Strategy & Transformation, Deloitte India, said the alliance combines Deloitte India's technology strategy

“As organisations accelerate digital transformation and AI adoption, enterprise architecture is becoming a critical enabler of business agility and technology modernisation.”

— Aakash Tyagi Partner, Deloitte India



and transformation capabilities with ABACUS to help organisations address technology debt, strengthen AI governance and make informed investment decisions. Avolution CEO Richard Ward said the partnership gives complex global enterprises greater visibility into their technology landscape and supports legacy retirement and investment optimisation.

Global air demand falls as Middle East declines



NEW DELHI

Global air passenger demand fell 0.8 per cent in August 2026 from a year earlier, with sharp declines in the Middle East weighing on worldwide traffic, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
Total passenger capacity rose 0.3 per cent year-on-year, while the global passenger load factor declined 0.9 percentage points to 85.1 per cent. International demand fell 0.9 per cent, with capacity flat and load factor at 85 per cent. Domestic demand declined 0.5 per cent despite a 0.7 per cent capacity increase.
Middle Eastern carriers recorded a 14.2 per cent fall in international demand and a 9 per cent capacity contraction, pushing their load factor down 4.8 percentage points to 79.1 per cent. Routes between the Middle East and Asia declined 11.7 per cent. Excluding the region, international demand increased 1.3 per cent

and overall global demand rose 0.6 per cent.
European airlines posted a 2.1 per cent increase in demand, helped by a 12.2 per cent rise on Asia routes. Latin American and African carriers each recorded 6.7 per cent growth. North American international traffic fell 1.7 per cent, while Asia-Pacific demand slipped 0.1 per cent.
Domestic demand declined in the United States and Japan, while India recorded a 7.5 per cent contraction. Domestic China gained during the summer travel period. IATA said October schedules indicate cautious optimism, with available seats expected to grow 2 per cent. Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA Senior Vice President Sustainability and Chief Economist, said, “Global demand for air transport contracted by 0.8 per cent compared to August 2025 as the recovery trajectory for carriers in the Middle East was interrupted.” She added that global connectivity was weaker in August.

Macquarie raises Paytm target price to Rs 2,025

MUMBAI

Global brokerage Macquarie has raised its target price for Paytm by 64 per cent to Rs 2,025 from Rs 1,235 and upgraded the stock to ‘Outperform’ from ‘Neutral’, citing stronger revenue growth, improving cross-selling and disciplined cost control.
Macquarie said these factors support a sharper margin trajectory and raised its average EBITDA margin estimates by around 6 per cent for FY27 to FY29. The revised target implies a 23 per cent upside from Paytm's market price of Rs 1,647 as of September 25.
The brokerage identified the merchant discount rate notification as a key driver, estimating an additional Rs 1,000 crore revenue opportunity

with limited incremental costs. It raised its FY28 EPS estimate by 44 per cent to Rs 45 from Rs 31.20 and expects EPS of Rs 55.80 in FY29.
Macquarie projects Paytm's EPS to grow 144 per cent in FY27 and 113 per cent in FY28. It estimates profit after tax at Rs 2,871 crore in FY28 and Rs 3,562 crore in FY29, above Visible Alpha consensus estimates by 20.6 per cent and 19.1 per cent, respectively.
The brokerage said the higher target reflects stronger earnings estimates and a valuation shift to FY28. Its revised estimates imply a profit-after-tax CAGR of around 62 per cent over FY27-FY29, while Macquarie named Paytm its top fintech pick.

MANUFACTURING JOBS RISE

Manufacturing workforce crosses two crores

NEW DELHI

Employment in India's registered manufacturing sector crossed two crores in 2024-25, with factories adding about 14.08 lakh people during the year, according to the Annual Survey of Industries released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday.
The number of people engaged in registered manufacturing rose to 2.10 crore from 1.96 crore a year earlier, marking 7.19 per cent growth. Industrial output increased 7.81 per cent, while Gross Value-Added rose 9.59 per cent. Total emoluments paid to employees also grew 12.08 per cent during the year.



