



“Global conditions have turned unfavourable again”: FM

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Trump warns Iran over alleged flight attack link



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Sujeet reaches wrestling final, Dipanshi eyes bronze



DKS welcomes ECI order on voter-roll re-verification

CM said the directive addresses bulk Form-7 complaints and calls for camps to help first-time voters apply through Forms 6 and 7.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday welcomed the Election Commission of India's direction to state election officials to undertake a special exercise to re-verify electoral rolls and ensure that eligible voters left out during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) are included.

Shivakumar said the ECI's directive covered voters categorised as absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate, besides others requiring verification. He said the move followed the protest staged by him and Congress leaders outside the State Chief Electoral Officer's office on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said the directive would also address complaints concerning bulk filing of Form-7 applications. He said special camps should be organised for first-time voters and to facilitate applications under Forms 6 and 7.

Shivakumar alleged that applications had been filed seeking deletion of votes belonging to vulnerable sections, including Dalits and minorities. These allegations have been rejected by BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra, who said BJP workers were bringing suspected irreg-



“This is not D.K. Shivakumar's victory; it is the victory of voters across the country.”

-DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

ularities in electoral rolls to the Election Commission's notice.

The Chief Minister also alleged that around 25,000 applications had been submitted by BJP leaders and demanded action if violations were established.

Separately, Karnataka CEO V. Anbukumar has directed Electoral Registration Officers to initiate legal proceedings against applicants who knowingly make false declarations in Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8, following an inquiry.

Voter roll review

- **Exercise:** Special re-verification of electoral rolls
- **Focus:** Left-out and first-time voters
- **Categories:** Absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate & others
- **Forms:** 6, 6A, 7 and 8
- **Officials:** CEOs, DEOs, EROs and BLOs
- **Issue:** Complaints over bulk Form-7 filings

ACTION ON FALSE FORM-7 CLAIMS

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar has directed Electoral Registration Officers to act against applicants who knowingly submit false statements or declarations in Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8. The directive followed complaints about bulk Form-7 filings during SIR. Legal action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, must follow an inquiry under Rule 20 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.



SHIVAKUMAR PAYS TRIBUTE



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar pays floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Friday.

NO ONE CAN ERASE GANDHI'S LEGACY, SAYS CM

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said Mahatma Gandhi's name and ideology could never be erased as they had been accepted across the world. Speaking at Gandhi Jayanti programmes in Bengaluru on Friday, he described Gandhi as the soul of India and a global messenger of peace and non-violence. Shivakumar urged the younger generation to embrace Gandhi's principles of truth, peace, non-violence and self-reliance. He said respect earned through service was more lasting than that gained through positions. Recalling Gandhian S. Kariyappa, Shivakumar said his example had inspired him to enter politics and dedicate himself to public service.

‘This will be the last push’: Pilot Smit Machchhar tells PM Modi

NEW DELHI

Captain Smit Machchhar, who was seriously injured while fighting off his co-pilot aboard a flydubai flight, told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he made one final effort to reach the cockpit door after sensing the aircraft was descending.

Speaking to Modi during a 10-minute video call from an Abu Dhabi hospital on Friday, Machchhar said he had been wounded and was lying on the cockpit floor when he realised the aircraft was going down.

“I told myself: this will be the last push, Smit, do it, the door is right there,” he told the Prime Minister.

The Mumbai-based pilot said he had been flying for 17 years and had served as a captain for 11 years. He managed to open the cockpit door, after

which passengers entered and helped overpower the attacker.

The flight, carrying 170 passengers, was flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv when the co-pilot allegedly attacked Machchhar and attempted to take control of the aircraft. The plane subsequently plunged about 14,000 feet in 30 seconds before passengers and crew intervened.

A reserve crew later landed the aircraft safely at Tabuk in Saudi Arabia. Machchhar is undergoing treatment in Abu Dhabi for serious injuries.

Modi praised the pilot's courage and presence of mind, saying his actions had saved many lives. Machchhar thanked authorities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE for his medical care.

He also said reciting the Hanuman Chalisa gave him strength during the ordeal.



Congo Ebola outbreak death toll crosses 4,000 amid containment challenges

BUNIA

Congo's Ebola outbreak has claimed more than 4,000 lives, with authorities facing difficulties in containing the rapidly spreading virus, health officials said.

The Health Ministry reported 4,018 deaths among 8,300 confirmed cases, meaning nearly half of those infected have died. The outbreak, declared on May 15, is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, for which there is no known treatment or vaccine.

The World Health Organization has raised concerns over the virus spreading rapidly into new health zones, placing additional pressure on already limited medical resources.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said confirmed cases were declining, but cautioned that the reduction could be linked to insecurity and difficulties in reaching communities in some hotspots.

Efforts to contain the outbreak have also been hampered by mistrust of health workers and government authorities. Some residents have reportedly dismissed Ebola as a hoax, while distrust has been fuelled by concerns over the government's handling of previous outbreaks and allegations of corruption.

Tensions escalated this week after Marie-Célestin Karondwa, a local official of Congo's ruling Union for Democracy and Social Progress



party, was attacked at his home in Butembo, an Ebola hotspot in North Kivu province. His house was set on fire and he later died in hospital.

Authorities launched a village-centred response last month to improve cooperation with communities and strengthen containment measures. However, insecurity and resistance among residents continue to pose challenges to health workers attempting to trace cases and prevent further transmission.

FIRs filed against BJP leaders over voter deletion claims

BELAGAVI

Police have registered FIRs in Belagavi, Bidar and Mysuru following complaints over alleged irregularities involving Form-7 applications during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

In Belagavi, an FIR was registered against Karnataka BJP leader Ravi Patil and others following a complaint alleging an attempt to delete the names of 198 Muslim voters from the electoral roll.

The case was registered at Belagavi Market police station on September 30 based on a complaint by Meerasab Sanadi, who was working as a Booth Level Agent in Ward 12 of the Belagavi North As-

sembly constituency.

According to the FIR, Sanadi alleged that Patil, Shankar Beerappa Naik, Prashant Deepak Mundinmani and 20-25 others allegedly conspired to target voters belonging to the Muslim community. In Bidar, an FIR was registered on October 1 after Mohammed Ateeq Ahmed alleged that 3,244 voters were falsely shown as shifted or absent through Form-7 applications. The case names 32 accused persons.

In Mysuru, a complaint led to an FIR against local BJP leaders and others over allegations that Form-7 applications containing false information were submitted against the complainant, his family and 28 other voters.



Thousands join Mumbai protest seeking CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation

MUMBAI

Thousands of people gathered at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Friday for a protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The protest was held despite police denying permission, with security forces deployed across central Mumbai and access routes from nearby Dadar railway station barricaded. Protesters carrying the national flag and placards

raised slogans calling for Kumar's resignation.

CJP leader Abhijeet Dipke addressed the gathering and challenged Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to arrest the protesters. The party has demanded transparency in the appointment of the CEC and called for the 2025 voter list to be frozen.

Activists from the Students' Federation of India and All India Students' Federation participated in the demonstration. Actors Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah, singer Vishal Dadlani and activist



Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, were also present, according to reports.

The CJP announced the agitation amid controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The party cited media reports alleging that Election Commis-

“We have demanded transparency in the appointment of the CEC and freezing of the 2025 voter list.”

-CJP statement

CEC resignation demand

- **Venue:** Shivaji Park, Mumbai
- **Demand:** Resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar
- **Organiser:** Cockroach Janta Party
- **Key issue:** Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls
- **Other participants:** SFI, AISF activists; public figures

sioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections on several occasions over decisions related to SIR.

The Election Commission has maintained that decisions of the three-member Commission are taken through its established decision-making process. Its official website lists Gyanesh Kumar as CEC and Sandhu and Joshi as Election Commissioners.

Police said they were monitoring the situation to maintain law and order and prevent disruption to traffic.

DELHI SIR AGITATION

Youth Congress workers, SFI and DYFI members, along with opposition leaders, protested near Jantar Mantar on Friday against the Election Commission over alleged irregularities in the Special

Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Protesters demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Police had denied permission for the demonstration and imposed restrictions under Section 163 of the BNSS, with security personnel deployed around the area. Former CJP spokesperson Vijeta Dahiya said people had the right to protest over issues concerning their voting rights.

Quick Read

Police arrest 3 men for fake kidnapping

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local police have arrested a forty-year-old man and two accomplices for staging a fake kidnapping to extort money from his father. Manish Patel left home for a financial trip before his father received threatening WhatsApp calls demanding ninety lakh rupees for his safe release. Alarmed, the father immediately filed a police complaint. Investigators tracked the phone signals to Hassan, where officers discovered Manish sitting casually with the so-called kidnappers. Following intensive questioning, the suspects confessed to the elaborate extortion plot. Authorities have taken all three individuals into custody and initiated further legal proceedings.

Defamation proceedings against politicians move forward

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has dismissed petitions filed by former minister H. Vishwanath and former MLA A. Manjunath to quash a defamation case. Legislative Council member B.S. Shivanna had filed the complaint over remarks questioning his presence on stage during the Chief Minister’s swearing-in ceremony. Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde ordered the dismissal due to the repeated absence of the petitioners’ lawyers during court proceedings. The bench noted that prior warnings were ignored, leading to the closure of the plea. The defamation proceedings initiated before the special court will now move forward as scheduled.

BTM Layout records highest pollution levels

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Air quality in Bengaluru has dropped to the ‘poor’ category due to heavy traffic congestion and road dust, with the AQI ranging between 120 and 135. BTM Layout recorded the highest pollution levels in the city, while areas like Peenya remained moderate. In contrast, other regions across Karnataka enjoy much cleaner conditions. Madikeri recorded exceptionally fresh air, while Mysuru, Hubballi, and Mangaluru maintained moderate AQI levels. Health experts advise children, seniors, and residents with respiratory issues to wear masks during early morning hours and limit outdoor exposure in affected urban zones.

Weather update: Rain forecast across state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a spell of wet weather across several parts of Karnataka over the coming days, with moderate rainfall expected in coastal and south interior districts. While coastal regions brace for isolated heavy downpours, northern districts are expected to experience predominantly dry conditions. Meteorological data indicates that similar weather patterns will extend into tomorrow, maintaining overcast skies and light to moderate precipitation in southern and coastal pockets. Residents and commuters in urban centers like Bengaluru are advised to stay updated on localized forecasts as seasonal transition shows continue.

HDK calls K’taka Cabinet’s sit-in as ‘political drama’

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy slammed Karnataka ministers for skipping cabinet meetings to stage electoral roll protests.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has launched a blistering attack on the state government, condemning the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues for staging a street protest over alleged electoral roll irregularities instead of attending a scheduled cabinet meeting. Speaking outside his J.P. Nagar residence, Kumaraswamy ridiculed the demonstration as a “laughable” political charade orchestrated under instructions from national party leaders in Delhi.

The controversy centers on the ruling party’s public protests against alleged voter list tampering during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. Dismissing the uproar, Kumaraswamy accused the Congress party of hypocrisy, alleging that ruling party members themselves manipulated voter rolls when the revision process first commenced. He claimed that the NDA alliance had previously lodged formal complaints with the Election Commis-



sion regarding unauthorized voter gathering centers, but no legal action was taken at the time.

Kumaraswamy further alleged that the sudden focus on electoral roll irregularities is an intentional diversionary tactic designed to pull public attention away from recent explosive political debates surrounding the controversial Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) project land allegations.

“They have brought this SIR issue to the forefront now to divert public attention while that matter is being hotly debated in political and public circles,” Kumaraswamy stated, adding that the state treasury has been heavily depleted by welfare guarantee schemes, leaving insufficient funds to manage large-scale infrastructural buyouts. The Union Minister sharply criticized the unprecedented spectacle of executive leader-

“They went to Delhi, received orders and permission from their supreme leader, and returned. If a signal is given from there, they come here and dance. They lack any sense of independence.”

– H.D. Kumaraswamy
Union Minister

ship abandoning official administrative duties to participate in street demonstrations. He questioned how police authorities permitted a protest by sitting cabinet ministers in apparent disregard of judicial orders regarding public demonstrations.

Concluding his remarks, Kumaraswamy accused the state leadership of lacking administrative autonomy. “He visits Delhi to secure orders and approval from his high command; when they signal him, he dances to their tune here,” Kumaraswamy remarked, adding that the administration is simultaneously sidelining key regional leaders within its own ranks.

Railways announces Bengaluru-Mumbai sleeper service



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Railway commuters traveling between India’s premier technology hub and its financial powerhouse can finally look forward to a massive upgrade in connectivity. Reports indicate that the highly anticipated SMVT Bengaluru to Mumbai CSMT Vande Bharat Sleeper train service is scheduled to launch by the end of this month, with the Railway Board expected to issue an official notification in the coming days.

Once operational, this service will become the nation’s second Vande Bharat Sleeper train, slashing travel times dramatically between the two major metropolitan centers.

Currently, travelers relying on direct rail connections—such as the daily Udyan Express—must endure a grueling journey averaging around 24 hours. The new high-speed sleeper service is slated to cover the distance in under 16 hours, operating six days a week in both directions.

According to provisional operational drafts, the train is tentatively scheduled to depart from Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) Bengaluru at 10:00 PM, arriving at Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) at 1:50 PM the following afternoon. On the return leg, departures from Mumbai are planned for 10:30 PM, pulling into Bengaluru at 2:50 PM the

Route and stops

- SMVT Bengaluru
Departs 10:00 PM
- Anantapur
- Guntakal
- Raichur
- Kalaburagi
- Solapur
- Kalyan
- Mumbai CSMT
Arrives 1:50 PM next day

next day, though final timetable confirmations remain subject to minor adjustments by railway authorities.

Unlike alternative routes that pass through Hubballi, the Vande Bharat Sleeper will take a more direct path through key economic and transit junctions. Scheduled commercial stops will include Anantapur, Guntakal, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Solapur, and Kalyan. This routing is designed to optimize speed while serving crucial regional hubs across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

DAIRY FINANCIALS SPLIT

BAMUL leads K’taka milk unions in profitability

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid mounting pressure from agricultural cooperatives to authorize an upward revision for popular Nandini milk products, newly released financial disclosures paint a sharply polarized picture of the state’s dairy sector. According to official reports covering the April-to-July fiscal window, 11 of Karnataka’s 16 regional milk unions have posted robust profits totaling ₹39.95 crore, while five unions are grappling with severe financial deficits.

The Bengaluru Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) emerged as the most financially lucrative cooperative in the state, securing the top rank with a net profit of ₹15.73 crore. BAMUL was closely followed by the Hassan Milk Union, which registered a profit of ₹11.72 crore, and the Mandya Milk Union (MANMUL) with ₹10.69 crore.

While major urban and agrarian hubs thrived, other regional cooperatives faced steep economic headwinds. The Chikkaballapur Milk Union recorded the state’s highest deficit, suffering a heavy loss of ₹11.88 crore. It

Profit and loss (₹ cr)

BAMUL	15.73
Hassan	11.72
Mandya	10.69
Chikkaballapur	-11.88
Kolar	-5.48

April-July. Red bars: losses

was joined in the red by the Kolar Milk Union (KOMUL) with a loss of ₹5.48 crore, alongside the Vijayapura-Bagalkote, Raichur-Ballari-Koppal, and Kalaburagi unions.

Union leaders attribute the widening financial disparities to escalating operational overheads. Surging expenses related to cattle fodder, veterinary pharmaceuticals, transportation fuel, and heavy milk processing overheads have strained balance sheets across the board, fueling urgent demands for state intervention.

Cooperative officials and dairy farmers are intensifying their lobbying efforts for a state-mandated price hike for Nandini milk, arguing that current market rates lag significantly behind neighboring



states. Industry representatives warn that maintaining artificially depressed retail prices risks triggering a supply drain, where local milk producers divert their yield across state borders to secure higher profit margins.

Hassan Milk Union President H.D. Revanna has publicly advocated that any approved price hike must distribute revenue streams strategically, allocating a designated share directly to struggling unions to absorb operational deficits rather than channeling the entire financial benefit exclusively to farmers.

The state government remains under intense scrutiny as it weighs these competing pressures. Cabinet ministers have indicated that a comprehensive decision regarding the price hike will be finalized only after a comparative market analysis of neighboring states’ dairy tariffs is formally presented and debated in the upcoming cabinet session.

ED inspects KPSC strong room in probe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Intensifying its ongoing investigation into the high-profile Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) veterinary officer recruitment scam, Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials conducted a thorough on-site inspection (panchanama), bringing key accused individuals back to the epicenters of the alleged crime.

The ED team escorted IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar—who served as the Controller of Examinations during the contested recruitment cycle—alongside middleman Basavaraj Kannale, directly to the KPSC headquarters in Bengaluru. The spot inspection, which was fully videographed, included a detailed examination of the KPSC office’s secure strong room where examination question papers were originally stored.

According to investigative findings, the scandal centers on a massive breach of confidentiality wherein Gyanendra Kumar allegedly handed over the official question paper to intermediary Basavaraj Kannale a day prior to the examination. Kannale subsequently transported candidates to a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru and other undisclosed locations, providing them with the test papers to memorize answers ahead of the exam. Following the inspection of the KPSC strong room, ED officers also visited these suburban resorts to recreate the sequence of events and gather physical evidence.

The central financial crimes agency previously secured the custody of both accused individuals after noting a lack of proper cooperation during initial interrogations. Both Gyanendra Kumar and Kannale had earlier been arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison before being taken into ED custody.

Investigators are probing deep financial irregularities involving crores of rupees, focusing heavily on alleged hawala transactions, illegal kickbacks, and illicit money laundering networks linked to the recruitment fraud. Having seized crucial documents during simultaneous raids across premises connected to the accused, the ED plans to expand its financial audit to trace the trail of corruption surrounding the rigged recruitment process.

R. Rajanna elected as new KSBC Chairman

Senior High Court Advocate R. Rajanna has been elected Chairman of the Karnataka State Bar Council, alongside Vice-Chairman Shivamurthy and BCI representative C.M. Dhananjaya.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant leadership transition for the legal fraternity in South India, Senior High Court Advocate R. Rajanna has been officially elected as the new Chairman of the Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC). Alongside Rajanna’s election to the state’s apex legal regulatory body, the council concluded its internal office-bearer elections by choosing Shivamurthy as Vice-Chairman and C.M. Dhananjaya as the state’s representative to the Bar Council of India (BCI).

The high-stakes internal elections determined the executive leadership following a rigorous democratic process among the council members. In the contest for the chairmanship, R. Rajanna secured a decisive victory by garnering 15 votes, successfully defeating his nearest challenger, N. Devaraj, by a comfortable margin of six votes.

For the position of Vice-Chairman, Shivamurthy emerged as the frontrunner, commanding the highest individual support with 17 votes. He defeated his nearest rival, Shailaja, by a similar six-vote margin. Meanwhile, C.M. Dhananjaya secured election as a member of the Bar Council of India (BCI) after obtaining 15 votes, positioning him to represent Karnataka’s legal practitioners at the national regulatory level.

The Electoral College comprised 26 participating mem-

KSBC poll	
15 votes	R. RAJANNA, CHAIRMAN
17 votes	SHIVAMURTHY, VICE-CHAIRMAN
15 votes	C.M. DHANANJAYA, BCI MEMBER

bers, reflecting a diverse representation of the state’s legal establishment. The voter base included 23 members directly elected by advocates across Karnataka, two female co-opted members specifically appointed by the High Court, and the ex-officio member, State Advocate General K. Shashikiran Shetty.

The formation of the new council follows a strict judicial mandate. The election to select the 23 general council members was conducted earlier on March 11, strictly adhering to a directive issued by the Supreme Court of India ordering the completion of the KSBC elections by March 15, 2026.

A notable feature of this election cycle was the implementation of progressive representation mandates, which reserved seven seats specifically for women lawyers, ensuring a targeted 30% female representation quota within the governing body. The election witnessed enthusiastic participation from the legal community, drawing a competitive field of 149 advocate candidates from various districts across Karnataka who vied for seats on the prestigious council.

Heavy traffic slams B’luru arteries amid long weekend



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commuters navigating Bengaluru’s extensive transit network faced severe delays as a massive exodus for the Gandhi Jayanti long weekend collided with localized infrastructural bottlenecks and seasonal waterlogging.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) issued urgent advisories warning motorists of critical congestion across several high-density corridors, most notably along the Bengaluru-Mysore highway, K. Channasandra Road, and the Goraguntepalya arterial stretch.

The convergence of a mid-week gazetted holiday and an extended weekend prompted thousands of residents to head out of the city toward regional tourist destinations, straining major exit routes.

