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K'TAKA CM SEEKS ₹3,705 CR DROUGHT AID FROM CENTRE

...AS 217 OF 240 TALUKS IN STATE REEL UNDER DRY SPELL

Shivakumar made the demand to a visiting central drought assessment team led by Union Agriculture Ministry Joint Secretary Ajit Kumar Sahu.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday sought Rs 3,705.30 crore in drought relief from the Centre under NDRF norms, saying the difficult situation had caused distress among farmers and the general public.

Shivakumar made the demand during a meeting here with the Central Inter-Ministerial Drought Assessment Team, headed by Ajit Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary in the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry.

The team is visiting the state for a three-day assessment of the drought situation.

"Karnataka is facing a severe drought situation, and farmers and the general public are facing great hardship. Provide Rs 3,705.30 crore in drought relief to the state as per National Disaster Response Force norms," Shivakumar urged the team, according to a press release.

He said 217 of Karnataka's 240 taluks had been declared drought-hit following a scientific assessment carried out in accordance with the Centre's disaster management guidelines. "If farmers are pushed into distress, the entire system



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar submits a memorandum seeking drought relief to Joint Secretary of Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ajeet Kumar Sahu in Bengaluru on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara looks on.

CM's key demands

- ₹3,705.30 crore total relief.
- ₹1,852 crore interim advance.
- Funding under NDRF guidelines.

Ground situation

- 217 of 240 taluks affected.
- Severe water shortages in cities.
- Farmers facing extreme distress.

Central assessment in K'taka

- Central team led by Ajit Kumar Sahu.
- Three-day ground visit planned.
- Report submission after data collection.

comes to a standstill. Therefore, the Central government must come forward to support the farmers of Karnataka."

Shivakumar said he and Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara had not witnessed such hardship among people in their four decades of public life. "We have never seen people suffer to this extent. This is an extremely distressing situation. A special

session was convened to understand the problems faced by people's representatives and farmers, and 150 MLAs raised issues concerning their respective constituencies," he said.

He said water inflows into reservoirs across the state, except those in the Krishna basin, were low, while the Malnad and coastal regions were also facing a severe rainfall deficit.

"Despite this, the Cauvery Water Management Authority is directing the release of water into the Cauvery River. Urban areas are also facing water shortages. The state government has announced Rs 2,500 in relief for farmers, but we are expecting greater assistance from the Centre," he said.

The CM said state ministers had visited districts to assess the ground situation, while officials had taken precautionary and relief measures. Farmers had also been given guidance on sowing, he added.

"Farmers are facing severe hardship. Sugarcane growers are demanding higher prices, while milk producers are seeking an increase of at least Rs 10 in the price of milk. In this challenging situation, let the Centre and the state government work together," he said.

Responding to Shivakumar's appeal, Sahu assured that the team would tour the state for three days, assess the situation on the ground and collect data from state government officials before submitting an objective report.

DyCM G Parameshwara, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and other senior officials attended the meeting, as per the release.

'PROBLEM IS YOURS, SOLUTION IS OURS'

Praja Seva gets legal aid centre to help people resolve court cases

MYSURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said a dedicated legal aid centre has been opened under the Praja Seva campaign to offer free services for court-related issues.

Speaking after inaugurating the 'Prajaseve' campaign "Government at Your Doorstep - Cooperate for Service", organised by the Public Service Department, in Piriyaapatna here, Shivakumar said the entire government stands before you to listen to your grievances and provide solutions through the 'Prajaseve' (Public Service) Department.

"I have launched this new department, drawing upon my 40 years of political experience, to serve the people and respond to their issues. Since becoming an MLA, I have visited every village annually and gained firsthand experience. This department has been established so that the government—including ministers, local MLAs, and officials—can reach the people's doorsteps to resolve their problems, give voice to their aspirations, and ensure justice," the CM said.

'Prajaseve' campaign in 620 locations

He further said the department was launched on September 5 and the 'Prajaseve' campaign has already been organised in 620 locations.

"Over one lakh applications



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar receiving grievances from the public at a 'Prajaseve' campaign in Piriyaapatna of Mysuru on Saturday.

Highlights of the initiative

Free legal assistance: Poor and vulnerable citizens facing legal disputes at the Tahsildar, Assistant Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner levels can access pro bono legal counsel through appointed advocates.

On-ground guidance: Legal aid representatives will actively sit alongside state government officials during decentralized grassroots camps to guide citizens through complex legal-revenue issues.

Strict application accountability: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar emphasized that he will personally monitor the grievance resolution dashboard. If a citizen's application is rejected or delayed, departments must submit a clear, formal explanation.

Broader departmental framework: The campaign operates under Karnataka's newly formed Praja Seva Department, which launched on September 5 and has processed over one lakh civic and revenue applications.

have been submitted, with the highest volume concerning the Revenue, Rural Development, and Urban Development departments. A legal aid unit—staffed by professionals who typically provide legal assistance in courts—has been set up as a dedicated center within this program to offer free help to people facing legal issues. Representatives from this unit sit alongside officials during the public ser-

vice sessions. Our government is undertaking an initiative that no other state in the country has implemented," he said.

He said as a public servant, the entire government stands before you to listen to and resolve grievances, spanning sectors like roads, land records (Podi), pensions, drinking water, electricity, forestry, health, police, labor, agriculture, and horticulture, in the presence of officials.

'All elections illegal': Kharge seeks fresh ballot-paper polls

KALABURAGI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called for the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and all state Assemblies, alleging that "all the elections were illegal", and demanding fresh polls by ballot paper.



tion Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging irregularities in the exercise and claiming that electronic voting machines were being misused. He said the Opposition would continue its protests against what he described as the misuse of the electoral process.

Referring to the SIR, Kharge questioned how an election could be "free and fair" if, as he alleged, 500 voters' names were removed from a polling booth. He also accused BJP and RSS workers of visiting wards, panchayats and villages to seek deletion of voters' names and fill out forms for the purpose.

🔴 More on page 5

Catholic pilgrims among 17 killed in Kenya highway crash

NAIROBI

A crash involving multiple vehicles on the highway to the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa on Saturday killed 17 people, most of them pilgrims on the way to a prayer site.

The crash in the Salama area happened after midnight when a truck driver tried and failed to overtake another truck, police said. That caused a collision with vehicles including a van carrying pilgrims, police said. The van's driver and 16 passengers, most of them women, died at the scene, police said.

The pilgrims were going to a prayer site in Nakuru County, west of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, said Martin Kivuva, archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa.

President William Ruto offered condolences to the families who lost their loved ones.

4 women killed in Ananthagiri bus tragedy

Hyderabad: Four women died and seven others were seriously injured when a trip to attend a funeral turned tragic for a group of villagers from Sangareddy after their private travel bus met with an accident on Ananthagiri Ghat Road in Vikarabad district on Saturday. The bus, carrying around 54 passengers from Kesaram village in Patancheru, was on its way to Chintakunta village in Dharur mandal, where the passengers were scheduled to attend a funeral. The accident occurred as the vehicle was negotiating the downhill stretch of the Ananthagiri Hills.

'Ukraine ready to consider India's ceasefire proposal'

KYIV

Ukraine has described India's proposal for a possible ceasefire with Russia as the "broadest" among four offers received by Kyiv, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha saying it is ready to consider a truce covering energy infrastructure and the Black Sea.

"We have four proposals. The broadest one is India's proposal. We are ready for an energy and Black Sea ceasefire, but only in this combination," Sybiha told reporters in Kyiv.

The Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fifth year, has killed thousands of civilians, displaced millions and caused widespread destruction of homes and critical infrastructure. The comments came a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "very good ideas" for finding a mutually acceptable settlement to the Ukraine conflict.

Sybiha said the proposals for a possible ceasefire had come from India, Türkiye, Egypt and the US. Kyiv was ready to consider different formats for a truce, but any agreement should cover not only combat operations but also attacks on energy and port infra and the situation in the Black Sea.

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TMC loses chairpersonship of 2 key Parliamentary panels

NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress has lost the chairpersonship of two key Parliamentary panels as Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday reconstituted various department-related Parliamentary standing committees.

While BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi has been appointed the new chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce, replacing TMC's Dola Sen, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, leader of TMC's rebel faction, has replaced her former party colleague Kirti Azad as the chairperson of the panel on chemicals and fertilisers.

DMK MPs Tiruchi Siva and K Kanimozhi have been re-appointed chairpersons of the Parliamentary committee on industry, and the panel on food, consumer affairs and public distribution, respectively.

The leaders of some key BJP allies — JD-U, Shiv Sena and the TDP — have also been retained as heads of different Parliamentary committees.

ASIAN GAMES 2026

Mysuru's Pranavi Urs scripts history on golf course

...by winning India's first-ever gold medal in women's individual golf event at Asian Games and first golfing gold since 2002 men's individual top honour bagged by Shiv Kapur.

NEW DELHI

Mysuru's Pranavi Urs created history on Saturday by becoming the first Indian woman golfer to win a gold medal in the Asian Games, holding on to a slender one stroke lead in the final round to achieve the historic feat that also helped the country claim the team silver.

The 23-year-old sent in three birdies at the Kasugai Country Club golf course in Aichi (Japan) to recover from a horrendous triple bogey on the third hole, which had wiped away her three-stroke overnight lead. With a final round score of even-par 70, she ended with a total of 15-under 265 for four days, a stroke ahead

of the pack. Her performance also proved crucial to India's team silver, with Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar joining her in the women's team event. Aditi shot 67 in the final round, while Diksha carded 77. The two best scores from the three-member team count towards the team medal, with India finishing at 14-under 546. China won gold with a total of 22-under 538.

Pranavi's individual gold was India's first in Asian Games golf since Shiv Kapur won the men's individual title in 2002. She was doused in water in celebration by her compatriots Aditi and Diksha after completing her final round.

Yin, Ruoning -- the former world No.1 from China, claimed the silver medal and Singapore's Shannon Tan who carded a 68 and had a bogey five at the first play-off hole and had to settle for bronze.

Recalling those final moments on the 18th green, she said, "I honestly didn't know I won until Shannon said, 'Well done'."

The first will always be the first, and I've always had that motto growing up and I'm just glad I could do it. So yeah, like I said, IGPL was good, but this gold beats it.

Pranavi Urs, Indian golfer

MOMENTOUS MILESTONE

Event	Asian Games 2026
Venue	Kasugai Country Club (East Course), Japan.
Athlete	Pranavi Sharath Urs (23) from Mysuru, Karnataka.
Winning score	15-under 265
Historic gold	Pranavi Urs becomes the first Indian woman golfer to win an individual gold medal at the Asian Games.
Resilient finish	Despite an early triple bogey on the third hole, she carded an even-par 70 in the final round at the Kasugai Country Club East Course to win by one stroke.
Team silver	Her performance helped propel India to a silver medal in the women's team event alongside teammates Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar.
Breaking the drought	India's first golf gold medal at the Asian Games since Shiv Kapur's men's individual victory in 2002.

WHO IS PRANAVI URS?

Born on April 15, 2003, in Mysuru, Karnataka, Pranavi started playing golf at six, inspired by her father and brother. She rose through the ranks of the junior and amateur circuits, notably winning the 2018 Singha World Junior Championship in Thailand and the All India Junior Girls Championship, before turning professional in 2020. Representing India at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, she narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing fourth in the women's team event. Since then, Pranavi has established herself on the international circuit, competing in events like the Ladies European Tour (LET) and finishing third at the 2024 Andalucia Costa del Sol Open de Espana. Now a prominent IGPL star, her groundbreaking achievement came at the 2025 IGPL Invitational Mumbai, where she became the first Indian woman to win a professional open-field tournament against male golfers. IGPL is also NDTV's partner for the Golf Pro-AM—a tournament in which Pranavi's fiancé, Karandeep, is an active participant. Pranavi was conferred the prestigious Arjuna Award by the Government of India in 2023 and was included in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core Group in January 2022 for customised support towards her Olympic preparation. With her historic win in Aichi-Nagoya, she has now achieved what no Indian woman golfer before her could, cementing her status as a true legend of the sport.

Quick Read

Bengaluru police detain 19 over violent clashes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local law enforcement has arrested 19 individuals in connection with two separate violent incidents involving construction workers and local gang violence across the city.

Banashankari police detained 8 laborers following a drunken brawl between workers from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal that injured 4 people. Meanwhile, Subramanyapura police arrested an 11-member gang, including a woman, for terrorizing residents and attacking 4 victims with machetes during the Ganesha festival.

Authorities have initiated rowdy-sheet proceedings against the prime suspect while interrogating all suspects in custody.

LPG leak triggers Nayandahalli house fire

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

6 members of a single family, including four children, sustained serious burn injuries following a cooking gas cylinder explosion in Nayandahalli.

The tragic incident occurred during morning cooking when an LPG leak triggered a sudden fire at a rented house in Vinayaka Layout. Daily wage laborer Karilingappa, his wife Lakshmamma, and their four young children were rushed to Victoria Hospital by alarmed neighbors. Medical staff reported that the mother and one child are in critical condition. Local police from the Chandra Layout station have inspected the blast site and launched a formal inquiry.

Police detain accomplices in student murder

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local police have arrested four individuals, including 3 minors, for the fatal stabbing of 19-year-old B. Com student Yogesh in Nagarbhavi. Investigators revealed that the brutal attack stemmed from a trivial dispute over a female senior student at their college. Prime accused Bhuvan allegedly summoned Yogesh behind the campus over derogatory remarks before stabbing him in the chest. The victim succumbed to his injuries while being rushed to a hospital.

Annapoorneshwari Nagar police have launched an intensive manhunt to capture Bhuvan, who remains at large following the tragic incident.

NIMHANS invites applications for engineering posts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has invited applications for four engineering posts on deputation for three to five years: two Assistant Engineer (Civil) posts and one Assistant Engineer (Electrical) post at Level-07 (Rs. 44,900 to Rs. 1,42,400), and one Junior Engineer (Civil) post at Level-06 (Rs. 35,400 to Rs. 1,12,400).

Assistant Engineer candidates must serve in equivalent cadres in the CPWD or a State PWD.

Applications, routed through the Cadre Controlling Authority, must reach The Director, NIMHANS, P.B. No. 2900, Hosur Road, Bengaluru – 560029, on or before October 25, 2026.

Details and application formats are on <https://nimhans.ac.in>.

‘Pension deductions illegal, BESCOM to refund ₹2.8 lakh’

Karnataka High Court ruled that public utilities cannot recover excess salary payments from retired employees’ pensions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has declared it illegal for public utilities to deduct or recover money from an employee’s pension and retirement benefits on the grounds of erroneous excess salary payments made during their service. Justice M. Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single-judge bench, directed the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) to refund a withheld sum of Rs. 2,81,887, with 6% annual interest, to a retired Junior Engineer within eight weeks.

The petition was filed by Manjunath, a resident of Doddamavalli, Basavanagudi, who dedicated decades of service to BESCOM. He joined as an Assistant Lineman on November 1, 1987, became a Lineman in 1991 and retired as a Junior Engineer (Electrical) attached to the Rajajinagar C-1 subdivision.

However, as he reached the threshold of superannuation,



THE VERDICT

BESCOM to refund ₹2,81,887 to a retired Junior Engineer, with 6% annual interest, within eight weeks

- No recovery from Group C and D employees, retired personnel or those with less than a year of service left, or of payments made more than five years earlier
- Unless the employee was at fault: BESCOM showed no fraud or misrepresentation by Manjunath

the Executive Engineer of BESCOM’s Malleshwaram Division issued an order on January 21, 2022, claiming that an inadvertent overpayment—stemming from a salary revision or increment calculation error—had occurred approximately 15 years prior. The utility withheld Rs. 2,81,887 directly from his retirement and pension benefits.

Manjunath’s counsel argued that the alleged overpayment was never the result of any fraud, misrepresentation or

deceit by the employee, and that recovering funds from retiring personnel over historical clerical errors by management contradicts binding Supreme Court directives.

Handing down the judgment, Justice Nagaprasanna reiterated settled legal principles established by the apex court, noting that no monetary recovery is permissible from Group C and D employees, retired personnel, those with less than a year of service remaining, or in cases where payments were made more

Manjunath’s case

- **NOV 1, 1987**
Joins BESCOM as an Assistant Lineman
- **1991**
Becomes a Lineman
- **JAN 21, 2022**
Near superannuation, an order claims a 15-year-old overpayment
- **RETIREMENT**
₹2,81,887 withheld from his pension and benefits

than five years prior, provided the employee bore no fault or fraudulent intent.

The bench observed that recovering such excess payments—caused by administrative misinterpretation or calculation mistakes rather than employee misconduct—at the juncture of retirement inflicts severe financial injustice and psychological hardship. Because BESCOM presented no evidence of fraud or misrepresentation by Manjunath, the court struck down the recovery as legally invalid.

EC clarifies 84,900 Form-7 applications filed statewide

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka has released district-wise statistics on Form-7 applications. The disclosure follows a political standoff on Thursday, when Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and senior cabinet ministers staged a sit-in protest outside the CEO’s office in Bengaluru, alleging a systematic conspiracy by opposition parties to disenfranchise millions of legitimate voters.

The controversy centers on Form-7, the instrument used under electoral rules to object to the inclusion of names or to seek the deletion of entries from voter lists due to death, relocation or disqualification. Election authorities have answered the government’s claims of mass, arbitrary deletions with official data.

