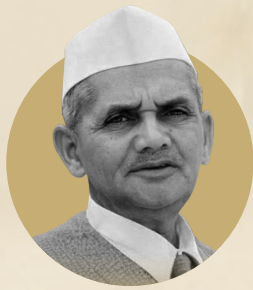


Celebrating the 157th
Birth Anniversary of
Mahatma Gandhi



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS



Celebrating the 122nd
Birth Anniversary of
Lal Bahadur Shastri

MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE

Heartfelt wishes to all the
people of the state on the
occasion of Gandhi Jayanti

“It is my firm conviction that all
good action is bound to bear fruit
in the end”

M.K. Gandhi

On the birth anniversaries of Father of
the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former
Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose
lives exemplified the values of **truth,**
non-violence, simplicity, service and
patriotism, we pay our respectful
tributes to these great souls.

**A life devoted to truth.
A legacy that helped shape a nation.**



"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen.
This is affirmed by our Constitution.



Quick Read



Toll operators seek transparent rates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Travel Operators Association (KSTOA) has welcomed the proposed removal of toll booths on the Electronic City Flyover, Attibele stretch and Bengaluru-Nelamangala Highway, while seeking fair rates and transparency under seamless electronic toll collection. KSTOA president K Radhakrishna Holla said the proposed Multi-Lane Free Flow system using ANPR cameras and FASTag could reduce queues, travel time and fuel consumption. However, he said toll charges would continue and called for revised rates and clear exemptions. The association sought reduced toll rates on roads where private concession agreements have expired. It also favoured distance-based tolling through GNSS and digital receipts showing road section, entry and exit points and distance travelled.

Rain disrupts traffic across Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Heavy rain that lashed Bengaluru disrupted traffic across several key corridors, with flooded roads, underpasses and uprooted trees slowing peak-hour movement. Traffic police reported slow movement from Rainbow Hospital towards Karthik Nagar, Yelahanka BSF towards the airport and Mahadevapura towards Lowry Junction. Flooding was reported at Kannuru junction towards Bagalur Road, K Channasandra-Bileshivale and Varthur-Varthur Kodi. Panathur and Sahakarnagar railway underpasses were also inundated, while fallen trees blocked roads near Kodigehalli, S M Road and Kaggadasapura. Commuters reported journeys taking several hours. A portion of Bharathi Theatre's roof near Jalahalli Cross also collapsed, injuring three people.



Vijayendra hits back at Hariprasad over banner row

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra has rejected KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad's allegation that BJP workers removed Congress banners and flags in Shikaripura. Vijayendra said the BJP had no need to engage in what he described as "petty politics" of tearing down banners. He alleged that Hariprasad himself was getting party workers to remove banners and then seeking publicity through the media. He also criticised the State government over its handling of the drought situation and alleged that farmers had not received adequate relief.

Parameshwara seeks urgent drought relief

Karnataka seeks faster Central intervention as widespread crop losses deepen farmer distress across drought-hit taluks.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G. Parameshwara has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, seeking urgent relief and revision of drought assistance norms.

The State has declared 177 taluks drought-affected in two phases, while ground-truthing is underway in another 40.

The number could exceed 220 by the end of the monsoon. Across the 177 taluks, crop losses have been reported over 47.09 lakh hectares, with the economic loss estimated at ₹46,324.5 crore.

The State has sought ₹7,142.64 crore under NDRF norms, including



Our farmers must receive timely and adequate support. The relief provided should reflect the actual losses they have suffered.

— G. Parameshwara Deputy CM

₹4,998.60 crore as input subsidy and ₹2,144.04 crore

for fodder and drinking water.

Parameshwara urged revision of SDRF/NDRF norms, particularly input subsidy, saying existing assistance does not reflect current cultivation costs.

He also sought expediting the Central drought assessment and early release of relief.

Drought relief plea

Drought-affected taluks 177 Possible total 220+ Crop-loss area 47.09 lakh ha Estimated economic loss ₹46,324.5 cr NDRF assistance sought ₹7,142.64 cr Drought impact

Karnataka's Kharif 2026 drought has affected agricultural and horticultural crops across large areas. In the newly declared 76 taluks, crop damage covers 26.08 lakh hectares of agricultural crops and 1.49 lakh hectares of horticultural crops. Major affected crops include tur, maize, cotton, sugarcane, soybean and green gram. Onion, arecanut and red chilli are among the affected horticultural crops. Total crop losses across 177 taluks are estimated at ₹46,324.5 crore.

Narayana Gowda opposes Urdu Habba at Vidhana Soudha



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) president T.A. Narayana Gowda has opposed the State Government's plan to organise an 'Urdu Habba' on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha on November 9.

The event was announced by Health and Minority Welfare Minister U.T. Khader as part of Urdu Day celebrations.

Khader said the programme aims to showcase Urdu language, literature, culture, heritage and art forms to people from different communities.

The proposed event is expected to include a book fair, food festival, cultural pro-

We are not against any language, including Urdu. There are plenty of venues in Bengaluru to conduct an Urdu festival. There is no need for Vidhana Soudha.

— T.A. Narayana Gowda, KRV president

grammes, awards and a mushaira.

Gowda, however, criticised the decision and urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to withdraw the proposal.

He said there were several venues in Bengaluru where an Urdu festival could be organised and questioned the need to hold it at Vidhana Soudha.

The proposal has also drawn opposition from BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar, who questioned whether Kannada language, literature and culture had received similar prominence at Vidhana Soudha.

Gowda said the KRV was not opposed to Urdu as a language but objected to the proposed venue and government-sponsored format.

BDA marks 100th Open House Meeting, strengthens citizen grievance redressal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) marked its 100th Open House Meeting, highlighting its efforts to make grievance redressal more transparent, accountable and citizen-centric.

The meeting was chaired by BDA Chairman N A Haris in the presence of BDA Commissioner P Manivannan at the BDA headquarters in Kumara Park. The Open House initiative was launched on July 3, 2025, to provide citizens with a direct platform to raise grievances before BDA officials. As of October 1, 7,410 grievances had been registered through the system, of which 4,759 were resolved.

The BDA's citizen-centric governance efforts have also received recognition through the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) National Award for Excellence in Citizen-Centric Urban Governance.

Building on the Open House mechanism, the BDA has introduced 'BDA GUARANTEE', a centralised public grievance redressal system. It

enables citizens to register complaints through the BDA grievance portal, Unified Tapal System, email, WhatsApp and official social media platforms.

Every grievance is digitised, categorised and assigned a unique Grievance Identification Number (GID), allowing citizens to track its progress.

The system has recorded 69,686 queries through inbound calls and 3,630 queries through WhatsApp as of October 1.

Open House meetings are also live-streamed on the BDA's official YouTube channel. The system provides indicative timelines of seven days for urgent grievances, 30 days for general grievances and 100 days for Open House grievances.

"The 100th Open House Meeting marks a significant milestone in BDA's journey towards citizen-centric governance.

BDA GUARANTEE ensures that every grievance is heard, tracked and pursued with transparency, accountability and time-bound action," Haris said.

Anna Seva app enables home-based ration card e-KYC



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Food Department has launched the 'Anna Seva' app on a pilot basis to make ration card e-KYC easier and reduce the need for beneficiaries to visit fair price shops. Food Minister Rizwan Arshad launched the application at Broadway in Shivajinagar, Bengaluru.

The app is currently available in Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Udupi, Haveri, Karwar, Ballari, Bidar and Koppal. The department plans to extend the facility to all districts after assessing the pilot and addressing technical issues.

Under the app, beneficiaries have to enter their ration card number and complete verification. They can then select the e-KYC option and use the face-recognition facility to complete the process.

The move comes amid difficulties faced by beneficiaries at fair price shops, including long queues and server-related technical problems.

Food Minister Rizwan Ar-

Ration card beneficiaries in eight Karnataka districts can now complete mandatory e-KYC from home using a new mobile application.

How to complete e-KYC

- 1 Open the Anna Seva app and enter the ration card number.
- 2 Select the e-KYC option after the details are verified.
- 3 Complete the process using the face-recognition facility.

shad said the department wanted to ensure that beneficiaries, particularly poorer sections, did not have to leave their work and wait at fair price shops to complete e-KYC.

"People should not face inconvenience. We have launched the Anna Seva app in eight districts so that e-KYC can be completed from home," Arshad said.

He said officials from other districts had also been given access to the system and the department would study technical issues before expanding the facility statewide.

The minister said around 4.5 crore people were beneficiaries of the department's services. He added that the application could subsequently be used to provide access to other schemes and services of the Food Department.

Rain deficit: Khandre seeks groundwater data from 5,927 panchayats

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With rainfall deficiency raising concerns over drinking water availability in rural Karnataka, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to undertake a comprehensive assessment of groundwater levels across 5,927 gram panchayats.

At a meeting with senior officials at Vikas Soudha, Khandre said the number of villages facing drinking water shortages was increasing and the situation could worsen during summer. He directed officials to assess the likely requirements until the next monsoon

and prepare contingency plans well in advance. Officials have been asked to compile details of villages currently dependent on borewells for drinking water and assess how many borewells could go dry during summer. The exercise should also identify alternative water sources available in such areas and determine measures required to maintain regular supply.

The department has also been asked to assess the availability of surface water and prepare plans for hiring private borewells, wherever necessary. Officials should calculate the number of tankers that may be required to transport water to villages facing shortages.

Bommaï seeks meeting on Varada-Bedti River linking project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid opposition to the proposed Varada-Bedti River linking project, MP Basavaraj Bommai has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to convene a meeting of elected representatives and activists to discuss the project.

In a letter to Shivakumar and Water Resources Minister N. Cheluvarayanaswamy, Bommai sought expediting the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and its submission to the Central Government.

The request comes ahead of a protest planned at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on October 10 by the Bedti-Aghanashini Valley Conservation Committee against river-linking proposals involving Uttara Kannada district.

Bommaï has sought a meeting involving all ministers, MLAs, MLCs and other prominent representatives from Haveri district, besides activists, to hold detailed discussions on the project.

Describing the Bedti-Varada linking proposal as an important issue, Bommai said Karnataka was facing a severe drought and that people could face increasing shortages of drinking water and fodder for livestock in the coming days.

He said farmers dependent on rainfall had suffered significant losses and pointed out that drought had been a recurring phenomenon in the Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka regions. According to him, the areas had experienced drought in 17 of the past 30 years.

Bommaï said the present situation warranted both immediate measures and long-term solutions, and identi-



fied the river-linking project as one such measure.

He claimed the proposal involved lifting water without constructing a large reservoir and could be implemented without causing environmental damage. He also said it would utilise water flowing into the sea from Uttara Kannada during the monsoon.

Water allocation

Bommaï maintained that the project would not create water shortages in Uttara Kannada district. He urged the government to utilise around 18 TMC of water for drinking and irrigation in Gadag, Haveri, Koppal and Raichur districts.

He also sought a specific provision in the DPR for a separate water-storage arrangement to meet Haveri district's requirements.

The proposed project has, however, triggered opposition from groups concerned about the ecological and water implications for Uttara Kannada.

HDFC BANK

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC**, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower(s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
01	Mr. Laxmikant (Borrower), Ipca Laboratories Limited, Designation: Therapy Manager, Department: Cardinova, 142 Ab Ipca Laboratories, Limited Na Kandiwali, Industrial Estate Mumbai - 400067. Also at: Plot 311, Jewarji Road, Yellaling Colony, Kotnoor D, Gulbarga - Karnataka - 585102. Mr. Laxmikant (Borrower), Mrs. Shantabai (Co-Borrower's) Both are residing at: Plot No 26, S No 10/6, House Prop No 588/10/6/1a/26, Village Kotnoor, Kalaburgi District, Bijapur Sainik School Gulbarga - 586102. Mrs. Shantabai (Co-Borrower's) , 1/220, Kotnoor, Nandikur, Nandikur Near Mahalaxmi Trades, Gulbarga - 585102.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 681040626 : Rs.4,42,111/- 2) 697530507 : Rs.16,178/- 3) 704215635 : Rs.4,64,773/- Total Amount Rs.9,23,062/- [Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Sixty Two Only] as on 31.07.2026	19.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.12.2025	Plot No 26, S No 10/6, House Prop No 588/10/6/1a/26, Village Kotnoor, Kalaburgi District, Bijapur Sainik School Gulbarga - 586102
02	Mr Parthasarathy (Borrower) Disha Medical Services Private Limited, Designation: Hospital Administrator, Department: Admin Gandhi Chowk Ho - Raichur - 584101. Also at: 8-11-181 798, Near Sharada School, Vidyanagar, Manvi, Raichur, - Karnataka - 584101. Also at: Plot 183, S No 899/2, House 8-11-899/2/183, Mpl No 21-7-731-167 Ashinwad Nagar, Ward No 21 Bollamandoddi Road, Raichur Ashinwad Nagar, Gottharia Raichur - 584101.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 654658085 : Rs.9,97,612/- 2) 654658092 : Rs.7,58,429/- 3) 655942719 : Rs.26,273/- Total Amount Rs.17,82,314/- [Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Fourteen Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.09.2026	Plot 183, S No 899/2, House 8-11-899/2/183, Mpl No 21-7-731-167 Ashinwad Nagar Ward No 21 Bollamandoddi Road, Raichur Ashinwad Nagar Gottharia Raichur - 584101

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 02.10.2026
Place: Gulbarga/ Raichur

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

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Quick Read

Training program announced for weaving skills

GADAG

A free training program on power loom weaving and jobber skills has been announced at the Power Loom Service Centre in Betageri. Applicants must be aged 18 to 35 and have passed at least the 5th standard. Interested individuals can collect and submit application forms directly at the Narasapura office.

Domestic quarrel triggers rented house fire

DHARWAD

A man named Javed set his rented house on fire at Bhusappa Chowk following a violent quarrel with his wife. Alert neighbors promptly contacted emergency services, and firefighters rushed to the scene to extinguish the blaze, narrowly preventing a major disaster. Authorities confirmed that the local city police station has registered a case and launched an investigation into the domestic dispute incident.

Wrong blood transfusion triggers fatal outrage

BAGALKOT

A 29-year-old woman named Shilpa Bhanjatri died at a private hospital, with her family accusing the doctors of severe medical negligence. Relatives stated that medical staff transfused blood without proper cross-matching after discovering her low blood count. Grieving husband Jagadish Bhanjatri and family members submitted a formal memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, demanding strict legal action against Dr. Pramod Mirza. They threatened to launch a sit-in protest if authorities fail to investigate.

Privacy violation sparks public outrage in Gangavathi

KOPPAL

A man was beaten by an angry mob at the Gangavathi Bus Stand after he was caught taking secret photographs of young women. When locals inspected his device, they uncovered multiple photos of female students alongside several obscene images. The furious public thrashed the suspect at the scene before handing him over for his disgraceful actions. Police are currently investigating the incident to take further legal action against the accused individual.

Honoring Gandhi’s vision on his 157th birth anniversary

Mahatma Gandhi's 157th birth anniversary reminds modern India that true freedom demands eradicating poverty and inequality.

