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SIR stir: 'Modi-Shah can't stop us'

Opposition MPs of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc decided to hold a sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday to raise the issue of 'vote chori' and seek the ouster of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

However, the buses were stopped by a multi-layered security cordon on Ashoka Road after travelling a kilometre, near the Shangri-La hotel, barely another kilometre away from the protest site.

Later, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi were forcibly removed from the protest site along with other MPs and leaders.

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were forcibly removed on Wednesday by police and were detained after they along with other leaders staged a sit-in at the roundabout near Shangri-La hotel in central Delhi.

Gandhi and other MPs and leaders were headed in buses to the Jantar Mantar protest site after they were stopped by the police from proceeding further.

They staged a sit in at the roundabout itself, with Priyanka Gandhi lying on the road along with other women leaders, while carrying a copy of the Constitution.

Security personnel gathered

This is a fight to protect the most sacred thing in this country. There is nothing that Narendra Modi and Amit Shah can do that will stop us.

- Rahul Gandhi, LoP in Lok Sabha

in large numbers at the site and they first forcibly removed Rahul Gandhi, and put him inside a police bus after carrying him on their shoulders.

Some of the Congress leaders including Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Udai Bhanu Chib alighted atop the bus carrying Rahul Gandhi, while Muntaz Patel sat on its bonnet. A large posse of women police personnel then started removing Priyanka Gandhi and other women who were lying on the road.

They were forcibly removed and put into buses and were taken away from the site. Opposition MPs earlier held a lunch meeting at a restaurant in central Delhi, from where they



Every FIR is a medal on my chest: RaGa

New Delhi: In a significant political development on Wednesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said every FIR is a "medal on my chest". Asserting that he would continue to fight to protect the Constitution, he said there are 45 FIRs against him and his target is 100. Asked about an FIR being registered against him for entering the Akashvani Bhawan premises and staging an eight-hour sit-in there that FIRs are like medals for him. He also said there is nothing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah can do that will stop them. "We are not going to stop protesting till Gyanesh Kumar resigns. This is a fight to protect the most sacred thing in this country. There is nothing that Narendra Modi and Amit Shah can do that will stop us," Gandhi said in a post on X.

Chaos mar Oppn demonstration

Climbing the bus

When Delhi Police personnel intercepted the opposition leaders en route to Jantar Mantar, prominent Congress MPs—including Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Deepender Singh Hooda, Imran Pratapgarhi, and Imran Masood—climbed onto the roof of one of the vehicles.

Chaos and detentions

The stand-off escalated as Delhi Police deployed heavy security and enforced Section 163 of the BNSS. Prominent figures like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were forcibly detained. During the friction, Congress workers reportedly punctured the tyres of one of the police buses carrying the detained MPs.

headed to the Jantar Mantar protest site in buses. Several other opposition MPs were also detained.

Congress leader Pawan Khara said on X, "Since Delhi Police under Amit Shah is not allowing us to protest any-

where in the capital, all buses carrying MPs of opposition parties are now moving to Jantar Mantar - the designated spot for peaceful protests. Article 19 gives us our Constitutional right to democratic protest."

'BJP should not go to this level': DKS on detention of Rahul, Priyanka

BENGALURU

Following the detention of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other INDIA bloc MPs during a protest in the national capital, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has come out strongly in their support, saying they are "fighting for the younger generation".

He slammed the BJP, alleging voter roll manipulation in Karnataka and urging them to contest elections fairly.

Rallying behind the Gandhi siblings, the CM said, "Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are fighting for the younger generation... See, this is a democratic world... The way they are trying to delete votes in my state, I am ashamed. BJP should not go to this level. We should win the election in a general way, earning the hearts of the people of the country. The entire nation, in fact, all the voters, have been worried about this issue... My vote is my right... I think today we all should stand by him."

Taking a swipe at PM Modi, Shivakumar questioned whether the actions were taking place with the knowledge of the Prime Minister. "I don't know whether the Prime Minister knows about it. Without the consent of the Prime Minister, I think they would not go to this level," he added.



Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are fighting for the younger generation... See, this is a democratic world and the way they are trying to delete votes in my state, I am ashamed.

- DK Shivakumar, CM

Follow due process to remove EC chief: Ashoka

Chitradurga: Opposition Leader R Ashoka on Wednesday said the chairman of the Election Commission could not be removed through street protests and that constitutional procedures must be followed. Speaking after participating in the BJP's Seva Yatri Yatra organised to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public life, Ashoka said the removal of the head of an independent constitutional institution involved a lengthy parliamentary process, including establishing a majority and seeking the President's approval. "Just because I shout on the street that corruption has increased, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar cannot be removed. Proper procedures must be followed in everything," he said.

Protest and detention

His remarks came after INDIA bloc leaders marched towards Nirvachan Sadan to protest against the EC and CEC Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. After being stopped by barricades and staging a sit-in at Akashvani Bhawan, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and numerous other opposition MPs were detained by Delhi police.



1 killed, 8 rescued as 5-storey building collapses in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: One person died after a five-storey residential building collapsed in Delhi's Seemapuri area on Wednesday afternoon, prompting a joint rescue operation by the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

The building, constructed on a plot of approximately 25 square yards, collapsed and partially damaged two adjoining buildings. A minor's body was recovered by the rescue team from under the debris, police confirmed.

Eight injured persons, including a child aged around

three years, have been rescued from the affected area while some are feared trapped.

The injured are being treated at the GTB Hospital emergency department, which is currently operational at the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital campus. The Delhi Fire Service received a call about the building collapse at around 3:30 pm and rushed four fire tenders to the spot.

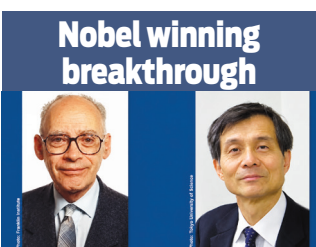
This comes a month after a boys' PG in Delhi's Satya Niketan collapsed on September 6 while repair work was underway. Seven people were killed and several others were injured in the incident.

Kagan-Soai win Nobel Prize in chemistry

STOCKHOLM: The 2026 Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to Henri B Kagan and Kenso Soai for groundbreaking work in the field of asymmetric chemistry – unraveling the mystery of how molecules exist in non-identical mirror images of each other.

The pair share the 12 million Swedish kronor (\$1.2 million) chemistry prize announced Wednesday at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

Their work hinges on the concept of chirality: that the structure of molecules can be a mirror image of each other, a little like our hands. In nature, most molecules almost always



Nobel winning breakthrough
Henri B Kagan and Kenso Soai solved a century-old mystery in chemistry regarding homochirality—how biological molecules (like amino acids) spontaneously form in only one mirror-image "handedness" rather than a 50/50 mix.

only occur in one variety – a phenomenon known as homochirality, which has long puzzled scientists.

"Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai have provided a solution to

a chemical mystery that is over a century old: how homochirality can emerge spontaneously. The chemical reactions they have developed are spectacular," said Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry in a statement. In the early 1980s, Kagan found ways to manipulate chemical reactions with different types of catalysts, allowing scientists to produce a greater excess of one of the mirror image molecules.

Soai built on this work by designing a chemical reaction in which only one of two possible images was formed. "Other than life itself, no one had previously achieved this feat," said the Nobel committee.

After months of row, CJI to attend NLSIU convocation on Oct 17

New Delhi: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant will attend the 34th annual convocation of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, on October 17, as per reports.

The development comes over a month after the university cancelled its originally scheduled convocation amid a controversy over the CJI's proposed participation.

NLSIU had initially scheduled its convocation for September 12. However, on August 27, the university an-

nounced that the ceremony would not be held, citing "unavoidable circumstances". It said graduating students would instead be awarded their degrees in absentia.

The cancellation came after more than 700 students and alumni opposed the proposed participation of CJI Surya Kant and Bar Council of

India (BCI) Chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra in the ceremony. The university said graduating students would have the option of receiving their degrees either in person or in absentia.



QUICK READ

Abe Memorial Corridor in Varanasi to honour late Shinzo Abe

VARANASI
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Abe Memorial Corridor' at the Rudraksh Convention Center in Varanasi, dedicating the space to the memory of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his enduring contribution to India-Japan ties. Abe's wife, Akie Abe, attended the ceremony, which highlighted the longstanding cultural and diplomatic links between the two countries. The inauguration comes as India and Japan seek to deepen their partnership beyond traditional cultural exchanges, with Varanasi's historic ties with Kyoto serving as an important symbol of the relationship. The corridor is intended to commemorate Abe's special friendship with India and underscore the shared heritage of the two countries.

What about TN voter deletions? DMK slams Rahul's SIR 'duplicity'

CHENNAI
The DMK on Wednesday renewed its demand that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi break his "silence" on alleged large-scale voter deletions in Tamil Nadu, citing a media report that it said showed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise had significantly affected the outcome of the 2026 Assembly election. In a post on X, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai drew a contrast with Gandhi's remarks on Bihar, where he had alleged that elections were "stolen". Annadurai's comments came a day after INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, marched from Parliament to the Election Commission office in Delhi and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the SIR process.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday invoked the bravery of Captain Smit Machchhar while speaking about India's growing capabilities, saying a time would come when the world would talk about aircraft made in India.

Addressing the Seva Bharat event as part of the Seva Sankalp Yatra, organised to mark his 25 years in public service as the head of government, Modi reflected on his journey, noted the lessons he learnt and renewed his resolve for 'Viksit Bharat 2047.' He hailed Indian pilot Smit Machchhar and batted for 'Made in India' planes.

"Today there is a talk about the Indian pilot across the globe. A day will come and indeed it will, when the world will speak of 'Made-in-India' plane. These goals can only be achieved if we formulate vi-

FROM INDIAN PILOTS TO INDIAN AIRCRAFT

Modi hails pilot Smit, sets tone for 'Made-in-India' planes

Modi completes 25 years as head of govt



Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 25 years as head of the government on Wednesday. He marked the day by offering prayers at Shri Vinayaka Mandir in New Delhi's Sarojini Nagar. It was October 7, 2001, when he first took oath as Gujarat Chief Minister. The BJP had organised a Seva Sankalp Yatra to mark the PM's 25 years in public service on September 17. After covering several parts of the country, it culminated at two places closely associated with Modi's life and spiritual heritage - in Vadnagar and Varanasi. In Varanasi, Seva Yatris culminated their journey with Jalabhishek at the Kashi Vishwanath Dham. In Vadnagar, it concluded at the historic Hatkeshwar Mahadev Mandir, a place of special significance in Modi's life.

decades ago, the PM recalled taking the oath of office for the first time without having previously held an elected post.