The heaviest gridlock was reported near the NICE Road junction on Mysore Road, where serpentine queues of outbound private vehicles and KSRTC buses began forming early in the morning.

Compounding the holiday rush, unexpected infrastructural obstructions and weather-related hurdles brought traffic to a crawl in various municipal sectors. On K. Channasandra Road, per-

Trouble spots

- **Mysore Road:** gridlock near the NICE Road junction, with queues of cars and KSRTC buses from early morning
- **K. Channasandra Road:** waterlogging after the downpours, bottlenecks towards Bileshivale
- **Goraguntepalya:** a breakdown near the Muthyalanagara bridge blocked lanes at peak hours

sistent waterlogging following recent downpours severely restricted vehicular movement, creating frustrating bottlenecks for motorists heading toward Bileshivale. Municipal engineering crews were dispatched to clear blocked drainage paths, but low-lying stretches continued to impede smooth transit.

Meanwhile, northern commuters experienced compounding delays near the Goraguntepalya corridor. A sudden vehicular breakdown right near the Muthyalanagara bridge blocked critical lane capacity during peak transit hours, triggering cascading tailbacks toward major junction networks. Traffic police intervened to tow the disabled vehicle and regulate manual signaling, while issuing active appeals for commuters to utilize alternative arterial by-passes.

With holiday traffic expected to remain elevated throughout the weekend before heavy return surges anticipated on Sunday and Monday, law enforcement agencies have urged citizens to monitor live travel advisories, exercise patience, and adhere strictly to lane discipline to prevent further gridlock.

CH Observer

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Residents across Bengaluru are locked in a daily battle against mounting trash, as unmanaged garbage black spots fester on New Bamboo Bazaar Road, Seshadripuram, and neighborhood side streets. Frustrated locals report that overflowing waste, foul odors, and chronic illegal dumping near schools and residential zones are creating severe public health hazards. With neighborhoods like 9th Cross Road and Chikkagowdana Palya overwhelmed by neglect, communities are sharply questioning whether civic authorities are ignoring vital inner lanes while focusing solely on major arterial corridors.

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A massive pile of garbage has accumulated on New Bamboo Bazaar Road, creating an eyesore and a severe public health hazard. Surrounded by residential neighborhoods, the overflowing waste emits a foul odor and poses significant health and safety risks to local residents and pedestrians.



Residents on 9th Cross Road, between Serpentine Road and Railway Parallel Road, are frustrated by a persistent garbage dumping and spitting hotspot in their residential neighborhood. This ongoing neglect has locals questioning whether the Greater Bengaluru Authority focuses solely on arterial roads while completely ignoring vital inner lanes.



Garbage dumped beside the Government Model Primary and High School in Seshadripuram—which also serves as a voting center—has created a persistent blackspot right in front of Shalimar Residency Apartments. Residents are demanding a permanent fix to protect children and the neighborhood from this disgusting health hazard.



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

BNCC organizes health camp for Pourakarmikas

Bengaluru North City Corporation and Manipal Hospital organized a health check-up camp for one hundred Pourakarmikas.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to the welfare of frontline municipal sanitation workers, the Bengaluru North City Corporation organized a comprehensive health check-up camp on Friday for 100 Pourakarmikas drawn from the Byatarayanapura and Yelahanka divisions. Hosted at Manipal Hospital in Yelahanka, the targeted medical initiative aimed to screen municipal workers for occupational health risks and ensure timely clinical interventions.

The welfare drive brought together corporate medical expertise and municipal administration, with 50 Pourakarmikas from Byatarayanapura and another 50 from Yelahanka undergoing thorough diagnostic evaluations. The screenings were conducted



under the clinical leadership of Manipal Hospital Cluster Director Arun and specialized medical teams, focusing on vital health metrics essential for outdoor sanitation personnel.

Highlighting the municipal

administration's dedication to workforce health, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar addressed the gathering and detailed financial support mechanisms for workers needing ongoing medical treatment. He announced that based on diagnoses emerging from the camp, necessary financial assistance will be directly extended to eligible Pourakarmikas through the dedicated Pourakarmika Welfare Fund, shielding vulnerable families from sudden healthcare burdens.

Comprehensive medical screenings and consultations

- + Complete baseline health vitals and physical assessments
- + Targeted cardiac-related screenings and blood pressure monitoring
- + Systematic blood sugar level tests for diabetes risk evaluation
- + Detailed physician consultations addressing chronic aches, respiratory concerns, and occupational hazards

‘Beautifying IIMB Metro route ahead of launch’

Bengaluru South City Corporation, BESCOM, IIMB, and citizens cleared a major garbage spot and wall obstruction to improve pedestrian safety ahead of the Pink Line Metro.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major infrastructure push ahead of the upcoming Pink Line Metro inauguration, the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), in collaboration with BESCOM, the Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB), and civic collective ‘The Ugly Indians’, launched a massive cleanup and wall beautification drive along Bannerghatta Main Road in Bilekahalli. Spearheaded by BSCC Commissioner K. N. Ramesh under the ‘Just Clean Bengaluru’ campaign, the initiative targets enhanced last-mile connectivity and pedestrian safety around metro stations.

A major milestone of the operation involved clearing a notorious garbage black spot and removing a decade-old wall near the Savadatti Yellamma Temple access road. The obstruction had completely blocked the local footpath,



forcing pedestrians onto the busy main road and creating severe safety hazards. Corporation engineering teams demolished the structure, reopening the walkway for seamless pedestrian movement and transforming the surrounding 500-meter compound wall with fresh coats of paint and civic awareness murals.

Achieving a permanent solution required close coordination among municipal, utility, and academic stakeholders. BESCOM relocated an obstructive Ring Main Unit (RMU) transformer, replacing it with an elevated pole unit to clear vital walkway space. Simultaneously, IIMB partnered with the city corporation to install decorative flower pots along the corridor and agreed to maintain adequate street

lighting to guarantee secure commutes for passengers during early morning and late-night travel hours.

Following the clearance operation, Commissioner Ramesh inspected the IIMB campus perimeter and adjacent arterial roads behind Vijaya Bank Layout. He directed municipal engineers to fast-track crucial upgrades, including footpath restorations, stormwater drain repairs, sewerage line maintenance, and road widening projects along the key feeder routes connecting to the upcoming metro station.

BSCC clears Rajakaluve land encroachment in Haralur

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive enforcement action against urban land grabbing, the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) successfully cleared an illegal encroachment on 6 guntas (approximately 6,534 sq. ft.) of B-Kharab stormwater drain (Rajakaluve) land in Survey No. 2/1 of Haralur village. Announced by BSCC Commissioner Shri K. N. Ramesh, the reclaimed public property—encompassing stream kharab parcels within the HSR Division's Kudlu Sub-division (Bommanahalli Zone-2)—carries an estimated market valuation of Rs 6 crore.

The anti-encroachment drive was executed following formal legal directives issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner's Court under Case No. NCR(E) CR/121/2024-25 (State Government vs. Lakshminarayana Reddy and Others). The judicial proceedings established that



portions of the natural watercourse and surrounding B-Kharab lands had been unlawfully occupied by unauthorized boundary compound walls and permanent sheds. The court mandated the violators to clear the public land voluntarily; upon their failure to comply within the stipulated timeframe, municipal authorities moved in to execute the clearance.

Acting on the judicial mandate, engineering teams from the Kudlu division, accompanied by certified land surveyors and local police protection, conducted a thorough on-site inspection. Heavy

machinery was deployed to demolish the illegal structures, successfully restoring the natural alignment and width of the Rajakaluve.

Municipal officials emphasized that reclaiming natural drainage channels is vital to preventing urban flooding and ensuring the unhindered flow of rainwater during heavy downpours. Issuing a stern warning to violators, the administration declared that strict criminal and civil action will be invoked against anyone attempting to encroach upon public stormwater drains and government kharab properties across the city.

54th Phone-In: North Corporation expands ‘Sahaaya 2.0’ grievance tracking

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

To streamline municipal service delivery and ensure strict accountability, the Bengaluru North City Corporation is aggressively utilizing its integrated ‘Sahaaya 2.0’ platform to monitor citizen complaints from registration to final resolution. Operating under directions from Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, the digital system seamlessly channels grievances received across multiple platforms—including WhatsApp, social media, email, and the weekly phone-in sessions—directly to responsible departmental officials through the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC).

October 1, 2026), 82,006 complaints were registered, maintaining a high resolution rate with 1,770 pending cases as of October 1.

Municipal leadership has emphasized that officials must avoid technical closures, mandating rigorous field inspections to ensure citizens receive an actual, tangible resolution to their complaints.

Special task forces have been deployed to expedite the disposal of road maintenance issues—covering potholes, footpath repairs, and stormwater drains—alongside solid waste management complaints regarding garbage collection and disposal.

As part of ongoing direct public outreach, the 54th Commissioner's Phone-In

Department-wise pendency breakdown

Road Maintenance (Engineering)	825
Solid Waste Management	402
Forest Department	233
Electrical Department	116
Veterinary Services	23
Town Planning / E-Khata / Health	59
Other Departments (Parks, Revenue, Traffic, Projects)	112

According to the comprehensive Sahaaya 2.0 status report released on October 2, 2026, a cumulative total of 1,99,179 grievances have been formally registered across historical and current operational periods. Of these, 1,97,408 complaints have been successfully resolved, leaving a total of 1,830 active pending grievances under active tracking.

A historical breakdown shows that prior to the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) framework (January 1, 2023, to August 31, 2025), the corporation received 1,17,175 grievances with only 2,193 remaining pending. Under the subsequent GBA governance period (September 1, 2025, to

Programme was conducted on Friday, yielding 60 new grievances from 52 incoming calls. Of these, 3 issues were resolved instantaneously during the call, while 57 were officially registered into Sahaaya 2.0 for priority action.

The phone-in complaints primarily featured road maintenance concerns (22), solid waste management (14), forest-related matters (11), E-Khata services (5), electrical issues (3), veterinary queries (2), and single complaints spanning lakes, parks, and property tax services. Across all 54 editions of the phone-in programme to date, a total of 3,211 citizen grievances have been recorded, with 2,871 successfully resolved.

GANDHI JAYANTI

GBA leaders pay tribute at MG Road on 157th Gandhi Jayanti

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amidst the heart of Karnataka's bustling capital, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, in coordination with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), marked the 157th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, with a poignant and deeply symbolic state-level commemoration. Held at 9:00 AM in the historic Mahatma Gandhi Park along the iconic M.G. Road, the morning's proceedings brought



together top municipal administrators, interfaith spiritual leaders, and citizens to honor the timeless ethos of Satyagraha, universal brotherhood, and moral integrity.

BWCC honors Mahatma Gandhi on 157th Jayanti



“Mahatma Gandhi's life itself is a message that remains relevant even today.”

— Dr. Rajendra K.V., BWCC Commissioner

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Upholding the timeless ideals of truth, non-violence, and civic harmony, the Bengaluru West City Corporation solemnly observed the 157th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on Friday. The

municipal headquarters played host to a poignant commemorative ceremony where senior administrative leadership, departmental heads, engineering divisions, and frontline civic workers gathered to pay collective floral homage to the enduring legacy of the Mahatma.

BNCC celebrates Gandhi, Shastri Jayanti



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (Byatarayanapura) solemnly observed the birth anniversaries of two of

India's most venerated leaders, Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, during a commemorative event held at the Commissioner's office on Friday. Senior municipal leadership, departmental heads, and administrative staff gathered to honor the enduring legacies of the two national icons.

BSCC honors Gandhi, Ambedkar on Gandhi Jayanti



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a powerful demonstration of institutional reverence and

civic commitment, the Bengaluru South City Corporation solemnly commemorated the 157th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, alongside honoring the foundational legacy of the Architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Quick Read

DIPR officials honor Gandhi, Shastri on Gandhi Jayanti

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commemorating the profound moral and historical legacy of India's foundational leaders, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) marked the nation's 157th Gandhi Jayanti with solemn commemorative ceremonies across its administrative headquarters in Bengaluru. Department Commissioner M.N. Anucheth led senior officials, executive directors, and administrative staff in paying official floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

KEA imposes strict camera surveillance for exams

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority has implemented strict security measures, including camera surveillance and facial recognition, for upcoming Land Surveyor and Village Administrative Officer exams. Executive Director H. Prasanna announced that over 92,000 candidates registered for the land surveyor test, while more than 411,000 applicants will compete for VAO positions across multiple centers. Authorities have installed signal jammers, deployed home guards, and established a command center at headquarters to monitor proceedings via webcasting. Officials will also scan OMR sheets immediately after tests conclude to prevent malpractice.

BMRC receives Metro feasibility report

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has received feasibility study reports for extending Namma Metro lines to six key peripheral towns and industrial zones. The proposed routes include major economic corridors such as Challaghatta to Bidadi, Silk Institute to Harohalli, and Bommasandra to Attibele. Officials plan to submit the report to the state government this month before preparing Detailed Project Reports. Additional corridors involve stretches connecting Kalena Agrahara to Kadugodi Tree Park, Madavara to Tumakuru, and K.R. Puram to Hoskote Budigere Cross to boost regional growth.

FDA issues 48-hour deadline to Pfizer over fake medicines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state FDA Commissioner has issued a strict 48-hour deadline to Pfizer's global headquarters in New York over an uncooperative local branch regarding a counterfeit drug ring. Fake medications bearing the pharmaceutical giant's brand were uncovered during raids near Bidadi, alongside an illicit manufacturing unit. Investigators stated that Pfizer India failed to submit essential sales and distribution records or help distinguish genuine stock from fakes despite a month-long delay. Commissioner Srinivas demanded immediate data submission, identification of compromised hospital supplies, and internal disciplinary action against any complicit staff.

C.T. Ravi questions Congress fear over SIR

Senior BJP leader C.T. Ravi accused the ruling Congress of resisting electoral roll revisions to protect illegal immigrants.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Legislative Council member C.T. Ravi launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress administration, questioning why the party is violently opposing the constitutional Special Summary Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Ravi alleged that the Congress's vehement opposition stems from a deep-seated fear that thorough voter verification will expose and purge thousands of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants from the voter lists.

The controversy erupts amid heightened political friction over electoral roll integrity, with the ruling Congress party staging demonstrations against alleged voter deletion tactics. Dismissing these protests as political theatrics, Ravi emphasized that the nationwide SIR framework is an established administrative protocol that has been successfully executed twelve times across the country, predating the current central government.

“Why is the Congress ap-

prehensive about the comprehensive revision of the voters’ list? Is the party worried that Bangladeshi voters might be removed from the rolls if complaints are properly verified?” Ravi asked, challenging the state leadership to account for the demographic shifts observed in urban and rural pockets alike.

Ravi leveled serious national security allegations, asserting that hundreds of undocumented foreign nationals—specifically referencing illegal immigrants from Bangladesh—have infiltrated municipal workspaces in Bengaluru as well as agrarian employment sectors, including coffee plantations across Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts. He argued that these individuals are unlawfully occupying jobs meant for Indian citizens while simultaneously subverting the democratic process by embedding themselves within electoral rolls.

The BJP legislator heavily criticized the state government for failing to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or pursue rigorous administrative audits, despite widespread revelations regarding illegal



C.T. Ravi speaks to reporters in Bengaluru

workforce entries. He contended that the Chief Minister's high-profile street protests against the Election Commission are calculated diversions designed to pull public attention away from escalating governance challenges, agrarian distress, and separate political controversies.

Addressing criticisms directed at central oversight, Ravi clarified that voter registration and electoral roll management are executed primarily by state government personnel drawn from local revenue, education, and municipal departments. “Agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI do not handle voter registration; state government employees exe-

“Why is the Congress apprehensive about the comprehensive revision? They fear that if complaints are properly verified, Bangladeshi voters will be removed from the electoral rolls, compromising their short-term political gains.”

— C.T. Ravi BJP leader

cute 99% of the work. The state government itself bears responsibility for any irregularities,” he stated.

Defending the integrity of legal procedural tools, Ravi noted that statutory mechanisms like Form 6 ensure seamless inclusion for any legitimate citizen submitting proper documentation, while Form 7 allows for lawful objections against suspicious or duplicate entries. He asserted that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) operate within strict regulatory limits, and that no name is removed arbitrarily without thorough, independent field verification by state election personnel.

K'taka power demand plummets 25% amid rains

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Widespread and continuous monsoon rainfall across Karnataka has triggered a significant relief period for the state's power transmission grid, driving a sharp 25% reduction in statewide electricity demand. Energy Department data reveals that peak daily power consumption, which soared past 20,000 MW earlier in September, plummeted to 15,818 MW by September 30, marking a dramatic drop of approximately 5,000 MW in a matter of weeks.

Within the capital's urban distribution network, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) recorded an equally notable contraction. Daily consumption figures within BESCOM limits—which hovered around 148 to 149 million units with peak demand touching 8,300 MW last week—receded to a peak of 7,400 MW, reflecting a direct reduction of over 700 MW.

According to senior Energy Department officials, the sudden drop in electricity demand is primarily attributed to two major load components: agricultural irrigation pump (IP) sets and residential air conditioning (AC) systems.

Recent downpours across previously rain-deficient districts such as Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapura have naturally replenished soil moisture levels. Consequently, farming communities have

Statewide peak power demand (megawatts)

Early September	20,000+
September 30	15,818

Source: Energy Department

THE RAIN EFFECT

Irrigation pump sets: downpours in previously rain-deficient Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Kolar and Chikkaballapura replenished soil moisture, so farmers drew less on groundwater pumps

Air conditioners: persistent overcast skies and cooler temperatures curtailed residential and commercial AC use in urban centers

The grid: the downpours eased thermal loading on transformers and stabilized state grid reserves

substantially reduced their reliance on groundwater extraction pumps, instantly alleviating immense strain on rural feeders. Simultaneously, persistent overcast skies and cooler atmospheric temperatures have drastically curtailed residential and commercial AC usage across urban centers.

While the seasonal downpours have temporarily eased thermal loading on transformers and stabilized state grid reserves, power utility authorities continue to monitor distribution infrastructure to manage fluctuating load demands as the monsoon transitions into its post-monsoon phase.

Ozone Urban CMD arrested in 927 crore homebuyer fraud

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Ozone Urban Infra CMD S. Vasudevan for a Rs 927.22 crore real estate fraud targeting Bengaluru homebuyers.



S. Vasudevan, CMD, Ozone Urban Infra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive crackdown on real estate financial malfeasance, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested S. Vasudevan, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Ozone Urban Infra Private Limited, for orchestrating a colossal Rs 927.22 crore fraud against trusting homebuyers in Bengaluru. The high-profile arrest marks a major escalation in the federal agency's ongoing probe into systemic homebuyer exploitation and corporate money laundering within Karnataka's booming property sector.

The federal money laundering investigation was initiated following multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) alongside local law enforcement complaints in Bengaluru. According to detailed findings released by the ED's Bengaluru Zonal Office, Ozone Urban Infra and its primary promoters systematically collected massive tranches of capital from prospective homeowners under the guise of delivering residential apartment complexes within strict project timelines.

However, investigators revealed that construction on several flagship residential developments was indefinitely stalled or abandoned entirely. Rather than utilizing customer remittances for project execution, the management allegedly engaged in large-scale criminal misappropriation, covertly siphoning and illegally diverting the pooled funds—totaling an astronomical Rs 927.22 crore—into unauthorized corporate chan-

nels, shell entities, and personal portfolios. Because the company neither delivered the promised housing units nor issued refunds to aggrieved investors, federal prosecutors moved swiftly under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Following his formal arrest on September 30, Vasudevan was produced before the Special PMLA Court in Bengaluru on October 1. The judicial authority granted the federal agency a 14-day custodial remand, enabling investigators to conduct intensive interrogations regarding the complex money trails, hawala channels, and ultimate beneficiaries of the diverted public wealth.

The federal probe into Ozone Urban Infra has progressed through rigorous multi-phase enforcement actions over the past year. On August 1, 2025, ED operatives executed simultaneous search and seizure operations across multiple corporate and residential premises linked to the promoters, recovering incriminating financial ledgers, digital evidence, and title deeds.

Building upon the gathered evidence, the financial intelligence agency previously issued provisional attachment orders seizing movable and immovable assets valued at approximately Rs 423.37 crore.

With Vasudevan now remanded in federal custody, the ED is expanding its investigation to trace remaining hidden assets, untangle multi-tiered corporate layering, and ensure that accountability is established for thousands of stranded homebuyers whose lifelong savings were compromised by the multi-crore real estate scam.