CH NEWS, GADAG

As the nation commemorates the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the timeless relevance of his philosophy offers a profound mirror to contemporary Indian society. Beyond his monumental role in securing India’s independence from British colonial rule, the Mahatma viewed political freedom as merely the first step toward true libera-

Key philosophical highlights

True Freedom

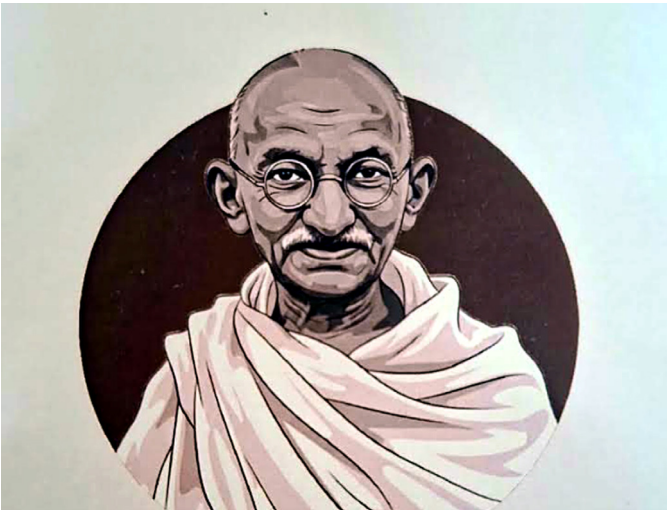
Gandhi believed political independence is incomplete without eradicating poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

Core Values

Emphasized truth (Satya) and non-violence (Ahimsa) as active moral principles rather than passive ideals.

Gram Swaraj

Stressed that India's strength lies in its villages, urging active citizen participation in governance.



tion. Gandhi’s vision of Purna Swaraj was deeply egalitarian, rooted in the empowerment of the most vulnerable. At the core of Gandhi’s extraordinary leadership was an unyielding commitment to truth (Satya) and non-violence (Ahimsa). He famously characterized his entire life as a continuous series of “experiments with truth,” demon-

er merely an aesthetic life-style choice; it embodied a rigorous moral principle and a profound social message. True reverence for Gandhian philosophy does not lie in ceremonial tributes, but in personal transformation.

Fulfilling the dream of Sarvodaya

Gandhiji’s vision of Sarvodaya—the upliftment and welfare of all—demands that marginalized communities, women, and the vulnerable live with dignity and equal opportunity. Historians and thinkers note that his concept of simplicity was a moral message against excessive consumption and disrespect for nature. The younger generation is encouraged to cultivate discipline, self-reliance, and public service. Society must confront ongoing issues like corruption, inequality, and environmental degradation by embodying Gandhian principles.

Belagavi Corporation row: Protests over AIMIM member’s remarks

Administrative tensions reached a boiling point at the Belagavi City Corporation following a fierce verbal clash between municipal employees and elected council members. The controversy erupted during a stormy council meeting when All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen member Shahid Khan Pathan publicly criticized the municipal administration, alleging that incompetent officials were mishandling basic civic



responsibilities such as ward water supply. The remarks triggered immediate outrage among municipal staff. Corporation Deputy Commissioner Lakshmi Nippanikar strongly condemned the comments, alleg-

KEY MUNICIPAL DISPUTE

Council Clash: AIMIM member Shahid Khan Pathan criticized administrative delays and water supply issues, alleging incompetence among officials.

Deputy Commissioner's Outrage: DC Lakshmi Nippanikar walked out in protest, alleging verbal abuse and threatening legal action.

Employee Protests: Corporation staff staged a 90-minute demonstration outside the office demanding strict action.

ing that the member used derogatory language. Following the heated exchange, hundreds of municipal employees staged an intense one-and-a-half-hour protest in front of the corporation office, demanding formal apologies and disciplinary action against the council member.

Chhabbi condemns Guruji’s remarks against Joshi



Political friction in Karnataka’s northern districts has intensified following recent widespread demonstrations by sugarcane growers demanding higher Fair and Remunerative Prices and a revised minimum support framework. While political leaders across party lines have acknowledged the legitimacy of the agricultural community’s economic grievances, sharp verbal attacks launched during the demonstrations have triggered a heated controversy involving ruling and opposition fac-

Hubballi GTTC invites Yuvanidhi skill applications



CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

The Government of Karnataka has officially rolled out the ambitious ‘Yuvanidhi Plus’ initiative, aimed at transforming unemployed youth into a skilled workforce. Authorities have invited eligible beneficiaries of the flagship Yuvanidhi employment assistance scheme to apply for specialized, job-oriented training programs conducted at the Government Tool Room and Training Centre located on Gokul Road in Hubballi. Candidates can enroll in specialized courses including Accounts Executive, Digital Marketing, Sales Executive, SAP, Internet of Things, PLC Programming, CAD-CAM, and CNC machining. According to official an-

Karnataka launches ‘Yuvanidhi Plus,’ offering free, high-demand technical and management training with placement assistance for unemployed youth at GTTC Hubballi.

nouncements, structured classes are scheduled to commence on October 5, 2026. Interested beneficiaries must submit their applications no later than October 3, 2026. For immediate inquiries and registration support, candidates may also reach out to program coordinators via telephone at 0836-2333159 or through mobile contact at 8123719773.

Sadananda Danganavar honored in Hubballi



CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Prominent social thinker, writer, and former Chairman of the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation, Sadananda Danganavar, was felicitated during a warm public gathering in Hubballi. Led by retired Principal and noted litterateur Prof. S.R. Ashi, a distinguished group of intellectuals, authors, and community members gathered to honor Danganavar. In a traditional ceremony reflecting deep cultural respect, dignitaries presented him with a traditional shawl, a floral garland, and a book.

Gadag celebrates World Senior Citizens Day

CH NEWS, GADAG

Emphasizing the vital importance of generational wisdom and holistic well-being, the district administration observed World Senior Citizens’ Day at the Zilla Panchayat Hall under the inspiring theme “Rethinking Lifestyle Choices for a Long and Healthy Life.” Inaugurating the state-supported event, Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar urged citizens of all ages to reevaluate daily habits to foster long-term health and vitality. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that human expe-



rience is irreplaceable, serving as a guiding light for society. He expressed concern over the rising trend of nuclear family structures and the unfortunate neglect of elderly members. Highlighting that age is merely a number, Sridhar noted that maintaining an active, carefree lifestyle is the fundamental secret to physical and mental longevity.

Centre extends PMFME scheme to March 2027

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Government of India’s flagship Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme has officially received an extension until March 31, 2027. Smt. Chetana Patil, Joint Director of Agriculture in Gadag, has strongly encouraged local entrepreneurs and farmers to leverage the extended timeline. The PMFME scheme provides crucial financial backing through credit-linked capital subsidies to help individuals establish new micro food processing units or upgrade

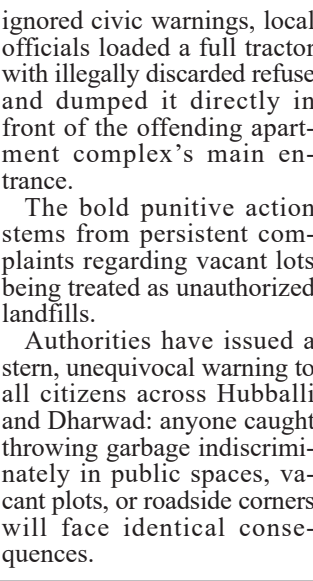


existing operations. Aimed at boosting value addition and agricultural processing at the grassroots level, applicants need only be 18 years of age, with no mandatory minimum educational qualifications required to apply. In Gadag district alone, robust local uptake has resulted in loans sanctioned for 100 industrial units during the 2025-26 fiscal year, pushing the cumulative total of approved units to 314.

Civic authorities retaliate against illegal dumping

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

In a dramatic and uncompromising crackdown on chronic littering, municipal authorities in Hubballi-Dharwad have adopted a radical enforcement strategy to combat illegal waste dumping. Tired of repeated violations by irresponsible residents who flagrantly ignored civic warnings, local officials loaded a full tractor with illegally discarded refuse and dumped it directly in front of the offending apartment complex’s main entrance. The bold punitive action stems from persistent complaints regarding vacant lots being treated as unauthorized landfills. Authorities have issued a stern, unequivocal warning to all citizens across Hubballi and Dharwad: anyone caught throwing garbage indiscriminately in public spaces, vacant plots, or roadside corners will face identical consequences.



Garment workers protest over E-PF issues

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

Traffic along the crucial Hubballi-Dharwad highway came to a complete standstill as hundreds of women garment factory workers took to the streets to stage a massive protest. Operating near Sanjeevini Park, the angry workforce blocked the arterial roadway to demand an urgent, definitive resolution to mounting complications surrounding their Employee Provident Fund accounts. The demonstration was triggered by sudden, disruptive alterations in regulatory

procedures governing the E-PF facility, which workers reported had severely jeopardized their savings withdrawals, digital verification processes, and overall financial security. For the hundreds of women employed across the industrial zone, the provident fund represents a vital social safety net and hard-earned savings for family emergencies and long-term security. Local traffic police units rushed to the turbulent site to manage the escalating chaos, deploying personnel to divert vehicles onto alternate side roads and restore order. Se-



KEY PROTEST HIGHLIGHTS

Road Blockade: Hundreds of workers staged an impromptu protest, disrupting vehicular movement on the main highway.

Core Grievance: Opposition to newly revised PF and EPS norms that introduce mandatory waiting periods for fund access.

Traffic Disruption: Severe traffic congestion ensued before local police rushed to the site to restore order.

Demands for immediate rollback

Protesting workers voiced severe frustration over the policy modifications, arguing that stringent conditions severely impact financial emergency access to their hard-earned savings. Traffic authorities cleared the blocked thoroughfare and engaged with demonstrators to ease gridlock. The agitation mirrors similar protests erupting across the state against tightening provident fund withdrawal frameworks. Senior law enforcement officials and labor welfare inspectors engaged directly with the protesting workers to hear their grievances, assuring them that administrative channels would be opened with factory management and federal PF authorities. Labor union representatives warned that if immediate steps are not taken to rectify the E-PF software glitches and administrative red tape, agitations will intensify across the industrial belt.

Quick Read

Restrictive orders imposed around examination centres

CH NEWS, GADAG

Restrictive orders have been imposed within a 200-metre radius of 30 examination centres in Gadag district for the Village Administrative Officers recruitment examination on October 4, 2026. The Karnataka Examinations Authority will conduct Paper-1 from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and Paper-2 from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. The orders will remain in force from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. to prevent malpractice and maintain peace. Entry of unauthorised persons and groups of five or more people is prohibited. Xerox shops, bookstalls and photocopy centres will remain closed, while loudspeakers are banned. Mobile phones, electronic devices, bags, loose sheets and other prohibited items cannot be carried into examination centres. Media personnel can film only when candidates arrive or leave. They cannot enter examination rooms. Candidates must follow the dress code and all instructions issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

KSOU invites applications for various courses

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has invited applications from eligible students for admission to various undergraduate, postgraduate, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate courses for the 2026-27 academic year July cycle. Admissions are open for courses including B.A., B.Com., B.C.A., B.B.A., B.Sc., B.S.W., B.Lib.Sc., M.A., M.Com., M.B.A., M.Sc., M.S.W., M.C.A. and M.Lib. Sc. Students can apply through the KSOU Mandya Regional Centre. The admission process began on June 22, and the deadline has been extended to October 13. Applications can be submitted online through www.ksoumysore.ac.in. For further information, students can contact 9916894579, 99341555676, 9902958732, 9740984640, 9742636676, 8095557722, 9449934339 or the office landline 08232-200862.

BESCOM warns against climbing buildings during procession

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

BESCOM has warned the public against climbing onto buildings and shops along the route of the Hindu Maha Ganapathi immersion procession scheduled for October 3. The procession will begin at Challakere Gate and pass through B.D. Road, Gandhi Circle, Holalkere Road, Gayatri Circle, Sharadamma Kalyana Mantapa and Kanaka Circle before reaching Chandravalli. BESCOM said power lines run along the procession route, creating a risk of accidents if people climb onto rooftops and come into contact with live wires. The Assistant Executive Engineer of the BESCOM City Sub-division urged house and shop owners to prevent people from climbing onto buildings. Owners may be held responsible if an electrical accident occurs.

Inquiry into 99% electoral roll notices completed: DC

Ramya said objections would be examined, Form-7 notices issued, and FIRs registered against those submitting false information to remove names

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya said 99 per cent of inquiries into notices issued over discrepancies in the electoral rolls have been completed as part of the special summary revision. Speaking at a press conference, she said 68,750 notices were generated across the district's six Assembly constituencies and served to the concerned voters. The Election Commission appointed 102 Additional Electoral Registration Officers to conduct the inquiries. Of these, inquiries into 66,689 notices have been completed. Ramya said only voters who have permanently relocated or died are being identified as ineligible after verification. So far, 626 voters have been disqualified. A total of 39,691 forms have been received, including 16,656 Form-6, nine Form-6A, 2,638



Form-7 and 20,387 Form-8 applications. She said objections from Booth Level Agents and the public would be examined and appropriate action taken. For Form-7 inquiries, notices will be issued to both the applicant and the person whose name is proposed for removal. She warned that an FIR would be registered against anyone providing false information through Form-7 to remove a name from the elec-

68,750	66,689	39,691	626
notices generated	inquiries completed	forms received	voters disqualified

toral roll. Regarding the South-East Graduates' Constituency election, Ramya said October 6 is the last date for filing nominations, while scrutiny will be held on October 7. Voting will take place on October 23. The district previously had 22 polling stations. Another 33 have been established, taking the total to 55. Of 2,418 applications for new voter registration, 2,391 were accepted and 27 rejected.

'Eligible voters will not be dropped'

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya said eligible voters' names would not be removed from electoral rolls during the Special Summary Revision (SSR). At a meeting with representatives of recognised political parties, she warned that those who maliciously submit Form-7 with false information to remove voters' names could face an FIR and legal action. Ramya said applications for objections and corrections would undergo verification, with notices issued to applicants and persons whose names are proposed for deletion. Officials will check supporting documents before taking action. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy said Form-7 applications were being carefully examined. Party representatives also raised concerns over alleged attempts to target eligible voters.

There are 41,358 voters in the district, including 24,031 men and 17,327 women. Counting will be held on October 27, and the election process will conclude by October 31. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy, Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantharaj and Election Tahsildar Fathima Baby were present.



Community Health Officers continue indefinite protest in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Community Health Officers (CHOs) from across Karnataka have continued their indefinite protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, demanding action on various issues related to their service conditions, job security and future prospects. Under the National Health Mission, health sub-centres across the state were upgraded to Health and Wellness Centres, where CHOs were appointed to provide services. The protesters alleged that the government has not taken appropriate action on several of their demands despite repeated representations. More than 2,500 CHOs from different districts participated in a foot march from Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru to Nelamangala on September 28. They began a sit-in protest at Freedom Park on September 29.

Their demands include withdrawing the mandatory B.Sc. Nursing qualification for PHCO (ANM) and HIO posts, providing job permanency and service security, introducing inter-district transfer facilities, revising the Terms of Reference (TOR), and increasing salaries and honorariums.

The protesters also demanded that CHOs be used exclusively for community health services and that the ongoing relocation process be postponed. A total of 276 CHOs are serving in Dakshina Kannada district, including 46 in Puttur taluk. Yashodhara, District Secretary of the All Karnataka State Community Health NHM Contract Employees Association, said CHOs from the district are also participating in the protest. The association has urged the government to take immediate action on the demands and announce a clear decision.

At a Glance

- **Protest:** CHOs continue sit-in at Freedom Park.
- **Scale:** Over 2,500 CHOs joined foot march.
- **Key demand:** Job permanency and service security.
- **Qualification:** B.Sc. Nursing requirement withdrawal sought.
- **Pay:** Salary and honorarium revision demanded.
- **Dakshina Kannada:** 276 CHOs currently serving districtwide.

HONORING SENIOR WISDOM

'Senior citizens are treasures, treat them with respect'

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Senior citizens are not a burden on families or society but a priceless treasure of experience, knowledge and values, said Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar.