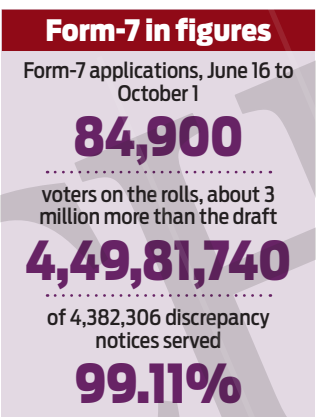
The flashpoint came when Shivakumar convened an emergency press conference, backed by civil society figures including actor-activist Prakash Raj, to expose what he termed an organized disen-

franchisement plot. He alleged that opposition workers from the BJP and JD(S) tried to purge between 5,000 and 10,000 eligible votes in targeted constituencies, citing spikes in applications in



Babaleshwar, Bijapur and Bhalki.

“We have identified that official opposition workers have submitted hundreds of such Form-7 applications in their own names. In some instances, workers have admitted to their wrongdoing,” Shivakumar asserted during the demonstration. He claimed that pre-printed application bundles were being used to target voters, and the cabinet delegation demanded a high-level judicial and admin-



istrative inquiry. The protest was suspended only after the election machinery committed to a formal review of the processing of objections.

Rebutting claims of a statewide manipulation campaign, the CEO’s office published data showing that a total of 84,900 Form-7 applications were submitted across all districts between June 16 and October 1, 2026.

Election officials noted that submissions in most districts remain well within normal administrative parameters, in stark contrast to allegations of widespread purges.

NICE LAND GRAB ALLEGATIONS

HDK alleges conspiracy in NICE project, targets CM over land deal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Escalating the battle over the long-standing Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) project, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alleging that he has colluded with a Telangana-based real estate businessman, Mahesh Reddy, to orchestrate a massive land grab involving thousands of acres acquired for the expressway.

Addressing land-affected farmers and the media on a day-long tour of the city’s periphery, from Madavara to Electronic City, Kumaraswamy covered affected villages including Thotadaguddahalli, Ancephalya, K.G. Srikanthapura, Gollarahatti and B.M. Kaval, and vowed that his struggle to return the land to its original owners would not relent.

Kumaraswamy claimed that a real estate syndicate is exploiting lands earmarked for the NICE corridor and that a red carpet has been rolled out for external commercial interests. He pointed to a new venture dubbed ‘Divinity’, warning that plans are afoot to



target over 1.75 lakh acres between Bengaluru and Mysuru under the guise of infrastructure development.

“I want to tell this person: your cup of sin is full. Go ahead and try to grab those 10,000 acres. Do things honestly—earn through legitimate means, who is stopping you?” Kumaraswamy remarked, adding that he possesses comprehensive details regarding Mahesh Reddy and would release further document batches when appropriate.

He targeted a 200-to-300-acre parcel of fertile agricultural land in the B.M. Kaval area, alleging that the Chief Minister personally acquired land within the NICE project

scope. Denying counter-allegations that he holds property in the corridor, he issued a challenge: “I purchased 44 acres of land in Bidadi before entering politics. I challenge anyone to prove that I have purchased land anywhere in that area; if proven, I will publicly hang myself.”

Kumaraswamy also demanded the immediate arrest of NICE contractor Ashok Kheny, accusing him of disrespecting revered spiritual figures and misusing resources belonging to the Siddaganga Mutt, and alleged that the state government has been shielding figures involved in breach of public trust.

Following strong observations by the Karnataka High

“An expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru already exists; why is another road needed? They have identified vast tracts of land with the intention of looting it. I will not allow this land grab to happen at any cost.”

— H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

Court, an appeal filed by the company is slated for a crucial hearing in the Supreme Court on October 5, 2026. Kumaraswamy said a massive, peaceful grassroots movement would be formulated after the apex court’s proceedings.

He said intermediaries had approached him with financial inducements to drop his opposition to the project. “They told me, ‘Elections are coming up in a year and a half; please drop this fight here. We will provide whatever you need.’ I berated such people right at my doorstep and sent them away,” he stated, assuring displaced landowners that he would stand by them until justice is delivered.

HC bars banks from criminal cases for loan recovery

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has held that banks and financial institutions cannot weaponize criminal proceedings as a coercive tool to recover outstanding loans. Justice Suraj Govindaraj’s single-judge bench made the observation while quashing a criminal case lodged by a nationalized bank against a homebuyer defrauded by a real estate developer.

The case arose from a petition by Pritesh Bari, a Bengaluru resident who had secured a home loan of Rs. 39.92 lakh from the bank under a tripartite agreement with a builder. The builder failed to deliver the apartment, did not execute the sale deed and sold the property to a third party without the bank’s authorization.

When loan repayments stalled due to the aborted project, the bank registered a criminal case against Bari at the Shankarapuram police station, alleging criminal breach of trust and fraud.

Setting aside the proceedings, Justice Govindaraj observed that prosecuting a bor-

Karnataka High Court ruled that banks cannot weaponize criminal legal proceedings to coerce loan recoveries from homebuyers victimized by fraudulent real estate developers.

rower simply because a loan is outstanding—particularly when the applicant was defrauded and never received the promised property—is wholly unjustified. If a project is cancelled or a builder defaults, the bench said, the obligation to refund the disbursed capital to the bank lies with the developer, not the victimized homebuyer.

The court criticized the bank’s conduct as reprehensible for misusing the state’s criminal justice machinery to extract loan settlements from a failed business transaction devoid of any prima facie criminal intent or fraud by the borrower. The ruling reaffirms that loan defaults are civil disputes for recovery tribunals and civil courts, not police complaints against distressed consumers.

K’taka asks CWMA to cut water release

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid plunging storage levels across key river basin reservoirs and widespread agricultural distress, the Karnataka government has formally petitioned the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to slash the mandated daily water release to neighboring Tamil Nadu from 4,000 cusecs down to 2,000 cusecs. The emergency appeal underscores a mounting water crisis in the state, driven by a severe failure of monsoon inflows and the formal classification of 47 taluks within the Cauvery basin as severely drought-hit.

State water resources authorities highlighted that aggregate live storage across the four primary reservoirs in the Cauvery basin—including the Krishnarajasagara (KRS) and Kabini dams—currently hovers at a critically depleted 49 TMC. Administrators emphasized that conserving this remaining volume is an absolute prerequisite to secure essential drinking water supplies for millions of urban and

Release to Tamil Nadu



rural residents across Bengaluru and surrounding districts through June 2027.

The memorandum submitted to the authority details the grim reality on the ground. Cumulative flow recorded at the Biligundlu measuring station has reached 44.21 TMC, yet compounding meteorological deficits have left local storage systems severely constrained. With nearly 47 basin taluks reeling under acute drought, state officials argued that maintaining outward flows at 4,000 cusecs is unviable without jeopardizing public health and livestock.

Furthermore, Karnataka’s submission points to regional weather patterns, noting that Tamil Nadu anticipates robust precipitation from the impending Northeast Monsoon. State representatives urged the CWMA to factor in these meteorological projections,

allowing Karnataka to preserve its dwindling reserves rather than depleting vital basin storage.

The latest administrative appeal follows an ongoing legal and regulatory tug-of-war. Despite Karnataka’s distress representations, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) previously recommended maintaining the 4,000 cusecs daily release schedule for a 15-day block, a decision criticized by local farming unions as compounding the state’s agricultural wounds.

Concurrently, the inter-state dispute has intensified before the Supreme Court. During recent judicial proceedings, the apex bench directed Karnataka to continue honoring the CWMA’s release directives while granting the state one week to file a formal counter-affidavit addressing Tamil Nadu’s objections. The Supreme Court has adjourned the next substantive hearing to October 12, 2026, leaving state administrators walking a tightrope between judicial compliance and mounting local resistance.

Health Minister inaugurates DFSICON 2026



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a historic step to combat a deeply neglected health crisis, eight major medical organizations from four continents signed a joint declaration in Bengaluru. Gathered at DFSICON 2026, the 23rd Annual Conference of the Diabetic Foot Society of India (DFSI), the global bodies announced their intent to form a unified Global Alliance for Diabetic Foot Survival and Limb Preservation.

The signatories—representing institutions like King’s College Hospital London, D-Foot International, and the American Limb Preservation Society—committed to a shared agenda focused on prevention, early screening, timely referrals, and multidisciplinary care. With India home to over 100 million people with diabetes, experts stressed that diabetic foot complications remain a leading, yet preventable, cause of disability and amputation. Inaugurating the four-day conference at Hil-

ton Garden Inn, Karnataka Health Minister U.T. Khader praised the state’s ongoing grassroots screening efforts. “No one in our state should lose a limb to a complication that could have been prevented. We will keep working with doctors and professional bodies until that becomes the norm,” Khader stated.

The conference also saw the launch of two groundbreaking artificial intelligence tools designed to bridge medical gaps: StrideGPT, an AI assistant answering foot-care queries for patients and doctors, and Wound360, a mobile application that assesses wound healing from photographs. Additionally, experts released a new book titled A Step Ahead and honored teams driving the nationwide PRAIAS foot-screening initiative. Hosting around 700 delegates and 120 global faculty members, DFSICON 2026 aims to leverage cross-border collaboration and advanced technology to ensure that limb preservation becomes an international healthcare priority.

CH Observer

chstatenews@gmail.com

From overflowing garbage black spots returning right outside a Seshadripuram voting center and residential cross roads, to chaotic double-parked queues choking traffic at the local CNG station, and a foul-smelling waste mound plaguing Padmanabha Nagar near NU Hospital, Bengaluru residents are facing a relentless civic breakdown. Despite empty promises of cleanups and uncollected waste left behind by indifferent sanitation crews, citizens are being forced to live amid mounting filth and gridlock. Frustrated neighborhoods are now demanding permanent, accountable solutions to reclaim their streets from chronic neglect and failing municipal oversight.

+91 80730 57594



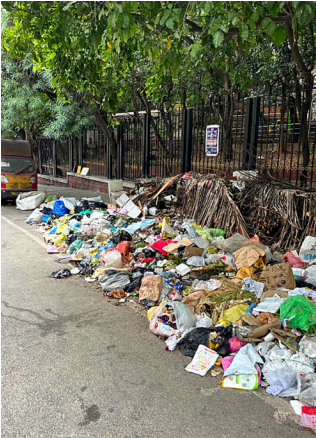
Garbage dumped beside the Government Model Primary and High School in Seshadripuram—which also serves as a voting center—has created a persistent blackspot right in front of Shalimar Residency Apartments. Residents are demanding a permanent fix to protect children and the neighborhood from this disgusting health hazard. GBA later informed that this place has been cleaned up, but residents are shocked to see garbage again.



Daily queues at the GAIL CNG station on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road create severe traffic bottlenecks. Vehicles form unauthorized double lines, completely choking the narrow, single-side parking corridor and causing constant daily misery for commuters.



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



Residents of Padmanabha Nagar have urged authorities to clear a persistent garbage spot on CJ Venkatesh Das Road near NU Hospital and the garbage spot sits right on the wall of a local park. Located in a residential area, the unhygienic dumping site has overwhelmed the neighborhood with a foul stench, prompting calls for immediate cleanup.

BSCC hosts Swachhata walkathon, honors 100 Pourakarmikas

Bengaluru South City Corporation hosted a Gandhi Jayanti walkathon, plogging drive, and honored one hundred sanitation workers.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Marking the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, the Bengaluru South City Corporation, in active partnership with local educational institutions and civil society organizations, hosted a sweeping Swachhata Walkathon and public awareness campaign centered at Shalini Ground in Jayanagar under the guiding motto, “Cleanliness is our pride, our responsibility.”

The civic event drew strong participation from students, youth volunteers, and corporation officials who took to the streets for a community plogging drive—collecting roadside litter while walking to underscore the urgency of environmental conservation and waste management.

Addressing the gathering, Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh emphasized that



sustainable urban sanitation requires deep-rooted behavioral change rather than symbolic one-day observances.

“Public participation and civic sense are essential to building a greener and healthier Bengaluru. It is everyone’s responsibility to segregate wet and dry waste at the source, create a single-use plastic-free environment, and maintain cleanliness in public spaces. Cleanliness awareness should not be limited to just one day, but must become a way of life

in every citizen’s daily routine,” Commissioner Ramesh stated.

A poignant highlight of the celebrations was the formal felicitation of front-line sanitation workers who labor tirelessly to maintain urban hygiene. A total of 100 sanitation personnel—comprising waste collection auto drivers, helpers, and Pourakarmikas—were honored with certificates of appreciation and commemorative flasks. The awardees included 40 personnel from Jayanagar, 40 from Bengaluru South, and 20 from the Padmanabhanagar division under Zone-1.

Complementing the main event in Jayanagar, specialized anti-single-use plastic campaigns were rolled out across

the BTM Layout constituency. Partnering with prominent NGOs such as ‘Saahas’ and ‘Let’s Be The Change’, civic teams spearheaded awareness rallies through Adugodi and Rajendra Nagar. The outreach focused heavily on educating local market vendors and residents regarding strict bans on single-use plastics, decentralized solid waste management, and mandatory wet-and-dry waste segregation.

The day’s events were supervised by senior civic administrators, including Joint Commissioner Dr. N.N. Madhu, Chief Engineer Basavaraj Kabade, and DGM Manuja, reinforcing the corporation’s ongoing commitment to cleaner municipal infrastructure.

B’luru Jatre announced: A 10-day cultural festival for December 2026

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Moving beyond conventional festival grounds and single stages, the Government of Karnataka has officially announced ‘Bengaluru Jatre’—a massive, 10-day decentralised cultural festival scheduled to run from December 4 to 13, 2026. Spearheaded by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda under the leadership of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the initiative aims to transform the entire metropolis into a living stage celebrating



art, music, literature, heritage, and community diversity.

Unveiling the grand framework during a high-level administrative meeting attended by senior officials including

Karnataka announced ‘Bengaluru Jatre,’ a ten-day decentralized cultural festival transforming the metropolis into a living community stage in December.

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao and BMRC Managing Director Dr. P.C. Jaffer, Minister Gowda emphasized that while infrastructure development remains a daily administrative priority, the government is equally committed to enriching urban life and preserving traditional cultural roots.

Rooted in the philosophy of Karnataka’s traditional community festivals (Ooru Habba or Jatre), the ten-day celebration is built around the central theme: “Many People. Multiple Cultures. One City.” Rather than confining festivities to a centralized venue, Bengaluru Jatre will utilize streets, public parks, Metro concourses, museum galleries, school and college cam-

pus, libraries, and corporate spaces as decentralized micro-venues.

The concept follows the successful blueprint of ‘Freedom Habba’ held around Vidhana Soudha on Independence Day, scaling the people-owned celebration model from a single landmark precinct to thousands of neighborhoods across the city’s urban expanse.

Organizers noted that Bengaluru’s exponential economic and technological growth must be balanced with cultural vitality, public wellbeing, and community connection. The Jatre provides a collaborative platform for artists, students, and citizens to co-create events—ranging from neighborhood food festivals and heritage walks to contemporary theatre and classical music recitals. A central web portal and unified social media platform will soon be launched to host the festival calendar, enabling neighborhoods, cultural groups, and citizens to register their independent events and join the citywide celebration.

UNCHECKED COMMERCIAL CREEP THREATENS

Commercial infiltration chokes residential neighborhoods

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Across Bengaluru’s rapidly expanding urban landscape, historic and quiet residential enclaves are facing an escalating crisis. Unchecked commercialization has steadily breached the boundaries of areas strictly demarcated for residential use under municipal planning frameworks, transforming peaceful neighborhoods into congested commercial hubs and leaving local residents grappling with severe environmental, logistical, and safety hazards.

A prime illustration of this systemic encroachment is Wellington Street, situated in the heart of Richmond Town. Under the city’s Revised Master Plan 2015 (RMP 2015), the thoroughfare is officially notified as a purely residential zone. However, the ground reality starkly contradicts municipal zoning laws. What began decades ago with a small neighborhood bakery and a modest beauty parlor has metastasized into a dense cluster of commercial operations, including full-scale restaurants, supermarkets, and specialty retail stores.

The physical architecture of Bengaluru’s older residential areas was never designed to absorb commercial foot traffic or high-density vehicular parking. Measuring a mere 15

to 18 feet in width, narrow roads like Wellington Street are routinely choked by delivery vans, patron automobiles, and overflow parking from commercial establishments.

Residents report that getting vehicles in and out of their own drivehouses has become a daily battle. Portions of the narrow asphalt are commandeered for parking, creating severe bottlenecks that pose a direct threat during medical emergencies when ambulances or fire tenders struggle to navigate the obstructed lanes.

For long-term residents, the shift extends far beyond mere traffic inconvenience, touching upon fundamental questions of public health, personal security, and civic governance. Toby Simon, a resident of Wellington Street who has waged a persistent admin-



istrative battle across multiple levels of government, highlights the profound toll exacted by unchecked commercial creep.

“There is a security risk. There are hygiene issues. And on top of that, the restaurant is allowed to remain open until 2 am. What kind of a regulatory system do we have? We have complained repeatedly, but nothing changes,” Simon notes, capturing the widespread frustration of urban homeowners facing institutional inertia.

Late-night noise pollution, improper waste disposal from commercial kitchens, rodent infestations, and an unceasing

influx of unfamiliar visitors at all hours have severely eroded the quality of domestic life. Residents argue that municipal authorities and town planning bodies are turning a blind eye to blatant zoning violations, allowing commercial interests to override residential rights.

