



Oman becomes India's top LNG supplier

P7

P11

'Extreme heat puts pregnant women, newborns at risk'



P12

Digvijay Singh Clinches Baku ITF Tennis Title



India-Switzerland stand for global peace, stability: PM

Both the countries ink 5 pacts to deepen trade, investment ties after Modi-Parmelin talks

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swiss Confederation president Guy Parmelin held wide-ranging talks in New Delhi on Monday, with the two sides discussing ways to deepen cooperation in trade and investment, mobility, infrastructure, defence, nuclear energy and critical technologies.

The talks came as India and Switzerland seek to build on the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which entered into force last October and is set to complete a year of implementation this week.

Addressing a joint press statement after the talks, PM Modi said the relationship between India and Switzerland had gained fresh momentum and highlighted the two countries' cooperation in innovation, infrastructure and advanced technology.

"India-Switzerland friendship is centuries-old... Innovation, infrastructure and advanced technology are strong pillars of our foundation today. With the Summit today, we are going to give a new pace and height to our partnership," PM Modi said.

India eyes \$100 billion investment under TEPA

PM Modi said TEPA was an ambitious blueprint for investment, innovation, jobs and shared prosperity and set out a target of attracting \$100 billion in investment into India and creating 1 million direct jobs over the next 15 years.

"I am very happy to welcome the president of Switzerland to India. First of all, I would like



Parmelin calls visit a 'stepping stone'

Parmelin, who is on a three-day State visit to India, described the trip as an opportunity to further strengthen the long-standing relationship between the two countries. He said India and Switzerland shared democratic values as well as trust and mutual respect, and described his visit as a "stepping stone" towards deepening their partnership. The Swiss president's visit is also significant for TEPA, which was signed in March 2024 after nearly 16 years of negotiations and came into force in October 2025. The EFTA countries — Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — have committed to investing \$100 billion in India over 15 years under the agreement. Parmelin is scheduled to attend the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit on October 7, marking the first anniversary of TEPA's implementation.

to appreciate his commitment to India-Switzerland relations. With his personal support, last October we implemented a historic Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association, or EFTA, countries." "This is India's first FTA with any economic bloc in Europe," he added.

The Prime Minister said India and Switzerland had also taken decisions to increase market access for Indian exports to Switzerland and facilitate investment between the two countries.

He said the measures would support exports of Indian agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles and engineering

goods, while encouraging Swiss investment in sectors including biotechnology, life sciences, banking, insurance, food processing and sustainability.

Defence, nuclear energy & infrastructure on agenda

The talks also expanded beyond trade and investment, with PM Modi saying the two countries had identified new opportunities for military exchanges and defence production cooperation.

"We also agreed to further deepen nuclear energy cooperation," he said. PM Modi pointed to projects such as the Varanasi ropeway, Noida's Jewar airport and railway and tunneling projects in mountainous

THE 5 PACTS SIGNED

➤ **Migration and Mobility:** Eases movement and employment frameworks.

➤ **Young Professionals:** Allows up to 300–500 annual exchanges.

➤ **Transport Infrastructure:** Fosters tech and mobility collaboration.

➤ **Scientific Research:** Deepens joint research initiatives.

➤ **Startup Development:** Promotes innovation ecosystems.

Economic context

➤ **TEPA Milestone:** Builds on the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement.

➤ **Investment Goal:** Aims for \$100 billion and 1 million jobs over 15 years.

➤ **Market Access:** Expands exports for Indian pharma, agriculture, and textiles.

CM draws 15-yr development roadmap for Bengaluru



Focus will be on transportation, housing, water supply and industry.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said the government was preparing a comprehensive 10-15-year development plan for areas under the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), with emphasis on transportation, housing, water supply and industrial development.

Speaking at a meeting of the advisory committee on the economic development of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR) at his official residence 'Krishna', the CM said the government was planning long-term infrastructure development in the region to support the state's economic growth targets. The state has set a target of taking its economy to \$1 trillion by 2047, while the government aims to increase it to \$400–420 billion by 2037.

"In line with this objective, plans are being prepared for smooth transportation, housing and industrial development in

Will bring entire B'luru Urban dist under BWSSB: KBG

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the government intended to bring the entire Bengaluru Urban district under the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in a phased manner to ensure systematic development of drinking water and sewerage infrastructure. "As decided in the previous meeting, the entire Bengaluru Urban district will be brought under the BWSSB, keeping future requirements in mind. This will enable the systematic development of water distribution capacity and sewerage infrastructure across the district," he said. He said the government would also identify the complete road network in Bengaluru Urban district and prepare a comprehensive plan for its development.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROADMAP

➤ **The goal:** 15-year BMR plan targets transport, housing, water and industry growth.

➤ **Economic targets:** Aims to help push Karnataka's economy to \$400–420 billion by 2037 and \$1 trillion by 2047.

➤ **Industrial townships:** Nine new integrated industrial townships across the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR), backed by 7,900 acres of already acquired land and another 5,600 acres in the acquisition pipeline.

➤ **Housing initiative:** Plans include constructing 6 lakh to 6.5 lakh affordable housing units, with 40,000 to 50,000 units specifically reserved for industrial workers.

➤ **Transportation upgrades:** Plans a 270-km Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting Bengaluru to Tumakuru, Mysuru, and Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), a high-speed rail corridor, expanding Namma Metro to 312 km by 2037, and adding 72 km of suburban rail.

➤ **Model utilities:** Long-term water strategies emphasizing treated wastewater reuse and lake rejuvenation.

➤ **AI boost:** Plan includes an AI City and a proposed AI university.

the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region," he said.

He said the government was planning to establish nine new integrated industrial townships in the BMR to promote industrial growth and create employment opportunities. "Land measuring 7,900 acres has already been acquired, while the acquisition process for another 5,600 acres is under way."

He said the government had already announced plans to establish an AI City in the Ben-

galuru region and stressed the need to develop it on the lines of Punggol in Singapore. "An AI university is also proposed, and land is required for it. Suitable locations should be identified for establishing the university," he directed officials.

The CM said all areas of Bengaluru Urban district would be brought under the jurisdiction of urban local bodies to ensure planned development and better delivery of civic services.

Congo river boat collision kills 30

KINSHASA: At least 30 people have died and dozens remain missing after two vessels collided on the Congo River over the weekend, local authorities stated on Monday.

The crash involving two motorised wooden boats occurred on Sunday evening near the Ngombe-Lukolela area in Equateur province, according to the provincial interior minister, Crispin Mputu.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear. Mputu indicated that travelling by river at night has historically led to many accidents. The minister told The Associated Press that the 30 people killed in the collision have already been buried.

One vessel was travelling from Ubangi, in the northwest, to the capital of Kinshasa, whilst the second was en route from Kinshasa to Lukolela, close to where the collision took place. Mputu said, adding search efforts continue for survivors and victims.

RSS an unregistered money laundering unit: Priyank

'Hindus have nothing to learn from it'

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), calling it an unregistered money laundering unit and accusing the organisation of carrying out illegal activities in the name of religion.

He made the remarks while responding to reporters' query about senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh's proposed 1,000-km padyatra and criticism of the Congress leader by right-wing organisations.

Defending Singh, he described him as a staunch follower of Sanatana faith and questioned the RSS's claim to represent Hinduism.

"The RSS does not know the head or tail of this feeling. They act as if they are the sole protectors of a religion that is 3,000



years old, whereas they have just turned 100." Priyank also drew a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, arguing that the two should not be treated as the same. "There is a strong difference between Hinduism and Hindutva. Hindutva was something started by the RSS, whereas Hinduism has existed for thousands of years. Therefore, no Hindu has anything to learn from the RSS." He alleged that the RSS engages in financial and legal irregularities while operating in the name of religion. "The RSS is nothing but an unregistered money laundering unit who, in the name of religion, are carrying out all illegal activities," he alleged.

Drought may hit Karnataka's GST collection: DyCM

BENGALURU

Severe drought in Karnataka and resultant crop losses are likely to impact the state's GST collection, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday.

Estimating the economic loss due to the prevailing weather conditions at around Rs 46,000 crore, Parameshwara, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said the state has sought around Rs 10,000–11,000 crore in drought relief from the Centre.

"Karnataka is facing a drought of a severity not seen before. Its impact will certainly be felt across sectors, including GST collection," he told reporters.

Karnataka has consistently

ranked second in the country for GST collection and has presented its position at GST council meetings, he said. "The state is now facing drought and crop losses. This will impact all sectors. Financial experts have already indicated that GST collections may naturally decline as a result."

The extent of the impact will become clear in the coming days, he said, adding that the government had maintained the necessary financial buffer and was also examining measures to improve GST collection.

On drought, he said Central teams were visiting the state from October 3 to 6 to assess

conditions in the 101 taluks declared drought-hit in the first phase. The teams have also been asked to visit the remaining 77 taluks declared drought-hit in the second phase.

The teams are expected to complete their assessment by Monday or Tuesday and submit their report to the Union government, following which a decision on Karnataka's relief demand would be taken, he said, adding that around Rs 46,000 crore in losses have been estimated across the 177 drought-hit taluks. "We have sought around Rs 10,000–11,000 crore in relief and have also placed this request before the Central team."



GP's statement synopsis

Estimated economic loss: Pegged at approximately ₹46,000 cr to ₹60,000 crore due to widespread crop damages. **Affected areas:** Over 210 taluks have been declared drought-hit, triggering intense economic and rural distress.

Central aid sought: The state has requested between ₹10,000 cr & ₹11,000 cr in central assistance for relief measures.

Central assessment: Three central drought assessment teams are actively evaluating ground conditions in affected districts from October 3 to 6, 2026.

Revenue impact: Karnataka traditionally ranks second nationwide in GST collection, but reduced rural spending and agricultural output threaten this momentum.

State measures: To offset fund shortages, the government has marginally increased certain user charges & is looking to strengthen internal revenue streams.

QUICK READ

CISF jawan stabbed during Delhi protest, probe on

NEW DELHI

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan was allegedly injured after being attacked with a sharp-edged object during a protest in New Delhi on Monday, with Delhi Police now examining the incident and initiating legal action. The injured personnel was taken to a hospital for a medical examination following the alleged assault.

A senior police officer later confirmed that the examination had been completed. Police are currently looking into the circumstances of the incident and gathering evidence related to the alleged attack. According to the police, the investigation will focus on establishing what happened during the protest and examining the available evidence. A senior officer said necessary legal action would be taken in connection with the incident.

Bengali actor Koel Mallick joins BJP day after RS nomination

KOLKATA

Bengali film actor Rukmini Mallick, popularly known as Koel Mallick, joined the BJP on Monday, a day after the party nominated her for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls. The daughter of veteran Bengali film actor Ranjit Mallick had a short stint as a TMC Rajya Sabha MP from April 6 to July 16. She resigned after the Mamata Banerjee-led party's electoral debacle in the assembly elections. Welcoming Koel into the BJP fold, party's West Bengal general secretary Sashi Agnihotri said the actor will file her nomination for the Rajya Sabha seat on Monday. "It would be an honour for me to become a member of the Upper House of Parliament and get a chance to work for the welfare of the people," Mallick told a press conference at the BJP state headquarters here. The actor-politician said she wants to be part of the development initiatives taken up by the first BJP government in West Bengal and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari for selecting her for the Rajya Sabha membership.

Trio wins medicine Nobel for research on mysteries of brain

American and 2 Germans selected for their work on optogenetics, which uses light to control nerve cells in brain.

STOCKHOLM

The 2026 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded to three scientists — Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel — for their work developing a technique to decode the inner workings of the brain.

This method — known as optogenetics — acts as a "light-sensitive switch," allowing scientists to "map which cells are responsible for which function" in the

brain, said Anna Wedell, a member of the Nobel Prize committee, which announced the prestigious honor in Sweden on Monday.

German researchers Hegemann, 71, and Nagel, 73, discovered a protein in algae, known as channelrhodopsin, before American scientist Deisseroth, 54, "transformed the protein into a light-controlled switch for nerve cells," the committee said in a statement. That work has "laid the foundation for a new era in neuroscience," the committee added.

By using this method, researchers can identify and even control the neural circuits that govern "specific memories, feelings, and behaviors relevant for neurological and psychiatric disorders."

ILLUMINATING THE BRAIN

DISCOVERY IN A NUTSHELL

Laureates: American scientist Karl Deisseroth (54) and German researchers Peter Hegemann (71) and Georg Nagel (73) split the 12 million Swedish krona (\$1.2 million) prize.

How it works: Hegemann and Nagel discovered a light-sensitive protein called channelrhodopsin in algae. Deisseroth then transformed this protein into a precise, light-controlled switch for nerve cells in living brains.

How it works: Hegemann and Nagel discovered a light-sensitive protein called channelrhodopsin in algae. Deisseroth then transformed this protein into a precise, light-controlled switch for nerve cells in living brains.



All three laureates were "very surprised" when they learned of their prize shortly

before the public announcement, said the committee's secretary-general Thomas

Future medical applications

Brain disorders: Researchers hope to better understand and treat conditions like depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, & Parkinson's disease.

Restoring vision: Trials are underway to insert channelrhodopsin-like proteins into the retinas of blind patients, helping them regain basic sight using special light-emitting glasses.

Hearing: Ongoing studies aim to use the technology to improve cochlear implants for hearing loss.

Perlmann.

The three laureates will equally split the 12 million Swedish krona (\$1,200,000) prize pot. Four more Nobel Prizes — physics, chemistry, literature and peace — will be awarded later this week, before the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science is awarded next Monday.

Kharge defends police cases over alleged false Form 7 applications

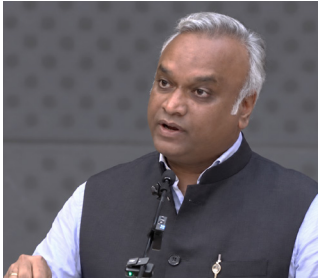
The minister said complaints from voters and alleged irregularities in applications warrant investigation under existing electoral laws.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday defended police action against those accused of submitting false Form 7 applications during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Kharge said knowingly providing false information through Form 7, which is used to object to the inclusion or deletion of names from electoral rolls, constitutes a criminal offence and could attract imprisonment of up to one year and a fine.

He alleged that BJP leaders and workers were involved in submitting bulk applications containing incorrect information and described the alleged misuse as a “centralised criminal conspiracy”. He also



questioned how party workers obtained pre-printed forms and machine-readable voter lists.

He cited instances in which voters reportedly complained that Form 7 applications had been submitted claiming they were dead. Kharge said such complaints should be investigated by police and district authorities.

“Let them give any complaint against us to the CEO, and let their complaint be ver-

We all will have to work within the framework of law. We cannot file cases arbitrarily. Only when a complaint is given, cases are registered under relevant sections. Just because the complaint is against BJP, we cannot file cases.”

— Priyank Kharge
Home Minister

ified in accordance with law,” he said, referring to NDA leaders meeting the Chief Electoral Officer.

The minister said several BJP workers had allegedly acknowledged that forms and documents submitted by them were incorrect and that they had made mistakes. He asked

FORM 7 ROW

- **Purpose:** Objection to voter inclusion/deletion
- **Police action:** Against alleged false claims
- **Issue:** Alleged bulk submission of forms

BJP and JD(S) leaders to explain such instances to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Recently, Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar directed Electoral Registration Officers to act against applicants who knowingly make false claims seeking deletion of voters through Form 7.

The issue has triggered a political confrontation, with the ruling Congress seeking action over alleged misuse of the form and opposition parties raising questions about the cases registered.

Quick Read



Community action helps free Bengaluru trees from concrete

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Citizen groups in Bengaluru are joining hands with civic officials to remove concrete around trees and improve their access to soil and water. The HSR Citizen Forum has freed 75 trees in Sector 1, working with Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) workers and Forest Department officials. A group of 10 residents mapped trees affected by concretisation and hired equipment to remove the concrete. Forum member Anitha Balu said officials also helped convince residents who initially objected to the initiative. The campaign has received strong social media response, encouraging others to replicate it. Meanwhile, Bengaluru Huduguru volunteers have freed 25 trees in two months, with environmentalists urging citywide action.

Ganesh festivities leave Bengaluru lakes struggling with waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Volunteers and environmentalists have raised concerns over garbage and festival debris left around lake immersion ponds following Ganesh Chathurthi celebrations. Residents and volunteers gathered at the immersion pond of Kaikondrahalli Lake clear waste and draw attention to the impact of festival-related debris on water bodies. Environmentalists urged devotees to choose natural clay or eco-friendly idols instead of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols. Valli Srinivasan, a Bellandur resident, also appealed to citizens to avoid single-use plastics and dispose of offerings responsibly. Environmentalist Rahul said careless practices during festivals were affecting natural ecosystems and called for greater public responsibility. Plog Raja of the Indian Ploggers Army said religious traditions should be accompanied by environmental responsibility and urged collective action to protect lakes.