Manufacturing GVA increased to about Rs 26.94 lakh crore from Rs 24.58 lakh crore, while total output rose to around Rs 165.24 lakh crore from Rs 153.27 lakh crore. Fixed capital increased 10.54 per cent, while invested capital, covering fixed capital and physical working capital, grew 11.10 per cent.
The number of registered manufacturing establishments rose 2.64 per cent to 2.67

Factory employment sees strong growth

→ 2.10 crore Manufacturing employment in 2024-25

→ 14.08 lakh Jobs added during the year

→ 7.19% Employment growth

→ ₹26.94 lakh crore Manufacturing GVA

→ ₹165.24 lakh crore Total output

lakh, while factories in operation increased to 2.19 lakh. Tamil Nadu accounted for the largest share of employment at 14.99 per cent, followed by Maharashtra at 13.08 per cent and Gujarat at 12.99 per cent. Together with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, these five states

accounted for about 56 per cent of manufacturing employment.
Food products were the largest employer, with about 23.61 lakh workers, followed by textiles with 17.57 lakh, basic metals with 15.82 lakh and motor vehicles with 14.80 lakh. Basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food products together generated more than 45 per cent of registered manufacturing GVA. The survey covers April 2024 to March 2025, with fieldwork conducted from October 2025 to June 2026. The findings show expansion in employment, production, compensation and capacity across factories.

Amit Shah to inaugurate ₹16.8 crore dairy plant



Amit Shah will inaugurate Bhopal's Rs 16.80-crore dairy plant, boosting milk processing and value-added product production in Madhya Pradesh.

BHOPAL

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a fermented product dairy plant at the Bhopal Co-operative Milk Union premises on October 3. The facility has been established at a cost of Rs 16.80 crore to expand milk processing and production of value-added dairy products in Madhya Pradesh. The project includes a Rs 6 crore grant from the Government of India and a Rs 10.80 crore contribution from the Bhopal Co-operative Milk Union. The plant will have a milk processing capacity of 40,000 litres per day, using modern machinery and technology.
According to project details, the facility can process 10,000 litres of milk, 10,000

In focus

■ ₹16.80 crore: Total project cost

■ 40,000 litres/day: Milk processing capacity

■ ₹6 crore: Government grant

■ October 3: Amit Shah to inaugurate

■ Sanchi brand: Expanded range of value-added dairy products

litres of curd and 30,000 litres of buttermilk daily. It will also produce 1,000 litres of lassi, 800 kg of shrikhand and 1,000 kg of mawa each day.
The new facility will supplement the existing processing infrastructure of the Bhopal Co-operative Milk Union and increase the range of products available under the Sanchi brand. It is expected to support diversification and production based on market demand.
Jaidev Biswas, Managing Director of Bhopal Co-operative Milk Union, said the plant would promote value-added products and integrate the cooperative dairy system with modern technology. The facility is also expected to strengthen the processing and marketing chain for milk and milk-based products under the Sanchi brand.

Amazon takes stake in Taiwan PCB maker Gold Circuit



TAIPEI

Amazon has moved to acquire an equity stake in Taiwan-based printed circuit board manufacturer Gold Circuit Electronics through a private placement, as demand for boards used in artificial intelligence servers continues to grow.
Gold Circuit's board approved a plan allowing Amazon to subscribe to about 1.86 million shares at NT\$856, or USD 27.14, per share. The proposed investment is valued at around NT\$1.589 billion, equivalent to USD 54.45 million. The subscription price represents about 80 per cent of the reference price established and approved by Gold Circuit's board.
The transaction will make Amazon, a US cloud service provider, an equity shareholder in Gold Circuit, moving its relationship with the Taiwan-

ese manufacturer beyond that of a corporate customer. Gold Circuit said the deal is its first private placement this year involving an outside strategic investor. Amazon Web Services, its cloud division, has operational links with Taiwan-based hardware suppliers, including Gold Circuit.
Amazon had also participated in an earlier private placement in April involving Alchip Technologies, a Taiwan-based application-specific integrated circuit designer. The latest investment comes as AI-related demand drives requirements for printed circuit boards used in server infrastructure. Gold Circuit is separately expanding its manufacturing capacity, with its board approving NT\$7.9 billion, or USD 270.73 million, for land acquisitions and construction of a new manufacturing plant.
The company said the investment programme will begin in the fourth quarter of this year and will be funded through convertible bonds.

