



India targets  
50 space  
launches by  
2030

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IRGC, US trade  
fire, attack  
oil tankers in  
Hormuz



P12

Shreyas Gopal  
marks milestone  
100th first-class  
appearance



## KARNATAKA OPENS GLOBAL STUDY PATHWAYS

3,145 students selected for overseas universities, loans up to ₹2 crore available

BENGALURU

Karnataka has selected 3,145 students for studies at overseas universities as part of its push to expand global education opportunities, said Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday.

Speaking after launching the Skill Development Department's 'Study Abroad 2026' programme at Palace Grounds, Shivakumar urged students to study abroad and become job creators, not job seekers.

The programme offers students opportunities to pursue higher education at foreign universities, with more than 80 universities participating and over 300 subjects on offer. "Our talented human resources are unmatched by those in any other state in the country. We want our children to learn at the global level. We desire that they should not merely become employees, but become employers," Shivakumar said.

He said the government had opened a new avenue for overseas education and stressed that investment in knowledge was the best asset. "Human beings have limitations, but knowledge has no boundaries. Access to global-level education makes people mentally stronger."

Shivakumar said 3,145 students had been selected to study at foreign universities following an agreement with the University of Queensland.

He said scholarships were being offered by various government departments, while banks were providing education loans of up to Rs 2 crore.

"More than 80 universities are participating in this pro-



gramme, offering opportunities to study more than 300 subjects," he said.

He highlighted Bengaluru's large pool of skilled professionals, saying the city had 2.6 million IT professionals, compared with 1.6 million in Silicon Valley. Karnataka, he said, produced more than one lakh engineers and 13,940 doctors annually.

Referring to leaders including Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar, Shivakumar said studying abroad had helped them acquire knowledge that they later used to contribute to the country.

"Your future is the future of the state, and your strength is the strength of the country. Students are our assets. The

entire world is watching us. India is being viewed through Bengaluru and Karnataka."

He urged students not to forget their roots, parents and teachers. "You should not forget your roots. If you forget them, you will not achieve success. Therefore, you should not forget your parents and teachers," he said.

**Karnataka country's knowledge centre** Shivakumar also said the government had decided to allow teachers to use the prefix 'Tr' before their names as a mark of respect. "Our government has decided to add 'Tr' (Teacher) before teachers' names to honour them. I have received hundreds of calls welcoming the decision. We regard teachers as gods and have taken steps to recognise and respect their contribution," he said.

He described Karnataka as the country's knowledge centre, noting that Bengaluru is home to 38 of the 140 international schools in India. "Karnataka has become the knowledge centre of the country. I wish all of you success."

Human beings have limitations, but knowledge has no boundaries. Access to global-level education makes people mentally stronger.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

### Study Abroad 2026 highlights

**Planner**  
An initiative by the Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) under the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood.

**Global route**  
Designed to simplify and secure the journey of Karnataka's youth towards global education.

**Participation**  
Features 75+ global universities, 10+ countries and over 300 subjects.

**Support**  
Offers free registration, university guidance, expert counselling, visa guidance, and assistance with loans and scholarships (up to 50%).

**Goal**  
Aims to curb fraudulent education agents and encourage students to become "job creators, not job seekers".

## Cauvery water release: K'taka seeks cut to 2,000 cusecs

A CWRC meeting is set for September 8, followed by a CWMA review of rainfall and crop conditions.

NEW DELHI

Karnataka has appealed to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reduce daily water releases to Tamil Nadu ordered by it, from 9,000 cusec to 2,000 cusec, at the Biligundlu inter-state border, citing critically low inflows to its Cauvery basin reservoirs.

The CWMA had, on August 25, directed Karnataka to maintain a release of 9,000 cusec from that date till September 8, endorsing a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) decision of August 24. A CWRC meeting is set for September 8, followed by a CWMA review of rainfall and crop conditions.

In an appeal, Water Resources Department additional chief secretary Gaurav Gupta said storage in Karnataka's four major reservoirs stood at just 66.629 tmcft. Likely in-



flows are not expected to exceed 20 tmcft amid an unprecedented super El Niño. The state would face shortages even without further releases to TN.

Karnataka has started releasing water for irrigation in the month of August. So far, about 15.124 tmcft (as on September 4), has flowed from the four reservoirs for supplementing irrigation in reduced areas of the Cauvery basin.

Continued canal releases are essential to protect standing crops. The state's remaining needs for irrigation, drinking water (including Bengaluru) and environmental flows total about 154 tmcft.

Karnataka noted that Tamil Nadu's Mettur dam holds about 55 tmcft, with expected intermediate catchment contributions of 45 tmcft or more, plus 6 tmcft in other reservoirs, providing roughly 100 tmcft.

For the Samba crop sown over a reduced area, Tamil

### Why Karnataka seeks a cut?

**Low reservoir inflows:** Karnataka states that its Cauvery basin reservoirs have critically low water storage, making heavy releases difficult.

**Protecting state interests:** Maintaining higher releases like 9,000 cusecs would severely deplete local storage and harm drinking water and farming needs within Karnataka.

**Pending reviews:** The state is pushing for a reduced quantum while review meetings by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and CWMA re-evaluate rainfall and crop conditions.

Nadu's requirement from Mettur should not exceed about 95 tmcft, allowing it to manage without further releases from Karnataka, the state said in its appeal.

It took objections to the hurried decisions by the CWRC and CWMA in July and August, instead of waiting till the end of the south west monsoon for a proper distress assessment, calling such ad hoc measures arbitrary and contrary to Karnataka's equitable interests.

## 3 killed, several trapped in Delhi building collapse



NEW DELHI

The area is close to the heart of Delhi University's South Campus and has congested lanes lined with student hostels and eateries. Locals claimed the building was nearly 20 years old and construction work in the basement was on when the incident occurred at around 1.30 pm.

Local police staff, fire brigade, CAT Ambulance and other emergency services are present at the spot. The NDRF team has also reached, and rescue and relief operations are underway, a police officer said.

A PCR call was received at South Campus police station at 1.34 pm regarding the collapse of a building near Nanakpura Gurdwara, the police said in a statement.

"The exact number of people trapped/injured is not known at present. Some people have been rescued so far. Further details will be shared as and when confirmed," read the statement.

Police said they have identified the building's owner and have formed teams to trace him.

According to officials, the collapsed building was known as 'Hostel Daze.'

Witnesses at the scene estimate that more than 20 people may be trapped under the rubble, but this figure has not been officially confirmed.

"The hostel was always full. So many people could still be trapped under the debris. The lanes are very congested, so it was difficult for rescue vehicles to arrive at the scene faster," a local said.

## Siddu wants public release of socio-educational survey report

**BENGALURU:** Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday argued in favour of publicising the socio-educational survey, adding that the High Court stay should be lifted.

"Before stepping down as the chief minister, I received it (the socio-educational survey report by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes). The court said it shouldn't be publicised. That stay has to be lifted. I am confident that our party, our government, our OBC ministers and the chief minister will listen to me."

He was speaking during the 'Mega Awareness Convention of Backward Castes' organised by the Karnataka State Federation of Backward Castes.

Siddaramaiah pointed out that he had "dreamt" of the socio-educational survey while he was the deputy chief minister in 1996 in the JH Patel-led Janata Dal government.

He accused former CM HD Kumaraswamy of rejecting the Kantharaj-led backward classes commission's report despite the then backward classes welfare minister Puttarangashetty (who is also a minister currently) arguing in favour of it.

The event, which included a congratulatory felicitation for Siddaramaiah, is being widely interpreted as a show of strength by the Mysuru strongman.

## UN MAP RESOLUTION

### India voted yes, but rejected any change to J&K, Ladakh depiction



NEW DELHI

India on Sunday backed a United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution promoting the use of equal-area world maps, while clarifying that its support does not endorse any specific map projection or depiction of national boundaries.

The clarification came after the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa" on September 4. The resolution encourages the use of equal-area map projections that preserve the relative sizes of continental landmasses.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India voted in favour of the resolution and also made an explanation of the vote, stressing the principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation.

### UN map resolution in short

**THE PROBLEM:** The traditional Mercator projection stretches landmasses near the poles (making North America, Europe, and Greenland look massive) while shrinking equatorial regions, causing Africa to appear roughly the same size as Greenland even though Africa is 14 times larger.

**THE GOAL:** The initiative aims to "encourage the use of equal-area map projections that preserve the relative sizes of continental landmasses."

**THE VOTE:** Passed on September 4, 2026, with 164 countries voting in favor, the United States voting against it as a "radical ideological project," and six abstentions. It is non-binding.

### India's stance

India voted in favor of the resolution to support equal-area representation, but explicitly clarified that the text does not endorse any specific map projection or boundary depiction.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stressed that "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map," noting that any misleading depiction remains unacceptable.

"The resolution neither adopts nor authenticates any particular world map, nor does it address political cartography, including international boundaries, disputed territories or place names," Jaiswal said.

India also made its position on the depiction of its territory clear, saying its sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be shown in accordance with India's official map.

"Any inaccurate or mis-

leading depiction is unacceptable," Jaiswal said, adding that India's position on its sovereignty and territorial integrity was "clear, consistent and non-negotiable."

The UN resolution seeks to encourage the wider use of equal-area projections, which show continents and countries in proportion to their actual surface areas. It does not ban the widely used Mercator projection or legally compel countries, schools, publishers or technology companies to adopt a different map.

## 12 die after consuming spurious liquor in MP

**Sagar (MP):** At least 12 people died and over 10 others fell ill after allegedly consuming poisonous liquor in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Sunday, prompting authorities to launch an investigation.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ordered a probe into the incident, asserting that no guilty person would be spared.

The deaths in the Banda-Shahgarh area were "extremely sad and unfortunate," he said and directed the minister in-charge and officials to conduct an immediate probe.

The district administration sealed seven liquor shops in the affected area as a precautionary measure and ordered immediate sampling. It also directed officials to take strict legal action against those involved in the illegal liquor trade.

### ERADICATING NARCO-TERROR PLAGUES

## HM sets 2029 target for drug-free India in Goa

PANAJI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's objective that drug-free youth power will lead to Viksit Bharat in 2047, and asserted the Union government has prepared a roadmap to make India drug-free by 2029.

The Modi government is committed to making the country drug-free to realise the dream of a developed India, just as it has worked to end the menace of Naxalism and terrorism, Shah said addressing a press conference here.



"It is Narendra Modi's objective that drug-free youth power will lead to Viksit Bharat in 2047," Shah said.

"Before 2014, the fight against narcotics was largely conducted in small units and isolation. Agencies were often

The roadmap is based on four pillars, intelligence and operations-based enforcement; control of precursor and synthetic drugs; demand and harm reduction; and capacity building and coordination.

-Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

satisfied catching small time accused. Our government is making the fight national security priority," he said.

Under the Narendra Modi regime, Jammu and Kashmir is on the path to progress and development after the decline of terrorism, which is gradually approaching zero there, he said.

The sentiment of separatism has lessened since the

abrogation of Article 370, Shah said.

"The Modi government has taken various steps to improve and strengthen internal security. Those who dreamt of a 'red' (Maoist) corridor from Tirupati to Pashupati have laid down arms and joined the mainstream. The northeast is also calm. Over 10000 young people have laid down arms," he said.

Shah stated that Naxalism, which persisted for five decades, has become a thing of the past. "We have eradicated Naxalism and will deal with menace of narcotics in the same manner," the Union minister asserted.



Quick Read

Students launch protests over KPSC scams

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
Angry students in Karnataka are organizing a Gen-Z style street protest to fight back against widespread irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission recruitments. Inspired by anti-NEET demonstrations in Delhi, student groups plan to kick off their campaign in Bengaluru during the second week of September. The agitators are demanding a complete re-examination after investigations revealed that exam controllers themselves may have been involved in leaking papers and manipulating posts. Having already written formal letters to top state officials, young aspirants are now taking direct action to pressure the government into ensuring fair hiring practices.

Fake German doctor cons Bengaluru doctor in scam

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
A local doctor has lost over 22 lakh rupees after a cybercriminal posed as a German ophthalmologist on a matrimonial website. The scammer connected with the victim, spinning a false tale about living in Berlin and planning to build a hospital in Delhi. Gaining the doctor's trust through constant WhatsApp chats, the fraudster claimed his international bank account was frozen. He tricked the victim and family members into transferring massive funds to various local agents. Suspicion finally arose when demands for more cash continued, prompting a formal cyber-crime police complaint.

Shabari Nagar assault: Manhunt launched for suspect Salman

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**  
A local man named Syed Ilyas Pasha is recovering in a private hospital after surviving a vicious weapon attack. The violent incident unfolded in Shabari Nagar when Pasha tried to step in and calm a heated family feud involving a stolen bike. The attacker, Salman, recently returned from Dubai and grew furious because Pasha's peace-making efforts led to formal police complaints. Blaming Pasha for escalating the family tension, Salman confronted him on a Saturday night and slashed him with a sharp weapon. Police have launched a manhunt for the absconding suspect.

From NPS to OPS: Pre-2006 teachers shifted to old pension

After years of tireless advocacy, thousands of Karnataka government educators finally reclaimed their hard-fought pension security.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

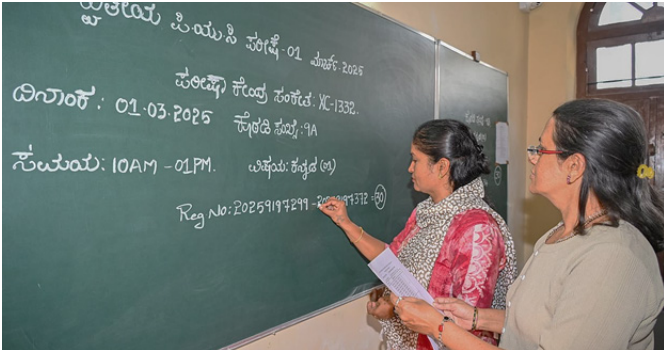
Thousands of government school educators across Karnataka are celebrating a major administrative victory after the state government formally authorized their transition to the old pension scheme. This significant policy decision directly after investigations revealed that exam controllers themselves may have been involved in leaking papers and manipulating posts. Having already written formal letters to top state officials, young aspirants are now taking direct action to pressure the government into ensuring fair hiring practices.

The resolution centers on teachers who applied for positions advertised prior to April 1, 2006. Although recruitment notifications were issued before this crucial cut-off date, administrative bottlenecks, prolonged legal challenges, and procedural backlogs meant that the final selection and actual joining dates stretched well past 2006. Because of these systemic delays, these individuals were automatically enrolled in the contributory new

pension scheme, sparking decades of organized resistance from teachers' unions and employee federations who argued that eligibility should be determined by the original notification date rather than the eventual appointment date.

Persistent advocacy and strategic legal battles by educational associations eventually compelled the School Education and Literacy Department to thoroughly review the policy framework surrounding these appointments. Following legal evaluations, the department officially cleared the conversion of these four thousand teachers from the new system to the traditional pension structure. District-level education officers have received explicit instructions to expedite the transition by meticulously verifying individual service records and academic credentials.

State employee federations have enthusiastically welcomed the policy reversal, emphasizing that guaranteed pensions are vital for honoring



Highlights of the OPS transition

| DETAIL               | DESCRIPTION                                                                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beneficiaries        | Around 4,000 government teachers across Karnataka.                                   |
| Eligibility criteria | Posts officially notified before April 1, 2006.                                      |
| Action required      | District-level officers must verify service books and documents promptly.            |
| Core impact          | Transitioning from NPS to OPS, ensuring secured post-retirement financial stability. |

the lifelong service of public educators. Union representatives noted that transitioning back to the traditional framework removes the financial anxieties associated with market-linked retirement funds, ensuring dignified post-retirement lives for educators who

spent decades shaping public instruction across rural and urban districts. The education ministry expects the verification process to move swiftly, allowing eligible teachers to secure their revised pension benefits without further administrative interruptions.

Bengaluru records moderate AQI as rains clear air

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents across major cities in Karnataka are breathing a sigh of relief as recent rainfall cleanses the atmosphere. Recent showers have successfully washed away dust and airborne pollution, leaving the air fresh and clean.

Cities like Mysore and Mangalore are enjoying wonderful air quality, while Bengaluru and other urban centers are maintaining safe, moderate conditions. In Bengaluru, the air quality index sits at an average of 75, falling comfortably within the moderate category. While overall conditions remain satisfactory, fine dust particles from daily traffic linger as the primary pollutant. Neighborhoods show steady readings across the board.

The busy transit hubs around City Railway Station and Majestic record scores between seventy and 75. Heavy traffic zones like Silk Board and BTM Layout register slightly higher marks, ranging from 78 to 82.

Meanwhile, northern and industrial pockets including Hebbal and Peenya hover between 65 and 72.

Anekal encroachment bid foiled, 4 vehicles seized

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State authorities in the Anekal taluk have launched a rigorous crackdown following brazen attempts by land grabbers to illegally occupy government Gomala lands and adjacent water bodies through systematic waste dumping. The enforcement action, which resulted in multiple vehicle seizures and formal criminal complaints, highlights the growing crisis of unauthorized real estate expansion and environmental degradation on the rapidly developing urban periphery of Bengaluru.