Gym trainer dies after fight at anniversary party; four detained

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 25-year-old gym trainer died after a fight broke out during a gym anniversary party at an apartment complex in Sahakar Nagar, north Bengaluru. Police have detained four of his friends for questioning.

The deceased has been identified as Nandan. According to Amruthahalli police, the party was held in a flat on the 16th floor to mark the gym's anniversary.

During the celebrations, an argument reportedly broke out between Nandan and Vishwanath over a trivial issue. Police said Nandan objected to being referred to as Vishwanath's disciple, following which the verbal altercation escalated into a physical fight in the bathroom.

Nandan allegedly suffered a serious head injury after being hit by a sharp glass object. The injury resulted in profuse bleeding. However, the suspects allegedly did not immediately take him to a hospital or arrange medical assistance.

He reportedly continued to bleed for several hours before being shifted to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

A senior Amruthahalli police officer said preliminary



investigation suggested Nandan could have survived if he had received immediate medical attention after sustaining the injury.

Based on a complaint filed by Nandan's mother, police have registered a murder case and detained four suspects for further questioning.

Police are examining CCTV footage and recording statements of those who attended the party to establish how the fight began, who assaulted Nandan and who was present when he sustained the injury.

Nandan's family said they were informed about the incident only after police contacted them and asked them to come to the hospital.

“He had no bad habits and was a responsible youngster. He was our only son and we cannot understand why this happened to him,” said Prasanna, a relative.

Karnataka universities prepare colleges for student elections



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Universities across Karnataka have asked principals of affiliated colleges to begin preparations for the return of student union elections, with institutions expected to review arrangements once the Model Code of Conduct for Legislative Council elections is lifted.

Some universities are planning meetings with college principals to assess preparations, while others have issued circulars asking institutions to follow directions from the Higher Education Department.

Bengaluru North University (BNU) has directed its affiliated colleges to submit reports on steps taken to reintroduce student elections.

The Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University in Raichur issued a notification on September 21 directing affiliated undergraduate and postgraduate colleges to prepare for elections. The guidelines aim to promote civic responsibility,

accountability and democratic values among students. Officials of Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University said a meeting of principals would be convened to review preparations.

Student organisations have also started preparing by holding meetings outside campuses, interacting with students and identifying potential candidates. ABVP state organising secretary Basavesh Kori said the organisation was consulting former student leaders for guidance.

NSUI office-bearers are also meeting prospective candidates. Bengaluru City University NSUI president Lakshya Raj said eligible and interested students should be encouraged to contest.

The Higher Education Department reinstated college campus elections following a Cabinet decision. However, university-level elections will not be held in the first phase. Student organisations and political parties have also been barred from entering campuses during the election process.

The elections mark the return of student polls to Karnataka's college campuses after 37 years.

“Elections on campuses will instil leadership qualities among students. In addition to politicians, many well-known academics too were student leaders in their time at college,” said B.K. Ravi, BNU Vice-Chancellor.

KSRTC, BMTC bus fares likely to rise this month

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bus fares in Karnataka are likely to increase this month, with the government considering a revision for KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh has indicated that the government is considering a fare hike due to the financial difficulties faced by the four corporations. A high-level committee headed by retired IAS officer Atul Tiwari, constituted to study their financial condition and recommend fare revisions, has finalised its report.

The government is expected to discuss the report with the Chief Minister before placing it before the Cabinet for approval. The revised fares will be implemented after the Cabinet clears the proposal.

The transport corporations are facing a significant financial burden due to rising diesel costs.

According to the report, diesel expenditure has increased by Rs 15-16 per litre, resulting in an annual burden of around Rs 8,000 crore for the four corporations.

The corporations have reported consecutive losses over the past three years. Their combined loss stood at Rs 1,354.48 crore in 2023-24, Rs 842 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 1,527 crore in 2025-26.

The four corporations had last increased ticket fares by 15% in January. The proposed revision is expected to directly affect passengers across the state.

Prize money for athletes under review; revised amount will be announced: DCM

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The prize money being awarded to Karnataka athletes is being reviewed in comparison with other states, and the revised amount will be announced, Deputy Chief Minister, Revenue and Youth Empowerment and Sports Minister Dr G. Parameshwara said.

Speaking to reporters near the West Gate of Vidhana Soudha, he said the government had already discussed the matter with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

“We have obtained information about the higher prize money being offered by other states and examined it. I have already discussed with the Chief Minister the need to review the prize money in Karnataka. The revised amount will be announced,” he said.

Parameshwara said he had tried to contact athlete Pooja Vastrakar to congratulate her while she was in Japan, but could not reach her. He spoke to her within a few hours of her return to India and had also interacted with other athletes.

Central drought teams visit districts

On the visit of central drought assessment teams, Parameshwara said three teams were formed and sent



Dr G. Parameshwara
Deputy Chief Minister

to different parts of Karnataka. The teams are visiting districts from October 3 to 6.

They are assessing the situation in the 101 taluks declared drought-hit in the first phase. The state government has also requested the teams to visit the remaining 77 taluks declared drought-hit in the second phase.

The teams have interacted with farmers and inspected agricultural fields.

District commissioners and Zilla Panchayat chief executive officers have briefed them on the ground situation.

The assessment is expected to conclude today or tomorrow, after which the teams will submit their report to the Centre. The Centre will decide on relief based on the report.

Pink Line systems work nears finish, trials likely by year-end

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC) is entering the final phase of work on the Pink Line's underground section, with trial runs expected to begin in November-December.

The 13.76-km underground stretch from Dairy Circle to Nagavara forms part of the 21.25-km Pink Line. The line's revised deadline for opening is March 2027. Its 7.5-km elevated section between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere is expected to be inaugurated later this month.

Tunnelling on the underground section was completed in October 2024, while track-laying was finished in May this year. However, installation and integration of electrical, signalling, telecommunications, ventilation, fire-fighting and automatic fare collection systems have taken longer.

A senior BMRC official said the 750V DC third-rail system had been installed and

energised at eight stations between Dairy Circle and Pottery Town, including MG Road. Work at the final four stations, from Tannery Road to Nagavara, is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

Kinematic Envelope clearance has been completed between Dairy Circle and MG Road. Cabling connecting auxiliary substations, traction substations and environmental control and tunnel ventilation systems has also been completed.

The underground section will be Bengaluru's first Metro corridor equipped with Platform Screen Doors (PSDs). Equipment has been shipped from China and is expected to reach Chennai port soon.

Trains will be moved between Dairy Circle and MG Road for Kinematic Envelope tests in the coming weeks. Full-line trials are expected within two to three months, followed by statutory approvals, including CMRS authorisation.

Indoor signalling, traction systems and Platform Screen Doors	Kinematic Envelope tests on the Dairy Circle-MG Road stretch	Integrated trials, then clearances including CMRS authorisation	Flooring, false ceilings and painting alongside trials
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FLYOVER PROGRESS

Ejipura flyover work progresses, December target set

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Work on the Ejipura flyover is progressing towards completion, with the authorities internally targeting December-end for completing the elevated stretch between Ejipura and Kendriya Sadan junction.

The entry and exit ramps proposed on Sarjapur Road, near the Koramangala water tank, are expected to be completed next year as they require fresh land acquisition.

The elevated section is currently the main focus of construction, with the GBA working towards making the stretch ready by the end of December. Construction activity has also been affected by the availability of stone aggregates in recent months.

The flyover is being implemented to improve connectivity between Ejipura, Koramangala and surrounding areas and provide smoother movement along one of the city's busy corridors.



The project was originally scheduled for completion in November 2019. Following changes to the earlier contract, the government approved the tendering process in July-August 2023 for appointing BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd to execute the remaining work. The formal agreement with the company was signed on November 15, 2023.

The December target covers the elevated portion between Ejipura and Kendriya Sadan junction. The Sarjapur Road ramps will be taken up alongside the required land acquisition process and are expected to be completed in 2027.

Once fully operational, the

PROJECT STATUS

- **NOVEMBER 2019**
Original completion date
- **JULY-AUGUST 2023**
Tender approved for BSCPL Infrastructure
- **NOVEMBER 15, 2023**
Agreement signed
- **DECEMBER-END**
Elevated stretch to be ready
- **2027**
Sarjapur Road ramps

flyover is expected to improve traffic flow and connectivity in the Ejipura-Koramangala-Sarjapur Road corridor, benefiting commuters travelling between key residential and commercial areas.

177
taluks declared drought-hit: 101 in the first phase, 77 in the second; central teams are visiting districts from October 3 to 6

Athletes could receive higher incentives as the government evaluates existing rewards against the amounts offered by other states.

₹46,000 crore estimated loss

Parameshwara said Karnataka's 177 drought-hit taluks had suffered an estimated loss of around ₹46,000 crore.

The state has sought ₹10,000-₹11,000 crore in compensation.

He said the Chief Minister and he were considering leading a delegation to the Centre while submitting the final memorandum and seeking relief.

On Form-7 misuse, Parameshwara said the state had submitted a complaint to the Election Commission along with evidence and urged action against those allegedly submitting large numbers of applications using voter data.



Techie drowns in quarry pit near Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 30-year-old software professional from Andhra Pradesh allegedly drowned while swimming in a water-filled stone quarry pit on the outskirts of Bengaluru, police said on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Ganesh Anjaneya Vinay, a native of Vijayawada who was residing in Ulsoor.

According to police, the incident occurred on October 2 when Vinay joined a group of eight people on a trekking trip organised through an Instagram group. During the outing, the group stopped at a water-filled stone quarry pit and some members decided to swim.

Vinay, along with others, entered the quarry waters. He was swimming when he suddenly drowned and went missing, police said.

Following the incident, an extensive search operation was launched involving personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services and disaster response teams. A team of specialist divers led by Eshwar Malpe also joined the search.

The operation continued for two days before Vinay's body was located in the quarry waters on Sunday morning.

Rescue teams recovered the body and handed it over to his family, a senior police officer said.

A case of unnatural death has been registered at Jigani police station, and further investigation is underway.

Police are gathering details from members of the trekking group to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The authorities are also examining the sequence of events leading up to Vinay entering the quarry waters.

The incident highlights the risks associated with swimming in abandoned or water-filled quarry pits, where water depth and underwater conditions can be difficult to assess.

Police said the investigation would establish the circumstances of the drowning and gather statements from those who were present at the site.

Quick Read

Scholarship deadline extended for disabled students

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The deadline for differently-abled students to submit online applications for the pre-matric scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year has been extended to October 31, District Differently-Abled Welfare Officer Vaishali J. said. Eligible students can apply through the National Scholarship Portal using their schools, colleges or educational institutions. After submitting the application, students should submit a copy to the Multipurpose Rehabilitation Workers at the respective Taluk Panchayat or Rural Rehabilitation Workers at the Gram Panchayat. For more information, students can contact rehabilitation workers at their respective Taluk Panchayat or the District Disabled Welfare Officer's office at District Balabhavan, Onake Obavva Stadium Road, Chitradurga. They can also call 08194-235284.

Power supply to be cut in Karwar areas

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Power supply will be disrupted in several parts of Karwar on October 7 due to urgent line maintenance work under the Karwar HESCOM subdivision. The power outage will be from 10 am to 5 pm and will affect Telang Road, Nandanagadda, KHB Sunkeri, Kodibag and other areas served by the Karwar Town feeder. The Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Karwar HESCOM Operations and Maintenance Subdivision has requested consumers in the affected areas to cooperate during the maintenance work. Residents have been advised to make necessary arrangements in advance and cooperate with HESCOM officials to complete the work safely and efficiently.

Mandya to hold public auction of seized rice

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A public auction of seized rice will be held on October 8 at the R.A.P.C.M.S. wholesale outlet near Sanjay Circle in Mandya. The auction at 11 am will include 33.48 quintals of rice seized on April 28, 2026, in Case No. 0051/2026 at Mandya City West Police Station from vehicle number KA-13 AA-4306. The rice has been certified fit for human consumption, and officials said it will be sold at open market rates or not below the APL rate. A second auction will be held at 11.45 am for 44.98 quintals of rice seized on January 23, 2026, in Case No. 04/2026 from vehicle number KA-51-AA-9612. The rice was also certified fit for human consumption. The Deputy Commissioner ordered the disposal of both stocks through public auction due to the risk of spoilage from prolonged storage. Interested buyers can participate in the auctions at the RAPCMS wholesale outlet premises.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT DRIVE

Information exchange programme held at VB-G RAM G worksite

CH NEWS, KARWAR

An information exchange programme for workers was held on Monday at a trench construction site in the forest area of Kodambi Gram Panchayat, Mundgod taluk, where work is being undertaken under the Vikasita Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajivika Mission (VB-G RAM-G) scheme.

District IEC Coordinator Kiran Joteppanavar said the scheme aims to provide local employment opportunities to unskilled rural workers. Eligible families holding a Rural Employment Guarantee Card are entitled to 125 person-days of employment an-

Yediyurappa backs SIR corrections but opposes pressure

Yediyurappa supported correcting SIR errors but opposed political pressure or action against officials who followed rules while handling Form-7 objections

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said genuine mistakes in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls should be corrected, but officials who have followed the rules should not be targeted.

Speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi, Yediyurappa said action should be taken against those responsible for irregularities. He alleged that the Chief Minister was using the issue to put pressure on government employees through protests.

Yediyurappa said the BJP had no objection to correcting errors in the SIR process, but opposed political pressure or action against officials who had carried out their duties according to the rules. His comments came amid a wider dispute over the SIR process



and complaints linked to Form-7 objections.

Yediyurappa also said the BJP and JD(S) would contest upcoming elections together. The alliance has announced a joint strategy for the four Karnataka Legislative Council constituencies going to polls on October 23.

He was in Kalaburagi for the nomination process involving BJP candidate Shashil G. Namoshi for the North-East Teachers' Constituency.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Yediyurappa supports correcting electoral roll errors.
- Opposes political pressure or employee targeting.
- BJP and JD(S) announce joint alliance strategy.
- Council polls scheduled for October 23.
- Criticizes government over vacant teaching posts.
- Demands Bharat Ratna for pilot Smith.

The Election Commission has scheduled polling for October 23, with counting on October 27.

Yediyurappa alleged that several teaching posts were vacant, teachers and lecturers were not receiving salaries on time, and irregularities had

occurred in the procurement of shoes and socks for children. He also claimed that promised financial assistance to farmers had not been released. He urged voters to support Namoshi and said the BJP-JD(S) alliance would seek support across the constituencies.

Meanwhile, several leaders, including former ministers Bandeppa Kashempur and Venkatarao Nadagouda and MLAs N. Ravikumar and Shailendra Beldale, were present during the nomination process. Congress candidate Sharanappa also filed his nomination, with Kalaburagi MP Radhakrishna Doddamani, Minister Dr. Shanaprakash Patil and other leaders attending. Yediyurappa also said he would appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confer the Bharat Ratna on pilot Smith.

Hassan DC seeks explanation from SP over Ganapathi immersion

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Deputy Commissioner K.S. Lathakumari has issued a notice to District Superintendent of Police Shubhanvitha over the immersion of Gauri-Ganapathi idols at the Devigere premises in Hassan city on October 3, despite prohibitory orders being in force.

According to the notice, the Deputy Commissioner questioned why a case was not registered against the organisers and why appropriate legal action was not taken after the immersion took place.

The notice raised concerns over what the Deputy Commissioner described as dereliction of duty and failure to carry out the assigned responsibilities. The SP has been asked to explain why a recommendation should not be made to the competent authority for disciplinary action.

The Deputy Commissioner has directed Shubhanvitha to

appear in person and submit a written reply immediately after receiving the notice. The notice also states that failure to provide a satisfactory explanation could lead to a recommendation for disciplinary action.

The issue relates to the immersion of 'Pandal' Ganapathi idols at Devigere on October 3. Prohibitory orders were reportedly in force at the time.

The development has drawn attention in Hassan district, with questions being raised over the coordination between the district administration and senior police officials regarding the Ganapathi immersion.

The notice, however, seeks an official explanation from the SP before any further action is considered. The response from the police authorities is expected to clarify the circumstances surrounding the immersion and the action taken by the police.