"I express my gratitude to all of you and to all my fellow countrymen. When I took the oath as the Chief Minister of

Gujarat on 7 October 2001, I never imagined that this milestone would also come. Today, I have completed 25 years of continuously serving as head of the government," he remarked.

Reiterating that public trust has been the guiding force of his

PM's statement in a nutshell

➤ **Insolence & Inspiration:** PM Modi invoked the bravery of Flydubai pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who was praised globally for thwarting an in-flight hijacking and saving over 170 lives.

➤ **Aviation ambition:** He stated that just as Indian pilots are making global headlines today, the world will soon recognize and discuss aircraft manufactured within India.

➤ **Industrial push:** The statement builds upon recent domestic milestones, including the launch of the Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodara—India's first private-sector final assembly line for C-295 military transport aircraft—and ongoing plans for indigenous civil aircraft development.

governance model, he said: "Wherever I am today, whatever position I hold, the greatest contribution belongs to the people. The trust of millions of Indians and the hard work of countless party workers have always been my greatest strength."

ED arrests suspended KPSC chairman, member

The agency’s action follows allegations of bribe demands, paper leaks and OMR manipulation in veterinary officer recruitment.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested suspended Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) chairman Shivashankarappa S Sahukar and member B V Geetha in connection with a money laundering probe into alleged examination irregularities, officials said on Wednesday.

The two were arrested on October 6 under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), according to ED officials.

“The arrests have been made under the provisions of the PMLA in connection with the money laundering investigation arising from the alleged examination irregularities,” an ED official said.

The agency’s case is based on multiple FIRs registered by Karnataka Police over alleged irregularities in the KPSC examination conducted for recruitment of 400 veterinary officers.



The ED had earlier arrested former KPSC Controller of Examinations and IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar and alleged middleman Basavaraj Kannale in connection with the case.

According to the agency, some alleged middlemen contacted candidates, including the complainant, and demanded bribes ranging from Rs 70

lakh to Rs 80 lakh per candidate for selection.

The investigation is also examining allegations of question paper leaks, tampering with OMR answer sheets and alleged facilitation of the selection of relatives of KPSC officials.

The latest arrests come as the central agency continues to investigate the alleged fi-

KPSC exam scam probe

- **Recruitment under probe:** 400 veterinary officer posts
- **Arrested:** Shivashankarappa S Sahukar, B V Geetha
- **Earlier arrests:** Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, Basavaraj Kannale
- **Alleged bribe:** Rs 70–80 lakh per candidate

ancial transactions and wider network linked to the recruitment process. The ED is examining the money trail arising from the alleged bribe demands and other irregularities.

The KPSC recruitment process for veterinary officers has come under scrutiny following allegations of malpractice. The ED is expected to question the arrested officials as part of its investigation and establish the role of various persons allegedly connected to the case.

GE Aerospace ships four more engines for Tejas Mk-1A

4 engines in the latest shipment	7 engines sent in two months	10 of the 99 contracted engines received by HAL	25+ Tejas airframes ready
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CH NEWS, BENGALURU

U.S.-based GE Aerospace has shipped four F404-IN20 engines to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A, the company announced on Wednesday.

“We remain focused on delivering the engines needed to power India’s Tejas indigenous fighter jets. We are proud to partner with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Indian Air Force,” a GE Aerospace spokesperson said.

The latest shipment takes the number of F404-IN20 engines sent by GE Aerospace to HAL in the past two months to seven. GE Aerospace is contracted to supply 99 engines to HAL, which has now received 10 engines, including the latest consignment.

The supply of engines is significant as HAL has at least 25 Tejas airframes ready and is awaiting further engine deliveries. Delays in receiving the F404 engines have affected the production and delivery schedule of the LCA Mk-



GE Aerospace has shipped four F404-IN20 engines to HAL, taking deliveries in the past two months to seven.

1A aircraft.

The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000-crore contract with HAL in February 2021 for 83 Tejas Mk-1A aircraft for the Indian Air Force. The order comprises 73 fighter aircraft and 10 trainer aircraft, with deliveries originally scheduled over eight years.

However, HAL has not yet delivered a Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft to the IAF. The delay has come under scrutiny amid concerns over the declining strength of the Air Force’s fighter squadrons.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh had re-

cently said delays in the induction of the Tejas Mk-1A were affecting the IAF.

The issue was also raised by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his September visit to Bengaluru. He called for realistic timelines for defence projects, warning that delays could create gaps in meeting critical defence requirements, increase costs and raise the risk of technology becoming obsolete.

The latest engine shipments are expected to support HAL’s efforts to accelerate production of the indigenous fighter aircraft.

Quick Read

Rain, construction turn Chandapura junction into traffic nightmare

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Waterlogging, ongoing construction and heavy vehicle movement have turned Chandapura junction on NH44 into a major traffic bottleneck, causing prolonged delays between Chandapura, Bommasandra and Attibele. Construction near the Old Chandapura Railway Bridge has reduced road space, while dug-up roadside sections and poor drainage have worsened the situation.

Heavy rain recently caused waterlogging, with pedestrians reportedly falling while crossing the stretch. Though the water receded, congestion continued. Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar said he was stuck for nearly 50 minutes without moving while returning from Puducherry. Anekal MLA B Shivanna urged NHAI officials and the contractor to coordinate and execute the works systematically.



Rain damage pushes up vegetable prices

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Vegetable and leafy green prices have risen sharply in Bengaluru following rain-related crop damage and reduced supplies. Tomatoes have increased from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 per kg, beans to Rs. 120 and cucumber to Rs. 44-45. Country coriander is selling at Rs. 130, while spinach costs Rs. 90 per kg. Garlic remains expensive at Rs. 320. Farmers said sudden showers damaged crops and caused rotting, while below-normal rainfall and high temperatures also affected production. Meanwhile, flower growers in Bengaluru Rural are facing a price crash due to weak demand during Pitru Paksha. Chrysanthemum prices have fallen from Rs. 400 to Rs. 30-40 per kg, while marigold is down to Rs. 5-10.

Yeshwanthpur Dasara-2026 to be celebrated on Mysuru Dasara lines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Yeshwanthpur Dasara-2026 will be celebrated on a grand scale for 11 days in the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency, on the lines of Mysuru Dasara, said MLA S.T. Somashekar.

Speaking at a preparatory meeting held at the playground in Kengeri Satellite Town, Somashekar said the celebrations were being organised for the convenience of residents, particularly those from rural areas who may not be able to travel to Mysuru with their families to witness the festivities.

The event will be organised at the Kengeri Satellite Town playground and will provide families from all 17 gram panchayats and 12 wards of the constituency an opportunity to participate in the celebrations.

The festivities will begin on October 11 with prayers and floral offerings to Goddess Chamundeshwari. Eminent personalities from the constituency will inaugurate the celebrations. Stalls will also be provided for local farmers to display and sell their agricultural produce.

The 11-day programme will include Raitha Dasara, a wrestling competition, Raitha Ratna awards, cultural programmes, a children’s drawing competition and Women’s Dasara. Yuva Dasara will feature dance performances, a Yuva Raja-Yuva Rani fashion show and a short-reels competition.

A musical evening featur-

For residents who may not be able to travel to Mysuru

ing composer Arjun Janya is scheduled for October 18, while a job fair and body-builder show will be held on October 19.

The celebrations will culminate on October 21 with a grand procession of Goddess Chamundeshwari. The deity will be placed on an ambari and taken from Sheerke Apartments to Ganesh Playground, accompanied by various cultural troupes.

Kengeri Police Inspector Jagadish said precautionary measures would be taken to ensure public safety and prevent untoward incidents during the festivities.

POWER TRANSFORMER BLASTS

Transformer blasts injure five in Bengaluru



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Five people were injured in two separate transformer blast incidents reported in eastern Bengaluru within 24 hours, police said on Wednesday. A bike was also damaged in one of the incidents.

The first blast occurred between 12.30 pm and 1 pm on Tuesday near a Coca-Cola godown in Benniganahalli. Four people — Narayan, Azeem Pasha, Chethan and Lakshmi, aged between 20 and 50 — sustained injuries. They are from different parts of Bengaluru and are undergoing treatment at a hospital.

A bike was damaged in the incident, following which the Ramamurthynagar police launched an investigation.

The second incident was reported around 9.50 am on Wednesday near Bagalur Cross. Mohammed Afroz sus-

tained injuries in the blast and was shifted to a hospital for treatment.

A video of the Bagalur incident has gone viral on social media. The footage shows people walking along the footpath near the transformer when it suddenly exploded. A preliminary suspicion is that the blast may have been caused by a short circuit.

The Yelahanka New Town police are investigating the Bagalur incident, while the Ramamurthynagar police are probing the Benniganahalli blast. Officials are examining the transformers and the surrounding area as part of the investigation.

“We are investigating the circumstances leading to the transformer blast and examining whether a short circuit or another electrical fault caused the incident,” a police official said.

BMRCL seeks global firms for Namma Metro Phase-3 consultancy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than two years after receiving approval, Namma Metro Phase-3 has moved ahead with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) inviting Indian and international consultancy firms to provide General Consultancy services for the 44.65-km Orange Line project.

The Phase-3 expansion will comprise two corridors with 31 stations. Corridor-1 will run 32.15 km from J.P. Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura, with 22 stations. Corridor-2 will cover 12.50 km between Hosahalli and Kadabagere, with nine stations.

A common maintenance depot for both corridors is proposed at Sunkadakatte. The two corridors will have interchange facilities with existing and upcoming Metro lines at locations including J.P. Nagar, Mysuru Road, Peenya and Kempapura. Sumanahalli Cross is proposed as a common interchange.

BMRCL has applied for a Japanese Official Development Assistance loan of ₹102.48 billion from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the two corridors. The General Consultant will review designs, finalise tender documents,



Namma Metro’s 44.65-km Orange Line takes a key step forward with BMRCL seeking global consultants for project implementation.