The situation on Wellington Street is symptomatic of a citywide phenomenon affecting areas from Koramangala and Indiranagar to Jayanagar and Richmond Town. As commercial rentals soar along main commercial corridors, businesses increasingly target inner residential lanes to bypass costs and capture foot traffic, exploiting loopholes in enforcement.

Urban planners and civic activists warn that unless the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and town planning authorities strictly enforce master plan zoning laws, penalize illegal commercial conversions, and protect residential sanctity, Bengaluru’s historic neighborhoods risk losing their livability entirely, suffocating under the weight of unregulated commercial expansion.

What’s allowed in Bengaluru’s residential zones?

Standalone commercial activity is not permitted in residential main and residential mixed-use zones in Ring I, Ring II and Ring III where the road is less than 40 ft wide. However, specified ancillary uses can be permitted subject to road width, plot size and built-up-area limits.

PERMITTED ANCILLARY USES Petty shops, newspaper, stationery & milk booths • ATM centres • Hair-dressing & beauty parlours • Professional offices & clinics • Tailoring & dry cleaners • Photo studios • Bakery & sweet shops • Retail & hardware shops • Banks, insurance, consulting offices • Mutton/poultry stalls & cold storages • Job typing/computer training institutes • Cyber cafés & internet browsing centres • Small electronic & automobile repair centres

Ring I & Ring II: ancillary uses permitted up to 20% of built-up area or 50 sq m, whichever is lower. **Condition:** plot must about a road 12 m (about 40 ft) or wider.

GBA crackdown on illegal PGs: Utility disconnections, 15-day notices imminent

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive move to enforce urban safety and compliance, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched a massive enforcement drive against thousands of illegal and unverified paying guest (PG) accommodations operating across the city. Acting in strict compliance with recent judicial directives, civic authorities have initiated proceedings to serve 15-day compliance notices to operators found flouting municipal by-laws, with strict warnings that water and electricity connections will be severed for defaulters.

The crackdown follows a comprehensive citywide survey mandated by the courts, which revealed an alarming regulatory deficit within Bengaluru’s booming co-living and rental sector. Out of an estimated 25,000 PG accommodations operating across urban zones, an astounding 10,000 establishments—representing roughly 40% of the total market—are operating in direct violation of statutory norms, lacking basic trade licenses, approved architectural plans, or mandatory safety clearances.

Senior officials from the GBA, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), and the Bangalore Water

Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) held a high-level coordination meeting to formulate the execution strategy. The investigation exposed widespread non-compliance, with many facilities operating without mandatory fire safety certificates, adequate ventilation, or proper sanitation infrastructure.

The crackdown has drawn a pragmatic response from organized bodies. Representa-

10,000

of an estimated 25,000 PGs, roughly 40%, are operating in violation of statutory norms

tives of the PG Owners Association stated that they fully support punitive measures against rogue operators who compromise tenant safety, noting that legitimate businesses welcome a standardized regulatory framework.

With the 15-day notice period now ticking, defaulting facility owners face imminent utility shut-offs. The GBA is preparing to submit a comprehensive compliance and enforcement status report to the court in the coming days, signaling a zero-tolerance policy toward unregulated commercial operations in residential zones.

Airbnb-style rentals emerge as community flashpoint

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Living in a quiet apartment complex is supposed to bring peace. But for many urban families across India, sharing hallways with strangers has turned daily life upside down. The booming trend of Airbnb-style short-term rentals is sparking intense fights between flat owners and housing societies.

Residents in cities like Noida, Ghaziabad, and Bengaluru

broke out in Ghaziabad, where locals complained about daily guests, missing police checks, and loud parties disturbing senior citizens and children.

Even in Bengaluru, families are fighting back against commercial homestays popping up next door, complaining about pollution and blocked parking spaces.

Property owners argue that they should be free to earn extra cash from houses they own. However, courts are

Housing societies and flat owners across Indian cities are clashing over short-term rentals, citing security risks, noise, parking woes, and the conversion of residential homes into commercial hotels.

are pushing back hard. They are worried about security, constant noise, parking trouble, and people they do not know wandering through their gated communities at odd hours.

Things recently boiled over in Noida. A short-stay operator allegedly drove his car right through a society security gate after guards stopped him. The scary incident was caught on camera. Following this, the local Apartment Owners’ Association warned that any flat listed on online rental apps could face strict legal action. Similar protests

starting to side with community rules. A Mumbai court recently upheld a housing society’s decision to ban short-term rentals, ruling that a revolving door of vacationers turns a private home into a commercial hotel.

Right now, laws remain messy and unclear. State tourism rules, municipal laws, and society bye-laws all clash. While investors want to cash in on travel booms, families just want safe neighborhoods. As this battle grows, communities are drawing a hard line to protect their peace.

Haralur residents protest against worsening civic woes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fed up with agonizing traffic jams, overflowing sewage, and piles of uncleared trash, hundreds of residents in Haralur took to the streets to demand immediate civic action. Marching under the banner of ‘Namma Haralur’, citizens from Kasavanahalli Ward 31 walked alongside Mahadevapura MLA Manjula Limbavali and local officials to spotlight the crumbling state of basic infrastructure in their rapidly growing neighborhood.

For years, families living in the area have battled broken footpaths, unpaved roads, and choked drains. Residents noted that untreated sewage routinely overflows onto streets and flows directly into nearby lakes and water bodies, creating severe health hazards.

Garbage management has also collapsed. Local resident Lalitha Mondreti pointed out that waste collection has

become erratic, leaving trash piled up for days. With proper pickups failing, frustrated locals often resort to dumping and burning garbage, filling the air with toxic smoke.

Pedestrian safety is another major worry. Deep potholes and missing footpaths force children and seniors to walk directly on busy roads alongside heavy traffic. Rupal Ralph, another resident, voiced the collective frustration of the community, stating that taxpayers are being forced to endure polluted air and raw sewage due to official neglect.

During the peaceful protest, residents formally submitted a detailed charter of demands, urging authorities to widen traffic bottlenecks, upgrade roads, ensure daily doorstep garbage pickup, and fast-track underground drainage installations. Following the march, MLA Limbavali assured citizens that immediate steps would be taken to resolve the garbage collection crisis within the next 15 days, while traffic issues would also be reviewed. Residents hope these promises translate into real change on the ground.

Quick Read

Techie missing after swimming during Jigani trek

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 30-year-old software professional, Vinay, went missing after entering a stone quarry filled with water to swim during a holiday trek in Jigani. The resident of Halasuru had joined an eight-member group organized via an Instagram hiking page for an outing. While swimming in the quarry waters, he submerged and failed to resurface. Terrified companions managed to escape and immediately alerted local authorities. Jigani police and emergency fire and rescue teams rushed to the site to launch an intensive search operation, which remains ongoing.

Lecturer spreads Gandhian values across state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Government college lecturer Abida Begum has spent the past decade conducting free workshops across Karnataka to promote Mahatma Gandhi's core principles among students. Inspired by her father, Begum has visited over 400 institutions across 31 districts without charging any fees, combating social media misinformation with historical facts. She also coordinates the annual state-level 'Gandhi Vichar Sanskar' examinations and organizes youth camps focused on leadership, non-violence, and spinning the charkha. Through these initiatives, she aims to instill values of honesty and self-reliance in the younger generation.

Police file FIR over fake jail hunger strike

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local authorities have registered an FIR against 23 social media accounts for spreading false claims that jailed Hindu activist Puneeth Kerehalli was on a hunger strike. Jail officials submitted CCTV footage confirming that Kerehalli has been eating regularly while in custody for an alleged disturbance during an Eid Milad procession. Police are issuing notices to fourteen Instagram and nine Facebook page administrators. Additionally, law enforcement is preparing a fresh case against Kerehalli for violating a ten lakh rupee conditional bond meant to maintain communal harmony.

Chandapura residents stage symbolic garbage cleanup

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Frustrated by months of administrative inaction and hazardous civic infrastructure, residents of Chandapura on the outskirts of Bengaluru staged a unique symbolic protest to demand the urgent repair of severely dilapidated roads within the Marsur Gram Panchayat limits. Armed with brooms and collection bags, local citizens gathered along the pot-hole-ridden thoroughfares to clean up roadside garbage, utilizing the demonstration to spotlight the total neglect of local connectivity. During the protest, residents collected nearly 30 kilograms of accumulated refuse while raising slogans demanding immediate intervention from local authorities and elected representatives. Neighborhood groups noted that despite knocking on official doors for over six months, they have received nothing more than empty assurances.

Kharge urges PM to release ₹3,705 crore

AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release central disaster relief funds for Karnataka's drought.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid mounting agricultural distress and severe meteorological deficits across the state, All India Congress Committee (AICC) President and Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjuna Kharge has formally written to Prime Minister Narendra

“An expeditious response would provide timely sustenance, fodder, water, and livelihood security to millions of our affected citizens. I trust that you will intervene personally to ensure the assistance sought is sanctioned and released without further delay.”

— Mallikarjuna Kharge, AICC President

Modi, pressing for the immediate release of central disaster relief funds. Highlighting a staggering 58% cumulative rainfall deficit recorded by September, the high-level appeal underscores the catastrophic economic fallout confronting farming communities throughout Karnataka's rural belt.

According to comprehensive state agricultural loss assessments, consecutive monsoon failures and prolonged dry spells have triggered massive crop failures across dozens of districts, bringing cumulative estimated losses to Rs. 18,748.23 crore. In response, the Karnataka government has formally sought central financial assistance totaling Rs. 3,705.30 crore under the combined framework of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

In his detailed communication to the Prime Minister, Kharge emphasized that millions of agrarian households are currently trapped in deep financial precarity, struggling to repay agricultural loans or secure basic sustenance for the upcoming rabi sowing season. The senior leader noted that while central inter-ministerial drought study teams have previously toured affected taluks to conduct ground assessments, bureaucratic delays in grant disbursements are compounding the crisis on the ground.

“Karnataka is facing a severe drought situation with a



Mallikarjuna Kharge, AICC President

58 percent rainfall deficit by September, resulting in extensive crop loss and leaving farming families in dire straits,” Kharge stated in the letter. Urging the Union government to evaluate the state's memoranda purely on merit and humanitarian urgency, the AICC chief called upon Prime Minister Modi to personally intervene and expedite the Cabinet Committee on National Security and Disaster Management's approval for immediate fund releases.

The national appeal arrives concurrently with severe regional resource strains across Karnataka. As agricultural pockets grapple with parched topsoil and dried-up irrigation canals, state water administrators have simultaneously locked horns with reg-

ulatory authorities over diminishing storage levels in major river basins—such as the Cauvery system, where live storage across primary reservoirs hovers near 49 TMC.

With dozens of rural taluks officially declared severely drought-hit, state leaders across party lines have intensified pressure on New Delhi to treat agricultural relief as an emergency priority, delinking political considerations from statutory calamity allocations. As families await central intervention, farming associations have warned that without swift financial succor and debt relief, rural distress across Karnataka's dryland farming districts risks reaching an irreversible tipping point.

Train delays affect Bengaluru-Mangaluru rail corridor

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commuters traveling along the critical rail corridor connecting Karnataka's capital with the coastal hub of Mangaluru face temporary travel adjustments as the South Western Railway (SWR) implements essential operational and technical maintenance works. Spanning the weekend of October 3 and October 4, 2026, the scheduled interventions will introduce brief regulatory delays across major express services operating through the Western Ghats terrain.

According to an official press release issued by SWR administrative headquarters, ongoing track maintenance, engineering checks, and operational optimization along the challenging mountain sections necessitate temporary speed restrictions and en route holds. While full cancellations have been averted, passengers utilizing these vital overnight and day-time links must factor the revised timings into their travel itineraries.

Train No. 16539 (Yesvantpur – Mangaluru Junction Express): Passengers boarding this service departing from Yesvantpur Railway Station on Friday, October 3, will experience a scheduled en route delay of 25 minutes as trains are regulated across operational blocks.

Train No. 16540 (Mangaluru Junction – Yesvantpur Express): Return travelers

journeying from the coastal terminal back toward Bengaluru on Saturday, October 4, will encounter a temporary regulation of 20 minutes during their transit.



Railway engineers noted that regulatory holds are vital for executing track renewals, overhead equipment inspections, and safety audits designed to withstand the lingering effects of seasonal weather patterns along the winding ghat sections. Because these mountainous routes operate under strict headway constraints, even minor maintenance windows require calculated train regulation to guarantee absolute passenger safety.

SWR officials have strongly urged commuters, holiday travelers, and commercial freight operators to take note of the revised schedules. Passengers with connecting trains, bus journeys, or professional engagements upon arrival are advised to adjust their travel planning accordingly to accommodate the brief transit buffers. Updated train running status and real-time arrival estimates can be tracked via the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) or through regional railway helpdesks.

BSY slams K'taka Govt over Form-7 FIRs, warns statewide agitation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions in Karnataka escalated sharply as veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched a scathing attack on



the ruling administration, accusing Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of exerting undue political pressure on the state police force. The remarks came in the wake of mounting controversy surrounding the filing of First Information Reports (FIRs) against several BJP workers across multiple districts over alleged irregularities in submitting the Election Commission's Form-7

Deepening row over electoral roll applications

The confrontation follows widespread political friction regarding the mass filing of Form-7 applications for voter deletion. While ruling party leaders have alleged a conspiracy to disenfranchise voters, the opposition maintains that penalizing workers for utilizing standard electoral procedures is an abuse of administrative power.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, Yediyurappa declared that the systematic harassment and police targeting of opposition party workers would no longer be tolerated. He alleged that law and order in the state has deteriorated as local police machinery has allegedly capitulated to executive pressure to register politically motivated cases. “The filing of FIRs must stop here. Otherwise, we will launch a state-wide agitation,” Yediyurappa warned, indicating that the party's central

leadership and cadre are prepared to take their protests to the streets if the administrative crackdown persists.

Earlier in the day, a high-powered delegation of senior Karnataka BJP lead-

Veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa warned of statewide agitations if police action against party workers over Form-7 applications continues.

ers—comprising former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka, State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra, and legisla-

“The harassment of our workers cannot be tolerated. The filing of FIRs must stop here, or we will take to the streets with a powerful statewide agitation.”

B.S. YEDIYURAPPA veteran BJP leader

tive council member Chalavadi Narayanaswamy—formally met with Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) Salim at his headquarters in Bengaluru.

During the closed-door meeting, the opposition leaders submitted a detailed memorandum urging the state police chief to immediately halt the registration of what they termed “false and politically orchestrated” FIRs against party workers. The delegation argued that Form-7 is a legitimate statutory instrument provided under electoral rules to verify electoral rolls, and contesting or filing objections through standard administrative channels cannot automatically be criminalized.

“If the Form-7 applications submitted by our workers are correct, the Election Commission should accept them; if they contain errors, they should be rejected. Why are police cases being slapped on party workers simply to appease the Chief Minister?” Yediyurappa questioned, emphasizing that as a national political entity, the BJP will not remain a silent spectator to the intimidation of its grassroots cadre.

Hoskote emerges as B'luru's new eastern transport hub

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Positioned roughly 30 kilometers on the eastern flank of the tech capital, the satellite town of Hoskote is rapidly transforming into a major multi-modal transport gateway for Bengaluru. Driven by converging regional highway networks, high-speed rail proposals, and an officially green-lit Metro extension, the fast-growing suburb is set to anchor the region's future transit infrastructure.

Current traffic volumes along National Highway 75 (NH-75) have already surpassed 80,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) daily—even before the expressway becomes fully operational. Projections indicate traffic could soar to 1.5 lakh PCUs in coming years as STRR and expressway movements converge.

The transport hub

- **KR Pura–Hoskote Metro extension:** The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) is actively preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a 17-km Metro line connecting KR Pura to Hoskote. Backed by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and local MLA Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, feasibility estimates indicate a strong Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of around 19%. (This supersedes earlier conceptual plans that evaluated a routing from Kadugodi via Whitefield–Hoskote Road).
- **Bengaluru–Chennai expressway:** Regional connectivity has received a major boost with the partial opening of the high-speed expressway, specifically the ~100-km stretch connecting Hoskote to Bairiedipalle in Andhra Pradesh.
- **High speed rail integration:** Plans are underway to establish an integrated station at Hoskote catering to both the proposed Bengaluru–Chennai and Bengaluru–Hyderabad high-speed rail corridors. Additionally, supporting infrastructure including a depot, workshops, and an operations control centre has been proposed at nearby Kodihalli.
- **Satellite town ring road (STRR):** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is already operating an 83-km operational segment connecting Dabaspet to Hoskote via Doddaballapur and Devanahalli, seamlessly linking with the expressway interchange.

Quick Read

Parents donate son's organs after accident

CH NEWS, HASSAN
Parents of 31-year-old Ravi, a resident of Chakenahalli Katte village in Holenarasipur, donated his organs following his death after a road accident. Ravi sustained severe injuries in a hit-and-run incident near Parasanahalli village three months ago. He was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bengaluru but died on Oct 2 after doctors could not save him. Following his death, his parents made the decision to donate his organs, helping give others a chance at life. Their decision has been praised as a noble act, as they chose to bring meaning to their son's tragic death by helping patients in need of organ transplants.