CPM condemns accommodation denial at Udupi Krishna Math

CH NEWS, UDUPI

The CPM Udupi District Committee has condemned the alleged denial of overnight accommodation to a Muslim woman at the Krishna Math guest house, calling for measures to prevent similar incidents.

According to the CPM, the woman from Ballari had visited Udupi with her Hindu friend Shakuntala and her family. After visiting the Krishna Temple, the group went to the Krishna Math guest house around 8 pm on October 3 seeking accommodation.

The CPM said the guest house officials checked the Aadhaar cards of the visitors but did not allow the Muslim woman to stay overnight because of her religion. The elderly members of Shakuntala's family reportedly requested officials to allow her

to stay, explaining that she was like a granddaughter to them and was unfamiliar with the city.

However, the officials allegedly refused the request, according to the CPM statement.

CPM District Secretary Suresh Kallagara said the incident was particularly concerning given Udupi's history of communal harmony. He referred to the late Pejawar Math seer Vishvesha Tirtha Swamiji's relationship with his Muslim car driver and recalled philanthropist Haji Abdullah Saheb's association with the Math. Kallagara said such incidents should not take place at a religious institution with a long history of social and cultural associations. He urged the district administration to issue appropriate directions to the Math authorities to ensure that similar incidents do not recur.



Sowmya Reddy complains over alleged Form-7 misuse

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The controversy over the alleged misuse of Form-7 applications during the voter list revision has intensified, with Congress leader Sowmya Reddy filing a complaint at the Jayanagar police station and naming BJP MLA C.K. Ramamurthy.

Sowmya Reddy, president of the KPCC Women's Wing, alleged irregularities in the submission of 5,698 Form-7 applications in Jayanagar constituency. She submitted video and photographic material and urged the police to verify the records and take action if violations are established.

According to the complaint, more than 4,327 names were proposed for deletion in Gurappanapalya ward. Congress leaders have alleged that the applications were submitted at the direction of BLO Lokesh. These allegations have not been established by an independent investigation.

Meanwhile, in Chitradurga, the District Congress Minority Wing submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Ramya and Superintendent of Police Kushal Chouksey, seeking action over allegations that Form-7 applications were used in an attempt to remove around 2,372 minority voters from the electoral rolls.

District Congress President M.K. Tajpeer, Minority Wing leader Syed Khuddus and other leaders supported the representation and sought legal

action against those responsible if the allegations are found to be true.

A separate issue has also been raised in Dakshina Kannada's Puttur Assembly constituency. Congress leaders

AT A GLANCE

Alleged misuse of Form-7 applications for mass voter deletions

- Key figures: Sowmya Reddy, C.K. Ramamurthy, M.K. Tajpeer.
- Key locations: Jayanagar (Bengaluru), Chitradurga, and Puttur.
- Official stance: Mandatory inquiry under Rule 20 before name removals.

alleged that a recommendation to remove 16 Muslim voters was made using BJP letterhead. They claimed the voters actually continued to live at the listed addresses and presented some of them before the Tahsildar.

Congress Minority Wing president Shahul Hameed has reportedly submitted a complaint to the Deputy Commissioner seeking action. The Election Commission's voter-list revision process allows objections to be examined before names are removed. Authorities have stated that applicants will be issued notices and records will be verified before decisions are taken.

Farmers reel under power crisis amid drought



CH NEWS, YADGIR

Gurmatkal MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur warned GESCOM officials that he would not tolerate repeated harassment of farmers, particularly as the region is facing a difficult situation due to poor monsoon rains.

He issued the warning on Monday at the GESCOM office hall in Yadgir during a discussion on transformer-related issues. A delegation led by party district president Subhashchandra Katkati and other leaders participated in the meeting.

Kandakur said efforts were being made to establish a transformer repair centre in Gurmatkal so that people from the constituency would not have to travel to Yadgir for repairs. He also alleged that the GESCOM vigilance squad was harassing farmers and urged officials not to create additional difficulties for them during the drought situation.

The MLA said sites had been identified for new substations at Kandakur and Kaur villages, and the tender process would be completed in October. He also directed officials to identify land for a new substation at Chepetla and begin the work at the earliest. The proposed station, he said, would help reduce the electrical load on villages around Gajarakota.

GESCOM Executive Engi-

Transformer trouble	
460	TRANSFORMERS BURNT OUT THIS YEAR
50	TRANSFORMERS NEWLY PROCURED
70	VILLAGES FOR ONE OFFICIAL

neer Raghavendra Dukan said power was being supplied under the Nirantara Jyothi scheme and noted the need for a new substation at Gajarakota.

He said 50 new transformers had been procured through the efforts of MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur and were being used according to re-

Highlights

- 1 Sharanagouda condemns harassment of drought-hit farmers.
- 2 Gurmatkal seeks local transformer repair center.
- 3 New sub-stations planned to ease load.
- 4 GESCOM reports severe transformer shortages.
- 5 Officials cite acute shortage of field staff.
- 6 Leaders demand relief from mental harassment.

quirements. However, 460 transformers had reportedly burnt out during the current year, with drought conditions adding to the difficulties.

Dukan also highlighted a shortage of staff, stating that only one official was responsible for 70 villages.

District spokesperson Malanagouda Halimani Kauluru, Ajayareddy Yalheri, Block President Prakash Neeratti and several local leaders were present at the meeting.

'Beyond the Scar' workshop to support acid attack survivors

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A one-day workshop titled 'Beyond the Scar' will be held on October 6 at Don Bosco Degree College to support acid attack survivors with legal aid, medical treatment and rehabilitation.

The workshop will begin at 10 am and is being organised jointly by the District Legal Services Authority, district administration, Women and Child Development Department, Advocates' Association, Police Department, Health Department and Department of Public Instruction.

Principal District and Sessions Judge G.D. Mahavarkar will inaugurate the programme, while Deputy Commissioner Ramya S. will preside over the event.

The workshop will include

a special video on acid attacks prepared by students of Saraswathi Law College and eight sessions covering the social, medical, psychological and legal aspects of acid attacks.

Officials from the Revenue, Police, Health, Education and Women and Child Welfare departments, along with Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and law students, will participate.

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Sameer P. Nandyala said the programme aims to create awareness and provide comprehensive support to acid attack survivors.

Several senior officials and representatives from legal, health, education and welfare departments are expected to attend the workshop.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Amrutha Malli Rajaram Natesan alias Amrutha Arun Kuttuva D/O Malli Rajaram Natesan W/O Arun Sakthimanian Kuttuva R/O Flat No. 1809, VRR Fortuna Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road Janatha Colony, Doddakannelli Carmelram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560035, have changed my name to Amrutha Arun Kuttuva.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRINIVAS C R S/o RAMASWAMY R/o 181, Railway Station Road, Holalkere, Chikkandavadi, Chitradurga, Karnataka-577523, have changed the name of my minor daughter RANI M S aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as PAVANI C S.

ಪೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ
ನಾರ್ಪಾಬನಿಕರ್ತಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟವಿರುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ, ರೋಡ್‌ಪುರ, ಗಂಗಾಧರಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಪಾಪಯ್ಯ ಬೆರ್ ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ದಾಸಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಪಯ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಇರುವುದು. ಆದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಕಛಾಡಿ ಕಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ಸನ್ನದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಸರು ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಎಂದು ಸಮೂಹದಾರರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಎನ್ನುವ ಹೆಸರು ಸನ್ನದಾಗಿದ್ದುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿನಿಂದ ಪಾಪಯ್ಯ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ವೈ.ಬೆರ್, ನೋಟರಿ ಪಾನ್ಡಾ ವೆಂಕಟರು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಇವರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ 03.10.2026ರಂದು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

NAME CHANGE
I, Subhash Bhutoria, aged 66 years, S/o of Jash Karan Bhutoria, residing at 18 th Cross, 15th Main, M C Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040. I have Changed my name from Subh Karan Bhutoria to Subhash Bhutoria Affidavit dated 5th October 2026, before Notary Hemalatha P

CH

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Hasanamba Jathra to showcase Hassan rural culture

Daily exhibitions will feature Hallikar cattle, oxen, sheep, goats and dogs, alongside bullock cart and bull races showcasing rural traditions

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda said a series of special events will be organised during the Hasanamba Jathra to showcase the district's rural culture and traditions.

Speaking after releasing posters for the events at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Gowda said the programmes include a sports festival, livestock festival, bullock cart and bull races, Rangoli competition, art exhibitions and folk festivals. He directed officials to publicise the events across all taluks, hoblis and rural areas.

A major Rangoli competition will begin on the first day of darshan at the Hasanamba temple. Women and members of the public from rural and urban areas can register at the venue. Prizes will be given to winners.

A daily exhibition of Hallikar cattle and oxen raised by



farmers will also be held. Sheep, goats and dogs will also be displayed. Bullock cart and bull races will showcase traditional rural sports.

The Hasanamba Cup cricket tournament, Kabaddi matches and other traditional sports will be organised at the Hassan District Stadium. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to successful teams.

Minister Seeks Ration Support For Poor Families
Gowda said no eligible poor family should lose ration benefits due to technical reasons. He said around 5,000 to

10,000 eligible people in Hassan should not be left without food grains and assured that he would raise the issue at the state cabinet meeting and speak to the Food Minister.

At a KDP progress review meeting, he directed Food Department officials to provide clear reasons for withholding or cancelling ration cards and submit details.

He also instructed officials to ensure drinking water, sanitation, power supply, Dasoha, toilets, queue management, parking and security during the Jathra, which is expected to attract lakhs of devotees. Gowda reviewed the five

Highlights

- Shivalinge Gowda unveils Hasanamba festival posters.
- Traditional sports and livestock exhibitions organized.
- Minister defends poor families' ration cards.
- Cabinet meeting raised for ration issues.
- Strict orders issued for Jathra amenities.
- Krishna Bhagya farm ponds progress reviewed.

guarantee schemes and agricultural programmes. He noted that 198 of 272 targeted farm ponds under Krishna Bhagya had been completed and green manure seeds had been fully distributed under Vasudhamrutha.MP Shreyas M. Patel, Deputy Commissioner Latakumari, Zilla Panchayat CEO, Superintendent of Police, elected representatives and senior officials attended.

Mangaluru auto fares revised from November one

CH NEWS, Mangaluru

The Regional Transport Authority (RTA) of Dakshina Kannada has revised auto-rickshaw fares across the district, fixing the charge for every subsequent kilometre at Rs 23.

The new rates will come into effect from November 1, 2026.

The revised order was issued after the authority withdrew its earlier notification dated August 28, 2026. The RTA said the previous order had failed to take into account the Rs 20 rate per subsequent kilometre prescribed in a November 23, 2022 notification. The earlier order has therefore been cancelled and a fresh

fare structure issued.

Under the revised rates, passengers will have to pay a minimum fare of Rs 40 for the first 1.5 km, applicable to a maximum of three passengers. For every subsequent kilometre, the prescribed fare will be Rs 23.

Waiting charges have also been specified. The first 10 minutes will be free, after which passengers can be charged Rs 5 for every additional 15 minutes or part thereof.

For luggage, the passenger must accompany the baggage. No charge will be collected for the first 20 kg, while Rs 5 will be charged for every additional 20 kg or part thereof. For night journeys, au-

to-rickshaw passengers may be charged 1.5 times the prescribed fares between 10 pm and 5 am.

The RTA has directed all auto-rickshaw owners and drivers to get their meters recalibrated and sealed according to the revised fares. The updated fare chart must also be displayed prominently inside vehicles for public information.

Police and Regional Transport Office officials have been instructed to take strict action against drivers who charge above the prescribed rates or fail to use meters. Violators may face fines and suspension or cancellation of permits, according to the order.

Udupi to hold public service meetings across hoblis

CH NEWS,UDUPI

Hobli-level 'Prajaseve Andolana' meetings will be held across Udupi district in October to hear public grievances and provide solutions at people's doorsteps. The meetings will be led by MLAs of the respective constituencies.

On October 10, meetings will be held at Tallur Gram Panchayat Hall in Byndoor, Chethana High School Hall in Airodi village in Kundapura, Zilla Panchayat Higher Primary School in Badanidiyoor in Udupi, Government Pre-University College in Bailoor in Karkala and Ellur Gram Panchayat Hall in Kapu.

On October 17, meetings are scheduled at Nada Gram Panchayat Hall in Byndoor, Homnadi-Mandadi Gram Panchayat Hall in Kundapura, Sacred Heart Church Souharda Hall in Kolagiri.

Sunflower procurement centres opened under MSP scheme

CH NEWS,KOPPAL

Registration centres have been opened in Koppal district for procurement of FAQ-quality sunflower under the Central Government's Minimum Support Price scheme for the 2026-27 Kharif season.

The District Task Force Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner on October 3, decided to procure up to 13,413 metric tonnes of sunflower from farmers at the fixed support price of ₹8,343 per quintal.

Under the Karnataka Oilseeds Federation framework, registration and procurement centres have been established at OGCS Alavandi for Alavandi in Koppal taluk, OGCS Mandalageri for Kukanoor, OGCS Bevoor for Yalaburga, OGCS Naganakal for Naganakal in Karatagi taluk and OGCS Bevoor for Kushtagi.

Nodal officers have also been appointed to oversee the

centres. Suresh B. Tanganur will handle the Bevoor and Mandalageri centres, while Siddayaswamy will oversee Alavandi.

Guruswamy S. Gudi has been appointed for Kushtagi and Harish Pattar for Naganakal.

Farmers can sell a maximum of four quintals of sunflower per acre, subject to an overall limit of 20 quintals per farmer. Only produce meeting the Fair Average Quality standards will be accepted under the scheme.

The Department of Agricultural Marketing has advised farmers to make use of the registration centres and follow the prescribed requirements for procurement.

For further information regarding registration and procurement, farmers can contact the Karnataka State Oilseeds Growers' Cooperative Societies Federation Limited, Divisional Office, Koppal, at 9591812142.

Dance during Ganesh procession sparks controversy

CH NEWS, Hubballi

A dance performance by a young woman from Maharashtra during a Ganesh immersion procession in Hubballi's Navanagar has triggered controversy, with members of pro-Hindu organisations objecting to the event and demanding action against the organisers and performer.

The incident occurred during the 21st-day Ganesh immersion procession held in Navanagar on Sunday. The Sanatana Ganesha Mahamandala had reportedly invited the woman,

identified as Nisha Mumbaikar, to perform during the procession.

Videos of the performance have since circulated on social media, drawing attention and criticism. Activists from several pro-Hindu organisations have questioned the decision to include a dance performance as part of a religious immersion procession.

Members of the Dharmachetana Samiti and other organisations expressed their objections, alleging that the performance during the religious event had hurt the senti-

ments of devotees. They called for the organisers to explain the circumstances under which the performance was arranged.

The activists subsequently approached the Navanagar Police Station and the city Police Commissioner with a complaint. They sought legal action against both the organisers of the Sanatana Ganesha Mahamandala and the dancer.

The complainants alleged that the performance amounted to an insult to Sanatana Dharma and demanded strict action against those responsible. They also urged the police to exam-

ine the circumstances surrounding the organisation of the performance and take appropriate steps under the law.

The controversy has emerged after the conclusion of the immersion procession, which was held as part of the extended Ganesh festival celebrations in Navanagar.

Police action, if any, will depend on the contents of the complaint and the findings of any inquiry into the event. The organisers and the dancer have not been quoted in the report regarding the allegations made against them.