Police bust fake currency racket, seize ₹21 lakh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

THE HAUL	
4,337	FAKE RS 500 NOTES IN THE CAR
17	PRINTING MACHINES IN TAMIL NADU
8	MOBILE PHONES
7	SUSPECTS ARRESTED

In a major breakthrough against financial crimes, the Chamarajpet police have successfully dismantled an extensive inter-state counterfeit currency printing and circulation syndicate. Operating across multiple jurisdictions, the clandestine network was exposed following a targeted tactical raid near the Mysuru Road flyover, leading to the dramatic apprehension of seven key suspects and the seizure of fake currency valued at over Rs. 21.68 lakh alongside sophisticated printing hardware.

The operation came to light when alert law enforcement personnel intercepted a suspicious vehicle parked near a petrol bunk close to the Mysuru Road flyover. Acting on precise intelligence regarding currency distribution, officers detained two primary suspects inside the automobile. A thorough search of the vehicle yielded an astonishing 4,337 counterfeit currency notes, each bearing a face value of Rs. 500, bringing the total seized fiat value at the initial checkpoint to Rs. 21,68,500.

Intensive custodial interrogation of the detained individuals blew the lid off a sprawling criminal enterprise extending far beyond Karnataka's borders. Subsequent police teams dispatched to neighboring regions traced operational hubs deep into Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu as well as select locations across Telangana.

Executing a coordinated secondary raid at the primary covert printing facility in Tamil Nadu, investigators uncovered an industrial-scale

counterfeiting workshop. Authorities seized an extraordinary haul consisting of 17 dedicated printing machines, specialized paper stock, counterfeit security threads, and an additional cache of finished fake notes valued at Rs. 6 lakh. The sophisticated apparatus demonstrated the syndicate's capability to mass-produce remarkably close replicas of genuine currency, posing a severe threat to regional economic stability.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Satyam, Muruges, Govindan, Bar-kath, Saravanan, Lakshman, and Krishna. Alongside the currency and printing presses, law enforcement confiscated the getaway car and eight mobile phones used to coordinate the network's illicit logistics. Briefing the press on the operation, Yathish N., Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Division), confirmed that a formal criminal case has been registered at the Chamarajpet police station under relevant sections of the law. Special investigative teams have been dispatched to track down four remaining suspects currently at large, while financial crime units delve deeper into the syndicate's wider distribution footprint and potential hawala financial conduits.

AUTOMATED COUNT SYSTEM PILOT

BMTC pilots automatic passenger counting system

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major push toward modernizing public transit, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is launching a pilot project to implement an advanced Automatic Passenger Counting (APC) system across 30 buses. Designed to track real-time boarding and alighting patterns, crowding levels, and ticketing accuracy, the technology aims to crack down on revenue leakage, eliminate ticketless travel, and optimize route scheduling.

Official tenders for the project have been issued, with the deadline for bid submissions set for October 12, 2026.

The APC system utilizes

sophisticated sensors and on-board optical devices installed near the front and rear entry-exit doors of the buses. These sensors automatically record every passenger boarding and alighting at each stop, maintaining a continuous tally of active passenger counts. According to municipal transit specifications, the installed technology must maintain a minimum counting accuracy of 95% during operational hours.

A primary motivation behind the high-tech upgrade is the challenge of reconciling ticket data with passenger volume, particularly in the wake of widespread free-travel initiatives like the state's Shakti scheme, alongside student and senior citizen passes. While conductors utilize Electronic



Pilot 30 Buses

Ticketing Machines (ETMs), verifying pass-holder ratios against actual headcounts has traditionally proved difficult. By integrating APC sensor logs with ETM transaction data and Vehicle Tracking Systems (VLT), BMTC's central control room can independently cross-reference passenger volumes in real

time. If a discrepancy arises between recorded ticket issues and active passenger counts, automated alerts are transmitted instantly, helping supervisors detect irregularities such as unissued tickets or informal cash transactions.

Beyond security and revenue auditing, the APC data stream will feed into BMTC's GPS analytics framework to streamline urban transit planning. By mapping peak passenger densities across specific corridors and timings, the corporation aims to dynamically reallocate fleet resources—deploying additional buses to congested routes while scaling back frequencies on underutilized segments to improve overall operational efficiency.

Quick Read

Woman dies in waste-sorting machine accident

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

A 45-year-old woman, Arasamma from Kadathippuru, died after becoming trapped in a waste-segregation machine at the MSGP unit in Doddaballapur. The accident occurred while garbage was being sorted at the facility, where waste brought from Bengaluru is processed. Arasamma had reportedly worked at the unit for the past three to four years. She sustained severe injuries after being caught in the machinery and died following the accident. The incident took place within the jurisdiction of Doddabelavangala Police Station. Further details regarding the circumstances of the accident are awaited.

Snakebite medication not available in '108' ambulances

CH NEWS, VIJAYANAGARA

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Lingaraju has clarified that claims circulating on social media that '108' ambulances carry snakebite medication and provide anti-venom injections are false. He urged the public not to rely on such information. In case of a snakebite, victims should immediately seek free treatment at the nearest government hospital, Community Health Centre, or Primary Health Centre. Dr. Lingaraju stated that '108' emergency ambulances are not authorized to administer medicines or anti-snake venom and advised the public to seek medical attention without delay.

Parashuramsingh Rajput appointed BJP district Vice-President

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Former City Council President Parashuramsingh Rajput has been appointed Vice-President of the Vijayapura district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Rajput, who has been active in politics for several decades, has served four terms as a City Council member and once as a City Corporation member. He served as City Council President for three consecutive years from 2014 and held two terms as a member of the Urban Development Authority before becoming its chairman. Reacting to his appointment, Rajput thanked senior BJP leaders and party workers for their support. He said he would work to strengthen the organization.

Grand procession marks Ambedkar statue installation

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A grand procession and statue installation ceremony were held at Mainahalli village near Alayandi on Friday to mark the installation of a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The programme was organized in connection with the birthday of social worker Ajayagouda Patil and witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers, including youth, women and children.

Women carrying traditional Kumbha and Kalasha pots led the procession, while a musical band accompanied the statue through the main streets of the village. Villagers participated enthusiastically, and youth and children raised slogans of "Jai Bhim." Following

Bommai criticizes dramatic cabinet protest against commission

Bommai said the Chief Minister could have raised concerns over SIR through Booth Level Officers in respective constituencies

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has criticized the protest staged by the Chief Minister and cabinet colleagues outside the Election Commission office, alleging that it was intended to protect ineligible voters.

In a statement issued on Friday, Bommai said that if the Chief Minister had concerns about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, they could have been raised through Booth Level Officers



Basavaraj Bommai
Former Chief Minister

(BLOs) in the respective constituencies.

He argued that submitting Form-7 objections is an authorized part of the electoral-roll revision process and said the Election Commission has permitted individuals to raise objections regarding multiple voter entries. According to Bommai, questioning the use of this provision is therefore unwarranted.

Bommai urged election officials to discharge their responsibilities independently and without pressure, strictly following the Election Commission's guidelines and applicable laws.

He said action should be taken against anyone found violating electoral rules, while officials and individuals acting within the prescribed regulations should be protected.

He also maintained that concerns surrounding the electoral rolls should be addressed through the procedures established by the Election Commission rather than through political pressure or public confrontation.

The Issue: A high-profile protest staged by the Chief Minister and cabinet colleagues outside the Election Commission office concerning voter lists.

The Allegation: Former CM Basavaraj Bommai claimed the protest was dramatic and served as a political ploy to protect fake voters.

The Defense of Rules: Emphasized that Form-7 is legally authorized for objecting to ineligible entries and that proper channels like BLOs exist.

The Administrative Appeal: Urged election officials to follow guidelines strictly, remain immune to political pressure, and ensure lawful actions.

Severe drought threatens farmers across Kalaburagi district

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Farmers across Kalaburagi district are facing severe hardship due to inadequate monsoon rainfall and crop losses. Rudrappa S. Valikar (Ravi Vali), Honorary President of KaRaVe (Shivaramgowda faction), has urged the state government to immediately implement drought-relief measures and protect farmers' interests.



In a press statement, he criticized the government's proposed input subsidy of ₹2,500, stating that the amount was inadequate considering the extent of losses suffered by farmers. He demanded compensation of at least ₹50,000 per acre.

He also called for the waiver of crop loans, prompt release of crop-insurance claims and adequate electricity supply for agricultural activities. According to him,

AT A GLANCE

The Crisis: Severe agricultural distress across Kalaburagi district driven by deficient monsoon rainfall, failed crops, and heavy input expenditures.

The Protest Demand: KaRaVe leader Rudrappa S. Valikar rejected the state's proposed ₹2,500 input subsidy as completely inadequate.

The Relief Package: Urging the government to implement all-inclusive drought relief, including crop loan waivers and insurance disbursements.

The Action Plan: Comprehensive taluk-level assessments and immediate administrative response to prevent heavy financial burdens on farmers.

package.

Farmers, he said, should not be left to bear the financial burden arising from crop failures caused by the prevailing rainfall shortage.

Sainik School observes Gandhi, Shastri Jayanti with patriotic fervour

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Sainik School, Vijayapura, observed the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on the school campus with solemnity and patriotic fervour.

The programme began with Principal Group Captain Rajlakshmi Prithviraj offering floral tributes to the two national leaders. The occasion highlighted Gandhi's ideals of truth, non-violence, cleanliness and selfless service, while recalling Shastri's leadership and the message of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

As part of the programme, the principal administered the "India of My Dreams" pledge to cadets, encouraging them

to uphold integrity, discipline, responsibility and dedicated service to the nation.

Emphasising Gandhi's message of cleanliness and environmental responsibility, cadets and staff participated in campus cleanliness and tree plantation activities. Patriotic speeches and tributes by cadets reflected the values of leadership, courage, discipline and commitment to the nation.

The programme also provided an opportunity for cadets to reflect on the contributions and ideals of the two national leaders and their relevance to present-day India.

Vice Principal Cdr Meena Kumari, Administrative Officer Maj Ritesh Kumar, Senior Master, teaching faculty, administrative staff, NCC PI staff, Shishuniketan Primary School staff and cadets attended the programme.



The principal administered the "India of My Dreams" pledge to cadets

Guruji should apologize: Jigajinagi



CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

MP Ramesh Jigajinagi has demanded that Shashikanth Guruji publicly apologize for remarks allegedly made against the family members of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.

In a press statement, Jigajinagi said that he and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) respect farmers and their concerns. He highlighted various central government initiatives for farmers, including the Kisan Samman scheme, and said the government has demonstrated its commitment to their welfare.

At a Glance

■ **The Issue:** Controversial remarks allegedly made against the family members of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi during protests.

■ **The Demand:** MP Ramesh Jigajinagi called for Shashikanth Guruji to immediately withdraw the statements and issue a public apology.

■ **The Stance:** Acknowledging the democratic right to protest and criticize policies while strongly rejecting personal attacks and disrespect.

■ **The Defense:** Highlighting central farmer initiatives like the Kisan Samman scheme to demonstrate government commitment to agricultural welfare.

cism should be constructive and focused on policies and issues concerning agriculture and farmers.

According to Jigajinagi, making remarks about the family members of public representatives during a protest is inappropriate and can cause unnecessary distress. He urged farmer leaders and others involved in such movements to maintain dignity while expressing their grievances.

Against this backdrop, Jigajinagi demanded that Shashikanth Guruji withdraw the alleged remarks and issue a public apology to the family members of Pralhad Joshi.

Lorry driver fined for trying to ram elephant

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Forest officials have imposed a ₹5,000 fine on a lorry driver accused of attempting to ram a wild elephant on the Bandipur-Ooty road in Gundlupet taluk. The incident, captured on video and widely circulated on social media, drew concern from the public and environmentalists.

The elephant had wandered onto the road at night while searching for food and blocked the path of vehicles. According to the video, the lorry driver appeared to accelerate towards the animal. Fortunately, the elephant moved

to the roadside, preventing a possible accident. Other motorists recorded the incident on their mobile phones.

Forest officials traced the driver, identified as Jinshad C. from Kerala's Malappuram district, using the vehicle's registration number and CCTV footage. He was summoned to the Bandipur forest office, where officials obtained a written confession and imposed the fine.

Officials also issued him a stern warning against such conduct. The action followed public demands for appropriate measures after the video went viral.

IUML seeks Gyanesh Kumar's resignation

CH NEWS, ULLAL

The Dakshina Kannada District Committee of the Muslim Youth League staged a protest at KC Road Junction, demanding the resignation of Election Officer Gyanesh Kumar over allegations related to vote theft.

Addressing the gathering, Manjeshwar Block Panchayat President Saifulla Thangal said democracy belongs to the people and that every citizen must have the right to participate freely in the democratic process. He alleged that attempts to undermine voting rights threaten the democratic

system and demanded accountability from those responsible.

Salam Uchil said efforts were being made to deprive citizens of their voting rights and condemned such alleged incidents. He stressed the importance of protecting the integrity of the electoral process.

IUML District President Abdul Rahman presided over the protest.

The protesters called for appropriate action regarding their allegations and reiterated their demand for protecting citizens' voting rights and democratic institutions.

Udupi MLA seeks ₹30 crore special grant

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Udupi MLA Yashpal Suvarna met Urban Development Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah and submitted a request for a special grant of ₹30 crore to undertake essential infrastructure development within the Udupi City Municipality limits.

The MLA highlighted the need for improved basic amenities across various municipal wards, including road construction and repairs, drainage and stormwater management systems, footbridges, retaining walls and streetlights.

He emphasized that strengthening the drainage network is particularly important during the monsoon to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater and prevent inconvenience to residents. The construction of retaining walls and footbridges



at identified locations is also necessary to improve public safety and facilitate smooth movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

According to Suvarna, at least ₹30 crore is required to complete the proposed infrastructure works across Udupi city. He appealed to the Urban Development Minister to sanction the special grant at the earliest and take necessary steps to strengthen civic infrastructure and improve public amenities within the municipality.



Quick Read

Hunsur customer wins Suzuki Gixxer in Power 95 campaign

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Yashik S. Aradhya of Hunsur won a Suzuki Gixxer bike in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's "Power 95" campaign. Deepak Bakshi, Senior Marketing Officer of Hindustan Petroleum, handed over the bike to Yashik S. Aradhya at an event in Hunsur. Karthik Babu, owner of Maruti Service Station, was also present. Bakshi said the competition was organized by the Mangaluru division of Hindustan Petroleum and covered Mysuru, Kodagu, Mangaluru, Hassan, Udupi and Chikkamagaluru districts. Customers who filled up with "Power Petrol 95" were eligible for the campaign. Yashik, a customer of Maruti Service Station, won the bike. The petrol bunk has been operating for about 65 years. All staff members of the petrol bunk were felicitated and presented with gifts.

Cholaghatta Gram Panchayat holds cleanliness drive

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A cleanliness drive was held at Cholaghatta Gram Panchayat in Chitradurga Taluk on Friday under the "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" campaign as part of the "Swachhata Hi Seva-2026" initiative. Participants cleaned the Gram Panchayat office premises and nearby public areas and created awareness about environmental hygiene. Gram Panchayat Development Officer Veeresh said keeping homes and surroundings clean can help prevent diseases. He stressed that cleanliness should not be limited to one day but should become a continuous habit. District SWM Consultant Pramila, IEC Consultant Nagaraj, Gram Panchayat staff, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, village leaders and members of the public participated in the drive.

Hunsur school marks Gandhi, Shastri birth anniversaries

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

The birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri were celebrated at the Government Senior Boys' Primary School in Hunsur. Floral tributes were offered to the portraits of the two leaders. Senior Headmaster H.S. Suresh spoke about their principles and personalities and said their ideals remain relevant and serve as an example for students. School SDMC President Pallavi, Vice-President and journalist Mohammed Rafi, and members Venkatesh and Ayesha extended their greetings.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ADITHI GURUPRASAD**, D/o Balakrishna Guruprasad, resident of No 205, 4th Main, 5th Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, B S K 1st Stage, Bengaluru 560050, have changed my name to **ADITHI G RAO**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 01.10.2026 before notary **MEER HASSAN**, Bengaluru

Karnataka seeks Cauvery release cut to 2,000 cusecs

Chaluvarayaswamy said Karnataka's Southwest Monsoon had ended, sharply reducing reservoir inflows, leaving only 49 TMC of usable water

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy said the Karnataka government has formally requested the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reduce the water released at Biligundlu to 2,000 cusecs per day, citing severe drought conditions in the Cauvery basin and water shortage in reservoirs. The request seeks reconsideration of the order issued during the CWMA's 58th meeting held on September

24, 2026. The Authority had directed Karnataka to release 4,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu at Biligundlu for the subsequent 15 days. Chaluvarayaswamy said the Southwest Monsoon had completely concluded in Karnataka, resulting in a sharp decline in inflows into the Krishnaraja Sagara, Hemavathi, Harangi and Kabini reservoirs. The minister said the total usable water currently available in these four reservoirs was only 49 TMC. He said Karnataka needs to conserve the available water

CAUVERY WATER REQUEST SUMMARY		
REQUESTED FLOW	CURRENT STORAGE	AFFECTED AREAS
2,000 cusecs per day at Biligundlu	49 TMC across key reservoirs (KRS, Hemavathi, Harangi, Kabini)	47 drought-declared taluks in the Cauvery basin
SPOKESPERSON	N. Chaluvarayaswamy (Water Resources Minister)	
TARGET AUTHORITY	Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)	
PRIMARY CONCERN	Securing drinking water and managing evaporation losses through June 2027	

MLA calls for unity on Gandhi Jayanti in Kolar



CH NEWS, KOLAR

Air, water, sunlight and rain are shared equally by everyone, and people should live with the feeling that all are one, like brothers, without discrimination, MLA Dr. Kothur G. Manjunath said on

armies but united the nation through truth and non-violence and fought against British rule. He recalled Shastri's "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" slogan and paid tribute to soldiers and farmers. He also suggested holding cultural programmes and interfaith

At a Glance

- **The Occasion:** Joint celebration of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri birth anniversaries at Gandhi Chowk in Kolar.
- **The Key Message:** Embracing equality, unity, and brotherhood—comparing shared air and water to human oneness.
- **The Special Proposals:** Suggesting weekly cultural events at Gandhi Chowk and future installation of a bronze Gandhi statue.
- **The Administration:** Strict adherence to a 7:00 AM start time with cross-departmental official participation and publication releases.

Gandhi Jayanti.

The birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri were observed at Gandhi Chowk under the joint auspices of the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Information and Public Relations, City Municipal Council and Bharat Seva Dal.

Speaking along with religious leaders from Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities, Manjunath paid tribute to leaders including Babasaheb Ambedkar, Gandhiji and Nehru and urged people to follow their ideals.

Legislative Council Member M.L. Anil Kumar said Gandhi had no weapons or

prayers at Gandhi Chowk and proposed a bronze statue of Gandhi.

Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravikumar urged people to adopt the ideals of great leaders in their daily lives. He asked officials to participate in such programmes beyond their offices.

The programme began at 7 am as instructed by the Deputy Commissioner. Officials from various departments participated. Dignitaries garlanded Gandhi's statue and joined an interfaith prayer.

Special Gandhi-themed editions of Janapada and March of Karnataka were also released. Officials and members of the public attended the event.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya said everyone should adopt Mahatma Gandhi's principles of simplicity in their lives. She said Buddha, Mahavira and Gandhi showed the path of "Aparigraha", or non-possessiveness, for a simple life.

Speaking at the Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri birth anniversary programme at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Ramya explained that Aparigraha means controlling



desires and living with only what is necessary. She recalled Gandhi's simple lifestyle and said people should



carefully to meet drinking water requirements, protect the environment and account for evaporative losses through June 2027.

Around 47 taluks in the Cauvery basin have already been declared drought-affected, while the entire basin is facing severe drought conditions. Despite this, Karnataka has followed all directives issued by the Authority during the current water year.

According to the minister, an inflow of 44.21 TMC was recorded at Biligundlu between June 1 and September

'Gandhian values facing ideological assassination'

CH NEWS, GADAG

Former Minister S.S. Patil expressed concern that although Mahatma Gandhi was physically assassinated, his values and ideas were being ideologically assassinated by being ignored in today's society.

He was speaking as chief guest at the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 122nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University.

Patil said Gandhi's thoughts remained relevant to today's society. He said there was a need to adopt his ideas in environmental protection, eradication of untouchability, women's freedom and empowerment, morality, values in politics and eradication of corruption. He also described Gandhi as an important figure who put Basavanna's principles into practice in the 20th century.