MRPL cancels fuel export tenders after refinery fire



MANGALURU

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) on Wednesday cancelled three spot export tenders for refined fuels after a fire broke out at a processing unit of its 300,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Mangaluru.
The company notified buyers that it had withdrawn tenders for exporting diesel, jet fuel and reformat later this month, according to three

company notices. The decision followed an incident at the coker hydrotreater unit, where a fire broke out at around 0730 GMT.
MRPL said the incident involved a rupture of the Cold Separator operating at high pressure in the Coker Hydrotreater Unit. The fire was brought under control, while one person was injured in the incident.
The coker hydrotreater unit was affected by the incident, but the remainder of the refinery continued to operate normally, according to a company spokesperson. The development resulted in the withdrawal of the planned fuel export tenders.

Quick Read



Burundi to take third-country deportees from US

Bujumbura

Burundi has agreed to join a clutch of other African nations in receiving migrants from other countries deported from the US under President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policy. However, Bujumbura will only accept those not accused of crime or terrorism links, said Nancy Ninette Mutoni, spokesperson for President Evariste Ndayishimiye.

In many cases, deportees had secured legal protections from immigration courts in the US against repatriation. Mutoni said preparations were underway to arrange accommodation, living conditions and integration into local communities. "Receiving them requires serious planning — where they will stay, what they will eat and how they will live alongside the local population," she said. "If they choose to join Burundian citizens and make a valuable contribution to national development, the law will be respected," she said, regarding potential citizenship.

Burundi aimed to both strengthen diplomatic relations and provide hospitality to people in need, the spokesperson added. The US State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment while a spokesperson for the Burundi foreign ministry said details of the agreement were not yet available.

France, Britain in talks to end 'one in, one out' migrant deal

Paris

France and Britain are in talks to end their "one in, one out" migration deal, a French interior ministry source said on Wednesday. "We are discussing the terms of withdrawal from the agreement with the British," the source said. Under the agreement, announced last year in a bid to reduce small-boat crossings of the English Channel, Britain deported undocumented people arriving in small boats to France, in exchange for accepting an equal number of legitimate asylum seekers with British family connections.

China carves new military presence in Southeast Asian neighbour

Beijing

China's latest expansion of its overseas military footprint was carved from a patch of farmland in Laos over the past year, satellite imagery showed, as analysts said the new support centre could deepen Beijing's presence in Southeast Asia. The China-Laos Joint Support and Training Center and the China-Laos Friendship Aviation Academy are now operational at an airport in Ban Keun, some 50 km (31 miles) north of the Lao capital Vientiane, Beijing's Ministry of National Defence said. The fact that this is a joint support and training centre suggests (China's People's Liberation Army) could be seeking persistent access to a logistics hub that can support forces rotating through Laos.

Flydubai flight diverts after cockpit incident

A Dubai-Tel Aviv flight diverted to Saudi Arabia after an onboard cockpit incident triggered emergency signals and security concerns.

JERUSALEM

The Israeli government believes a serious incident aboard a flydubai flight travelling from the United Arab Emirates to Israel may have been an attempted "terror attack" by one of the pilots, according to two Israeli officials.

Flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, diverted to Tabuk in northwestern Saudi Arabia on Wednesday after transmitting emergency signals while flying over Jordanian airspace. The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers were accounted for.

The Israeli officials said the co-pilot was believed to have stabbed the captain before



cabin crew entered the cockpit and took control of the Boeing 737. An Israeli official initially said the emergency signals followed a physical altercation between the pilots. Israeli Prime Minister's Office spokesperson Doron Spielman described the incident as a "different incident" rather than a hijacking. However, two officials later said Israel's current assessment was that the incident constituted an attempted terror attack and was not linked to a mental health issue involving either pilot.

Flight-tracking data showed the aircraft rapidly descended by nearly 14,000 feet in less

than 30 seconds before transmitting the first emergency signal. It subsequently transmitted another signal indicating possible unlawful interference.

Tabuk airport said both pilots were hospitalised after suffering injuries. Reports in Israeli media differed over the pilots' nationalities and the circumstances behind the confrontation.

The incident prompted security consultations in Israel, which does not have formal diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said the situation was under control and that authorities were working to bring the passengers back to Israel.