HDFC BANK Regd. Office: HDFC House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013 Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001 Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to HDFC by the said Borrower(s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.					01 Mrs. Nithiya S (Borrower), Prodapt Solutions Private Limited, Designation: Assistant Manager, Department: Human Resource, Prince Infocity-2, No-283/4 4th Floor, Old Mahaballipuram Road, Kandanchavadi, Perungudi, Chennai 600096. Mr. Samson Iyayarajan Manoah (Co-Borrower) Ltimindtree Limited, Designation: Senior Engineer, Department: IT, NO-25 & 31, EPIP 2nd Phase, ITPL Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066. Mrs. Nathiya S (Borrower) Mr. Samson Iyayarajan Manoah (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at: 3/149, 1st Cross Street, Teachers Colony, Vettuvankeni, Injambakkam, Chennai 600115. Also at: Unit-B-308, Floor-2, Peninsula, Pinnacle, S No 22/3 and 22/4, Sy.No.22/3 & 22/4, Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bengaluru 562125. Loan A/c Nos: 1) 685572745 Rs.28,18,806/- Total Amount Rs.28,18,806/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Eighteen Thousand and Six Only) as on 31.07.2026 18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.02.2025 Peninsula Pinnacle, Unit-b-308, Floor-2, S No 22/3 And 22/4, Sy.no.22/3, &22/4, Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli,, Sarjapura, Bengaluru, 562125, Kamataka					02 Mr. Deepak Mysore Chandrashekar (Borrower) Zen3 Infosolutions Private Limited, Designation: Project Manager, Department: IT Industrial Area Plot, No.4547, First Main Road, Electronic City, Phase, 2- Bengaluru-560100. Mrs. Rimpri Chanda (Co- Borrower) Caggemini Technology Services India Limited, Designation: Software Engineer, Department: IT Vydehi Whitefield EPIP Area, Bengaluru- Bengaluru-560103 Mr. Deepak Mysore Chandrashekar (Borrower) Mrs. Rimpri Chanda (Co- Borrower), Both are residing at: Vava Vasundara Apartments, 603 Block A No 82, Bsk 6th Stage Opposite Akshaya, Regalia Apartment Uttarahalli, Chikkalasandra. Subramanya pura Po, BSK 1,2,3 and All Stages Bengaluru-560061. Also at: Vasundara (Bldr), Flat-A-603-Block-A, Floor-6, S No 2082/82, BHCS Layout, 1st Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Uttarahalli Bengaluru-562117. Loan A/c Nos: 1) 702655619 Rs.67,51,369/- 2) 692895116 Rs.12,51,637/- Total Amount Rs.80,03,006/- (Rupees Eighty Lakhs Three Thousand and Six Only) as on 31.07.2026 18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.05.2025 Vasundara (bldr), Flat-a-603-block-a, Floor-6, S No 2082/82, Bhcs Layout, 1st Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Uttarahalli Bengaluru - 562117					03 Mr. Muniraj Praveen Kumar (Borrower) Cargill Business Services India Private Limited Designation: Team Manager, Department: Finance 3rd Floor, Building - B9, Cessna Business Park (Sez), Kadubeesanahalli Village, Bellandur S.O, Bengaluru 560103. Mr. Muniraj Praveen Kumar (Borrower) Mrs. J Jayashree(Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: # 46, 4th Cross, Amar Layout, D J Halli, Near Prince Pharma, Nagawara, Bengaluru560045 Also at: Flat-1, Floor-Ground, NCN Elite, S No 19, Hanumanthappa Road, Ramaswamympalya, Lingarajapura, Bengaluru 560084 Loan A/c Nos: 1) 665704551 Rs.40,91,467/- 2) 667068730 Rs. 5,88,533/- Total Amount Rs.46,80,000/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only) as on 31.07.2026 14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.11.2025 SCHEDULE "A": All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Site No. 19, Old House List No.830/A, Present BBMP Katha Municipal No. 1, PID No.87-438-1, situated at LINGARAJAPURAM Granthana, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Presently Known as Hanumappa Road, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore, Presently under administration jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 87, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 92 feet, totally measuring 5520 Sq.feet, and bounded as follows: On the East by: Site Nos. 18 & 25; On the West by : Site Nos.21 and 28; On the North by : 30 feet Wide Road; On the South by : 25 Feet Wide Road; SCHEDULE "B": 289 Sq.feet Undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. SCHEDULE "C": Apartment bearing No.001, on the Ground Floor, measuring 875 Sq.feet Super Built-up Area, containing Two Bedrooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, along with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase & lift, contained in the multistoried residential building known as "NCN ELITE", constructed over Schedule "A" Property.					04 Mr. Jagadeesha M (Borrower) Sansera Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Designation: Associate, Department: Manufacturing Employee No: 00000316, Plant 7, No 143/A Sigani Link Rd, Bengaluru 560105. Mr. Jagadeesha M (Borrower), Mrs. Bhagya Lakshmi (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: #74 5th Cross Teachers Colony, Opposite Trinity Baptist Church, Nagashetty Halli Sanjananagar, Bangalore North, RMV Extension, IInd Stage, Bengaluru-560094. Also at: S No 62/2, House 62/2/6&7, Site 62/2/6&7, Khatta 6&7, District, Kasaba Hobli, Village, Nagashetti halli, Gedahalli GP, Sanjay Nagar Ward 100, RMV Extension, II Stage, Bengaluru 560094. Loan A/c Nos: 1) 657593521 Rs.13,25,084/- 2) 660016920 Rs. 66,560/- Total Amount Rs.13,91,644/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Four Only) as on 31.07.2026 14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.03.2025 All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential property bearing Western Portion of Site No.6 & 7, formed Sy.No.62/2, situated at Nagashettihalli Village 62/2/6 & 7, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, earlier Geddalalahalli Village Panchayat, now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Sanjananagar, Ward No.100, New No.19, measuring East to West 19.25 feet and North to South 30 feet. Extent: 577.5 Sq.ft., Boundaries: East by : Property belongs to Sri.M Manjunath, West by : Road, North by : Site Nos.4 and 5, Private property, South by : Road. Along with any construction thereon, present and future.					05 Mr. Ajit Kumar Pandey (Borrower) CET Power Solutions India Private Limited Designation: Principal Software Developer Department: IT, 1470 13 Cross Road, Vanganahalli 1st Sector Bengaluru 560102 Also at:CET Power Solutions India Private Limited Designation: Principal Software Developer Department: Developer Software 2/295, Kattupakkam Drr Avenue, Chennai 600056. Loan A/c Nos: 1) 675029336 Rs.14,79,554/- 2) 675623503 Rs.11,57,540/- Total Amount Rs.26,37,094/- (Rs. Twenty Six Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand and Ninety Four Only) as on 31.07.2026 14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 09.09.2025 Schedule A: All the piece and parcel of immovable Property converted lands bearing Sy No.57 measuring 25 guntas, duly conveyed by the order of the Deputy Commissioner vide his order No.ALN/SR/(A) 656/2004-2005 dated 14.03.2005 the land bearing Sy.No.58 measuring 21 guntas duly converted by the order of the Deputy Commissioner vide his order No.ALN/SR/(A) 655/2004-2005 dated 14.03.2005 and the land bearing Sy No.58/1 measuring 20 guntas duly converted by the order of the Deputy Commissioner vide his order No.ALN/A/J/SR 59/2011-2012 dated 27.08.2011 totally measuring 1 acre 26 guntas OR 18090.77sq.mtrs situated at Kyalasanaahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Having Katha Nos.841/73/57/58/58/1 and Commonly Bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.57 and 58, West by: Land in Sy.No.57 and 58, North by: Road, South by : Land in Sy.No.58. Schedule B: An undivided 439.3088 sq.ft share in the land comprised in the schedule A Property. Schedule C: Municipal Khata No. 961/73/62 A Two Bed-room apartment Unit bearing No. 123 on the First Floor of the Apartment Building known as "K.B. RESIDENCY" constructed on the land mentioned in the A Schedule herein, duly approve d by BMRDA vide its sanction letter vide No. AYP/CC/840/2012-13 dated 21.5.2013 with super built up area of 980 Sq.ft consisting of R.C.C Roof, vitrified tile flooring, chap wood doors and windows with all basic amenities and one covered parking in the Slitl Flooring. East by : Flat No. FF-122, West by : Open Space, North by : Corridor/Flat No.FF-124, South by : Open Space.					06 Mr. Srijiv Dimri (Borrower) Novi Digital Entertainment Private Limited Designation: System Engineering Department: Engineering, Employee No: 10045046 Holstar, Cherry Hills, Domlur, Kendriya Sadan, Bengaluru 560034. Also at: Atlas Smart Ims India Private Limited, Designation: Solution Specialist Department: Ims, Employee No: As-035 A Block, Wing-2, Level-5, Cyber Gateway Hitech City, Madhapur, Hyderabad 500081. Mr. Srijiv Dimri (Borrower) Mrs. Deepa Harariya (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at: 705 Block D, Puravankara Seasons, C V Raman Nagar Bengaluru 560093. Mrs. Saroj Dimri (Co-Borrower) 136 North City, Pilibhit Road, Near Air Force Gate, Bareilly, Bhandar Up 243122. Mr. Srijiv Dimri (Borrower) Mrs. Deepa Harariya (Co-Borrower) Mrs. Saroj Dimri (Co-Borrower) All are residing at: 105 Block B Flr. Shreeja Tanishq, 2nd Main, Byrasandra, C.V. Raman Nagar S.O, Bengaluru 560093. Also at: Unit-Sc-601-Block-Sc, Floor-6, Purva Seasons Wing C, S No 98, 99/1/2, 100/1, 101/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, 102, 103, 104, 126, 127, Benniganahalli, Hobli, Kaggadasapura, Krisnarajapuram, Bengaluru 560036. Also at: Sd-705, Floor-7, Sd-Block, Purva Seasons Wing D, S No 98, 99/1/2, 100/1, 101/1 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, 102, 103, 104, 126, 127, Benniganahalli, Hobli, Kaggadasapura, Krisnarajapuram Bengaluru 560036. Loan A/c Nos: 1) 678380678 Rs.94,10,594/- 2) 630195056 Rs.43,92,721/- Total Amount Rs. 1,38,03,315/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Eight Lakhs Three Thousand and Three Hundred and Fifteen Only) as on 31.07.2026 14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.01.2026 Item No.1 LANN No: 678380678 Unit-Sc-601-Block-Sc, Floor-6, Purva Seasons Wing C, S No 98, 99/1/2, 100/1, 101/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, 102, 103, 104, 126, 127, Benniganahalli, Hobli, Kaggdasapura, Krisnarajapuram, Bengaluru 560036 Item No.2 LANN No: 630195056 Sd-705, Floor-7, Sd-Blk, Purva Seasons Wing D, S No 98, 99/1/2, 100/1, 101/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, 102, 103, 104, 126, 127, Benniganahalli, Hobli, Kaggdasapura, Krisnarajapuram, Bengaluru 560036.				
*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Bank Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Bank Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Bank Limited . Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.																																		
Date : 06.10.2026 Place: Bangalore					For HDFC Bank Ltd. Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002																													

Quick Read

Sensex snaps 4-day losing streak amid volatility

MUMBAI
The Indian stock market closed higher on Monday, with benchmark indices snapping a four-day losing streak amid gains in global equities and improved risk appetite among investors. The Sensex rose 472.77 points, or 0.66 per cent, to settle at 72,382.47, while the Nifty advanced 133.80 points, or 0.6 per cent, to end the session at 22,555.75. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the Nifty tested its broken weekly 200-SMA zone at 22,580–22,600 but closed below it. "A sustained move above this band could extend the recovery toward 22,800, while rejection would keep 22,400 as the immediate support," analysts stated.

Underground market for Anthropic's Claude surges in China

NEW DELHI
An underground market for access to Anthropic's AI model Claude has rapidly expanded in China, with brokers reselling account tokens to domestic users even as the service is officially blocked in the country, a new report has said. The report from South Korea-based The Chosun said the trade relies on "token resellers" who set up servers overseas where Claude is permitted and then gather numerous accounts. Further, they sell access to Chinese users, including scholars and engineers as they prefer Claude over domestic models for code generation and eagerly test new versions. "Token resellers use bulk email addresses acquired through past cryptocurrency ventures to successfully register Claude accounts," the report cited US IT outlet The Information as saying.



Haryana CM advocates mutual co-op with Singapore

CHANDIGARH
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday participated in a programme organised under the SING (Singapore India Network for Growth) Forum on the second day of his Singapore visit. Prominent industrialists, representatives from various sectors and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai were present at the programme. The key objective of the programme was to discuss various aspects of mutual cooperation between Haryana and Singapore, besides promoting infrastructure and industries in Haryana in the future, a statement by the state government said. Referring to the depth of India-Singapore relations, the Chief Minister said the relationship between the two countries is not limited to trade and investment. He recalled that cooperation between Haryana and Singapore is not new. In 2017, Haryana signed five major memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Singaporean companies and institutions in areas such as logistics, townships, aviation, smart cities, wellness, power and infrastructure, with a total proposed value of more than 3.8 billion Singapore dollars.

Oman becomes India's top LNG supplier

Nigeria emerged as the second-largest supplier, highlighting New Delhi's growing push to diversify energy sources amid geopolitical disruptions; Qatar's share plummets to 4%.

MUSCAT

Oman emerged as India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in September, replacing the United States as New Delhi continued efforts to diversify energy imports amid geopolitical disruptions in West Asia. According to data from Kpler, India imported 585,000 tonnes of LNG from Oman in September, an 11.6% increase from August. The shipments gave Oman a 27% share of India's total LNG imports during the month. Nigeria was the second-largest supplier, sending

Who shipped India's LNG, September

Oman	585,000 t
Nigeria	351,000 t
UAE	311,000 t
Angola	205,000 t
Qatar	94,000 t

Source: Kpler. The US, third, had a 16% share

351,000 tonnes to India. However, Nigerian shipments declined 35% from the previous month. Qatar, once India's



dominant LNG supplier with a market share of nearly 45%, slipped to sixth position and supplied around 94,000 tonnes.

The UAE supplied 311,000 tonnes, while Angola exported 205,000 tonnes. The decline in Qatari sup-

Energy flows are changing

- Oman accounted for 27% of total LNG imports
- US LNG shipments to India fell 59 per cent
- Qatar dropped to sixth position among suppliers
- India's overall LNG imports declined 14% month-on-month
- New Delhi is expanding sourcing from Canada, Algeria, Mozambique and Brazil

plies followed disruptions

linked to Iran's strike on Ras Laffan Industrial City in March, a major LNG production hub and an important source of natural gas exports to India. India's overall LNG imports also declined 14% month-on-month, falling to 2.17 million tonnes in September from 2.5 million tonnes in August. Natural gas remains crucial for fertiliser production, industrial heating, power generation and urban transportation. India imports nearly half of its LNG requirements, leaving supplies vulnerable to disruptions in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

India, Switzerland double down on trade, infra ties



Both the countries expanded bilateral cooperation through new agreements covering young professionals, transport technology, research and startups.

NEW DELHI

India and Switzerland on Monday signed several agreements and MoUs aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in sustainable infrastructure, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and professional exchanges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swiss President Guy Parmelin held talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi and reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations.

Among the key agreements was the Exchange of Young Professionals (YPS), which will facilitate temporary employment opportunities for young professionals from both countries.

The programme is intended to help participants strengthen their professional and language skills while gaining international work experience.

Under the arrangement, up to 300 young professionals from each country can partic-

I am very pleased that we will soon be launching new joint research projects in priority areas such as health, clean energy, and space."

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

ipate annually, with the number potentially increasing to 500. The agreement also provides timelines of 30 to 90 days for verification of nationality and residency status.

India and Switzerland also signed an MoU on the promotion and collaboration of transportation technologies.

A Letter of Intent between India's Department of Science and Technology and the Swiss National Science Foundation will support long-term collaboration between research communities.

The programme will support bilateral exchanges, joint workshops, capability building and networking.

Mumbai logs best 9-month housing sales since 2018

MUMBAI

Mumbai's residential market posted its highest January-September sales volume since 2018 as housing sales rose 1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to 72,804 units in the first nine months of 2026, according to a report released on Monday.

A report by Knight Frank India said developers launched 72,673 units during the period, up 13 per cent YoY, keeping new supply broadly aligned with demand. Moreover, the city remained the country's largest residential market, accounting for 28 per cent of the 258,238 homes sold across India's top eight cities and 26 per cent of the 279,899 units launched during the period.



In Mumbai, quarterly sales rose steadily through the year, increasing from 23,185 units in the first quarter to 25,449 units in the third quarter which is the highest quarterly sales level since 2018. Unsold inventory declined 2 per cent YoY to about 155,473 units as launches remained broadly in line with absorption. Sales of homes priced below Rs 50 lakh fell 6 per cent YoY to 26,136 units which represents 36 per cent of total sales.

RBI liquidity moves may flatten bond yield curve

NEW DELHI

India's government bond yield curve is expected to flatten further as the Reserve Bank of India steps up efforts to withdraw surplus liquidity from the banking system, according to a report citing analysts.

The five-year benchmark yield, currently trading around 6.94 per cent, could rise towards 7 per cent if the RBI maintains an aggressive policy tightening stance, the report cited ICICI Securities Primary Dealership as saying.

Analysts expect further flattening at the shorter end of the yield curve as the central bank seeks to keep overnight interest rates close to or above the policy repo rate.

Such a move would help improve the transmission of monetary policy across the financial system.

According to the report, the spread between five-year and 10-year yields could narrow to as little as 10 basis points.

The curve could potentially become flat or mildly inverted if overnight rates move significantly above the repo rate.