Patil praised the university for moving forward with Gandhi's philosophy of Gram Swarajya. He said it should become a major knowledge

centre for rural development and strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions. He also hoped it would become a major training centre for officials and public representatives.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Suresh V. Nadagoudara said students should adopt Gandhi



and Shastri's simplicity, honesty, service to the nation and moral values. He said the university aimed to develop young people with social responsibility.

Registrar Prof. Amaresh Yatagal said their life philosophies should inspire students and stressed values, discipline and social responsibility.

Finance Officer Prashant J.C. recalled their simple lives and commitment to the country.

Floral tributes were paid to the leaders' portraits. University officials, faculty, staff and students attended.

Govinda Gowda appointed as Gadag in-charge

CH NEWS, GADAG

In the wake of the Karnataka West Graduate constituency elections, JDS state spokesperson Venkanagouda Govinda Gowda has been appointed as the election in-charge of Gadag district, party state president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has issued an order. Venkanagouda Govinda Gowda has been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing election activities in Gadag district on behalf of NDA candidate from West Graduate constituency S.V. Sankanura. As election



Venkanagouda Govinda Gowda

preparations have intensified in the districts falling under the jurisdiction of the Western Graduate constituency, including Gadag, JDS has appointed district-level in-charges and issued an order with guidelines to be followed for the victory of the NDA candidate. H.D. Kumaraswamy has issued an order.

Congress leader calls for unity to win Hassan seats

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Minister for Excise and Hassan district in-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda called on Congress



workers to resolve internal differences and work together for the upcoming election.

He was speaking at the ceremony held at the Congress party office on B.M. Road, Hassan, where G.B. Shashidhar assumed office as the new President of the Hassan District Congress Committee.

Gowda said the party had lost in six of the district's assembly constituencies but urged workers to work towards winning all seven seats in the next election. He said the party had the willpower to achieve the goal if workers remained united.

He praised Shashidhar, noting that his father, G.S. Basavaraju, was a prominent leader in Arsikere. Gowda said Shashidhar had built his

own team of grassroots workers instead of depending only on his family name. He described him as an educated politician, a composed personality and an organizer capable of bringing party workers together.

Gowda urged workers to put aside minor issues and internal differences. He said opportunities to serve people would come to everyone in due course and asked workers to continue working for the party with patience. Recalling the party's earlier struggles, Gowda said many leaders had started by carrying party flags, distributing pamphlets and putting up banners. He said the Lok Sabha election result, in which Shreyas Patel won by a large margin and became an MP, showed the party's strength in Hassan district.

He urged workers to remain united under Shashidhar's leadership and continue their work. He promoted equality, while Shastri stood for equality and progress. Gowda urged people to practice Gandhiji's principles instead of limiting Gandhi Jayanti to celebrations. He called for equality, harmony and brotherhood without caste or religious divisions. He said simplicity, honesty, non-violence and service to the nation should guide public life.

Shivalinge Gowda calls for Gandhian values in politics

Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda said the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri should resonate again in today's politics.

Speaking at their birth anniversary celebrations at Kasturba Gandhi Camp, he praised the Kasturba Trust for continuously spreading Gandhiji's principles. He said Gandhi guided the freedom struggle through non-violence

Gandhi, Shastri ideals guide youth: Puttakamanna

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

The ideals and life of Mahatma Gandhi and Bharat Ratna Lal Bahadur Shastri should guide today's youth, said R.V. Puttakamanna, District President of the Karnataka Sarvoto



daya Mandala.

He was speaking after inaugurating their birth anniversary celebrations organized by the National Festivals Celebration Committee of Tumkur University on Friday.

Puttakamanna said Gandhi's values of truth, peace, non-violence, Swadeshi and social equality remain relevant today. He said Gandhi should be understood not only as a freedom fighter but also as a social reformer and advocate of rural India.

He explained that Gandhi used Satyagraha instead of violence to oppose injustice. Non-violence, he said, also

means keeping violence away from speech, thoughts and conduct.

Puttakamanna highlighted Gandhi's discussions with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on social inequality and caste discrimination. He said the principle of Swadeshi could strengthen the local economy by supporting domestic producers, farmers, workers and small industries.

He also recalled Shastri's simplicity, honesty, courage and commitment to the nation and said these qualities should inspire the present generation.

Tumkur University Finance Officer Narasimhamurthy recalled Gandhi's role in the freedom struggle through movements including Non-Cooperation, Salt Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience and Quit India. He said Gandhi used truth, peace and people's power instead of weapons.

He also recalled Shastri's "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" slogan during challenges related to national security and food shortages.

Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Prof. S. Srinivas and Dr. G. Dakshayani attended the programme.

PATH OF APARIGRAHA

Gandhi showed path of Aparigraha for simple life: DC

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya said everyone should adopt Mahatma Gandhi's principles of simplicity in their lives. She said Buddha, Mahavira and Gandhi showed the path of "Aparigraha", or non-possessiveness, for a simple life.

Speaking at the Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri birth anniversary programme at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Ramya explained that Aparigraha means controlling



reduce arrogance, extravagance and unnecessary anger. District Superintendent of Police Kushal Choukse said

the values of simplicity, Satyagraha and service followed by Gandhi and Shastri remain timeless. He suggested screening the film Gandhi for children to help them understand the freedom struggle and Gandhian principles.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy said Gandhi should be remembered not only as a freedom fighter but also as a social reformer and statesman. He said Shastri's simplicity and honesty also remain examples for everyone.

Retired Principal Dr. J. Kariyappa Malige said Gandhi's principles of truth, non-violence and peace can guide people during global conflicts, war and terrorism. He said their birth anniversaries should be used to discuss their lives and ideas.

Students of St. Joseph's Convent School performed an interfaith prayer, while Meenakshi Bhat and her troupe presented Gandhi's favorite bhajans. Officials from various departments attended the programme.

Highlights

- Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya advocates simple lifestyle
- Aparigraha concept urged to control human desires
- SP Kushal Choukse suggests screening Gandhi film
- Additional Deputy Commissioner highlights Gandhi social reformer role
- Dr. J. Kariyappa Malige stresses peace amid conflicts
- Students perform interfaith prayers and favorite bhajans

Quick Read

SC, ST patients must provide Aadhaar, RD numbers

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Special government healthcare benefits are available to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe patients receiving treatment at the teaching hospital attached to Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute. To receive these benefits, eligible patients must provide the RD number mentioned on their caste certificate and their Aadhaar card number at the Outpatient or In-patient registration departments. Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj, Dean and Director of Chitradurga Medical College, said patients holding BPL, Antyodaya or Aadhaar cards must submit the required documents to access healthcare benefits, including free facilities, as per government regulations. He urged eligible patients to provide the documents during registration to avail the available government healthcare benefits.

Surabhi Old Age Home seniors receive awards

CH NEWS, GADAG

Seniors from Surabhi Old Age Home in Hulakoti were felicitated at a programme held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall to mark World Senior Citizens' Day. The programme was organized jointly by the Gadag Department for the Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens and the Department of Women and Child Development. The senior citizens honored included Kotravva Kavadihatti, Annapuramma, Saraswathibai Katava, Sharanamma Kulkarni, Somava Badni, Ambasa Katave, Siddappa Vaddatti and Shankappa Managuli. They were felicitated during the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. Old Age Home Supervisor Rajesab Eklasapur and staff members Mahalakshmi Nashipudi and Lakshmi Hanamara, among others, were present.

18 doctors appointed at Chitradurga Medical College

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Eighteen doctors have been appointed on a contract basis as faculty and demonstrators at the Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute. Dean and Director Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj handed over appointment letters to the selected doctors on October 1. The newly appointed doctors will provide clinical services at the Chitradurga District Hospital and conduct academic classes for medical students. They have been appointed to departments including Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Physiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Community Medicine, General Surgery, General Medicine, OBG, Anesthesiology, Pediatrics, ENT and the Blood Bank. Dr. Yuvaraj said the appointments would help improve medical treatment and teaching services, benefiting patients and students in the district.

G.T. Naik alleges BJP workers misusing Form-7

Naik said an eight-day district campaign, "Save Democracy, Save Vote, Save Nation," would feature protests and awareness programmes across blocks

CH NEWS, BHATKAL

District Congress President G.T. Naik alleged that the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls was being misused, with BJP workers attempting to remove the names of eligible voters through Form-7.

Naik accused the Election Commission of acting in a partisan manner in favour of the BJP and demanded that appropriate action be taken regarding the alleged misuse of Form-7.

He expressed concern that the SIR process could lead to the removal of approximately 13 crore eligible voters across the country and around one crore voters in Karnataka



from the electoral rolls. Naik said that, following the call of the AICC and KPCC, a campaign titled "Save Democracy, Save Vote, Save Nation" had been launched in the district. He said protests and

awareness programmes would be conducted across various blocks of the district for eight days.

He added that a memorandum regarding the issue had been submitted to the President of India through the Deputy Commissioner.

Naik also spoke about the party's organizational preparations for the upcoming elections. He said the "Sanghatana Srujan" programme had been launched to strengthen the party organization ahead of elections to the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat bodies, as well as municipal bodies.

He stated that the party organization was being strengthened by appointing active

At a glance

The Accusation

District Congress President G.T. Naik alleged that BJP workers are misusing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process to delete eligible voters using Form-7.

The Concern

Warnings that nationwide deletion could affect millions, including around one crore voters in Karnataka.

The Action Plan

Launching an 8-day block-level protest campaign ("Prajaprabhava Ullisi, Mata Bachavo, Desha Bachavo") and submitting a presidential memorandum.

The Organizational Drive

Introduction of the 'Sanghatana Srujan' program to strengthen party structure for upcoming local body elections.

workers as Block Presidents and to various other office-bearer positions.

Naik said the organizational activities would help prepare party workers for the upcoming elections. He also urged workers to participate actively in the campaign, awareness programmes and efforts to strengthen the party organization across the district.

'Let us unite to make Chitradurga TB-free'



CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. V. Thulasiranganath urged government departments and the public to work together to make Chitradurga district free from tuberculosis.

He was speaking at a training workshop on "Detection of Tuberculosis in Children," organized for Taluk Medical Officers and staff at the Taluk Health Officer's office in collaboration with SVYM and the District Tuberculosis Officer's office.

Dr. Thulasiranganath said the government aims to create a TB-free India by 2030. He noted that TB testing and treatment are available free of cost at government health centres. Health workers were instructed to ensure that patients complete their treatment after diagnosis. He also stressed the importance of providing information about nutritious food and taking

necessary precautions to prevent deaths.

Pediatrician Dr. C.J. Sri-ram, who conducted the training, explained the difficulties in identifying TB among children. Children below four years may find it difficult to explain their health problems. Symptoms may include poor appetite, night sweats, cough lasting more than two weeks, fever, weight loss and reduced interest in playing.

He advised doctors at primary healthcare centres to refer children showing such symptoms to pediatricians at the nearest taluk or district hospital. Early detection and timely treatment can help control the disease.

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish said the government provides ₹1,000 every month directly to the bank accounts of TB patients during treatment to support nutritious food. He urged patients to complete treatment and help prevent the spread of TB.

Koppal seer chosen to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Former Koppal City Municipal Council President Amjad Patel welcomed the selection of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Koppal's Sri Gavi Math to inaugurate the historic Mysuru Dasara festival.

Patel expressed gratitude to State Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, along with the district ministers and MLAs, for choosing the seer for the prestigious honour. He said the recognition was a matter of pride for the people of Koppal district and North Karnataka.

Patel highlighted the contribution of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji in religious, educational and social activities. He said the seer has earned respect through his simple life, commitment to Dasoha, service in education and concern for society.

He said the selection had brought happiness among the people of Koppal district and added to the prestige of the region's spiritual and social service tradition.

It is a moment of pride for all of us that the Mysuru Dasara is being inaugurated by Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji"

— Amjad Patel, Former Koppal CMC President

"It is a moment of pride for all of us that the Mysuru Dasara is being inaugurated by Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji," Patel said.

He expressed hope that the seer's blessings would strengthen peace, harmony and social progress in Karnataka.

The Mysuru Dasara festival is scheduled to be inaugurated on October 11, while the Vijayadashami Jumbo Savari will be held on Octo-

ber 21. Patel congratulated Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji and wished for the progress and development of Karnataka.

He also prayed that the blessings of the seer would reach people across the state and contribute to peace and harmony.

Army veteran receives grand welcome after 17 years



CH NEWS, GADAG

Rahimana M. Hebballi, a resident of Huilagola village, received a warm welcome from villagers, students, teachers, women and youth after completing 17 years of service in the Indian Army.

Rahimana arrived near the Government Model Higher Primary School, where students, teachers, friends and villagers welcomed him with flowers. He was later taken to his home in an open jeep through the main streets of the village.

During the procession, Rahimana paid floral tributes to the statues of poet Huilagola Narayana Rao and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He also visited Sri Sugieshwara, Sri Durga Devi and Sri Maruti temples and offered prayers.

Students and youth raised slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and celebrated his return with dancing and a Prabhat Pheri. Villagers, temple committee members and Panchayat representatives felicitated

Father shares his joy

Rahimana's father, Maulasab, is also an ex-serviceman. Four of his five children have served in the Indian Army. Rahimana and one other child are now ex-servicemen, while two continue to serve in the Army.

Maulasab expressed happiness over the grand welcome given to his son and said the love shown by friends and villagers was truly priceless.

A procession was also organized to welcome ex-serviceman Mahantesh Karabanada, who returned to his native village after completing his Army service last year.

him at different places. His family welcomed him home with the traditional Aarati ritual.

Rahimana served in different parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Tulu language is a rich folk treasure, says Gananath Ekkaru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Tulu is a language with a rich folk heritage, comprising hundreds of Paddanas, poems, stories and riddles that have enriched the cultural traditions of Tulu Nadu, said Gananath Ekkaru, president of the Shivarama Karantha Trust.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Tulu symposium and 'Tulu ICRI-2026' literary and cultural competitions organised jointly by the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy and Sridhavalu Mahavidyalaya at Dhavaka College, Moodbidri.

Ekkaru said Tulu Nadu had more than 500 deities and an equally rich tradition of Paddanas associated with them. In addition to its oral traditions, Tulu literature has a wealth of poems, stories and riddles, making its folk heritage distinctive, he said.

He highlighted the role played by youth circles in rural areas in preserving the language and its cultural traditions. Youth groups used to stage Tulu plays during their annual events, while ordinary artists wrote, directed and performed plays, contributing significantly to the survival and popularisation of Tulu.

DID YOU KNOW? Tulu Nadu has more than 500 deities and an equally rich tradition of Paddanas associated with them, says Gananath Ekkaru.

Recalling the contribution of veteran artist Doddanna Shetty, Ekkaru said he travelled from village to village, staging Tulu plays and singing Tulu poems while introducing people to the richness and beauty of the language.

He said the recognition accorded to Tulu by the government was the result of sustained efforts and struggles by those committed to preserving the language and its cultural heritage.



Ekkaru appreciated the management of Dhavaka College for organising a programme aimed at introducing students and the younger generation to Tulu culture. Such initiatives, he said, would help create greater awareness about the language and encourage younger generations to engage with its literary and folk traditions.

Herbalist Shantha Indu Naik Kinnimundevu of Karkala and divine dancer Kariya Nalke of Valpadi were felicitated during the programme for their contributions to traditional knowledge and Tulu cultural traditions.

Four firearms found illegally modified during Udupi police inspection

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Udupi district police detected four firearms with unauthorised modifications during a special inspection drive conducted across the district over the past month.

The operation was launched against the backdrop of recent incidents involving firearms in the district. The drive focused on verifying the antecedents of licensed firearm holders, checking the condition of weapons and identifying any unauthorised alterations.

Police inspected 2,925 firearms during the drive. The weapons included 1,759 single-barrel muzzle-loading (SBML) guns, 554 single-barrel breech-loading (SBBL) guns, 318 double-barrel breech-loading (DBBL) guns, six double-barrel muzzle-loading (DBML) guns, 120 pistols, 119 revolvers, 30 rifles, 13 bore guns and six non-permissible-bore firearms.

Four firearms were found to have been subjected to unauthorised modifications during the inspection. Police registered separate cases at

Firearms inspected	
SBML guns	1,759
SBBL guns	554
DBBL guns	318
Pistols	120
Revolvers	119
Rifles	30
Bore guns	13
DBML guns	6
Non-permissible bore	6

Total inspected: 2,925
Found modified: 4

Shankaranarayana, Kota, Brahmarav and Karkala Town police stations against the respective licence holders.

The cases have been registered under Section 25 of the Indian Arms Act, 1959, and further investigation is under way to establish the circumstances surrounding the modifications and determine whether other violations were involved.

As part of the drive, police also carried out special verification of firearm licence

holders who have rowdy sheets. Their present conduct was checked, along with their involvement, if any, in criminal cases after obtaining firearm licences.

Police said the verification was aimed at ensuring that licensed firearms were being possessed and used in accordance with the law and that weapons were not misused or altered without authorisation.

The district police said monitoring of licensed firearms would continue, particularly with regard to illegal use, unauthorised modifications and violations of firearm regulations. Legal action would be initiated against those found violating the law, officials said.

Police appealed to members of the public to share information about illegal possession, use, modification or storage of firearms with the nearest police station.

The department said public cooperation would help strengthen monitoring mechanisms, prevent misuse of firearms and support efforts to maintain public safety and law and order across the district.

CH NEWS, UDUPI

The Chitrakoot Ayurveda Festival will be organised on October 4 at Chitrakoot Ayurveda Clinic in Kali, Alur taluk, in collaboration with the District AYUSH Department, promoter Dr Rajesh Bairi said.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr Bairi said the festival would be held from 7 am to 6 pm with the theme 'Ayurveda for tomorrow, a health festival in the lap of the village'. Entry to the event will be free for the public.

The festival will offer free pulse diagnosis and assessment of Vata, Pitta and Kapha Prakriti by Ayurveda experts. Visitors can also receive personalised guidance on diet and lifestyle.

Other attractions include a visit to a native cow shed, demonstrations on preparing preventive infusions using common kitchen ingredients and medicinal herbs, and an introductory walk through more than 150 rare medicinal plants spread across the 18-acre campus.

Medicinal plants will be distributed to interested children,

while experts will explain various Panchakarma treatment methods.

MLA Gururaja Gantihole will inaugurate the festival. Bandya Education Trust Managing Trustee Anupama S. Shetty, Dr Umesh Putran, businessman Krishnananda Chatra, Karnataka Bank Assistant General Manager Ramesh Vaidya and Dr Satish Acharya will participate.



Film critic Dr Pradeep Kenchanur, who received the Golden Lotus Award at the 72nd National Film Awards, will be felicitated during the programme.

Several organic stalls showcasing products related to nature, health and rural heritage

Festival details	
WHEN	October 4, 7 am to 6 pm
WHERE	Chitrakoot Ayurveda Clinic, Kali, Alur taluk
ENTRY	Free for the public
THEME	'Ayurveda for tomorrow, a health festival in the lap of the village'

will also be set up. Visitors can purchase clay pots, wooden household articles and rural handicrafts from the Nam-mabhoomi organisation of Hattiyangadi. An Ayurvedic thali will also be available at a discounted price.

Essay, speech and painting competitions will be held for students. Essay and speech contests will be organised for Classes 5 to 7 and 8 to 10, while a painting competition will be held for children of Classes 1 to 4.

Winners of each competition will receive cash prizes of Rs 3,000 for first place and Rs 2,000 for second place. An open interaction involving youth, doctors and content creators will also be held in the afternoon, Dr Bairi said.

BEYOND THE MARKS: THE SKILLS THAT SHAPE SUCCESS

SHAMIRA SULTANA
“Ultimately, education should not merely prepare children to pass examinations. It should prepare them to face life.”

Mysuru: In the world where academic qualifications are often considered the first measure of success, an important question deserves attention: Are marks alone enough to prepare young people for life and work? Academic excellence certainly provides a strong foundation. Good marks reflect discipline, knowledge, perseverance and commitment. However, as workplaces and society continue to evolve, employers and institutions increasingly value another set of abilities – soft skills.

Communication, teamwork, leadership, adaptability, emotional intelligence, problem-solving and time management are no longer optional qualities. They have become essential life and career skills.