“The loan will cover only a part of the project cost, with BMRCL arranging the remaining funding.”

—BMRCL official

evaluate bids and assist in contract negotiations.

During construction, the consultant will oversee quality, safety and environmental requirements, coordinate contractors and support testing and commissioning.

The project will also involve procurement of 252 standard-gauge coaches, including their design, manu-

facture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning. Comprehensive maintenance for up to 15 years and staff training will also be part of the package.

Signalling and train control, telecommunications, Automatic Fare Collection, traction power and receiving substations are among other major systems planned.

The Phase-3 corridors are expected to ease congestion on the Outer Ring Road West, Magadi Road and other major arterial routes. BMRCL also plans integration with BMTC, Indian Railways and proposed suburban rail stations.

Abhijeet Dipke to join Bengaluru People’s Tribunal on SIR

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke will participate in a ‘People’s Tribunal’ being organised by civil society groups from across Karnataka in Bengaluru on October 8 to protest the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and deletion of names under the Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead and Others (ASDDO) categories.

CJP spokesperson Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka, actor Prakash Raj and representatives of other organisations are also expected to participate in the programme.

The groups organising the tribunal are expected to demand that all deletions carried out during the SIR exercise be scrapped and that the electoral rolls prepared before the revision be retained.

They are also expected to seek the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging irregularities in the electoral roll revision process.

The organisers have alleged that the SIR exercise has af-



fected the voting rights of lakhs of people, particularly those belonging to oppressed and minority communities. They claim that some voters have faced difficulties in producing documents during hearings following notices issued in connection with the revision.

“The tribunal will publicly present evidence on the background of the SIR process and the injustices arising from it, including cases of voters facing difficulties over documentation,” the organisers said.

The event is expected to provide a platform for affected voters and participating organisations to present their concerns over the revision process.

The groups said they would

place before the tribunal accounts and evidence concerning alleged voter deletions, documentation-related difficulties and other issues arising during the SIR exercise.

The protest comes amid a wider political and public debate in Karnataka over the electoral roll revision and the deletion of names under various categories. Election au-

Demands expected at the tribunal

- 1 Scrap all deletions made during the SIR exercise
- 2 Retain the rolls prepared before the revision
- 3 Resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar

thorities have maintained that the revision is intended to identify and update electoral records.

The organisers said the tribunal would seek greater public attention to the concerns raised by voters and demand restoration of names they believe were wrongly removed from the rolls.

Rice prices rise for fourth time in four months

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rice prices have risen again across Karnataka, with traders blaming supply shortages and weaker paddy output in key producing regions.

Rice prices in Karnataka have increased for the fourth time in four months, with several popular varieties recording significant hikes amid concerns over supply failing to keep pace with demand.

Kolam rice has risen from Rs. 75 to Rs. 110 per kg, while Basmati has increased from Rs. 105 to Rs. 120. Jeera rice is now priced at Rs. 125 per kg, compared to Rs. 115 earlier. Rajamudi has in-

Price rise, Rs per kg

Rajamudi	125 to 150
Jeera	115 to 125
Basmati	105 to 120
Kolam	75 to 110
Steam	60 to 88

creased from Rs. 125 to Rs. 150, while Steam rice has gone up from Rs. 60 to Rs. 88 per kg.

Sona Masuri, one of the most widely consumed varieties in Karnataka, has also crossed the Rs. 100-per-kg mark in some markets. In the Yeshwantpur wholesale market, the price of a 25-kg bag has increased from Rs. 1,430 to Rs. 1,820. Traders said the variety has recorded a rise of around Rs. 390 to Rs. 400 over the past two months.

Retail prices of Sona Masuri have reached around Rs. 90 per kg, with traders warning that rates could rise further if supplies remain tight.

The price increase has been attributed to inadequate paddy production in parts of Karnataka. Raichur, Sindhnanur, Siraguppa and Bhadravati are among the areas reportedly affected by inadequate monsoon conditions.

Traders also pointed to lower yields in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which have reportedly produced only around half their usual output. The reduced availability from these states has added pressure to Karnataka’s rice market.

The repeated price increases are likely to add to household food expenses, particularly for consumers dependent on commonly used rice varieties.

CH Observer

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From unbarricaded stormwater canals on Jasma Bhavan Road and crumbling foot-paths near Vyalalikaval Circle to hazardous potholes in Seshadripuram and overflowing garbage at Chikkagowdana Palya, Bengaluru's infrastructure perils are putting residents at daily risk. Across these four critical urban hotspots, citizens face mounting dangers from poor lighting, open dumping, and severe civic neglect, amplifying urgent calls for municipal intervention before tragedy strikes.

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Commuters and residents near Apoorva Bakery on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road decry the hazardous link road intersection. Poor lighting and severe potholes create major crash risks, endangering pedestrians and motorists alike, especially during rain.



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



A missing section of the footpath on Palace Road, right at the corner of Hotel Tulip Inn near Vyalalikaval Circle, poses a severe hazard for pedestrians navigating the heavy traffic and nearby bus stop.



An unbarricaded, open rajakaluve canal on Jasma Bhavan Road—running right beside the main road. Right next to it is the KPCC Office where official vehicles regularly park—poses a fatal hazard for pedestrians. Lacking retaining walls or proper street lighting, the gaping drop threatens to sweep anyone into the channel in the dark, prompting urgent demands for safety barriers.

Commissioner orders fix for Hennur Bridge water flow

To prevent monsoon water-logging and clear choked drainage pathways, Bengaluru North Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar inspected Hennur Bridge.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In an effort to prevent urban flooding and tackle recurring infrastructure bottlenecks, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar carried out an intensive ground inspection at the vital Hennur Bridge. The high-level site visit was initiated to address growing public concerns regarding severe water stagnation and choked drainage pathways across the corridor during the active rainy season.

Recent civic evaluations revealed that ongoing infrastructural projects executed by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSB) have led to a heavy accu-



mulation of silt and debris. Specifically, construction materials and sediment have heavily blocked multiple water-flow vents on the bridge,

severely hampering the natural runoff of rainwater and creating artificial choke points that risk overflowing onto adjacent neighborhood roads.

During his direct site assessment, Commissioner Kumar walked through the affected structure to evaluate the scale of obstruction firsthand. Interacting closely with

Necessary precautionary measures must be enforced immediately to prevent water stagnation and ensure uninterrupted rainwater flow during the rainy season."

— Pommala Sunil Kumar
BNCC Commissioner

local municipal engineering teams, he issued strict, time-bound directives to BWSB project executors. He mandat-

ed that even if certain specific vents must remain temporarily sealed or restricted to accommodate active construction milestones, engineers must instantly open and clear alternative drainage routes to maintain an uninterrupted volume of rainwater runoff.

He warned that any operational delays or engineering oversights that compromise public safety or impede traffic flow would attract severe administrative penalties.

Accompanying the Commissioner during the evening review were key civic leaders, including Executive Engineer Kalleshappa, Assistant Executive Engineer Ranganath, alongside various senior municipal personnel and field staff.

BECC targets road and drainage delays

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar carried out a comprehensive, high-level site inspection across multiple zones within the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits to evaluate ongoing construction, land acquisition hurdles, utility shifting, and overall traffic management.

During the extensive field visit, the Additional Commissioner reviewed the status of crucial road expansions and flyover developments, particularly focusing on the busy Varthur and Gunjur corridors. He also ordered immediate patching of road potholes to guarantee safe and smooth vehicular movement for daily motorists.

To bypass lengthy bureaucratic delays, officials were directed to maximize the use of existing road widths wherever extra land acquisition is

To accelerate pending civic projects and improve eastern infrastructure, Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar inspected key Bengaluru corridors.

not legally required. In areas awaiting formal land clearance, teams must lay temporary gravel layers to keep roads fully motorable. Furthermore, the commissioner inspected drainage works along the Gunjur Palya and Muneshwara Swamy Temple stretches, mandating proper alignment of side-drains and culverts to prevent seasonal water-logging.

He also ordered the immediate clearance of construction debris, waste, and silt piling up near Varthur to keep drainage networks clear.



Additionally, municipal staff received strict instructions to repair broken footpaths and cracked slabs in Kundalahalli Colony and along ITPL Main Road to ensure safe pedestrian access.

GBA Chief orders penalties for missing streetlight CCMS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

During a high-level administrative meeting, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao issued strict directives ordering officials to levy heavy financial penalties against any contractor who has installed LED streetlights within the five constituent City Corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) without simultaneously setting up the mandatory Centralized Control and Monitoring System (CCMS).

According to official municipal figures presented during the session, approximately 4.5 lakh energy-efficient LED streetlights have already been successfully fitted across four of the City Corporations, excluding the East City Corporation zone. However, widespread administrative concern remains regarding the glaring absence of the automated CCMS units, which are vital for remote tracking, automated scheduling, and real-time fault detection.

To rectify these operational



4.5 lakh
LED streetlights already fitted across four City Corporations, excluding the East zone

gaps immediately, Chief Commissioner Rao instructed engineering departments to fast-track the deployment of the remaining CCMS units, bringing the total required infrastructure up to standard. Furthermore, municipal teams were directed to establish dedicated division-wise inspection squads.

Addressing citizen grievance redressal, the chief commissioner emphasized that complaints logged via the Sahaaya 2.0 digital application must be resolved without delay.

BSCC plans animal crematorium at S. Bingipura

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a progressive step toward modern urban sanitation and compassionate civic management, the Bengaluru South City Corporation has officially announced plans to construct a fully equipped, state-of-the-art animal crematorium. The proposed facility, slated for S. Bingipura along the Begur-Koppa Main Road in Jigani Hobli, aims to resolve long-standing challenges associated with the dignified and scientific disposal of animal carcasses across the southern zone.

The initiative comes in direct response to strict instructions issued by the Minister for Greater Bengaluru, Krishna Byre Gowda. The minister recently mandated that each of the five distinct city corporations operating under the umbrella of the Greater Bengaluru Authority must establish at least one dedicated animal crematorium.

To ensure the project meets international standards, Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh chaired a high-level consultative meeting today. The session brought together seasoned industry



experts, veterinary specialists, and specialized organizations with proven experience in operating animal cremation facilities. During the exhaustive review, officials examined critical operational parameters, including optimal land footprints, structural layout designs, and advanced eco-friendly fuel systems such as electric, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, or hybrid configurations.