Excess liquidity in the

RBI liquidity withdrawal could push short-term bond yields higher, narrowing the gap between 5-year and 10-year govt securities.

Key market signals

Five-year benchmark yield now

6.94%

Yield could rise towards

7%

5-10 year spread could narrow to

10 bps

Liquidity withdrawn by RBI

Rs 1 lakh cr+

banking system has kept overnight borrowing costs below the policy repo rate.

The central bank has already withdrawn more than Rs 1 lakh crore from the banking system.

The RBI began its three-day Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Monday, with the policy decision scheduled for Wednesday.

Market participants will closely watch the decision for signals on future liquidity and interest-rate policy.

'Digital project forms key part of IMEC'

NEW DELHI

The agreement for the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), announced at the G20 summit in 2023, includes plans for digital and electricity cables, and a pipe to export clean hydrogen apart from the railway link, according to a new report. While the railway project would take longer to implement, the digital cable network can be put in place far quicker, according to an article. The article points out that a cable that secures investment and provides a useful connection would be an achievement in its own right and can be carried out separately from the railway project.

A digital cable and a freight railway need to prove themselves in different ways. A cable needs connections at either end, and customers willing to pay to use it. A freight service needs ships,

trains, ports, and border crossings to work together each time a shipment moves.

It highlights that the digital project, associated with IMEC's wider aims, appears to be viable as it would connect customers at either end who would be willing to pay for the use. An EU Global Gateway document places the planned 9,000-km Blue Raman subsea cable within the corridor's digital framework and lists 400 million euros in investment, including 37 million euros from the EU, the article states. The article highlights that it makes sense to assess IMEC for one project at a time. If a digital link secures customers, it can move ahead while governments work through the rail questions. The same could apply to an electricity connection or hydrogen pipe if either has funding and buyers. Progress on those projects would be real, even without a complete freight route, it states.

EU-India FTA likely by year-end: Finland envoy

NEW DELHI

The proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to be signed by the end of 2026 and could come into force next year after the ratification process is completed by both sides, Finland's Ambassador to India Mikko Kivikoski said on Monday. Kivikoski expressed optimism about the progress of negotiations between India and the EU, saying both sides are hopeful of concluding the agreement before the end of the year. "At the moment, we hope that the signing will take place by the end of the year. After that, the agreement will need to be ratified by the Indian government and the European Union. That will most likely take a few months, so hopefully it will come into force sometime next year," he said. Highlighting the broader strategic partnership between India and the European Union, the Finnish envoy noted that defence and security cooperation has gained greater prominence in bilateral en-

gagement following the India-EU Summit held earlier this year.

He said Finland, as a member state of the European Union, is keen to deepen cooperation with India in defence and security and pointed to ongoing collaboration involving Finnish companies.

According to Kivikoski, Nokia and Finnish satellite company ICEYE recently announced cooperation on sovereign dual-use satellite communication systems that can be owned and operated by participating nations. The ambassador also underscored the potential for closer collaboration between India and Finland in areas such as artificial intelligence, defence, education and innovation. "I think the formula is quite simple. We might be small in size, but we are quite big when it comes to innovation and solutions. India, of course, has the scale and the talent. So, this is quite a good match. Basically, when we combine our strengths, we can achieve big things together," Kivikoski mentioned.

SEBI chief cautions investors, traders on 'finfluencers'

NEW DELHI

As India's capital market industry has become deeper, broader and more accessible over the past decade, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday warned investors and traders to avoid anonymous tips by finfluencers and unrealistic return claims.

Addressing an event marking the launch of SEBI's Project Jagruk at Panjab University, Pandey said more households are now investing in capital markets and have access to products that barely existed a decade ago.

"Households are also directing larger amounts of savings into securities market instruments," he said, adding that systematic investment plans (SIPs) have emerged as one of the simplest investment avenues for retail investors.

Highlighting the expansion of the market ecosystem, Pandey said SEBI rationalised mutual fund scheme categories, capped costs and introduced small-

er-ticket SIPs to widen participation.

He said India's market capitalisation has quadrupled to around ₹472 lakh crore over the last decade, while foreign portfolio investor (FPI) assets have increased from ₹22 lakh crore to ₹78 lakh crore. According to Pandey, SEBI introduced a simplified FPI framework that streamlined digital onboarding and helped improve ease of doing business for overseas investors. The regulator has also broadened the range of market participants and products by bringing in investment advisers, ESG rating providers and new financing channels for startups and infrastructure projects, he said.

Pandey said India's capital market framework has evolved from primarily supporting domestic investment to positioning the country as a potential base for global fund management activity. He added that access to capital markets has widened through SME IPO platforms, while the IPO listing timeline has been reduced from T+6 to T+3 working days.

REFORM PUSH

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the next phase of Goods and Services Tax reforms will simplify compliance and improve the refund process, giving businesses greater confidence to invest, expand and contribute to economic growth.

The Prime Minister was referring to an article by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitha-



raman outlining the government's approach to the next phase of GST reforms. Sitharaman said the next-generation framework aims to make taxation simpler and more predictable while providing

relief to taxpayers and supporting economic activity.

The proposed reforms are expected to focus on registration, return filing, refunds, dispute resolution and the flow of input tax credit. The objective is to reduce the time and cost involved in meeting tax requirements for businesses and other taxpayers.

Sitharaman also highlighted GST collections and taxable supplies following the

rate rationalisation that came into effect on September 22, 2025. The government is pre-

Next-gen GST is delivering the twin objectives of relief for taxpayers and greater momentum for our economy."

— Nirmala Sitharaman
Union Finance Minister

Next-gen GST to ease compliance

INDIA DRYING UP UNDER THE FIELDS

Behind the glitter of India’s agricultural achievements lies a grim reality: rapid groundwater depletion. More than 78 percent of the country’s irrigation needs depend on groundwater, and the agricultural sector accounts for nearly 90 percent of groundwater withdrawals. In agricultural states like Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, groundwater withdrawals far exceed annual recharge; in Punjab, the rate has reached 152 percent. This situation not only threatens long-term agricultural sustainability but also has serious consequences, including rural inequality, rising energy demand, and ecosystem degradation.

The roots of this crisis lie in structural policies and incentives.

Since the Green Revolution, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and guaranteed government procurement have pushed farmers toward monopolizing wheat and rice cultivation, especially in Punjab and Haryana. Water-intensive crops like rice, which are not suited to the local climate, have been cultivated extensively as markets and policies reward them. Furthermore, free or heavily subsidized electricity for agriculture has reduced pumping costs to negligible, making the marginal cost of extracting additional groundwater zero for farmers and encouraging indiscriminate extraction. The rapid expansion of tubewells and private borewells, weak regulation, and a lack of community-level management have exacerbated this situation.

Irrigation methods also contribute to the problem. Traditional flood irrigation is still widespread, with high water wastage and low efficiency. Schemes to promote micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler) exist, but high initial costs and maintenance concerns for small farmers limit adoption. The uncertainty of climate change and the vagaries of monsoons have made farmers increasingly dependent on groundwater.

India stands at a crossroads

Either continue exploiting groundwater for short-term yields, or adapt agriculture to ecological reality.

more energy, further tightening the water-energy relationship. Ecologically, over-extraction poses the risk of land subsidence, salinity intrusion into coastal areas, and long-term degradation of water quality. At the social level, water scarcity fuels conflict between agriculture, industry, and domestic use, and between states with shared river basins. Economically, rising irrigation costs reduce farm profitability.

This challenge cannot be addressed solely through technological improvements, but rather by realigning incentives, institutions, and practices to ecological limits. First, crop diversification must be transformed from a slogan into a strategy. Paddy cultivation in Punjab and Haryana cannot continue in the same way as in Bengal or Assam; less water-intensive crops like maize, pulses, oilseeds, and horticulture must be promoted with similar market guarantees, processing infrastructure, and price support. Without economic viability, diversification will remain only on paper. Second, rapid expansion of irrigation efficiency is essential. The ‘Per Drop More Crop’ component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) has promoted drip and sprinkler systems with up to 55 percent subsidy for small farmers, but coverage remains limited. Expanding micro-irrigation, adopting water-saving practices like direct-seeded rice and alternate wetting and drying in paddy, and investing in laser land leveling can reduce farm-level water use by 30–50 percent.

Third, groundwater governance must be strengthened. Community management through panchayats and water-user associations, along with participatory aquifer mapping and local water budgeting, can ensure accountability on extraction. Regulatory measures, such as permitting new borewells in over-exploited blocks and linking electricity connections to sustainable extraction criteria, should complement voluntary efforts. Fourth, subsidy reform is essential. Moving from flat-rate or free electricity to metered volumetric pricing, as well as targeted direct benefit transfers to protect small farmers, can be equitable while preventing wastage. Agricultural support schemes should include water-use criteria to reward farmers who adopt water-efficient crops and technologies. Finally, expanding recharge and conjunctive use is essential. Rainwater harvesting, check dams, recharge shafts, and watershed management can enhance natural recharge, while developing canal command areas and promoting conjunctive use of surface and groundwater can reduce excessive dependence on aquifers.

India stands at a crossroads: either continue exploiting groundwater for short-term yields, or adapt agriculture to ecological reality. The current path will deepen rural distress, increase inequality, and undermine food security. Diversified crops, efficient irrigation, improved incentives, and community-led governance – this alternative path leads to sustainable agricultural prosperity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tackling Urban Flood Risks

The recent severe urban flooding across major cities highlights severe infrastructure gaps. As climate events intensify, reactive relief measures are no longer sufficient. Local municipal corporations must prioritize upgrading drainage networks, restoring natural wetlands, and enforcing strict regulations against illegal encroachments on water bodies. Sustainable urban planning and proactive monsoon preparedness are essential to safeguard citizen lives, preserve property, and build resilient, climate-ready cities for the future.

— Rose Wilson

Safeguarding Public Data Privacy

Recent reports regarding digital data leaks highlight an urgent need for stronger cybersecurity protocols. As civic services increasingly migrate online, citizen trust depends heavily on robust data protection. Regulatory authorities must enforce strict compliance standards, conduct routine security audits, and impose stringent legal penalties on negligent entities. Ensuring transparent data management and safeguarding fundamental user privacy are vital requirements for maintaining faith in our evolving digital ecosystem.

— Sowmya



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh



The consequences of this crisis extend far beyond the farm. Falling water levels force farmers to install deeper borewells and more powerful pumps, increasing irrigation costs and disproportionately affecting small and marginal farmers. Extracting water from deeper levels requires

Groundwater is not just a resource, but a generational asset; how it is managed today will determine whether India’s farmlands remain fertile or become a relic of the past.

SAHIL WAKODE’S DEATH: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR INDIA’S PREMIER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

LALIT GARGG

The tragic death by suicide of Sahil Wakode, a second-year B.Tech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering at IIT Bombay, has sent shockwaves across the country. The incident has triggered intense anger among students on the campus and has also drawn strong reactions from political parties and student organisations. Beyond the immediate circumstances of Sahil’s death, the episode has raised deeper questions about the growing academic and psychological pressures faced by students in some of India’s most prestigious institutions, the nature of student-faculty relationships, institutional accountability, and the safeguards available to vulnerable students.

According to the allegations surrounding the incident, Sahil was caught using a mobile phone during an examination on September 18. The institute has stated that he allegedly attempted to upload the question paper to ChatGPT in an effort to cheat. Students and Sahil’s family, however, have raised serious questions about what happened after he was caught. Students have alleged that he was threatened with academic suspension for a year and asked to vacate his

ible inquiry.

The matter has taken an even more serious turn because of allegations of caste-based harassment. Sahil’s parents, who belong to the Dalit community, have accused the IIT administration and the concerned professor of subjecting him to caste-based abuse and mental harassment. A police case has reportedly been registered against Professor Surya Narayan Dulla under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act as well as for alleged abetment of suicide. These are serious allegations, and their truth or otherwise must be determined through due process rather than assumption or political assertion.

The incident has also exposed the intensity of student anger on the IIT Bombay campus. Under mounting pressure, IIT Bombay Director Professor Shirish Kedare signed an 18-point charter of demands submitted by the protesting students. Following the protests, Professor Surya Narayan Dulla was removed from the position of Dean for Administrative Affairs. At the same time, the faculty forum has reportedly expressed support for the professor, maintaining that he was performing his official duties. This contrasting set of claims underlines the need for an objective investigation capable of separating established facts from competing narratives.

The institute has also accelerated certain hostel-safety measures, including replacing ceiling fans in hostel rooms with wall-mounted fans. While such measures may address immediate physical safety concerns, the larger issue is far more complex. Student safety cannot be reduced merely to physical infrastructure. It also involves emotional security, access to confidential counselling, responsible academic disciplinary procedures, sensitivity among faculty members, and

a campus culture in which students can seek help without fear of humiliation or disproportionate consequences.

The controversy has meanwhile moved beyond the campus. Youth Congress workers reportedly staged a protest outside the main gate

dent as a catastrophic threat to his entire future. This does not justify academic misconduct, if established, but it does underline the importance of ensuring that disciplinary processes are firm, proportionate, transparent and humane.



of IIT Bombay, leading to the detention of some protesters by the police and increased security around the campus. Student organisations such as the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle and AIDS have rejected the idea that the incident should be viewed merely as an individual academic failure. They have described it in much stronger terms and raised broader questions about the treatment and safety of students belonging to Dalit and other historically disadvantaged communities in IIT campuses. Such characteristics are political and organisational positions; they should be examined alongside verified evidence from the investigation.

The most disturbing dimension of the episode is the larger question of institutional pressure. Students entering premier institutions such as IITs carry enormous academic expectations. They are often competing with exceptionally talented peers, facing demanding examinations, uncertain academic outcomes and intense pressure to secure their future. In such an environment, a disciplinary incident that might ordinarily be manageable can sometimes be experienced by a young stu-

The issue of mental health is equally significant. Students have questioned the effectiveness and accessibility of wellness and counselling services on the campus, particularly in light of reports that this was the third suicide at IIT Bombay within a period of roughly six to seven months. Each such incident demands careful examination not only of the circumstances surrounding the individual’s death but also of whether students are able to access meaningful psychological support when they are under extreme stress. A counselling centre on paper is not enough; students must trust the system, know how to approach it and feel confident that seeking help will not affect their academic standing or social dignity.

Another serious concern relates to allegations of caste discrimination. Students from reserved and historically marginalised communities have repeatedly raised concerns in educational institutions about social isolation, discrimination and a lack of belonging. Such concerns cannot be dismissed without examination. At the same time, allegations in an individual case must be established through evidence and due investigation. The an-

swer lies neither in denying the possibility of discrimination nor in declaring guilt before the facts are established. It lies in creating transparent mechanisms through which complaints can be independently examined and students can obtain protection and justice where violations are proven.

The students have also questioned the handling of previous suicide cases on the campus, alleging that investigation reports were not made public and that institutions sometimes attempt to protect their reputation rather than confront uncomfortable truths. But the demand for transparency is understandable: when a student dies within an institution, the response cannot end with condolences. The investigation, now reportedly being handled by the Mumbai Police Crime Branch, therefore assumes enormous importance. It must establish the complete chain of events between the examination incident and Sahil’s death, examine the allegations made by his family and students, assess the conduct of the concerned individuals, and determine whether any criminal or institutional wrongdoing occurred. The investigation should be allowed to proceed without political pressure, prejudice or premature conclusions.

The IIT Bombay tragedy is ultimately not only about one examination, one disciplinary action or one student. It compels society to reconsider what it expects from institutions that educate the country’s brightest young minds. Academic discipline is necessary, but discipline without sensitivity can become oppressive; freedom without responsibility can undermine academic integrity. Students must understand the consequences of misconduct, while institutions must ensure that those consequences remain proportionate, transparent and consistent with human dignity.

PRESERVE OUR MOTHER TONGUE, PROTECT OUR HERITAGE

A mother tongue is much more than a language used for communication. It is the language of our first memories, our childhood, our family conversations, our folk traditions and our emotional world. It carries the voices of our grandparents, the stories of our villages, the wisdom of our ancestors and the cultural experiences of generations.

When a language becomes weak, something more than vocabulary is lost. A part of collective memory begins to disappear. This is why preserving our mother tongue is closely connected with preserving our heritage.

The First Language of the Heart

A child does not learn language merely from textbooks. The first lessons come naturally from the family. A mother’s affectionate words, a father’s advice, a grandmother’s story, a grandfather’s proverb and the songs heard at home gradually create the child’s linguistic world. The mother tongue is therefore often the first language of emotions. A person may learn several languages later in life, but certain childhood words continue to carry a special emotional meaning. For Punjabis, Punjabi is deeply connected with the cultural landscape of Punjab. Its vocabulary reflects agriculture, seasons, relationships, food, celebrations, folk music, spirituality and village life. Its literature preserves the experiences of countless generations.