A student may score exceptionally well in examinations, but if he or she struggles to communicate ideas, work with others, handle criticism or adapt to changing situations, academic achievement alone may not translate into success. “Marks can demonstrate what a student knows, but soft skills often demonstrate how effectively that knowledge can be used.” Communication is perhaps one of the most important of these skills. The ability to express thoughts clearly, listen attentively and communicate respectfully can make a significant difference in both personal and professional life. Confidence does not mean speaking loudly or dominating a conversation; it means having the courage to express oneself while respecting others. Similarly, teamwork has become indispensable. Modern workplaces require people from different backgrounds and with different perspectives to work towards a common goal. Learning to co-operate, share responsibilities, resolve disagreements and appreciate the contribution of others is therefore as important as mastering a textbook. Emotional intelligence is another quality that deserves greater attention in education. Understanding one’s own emotions and recognising the feelings of others can help young people deal with stress, disappointment, conflict and failure in a healthier manner. Leadership, too, should not be misunderstood as merely holding a position. True leadership is about responsibility, integrity, decision-making and the ability to inspire others. Students can develop these qualities through school activities, clubs, community service, sports, cultural programmes and leadership opportunities.

The role of parents and teachers is equally significant. Education should not become a race where marks are the only destination. Classrooms must also become spaces where students learn to communicate, question, collaborate, think critically and respect different viewpoints. The good news is that soft skills can be developed at any age. Reading, public speaking, group discussions, volunteering, participating in cultural activities, taking responsibility and even learning from everyday mistakes can gradually build confidence and maturity. The future will belong not simply to those who know the most, but to those who can learn continuously, communicate effectively, adapt intelligently and work compassionately with others.

Academic marks may help a student secure an opportunity, but soft skills often determine what that student does with it.

SCIENTIFIC THINKING: THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS PROGRESS

Scientific thinking is not limited to laboratories, complex experiments or scientific discoveries. It is a way of understanding the world through curiosity, observation, questioning, evidence and logical reasoning. It encourages us to ask not only what happens, but also why and how it happens.

Every major scientific advancement begins with a question. When human beings wondered why the Sun rises and sets, how diseases spread, why objects fall, or how the stars move, they began a journey that gradually transformed human knowledge. Curiosity became investigation, investigation produced evidence, and evidence led to new discoveries.

Scientific thinking teaches us not to accept every claim simply because it is traditional, popular or repeated by others. Instead, it encourages us to examine evidence and distinguish facts from assumptions. This approach is particularly important in an age of misinformation, social media and rapidly circulating unverified information.

Education has a crucial role in developing scientific thinking among young people. Schools should encourage students to ask questions, conduct experiments, analyse observations and learn from mistakes. A student who asks “Why?” is already taking the first step towards scientific understanding.

Scientific thinking is equally valuable in everyday life. It can help us make informed decisions about health, technology, environment, finance and social issues. It promotes rational decision-making while reducing the influence of rumours, superstition and unsupported claims.

Importantly, scientific thinking does not mean rejecting traditions or beliefs without examination. It means developing the habit of asking questions respectfully and looking for reliable evidence. It also requires the humility to change one’s opinion when stronger evidence becomes available.

The progress of a society depends not only on its technological resources but also on the quality of its thinking. Advanced technology without responsible and rational thinking can create new challenges. Scientific temper, therefore, is essential for responsible innovation and sustainable development. From the classroom to the research laboratory, from agriculture to space exploration, progress begins with a questioning mind. When curiosity is combined with evidence and reason, ideas can become discoveries, and discoveries can become solutions.

Scientific thinking is more than a method of studying science – it is a habit of mind. And when a society learns to question, investigate and think rationally, it takes its first meaningful step towards progress.

Urgent Action for Climate

The recent surge in extreme weather events worldwide serves as an unmistakable warning. Communities across continents are suffering from devastating floods, intense heatwaves, and prolonged droughts. Nations can no longer afford to delay ambitious environmental policies or ignore carbon reduction

MELTING GLACIERS, UNSTABLE MOUNTAINS AND A GROWING DISASTER RISK

The Himalayas are far more than a snow-covered mountain range. They are the foundation of life, water, agriculture, energy and ecological security for hundreds of millions of people. Yet climate change, combined with development that often ignores the carrying capacity of mountains, is pushing the Himalayan region into an increasingly dangerous phase. Natural disasters are no longer merely sudden, isolated events; behind many of them lies a long process of environmental instability. The devastating rock–ice avalanche and subsequent debris flood in Nepal on 26 August 2026 brought this danger into sharp focus. Initial scientific assessments and subsequent reporting indicate that more than 1,300 people were killed and thousands remained missing. Scientists have described the catastrophe not simply as a weather event, but as the outcome of interacting climatic, geological and cryospheric factors.

Understanding the Nepal disaster is important because it was not a conventional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). On 26 August, a massive section of rock and ice detached from the Langtang Lirung massif at an altitude of around 5,000–5,200 metres. The falling material rapidly transformed into a highly mobile debris flow and flood. Scientific investigations indicate that long-term warming, glacier retreat, changing ice conditions, freeze-thaw processes and pre-existing geological weaknesses contributed to the instability, although climate change cannot be regarded as the sole cause.

The avalanche travelled with extraordinary speed, devastating areas and infrastructure downstream. Scientific reconstruction indicates that the debris flow travelled roughly 22 kilometres within



minutes before reaching the Gyirong border area, while the resulting flood propagated much farther through the Bhothe Koshi–Trishuli–Narayani river system. The catastrophe is particularly significant for the Himalayas because glacier retreat is creating new glacial lakes while enlarging many existing ones. If the natural barriers holding these lakes back are breached by ice, rock, landslides, debris or water pressure, destructive floods can reach downstream valleys within a very short time.

For India, this warning is particularly relevant. Recent assessments in Sikkim have identified high-risk glacial lakes, while government agencies are strengthening remote sensing, field surveys, water-level and discharge monitoring and early-warning systems. The challenge, however, is not limited to glacial lakes. A rapidly changing Himalayan landscape demands a much broader understanding of mountain hazards. The situation in Himachal Pradesh is equally concerning. An IIT Mandi study mapped 2,076 glacial lakes above 3,500 metres in 2025 – 710 more than in 2015. During the same period, their cumulative area increased by 28.45 per cent. These figures demonstrate how rapidly Himalayan water geography is changing and underline the growing risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods.

The problem is not confined to melting glaciers. Rising temperatures are weakening snow, ice and permafrost, while roads, tunnels, dams, hydropower projects, tourism

facilities and unplanned construction are adding pressure to the natural structure of the mountains. Mountains are not plains that can simply be cut, excavated and reshaped according to human requirements. This does not mean adopting an anti-development approach. The real issue is to rethink the definition and methodology of development in fragile mountain regions. Roads and electricity are necessary; tourism and employment are necessary too. But

nerable valley should have clearly identified evacuation routes, safe zones, alternative roads and emergency communication systems. Local residents, tourists and project workers should receive regular training through mock drills.

Climate change has another serious dimension: today’s crisis may become tomorrow’s water crisis. Accelerated glacier melt may initially increase river flows, but as the long-term ice reserves



all of these must be planned according to the carrying capacity of the Himalayas. Development that weakens the very ecological system on which communities depend cannot remain sustainable for long.

For India, the most important requirement now is an integrated Himalayan monitoring and early-warning system. It is not enough to examine hazards within the administrative boundaries of individual states. A glacier may be located in one region, a glacial lake in another, and the potential flood path may extend into a completely different district or state. Satellite imagery, drones, remote sensing, automated water-level sensors, weather stations and ground-based monitoring should therefore be integrated into a common digital network. And issuing a warning is only the beginning. Communities must know what to do after the warning arrives. Every vul-

share interconnected Himalayan and Hindu Kush ecosystems.

The Nepal tragedy must not be dismissed as merely another natural disaster. It demonstrates how climate change, glacier retreat, geological vulnerability and cascading mountain processes can combine to produce events that conventional disaster-management systems may struggle to handle. At the same time, scientists have rightly cautioned against attributing the disaster to climate change alone. Geological structure, slope conditions and other physical factors were also important. The more deeply we understand the Himalayas, the better we will be able to protect them. Development and environmental protection should not be treated as opposing ideas. India needs a development model in which mountain ecology, carrying capacity and the safety of local communities are integral to every major decision.

The Nepal disaster is a stern warning: development that challenges the natural limits of the mountains cannot remain development for long. Before constructing every road, tunnel, dam, hydropower project, tourism facility or major structure in the Himalayas, we must ask a fundamental question: How much pressure will this project place on the mountain, and who will bear the cost if an extreme natural event occurs? Timely monitoring, scientific risk assessment, carefully regulated construction, stronger local preparedness and regional cooperation can save countless lives. But if repeated warnings are ignored, future Himalayan catastrophes may no longer be described simply as natural disasters. They could also be seen as consequences of our failure to understand the limits of the mountains and to respect them.

ADVERTISING, NEWSPAPERS AND THE QUESTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Any content published on a newspaper’s front page evokes a certain credibility in the reader’s mind. This is why, when a full-page advertisement in support of a controversial individual or organization appears, presented as news or factual investigation, the issue

derive any commercial benefit from it.

This raises a significant question about the media’s responsibility. If, after publishing a piece of content, the publisher himself admits that the content was seriously objectionable, the obvious question is: what kind of system

right to publish advertisements. However, clearly marking an advertisement as an advertisement and informing the reader that its claims are those of the advertiser is only part of a media organization’s responsibility. When the same content is presented on the front page, directly below the newspaper’s name and reputation, with news-like headlines and statistics, the question of its impact naturally arises in the reader’s mind.

The disclaimer on the advertisement is also a significant aspect of this controversy. The publications concerned stated that the newspaper had no editorial or journalistic role in the advertisement’s creative content. However, media experts understandably question whether a disclaimer alone is sufficient, especially when the paid content is published in a prominent location and its language appears newsworthy.

According to photographs and reports that surfaced on September 13th, the same advertisement also appeared on the front page of Dainik Jagran. This fact, in itself, is not sufficient to draw a definitive conclusion about a newspaper’s editorial policy, but it does raise an important public question: should major newspapers have clear ethical standards for determining the acceptability of sensitive advertisements?

This isn’t just a question of Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, or The Hindu. Tomorrow, any other newspaper could find itself in a similar situation. If media organizations simply abdicate their responsibility by saying, “This was



was in place to vet and evaluate it before publication? Institutional distance between the advertising department and the editorial department is essential, but does this distance alone completely insulate a newspaper from the social impact of its published content?

The issue is serious because the advertisement wasn’t simply promoting a product or service. According to available reports, it addressed the legal cases involving the Dera chief, the allegations against him, and the organization’s social activities. The advertisement also presented statistics related to the Dera’s activities related to drug de-addiction, blood donation, tree planting, and other social activities. Independent verification of these statistics was not provided in the advertisement.

It’s important to understand an important distinction here. An individual or organization has the right to present its point of view. Newspapers also have the commercial

an advertisement, not news,” the line between advertising and news could gradually blur for readers.

Journalism’s greatest asset is its reader trust. Advertising revenue is crucial, as newspapers require financial resources to operate. However, striking a balance between commercial needs and public credibility is equally important. Particularly in cases involving court cases, serious allegations, or convicted individuals, the language and presentation of advertisements require extra caution.

There may be a practical solution for the media here. Independent pre-screening should be in place for controversial or sensitive advertisements. Special permission should be required for such advertisements to be published on the front page. Content related to factual claims and judicial matters should clearly state which claims are the advertiser’s. If a court judgment exists against a person, advertising should not conceal that fact or create

confusion. And if a serious error is later discovered, not only should an apology be provided, but readers should also be informed of how the mistake occurred.

Asking questions of the media is not anti-media. Rather, independent journalism means demanding accountability from all government, political parties, business institutions, and the media it-



self. Just as journalists demand transparency from the government, readers can also demand transparency from journalistic institutions.

The need today is more for a broader debate on media ethics than for a single newspaper to be put on trial. Advertisers have a right to express their views, but readers have an equal right to know whether they are reading news, opinions, or paid-for promotional material.

The front page of a newspaper isn’t just a sheet of paper. It’s the embodiment of credibility earned over the years. Therefore, every piece of content published on it carries with it both financial gain and social responsibility. Publishing content for money isn’t a journalistic offense in itself; the question is how responsible the publisher is

“Advertisements can be published, sides can be taken, but readers’ trust must not be compromised. This is the true accountability of the media.”
— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Bridge the Digital Divide

As artificial intelligence and rapid technological advances reshape society, millions across developing nations remain completely disconnected from basic digital infrastructure. This widening gap severely restricts equal access to quality education, modern healthcare, and vital economic opportuni-

ties. International organizations and wealthier governments must prioritize building inclusive technology systems. Bridging this digital divide is essential for fostering true global equality and ensuring no vulnerable community is left behind in today’s automated world.

— Yashu

NEW ZEALAND OPENS ARMS, WORLD COMES HOME



There is a country that recently decided to close itself to the world. Then there is a country that decided to do the exact opposite. While the world is building walls, visa restrictions, and hate speeches against immigrants, New Zealand is building a welcome mat. And the world is noticing.

Last week, New Zealand announced a new set of changes that make it one of the most foreigner-friendly nations in 2026. More work visas, faster residency for skilled workers, special welcome for Indians, Filipinos, and Pacific workers, and a clear message from Prime Minister Christopher Luxon: “If you have skills and good intent, you have a place here.”

Why is New Zealand doing this when every other developed nation is becoming strict? The answer is simple. New Zealand understands demography.

New Zealand is a small country – just 52 lakh people, less than Bangalore’s population. Its youth are moving to Australia for bigger salaries. Its population is ageing. Its farms, hospitals, construction sites, and tech startups have jobs but no people to do them. In 2024-25, New Zealand faced a shortage of 80,000 workers in healthcare, dairy, construction, and IT.

Instead of seeing this as a problem, they saw it as a strategy. Instead of begging locals to have more children – which takes 25 years to create

a worker – they decided to welcome foreigners who are already ready to work.

This is smart economics. Every immigrant is not a cost. An immigrant is a taxpayer from day one. They rent a house, they buy groceries, they send kids to school, they pay GST. A study from Victoria University of Wellington showed that every skilled migrant family adds NZD \$35,000 per year to the

“At the end of the day, every foreigner just wants one thing: to not feel like a foreigner.”

YASH RAJ

economy. That is not charity. That is investment.

But what makes New Zealand different is not just visas. It is attitude.

If you go to Auckland today, you will see a government campaign called “Maanaakitanga”, a Maori word meaning hospitality, kindness, respect for strangers. Airports have staff speaking Hindi, Tagalog, Mandarin. Banks allow you to open accounts before you land. Children of work visa holders can study in public schools free. Partners get open work rights. This is not just immigration. This is inclusion.

Compare this to the US, where H1B is a lottery; to the UK, where student dependents are banned; to Canada, where housing crisis is blamed on Indians. New Zealand is saying, don’t blame foreigners, plan for them. Build more houses, yes, but also welcome

more hands to build them.

For Indians, this is a golden window. India is New Zealand’s fastest-growing source of skilled migrants. Over 35,000 Indians got residency in the last year alone – nurses from Kerala, IT professionals from Bangalore and Hyderabad, dairy managers from Punjab, chefs and students. New Zealand needs exactly what India produces: English-speaking, young, skilled, family-oriented workers.

There are lessons for India here too. We often think only about people going out. But what about people coming in? If New Zealand, with 5 million people, can think globally, India with 140 crore can also design better policies to attract global talent to our GIFT City, our startups, our universities.

The world is divided today between “We First” and “All Together.” New Zealand has chosen the second path. It knows that in a lonely corner of the Pacific, you cannot survive alone. You survive by welcoming.

History shows, countries that welcome foreigners grow. America grew because it welcomed. Dubai grew because it welcomed. New Zealand is now doing the same – not with tall buildings, but with a big heart.

And maybe that is why everyone wants to go there. Because at the end of the day, every foreigner just wants one thing: to not feel like a foreigner.

— YASH RAJ

HOW LEADERS SHAPE FOLLOWERS WITHOUT SAYING MUCH

We think leadership is about orders. It is not. Leadership is about influence. A manager gives orders and people obey because they have to. A leader influences and people follow because they want to.

History proves this. Mahatma Gandhi never had an army, never had a position, never had money. Yet when he said “Let’s make salt,” crores walked to the sea. Why? Because he influenced. When Narendra Modi says “Mann Ki Baat,” lakhs switch off lights. When a CEO like Narayana Murthy says “Come early to office,” Infosys employees don’t ask for overtime, they just come.

So how does a leader actually influence his followers? It is not magic. It is a process.

First, leaders influence by example, not by lecture. If you tell your team “Don’t use phone in meeting” but you yourself check WhatsApp during meetings, nobody will listen. If you tell your child “Don’t smoke,” but you smoke, the lecture fails. People watch feet, not lips. Gandhi spun khadi, so India spun khadi. If you want punctuality, you come first. If you want honesty, you return the extra change. A leader’s life is the loudest speech.

Second, leaders influence by clarity of vision. People are lost. In a world full of noise – Instagram, targets, EMI, politics – people want someone who can say, “This is where we are going.” A

leader gives that North Star. When John F Kennedy said “We will go to the moon,” NASA engineers worked 16 hours not because of salary, but because they had a story bigger than themselves. A good leader does not say “Do this work.” He says, “This work will change someone’s life.” Followers follow vision, not instructions.



Third, leaders influence through trust and listening. A leader who only talks never influences. A leader who listens influences deeply. When a team member feels, “My boss hears me,” he gives loyalty. When a follower feels, “My leader knows my name, my pain, my family,” he gives blood. Trust is built in small moments – remembering a birthday, saying sorry when wrong, sharing credit when right. Influential leaders don’t say “I did it.” They say “We did it.” That word change creates 1000% more loyalty.

Fourth, leaders influence by

consistency in crisis. Anyone can be nice in good times. Influence is tested in bad times. When a company is losing money, when a team fails, when elections are lost – what does the leader do? Does he blame? Does he hide? Or does he stand in front and say, “I take responsibility”? People never forget who stood with them when they were down. The leader who stays calm during a storm makes followers believe that the storm will pass.

Fifth, leaders influence by creating more leaders. A boss wants followers who obey. A true leader wants followers who grow. He teaches, he delegates, he gives chances even when they might fail. Because he knows, the biggest influence is not when people say “He was a great leader,” but when people say “Because of him, I became a leader.”

In Bangalore, you see this every day. In a startup, one toxic manager can make 20 engineers resign. One inspiring team lead can make the same 20 work on Saturday without complaining. The difference is not salary. It is influence.

So if you want to be a leader in your home, office, or society – don’t try to control. Try to influence. Wake up early, speak clearly, listen more, stand firm in crisis, and lift others.

Followers don’t follow your post. They follow your character.

— VIPI

WHY EVERY PARTY NOW NEEDS A DJ

Ten years ago, a party meant a music system, a pen drive, and someone’s cousin handling the volume. Today, no party starts without a poster that says “DJ Night.” From weddings in Jaipur to birthdays in Bangalore, from college fests to corporate launches to Sunday brunches – the DJ has become as essential as food and lights.

Why is India suddenly dancing to the DJ’s beat? The demand for DJs has exploded by over 300% in the last five years. And this is not just a trend. It is a cultural shift.

First reason: Experience economy. Today’s generation does not want just a function – they want an experience. They don’t want to just sit and eat. They want lights, bass, Instagram Reels, that moment when the beat drops and everyone screams. A DJ gives that. A DJ is not a person playing songs. A DJ is a person creating energy. In the age of Instagram, a party without a drop is a party without a story. And no one wants to post a boring story.

Second: Weddings have changed. The big Indian wedding used to be about rituals and relatives. Now it is about sangeeet, cocktail, after-party, pool party, mehendi bash. One wedding now needs 4-5 DJs. Families budget Rs 50,000 to 5 lakhs just for DJs. In Delhi, top DJs charge 10 lakhs per night. Why? Because the bride and groom want their entry to feel like a concert, not a procession. The DJ is the new pandit of celebration – he decides the mood.

Third: Technology made it

easy and aspirational. Earlier, DJ meant huge equipment, vinyl records, foreign training. Now a laptop, a controller, and YouTube tutorials can start your career. Youngsters from small towns – Ranchi, Indore, Coimbatore – are learning mixing in 3 months. For them, DJing is not just passion, it is profession. It is cooler than an office job, pays better than entry-level IT, and gives fame. When a 19-year-old sees DJ Chetas playing for 10,000 people at Sunburn, he thinks “I can be that.”

Fourth: Brands and businesses need DJs. Every pub, brewery, cafe in Bangalore,

listen more when there is music.

Fifth: The pandemic effect. After two years locked at home, people are hungry to dance together. Psychologists call it “collective effervescence” – the joy of moving together on same beat. We missed it. Now we are over-compensating. We don’t want silent dinners. We want loud nights.