Following careful deliberation, the municipal administration identified a prime parcel of corporation-owned land at S. Bingipura as the ideal site. Financial provisions and budgetary allocations have already been formally secured within the official Action Plan

"Necessary preparations are underway to establish a new animal crematorium to meet the high demand from the public and animal welfare advocates."

K.N. RAMESH Corporation Commissioner

for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Responding to mounting public appeals and persistent requests from animal welfare advocates, Commissioner Ramesh directed engineering and veterinary teams to fast-track the administrative workflow. He instructed officials to float official tenders without delay so that ground construction can commence swiftly.

SMART POTHOLE SURVEY

AI survey reveals good road health in North B'luru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has successfully completed a massive road condition survey using artificial intelligence and smart dashcam imagery across 72 wards. Led by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the modern digital assessment covered nearly 2500 kilometers of roads to analyze surface quality, map surface damage, and identify priority repair zones.

The findings bring positive news for local commuters,



Representative pothole from the 14,393 identified across the network (Ward 20).

revealing that more than eighty percent of the surveyed road network is currently in good or adequate condition. Out of the total stretch examined, over fourteen hundred kilometers are

Division-wise road condition				
DIVISION	SURVEYED	GOOD	POTHOLES IDENTIFIED	
Sarvagnanagar	406.6 km	86%		2,359
Rajarajeshwari Nagar	117.9 km	85%		1,222
Hebbal	293.2 km	83%		1,368
Yelahanka	389.5 km	82%		1,157
Byatarayanapura	823.5 km	82%		5,964
Dasarahalli	313.5 km	81%		966
Pulikeshi Nagar	149.5 km	75%		1,357

rated completely good, while another 600 kilometers show only minor surface wear.

Teams cataloged over fourteen thousand potholes across

the northern zone, with varying counts reported across different divisions like Byatarayanapura and Pulikeshi Nagar. Additionally,

the digital mapping highlighted road cuts and surface damage caused by ongoing utility works, such as underground cable laying and water pipeline projects managed by other departments.

Furthermore, the survey identified more than a hundred kilometers of unpaved kuccha roads that lack proper blacktopping. Corporation leaders have assured residents that these unpaved stretches will be prioritized in upcoming urban development phases to ensure safer and smoother connectivity for everyone.

Kumaraswamy alleges Rs 4,756 crore illegal toll collection on NICE Road

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy alleges NICE collected tolls beyond the agreed terms and questions the government's continued support for the project.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that NICE had illegally collected around Rs 4,756 crore in tolls on the NICE Road between 2008 and the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

Addressing a press conference at JP Bhavan, Kumaraswamy alleged that NICE had violated the Framework Agreement signed with the government in 1997.

He said the project cost was Rs 1,583 crore, while the company had collected around Rs 4,756 crore through tolls.

He alleged that the government had acquired farmers' land without adequate compensation for the project and remained silent despite the alleged irregularities. He said NICE had initially sought 2,193 acres in 1996 for a 40-km peripheral road, but later sought 6,999 acres, including land for toll plazas, service roads and link roads.



H.D. Kumaraswamy
Union Minister

KUMARASWAMY'S FIGURES

PROJECT COST
Rs 1,583 crore

TOLLS COLLECTED
Rs 4,756 crore
2008 to the end of 2024-25

Kumaraswamy alleged that land acquisition had taken place without proper Cabinet discussion and that NICE subsequently made changes to the original agreement

after obtaining government approval.

He recalled that a House committee headed by former minister T.B. Jayachandra had recommended scrapping the

"I only get old files reopened. I am not someone who carries out sting operations with lights and batteries."

— H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

NICE project. He questioned why the government was continuing with the project despite the report.

Kumaraswamy was responding to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's remarks about alleged sting operations targeting Congress ministers. He said the government should examine its administration instead of making such allegations.

He also referred to proceedings before the High Court and Supreme Court concerning the project.

Kumaraswamy said the High Court had questioned why alleged irregularities were not investigated and had directed an independent probe and forensic audit.

Implement new textile policy at district level: Rohini Sindhuri

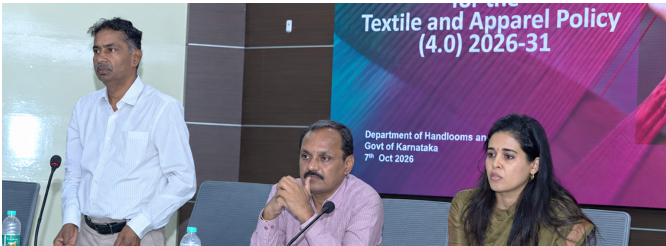
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

District-level officials must ensure effective implementation of Karnataka's new Textile & Apparel Policy and translate its benefits into tangible outcomes for the industry, weavers and beneficiaries, said Rohini Sindhuri, IAS, Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries.

She was speaking after inaugurating a training workshop on implementation of the Textile & Apparel Policy for officials of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles at the KASSIA auditorium on Wednesday.

Sindhuri said Karnataka had significant potential for further growth in the textile sector and the success of the new policy would depend on its effective implementation at the grassroots level.

"The new policy has been framed with the initiative of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Sugar and Textiles Minister Rudrappa Lamani. District officials must understand the policy in detail, identify local opportunities and work proactively to facilitate new investment and em-



District officials told to prepare taluk-specific plans and ensure textile policy incentives reach entrepreneurs, weavers and eligible beneficiaries.

ployment generation," she said.

She directed officials to prepare taluk-specific action plans for Focused Taluks, taking into account local handloom traditions, textile strengths, available skills, production capabilities and market potential.

Officials were also asked to identify traditional products, local skill clusters, enterprise opportunities and market linkages in their respective regions and connect them with opportunities for investment, new businesses and employment.

Textile Development Commissioner A.B. Basavaraju said the policy included several new schemes and incentives aimed at strengthening the handloom sector, support-

"Creating awareness about the incentives and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries and entrepreneurs are able to access them must be a key responsibility of district officials."

— A.B. Basavaraju Textile Development Commissioner

ing weavers and expanding textile industry activity.

He said continuous outreach, guidance and follow-up at the district level would be critical for effective implementation.

Additional Directors C.S. Yogesh and Sridhar Nayak, Managing Director Soumya M. and senior departmental and district-level officials participated in the workshop.

Quick Read

Karnataka Media Academy opens internship applications



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Media Academy has invited applications from journalism graduates and post-graduates for a two-month internship at various media organisations under the Women's Budget initiative. A total of 20 candidates will be selected for practical training and will receive a stipend from the Academy. Applicants must hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Journalism from a recognised university and have completed the course during 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 or 2025-26. Eligible candidates must submit the prescribed application form, CV and supporting documents through the Academy's Google Form. A selection committee will finalise the candidates. The last date to apply is October 23, 2026. Late applications will not be considered.

K'taka Philately Passport sale at four cities on Oct 10, 11

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

India Post, Karnataka Postal Circle, will sell the Karnataka Philately Passport at four locations across the state on October 10 and 11, following strong demand from heritage enthusiasts, travellers and stamp collectors.

Priced at Rs. 600, the passport will be available on a first-come, first-served basis through physical tokens issued at counters.

There will be no online sales or pre-booking. A total of 8,000 copies will be sold at Bengaluru GPO (3,500), and the head post offices in Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belagavi (1,500 each).

The travel-diary-style collectible promotes heritage tourism by allowing visitors to heritage sites to purchase local stamps and collect Permanent Pictorial Cancellations (PPCs) at designated post offices, creating a personalised keepsake.

At Bengaluru GPO, the event will feature a Digital Detox Zone and letter-writing facility, with complimentary postcards and stationery. Buyers will receive a Letter Box-themed bookmark and customised paper bag. Channapatna toy pen stands and letterbox keychains will also be available for purchase.

Collectors who have completed their passports

Passport sale	
WHEN	October 10 and 11
WHERE	Bengaluru GPO; head post offices in Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belagavi
PRICE	Rs 600
COPIES	8,000: 3,500 at Bengaluru GPO, 1,500 each at the other three
SALE	Physical tokens at the counters, first come, first served; no online sales
PAY	UPI QR and cash counters
PARKING	None at Bengaluru GPO; Namma Metro stations Dr BR Ambedkar and Cubbon Park

by visiting all listed heritage post offices in Karnataka will be felicitated with gift hampers.

For crowd management, barricaded queues and volunteers will be deployed, while UPI QR and cash payment counters will operate. Visitors have been advised that parking will not be available within Bengaluru GPO premises on October 10 and 11.

Commuters are encouraged to use public transport, including Namma Metro stations at Dr BR Ambedkar Station and Cubbon Park.

A visually impaired boy becomes BDA chairman for a day

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) witnessed a heartwarming moment when 65 visually impaired children from Jyothi Seva School for the Blind visited its office as special guests.

The visit aimed to encourage the children to dream big, build confidence and aspire to become responsible members of society. The highlight came when BDA Chairman N.A. Harris invited Rahul, a visually impaired student, to sit in his official chair and symbolically take on the role of "BDA Chairman for a Day."

Addressing the children, Harris said, "Do not lose heart. You are equal to everyone else in this society. We are with you, and the govern-

ment is with you. Study with determination and rise to the highest positions."

BDA Commissioner Major P. Manivannan said the initiative was aimed at nurturing self-confidence and encouraging the children to dream without limits. He assured them of the BDA's support for their education and future.

The children said the visit was their first experience of a government office and gave them confidence that they too could become senior officials and serve society.

BDA officials interacted with the children, listened to them and encouraged them. Rahul's symbolic moment in the chairman's chair served as a reminder that aspirations should never be limited by visual impairment.



TAAI K'taka hosts 75th year celebrations in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Chapter of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) hosted the association's 75th year Double Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Bengaluru on October 6.

The event was held at Holiday Inn, Race Course Road, under the theme "Honouring Our Legacy, Inspiring the Future". TAAI, described as the country's oldest travel association, has more than 2,500 travel agents, tour operators and allied service providers.

TAAI National President R. Sunil Kumar, Vice-President Bettiah Lokesh, Hon. Secretary General Shreeram Patel, Hon. Treasurer Paras Lakhia and National Managing Committee member Amish Desai attended the event.