Young woman killed while crossing expressway

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
A 22-year-old woman died after being hit by a car while attempting to cross the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Sankalagere in Channapatna taluk. The deceased was identified as Bhumika, a resident of Ramohalli village near Kumbalgodu. She had reportedly travelled to Channapatna with friends on Friday. While crossing the expressway, she was struck by a speeding car and suffered severe injuries and heavy bleeding. She died at the spot before receiving medical assistance. Channapatna Traffic Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Woman and ex-lover held over murder plot

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI
Police have arrested a woman and her former lover for allegedly conspiring to murder her current lover at Balligeri in Athani taluk. The victim, Ranveersingh Rajput, 32, was allegedly strangled to death. Police identified the accused as Sridevi Rajput and Bairu Pawar of Ronihal in Vijayapura district. According to police, Sridevi and Ranveersingh had been in a relationship for several years. Their relationship reportedly turned sour after Ranveersingh's family proposed that Sridevi's daughter marry his brother, Narayan. Sridevi allegedly refused and later complained of harassment. Police said Sridevi then contacted Pawar, whom she had known since their school days. The two allegedly planned the murder, following which Pawar went to Balligeri and strangled Ranveersingh before fleeing. Investigators traced the accused using call detail records and arrested both. A case has been registered at Athani police station, and the accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

Kharge questions SIR process, alleges errors in voter verification

Kharge convened 20 INDIA bloc parties to discuss SIR, with leaders saying the revision's implementation was not in the country's interest

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has questioned the manner in which the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being conducted, alleging that the exercise is causing hardship to sections of voters across the country.

Speaking in Kalaburagi, Kharge said the government was committing "many mistakes" in the SIR process and questioned what had happened to the earlier system of electoral verification. Kharge said he had convened a meeting of leaders of 20 parties of the INDIA bloc to seek their views on the SIR exercise. According to him, the leaders



who attended the meeting expressed the view that the manner in which the revision was being carried out was not in the country's interest.

He alleged that the names of poor people, daily-wage workers, illiterate persons and minorities were being re-

moved from electoral rolls during the exercise. "How can free and fair elections be held if 500 votes are removed from every polling booth?" Kharge questioned.

He also alleged that BJP and RSS workers were filling up forms in wards, gram panchayats and villages where they wanted to influence the electoral process. Kharge further said that India had witnessed several generations of democratic governments, including those led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri, but alleged that such a situation had not occurred during their tenure. His remarks come amid an ongoing political debate over the SIR of electoral rolls, with oppo-

At a Glance

VOTER HARDSHIP
SIR process causes citizen distress.

INDIA BLOC MEET
Opposition leaders unite against revision.

VOTER DELETIONS
Poor and minority votes removed.

PROCESS FLAWS
Allegations of ruling party interference.

sition parties raising concerns over voter deletions and the Election Commission maintaining that the exercise is aimed at ensuring accurate and updated electoral rolls.

Central team assesses drought conditions near KRS



CH NEWS, MANDYA

A Central Drought Assessment Committee team led by Dr. Naveen Kumar Jain visited drought-affected areas of Mandya district to assess the ground situation and gather information on the hardships faced by farmers.

The team first inspected the Krishnaraja Sagara (KRS) reservoir and reviewed its current water level, inflow and outflow. Officials briefed the team about the quantity of water available in the reservoir, the amount reserved for drinking purposes and the possibility of releasing water for agricultural activities amid worsening drought conditions.

Later, the team visited several drought-hit villages in different taluks and interacted with farmers and residents. The team collected information about crop damage caused by inadequate rainfall, drinking water shortages and the shortage of fodder for livestock. Farmers also ex-

Officials briefed the team on reservoir water levels, drinking water reserves, and the potential release for agriculture amid drought.

plained the difficulties they are facing due to the prolonged dry conditions.

Officials from the irrigation and agriculture departments submitted detailed records on crop losses, water availability and the impact of drought on agriculture and rural communities. The Central team said it would prepare an assessment report and submit it to the Union Government.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy said the state had requested the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reduce the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from 4,000 cusecs to 2,000 cusecs.

The request followed the CWMA's September 24 order directing Karnataka to release 4,000 cusecs daily at Biligundlu for 15 days. The Minister said inflows into the KRS, Hemavathi, Harangi and Kabini reservoirs had declined sharply after the Southwest Monsoon ended.

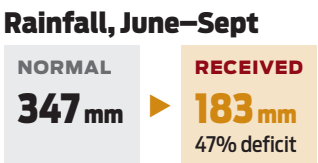
The four reservoirs currently have around 49 TMC of usable water, which Karnataka said must be conserved for drinking water, environmental needs and evaporation losses until June 2027. Around 47 taluks in the Cauvery basin have been declared drought-hit.

Chaluvarayaswamy said Karnataka had complied with CWMA directions, with 44.21 TMC recorded at Biligundlu between June 1 and September 30.

Tumakuru faces 47% rainfall deficit, drought

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Tumakuru district has recorded a 47% rainfall deficit during the monsoon season, with all taluks declared drought-hit based on rainfall



deficit criteria. The district received only 183 mm of rain between June and September against the normal 347 mm. September alone recorded a 77% deficit, severely affecting agriculture and drinking water availability.

Most crops, including ragi and maize, have suffered extensive damage due to the lack of rainfall. In Dugadahalli village of Tumakuru taluk, ragi crops spread across nearly 650 acres are withering. Farmers said paddy, ragi and

maize crops have dried up as monsoon rains failed to provide sufficient moisture. They added that even occasional light rain has not helped the crops.

The government has released ₹15 cr for drinking water supply and related drought relief works. In the first phase, ₹5 cr was released for 310 projects, including new borewells and pipeline installations. Another ₹1 crore has been allocated to each Assembly constituency, covering 390 works, including 119 new borewells and 164 pipeline connection projects. Work on 21 previously stalled borewells is also being taken up.

Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan said officials had inspected five taluks and that drought-related projects had commenced in Tumakuru Rural, Madhugiri and Chikanayakanahalli. She said co-ordination meetings were being held to address the situation. Around 4.2 TMC of



water has reached the district from the Gorur Hemavathi reservoir and is being used for drinking purposes.

Although sowing was completed on around 70% of agricultural land, the ragi crop has failed to develop properly. Farmers also reported that ponds and tanks used by cattle have dried up, adding to their difficulties.

A Central delegation is expected to visit Tumakuru to assess the drought situation. The team will conduct on-site inspections and evaluate drinking water availability and crop damage before preparing its assessment.

Cloth bags distributed to Anganwadi children

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Cloth bags and sweets were distributed to children at the Bijai Kapikad Anganwadi Centre under the Child Development Scheme of the Dak-



shina Kannada Zilla Panchayat.

The initiative was organised by the Lobo Foundation and Global Sympathy Foundation, Mumbai, as part of efforts to support children and improve facilities at the Anganwadi centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Rons Bantwal, President of the Foundation, announced that internet facilities required for the children's education would be provided at the centre. He said access to digital resources would help children gain better exposure to educational content and support their learning.

Yatheesh N. Bangera, international Judo coach and President of the Karnataka State Judo Association, said all possible assistance would be extended for the development of the Anganwadi centre. He also announced that uniforms would be provided to the children.

The programme highlighted the role of community organisations and individuals in supporting early childhood education and improving facilities for children in local Anganwadi centres.

Srinivas Nayak Indaje, State Executive Committee Member of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists, attended the programme. School teachers Nanda and Lakshmi were also present.

The organisers said continued support from community groups and well-wishers would help strengthen educational facilities and create a better learning environment for children attending the centre.

Chitradurga gears up for Maha Ganapathi procession



CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Fort City is set to witness the Hindu Maha Ganapathi procession on Saturday, with elaborate arrangements made for the large gathering. Organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal, the procession is expected to draw between six and eight lakh devotees from across Karnataka.

More than 30 cultural troupes from different states are scheduled to participate in the procession, adding to the festivities. Organiser Prabhanjan said the procession will begin at 10.30 am. High Court senior advocate Dr Arun Shyam will inaugurate the event, while Vishwa Hindu Parishad Central Joint Secretary Gopal will deliver the

keynote address. Seers from various maths in Chitradurga are also expected to attend.

Extensive security arrangements have been made across the city. Chitradurga Superintendent of Police Kushal Choukse said around 4,000

security. Police have been instructed to remain vigilant to prevent any untoward incidents.

The procession will feature Chende and Nashik Dhol performances and other cultural programmes. Organisers have

4,000	159	5	67
police personnel	CCTV locations	drones	video cameras

police personnel have been deployed for security and traffic management. The force includes six SPs, four ASPs, 221 DySPs, 50 CPIs, 68 PSIs, 218 probationary PSIs and 155 ASIs, along with police constables, home guards and personnel from KSRP and DAR.

Surveillance has also been strengthened along the procession route. CCTV cameras have been installed at 159 locations, while five drones and 67 video cameras will be used to monitor the movement of the procession and maintain

also planned an auction of garlands placed on the Ganesha idol.

A similar Hindu Maha Ganapathi procession has been organised in Davanagere. The city has been decorated with saffron-coloured cloth and lighting, particularly along PB Road. The procession will begin at Davanagere High School grounds and pass through several major roads and circles before reaching Bathi, where the Ganesha idol will be immersed in a lake. Organisers expect lakhs of devotees to participate.

Praja Seva Andolana speeds up grievance redressal

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Praja Seva Andolana is helping farmers and the general public get quick solutions to their grievances by bringing officials from different departments together at one location, said A.B. Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, Chairman of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) and Srirangapatna MLA.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Praja Seva Andolana at the Kalyana Manta-



pa of Sri Kalikamba Temple in Thaggahalli village of Kothathi-2nd Hobli in Mandya taluk. He urged people to make full use of the initiative to resolve their problems without repeated visits to government offices.

Bandisiddegowda directed

officials to give priority to farmers' problems related to RTCs and Pauti Khata cases. He said 6,758 Pauti Khata cases had been identified in Kothathi-2nd Hobli, of which around 3,000 were still pending. Officials were instructed to take immediate

steps to clear the pending cases and ensure that farmers receive the required land records and documents without delay.

He also directed officials to conduct door-to-door surveys to identify eligible beneficiaries who are unable to access social security schemes. Special attention was sought for elderly people and persons with disabilities who may be missing out on pensions because of documentation or other issues. Officials were asked to identify the reasons

People should not be forced to make repeated visits to offices to get their grievances addressed. Listening to citizens, reaching out to them and providing timely solutions are important responsibilities of the administration.

— A.B. Ramesh Bandisiddegowda MLA

and help eligible beneficiaries

obtain the required documents.

Officials of the Women and Child Development Department were instructed to ensure that children attending Anganwadi centres receive nutritious and quality food. They were also asked to create awareness among parents about child health, nutrition and proper care.

Tahsildar Vishwanath, former Zilla Panchayat president Thaggahalli Venkatesh, leader Mitra Ramesh and others were present.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAYAZ ALI KHAN, S/o. Anwar Ali Khan, Resident of No. 49, 7th Block, 14th Cross, Masjid E Kouser Line, Govindapura, A C Post, Bengaluru -560045, Karnataka, have changed my name to **NIYAZ ALI KHAN**, vide affidavit dated: 03.10.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, SYED MUNEEB S/o SYED HUSSAIN, residing at: 14th Ward, Near Khawja Makhan, Nalbandwadi, Ramanagara-562159, do hereby declare that my wife's name has been mentioned as **BIBI AYESHA** in certain records and documents. Her correct and actual name is **SHAZIA** only. Henceforth, she shall be known and recognized by the name **SHAZIA** for all legal, official, personal and all other purposes. **BIBI AYESHA** and **SHAZIA** refer to one and the same person. Sworn before Ramanagara Notary Puttaraju P., Date: 01-10-2026.

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt. Shubha D.V., W/o Shanrakappa, Residing at Peresandra Village, mandikallu Hobali, Chikkaballapura taluk, and District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at Peresandra Village, mandikallu Hobali, Chikkaballapura taluk, and District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale Deed. Dated:-15-04-2015, Sale Deed , Executed by Y.Naganarashimareddy in favour of C.B.Kalimsabi s/o Babu Sabi, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.CKB-1-00251/2015-16, In CDNO. CKBD 121, in regd before of the SRO Chikkaballapura , in Respect of Property Bearing Peresandra Village, Property no. 842/44, in Measuring 12.19 Meters, North To South 9.14 Meters, and Original Sale Deed, Dated:-21-08-2015, Sale Deed, Executed by C.B.Kalimsabi s/o Babu Sabi, in favour of K.Sharadamma w/o B.N.Chikkadoddanna, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.CKB-1-02466/2015-16, In CDNO.CKBD 125, in regd before of the SRO Chikkaballapura , in Respect of Property Bearing Peresandra Village, Property no. 842/44, in Measuring 12.19 Meters, North To South 9.14 Meters, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR No. Lost Report no.2461194/2026, DATED:-03-10-2026, and complaint dated:-03-10-2026, by respective person/ if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place-Chintamani Date-03-10-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR ADVOCATE Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI. MOBILE NO:9980110692

QUICK READ



Tourist Killed, 56 Injured in 2 Ramban road accidents

RAMBAN
A tourist from West Bengal was killed and 56 people, including nine security personnel, were injured in two separate road accidents on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Saturday. Around 8.50 am, a tourist bus travelling from Srinagar to Jammu crashed into a hillside near Marooog after losing control. Jamuna, a West Bengal resident, died, while 47 passengers were injured. Four seriously injured passengers were shifted to GMC Hospital, Jammu. A Quick Reaction Team rushing to the accident site later overturned near Kela Morh, injuring six police personnel and three CRPF personnel. All nine security personnel were stable.

CPI MP alleges Delhi police hid badges

NEW DELHI
CPI Rajya Sabha MP P. Sandosh Kumar on Saturday alleged that Delhi Police personnel removed or concealed identity badges while detaining or using force against protesters. He urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to order a time-bound inquiry into the alleged practice. Kumar, who was detained on Friday during a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleged repeated violence, arbitrary detentions and manhandling by police. He cited Supreme Court directions in D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal and Delhi Police Standing Order No. 51, saying identification was essential for accountability. He sought an inquiry into the alleged use of force, badge removal, plain-clothes personnel and facial recognition systems during protests. Kumar also urged authorities to ensure that police personnel deployed at Jantar Mantar remain identifiable and follow constitutional safeguards and established rules.

Three Army personnel among seven arrested in arms theft

HYDERABAD
Telangana Police arrested seven more people, including three serving Army personnel, in connection with the theft of firearms and ammunition from the 20 Battalion, Madras Regiment, at Bollaram in Secunderabad Cantonment. Police said the case surfaced on August 31 after locks at the arms store and Magazine were found broken. The stolen weapons included four AK-203 rifles, one INSAS rifle, six 9 mm pistols, one civilian pistol and ammunition. The prime accused, retired havildar Up-putholla Mallesh, was arrested on September 11. Police said the weapons were allegedly stolen to facilitate planned robberies targeting banks, jewellery shops and wealthy individuals. The seven accused were produced before a local court and sent to 14-day judicial remand. Police said no terrorist or extremist links were found.

Uttarakhand SIR removes nine lakh voter names

Uttarakhand’s final electoral roll has dropped by nearly nine lakh names after SIR, leaving 71.59 lakh registered voters in the State.

NEW DELHI

Around nine lakh names have been removed from Uttarakhand’s electoral roll following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), leaving 71.59 lakh registered voters in the final list published on Saturday. The State had 79,60,762 voters when the exercise began in June. Chief Electoral Officer B.V.R.C. Purushottam said the final roll includes 1,29,872 newly enrolled voters. The first draft, published on July 14, had 71,33,785 names. After claims and objections, 1,04,708 names were deleted while more than 1.29 lakh were added, raising the total by about 25,000 from the draft. The final roll includes 37,37,701 men, 34,21,036 women and 212 third-gender voters. It also has 72,656 voters aged 18-19 and 1,22,892 voters above 80. The State has 12,543 polling stations. The Election Commission



Voting At a glance
- 71.59 lakh — Final electors in Uttarakhand
- 9 lakhs — Names removed during SIR
- 1.29 lakh — New voters enrolled
- 1.04 lakh — Names deleted after claims and objections
- 12,543 — Polling stations across the State

will now conduct a special enrolment drive for people left out and those newly eligible to vote. Eligible voters can submit Form 6 online through the ECINet app or offline through Booth Level Officers. Officials will compare the current roll with the pre-SIR list, identify missing voters and conduct home visits. Camps will also be held in night shelters, labour colonies and among homeless and marginalised communities. A large number of voters were placed in the “uncollectable (ASDD)” category, with Dehradun recording 1,86,008 such voters, followed by Udham Singh Nagar with 1,77,673 and Haridwar with

1,30,203. Uttarakhand Congress leader Suryakant Dhasmana criticised the final roll and sought constituency-wise details of deleted names. He alleged irregularities in the exercise and demanded restoration of deleted voters’ names. He also said the party did not accept the additions and deletions made during SIR, and sought greater transparency from the Election Commission on the revision process and its results in Uttarakhand.

El Nino threatens India’s winter crop prospects

NEW DELHI

India’s winter cropping season faces growing risks as depleted soil moisture, below-normal monsoon rainfall and a strengthening El Nino raise concerns over delayed sowing, reduced acreage, weaker yields and water availability. Farmers are preparing for rabi crops amid increasingly uncertain weather conditions. The southwest monsoon ended with rainfall 12.6% below normal, making it the fourth-lowest monsoon rainfall since 2001. East and northeast India recorded a 25% deficit, while south peninsular India was 24% below normal. The India Meteorological Department has indicated that El Nino is strengthening and could become very strong by November. Soil moisture was below the decadal average in several states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab. IMD district-level data showed 32% of districts received deficient rainfall in September, while another 16% fell into the large-deficient category. September also recorded India’s highest average maximum temperature for the month since 1901.