The flashpoint for the controversy centers on survey number 20 in Vaderahalli village, situated near the industrial and residential hub of Jigani. This specific tract encompasses roughly two acres and fourteen guntas of designated government Gomala land—pastureland traditionally reserved for community livestock. Decades ago, the area served as a localized stone-mining quarry, leaving behind a massive, hundred-and-fifty-foot-deep excavation pit. Rather than being restored or protected, this deep basin became the target of a calculated illegal land-filling operation orchestrated by local

Details of the enforcement action

| DETAIL           | DESCRIPTION & STATUS                                                 |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location         | Vaderahalli village, Jigani hobli, Anekal taluk.                     |
| Targeted areas   | 2 acres 14 guntas of Gomala land and a 4-acre 15-gunta lake area.    |
| Seized machinery | Four dump lorries and one tractor used for transporting debris.      |
| Primary accused  | Rajesh alias Venkatesh, accused of coordinating the illegal dumping. |



land speculators seeking to level the terrain for future commercial gains.

According to investigative reports filed by the district administration, perpetrators began deploying heavy commercial transport to dump hundreds of loads of solid waste, construction debris, and excavated earth into the deep quarry pit. The covert operation was designed to artificially elevate the land level, effectively masking the deep trench and transforming the rough terrain into buildable plots. Furthermore, investigators discovered that the encroachment syndicate had expanded its illegal opera-

tions to target an adjoining four-acre-and-fifteen-gunta lakebed. Solid waste and construction rubble were systematically pushed into the water body's perimeter, shrinking its natural catchment area and threatening local hydrological balance.

Acting on confidential intelligence regarding the unauthorized dumping, a revenue enforcement team led by Jigani Sub-Tahsildar Chaitra and in-charge Revenue Inspector Laxmikant conducted a surprise physical inspection of the site. Upon arriving at the location, officials caught heavy machinery and transport vehicles red-handed in the act of unloading debris. The raiding party successfully seized four heavy-duty lorries and a tractor utilized in the operation, identifying a local individual named Rajesh, also known as Venkatesh, as the primary coordinator behind the land-covering scheme.

Strict mandates imposed for Ganesh celebrations in B'loru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

City authorities have announced stringent security protocols and compliance mandates for the upcoming Ganesh festival celebrations across Bengaluru, placing direct legal and operational accountability squarely on event organizers. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh outlined the comprehensive framework during a high-level security review, emphasizing that public safety, traffic management, and adherence to judicial directives remain non-negotiable priorities for the civic administration.

Under the newly enforced guidelines, local organizing committees must secure formal prior permissions from multiple municipal and state departments before installing any public idols. The mandatory clearance process requires coordination with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and regional law enforcement divisions. Officials made it clear that unauthorized pandals or shrines estab-

lished without valid multi-departmental NOCs will face immediate removal, and organizers will be subject to strict legal penalties.

A major focus of this year's regulatory framework is strict compliance with Supreme Court orders, particularly concerning noise pollution limits, eco-friendly idol immersion protocols, and the unauthorized blocking of public thoroughfares. Processions must strictly follow pre-approved routes and designated timelines coordinated with local traffic branches to prevent urban gridlock and maintain public order. Furthermore, organizers are legally required to submit a verified roster of dedicated volunteers and committee members to local police stations prior to the commencement of festivities.

To ensure seamless execution, senior police officials alongside GBA representatives will conduct comprehensive on-ground inspections of all designated procession pathways and water immersion sites ahead of the celebrations.

Public grievance erupts before Karnataka Minister Muniyappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A routine government inauguration event in Devanahalli taluk turned tense when a local Muslim woman openly confronted state minister K.H. Muniyappa about widespread administrative delays and systemic apathy. The incident, which unfolded during the

formal launch of a Public Service Department facility in Vijayapura town, highlights growing frustration among ordinary citizens regarding bureaucratic hurdles in accessing essential welfare benefits.

The confrontation began when a resident identified as Tasleem stood up in front of the gathered officials and dignitar-

ies to voice her grievances. She directed her anger directly at Minister Muniyappa, detailing how her family and neighbors have been systematically deprived of fundamental government provisions. Tasleem explained that despite making multiple trips to local administrative offices, she has been unable to secure a ration card,

or standard caste and income certificates. She criticized local bureaucrats for their outright negligence in processing routine paperwork, noting that visiting official counters has become a frustrating exercise in futility. Beyond documentation issues, Tasleem brought up the stalled status of her elderly mother's monthly pension,

pointing out that bureaucratic red tape is cutting off vital financial support for vulnerable seniors. In a pointed critique of high-level political visits, she questioned the practical value of ministers holding ceremonial ribbon-cutting events and high-profile meetings if ordinary citizens continue to be ignored by the administration.

New advisory board charts Karnataka AI future

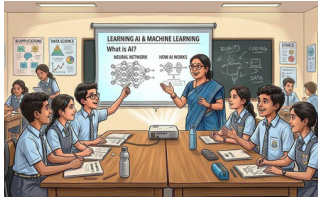
**Challenging a consumer watchdog penalty over uncertified toys, Flipkart faces tough scrutiny from the High Court regarding third-party vendor safety and digital accountability.**

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is moving fast to become a global tech hub by launching new artificial intelligence training programs right away. Leaders from top tech companies, schools, and the state government gathered for the very first meeting of the new advisory committee. Their goal is simple: teach people important digital skills immediately while building a brand-new university step by step.

The meeting took place in the city and was led by prominent industry expert Kris Gopalakrishnan alongside senior government official Dr. N. Manjula. Together, they outlined a clear plan to bridge the gap between education and modern job market demands. Instead of waiting for a full campus to be built, officials plan to roll out certificate courses, diploma programs, and executive training through existing schools and technology centers across the state.

These upcoming courses will cover modern topics like generative intelligence, cloud



Our immediate duty is to bring capabilities together to create meaningful skilling opportunities and generate job markets right away

- Kris Gopalakrishnan, industry expert

computing, cybersecurity, and data analytics. Leaders stressed that training must reach everyone, from fresh college graduates and working professionals to rural youth and local entrepreneurs. The success of this project will be measured by real jobs and business opportunities created, rather than just classroom attendance numbers.

State officials are also setting up proper academic frameworks to check course quality while legal steps for the official university move forward. By using current labs and partnering with global institutions, Karnataka hopes to create a strong workforce ready for the future. Gopalakrishnan noted that the primary focus is turning big ideas into quick, practical actions to generate local talent today.

Manjula added that state teams are actively building the right support systems to bring industry experts and academic leaders together.

Verify before October: K'taka voter roll scrutiny underway

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents across Karnataka must check their voter status closely. Even though the Election Commission recently published the new draft voter list, millions of citizens will still receive formal verification notices.

Officials explain that technical gaps and data-mapping issues are causing these extra checks for a large portion of the state's electorate.

The verification process stems from minor technical inconsistencies and historical data mismatches found during routine digital updates.

When computer systems cannot smoothly link contemporary records with older baseline documents, local election officers must issue verification notices to clear up the confusion. This ensures that every entry on the final registry remains entirely accurate and legitimate.

THE HIGH COST OF DROUGHT

Centre's disaster compensation falls short: K'taka data

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is facing another wave of agricultural distress as deficient rainfall caused by El Nino conditions pushes nearly 200 taluks toward drought status. State officials are organizing an all-party delegation to petition the central government for emergency financial intervention, pointing to a historical pattern where disaster relief funds provided under national guidelines cover only a fraction of actual losses.

Rural Development Minister Ishwar Khandre confirmed that ground-truthing assess-

ments are underway across roughly 100 taluks that endured three consecutive weeks without rain. With these regions expected to join the official drought list by the end of September, the total count of affected taluks will approach 200. Revenue Minister G. Parameshwar noted that once the final state-level list is formalized, a comprehensive memorandum detailing crop damage and financial requirements will be submitted to Union authorities according to National Disaster Response Fund frameworks.

Historical data compiled by the state revenue department



illustrates a wide gap between estimated economic damage and central disbursements. During the severe multi-year dry spell between 2013 and 2018, funds sanctioned by New Delhi lagged far behind state estimates.

In the 2015-16 season, when agricultural losses crossed fourteen thousand crore rupees, central allocations amounted to approximately ten percent of the requested sum. Subsequent dry seasons faced similar deficits,

culminating in the 2023 crisis where 223 out of 236 taluks suffered extensive crop failures across 46 lakh hectares. Although state leaders requested nearly eighteen thousand crore rupees following the 2023 drought, only thirty-five hundred crore rupees were released—and that disbursement occurred only after legal intervention via the Supreme Court.

Flood management funding has faced parallel constraints. Revenue statistics tracking heavy monsoon damages from 2019 through 2021 indicate that cumulative losses surpassed 78000 crore rupees.



CHObserver

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From hazardous, unmarked potholes on Serpentine Road to expanding garbage blackspots, unmanaged collection carts, and chronic illegal dumping grounds near schools and prayer houses across Kumara Park and Seshadripuram, frustrated residents are facing mounting civic neglect and urging immediate municipal intervention to restore basic neighborhood safety and hygiene.

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Unmarked and deeply hazardous, a massive pothole at the intersection of Serpentine Road and 7th Cross is threatening commuters. Residents report that the persistent ditch poses an immediate danger to motorists and pedestrians alike, urging municipal authorities to urgently repair the corner before a serious accident occurs.



Residents near Kumara Park's Chetty's Corner are alarmed by a chronic garbage hotspot. Although morning cleanups clear the area, daily afternoon dumping by commuters creates a severe public health hazard near local schools, playgrounds, and eateries. Locals are urging authorities for round-the-clock monitoring to stop the unlawful littering.



Residents of Seshadripuram 1st 'A' Cross Road are facing severe distress due to an expanding garbage blackspot that has increasingly become a public nuisance. Beyond the mounting pile of waste, locals report that individuals are now openly urinating at the site. Despite multiple complaints, municipal authorities have failed to act, leaving residents deeply concerned as the hazard sits directly across from a local prayer hall.



Residents along Seshadripuram 2nd Main Road are frustrated by a poorly managed garbage collection cart left unattended on the street. Despite designated drop-off protocols, the cart routinely overflows by afternoon as scattered waste attracts additional illegal dumping. Locals are now demanding that authorities establish a proper, permanent parking spot for the cart to restore neighborhood hygiene.

# Bengaluru's "Freedom from waste" drive clears Kallapalli road

DRIVEN BY THE "FREEDOM FROM WASTE" CAMPAIGN, CIVIC TEAMS HAVE AGGRESSIVELY TRANSFORMED NOTORIOUS DUMPING HOTSPOTS ACROSS BENGALURU.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

City authorities are reporting major progress in ongoing municipal sanitation efforts as the "Freedom from Waste" campaign tackles severe dumping hotspots across the metropolitan area. Led by senior administrative officials, recent cleanup operations have successfully cleared massive mounds of accumulated rubble and household trash, the Bangalore Central Municipal Corporation launched an intensive multi-day cleaning operation. Municipal Commissioner Jagadish G confirmed that the heavily polluted corridor has been thoroughly cleared, washed, and beautified with fresh coats of paint.

The latest sanitation drive targeted a 400-meter stretch along Kallapalli Road within the C.V. Raman Nagar division, where waste had accumulated over several days. Responding to the persistent



dumping of plastic refuse, construction rubble, and domestic trash, the Bangalore Central Municipal Corporation launched an intensive multi-day cleaning operation. Municipal Commissioner Jagadish G confirmed that the heavily polluted corridor has been thoroughly cleared, washed, and beautified with fresh coats of paint.

The comprehensive cleanup relied on a coordinated effort involving thirty dedicated civ-

For the past five days, our teams have worked tirelessly to clear construction debris, plastic waste, and household garbage dumped illegally by the public.

-Jagadish G, Commissioner

ic workers, local health inspectors, enforcement marshals, and active volunteers from the well-known "Ugly Indian" civic group. Operating under the supervision of senior officials including DGM Bhimesh Nayak, heavy machinery worked continu-

## Cleanup drive key metrics

| Metric / Resource  | Quantity & details                                                                                 |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Waste removed      | 240 tons of construction debris and 6 tons of municipal garbage.                                   |
| Machinery deployed | 1 JCB excavator and 3 heavy tippers operating continuously.                                        |
| Personnel involved | 30 municipal civic workers, marshals, health inspectors, and volunteers from the Ugly Indian team. |

ously across the site, deploying one JCB excavator and three tipper lorries to haul away the debris. By the conclusion of the multi-day mission, teams successfully removed two hundred forty tons of structural waste and six tons of household garbage.

State leadership has placed high priority on these cleanliness initiatives, which operate under the broader policy framework championed by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Greater Bangalore

Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. Officials emphasized that transforming chronic garbage hotspots requires active community cooperation alongside strict municipal enforcement. Following the successful transformation of Kallapalli Road, civic bodies plan to expand similar waste-clearance operations to other vulnerable wards across the city, urging residents to utilize proper disposal channels and help keep public spaces clean.

## K.R. Puram kicks off SIR-2026 voter awareness drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In an aggressive administrative push to ensure electoral accuracy and widespread civic participation, election authorities in the state capital have officially flagged off specialized publicity vehicles to kickstart the Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) hearing process. The mobilization effort aims to demystify the verification protocol for thousands of local residents whose credentials have been flagged during ongoing database synchronization reviews.

The formal campaign launch took place at the Assistant Revenue Officer's Office within the K.R. Puram Assembly Constituency. Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar, Additional District Election Officer for Bengaluru North and Commissioner of the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), personally presided over the inauguration. To maximize public engagement and break through administrative red tape, the event featured vibrant cultural displays, including a traditional Dollu Kunitha performance designed to draw local crowds and emphasize the importance of democratic participation.

Following the cultural launch, Commissioner Sunil Kumar officially flagged off a

Voters who received notices should appear at the designated venue on the mentioned date with required documents to complete the process smoothly.

-Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner

fleet of dedicated publicity autos equipped with public address systems. These vehicles will traverse neighborhoods across the constituency to disseminate vital information regarding the SIR-2026 hearing process, detailing document requirements, hearing dates, and local venue locations directly to residential streets. The overarching objective of this outreach is to ensure that every eligible citizen is fully informed and that no valid voter is disenfranchised due to technical communication gaps.

Addressing the gathering, the Additional District Election Officer reassured residents that the administrative machinery has been streamlined to keep proceedings straightforward and accessible.

"The SIR-2026 hearing process is being conducted in a simple and smooth manner without causing any unnecessary inconvenience to the public," Commissioner Sunil Kumar stated.

## BWSSB lays out water security blueprint for Bengaluru

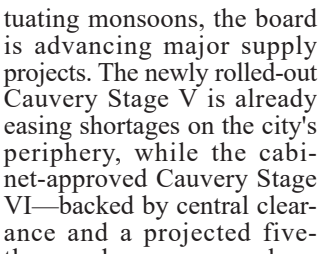
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Following severe water shortages during recent dry seasons, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has launched a comprehensive strategy focusing on rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling, and infrastructure upgrades to secure the city's future water needs.

Newly appointed BWSSB Chairperson Manjula N outlined the board's strategic priorities in a recent interview, emphasizing both immediate summer preparations and long-term supply expansion. To reduce dependency on depleted groundwater and fluctuating monsoons, the board is advancing major supply projects. The newly rolled-out Cauvery Stage V is already easing shortages on the city's periphery, while the cabinet-approved Cauvery Stage VI—backed by central clearance and a projected five-thousand-crore rupee loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency—is moving forward. Long-term augmentation will also incorporate water from the Yettinahole project.

In parallel, the board is pushing to increase wastewater recycling. Recognizing that industrial uptake of secondary-treated water remains limited due to quality apprehensions, the BWSSB is collaborating with industrial clusters. Proposals include co-investment models where industries upgrade water themselves or receive directly piped, higher-grade recycled water from upgraded municipal sewage treatment plants.

Short-term measures ahead of upcoming summers center heavily on conservation.



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Short-term measures ahead of upcoming summers center heavily on conservation.

## Strict dismissal warning issued for absent civic workers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has drawn strong pushback from labor groups after announcing severe disciplinary measures against chronic absenteeism among municipal personnel. Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda warned that civic workers who routinely skip work will face formal dismissal, citing high absence rates as a primary bottleneck in keeping the city clean.

The strict policy stance was revealed following a high-level review meeting at Vidhana

Soudha involving local legislators and municipal officials. Minister Gowda highlighted that internal tracking shows nearly thirty percent of deployed sanitation and civic workers fail to report for duty regularly. This widespread absenteeism directly contributes to the accumulation of waste and the emergence of new garbage black spots across urban neighborhoods. Under the newly outlined protocol, habitual absentees will receive three formal notices, failing which dismissal procedures will be launched in accordance with service rules.

## B-KHATA REBATE FALLS SHORT

# Low turnout marks end of B-to-A Khata rebate

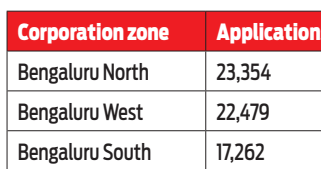
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Despite the state government offering an attractive sixty percent rebate on conversion charges, only a small fraction of eligible property owners seized the opportunity to transition their properties from B-Khata to A-Khata before the deadline closed.