He was speaking after inaugurating World Senior Citizens Day-2026 at Gandhi Bhavan. The programme was

Senior citizens are not a burden on families or society but a priceless treasure of experience, knowledge and values

jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens, voluntary organisations and rural rehabilitation workers. Dr. Kumar said senior citizens should not be viewed merely as people above 60 years of age. They represent a generation that has devoted its life to the growth of families and society. He said neglecting parents after they have worked for the welfare and future of their children goes against human values.

He noted that changing lifestyles and family systems have resulted in some elderly people becoming separated from their families. Their experience, family values and social awareness can guide younger generations, he said. Dr. Kumar said caring for parents is not only a legal responsibility but also a moral and humanitarian duty. He added that neglecting elderly people over property or financial matters cannot be justified.

He said the increasing number of old-age homes should encourage society to reflect on family relationships and human values. Families should

ensure that senior citizens live with respect, security and dignity. He advised senior citizens to take care of their health and make use of government facilities such as pensions, healthcare services and legal aid. He

also urged those facing neglect to seek legal remedies and not lose hope.

Respect for elders, he said, should not be limited to one day. Combining the experience of senior citizens with the energy of youth can help build a society based on val-

Democratic values must be taught to students

Students should be educated about democracy and its values to help them become responsible citizens, said Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar.

He was speaking at a district-level selection committee meeting on the Youth Parliament programme. He said the programme should provide students with practical knowledge of parliamentary democracy, rather than being only a competition.

Dr. Kumar stressed the need to teach students about constitutional rights and duties, democratic principles and public participation from school level. He said activities such as discussions, speeches, essays and Youth Parliament programmes can help students understand Parliament, elections and democratic institutions. The meeting discussed the programme's objectives, student participation and selection process. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, and Basavaraju, DDPI, were present.

ues and humanity. Geetha Lakshmi, Komal Kumar, Vijay Kumar and others were present.

Students key to stronger democracy: MLA

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Students have an important role in creating awareness about democracy and strengthening democratic values, said Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar.

He was speaking after inaugurating the International Day of Democracy celebration and Taluk-level Youth Parliament programme at the Vishwagangotri Syndicate Hall of Mandya University. The event was organised jointly by the Taluk Administration, Taluk Panchayat and the Departments of Social Welfare, School Education and Literacy, Higher Education, and Law, Justice and Human Rights.

Ravikumar said education should not be limited to obtaining degrees but should help shape responsible citizens. Students should understand constitutional values, democratic ideals, laws, rights and duties. He said the youth have an important role in shaping the future of the country.

He said the media is an important pillar of democracy and students should critically examine information presented through television and other media platforms and understand the facts.

Ravikumar said elected representatives have a responsibility to understand people's needs and work for development in areas such as roads, drinking water, education and healthcare. He said citizens should consider the performance and contribution of

representatives while choosing them.

He added that democracy is not limited to voting during elections. Citizens who understand the Constitution, laws, rights and duties can contribute to strengthening democra-



cy. Students should develop social responsibility and concern for the country's development.

Speaking on the occasion, District Advocates' Association President T.S. Satyanand said the Youth Parliament programme aims to create awareness among young people about democracy and the Constitution.

He said students should understand social issues, inequalities and challenges facing democracy and develop a questioning attitude and sense of responsibility. The programme can help develop leadership qualities, social responsibility, constitutional values and democratic awareness among youth.

Block Education Officer Mahadeva and Assistant Director of Mandya Taluk Social Welfare Department Bhimaraya Vaddara were present.

Lakshith Gowda wins gold medal in karate

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Lakshith T. Gowda, a third-grade student, has won a gold medal in the Kata category at a tri-nation karate competition held recently in Mumbai.

Lakshith is the son of T. Thimmegowda, a lawyer and General Secretary of the Negilayogi Social Service Trust, Ramanagara District Branch. The competition featured participants from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Balancing his studies with regular karate training, Lakshith has shown strong interest in sports from a young age. His achievement has brought recognition to his school and district.

Through regular practice, physical fitness and hard work, Lakshith has made a mark in karate while continu-

ing his education. The gold medal has encouraged him to aim for greater achievements at the state, national and international levels.

Teachers, family members, relatives, friends, sports en-



thusiasts and school staff congratulated Lakshith on his achievement. They wished him success in advanced karate training and hoped he would continue participating in competitions and winning medals in the future.

NAME CHANGE

I, YASHAWANTHA, aged 38 years, S/o. Jagannatha, Residing at Bijapura Colony, Harinahalli Post, Hanagodur Hobali, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore District -571105, Karnataka, have changed my name from YESHAWANTHA to YASHAWANTHA, vide affidavit dated: 01.10.2026 before notary H. DINESH, Hunsur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, G. BHARATHI, BHARATHI G & GOPALAN BHARATHI (old name), a resident of No 1241, 13th Cross, near 36 B Last Bus Stop, Giri Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru 560085, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to BHARATHI GOPALA RAO (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 30-09-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, USHA D ALSO KNOWN AS USHA V. W/o. M Dilip Kumar, Resident of No. 2, 36th Cross, 26th Main, Near SSMRV PU Collage, 9th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru -560069, Karnataka, have changed my name to USHA D JAIN, vide affidavit dated: 01.10.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANOHARA B V S/o VENKATAREDDY, R/o 115, 11th Cross, 1st Main Road, Sanjeevininagar, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANOHAR REDDY B V.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUTHAGAR P alias P SUTHAGAR S/o PITCHEY, R/o B-105, Devin Indira Paradise Apartment, R K Hegde Nagar Main Road, Near Noor Nagar Bus Stop, Chokkanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUTHAGAR PITCHEY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUTHAGAR P S/o PITCHEY R/o B-105, Devin Indira Paradise Apartment, R K Hegde Nagar Main Road, Near Noor Nagar Bus Stop, Chokkanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed the name of my minor daughter S. SAYANTHIGA alias S SAYANTHIGA aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as SAYANTHIGA SUTHAGAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ZULEKHA BANU MOHAMMED (old name), a resident of No.38, Sidde Gowda lane, Susheela Road, Doddamavalli Bangalore - 560004, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to ZULEKHA BANU ENAYATHULLA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 30-09-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIKH SHAISTA MOHAMMAD SAJID (old name), a resident of No.35/1 9TH CROSS DHARMANNA GARDEN, DINNUR, R T NAGAR POST BANGALORE NORTH BANGALORE, 560032, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SHAISTA SAJID SHAIKH (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 30-09-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, R. JHANANI alias JANANI alias JANANI R alias S JANANI alias JANANI RAMASAMY D/o RAMASAMY, W/o SUTHAGAR P, R/o B-105, Devin Indira Paradise Apartment, R K Hegde Nagar Main Road, Near Noor Nagar Bus Stop, Chokkanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JANANI SUTHAGAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUTHAGAR P S/o PITCHEY R/o B-105, Devin Indira Paradise Apartment, R K Hegde Nagar Main Road, Near Noor Nagar Bus Stop, Chokkanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed the name of my minor son SAI RITWIK S alias SAI RITWIK S aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as SAI RITWIK SUTHAGAR.

Quick Read

Betageri Park cleanup begins after public complaint

CH NEWS, BETAGERI

Ganesh Singh Byali, president of the Betageri Railway Struggle Committee, had urged the Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council to address the foul smell from Kittur Chennamma Park on P.B. Road. The smell was causing concern as it posed a health risk to people visiting the park. Responding to the complaint, municipal workers cleaned the area near the library and gymnasium, reducing the foul odor. Byali thanked the City Municipal Council for taking action. However, on behalf of the committee, he also requested that the interior areas of the park be cleaned to ensure better hygiene and a healthier environment for the public.

Munishwar Churi is felicitated after retirement

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Udachappa Malagi, State President of the Karnataka State Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare Committee, congratulated Munishwar H. Churi on his retirement at a felicitation ceremony held at the Government Employees' Bhavan. Churi served as a Probation Officer under the Probation of Offenders Act in the Department of Women and Child Development. Malagi praised his integrity, responsive service, proactive thinking, and cooperative attitude. He wished Churi good health and a long retired life. Churi thanked everyone for their support and expressed gratitude for the honor. His wife, Smt. Manjula Churi, was also felicitated during the programme.

Helmets distributed in Changalera to mark MLA birthday

CH NEWS, BIDAR

A helmet distribution programme was organised near the Changalera temple to mark the birthday of Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale. The programme was organised by his fan club as part of a socially conscious birthday celebration. Dr. Shailendra Beldale inaugurated the programme and distributed helmets to vehicle riders. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the importance of wearing helmets for the safety of two-wheeler riders. Awareness was created among riders about the need to wear helmets while travelling and follow traffic rules. Riders were also urged to give priority to their own safety and the safety of others while commuting. The programme highlighted road safety awareness and encouraged two-wheeler riders to make helmet use a regular part of their travel.

1,500 notebooks reach students at Addagal School

CH NEWS, SRINIVASPUR

As many as 1,500 notebooks were distributed to students of Addagal Government Primary School in Rayalpadu Hobli of Srinivaspur taluk as part of an initiative by the Kolar District Geleyara Balaga. The initiative aimed to encourage students in their studies and support their education by providing essential learning materials. Organisers said no child studying in a government school should fall behind due to a lack of basic facilities or educational resources. They called for collective efforts from society to support the education-



Hadapada demands stronger support for Savita community

Hadapada said COVID-19 devastated barbers' livelihoods, forcing many into migrant daily-wage work, while criticizing limited Corporation loans and benefits

AT A GLANCE	Demand	Target	Statistic	COVID impact	Relief sought	Warning
	Revise loan guidelines for wider access.	At least 25 beneficiaries per taluk.	Over 90% reportedly lack assets.	Barbers lost livelihoods and migrated.	Loan waivers and free barber shops.	Statewide protests possible over unmet demands.

CH NEWS, GADAG

Krishna H. Hadapada, District President of the Gadag District Savita Samaj, has urged the Karnataka Savita Samaj Development Corporation to take stronger steps for the welfare of poor community members across North Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka. Speaking at a brainstorming session held at the Devaraj Urs Auditorium in Bengaluru, Hadapada said community members should not be used for political interests. He said many Savita community families in North Karnataka continue to face serious financial difficulties. According to him, more than 90 per cent of community members



do not have their own land, houses or shops for their work. Hadapada said the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the livelihoods of many barbers, forcing some to leave

their hometowns and work as daily-wage labourers in other shops. He questioned the Corporation's system of providing loans and benefits to only one or two people from each taluk. He demanded that the existing quota be cancelled and the guidelines revised so that at least 25 poor Savita community members in every taluk can receive loans and financial assistance. Hadapada also urged the government to completely waive outstanding loans taken by barbers from the Devaraj Urs Corporation who suffered losses during the pandemic. He further demanded free construction of "Kshoura Kutiras" or barber shops to

help affected workers rebuild their livelihoods. He said future Corporation meetings should be held in backward areas of North Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka to improve awareness and strengthen the community at the grassroots level. Hadapada also challenged Corporation Chairman Dr. M.S. Muthuraj to fight for the community's demands. He said that if the demands were not accepted, the chairman should resign and join the struggle. He warned that protests and sit-ins could be organized across Karnataka to press for social justice and better support for poor community members.

Gadag preserves Gandhi's memory through sacred memorials

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

Mahatma Gandhi's messages of truth, non-violence and freedom continue to inspire people across the world. In Gadag district, his memory has a special connection through the Gandhi Gudi, sacred ashes and several memorials linked to his visits and the freedom struggle. Gandhiji visited the twin cities of Gadag-Betageri in 1921 and 1934. During his visits, he addressed people and urged them to actively participate in the freedom movement. Several leaders from the district, including Hanumantasa Bakale, Samuel Malekar, Chandasaab Bodlekhan, Narayanappa Bagade, Fakirappa Bharadwad, Sankappa Cholina and Mirajkar, joined the struggle. After Gandhiji was assassinated in 1948, his sacred ashes were taken across the country for public viewing. Freedom fighters from Gadag, including Hanumantasa Bakale and Veerappan of Basarigida, brought a small portion of the ashes to Gadag. A memorial was later built at Hospet Chowk, now Vidyaranya Road, in Gadag-Betageri.

The place is now known as Gandhi Gudi, where worship rituals are performed daily. People remember the Mahatma by offering prasadam and naivedya. Special prayer meetings and patriotic cultural programmes are also organised there during Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti. Gandhiji also visited Jakkali village in Ron taluk on March 3, 1934. Inspired by his principles, villagers installed his statue at the government school in 1970 and built a Gandhi Temple. Another important memorial stands at the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University in Nagavi. A beautiful replica of Gujarat's Sabarmati Ashram was built there and inaugurated in 2020 to mark the centenary of Gandhiji's visit to Karnataka on November 11, 1920. These places show how Gandhi's ideals continue to remain part of Gadag's history. The memorials also preserve the district's connection with the freedom struggle and remain important destinations for tourists and history enthusiasts.

Mahila Congress slams BJP leader Govind Karjol

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Mahila Congress district president Jyothi M. Gondabal has launched a scathing attack on Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Parliament Govind Karjol, describing his recent remarks regarding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar as groundless and born out of political desperation. Issuing a formal press statement, Gondabal dismissed claims about the Chief Election Commissioner's background, stating that Gyanesh Kumar belongs to the Baniya-Vaishya community rather than the Dalit community. She maintained that caste remains entirely immaterial when constitutional principles are compromised. Gondabal asserted that even if the official were from a marginalized group, the Congress party

would still resist actions that undermine democratic fairness. She accused the election authority of deploying questionable tactics to weaken the voting strength and fundamental rights of Dalits and Muslims in violation of constitutional mandates. The Mahila Congress chief further criticized the ruling party for repeatedly exploiting marginalized communities as a political shield. She argued that Karjol possesses no genuine empathy for Dalit welfare or social justice, alleging that the BJP leader is motivated solely by personal ambition and political power. Emphasizing her party's ideology, Gondabal reaffirmed that Congress remains committed to defending constitutional values and ensuring independent bodies like the Election Commission function without partisan bias.

Judge condemns sending elderly to old homes

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman G.D. Mahavarkar said elders are a valuable source of experience and should not be neglected by younger generations.



He was speaking after inaugurating World Senior Citizens' Day at the Zilla Panchayat Hall. The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Advocates' Association, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, Department for the Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens, Karnataka State Government Retired Employees' Association and voluntary organisations. Mahavarkar said young people, influenced by technology and Western culture, should not forget the country's heritage and elders. He said the experience and guidance of senior citizens can help younger people choose the right path. He expressed concern over the growing practice in cities of sending elderly parents to old-age homes. He said children and society should provide senior citizens with love, compassion and respect, especially as they grow older. Mahavarkar said the government has introduced various schemes for senior citizens and added that the District Legal Services Authority would provide free legal aid to those facing legal difficulties. Sub-Divisional Officer and Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Board chairperson K.J. Kantharaj described senior citizens as a university of experience. He said rural families often care for elders with affection, while some urban families keep elderly parents away despite having higher education and good positions. Kantharaj said senior citizens can benefit from government facilities such as pensions, bus passes and medical treatment. Senior Advocate D.K. Sheela spoke on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Highlights

- Elders provide essential wisdom and life guidance
- Youth are neglecting heritage and elder care
- Urban old-age home trends cause distress
- Government schemes ensure senior citizen welfare
- District Legal Services offer free legal aid
- Rural areas excel in elder family care

Koppal to celebrate Gandhi birth anniversary

CH NEWS, KOPPAL: The 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be celebrated on October 2 at 10 a.m. at the District Administration Building auditorium in Koppal. The programme is being organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and various government departments, including Information and Public Relations, School Education, Pre-University Education, Social Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare, Minority Welfare, and Kannada and Culture. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal will inaugurate the event. Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi and Superintendent of Police Sahil Bagla will attend as chief guests. Senior litterateur Ravitej Abbigeri will deliver a special lecture. Bhajans, a harmony prayer and prize distribution for the Bapuji Essay Competition winners are also planned.

