



“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



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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'loru 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.

Quick Read



Demand for underpass at Almati railway station

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The Almati Railway Development Struggle Committee has urged the South Western Railway to expedite infrastructure projects and provide additional train halts at stations in the region. A delegation led by committee president Bharatraj Desai submitted a petition to South Western Railway General Manager P. Ananth in Hubballi. The committee sought immediate construction of the long-pending railway underpass near Almati station to improve passenger convenience and public access. It also requested a halt at Almati for the Hubballi-Nizamuddin train and sought expansion of station infrastructure in view of increasing passenger numbers. Vice-president Shivanand M. Avati, Ramesh Almati, Malleshi Rathod and others were present.

Special trains between Tirupati and Vijayapura

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The South Coast Railway has proposed four weekly special trains in each direction between Tirupati and Vijayapura to manage the additional passenger rush during the Durga Puja festival. Train No. 07419 Tirupati-Vijayapura Weekly Special Express will depart Tirupati at 8.15 pm every Sunday from October 10 to 25 and reach Vijayapura at 10.25 pm the same day. In the return direction, Train No. 07420 Vijayapura-Tirupati Weekly Special Express will leave Vijayapura at 11.35 pm every Sunday from October 4 to 25 and reach Tirupati at 2.15 pm the following day. The trains will halt at several stations.

JUSTICE DEMANDED

SIR sparks protest over alleged communal targeting through Form-7

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Alleging misuse of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, DYFI activists staged a protest in Humnabad, raising concerns over Form-7 objections and demanding action from election authorities. Members of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) gathered at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Circle and raised slogans against the Union government and the Election Commission. They demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar from office. Similar protests by DYFI and SFI over the SIR exercise and demands concerning the CEC have been reported in other parts of the country. Social activist K. Neela, speaking at the protest, alleged that people were being forced to establish their citizenship and local identity through the SIR exercise. She claimed the revision was being used to target voters who had not supported the BJP in earlier elections. Neela further alleged that Form-7 objections had been filed against hundreds of members of the Muslim community in Bidar district and elsewhere, seeking deletion of their names from electoral rolls on the grounds that they were not local residents. These allegations were made by the protesters and are subject to verification. She also alleged that several

No discrimination in Kembhavi development, says Darshanapur

Minister Sharanabasappa Darshanapur said Kembhavi had received special attention, with funds sanctioned for infrastructure and public facilities.

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Minister for Small Industries and Public Enterprises Sharanabasappa Darshanapur said he had never discriminated against Kembhavi in development matters and had given special attention to the region. Darshanapur, who represents Shahapur constituency, has been serving as a Cabinet minister since 2023.

“I have never taken a percentage from any contractor till date”

— Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Minister for Small Industries and Public Enterprises

Speaking to reporters at his office in Kembhavi, he said the region had received greater attention because of the demand for a separate taluk. He accused opposition leaders of making baseless allegations in the absence of substantive issues. “I have never taken a percentage from any contractor till date,” he said, rejecting allegations of corruption in



development works. Darshanapur said the State Government had submitted a comprehensive report to the Centre on the drought situation and questioned the need for a central team merely to conduct an inspection. He urged the Centre to announce relief for farmers before assessing the situation. He also criticised the Union Government over its approach towards farmers, alleging that corporate loan waivers had received greater attention than

farmers’ concerns. Listing development works, Darshanapur said efforts were under way to upgrade the Kembhavi Community Health Centre and construct a well-equipped building. Funds had also been sanctioned for rural roads, while Rs 40 crore had been earmarked for drinking water facilities. He said a 220-KV power station would be established at a cost of Rs 250 crore. Other projects included Rs 6 crore for CC roads and

Projects (Rs crore)	
250	220-KV POWER STATION
40	DRINKING WATER FACILITIES
6	CC ROADS AND DRAINAGE

drainage, police quarters, a BCM girls’ hostel and grants for temples and mutts. A high-tech bus stand was also being considered for Kembhavi, he said, adding that funds would be provided for the project. A Praja Seva programme would soon be organised in Kembhavi to address people’s grievances at their doorstep. On drought relief, Darshanapur said farmers had initially received Rs 2,500 and indicated that additional assistance would be provided in the coming days. He questioned the role of BJP legislators and MPs in raising the issue with the Centre. Later, he inspected various development works under progress in Kembhavi.