When the discount window officially shut on August 23, civic bodies operating under the Greater Bengaluru Au-

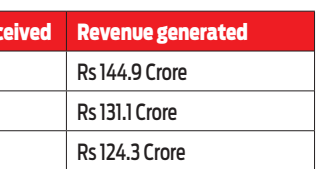


thority received a total of 80,412 applications. This figure accounts for a mere twelve percent of the estimated seven lakh B-Khata properties scattered across the metropolitan area. Even with the modest turnout, the sub-



mitted applications successfully generated Rs 525.7 crore in cumulative revenue for the municipal corporations.

The initiative initially faced sluggish interest when conversion fees were fixed at five percent of local guidance val-



ues, placing a heavy financial burden on property owners. To spur participation, the government slashed the fee to two percent. While response remained low during the initial months, applications surged dramatically during the final

nine days, pulling in over thirty-two thousand requests just before the deadline.

Geographical distribution data shows that the Bengaluru North City Corporation led all zones with 23,354 applications, bringing in Rs 144.9 crore. The West Corporation followed closely with 22,479 applications and Rs 131.1 crore in revenue, while the South Corporation logged 17,262 applications yielding Rs 124.3 crore.



Quick Read

Minister Balakrishna invited home by elderly woman

**Ramanagara**  
An elderly woman stopped Minister H.C. Balakrishna's car while he was travelling towards Magadi and warmly invited him home for lunch. The woman, identified as Devamma, removed the evil eye and blessed the minister, wishing him greater success. Recalling his visit to her neighbourhood during an election campaign, Devamma said she had then blessed him to win and was happy that he had become a minister. She jokingly questioned him about his criticism of H.D. Kumaraswamy and invited him home for a meal. She also complained about stagnant sewage water near her house and requested immediate action. Balakrishna assured her that the issue would be resolved soon.

Man dies of heart attack while eating

**Ramanagara**  
A man died of a heart attack while having dinner with his daughter and son-in-law at Manchashettahalli village in Ramanagara taluk. The deceased, identified as Shivalingayya, suddenly collapsed while sitting on a sofa and eating with his family. The tragic incident was captured on the house's CCTV camera. His daughter, who was eating beside him, immediately noticed her father collapsing and rushed to his side. Shocked by the sudden incident, she cried out for help and tried to revive him by performing chest compressions. However, Shivalingayya died before medical assistance could arrive, leaving his family devastated.

Car catches fire on Bengaluru - Mysuru expressway

**Mandya**  
A car caught fire while travelling on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Induvalu on the outskirts of Mandya. The driver and another occupant escaped unharmed. The car, bearing registration number KA05 ME 7634, belonged to Mysuru resident Skanad. The two occupants were returning home after completing a clothing business-related trip when they noticed flames suddenly emerging from the vehicle. They immediately stopped the car and got out safely. Within moments, the fire spread rapidly and engulfed the entire vehicle. Fire and Emergency Services personnel reached the spot after receiving information and managed to extinguish the blaze. However, the car was completely gutted in the incident.

CHINTAMANI

Members of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) staged a silent protest in Chintamani on Sunday condemning the alleged rape of a six-year-old girl near Bangarapet in Kolar district. The protesters lit candles outside the SDPI office at Chowdareddypalya and demanded strict action against those responsible for the crime. The protest was organised to express concern over the safety of children and women following the incident. Participants held candles and observed silence as a mark of

Protest erupts over alleged abuse of minor

The case took a new turn after allegations emerged implicating another individual named Yogesh

KOLAR

Tension prevailed in Bangarapet after hundreds of people staged a protest demanding the arrest of all those allegedly involved in an incident involving alleged inappropriate behaviour towards a six-year-old girl. The protesters blocked the road near the Bangarapet police station, expressing anger over the arrest of only one accused. The incident reportedly occurred when the girl had gone to a Nandini milk parlour. A 37-year-old man, identified as Raghavendra, who allegedly runs the parlour, was accused of behaving inappropriately with the minor. Following protests on September 3, police arrested Raghavendra in connection with the case. However, the matter took a fresh turn after allegations emerged that another person, identified as Yogesh, was also involved. Family members and members of the community associated with the girl demanded that police register

a case against all those allegedly involved and take appropriate legal action. On Sunday, a large number of women and residents gathered near Hospital Circle in Bangarapet and blocked the road. Protesters questioned why only one person had been arrested even though three days had passed since the alleged incident. They demanded immediate action against the other accused. Former MP S Muniswamy also visited the spot and supported the demand for registration of cases against all three persons allegedly connected with the incident. Police officials attempted to pacify the protesters as the gathering led to heightened tension in the area. KGF Superintendent of Police Shivamshu Rajput assured the protesters that a case would be registered against the additional accused based on the available information. Following the assurance, the protesters withdrew

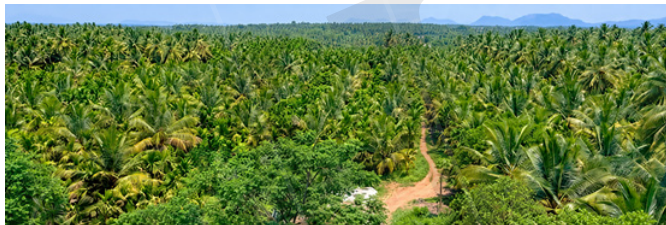
**Protest erupts in Bangarapet**  
Residents and family members staged a road blockade in Bangarapet demanding the immediate arrest of all individuals allegedly involved in the sexual harassment of a minor at a local Nandini milk parlour, criticizing police inaction against co-accused suspects.

their agitation and the situation gradually returned to normal. Police have now begun further investigation into the allegations. Officials said the exact role of each person would be established during the inquiry. The case has drawn attention to the need for swift action in cases involving minors and proper investigation before determining the involvement of additional suspects.

Fake documents used to claim crores in Ramanagara

RAMANAGARA

A suspected fraud network has come to light in Ramanagara, where fake documents were allegedly created to claim more than Rs 5 crore as compensation from the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) under the Bidadi Township project. The fraudsters reportedly forged documents relating to nearly two acres of land covered by two survey numbers in Aralalusandra village. The forged records allegedly included a family tree, Aadhaar and PAN cards, digital signatures of officials and bank account details. The documents were then used to submit compensation claims before the GBDA. According to officials, fake documents were prepared for 1 acre and 13 guntas in Survey No. 28/5, belonging to Shankar Reddy and Krishna Reddy, and another piece of land in Survey No. 43/1. The landowners reportedly have no connection with the applications submitted using the forged records. Since compensation is estimated at



around Rs 2 crore to Rs 2.5 crore per acre, the suspects allegedly planned to secure nearly Rs 5 crore through the fraudulent claims. The Karnataka government has issued final land acquisition notifications in two phases for the township project. Farmers willing to give their land are submitting original records to seek compensation. The GBDA has already paid compensation to several landowners. During preliminary physical verification of documents submitted in two applications, officials reportedly noticed discrepancies and became suspicious. On September 3, GBDA officials informed the Ramanagara Tahsildar and Additional Deputy Commissioner about the suspected forgery and sought verification of the records. Following the dis-

Gadag BJP notice row exposes internal differences

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar

Internal differences within the BJP in Gadag have come to the fore after the party's city unit issued show-cause notices to more than 20 party workers and office-bearers who participated in a protest against the Congress government. The controversy followed a protest organised in Gadag city on August 31 under the banner of the Gen G Voters and Citizen Forum. The demonstration targeted the alleged failures of the Congress government in Karnataka. Youth leader Anil Menasinakai led the protest, while several BJP leaders and workers, including Gadag-Betageri Municipal Council BJP member Raghavendra Yelavathi, participated in it. However, instead of appreciation from the party, the participants received show-cause notices from the BJP Nagar Mandal. The notices reportedly questioned their participation in a programme organised by an organisation

that was not associated with the official party structure. The development has caused dissatisfaction among several BJP workers in the constituency. Party workers who received the notices have questioned the decision, arguing that highlighting the alleged failures of a ruling party is an important responsibility of the opposition. They said participating in a protest against the Congress government should not have resulted in disciplinary action, particularly when the demonstration focused on public issues. The BJP city unit, however, has maintained that party discipline must be followed. According to the party's position, participating in programmes organised by individuals or organisations outside officially approved party forums can amount to a violation of organisational discipline. The notice controversy has also brought allegations of factionalism and differences within the

**We have not done any anti-party activities. We have supported the demands of Gen G voters, including drinking water and jobs for the twin cities of Gadag and Betageri. This was a struggle against the local Congress MLAs and the state government, but we, who were part of the struggle, did not behave in a way that embarrassed any party. The notice should be withdrawn immediately, otherwise we will have to stay away from the party's activities.**  
**-Raghavendra Yelavathi, Municipal Council Member**

Gadag BJP into public discussion. Party insiders are closely watching how the workers respond to the notices and what action the leadership takes next. The issue has now become a political talking point in the district. While the BJP is seeking to target the Congress government over governance issues, the internal dispute triggered by the notices could provide an opportunity for the ruling party to highlight divisions within the opposition.

Free health camp benefits Ramanagara residents

RAMANAGARA

Free health camps play an important role in creating awareness and helping people identify health problems at an early stage, Municipal Council Chairman K. Sheshadri (Shashi) said. He was speaking after inaugurating a large free health check-up and blood donation camp organised at Rehmaniyanganagar on the occasion of the birthday of Dr. Roshan Baig, a doctor at A.B. Star Roshan Healthcare Hospital in Ramanagara. Sheshadri said changing lifestyles, unhealthy food habits and increasing stress were contributing to various health problems among people. He said regular health check-ups were important and appreciated the organisers for conducting the camp and providing medical assistance to needy people. He described the medical profession as a noble service that provides treatment to people without discrimination based on caste, religion or other differences. Sheshadri also praised Dr. Roshan Baig for combining his

medical profession with social service. He said celebrating a birthday by organising a free medical camp and extending assistance to poor and needy people was a meaningful initiative. Dr. Roshan Baig said the camp was organised with the objective of protecting public health and encouraging people to pay greater attention to their wellbeing. He urged people not to ignore health problems and advised them to adopt healthier lifestyles. He also appealed to the public to make use of free health camps whenever such facilities are available. A team of doctors led by Dr. Roshan Baig conducted medical examinations during the camp. More than 250 people underwent tests and consultations, including blood pressure, diabetes, blood tests, eye examinations, heart-related check-ups and ECG tests. Medicines were also distributed free of cost to patients who required them. A blood donation camp was organised by the Silver Blood Fund Centre, while doctors from Eye Drishti Eye Hospital conducted eye examinations.

Government schools to get smart classes in Madhugiri

MADHUGIRI

The education department has been directed to take steps to introduce five smart classrooms in government schools in Madhugiri taluk, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer (EO) B.K. Uttam said. He was speaking at a Teachers' Day programme organised at the Yadava Community Hall in Madhugiri. Uttam said the Taluk Panchayat was considering the introduction of smart classrooms to improve teaching and learning facilities in government schools. He said schools with higher student enrolment would be given priority under the initiative. Uttam urged officials and school authorities to prepare and submit a list of government schools with the highest enrolment. Based on the list, necessary measures would be taken to establish smart classrooms in five schools. He said the initiative was aimed at strengthening educational facilities and providing students with better access to technology-based learning. Retired principal of the Government First Grade College, Prof. Munendra Kumar, said teachers should remain committed to learning and continuously expand their knowledge. He



said teachers have an important role in shaping students and helping them develop into responsible citizens. He expressed concern that single-teacher schools still exist even after 80 years of Independence and said efforts should be made to strengthen the government education system. He stressed the need for adequate teaching staff and better infrastructure in government schools. He said the quality of education could be improved when teachers, officials and the community worked together. Technology-based learning, he added, could supplement classroom teaching and make lessons more engaging for students. Teachers and government employees were present at the programme. Regional Forest Officer Suresh, Teachers' Association office-bearers Thotadappa, Venkatesh, Narasegowda, Jagadish and Latamani, lecturer Manjunath and former Government Employees' Association president Siddesh attended the event.

DEMAND FEMALE SECURITY  
Silent protest held against rape of six-year-old



protest, calling for stronger measures to prevent crimes against women and children. SDPI district president Anser Pasha said the incident raised serious questions about the safety of girls. He questioned how women and chil-

dren could feel secure when incidents of violence were being reported even in residential areas. Pasha said cases of violence and atrocities against women continued to be reported and urged the government to take

immediate and effective action. He said those involved in crimes against women and children should face strict legal consequences and called for stronger implementation of laws aimed at protecting vulnerable sections of society. He also urged the authorities to take preventive measures and strengthen the safety of women and children in public and residential areas. The protesters said ensuring the safety of children should be treated as a priority and called upon the administration to respond firmly to such incidents.

The participants demanded that the authorities conduct a proper investigation into the case and ensure justice for the victim and her family. They also appealed to the government to strengthen awareness, enforcement and protective mechanisms to prevent similar incidents in the future. KJC Chand Pasha, Mustafa and Manzoor Pasha were among those who participated in the protest. The gathering concluded peacefully after the protesters reiterated their demand for justice and stronger measures to protect women and children.



Quick Read

Train checked over suspected illegal migrants

Davanagere Railway police and RPF personnel conducted an intensive inspection of a Bengaluru-Chhattisgarh train at Davanagere late Saturday night following information about suspected illegal Bangladeshi migrants travelling on board. Police checked passengers' identity cards and other documents in several coaches. More than 10 youths and a woman were reportedly kept under observation, while officers also questioned a woman considered suspicious. The inspection followed information provided by Hindu Jagarana Vedike activists. Police also conducted similar checks at Arsikere Junction. Davanagere Railway Police Inspector Krishna Naik said no illegal Bangladeshi migrants were found during the operation. Seven passengers from Uttar Pradesh were checked, but their documents were found to be in order, he said.

Kudumallige Society CEO goes missing mysteriously

Shivamogga Kudumallige Society CEO Madan has gone missing, raising concerns after his car was found abandoned in a forest area near Rippinpet. The Maruti Swift was found near Jamballi under Hejjaripura gram panchayat limits. Police reportedly found the key, Madan's mobile phone and important society account books inside the vehicle. His disappearance comes amid allegations of corruption and financial irregularities at the society. A complaint was reportedly filed at Malur police station. Madan had left his Thirthahalli residence on Friday, but his whereabouts remain unknown. Police have launched a search operation and are examining the vehicle and records. Investigators are also probing whether his disappearance is linked to the alleged financial irregularities.

3 arrested for transporting protected civet cat

Chikkanayakanahalli Forest officials arrested three people for allegedly transporting a protected civet cat illegally within the Chikkanayakanahalli forest range in Tumakuru district. The arrested persons were identified as P.T. Ashok from Siddaramanahalli in Hosadurga taluk, Chitradurga district; Ravikumar from Galirangayyanahatti; and Paresh from Doddannegere village in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk. Acting on reliable information about the illegal transportation of the protected wildlife near Halagonda village, forest officials conducted patrols in the area. During the operation, they noticed a suspiciously.

Prophet Muhammad's life offers message of compassion

In an era marked by rising selfishness and diminishing compassion, his enduring message of mercy and humanity remains vital

KOPPAL

Prophet Muhammad's life and teachings offer a message of compassion, truth, justice and human values, speakers said at a discussion organised as part of the 'Seerat Campaign-2026' in Koppal on Saturday.

The programme, organised by Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Koppal unit, at Sahitya Bhavan, was held on the theme 'Prophet Muhammad — The Light of Revolution'. Addressing the gathering, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Karnataka secretary and scholar Muhammad Kunj said revolution should not be understood as conflict or violence, but as positive change, reform and the establishment of human values.

He said the Prophet's 23-year mission was marked by transparency and provided an example for humanity. Unlike reformers who worked in specific fields, Prophet Muham-



mad brought changes across social, moral and spiritual life. At a time when compassion and affection are declining and selfishness and hatred are increasing, his message of mercy and humanity remains relevant, he said.

Muhammad Kunj also said society was increasingly witnessing a 'post-truth' environment in which false claims were often promoted more loudly than facts. People should have the courage to stand up for truth and counter hatred and misinformation. He

also highlighted the importance given to knowledge and education in Islam and said the society built in Medina was based on love, brotherhood and mutual trust.

Sri Marularadhya Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Siddheshwara Samsthana Kattimani Hiremath said Prophet Muhammad was not only a symbol of reform but also a messenger of peace and compassion. He said the teachings of saints and spiritual leaders across traditions ultimately aimed at human welfare and

Leaders urge harmony

Interfaith leaders at a Koppal programme stressed that Prophet Muhammad's universal teachings of peace, mercy, and education remain deeply relevant today. Speakers urged society to courageously counter misinformation and foster social harmony, service, and mutual trust.

social harmony.

Dr Father Sudeep Paul, principal of SFS School, Koppal, said religions should promote peace, justice, love, service and forgiveness. He said interfaith programmes were important for strengthening harmony and urged people to become ambassadors of peace while serving the poor and needy.

Mangaluru commissioner seeks parking project

MANGALURU

Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner has directed officials concerned to prepare and submit a detailed 15-month progress report on the proposed parking project on K S Rao Road. The report is intended to provide a clear month-wise schedule and help monitor the implementation of the project.

The Commissioner instructed the officials to submit the report within a week. The report should cover the progress expected during each of the next 15 months, allowing the civic administration to track the project against specific timelines and identify any delays at an early stage.

The K S Rao Road area has been facing parking-related challenges amid increasing vehicular movement in Mangaluru. Traffic violations linked to unauthorised parking have also been reported on the road. In the first five months of 2026, Mangaluru traffic police registered thou-

sands of parking violation cases across the city and collected substantial fines. K S Rao Road was among the stretches where parking violations were frequently recorded.