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಸಂತೆ ಬೀದಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560090, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-28395098

Website : www.chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in, Email: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಪುಕಾಟ/ಕಾ.ಸಂ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.10.2026

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪುರಸಭೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟು 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಿಕೇಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1.ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 2. ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.10.2026 ರಂದು, 3. ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 8.10.2026 ರಂದು 4. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿಲ್ಲದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3028/ಬಿಡಿ ಸಾಂ/2026-27

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SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Manufacture and supply of following materials as per GESCOM Specifications

1) PC-1500(Call-2): PVC Wire-50 Sqmm, 2) PC-1501(Call-2): PVC Wire- 95 Sqmm 3) PC-1502 (Call-2) : PVC Wire-120 Sqmm, 4) PC-1498(Call-2) : Double Pole TC Set.

Tender amount: Min: Rs. 254.03 Lakhs, Max: Rs. 330.54 Lakhs.

Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after 03.10.2026, Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.

Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents. For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer EL., Procurement Section, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91-8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address: support@eprocelpdesk.com

Sd/- Superintending Engineer EL., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/581/KSMC&A/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು)

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.bengaluru.urban.dudc@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22211372/352

ಸಂ: ಕಂದಾಯ ಭವನ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/09/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-09-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭವನ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಪಡೆಯಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸೇವಾ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಅವಧಿ
1	ಕಂದಾಯ ಭವನ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ 8 ಮಂದಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯ ಸೇವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸೇವಾ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ. TENDER No: DMA/2026-27/SE8584.	ರೂ.25,61,291/-	ರೂ.51,225/-	1 ವರ್ಷ
2	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು 18 Nos (Technical Assistance) ಹಾಗೂ ಮಲ್ಟಿ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಮನ್ ಸ್ಟಾಫ್ 1 No (MTS) ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸೇವಾ ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ. TENDER No: DMA/2026-27/SE8603.	ರೂ.88,45,200/-	ರೂ.1,68,480/-	18 ತಿಂಗಳು
3	Supply of 7 Nos Data Entry Operators and 1 No Technical Programmer on out source basic to Election Branch of Deputy Commissioner Office, Bangalore Urban District. Tender No: DMA/2026-27/SE8606.	ರೂ.28,97,446/-	ರೂ.58,000/-	1 ವರ್ಷ

(1) ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡಿಂಗ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.10.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (2) ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.10.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.10.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (4) ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಮಾರ್ಕ್ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.10.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಕರು,

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3002/ಎಸ್‌ಎಂ‌ಎಲ್/26-27

Quick Read

SC stays execution in 2008 Ahmedabad blasts case

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the execution of the death penalty awarded to Indian Mujahideen operative Ahmed Bawa alias Abbu Abubakar Barelvi in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts case. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, A.G. Masih and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Gujarat government and sought records from the trial court. The blasts on July 26, 2008, involved 21 explosions across Ahmedabad within 70 minutes, killing 56 people and injuring more than 200. Explosions were also reported at hospitals treating victims. The Gujarat High Court had in July upheld the death sentences of 38 Indian Mujahideen operatives, citing the scale of the conspiracy and casualties. It also upheld life sentences for 11 others. The Supreme Court's order came on Bawa's plea challenging the high court verdict.

Two ascetics found dead, accused held

SHAHJAHANPUR
Two ascetics were allegedly murdered and their bodies burnt at a religious site in Sutha village under Khudaganj police station limits in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district on Thursday, police said. The incident was reported around 7 am, following which local police, senior officers and a forensic team reached the spot. The bodies were recovered in a burnt condition and sent for post-mortem examination. Police have taken the main accused, identified as Sumit, into custody for questioning. A complaint was filed by Shiv Kumar, caretaker of the religious site. According to police, Sumit had recently been released on bail and had been staying with the ascetics. Preliminary information suggests that a dispute over the premises may have led to the incident. Villagers told police that Sumit had allegedly asked the ascetics to leave, saying he wanted to reside there and exercise control over the site. Police said forensic evidence has been collected and the exact circumstances surrounding the deaths are under investigation. The post-mortem examination is expected to establish the cause and timing of death. Further details are awaited.

Kerala HC allows termination of 30-week pregnancy

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court has allowed medical termination of the 30-week pregnancy of a 15-year-old rape survivor, directing the state government to arrange the procedure. Justice Harisankar V Menon passed the order on a plea by the girl's mother after a court-appointed medical board recommended termination. The board said continuing the pregnancy could significantly affect the survivor's mental health. It noted that the baby had more than a 95 per cent chance of survival if there were no major complications. The court directed the state to provide neonatal care if the baby survives and preserve tissue and blood samples if it does not.

Gujarat offers 50% tax cut for scrapped vehicles

GUJARAT WILL OFFER UP TO 50% MOTOR VEHICLE TAX CONCESSION TO OWNERS SCRAPPING ELIGIBLE OLD VEHICLES AND PURCHASING NEW ONES.

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government has announced a motor vehicle tax concession of up to 50 per cent for owners who scrap eligible old vehicles and purchase new ones, aiming to encourage vehicle scrapping and promote newer vehicles. Under the new provision, vehicle owners can use the Certificate of Deposit (COD) received after authorised scrapping of an eligible vehicle while registering a new vehicle. The scheme covers transport and non-transport



vehicles manufactured under Bharat Stage-I (BS-I) and earlier emission standards. It also includes medium and heavy goods vehicles and medium and heavy passenger vehicles manufactured under BS-II standards. According to the state government, the measure is intended to make the financial transition from scrapping older vehicles to purchasing new ones easier. The benefit could particularly assist owners of older commercial vehicles by reducing the tax payable on replacement vehicles. The government said CODs

Initiative at a glance

- 50% concession: Up to 50% off motor vehicle tax.
- Old vehicles: Covers BS-I and earlier, plus select BS-II heavy vehicles.
- Who benefits: Owners replacing eligible old vehicles, especially commercial operators.
- Deadline: CODs valid until March 31, 2027.
- Purpose: Encourages vehicle scrapping and newer, cleaner vehicles.

issued up to March 31, 2027, will be considered for the concession. Vehicle owners must therefore complete the authorised scrapping process and obtain the COD within the stipulated period. The existing method of

calculating motor vehicle tax will remain unchanged. The government has also clarified that the same scrapped vehicle cannot be used to claim the concession more than once if the benefit has already been availed.

Rajnath launches new integrated defence finance system

NEW DELHI

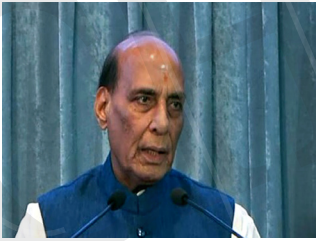
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday launched the integration of the Indian Army Financial Information System (IAFIS) with the SAKSHAM platform as the Defence Accounts Department marked its 279th Annual Day in New Delhi. Addressing the event at Dr DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, Singh said the department should adopt best practices in quality auditing and strengthen its digital systems. He urged the DAD to undertake a dedicated drive to keep its digital data clean and well maintained. He said the department had already made progress in cleaning SPARSH data and should now move towards automating grievance redressal. Singh also called for a shift from an annual review of the balance budget to an "Any Time Review of Balance

Budget". He said financial systems should provide real-time information on the department's financial position rather than requiring officials to wait for quarterly reports.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched IAFIS integration with SAKSHAM, urging stronger digital systems and improved auditing practices in defence accounts.

Highlighting the department's performance, Singh said expenditure booking under the defence budget for 2025-26 had reached nearly 100 per cent. He credited the achievement to the joint efforts of the DAD and the three services. He also urged the department to remain at the forefront of new technologies,

including artificial intelligence for detecting fraud. The Defence Minister said financial management also plays a role in supporting the objectives of the domestic defence industry and Make in



India. The DAD, which traces its origins to the appointment of the Military Pay Master in 1747, provides services including internal audit, accounting, financial advice and defence pension management. "After the CAG, the DAD is today the country's second-largest auditor. However, there is a need to adopt the best practices in the field of quality audit," Singh said.

NEW DELHI

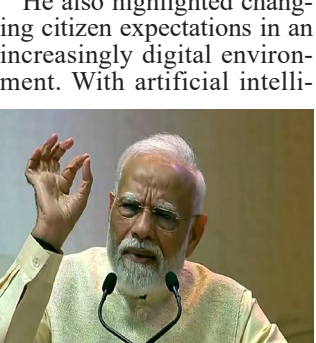
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to continuously reform its examination and recruitment processes, stressing that examinations are directly linked to the future of young aspirants and should follow the principle of "time certainty". He was speaking at the UPSC's centenary celebrations at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Modi said delays of even a few months could create difficulties for candidates and called for examination bodies to keep pace with the country's changing needs. He also said recruitment examinations should assess not only candidates' knowledge but also their motivation to enter public service.

The Prime Minister said the next 20 to 25 years would be

Modi urges UPSC to follow 'time certainty' in exams

important for India and its institutions as the country works towards becoming a developed nation. He identified "Nation First" and "Citizen First" as two benchmarks for selections and called for civil servants who can combine empathy, innovation and effective implementation. He also highlighted changing citizen expectations in an increasingly digital environment. With artificial intelli-



gence capable of processing large volumes of information quickly and governments having access to real-time data, he said public services would

need to respond with greater speed. Modi urged the UPSC and State Public Service Commissions to strengthen their

An examination should not be considered just an event. It is related to the future of our youth.

PM Narendra Modi

capabilities through continuous training and technology. The UPSC, established on October 1, 1926, is completing 100 years. Its two-day centenary programme, titled 'Manthan', brings together public functionaries and experts to discuss civil services, public administration, technology and institutional reforms. The celebrations also include the release of a commemorative coin and postage stamp marking the Commission's centenary.

Rahul Gandhi visits Balaghat tribal families

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is visiting Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat on Thursday to meet tribal families who have lost children amid reported concerns over illness, malnutrition and access to healthcare. Gandhi said his visit was intended to stand with affected families as questions continue over the circumstances sur-

rounding the deaths. In a post on X ahead of the visit, Gandhi said, "I am coming to Balaghat today. To meet those tribal families who have lost their innocent children due to illness and the neglect of the BJP government."



project, alleging that villages were being submerged without adequate rehabilitation or compensation. He referred to concerns raised by tribal students in Indore over schools, colleges, hostels, food facilities, examination irregularities and reservation rights. The visit comes amid a political dispute over reported deaths of more than 30 tribal children in Balaghat's tribal-dominated areas. A reported Centre-led investigation identified multiple health conditions, including measles, malaria, co-infections, respiratory distress, dehydration, malnutrition, anaemia and shock, rather than one disease or pathogen. The Madhya Pradesh High Court has sought documents and a response from the state government in a petition concerning the deaths.

I am coming to Balaghat today. By spending time with them, I want to tell them that they are not alone in this grief—I am with them.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition

rounding the deaths. In a post on X ahead of the visit, Gandhi said, "I am coming to Balaghat today. To meet those tribal families who have lost their innocent children due to illness and the neglect of the BJP government."

ED searches nine locations in Rs 242-crore bank case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted searches at nine locations in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district as part of its investigation into an alleged Rs 242-crore money laundering case involving Babaji Date Mahila Sahakari Bank and its borrowers. The searches were carried out by the ED's Mumbai zone in coordination with security forces. The investigation is based on multiple FIRs registered by Avdhutwadi Police Station against officials and employees of the cooperative bank and its borrowers. Babaji Date Mahila Sahakari Bank, Yavatmal, was registered under Section 9(1) of the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act, 1960. The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the bank's licence in 2022. Following complaints alleging fraud and misuse of depositors' money, the Maharashtra government ordered a special audit. According to findings cited by officials, the bank's chairperson, CEO, directors and other officials allegedly acted in collusion with borrowers,

valuers and auditors to disburse loans without adequate collateral or proper assessment of repayment capacity. Officials said the audit found an alleged fraud of Rs 242 crore involving the chairperson and bank officials in collusion with loan beneficiaries.



Yavatmal bank case	
9	LOCATIONS SEARCHED
₹242 cr	ALLEGED FRAUD
2022	RBI CANCELLED THE LICENCE

According to the agency's findings, funds obtained through loans were allegedly diverted for personal use, withdrawn in cash, used for evergreening of loans and transferred to accounts of bank officials as alleged kickbacks. The searches are part of the ongoing investigation.

TN Left parties intensify protests over voter deletions

CHENNAI

Left parties intensified protests across Tamil Nadu on Thursday, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar



over alleged deletion of 13 crore voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The claims are made by the protesting parties and have been disputed by the Election Commission. CPI(M) State Secretary P Shanmugam, who led a demonstration near Washermanpet, alleged that the SIR process was being used to systematically remove targeted voters. He demanded Kumar's immediate removal, while accusing the Election Commission of failing to protect voting rights. CPI(M) Politburo member Vasuki, speaking at a protest

The Left's four demands

- Removal of the CEC
- Stopping the SIR process
- Restoring deleted names
- Reconstituting the Election Commission's selection committee

in Nungambakkam, listed four demands: removal of the CEC, stopping the SIR process, restoring deleted names and reconstituting the Election Commission's selection committee. She said the Left was seeking support from non-INDIA bloc parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party. CPI State Secretary Veerapandian, addressing protesters in K K Nagar, also demanded accountability from the Union government and the CEC. CPI(ML) District Secretary N James alleged that the CEC had acted unilaterally and ignored internal objections. The Election Commission has maintained that electoral-roll changes follow legal procedures, while announcing reviews of aspects of its voter-roll processes.

SQUASH PLAYERS REWARD

Vijay announces Rs 30 lakh for Asian Games squash winners

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Thursday announced a cash incentive of Rs 30 lakh each for squash players Joshna Chinappa and Shameena Riyaz after their contribution to India's bronze medal-winning women's team at the 20th Asian Games in Japan. Anahat Singh, Tanvi Khanna, Joshna and Shameena were part of the Indian squad that secured bronze in the women's squash team event. Congratulating the players, Vijay said the achievement had further enhanced Tamil

Nadu's standing in international sports and praised the athletes for their performance. In a post on X, the Chief Minister extended his congratulations and best wishes to the Indian team and specifically acknowledged Joshna and Shameena, who are from Chennai. He said their success reflected perseverance, talent and self-confidence, while describing them as role models for aspiring sportspersons in the state. The state government's cash incentive is part of its policy of rewarding athletes from Tamil Nadu who win



medals at national and international competitions. Joshna and Shameena were recognised by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu following their

medal-winning performance at the Asian Games. Vijay said the players' achievement would inspire young men and women seeking success in sport. "Their success will serve as an excellent inspiration for young men and women striving to achieve greatness. My best wishes for them to secure many more such laurels in the future and elevate the pride of Tamil Nadu and India on the global stage," he said. The award also recognises their contribution to the national team's medal-winning campaign at the continental event.

Infant found abandoned in Vikarabad fields

VIKARABAD

A one-year-old girl was rescued after being allegedly abandoned in agricultural fields in Nawabpet mandal of Telangana's Vikarabad district on Thursday, police said. Local residents found the ailing infant alone in the farmland and alerted the police. A police team reached the spot and rescued the child before handing her over to officials from the Child Welfare Department. The officials subsequently shifted the girl to a hospital for medical treatment after police found that her health was not well. Police are also investigating the circumstances surrounding

the infant's abandonment and are seeking information that could help establish how and when she was left in the fields. The Child Welfare Department is currently overseeing the child's care while authorities work to locate her family. Officials have not yet disclosed further details about the infant's medical condition or how long she may have remained in the agricultural fields before being found. The incident has prompted an investigation by local authorities, with police continuing efforts to identify the child's parents and determine the circumstances that led to her being left alone.