Gandhi, Shastri Jayanti observed with meaningful celebrations

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri were observed with a series of programmes highlighting their ideals at Gandhi Bhavan. The district administration and Zilla Panchayat jointly organised the celebrations on Zilla Panchayat Road. Urban Development Authority Chairman Gangadhar Sambanni, Deputy Commissioner Dr K. Anand, Zilla Panchayat CEO Anand Prakash Meena and Sub-Divisional Officer Jufishan Haq inaugurated the programme by spinning the charkha. The dignitaries later offered floral tributes to the portraits of Gandhi and Shastri. Singer Veeresh Wali and his team presented Vande Mataram and the State anthem, followed by

SARVA DHARMA PRAYER
BHAGAVAD GITA Raghottam Arjunagi
QURAN Hazrat Sufi Dr Hayat Rozindar Saheb
BIBLE Rev. Dr S. Vilas, Zion Ministries
JAIN PRAYER Abhay Porwal
BUDDHIST PRAYER Pratap Chikkalaki, Buddha Vihara Construction Committee

renditions of Gandhi’s favourite bhajans, Raghupati Raghava Rajaram and Vaishnava Janato. A special Sarva Dharma prayer was organised to promote communal harmony, peace and mutual respect. Raghottam Arjunagi recited verses from the Bhagavad

Gita, while Hazrat Sufi Dr Hayat Rozindar Saheb recited verses from the Quran. Rev. Dr S. Vilas of Zion Ministries read from the Bible, Abhay Porwal offered a Jain prayer and Pratap Chikkalaki of the Buddha Vihara Construction Committee presented a Buddhist prayer. Prizes and certificates were presented to students who secured positions in the district-level essay competition organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations as part of the Jayanti celebrations. The competition was held for students from high schools, pre-university colleges and undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Dr Madhava H. Gudi delivered a special lecture on the lives and ideals of Gandhi and Shastri. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Dr K.



Anand said Gandhi’s principles of non-violence and Satyagraha, along with Shastri’s simplicity and the message of “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan”, continued to offer guidance to the younger generation. Officials from various departments, students from schools and colleges and members of the public participated in the celebrations in large numbers.

Four Aland police personnel suspended over PDS rice vehicle release

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Four police personnel, including the Police Inspector of Aland Police Station, have been suspended over alleged irregularities in the release of a vehicle carrying Public Distribution System (PDS) rice. Those suspended are Aland Police Inspector Sharanabasappa Kodla and constables Hanamanta, Mallikarjun and Sayibanna. According to allegations, Aland police seized the vehicle late Monday night after receiving information through the 112 emergency helpline about the suspected illegal transportation of PDS rice. The vehicle was brought to the police station for further action. However, instead of registering a case and initiating legal proceedings, the vehicle was allegedly released following a financial transaction. An allegation that around Rs 1 lakh had been paid for releasing the vehicle also surfaced. The incident reportedly came under scrutiny following media reports, prompting senior police officials to examine the handling of the case. A departmental inquiry allegedly found lapses in the discharge of duty and irregularities in the manner in which the seized vehicle was dealt with. Based on the inquiry findings, disciplinary action was initiated against the Police Inspector and the three con-

stables, resulting in their suspension. The action has drawn attention to the handling of cases involving the alleged illegal transportation of PDS commodities and the need for accountability in such matters. The suspension of the four