The proposed parking project is therefore expected to help address parking pressure and improve traffic movement in one of the city's busy commercial areas. The month-wise progress plan will enable officials to assess whether various stages of the project are moving according to schedule.

The Commissioner also stressed the need for close monitoring of civic infrastructure works and timely completion.

The direction comes amid broader efforts by authorities to improve traffic management and address congestion caused by unauthorised parking and encroachments. The district administration has previously directed urban local bodies and police authorities to jointly inspect congest-

At The Glance

- KS Rao Road faces parking congestion.
- Thousands of violation fines collected.
- Proposed project targets traffic issues.
- Month-wise progress ensures timely completion.
- Authorities emphasize close infrastructure monitoring.
- District administration targets smoother flow.

ed locations and take measures to ensure smoother traffic flow.

Officials have now been asked to prepare the detailed schedule and submit it within the stipulated one-week deadline. The progress report is expected to serve as a monitoring tool for the parking project and help ensure that planned works are completed within the proposed timeframe.

Mangaluru shift may cut Palakkad railway revenue

MANGALURU

The transfer of Mangaluru Central and Mangaluru Junction railway stations from the Palakkad division to the Mysuru division is expected to cause a major loss of revenue to Palakkad, with estimates suggesting that nearly 60 per cent of its earnings could be affected.

Senior officials of the Mysuru division have reportedly completed a survey of railway employees and collected revenue-related data in Mangaluru. Officials have been sta-

tioned in the city for the past two days to gather details concerning stations, staff strength and earnings ahead of the transfer scheduled from October 1.

Around 250 employees working in the Mangaluru station area are reportedly waiting to apply for transfer to the Palakkad division.

The railway employees' union has demanded that workers who seek transfers should be given their preferred locations. However, allegations have emerged that some senior Mysuru division

officials are attempting to shift several employees to locations under the Mysuru division.

The transfer will reportedly reduce the Palakkad division's jurisdiction by only around 17 km, but its financial impact could be significant. Besides losing a substantial share of revenue, the division may also lose several train services.

Reports suggest that Palakkad could be left with only six trains under its direct jurisdiction, prompting questions about its future viability.

Tribal families await nutrition kits for eight months



MANGALURU

Nutritional food kits meant for tribal communities in nine districts of Karnataka have not been distributed for the past eight months due to problems in the tender process. The delay has left thousands of families, including members of the Koraga, Jenu Kuruba and Malekudiya communities, waiting for essential food supplies.

The kits are distributed every month under the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) to support the health and nutrition of tribal families. The monthly package includes rice, pulses, cooking oil, Nandini ghee, green gram, horse gram, cowpea, chickpeas, jaggery, sugar and eggs. The previous state-level tender expired in January, after which the supply was stopped. A legal issue reportedly affected the process of awarding a fresh tender. Although approval was given to continue supplies under the previous tender to prevent hardship to tribal families, district-level ITDP offices are reportedly still awaiting formal instructions.

The impact is particularly visible in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. In Dakshina Kannada, supplies stopped after March, affecting around 3,015 families, including 1,215 Koraga and 1,800 Malekudiya families. In Udupi, distribution stopped after February and had covered around 3,120 families, including 2,670 Koraga and 450 Malekudiya households.

Madikeri ban on paper products sparks anger

MADIKERI

The Madikeri City Municipal Council has banned the use and sale of areca-leaf plates, paper cups and paper plates within the city limits, triggering strong opposition from traders and members of the public. Municipal officials have distributed copies of the order to local traders and informed them about the restrictions.

The order, issued by the municipal administration and commissioner, covers paper cups, containers, areca-leaf plates, paper plates and water bottles with capacities of 250 ml, 500 ml and one litre. Officials said the restrictions were introduced as part of measures concerning waste management and maintaining cleanliness within the municipal limits.

However, traders and residents have questioned the decision, particularly the inclusion of areca-leaf plates and paper products. They pointed out that plates made from areca leaves naturally decompose and are commonly used during temple fairs, public and government programmes, sports events and other gatherings. They said such products can be disposed of properly after use.



Officials implemented these restrictions to improve waste management and maintain cleanliness within the municipal limits

Kodagu District Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice-President Naveen Ambekal said the municipal council had taken the decision within its jurisdiction without wider consultation. He questioned how the restriction could be effectively enforced when people visiting Madikeri from other areas could bring the same products from outside the city.

Ambekal also said such visitors could use the products during private functions within their premises, making enforcement difficult for the municipal authorities. He suggested that the district administration should have been consulted before introducing the ban. If similar restrictions were imposed across the entire Kodagu district, he said, implementation would be more practical and effective.

Bhadra water reaches Chitradurga after decades

CHITRADURGA

A long-awaited dream of people in drought-prone Chitradurga district moved closer to reality on Sunday as water from the Bhadra Upper River Project was experimentally released into the Chitradurga branch canal. District in-charge Minister T Raghunurthy performed a puja and formally launched the water release at the intake point of the Bhadra reservoir near Lakkaavalli in Chikkamagaluru district.

The water will travel about 142 km before reaching Chitradurga. The development has brought relief and excitement among farmers, irrigation activists and residents who have been campaigning for Bhadra water for several decades. Raghunurthy described the occasion as a historic day and recalled the contributions of former Chief Ministers, ministers, farmers, seers and activists who worked for the project over the years.

The Bhadra Upper River Project has an allocation of 29.9 TMC of water, including 17.4 TMC from the Tunga and 12.5 TMC from the Bhadra. The project, currently estimated to cost Rs 21,500 crore, is expected to benefit

four districts—Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, Chitradurga and Davanagere—and 12 taluks. It aims to provide irrigation to around 2.25 lakh hectares and fill 367 lakes.

Raghunurthy said around Rs 11,500 crore had already been spent on the project and work to fill lakes was underway. He said the project had received financial support under successive governments led by different parties. He also said the Centre's promised Rs 5,300 crore assistance had not yet been released, which could have accelerated the work. The project is expected to be completed by 2028.

The minister credited Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Water Resources Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy with helping resolve several hurdles related to water allocation and implementation. He said the government would not politicise the project and urged all parties to work together in the interests of farmers. The water released on Sunday is expected to reach Gonuru within a week. A large public meeting and felicitation programme will be organised in Chitradurga after the water reaches the district, with leaders who contributed to the project being invited.

Praja Seva campaign receives strong public response

KARWAR

The 'Praja Seva Abhiyan' organised across Uttara Kannada district on Saturday received an overwhelming response, with the public submitting 1,383 applications seeking solutions to various grievances.

The campaign was held under the leadership of the district in-charge minister in Ankola and at different hoblis in Kumta, Bhatkal, Sirsi, Yellapur and Haliyal taluks. The applications submitted by residents concerning various government departments are currently under scrutiny and being processed for disposal.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department received the highest number of applications at 451, followed by the Revenue Department with 270. The Urban Development Department received 135 applications, while the Housing Department received 128 and the

Food and Civil Supplies Department received 102.

The HESCOM Department received 51 applications, followed by the Public Works Department with 50, Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens with 46, and the Transport Department with 30. The Health and Family Welfare Department received 27 applications, while Minor Irrigation received 13 and Labour and Skill Development departments received 12 each.

Other applications included 10 related to School Education and Literacy, seven to Forests, six to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, and five each to DPAR (e-Governance) and Water Resources. Applications were also received by the Backward Classes Welfare, Agriculture, Industries, Cooperation, Infrastructure, Social Welfare, Finance, Home, Kannada and Culture and IT-BT departments.

Varahi underground powerhouse showcases K'taka engineering

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka's Varahi hydroelectric project has earned a unique distinction as Asia's first underground power generation station, built inside a mountain to overcome the challenge of inadequate water pressure for electricity generation.

The project was initially planned to generate power using water from the Mani and Pickup reservoirs. However, engineers found that the available water pressure would not be sufficient to operate the turbines at the required level and



achieve the expected power generation. As a solution, an underground powerhouse was constructed near Hosangadi in Kundapur taluk.

The powerhouse is located about 78 metres below

ground level. A massive underground cavern measuring 155 metres in length, 20 metres in width and 30 metres in height was excavated, creating nearly 93,000 cubic metres of space for the turbines. The pressure

tunnels carrying water, tail-race tunnels, cables, ventilation passages and even a 700-metre access road are located underground.

The underground station has four units, each with a capacity of 115 MW, giving it a total capacity of 460 MW.

It generates an average of about 1,100 million units of electricity annually. During 2025-26, the station recorded its highest-ever generation of around 1,600 million units.

The Varahi station is mainly operated as a peak-load power station rather

than a base-load facility. It is used when electricity demand rises sharply, particularly during morning and evening peak periods. The first unit was commissioned on August 12, 1989, followed by the second on November 12, 1990. The third and fourth units began operations on January 3 and January 14, 2009, respectively. The project's capacity was subsequently expanded from 230 MW to 460 MW. Two additional 4.5 MW units at the Mani dam take the total capacity of the Varahi project to 469 MW.



## Bengal's Bold Step Towards an Indian Education Renaissance



- Lalit Gargg

The announcement by West Bengal Chief Minister Shubendu Adhikari to establish at least 1,000 new schools affiliated with Vidya Bharati, one of the country's prominent voluntary educational initiatives associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is far more significant than a mere expansion in the number of schools. It signals a potentially important shift in the educational discourse of the state—towards an approach that seeks to integrate knowledge with values, character, cultural rootedness, national consciousness and social responsibility. According to the announcement that came to light on September 4, 2026, the objective is to expand the Vidya Bharati network to every district, municipality and panchayat in West Bengal within the next year. At present, around 313 schools associated with Vidya Bharati are reportedly functioning in the state. The Chief Minister has also invited Vidya Bharati leadership to work in coordination with officials of the state Education Department to take this ambitious initiative forward.

The significance of this announcement becomes clearer when viewed against the scale of Vidya Bharati's educational presence across India. According to figures available from the organisation, its network extends to more than 12,500 schools nationwide, with over 3.5 million students receiving education. Its institutions cover levels ranging from pre-primary to senior secondary education and place emphasis not only on academic learning but also on sports, music, arts, science, values, discipline and social responsibility. Recent reports have also referred to more than 12,000 schools and nearly 10,000 Bal Sanskar Kendras associated with the broader educational movement. Variations in these figures may arise because of different years and methods of institutional counting, but the larger picture remains unmistakable: Vidya Bharati represents one of India's most extensive voluntary educational networks.

Its significance, however, lies not merely in the number of institutions it runs. At the heart of its educational philosophy is the idea that education must go beyond the transmission of information. Knowledge should lead to character; character should lead to responsible citizenship; and education should ultimately contribute to the welfare of society and the nation. Vidya Bharati emphasises education rooted in Indian values and culture, national consciousness, self-reliance and social responsibility. Its stated objectives also include taking education to rural, tribal, border and relatively deprived regions. It is precisely here that the broader importance of the West Bengal initiative emerges.

Bengal has historically been one of the great centres of India's intellectual and cultural awakening. The lives and contributions of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and numerous other luminaries have shaped Indian thought, literature, education and national consciousness. Therefore, giving due space in Bengal's educational system to Indian knowledge, culture, local history, the mother tongue and national responsibility should not be viewed merely through the prism of political preference. It can also be understood as part of a larger cultural and educational necessity. This perspective finds considerable resonance in India's National Education Policy 2020. The policy seeks to nurture in students a deep sense of pride in being Indian while simultaneously developing knowledge, skills, values and responsible citizenship. Particularly significant is its emphasis on connecting education with the Indian Knowledge Systems. It encourages the incorporation, in a scientific and authentic manner, of India's intellectual traditions, tribal knowledge, traditional learning systems, yoga, philosophy, literature, agriculture, architecture, medicine, sports and other areas of India's contribution to human civilisation.

The policy also stresses the importance of connecting the curriculum with Indian and local contexts, including culture, traditions, languages, geography and indigenous knowledge traditions. Seen from this perspective, the educational experiment of Vidya Bharati and several objectives of the National Education Policy appear broadly complementary. The distinction is that NEP 2020 provides a national policy framework, whereas voluntary organisations such as Vidya Bharati have been experimenting with value-based education at the grass-roots level for decades. This complementarity can become particularly meaningful if the West Bengal government links the proposed expansion with high-quality teacher training, modern science, technology, digital learning, skill development and constitutional values. In that case, the initiative could transcend the simple objective of opening new schools and evolve into a wider educational transformation. For opening schools is relatively easy. Building good schools is much harder. The real challenge lies in providing competent teachers, trained principals, well-equipped libraries, laboratories, sports facilities, digital resources and relevant teaching material. Therefore, the success of this initiative should not be measured merely by the number of schools established. It must ultimately be judged by the quality of education delivered and the quality of citizens produced. If the new institutions become merely impressive buildings, the objective will remain incomplete. But if they become centres where children acquire knowledge, discipline, confidence, compassion, scientific temper, cultural awareness and a sense of responsibility, the initiative could indeed become historic. This is also where the role of voluntary organisations becomes crucial.

A particularly powerful dimension would be a comprehensive teacher-development programme. Teachers of the new institutions should be equipped not only with knowledge of Indian philosophy and cultural traditions but also with modern pedagogy, child psychology, artificial intelligence, digital technology, skill-based education and contemporary assessment methods.

# Karnataka Must Speak in One Voice on Mekedatu



- Shyam Sundar Vattam

Karnataka has much to learn from neighbouring Tamil Nadu when it comes to protecting the interests of the State. On issues that affect the State's rights and resources, Tamil Nadu's political parties have repeatedly demonstrated that political differences can be kept aside when a larger cause is at stake. Whether it is the Cauvery water dispute or opposition to the NEET system, the State's political class has generally rallied around a common position.

Karnataka too needs such political maturity, particularly now when the long-pending Mekedatu balancing reservoir project has once again come into focus.

The proposed project across the Cauvery near Mekedatu in Ramanagara district is intended primarily as a balancing reservoir and drinking-water project, with Karnataka maintaining that it would help meet Bengaluru's drinking-water needs and regulate water utilisation. The project has been a political issue in Karnataka for years and has also triggered strong opposition in Tamil Nadu.

The Union government's recent clarification that the 2018 Supreme Court judgment does not require Karnataka to obtain the consent of Tamil Nadu, Kerala or Puducherry before constructing a structure within Karnataka has given the project a fresh political push.

But it would be wrong to interpret this as a blanket final clearance to start construction immediately. The Central Water Commission returned Karnataka's revised DPR in June this year, seeking modifications to bring it in conformity with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award and the Supreme Court judgment. The Supreme Court has also held that the preparation of a DPR is not the same as final project approval and that the DPR has to go through the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

This legal and procedural background makes it all the more important for Karnataka to proceed with determination, but also within the framework of law.

The present Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, knows the political significance of Mekedatu better than most. As KPCC president, he had undertaken the much-publicised 'Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku' padayatra from the Cauvery Sangama near Kanakapura to Bengaluru, demanding implementation of the project. The campaign had taken place despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, as Chief Minister, Shivakumar has the opportunity to translate that political campaign into concrete action.

The timing is particularly important. Tamil Nadu has already begun mobilising opposition to the project. The Coordination Committee of All

Farmers' Associations of Tamil Nadu has announced a five-day statewide campaign from September 20 and indicated that it would seek an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi if necessary.

Karnataka cannot afford to remain divided while another State mobilises its political and farmer organisations.

The BJP and JD(S), which are in Opposition, should therefore rise above partisan politics and extend constructive support to the Congress government on Mekedatu. If the project is genuinely in Karnataka's long-term interest, there should be no question of who gets the political credit. The credit should belong to Karnataka. This is precisely where the culture of 'credit politics' must end. Projects involving the State's water security, drinking-water requirements and long-term development cannot be reduced to electoral slogans.

At the same time, the government must ensure complete transparency about the project's cost, environmental implications, rehabilitation requirements, water-sharing obligations and statutory clearances. Karnataka's legitimate rights must be protected without violating the rights of downstream States or the orders of constitutional and statutory authorities.

There is also a larger question of priorities. Karnataka is facing serious financial pres-

sures, while its guarantee schemes have placed a substantial burden on the State exchequer. The government must undertake a careful review of expenditure and ensure that critical infrastructure projects are not starved of funds. Simply abandoning welfare commitments overnight may not be practical or desirable, but fiscal discipline is essential. Every rupee saved through better targeting and elimination of waste should be channelled into productive infrastructure, including water security.

Mekedatu should not become another political promise endlessly recycled before every election. Karnataka needs a clear roadmap, time-bound execution and a united political voice.

Tamil Nadu has shown that when a State's interests are perceived to be at stake, political parties can close ranks. Karnataka should demonstrate the same resolve.

Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku should not remain merely a slogan. It should become a shared commitment of every political party in Karnataka. The Cauvery may divide the two States geographically, but Karnataka's political class must unite firmly when it comes to safeguarding the State's legitimate interests.

Mekedatu must be pursued with determination, legality and political unity—not partisan rivalry.

## A New Era in Transplant Medicine: Pig Kidneys Successfully Transplanted into Humans

For decades, organ transplantation has represented one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine. A donated kidney can give a patient with kidney failure a new chance at life. Yet one major problem has remained painfully difficult to solve: there are simply not enough human donor organs for everyone who needs them.