The impact could be greater on crops with limited irrigation support. Wheat, which contributes about 70% of rabi output, has more than 95% of its acreage irrigated. By comparison, only about 52% of gram and 25% of jowar acreage is irrigated. Gram in Rajasthan and jowar in Karnataka and Maharashtra therefore face greater moisture risks, particularly in rainfed areas.

Haryana petrol pumps deny fuel without PUC

NEW DELHI

Petrol pumps across Haryana-NCR districts will deny fuel to vehicles without valid pollution under control (PUC) certificates under air pollution control measures effective from October 1, according to directions issued by the Haryana transport department. The rule applies to petrol, diesel and CNG stations, which must verify a vehicle’s PUC status before refuelling. If motorists cannot produce a valid certificate, operators must refuse fuel and record the vehicle’s registration number for official purposes. The measure follows a direction issued by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). Petrol stations have been instructed to use Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to match vehicle registration numbers with the online PUC database. Until the system is fully installed and operational across all NCR districts, pump staff must manually check PUC certificates before dispensing fuel. State

officials said ANPR cameras are being installed at NCR fuel stations. The transport department said driving or operating a vehicle without a valid PUC certificate can attract a fine of up to ₹10,000 under the Motor Vehicle Rules. Vehicles without valid certificates are to be directed to the nearest authorised PUC testing centre before they can be refuelled. Petrol pumps have also been asked to display prominent bilingual notices in English and Hindi at fuel dispensing points. The department directed fuel stations to implement the measures immediately and submit action-taken reports within three days. It warned that laxity could invite strict punitive action. The instructions are intended to ensure motorists are aware of the PUC requirement and support enforcement of air pollution control measures across Haryana’s NCR districts. The move also requires clear communication before motorists attempt to refuel at participating stations across the region.

Sreelekha resigns as Thiruvananthapuram councillor

NEW DELHI

Retired DGP and BJP councillor R Sreelekha has reportedly resigned from the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation amid reports of dissatisfaction over not being made mayor, despite being projected as the party’s candidate during the 2025 local body elections. Mayor V V Rajesh confirmed receiving her resignation letter and said efforts were being made to resolve the matter. He said Sreelekha had cited personal inconvenience as the reason. “Personal inconveniences are natural. When working as public representatives, we often encounter inconveniences in many matters. Whatever can be resolved, we will resolve as we go,” Rajesh said. However, Corporation secretary J Muhammed Shafi said the resignation submitted



Retired DGP and BJP councillor R Sreelekha reportedly resigns amid dissatisfaction over mayoral post, citing personal inconvenience as the reason.

to the mayor was not legally valid, as councillors must submit resignations to the secretary under Section 40 of the Kerala Municipality Act. “A resignation has not been received officially. According to Section 40 of the Kerala Municipality Act, the resignation must be submitted to the Secretary,” Shafi said.

The resignation came to light after a message purportedly posted by Sreelekha in a residents’ WhatsApp group said she had submitted her resignation to the mayor and would hand over a copy to the district collector on October 5. The development has drawn the attention of the LDF, which was voted out of power in the corporation last year after 45 years. The BJP currently has 51 councillors, including an Independent, while the LDF has 29 and the UDF 20. If Sreelekha’s resignation is formally accepted, the BJP’s strength would fall to 50, based on the current council composition. CPM state secretary M V Govindan described the matter as an internal BJP issue but said the party would respond if a governance crisis emerged.

Ukraine calls India truce proposal most comprehensive

NEW DELHI

Ukraine has received ceasefire proposals from India, Turkey, Egypt and the United States, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha describing India’s proposal as the “most comprehensive” among the four. Kyiv has said it is prepared to consider different formats for a truce with Russia. Sybiha said Ukraine’s preferred arrangement would combine an energy ceasefire with a truce covering the Black Sea. He said this would require a complete halt to attacks on energy facilities, including port infrastructure. Kyiv is also considering an unconditional ceasefire along the line of contact. “We have four proposals. The most comprehensive is India’s proposal. We are ready for an energy and Black Sea truce, but only in this combination,” Sybiha said. He added that Turkey and Egypt had proposed Black Sea truces aimed at restoring Ukrainian grain exports, while the US proposal focused on an energy truce. The Ukrainian foreign minister said the US proposal had been discussed during a meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US President Donald Trump. Sybiha said Ukraine believed a ceasefire



“We have four proposals. The most comprehensive is India’s proposal. We are ready for an energy and Black Sea truce, but only in this combination” . —Andrii Sybiha, Ukrainian Foreign Minister

could emerge from a possible meeting between Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin. He said Kyiv remained open to ceasefire formats. India has repeatedly said it remains in contact with both Russia and Ukraine and is ready to assist efforts to end the conflict. New Delhi has highlighted the war’s impact on food, fuel and fertiliser security, particularly for the Global South. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Prime Minister Narendra Modi raises the issue of ending the conflict and has ideas aimed at finding mutually acceptable solutions. Sybiha did not provide further details on when India submitted its proposal, while Indian officials had not immediately commented.

Kakkar leaves AAP, joins Congress amid criticism

NEW DELHI

Former Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar joined the Congress on Saturday, saying she had reached a point where she could no longer defend what she called “indefensible” decisions within the AAP. Explaining her departure, Kakkar said the party had once projected itself as one that would not use bungalows or cars, but later began using choppers for private travel. She said this change made it difficult for her to



continue defending the party. Kakkar also questioned the appointment of people to senior positions in Punjab, saying individuals without booth-level experience were being brought from Rajasthan and given senior roles, along with bungalows and cars.

“There was a time when it was said that AAP would not take a bungalow or a car. But later, choppers started being used for private travel, and I could no longer defend the indefensible.” —Priyanka Kakkar, Former AAP spokesperson

Kakkar praised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, describing him as resilient and saying she had watched him and the party withstand attacks. She said Gandhi was not afraid to promote his

ideas and claimed that the Congress had retained an authenticity she felt was missing elsewhere. She also backed his criticism of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over electoral-roll revision and his allegations concerning voters’ rights. Kakkar called for opposition unity and urged people to join the Congress, arguing that votes should not be divided or scattered. She said people should come under one umbrella to oppose Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and what she described as his “regressive politics”. The Congress said Kakkar was among three prominent figures who joined the party, along with former Uttar Pradesh MLA Shyam Sundar Sharma and journalist Rajat Rakesh Tandon. Her move marks a change in her political affiliation and follows her public criticism of the AAP’s recent decisions. She said her decision came after drawing a line over issues she believed she could no longer justify publicly.

DELHI TRAFFIC SYSTEM

Delhi traffic system to track stolen vehicles, jams



NEW DELHI

Delhi’s proposed Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) will provide traffic police with real-time alerts on stolen vehicles, accidents, traffic jams and slow-moving stretches, officials said. The first phase will include more than 2,500 cameras as the city moves towards technology-driven traffic management. Under the system, a stolen vehicle reported through an FIR will trigger an alert through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network

and Systems (CCTNS) to the traffic inspector responsible for the area. The ITMS will also integrate with the Centre’s e-Sarathi and VAHAN platforms, enabling officials to anticipate a stolen vehicle’s movement and coordinate with local police. The system will monitor road conditions and flag accidents, halted traffic and sudden drops in vehicle speeds. Alerts will reach the concerned traffic inspector, allowing officers to reach affected locations, take action and work to clear congestion. Officials said the

system could also support quicker diversions and operational responses. The project will be operated through an integrated Traffic Control and Command Centre and implemented in three phases. It will include 1,092 adaptive traffic control systems and 1,029 enforcement locations, with over 2,500 cameras planned initially. Each phase will begin after testing, commissioning, acceptance and performance assessment of the previous stage. Delhi records around 95 to 100 vehicle thefts daily,

while about 35,000 to 40,000 motor vehicle theft cases are registered annually. Police recorded around 35,014 such cases in 2025. The traffic unit currently has about 5,000 personnel against a sanctioned strength of 6,500. Officials said rising vehicle numbers and reliance on fixed-time signals and manual intervention have increased congestion, while the ITMS is intended to make traffic management more responsive to actual road conditions across busy roads more effectively.

Quick Read

Rape accused injured in Odisha police firing

CH NEWS, BHUBANESWAR
According to preliminary investigation, the accused had allegedly A man accused of raping a 26-year-old woman was injured in police firing near Chandaka on Saturday while allegedly resisting arrest. Police intercepted the accused, who was travelling on a motorcycle, following a tip-off. Bhubaneswar DCP Saravana Vivek M said the man allegedly attacked police personnel with a sharp object during the arrest attempt. Police then opened fire, injuring him in the right leg. He was subsequently shifted to Capital Hospital for treatment. raped the woman at gunpoint while wearing a mask at her rented flat on Wednesday night.

Pakistan protests towards Punjab border Killings

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Pakistan on Saturday summoned India's Chargé d'Affaires and lodged a strong protest over the killing of two Pakistani men near the International Border in Punjab's Bedian Sector on October 2. Pakistan alleged that BSF personnel used "unprovoked lethal force against unarmed civilians" and rejected the description of the deceased as "infiltrators". It demanded an "immediate, transparent and credible" probe. Indian officials said the 2 men were suspected intruders who continued moving towards Indian territory despite warnings.

TVK Joins INDIA Bloc Meeting in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president Manickam Tagore on Saturday described the participation of actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in an INDIA bloc meeting as a "historic day", while saying the party's presence would strengthen the opposition alliance in the state.
The meeting, held at the TNCC office in Chennai, was attended by Congress, TVK, CPI(M), CPI, VCK, MDMK and IUML representatives. TVK was represented by party leaders Aadhav Arjuna and Maria Wilson. The discussions centred on the opposition's campaign over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and its demand for

Silchar civic polls record 63% turnout; counting on October 6

SILCHAR
Polling in the first-ever Silchar Municipal Corporation election ended at 4.30 pm on Saturday, with officials yet to compile the final turnout figure. The election covered 40 of the corporation's 42 wards, with BJP candidates elected unopposed in Wards 9 and 20.
Officials said turnout ranged from 50 per cent in Ward 22 to 78 per cent in Ward 1. Voting began slowly due to morning rain but picked up later. No untoward

incident was reported from any of the 42 wards.
A total of 133 candidates contested the election. The electorate comprised 1,29,877 men, 1,40,884 women and 11 third-gender voters.
The Silchar Municipal Board was upgraded to a 42-ward municipal corporation in 2022 and became operational in June 2025, after the Barak Valley city remained without an elected civic body for six years.
The ruling BJP-AGP alliance faced contests in most wards, while independent

candidates were also in the fray. The BJP fielded candidates in 38 wards and the AGP in four, while the Congress contested 38 wards. There were 52 independent candidates and one CPI(M) nominee.
Poor roads, inadequate drainage, waterlogging, erratic power supply and irregular drinking water availability emerged as key issues during the campaign. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had campaigned for NDA candidates earlier this week and promised to im-



prove road conditions within a year.
The election marks the first civic poll since Silchar was granted municipal corporation status. The results are expected to determine the composition of the new civic body.

Court seeks report on Rekha Gupta's official remarks

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Saturday sought a status report from the Station House Officer of Kashmere Gate police station on a complaint against Chief Minister Rekha Gupta over remarks allegedly made about government officials during a public programme in September 2025.
The order was passed by ACJM-04, RACC, New Delhi, Ashwani Panwar, in the case of Ram Niwas Sharma versus Smt. Rekha Gupta. The court



directed the SHO to submit the report and listed the matter for October 15, 2026, at 11.30 am for filing of the report and further consideration. The pro-

"Our Delhi government officials are all like Hanuman. These Hanumans work hard when their tails catch fire. Before that, they forget."
- Rekha Gupta, Delhi Chief Minister.
ceedings concern the complaint and do not amount to a judicial determination of whether the alleged remarks violated any law or constituted an offence under applicable provisions.
According to the complaint, the remarks were made on

September 23, 2025, during a government programme at Kashmiri Gate ISBT marking the launch of the Delhi Transport Corporation's interstate AC bus service between Delhi and Baraut in Uttar Pradesh. Gupta allegedly compared Delhi government officials with Lord Hanuman while discussing their functioning.
The complaint quotes Gupta as saying, "Our Delhi government officials are all like Hanuman. These Hanumans work hard when their tails catch fire. Before that, they

forget." It was filed under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, with an application under Section 175(3) seeking directions in relation to the complaint.
The court has not recorded any finding on the allegations at this stage and has only directed police to submit a status report. The complainant was represented by advocate Sanjeet Kumar. The next hearing is scheduled for October 15, when the police report is expected to be filed and considered by the court.

Sathyabama criticises Stalin remarks before Dharapuram bypoll

DHARAMAPURAM
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam candidate V Sathyabama has criticised remarks attributed to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, calling them "highly inappropriate and undignified" ahead of the October 6 Dharapuram bypoll.
TVK has approached the Election Commission of India, seeking action against Stalin for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct through remarks the party described as body-shaming. Sathyabama said political leaders should maintain dignity in public discourse and expressed distress over the comments.
Speaking to ANI, Sathyabama said women's safety and dignity should be protected and questioned the impact of such remarks on women. She



also criticised statements made by some cadres on social media, saying they had added to concerns surrounding the issue. She said a complaint should be filed and that the matter required a response.
The remarks were made by Stalin during a campaign meeting in Dharapuram on Friday, where he was supporting DMK candidate S Suganya. Reports said Stalin referred to Sathyabama as "Petti Bama" and "Palti Bama" while question-

ing her move from the AIADMK to the TVK. TVK leaders alleged that the comments amounted to body-shaming.
Sathyabama also said that political movements claiming to support women's safety should consider how women would feel about such remarks. She argued that leaders influence the conduct of their cadres and called for greater restraint and dignity in communication. She said the issue had caused distress and those responsible would have to explain. The by-election followed the resignation of AIADMK MLA P Sathyabama, who later joined the TVK and is contesting on its ticket. The DMK has fielded S Suganya, while the AIADMK has nominated K Bhanumathi. Polling for the bypoll is scheduled for October 6.

Centre approves five classical language centres nationwide

NEW DELHI
The Centre has approved five Centres of Excellence for classical languages, covering Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi and Prakrit, with Odisha and Assam chief ministers welcoming the decision.
The centres will be established at Tezpur University for Assamese, Visva-Bharati University for Bengali, the Central University of Odisha for Pali, the Central University of Gujarat for Prakrit and Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in Pune for Marathi. The Ministry of Education has directed the institutions to begin implementation.
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi welcomed the approval of the Pali centre, saying it would strengthen the state's contribution to preserving India's linguistic and civilisational heritage. He congratulated the Central University of Odisha and those associated with the initiative. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

Centre approves five language excellence centres for Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi and Prakrit, strengthening research, preservation, digitisation and public engagement.
also welcomed the Centre of Excellence for Classical Assamese at Tezpur University. He said Assam had been pursuing a dedicated centre after Assamese received Classical Language status. Sarma said the new centre would support research, digitisation, preservation and dissemination of linguistic and literary heritage.
The five centres are intended to advance academic research, digitisation, preservation and public engagement for classical languages. Majhi described the Pali centre as significant for studying, preserving and promoting a language linked to India's intellectual, spiritual



and cultural traditions. Sarma said the Assamese centre would help carry the language's literary heritage to future generations. The approval follows the Ministry's move to strengthen institutional support for classical languages through specialised academic centres. Each institution will focus on research and preservation while expanding access to linguistic resources. The directive was issued directly to the vice-chancellors, who have been asked to commence implementation of the approved centres and promote wider public engagement with languages.

Rahul Gandhi launches digital platform to unite protests

NEW DELHI
Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched "Satyagraha", a digital platform aimed at bringing together information on issue-based protests across the country.
The platform was launched a day after Mahatma Gandhi's 157th birth anniversary, invoking his philosophy of Satyagraha, or peaceful resistance for truth. Announcing the initiative, Gandhi said protesters could submit details of their causes, locate similar movements through an interactive

map and seek support. He said the platform would help connect people fighting on issues including education, women's rights, price rise and social justice.
"People across the country are fighting for their rights and often fighting alone. Gen Z, students, farmers, tribals, Dalits, women — every struggle has its own story," Gandhi said in a post on X.
He added that the initiative was intended to bring these voices together. "The voice that rises alone often gets suppressed. 'Satyagraha' is an initiative to bring these voices together on a map," he said.

Gandhi said participants could upload their stories and identify others involved in similar struggles. He also pledged to support protesters through parliamentary interventions, letters and participation where required. "Your story will appear on the map. You'll see who else is fighting like you," he said, adding that supporting such causes was his responsibility as Leader of the Opposition.
In a video accompanying his post, Gandhi said protests were taking place across the country on a range of issues and that the platform would consolidate information about them in one place.