But there is a dark side too. Everyone is becoming a DJ, but not everyone is learning music. Good DJing is not just pressing play. It is reading the crowd, understanding sound, mixing beats, knowing when



Mumbai, Gurgaon has a weekend DJ. Every brand launch – from Nike to a new phone – needs a DJ to keep crowd. Even gyms have “DJ workout mornings.” Real estate builders do DJ evenings to sell flats. The corporate world discovered that people

to slow down and when to blast. Many untrained DJs play only loud bass, damaging ears. Noise pollution complaints have risen 40% in metro cities. And with high demand, drugs and late-night culture also creep into some circuits.

“The bride and groom want their entry to feel like a concert, not a procession. The DJ is the new pandit of celebration – he decides the mood.”

— CHIRU

What should we do? We need to respect DJs as artists, not just button-pushers. Colleges should have certified courses. Societies should set sound limits. And clients should pay on time – many DJs still wait 3 months for payment after weddings. The truth is, demand for

AUTO FARES RISE, COMMON MAN SUFFERS SILENTLY



In Bangalore, you don’t argue with the weather and you don’t argue with an auto driver about the meter. Because the meter never works. Last week, the government announced a hike in auto fares – minimum fare from Rs 30 to Rs 40, per kilometre from Rs 15 to Rs 19. For auto drivers, it is relief. For the common man who takes an auto every day to work, it is another cut on a salary that never increases.

Why are auto fares increasing? Ask any auto driver near Majestic, Silk Board or KR Market and he will give you a list longer than his waiting queue. Petrol price is Rs 107 per litre. In 2020 it was Rs 82. Gas price up. Spare parts up. Engine oil up. Tyre up. Even a simple brake wire that cost Rs 150 now costs Rs 300. And on top of that, he pays Rs 500 daily rent if auto is not his own, or Rs 800 loan EMI if it is. After driving 12 hours, many take home just Rs 600-700. So, when they say “fare increase is needed,” they are not lying.

But the other side of the story is the passenger. The same passenger who is also struggling with same petrol, same inflation, same rent. A girl working in Koramangala earning Rs 25,000 who travels from BTM Layout – her daily auto fare was Rs 200. Now it will be Rs 260. Monthly Rs 6,500 just for auto. Add Metro last mile also. How will she save? A senior citizen going to Victoria Hospital, a student going to college – they don’t have Ola Uber luxury. Auto is their only option. When auto fare increases, their freedom to move decreases.

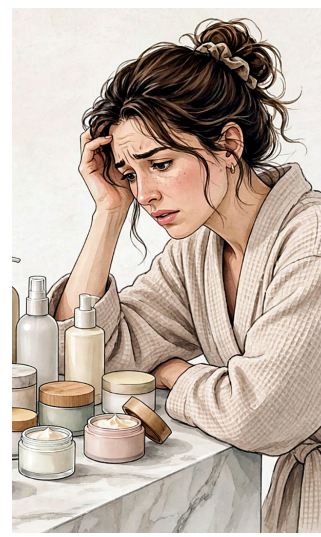
The real problem is not the hike. The real problem is the system. Auto fares in Karnataka are decided by a committee that meets once in 3-4 years. Last hike was in 2021. After that, everything became costly, but fares stayed same.

— VARSHA KITTY

EXPENSIVE CREAMS CANNOT BUY REAL GLOW

Open Instagram and you will see it. A girl in a white robe, 10 bottles on the table, each costs more than your monthly groceries. Hyaluronic acid, retinol, niacinamide, vitamin C serum, toner, essence, eye cream, night cream – a routine that takes 45 minutes and Rs 15,000 per month. And then a caption: “Invest in your skin.” But is expensive skincare really an investment, or is it just intelligent marketing?

India’s skincare market was Rs 15,000 crores in 2020. Today it is over Rs 45,000 crores. The reason is not that Indians suddenly got more skin problems. The reason is we were told to have more problems. A pimple is no longer a pimple; it is a sign you need a salicylic acid cleanser.



Dull skin is no longer tiredness; it is a sign you need a vitamin C serum from Korea that costs Rs 3,500. We have gone from using a single cold cream in winter to a 10-step routine every night.

The truth nobody tells you is simple: Expensive does not mean effective. Dermatologists across Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai will tell you the same thing – 90% of good skin is just three things: cleanser, moisturizer, and sunscreen. That’s it. Everything else is extra. A good sunscreen costing Rs 400 protects your skin more than a Rs 7,000 serum that claims to “reverse ageing.” Ageing cannot be reversed by a cream. If it could, rich people would never get old.

So why do we buy expensive routines? Because fear sells. Brands sell fear. Fear of wrinkles at 25, fear of dark spots at 30, fear of not looking like a filter. When a

20-year-old girl sees a 35-year-old actress with flawless skin saying “I use this cream,” she believes it. She doesn’t know there are lights, makeup, Botox, filters, and a dermatologist on call behind that flawless skin. She just buys.

Second reason is social media performance. Skincare is no longer private care; it is public content. A shelf full of luxury products is a status symbol, like an iPhone. When you put La Mer and Dyson on your shelf, you are telling the world “I can afford to care for myself.” Skincare became a class marker.

But ask your grandmother. She used coconut oil, besan, haldi, curd, and water. She drank more water, slept early, ate home food. And she had better skin at 60 than many 30-year-olds today who use 10 chemicals. Why? Because skin glows from inside, not from outside.

Expensive routine also has a side effect: damaged skin barrier. Many young girls in India today have sensitive skin not because of pollution, but because of overuse. Retinol every night, AHA BHA every morning, scrub twice a week – skin is confused. Dermatologists are seeing more cases of redness, burning, acne caused by too many products. We are paying to damage our own face.

Does this mean you should not care for skin? No. Care for it. But care smartly. Wash your face twice, not five times. Use a simple moisturizer that suits you, not the one that went viral. Wear sunscreen every day, even in Bangalore monsoon. Drink 3 litres of water. Sleep 7 hours. Eat fruits. That routine costs Rs 1,000 and works more than a Rs 20,000 shelf.

The real glow is not bought. It is built by good food, good sleep, less stress, and less comparison.

The next time someone says “Invest in your skin, it will represent you for a long time,” remember your kindness, your confidence, your health will represent you longer than your serum.

Don’t let a 10-step routine make you feel like you are not enough with 3 steps. Your skin is not a project. It is a part of you. Keep it clean, keep it protected, and then leave it alone.

— ANNA B.

Quick Read

Man arrested for manhandling women police

PATNA

A 22-year-old man was arrested in Patna for allegedly misbehaving with and manhandling women police personnel during a patrol, officials said. The incident occurred around 8.30 pm on Wednesday near Khemnichak Subhash nagar More under Ramkrishna Nagar police station. Police said the team stopped three youths after noticing their suspicious activities. One of them, identified as Pradeep Kumar, allegedly misbehaved with and manhandled members of the police team. Kumar was later arrested, while efforts were underway to apprehend the other two suspects.

Vishvendra Singh quits Congress over policies

JAIPUR

Former Rajasthan minister Vishvendra Singh on Friday announced his decision to quit the Cong, saying he could no longer accept what he described as the party's "wrong policies." Singh, a prominent political figure in Rajas than, made the announce ment on October 2, accord ing to reports. He has previously served as a mini ster in the state govern ment and represented the Deeg-Kumher region. Singh expressed dissatis faction with the party's policies and functioning while announcing his deci sion. However, there was no immediate confirma tion from the Congress on whether he had formally submitted his resignation. His future political plans remain unclear.

Kochrab Ashram shaped Gandhi's social reform

AHMEDABAD

Before establishing the Sabarmati Ashram, Mahatma Gandhi used Kochrab Ashram as an early centre for experimen ting with social reforms and community living. Located in Ahmeda bad, Kochrab Ashram was established by Gandhi in 1915 after his return to India from South Africa. The colonial-style build ing, with its whitewashed façade, became an impor tant setting for his early efforts to put his principles into practice. The ashram also became a centre for Gandhi's campaign again st untouchability and his advocacy of social equal ity. He sought to create a community based on shar ed work, discipline and cooperation, challenging prevailing social practices.

CONGRESS-RJD CLASH

Congress names five for Bihar MLC polls

The Congress has announced five candidates for the Octo ber 23 Bihar Legislative Council elections, setting up direct contests with its alli ance partner Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in three constitu en cies. Elections will be held for eight seats in the Upper House of the Bihar legisla ture, comprising four gradu ates' and four teachers' con stituencies. The terms of the sitting members are due to end on November 16. The list, approved by Con gress general secretary (organ isation) K C Venugopal, includes former Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha, who has been nominated for re-election from the Darbhanga Teachers' constituency. The

Vijay launches expanded free bus travel scheme

'Vettri Payanam' scheme: launched on Gandhi Jayanti, this initiative expands free bus travel to long-distance Express, Deluxe, and Ordinary services exceeding 40 km.

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Friday launched the expanded 'Vettri Payanam' scheme, extending free bus travel to women and transgender persons across additional categories of gov ernment bus services in the state. Vijay formally launched the expanded scheme at the Koyambedu bus terminus by issuing zero-fare tickets to women passengers. The ini tiative, launched on the occa sion of Gandhi Jayanti, expands the existing free-travel facility to Express,

Limited Stop Service (LSS), Deluxe, Mofussil Ordinary and Ghat Ordinary buses operating beyond 40 km. According to the state gov ernment, 12,695 buses will operate around 1,68,500 sin gle trips every day under the expanded scheme, benefiting an estimated 84.32 lakh women passengers daily. The facility will cover services operated by the state's seven transport corporations. There is no income ceiling for ben eficiaries and no restriction on the number of trips they can make each day. The expansion builds on the earlier 'Vidiyal Payanam'



12,695 buses	1,68,500 single trips every day	84.32 lakh women passengers daily
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Key points

- Vidiyal Payanam scheme expanded further.
- Free bus travel for women.
- Covers longer distance bus services.
- Enhances access to education, jobs.
- Transport Minister announced economic empowerment.
- Electronic ticketing machines track journeys.

scheme, under which women were allowed free travel mainly on ordinary city and town buses and certain

ordinary services in hilly areas. The expanded initiative brings several additional cat e gories of services under the zero-fare facility, allowing women to travel longer dis tances without paying fares. Transport Minister A Vijay Tamilan Parthiban said the scheme was aimed at support ing education, livelihoods and economic empowerment by reducing transport costs. Electronic ticketing machines in the buses covered under the scheme have been integrated to record free jour neys. The state government had completed testing and ver ification ahead of the launch.

Delhi HC limits writ jurisdiction in disputes

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has held that its writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Con stitution is extraordinary in nature and cannot be used as a forum to settle personal dis putes or pursue collateral objectives against an adver sary. Justice Amit Mahajan made the observation while dis missing a petition filed by a man seeking action against a private firm. The petitioner had alleged that the company was involved in several anti-national activities, including hacking the Indian Railway Catering and Tour ism Corporation (IRCTC) system, attempting to trigger communal riots and engaging in cyber terrorism. The court found no merit in the petition and granted the petitioner liberty to pursue appropriate legal remedies against the firm in accor-

dance with law. Justice Mahajan passed the order on September 29. The petitioner had earlier worked for the private com pany for a short period before leaving. He alleged that the



firm had obtained copies of his confidential emails through undisclosed sources and subsequently used them to harass him by filing a con tempt case against him. Justice Mahajan said the High Court's writ jurisdiction cannot be invoked merely because a representation made by a litigant has not resulted in the action sought by that person.

CPI(M) alleges cash distribution to voters ahead of Tamil Nadu bypolls

CHENNAI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has alleged that cash is being distributed to voters ahead of the October 6 bypolls in two Tamil Nadu Assembly constituencies, with party state secretary P Shanmugam claim ing that the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) was allegedly offering more money than other parties. The CPI(M), which extends outside support to the TVK-led Tamil Nadu government, is contesting the bypolls sepa rately. The elections are sched uled in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly con stituencies, both reserved seats. The party has fielded P Sugan thi in Madurantakam, while the CPI has nominated P Lakshmanan in Dharapuram. Shanmugam said he visited several villages in the Madu rantakam constituency on Sep tember 30 while campaigning



for the party. He said CPI(M) workers were distributing pamphlets explaining the party's policies and seeking sup port. According to him, some voters told party workers that other parties were distributing money and claimed that TVK was allegedly giving the high est amount. Shanmugam also referred to statements made by TVK chief and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay during the April 2026 Assembly elections, when Vijay had said his party would

not distribute money for votes. The CPI(M) leader claimed that similar assurances had been given during the current bypoll campaign but alleged that feedback from villages suggested otherwise. The CPI(M) leader urged election authorities to examine the allegations and take action against any attempt to influ ence voters through monetary inducements. He also said political leaders whose parties were allegedly involved in cash distribution should

Elections are scheduled in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram constituencies, which are both reserved seats.

explain their position. Shan mugam said the CPI(M) would file a formal complaint with the authorities over the alleged practice. TVK national spokesperson M Sathya Kumar rejected the allegations, describing them as unfounded. He said the party would not distribute money for votes and maintained that vot ers would support TVK based on its leadership and political position. The Left parties have not joined the TVK government or its electoral alliance, despite extending outside support to the government. They are con testing the two bypolls as a separate bloc.

Raja Warring resigns as Punjab Congress chief

CHANDIGARH

Amarinder Singh Raja War ring has resigned as president of the Punjab Congress, formally submitting his resigna tion to senior party leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday. Warring confirmed that he met Gandhi and handed over his resignation during the meeting.

Warring directed Punjab's Congress organization, steering its political direction and managing party affairs across the state.

"I met Rahul Gandhi and formally gave him my resig nation," Warring said, con firming the development. His resignation brings an end to his tenure as head of the Con gress's Punjab unit and comes amid continuing organisa tional changes within the party. The Congress has not immediately announced a suc cessor to Warring. The party is expected to hold consulta tions before deciding on the



next president of the Punjab unit. Warring, a former Punjab minister and Lok Sabha mem ber, has been associated with the Congress for several years. He has represented the party in both state and national politics and has remained active on issues concerning Punjab. His resignation is expected to trigger discussions within the party over the leadership and future structure of the Punjab Congress. The Congress has yet to issue a detailed statement explaining the reasons for Warring's resignation or indi cate when a new Punjab Con gress president will be appointed.

Maharashtra faces water crisis, says Basavraj Patil

MUMBAI

Maharashtra is likely to face a difficult water situation in the coming months amid def i cient rainfall in several parts of the state, former minister Basavraj Patil has said, stress ing the need for careful con servation and use of available water resources. Patil said drinking water must remain the government's priority as the state prepares for a challenging period.

The water situation is going to be bad in the days to come. We have to conserve and judiciously use water. Supplying drinking water will be the priority.

His remarks come as Marathwada, one of Maha rasht ra's most drought-prone regions, faces a significant rainfall deficit. The region received only about 65.5 per cent of its normal rainfall during the June-September monsoon period, according to recent official data reported



by The Times of India. The eight districts received around 445 mm of rain against the normal 679.5 mm. Authorities have deployed hundreds of water tankers and acquired private wells to strengthen supplies. Latur has emerged among the worst-af fected districts, receiving about 51.4 per cent of its nor mal rainfall during the mon soon season. Officials in Marathwada have been directed to prepare micro-level plans for distrib uting water from small, medium and major dams so that supplies can be main tained until August 2027. Drinking water has been given priority, while irrigation from several smaller reser voirs is expected to face restrictions.

ECI orders re-enrolment of left-out voters in a month

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India has directed Chief Elec toral Officers in States and Union Territories where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has been completed or is underway to identify eligi ble voters left out of the elec toral rolls and ensure their re-enrolment within one month. In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officers, the ECI instructed Booth Level Offi cers (BLOs) to compare pre-SIR electoral rolls with the current lists. They have been asked to prepare a list of electors whose names are missing and conduct door-to-door visits to establish their present status. The Commission said eligi ble people left out of the rolls

should be enrolled again through Form 6. The exercise is intended to ensure that vot ers who qualify for registra tion are not excluded from the electoral process after the revision of the rolls. The ECI suggested that BLOs may cover at least 20 to 25 electors every week to complete the verification and enrolment exercise within about one month. The field visits will allow officials to verify whether the individuals concerned remain eligible for inclusion. The Commission's instruc tions place responsibility on BLOs to identify eligible elec tors omitted from the current rolls, verify their status through household visits and facilitate their re-enrolment using the prescribed Form 6 application. The exercise is aimed at completing the process within the one-month period. The move follows the Commis sion's emphasis on checking omissions and giving eligible electors an opportunity to have their names restored to electoral rolls through the pre scribed procedure.



Tamil Nadu suspends two officials over Hindi on signboard

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has suspended two Highways Department officials after Hindi lettering appeared on a newly installed signboard on State Highway 93 in Thoo thukudi district, saying it vio lated the state's two-language policy. The signboard on the Sathankulam-Nazareth stretch carried the names of places in Tamil, English and Hindi. After the Hindi lettering came to the government's notice, it was removed and a new sign board carrying only Tamil and English was installed. The state government has also initiated departmental pro ceedings against the officials concerned.

The signboard row

WHERE State Highway 93, Thoothukudi	SUSPENDED Two Highways officials
WHY Hindi on a new signboard	NOW A board in Tamil and English only

The suspended officials are an Assistant Divisional Engi neer and an Assistant Engi neer of the Highways Depart ment. Highways and Minor Ports Minister Aadhav Arjuna said the two-language policy would remain the state gov ernment's position and that action was taken soon after the issue came to its notice. DMK president M K Stalin criticised the ruling Tamilaga

Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) gov ernment over the use of Hindi on the state highway sign board. He questioned the cir cumstances that led to the inclusion of Hindi and warned the government against changing its position on the two-language policy. Stalin said Tamil Nadu had historically opposed the im position of Hindi and described the state's two-language pol icy as central to Tamil Nadu.

Quick Read

Man held after alleged temple desecration

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police arrested a man on Friday after he allegedly entered the Santoshi Mata Temple in Dilskhnnagar and attempted to desecrate an idol during prayers. Police said Mohammed Ansari entered the sanctum sanctorum and threw tree branches near the idol in the presence of the priest and devotees. Some people caught him and handed him over to police after allegedly assaulting him. Police said Ansari is undergoing treatment for mental health issues and further investigation is underway. The BJP condemned the incident and accused the Telangana government of failing to protect temples. BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao and Assembly floor leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy demanded strict action against those responsible. BJP leaders also alleged that similar incidents had occurred earlier in the state.

ED arrests 2 in ₹734 crore GST fraud

RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested two people in an alleged GST input tax credit fraud involving more than ₹734 crore, officials said. The accused were identified as Jamshedpur-based trader Gyan Chand Jaiswal, alias Babloo Jaiswal, and Raaj Jaiswal. Their arrests followed searches conducted on September 30 in Jamshedpur and Kolkata. According to the ED, a network of 135 shell companies allegedly issued bogus invoices worth over ₹5,000 crore without supplying goods or services. The network allegedly generated and passed fake ITC exceeding ₹734 crore to beneficiary firms. The agency said the accused were among the alleged principal beneficiaries and that ₹54.33 crore in fake ITC was routed through companies linked to them. The accused were produced before a Special PMLA Court in Ranchi on October 1 and remanded to judicial custody. The investigation is continuing.

Eco Task Force leads cleanliness campaign

SHIMLA

The 133 Eco Task Force organised a cleanliness drive in Himachal Pradesh under the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign, with a focus on protecting and restoring a heritage bawdi, officials said. Personnel and local participants took part in the cleanliness activities aimed at removing waste and improving the surroundings of the traditional water structure. The initiative highlighted the importance of preserving historic sites while promoting cleanliness and environmental awareness. The campaign also sought to encourage community participation in maintaining public spaces and protecting local water resources. Officials said such activities under ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ help strengthen public awareness about sanitation, environmental conservation and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Adhikari says TMC name, symbol erased in Bengal

The poll body stated that the dispute required substantive resolution under the Election Symbols Order of 1968

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has said the Trinamool Congress’ original name and election symbol have effectively been removed from the electoral contest ahead of the October 6 Assembly bypolls, following an Election Commission decision amid a dispute between two factions of the party.

The Election Commission had barred both the Mamata Banerjee-led faction and the rival group led by Arup Roy from using the name ‘All India Trinamool Congress’ and its traditional ‘Flowers and Grass’ symbol for the upcoming bypolls. The poll panel said the dispute required substantive determi-

nation under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

Subsequently, the Commission allotted the name ‘Mamata All India Trinamool Congress’ and the ‘Football Player’ symbol to the faction led by Banerjee. The Arup Roy-led group was assigned the name ‘Democratic Trinamool Congress’ and the ‘Envelope’ symbol. The interim arrangement applies to the October 6 bypolls in Nandigram and Rejinagar and will remain in force until the Commission makes a final determination in the factional dispute.