Flydubai said the aircraft

Flight details
■ Flight: FZ1073
■ Route: Dubai to Tel Aviv
■ Aircraft: Boeing 737
■ Diversion: Tabuk, Saudi Arabia
■ Passengers: Around 150 Israelis, according to Israeli media
■ Status: Aircraft landed safely; passengers accounted for
■ Investigation: Israeli and Saudi authorities examining the incident

had experienced an incident during the flight, landed safely in Tabuk and that all passengers were safe.

Russia strikes Kyiv energy infrastructure

Nearly 190 Drones and ballistic missiles reported by Zelenskyy	155 Drones intercepted by Ukrainian air defences	5 Missiles intercepted	5 People killed across Ukraine, according to Zelenskyy	8,000 Households whose power DTEK said it restored	Main target Energy infrastructure in Kyiv and surrounding areas
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MOSCOW

Russian drone and missile attacks struck energy infrastructure in Kyiv and surrounding areas on Wednesday, prompting Ukrainian authorities to prepare for another difficult winter as Moscow intensifies strikes against the country's power system.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Sergii Korotshuk said the scale of the combined attack was the largest since the end of the previous heating season. He said energy facilities in several other regions were also targeted. "Since summer, there's barely been a day without an attack on our energy infrastructure," he said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said nearly 190 drones and ballistic missiles were involved in the overnight assault, with energy infrastructure in Kyiv and the surrounding region serving as the main



Russian drones and missiles struck Kyiv's energy infrastructure, raising fears of another winter campaign against Ukraine's power and heating systems.

target. Ukrainian officials said five people, including a child, were killed across the country.

Ukraine's air force said it intercepted five missiles and 155 drones during the attack. However, Kyiv remains concerned about shortages of interceptors, particularly those needed to counter ballistic

missiles.

Energy company DTEK said its crews had restored electricity to about 8,000 households in Kyiv, although it did not provide details on the extent of damage to energy facilities.

Russia acknowledged carrying out the overnight strikes and said it had hit a communications centre in Kyiv, power facilities in the Kyiv region linked to military production, an industrial complex in Odesa and port infrastructure in Izmail.

The latest attack comes after weeks of repeated Russian drone barrages. Ukraine is now strengthening backup power systems at critical facilities and seeking additional air-defence support from allies ahead of winter.

The attacks have raised concerns that Russia could again target electricity and heating infrastructure to disrupt essential services during the colder months, as happened during previous winters.

Russia has escalated to massive strikes on energy infrastructure.

— Sergii Korotshuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine

Russia sends nuclear warning to NATO as Baltic tensions rise



BRUSSELS

Russia has warned NATO it would be ready to resort to nuclear weapons if the Western alliance attempted to cut off Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave that borders the Baltic Sea. In a document sent to NATO, Moscow accused the alliance of a "dangerous and reckless course" that entailed "high risks of the outbreak of a direct armed conflict".

The document said this included the possibility of "Russian strikes against decision-making centers in the alliance's member states right from the outset".

"Russia will be ready to use the entire arsenal of forces and capabilities at its disposal, including nuclear weapons, in order to defend its territory should NATO countries

undertake any attempt aimed at isolating the Kaliningrad Region from the rest of the country," the diplomatic note said.

The warning highlighted Moscow's urgent concern at what it sees as a growing NATO threat to Kaliningrad, a heavily militarised Russian territory that is wedged between Poland and Lithuania and is slightly bigger than the US state of Connecticut.

In a written response, NATO said it was a defensive alliance committed to countering threats to its members from all directions.

"None of NATO's exercises or activities pose a threat to the territory of the Russian Federation," it said. "We call upon the Russian Federation to end its unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine. We urge the Russian Federation to refrain from increasingly reckless behaviour towards the Allies and to cease its irresponsible nuclear rhetoric."

Nikolai Sokov, a Vienna-based nuclear analyst and former Russian diplomat, said it was becoming increasingly hard for Western countries to keep stepping up their support for Ukraine without tipping into direct confrontation with Moscow.

Prince Harry's children targeted by European paparazzi

LONDON

Prince Harry's children have been stalked by "certain European paparazzi" while at school in the English countryside, his spokesperson said on Wednesday, describing their conduct as an "extraordinarily reckless" intrusion into the family's privacy.