Odisha announces ₹11 lakh reward for Hockey Players

CH NEWS, BHUBANESWAR
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday announced ₹11 lakh each for members of the Indian women's hockey team following their Asian Games gold-medal victory. The support staff will receive ₹5.5 lakh each, according to the Chief Minister's Office. India defeated defending champions China 1-0 in Friday's final, ending a 44-year wait for the women's Asian Games hockey gold. The victory also secured India's qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

IUML backs Satheesan amid row over consultation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and several ministers have backed Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan, rejecting allegations that he was taking crucial decisions without consulting the Congress and the United Democratic Front (UDF).
The disagreement followed remarks by Congress leader Prakash, who alleged that Satheesan was not holding consultations with the party and the UDF before taking important decisions. The IUML has opposed the allegation, particularly after the recent appointment of IUML leader M K Muneer as chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission.
The appointment has emerged as one of the decisions cited in the political dispute. The IUML is reportedly unhappy with Prakash's remarks, while party leaders have maintained that major decisions are taken after discussions with coalition partners.
IUML leader and IT Minister P K Kunhalikutty defended Satheesan, saying that decisions were being taken only after consultations. "All such decisions were being taken only after discussions," Kunhalikutty said.
Health Minister K Muraliedharan also rejected the sugges-



tion that the Congress leadership was being kept out of government decisions. He pointed out that Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph is also a member of the Cabinet.
"There was no question of the party remaining unaware of government decisions," Muraliedharan said.
The issue has also drawn a response from AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, who said it was unfortunate that he was frequently being dragged into such political disputes.
"It was unfortunate that I was often being dragged into such rows," Venugopal told reporters. The disagreement comes amid discussions within the Congress-led coalition over coordination between the government, the party organisation and alliance partners.
Satheesan is yet to respond publicly to Prakash's allegation. The IUML's defence, however, indicates that the party does not accept the claim that important government decisions are being taken without consultation with coalition partners.

Quick Read

Students from deprived suburbs spark national movement

AUBERVILLIERS

Maisa, a 17-year-old in a poor Paris suburb who aspires to be an English teacher, joined tens of thousands of other students and their supporters this week in protests that spread across France over dilapidated schools, classroom overcrowding and teacher shortages. At Lycee Le Corbusier school in Aubervilliers, a suburb north of Paris in the Seine-Saint-Denis department, protesters said schools in poor neighborhoods like theirs faced the worst conditions. "Last year I took the high school French exam without a French teacher, and teachers have a huge impact," Maisa said. "These are not conditions to study in."

2 Iranians appear in UK court over 'plot' to target Jews

LONDON

Two Iranian nationals appeared in a London court on Saturday charged with plotting acts of terrorism involving the use of a homemade bomb to attack the Jewish community in northern England at the behest of a figure believed to be based in Iran. Rahman Salehi, 34, and Salam Ahmadyan, 36, were arrested on September 20 at the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, when they are accused of carrying out "hostile" surveillance on potential Jewish targets in Manchester, prosecutors say. These targets included the Manchester Jewish Museum and Heaton Park synagogue, the scene of a deadly attack almost a year ago in which two Jewish worshippers were killed.

Iran executes detainee over Jan protests

TEHRAN

Iran has executed a man detained during protests in January for allegedly firing at police, the judiciary said on Saturday. The judiciary said Siavash Jamshidi Kheirabadi fired at least three shots at police on January 8 and was arrested two days later with a handgun in Shahrekord in southwestern Iran. It accused him of contacting people online to organise "anti-security" activities and seeking payment for a "mission", without identifying who was purported to be behind it. The protests erupted on December 28, 2025, over economic hardship and swelled into widespread demonstrations calling for the end of clerical rule in the Islamic Republic. Iran blamed armed groups and operatives backed by the US and Israel for involvement in the protests and for some of the violence. Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu acknowledged during the protests that Israel had operatives inside Iran. He said they aimed to weaken Iran's capabilities, though he denied they were directly working to topple the leadership.

N. Korea tests evasive missile as border mine tensions rise

The launch deepened tensions after border mine blasts, with Seoul, Tokyo and Washington stepping up vigilance.

SEOUL

North Korea has tested an intermediate-range strategic missile in a drill overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, his powerful sister Kim Yo Jong said on Saturday, as tensions remain high on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim Yo Jong, a senior official in North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, said the missile was launched toward the sea off the country's east coast. Her statement followed an announcement by South Korea's military that Pyongyang had fired a ballistic missile that travelled more than 700 kilometres toward the sea.

Kim also criticised South Korea and Japan over their assessments of the missile's



Missile tests in a nutshell

- Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile drill
- Missile travelled more than 700 kilometres, according to South Korea
- Kim Yo Jong claimed advanced flight capabilities
- North Korea has conducted more than 10 missile tests this year
- Launch comes amid tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul

flight distance, claiming their results demonstrated limitations in their tracking capabilities. She said North Korean missiles could use a wave-like trajectory that made them difficult to track from their first skip points.

She further claimed the missile had high speed and could change its flight orbit at low altitude using artificial intelligence technology. North Korea did not provide evidence to support the claims.

The latest launch marks another missile test by Pyongyang this year.

The launch came a day after Kim Yo Jong rejected Seoul's demand for an apology over mines that South Korea said had seriously wounded its soldiers in the Demilitarized Zone.

Saudi weighs Yemen offensive



RIYADH

Saudi Arabia is preparing options for a possible military offensive against Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen,

Riyadh has concluded it cannot enter new Yemeni peace negotiations with the Houthis while the militants remain in control of Bab el-Mandeb.

– Western diplomats and a Gulf official

European countries are supplying mainly defensive military assistance. Those allies are not expected to participate directly in combat operations.

A central objective would be to reverse recent Houthi gains along Yemen's western coast, including their reported seizure of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The strategic waterway links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and has become increasingly important for international shipping.

Officials said Riyadh is considering two main options. One would focus on retaking areas around Bab el-Mandeb, while the other would involve coordinated attacks across several governorates, including Al-Bayda, Marib, Taiz and Al-Jawf.

Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen's civil war in 2015, leading an Arab coalition supporting the internationally recognised government. A 2022 truce largely held until this year, when Houthi missile and drone attacks on Saudi shipping and oil infrastructure intensified amid the wider Iran conflict.

with plans ranging from a focused coastal operation to a broader assault across several fronts, according to regional and Western officials cited by Reuters.

The offensive, expected potentially in the coming weeks, would be led by Yemeni forces overseen by Riyadh and supported by Saudi air strikes. Six people familiar with the preparations said the United States is providing intelligence support to Saudi operations, while some regional and Eu-

Key points	
100,000+	YEMENI TROOPS COULD BE MOBILISED
4	GOVERNORATES IN THE BROADER PLAN
2	OPTIONS, ONE TARGETING BAB EL-MANDEB

DEAL TALKS

Ukraine talks expand into Lukoil deal



MOSCOW

Talks between the Trump administration and Russia aimed at ending the war in Ukraine have expanded to include a proposed multibillion-dollar deal involving Russian energy giant Lukoil's international assets, according to a New York Times report cited by Reuters.

The potential transaction would cover a wide-ranging portfolio of oil fields, refineries and gas stations owned by Lukoil across several countries. Any agreement would require approval from both the US government and the Kremlin.

The reported investor group includes US billionaire and investor Todd Boehly, two Middle Eastern business groups that have previously conducted business with the families of US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, as well as an arm of the US government, the New York Times reported.

The proposal reportedly emerged during a September

5 meeting at the Kremlin between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Witkoff and Kushner. According to people familiar with the meeting cited by the newspaper, Putin raised the potential transaction as a way of demonstrating that Russians could resume business with the United States.

The White House, US Treasury Department and Lukoil did not respond to Reuters requests for comment outside regular business hours.

The development adds an economic dimension to Washington's renewed diplomatic

Economic issues and potentially large, mutually beneficial joint projects for Russia and America were discussed in considerable detail.

— Yuri Ushakov, Russian Presidential Foreign Policy Adviser

engagement with Moscow. Witkoff and Kushner have been involved in US efforts to revive negotiations aimed at ending the war, including meetings with Putin in Moscow earlier in September. The talks have also included discussions about future US-Russia energy cooperation.

The reported oil proposal remains conditional and has not been presented as a completed transaction.

Ethiopian forces retake Tigray airport

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's federal military has recaptured the main airport in Mekelle, the capital of

Ethiopian govt forces have retaken Mekelle's main airport as renewed fighting in Tigray raises fears of wider regional conflict.

in Mekelle and a humanitarian source. A resident of the city also confirmed that government forces had regained control of the airport and re-



ported hearing gunfire outside the city centre.

The resident said some Tigrayan Defence Force fighters appeared to be abandoning their positions and returning home. The source also reported looting at government facilities in the city. Reuters could not independently verify those claims.

A source close to the Tigray People's Liberation Front said Mekelle had been surrounded by government troops and allied militias. The TPLF, which leads the opposition alliance, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Addis Ababa this week severed diplomatic ties with Eritrea, accusing it of supporting the rebel alliance alongside Sudan and Egypt. All three countries have denied the allegations.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Government forces reportedly recaptured Mekelle airport
- Tigray opposition forces are reportedly under pressure
- Fighting is the worst escalation since the 2020-2022 civil war
- Ethiopia has accused Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt of supporting rebels; all three deny the allegations

Latvians vote in election in shadow of drone incursions and war

RIGA

Latvians are voting in a parliamentary election on Saturday that is likely to keep power in the hands of pro-Ukrainian Prime Minister Andris Kurbads, although deep political fragmentation may complicate the formation of a government.

Russia says accusations that it is planning to attack NATO are baseless and Western officials say it is not capable of launching a direct assault, but security concerns have weighed heavily in the election campaign.

Opinion polls put Kurbads' centrist United List ahead, with about 14% of votes, but followed closely by the overtly pro-Russian Sovereign Power.

A businessman and amateur rally driver, Kurbads, 47, came to power in May after the previous coalition crumbled over its handling of inci-

dents in which stray military drones flew undetected into Latvia. Though the drones were Ukrainian, officials have blamed Russia for causing



them to divert from their flight paths.

Throughout his campaign, he has also promised more anti-drone capabilities for Latvia and to maintain defence spending at 5% of gross domestic product, one of the highest levels in NATO.

But his pro-Kremlin rivals say Latvia should stop any aid to Ukraine and should instead focus more on cost-of-living issues, particularly among the country's Russian-speaking minority.

US halts consular services in Brazil ahead of election

WASHINGTON

Citing security concerns, the United States suspended consular services, prompting Australia to also close its embassy two days before the country's presidential election, fueling an already uneasy environment ahead of the high-stakes vote.

Brazil's Federal Police said they had carried out preventive searches in Sao Paulo and near Brasilia, but had so far found no evidence of a threat or identified any suspects linked to criminal organizations.

The State Department did not elaborate on the security issues or link them to Sunday's election, which has been marked by tensions over alleged foreign interference and strains between Washington and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government.

"Consular Services in the US Embassy and Consulates

in Brazil will be suspended, October 2 due to security concerns," it said in a statement Thursday. "US citizens seeking emergency assistance



during this time should not come to the Embassy, the Consulates, or other US diplomatic facilities."

Australia's ambassador to Brazil, Sophie Davies, said on social media that the Australian embassy in Brasilia would also be closed due to security concerns, citing the alert issued by the US and advising Australians to avoid US embassies and consulates in Brazil. The State Department made the announcement at a tense moment for US-Brazil relations.

US judge dismisses DOJ lawsuit

WASHINGTON

A US judge dismissed a lawsuit against pro-Palestinian organizations and protesters that President Donald Trump's administration brought last year under a law traditionally used against people blocking access to abortion clinics.

US District Judge Katharine Hayden in New Jersey said the government's complaint did not adequately plead violations of the statute. She dismissed the claims without prejudice, saying the government can file an amended complaint within 30 days.

In September 2025, the Justice Department sued pro-Palestinian activists that it accused of intimidating attendees during a November 2024 protest against an event at a synagogue in New Jersey.

WHAT IS THE FACE ACT?

The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act is a 1994 law that prohibits the use of force and physical obstruction to interfere with people at reproductive health centers or houses of worship.

The event was billed by organizers as a spiritual service and real estate fair. It promoted the sale of property in Israeli settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



The Justice Department has brought several cases against protesters who have obstructed abortion clinics, but the case appeared to be the first time the law was used to allege interference with religious worship, according to Harmeet Dhillon, the head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The Justice Department under Trump has curtailed the use of the FACE Act in abortion-related cases, alleging that past criminal prosecutions represented an improper politicized use of law enforcement. Dhillon said those restrictions do not apply to cases related to houses of worship. Last year, Trump pardoned several people prosecuted under the law.

Trump visa policies weigh on Columbia journalism program

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration's changing visa policies caused a sharp drop in international applications to Columbia University and contributed to the university pausing admissions to one of its journalism programs, four people familiar with the matter said.

The journalism school announced on Thursday it was pausing admissions to its Master of Arts offering to conduct a "critical evaluation," without giving further details about the reasons.

Jelani Cobb, the journalism school's dean, said admissions to its Master of Arts program would pause for one



year while the school reworked a degree created in 2005, when the "journalism marketplace looked different."

"The dynamics of visas and all those other kinds of things were part of the consideration," Cobb told Reuters. Additionally, the department needs time to think through

changes to the program, he added.

The connection between the admissions pause and US visa policies has not been previously reported, nor has the length of the admissions pause.

Last year, the Trump administration temporarily halted new student-visa appoint-

ments, then resumed them with expanded screening of applicants' online activity, saying the checks were needed to identify potential threats to US national security.

Columbia was among the universities targeted by his administration over pro-Palestinian campus protests in 2024.

PRANAVI, KUMKUM SCRIPT ASIAN GAMES HISTORY

Deepak Punia Secures Wrestling Bronze

Pranavi and Kumkum created Asian Games history with landmark gold medals in golf and archery, earning praise from PM Modi for their achievements.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Pranavi Sharath Urs and Kumkum Anil Mohod after the two Indian athletes created history by winning gold medals in women's individual golf and recurve archery, respectively, at the 2026 Asian Games.

Pranavi became the first Indian to win the women's individual golf gold medal at the Asian Games after producing an impressive performance at the Kasugai Country Club East Course. She finished with a 15-under 265 total across four rounds to secure the historic title.

Entering the final round with a three-stroke advantage, Pranavi faced an early setback after a triple bogey on the third hole. She responded strongly with birdies on the sixth, 10th and 13th holes and completed the final round at even-par 70.

Modi described her triumph as a moment that would be remembered in Indian sporting history and expressed hope that her achievement would encourage more

youngsters to take up golf. Kumkum, meanwhile, became the first Indian woman to win an individual recurve archery gold medal at the Asian Games.

The teenager defeated South Korea's Yejin Oh in a dramatic final. With the contest tied 5-5 after five sets, the title was decided through a one-arrow shoot-off. Oh registered an eight before Kumkum responded with a 10 to clinch gold.

The victory also earned India an individual quota

place for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Modi praised Kumkum's composure during the decisive shoot-off and wished her success in future competitions.

PM MODI CELEBRATES INDIA'S GOLDEN RUN

Pranavi won India's first women's individual golf gold at the Asian Games.

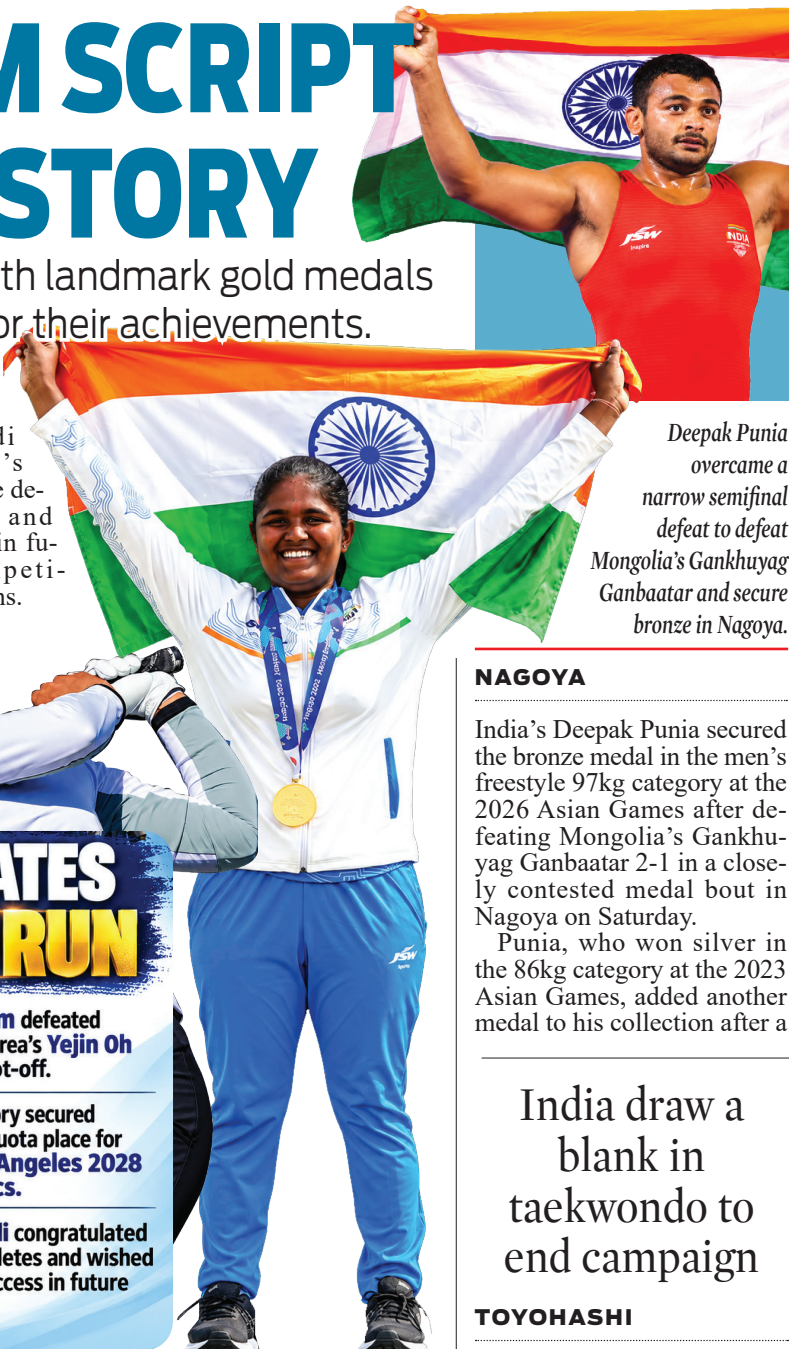
Kumkum defeated South Korea's Yejin Oh in a shoot-off.