Sunil Kumar highlighted TAAI's 75 years of leadership, service, trust and excellence, and said the association would continue to drive innovation and growth in the tourism sector. He said more than 600 membership applications

were currently on the waitlist due to the stringent vetting process adopted by regional and chapter leadership.

He also announced that the celebrations will culminate with TAAI's 69th convention in Kolkata from October 25 to 28.

TAAI Karnataka Chapter Chairman Niranjan S. Bhargava said the industry must carry forward the association's legacy while preparing for the future.

"As we step into the next chapter of TAAI's legacy, we carry forward the spirit of Empowering Evolution, Journey Beyond Today," he said.

DigiYatra CEO Suresh Khadkbhavi and Head of Strategy, Communications and Institutional Relations Sundar Natarajan spoke about emerging innovations in digital travel infrastructure.

Amish Desai presented TAAI's 75-year journey since 1951. Past national and regional office-bearers were also honoured during the celebrations.

Mother, three-year-old daughter die in gas cylinder blast

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 43-year-old woman and her three-year-old daughter died after suffering severe burns in a cooking gas cylinder explosion at Nayandahalli. The deceased were identified as Lakshamma and her daughter Girija, one of her twins. The incident occurred around 7 am on Friday at their rented house in Vinayaka Layout after leaked gas reportedly accumulated and ignited while the stove was being lit. All six family members suffered burns. Lakshamma sustained 70% burns, while her husband Karlingappa suffered 45% burns and remains critical in Victoria Hospital ICU. Their three other children were also injured and undergoing treatment. Neighbours rescued the family and shifted them to Victoria Hospital. Girija and Lakshamma later succumbed to their injuries.

SIR duties impact SIR duties disrupt classes at Bengaluru government colleges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Government colleges in Bengaluru are struggling to conduct regular classes and complete the syllabus as several teaching staff have been assigned duties for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The semester in colleges affiliated with Bengaluru North University (BNU) is scheduled to end on November 7, while those under Dr Mannohan Singh Bengaluru City University are expected to complete the semester by October 23.

The principal of a government degree college under BNU said more than half the staff had been assigned SIR duties and had not returned to teaching. The academic session began on July 20, leaving institutions with limited time to complete the prescribed syllabus.

Another government college with more than 3,000 students has witnessed a decline in attendance, with stu-



SIR and colleges

- JULY 20**
Academic session began at a BNU college
- OCTOBER 23**
Semester ends at Bengaluru City University
- NOVEMBER 7**
Semester ends at Bengaluru North University

dents reportedly skipping classes because teachers are unavailable. Guest lecturers are being used for subjects such as Commerce, Science and English, but the principal said experienced faculty were still required.

At another institution,

sports trainers and librarians have also been assigned SIR duties, adding to the administrative difficulties.

Principals said repeated appeals to officials had not resolved the issue. One principal said officials, when asked about relieving teachers from SIR duties, suggested that the college be closed.

Karnataka Government College Teachers Association president T.M. Manjunath urged the government to make alternative arrangements to relieve lecturers from election-related duties.

"Completing a semester without conducting any classes is a grave injustice to students. In some districts, the entire staff of colleges have been deputed for SIR work. This will affect quality of education," he said.

Faculty members of government degree colleges across Karnataka have been assigned duties as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers as part of the SIR exercise.

HC bars rejection of motor vehicle inspector applications overexperience certificates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has quashed the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal's (KAT) order upholding the rejection of candidates' applications for motor vehicle inspector posts over discrepancies in service experience certificates.

A Division Bench comprising Justice R. Devdas and Justice Dr K. Manmadha Rao passed the order while hearing petitions filed by several candidates who had challenged the KAT order. The court also dismissed the Transport Department's petition and directed the government to issue appointment orders within two months to

eligible candidates in the revised final selection list.

The Bench observed that requiring experience in repairing petrol-powered heavy vehicles was an impossible condition to fulfil. Eligible candidates cannot be denied selection by relying on such an impractical requirement, it said.

"When there is ambiguity in the recruitment rules, its benefit should go to the candidates and not the administration," the Bench observed. It also held that experience gained in different garages should be combined, and candidates with a total of one year's relevant experience should be considered eligible.



The court further directed that eligible candidates as of October 26, 2023, be issued appointment orders and granted service benefits, including seniority, within the legal framework, on par with already appointed candidates.

In cases kept pending due to shortage of documents or physical verification of garages, the respective deputy commissioners have been asked to conduct fresh verification and submit reports to the Transport Commissioner.

The KPSC had invited applications in February 2016 to fill 150 motor vehicle inspector posts. The rules required one year's experience in repairing light, heavy goods and heavy passenger vehicles powered by petrol and diesel engines.

Candidates argued that petrol-powered heavy vehicles had not been in regular use in India for decades, making the requirement impractical. The KAT had earlier upheld the rejections, prompting the candidates to approach the High Court.

Quick Read

NWKRTC to operate 50 additional special buses

CH NEWS, GADAG

In view of the Mahalaya Amavasya festival and the ensuing weekend, the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) will operate around 50 additional special buses to meet the increased travel demand. The services will originate from the Hubballi, Dharwad, Gadag, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Chikkodi and Bagalkot divisions and connect various destinations. Special services from Bengaluru to North Karnataka destinations will operate on October 9, as Friday is followed by the second Saturday and Sunday. The NWKRTC has appealed to passengers to make use of the additional services and choose Corporation buses for a safe and comfortable journey.

Applications invited for NMMS scholarship

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Online applications have been invited for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Examination 2026-27. The last date to submit applications is October 31, 2026. The application facility is available under the 'NMMS Login' section on the homepage of the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board website.

NAME CHANGE

GAJJELLA SAVITHRI w/o GAJJELA BHASKAR resident of Nemalladinne bedusupalli Gangavaram Seetaramapuram Nellore, Andhra Pradesh- 524310. have changed my name to BASIREDDY SAVITHRI vide affidavit dated: 07.10.2026, before Notary KANTHARAJU. S, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR

Crimisc. No.573/2026

Petitioner's: SRI. RAJA REDDY. N @ RAJU. N, S/o. late. Nagappa, Aged about 54 years, Residing at No. 3, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, near Government School, Puttenahalli, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru South, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 078.

Vs Respondent: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the above petitioners have filed above said petition against respondents for Birth and death on Bengaluru Rural District, Doddaballapura Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Palanajoghalli Village Petitioner Mother death on Dated: 11/10/2019 on the file of this Hon'ble court. Therefore, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble court by yourself or through your or on before this Hon'ble court by at yourself or through your or through your advocate at 16-11-26 '11 'O' clock failing which you are determined as expert.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 06th oct 2026.

By Order of the Court

Chief Ministerial Officer, Pti Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Sri. V. Mohan babu, Advocate, K. S. G. E. A. Building, Govt. Junior College Road, Near PLD Bank, Doddaballapura.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA

Crl Misc No. 14/2026

PETITIONERS: SRI.T.H.Rajanna, S/o Late Hanumantharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Rlat. No.912, 1st Cross, 1st Main Muneswara Badavane, Bagalugunte, Bengaluru

VIS RESPONDENT : The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of Grandmother of the petitioners by name Smt. Late Chikka Hanumakka W/o Late ERANAGAI AH, who died on 10.11.1975, at Thaneeranahalli Village, Doddaballavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of death of Smt. CHIKKAHANUMAKKA may hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raised in the petition on the day of 07/11/2026 at 11 AM in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, it will be heard and determined ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 07th day of OCT. 2026.

By order of the Court

Chief Ministerial Officer,

1st Addl. Civil Judge and JMFC, at Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioners: Sri.Suresh Kumar.N, Advocate, Prakruthi Law Associates, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA

Crl Misc No. 16/2026

PETITIONERS: Sri.T.H.Rajanna, S/o Late Hanumantharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Rlat. No.912, 1st Cross, 1st Main Muneswara Badavane, Bagalugunte, Bengaluru

VIS RESPONDENT : The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of Grandfather of the petitioners by name Late ERANAGAI AH, S/o Late Kariyappa who died on 19.09.1973, at Thaneeranahalli Village, Doddaballavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of death of Sri. ERANAGAI AH may hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 07/11/2026 at 11 AM in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, it will be heard and determined ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 07th day of OCT. 2026.

By order of the Court

Chief Ministerial Officer,

1st Addl. Civil Judge and JMFC, at Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioners: Sri.Suresh Kumar.N, Advocate, Prakruthi Law Associates, Doddaballapura

Ashoka condemns withholding of disability honorarium

Ashoka said withholding disability assistance during verification was unacceptable, stressing delays caused hardship as beneficiaries depend on honorarium for medicines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka has strongly condemned the withholding of monthly honorariums for persons with disabilities across Karnataka for the past five months.

He demanded that the pending amount be released immediately and that the monthly honorarium be increased to ₹5,000, following the model depend on the honorarium to purchase medicines and meet essential monthly expenses, and that the delay has caused severe hardship adopted in Andhra Pradesh.

Ashoka said withholding the assistance on the grounds of revision and verification was unacceptable, as revision is an ongoing administrative process. He pointed out that many persons with disabilities depend on the honorarium to purchase medicines and meet essential monthly expenses, and that the delay has caused severe hardship.

He also expressed concern over the indefinite fast being



staged near the Ramanagara Deputy Commissioner's office by members of the Nava Karnataka MRW/VRW/URW Disability Honorarium Workers' Association along with persons with disabilities. Ashoka said he had visited the protest site, received their memorandum and urged the government to respond immediately.

Considering the health condition of those participating in the fast, he demanded that senior government officials visit the protesters, receive their memorandum and take steps to end the agitation.

larization in the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Aabled and Senior Citizens and place a proposal before the Cabinet.

He also sought a fixed deadline for officials to act on these demands and requested that the government inform him in writing about the action taken.

Key demands in the letter

1 Immediate release of the disability honorarium for all withheld months

2 Demand to raise the honorarium to ₹5,000 a month

3 Job security for about 6,000 MRW/VRW/URW workers; suggestion that a proposal to regularize them in the department be submitted to the Cabinet

4 Demand that a deadline be fixed for the Revenue Department

5 Demand that senior officials visit the Ramanagara fast site and receive the memorandum

Demand for Job Security Ashoka has separately written to the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department seeking job security for around 6,000 MRW, VRW and URW workers who have reportedly served for nearly 19 years.