KARNATAKA MUST PUT ITS FINANCES BACK ON A SUSTAINABLE PATH

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

Fiscal prudence today is not austerity for its own sake; it is protection of the State's capacity to spend on development tomorrow.



The reported warning from Karnataka's Finance Department that the State's finances are under severe pressure should not be dismissed as merely another bureaucratic note. It raises a larger question about how long the State can continue expanding expenditure and borrowing without creating a structural burden for future governments and taxpayers.

The numbers deserve serious attention. Karnataka's total outstanding liabilities are estimated at ₹8,24,389 crore by the end of 2026-27, according to the Union Finance Ministry's response based on the State Budget. The 2026-27 Budget provides for ₹1.32 lakh crore of borrowings, while the State's outstanding liabilities are estimated at about 24.94 per cent of GSDP, very close to the 25 per cent level under the State's fiscal framework.

The immediate concern is not borrowing by itself. Borrowing for productive capital expenditure can create assets and support future economic growth. The danger arises when borrowing increasingly finances recurring expenditure that does not generate corresponding assets or revenue.

Karnataka's 2026-27 Budget estimates a revenue deficit of ₹22,957 crore. In other words, the State's regular revenues are insufficient to meet its revenue expenditure. At the same time, revenue expenditure is budgeted at ₹3.38 lakh crore. Committed expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest alone is estimated at ₹1.85 lakh crore, or about 59 per cent of estimated revenue receipts. Interest payments alone are projected at ₹53,332 crore.

The five guarantee schemes add another major recurring commitment. Their estimated expenditure in 2026-27 is ₹51,286 crore. The CAG has previously observed that the expansion of guarantee expenditure increased revenue expenditure and the revenue deficit and, in 2023-24, coincided with reduced infrastructure spending.

Guarantees to State public-sector enterprises constitute another layer of risk. As of March 31, 2025, Karnataka's outstanding government guarantees stood at ₹45,888.72 crore. These are contingent liabilities: they may not immediately appear as ordinary government debt, but the State can ultimately be called upon to honour them if the guaranteed entities cannot meet their obligations. The CAG records that ₹14,772.93 crore of guarantees were issued during 2024-25.

This is why government guarantees cannot be treated as cost-free instruments. They can facilitate borrowing by public enterprises, but they also transfer financial risk to the State exchequer. A systematic review of every existing guarantee, its purpose, the financial condition of the beneficiary entity and the possibility of recovery is therefore essential.

₹8,24,389 crore in total outstanding liabilities by the end of 2026-27; about 24.94 per cent of GSDP, very close to the 25 per cent level under the State's fiscal framework

There is also the problem of unfinished commitments. The Finance Department's reported September 17 note put the balance cost of ongoing projects at more than ₹2 lakh crore, with pending bills in four major departments – Public Works, Water Resources, Minor Irrigation and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj – amounting to ₹36,136 crore. The same report said Karnataka's borrowing space was virtually exhausted for the announcements already made in the 2026-27 Budget.

The phrase "non-plan expenditure" is no longer used in the modern budget classification, but the underlying concern remains valid: Karnataka needs much tighter control over recurring and committed expenditure.

The experience of other highly indebted States offers a cautionary backdrop. Punjab's outstanding liabilities are estimated at 45.1 per cent of GSDP for 2026-27. Kerala's outstanding government guarantees alone were estimated at ₹73,344 crore as of March 2025, while Telangana has had one of the country's highest state-guarantee ratios. These examples show how high debt, guarantees and recurring expenditure can progressively narrow a government's fiscal choices.

Karnataka still has considerable economic strength and revenue-raising capacity. That makes fiscal correction possible, provided expenditure is prioritised. New projects should be sanctioned only after identifying funding sources. Existing projects should be ranked according to economic and social returns, while low-priority schemes and administrative expenditure should undergo periodic review.

The government also needs a transparent medium-term debt strategy, an annual ceiling on guarantees, stronger financial discipline among public-sector enterprises and greater scrutiny of schemes that create permanent recurring liabilities. Revenue mobilisation, better tax compliance and monetisation of under-used public assets should accompany expenditure control.

The objective should not be indiscriminate cuts. Karnataka needs investment in infrastructure, irrigation, education, health and employment-generating sectors. But fiscal space is itself a public resource. Once it is consumed by debt servicing and recurring commitments, governments have fewer resources available for development.

The Finance Department's warning, therefore, should become an opportunity for a serious fiscal reset. Karnataka need not wait until debt servicing, guarantees and committed expenditure leave little room for policy choices. Fiscal prudence today is not austerity for its own sake; it is protection of the State's capacity to spend on development tomorrow.

RETHINKING AI IN WARFARE

The rapid integration of artificial intelligence and autonomous weapon systems into modern combat poses an unprecedented challenge to global governance. While military powers rush to adopt algorithmic decision-making to secure tactical advantages, the international community continues to stall on establishing enforceable safeguards. Surrendering life-and-death choices to automated systems drastically lowers the threshold for military escalation while undermining foundational international humanitarian laws. As battlefield technologies outpace existing treaties, nations must urgently prioritize binding agreements at the United Nations to regulate killer robots and autonomous weapons. Blind technological competition in warfare risks creating a world where automated conflict escapes human oversight entirely. Global security requires immediate, collective diplomatic intervention before military algorithms permanently dictate the future of human conflict.

WHAT WE TEST, WHAT WE FORGET

DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

Every year, millions of students walk out of examination halls with marks that will shape their futures and knowledge that will fade within months. This is not a failure of the students. It is the predictable output of a system that rewards memory over understanding and rankings over learning.

Consider what the typical classroom asks of a child. Sit still, absorb the syllabus, reproduce it on paper. The child who asks "why" is a distraction, and the one who can recite last year's answer key is a success. We then express surprise when graduates struggle to solve problems that no textbook anticipated. The surprise is itself revealing, for it suggests we never expected the system to produce thinkers in the first place.

The damage is not only intellectual. Exam pressure has turned adolescence into a long audition, with anxiety, sleepless nights and coach-



ing-centre schedules that leave no room for curiosity, play or rest. A system that treats one set of results as a verdict on a young person's worth is not measuring education. It is manufacturing fear. And fear, as any honest teacher will admit, is the enemy of the very curiosity that learning depends upon. Inequality compounds the problem. Children in well-funded schools get laboratories, libraries and trained teachers. Others sit in overcrowded rooms with outdated books and too few staff. Private tuition has quietly become a second, parallel school system, available to those who can

pay. Education is meant to be the great leveller, yet too often it hardens the divisions a child is born into. When a family's income decides the quality of a child's schooling, merit becomes a convenient fiction, a story the fortunate tell about themselves.

Then there is the teacher, the most important and most neglected part of the whole enterprise. Teachers are asked to complete syllabi, manage paperwork, handle large classes and raise results, while being poorly paid, rarely trained after their first year and seldom respected. We demand inspiration from people we refuse to support, and then



In global politics, power is determined not merely by military strength or economic size, but also by how a major power chooses to exercise its influence. Under President Donald Trump, the United States has increasingly used tariffs and economic sanctions as instruments of foreign policy. The latest legislation targeting countries that continue to purchase Russian oil and gas is another indication of this approach. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the measure on September 16, 2026, by a 262–159 vote. The legislation authorizes the President to impose tariffs of up to 100 percent on major buyers of Russian energy; it does not, by itself, automatically impose a 100 percent tariff on India.

For India, the issue is significant because Russia remains an important source of crude oil. According to S&P Global data, India imported around 1.6 million barrels per day of Russian crude in August 2026, making it the largest importer among the major Russian crude buyers listed in the data.

Any decision by Washington to exercise the new authority could therefore affect Indian exports to the American market and could also create pressure on India's energy costs. New Delhi has made clear that it will protect its trade and economic interests while safeguarding energy security.

The larger question, however, goes beyond this particular legislation: Are tariffs still primarily instruments of trade policy, or are they increasingly becoming tools for compelling other countries to align their foreign-policy choices with Washington? The distinction matters because the consequences extend well beyond bilateral trade. India and the United States have substantial economic ties. America remains an important destination for Indian exports, while American companies and consumers also benefit from access to Indian goods and services. Consequently, very high additional tariffs would not affect India alone. They could also influence American importers, consum-

AMERICA'S TARIFF GAMBIT: WHY INDIA NEED NOT BE INTIMIDATED

ers and businesses connected to bilateral supply chains. The economic relationship creates interdependence, meaning that tariff escalation can generate costs on both sides.

India therefore faces a two-fold challenge. The first is to preserve the competitiveness of its exports in the American market. The second is to maintain energy security. A sudden reduction in Russian crude imports could force Indian refiners to seek alternative supplies, potentially at higher prices, particularly when global energy markets are already exposed to geopolitical disruptions. Indian refiners have also indicated that replacing Russian crude rapidly could be difficult because of the scale involved and the availability of alternative supplies.

At the same time, Washington has its own calculation to make. Excessive tariffs on major energy-importing countries could have consequences for global oil flows, prices and the economic interests of American businesses. The legislation therefore includes scope for presidential discretion and waivers where national interests are involved.

This is where India's policy of strategic autonomy assumes greater importance. India has neither sought to sever its relations with Russia nor subordinated its economic interests to the priorities of any single power. Its approach has been to maintain relationships with multiple major powers while diversifying energy supplies and protecting national interests. India's engagement with the BRICS framework provides

mechanisms for more efficient cross-border payments, including greater use of BRICS members' local currencies for trade settlements and investment.

It is important, however, not to exaggerate what this means. BRICS is not currently replacing the U.S. dollar

In a multipolar world, national resilience does not come from withdrawing from global relationships; it comes from having enough relationships, markets and strategic options to remain free to choose.

— Lalit Gargg

with a common currency. The New Delhi Declaration does not propose a single BRICS currency. Instead, it supports practical efforts to facilitate cross-border payments and expand the use of local currencies while respecting national priorities. The dollar remains deeply embedded in global trade and finance. Yet if countries gradually expand bilateral settlements in their own currencies and develop alternative payment mechanisms, the international financial system could become more diversified over time. India-Russia economic relations offer a practical example. The development of alternative payment arrangements demonstrates that countries can adapt their financial mechanisms when conventional channels are affected by sanctions or geopolitical restrictions. This does not



an important illustration of this approach. At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, member countries adopted the 140-point New Delhi Declaration. The declaration emphasized economic cooperation and explored practical

mean that the dollar will suddenly lose its global importance. Rather, it indicates that countries are seeking additional options to reduce vulnerability to external financial pressure.

BRICS should therefore not automatically be interpreted

blame them when the demand goes unmet. No curriculum reform can succeed if the people delivering it are exhausted and unsupported. Countries with strong schools tend to share one trait: they treat teaching as a profession worth competing for, not a fall-back for those with no other option.

Nor can we ignore the widening gap between school and the world beyond it. Employers complain that graduates lack communication skills, adaptability and the ability to work with others. Students complain that what they learned has little bearing on the work available to them. Both are right, and both are describing the same failure. In an era when information is a search away, the scarce skills are judgment, creativity and the willingness to keep learning. A system built to test what a machine can retrieve instantly is training students for a world that no longer exists.

The remedies are not mysterious. Assessment that

"The question is no longer whether the system is failing its students. It is how long we intend to pretend otherwise."

DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

probes understanding rather than recall, investment in teachers as professionals, public schools good enough that families choose them willingly, and a culture that values effort over rank have all been proposed, repeatedly, by commission after commission. What has been missing is not ideas but resolve. Reform threatens the comfortable arithmetic of marks and merit lists, and it asks parents, institutions and politicians to accept that results may look messier before they improve. That is a cost few are willing to name aloud, and so the recommendations gather dust while another cohort passes through.

A nation's future is written in its classrooms. If we keep asking children only to memorise, we should not be surprised when they cannot imagine.

competitiveness, diversifying energy supplies and developing technological capabilities can reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

The world of 2026 is substantially more complex than the unipolar environment that followed the Cold War. China's economic weight, India's expanding market, Russia's energy resources, West Asia's strategic importance and the growing voice of the Global South are contributing to a more dispersed global power structure. The BRICS summit in New Delhi reflected this changing environment, with practical cooperation on economic, financial and developmental issues rather than an immediate attempt to create an alternative global monetary system.

For the United States, too, the present moment carries an important strategic lesson. American economic strength, technological leadership, the international role of the dollar and its network of alliances remain significant. But the long-term effectiveness of these strengths depends partly on whether they are used to build confidence and partnerships or primarily as instruments of pressure.

India, meanwhile, need not view every American move as a threat, nor should it underestimate the economic consequences of a major tariff escalation. The sensible course is to remain calm, negotiate firmly, diversify intelligently and protect national interests without closing the doors of cooperation. The emerging global order is not necessarily moving toward a world without American influence. It is moving toward a world in which more countries are seeking multiple options rather than dependence on a single power. That distinction is crucial. For India, the challenge is therefore larger than a possible American tariff. It is about strengthening its position in a rapidly transforming global economy. If India can combine energy security, export diversification, technological capability, domestic manufacturing and constructive multilateral engagement, its ability to withstand external economic pressure will grow substantially. America may possess powerful instruments of pressure, but India possesses an equally important strategic asset – the ability to create choices.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE OVERSHOOT

With global temperatures breaching critical thresholds, the discourse surrounding the climate crisis must shift from rhetoric to immediate structural accountability. UN reports clearly warn that exceeding, warming will trigger irreversible environmental tipping points, disproportionately impacting vulnerable developing nations that contributed the least to emissions. Despite recurring international summits, global commitments remain fragmented, favoring short-term political convenience over necessary decarbonization targets. Transitioning away from fossil fuels, expanding renewable energy infrastructure, and funding global adaptation strategies are no longer distant goals; they are urgent moral imperatives. World leaders must move past token pledges and enforce binding climate action plans. Failing to address climate overshoot today leaves future generations to inherit an unpredictable, ecologically depleted world.

— Naveen

REFORMING GLOBAL CRISIS DIPLOMACY

The persistent gridlock within the United Nations Security Council during ongoing global conflicts highlights a profound structural defect in modern diplomacy. Veto powers repeatedly prevent decisive humanitarian interventions, reducing the international body to a platform for political posturing rather than crisis resolution. As civilian casualties mount in regional conflicts and mass displacement strains international borders, the current framework reveals its growing obsolescence. Effective global governance requires a reformed multilateral model – one that limits veto abuse in human rights emergencies and grants equitable representation to emerging global economies. Without structural reforms, multilateralism risks complete irrelevance, leaving international stability subject to unilateral power plays. World leaders must rebuild diplomatic institutions to safeguard universal human rights effectively.

— Suman

Quick Read

Gujarat offers up to 50% motor vehicle tax concession

GANDHINAGAR
The Gujarat government has announced up to 50 per cent concession in Motor Vehicle Tax for owners who scrap eligible old vehicles and purchase new ones, with the benefit linked to the Certificate of Deposit (COD) issued following authorised scrapping. The concession will be available at the time of registration of a new vehicle against a COD issued for the scrapping of an eligible old vehicle. The benefit will apply to CODs issued up to March 31, 2027, according to a recent notification issued by the Ports and Transport Department. The provision covers transport and non-transport vehicles manufactured under Bharat Stage-I (BS-I) and earlier mass emission standards.