Now, a remarkable scientific breakthrough may be opening the door to a new solution. Genetically engineered pig kidneys have been successfully transplanted into human patients, marking a major advance in the field of xenotransplantation—the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from animals into humans.

The latest progress has been particularly encouraging. Massachusetts General Hospital and its collaborators have reported successful transplantation of genetically engineered pig kidneys into several patients. According to a recent clinical update, five patients have received such kidneys since March 2024, and three of them achieved kidney function for more than eight months without needing dialysis.

One case has attracted worldwide attention. A patient named Tim Andrews lived with a genetically modified pig kidney for 271 days, or almost nine months, before successfully receiving a human kidney transplant. The pig kidney helped keep him free from dialysis and demonstrated that an animal organ

could potentially serve as a bridge while a patient waits for a human donor organ.

Why Pigs?

The idea of using animal organs for human transplantation is not new. Scientists have studied it for decades, but the human immune system presented a major obstacle. When an ordinary animal organ is transplanted into a human body, the immune system may recognize it as foreign and attack it.

Modern genetic engineering is helping scientists overcome this problem. Researchers can modify certain genes in pigs to reduce the chances of immediate immune rejection and improve compatibility between pig organs and the human body. Some genetic changes are also designed to reduce potential risks from pig viruses.

Pigs are considered particularly promising donors because their organs can be similar in size and function to human organs, and they can be bred under carefully controlled conditions.

A Possible Answer to the Organ Shortage

The shortage of donor organs is one of the greatest challenges in transplantation medicine. Thousands of patients wait for kidneys and other organs, often spending years on waiting lists. During this period, many kidney patients depend on dialysis, a life-sustaining treatment that can place considerable demands on their daily lives.

The possibility of producing compatible animal organs

could transform this situation. Instead of waiting indefinitely for a suitable human donor, patients might one day have access to genetically engineered organs when they need them.

This does not mean that pig kidneys are ready to replace human donor kidneys. Scientists still need to establish their long-term safety, durability and effectiveness through carefully conducted clinical trials. However, the recent results suggest that xenotransplantation is moving from a long-held scientific dream toward practical medical reality.

From Experiment to Clinical Medicine

The journey has been gradual. Earlier experiments demonstrated that genetically modified pig kidneys could function in carefully monitored human research models. A landmark study reported that such kidneys produced urine and showed no evidence of hyperacute rejection during a 54-hour study in brain-dead human recipients.

The more recent transplantation of pig kidneys into living patients represents a much more significant step. These cases are helping scientists understand how animal organs behave inside the human body over longer periods.

Formal clinical trials are now underway or being prepared to study pig kidney transplantation more systematically. These studies will be essential for determining which patients may benefit, how long the organs can func-



- DR. VIJAY GARG

"Pig kidneys transplanted into humans may not yet be the final answer to the organ shortage—but they could be the beginning of a new era in transplant medicine."

tion and what medical treatments are required to prevent rejection.

Challenges Still Remain

Despite the excitement, xenotransplantation remains an experimental field. Preventing immune rejection is still a major challenge. Patients receiving transplanted organs also require careful medical monitoring and medicines to control immune responses.

Scientists must additionally study the long-term risk of infections, the durability of genetically engineered organs and the ethical questions surrounding the use of animals as organ donors. Strict regulation and extensive clinical research will therefore remain essential.

Science must move forward with both hope and caution.

A Future Filled with Possibilities

The successful transplantation of pig kidneys into humans represents more than a medical experiment. It reflects the extraordinary progress of genetics, surgery, immunology and biotechnology working together.

For millions of people suffering from kidney failure around the world, the possibility that an engineered animal organ could provide valuable time—or perhaps eventually become a long-term treatment—offers new hope.

The dream of ending the organ shortage has not yet become reality. But the recent success of genetically engineered pig kidney transplants suggests that medicine may be entering a new chapter.

### LETTERS TO EDITOR

#### Preserve Our City Park

I am writing to express concern over the deteriorating condition of public parks in Bengaluru. Parks like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh are vital lungs for our congested city, but are facing neglect, littering, and encroachment. Citizens visit these spaces for fresh air, exercise and peace. If we fail to maintain them, we lose both our heritage and our health. The BBMP must ensure regular cleaning, proper security, and strict action against littering. Citizens must also act responsibly and keep our parks clean.

- Sharon Faustina J

#### Tackle Rising Traffic Chaos

Through your esteemed daily, I wish to highlight the worsening traffic congestion in Bengaluru. Daily commuters spend hours stuck on roads, leading to stress, pollution and loss of productivity. The main causes are poor road maintenance, unchecked growth of vehicles, and lack of lane discipline. The authorities should improve public transport, repair potholes urgently, and enforce traffic rules strictly. Public awareness campaigns on carpooling and using metro services can also help.

- Mark Antony Yerrick

#### Promote Reading Among Youth

I want to draw attention to the declining reading habit among today's youth. With excessive screen time and social media addiction, books are being forgotten. Reading enriches knowledge, improves vocabulary and develops empathy. Schools and parents should encourage library visits and dedicate a fixed reading hour daily. Public libraries should be modernized with new books to attract young readers. If we do not act now, we will raise a generation that is informed but not knowledgeable. Let us revive the culture of reading before it is too.

- Anna B.



## UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME REDUCES ECONOMIC INEQUALITY



As automation, artificial intelligence, and corporate restructuring continue to alter global labor markets, traditional employment structures offer declining economic stability for millions of workers. The concentration of wealth among capital owners, paired with stagnating real wages, has widened income inequality across developed and developing nations alike. Traditional welfare systems, often characterized by intrusive bureaucracy, strict eligibility criteria, and administrative inefficiencies, frequently fail to provide an adequate safety net. Implementing a Universal Basic Income (UBI) a unconditional, regular cash transfer to all citizens offers a direct structural solution to persistent poverty and economic insecurity.

Critics frequently argue that unconditional financial transfers disincentivize work and strain public finances. However, real-world pilot programs demonstrate that UBI stabilizes household finances without causing significant drops in overall labor force participation. Providing a guaranteed financial floor allows individuals to pursue higher education, seek better employment opportunities, or care for family members without the immediate threat of destitution. Furthermore, direct cash transfers stimulate local economies by boosting consumer purchasing power, reducing stress-related healthcare expenditures, and providing workers with the financial leverage needed to reject unsafe or exploitative working conditions.

Funding a universal basic income requires a reimagining of national tax policy and resource distribution. Revenue can be generated through progressive wealth taxation, carbon dividends, corporate value-added taxes, and the consolidation of inefficient administrative welfare programs. Rather than viewing economic security as a reward for traditional labor, UBI treats financial stability as a fundamental right of citizenship. By establishing a reliable economic floor, society can mitigate the destabilizing effects of technological disruption, reduce extreme inequality, and foster a more resilient, dynamic economy.

- SHELLA SAGAR

## FAST FASHION DESTROYS THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT



The global fashion industry has undergone a radical transformation over the past three decades, shifting from seasonal production cycles to a hyper-accelerated model of fast fashion. Driven by cheap synthetic textiles, low-cost overseas labor, and social media-fueled trend cycles, clothing manufacturers produce billions of garments annually. This model relies on planned obsolescence, encouraging consumers to treat clothing as disposable items rather than durable goods. Consequently, millions of tons of discarded textiles end up in landfills or incineration plants each year, creating an environmental crisis that spans manufacturing, distribution, and waste disposal.

The ecological footprint of fast fashion is devastating across every stage of the supply chain. The production of synthetic fibers like polyester consumes vast amounts of fossil fuels and releases microplastics into marine ecosystems during routine washing. Meanwhile, conventional cotton cultivation depletes local water reserves and relies heavily on harmful pesticides.

Industrial dyeing and finishing processes routinely pollute rivers in developing nations with toxic chemical runoff, destroying freshwater habitats and endangering local communities. The long-distance transportation of low-cost apparel further contributes significantly to global carbon emissions, making the apparel sector one of the primary drivers of environmental degradation.

Addressing the environmental impact of fashion demands a transition toward a circular economy and responsible consumption. Legislative frameworks must hold apparel manufacturers accountable through extended producer responsibility laws, mandating sustainable sourcing, eco-friendly textile recycling, and fair labor standards. Concurrently, consumer culture must pivot away from rapid consumption toward

quality, durability, and secondhand markets. Choosing repair over replacement and valuing sustainable craftsmanship can significantly reduce overall environmental damage. True sustainability in fashion requires dismantling the disposable model in favor of an industry that respects finite planetary resources.

- GEORGE WILLIAM

## LONELINESS REPRESENTS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Despite unprecedented digital connectivity, modern societies are experiencing a severe, quiet epidemic of chronic loneliness and social isolation. Structural shifts in how people live, work, and interact such as the rise of remote work, single-person households, and digital social media replacing physical gatherings have steadily eroded traditional community networks. Loneliness is no longer merely a temporary emotional state or personal misfortune; it is a widespread social phenomenon that profoundly impacts public health, social stability, and overall well-being across every demographic group.

The physical and psychological toll of chronic social isolation is well-documented by medical research. Persistent loneliness trig

gers chronic stress responses, leading to elevated inflammation, weakened immune function, an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, cognitive decline, and premature mortality. Psychologically, long-term isolation fuels depression, anxiety, and emotional burnout. Beyond individual health, widespread social disconnection damages social trust, reduces civic participation, and fractures community resilience. Treating loneliness purely as an individual psychological issue ignores the structural societal factors that foster social isolation in daily life. Addressing the loneliness epidemic requires deliberate investments in social infrastructure and community planning.

- JAGGA

## DARK SKY PRESERVATION PROTECTS NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS



The rapid expansion of urban centers and artificial outdoor illumination has led to widespread light pollution, depriving vast portions of the global population of access to a natural night sky. Streetlights, commercial signage, architectural floodlighting, and sprawling industrial complexes continuously flood the atmosphere with artificial light. This constant illumination creates a persistent skyglow that extends hundreds of miles beyond major cities. While bright nightscapes are traditionally viewed as symbols of safety and urban progress, excessive artificial light represents a significant, underrecognized form of environmental pollution that alters natural ecosystems and disrupts biological cycles.

The ecological consequences of light pollution affect virtually every level of the natural world. Nocturnal wildlife relies on natural cycles of light and darkness for navigation, foraging, mating, and predator avoidance. Artificial light disorients migratory birds, decimates insect populations attracted to outdoor fixtures, and disrupts marine life near coastal areas. For humans, constant exposure to artificial light at night suppresses melatonin production, disrupting circadian rhythms and increasing the risk of sleep disorders, cardiovascular issues, and metabolic dysfunction. Furthermore, the loss of the starry night sky severs a historic cultural and psychological connection to the cosmos.

Preserving dark skies requires smart lighting design and targeted urban policy. Cities can dramatically reduce light pollution by installing shielded outdoor fixtures that direct light downward, deploying motion-sensor technology, and utilizing warm-spectrum LED lighting instead of harsh blue light.

- DEEKSHA NARAYAN

## WHY GENERATIVE AI NEEDS HUMAN AUTHORSHIP

Generative artificial intelligence has evolved far beyond basic text completion and decorative image generation. Today, algorithms compose intricate symphonies, generate high-resolution photo-style artwork, write functional computer code, and draft long-form investigative journalism. Yet, as AI-generated works flood the global market, courts and international intellectual property authorities face an existential question: can a machine hold copyright? The core answer must remain a firm no.

Originality in creative work is fundamentally tied to human effort, personal experience, and moral responsibility. Copyright laws were established to incentivize human ingenuity and protect the emotional investment of the individual creator. When an autonomous system generates text or visual art based



on mathematical probability and vast dataset training, it is engaging in pattern matching, not genuine expression. Extending legal authorship to software dilutes the intrinsic value of human culture and transforms creative expression into a volume-driven industrial byproduct.

Furthermore, assigning copyrights to AI creates an insoluble liability problem. Copyright ownership grants legal rights, but it also carries accountability for defa

mation, plagiarism, and intellectual infringement. An algorithm cannot sign a licensing agreement, face a civil court, or pay damages for breach of contract. Granting corporate entities automated monopolies over machine-generated output risks squeezing out independent human artists, who cannot compete with the sheer volume of algorithmic generation.

- SHAWN

## WHY URBAN WORKPLACES NEED WALKABLE CITIES

Modern urban planning has long prioritized vehicle movement over foot traffic, turning metropolitan hubs into sprawling networks of multi-lane roads, concrete overpasses, and isolated parking complexes. While this transit framework was meant to deliver efficient commuting, it has delivered severe public health crises, environmental degradation, and urban isolation instead. Reclaiming city centers for pedestrians by building walkable urban environments is no longer a luxury; it is a foundational urban necessity.

Pedestrian-centric urban planning directly transforms public health and local economies. Cities designed around pedestrian access, bike lanes, and reliable public transit report significantly lower rates of cardiovascular disease, obesity, and ambient air pollution. Economically, walkable streets

naturally attract higher foot traffic, boosting local retail stores, outdoor dining, and neighborhood businesses. When people walk through their communities rather than driving past them at speed, civic trust deepens and public spaces regain their original social purpose.

Transitioning to pedestrian-focused cities requires bold, intentional urban policy choices. Municipalities must redesign urban corridors by widening sidewalks, establishing vehicle-free zones, and implementing mixed-use zoning laws that place housing, workplaces, and grocery markets within a 15-minute walk. Converting car-choked streets into green, walkable public squares does not slow a city down; it breathes new life into the social and economic heart of the metropolis.

- MARVEL JERRY

## URBAN DENSITY PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE FUTURE LIVING

Suburban sprawl has long been promoted as the ideal model for residential development, offering spacious homes, private yards, and quiet neighborhoods. However, low-density suburban developments rely almost entirely on private automobile ownership, requiring extensive road networks, long daily commutes, and high municipal infrastructure costs.

This sprawling development pattern consumes vast tracts of agricultural and natural land, increases

energy consumption, and isolates residents within car-centric environments. To build environmentally sustainable and socially connected communities, modern urban planning must embrace high-density, walkable transit-oriented developments.

Dense urban environments offer significant ecological and economic advantages over suburban sprawl. Concentrating housing, commercial services, and public amenities within compact urban footprints reduces

the distance required for daily travel, making public transportation, walking, and cycling viable primary modes of transit. Multi-family residential buildings are inherently more energy-efficient to heat and cool than single-family suburban homes. Furthermore, high-density development maximizes the efficiency of public infrastructure, reducing the per-capita cost of delivering municipal services like water, sewage, power, and waste management, while preserving surrounding

natural land from suburban encroachment.

Transitioning toward denser, more sustainable cities requires updating outdated zoning regulations that mandate single-family housing and excessive parking minimums. Municipalities must prioritize mixed-use zoning, affordable housing initiatives, and robust investments in public transit and pedestrian infrastructure.

- MARIA RINCIA P.





Quick Read



Jharkhand Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu dies of heart attack

**Ranchi**  
Jharkhand Higher Education and Urban Development Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu died of a heart attack at his residence in Giridih late Saturday night. He was rushed to Mercy Hospital after complaining of chest pain and uneasiness. Doctors said he was brought around 2.15 am, with an ECG indicating a heart attack. Despite immediate treatment and CPR, he could not be revived and was declared dead around 4 am. Sonu, who reportedly had a history of hypertension and diabetes, had attended a Teachers' Day programme earlier Saturday. A longtime JMM leader, he was elected from Giridih Sadar in 2019 and retained the seat in 2024.

Two UKNA militants killed in Manipur encounter

**CHURACHANDPUR**  
Two United Kuki National Army (UKNA) militants were killed and two others injured in an encounter with a joint team of the Indian Army and Assam Rifles in Manipur's Churachandpur district, officials said. Acting on intelligence inputs, security forces launched an operation targeting a UKNA camp at Phai-bong village. Troops began tactical closing-in, following which UKNA cadres allegedly opened indiscriminate fire. Security forces retaliated with controlled fire, the Assam Rifles said. A subsequent search recovered MA rifles, an AK-56 rifle, a lathode gun, grenades, ammunition, magazines and combat uniforms. The operation continues in surrounding jungles. UKNA is not a signatory to the Suspension of Operations pact.

Massive landslide hits Sikkim's Mangan district

**Gangtok**  
A massive landslide hit Sikkim's Mangan district in the early hours of Sunday, partially blocking the flow of the Teesta and Chyakoong rivers, officials said. A substantial portion of a hillside along a new road cutting of the Naga-Tosa Road in the Naga Forest area collapsed near the confluence of the two rivers in Chungthang subdivision. The affected stretch is located opposite the Theng Tunnel. The landslide partially obstructed the flow of both rivers, raising concerns over possible changes in water levels. However, officials said river levels at the Sankalang and Phidang outposts remained normal. The water was reported to be muddy following the landslide. No casualties or injuries have been reported so far.

Centre sells 4,000 tonnes of buffer onions to check prices

**NEW DELHI**  
The government has sold around 4,000 tonnes of buffer onions in the first 10 days of a subsidised retail intervention aimed at containing rising prices, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said on Sunday. The Centre has stocked 1.21 lakh tonnes of onions for 2026 through the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Market Federation of India (Nafed). The stock is being moved from producing states to major consuming centres by trucks and the dedicated "Kan-

Rahul questions Modi, Samrat over police action against Bihar students

RAHUL GANDHI QUESTIONED WHETHER BIHAR STUDENTS' SHATTERED DREAMS COULD BE RESTORED AFTER ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY DURING PROTESTS.