He highlighted their important role in rural areas, particularly in connecting eligible beneficiaries with government schemes and services. Despite their long service, these workers continue to lack job security.

Ashoka urged the government to examine their regu-

Karnataka moves to regulate used cooking oil for biodiesel production

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSDBD) Chairman S.E. Sudheendra discussed measures to regulate the collection and use of Used Cooking Oil (UCO) for biodiesel production in the State with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. U.T. Khader Fareed at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on formulating regulations to ensure that UCO, an important feedstock for biodiesel, is collected and supplied exclusively to authorised biodiesel production units.

Sudheendra informed the Minister that the Board has initiated the process of formulating a State Bioenergy Policy under the guidance of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The proposed policy is expected to encourage investment in bio-energy projects and promote value addition and an organised supply chain for UCO.

He highlighted public-health concerns arising from the repeated use of cooking oil in hotels, restaurants and food-processing establishments, particularly in urban areas. He also pointed out that used oil is sometimes diverted to smaller food establishments for reuse. He stressed the need for strict measures to prevent such diversion and ensure that UCO reaches only authorised biodiesel producers.

The Chairman noted that



the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has already permitted the sale and distribution of biodiesel through authorised Biodiesel Retail Outlets under a Gazette notification. Effective regulation of UCO, he said, would increase the availability of raw material for biodiesel production, thereby supporting higher production and Karnataka's efforts towards greater energy self-reliance.

Minister Khader responded positively and suggested that the Board formulate a policy in coordination with the Health and Family Welfare Department to ensure systematic collection and storage of UCO and its mandatory utilisation for biodiesel production. Such a mechanism would help prevent used cooking oil from re-entering the food chain.

The Minister assured that the proposal would be discussed with concerned officials and that necessary legal provisions would be formulated in coordination with relevant departments.

Senior officials from the Health Department, Food Safety Department, National Health Mission and KSDBD attended the meeting.

Horatti urges govt to reconsider milk and bus fare hikes

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

MLC and former Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti has urged the State government to reconsider the proposed increase in Nandini milk prices and public transport fares, citing the financial difficulties faced by farmers, agricultural labourers and low-income families amid drought and rising prices.

In separate letters to Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, Horatti said steep increases in the prices of essential services would place an additional burden on ordinary people. He referred to reports of a proposed ₹8 per litre hike in Nandini milk prices and a 20% to 40% increase in



Basavaraj Horatti
MLC, FORMER COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Core Issue: Proposed hikes on milk and bus fares

Target Audience: Letters sent to CM and Deputy CM

Relief Focus: Support for drought-hit and vulnerable families

bus fares to compensate for losses incurred by State transport corporations.

He urged the government either to withdraw the proposals or restrict the increases to the minimum possible level. Milk and public transport are essential to poor and middle-class households, he pointed out.

No scope for private complaints regarding 'SIR': Basavaraj Bommai

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said there is no provision for individuals or political parties to file private complaints regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stating that objections must be submitted through the prescribed Election Commission process.

Speaking to reporters in Haveri on Wednesday, Bommai said any person could submit a Form-7 application regarding electoral-roll entries. However, he maintained that an application cannot automatically be considered false or invalid immediately after submission and must first undergo verification.

He alleged that the SIR exercise was being conducted transparently and criticized the Congress for submitting what he described as private complaints. He also accused the party of exploiting the minority community for political purposes.

Referring to the BJP's 'Seva Jyothi' programme marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public life, Bommai praised Modi's governance and said the country had made significant economic progress. He asserted that efforts should continue to strengthen India's development.



At a glance

- **Key Spokesperson:** Former CM Basavaraj Bommai
- **Core Topic:** Special Intensive Revision (SIR) transparency
- **Legal Stance:** No provision for private complaints
- **Project Issue:** Bedthi-Varada Detailed Project Report

On the proposed Bedthi-Varada project, Bommai said some people were opposing the project even before its Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been prepared. He stated that the extent of forest land likely to be affected could only be determined after the DPR was completed.

Bommai said he had written to Chief Minister requesting that a meeting of elected representatives and activists be convened to discuss the project.

He expressed confidence that the Chief Minister would call such a meeting and allow the concerns surrounding the project to be discussed in detail.

Milk and public transport are essential to poor and middle-class households

Revive Indira Canteens

Horatti also called for the immediate revival of closed or non-functional Indira Canteens across Karnataka. He said the canteens should provide quality breakfast and meals to economically weaker sections at the existing subsidized rates of ₹5 and ₹10.

He highlighted the difficulties faced by agricultural labourers and daily-wage workers who are migrating to cities in search of employment following crop losses and shortages of drinking water and

fodder in rural areas.

Horatti suggested that the government consider limiting its guarantee schemes to genuinely eligible poor beneficiaries rather than extending benefits universally.

According to him, savings from such a measure could be redirected towards drought relief, farmer subsidies and strengthening the Indira Canteen network.

He emphasized that protecting ordinary citizens, ensuring food security and supporting vulnerable sections should remain priorities during the drought. He appealed to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to reconsider the proposed price hikes and take immediate measures to provide relief to the people.

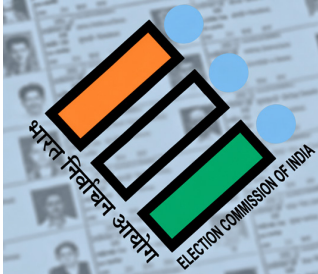
Bidar assembly constituency records highest notice count

CH NEWS, BIDAR

As part of the Special Summary Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, 32,666 notices have been generated in Bidar district, of which 32,516 have been served to voters. Inquiries concerning 25,244 notices have been completed, the Election Tahsildar at the Deputy Commissioner's office said.

The notices were issued under the directions of the Chief Electoral Officer to voters classified as "Anamoli," whose names differ between the 2002 electoral roll and the current roll, and "No Mapping" voters whose names are not found in the 2002 electoral roll.

Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) are conducting hearings and verifying the



SIR notices by constituency

Constituency	Notices
Bidar	11,262
Bhalki	5,835
Humnabad	5,049
Aurad	4,968
Basavakalyan	3,093
Bidar South	2,459

32,666 notices in all in Bidar district

pleted inquiries.

Bidar Assembly constituency accounted for the highest number, with 11,262 notices generated, 11,204 served and 8,930 inquiries completed. In Bhalki, 5,835 notices were generated, 5,739 served and 4,426 inquiries completed.

Aurad recorded 4,968 notices generated and served, with 3,640 inquiries completed.

ed.

Officials are also personally visiting differently-abled and elderly voters to conduct inquiries and facilitate the verification process. The Election Tahsildar said that notices relating to "No Mapping" and "Anamoli" cases are being resolved after examining relevant documents and completing the prescribed verification.

ENSURE TRANSPARENT RECRUITMENT

KPSC recruitment must be transparent, says Khandre

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre said talented and eligible candidates must not suffer injustice and that recruitment to government posts should be conducted with complete transparency.

Speaking to reporters in Hassan on Wednesday about alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment process and the Enforcement Directorate's questioning of former KPSC Chairman Shivashankarappa

Sahukar, Khandre said it was unfortunate that the Commission had reached such a situation.

He said Chief Minister had taken the issue seriously and that the government would take necessary steps to reform the recruitment system. Khandre added that future recruitments would be conducted transparently through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

He noted that recruitment to around 72,000 government posts is currently underway.

The Minister warned that



strict action would be taken against anyone found involved in recruitment irregularities, in accordance with applicable State and national laws.

Electoral Roll Issue

72,000

Khandre also criticized the BJP over the ongoing controversy concerning electoral rolls. He said the campaign to protect voting rights and democracy would continue under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi.

He urged the Election Commission to ensure transparency in the electoral-roll process and demanded legal action against anyone found

Around this many government posts are now under recruitment, Khandre noted

responsible for irregularities.

Local Body Elections

Regarding local elections, Khandre said preparations were underway to conduct Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat elections by December.

He said these elections would be held first, followed by Gram Panchayat elections, and asserted that the

Congress was prepared to face the elections even if they were held immediately.

Meanwhile, ED officials have been investigating alleged irregularities in the recruitment of veterinary officers. According to reports, former KPSC Chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar was questioned, while KPSC member Geetha was arrested after questioning. Officials also conducted searches at their residences as part of the investigation.

The ED's investigation into the alleged recruitment irregularities is continuing.

Quick Read



Aziz Parthipadi elected bus owners' association president

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Aziz Parthipadi was unanimously elected President of the Dakshina Kannada Bus Owners' Association at its Annual General Meeting held at the AJ Grand Elite hotel hall.

He has been elected as President for the fourth consecutive term.

Aziz Parthipadi has previously served as the General Secretary and President of the Dakshina Kannada Bus Owners' Association. He has also served as the President of the East Zone Bus Owners' Federation.

His unanimous election for another term reflects the continued confidence of the association members in his leadership. The annual meeting brought together members of the Dakshina Kannada Bus Owners' Association to discuss the association's affairs and leadership.

Liquor sale and transport banned in Lakshmeshwar

CH NEWS, GADAG

The transportation and sale of liquor have been prohibited within the Lakshmeshwar Police Station limits following the postponement of the immersion of the 'Soppinakeri' Ganesha idol, classified as a highly sensitive event. The immersion, scheduled for October 6, 2026, was postponed due to various reasons. The ban is in effect from 2 p.m. on October 7 until 6 a.m. on October 8. During this period, all bars, clubs and shops selling beer or Indian-made liquor must remain closed. District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar has directed the Zonal Excise Inspector and Deputy Commissioner of Excise to take appropriate action under Section 21(2) of the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965, to maintain public peace and order.