How the case unfolded

- 1 Seized:** acting on information through the 112 emergency helpline, Aland police seized a vehicle carrying PDS rice late Monday night
- 2 Released:** instead of a case being registered, the vehicle was allegedly released following a financial transaction
- 3 Inquiry:** after media reports, a departmental inquiry allegedly found lapses in the discharge of duty
- 4 Suspended:** Police Inspector Sharanabasappa Kodla and constables Hanamanta, Mallikarjun and Sayibanna

personnel is expected to send a message that alleged lapses in dealing with seized vehicles and essential commodities will be examined seriously. Further details of the departmental inquiry and any action arising from the alleged financial transaction were not immediately available. Authorities are expected to take further steps based on the findings of the inquiry and establish the circumstances surrounding the release of the vehicle.

Rail services drifting away from villages since Covid, rural passengers bear the brunt

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Once a vital transport lifeline for rural communities, passenger trains have gradually disappeared from several village railway stations since the Covid-19 pandemic, affecting daily wage workers, farmers, students, patients and employees dependent on affordable travel.



Passengers and local organisations said several ordinary services had either been cancelled or converted into express trains, which generally skip smaller stations. As a result, villages along the Kalaburagi-Vijayapura-Solapur routes have been left with fewer convenient rail options. The Solapur-Wadi DEMU (71451), which leaves Solapur at 12.25 am and reaches Wadi around 4.05 am, is among the services passengers want rescheduled. They said the timing was inconvenient for ordinary travellers and suggested that the train leave Solapur around 6 am.

The Daund-Kalaburagi Fast Passenger (01421) departs Daund at 5 am and reaches Kalaburagi at 11.20 am. Its return service, train 01422, leaves Kalaburagi at 4.10 pm, leaving the rake idle for nearly four-and-a-half hours. Passengers have suggested extending the service to Yadgir during this period, with halts at all stations, pointing out that there is no passenger service on the route for several hours. The cancellation of the Solapur-Guntakal DEMU (71301) has also affected regular commuters, they said. Akhil Karnataka Dalit Sena State president Dattatreya R. Kudaki said the organisation

had repeatedly approached railway authorities seeking restoration of passenger services and halts at all stations. “We submitted representations to the MP and Solapur DRM in August 2024. A representation was also submitted to Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna in June 2025 and to the General Manager of Central Railway,

Converted passenger trains, cancelled services and inconvenient timings leave villages along Kalaburagi-Vijayapura-Solapur routes with limited rail connectivity

Mumbai, on September 11 this year. However, there has been no relief,” Kudaki said.

PASSENGER DEMANDS

71451 Solapur-Wadi DEMU: leaves Solapur at 12.25 am; passengers want it to leave around 6 am
01421/01422 Daund-Kalaburagi Fast Passenger: the rake idles for nearly four-and-a-half hours; passengers want it extended to Yadgir, with halts at all stations
71301 Solapur-Guntakal DEMU: cancelled, affecting regular commuters

Dattatreya R. Kudaki said MP Radhakrishna Doddamani had repeatedly written to the Union Railway Minister and the Central Railway General Manager in Mumbai seeking various passenger-related measures, including restoration of halts. Several demands raised in those letters were yet to receive a response, he alleged. Kudaki said continued representations reflected the difficulties faced by rural passengers dependent on affordable rail connectivity.

Passengers said restoring ordinary services and introducing practical timings would particularly benefit rural residents who cannot afford frequent private transport.

FIR against 32 in Bhalki over alleged false Form-7 objections

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bhalki Town Police have registered an FIR against 32 people following a complaint alleging that Form-7 applications were submitted without valid supporting documents to object to voters’ names during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The development comes amid wider concerns over bulk Form-7 objections in Karnataka.