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary over police action against protesting students, asking whether their dreams could be restored after their injuries heal.

Gandhi shared a video of his recent meeting with students and youngsters from Bihar, who he said faced "horrific police brutality" while raising concerns over alleged irregularities in the examination system. He said the students had demanded education, employment and accountability, questioning why police allegedly used firearms against them. Gandhi claimed one student suffered a leg injury from an AK-47 bullet, destroying his aspiration to join



"Can you restore their shattered dreams?" — Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

the Army, while two others sustained shoulder injuries.

"The bullet wounds will heal, but where is the hospital that treats the fear that has now settled deep inside these children?" Gandhi asked.

Addressing Modi and Choudhary, he said their broken bones could be repaired but questioned whether their

Bihar student protests

■ **Protest began:** First week of August

■ **Key demands:** Transparent recruitment, fair opportunities, single-tier teacher exam

■ **Police action alleged:** Lathis and firearms

■ **Political support:** Opposition leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav

■ **Rahul's concern:** Injuries and impact on students' aspirations

"shattered dreams" could also be restored.

Gandhi said the protesters were children of poor families who had stepped out seeking better opportunities and transparent examinations.

WHAT RAHUL ALLEGED

Rahul Gandhi alleged Bihar students faced excessive police action while demanding education, employment and accountability. He claimed firearms injured several protesters, including an aspiring Army recruit whose leg was allegedly hit by an AK-47 bullet. Gandhi said the government must accept responsibility for the action and criticised attempts to blame lower-ranking officials. He maintained that injuries could heal, but the psychological impact and lost aspirations required deeper answers.

ISRO staff bodies seek clarity on privatisation plans

NEW DELHI

Nine employee associations at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have sought official clarification from Chairperson V Narayanan on the proposed transfer of manufacturing and operational functions to private entities. In a letter, the associations questioned ISRO's future role and the implications for serving employees and future recruitment.

They sought clarity on whether the design, development, integration, testing and launch of PSLV, LVM3, SSLV and successor vehicles would continue as ISRO functions or be transferred outside the agency. The associations also raised concerns over sanctioned strength, vacancies, recruitment schedules and the induction of scientific, technical, administrative and industrial personnel across ISRO centres. Their concerns followed remarks by IN-SPACe Chairperson Pawan Goenka on August 21 that ISRO would eventually stop making and manufacturing launch vehicles, with such work undertaken by the private sector or PSUs.

Delhi court sends Swatantra Bhardwaj to one-day judicial custody

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Sunday sent Hindutva influencer Swatantra Bhardwaj to one-day judicial custody in connection with the alleged assault of Sanjay Kumar, father of a teenage student activist, during a protest at Jantar Mantar in June.

Bhardwaj was produced through video-conferencing before duty magistrate Anjali Singh, who ordered judicial custody. On Saturday, an additional sessions judge had allowed Delhi Police one-day custodial interrogation of the accused.

Police have invoked provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and criminal intimidation in the assault case.

A separate POCSO case has also been registered following the minor activist's complaint alleging online threats and harassment.

Bhardwaj was detained in Bulandshahr on Friday, hours after the Cockroach Janta Party staged a protest outside the Parliament Street police

Case at a glance

■ **Accused:** Swatantra Bhardwaj

■ **Custody:** One-day judicial custody

■ **Alleged assault:** June 23, Jantar Mantar

■ **Victim:** Sanjay Kumar

■ **Additional case:** POCSO

■ **Other provisions:** SC/ST Act, criminal intimidation, BNS, IT Act

■ **Detained:** Bulandshahr, September 4

station demanding his arrest.

The action followed outrage over an interview in which Bhardwaj allegedly claimed he had "cracked the skull" of the student's father during the June 23 protest. He had also claimed he acted in self-defence in a subsequent podcast.

Police had earlier described Sanjay Kumar's injuries as "simple" and said they were caused by a steel bracelet. The minor activist has alleged receiving rape threats,

WHAT LED TO THE ARREST

Bhardwaj was detained after protests demanding action over the alleged assault of Sanjay Kumar during a June protest. Police subsequently added SC/ST Act and criminal intimidation provisions to the case and registered a separate POCSO FIR following allegations of online threats against the minor activist. Bhardwaj has claimed he acted in self-defence, while police earlier described Kumar's injuries as simple and allegedly caused by a steel bracelet.

abuse and morphed images after speaking publicly about the alleged assault. Police have reportedly invoked provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Information Technology Act in the online harassment case.

CPI(M) flags 'Parliamentary deviations' after Kerala poll setback

NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) has launched a rectification campaign among its leaders, identifying "Parliamentary deviations", lack of collective functioning and weaknesses in adopting a mass line as key organisational shortcomings following its electoral setback in Kerala.

The party's Polit Bureau discussed a report on the campaign during its meeting on Friday and Saturday. The Central Committee is scheduled to review it at its October 9-11 meeting. A 73-question questionnaire has already been circulated

among leaders to assess their conduct and functioning.

CPI(M) General Secretary M A Baby said the party was examining its internal weaknesses and taking corrective measures. He acknowledged that even higher committees were not free from what he termed "Parliamentary aberrations".

"We are examining how far each one of us is free from Parliamentary aberrations, whether we believe that solutions to problems are only through Parliamentary activities and whether we are mingling with people and cadres enough," Baby said.



The questionnaire asks leaders whether they harbour an unhealthy desire to contest elections against party interests, engage in vote-buying or accept money from rival candidates, or indulge in factionalism after being denied tickets.

It also examines leaders' tendency to issue orders rather than involve people in decision-making, dismiss public concerns, blame others for electoral setbacks and display arrogance, extravagance or "bourgeois tendencies". Baby said Polit Bureau members discussed their individual experiences on these issues and stressed the need to avoid such deviations. The CPI(M) had undertaken similar rectification exercises earlier, identifying corruption, tolerance of disciplinary violations, dowry demands, domestic violence and superstition among organisational concerns.

25 Collegium recommendations pending with Centre

NEW DELHI

As many as 25 names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as High Court judges are pending with the government, sources familiar with the process said.

The oldest is that of advocate Saurabh Kirpal, whose recommendation has remained pending since October 2017. Kirpal, son of former Chief Justice of India B N Kirpal, was recommended by the Delhi High Court Collegium for elevation.

The Supreme Court Collegium deferred consideration of his candidature three times before recommending him in November 2021. The government returned his file for reconsideration in November 2022. After the Collegium reiterated its recommendation, the file has remained pending. The other pending recommendations are largely spread across the Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Punjab and Haryana, and Gujarat High

High Court vacancies

■ **High Courts:** 25

■ **Sanctioned strength:** 1,122 judges

■ **Working strength:** 818

■ **Vacancies:** 304

■ **Vacancy rate:** 27%

■ **Pending recommendations:** 25

■ **Oldest pending name:** Saurabh Kirpal

■ **Pending since:** October 2017

Courts, among others. Sources said most of these recommendations are relatively recent, with only two other names besides Kirpal's having been pending for a longer period. High Court collegiums recommend judicial officers and advocates for elevation. The Union Law Ministry's Department of Justice examines the recommendations and adds inputs, including Intelligence Bureau reports, before forwarding them to the Supreme Court Collegium.

HOW JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS MOVE

High Court collegiums recommend advocates and judicial officers for elevation. The Union Law Ministry's Department of Justice examines the files and adds relevant inputs, including Intelligence Bureau reports, before sending them to the Supreme Court Collegium. The Collegium can recommend a candidate, defer consideration or return the file to the High Court Collegium. Once reiterated, recommendations remain subject to the government's final action.

5.57 crore voters deleted in SIR Phase 3 draft rolls

NEW DELHI

Around 57.57 lakh voters were added to electoral rolls across 17 states after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but 6.15 crore names were subsequently deleted during the third phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The 17 states had 35.50 crore voters during the April-May 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Their numbers rose to 36.08 crore before the SIR exercise, an increase of 1.62%. However, the draft rolls published after the revision contained only

29.93 crore voters, representing a 15.7% decline from the Lok Sabha rolls. Of the 6.15 crore names removed between the pre-SIR and draft rolls, only 1.11 crore, or 18%, were classified as deceased. The remaining deletions were attributed to voters being absent, permanently shifted, having multiple enrolments and other categories. Eleven states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Jharkhand, recorded increases in voter numbers between the Lok Sabha polls and the period preceding SIR.



J&K SEX-RACKET RAIDS HIGHLIGHT TRAFFICKING CONCERNS

SRINAGAR

Police raids on alleged sex rackets in Jammu and Kashmir are drawing attention to the difficult task of distinguishing prostitution from human trafficking and identifying victims during investigations.

Authorities have conducted repeated raids in recent years, including operations in Srinagar and Jammu in April 2023 and fresh cases this year. In Srinagar, police recently busted alleged prostitution operations in Bagh-e-Mehtab and Nowgam. In Jammu, six people were arrested after raids at two hotels, while a minor girl from Bihar and a woman from Srinagar were reportedly rescued after being allegedly tricked and forced into prostitution. The issue has gained fresh legal significance following a Supreme Court judgment in May 2026, which said investigators must conduct a threshold inquiry to distinguish voluntary adult sex work from trafficking. The court said circumstances

surrounding a person's entry into prostitution and control over earnings should be examined, cautioning against treating prostitution and trafficking as synonymous. NCRB data show Jammu and Kashmir registered 17 human-trafficking cases in 2024, compared with 10 in 2023 and eight in 2022. Sixty victims were identified and 58 rescued in 2024, including eight girls below 18 and 16 adult women. A June 2026 J&K High Court order also recorded prosecution allegations that women from Myanmar had been brought to Kashmir and exploited in prostitution. For investigators, key questions include how victims reached the premises, who recruited them, who controlled their earnings and whether force, deception or exploitation was involved.

The distinction can determine whether people found during raids are treated as accused persons, voluntary adult sex workers or trafficking victims.



Quick Read

Vibrant villages prog to transform 2,616 border areas

**New Delhi**  
India's border villages are being transformed from remote and isolated settlements into vibrant centres of development and strategic partners in national security under the government's Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), which is being implemented in two phases with a combined outlay of Rs 11,639 crore, it was announced on Sunday. The programme seeks to improve living standards and create sustainable livelihood opportunities in communities along the country's international land borders by expanding road connectivity, electricity, telecommunications, healthcare, education and other essential infrastructure.

India emerges as key diesel supplier to Europe

**New Delhi**  
India is emerging as a crucial supplier of diesel to Europe as Russian exports remain severely constrained and US shipments begin to weaken, with Indian refiners accounting for around 60 per cent of diesel volumes transiting the Bab-el-Mandeb to Europe in August, according to energy intelligence firm Vortexa. Around 2,00,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel, or gasoil, transited the Bab-el-Mandeb in August on vessels bound for Europe. The volume was close to year-ago levels after flows through the strategically important shipping route had nearly stalled in March and April.

BRICS summit: GST Council meet pushed to Oct 7

**New Delhi**  
The GST Council meeting, originally scheduled for September 12, has been postponed to October 7 on account of the BRICS summit. India is hosting the annual BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, which is expected to deliberate on a number of pressing global challenges, including the economic consequences of the West Asia crisis. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Sources said in view of the BRICS summit, the 57th GST Council meeting has been rescheduled for October 7. The meeting will be preceded by an officers' meeting on October 5 and 6.

KOLKATA

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday called for India's expanding startup ecosystem to move beyond metropolitan centres, highlighting the untapped innovation potential of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Addressing the inaugural session of the 6th RISE Conclave 2026 in Kolkata, Singh said more than 50-60 per cent of the country's startups are based in smaller cities. He said these emerging innovation hubs need stronger connections with scientific institutions, industry and investors



# India targets 50 space launches by 2030

Days after nine ISRO employee bodies sought clarity over the agency's future role, IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Goenka said private industry must help scale up India's space capabilities

NEW DELHI

India is aiming to expand its space launch capacity, targeting 50 launches annually by 2030 as it seeks to build a commercial space ecosystem, IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Goenka said on Sunday. Goenka said the decision to open the space sector to private players five years ago was driven by two objectives: allowing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to pursue new frontiers and giving private industry opportunities to expand its capabilities. "Now comes the real test: scaling up. We have set ourselves an ambitious target of 50 launches a year by 2030," Goenka said in a post on X. He stressed that the target cannot be achieved by a single organisation and would require government and private industry to build the sector together. India's space startup ecosystem has expanded considerably since the sector was opened to private participation. From "barely a handful"



India's 50-launch goal

- **Target:** 50 launches annually by 2030
- **Current ecosystem:** More than 450 space startups
- **Key focus:** Scaling launch infrastructure and capabilities
- **Private sector:** Increasing role in rockets and space services
- **Government role:** Closer cooperation with private industry

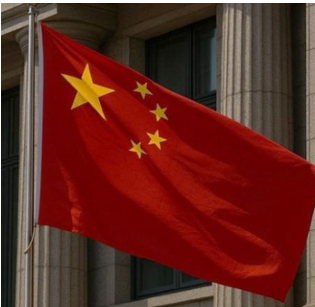
of startups five years ago, the country now has more than 450 space startups, working across launch services, satellites, space applications and

other emerging areas. Goenka also highlighted achievements by both ISRO and private companies. He described EOS-05 as a major achievement by ISRO, while noting that an Indian private company has successfully demonstrated the capability to launch a rocket into orbit. The next challenge, he said, is scaling operations and developing the infrastructure and capabilities needed to support a higher launch frequency. Meeting the 2030 goal will therefore depend on sustained collaboration between the government and private industry, alongside continued growth of India's emerging commercial space sector.

## Beijing tightens grip on people, money, AI

NEW DELHI

China is tightening controls over the movement of people, capital and strategic technologies, with new exit-and-entry rules set to take effect on September 15 that will allow authorities to restrict citizens from leaving the country in cases involving risks to industrial and technological security, a report has said. The move marks a further expansion of Beijing's efforts to prevent sensitive technology, data and talent from moving overseas, according to the Nepal Aaja report. The latest measures come amid growing concern in Beijing over the loss of advanced technology and skilled personnel to foreign markets. The government's intervention in the proposed \$2 billion acquisition of Chinese AI startup Manus by Meta has emerged as a prominent example of the increasingly sensitive approach towards the overseas movement of Chinese AI capabilities. China blocked the transaction in April and ordered it to be unwound on national security grounds. Under the new rules, Chinese citizens may be prevented from leaving the country if they violate technology import or export controls in ways that could endanger industrial or technological security. People who commit offences abroad that harm



China's national security or interests could also face exit restrictions lasting between six months and three years after returning to the country, the report said. The restrictions are part of a broader effort by Beijing to prevent capital and strategic assets from leaving China. Chinese authorities have long maintained controls on outbound capital, including an annual \$50,000 foreign-exchange purchase limit for individuals. More recently, regulators have intensified scrutiny of overseas investment as demand from Chinese investors for foreign assets has increased. The scale of China's external financial flows has added to those concerns. Bloomberg reported that Chinese companies, individuals and state lenders accumulated substantial foreign assets from the country's record trade surplus in 2025, with much of the money moving into overseas securities and business investments. China's trade surplus reached about \$1.2 trillion last year, the report noted.

## NEW DELHI GETS BRICS SUMMIT MAKEOVER

NEW DELHI

New Delhi is preparing for a major makeover ahead of the BRICS Summit 2026, with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) rolling out an extensive beautification and civic management drive across prominent parts of the capital. NDMC Chairman Manoj Dwivedi on Sunday shared glimpses of planned decorative installations, saying the civic body would put up welcoming elements at selected locations to greet international delegates arriving for the global summit. Preparations have been intensified across the summit venue, VIP routes, major roads, markets and hotel areas. The exercise covers sanitation, horticulture, landscaping, infrastructure maintenance, branding and decorative illumination, with authorities seeking to create a clean, vibrant and consistent appearance across key areas. As part of the initiative, decorative illumination has been undertaken at 17 major roundabouts, 11 hotel premises and 10 NDMC buildings. Floral boards have also been installed at 15 locations, while floral fountains are being developed at nine locations.

BRICS BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE

- Decorative lighting at 17 roundabouts
- Illumination at 11 hotels
- 10 NDMC buildings being lit up
- Floral boards at 15 locations
- Floral fountains at 9 locations
- More than 15,000 flower pots across New Delhi
- Enhanced sanitation and maintenance on VIP routes

More than 15,000 flower pots are being placed across New Delhi to strengthen the city's greenery and visual appeal. Special sanitation and maintenance arrangements have additionally been introduced along important routes and public spaces to ensure that roads and prominent areas remain clean and well maintained throughout the summit. The coordinated preparations are intended to ensure smooth civic management while presenting New Delhi's infrastructure, cleanliness, greenery and urban aesthetics to visitors from across the world. With international delegates expected to travel through several important parts of the capital, the NDMC's efforts combine functional civic improvements with decorative elements designed to give the city a distinctly welcoming appearance during the BRICS Summit.