Language Is a Living Heritage

Heritage is not limited to monuments, buildings, historical sites or museum objects. Language itself is a living form of heritage. Folk songs, folk tales, proverbs, riddles, idioms and traditional expressions contain knowledge accumulated over centuries. They tell us how earlier generations understood nature, relationships, morality, work and society. Many traditional expressions cannot be trans-



DR. VIJAY GARG

lated perfectly into another language because their meaning is connected with a particular culture and way of life. When such expressions disappear from everyday use, we lose not only words but also the ideas and experiences associated with them.

The Challenge of a Changing World

The modern world has brought enormous opportunities for communication. English and other international languages have opened doors to higher education, science, technology, employment and global interaction. Learning these languages is valuable. There is no need to create a conflict between English, Hindi, Punjabi or any other language. Digital communication has also encouraged shortened expressions, Roman-script writing and rapid messaging. These changes are not necessarily harmful by themselves, but they can become a concern if children lose the ability or habit of reading and writing their own language.

The Home Is the First Language School

The preservation of a mother tongue begins at home. Parents can speak with children in their mother tongue, tell them stories, introduce them to traditional songs and encourage them to read age-appropriate literature. Simple daily conversations can do more for language preservation than occasional formal celebrations. Grandparents have a particularly important role. They possess memories, vocabulary, stories, idioms and experiences that may not exist in written records. Conversations between grandparents and grandchildren can therefore become a bridge between generations. When children listen to these stories

in their mother tongue, they are not merely learning words.

Schools Can Strengthen the Connection

Schools also have a significant role in keeping languages alive. Mother-tongue education, wherever appropriate, can help children develop familiarity with concepts and cultural expression. Schools can organize storytelling sessions, poetry recitations, essay competitions, reading clubs, debates and cultural programmes in regional languages. Students should also encounter their mother tongue in science, mathematics, technology, environmental studies and contemporary social issues. A language becomes stronger when it can express both heritage and modern knowledge.

Technology Can Become an Ally

Some people believe that technology threatens regional languages. It can create challenges, but it can also provide powerful opportunities. Digital books, online magazines, educational websites, podcasts, audiobooks, videos, language-learning applications and social-media content can bring mother tongues to audiences far beyond their traditional geographical boundaries. Young people can create podcasts in Punjabi, explain science in Punjabi, discuss careers in Punjabi, produce educational videos, digitise old literature and record oral histories of elders. Artificial intelligence and language technologies may also help in translation, speech recognition, text generation and preservation of linguistic resources. The quality and cultural accuracy of such technologies need careful attention, but their potential for language preservation is significant. The future of a mother tongue should therefore not be confined to printed books. It should also live on smartphones, computers and digital platforms.

Young People Are the Key

No language can survive simply because older generations love it. A language survives when younger generations find reasons to use it. Young people should be encouraged to see their mother tongue not as an old-fashioned language but as a medium capable of expressing modern ideas. A young Punjabi speaker should be able to discuss artificial intelligence, space exploration, climate change, entrepreneurship, medicine, education and mathematics in Punjabi, just as comfortably as



discussing family traditions and folk culture. This does not mean rejecting other languages. It means expanding the range of subjects in which the mother tongue is used.

From Emotional Pride to Everyday Practice

We often express great pride in our mother tongue during cultural festivals and language celebrations. Such occasions are valuable, but language preservation requires everyday practice. Speaking the language at home, reading books, writing correctly, supporting good literature, creating digital content and encouraging children to learn its script are practical ways of keeping it alive. A language cannot survive only through slogans. It survives through use.

Preserving Language without Rejecting Change

Language is always changing. New words enter it, old expressions disappear and pronunciation evolves. This is a natural part of linguistic development. Therefore, preserving a mother tongue does not mean freezing it in the

past. It means protecting its essential identity while allowing it to grow with society. Every generation adds something to a living language. Young people will naturally introduce new expressions and forms of communication. The goal should be to ensure that this evolution does not result in the loss of connection with literature, script, history and cultural memory.

Respect Every Language

Preserving our own mother tongue should never mean disrespecting another language. Every language represents the experiences and creativity of a community. India’s linguistic diversity is one of its remarkable cultural characteristics. Respect for our own language can coexist with respect for all other languages. The ideal is not linguistic isolation but linguistic confidence – a situation in which people can learn global languages without feeling that their own language is inferior.

“Let us preserve our mother tongue, let us protect our heritage” is not merely a cultural slogan. It is a reminder of our responsibility towards the generations that came before us and those that will come after us. Our mother tongue carries our memories. It tells our stories. It preserves our traditions. It connects generations and gives cultural identity to communities. We should learn other languages, welcome new knowledge and participate confidently in the global world. But while moving forward, we should not forget the language that first taught us how to express love, pain, joy, respect and belonging.

*A language lives when it is spoken.
A language grows when it is read and written.
A language becomes stronger when it embraces modern knowledge.
And a heritage survives when the next generation chooses to carry it forward.*

Quick Read

Shimla Police bust two inter-state drug networks

SHIMLA
Shimla Police has dismantled two inter-state narcotics networks and arrested alleged key suppliers from Chandigarh and Mohali, Additional SP Mehar Panwar said on Monday. In the first case, police arrested Rahul alias Rohit of Chandigarh on October 4 after tracing the source of around six grams of heroin allegedly recovered from a 26-year-old Kullu resident on September 27. Investigators used WhatsApp chats, call records and IP data to establish the alleged drug link. In the second case, police arrested Sandeep, 41, from Mohali on September 30 after tracing the source of around seven grams of heroin recovered from a 30-year-old man in Shimla. Panwar said police have arrested 80 outside-state suppliers and dismantled 61 inter-state drug networks this year.

DMK moves Madras HC over Veeramani case

CHENNAI
The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has moved the Madras High Court seeking permission to file a defamation suit against ministers and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) IT wing members over statements linking the party to the R. Veeramani POCOS case. The DMK general secretary has sought damages exceeding ₹1 crore, alleging that remarks accusing the previous government and its leadership of inaction were defamatory. The case relates to the arrest of Gem Granites owner R. Veeramani under the POCOS Act and charges of abetment to suicide. During the hearing, arguments were raised over whether the suit was filed against individuals in their personal capacity and whether prior notice requirements had been met. The Madras High Court subsequently granted the DMK leave to pursue the defamation suit.

Newborn girl strangled to death in hospital

ASHOKNAGAR
A one-day-old baby girl was allegedly strangled to death inside the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Ashoknagar District Hospital in Madhya Pradesh, police said. The newborn had been admitted to the SNCU after birth and was found unresponsive on Saturday afternoon. A postmortem examination confirmed that she had been strangled, ruling out a natural death. Police are questioning the baby's mother and grandmother, who were reportedly the only people present near her when the incident occurred. Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the hospital corridors to determine who entered or left the ward. There was no CCTV camera inside the SNCU, making the investigation dependent on other evidence and witness statements. Further investigation is underway.

Protesters demand FIR over journalist harassment

Protesters outside Parliament Street police station demanded an FIR and probe into alleged sexual harassment of three women journalists.

NEW DELHI

Protesters gathered outside the Parliament Street police station on Monday, demanding registration of an FIR and an investigation into allegations that three women journalists were sexually harassed by police personnel during a Jantar Mantar protest on October 3.

Protesters were detained during the demonstration. The protesters demanded that CCTV footage connected to the alleged incident be examined and that action be taken on complaints submitted to the police. One protester said they had approached the station on the day of the alleged incident



requesting access to the footage, but were asked to return after 24 hours.

The protester said they returned and sought the CCTV footage, but alleged that it was not provided. Another detained protester demanded an examination of the CCTV footage and

alleged that a similar complaint had been made in July against the police officer concerned.

The second protester claimed that the July complaint had not been investigated and alleged that the complaint was not being taken seriously.

The demands

- 1 Registration of an FIR
- 2 Examination of the CCTV footage
- 3 An investigation into the allegations

The New Delhi district police had transferred the complaints to the Crime Branch for a “fair and impartial enquiry”, according to a police officer cited. One of the journalists told PTI that an assistant commissioner of police sexually assaulted her after she questioned the absence of women police personnel at the protest site.

‘Amit Shah, why are you and your police afraid of women’: Rahul Gandhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah over alleged mistreatment of women protesters and journalists by Delhi Police during recent incidents in the national capital.

In a post on X, Gandhi alleged that several people were detained at Jantar Mantar and that women protesters had accused male police personnel of misbehaviour. He also claimed that cameras

were snatched from female journalists, some journalists were dragged and a complaint was not registered.

Gandhi also referred to Shaheen and Nafisa, who he said had spoken about alleged

“What’s happening in Delhi right now follows a single pattern: silence any woman who dares to ask questions,”

—Rahul Gandhi, LoP

violence and mistreatment inside the Saket police station. He demanded that the complete CCTV footage from the station be made public and called for immediate action against police personnel found responsible.

Singapore envoy meets Tamil Nadu CM Vijay

CHENNAI

Singapore High Commissioner to India Simon Wong met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay in Chennai on Monday and conveyed Singapore’s congratulations on



Singapore envoy Simon Wong congratulated CM Vijay, stressing strong historical, cultural and economic ties while seeking deeper cooperation with Tamil Nadu.

his assumption of office, while expressing interest in strengthening ties with the State.

Wong said Singapore and Tamil Nadu were bound by deep historical, cultural and economic ties. He also described Singapore as the

largest foreign investor in Tamil Nadu and said the country looked forward to building on the existing foundation in the years ahead. Vijay heads the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), which formed the government after winning the 2026 Assembly elections.

The meeting came a day before the October 6 Assembly bypolls in Madurantakam and Dharapuram, which are

the first electoral contests since the TVK-led government came to power.

In a separate meeting, Singapore’s Deputy High Commissioner said it had met BJP National Vice President and Member of Parliament Baijayant Jay Panda. The Deputy High Commissioner described Panda as a friend of Singapore and said it appreciated his views on what Singapore and India could do together.

DESAI QUESTIONS SIR, DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY

NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Anil Desai on Monday questioned the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, alleging that concerns surrounding the exercise remained unanswered and demanding accountability for reported irregularities.

Desai said comments by



Maharashtra, Desai claimed that around two crore names had been deleted from a voter base of nearly nine crores, saying the development had created anxiety among voters. He demanded that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar accept responsibility for errors and resign, linking the demand to a planned protest march.

The controversy follows a report that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections on 14 occasions over 10 months

concerning electoral rolls, voter registration and the Commission’s technology systems. The Election Commission has rejected suggestions of an internal rift and maintained that decisions, including those related to SIR, were unanimous and approved by all three commissioners.

The Supreme Court on Monday also clarified that it had not approved any modified Form 6 being used for new voter enrolment during the ongoing revision process. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the court would examine records to determine who introduced the changes. The dispute centres on a new declaration asking applicants whether they or their parents were mapped in the previous SIR. The requirement was not part of the earlier Form 6 used in other States across the country.

2 crore names deleted from a voter base of nearly nine crore in Maharashtra, Desai claimed

Election Commission officials and media reports had highlighted issues involving the SIR process, but claimed the poll panel had not adequately responded to specific concerns.

Raising concerns over

AAP skips I.N.D.I.A. bloc protest over SIR

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said it would not participate in the I.N.D.I.A. bloc’s October 6 protest outside the Election Commission headquarters over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the party was pursuing the issue independently and would continue its own campaign against alleged irregularities in the electoral-roll revision process.

He added that AAP had deliberately avoided using its party banner, as it viewed the issue as a people’s movement concerning citizens across the country.

“The CJP’s protest is also being held, and different organisations are also holding protests. The Left is also protesting in different places. As

far as tomorrow’s protest is concerned, it is the INDIA bloc’s protest. So, the Aam Aadmi Party is not part of it. We are fighting this battle in our own way,” Singh said at



the Parliament House complex.

The I.N.D.I.A. bloc protest is planned for October 6 outside the Election Commission headquarters amid opposition parties’ criticism of the SIR process and alleged irregularities in electoral rolls. Singh maintained that AAP would continue raising the issue through its own efforts rather than joining the bloc-led demonstration.

Maharashtra imposes water cut from October 16

MUMBAI

Maharashtra will impose a minimum 10 per cent water cut across all urban and rural local bodies from October 16 as the state prepares for possible drought conditions following a deficient monsoon.

Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan said the department had prepared detailed dam-wise and use-wise plans for available water stocks up to August 31, 2027. The planning takes into account the impact of El Nino and the possibility of a drought-like situation in the state.

Mahajan said drinking water would receive the highest priority under the new restrictions. Municipal corporations, municipalities and gram panchayats have been directed to implement the 10 per cent cut from October 16. The measure is



intended to manage available supplies amid concerns over water availability.

The government has also instructed local bodies to conduct special drives to prevent water leakage and ensure that sewage treatment plants operate at full capacity. Treated wastewater will be used for non-drinking purposes, including gardening, construction and washing, as part of efforts to conserve fresh water supplies.

The state’s approach prioritises drinking water while seeking to reduce avoidable losses through leakage control and greater use of treated wastewater.

Airlines seek faster ECLGS 5.0 fund release

NEW DELHI

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has sought urgent government intervention to speed up the release of pending credit support under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 for eligible airlines facing financial and operational pressure.



Representing Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, FIA wrote to Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu seeking faster disbursement of sanctioned funds.

FIA said airlines that applied for ECLGS 5.0 had received only part of the

Why airlines are under pressure

- West Asia conflict since April 2026
- Airspace restrictions and flight diversions
- Rupee depreciation and higher operating costs
- A sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel prices

assistance sanctioned in some cases, while lending institutions had delayed releasing the remaining amounts.

The industry body asked the Civil Aviation Ministry to guide and reassure participating banks so that the balance sanctioned amounts could be released, beginning with the first tranche.

FIA said not all members required credit under the scheme, but those seeking immediate liquidity needed the pending funds to sustain operations.

CLEAN ENERGY PUSH

Solar for 15,000 Gujarat govt buildings

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat will install rooftop solar systems on 15,000 government buildings during the current financial year, with the expansion expected to add around 65 MW of renewable energy capacity, Climate Change Minister Arjun Modhwadia said on Monday.

The programme, implemented by the Gujarat Energy Development Agency since 2011-12, aims to increase renewable energy use, reduce dependence on conventional electricity and lower power expenditure in government offices. During 2025-26, rooftop systems were installed on 1,377 government buildings, adding 17.1 MW.

For 2026-27, the state has



allocated Rs 314 crore to support the programme. Of this, Rs 278 crore is earmarked for general government buildings, Rs 3 crore for buildings under the Social Justice and Empowerment Department and Rs 33 crore for buildings managed by the Tribal Development Department. The projects will receive full capital-cost support from the

Climate Change Department’s annual budget allocation.

The state has also introduced an Industrial Internet of Things-based Renewable Energy Monitoring System to track installations digitally. It provides automated alerts and records performance data every 15 minutes, generating up to 96 readings daily.

The monitoring interface

Initiative at a glance

15,000 buildings targeted	65 MW capacity to be added
6,014 buildings covered by March 2026	95 MW installed so far
17.1 MW added in 2025-26	₹314 cr budget for 2026-27

currently tracks 142.5 MW of solar and 68.3 MW of wind generation, according to the state government. Gujarat has an installed renewable energy capacity of 47,178 MW, based on data cited from the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Delhi court orders faster inquiry into rape complaint



NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has directed the concerned Deputy Commissioner of Police to complete an inquiry into a rape complaint against Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad before the next hearing, rejecting Delhi Police’s request for additional time.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Mittal passed the order at Rouse Avenue Court and fixed October 23 for further hear-

ing. The complainant had approached Delhi Police at Indira Gandhi International Airport, alleging that Azad raped her on the false promise of marriage and also accused him of cheating.

After police did not register an FIR, the woman moved the Rouse Avenue Court seeking directions for registration of a case under relevant legal provisions. The court had earlier sought a status report from Delhi Police on the progress of its inquiry.

Police later submitted the report but sought another two to three months to complete the preliminary probe.

The allegations in the complaint have not been established by the court.