A complaint has alleged that 3,244 voter names were challenged during SIR through Form-7 applications without supporting documents. The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Muhammad Atiq Ahmed, who alleged that objections were submitted against around 3,244 voters, including himself, seeking to classify them as shifted or absent. Ahmed said his name was listed in Booth No. 1 in Masoompasha Colony, Bhalki, and that he had voted in general and local elections since 2004. He also said he was selected as a nominated member of the Bhalki City Municipal Council in 2024. According to the complaint, the objections were submitted between September 21 and 22. When Ahmed and other voters approached the Electoral Registration Officer’s office on September 27, officials reportedly informed them that the applications had been scrutinised following their submission by Booth Level Officers on September 25. Notices were subsequently

Allegations in complaint

The complainant alleged that the 32 named persons and others acted together in an attempt to remove eligible voters from the electoral rolls. He sought legal action against those named in the complaint and others allegedly involved. The FIR names 32 people, while the allegations of forged signatures, false claims and coordinated action remain subject to police investigation.

issued to the objectors, asking them to appear for hearings and produce documents supporting their claims. The complainant alleged that some of those served notices neither appeared nor submitted the required documents. In view of the unusually large number of objections, the Electoral Registration Officer reportedly conducted a preliminary inquiry at the Bhalki Tahsildar’s office on September 29. Ahmed alleged that the applications concerning him and 3,243 other voters were submitted without authenticated documents and without the knowledge of the voters concerned. He further alleged that the accused used different mobile numbers in the applications, falsely claimed that eligible voters had shifted or were absent, and allegedly forged signatures. The allegations form part of a broader Karnataka SIR controversy involving bulk Form-7 objections. Officials have said a Form-7 application does not automatically result in deletion and that objections must undergo scrutiny and due process.

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 snake-bite 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

Bommaï criticizes dramatic cabinet protest against commission

Bommaï 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.

Bommaï 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.

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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

ministrative staff, NCC PI staff, Shishuniketan Primary School staff and cadets attended the programme.

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.

Jigajinagi stated that democracy provides space for protests, criticism of the government and raising public demands. However, he said criticism should remain within acceptable limits and should not involve personal attacks on a Union Minister or disrespectful remarks about family members.

He said farmers and their representatives have every right to organize protests and express their views, but criticism 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.

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.

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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



es 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

30. He also noted that the Northeast Monsoon, which benefits Tamil Nadu, is expected to be normal or good and may increase inflows in the state. Chaluvarayaswamy said releasing significant quantities of water from the KRS and Kabini reservoirs was not feasible under the present conditions. He said Karnataka has therefore requested the CWMA to reconsider its earlier decision and reduce the water release at Biligundlu to 2,000 cusecs per day.

'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



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

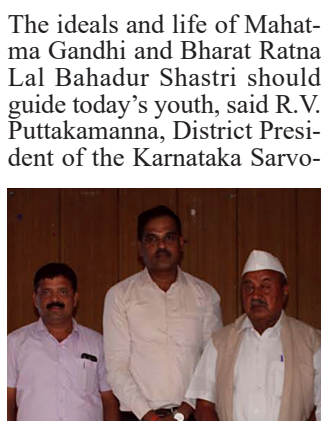
own team of grassroots workers instead of depending only on his family name. He described him as an educated politician, a composed personality and an organizer capable of bringing party workers together. Gowda urged workers to put aside minor issues and internal differences. He said opportunities to 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.

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 and 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.

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 Sarvodaya 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.

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 Kata-va, Sharanamma Kulkarni, Somavva 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 Ullasi, 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, Brahmar 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.

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.

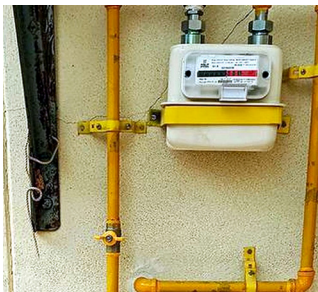
Goyal said India's commitment to eliminating forced labour was absolute and pointed to the country's Foreign Trade Policy amendment in July. He also argued that measures at the border should rely on specific, verifiable evidence rather than assumptions covering entire countries, regions or sectors.

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.