The incident was the latest security issue for Harry, the younger son of King Charles, following his relocation to Britain from California with his American wife Meghan Markle and two children, Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5, last month.

The family have sought to keep the location of their new home and the children's school private. The children have already changed schools after heavy traffic on the route to the original location caused concerns for their security team.

A spokesperson for Harry and Meghan said photographers had walked the perimeter of the new school before stopping to look in the grounds and monitor the children there.

"The decision by photographers to conduct themselves in this way around a school is extraordinarily reckless," the spokesperson said in a statement.

While the British press have been broadly respectful of the family's privacy since they moved back, the couple's spokesperson said "certain European paparazzi appear unwilling to respect the privacy of children at school".

Harry, 42, has long blamed the press for the 1997 death of his mother, Princess Diana, who was killed when the car she was in crashed as the driver sped away from chasing paparazzi. He is fiercely protective of his family's privacy, comparing press treatment of Meghan to that suffered by his mother.

The couple, who stepped down from royal duties in 2020 and became private citizens, have their own security team but want the British government to provide their family with automatic police protection, as is the case for other senior members of the royal family.



SEOUL-CHINA TIES UNDER WATCH

US lawmaker seeks scrutiny of Seoul-China ties

WASHINGTON

A senior Republican lawmaker focused on China has urged the Trump administration to closely examine South Korea's expanding ties with Beijing, warning that developments in diplomacy, technology and trade could create risks for US interests.

Representative John Moolenaar, chairman of the House Select Committee on China,

In diplomacy, South Korea-US alliance is most important, but it is also important to manage relations with China.

— Lee Jae Myung, President of South Korea

made the request in a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio. He cited increasing engagement between South

Korean and Chinese leaders, semiconductor investments by South Korean companies in China and what he described as differences in treatment of American and Chinese businesses in South Korea.

Moolenaar described South Korea as a major US ally but called for "heightened vigilance" over its relationship with Beijing. He said Washington should monitor the



possibility of what he termed a structural shift in Seoul's

alignment and called for a State Department briefing on the relationship by October 31.

South Korea's foreign ministry said it could not comment specifically on the letter but reaffirmed that the US-South Korea alliance remained the cornerstone of Seoul's foreign policy.

The letter comes amid tensions in the bilateral relationship over trade, China policy

and security issues. At the same time, South Korea has pledged substantial investment in the United States, including projects linked to energy and semiconductors.

Moolenaar also raised concerns about Samsung and SK Hynix facilities in China, arguing that their presence could expose parts of allied semiconductor supply chains to potential pressure from Beijing.

Iran receives US response on ceasefire



BAGHDAD

Iran said on Wednesday it had received a US response to its latest proposal aimed at reviving a collapsed ceasefire in the Gulf, opening another possible channel for diplomacy even as disagreements remain between Washington and Tehran.

The response was conveyed to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi through Qatari mediators af-

Iran says it receives US response to latest proposal

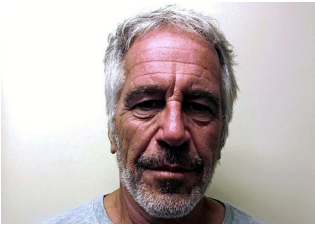
- US response reaches Tehran through Qatar
- Iran proposed reopening Strait of Hormuz
- Trump had publicly rejected earlier proposal
- Both sides reportedly disagree over sequencing
- Maritime traffic remains disrupted in Hormuz

Iran has received a US response to its seven-day ceasefire proposal through Qatari mediators, with disagreements reportedly focused on sequencing measures.

ter indirect US-Iran talks held around the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Iranian officials had earlier said Tehran had not received a formal rejection, despite US President Donald Trump publicly saying he had rejected the proposal.

Iran's seven-day proposal calls for Washington to lift its blockade of Iranian ports and take other steps, after which Tehran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and restore normal maritime passage. The plan also seeks to revive an interim understanding reached in June that later collapsed. An official briefed on the negotiations said the two sides broadly agree on the steps required but remain divided over the sequence in which those measures should be implemented. Qatar has continued mediating between Washington and Tehran in an effort to bridge the differences.