B'desh ready-made garment exports to US continue to decline

DHAKA
Bangladesh's exports of ready-made garments (RMGs) to the US have declined almost 7.55 per cent (year-on-year) in the February-July period, while the neighbouring country continues to buy US goods in the wake of a trade agreement signed earlier this year, according to a new report. "Bangladesh has ramped up purchases of US goods in the wake of a trade agreement signed in February, having signed purchasing agreements worth billions of dollars for Boeing aircraft, liquefied natural gas and grains, but its exports in the other direction have yet to see a substantial boost as it waits for the trade pact to be implemented," the report mentioned.



Viral gazette on Saturday holiday for PSU banks fake: PIB

NEW DELHI
The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check unit on Thursday dismissed as fake a purported government gazette notification circulating on social media that claims the Centre has declared every Saturday a public holiday for all public sector banks, including the State Bank of India (SBI). In a post on social media platform X, PIB Fact Check clarified that no such notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance's Department of Financial Services. The agency said the document being shared online is fake and does not represent any official government order. "A Gazette circulating on social media, purportedly issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), claims that the Central Government has declared every Saturday a public holiday for all Public Sector Banks, including SBI. The document being circulated is fake," it said. The fact-checking unit urged the public not to rely on unverified documents circulating on social media and advised citizens to verify government-related information through official channels before sharing it further.

Private investment key to tourism growth

India's tourism sector is set for its next growth phase, with private investment, new destinations, better connectivity and technology expected to reshape travel and employment.

NEW DELHI

Greater private-sector investment, development of new destinations and improved visitor experiences will be crucial for sustaining India's

tourism growth, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Thursday. Speaking at the ASSOCHAM National Tourism Conclave 2026, Shekhawat said tourism is emerging as a

Pvt investment, new destinations key for tourism growth

- Private investment identified as crucial for tourism expansion
- New destinations and experiences to drive future growth
- Rising incomes expected to boost travel demand
- Spiritual, wellness, cruise and wildlife tourism see opportunities
- AI and technology to improve visitor experiences
- Government-industry collaboration seen as key to a \$1 trillion tourism economy



major driver of economic growth and employment and can play a larger role in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. He said rising incomes and expanding connectivity

through highways, airports, railways and other transport networks are expected to significantly increase travel demand across the country. Meeting this demand, he said, will require greater investment in tourism infra-

structure, hospitality, destination management and human resource development.

"The next phase of tourism growth will require us to look beyond increasing tourist numbers and focus on building new destinations, creating new experiences and improving destination management," Shekhawat said.

A joint report by ASSOCHAM and CBRE released at the event highlighted opportunities in spiritual, MICE, wellness, cruise, rural and wildlife tourism.

The report also noted that better connectivity through expressways, rail networks,

ropeways and river-based circuits is opening new tourism markets.

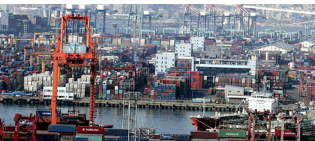
Technology and artificial intelligence also featured prominently in discussions, with industry leaders highlighting their potential to improve travel experiences and destination management.

ASSOCHAM President Nirmal K. Minda said tourism is evolving beyond leisure into a major source of investment, employment and regional development. He stressed stronger government-industry collaboration to support the goal of a \$1 trillion tourism economy.

South Korea exports hit record high

SEOUL

South Korea's exports surged 83.5% year-on-year to a record \$120.9 billion in September, driven largely by a sharp rise in semiconductor shipments, according to data released Thursday by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.



Exports touch unprecedented monthly level in Sept, powered by record semiconductor shipments and stronger demand across major markets.

Semiconductor exports crossed \$60 billion for the first time, reaching \$60.3 billion after soaring 263% from a year earlier. Higher memory-chip prices and increased shipments amid strong global demand supported the increase.

Imports also rose 26% to \$71.09 billion, resulting in an unprecedented monthly trade surplus of \$49.85 billion.

Petroleum product exports increased 72% to \$7.22 billion, while petrochemical ex-

South Korea is on track to achieve \$1 trillion in annual exports this year."

— Kim Jung-kwan, Industry Minister

ports rose 5.1% to \$3.95 billion. Cosmetics shipments climbed 31.4% to \$1.51 billion, supported by demand from China, the United States and the European Union.

Automobile exports were an exception, declining 5.5% to \$6.05 billion. The fall was attributed partly to fewer working days during the Chuseok holiday and weaker used-car exports.

Exports to China more than doubled, rising 123% to \$26 billion, supported by semiconductor and wireless communications shipments. Shipments to the United States jumped 137% to \$24.33 billion.

Exports to Southeast Asia increased 92.6% to \$21.29 billion, while those to the European Union rose 20.9% to \$8.65 billion.

Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said January-September exports crossed \$800 billion for the first time, surpassing the previous annual record of \$709.3 billion.

Key numbers

\$120.9bn Total exports	\$60.3bn Semiconductor exports	\$49.85bn Trade surplus
\$800bn+ January-September exports	\$26bn China exports	\$24.33bn US exports

Mahindra auto sales rise 15%, Hyundai Motor India sales hit record high

NEW DELHI

Auto majors posted robust September sales in India on Thursday as Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor India reported double-digit growth driven in part by



strong SUV demand.

Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said total auto sales for September stood at 1,14,874 vehicles, up 15% year-on-year including exports. Domestic utility vehicle (UV) sales rose 14% to 64,092 units, while commercial vehicle domestic sales stood at 30,420, also up 14%.

"Adding to this momentum, we are proud to have crossed the milestone of 1 lakh billing of our Electric Origin SUVs since launch," said Dr Velusamy R, President, Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited.

In the commercial vehicle segment, sales of light commercial vehicles under 2 tonnes stood at 4,044 units in September, up 19%, while 2–3.5 tonne LCVs posted

26,376 units sales, up 13 per cent. Three-wheeler sales, including electric models, rose 26% to 16,343 units.

Year to date sales of light commercial vehicles under 2 tonnes till September rose 30%, while sales of 2–3.5 tonne LCVs rose 18 per cent. Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) reported its highest-ever monthly total sales since inception at 77,916 units in September, with a robust YoY growth of 10.8%.

Monthly domestic sales stood at 57,166 units up 10.9% YoY and exports touched 20,750 units up 10.4% YoY. "This number surpasses our previous record achieved in July 2026. The well-rounded growth across domestic and exports markets is a testament to the strong appeal of our product portfolio and our commitment to delivering world-class mobility solutions in India and across global markets," said Tarun Garg, MD & CEO - HMIL.

Retail sugar prices down 15%, ex-mill rates fall around 28%

NEW DELHI

Average retail sugar prices have declined 15 per cent from their August peak, while ex-mill sugar prices have fallen by around 28 per cent and remained stable over the past three weeks, the government said on Thursday, announcing tighter stock-holding norms for sugar dealers to ensure adequate availability during the festive season.

The government said average retail sugar prices have declined by 15 per cent from their August peak and are expected to fall further as the benefit of lower ex-mill prices passes through the supply chain.

According to the government, the decline in prices reflects the impact of various measures taken to ensure adequate availability of sugar and facilitate its orderly movement through the market.

To prevent hoarding and ensure smooth supplies, the government has reduced the

stock-holding period for sugar dealers to 15 days and fixed the stock-holding limit at 1,000 quintals. The revised norms will be effective from October 15 to November 30, 2026.

However, considering specific regional market require-



ments, the stock-holding limit has been fixed at 2,000 quintals for Kolkata and its extended metropolitan areas as well as the state of Assam.

The government said Kolkata sources sugar from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka and supplies it to eastern India, including the North-Eastern region. The higher limit for Assam has been provided in view of geographical constraints, transportation logistics and consumer interests in the North-East.

India's growth holding strong, Q3 GDP seen around 7.5%

NEW DELHI

India's economy remains on a strong footing, supported by robust manufacturing activity, exports, investment and credit



growth, a report said on Thursday.

A report by HSBC Global Investment Research pointed to a string of strong economic indicators, including 8 per cent industrial production growth in August, 21 per cent growth in non-oil exports, around 25 per cent growth in public capital expenditure during April-August and 19 per cent credit growth in September.

Around 70 per cent of the indicators in its database showed positive growth in August, up from 52 per cent in the March-July period. In addition, manufacturing has been particularly strong with September's flash PMI indicating a sharp rise in new orders.

Based on current trends, the report has estimated India's GDP growth at around 7.5 per cent in the third quarter.

The resilience has been broad-based despite disruptions from higher energy prices and adverse weather conditions, it said and added that consumption has remained stable helped by fuel tax cuts and a gradual pass-through of higher input costs.

Non-oil exports, especially electronics and engineering goods, have emerged as a key growth driver, the report said, highlighting that goods exports grew 20 per cent year-on-year in volume terms and 26 per cent in value terms in August.

It projects growth to moderate somewhat as the benefits of accommodative monetary policy and GST reductions fade.

It remains broadly optimistic, citing strong export momentum and the potential benefits of trade agreements with the UK and EU, noting that exports to the UK rose sharply after the implementation of the bilateral trade agreement.

Govt denies RDI fund shortage



NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Science and Technology on Thursday rejected a media report claiming that the Technology Development Board (TDB) had closed its call for proposals under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme because of a shortage of funds.

The Ministry clarified that there is no shortage of funds for disbursement to eligible technology entities (ETEs). It said the temporary closure was an administrative measure taken to assess the large number of project proposals already received.

According to the Ministry, TDB has paused its ongoing call following a massive influx of proposals.

"The media report claiming the shortage of funds as the reason for closure of the RDI call by TDB is not correct," the Ministry said in its statement, adding that the closure was undertaken purely for administrative reasons.

MTNL approves sale of Powai property to I-T Dept for Rs 891.53 cr



NEW DELHI

State-owned telecom company Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) on Thursday said its board has approved the sale of its property at Powai in Mumbai to the Income Tax Department for Rs 891.53 crore. The property which is located at Plot-C, Technology Street, Powai has a land area of 20,895.60 square metres, MTNL said in a regulatory filing. The sale will be carried out through a government-to-government (G2G) transfer or direct sale, it said.

The transaction is subject to formal acceptance by the Income Tax Department and is based on Presidential Approval and Alternative Mechanism

(AM) approval, according to the telecom firm. The proposed sale is part of MTNL's efforts to monetise non-core assets as the state-owned telecom company continues to face financial challenges.

In addition, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said in July that MTNL had total liabilities of around Rs 40,008.52 crore in FY26, while its non-core assets were valued at around Rs 50,000 crore. The government has identified asset monetisation as one of the measures to help the company meet its liabilities.

Shares of MTNL on Thursday traded higher, jumping as much as 17 per cent to hit an intraday high of Rs 26.96 on the BSE by 12:40 pm. The stock has touched a 52-week high of Rs 44.71 and a 52-week low of Rs 20.30.

GLOBAL TURMOIL

RBI rate hike outlook faces uncertainty

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India may raise the policy repo rate by 50–75 basis points in the current cycle amid heightened macroeconomic headwinds and geopolitical uncertainty, according to a report by Bandhan Life Insurance.

The report said any potential rate action would be influenced primarily by domestic factors including inflation, economic growth, liquidity conditions and financial stability, rather than movements by the US Federal Reserve alone.

It noted that elevated global uncertainty and relatively firm valuations could make

the Indian equity market increasingly stock-specific. Companies demonstrating stronger earnings visibility and sustainable growth may therefore receive greater investor attention.

The report also highlighted challenges for India's information technology sector. Rapid adoption of artificial intelligence is reshaping corporate technology spending and could redirect budgets away from traditional IT services. This may limit near-term upgrades until at least the second half of financial year 2026-27.

According to the report, investors are likely to differentiate more sharply between

sectors and companies based on growth prospects and earnings resilience as global rates, oil prices, geopolitical developments and AI influence corporate spending.



The US Federal Reserve's rate trajectory, meanwhile, will depend on inflation, labour-market conditions, consumer spending and broader economic growth. The report said the Fed could deliver one

or two additional hikes if inflation accelerates again or labour-market conditions remain unusually tight.

The broader Indian market outlook remains sensitive to crude oil prices, US bond yields and geopolitical tensions. Prolonged elevated oil prices could weigh on domestic demand and pressure India's balance of payments.

The report also warned that continued disruptions in the Middle East could affect sectors such as chemicals and fertilisers. Meanwhile, the rupee is expected to undergo managed and gradual depreciation rather than sustained appreciation in the medium term.

India beat Sri Lanka by 124 runs to enter men's cricket final



CH NEWS, NISSHIN

Defending champions India thrashed Sri Lanka in the men's cricket semi-final of the Asian Games here at the Karogi Sports Park on Thursday and cruised smoothly into the final, where a high-profile clash against Pakistan awaits.

Defending a 170-run target against the Islanders, India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah ran through the opposition's top-order to start off the second innings with a double-wicket over as opener Si-neth Jayawardena and keeper-batter Sohan de Livera

were dismissed for a duck.

In the next over, Ravi Bish-noi's sharp throw helped India claim a third wicket after opening batter Lasith Croospulle was run out as the Sahan Arachchige-led side slipped to 2-3 in just seven deliveries.

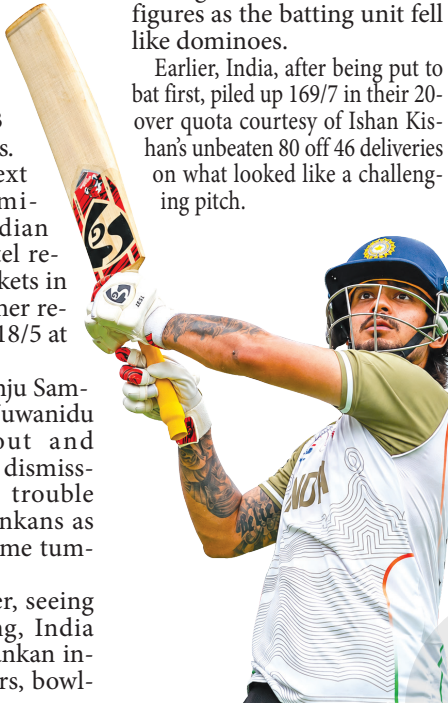
What followed next was complete dominance from the Indian bowlers as Axar Patel returned with two wickets in the fourth over, further reducing Sri Lanka to 18/5 at the end of that over.

With Axar and Sanju Samson then inflicting Nuwanidu Fernando's run-out and Washington Sundar dismissing Wanuja Sahan, trouble loomed over the Lankans as their batting unit came tumbling down.

With the 10th over, seeing three wickets falling, India closed out the Sri Lankan in-nings in just 9.5 overs, bowl-

ing the side out for mere 45 runs. Except Nuwanidu Fer-nando, no other batter could manage to score in double figures as the batting unit fell like dominoes.

Earlier, India, after being put to bat first, piled up 169/7 in their 20-over quota courtesy of Ishan Kishan's unbeaten 80 off 46 deliveries on what looked like a challeng-ing pitch.



Ishan Feels Added Pressure At Asian Games

To be very honest, I feel there's a bit of more pressure here."

— Ishan Kishan, India wicketkeeper-batter

CH NEWS, NISSHIN

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan said representing the country at the Asian Games carries a different kind of pressure, particularly when a medal is at stake.

Kishan played a crucial role in India's emphatic semi-final victory over Sri Lanka at Korogi Sports Park, scoring a magnificent 80 as India posted 169 before bowling Sri Lanka out for just 45.

Reflecting on the experience, Kishan said the presence of national flags, cheer-ing supporters and the prospect of winning a medal cre-ate a distinct emotional feel-ing for the players.

He added that the pressure feels greater than during regu-lar international fixtures because the occasion is about representing India beyond the usual cricketing frame-work.