Reacting to the development, Adhikari said the Election Commission had acted according to its rules and after hearing both sides. He also



rejected suggestions that the BJP had any direct role in the poll panel’s decision.

The dispute over the TMC’s identity comes after a political split in the party, with the two groups staking competing



claims to the original name and symbol. The Election Commission has said it will undertake a substantive process under the relevant provisions before making a final decision on the dispute.

Key highlights	
MAMATA FACTION NAME Mamata All India Trinamool Congress	RIVAL GROUP NAME Democratic Trinamool Congress (led by Arup Roy)
MAMATA FACTION SYMBOL Football Player	RIVAL GROUP SYMBOL Envelope
SCOPE OF ORDER Interim arrangement for the October 6 bypolls	SUPREME COURT DEADLINE Final dispute resolution mandated within three months

The Supreme Court has also directed the Election Commission to resolve the dispute within three months. The court granted the parties time to submit documents and affidavits before the poll panel begins the process of deciding the competing claims.

The Nandigram and Rejinagar bypolls are scheduled for October 6, with counting set for October 9.

The outcome of the Commission’s separate proceedings will determine the longer-term status of the competing factions and the original party identity.

Fadnavis inaugurates Dharavi Experience Centre in Mumbai



22,500 sq ft centre

3.3 km public riverfront

40,000 trees proposed

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday inaugurated the Dharavi Experience Centre near Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), offering residents a detailed preview of the proposed redevelopment of the neighbourhood.

Spread across 22,500 square feet, the centre features life-size models of proposed rehabilitation and renewal homes,

digital displays, interactive exhibits and a detailed 3D walkthrough.

Visitors can walk through furnished and unfurnished models of proposed 350-square-foot and 500-square-foot apartments.

The proposed redevelopment plan envisages an integrated urban district with upgraded housing and commercial spaces, schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, public transport,

parks and other social infrastructure.

Environmental components highlighted at the centre include the proposed rejuvenation of the Mithi River, development of a 3.3-kilometre public riverfront and around 40,000 trees across Dharavi. The redevelopment is being implemented through the Maharashtra government’s Dharavi Redevelopment Project, with Adani Navbharat Developers involved in execution.

Fadnavis said the centre would allow residents to directly understand the proposed future of their homes, neighbourhoods and workplaces.

During the inauguration, Fadnavis also unveiled an anthem dedicated to Dharavi and released a coffee-table book documenting the neighbourhood’s history, culture, businesses and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Dharmendra Yadav questions ECI functioning over concerns

AZAMGARH

Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav on Friday questioned the functioning of the

Key points
→ Opposition criticizes ECI electoral revisions.
→ Commissioners recorded objections to SIR.
→ ECI defends institutional review processes.
→ ECINet platform under ongoing review.
→ Yadav questions constitutional body impartiality.
→ Debate over electoral roll integrity continues.

Election Commission of India (ECI), saying concerns raised by his party over electoral procedures since 2022 remained ‘entirely valid’.

Speaking in Azamgarh, Yadav alleged that some decisions and changes introduced



by the poll panel lacked consensus among the three Election Commissioners. He specifically referred to changes concerning Form 6, used for voter enrolment, and the powers of field-level election officials in handling appeals related to electoral roll amendments.

His remarks come amid a wider debate over the functioning of the ECI and the

Yadav alleged that an amendment made to Form 6 violated existing laws and the Indian Constitution.

ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The issue has drawn criticism from several opposition parties, which have raised questions about the procedures followed during the revision exercise.

The ECI, meanwhile, has said that differences and observations among Election Commissioners are part of institutional deliberations and maintained that its orders have legal sanction and follow statutory procedures.

Yadav also questioned the impartiality of the constitutional body and alleged that the concerns raised by opposition parties over electoral procedures deserved attention.

Jitendra Singh launches Special Campaign 6.0

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh on Friday launched the implementation phase of Special Campaign 6.0, aimed at improving cleanliness, reducing pending matters and strengthening administrative efficiency across government offices.

better utilisation of office space, record management and clearance of pending references. This year, particular emphasis has been placed on



the systematic collection, segregation and environmentally sound disposal of electronic waste.

Activities include e-waste segregation and disposal, shredding of old files and efforts to improve the use of available office space.

The campaign will cover ministries, departments, attached and subordinate offices, autonomous organisations, field offices and Indian missions abroad.

Haryana CM suspends two pollution control officers

GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday ordered the suspension of two



Regional Officers of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) following repeated complaints from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) during a review meeting on development projects in Gurugram.

The suspended officials have been identified as Akanksha, Regional Officer for Gurugram North, and Mukul Kumar, Regional Officer for Gurugram South.

According to the suspension orders issued by the HSPCB chairman on October 2, both officers have been placed

under suspension with immediate effect. During the suspension period, they will report to the board’s head office in Sector 6, Panchkula, and will receive subsistence allowance as prescribed under applicable rules.

During the meeting, Saini reviewed development projects, public amenities and issues raised by residents. He said the government should not limit its functioning to files and meetings and stressed the importance of receiving information from the grassroots about problems faced by citizens and shortcomings in administration.

The Haryana Chief Minister’s Office said public complaints were being taken seriously and that ensuring their quick resolution and accountability of officials remained a priority.

Gurugram, part of the National Capital Region, faces recurring concerns over air pollution, construction dust and waste management, particularly during the winter months.

Seva Yatris hold mega cleanliness drives nationwide

NEW DELHI

Seva Yatris participating in the Seva Sankalp Yatra conducted a Mega Swachhata Abhiyan across 20 routes in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,



Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh on Friday, taking the message of cleanliness and community participation to local areas.

Youth, local residents and public representatives participated in collective shramdaan at different locations as part of the initiative.

The campaign coincided with the ongoing national focus on cleanliness and citizen participation under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026. The government campaign is being

observed from September 17 to October 17, with ‘Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat’ as its theme.

Several public representatives joined the cleanliness activities, including Chhattisgarh Minister OP Choudhary, Uttar Pradesh Ministers Rajni Tiwari and Suresh Kumar Khanna, former minister Rajvardhan Singh, Madhya

The 20 routes	
Madhya Pradesh	8
Rajasthan	5
Uttar Pradesh	5
Chhattisgarh	2

Pradesh leader Savitri Thakur and Lok Sabha member VD Sharma, among others.

BJYM national president Hemang Joshi said the participation of Seva Yatris across all routes demonstrated the importance of making cleanliness a regular community practice.

Assam Governor concludes anti-drug awareness padayatra

GUWAHATI

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Friday concluded the Nasha Mukti Bharat Sankalp Padayatra in



Guwahati, marking the end of a fortnight-long campaign across the state to raise awareness about drug abuse and encourage collective

action against substance addiction.

The padayatra, which began on September 17 in Cachar, covered 10 districts, including Cachar, Sribhumi, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhubri, Barpeta, Diphu, Hojai, Kamrup and Kamrup (Metro).

Addressing the gathering at the District Library, Acharya said the padayatra was not merely an awareness campaign but represented a collective resolve to build a healthy and empowered society. He stressed the importance of discipline, self-restraint, cleanliness, service and responsible citizenship, referring to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Governor also recalled the contribution and values of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.

Emphasising the role of young people, Acharya called upon parents, teachers, social organisations, religious and spiritual institutions, police, administration, media and youth to work together to prevent drug abuse.

District Commissioner Swapnil Paul administered the Nasha Mukti Bharat Sankalp pledge to participants at the concluding programme.

Earlier in the day, the Governor visited Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

WHEAT STOCKS BLOCK STORAGE

Mann seeks urgent grain lifting from Punjab



CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has urged the Centre to urgently facilitate the movement of 15 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat and 6 LMT of rice from the state,

citing a shortage of storage space ahead of the peak paddy procurement season.

In a letter to Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi, Mann requested the movement of 6 LMT of rice between October 1 and 10 and 15 LMT of wheat during October.

Mann said Punjab had earlier sought the movement of 15 LMT of rice and 10–12 LMT of wheat during September. However, only 8.30 LMT of rice and 4.30 LMT of wheat were moved out between September 1 and 29. He said only 99.50 LMT, or

94 per cent, of the 105.64 LMT Custom Milled Rice (CMR) due for KMS 2025-26 had been delivered by September 29, leaving nearly 6 LMT pending.

“Continued delays could affect procurement and milling operations and create difficulties for farmers, rice millers and other stakeholders.”

BHAGWANT MANN

The Chief Minister also highlighted the wheat stocks occupying rice mills and mandi yards.

Quick Read

SBI Research sees inflation at 5.65% in September

NEW DELHI
SBI Research has projected India's retail inflation at 5.65% in September, with CPI inflation expected to cross 6.5% in October and November, before easing below 6% in early 2027.
In its pre-Monetary Policy Committee report, SBI Research said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may raise the repo rate by at least 25 basis points at its October 5-7 meeting, citing rising inflation, global risks and pressure on the rupee.
The repo rate currently stands at 5.25%. SBI Research attributed the inflation risks to broader price pressures, weak monsoon conditions and global economic uncertainties.
It noted that 43% of districts received deficient rainfall, while the 2026 southwest monsoon was at 87% of the long-period average. The research house warned that weak rainfall and El Niño conditions could affect Rabi crops and increase food inflation.
The RBI's current FY27 projections put GDP growth at 6.7% and CPI inflation at 5%.

Tourism sector may face 11 million worker shortage

NEW DELHI
India's tourism industry could face a workforce shortage of around 11 million by 2035, as demand for trained workers struggles to keep pace with the sector's expansion, according to a CBRE Research report.
The report said tourism is growing across pilgrimage, wellness, MICE, cruise and sustainable travel, creating demand for specialised skills.
Tourism's direct and indirect employment rose to 84.6 million in FY2024, while its contribution to GDP increased to 5.2%. CBRE also highlighted a mismatch between training centres and emerging tourism markets, particularly in tier-II and tier-III cities. Worker retention remains another challenge due to long working hours, modest pay and limited career prospects.
The report noted government skilling initiatives, including plans to upgrade hospitality education and train 10,000 tourist guides across 20 sites.

India growth may slow to 5.5-6% in H2 FY27: CLSA

NEW DELHI
India's economic growth could slow to 5.5-6% in the second half of FY27, compared with 7-7.5% in the first half, as government capital spending moderates, CLSA said in a report.
The report said fiscal spending was front-loaded during the first five months of FY27, with combined fiscal capital expenditure rising 13.2% year-on-year. It expects combined capex growth to moderate to about 4% between September 2026 and March 2027.
The Centre's fiscal deficit reached 41.9% of the full-year budget estimate in the first five months, while total government spending grew 10.5%. CLSA also cited weakness in the rural economy, an adverse base effect and broader economic uncertainty as factors that could weigh on growth. Defence spending is expected to increase, while railway and road spending may remain stagnant or decline.

“Global conditions have turned unfavourable again”: Finance Minister

THE FINANCE MINISTRY PROJECTS 7.3% GROWTH IN THE SECOND QUARTER, DESPITE GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES, RISING OIL PRICES AND PRESSURES ON FINANCIAL MARKETS.

NEW DELHI

India's economic growth momentum continued into the second quarter, although at a more measured pace, with the Finance Ministry estimating that the economy could expand 7.3% during July-September. The assessment was included in the ministry's latest Monthly Economic Report, which cited several high-frequency indicators to indicate that growth remained sustained.
The report, however, flagged concerns over wors-

ening global conditions. Oil prices increased sharply in September, while global bond yields also moved higher and continued to rise. India's bond yield increased by a smaller margin, but the ministry said pressure from the lower risk premium could weigh on the Indian rupee.
The ministry also warned of possible short-term pressure on Indian financial assets and the rupee. It noted that capital flows were increasingly being directed towards geographies associated with artificial intelligence, adding another chal-

7.3%
Growth estimate for July-September, the second quarter, in the Finance Ministry's latest Monthly Economic Report

lenge for developing economies seeking international investment.
According to the report, developed countries are competing to attract investments to finance renewed manufacturing ambitions as global sup-



ply chains become increasingly weaponised. This competition could make it harder for India and other developing economies to secure capital

flows needed for investment and expansion.
Despite these challenges, the ministry indicated that foreign direct investment in-

flows could perform better on a net basis during the current financial year compared with the previous year.

RISKS FLAGGED
Oil: prices increased sharply in September
Bond yields: moved higher globally and continued to rise
Rupee: pressure from the lower risk premium
Capital flows: increasingly directed to AI-linked geographies

Goyal rejects U.S. claims of excess capacity

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has told G20 Trade Ministers that India does not have structural excess capacity in the sectors identified by the U.S.-led discussions, while asserting that the country has taken steps to prohibit imports of goods produced using forced labour.



India does not have structural excess capacity in the sectors identified by the G20 presidency.”
— Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India

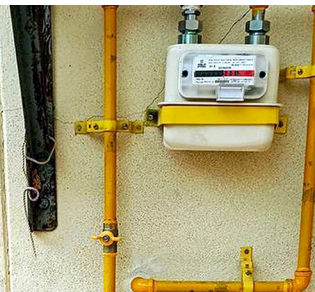
His remarks came amid ongoing U.S. trade investigations involving India.
Speaking at the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, Goyal said India's manufacturing sector serves both domestic and global demand. He argued that industrial capacity by itself should not be treated as evidence of trade distortion and stressed that trade remedies should be based on evidence and remain consistent with World Trade Organization rules.
The remarks come after the United States imposed an additional 10% tariff on imports from India under its Section 301 action related to forced-labour concerns. The U.S. Trade Representative had initially proposed a 12.5% rate, but the final additional

duty was set at 10% after India amended its Foreign Trade Policy to prohibit imports produced using forced labour.
Goyal said India's commitment to eliminating forced labour was absolute and pointed to the country's Foreign Trade Policy amendment in July. He also argued that measures at the border should rely on specific, verifiable evidence rather than assumptions covering entire countries, regions or sectors.
Separately, the U.S. is investigating structural excess capacity involving India and other economies. The investigation could lead to additional trade measures. Goyal also defended the Most-Favoured-Nation principle and called for restoration of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. His comments came as India and the U.S. continue discussions on an interim bilateral trade agreement, with trade issues including forced labour and excess capacity remaining part of broader economic negotiations.

PNG Drive 3.0 targets 50 lakh new connections

NEW DELHI

The government has launched the third phase of the National PNG Drive, targeting 50 lakh



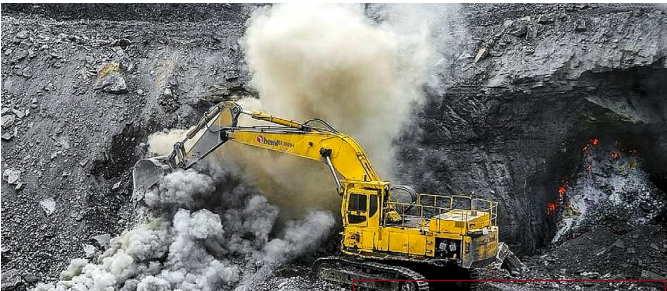
new domestic piped natural gas connections by the end of the 2026-27 financial year. Union Petroleum Minister

Hardeep Singh Puri, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and city-gas distributors launched National PNG Drive 3.0 on Thursday.
The latest phase will focus not only on expanding the household PNG network but also on increasing its utilisation. Under the programme, the government aims to convert 40 lakh existing PNG connections into active consumers while onboarding another 50 lakh domestic PNG registrations during the campaign period.
The latest targets come as the government seeks to widen access to PNG for domestic consumers.

Coal India production rises 9.2% in September

NEW DELHI

Coal India's coal production increased 9.2% year-on-year



to 53.5 million tonnes (MT) in September, while supplies rose 12.5% to 61.2 MT, according to the company's latest figures. The increase comes as the mining major expects production to gain further momentum with the monsoon season now over.
Coal supplies to the power sector, Coal India's largest consumer, increased 10.6% during September to 48.9 MT.

IN FOCUS
Production: 53.5 MT, up 9.2%
Total supplies: 61.2 MT, up 12.5%
Power sector: 48.9 MT, up 10.6%
Non-regulated sector: Supplies up 19.4%
Outlook: Production expected to rise post-monsoon

Bihar eyes agricultural diversification through ethanol blending

PATNA

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has described ethanol blending as a step towards di-



versifying Bihar's agricultural sector, while highlighting the State's potential for infrastructure, investment, industry and innovation. He made the remarks during the inaugural session of the Rising Bihar Investor Summit 2026 in Patna on Thursday.
Gadkari said Bihar was witnessing transformative growth supported by expanding infrastructure, improved connectivity, skilled human capital and a strengthening investment ecosystem.
The Minister said ethanol blending represented a move towards greater diversification of the agricultural sector. The initiative links agriculture

with industrial activity and provides another area through which the State can pursue investment and economic development, according to his remarks at the summit.

Gadkari highlighted ethanol blending as a way to diversify Bihar's agriculture, create opportunities, attract investment and support the State's economic development.

Gadkari also said a prosperous Bihar would have an important role in achieving the broader vision of a Viksit Bharat. He highlighted investment, employment and inclusive growth as important elements of that development process and said the State's progress could contribute to wider national economic objectives.
Driven by what he described as strong determination, Gadkari said Bihar was poised to become a prosperous and developed State in the future. He assured that the central government would extend its full support to Bihar's development.

Govt extends RoDTEP scheme until Dec 31

NEW DELHI

The government has extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme by three months until December 31, 2026, while keeping existing



reimbursement rates and value caps unchanged. The extension is aimed at providing continuity to exporters facing uncertain global demand, higher logistics costs and geopolitical disruptions.
The extension covers exports by Domestic Tariff Area units, Advance Authorisation holders, Special Economic Zone units and Export Oriented Units, according to the Department of Commerce.
RoDTEP reimburses exporters for embedded central, state and local duties, taxes and levies that are not refunded through other mechanisms.
Operational since January 1, 2021, the scheme covers a wide range of merchandise exports. Advance Authorisation holders, EOUs and SEZ units were brought under

broader RoDTEP coverage in 2024. Government data released in 2025 showed that the scheme covered more than 10,700 tariff lines, while cumulative disbursements crossed Rs 57,976 crore as of March 31, 2025.
The government also extended RoDTEP benefits to eligible exports through the postal channel from January 2026, expanding access for MSMEs, artisans, start-ups and smaller exporters. The latest extension follows the

The existing RoDTEP rates and value caps, as notified in Appendix 4R and Appendix 4RE as applicable on 30th September 2026 shall continue unchanged during the aforesaid period.”
— Department of Commerce

scheme's continuation from April 1 to September 30, 2026. Exporters will now have clarity on the existing rates and caps through December 31, when the next decision on further continuation will become important. The scheme had earlier seen temporary restrictions before full rates were restored, amid freight pressures and trade risks linked to disruptions in West Asia.

Bajaj Finance approves ₹ 17,500 crore fundraising



MUMBAI

Bajaj Finance's Board of Directors has approved proposals to raise up to Rs 17,500 crore through a combination of a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) and a preferential issue of warrants, the company said in an exchange filing on Friday.
The board approved the proposals at its meeting on Thursday, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals, including consent from shareholders. Under the plan, the company will raise up to Rs 11,700 crore through a QIP, under which equity

shares will be issued to qualified institutional buyers.
The company has also approved a preferential issue of warrants worth up to Rs 5,800 crore. The two fundraising routes together could provide Bajaj Finance with capital of up to Rs 17,500 crore.
The company said the proposed fundraising will be carried out in accordance with applicable provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, the Companies Act, 2013, and other applicable laws. Warrants issued through the preferential route will be convertible into an equivalent number of equity shares, subject to applicable terms and regulations.

ADANI'S MAHARASHTRA PUSH

Adani Group executes Rs 2.6 lakh crore projects

MUMBAI

The Adani Group has completed or is currently executing projects worth Rs 2.6 lakh crore in Maharashtra, as part of a larger investment blueprint exceeding Rs 6 lakh crore across the State. Pranav

Adani, Managing Director, Agro, Oil & Gas, made the announcement during the launch of Maharashtra's investment promotion agency, "Invest Maharashtra", on Thursday.
Pranav Adani said the group's planned investments

cover several sectors, including energy, aviation and aero-districts, urban regeneration, data centres and coal gasification. He said the commitments were made through the World Economic Forum in Davos and state partnerships as Maharashtra works



towards its goal of becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2030.
On the energy front, Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited provides electricity to more than three million residential homes and establishments across Mumbai, he said. Re-

newable energy accounts for over 60% of its electricity supply, with the company aiming to increase the share to 70% or more. The group is also operating a 1,000 MW High Voltage Direct Current transmission corridor to supply green electricity to Mumbai.
In aviation, Adani highlighted the group's management of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and development of the greenfield Navi Mumbai International Airport. The latter is eventually expected to handle

more than 90 million passengers annually. Integrated airport-linked business and hospitality districts are also being developed around the two aviation hubs.
Adani also highlighted the Dharavi Redevelopment Project as part of the group's urban development activities in Maharashtra. He said the latest investment commitments represented a substantial expansion of the group's plans in the State, whose Mumbai Metropolitan Region is expected to be a key driver of its economic ambitions.