Norway parliament probes Epstein links to politicians

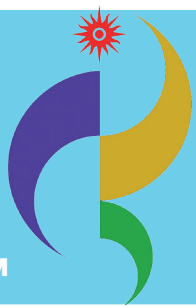


OSLO

Norway's parliament began public hearings on Wednesday over ties between late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and Norwegian diplomats and politicians in a scandal that has shaken the nation's elite. US President Donald Trump's Department of Justice in January released millions of Epstein-related documents, revealing connections to politicians, royals and the ultra-rich around the world. The committee has summoned 11 current and former foreign ministers and development ministers, including Prime Minister Jonas

Gahr Stoere, who was foreign minister from 2005 to 2012. Stoere reiterated that he had never had any relation to Epstein and said that problems were due to a few individuals not a systemic problem with the foreign ministry. Issues identified had either been addressed or were being addressed, he said, citing for instance updated rules over conflicts of interest for decision-makers.

"Updated and comprehensive rules are necessary, but even the best system provides no complete guarantee against errors being made, whether intentional or unintentional," Stoere said. "No system involving people can guarantee against the misuse of trust." However, as far as he was aware, Epstein had exercised no influence on Norway's foreign policy, development aid policy "or any other choices we had taken", Stoere added.



Neeru-Kynan win India's first mixed trap gold

AICHI-NAGOYA

Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai won India's first-ever gold medal in the Asian Games mixed trap team event on Wednesday, setting a new Games record in the process. The Indian pair scored 34 points, surpassing the previous Asian Games record of 30 set by Qatar earlier this year.

Qatar took silver with 32 points, while China claimed bronze with 23. The gold was India's ninth at the 2026 Asian Games and its third of the day. It was also India's 56th medal at the Games, taking the tally to nine gold, 21 silver and 26 bronze medals. The result marked India's 15th shooting medal at the Games, with the contingent having collected three gold, eight silver and four bronze medals. For Neeru, the mixed team title came a day after she won the women's individual trap gold. She topped the eight-shoot final with 26 points despite rainy conditions, while China's Sun Yunong and Kuwait's Hajar Abdulmalik scored 21 each.

Neeru's individual victory made her the first Indian woman to win an individual Asian Games gold in trap shooting. She had also set an Asian record in qualification on her Games debut, missing only two shots from 30 to finish with 28. On Tuesday, she won silver with Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer in the women's trap team event, where India scored 328 points. Elsewhere, India's women's compound archery team of Jyothi Ven-

India's Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai created history with a record-breaking mixed trap gold, adding another shooting triumph at Nagoya.



nam, Chikitha Taniparthi and Prithika Pradeep defeated China 238-234 for gold. Chikitha and Sahil Jadhav reached the compound mixed team final after a 156-155 semifinal win over Thailand, booking an Olympic spot for Los Angeles 2028. Boxer Priya Ghanghas won bronze after losing her 60kg semifinal to China's Yang Chengyu.

India reaches Asian Games women's hockey final

AICHI-NAGOYA

India reached the women's hockey final of the Asian Games 2026 after defeating South Korea 2-0 in the semifinal on Wednesday. The victory secured India's place in the gold-medal match, where it will face China.

India defeated South Korea 2-0 to reach the Asian Games women's hockey final, setting up a gold-medal clash against China.

The contest remained goalless through the first half, with neither side able to break the deadlock. India finally moved ahead in the 43rd minute when Ishika converted a penalty corner to give her team the lead.

India extended its advantage four minutes later in the 47th minute. Salima Tete sent a cross into the circle, and the ball took a deflection from a South Korean defender's stick before finding the net. India then protected its two-goal lead for the remainder of the match to complete a 2-0 victory.

The semifinal win puts India into the final against China, with the gold medal now at stake. The result gave India a place in the gold-medal contest after a controlled second half. The final will determine India's medal colour in the women's event overall. South Korea could not respond after India scored twice within four minutes. India's defence maintained the advantage without conceding, ensuring the semifinal ended with a clean 2-0 scoreline. Meanwhile, India's



men's doubles campaign ended without a medal for the first time since 1998, as both pairs were eliminated in the quarterfinals.