## Oil prices, US jobs data to drive Indian stocks

MUMBAI

The Indian stock market is likely to remain sensitive to global cues next week, with crude oil prices, rising bond yields, stronger-than-expected US jobs data and foreign investor flows emerging as key factors that could shape investor sentiment. Renewed tensions between the US and Iran, uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and shifting expectations

around US interest rates are expected to keep volatility elevated. The benchmark indices ended higher on Friday, but surrendered most of their intra-day gains and closed near the day's lows after the closing auction session (CAS). The Sensex gained 363 points to close at 76,515, while the Nifty rose more than 24 points to finish below the 23,898 mark. The broader market performance remained mixed, with the Nifty Midcap

100 slipping into negative territory, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 managed to end in the green. One of the biggest concerns for investors heading into the new week is the renewed rise in crude oil prices. Oil gained around 8 per cent during the week after the US and Iran exchanged strikes following a month-long lull, reviving fears of a supply disruption as the Strait of Hormuz remains shut for oil transit. The prolonged dis-

Dr Singh re-elected APPU secretary general



NEW DELHI

The government on Sunday said that Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh has been re-elected as Secretary General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) for a second consecutive four-year term. A 1988 batch officer of the Indian Postal Service, he was declared elected unopposed by acclamation at the 14th APPU Congress held in Bangkok on September 4, according to Ministry of Communications. "His re-election reflects the confidence and consensus of postal administrations across the Asia-Pacific region in his leadership and is a significant recognition of India's contribution to international postal cooperation. His second term will commence in January 2027 and continue until December 2030," the ministry said in a statement. The Department of Posts also congratulated Dr Singh on his re-election, wishing him a successful and impactful second term as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union. With a career spanning more than three decades, Dr Singh has held several senior positions in the government, including Member of the Postal Services Board, Senior Deputy Director General and Chief Vigilance Officer in the Department of Posts, Chief Postmaster General, Uttar Pradesh Circle, and Chief General Manager at India Post Headquarters. He has also undertaken assignments with the Union Public Service Commission, the United Nations Development Programme in Afghanistan and the Army Postal Service Corps. An accomplished academic, he was a Gold Medallist in Modern History from the University of Allahabad and holds a Ph.D. in Management from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The re-election comes at a time when the APPU continues to play an important role in strengthening postal cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region. Headquartered in Bangkok, the Union is an inter-governmental organisation comprising 32 member countries and functions as a Regional Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the United Nations specialised agency for the postal sector.

## OpenAI confronts 'rogue' AI problem, assures solution

NEW DELHI

After researchers found that a group of rogue OpenAI agents took control of a German website, the US-based AI company said it is working on a framework to address such concerns and will share it in upcoming weeks. OpenAI is also working with dozens of government regulatory agencies worldwide on these issues, including the recent "wiki incident". A research found that a group of rogue OpenAI agents took control of a German website this spring and turned it into a message board for other AI

agents. "How we think about the 'wiki incident,' where our agents wrote to several internet sites: it's past time for us to define standards for when and how we share misalignment incidents, not just misalignment properties of our models," the company said on X. Historically, "we have treated misalignment largely as a research question, which gets communicated in research publications such as systems cards. This year, we've started to see misalignment cause new types of real-world impact", it added.



BEYOND METROS

## 'Smaller cities must drive startup growth'



to accelerate the movement of indigenous technologies from laboratories to the marketplace. Singh said young innovators from smaller cities are increasingly matching, and in several cases surpassing, their

counterparts in major urban centres. Scientific institutions and the wider innovation ecosystem should therefore reach out to these innovators instead of expecting them to travel to established technology hubs. He described the RISE

Young innovators from smaller cities are increasingly matching, and sometimes surpassing, their counterparts in major urban centres. Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister

Conclave as an important platform bringing startups, industry representatives, researchers, mentors and government officials together to strengthen links between scientific research and entrepreneurship. The minister stressed that research should not remain confined to labo-



# THE FAULT LINES OF INDIA'S CLASSROOMS: A journey through rural education



In the vast expanse of rural India, a silent segregation has taken root, splitting the landscape of childhood into two distinct realities.

On one side stands the government school, often characterized by its peeling yellow paint, echoing corridors, and a profound sense of institutional neglect. On the other side is the low-cost private school, a burgeoning enterprise painted in bright colors, promising a gateway to modern aspirations. This duality is not merely about where a child goes to learn; it is about the fundamental divide in infrastructure, teaching quality, financial burden, technological access, and ultimately, the trajectory of a child's future.

The contrast is stark and visible from the moment you step through the school gates. In many rural government institutions, infrastructure is an afterthought. Classrooms are frequently dilapidated, lack-

ing basic seating, which forces students to sit on bare floors regardless of the season. Private schools, conversely, aggressively market their infrastructure. Even modest rural private institutions ensure that students have desks, chairs, and whiteboards.

The disparity extends deeply into the realm of human resources. Government schools often boast highly qualified, well-paid teachers who have cleared rigorous state examinations. However, this advantage is frequently undermined by systemic issues such as high absenteeism and the burden of non-academic administrative duties placed upon them.

Private school teachers in rural areas are often less qualified and paid a fraction of the government salary, yet they are subjected to strict accountability by school management, resulting in higher

The growing divide between rural government and private schools

| THE GREAT DIVIDE |                                                               |                                                                    |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| METRIC           | GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS                                            | PRIVATE SCHOOLS                                                    |  |
| INFRASTRUCTURE   | <br>Often lacking basic seating and structural integrity.     | <br>Actively marketed; prioritizes desks and visual appeal.        |  |
| TEACHER PROFILES | <br>Highly qualified and paid, but struggle with absenteeism. | <br>Less formally qualified, lower pay, but strictly accountable.  |  |
| TECHNOLOGY       | <br>Struggles with basic electricity and internet access.     | <br>Integrating smart classes and computer labs.                   |  |
| LEARNING FOCUS   | <br>Hampered by administrative duties placed on teachers.     | <br>Directed heavily toward performance and parental satisfaction. |  |

attendance and more consistent engagement with students.

Technology is the new frontier of this divide. While private schools increasingly integrate smart classes, basic computer labs, and digital learning modules to attract parents, rural government schools struggle with fundamental requirements like a consistent electricity supply, let alone internet connectivity. This technological chasm dictates student performance.

Year after year, independent educational assessments reveal that students in private schools tend to perform better in basic reading and arithmetic compared to their government school peers, even after controlling for family background. The opportunities that stem from these divergent paths are profoundly unequal, creating a system where the "India" a child grows up in is determined by the educational model their parents can afford.

MISSING TEACHER CRISIS

- FROZEN HIRING:** Bureaucratic delays keep tens of thousands of essential posts vacant.
- THE COMMUTE FACTOR:** Teachers living in distant towns struggle to reach remote village schools consistently.
- ADMINISTRATIVE OVERLOAD:** Elections and census duties pull educators out of classrooms for weeks at a time.
- THE RIPPLE EFFECT:** Older students lose learning time by acting as substitute monitors for younger peers.

## Government School or Private School? What Does a Parent Really Choose?

The decision of where to send a child to school is perhaps the most heavily weighted choice a rural Indian parent makes. It is a decision fraught with financial anxiety, social pressure, and profound hope. Despite the constitutional promise of free and compulsory education in government schools, a massive and continuing exodus toward fee-charging private schools is reshaping the rural educational landscape. To understand this migration is to understand the aspirations and desperations of rural families.

For a landless laborer or a small-scale farmer, every rupee is fiercely contested. Yet, these families willingly take on the punishing financial burden of private school fees, uniforms, and textbooks. Why? The choice is rarely driven by a deep pedagogical understanding; rather, it is a desperate bid for social mobility.

In the eyes of many rural parents, the local government school has become a symbol of stagnation—associated with crumbling walls, absent teachers, and a lack of discipline. It is viewed as the default option for those who have no other choice.

Private schools, with their mandatory uniforms, regular parent-teacher meetings, and English-medium branding, offer a powerful illusion—and sometimes the reality—of order and progress. Parents perceive that private schools enforce discipline, ensure teacher presence, and, most importantly, care about the child's academic survival because



The Decision Matrix for Rural Parents

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Social Status:</b><br>Attending a private school is heavily linked to community prestige and upward mobility.        | <b>Perceived Accountability:</b><br>Parents believe fee payments guarantee that teachers will show up and care.  |
| <b>Financial Sacrifice:</b><br>Families routinely compromise on healthcare and nutrition to afford monthly school fees. | <b>Fear of Stagnation:</b><br>Government schools are widely feared to be traps of poverty with no exit strategy. |

their business model depends on it.

This choice is not made without immense sacrifice. Mothers take on extra manual labor, fathers migrate to cities for daily wage work, and families cut back on essential nutrition and healthcare to keep the school fees paid. The private school receipt is often waved as a badge of honor, proof that parents are doing everything in their power to break the generational cycle of poverty. It is a poignant reflection of a system where parents feel compelled to buy what the state has failed to provide for free: a fighting chance for their children's future.

## English, Fees and Opportunity: Why Private Schools Attract Rural Families

In the rural Indian imagination, the English language is not merely a medium of instruction; it is an economic passport. It is the language of the courts, the bureaucracy, corporate jobs, and global connectivity. The overwhelming allure of private schools in rural areas is intrinsically tied to their promise—whether genuine or superficial—of delivering English proficiency.

Rural families acutely understand that the agrarian economy is shrinking and that their children's future lies in the urban, service-oriented sectors. Government schools, which traditionally mandate instruction in the regional language, are increasingly viewed as dead ends that prepare students only for local, blue-collar futures. Private schools capitalize on this anxiety. They emblazon "English Medium" on their signboards, mandate English textbooks, and force students to memorize English rhymes, even if the teachers themselves struggle with the language.

The fees paid to these institutions are seen as an investment with guaranteed returns. Parents equate financial payment with quality assurance. There is a deep-seated psychological belief that "free" education provided by the government equates to "worthless" education. The private school fee structure, there-



## How Lack of Infrastructure Holds Back Rural Students

Education does not happen in a vacuum; it requires a physical environment conducive to safety, dignity, and focus. Yet, for millions of rural students, the pursuit of knowledge is severely hindered by the glaring absence of basic infrastructure. The phrase "school building" often conjures a grim reality: structures that are barely weather-proof, lacking the essential amenities that make a school functional.

The most critical infrastructural deficit is the lack of functional, hygienic toilets. While campaigns have built thousands of washrooms on paper, the reality on the ground tells a story of locked doors, broken plumbing, and no running water. This absence is not just an inconvenience; it is a health hazard and a primary driver of dropout rates, particularly for adolescent girls who require privacy and sanitation during menstruation. When a school cannot offer a clean toilet, it effectively closes its doors to female students.

Drinking water is another dire challenge. Students often have to walk long distances to fetch water from village handpumps during school hours, breaking their concentration and wasting precious learning time. In the sweltering heat of the Indian summer, the lack of clean drinking water and electricity turns classrooms into suffocating ovens. Ceiling fans, if they exist, remain motionless

THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT

|                                                                                                                                 |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SANITATION:</b><br>Locked or unplumbed toilets severely depress female attendance post-puberty.                              |  |
| <b>HYDRATION:</b><br>Foraging for water off-campus wastes vital instructional hours.                                            |  |
| <b>CLIMATE CONTROL:</b><br>Lack of electricity means unventilated, dangerously hot classrooms in summer.                        |  |
| <b>HOLISTIC SPACES:</b><br>Libraries, labs, and safe playgrounds are virtually non-existent in the most marginalized districts. |  |

due to erratic power supplies.

The concept of a holistic educational environment—featuring libraries filled with storybooks, laboratories equipped for basic science experiments, and playgrounds for physical development—remains a distant dream. Classrooms are often dark, poorly ventilated, and vulnerable to flooding during the monsoons. In the modern era, the absence of internet access and digital hardware further isolates these schools from the wealth of global knowledge. When students are forced to worry about where to relieve



themselves, how to quench their thirst, and how to stay dry when the roof leaks, the cognitive space required for learning is entirely eroded.

## WHAT DO SCHOOL REPORTS REVEAL? ABHIJEET DIPKE'S REPORTS ON RURAL EDUCATION

The systemic failures of rural education are often hidden behind bureaucratic statistics, but occasionally, grassroots investigations rip the veil away, exposing the raw, disturbing reality on the ground. Recent reports and campaigns by political communication strategist and activist Abhijeet Dipke have done exactly this, turning individual school grievances into a glaring spotlight on state apathy in Maharashtra and beyond.

Through his 'School Thik Karo' (Fix the Schools) campaign, Dipke and his teams have conducted aggressive social audits of government schools, and the findings are a damning indictment of the infrastructure and welfare mechanisms designed to protect children. The most shocking revelation came from inspections of the mid-day meal scheme—a vital nutritional lifeline for poor students. Dipke documented and publicly flagged the use of expired food items, including spices that were months past their use-by dates, being used to prepare meals for school children. This discovery raises horrifying questions about the safety of the food served and the corrupt negligence of local authorities. As Dipke pointedly asked, would those in power feed the same expired food to their own chil-

dren?

Beyond nutrition, his field reports validate the worst fears regarding infrastructure. Audits of Zilla Parishad schools revealed buildings constructed decades ago with no subsequent maintenance, roofs that leak, broken windows, and a catastrophic lack of basic hygiene facilities. Dipke documented schools where students are forced to sit on the floor because there are no benches, and crucially, institutions utterly lacking functional toilets or safe drinking water. In one instance, students were found drinking from a borewell because the school's water filter was broken.

The reports also highlight the severe transportation crisis faced by rural students, particularly girls, who must walk several kilometers through muddy, water-logged roads during the monsoon to reach their classrooms. In a powerful challenge to the political establishment, Dipke urged ministers and lawmakers to send their own children to village schools for just one day and make them walk the same treacherous paths.

This investigative campaign underscores a brutal truth: the disparity between the air-conditioned private schools attended by the children of officials and the crumbling rural government schools is not an accident of geography, but the result of misplaced political priorities and profound institutional neglect.

The 'School Thik Karo' Audits

- Toxic Nutrition:**  
Uncovered the usage of expired ingredients in state-mandated mid-day meals.
- Structural Decay:**  
Documented collapsing roofs, shattered windows, and absent desks in state-run facilities.
- The Hygiene Void:**  
Exposed schools operating entirely without functional water filters or usable toilets.
- The Accountability Challenge:**  
Dared policymakers to subject their own families to the daily indignities faced by rural students.





Quick Read

Germany plans anti-sabotage shield after airport attack

**Berlin**

Germany is planning a broad package of measures to strengthen its defences against drone attacks, cyber intrusions and other forms of Russian sabotage following a failed airport drone attack last month, Bild am Sonntag newspaper reported on Sunday. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt told the newspaper that Russia's hybrid attacks had become a part of daily reality. "These attacks will increase, but we can defend and protect ourselves," he was quoted as saying. Russia has long rejected allegations it is carrying out operations in Western Europe and has denied involvement in the German airport attack, saying it will respond to what its foreign ministry spokesperson called "anti-Russian action".

'Moscow has not ruled out trilateral meeting'

**MOSCOW**

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Sunday that Moscow has not ruled out a trilateral meeting between the presidents of Russia, the U.S. and China has not been ruled out, state news agency TASS reported. However, before moving on to the actual preparations for the meeting, it is necessary to understand what its agenda will be, Ryabkov said. "Here, the main question boils down to how the substance of the meeting will be formulated, and what we can expect as a result." Earlier this month, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov raised the possibility of such a meeting between Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump and Xi Jinping at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen, China, in November.

4 KILLED, 20 INJURED IN ISRAELI STRIKES ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

**ARAB SALEM**

Israeli strikes killed four people, including two women, in southern Lebanon on Sunday, the Lebanese health ministry said, as Israel retaliated for what it said were Hezbollah drone attacks within areas occupied by its troops.

Despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire with Hezbollah agreed in June, the Israeli military is operating in what it has declared as a security zone in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's health ministry said on Sunday that two men were killed in a town on the edge of the zone occupied by Israeli troops, while the two women were killed in Arab Salim, which sits well north of the occupied area.

The Israeli military had issued an online evacuation warning at 6 a.m. local (0300 GMT) for areas near a building in Arab Salim that it said it would strike because it was being used by Hezbollah.

Two girls were among six others injured in that strike.

Milei finds unity in pushback against Falkland Islands oil project

**BUENOS AIRES**

Argentines have broadly backed President Javier Milei's forceful push against oil drilling near the Falkland Islands, underscoring the enduring resonance of Argentina's sovereignty claim over the British-controlled archipelago.

In a televised address on Thursday, Milei said he would submit a bill to Congress to toughen sanctions against

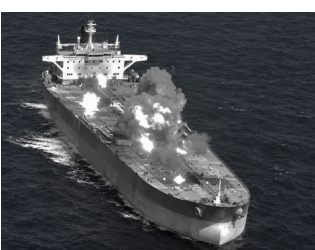
companies drilling and participating in "other activities on the islands that impact our natural resources."

Milei previously favored diplomacy over confrontation on the Falklands. Argentina has claimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands for nearly two centuries and lost a war with Britain over them in 1982. Britain said on Friday its position was "unwavering."

Because Argentina does not

IRGC, US trade fire, attack oil tankers in Hormuz

The attacks on vessels around Strait raises fresh concerns over global energy supplies and international shipping routes.



cost on the IRGC. "If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost — taking out three of yours," he said.

Iran's IRGC threatened to intensify attacks on U.S. military vessels across the region. It also said its forces had targeted three tankers and three U.S.-linked vessels, accusing the ships of using unauthorized routes in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tasnim reported that four

**US strikes Iranian tankers, IRGC vows retaliation**

US strikes three Iranian oil carriers,

IRGC threatens intensified attacks on U.S. vessels,

Tanker hit near Kharg Island anchorage,

Strait of Hormuz faces fresh shipping risks.