Competitive exam training workshop set for Oct 8

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A training workshop on competitive examinations will be held on October 8 at 10 a.m. at the Syndicate Hall of Mandya University. The programme is being organised jointly by the Department of Public Libraries, Bengaluru City Central Library, Mandya University, Akka IAS Academy, Bengaluru, and Kautilya Gurukula Academy, Mandya. Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the Mandya District City Library Authority Dr. Kumar will inaugurate the programme. Mandya University Vice-Chancellor K. Shivachittappa will preside. Mandya University Registrar Kalpashree C.R. and Mandya College Principal Dr. Swarna B. will attend as chief guests. Dr. Shivakumar, Director of Akka IAS Academy, will speak on UPSC Civil Services examinations, while Kautilya Academy lecturer Yatheesha Babu K.H. will provide information on competitive examinations.

‘Mekedatu project is permanent Cauvery crisis solution’

The minister said Phase Six would address drinking water needs, while Mekedatu would permanently resolve Cauvery issues, with preparations complete

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The government will not take any decision that causes distress to farmers, District In-charge and Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at a meeting with farmer leaders at the Zilla Panchayat hall in Mandya, where he heard grievances related to farmers, drought and the sixth-phase drinking water project for nearly two hours.

The minister said the sixth-phase drinking water project was planned to meet drinking water needs, while implementation of the Mekedatu project would provide a permanent solution to the Cauvery crisis. He said technical and legal preparations were complete and a proposal had been submitted to the Central Water Commission. He expressed confidence that the foundation stone for the project would be laid before March.



On the Manmul scam, Chaluvarayaswamy said he personally directed that legal action be taken within 24 hours of the matter coming to light. He said no one would be protected and added that a high-level inquiry could be ordered if necessary.

He also assured farmers that drought relief of ₹2,500 would be credited to their accounts within two days. A central study team is currently inspecting the drought situation. The minister said a letter had been sent to the Election

Commission regarding the increase in milk prices and that the decision would be implemented after approval or after the elections.

He said the cancer hospital would undergo Kayakalpa within a week and a separate meeting would address encroachment on medical college land. He also said Mysugar privatisation had been stopped and outstanding sugarcane dues from 81 sugar factories would be released by October 15.

Plans are also in place to

Highlights

- Minister assures no farmer distress decisions
- Mekedatu project proposal sent to commission
- Drought relief funds credited in two days
- Sugar factories to clear sugarcane dues
- Manmul scam faces swift legal action
- Milk price hike awaits commission approval

Wind project damages farmland without seeking permission



MALINGARAYA PUJAR

CH NEWS

Outrage has erupted in Sudi village of Ron taluk over the uprooting of trees and plants for a wind power project. Villagers and farmers have accused the SKP Wind Fan Company of destroying greenery and crops while preparing roads for construction vehicles.

The company is planning to set up wind power plants in Sudi and surrounding villages. Wide roads are required to transport machinery and blades. Locals allege that the company is using road work as a reason to cut trees along roadsides and near farmers' lands.

Farmers have alleged that crops and trees on their lands were destroyed without permission to make way for construction vehicles. They said JCB machines have removed hundreds of plants that provided shade and shelter for animals.

At a glance

- Conflict Source**
Unauthorised tree felling for wind energy.
- Primary Perpetrator**
SKP Wind Fan Company operations.
- Community Reaction**
Protests staged by angry local villagers.
- Administrative Stance**
Silence from local officials and forest department.

The destruction has raised questions about development and its effect on the environment. Locals have questioned how a company producing “green energy” can destroy greenery around it.

Farmers and youth staged a protest at the site. They confronted officials and demanded that the company stop the destruction. They said trees planted and protected by their ancestors should not be destroyed in this manner.

Tribal communities seek government action on key issues

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Tribal communities in the Hunsur subdivision have urged elected representatives to take their problems to the government and ensure that their long-pending issues are resolved.

Tribal leader and Padma Shri awardee Somanna visited several hadis to understand the problems faced by residents. Discussions were held at Anemala, Budanuru, Prabanagara, Balle, Vijayagiri, Kottigekaval, Madyayana Katte and Tarikal hadis in the presence of local leaders.

Residents demanded re-

placement of asbestos roofing sheets damaged by strong winds and repairs to a house in Anemala damaged by an elephant nearly a year ago. They said the MLA had been informed and had personally inspected the house, but repairs had not been completed.

The tribal communities also demanded proper drinking water facilities, stating that residents have to search for borewells even for washing clothes. They highlighted the difficulties faced by elderly people, pregnant women and children following the stoppage of nutritious food supplies for eight months.

Residents alleged that forest rights were not being properly implemented and that rehabilitation had not been provided to people evicted from forests despite High Court orders. Lack of rain has also reduced wage-labour opportunities.

They said families with only two or three members were excluded from the Anna Bhagya scheme and alleged that nutritious food benefits were denied to people with caste certificates and Aadhaar cards. They also raised concerns over unpaid pensions and the failure of Panchayats to issue house title deeds.

The community opposed re-declaring the area as an Eco-Sensitive Zone, noting its existing status as Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve.

A memorandum was submitted through the Piriyaipatna Tahsildar, while Association President J.D. Jayappa also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister.

Residents urged MLAs Anil Chikkamadu, Venkatesh and G.D. Harish Gowda, along with Panchayat and Tribal Welfare Department officials, to address their concerns and ensure their rights and benefits.

AT A GLANCE

Region Focus: Hunsur subdivision and surrounding hadis

Key Leader: Tribal leader and Padma Shri awardee Somanna

Core Issue: Loss of housing, forest rights, and aid

Action Taken: Memorandums submitted to local and state authorities

Chitradurga health staff join cleanliness drive

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Health Department officials and staff took part in a cleanliness drive through voluntary labour, or shramadan, on Wednesday as part of the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign being held from October 2 to 31.

Inaugurating the programme, District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. M.C. Sunil Kumar said Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned not only an independent India but also a clean and beautiful India. He said it was everyone's duty to keep the environment clean and well-maintained in service of Mother India.

Dr. Sunil Kumar directed staff to clean the indoor and outdoor areas of Health Department facilities in phases. These include the District



The campaign should not remain only a formal exercise

Hospital, Taluk Hospitals, Community and Primary Health Centers, Namma Clinics and Ayushman Arogya hospitals.

He stressed that the cleanliness campaign should be carried out meaningfully and should not remain only a formal exercise. He also urged health staff to create awareness among the public about maintaining cleanliness in public places and preventing diseases.

Unanimous KSP poll nod for Amaresh Mailapura

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Teacher and organiser Amaresh Mailapura was unanimously selected as the candidate for the Kannada Sahitya Parishat election at a meeting held at the Employees' Cultural Hall in Koppal city.

Raviteja Abbigeri, immediate past president of the District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, presided over the meeting and appealed to life members across the seven taluks to ensure Amaresh Mailapura's victory. He said his election would bring new energy to the Parishat and revive literary and cultural activities in Koppal district.

Divisional Legal Officer B.S. Patil said the practice of recognising writers through the Kannada Sahitya Parishat had declined and called for collective efforts to strengthen the organisation.

Senior thinkers and literary figures, including D.V. Badigera, Veeranna Ningoji, Rama Murthy Navali, Savitri Mjumdar, Shivamurthy Itagi, Virupaksheshwara Swamy, Iranna Hurakadli and Mohanlal Jain, addressed the gathering.

Mangaluru Dasara celebrations begin with grand festivities

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The historic Mangaluru Dasara and Navaratri Mahotsava-2026 will be celebrated at Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatha Kshetra from October 11 to 22. Treasurer Padma Raj Poojary announced the programme at a press conference.

The festival will be held under the guidance of former Union Finance Minister B. Janardhana Poojary. Idols of Sri Mahaganapathi, Sri Adishakti, the Nava Durgas and Sri Sharada Mata will be installed and worshipped at the temple's Durbar Hall.

Devotional bhajans, music and dance programmes, sports competitions and folk art performances will also be held.

Vedic rituals will begin on October 11, with the installation of Sri Sharada Mata and the Nava Durgas at noon. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will inaugurate the Mangaluru Dasara Mahotsava at 6:30 p.m. on October 12. Ministers will attend the programme.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of The Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Greater Bengaluru Authority, NR Square, Annex Building - 3, Bengaluru-560002.

No.DCF/PR/602/2026-27

Date :07.10.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru, has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing inside the premises of Air Force Station, Yelahanka Bengaluru for Widening and Resurfacing of Certain Roads and Associated Infrastructure at Air Force Station, Yelahanka. The details are given below;

Name of the project	Widening and Resurfacing of Certain Roads and Associated Infrastructure at Air Force Station, Yelahanka			
Name of the Agency	The Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru.			
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are standing inside the premises of Air Force Station and coming within the proposed project area for Widening and Resurfacing of Certain Roads and Associated Infrastructure at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	Boundary	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location
	1	13°07' 54.23"	77°36' 54.89"	Trees are standing inside the premises of Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.
	2	13°07' 53.65"	77°36' 38.39"	
	3	13°07' 57.53"	77°36' 21.42"	
	4	13°08' 01.63"	77°36' 49.77"	
Enumeration of trees Total no. of trees standing in the project area	99 Nos (Annexure-1)	Description of trees, species, location, area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all. (www.bbmp.gov.in)		
Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/Post/Hand)	Address: a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R Square, Bangalore- 560 002. E-mail id: dcfbmp12@gmail.com b. The Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru, E-Mail ID: satluj@nic.in * # A copy of the comments communicated directly to Dy GM, ACD, HAL should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA			
Deadline for filing objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notification in Newspaper * Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project			

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Tree Officer, GBA, Bengaluru

CH

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Quick Read

Kala Pratibhotsava competition set for Oct 25

CH NEWS, KARWAR
The Department of Kan-nada and Culture has organised the 'Kala Pratib-hotsava' competition on October 25 and 26 at the Karnataka State Govern-ment Employees' Bhavan, M.G. Road, Karwar. The competition will encour-age children and youth to showcase their artistic tal-ents. Categories include Bala Pratibha, Kishora Pratibha and Yuva Pratib-ha, with competitions in dance, music, painting, folk arts, drama and other art forms. Eligible artists must submit applications spec-ifying their art form to the Assistant Director, Depart-ment of Kannada and Cul-ture, District Rangaman-dira, Maladevi Grounds, Karwar, by October 17. Par-ticipants must report at the venue at 9:30 a.m. on October 25. Further infor-mation is available at 08382-227084.