She finished with a 15-under 265 total across four rounds.

Her victory secured India a quota place for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Kumkum became the first Indian woman to win recurve individual gold.

PM Modi congratulated both athletes and wished them success in future events.



Deepak Punia overcame a narrow semifinal defeat to defeat Mongolia's Gankhuyag Ganbaatar and secure bronze in Nagoya.

NAGOYA

India's Deepak Punia secured the bronze medal in the men's freestyle 97kg category at the 2026 Asian Games after defeating Mongolia's Gankhuyag Ganbaatar 2-1 in a closely contested medal bout in Nagoya on Saturday.

Punia, who won silver in the 86kg category at the 2023 Asian Games, added another medal to his collection after a

disciplined performance in a low-scoring contest. He established a 2-0 advantage in the opening period and then defended his lead effectively after Ganbaatar reduced the deficit by one point.

The Indian wrestler had begun his campaign with a commanding victory over China's Zhou Junpeng before advancing to the semifinals after Hong Kong's Li Wui Fung Vincent failed to appear for their quarterfinal bout. In the semifinal, Punia fought Uzbekistan's Sherzod Poyonov in a tight contest but narrowly lost 8-9.

Punia recovered from that disappointment to finish on the podium, securing India's medal in the 97kg freestyle division.

His bronze also adds to a significant day for Indian men's freestyle wrestling at the Games. Earlier, Aman Sehrawat won gold in the 57kg

Deepak Punia's Asian Games record
• 2023: Silver, men's 86kg
• 2026: Bronze, men's 97kg
• 2026 opening bout: 12-2 win over China's Zhou Junpeng
• 2026 semifinal: Narrow 8-9 loss to Uzbekistan's Sherzod Poyonov
• 2026 bronze bout: 2-1 win over Mongolia's Gankhuyag Ganbaatar

category, becoming the first Indian to win an Asian Games gold in that division. Sujeet Kalkal also captured gold in the 65kg category after a dramatic comeback victory.

Aman's triumph, alongside Sujeet's gold and Punia's bronze, marked a strong showing for India's freestyle wrestlers in Nagoya. Punia's latest medal further extends his Asian Games record after his silver-winning campaign in 2023.

Aman Sehrawat stuns reigning world champion to win 57kg wrestling gold

NAGOYA

India's Aman Sehrawat added another feather to his growing medal cabinet as he clinched a gold medal in the men's 57kg wrestling final at the Asian Games 2026, stunning the reigning world champion Han Chong-song 11-7.

Aman registered a strong win in what was a roller-coaster final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Center against the North Korean grappler and has become the first Indian to clinch the gold medal in the men's 57kg freestyle division.

The Indian grappler was 6-1 up in the second half of the bout, but the world champion made a comeback with three two-pointers to lead 7-6. With time running out, Aman then picked up four points with a takedown and then from a roll.



The North Korean challenged for the points but was unsuccessful as he lost a point to make Aman lead 11-7. The Indian grappler fended off the last 30 seconds to clinch the gold.

Earlier, Sujeet Kalkal had won a gold in men's freestyle 65kg. This is now the first time since 1978 that India have won two gold medals in the men's freestyle category.

Aman is already an Olympic medallist, having won a bronze in the Paris Games. He

also won a bronze in the 2023 Hangzhou Games and has now upgraded his medal.

Aman came into the final on the back of a comeback victory in the semifinal. The Indian began the day with a 20-9 technical superiority win over Japan's Yamato Ogawa before beating Kazakhstan's Nurdanat Aitanov 12-1 in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinal against Tajikistan's Aiaal Beloljubskii, Aman trailed 2-6 after the opening period but turned the contest around spectacularly, scoring 12 points in the second period while conceding only two to win 14-8.

Earlier, Sujeet ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazzhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final.

Fujinami's 155-win run ends as North Korea's Son shocks Olympic champion

NAGOYA

Akari Fujinami's extraordinary unbeaten run came to an abrupt end at the Asian Games 2026 on Saturday when North Korea's world silver medallist Il Sim Son pinned the Japanese Olympic champion in the women's 57kg semifinal.

Fujinami, who had not lost an international bout since 2017 and had accumulated 155 consecutive victories, was unable to reproduce the comeback that had rescued her in the earlier rounds. Son instead controlled the contest from the opening exchange before ending it by fall at 3:52.

The defeat was particularly unexpected given Fujinami's record since moving up from 53kg to 57kg at the end of last year. The Paris Olympic champion had continued to dominate the competition after the move and arrived in Nagoya as one of Japan's strongest gold-medal contenders. Son immediately disrupted that script. She opened the semifinal with a takedown and followed it with two rolls to establish a 6-0 advantage by the break. Fujinami had already shown earlier in the competition that she could recover from a sizeable deficit, overturning a 0-6 disadvantage to beat her opening opponent 15-4.

India draw a blank in taekwondo to end campaign

TOYOHASHI

India's wait for another Asian Games taekwondo medal will stretch on after the country's three-woman contingent returned empty-handed from Aichi-Nagoya 2026, with the competition concluding at the Toyohashi Gymnasium in Japan on Saturday.

Kashish Malik, Jyoti Yadav and Rupa Bayor were India's representatives across four medal events, but none could progress far enough to challenge for a podium finish. India's last Asian Games taekwondo medal remains Suren-dra Bhandari's bronze from Busan in 2002. Kashish provided India's deepest run of the Games, reaching the quarterfinals of the mixed individual virtual taekwondo event, which made its Asian Games debut at Aichi-Nagoya.

She began with a 2-0 victory over Hong Kong China's Siu Wai Lam, winning the two rounds 800-500 and 400-0. Her campaign ended in the quarterfinals against Kazakhstan's Rita Bakisheva, who eventually claimed bronze. Kashish won the opening round 320-0 after Bakisheva took a 320-0 lead in the first round, but the Kazakh responded by taking the next two rounds 460-0 and 340-0 to seal a 2-1 victory.

The Indian had earlier also featured in the women's -57kg competition, where she faced one of the strongest names in the draw. Paris 2024 Olympic champion Kim Yu-jin of the Republic of Korea defeated Kashish 2-0 (18-3, 17-2).



India's Asian Games gold shows white-ball cricket strength, says BCCI secretary Saikia

NISSHIN

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia hailed India's men's cricket team after their thrilling 19-run win over Pakistan in the Asian Games final, saying the victory highlighted the country's strength in white-ball cricket.

"It felt very good. A very delightful victory against Pakistan. It is always sweetest when we win the match against Pakistan, especially in all international tournaments. In the Asian Games, another gold came. So, I think India is a superpower in white-ball cricket nowadays," Saikia told IANS.

India secured consecutive gold medals at the Asian Games in the men's cricket event after giving a high-quality performance and beating Pakistan at Korogi Sports Park on Saturday.

After winning the toss, captain Shreyas Iyer chose to bat first and India scored a formidable 211 for 6, thanks to Abhishek Sharma's outstanding 61 off 28 balls and Tilak

Varma's unbeaten 51 off 22. Although India had lost Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (15) and Sanju Samson (4) early on, Abhishek stepped in during the Powerplay and hit seven sixes and three fours to reach his fifty in just 20 balls, which is the fastest fifty ever scored by an Indian player against Pakistan in T20 internationals.

He finally scored 61 at a strike rate of 217.85, but Tilak and Shivam Dube made sure that India performed well at the end.

They put on 62 runs for the sixth wicket, Tilak finishing the innings without being out on 51 and Dube scoring 27 from 15. The score came about with 18 runs scored in Sufyan Moqim's over and 23 in Saim Ayub's, before Dube was bowled off the very first ball of the last over.

Even though the target was very high, Pakistan were never eliminated, mainly due to Hasan Nawaz, who scored 96 off 51 balls in a splendid counter-attack.

INDIA CLINCH BACK-TO-BACK ASIAN GAMES GOLD

Nagoya and Japan have written a proud new chapter in cricket's history.

- Jay Shah (ICC Chairman)

Asian Games Cricket Medalists

• Men's Gold: India • Men's Silver: Pakistan • Men's Bronze: Sri Lanka

• Women's Gold: India, after defeating Sri Lanka in the final

NEW DELHI

India's men's T20 cricket team secured back-to-back Asian Games gold medals after defeating Pakistan by 19 runs in a thrilling final at the Karogi Sports Park in Nisshin on Saturday.

Batting first, India posted a formidable 211/6, with Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma producing explosive half-centuries. Abhishek set the tone with a breathtaking 61 off just 28 deliveries, registering the fastest fifty by an Indian against Pakistan in T20Is. Tilak then continued the assault, remaining unbeaten on 51 off 22 balls.

Washington Sundar, Axar

Patel and Shivam Dube also contributed to India's all-round effort as the team maintained its momentum through the innings and set Pakistan a challenging target.

Pakistan responded strongly, led by Hasan Nawaz, who produced a magnificent 96 from 51 balls to keep his side in contention. However, India's spinners and all-rounders maintained their composure during a tense final phase.

Dube eventually dismissed Nawaz with the final delivery of Pakistan's innings, bringing the chase to an end at 192/6. The result triggered celebrations among the Indian players as they secured another

Asian Games gold medal.

International Cricket Council chairman Jay Shah congratulated India and praised the organisers, participating nations and fans for contributing to the tournament.

India finished with the gold medal, while Pakistan took silver and Sri Lanka secured bronze.

The achievement also completed a golden Asian Games campaign for Indian cricket. Earlier, the Indian women's team had won gold after defeating Sri Lanka in the final.

The men's triumph therefore gave India consecutive gold medals in the Asian Games men's T20 cricket competition.

KAULA LUMPUR

Max Verstappen returned to the top of the Formula 1 qualifying order in emphatic fashion, securing his first pole position of the 2026 season for the Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit.

The Red Bull driver dominated the early stages of qualifying, topping both Q1 and Q2 before saving his decisive effort for the final lap. Verstappen posted a time of 1:35.130 to take pole, finishing 0.298 seconds ahead of Lewis Hamilton, who produced his strongest lap of the weekend to secure second place.

Isack Hadjar appeared on course for a front-row start after an impressive qualifying session, but a five-place grid penalty dropped him to eighth

VERSTAPPEN TAKES POLE

Verstappen Claims Malaysian Grand Prix Pole

for the race. Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli qualified fourth, ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

McLaren's Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri qualified sixth and seventh respectively, while Mercedes' George Russell took eighth. Pierre Gasly and Gabriel Bortoleto completed the top 10.

The qualifying battle remained open after three different teams topped the three practice sessions. Verstappen led FP1, Leclerc topped FP2 and Antonelli was fastest in FP3.

Verstappen then asserted himself in Q2, becoming the first driver to break into the 1:36 range with a 1:35.696 lap before improving further in Q3.

Antonelli recovered from

having his first Q2 lap deleted for exceeding track limits and eventually secured fourth place on fresh soft tyres.

Further down the order, Liam Lawson qualified 11th but will start from the back because of a power-unit change. Fernando Alonso, Carlos Sainz and Lance Stroll followed, while Nico Hulkenberg narrowly missed Q2. Alex Albon qualified 20th.



Quick Read

Islamabad turns ‘Containerabad’ amid political lockdown

NEW DELHI
The Pakistan government has lined up thousands of shipping containers and trucks across Islamabad for nearly four weeks to block an upcoming march on the capital by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a new report has said. The report from Al Jazeera cited transporters and businessmen as saying that the move has disrupted traffic, commerce and livelihoods. The containers were deployed ahead of a PTI march originally scheduled to start on September 27 from Peshawar and later postponed to October 4, organisers said.

Dr Priti Adani hails Odisha’s sustainability focus

BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha government on Saturday released the first-year report of a three-year research initiative on Olive Ridley turtles, led by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in partnership with the Odisha Wildlife Organisation, Dhamra Port Co Ltd (DPCL), a part of Adani Ports, and the Adani Foundation. Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, released the report which brought together satellite telemetry, boat-based surveys and shoreline analysis to understand how Olive Ridley turtles used Odisha’s coastal waters and nesting habitats.



China’s rising role in Pak digital transformation raises sovereignty concerns

NEW DELHI
China’s deepening role in Pakistan’s digital economy is accelerating modernisation but creates concerns about long-term dependence on Chinese technology, a new report has said.
The report from Greece-based publication Geopolitico said Chinese tech firms, particularly Huawei, have become increasingly involved in Pakistan’s telecommunications, cloud-computing, smart-city and artificial-intelligence sectors which could lead to a “technological lock-in.” Chinese firms are running training programmes for Pakistani students and professionals in areas such as AI, cybersecurity and cloud services, which could help build human capital and speed digital readiness.
However, critics warn that if engineers, government agencies and private companies are trained on proprietary Chinese systems, switching to alternative systems could be very costly.
“Once a country’s databases, cloud infrastructure, telecom equipment and cybersecurity architecture are built around one technological ecosystem, diversification becomes both expensive and operationally difficult,” the report noted. When technology moves into critical national infrastructure, Pakistan may develop national databases, cybersecurity systems and digital-governance platforms in close cooperation with Chinese institutions and companies.

‘MDR on UPI unlikely to trigger fee hikes’

World Bank Group Executive Director Neelkanth Mishra said allowing UPI MDR may not significantly raise charges, citing intense competition and India’s relative resilience amid global financial risks.

NEW DELHI

Allowing Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions is unlikely to result in a significant increase in charges because of intense competition in India’s payments ecosystem, Neelkanth Mishra, Executive Director at the World Bank Group, said on Saturday.
Attending 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave, Mishra described MDR as an en-

abling provision and said concerns over widespread fee increases may be overstated in a free and competitive market.
Mishra said financial firms, banks and payment aggregators would face competitive pressures, making it difficult for them to simultaneously raise charges. He noted that several firms had remained viable even when they were unable to charge MDR.
He also discussed risks facing global financial markets,

identifying sharply rising interest rates as the biggest threat. According to Mishra, financial markets are closely linked to the cost of capital, and higher risk-free rates can put pressure on asset values.
He said rising yields could weaken the viability of collateralised loans and leveraged positions, potentially forcing borrowers to unwind such positions.
On India’s exposure to global financial stress amid elevated oil prices, higher



bond yields and geopolitical uncertainty, Mishra acknowledged that the risks remain significant. However, he said India is relatively better positioned than economies carry-

ing substantially higher debt burdens.
Mishra said financial markets were already showing some nervousness and sug-

gested that stability could return if bond yields decline or growth-related risks prompt markets to reassess expectations.

UPI MDR fee hikes unlikely

- MDR on UPI could be an enabling provision.
- Competition may limit significant increases in payment charges.
- Rising interest rates pose the biggest global market risk.
- Higher yields could pressure asset values and leveraged positions.
- India faces risks but remains relatively better positioned than highly indebted economies.

FSSAI orders halt to Nestle dairy product sale

NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Saturday directed immediate action against the

FSSAI ordered immediate action after laboratory testing found Nestle Low Fat Dairy Whitener unsafe and substandard under food safety regulations.

with the food business operator for necessary action.
The action comes amid increased regulatory scrutiny of food quality and compliance standards.



sale of a Nestle dairy product after a laboratory analysis found a sample to be unsafe and substandard.
The sample of Nestle Low Fat Dairy Whitener was collected from the premises of Bharat Hotels Ltd, which operates The Lalit hotel. It was subsequently tested by a Food Analyst laboratory.
According to FSSAI, the laboratory report concluded that the product failed to comply with provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The sample was classified as both unsafe and substandard.
Following the findings, the food regulator issued a notice to Bharat Hotels Ltd regarding the non-compliant product manufactured by Nestle. FSSAI also shared a copy of the laboratory analysis report

Earlier this month, the regulator suspended the licences of TCF Chocolates and Gifts and Shivam Agro after inspections reportedly uncovered serious food safety and hygiene lapses at their facilities.
The inspection of TCF Chocolates and Gifts followed a consumer complaint concerning food ordered through an e-commerce platform.

Regulatory action

FSSAI directed the immediate prohibition of sale of the identified product while allowing Bharat Hotels Ltd to challenge the laboratory findings through the prescribed appeal process.

Nabkisan lists India’s first WASH social bond on NSE

NEW DELHI

Finance Ministry on Saturday said that NABKISAN Finance Limited, a subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), listed India’s first Social Bond dedicated exclusively to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
The Social Bond issue was oversubscribed 1.8 times, enabling NABKISAN to raise Rs 180 crore. The five-year bond carries a coupon rate of 8.10 per cent which matures in September 2031. It has been assigned the highest domestic credit ratings of CRISIL AAA (Stable) and CARE AAA (Stable).
According to the Finance Ministry, the proceeds will be deployed to expand access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene solutions across rural and underserved communities, contributing to improved



health, livelihoods, and quality of life.
Dr Shaji Krishnan V, Chairman, NABARD, said the successful issuance of the WASH Bond demonstrates the potential of innovative financing mechanisms in addressing critical development priorities.
He highlighted that improved access to water and sanitation strengthens health, livelihoods and quality of life in rural areas, while development institutions play an important role in making such projects bankable and attracting wider participation from commercial and capital markets.