Quick Read

Pakistan violence deaths surge 83% in third quarter

PESHAWAR
Violence-linked deaths in Pakistan rose 83 per cent between July and September, with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accounting for most fatalities, according to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS).
The report, released on Thursday, said fatalities in Balochistan more than tripled during the period. The province alone accounted for nearly 88 per cent of the national increase in violence-related deaths. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained the country's main violence hotspots, jointly accounting for 98 per cent of all fatalities recorded during the three-month period. The findings highlight a sharp deterioration in the security situation across Pakistan during the third quarter, with the two provinces continuing to bear the largest share of violence-related deaths.

400 French schools to remain closed amid protests

PARIS
More than 400 schools and educational establishments in France are expected to remain closed on Friday as student protests over teacher shortages and deteriorating school buildings have escalated into violence in some areas.
The protests, which began in the Paris region last month, have increasingly involved blockades and clashes. French Education Minister Edouard Geffray said there were "a little over 400 schools and other educational establishments" expected to remain closed.
The government has also faced claims that the protest movement was initiated by politicians from the hard left, including members of La France Insoumise. LFI lawmaker Louis Boyard denied the allegation in comments to French broadcasters.

Five arrested over suspected terror act near RAF Fairford

LONDON
UK Counter Terrorism Policing is investigating an incident near RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, with five men arrested on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act and preparation of a terrorist act.
The five UK nationals, aged between 23 and 25 and from London, were arrested in Whelford on Sunday after reports of three vehicles travelling towards the airbase after midnight.
Specially trained counter-terrorism officers examined the scene and identified new lines of inquiry. Police said the suspects remain in custody while investigators establish the circumstances, motivation and wider context of the incident.
A cordon remains in place, with military assets and specialist police teams deployed. Officials urged the public to avoid speculation about possible motives or geopolitical links.
Authorities described the operation as complex and large-scale, involving local and national police, the Ministry of Defence and other agencies.

Trump warns Iran over alleged flight attack link

JERUSALEM

U.S. President Donald Trump warned on Thursday that Iran would be hit "very hard" if it is linked to the copilot accused of trying to crash an Israel-bound FlyDubai flight.
Trump's warning came as investigators continued examining the reasons behind the incident, in which the copilot stabbed the captain during the flight. The aircraft subsequently began to plummet before people on board intervened to stop the

attack.

The FlyDubai aircraft, carrying more than 180 people, was diverted and eventually landed safely in Saudi Arabia. Investigators are working to establish the circumstances surrounding the cockpit attack and whether any



“Very hard”

— Donald Trump, U.S. President

Referring to the potential response if Iran is linked to the incident

outside party was involved.

Trump said that if Iran was found to be connected to the copilot, the country would face a severe response.

His comments came while authorities continued their inquiry and had yet to establish the circumstances behind the alleged attempt. The incident has drawn

international attention because of the number of people aboard the flight and the danger created by the cockpit altercation. Investigators are examining why the copilot attacked the captain and what led to the aircraft's descent before passengers and others intervened.

The flight was ultimately brought under control and landed in Saudi Arabia, while questions remain over the motive and any possible links behind the incident.

Trump's warning adds an international dimension to an investigation that is still underway.

Putin says Modi has ‘good ideas’ to end Ukraine war



MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to help end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, saying the Indian leader has "good ideas" for finding a mutually acceptable solution.

Speaking during an interaction on Thursday, Putin said Modi has consistently raised the need to end the conflict despite India's close relations with Russia. He described Modi's approach as neutral but focused on achieving peace and thanked him for his efforts.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of those world leaders who constantly raises the question about putting an end to the conflict in Ukraine," Putin said.

Putin praised Modi's peace efforts, saying the Indian Prime Minister has good ideas for finding a mutually acceptable solution to the Ukraine conflict.

Modi has repeatedly called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the war.

Putin and Modi most recently met on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September, where they discussed bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, defence, infrastructure, technology and culture.

Ethiopia, Eritrea sever ties as fighting escalates

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia and Eritrea have severed diplomatic relations as renewed fighting in northern Ethiopia raises fears of a wider regional conflict, with more than 50 people reportedly killed since fighting resumed last week.

Ethiopia announced it was closing its embassy in Asmara and ordered 10 Eritrean diplomats to leave within 48 hours. Addis Ababa accused them of activities threatening national security. Eritrea called the decision "astounding" and said it had no option but to reciprocate and sever diplomatic ties.

The diplomatic confrontation followed reports of powerful explosions in Addis Ababa, including near Ethiopia's military headquarters. Ethiopia has accused Eritrea of sup-

porting a new rebel alliance, an allegation repeatedly denied by Asmara. Federal forces are battling fighters from the Tigray People's Liberation



Front and its allies in Tigray, Afar and Amhara.

The TPLF last month joined six other armed movements, including the Fano militia, in an alliance seeking to remove Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government.

The deterioration has also strained Ethiopia's relations with Egypt. Ethiopia expelled an Egyptian diplomat, while Egypt ordered an Ethiopian embassy official to leave.

At a glance

KILLED SINCE FIGHTING RESUMED
More than 50
TIGRAY WAR ENDED BY
A 2022 peace agreement

ERITREAN DIPLOMATS EXPELLED
10, given 48 hours
TIGRAY WAR DEATHS (AU MEDIATOR)
About 600,000

Two new islands emerge after Anak Krakatau eruption

JAKARTA

Two new island-like formations have emerged around Indonesia's Anak Krakatau

Sentinel satellite imagery on Friday.

The eruption last month was powerful enough to disrupt air travel, grounding flights for



volcano following a major eruption last month, according to the country's volcano monitoring authorities.

The formations were identified in satellite images of the water-filled caldera surrounding the volcano. Rita Susilawati of Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) said the structures were spotted during an assessment of

several days. The appearance of the formations has drawn attention to the continuing geological changes around Anak Krakatau, which stands within a caldera filled with seawater.

Anak Krakatau, located in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, has remained an area of close volcanic monitoring because of its active geological conditions.

India, Bulgaria push for early EU trade pact

NEW DELHI

India and Bulgaria have called for the early implementation of the India-European Union



Free Trade Agreement (FTA), saying the pact could further strengthen economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

The issue was discussed during the India-Bulgaria Foreign Office Consultations, co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Christo Polendakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

The two sides reviewed the full range of bilateral relations, including trade and investment, defence, artificial intelligence, science and technology, space, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges. They also discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest.

India and Bulgaria are committed to transforming our longstanding friendship into a contemporary and forward-looking partnership.

— S. Jaishankar External Affairs Minister

cooperation in trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, AI, space, defence, mobility, tourism and the creative entertainment sector. The two sides also explored opportunities emerging from the strengthening India-EU strategic partnership.

India and Bulgaria established diplomatic relations in 1954. Their cultural and people-to-people links, however, predate formal diplomatic ties, with historical contacts between the two societies dating back centuries.

Pentagon religious office sparks constitutional concerns

WASHINGTON

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's announcement of a new Office of Religious Affairs at the Pentagon has drawn criticism over concerns about religion and military policy.

Hegseth announced the office during his State of the Force address at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia on September 30. The office will report directly to the defence secretary and coordinate religious and spiritual resources across the Defence Department.

The Pentagon said the office would not compel religious participation, favour one faith over another or diminish the rights of service members with or without religious affiliations.

However, critics have questioned the initiative's implications for the constitutional separation of church and state.



Hegseth used explicitly Christian language while announcing the initiative. "Our department is, you might say, putting on the full armor of God, because while we wage physical war, we all know the real battle is spiritual," he said. He also told military chaplains: "Live your calling. Stand firm. Preach truth. Minister to the flock."

The leader of the new office has not yet been named.

ISLAMABAD PROTEST TALKS

Pakistan government, Imran Khan's PTI hold talks ahead of Islamabad protest

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the party of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, held talks on Friday ahead of a planned demonstration in Islamabad seeking his release.

The negotiations were held ahead of Sunday's proposed protest and are scheduled to continue on Saturday, according to Pakistan's state broadcaster. The demonstration was earlier postponed from

September 27.

Authorities have stepped up security in the capital and placed shipping containers along major highways and key entry points to prevent protesters from entering Islamabad. Containers were also stacked two-high at several locations, blocking access to the heavily fortified Red Zone, which houses important government buildings and institutions.

PTI said it remained prepared to proceed with the protest but indicated that the negotiations could



make progress if the government showed flexibility on its demands.

Party leader Halcem Adil Sheikh said the release of Khan's sisters, who were arrested last month, was among the issues being discussed.

"We are talking to the government today in a positive spirit," Sheikh said.

Khan, 73, has remained in prison since August 2023 and faces multiple cases, including charges related to corruption, treason and inciting violence following widespread unrest in May 2023. Khan and his legal team have rejected the allegations and described the cases as politically motivated.

The planned protest has

also caused disruption to the transport sector.

Imdad Hussain Naqvi, senior vice-president of the All Pakistan Goods Transport Owners Association, said more than 2,500 containers had been stopped by police in Islamabad and surrounding areas.

"The government doesn't even pay us for the containers."

Our containers have been stuck for almost 25 days," Naqvi said.

The use of containers as roadblocks has affected the movement of goods and

raised concerns among transport operators whose vehicles and equipment have been held for security purposes.

Meanwhile, residents and commuters have urged the government and political parties to resolve their differences through dialogue, amid preparations for Sunday's demonstration.

The talks between the government and PTI are expected to continue on Saturday as authorities maintain heightened security across the capital ahead of the planned protest.

India eye historic hockey gold against Malaysia

Coach Craig Fulton praised Malaysia's strong tournament, calling the final an exciting clash between two attacking teams.

INDIA	GOLD-MEDAL MATCH SATURDAY	MALAYSIA
4-3 v Pakistan	SEMI-FINAL	2-1 v South Korea
Harmanpreet Singh 10 • Abhishek 9 • Dilpreet Singh 9	TOP SCORERS	Faizal Saari 9 • Abu Kamal Azrai 9
AT STAKE Back-to-back Asian Games golds for the first time, and a place at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics		

KAKAMIGAHARA

The Indian men's hockey team will aim to create history when it faces Malaysia in the gold-medal match of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 on Saturday. A victory would give India back-to-back Asian Games gold medals for the first time and also secure qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

India reached the final after a dramatic 4-3 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in the semi-final. The defending champions appeared in control after taking a 3-0 lead, but Pakistan fought back to level the match at 3-3. India eventually scored the decisive goal in the final minute of regulation time to book its place in the title clash.

Malaysia are also unbeaten

and topped Pool B with five victories. They reached the final after defeating South Korea 2-1 in a closely fought

first gold medal in the competition. Malaysia will rely on experienced forwards Faizal Saari

Singh. A victory would make Harmanpreet the first Indian captain to win two Asian Games hockey gold medals,



semi-final. The result secured Malaysia's second Asian Games final appearance in the last three editions, while the team continues to chase its

and Abu Kamal Azrai, who have scored nine goals apiece. The final will also have personal significance for Harmanpreet and Manpreet

while Manpreet could become the first Indian player to claim three golds, having featured in the victorious 2014 and 2023 teams.

India face Pakistan for Asian Games cricket gold

NISSHIN

India and Pakistan will meet for the first time at the Asian Games when the two men's cricket teams clash for the gold medal at Karogi Sports Park on Saturday.

India reached the final after a dominant 124-run victory over Sri Lanka in the semi-final. Ishan Kishan led the batting effort with a superb 80 off 46 balls, hitting five sixes and four fours. Teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi provided another attacking contribution with 38 off 21 balls as India posted 169/7.

India's bowlers then dismantled Sri Lanka for just 45. Jasprit Bumrah struck twice in an opening spell that removed Sineth Jayawardena and Sohan de Livera

without scoring. Bumrah finished with 2/7, while Axar Patel took 2/8 and Abhishek Sharma claimed 2/2.

Pakistan, meanwhile, defeated Bangladesh by six wickets in a rain-affected semi-final. Bangladesh scored 111/7 after Pakistan's bowlers kept the batting side under pressure. Saim Ayub was particularly effective, conceding only three runs in

his two overs and taking a wicket.

Pakistan's chase suffered an early setback when Sahibzada Farhan was dismissed by Mahedi Hasan. However, Maaz Sadaqat, Usman Khan and Saim Ayub made useful contributions to keep Pakistan on course. With Pakistan at 76/4, Abdul Samad and Hasan Nawaz accelerated the chase, taking 23 runs from Mustafizur Rahman's over.

Pakistan eventually needed 13 runs from 18 balls and completed the chase in the 12th over, with Hasan Nawaz hitting the winning boundary. Saturday's final will therefore mark the first Asian Games cricket encounter between the two teams, with the gold medal at stake.



GOLD-MEDAL MATCH	WHEN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
INDIA v PAKISTAN	WHERE KAROGI SPORTS PARK, NISSHIN
INDIA SQUAD Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (w), Shreyas Iyer (c), Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Yash Thakur, Vipraj Nigam	PAKISTAN SQUAD Sahibzada Farhan (c), Maaz Sadaqat, Usman Khan (w), Saim Ayub, Hasan Nawaz, Abdul Samad, Arafat Minhas, Ahmed Daniyal, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Abrar Ahmed, Surfyan Moqim, Saad Masood, Ali Raza, Akif Javed, Haider Ali

Sujeet reaches wrestling final, Dipanshi eyes bronze

NAGOYA

Indian freestyle wrestler Sujeet Kalkal stormed into the men's 65kg final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games after defeating reigning Olympic champion and home favourite Kotaro Kiyooka of Japan in a thrilling semi-final on Friday.

Sujeet recovered from an early 0-2 deficit to force a 3-3 draw and advance on criteria, producing one of the biggest victories of his career. The Asian Championships gold medalist will face Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiev in the gold-medal bout later in the day.

He then defeated Iran's Abbas Ebrahimzadeh 10-0 in the quarterfinals to set up his



semi-final against Kiyooka. The Japanese wrestler raced to a 2-0 lead, but Sujeet responded with successive scoring moves to move ahead 4-2. Following a review, his score was reduced to three, but he held on after Kiyooka levelled the contest at 3-3, advancing because he had registered the higher-scoring move.

In the 50kg category, India's Dipanshi lost 11-0 to four-time world champion and Tokyo Olympic champion Yui Susaki of Japan. However, Susaki's progress to the final gave Dipanshi a repechage opportunity. Dipanshi defeated Cambodia's Samnang Dit 10-0 by technical superiority and earned a chance to fight for bronze against Kazakhstan's Zeinep Bayanova.

SUJEET KALKAL	OPENER 13-3	QF 10-0	SF 3-3	FINAL NEXT
65KG FREESTYLE • ROAD TO THE FINAL	Zazali • AFG	Ebrahimzadeh • IRI	Kiyooka • JPN	Kudiev • TKJ

Pranavi leads after Day 3, India eye medals

KASUGAI

Indian golfer Pranavi Urs moved to the top of the women's individual stroke play standings after Day 3 of the Asian Games golf event at the Kasugai Country Club East Course on Friday.

Pranavi carded a four-under 66, featuring five birdies and a bogey, to take her total to 15-under after three rounds. She moved up from second place and now holds a strong position heading into the final day. Singapore's Shannon Tan is second at 12-under, while China's Ruoning Yin is third at 11-under.

Pranavi has a nine-

stroke advantage over fourth-placed Sophie Han of Hong Kong, who is six-under. She will aim to maintain her lead on the final day and secure a medal for India. The situation also serves as a reminder of the importance of the final round, with Aditi Ashok having led after three days before finishing with a silver medal.

India also improved its position in the women's team event, moving from third to second after recording a four-under 136 on Day 3. The team has a combined score of 11-under 409 after three rounds, behind China at 15-under. Hong Kong is third at nine-under, while Chinese Taipei is fourth.

LEADERBOARD SNAPSHOT	AFTER DAY 3
Women's Individual	Pranavi Urs 1st 15-under (Day 3: 66)
Women's Team	India 2nd 11-under 409 (Day 3: 136)
Women's Individual	Diksha Dagar & Aditi Ashok Joint 18th 5-over 215
Men's Team	India 6th Slipped from 5th
Men's Individual	Veer Ahlawat 10th 6-under 204 (Round 3: 65)
Men's Individual	Saptak Talwar 11th 6-under 205

Govindaraj congratulates Indian women's hockey team on Asian Games gold

BENGALURU

Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) President, FIBA Asia President and MLC Dr K. Govindaraj congratulated the Indian women's hockey team on winning the gold medal at the Asian Games after a gap of 44 years.

India had last won the women's hockey gold at the Asian Games in 1982. Led by captain Salima Tete, the Indian team secured the top honour and also earned direct qualification for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Congratulating the players and support staff, Govindaraj said the team's achievement was a matter

of pride for the entire country and would inspire the next generation of sportspersons.

"The Indian women's hockey team has achieved something that makes the entire country proud. Their performance is an inspiration to every woman athlete. I hope the team will also win a medal at major international events such as the Olympics in the future," he said.

He also praised the players for their determination, teamwork and commitment, saying their success would encourage more young women to take up sport and pursue excellence at the international level.

Ajay Singh hails Lovlina's historic Asian Games gold

NISHIO

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh praised Lovlina Borgohain after she created history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach two consecutive Asian Games finals and winning gold in the women's 75kg category at the Aichi-Nagoya Games.

Lovlina defeated China's Bao Ziyi 5-0 in the final on Friday to become only the second Indian woman boxer, after Mary Kom, to win an Asian Games gold medal. The victory also gave Lovlina her second Asian Games medal, following her silver at the Hangzhou Games in 2023.

Singh described Lovlina's achievement as historic and praised her tactical approach in the final. He also highlighted her success as an inspiration for young women athletes.

Key Takeaways

Tactical Control

After a tight opening round (3-2), Lovlina dominated the final two rounds with identical 4-1 scores.

Judges' Cards

Secured victory through a dominant scorecard breakdown—four judges scored it 29-28, and one awarded a 30-27 verdict.

Inspirational Legacy

Praised for her tactical acumen, serving as a powerful role model for young athletes, especially across Northeast India.

letes, particularly in the Northeast. The gold medal came on Lovlina's birthday, making the achievement an additional milestone in her career. The Indian boxing contingent has secured one gold, three bronze and two pending final appearances. Singh expressed hope that the remaining bouts would add another gold medal to India's tally.

India women win historic recurve archery gold

NAGOYA

India's women's recurve archery team created history at the Asian Games on Friday, defeating the Republic of Korea 5-3 to win the country's first-ever gold medal in the event.

Ankita Bhakat, Kirti Sharma and 17-year-old Kumkum Mohod overcame the reigning champions at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square, ending South Korea's seven successive women's team titles dating back to the 1998 Bangkok Games. The Korean team included Olympic team gold medalist and reigning individual world champion Kang Chae-young, along with Lee Yunji and Oh Yejin.

The final was closely contested, with both teams drawing the opening two sets 54-54 and 56-56. India then produced a decisive third set, scoring 55 against South Korea's 51 to move 4-2 ahead. South Korea scored 54 in the fourth set, but Kumkum's final arrow landed a 10, helping India match the score and secure the gold.

India had qualified sixth with 1,962 points. The team then defeated Mongolia 6-0 and Chinese Taipei 6-0 before beating China 5-1 in the semi-final.

Earlier, Kumkum and Dhiraj Bommadevara won silver in the mixed recurve team event after losing 5-3 to China's Zhu Jingyi and Li Mengqi. China won the first two sets 38-34 and 37-35 before India took the third 37-36. The fourth ended 37-37, giving China the title. The result meant India missed the mixed-team opportunity to secure one of the men's and women's recurve quota places available for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

India also claimed silver in the men's recurve team event. Dhiraj, Neeraj Chauhan and Yashdeep Bhogre lost 5-1 to South Korea in the final. India had beaten the Philippines, China and Iran on its way to the final.

India will have further opportunities for Olympic quota places in the individual recurve events, with Kumkum, Dhiraj and Neeraj competing in the quarter-finals on Saturday.