Investment at a glance

₹6 lakh crore Planned investment	₹2.6 lakh crore Projects underway	60%+ Renewable power share
1,000 MW HVDC corridor	90 million Airport capacity	\$1 trillion Maharashtra's 2030 goal

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-

continue to decline, dependable summer water availability could eventually be affected. This poses a major challenge to agriculture, drinking water, energy generation and the livelihoods of millions who depend upon Himalayan rivers. Black carbon and other forms of pollution add another layer of concern. Recent scientific assessments have highlighted accelerating glacier mass loss across the Himalayas and the potential contribution of black carbon to warming and ice loss. The protection of the Himalayas, therefore, cannot be treated merely as the responsibility of forest or disaster-management departments. Energy, roads, tourism, industry, hydropower, urban development and environmental policies must all place Himalayan risk at their centre.

The Himalayan crisis is also larger than national boundaries. India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Pakistan

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

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

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

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



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

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-

for the nature, presentation, and potential impact of that content.

Media independence is essential, advertising is crucial, and financial sustainability is crucial for institutions. But above all, reader trust is crucial. If that trust is eroded, the greatest loss is not to a single advertisement, but to the credibility of journalism as a whole.

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

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 names five for Bihar MLC polls

PATNA

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

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 defi 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.

— Basavraj Patil

His remarks come as Marathwada, one of Maha rashtra'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	RIVAL GROUP NAME
Mamata All India Trinamool Congress	Democratic Trinamool Congress (led by Arup Roy)
MAMATA FACTION SYMBOL	RIVAL GROUP SYMBOL
Football Player	Envelope
SCOPE OF ORDER	SUPREME COURT DEADLINE
Interim arrangement for the October 6 bypolls	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, Sribhum, 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

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.

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.

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.

Starbucks faces US call over Xinjiang stores

WASHINGTON

A US lawmaker has called on Starbucks to close its newly opened stores in China's Xinjiang region, citing concerns



over reported repression of Uyghurs.

Starbucks opened its first two outlets this week in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi, including one at the city's Grand Bazaar and another at the international airport.

John Moolenaar, chairman of the House of Representatives' Select Committee on China, urged the company to

"immediately reverse course and close its stores". He criticised Starbucks' decision to operate in the region, citing allegations of rights abuses against Uyghurs.

"There is no justifiable reason for an American company to do business in a region where the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) has detained more than a million Uyghurs and is stripping them of their faith, language, and culture," he said.

China denies widespread accusations of abuses against Uyghurs, a mainly Muslim ethnic group, saying its policies in Xinjiang are aimed at combating terrorism, separatism and religious extremism.

Starbucks has not indicated plans to close the new outlets.

Brazil's ethanol industry eyes new growth in aviation, shipping

Corn's share of Brazil's ethanol

LAST YEAR
About 25%
of total ethanol output

THIS YEAR
Nearly 30%
Amorim's estimate

SÃO PAULO

Brazil's ethanol industry is expanding beyond conventional road transport, with



new applications in agriculture, aviation and maritime transport expected to drive demand for the biofuel, according to Henrique Berberet de Amorim Neto, president of the Local Productive Arrangement for Alcohol (APLA).

Speaking at the Global Agribusiness Forum in São Paulo, Amorim said ethanol-powered agricultural machinery could become an important source of future demand. Manufacturers are de-

veloping tractors and sugarcane harvesters that run on ethanol, while other technologies are exploring flex-fuel systems that can incorporate ethanol into diesel engines.

Brazil has a long history with ethanol-based transport, dating back to the launch of the Proálcool programme in 1975. The country is now exploring applications for ethanol in aviation and maritime transport, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel and marine bunker fuel.

Amorim said APLA, in partnership with ApexBrasil, is working to promote Brazilian sugar, ethanol and energy technologies in international markets.

Corn-based ethanol is emerging as a major driver of this expansion. Amorim said corn ethanol could account for nearly 30 per cent of Brazil's total ethanol production this year, up from about 25 per cent last year.

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



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

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,

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 Bhoghe 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.