Quick Read

Pakistani undertrial prisoner dies by suicide in Jammu jail

JAMMU
A 36-year-old Pakistani undertrial prisoner allegedly died by suicide at the high-security Central Jail in Jammu on Sunday, officials said. The deceased was identified as Shahid Imran, a resident of Sargodha district in Pakistan's Punjab province. He was found unconscious inside his cell at around 5.15 am. The prisoner was immediately taken to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where doctors declared him brought dead. Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death.

Bihar police aspirants protest exam cancellation

PATNA
Bihar Police job aspirants marched in Patna on Monday, demanding withdrawal of the cancellation of the sub-inspector mains examination and resumption of the recruitment process. The Bihar Police Subordinate Services Commission cancelled the examination on September 23 for recruitment to 1,799 posts, citing "unavoidable reasons". The protesters began their march from Gandhi Maidan towards the chief minister's residence but were stopped by police at JP Golambar. Protester Raunak Kumar said the candidates had cleared both the preliminary and mains examinations and were preparing for the physical test. He said no concrete reason had been provided for the sudden cancellation. The aspirants demanded that the recruitment process be resumed immediately and that dates for the physical examination be announced.

Influencer booked over objectionable Gandhi reel

SURAT
Gujarat-based social media influencer Simran Patel, who has nearly one million Instagram followers, has been booked by the Surat Cyber Crime Branch under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act over an allegedly objectionable reel featuring Mahatma Gandhi's image on a ₹500 currency note. Police said Patel, 47, uploaded the reel on October 1, ahead of Gandhi Jayanti. The video allegedly contained insulting remarks and sexual gestures involving the image of Gandhi. The reel was reported to police by Dharmesh Gami, head of Gau Raksha Manch, following which a case was registered. Police urged social media users not to create or share obscene, objectionable or insulting content involving national figures and warned that such posts could invite legal action.

PM Modi likely to address nation on Oct 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the nation on October 7 during Delhi BJP's 'Seva Jyoti' programme.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the nation on October 7 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium as part of the 'Seva Jyoti' programme, being organised by the Delhi BJP to mark his completion of 25 years in public life. According to BJP sources, preparations are underway for the programme, with around 5,000 people expected to attend the event. Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi MPs and MLAs, along with national

and state office-bearers, are expected to participate. The celebrations are part of the broader 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', which includes several programmes in the national capital. On October 8, Union Health Minister JP Nadda is scheduled to attend an event at Bharat Mandapam. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit the Matiala Assembly constituency on October 9, where he is expected to inaugurate a sewage treatment plant project worth around Rs 12,000-13,000 crore. On October 10, Modi is



scheduled to attend a programme at Pusa, where around 1,200 participants from a bike rally from Vadnagar and Varanasi are expected to join him. The Prime Minister is expected to address the participants. The week-long activities are aimed at highlighting seva, public participation and outreach as part of the celebrations. The Delhi BJP has been coordinating with organisational units and senior leaders for the week-long schedule. Large participation by party workers and members of the public is expected across the pro-

In focus

- OCT 7**
PM Modi likely to address nation; 5,000 people expected at Seva Jyoti
- OCT 8**
JP Nadda at Bharat Mandapam
- OCT 9**
Amit Shah to visit Matiala; ₹12,000-13,000 crore sewage treatment project
- OCT 10**
Modi to address bike rally participants

grammes, reflecting the party's focus on public engagement and service activities during the celebrations.

Dhami hands appointment letters to 332 new recruits



DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday distributed appointment letters to 332 newly recruited personnel, including 271 appointees in the AYUSH

Dhami said personnel working with AYUSH and ESI services had a direct role in people's health and well-being. He highlighted measures taken to make recruitment transparent, including action against

Uttarakhand expands healthcare services as 332 new personnel join AYUSH and ESI departments, with the government stressing accessible and efficient public healthcare.

Hub by expanding AYUSH services, modernising Panchakarma facilities and establishing Ayurveda Centres of Excellence. E-Sanjeevani and the AYUSH Setu Portal were cited as initiatives supporting healthcare access. Dhami said ESI services had expanded from six districts to all 13 districts. A 100-bed ESI hospital is functioning in Rudrapur, while a 300-bed facility is under construction in Haridwar.

People travelling from remote areas to government health centres and hospitals do so with faith in the system. The sensitivity, promptness and efficiency of government personnel further strengthen this trust.

— Pushkar Singh Dhami Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Department and 61 Allopathic Pharmacy Officers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme. At an event at the Mukhya Sevak Sadan, Dhami congratulated the recruits and urged them to approach government service with dedication and sensitivity.

cheating mafias and implementation of an anti-copying law. More than 35,000 youths, he said, had secured government jobs in the past five years. The Chief Minister said Uttarakhand was working to become a model AYUSH State and Global Wellness



Retired judges criticise Justice Bhuyan's remarks on SIR

NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and retired judges on Monday criticised Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's recent remarks on the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying the issue is currently pending before the top court.

"Judicial propriety would not permit him to make any comment on the matter which is sub judice before the court," he told PTI. Retired Delhi High Court judges SN Dhinra and RS Sodhi also questioned Bhuyan's comments. Justice Bhuyan had on Sunday said any process that disenfranchises millions of citizens would be "intrinsically arbitrary" and contrary to the constitutional order. Bhuyan made the remarks while delivering the valedictory address at a moot court competition at NALSAR University of Law.

CM Yogi orders Gomti embankment survey for flood control

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday directed the Irrigation Department to survey the Gomti riverbank from Faizullaganj to



Nemishat and prepare a proposal for embankments to prevent recurring floods in affected parts of Lucknow.

Yogi met flood-affected residents at Bakshi's Lake and distributed relief material to families. Heavy rainfall in Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur and parts of Nepal increased the Gomti's water level, flooding areas including Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow North, Faizullaganj and Nemishat. The Chief Minister said he had conducted an aerial survey and visited affected areas to assess the situation and

review relief operations. He said adequate funds had been provided for rescue and relief work. Yogi said embankments along the Gomti could significantly reduce the impact of flooding in the region. He directed officials to complete the survey and proposal at the earliest. However, he stressed that embankments must be accompanied by arrangements to drain rainwater from villages and areas outside the protected sections.

We have seen very closely that if an embankment is constructed along the Gomti River, we can prevent such a severe flood situation to a great extent.

— Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi also ordered the installation of pumping sets to remove stagnant water when river levels rise, warning that trapped water could create health risks. He said the proposed measures would strengthen flood-control infrastructure and help prevent similar crises in the future, while ensuring timely assistance to affected residents.

SC directs CBI to ensure examination of Manipur victim-witnesses

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the CBI and the trial court to ensure the appearance and examination of two key victim-witnesses in a Manipur sexual violence case, stressing that the trial



eral D P Singh, appearing for the CBI, said releasing the accused on bail could affect the willingness of witnesses to depose. "If the accused are out, nobody will depose," Singh submitted.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for an accused whose bail was challenged, said the CBI had not been able to conduct the trial at the required pace.

The court directed the CBI to ensure that the two victim-witnesses are produced before the trial court on October 7, 9 and 28, with their statements recorded on those dates. The CJJ stressed that witness safety was the authorities' responsibility and said the bail issue could be considered after the witnesses were examined.

THE DIRECTION

Victim-witnesses before the trial court on October 7, 9 and 28

— Bail issue after they are examined

should proceed expeditiously. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana passed the direction while hearing CBI pleas seeking cancellation of bail granted to two accused. The matter concerns allegations of sexual violence during the Manipur conflict. Additional Solicitor Gen-

BJP names eight for UP Rajya Sabha polls

8	10	11
candidates named	UP seats falling vacant	Rajya Sabha seats in the polls

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday announced eight candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha biennial elections in Uttar Pradesh, leaving Union ministers Hardeep Puri and BL Verma out of the list.

The candidates are Dharampal Singh, Radhakant Ojha, Prakash Pal, Vidyasagar Sonkar, Gopi Krishna Pandey, Priyanka Singh Rawat, Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan and Shruti Gangwar.

The announcement was issued by Tarun Chugh, Rajya Sabha MP and in-charge of the BJP national headquarters.

The Election Commission of India had earlier announced the schedule for the biennial elections to 11 Rajya Sabha seats, including 10 from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand.

The BJP's announcement comes ahead of the elections in Uttar Pradesh, where the

party has named candidates for eight of the 10 seats falling vacant in the state. Union ministers Hardeep



Puri and BL Verma, who were among the sitting members whose names were being discussed in connection with the upcoming elections, were not included in the candidate list announced by the party.

The Rajya Sabha biennial elections will determine the new occupants of the seats becoming vacant in November. The BJP's eight nominees will now be part of the electoral contest for the Uttar Pradesh seats.

Great Nicobar project: SC fast-tracks scrutiny

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to dismiss a legal challenge to statutory approvals granted for the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project and directed the Calcutta High Court to expedite its examination of the matter.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said the challenge could not be rejected merely on the question of maintainability. It asked the high court to examine whether the public-interest petition filed by former IAS officer Meena Gupta continues to survive and decide the matter at the earliest.

The Centre and the Andaman and Nicobar administration had challenged a May 6 order of the Calcutta High Court's circuit bench at Port Blair, which rejected their objections to Gupta's petition.

Gupta, who served as secretary in the Union tribal affairs and environment ministries and was involved in drafting the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has challenged the project

approvals, alleging that they violate the statutory and customary rights of the indigenous Shompen and Nicobarese tribes.

Senior advocate S Muralidhar, appearing for Gupta, said tribal councils had sought to intervene, claiming the communities were not adequately heard before the approvals were granted. Attorney General R Venkataramani disputed the contention, saying the tribes had been heard.

The Supreme Court stressed the need to protect the distinctive culture and way of life of the indigenous communities. It observed that preservation of tribal culture has constitutional protection and said the interests of ecology and indigenous rights must be considered.

The bench also cautioned against conflating national security with commercial development, stressing that there must be a distinction between security concerns and commercial exploitation.

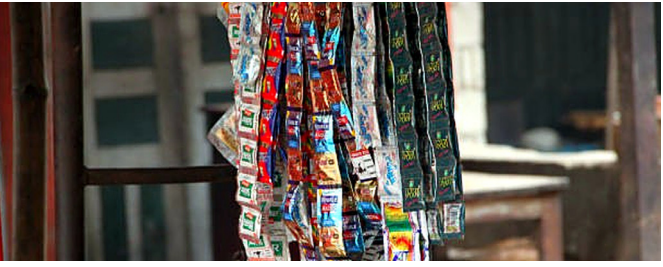
The court directed the high court to fast-track the proceedings rather than examining the merits of the challenge at this stage.

TOBACCO-FREE FIRST

Keezhamad is Kerala's first tobacco-free village

KOCHI

Keezhamad in Ernakulam district has been declared Kerala's first tobacco-free village, the state government said on Sunday, marking a first for the state. The declaration was made by Congress MP Benny



Behanan at an event held in the village. An official statement said this was the first time a village in Kerala had been recognised as tobacco-free. Keezhamad earned the distinction after securing 144 out of 150 marks under the criteria prescribed by the

144 out of 150 marks under the Centre's criteria for tobacco-free villages

Central government for tobacco-free villages. The score enabled the village to meet the required standards and receive the special recognition. The government said the

village had created history through the achievement. The declaration places Keezhamad among villages that have met the assessment standards set by the Central government. The recognition

was announced during the event attended by Behanan, formally marking the village's new status. The state government's statement highlighted the significance of the achievement, particularly because no village in Kerala had previously been declared tobacco-free.

Quick Read

Andrew challenges Epstein-related search warrants in court

LONDON

Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, has launched a High Court challenge against search warrants issued during a police investigation into alleged misconduct in public office. The warrants, issued on February 18, allowed Thames Valley Police to search his residence on the Sandringham Estate and former home, Royal Lodge. Andrew, 66, was arrested on February 19 over allegations that he shared sensitive information with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein while serving as Britain's trade envoy. He was later released under investigation and denies wrongdoing. A private High Court hearing is scheduled for Thursday to consider the legal challenge and police requests concerning court documents.

US arrests woman over alleged China spying

LOS ANGELES

A 34-year-old woman has been arrested in the United States for allegedly spying on Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's son and his family on behalf of Chinese officials. Wanying Zhang was detained at Los Angeles airport while allegedly attempting to leave for China, US officials said. According to the FBI, Zhang allegedly filmed the family's home and vehicles and sent information to Chinese handlers. Officials said she travelled to Seattle in 2025 and provided photographs, videos and vehicle licence plate details. Zhang is accused of acting as an unregistered Chinese agent. Lai's office condemned the alleged surveillance as transnational repression and thanked US authorities. Zhang is expected to appear in federal court on Monday.

US withdraws bombers from UK airbase

WASHINGTON

The United States has withdrawn all B-1 bomber aircraft deployed at Royal Air Force Fairford in southwest England, the Pentagon confirmed Sunday, following a suspicious incident near the base. A Pentagon official said all US bombers stationed at Fairford had returned to their home bases in the United States. The development comes after police were called to the airbase last Sunday when a local farmer reported a group of men behaving suspiciously. Authorities investigated the incident but found no explosives. Five London-based British men who were arrested in connection with the case were later released on bail. The circumstances surrounding the US military withdrawal remain under scrutiny.

2 killed, 35 hurt in Georgia shooting

VIENNA

Two people were killed and nearly 35 others injured after gunfire erupted at a neighbourhood block party in Vienna, Georgia, according to state law enforcement officials.

More than 1,000 people had gathered for the event during homecoming weekend for Dooly County High School when shots were fired at around 1:25am. Dooly County Sheriff Craig Peavy said more than 50 shots were fired at at least two locations about a block apart.

‘Extreme heat puts pregnant women, newborns at risk’

AS PER A GLOBAL SURVEY, TWO-THIRDS OF GLOBAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WITNESSED HEAT-RELATED PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS.

FIJI

Extreme heat is increasingly putting pregnant women and newborns at risk, with rising temperatures linked to premature births, stillbirths, low birth weight and maternal complications, UN climate chief Simon Stiell is set to warn.

Speaking at the pre-COP summit in Fiji on Monday, Stiell will cite a new survey showing that more than two-thirds of health professionals across five continents had witnessed pregnancy-related complications caused by intense heat during the past five years.

The survey, commissioned by the Wellcome charitable foundation, involved 1,000 midwives and doctors in the United Kingdom, Australia,



India, Brazil and Zimbabwe. Nearly all respondents said they had cared for mothers or babies affected by extreme heat.

Stiell is expected to warn that climate-driven heat is creating a growing threat to pregnancy and childbirth, with the risks potentially falling more heavily on vulnerable communities.

Scientists have warned that climate change is contributing to more frequent and intense

Survey report in a nutshell

→ Wellcome surveyed global health professionals.

→ Extreme heat threatens maternal health.

→ Cases of low birth weight reported.

→ Climate change intensifies extreme weather.

→ Julia Gillard urged world action.

→ Meeting precedes upcoming COP31 summit.

heat events. According to an AFP analysis of data from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, around 33 countries stretch-

ing from western Europe to the Sahel and Central America recorded their hottest July since records began this year.

Wellcome chairwoman and former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said climate change was placing mothers and babies at increasing risk. She urged world leaders to act on the available evidence and solutions.

The pre-COP31 meeting in Fiji and Tuvalu is providing Pacific leaders an opportunity to highlight the impact of climate change on vulnerable

island communities. The gathering precedes COP31, the UN-backed global climate summit scheduled to be held in Turkey next month.

Russia probes suspected pneumonic plague death

MOSCOW

Russian authorities are investigating the death of a 28-year-old laboratory technician at an Anti-Plague Research Institute in Siberia after she was diagnosed with pneumonia of unknown cause, raising concerns about a possible case of pneumonic plague.

The incident was reported at the institute in Shelekhov near Irkutsk. The specific pathogen responsible for the illness has not yet been identified. Russia's consumer and infectious disease watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, said the sanitary and epidemiological situation in Irkutsk, the wider region and Shelekhov remained stable.

Authorities have introduced special precautionary measures following the woman's death. Buryatia head Alexei Tsydenov said the woman may have died from plague, while stressing that there was no outbreak

in his republic. Irkutsk Governor Igor Kobzev also convened an emergency meeting of regional health authorities and described the incident as a suspected particularly dangerous infection. Additional precautions have been introduced in Shelekhov and surrounding areas. The nearby Irkutsk Aluminium Plant advised employees to wear face coverings. Company officials said identified close contacts were under medical observation and had not developed symptoms, while laboratory tests conducted so far were negative.

Unverified reports cited by CNN said nearly 200 people were being monitored at a medical facility where the technician had been treated. Reports also claimed that isolation measures had been introduced at a maternity facility, although these claims have not been independently confirmed.