Kishan also explained the team's approach to batting on a difficult surface featuring visible cracks. According to him, India believed a total of around 150 would provide a competitive position, particularly because of the team's strong spin bowling options.

The batter said the strategy was for one established play-er to remain at the crease and bat through the innings rather than expecting new batters to immediately attack on a challenging pitch.

India will now face Paki-stan in the gold medal clash on Saturday, with Kishan em-phasing that collective goals will remain central to the team's approach.

Anish seventh in 25m rapid fire pistol

CH NEWS, NAGOYA

Anish Bhanwala finished seventh in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol men's individual final here at Aichi Pref. General Shooting Gallery on Thurs-day, concluding India's shoot-ing campaign with 15 medals.

Anish was tied with other shooters on 11 but was elimi-nated on the countback after his lower qualification rank-ing placed him seventh. Indi-an shooters concluded their campaign with three gold, eight silver and 4 bronze med-als.

Indian pistol shooters had a disappointing performance in Aichi-Nagoya, securing only two medals out of a total of 15. They won a silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol event and a gold in the mixed team 10m air pistol event.

Meanwhile, India reached the men's quadrant semi-fi-nals in Sepaktakraw and as-sured a medal after complet-ing an unbeaten group-stage campaign with a thrilling 2-1 comeback win over Myanmar.

In the canoe slalom, India's Shikha Chauhan finished seventh in the women's kayak single final. She clocked 193.31 to take seventh place amongst eight finalists.



INDIA SURVIVE PAKISTAN FIGHTBACK, REACH FINAL



5' 1-0	13' 2-0	23' 3-0	INDIA-PAKISTAN HOCKEY SEMI-FINAL		LAST MIN 4-3
HARMANPREET	HARMANPREET	SUKHJEET	Q3	Q4	ABHISHEK
Q1	Q2				
INDIA 4-3 PAKISTAN			30' 3-1	45' 3-2	48' 3-3
			ABU MAHMOOD	HANNAN SHAHID	RANA WAHEED

CH NEWS, KAKAMIGAHARA

India held their nerve in a dramatic semi-final against Pakistan, securing a 4-3 victory at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium on Thursday to reach the men's hockey final at the Asian Games 2026.

The defending champions appeared firmly in control after building a 3-0 lead, but Pakistan produced a stunning comeback to level the contest early in the final quarter.

India eventually regained the advantage through

Abhishek in the final minute to seal a place in the title clash.

India made an aggressive start and opened the scoring in the fifth minute through Harmanpreet Singh.

After a series of penalty corners, the captain found the gap between Pakistan goalkeeper Muneeb-ur-Rehman Raza's legs to put India ahead.

Pakistan responded before half-time when Abu Mah-mood converted a penalty corner in the 30th minute.

Hannan Shahid then reduced the deficit further in the 45th minute.

The result guarantees India another Asian Games medal and leaves them one win away from securing qualifica-tion for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

The victory also marked a historic moment, with both India's men's and women's hockey teams reaching their respective finals at the same Asian Games for the first time since 1998.

Litton Das rues lack of game time after loss against Pakistan in SF

CH NEWS, NISSHIN

Bangladesh captain Lit-ton Das rued the lack of preparation and game time in the Asian Games stood as a major reason for their loss to Pakistan in the cricket semifinal at the Karogi Sports Park here in Nisshin on Thursday.

Bangladesh batters strug-gled big time in tricky condi-tions and managed to put up only 111/7 in the shortened 13-over per-side contest, which was curtailed due to a slushy outfield. Pakistan went on to chase the target with six wickets in hand and nine balls to spare.

None of the four seeded quarterfinalists got any game time due to rains in Nisshin, as Litton called out the lack of preparations for the event.

"No, it was never ideal," Lit-ton told reporters on the preparation after the Paki-stan loss. "We had been sitting in our rooms for several days and then lost the toss, so there was not much we could do.



"The wicket was also difficult to read. It would have been better if we had played well, but it is never easy to sit around for so long and then come out and play an extraordinary innings. Credit goes to Hridoy for bringing us back from that position.

We had been sitting in our rooms for several days and then lost the toss, so there was not much we could do."

— Litton Das
Bangladesh captain

The partnership between Mosad-dek and Hridoy was also very good," he added.

Bangladesh were scheduled to face Malaysia in the fourth quarterfinal; however, the clash was washed out, and the Bangla Tigers made it to the semis on virtue of being the higher-ranked side.

Nagal loss ends India's tennis bid

CH NEWS, NAGOYA

India's tennis campaign at the Asian Games 2026 ended without a medal after Sumit Nagal suffered a straight-sets defeat to China's Wu Yibing in the men's singles quarterfinals at the Higashiyama Park Ten-nis Center on Thursday.

Nagal went down 4-6, 4-6 against Wu, failing to overturn his previous defeat to the Chinese player at the ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai tournament, where he had lost in the round of 128.



His exit completed a disap-ointing tennis campaign for India, who failed to win a medal at the Asian Games for

INDIA'S TENNIS RECORD	
34	ASIAN GAMES TENNIS MEDALS
10	GOLD MEDALS
2	HANGZHOU 2023 MEDALS

the first time since 1986.

India had won two tennis medals at Hangzhou 2023, including gold in mixed doubles and silver in men's doubles.

Manu, Prince sail India to skiff silver

CH NEWS, GAMAGORI CITY

India opened its sailing medal account at the Asian Games as Manu Francis and Prince Kurisinkal Noble se-cured silver in the men's skiff competition on Thursday, fin-ishing behind China after nine races.

The Indian pair closed the regatta with 23 points, behind the Chinese combination of Wen Zaiding and Liu Tian, who took gold with 16. Hong Kong China's Akira Luke Sakai and Russel Aylsworth completed the podium with 24 points.

The Aichi-Nagoya medal was India's first Asian Games silver in the men's skiff and



the country's second medal in the event. Varun Thakkar and KC Ganapathy won bronze in the men's 49er at Jakarta 2018. Manu and Prince's silver was also India's 24th sailing medal at the Asian Games. At Hang-zhou 2023, India had won three.

The silver marks another

milestone for Francis, 31, and Noble, 30, who have known each other since childhood. The Kochi-based sailors de-veloped an interest in the sport early and subsequently trained at the National Sailing School in Bhopal and the Mu-ziris Yachting Club in Kerala.

Nitesh storms into Greco-Roman final to end 64-year wait

CH NEWS, NAGOYA

Nitesh Siwach stormed into the final of the Greco-Roman 97kg after a stellar 9-0 tech-nical superiority win over Mongolia's Gan-baataryn Gankhuyag in the semifinal at the Na-goya City Inae Sports Center in the ongoing Asian Games here on Thursday.

Nitesh has now become the first Indian to march into the



final of the Greco-Roman wrestling at the Asiad since the 1962 Games, ending a 64-year wait for India. He will now face Yuri Nakazato of Japan in the gold medal clash later in the day.

If Nitesh beats Nakazato, he will become the first Indian to win an Asiad gold in Greco-

Roman wrestling after Ganpat Andalkar, who won the gold at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta.

Meanwhile, Mansi will be playing the bronze medal match after losing her semifi-nal to Japan's Nonoka Ozaki 0-6. She will be playing for the bronze against Mongolia's Al-tijn Togtokh later in the day.

Nitesh, the 2026 Asian Championships silver medal-list, was superb in the semifi-nal against the Hangzhou 2023 bronze medallist Gan-baatar, as he didn't let his op-ponent take any point and raced to a 9-0 TSU win. He had earlier defeated Aman-berdi Agammedov of Turkmenistan in the quarter-final by 7-1.

64	YEAR WAIT ENDS LAST: 1962	NITESH SIWACH GRECO-ROMAN 97KG FINAL	SEMI-FINAL 9-0 v GANKHUYAG GOLD BOUT v YURI NAKAZATO, JAPAN
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Pranavi Stays Second, India Third

CH NEWS, KASUGAI

India's Pranavi Urs contin-ued her strong showing at the Asian Games 2026, re-maining second in the wom-en's individual stroke play after the completion of the second day at Kasugai Coun-try Club East Course.

Pranavi produced an im-pressive seven-under 63 in her second round to take her overall tally to 11-under 129 after two days. She had opened her campaign with a four-under 66 on the first day and maintained her po-sition near the top of the lea-derboard with another low-scoring round.

In the women's indi-vidual competition, Olympians Diksha Dagar and Aditi Ashok remained out-side the top 20. Dik-sha was joint 21st after carding a three-over 73, taking her two-day total

to four-over 144. Aditi shot a four-over 74 and stood joint 25th with a total of five-over 145.

India also made progress in the women's team com-petition. The Indian team moved from tied sixth after the opening day to third fol-lowing the second round. India posted a combined seven-under 273, with the scores of the top two indi-vidual golfers contributing to the team total.

In the men's individual event, Saptak Talwar slipped from joint third to joint seventh despite shooting a two-under 68. He now has a combined score of six-under 134 after two rounds, following his open-ing-round four-under 66.

Chinese Taipei's Wei-hsuan Wang leads the men's indi-vidual standings at nine-under 131.



ROUND 1 66	ROUND 2 63
2 ND	-11
PRANAVI URS 66 + 63 = 129 AFTER TWO ROUNDS	

Ganesh bags compound bronze



CH NEWS, OKAZAKI

Indian compound archer Ga-nesh Mani Ratnam Thiru-muru won the men's indi-vidual bronze medal, taking In-dia's tally in archery to four, on Thursday. Ganesh defeated Vietnam's Cong Duc Dang 149-144 to clinch the third spot on the podium here at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square.

Ganesh produced a perfect finish as he hit 14 10s, closing with three successive 10s to reach 149 and pull clear of his opponent. This is his second medal at Aichi-Nagoya, hav-ing won the gold in the men's team event. India finish the compound archery competi-tion with three gold medals in the team events and one bronze in the individuals.

Quick Read

Pakistani airstrikes kill 9 in Afghanistan

Kabul
Pakistani airstrikes targeting alleged militant hide-outs in Afghanistan killed 9 people, according to the Afghan Taliban. The raids struck three homes in Kunar and Helmand provinces, resulting in the deaths of women and children. Meanwhile, Islamabad claimed the precise military operation successfully eliminated twenty-two terrorists and destroyed hidden weapons caches. The UN reported at least ten civilian casualties, sparking renewed friction between the neighboring nations. Pakistan accuses Kabul of harboring cross-border militants, a charge the Taliban strongly denies. This escalation follows a deadly militant attack in Pakistan last month, further straining relations.

Independent outlet Matsaddash reporters detained in raids

Cairo
Egyptian security forces arrested all 6 journalists from the independent investigative outlet Matsaddash during a series of raids. Plainclothes officers seized electronic devices from their homes following accusations that the digital platform spread false news for the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Matsaddash firmly denied any affiliation with the group, emphasizing its work in correcting misinformation published by partisan media. Human rights advocates note that independent journalism continues to face severe restrictions in Egypt under ongoing crackdowns. Legal representatives are currently providing support for the detained reporters as international press freedom groups condemn the sweeping arrests.

Emergency motions halt Tennessee execution proceedings

Nashville
Tennessee's first attempt to execute a woman in two centuries failed after death row inmate Christa Pike survived a lethal injection. Witnesses reported hearing gasps and snoring after officials administered the chemicals at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution. Pike's lawyers halted proceedings with emergency motions as an ambulance transported her for medical treatment. Governor Bill Lee subsequently suspended all state executions pending a third-party review. Pike was convicted for the 1995 murder of a classmate when she was 18 years old. Human rights advocates previously cited her severe childhood trauma and untreated mental illness.

Retaliation in Moscow: Hungarian diplomats expelled

Russia expels Hungarian diplomats in a sharp retaliatory move following Budapest's recent pivot toward Western allies.

MOSCOW

Marking a sharp deterioration in bilateral relations between Moscow and Budapest, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced that an unspecified group of Hungarian diplomatic staff must leave the country within 2 weeks. The retaliatory measure comes directly on the heels of a bold decision

Key diplomatic highlights

Reciprocal action
Affected staff from the Hungarian Embassy in Moscow and consulates in St. Petersburg and Kazan have been given two weeks to leave Russia.

Root cause
The move comes in direct retaliation to Budapest's decision last month expelling 10 Russian diplomats over alleged espionage.

Shifting geopolitics
The diplomatic crisis underscores a major policy pivot under Hungary's new government led by Prime Minister Péter Magyar, distancing itself from Moscow.



by Hungary last month to expel ten Russian diplomats accused of engaging in activities incompatible with their official diplomatic status—a standard diplomatic euphemism for espionage.

The escalation underscores a profound geopolitical pivot in Budapest following the

conclusion of former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's 16-year tenure. Orbán, who lost power in the April elections, had famously maintained cozy, pragmatic ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin despite the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and subsequent European Union sanc-

Budapest acknowledges response

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry acknowledged Moscow's directive, stating that Budapest remains committed to preventing further escalation while aiming to rebuild trust with its primary EU and NATO allies. The initial expulsion by Hungary was framed as a necessary step to protect national security and counter covert intelligence operations. While diplomatic channels remain open, the recent expulsions signal the definitive end of closer ties maintained under the prior administration.

Water scarcity dominates Arizona midterm elections

PHOENIX

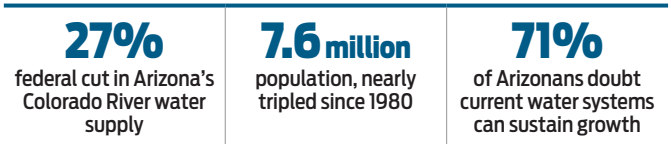
Long-term water security has surged to the forefront of Arizona's political landscape, becoming the defining issue in campaigns across the desert state ahead of the November 3 midterm elections. Spurred by severe drought conditions, plummeting reservoir levels, and unprecedented federal reductions in Colorado River allocations, water has eclipsed traditional electoral concerns such as economic affordability, immigration, and foreign conflicts.

The escalating crisis has triggered fierce partisan clashes in the race for governor. Incumbent Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs is



highlighting her administration's efforts to protect the state's share of the river, declaring in campaign ads that "Arizona's water is for Arizonans." Her supporters point to measures restricting excessive groundwater pumping and transitioning agricultural rights toward sustainable urban development.

Conversely, Republican gubernatorial candidate and U.S. Congressman Andy Biggs has sharply criticized Hobbs, accusing her of manufacturing a "panic narrative" that has cost the state jobs and investment. Biggs has campaigned on a \$19 billion infrastructure blueprint aimed at expanding water storage and completing the Yuma desalination plant. Meanwhile, outside political groups have poured into the state with aggressive ad campaigns, intensifying public anxiety over dwindling municipal supplies.



US-Iraq withdrawal emboldens regional militias

BAGHDAD

Tensions across the Middle East remain at a boiling point as Iran confirmed it has received an official U.S. response to its latest proposal aimed at reviving the collapsed Gulf ceasefire. The diplomatic maneuvers coincide with a major geopolitical milestone: the complete withdrawal of the final contingent of U.S. military forces from neighboring Iraq after a 23-year presence, marking the conclusion of a deployment that began with the 2003 invasion. The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraqi bases—orig-

inally negotiated under the Biden administration and finalized under President Donald Trump—sparked widespread celebrations among Tehran and its regional allies. Regional militia leaders hailed the departure as a historic defeat for American military objectives. However, security analysts warn that the vacuum left by departing Western forces could embolden Iran-backed armed groups to further expand their political and institutional influence within Iraq. The ongoing conflict, now entering its eighth month, continues to exact a heavy political and economic toll.