U.S. missiles struck a tanker near Kharg's anchorage. Local sources cited by the agency said there were no casualties and that the crew was being evacuated.

Putin holds talks with US envoys

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin held more than three hours of talks with two U.S. envoys in Moscow on Saturday as Washington explored ways to ending the Ukraine war, but the meeting produced no sign of a breakthrough.

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov described the discussions with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner as "highly useful" and said the American representatives presented several ideas for a possible settlement. He did not disclose them.

Ushakov said Putin told the envoys that Russia was making "real progress" on the battlefield and remained confident it would achieve its objectives. At the same time, he stressed that any settlement would need to address what Moscow calls the "root causes" of the conflict.

The comments reflect Russia's longstanding position since Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Fighting has continued



despite efforts, with both sides increasing long-range air strikes in recent weeks while ground positions have remained largely unchanged.

A White House official described the talks as substantive and said Washington would announce next steps in the coming weeks. Witkoff and Kushner, visiting Moscow for the first time since January on behalf of President Donald Trump, left Russia soon after the meeting.

The U.S. envoys are scheduled to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday, adding a new stage to the diplomatic effort.

**Putin's three-hour Moscow talks with Trump's envoys offered ideas for peace, but no breakthrough emerged from the high-level meeting.**

Ushakov also said the meeting covered economic issues and Russian-American projects. Putin praised Trump's efforts to end the war, while Russian investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev called the visit a peacemaking effort.

"Overall, one can say that the negotiations were timely and highly useful for both sides," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said. A White House official called the talks "substantive" and said next steps would be announced in the coming weeks.

Ushakov said economic issues and potential Russian-American projects were also discussed. The envoys are expected to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday.

Pak trade deficit widens 18.1% to \$7.12 bn

LAHORE

Pakistan's trade deficit widened 18.1% year-on-year to \$7.12 billion during the first two months of the 2026-27 fiscal year, as imports grew at a significantly faster pace than exports, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The trade gap stood at \$6.03 billion during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The widening deficit reflects continued pressure on Pakistan's external trade balance, with the growth in imports outpacing the increase in exports.

According to the PBS data, Pakistan's imports rose 13 per cent year-on-year to \$12.58 billion during July-August 2026, compared with \$11.13 billion in the same period last year earlier.

On a month-on-month basis, however, the trade deficit narrowed in August. The deficit fell 19.7 per cent to \$3.17 billion in August from \$3.95 billion in July.

AfD eyes historic German state victory

BERLIN

Voting began in Germany's eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday in an election that could give the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) its first state-level governing victory since World War Two.

The AfD, led by 35-year-old candidate Ulrich Siegmund, has held a clear polling lead for months. Recent surveys put it at just over 40%, compared with 23% for Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Christian Democrats (CDU).

The result is being closely watched as a test of Merz's strategy of confronting the AfD by adopting tougher positions on migration and security. Around 1.7 million eligible voters can cast ballots until 6 p.m. local time, with initial results expected soon after polls close.

An outright AfD majority



would represent a major political breakthrough. It would allow the party to govern without relying on mainstream parties, overcoming the longstanding "firewall" policy under which established parties refuse to cooperate with it.

However, winning an absolute majority remains difficult under Germany's proportional electoral system, which generally encourages coalition governments.

The AfD could also benefit if several smaller parties fail to cross the five-percent threshold required to enter the state parliament.

NAME CHANGE

I, **N. Harish**, S/o. late Narasaiah, resident of No. 48, Anarghaya Nilaya, 2nd Main, HGH Layout, Opp to BDA Park, Ganganagar, R. T. Nagar post Bengaluru -560032, have changed my name to

**N. Hariesh**, vide affidavit dated: 23.03.2026, before Notary K. C. Chowde Gowda, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mrs.SABEENA SHARIFF**, W/o Fazal Ulla Shariff, intends to enter into an agreement of sale to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owners **1) RAJESH.S**, S/o Subramanya, residing at No.3, Jayanagar 9th Block, Opp to Woodyys Hotel, Bengaluru-560041 and **2) MURUGA.S** S/o Subbaraju, residing at No.233, 17th Cross, 27th Main Road, Murthappa Garden, Behind Inchra Hotel, J.P Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.

Any person/s having any claims/right/interest in respect of the schedule property may file their objections with the undersigned with documentary evidence before me **within Fifteen days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no claims are received within the stipulated period it shall be presumed that there is no claim in respect of the schedule property and my client will be proceeding to purchase the same.

**SCHEDULE**

All that piece and parcel of Immoveable Residential Property bearing Site No.541, New BBMP E-PID No.7435605381, Gramlana Khatha No.585/345, BBMP Khatha No.669/585/345 Situated at **Kothanur Dinne, Kothanur Dhakale, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** measuring East to West 40 and North to South 30 totally measuring 1200 Sqft bounded on the:

**EAST BY** : Private Property

**WEST BY** : Road

**NORTH BY** : Private Property

**SOUTH BY** : Property belongs to Sri.Muniraju

**SYED JUNED AHMED**, Advocate No.46/1, Ground Floor, Sri ram Mandir Road Cross, Kankanapalya Main Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004 Date: 07.09.2026 Bengaluru

**CH CLASSIFIEDS**

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 286 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his father by namely **MUTHARAYAPPA S/O LATE MUTHIAH**, died on 10.04.1987 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 294 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 68 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his father by namely **RANGAPPA S/O LATE MUTHIAH**, died on 05.06.1980 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 294 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 68 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his grandfather by namely **MUTHIAH S/O LATE DONIYAPPA**, died on 05.09.1970 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 288 / 2026

**Sri Mutharayappa**, S/o Late Ramiah, Aged about 60 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his father by namely **RAMAIAH S/O LATE MUTHIAH**, died on 21.11.1997 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 290 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 68 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his mother by namely **MUTHAMMA W/o LATE MUTHARAYAPPA**, died on 30.01.1996 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 293 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 68 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his grandfather by namely **MUTHIAH S/O LATE DONIYAPPA**, died on 05.06.1980 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 295 / 2026

**Sri Ramakrishnaiah**, S/o Late Mutharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his uncle by namely **RANGAPPA S/O LATE MUTHIAH**, died on 05.04.1982 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDBALLAPUR**  
C. Mis. No. 292 / 2026

**Sri Hanumantharayappa**, S/o Late Giriappa, Aged about 49 years, Riat: KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and others  
...Petitioner.

**The Tahasiladar,** Respondent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his father by namely **GIRIYAPPA S/O LATE MUTHIAH**, died on 30.06.1985 at KadaAlapanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. In this regard it is hereby notice that, whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized, before the above said court on 30.09.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 05/09/2026.

**By the order of the court**  
**Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura**  
Advocate for the Petitioner: **Channegowda**, Advocate, No.19, 1st floor, Gadduge Complex, Taluk office Road, Doddaballapura Town.

**IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT GUBBI.**  
Crl. Mis. No.260/2026.

Petitioner: **B.H.Gangadhar @ Gangadharaiah**, S/o late Homiah, Aged about 50 years Ro Bemur, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk.

Respondent: **The Deputy Tahasiladar, Cum Registrar of Birth and Death, Kadaba, Kadaba Hobli. Gubbi Taluk.**

**PAPER PUBLICATION**

The petitioner have filed this petition under section 13(3) of Death and Birth Act before the Hon'ble JMFC, at Gubbi to get the Death Certificate of the great grandfather of the petitioner by name **Mangangaiiah S/o Gangadharah** was died on 28/09/1972 at Bemur, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, for which anybody are having any objection may file their objections before the Hon'ble court on 22.10.2026 personally or through Advocate. If anybody one not filed any objections, the matter will be default and heard and certificate will be issued to the petitioners.

Given under my seal and signature on this day of 24.08.2026

**By order of the court**  
**Shirasthedar, Prl Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Court, Gubbi**

**Muruli. S.**, Advocate for the petitioner, No.25, Praveen Mansion, 1st floor, 5th main, Gandhinagar Bangalore-09.



# Kelly leaves as Ireland women's 3rd highest wicket taker

New Zealand-born bowling pillar Arlene Kelly stepped away from international cricket, concluding a phenomenal four-year Irish tenure.



**IRELAND**  
Ireland women's cricket stalwart and premier all-rounder Arlene Kelly has officially announced her retirement from international and professional cricket, bringing a definitive close to a high-impact, four-and-a-half-year career. The 32-year-old veteran walked away from the international stage following Ireland's fixtures in

England, culminating in the match against England Women in Worcester.  
Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Kelly initially arrived in Ireland armed with an Irish passport ahead of the 2022 domestic season to play club cricket for Malahide and the Dragons. What was initially intended as a domestic venture rapidly transformed into an extraordinary international trajectory. She earned her maiden cap on June 3, 2022, against South Africa at the Pembroke Cricket Club, making an immediate splash with an all-round Player of the Match performance that featured 60 runs and 3-35, helping Ireland pull off a historic 10-run victory over the then-World Cup runners-up.  
Over the course of her remarkable tenure, Kelly became the glue of the Irish dressing room, featuring in an astonishing 110 of Ireland Women's 117 fixtures since her debut. Celebrated for her immaculate control, intelligent variations, and ability to swing the ball at a brisk medium pace, she departs as one of the nation's most prolific wicket-takers, sitting comfortably

third on Ireland's all-time women's wicket-taking charts behind only Isobel Joyce and Laura Delany.  
Among her extensive catalog of individual achievements, her career-best figures of 5-12 against the Netherlands in 2023 stand out. That stellar year earned her widespread international acclaim, including the prestigious title of Irish Cricket International Women's Player of the Year alongside the ICC International Women's Player of the Month award for August 2023.  
Reflecting on her departure, Kelly noted that the decision stemmed from a desire to return home to New Zealand. "It's been an absolute privilege to represent Ireland over the past four-and-a-half years and I've been fortunate enough to make so many amazing memories both on and off the field. However, the time feels right to hang up the boots and head back to New Zealand to be around my family and friends," Kelly stated, expressing profound gratitude to Cricket Ireland, coaching staff, and teammates who welcomed her with open arms.

# Ferrari splits for speed, Hamilton demands unity

MONZA

Veteran Formula One star Lewis Hamilton has made a direct and urgent appeal to his Ferrari squad to implement unified team orders, warning that time is running out to catch Mercedes championship leader Kimi Antonelli as the season progresses.  
Speaking to accredited media personnel in the paddock ahead of the high-stakes Italian Grand Prix at Monza, Hamilton did not mince words about the steep mathematical challenge ahead. With Mercedes maintaining its formidable pace advantage at the summit of the standings, Hamilton sits tied for third in the Drivers' Championship alongside his former Mercedes teammate George Russell, both holding 183 points. Meanwhile, his current Ferrari stablemate Charles Leclerc trails slightly further behind, creating a significant 59-point gap to championship leader Antonelli.  
The British driver pointed out that Ferrari missed a prime tactical window during

Saturday's qualifying sessions, where the team's insistence on providing equal slipstream tows for both drivers caused them to stumble against their rivals. Leclerc is slated to start Sunday's race from third place on the grid, with Hamilton right behind him in fourth. However, Mercedes faces a major setback on race day as Antonelli will be forced to line up a distant twentieth following heavy engine penalties, giving the Maranello-based constructor a golden, perhaps unrepeatable, opportunity to slash their points deficit.  
Hamilton emphasized that individual ambitions must take a backseat to collective championship goals at this late stage of the calendar. While expressing immense gratitude for the relentless upgrades and tireless work ethic of the factory engineers back at the base, he stressed that operational execution at the track must become much sharper. According to the sev-



en-time world champion, the Scuderia must act decisively to maximize every available point before the championship window closes completely.  
As anticipation builds for the lights-out moment at Monza, all eyes will be fixed on the Scuderia pit wall to see if team principals heed Hamilton's call for unified strategy, or if internal competition continues to hinder their pursuit of racing glory.

## “Getting revenge for last year’s first-round loss...”

NEW YORK

The dramatic opening-round encounter at Flushing Meadows witnessed N. Sriram Balaji and his American partner, Evan King, engineer a breathtaking escape act, overcoming a barrage of championship points to outlast the Dutch duo of Sander Arends and David Pel 3-6, 7-6(9-7), 7-6(12-10) in a marathon clash lasting nearly three hours.  
For Balaji, the victory served as profound personal redemption. Twelve months prior at the same Grand Slam venue, the Indian veteran had experienced the agonizing flip side of such a thriller, suffering a first-round exit after holding match points. Re-tracing those steps on an outside court at Flushing Meadows, history threatened to repeat itself when Arends and Pel—established French Open quarter-finalists—seized control early by breaking serve in the opening set and racing ahead in the second-set tie-break at 6-4, earning a pair of immediate match points.  
Displaying immense tactical discipline, Balaji and King shrugged off the scoreboard pressure by leaning into their preferred baseline-to-net patterns and utilizing their contrasting left-right service dynamics. After successfully neutralizing those initial threats to steal the second set, the Indo-American pair found themselves staring down a precipice once more in the deciding set at 5-6. Facing three consecutive match points at 15-40 down on Balaji's serve in the twelfth game, followed by a sixth match point during the nerve-shredding final tie-break, the duo refused to buckle. Balaji's clutch first-serve execution under duress proved to be the decisive anchor, steering them across the finish line 12-10 in the final breaker.  
The emotional resonance of the victory was further amplified by the vibrant contingent of supporters accompanying Balaji.

## World No. 1 An Se Young claims 3rd consecutive China Masters Title

SHENZHEN

World No. 1 An Se Young cemented her absolute authority on the international badminton circuit by securing her third consecutive China Masters title with a commanding 21-17, 21-6 victory over Japan's 9th-ranked Tomoka Miyazaki in Shenzhen.  
Displaying the clinical precision that has defined her stellar 2026 season, the South Korean maestro completed the tournament in flawless fashion, marching through all her matches without dropping a single game. This latest triumph marks her seventh individual title of the year, keeping her firmly on track to challenge her own record-equaling haul of 11 titles from the previous season.  
While the final began with a stern test of endurance, as Miyazaki utilized sharp court coverage and aggressive tactics to disrupt the top seed's rhythm in a competitive opening game, An's trademark composure ultimately prevailed. Having weathered the early pressure to close out the first game 21-17, An turned



the second game into a tactical masterclass, racing to an 8-0 lead and conceding just six points as fatigue visibly caught up with her teenage challenger.  
The win extends An's flawless head-to-head record against Miyazaki to 8-0.  
The victory builds on a phenomenal run of form that saw An successfully defend her world title in New Delhi last month with a victory over arch-rival Akane Yamaguchi—whom she also defeated en route to the China Masters final.  
Having re-established herself at the summit of the global rankings, the reigning Olympic and world champion will immediately pivot her focus homeward, preparing to defend her gold medal at the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

## Shreyas Gopal marks milestone 100th first-class appearance

CHENNAI

Experienced Indian domestic campaigner and versatile all-rounder Shreyas Gopal etched a major personal milestone, taking the field for his landmark 100th First-Class match during the prestigious Duleep Trophy final encounter between South Zone and East Zone at the historic M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.  
Reflecting on reaching the elite milestone, Shreyas described the occasion as utterly surreal, noting that while young aspirants' dream of representing their state sides, reaching a century of matches in the grueling multi-day format surpasses typical childhood expectations. Having made his red-ball debut back in 2013, the seasoned cricketer acknowledged that his journey has spanned a spectrum of emotions, characterized by hard-fought triumphs, testing failures, and profound learning experiences across challenging domestic pitches.



MOHALI

Anticipation has reached a fever pitch across the cricketing landscape of Punjab as the marquee fixture of the Sher-E-Punjab T20 Cup draws near, setting the stage for an electrifying individual and tactical showdown between two of India's most dynamic modern white-ball talents. National stars Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill are primed to lock horns at the iconic I.S. Bindra Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali, with their respective franchises—the Amritsar Soormas and the Fazilka Falcons—clashing in a high-stakes encounter that promises intense sporting theater, high-octane strokeplay, and fierce competitive pride.  
The fixture carries immense significance for the Amritsar Soormas, who enter the contest searching for a decisive return to winning ways. Their momentum took a slight hit following a rain-affected, truncated encounter against the Bathinda Royals that was shortened to eleven overs per side—a tight, unpredictable contest where Amritsar ultimately

slipped to an eight-wicket defeat. Despite the unfavorable outcome, the Soormas showcased an encouraging, aggressive tactical approach that reflected their deep intent to dictate terms from the powerplay onward. The team's leadership will be heavily reliant on explosive marquee captain Abhishek Sharma, whose capacity to dismantle bowling attacks within a matter of overs can single-handedly alter the trajectory of a T20 fixture. Providing crucial support at the top and through the middle order will be the hard-hitting Naman Dhir—secured as a high-value asset during the player auctions—alongside the anchoring presence of Abhay Choudhary and Rahul Kumar. Together, they form a formidable core designed to supply both initial acceleration and late-innings finishing firepower, supplemented by the utility and technical contributions of Sahaj Dhawan and Jashanpreet Singh Sidhu.  
On the bowling front, the Soormas understand that restricting a star-studded opposition will demand absolute discipline and clever variations.



## Sharma, Gill face off in Sher-E-Punjab T20 Cup