KEY POINTS
Woman suspected of dying from plague.
Buryatia and Irkutsk officials took precautions.
Close contacts placed under medical observation.
Experts doubt widespread plague transmission likelihood.
US State Department monitoring reported case.
Authorities implementing containment and safety measures.

Iran oil minister resigns citing personal reasons

DUBAI

Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has resigned for personal reasons, with Hamid Bovard, chief executive of the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company, appointed as acting oil minister, Iranian state media reported.

Paknejad, who had served as oil minister since August 2024, submitted his resignation some time ago, according to Mehdi Tabatabaei, communications deputy in President Masoud Pezeshkian's office. He said the resignation was accepted by Pezeshkian at Paknejad's insistence.

"With acceptance of Mohsen Paknejad's resignation by Dr. Pezeshkian, Hamid Bovard has been appointed as acting oil minister," Tabatabaei said, according to state media.

The leadership change comes as Iran's economy faces pressure from the seven-month-old war with the Unit-

ed States. The conflict has affected the country's energy sector and created challenges for oil exports and government revenues.

Before news of his resignation emerged, Paknejad was quoted by Iranian state media as saying that revenues from oil already sold were continuing to reach the country and would continue to do so.

Bovard, who heads the National Iranian Oil Company, will take charge of the ministry on an acting basis. The government has not announced how long he will remain in the position or when a permanent successor to Paknejad will be named.

Iran is a major oil producer and a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The oil sector remains a crucial source of revenue for the country, making the ministry a key part of the government's economic management during the ongoing conflict.



Brazil poll heads to runoff between Bolsonaro and Lula

BRASILIA

Brazil's presidential election will go to a runoff on October 25 between Senator Flavio Bolsonaro and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva after neither candidate secured the majority needed to win in the first round.

The electoral court said Bolsonaro received just over 55.8 million votes, while Lula secured nearly 53.2 million. Bolsonaro, 45, is the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, while Lula, 80, is seeking a fourth non-consecutive term as president.

The runoff will bring three more weeks of campaigning as both candidates seek support from voters who backed other contenders. Bolsonaro is expected to focus on the cost-of-living crisis, crime and promises to strengthen ties

with the United States. He has also campaigned on freeing his father and bringing him back into politics.

Lula is likely to highlight his social welfare policies and his opposition to US pressure. He continues to have a strong support base, although his government has faced concerns over affordability and a corruption scandal involving a Supreme Court justice who previously led the investigation into Jair Bolsonaro.

The election has also drawn attention to Brazil's electronic voting system. Electoral authorities said voting proceeded normally and that there was no concrete indication of international interference.

The winner will take office on January 5, 2027, and lead Latin America's largest economy and its population of about 214 million.

First-round votes



IALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY

Pak issues can be resolved diplomatically: Taliban

KABUL

Afghanistan's Taliban government said on Monday that its differences with neighbouring Pakistan can be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, even as tensions between the two countries continue to escalate.

Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi made the remarks at an event in Russia, where he was attending the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan.

He accused Pakistan's powerful military of relying on military pressure rather than seeking political understanding with Kabul.

Muttaqi said Pakistan had used transit routes, refugees and students as instruments of pressure and had gathered thousands of armed personnel near the border.



Afghanistan did not want its disputes with Pakistan to become a cycle of mutual accusations and propaganda or to create new reasons for prolonging the conflict."

Amir Khan Muttaqi
Afghan Foreign Minister

At the same time, Muttaqi said Kabul considered self-defence against any aggression a legitimate and un-

Bangladesh seeks Sheikh Hasina's extradition from India

DHAKA

Bangladesh has urged India to expedite the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying that her return requires both a legal process and political intent.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Sunday that Dhaka expected New Delhi to take steps to move the extradition process forward. She said Hasina could be brought back under the extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh, although some legal experts have questioned whether the treaty provisions apply to her case.

Hasina, 79, has been living in India since August 2024, when she left Bangladesh following the collapse of her government amid a major an-



Bangladesh's request is currently being reviewed through standard legal and judicial procedures.

India's official position

No fixed timeline: Indian officials state that because the judiciary is involved, no concrete deadline can be provided.

Refugee dilemma: Indian High Commissioner to Ban-

gladesh Dinesh Trivedi clarified that India had "hardly any choice" but to grant safe refuge given the tragic and abrupt nature of her evacuation, which was facilitated by the then-existing government machinery of Bangladesh.

Sanchez calls early election after housing defeat

MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday called an early general election for November 29 after his minority government suffered a major parliamentary defeat over emergency measures aimed at addressing the country's worsening housing crisis.

The announcement followed the rejection of two housing decrees by Spain's lower house on Friday. The measures included proposals aimed at reducing evictions

and curbing real estate speculation. Their defeat highlighted the difficulties Sanchez faces in passing legislation without a stable parliamentary majority.

The housing issue has become a major source of public anger in Spain, with rising rents, expensive homes and evictions prompting protests in several cities. Public pressure intensified after the eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her Madrid home last month, drawing widespread attention to housing affordability.

Japan population decline a national crisis: Takaichi

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Monday described Japan's declining population as a "quietly advancing national crisis" and pledged to formulate a comprehensive strategy to address the country's demographic challenges by the end of this year.

Speaking during a policy speech in parliament, Takaichi said population decline was progressing quietly but posed a serious long-term challenge to Japan. She stressed the need for the government to respond through a broad and coordinated population strategy.

"Population decline is a quietly advancing national

crisis," Takaichi said, highlighting the importance of taking action to deal with the continuing demographic trend.

The prime minister said her government would work towards preparing a comprehensive population strategy before the end of 2026. The plan is expected to examine measures to respond to the effects of Japan's shrinking population and changing demographic structure.

Japan has faced population decline for years, accompanied by major demographic changes. The country is also experiencing an ageing population, creating growing challenges for society and the economy.



Digvijay Singh Clinches Baku ITF Tennis Title

Digvijay Pratap Singh overcame personal grief and a demanding draw to defeat Britain's Millen Hurrian and claim the ITF M15 title in Baku with a straight-set victory in the final.

CHANDIGARH

Digvijay Pratap Singh clinched the men's singles title at the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour M15 in Baku, Azerbaijan, defeating top seed Millen Hurrian of Great Britain 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

The second-seeded Indian, ranked 552 in the ATP standings, produced a composed performance against Hurrian, who entered the tournament ranked 537. Singh maintained his control through both sets to complete a straight-set victory and secure the international title.

The triumph was particularly emotional for the Roundglass Tennis Academy (RGTA) athlete. Singh dedicated the title to his grandfather, who passed away on October 1 during the tournament week.

Despite dealing with the loss, he remained focused throughout a demanding draw and showed considerable mental strength to finish as champion.

Singh began his campaign with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Russia's Dmitry Bessonov before overcoming Great Britain's Oscar Brown 6-3, 7-6 in the Round of 16. He then edged Turkey's Arda Azkara 7-5, 7-6 in the quarterfinals.

His biggest challenge came in the semifinals against seventh seed Marcus Walters of Great Britain. Singh prevailed after a gruelling three-set contest, winning 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 and holding his nerve in two crucial tie-breaks.

The Baku title adds to RGTA's strong run on the ITF circuit. Earlier, fellow RGTA athlete Karan Singh won back-to-back ITF M15 titles in Bali, claiming his second singles title in two weeks. The

Digvijay Pratap Singh overcomes emotional week:

- Singh defeated top seed Millen Hurrian 6-4, 6-4 in the final.
- The Indian entered the tournament as the second seed.
- He dedicated the title to his late grandfather.
- Singh survived a three-set semifinal against Marcus Walters.
- RGTA's Karan Singh recently won back-to-back ITF M15 titles in Bali.

performances underline the academy's growing impact in providing Indian players with opportunities, exposure and support as they pursue rankings and careers on the tennis circuit.

Cameron Green's injury leaves Australia facing a difficult selection call before the opening Test against South Africa in Durban.

SELECTION PICTURE

- Cameron Green remains doubtful for the Durban Test.
- Cooper Connolly could receive another Test opportunity.
- Beau Webster is expected to retain his place.
- Nic Maddinson's selection has faced criticism.
- Green could target a return for the second or third Test.

DURBAN

Australia could be without star all-rounder Cameron Green for the opening Test against South Africa in Durban on October 9 as he continues his recovery from an abdominal strain.

Green suffered the injury while attempting a hook shot during the third ODI against the Proteas. The 27-year-old has since been racing against time to regain full match fitness but was absent from Australia's two-day warm-up fixture in Potchefstroom.

According to a report, Green may now target a return in the second or third Test rather than rushing back for the series opener. His absence would be a major setback for Australia, given the all-rounder's importance with both bat and ball.

Green Injury Puts Test Spot at Risk



If Cam Green is unavailable, Matthew Renshaw or Cooper Connolly should remain ahead of Maddinson.
- Mitchell Johnson (Former Australian fast bowler).

Green had already been managing a sore shoulder during the recent ODI series, restricting his bowling workload. The abdominal problem further affects his batting, bowling and fielding, leaving Australia without one of its key balance providers.

The all-rounder had been in impressive batting form, scoring a Test century against Bangladesh in Darwin and emerging as one of Australia's leading batters in that series alongside Steve Smith.

If Green misses out, Western Australia teammate Cooper Connolly could come into contention. The left-arm orthodox spinner and mid-

dle-order batter could provide Australia with an additional option on a Durban surface expected to assist slow bowling. Green's absence would also guarantee Beau Webster a place in the playing XI. Meanwhile, Sam Harper and veteran Nic Maddinson were recently added to the Test squad.

Maddinson's selection has attracted criticism from former Australia fast bowler Mitchell Johnson, who questioned the decision given the batter's limited recent red-ball cricket.

Karnataka grants 2% government job quota for sportspersons

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government on Monday issued an order providing 2% reservation for sportspersons in government jobs, following sustained efforts by the Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA). The order also provides 3% reservation in the Forest and Police departments for eligible sportspersons.

The State Cabinet had earlier approved amendments to the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 2026, providing 2% reservation for sportspersons who have achieved excellence in sports in recruitment to State civil services.

Sportspersons across Karnataka have welcomed the decision and thanked the KOA for pursuing the demand.

FIBA President, KOA President and MLC Dr. K. Govindaraj welcomed the government order and thanked Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister and Sports Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and government officials for their role in the decision.



"The efforts of the last four years have finally borne fruit. It was my dream to secure reservation in government jobs for sportspersons of Karnataka. The government has responded by issuing an order providing 2% reservation. It has also provided 3% reservation in the Forest and Police departments. I thank the government for this decision," Govindaraj said.

The order is expected to provide greater employment opportunities for sportspersons who have achieved excellence and represented Karnataka and the country in sporting events.



I THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE THINKING: ABHISHEK SHARMA

NEW DELHI

Abhishek Sharma has revealed that his preparation for international cricket increasingly involves trying to anticipate the plans of opposing bowlers, with the India opener using video analysis and hypothetical match-ups to prepare for the challenges posed by world-class attacks. Speaking ahead of India's new home season against the West Indies, Abhishek explained that his aggressive batting is accompanied by detailed planning designed to ensure he is ready when bowlers refuse to give him his preferred scoring options.

"It's not like I just go and hit. I know there are world-class bowlers, world-class teams ahead, and they won't give away easy runs, and they won't easily let me hit the shots I want to play. But as a player, I feel this is my responsibility, that I think about what

they are thinking," Abhishek said on JioStar. The left-hander said he has recently been working with his video analyst by reversing the perspective and imagining himself as part of the opposition trying to devise a plan against him.

"Recently, I've been talking with my video analyst that, 'If you were in the other team, probably, just imagine you've been working with the Afghanistan team right now, then what plans would you keep for me as a bowler?'" So, I asked him that, took videos from him. So, I keep preparing myself, that they won't bowl where I want. I will have to make some adjustments. They are not going to give you easy runs. So, I prepare myself like that," he added. Abhishek, one of the prominent performers in India's recent Asian Games triumph, will once again be expected to provide aggression at the top of the order.

SRINAGAR

Unwavering belief and a strong collective effort helped the Rest of India overcome Jammu and Kashmir in a dramatic Irani Cup triumph, with the players highlighting the fightback that secured a memorable 167-run victory.

The Rest of India bowled out the Ranji Trophy champions for just 111 in their second innings, completing the victory after a fiercely contested match. Mukesh Kumar emerged as the chief architect of the decisive bowling effort, claiming 6-33 and turning the contest firmly in his team's favour.

Akash Deep, who bowled alongside Mukesh, said he sensed that his teammate was heading towards a special spell after observing his rhythm during the morning session. His prediction proved accurate as Mukesh dismantled the J&K batting order.

Mukesh said defeating the reigning Ranji Trophy champions made the victory particularly satisfying. He also spoke about the importance of support from his teammates while he was enjoying his spell.

Player of the Match Smaran Ravichandran played a crucial role with the bat, scoring 135 in the second innings. He said the situation was difficult when he arrived at the crease but expressed pride at delivering for the team in a major final.

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar also underlined the team's collective contribution. He praised Smaran's batting across both innings and highlighted Mukesh Choudhary's impressive first-innings bowling.

The victory capped a memorable campaign for the Rest of India, with individual performances combining at crucial moments to produce a dramatic turnaround against the Ranji Trophy champions.



KEY PERFORMERS

Mukesh Kumar	6-33 in the decisive second innings.
Smaran Ravichandran	Player of the Match after scoring 135 in the second innings.
Akash Deep	Praised Mukesh's rhythm and predicted his match-winning spell.
Manav Suthar	Highlighted the team's collective contribution.
Result	Rest of India defeated Jammu and Kashmir by 167 runs.

'Rohit will be crucial in 2027 WC': Karthik

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik heaped praise on Rohit Sharma for his measured knock in the third ODI against the West Indies in a tough situation, highlighting that his outing showed why he will be crucial for India in the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

India lost their captain, Shubman Gill, and Virat Kohli in the first three overs, and with conditions offering a bite for the fast bowlers, the Men in Blue were under the pump in the third rubber at the CA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh.

However, Rohit dropped the anchor and negated the tough period with Ruturaj Gaikwad before smashing 92 from 85 balls. Taking note of how Rohit sailed the ship through the tough shores before cashing in, former cricketers Karthik and Ajinkya Rahane heaped praise on the former captain, with the former highlighting that his innings proved why he will be crucial for the Men in Blue in the 2027 World Cup.



"The beauty of having experience is that they have seen this situation a lot before. If you take Rohit Sharma, when he saw the two early wickets fall, if you see he was on 20 for the first 40 balls with a 50 strike rate. That was because he knew he could trust himself and back it up and get those runs quickly.

"And then you see how quickly he moved to 92 after scoring less than a run-a ball. His strike rate went above 100, but he made that all up in the next 40 balls.

BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi is set to take the field for Argentina for the final time when the world champions face Benin at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires on Wednesday.

The occasion will mark the end of one of the most remarkable international careers in football history. Messi first appeared for Argentina in August 2005 in a friendly against Hungary and went on to become the central figure of a golden era for La Albiceleste.

His international journey includes the 2022 FIFA World Cup, two Copa America titles and the Finalessima. Messi also endured painful disappointments, including World Cup final defeat in 2014 and a Copa America final loss to Chile in 2016. Following the latter, he briefly announced his international retirement before reversing the decision.

MESSI'S FINAL DANCE

MESSI SET FOR ARGENTINA FAREWELL

His return eventually produced some of the defining moments of his career. Argentina won the Copa America in 2021, the Finalessima in 2022 and then lifted the World Cup later that year, completing the major international honours missing from Messi's illustrious career.

Now, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner is preparing to close his Argentina chapter. Long-time teammates Rodrigo De Paul and Giovanni Lo Celso are also part of the squad, while several members of the 2022 World Cup-winning team who have since left international football are expected to attend the farewell.

Messi has already joined the national camp and trained ahead of the match. For Benin, the encounter offers a rare opportunity to share the field with one of football's most celebrated figures.

The farewell also represents a transition for Argentina, with Messi expected to pass responsibility to the next generation and leave behind a legacy that has transformed the national team's recent history.



Swiatek registers stellar comeback win to march into Rd-of-16

BEIJING

Iga Swiatek staged a remarkable comeback to defeat 30th-seed Donna Vekic 4-6, 7-6(0), 6-2 at the China Open. Trailing by a set and 2-5 in the second, Swiatek saved her campaign with dominant play, winning the tie-break without dropping a point. The 2023 Beijing champion advances to the last 16, where she will face American Iva Jovic.