Chinese hackers impersonate ex-US officials

WASHINGTON

Cybersecurity firm Proofpoint revealed that state-sponsored Chinese hackers have been impersonating prominent former U.S. government officials and artificial intelligence experts in a targeted espionage campaign aimed at compromising the email accounts of leading researchers. The recent wave of cyberattacks relied heavily on social engineering. Hackers crafted convincing emails purporting to originate from respected authorities in AI and statecraft, including Lynne Parker, who previously served as the prin-

cipal deputy director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. While Proofpoint noted that the selective campaign targeted fewer than ten individuals across a handful of key organizations, the scope suggests a focused intelligence-gathering mission. Reuters independently identified one of the targeted individuals as Alex Engler, a former White House official who currently heads the Penn Center on Media, Technology, and Democracy. Engler recounted that he received an email purportedly from Parker inviting him to join a new AI policy project.

Bosnia conducts elections amid EU bid, global influence

SARAJEVO

Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are heading to the polls on Sunday, October 4, 2026, in a critical general election that will test the fragile nation's path toward European Union integration while navigating intense geopolitical friction between global superpowers. Voters will cast ballots for the country's central tripartite presidency, the national parliament, and regional legislative assemblies across its two semi-autonomous entities.

Polling data indicates a fierce race between entrenched ethnic nationalist parties—such as the pro-European Bosniak SDA, the Croat HDZ BiH, and the Serb SNSD led by secessionist figure Milorad Dodik—and multi-ethnic opposition coalitions spearheaded by the Social Democratic Party.

The vote also highlights a broader tug-of-war for regional influence involving the European Union, the United States, and Russia. Brussels is keen to cement



Bosnia and Herzegovina holds a critical general election on October 4, 2026, testing EU integration, economic reforms, and regional geopolitical tensions.

Balkan integration, but tensions have flared over Washington's unilateral diplomatic maneuvers, including the lifting of sanctions on Dodik and a controversial U.S.-backed natural gas pipeline project that bypassed standard EU transparency rules. Furthermore, a diplomatic standoff persists between Washington and Brussels over the vacant post of the international High Representative following the resignation of Christian Schmidt.

Brazil presidential election: Lula and Bolsonaro push hard

SAO PAULO

Brazil's high-stakes presidential campaign is drawing to a close, with voters preparing

the absolute majority required to avoid a runoff.

A second-round vote on October 25 is shaping up as a fierce showdown between



to head to the polls on Sunday in an election that will decide whether Latin America's largest democracy tilts toward a conservative resurgence or continues under leftist leadership. While incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is projected to lead the first round among a crowded field of 13 candidates, polls indicate he is unlikely to secure

Lula—seeking his fourth non-consecutive term as an icon of the global left—and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, representing the right-wing Liberal Party.

Despite notable progress in lowering unemployment and reducing inequality, Lula's early lead has evaporated. Most recent tracking surveys show him locked in a statisti-

“Lula acutely understood that he was in danger and used the power of government with a couple of concrete initiatives to try to secure the votes necessary to win.”

—Rodrigo Russo, Control Risks

cal tie with Senator Bolsonaro for a potential runoff, with polls from Atlas showing razor-thin margins of 47.6% for Lula against 47.7% for Bolsonaro.

Overshadowing policy debates in the final stretch is a sweeping political corruption scandal centered around the defunct Banco Master. Following the arrest of disgraced former bank head Daniel Vercaro over an alleged multibillion-dollar fraud, investigators have uncovered extensive ties linking high-profile political figures across the spectrum to the financial scandal.

Spanish King to visit disputed enclaves

MADRID

Sources within the Spanish royal household announced that King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia will undertake a high-profile, official visit to the disputed North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla later this month. Scheduled for October 13 and 14, the journey will mark King Felipe's very first visit to the strategic territories during his 12-year reign.

The upcoming royal tour risks further straining diplomatic ties between Madrid and Rabat, arriving just over two months after a massive

humanitarian crisis in late July that saw more than 72,000 migrants surge across the border from Morocco into Ceuta. While King Felipe had largely refrained from public remarks during the initial stages of the border surge, he broke his silence two weeks ago to commend local civil protection units. Domestic political debate across Spain has intensified since the crisis, with opposition parties accusing Rabat of tacit complicity or deliberate inaction, while faulting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for pursuing an overly conciliatory approach toward Morocco.

ARTICLE 49.3 SHOWDOWN

France faces 2027 budget battle amid political deadlock

PARIS

The minority government led by French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu is bracing for an intensely volatile and

politically treacherous fiscal season as opposition parties harden their stance against aggressive deficit-reduction targets. With the critical April–May 2027 presidential elec-

tion looming on the horizon, the upcoming parliamentary battle over state finances threatens not only the survival of the current cabinet but also the broader economic stability of the eurozone's second-largest economy.

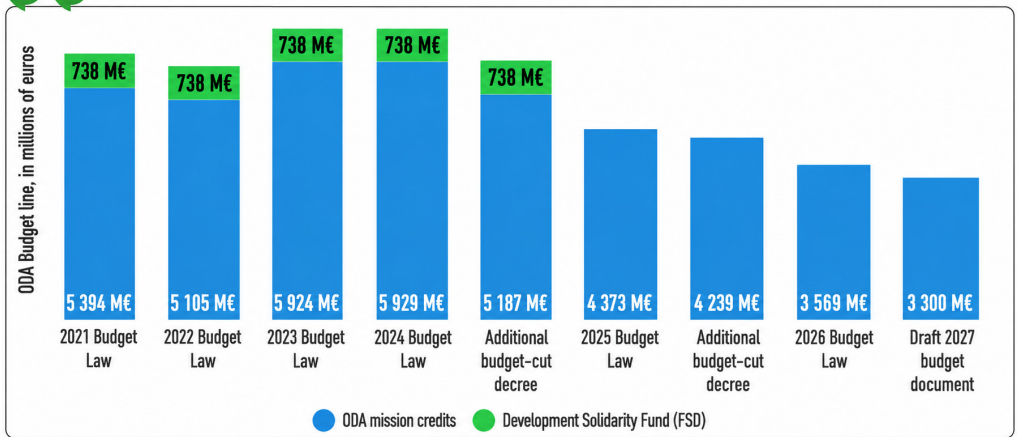
At the heart of the standoff is the government's ambitious fiscal consolidation plan, which aims to carve out a staggering 54 billion euros (approximately \$60.92 billion) in budget savings to rein in mounting public deficits. However, navigating these sweeping expenditure cuts and revenue adjustments

Alternative scenarios and economic risks

Extending the 2026 budget would freeze defense spending and investments, potentially widening the deficit by at least half a percentage point and spooking financial markets.

Attempting to bypass parliament entirely—an unprecedented move under the Fifth Republic—would likely trigger an immediate government collapse and prolonged political paralysis.

TRENDS IN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CORE FUNDING SINCE 2021 IN FRANCE



through a deeply fractured, hung parliament—born out of the 2024 snap legislative elections—presents an unprecedented constitutional and political hurdle.

Given the absence of a working absolute majority in the National Assembly, successive minority governments have repeatedly leaned on Article 49.3 of the French Constitution.

Yet, invoking Article 49.3 carries immense political hazards. Opposition parties can immediately retaliate by tabling a motion of no-confidence.



Disha Patani marks decade with Sushant memory

Actress Disha Patani has completed 10 years in Bollywood and marked the milestone by remembering her debut film and co-star Sushant Singh Rajput.

Disha made her Hindi film debut with MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, which released on September 30, 2016. The actress shared a throwback picture with Sushant on her Instagram Stories as she celebrated a decade in the film industry.

Along with the picture, Disha expressed gratitude for the opportunities, characters and people who shaped her journey. She also remembered her character Priyanka Jha, saying the role will always remain close to her heart.

The picture showed Disha and Sushant smiling as they looked at each other. She added the song Kaun Tujhe, sung by Palak Muchhal, from the film, giving the post an emotional touch.

Directed by Neeraj Pandey, MS Dhoni: The Untold Story was a biographical sports drama based on the life of former Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Sushant played the lead role, while Disha portrayed Priyanka Jha. The film also featured Kiara Advani and Anupam Kher.

Sushant Singh Rajput died on June 14, 2020, in Mumbai. His death was investigated by multiple agencies and was officially treated as a case of suicide.

Meanwhile, Disha is preparing for her Hollywood debut with the upcoming supernatural action-thriller The Portal of Force. Her 10-year journey has now entered another chapter as she looks ahead to new roles and opportunities.

Dorothy Telugu release date announced by Rana

Karthik Subbaraj's Tamil film Dorothy, starring Keerthy Suresh, Sanath and Rishikanth, is set to release in Telugu theatres on October 2. Rana Daggubati announced the release in Hyderabad and will present the film in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under Spirit Media. During the announcement, a reporter asked Rana about keeping the title Dorothy for the Telugu release and what the name meant. Rana explained that Dorothy means "a gift from God" and is the name of a character in the film. He also said the meaning would become clearer after watching the movie. Speaking about keeping the same title across languages, Rana said emotions such as crying, laughter and pain have no language.

Singer Chinmayi Sripaada later defended the reporter after the interaction drew criticism online. She said not everyone had the same access to books or reading during childhood and called for empathy.

Chinmayi also explained that Dorothy is not a Tamil word and responded to discussions about the title. She shared a screenshot explaining the historical phrase "Dorothy".



which was used by gay people to identify each other when homosexuality was illegal. Directed by Karthik Subbaraj, Dorothy was released in Tamil in September after receiving a standing ovation at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film is set in the 1980s and follows two childhood friends whose lives change after a woman enters their lives.

Produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor, Achin Jain and Jyoti Deshpande, the film has also faced homophobia and transphobia because of its queer themes. The Telugu release will now bring the story to audiences in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



Kanye West Russia concerts cancelled by organisers

Two concerts planned by US rapper Kanye West in Russia have been cancelled, according to the show's organiser, Say Agency. The concerts had been scheduled for October in St Petersburg.

West, who is also known as Ye, was announced to perform in the Russian city in August. However, the venue that was expected to host the concerts later said it had never signed a contract with the organisers.

The concerts remained uncertain after the venue's statement, with organisers not giving clear information about whether the shows would take place. Say Agency announced the cancellation on Telegram on Wednesday and said further information about the project would be shared soon.

West has faced concert cancellations and performance bans in several European countries this year following past antisemitic remarks, including praise for Adolf Hitler and the use of Nazi imagery. In January, West apologised for his remarks and attributed them to an undiagnosed brain injury and untreated bipolar disorder.

Actor Florence Pugh has spoken out about a sexual assault lawsuit involving a former Cornell University student, after claiming Instagram blocked her original post about the case.

The former student, identified as Jane Doe in court documents, filed a lawsuit in New York Supreme Court on September 16. The lawsuit alleges that seven fraternity members sexually assaulted her in 2024 after she was visiting a friend at Cornell's Chi Phi house.

According to the lawsuit, two fraternity members allegedly pressured the woman into snorting what they told her was ketamine while she was drugged. It further alleges that multiple people engaged in sexual acts with her without her consent.

Pugh discussed the case during an appearance on The View. She said she wanted to use her platform to speak about the allegations and described Instagram blocking her original post as "another shock."

"I am a woman and this affects all women," Pugh said, adding that stories involving sexual assault can cause fear, anxiety and anger. She also said she was grateful to have a platform where she could discuss the issue publicly.



Florence Pugh speaks out on Cornell assault case

Shivaleeka cheers husband ahead of Drishyam release



Actress Shivaleeka Oberoi has expressed her pride in filmmaker-er-husband Abhishek Pathak ahead of the theatrical release of Drishyam The Conclusion. She shared pictures from the sets and spoke about the hard work behind the upcoming film.

Shivaleeka reflected on the dream, hard work and sleepless nights that went into making the third installment. She also said she was fortunate to witness the journey closely and highlighted the importance of family in the Drishyam story.

"I've seen the dream, the hard work, the sleepless nights and the heart behind it all," Shivaleeka wrote in her social media post. She added that the world would soon see what she had been lucky enough to witness.

Drishyam The Conclusion stars Ajay Devgn and Tabu in lead roles. The cast also includes Prakash Raj, Jaideep Ahlawat, Ishita Dutt, Shriya Saran and Rajat Kapoor.

The Drishyam story follows a family caught in the aftermath of a shocking disappearance. Vijay works to protect his loved ones as the case threatens to uncover

The lawsuit names Winston Lee, Scott Kretzschmar, Scott Norris, Matthew Ingalls, Johnathan Newell, Gillio Lopes and Diego Sarabia. The woman's attorney, Thomas Giuffra, alleged that two of the seven men were expelled, while others faced lesser disciplinary measures. He also said none of the alleged attackers was arrested.

Cornell University said it investigated and adjudicated the allegations according to its policies. The university said it condemns sexual violence and that privacy laws prevent it from sharing specific disciplinary information about individual students. The Chi Phi chapter remained barred from campus.



Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are set to explore the darker side of romance with their upcoming romantic thriller, Tu Hai Meri Kiran. The film's first look has raised a key question about where love ends and obsession begins.

Sonakshi shared the first glimpse on social media with the question, "Where would you draw the line between LOVE and OBSESSION?" She also confirmed that the film will release in cinemas on October 23, 2026.

The poster features Sonakshi and Zaheer and carries the tagline, "She found a connection. He found an obsession." The makers have kept the story details under wraps, but the first look suggests a mix of romance, psychological tension and possessiveness.

Written and directed by Karan Rawal, the film brings the real-life married couple together on screen for the first time after their 2024 marriage. They previously worked together in Double XL.

The title also refers to the iconic song linked with Darr, adding curiosity around the project. Vishal Rana, Sarvesh Goel, Ashwani Kumar, Manoj Darak and Nrupal Patel are among the producers. Echelon Productions, PAM Studios and AND Productions are backing the film, with Saregama also attached.

With its central question surrounding love and obsession, Tu Hai Meri Kiran has created curiosity through its first look. Audiences will have to wait until October 23 to discover how the relationship unfolds.

Actor Harshita Gaur, who played Dimpy Pandit in Mirzapur, has spoken about the show's move to the big screen and Jitendra Kumar replacing Vikrant Massey in Mirzapur The Movie.

Gaur said she did not feel any difference after Jitendra joined the established world of Mirzapur. She said that while stepping into a role already connected with audiences could be difficult, Jitendra seamlessly became part of the journey.

"He seamlessly became a part of this journey to the point where it felt like he was always there," she said.

Gaur also spoke about working with Divyendu in Waiting Hai, where she plays his wife. She said she did not think about their earlier Mirzapur characters while working and believed audiences understood that actors were playing different characters.

Discussing her role as Princy, Gaur highlighted the quiet strength of women who manage homes, relationships and families. She said such efforts are often underrated and not valued enough.

Gaur praised Divyendu as a fun co-star and said working with him was a learning experience. She also praised Mirzapur director Gurmmeet Singh for keeping the set light during difficult scenes.

Talking about Ravi Kishan, Gaur admired his child-like enthusiasm and energy. She said his long career had not taken away his excitement to perform.

Gaur also discussed the uncertainty actors face between projects. She called it "non-selection" rather than rejection and said actors must keep working on themselves. She added that maintaining mental health and having another source of income can help during periods without work.

buried truths. Seven years later, the Salgaonkar family tries to move forward, but new circumstances put their past at risk of coming back.

The film is a Hindi remake of the Malayalam film of the same name, which has also been remade in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada.

Presented by Star Studio18 and produced by Panorama Studios, the film is directed by Abhishek Pathak.

It is scheduled to release in theatres on October 2, 2026.

HARSHITA GAUR SAYS JITENDRA FIT MIRZAPUR JOURNEY