Anirudh Chandrasekar and N Balaji lost a closely fought three-set match to China's Jiang Fumin and Zhang Tianhui, going down 7-6(4), 6-7(7), 8-10. Yuki Bhambri and Dhakshinewar Suresh also exited after a 6-7(5), 3-6 defeat against Chinese Taipei's Ho Chen-jui and Hsu Yu-hsiou. Their exits ended India's hopes of a men's doubles medal and extended the wait dating back to 1998.

Asian Games: Sunil Kumar wins bronze, opens wrestling account

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian wrestler Sunil Kumar opened India's wrestling medal account at the Asian Games 2026 by winning bronze in the men's Greco-Roman 87kg category on Wednesday. Sunil defeated the Philippines' Calum Johnston Roberts 9-0 by technical superiority, producing a dominant performance.

Sunil controlled the bout from start to finish and did not allow Roberts to score a single point. He continued adding points throughout the contest before completing a comfortable victory. The result secured him the bronze medal and made him India's first wrestling medallist at these Games.

The medal also gave Sunil a significant distinction, as he became the first Indian to win two Greco-Roman medals at the Asian Games. His bronze added to India's medal tally on a day when the country also secured gold medals in shooting and archery.

Earlier, Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai won gold

in the mixed trap team shooting event, giving India its first-ever gold medal in the event. Their score of 34 also surpassed the Asian Games record of 30 set by Qatar earlier this year. Qatar won silver with 32, while China took bronze with 23.

In archery, India's women's compound team of Jyothi Vennam, Chikitha Taniparthi and Prithika Pradeep defeated China 238-234 to win gold.

The Indian team equalled South Korea's world record of 238, set in 2014. Sunil's bronze therefore marked India's wrestling breakthrough at the Games, while the shooting and archery victories added two more gold medals to India's strong medal-winning day in Aichi-Nagoya.

His result came through a decisive victory rather than a close contest, with the Indian maintaining his advantage throughout the bout and completing the competition without conceding any points to his opponent at all.

India retains both compound archery titles again



NAGOYA

India's compound mixed team of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav won the gold medal at the Asian Games in Nagoya on Wednesday, completing a double for the country after the women's compound team also finished on top earlier in the day. The victory also earned the pair a quota place for the 2028 Olympics.

Chikitha and Sahil secured the title by beating Korea in a tense shoot-off. Their victory ensured that India retained the compound mixed team crown won at the previous Asian Games in Hangzhou. The women's compound team also successfully defended its title, giving India two gold medals in the discipline.

The mixed team triumph added another significant result to India's archery campaign at the Games. Chikitha played a key role in both gold-medal-winning teams, first joining Jyothi Vennam and Prithika Pradeep in the

women's compound team event before partnering Sahil in the mixed competition. The women's team had earlier finished on top in the event, continuing India's success in compound archery. Chikitha and Sahil then followed with their own gold after overcoming Korea in a closely contested shoot-off. The result not only retained India's title from Hangzhou but also secured the Olympic quota place for the 2028 Games.

The two victories marked a successful day for India's compound archery teams in Nagoya. Both the women's team and the mixed pair managed to defend the crowns India had won at the previous edition, keeping the country at the top of both events. For Chikitha and Sahil, the mixed team gold also brought an additional reward with qualification for the 2028 Olympics, completing India's double triumph in compound archery at the Asian Games during the competition in Nagoya, Japan.

Indian Boxer Priya signs off with Asian Games bronze

NISHIO (JAPAN)

Indian boxer Priya Ghanghas secured a bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Games after losing to former world champion Yang Chengyu of China in the women's 60kg semifinal on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old Indian, making her Asian Games debut, was defeated 1-4 by the more experienced Chinese boxer. Despite the semifinal loss, Priya's bronze adds to India's medal tally in boxing and marks a significant achievement in her first appearance at the continental Games.

India's boxers have improved on their performance from the previous Asian Games in Hangzhou, where the contingent

won one silver and three bronze medals. The Indian boxing team has now secured a six-medal haul in the ongoing edition.

Priya's campaign ended with a podium finish, while several Indian boxers remain in contention for higher honours. Parveen Hooda, competing in the 65kg category, and Ankush Panghal in the 80kg category have already entered their respective finals, scheduled for Friday.

Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain in the 75kg category and Kapil Pokhariya in the 90kg category are also set to compete for places in the gold-medal bouts.

Priya's bronze further strengthens India's boxing performance at the Aichi-Nagoya Games.

Spain Make History With 40-Match Unbeaten Run

SEVILLE

Spain created international football history with a 4-1 victory over Croatia in the UEFA Nations League on Wednesday, becoming the first team to go 40 consecutive matches unbeaten.

Lamine Yamal was the star of the contest, scoring twice as the European and FIFA World Cup champions dominated the opening half. Yamal opened the scoring in the second minute after

combining with Marc Cucurella and Fermin Lopez.

Croatia responded in the 28th minute when Dion Drena Beljo headed in an Ivan Perisic cross. Spain restored its lead just three minutes later, with Marc Pubil heading home a Yamal delivery to make it 2-1 at half-time.

Yamal struck again in the 63rd minute, firing into the near corner to extend Spain's advantage. Nico Williams completed the

scoring with a curling right-footed effort into the far corner.

The victory extended Spain's unbeaten international run to 40 matches, marking a new record. Coach Luis de la Fuente praised Yamal's contribution and said the young Spanish side still has room for improvement.

Spain will now look to maintain its record-breaking run as it continues its Nations League campaign.

Karnataka Asian Games medal winners to be honoured: KOA President Dr K. Govindaraj

BENGALURU

Karnataka athletes who have won medals at the 20th Asian Games being held in Japan will be honoured soon by the Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA), said Dr K. Govindaraj, President of the Federation of International Basketball Association (FIBA) Asia, KOA and Member of the Legislative Council.

Dr Govindaraj congratulated the Karnataka athletes for their achievements at the Asian Games. M.R. Pooamma has won two medals — gold in the women's 4x400m relay and silver in the mixed 4x400m relay. Shreyanka Patil won a gold medal in cricket, Sneha S. won a bronze in the women's 4x100m relay, Ayush Shetty won a bronze as part of the badminton team, and Tilo ttama Sen won a silver medal in rifle shooting. A total of 23 athletes from Karna-

taka are representing India at the Asian Games. So far, the state's athletes have won six medals, including two gold medals. Dr Govindaraj said the achievement is a matter of pride for both Karnataka and the country.

Congratulations to B.C. Ramesh, Mamatha and Kuttappa:
Dr Gov-

indaraj also congratulated B.C. Ramesh, who was an assistant coach of the Indian men's team that won the gold medal, women's team assistant coach Mamatha Poojari, and boxing coach Kuttappa. He said the coaches would also be honoured along with the medal-winning athletes at the felicitation programme to be organised by the KOA soon.



Kohli Roars Back to No. 2 in ODI Rankings

NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli moved up to second place in the latest ODI batting rankings after his unbeaten 139 against the West Indies in the first ODI. His 55th ODI century and 86th international hundred across formats earned him a rating of

796, according to the ICC rankings.

Kohli climbed one place and now trails teammate Shubman Gill, who retained the top position after also scoring a century in the same match. Gill leads with 816 rating points. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell remains third with 794 points, preventing an all-India top three, while former captain Rohit Sharma is fourth with 719 points.

Elsewhere, Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis climbed three places to a career-best seventh with 674 points after his 121 in Leeds.

England's Harry Brook moved one place to 11th with 650 points following a half-century at The Oval. Brook is now three rating points behind Ireland's Harry Tector, who has 653.

In South Africa, Temba Bavuma's century against Australia helped him jump 10 places to 32nd with 556 points. Matthew Breetzke continued his rise, moving up 19 places to 21st with 607

KOHLI: ODI RECORDS

- 55 — ODI centuries
- 86 — International centuries
- 796 — Current ODI rating
- No. 2 — Latest ODI batting ranking
- 139* — Score against West Indies

points.

David Miller also returned to the rankings at 41st after scoring 142 off 93 balls in the second ODI.

Kohli's latest ranking rise follows another significant scoring milestone in his ODI career, while Gill's own century strengthened his hold on the top position.

The latest list also reflects notable movements by batters across several teams, with performances in recent matches producing changes throughout the rankings.

The updated rankings underline the impact of recent performances, with centuries and substantial scores driving movements among leading ODI batters in the latest list following recent matches around the world this week.