CBI files chargesheet against RCom

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said it has filed a chargesheet against Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) and some senior executives in an LIC investment fraud case.
The CBI chargesheet was filed in the case before the Special Judge for CBI Cases, Mumbai, against RCom, two executives of the Reliance ADA Group – Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Group MD and Vishwas Joshi, Sr VP, Reliance Capital Limited and P. Venugopal, the then Chief Investment Officer, LIC.
According to a CBI statement, the four accused have been booked for “offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust under the IPC, along with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988”.
Further investigation is continuing to ascertain the role of other accused persons and to investigate other allegations, it added.



In 2012, LIC subscribed to non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth Rs 1,500 crore issued by Reliance Communications Ltd on the basis of serious misrepresentations.
The funds received through the NCD subscription were, thereafter, diverted to ADA group companies, thereby causing wrongful loss to LIC and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons and entities, according to the CBI.
“It may be recalled that the CBI had registered the case on 01.04.2026 on the basis of a complaint received from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The total alleged loss caused to LIC amounts to Rs 3,750 crore”, according to the investigating agency.

India stays confident as world faces diesel crunch



NEW DELHI

As the global diesel market faces the brunt due to the US-Iran war as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India has said it will honour its commitments and continue diesel shipments even if the US moves forward with export bans.
According to Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, years of investment in refining capacity had left the industry well placed to sustain overseas supply.
Speaking at a recently held PAFI event, the minister said India “honours its commitments”.
“Within the next year, we are poised to reach nearly 290 MTPA, with a target of 320 MTPA by 2030–32,” said Puri

at the event. According to reports, as refining capacity is declining in several parts of the world, India is moving in the opposite direction building new refineries while simultaneously expanding and modernising existing ones.
“In the US, diesel prices went up to \$6. If you look at a neighbouring country — just compare the rates. Look at the prices in 2014, 2021, and 2026. This isn’t just about political rhetoric. We have 107,000 retail outlets across the country; not a single one ran dry,” said the minister.

Refining capacity (MTPA)

Today	267
Next year	~290
2030–32 target	320

114 Rafale deal likely by FY27-end: IAF chief

NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Saturday that India is likely to finalise much-awaited multirole fighter aircraft



(MRFA) deal by the end of this financial year if plans materialise in time.
At a press conference ahead of Air Force Day, Singh said price negotiations and other critical issues on the proposed acquisition — estimated at about Rs 3.25 lakh crore — are under way.
India in February cleared the proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets in the country’s largest-ever defence acquisition push. The deal was formulated under a government-to-government framework with France, nearly two decades after the plan was originally rolled out to boost the Indian Air Force’s combat prowess and expand India’s Rafale fleet.
The agreement once concluded would expand India’s

total Rafale inventory to 176 aircraft, including the 36 Rafales already operated by the Indian Air Force, along with

India’s Rafale fleet	
114	IN THE NEW DEAL
36	WITH THE IAF
26	RAFALE-M, NAVY
176	RAFALES IN ALL

26 Rafale-M fighter jets ordered by the Indian Navy for deployment aboard its aircraft carriers.
The Air Chief Marshal also floated the possibility of the force considering the procurement of another platform if the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme faces delays.
Responding to a question on the depleting strength of fighter squadrons, Air Chief Marshal Singh said the Indian Air Force (IAF) requires at least 36 to 40 aircraft annually in the next few years.
India needs to further ramp up its air power, which remains crucial in the context of overall military strength.
The Chief of Air Staff underlined that India must produce a fighter jet engine in the country.

Sebi to soon issue framework on Closing Auction Session

NEW DELHI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Saturday said the regulator is examining concerns around the settlement price framework for derivatives on expiry days.
Speaking at the Commodity and Capital Market Participants Association of India’s (CPAI) 12th International Convention here, Pandey said India requires markets that can efficiently mobilise capital, manage risk and inspire trust among investors.
Following the introduction of the Closing Auction Session (CAS) mechanism, the market regulator is reviewing issues related to determining derivatives settlement prices on expiry days.
The CAS framework was introduced to improve end-of-day price discovery by matching buy and sell orders at a single equilibrium price rather than relying solely on volume-weighted average



prices.
SEBI chairman said the regulator wants deeper and more liquid cash markets, stronger securities borrowing and lending mechanisms and more efficient hedging and arbitrage opportunities to enhance price discovery and strengthen the interaction between cash and derivatives segments.
Highlighting measures to broaden participation, he noted that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been given access to non-agricultural commodity derivatives, a move expected to improve liquidity and price discovery while retaining safeguards for the physical market.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

India navigates global turbulence: FM

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said India had successfully navigated a period of global economic uncertainty, including risks arising from the West Asia crisis, while maintaining its economic fundamentals.
Addressing the special plenary on “Resilience in an Age of Flux: India’s Economic Priorities” at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave, Sitharaman said India had emerged from the period with its fundamentals intact and strengthened.

She highlighted the broader challenges facing the global economy, noting that global public debt had risen to nearly 94 per cent of GDP in 2025 and was projected to reach 100 per cent by 2029.
Sitharaman distinguished between price and quantity

“India has come through this period remarkably well with its fundamentals intact and strengthened.”
– Nirmala Sitharaman
Union Finance Minister



shocks, saying the latter could test macroeconomic

systems, delivery mechanisms and the capacity of

governments to respond effectively.
She cited India’s recent economic indicators, including real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY2026-27, CPI inflation of around 4.8 per cent in August 2026 and a current account deficit of 0.5 per cent of GDP in the first quarter.
The Finance Minister also outlined measures undertaken since 2014 to strengthen household resilience, productive capacity and participation in economic growth. She pointed to the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile framework and

Direct Benefit Transfer for improving delivery of government assistance.
Schemes including PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat and food-security measures were cited as efforts addressing household vulnerabilities.
Sitharaman also highlighted PM MUDRA, which she said had sanctioned more than 52 crore collateral-free loans, along with PM SVANidhi and banking-sector reforms involving recapitalisation, stressed-asset resolution and stronger governance frameworks.

Parineeti Chopra takes on a fearless reporting role

Actress Parineeti Chopra is preparing for a new role in the upcoming investigative thriller *Reporting Live*, where she plays a reporter who refuses to stop searching for the truth. The film, inspired by true events, follows a reporter and her cameraman, played by Parineeti Chopra and Deven Bhojani. Their investigation into illegal sand mining takes them into a dangerous world involving powerful people, crime and survival.

Talking about her character, Parineeti said she was quickly attracted to the role because of its curiosity and fearless nature. She described the character as someone who keeps looking for answers and does not stop until she finds the truth.

“This is my second inning with Netflix this year, in the thriller genre, but with a new

avatar,” Parineeti said. She also said that working with the ensemble made the experience more special. The trailer shows how illegal sand mining has become a major business, where asking difficult questions can bring serious danger. After a fatal incident, the reporter and cameraman begin investigating. As they move deeper into the case, every answer creates another question and every new lead brings another threat. The film also stars Amol Palekar, Adil Hussain and Shekhar Suman.

Directed and co-written by Dhruv Tripathi, with Mihir Jadhav, the film is produced by Partha Kiran Thakur and Joshua Shirsath. *Reporting Live* will premiere on Netflix on October 9.

Parineeti was last seen in *Shaque: Trust No One*, which premiered on Netflix on September 24.



Dhanush and Mammooty unite for November release

Wunderbar Films has announced the release date of *OM Chapter One*, bringing together Dhanush and Mammooty for a pan-Indian action drama. Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, the film will release worldwide in theatres on November 20, 2026.

The makers shared the date through a poster showing Dhanush and Mammooty in intense looks, holding weapons against a dark urban background. The poster carries the title *Chapter 1: The Blood Wood*, while details about the story remain under wraps.

OM Chapter One also stars Sai Pallavi, Sreeleela and Naseeruddin Shah in important roles. The combination of actors from Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi cinema has created curiosity



Amaran, is returning with a project that appears to explore a larger cinematic scale.

The film is produced by Shraddha Agrawal, Dhanush and Azmat Jagmag. Sai Abhyankar has composed the music, while RTake Studios and Wunderbar Films are backing the project.

The November release places *OM Chapter One* among the major theatrical releases planned for the end of 2026. Its multilingual cast and action-focused campaign are expected to give it a wide theatrical reach across different markets.

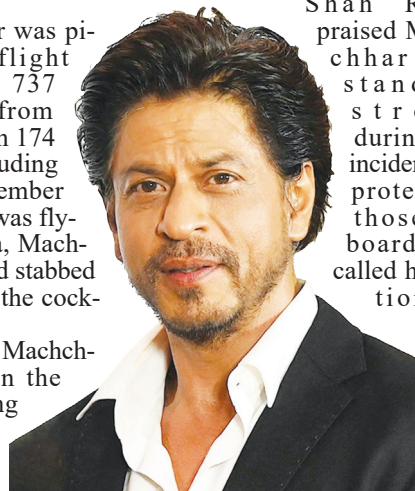
For fans of Dhanush and Mammooty, the release date now sets a clear countdown. *OM Chapter One* will reach theatres worldwide on November 20, 2026, with the makers promising a large-scale action experience.

SHAH RUKH KHAN PRAISES PILOT FOR SHOWING COURAGE

Actor Shah Rukh Khan has praised Captain Smit Machchhar for his actions during a Flydubai flight incident, saying the pilot showed courage by putting the safety of passengers before his own.

Captain Machchhar was piloting Flydubai flight FZ1073, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with 174 people on board, including 27 children. On September 30, while the aircraft was flying over Saudi Arabia, Machchhar was attacked and stabbed by his co-pilot inside the cockpit.

Despite his injuries, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew members to inter-



vene and overpower the attacker. Two other pilots travelling on the flight then helped take control of the aircraft. The plane was diverted and landed safely at Tabuk airport in Saudi Arabia.

Shah Rukh Khan praised Machchhar for standing strong during the incident and protecting those on board. He called his actions a true display of courage and duty and wished him a speedy recovery.

Salman Khan also praised the pilot a day earlier, saying that people salute his actions. Other Bollywood celebrities, including Karan Johar, Vicky Kaushal, Ranveer Singh, Paresh Rawal, R Madhavan, Vijay Deverakonda and Ravi Kishan, also praised Machchhar.

Karan Johar said the captain put the lives of others before his own while fighting for his life. Vicky called him a braveheart, while Ranveer described him as courageous. Machchhar was taken to hospital after the incident. He later spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his hospital bed and recalled opening the cockpit door despite his injuries.

The incident has drawn widespread attention to the pilot's actions during the flight.

Sai Pallavi faces two major releases this November

Actress Sai Pallavi is set for a busy November, with two highly anticipated films scheduled to reach theatres within the same month.

Sai Pallavi will play Goddess Sita in *Ramayana: Part 1*, which stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and is directed by Nitesh Tiwari. The film is scheduled to release on November 6, during the Diwali festival.

Her casting as Sita has already faced criticism from some sections of social media, particularly in North India. Some public figures and social media users have questioned her suitability for the role. The film will give audiences their first look at her portrayal of the iconic character. Adding to the month, her Tamil film *Om*, starring Dhanush, has been rescheduled for November 20 after initially being planned for October. Sai Pallavi plays one of the female leads alongside Sreeleela in the film.

Om is also positioned as a major release and marks Sai Pallavi's return to Tamil cinema after a considerable gap. The film's November release means the actress will appear in two major projects within a fortnight.

The back-to-back releases are expected to



bring Sai Pallavi before audiences across different markets. Both films also feature established actors and have attracted attention ahead of their theatrical arrivals.

November will therefore see Sai Pallavi in two different roles, with *Ramayana: Part 1* arriving first on November 6, followed by *Om* on November 20. With both films scheduled for release in the same month, November will mark an important period in Sai Pallavi's career as audiences prepare to see her in two contrasting projects.

Imanvi waits for Fauji before choosing next film

Imanvi, who is making her acting debut with Prabhas-starrer *Fauji*, has reportedly decided to wait for the film's release before choosing her next project.

The shooting of *Fauji* has faced delays, with reports suggesting that the film still needs around four more months of filming.

The delay is also said to have affected its release plans. The film was earlier scheduled to arrive on December 3, but producer Ravi Shankar recently confirmed that it will now release only in 2027.

Imanvi is making her acting debut opposite Prabhas in the film. Director Hanu Raghavapudi introduced her as the female lead, giving the social media influencer a major opportunity in her first acting project.

According to reports, Imanvi had hoped that an early release of *Fauji* would help her receive more offers from the Telugu film industry. However, the continued production has now pushed those plans further.

Interestingly, Imanvi is reportedly choosing to wait until *Fauji* reaches theatres before signing another film. She is said to have received offers from other filmmakers, but has decided to take her time and see how her debut project turns out.

The decision means that her next move in Telugu cinema will come only after *Fauji* is released. For now, the actress is focusing on her debut film, which continues to remain in production and is expected to reach audiences in 2027.

With the release date delayed, Imanvi's next project will also have to wait until *Fauji* completes its journey to theatres.

Sienna Miller remembers her enlightening India visit

Actor Sienna Miller has recalled her 2007 visit to India, describing the experience as enlightening and sharing her admiration for the country and its people.

Miller visited India nearly 20 years ago as an ambassador for Global Cool, a climate change advocacy group. Her week-long trip focused on raising awareness about climate change and supporting efforts to bring changes to environmental laws.

During the visit, Miller travelled to several places, including Mumbai's Dharavi. She also met Bollywood stars such as Salman Khan and Amitabh Bachchan, who supported her campaign.

“I think India is the most incredible country,” Miller said while recalling her trip. She added that she worked with several Bollywood stars, including Amitabh Bachchan, and described the experience as a really enlightening trip.

The actor also spoke warmly about the people she met during her time in India. She said the country has changed greatly since her visit and praised its fast-growing economy and important place in the world.

Miller said India has a huge film industry and remains an incredible place. She added that she loved seeing the country, loved the people she met and would like to spend more time there.

Miller, 44, is currently starring in the HBO legal drama *War*. She plays a Hollywood star going through a very public divorce, while Dominic West plays her estranged husband, a technology billionaire.

Created by George Kay, *War* also features Phoebe Fox, James McArdle, Pip Torrens, Nina Sosanya, Archie Renaux and Nick Mohammed. The series premiered on HBO and HBO Max on October 1 and is

streaming in India on JioHotstar.

Miller's memories show that her India visit left a lasting impression.



Jr NTR vows legal action over morphed video

Actor Jr NTR has strongly condemned an AI-generated morphed video of the song Chuttamalle, featuring him and Janhvi Kapoor from *Devara: Part 1*. The manipulated video has been circulating widely on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Jr NTR said the use of artificial intelligence to create such content was shameful and disrespectful. He warned the people who created and shared the video that he would take legal action against them.

He also urged people not to watch, share or engage with the content. The actor said such misuse of AI could affect anyone and called on state governments and the Government of India to introduce strict rules against the misuse of the technology.

The song Chuttamalle was released in 2024 and was composed by Anirudh Ravichander. It was also released in different languages, in-

cluding Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. Shilpa Rao provided the vocals, while Bosco Martis choreographed the song.

The 3-minute-44-second song features Janhvi in traditional clothing and Jr NTR in contemporary attire. The two actors are shown together on a beach, with Janhvi's character Thangam expressing her love for Jr NTR's character.

Devara: Part 1 marked Janhvi and Saif Ali Khan's debut in Telugu cinema. Janhvi had earlier said that working in Telugu made her feel closer to her late mother, actor Sridevi.

She also said she felt honoured to work with Jr NTR and Ram Charan, whose families shared a long connection with her mother.

Jr NTR's warning has highlighted growing concerns over the misuse of AI and the need for stronger action against harmful manipulated content online.

Fast and Furious spinoff series gets 2028 premiere

The *Fast & Furious* franchise is heading to television, with Peacock giving the green light to a new scripted spinoff series. The show is expected to premiere in 2028 and will expand the \$7.3 billion franchise beyond films.

Vin Diesel, who announced that a scripted series was in development earlier this year, will serve as an executive producer. Sam Vincent, Neal H. Moritz, Pavun Shetty, Jeff Kirschenbaum and Chris Morgan are also executive producers. Mike Daniels and Wolfe Coleman will serve as co-showrunners, pilot writers and executive producers.

The television series is expected to premiere around the same time as *Fast Forever*, the upcoming 11th and final mainline film in the franchise. The movie is scheduled to reach theatres on March 17, 2028. Diesel previously said fans had wanted the franchise to expand its legacy characters and stories into television. He said the move became possible when Donna Langley began oversee-



ing the project, adding that the characters, international appeal and family element would be protected on television.

The franchise has previously appeared on television through Netflix's animated series *Fast & Furious Spy Racers*, which ran for six seasons between 2019 and 2021.

Diesel also revealed that filming for *Fast Forever* is expected to begin in December. He said the script took four years of development and four sets of writers before reaching a version he felt was worthy of the finale. The *Fast & Furious* franchise has earned \$7.3 billion worldwide, making it one of Universal's major film franchises. With the television series now moving forward, the franchise is set to enter a new chapter in 2028.