Rural farm women invited to apply for chick distribution

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The Karnataka Coopera-tive Poultry Federation Limited, Bengaluru, has in-vided applications from ru-ral farm women for the distribution of 20 indige-nous Nati chicks, aged five weeks, for the current year. Women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Sched-uled Tribes, Backward Classes and the General Category are eligible to ap-ply. Interested farm wom-en must submit their ap-plications by October 31. The initiative aims to sup-port rural women.

Space Week celebrated at Pilikula Science Centre

CH NEWS, Mangaluru
World Space Week was inaugurated on Wednes-day at the Pilikula Science Centre, with an em-phasis on encouraging scientific curiosity and interest in space research among students. The programme was organized by the Pilikula Development Authority in collaboration with the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, and ISRO. Inaugurating the event, Dr. C.S. Madhusudan, Deputy Director of the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, urged students to cultivate the habit of ques-tioning, examining facts and developing conclu-sions based on evidence. He advised them to use technology responsibly and apply knowledge gained through education in practical life. He also encouraged students to learn more about space science and contribute to the nation's de-velopment. Prof. G. Srinikethan, retired professor of NITK Surathkal, said continuous research and innovation in rocket technology had opened new opportunities in the space sector. He noted that India was achieving important milestones through advances in space technology and urged students to develop scientific temper and pursue innovation. He encouraged them to make full use of opportunities to interact with ISRO sci-entists. Dr. Arun Kumar Shetty N, Commissioner of the Pilikula Development Authority, who pre-sided over the programme, stressed the importance of innovation, technology and collaboration in building a developed India. He urged students to generate ideas that could improve people's lives and help advance the country's position in global space research. Students later viewed ISRO's space-related models displayed near the Swami Vivekananda Planetarium and attended a special 2D show titled The Moon. In the afternoon, students and teachers interacted with ISRO scientists, while a satellite model-making competition was also conducted. Prizes were presented to the winners during the concluding ceremony. Around 750 students and teachers from high schools, pre-university colleges and diploma colleges across Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts participated. Dr. Ashok K.R., Director of the Regional Science Centre, wel-comed the gathering. Scientific Officer Vignesh Bhat proposed the vote of thanks, while Academic Assistant Chanchalakshi compered the pro-gramme. Virendra R. Kavi Shetty was also present.



Central government's "hooliganism" has crossed all limits: Tangadagi

Tangadagi alleged misuse of central agencies to pressure opposition leaders, and claimed the Election Commission and SIR process undermined voting rights

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Karnataka Minister for Kan-nada and Culture and Back-ward Classes Welfare Shi-varaj S. Tangadagi strongly condemned the reported arrest and alleged physical manhan-dling of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, stating that such ac-tions undermine democratic values. Reacting to the incident on social media platform X, Tan-gadagi alleged that the Cen-tral Government had crossed all limits in its attempts to suppress opposition voices and weaken democratic insti-tutions. He accused the gov-ernment led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of adopting an authoritarian approach towards those demanding transparency in the electoral process and protection of voters' rights. Tangadagi alleged that central investigative agencies such as the Income Tax Department and Enforcement Directorate

had previously been misused to pressure or attract oppo-sition leaders through induc-ements and intimidation. He further alleged that the Elec-tion Commission and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process were being misused to interfere with citizens' voting rights. According to Tangadagi, Ra-hul Gandhi has taken up the issue of electoral transparency and voters' rights and has been questioning what he described as illegal and anti-democratic practices. He condemned the manner in which Gandhi was allegedly restrained and sub-jected to physical force during his arrest, describing such con-duct as unacceptable in a dem-ocratic system. He emphasized that ques-tioning government decisions, opposing policies and protest-ing against actions considered anti-people are constitutional rights. Such democratic ex-pressions, he said, cannot be suppressed through force or



intimidation. Tangadagi further alleged that the BJP's leadership was increasingly apprehensive about losing political power and was therefore resorting to intimidation. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Min-ister Amit Shah as the "Mo-Sha" duo, he claimed that their alleged fear of losing power had resulted in increas-ingly authoritarian conduct. He asserted that although Rahul Gandhi could be phys-ically restrained, his determi-nation to defend democratic values and protect voters' rights could not be sup-

Highlights

- Minister condemns central government's alleged hooliganism
- Rahul Gandhi detained during transparency protest march
- Opposition alleges misuse of institutional investigation agencies
- Leaders denounce physical violence during political arrests
- Government accused of displaying dictatorial behavior patterns
- Protesters assert resolve to safeguard democratic rights

pressed. Tangadagi main-tained that the voice of oppo-sition and democratic dissent would continue to remain an important part of India's po-litical system.

Modi's service and leadership praised at BJP event



CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Bengaluru Rural MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath said Prime Minis-ter Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service, efforts for national development and firm resolve provide an ideal example of dedication to the country. He was speaking after inau-gurating the 'Seva Jyothi Ya-tra' and 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp' meeting organised by the district BJP unit at RVCS Kalyana Mantapa as part of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. Dr. Manjunath called upon people to treat the creation of a 'Viksit Bharat' not merely as a dream, but as a resolve to be embraced by every Indian. He said India's image has changed globally and the world is now looking towards the country. He credited Mo-di's leadership for this trans-formation and highlighted India's vaccination drive during the COVID-19 pan-demic. He also mentioned the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative, through which vaccines were supplied to several countries. Dr. Manjunath said India is progressing despite global challenges, including con-flicts in West Asia. He said the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' campaigns have strengthened domestic production and helped India move from being an import-

'Seva Jyothi Yatra' via Bike Rally
BJP leaders and workers celebrated the mile-stone of Prime Minister Modi's 25 years in public life and watched a live broadcast of his speech on a giant screen. After-ward, they held a rally through the city's main roads on bikes and in open vehicles, carrying the 'Seva Jyothi' (Flame of Service).

ing nation towards exporting its products to global markets. State BJP Cell Co-convenor Phanish said Modi had dedi-cated his life to public service and had brought global at-tention to India. He recalled Mo-di's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and his years as Prime Minister. Phanish also recalled former Prime Minister Atal Bi-hari Vajpayee's governance and said the present campaign was aimed at highlighting Modi's pro-people adminis-tration and encouraging peo-ple to support the vision of a developed India. Former Legislative Council member A. Devegowda, Ben-galuru Rural Co-in-charge Vasudev and former KSIC Chairman Gautam Gowda also addressed the gathering.

Ramappa reviews Bhovi community schemes in Udupi

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Karnataka Bhovi Develop-ment Corporation Chair-man Ramappa M instructed officials to ensure that govern-ment welfare schemes reach the poorest and most margin-alised members of the Bhovi community without delay. He was speaking at a meet-ing held at the Deputy Com-missioner's office hall in Ra-jatadri, Manipal, to review

schemes in Udupi and Dak-shina Kannada districts and discuss the community's grievances. Ramappa M said the state government had introduced six guarantee schemes specifi-cally for the development of the Bhovi community, in ad-dition to the 'Pancha Guar-an-tee' schemes. He directed elected repre-sentatives and officials to en-sure that deserving beneficia-

ries receive these benefits and that their grievances are ad-dressed promptly. He said Scheduled Caste certificates are important for the community's social, edu-cational and economic pro-gress. Revenue officials were asked to verify original docu-ments carefully and cooperate with eligible applicants. Stone quarrying is a tradi-tional occupation of the Bhovi community.

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇ/ಗ್ರಹನೀಸೈ.ವಿ/ದಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ-2/ಚ.ಜಿ.ಎಂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-27/1006 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-10-2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ- (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)
2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲ ಜೀವನ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ 4215-01-102-2-04-132, NON-SDP ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಓಪೆನ್.ಟಿ ರಿಪೇರಿ) 12 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ರೂ.75.33 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಲಾಖಾ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯ ಅನ್ವಯ ಐಟಿಎಂಎಲ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ಲಾನ್‌ಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.10.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08192-262126 ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಗಾ.ಕು.ನೀ ಮತ್ತು ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
DIPRI/DVG/NCPL/371/2026-27

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/2026-27/SE0137 Date: 07.10.2026
TENDER NOTICE
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Bangalore Development Authority invites tenders for "Configuration, Installation, Integration, Commissioning of online Building Plan Approval System for BDA." (Tender Number: BDA/2026-27/SE0137).
Tender documents are available on the e-Procurement portal from 06.10.2026 and the last date for bid submission is 22.10.2026, 5:30 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 26.10.2026 at 11:30 AM.
Interested bidders may refer to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed information or contact the IT Reforms, BDA head office, Bengaluru-560020. Any changes or updates will be published only on the e-Procurement portal, so bidders are requested to check the portal regularly.
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7). ✉ @BDAOfficialGoK
Sd/- Head of Department, IT Reforms, BDA, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ-2 ವಾರಾಬಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಬಿಡ್ಡಾಪುರ-576229 ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕುನೀನಿ/ವಾಬಯೋಎ-2/ಓಎ/ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/796 ದಿ: 05/10/2026
Public Notice
The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change IA-III Section (CRZ) has accorded CRZ Clearance to Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited for Construction of Barrages/Salt Water Exclusion Dams (SWED) across the Swarna River at Uppuru and Parari for recharge of groundwater and implementation of Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) to provide irrigation facilities to 1000 hectares of agricultural land in Udupi District, Karnataka vide File No.11/74/2026-IA, III dated: 30/09/2026. The Copy of CRZ Clearance is available in the Website https://parivesh.nic.in/
ಸಹ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ-2, ವಾರಾಬಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಬಿಡ್ಡಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಎ/ವಿಎಂಎಂಎ/412/
26-27 ದಿ: 07.10.2026

HDFC BANK

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.
In connection with this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower(s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
01	Mr. Shiv Prakash Tiwari (Borrower), EMC Data Storage Systems India Pvt Ltd Designation: SR Tech Support, Department: OSAPI, Employee No: 103190, K.R.Puram-Marthahalli Road, Mahadevapura, Doddanekundi, Bengaluru 560048. Also at: CSC India Private Limited / Computer Science Corporation Designation: Senior Professional/ Storage ADM Department: IT Storage/Global-GT&C-Storage, Employee No: 11518501, C-29, Sector – 58, Noida Complex, Noida 201301. Also at: RZ-152 , Laxmi Vihar, Near D.K.Depot, Najafgarh, New Delhi 110043. Also at: Flat No 604, Block 16, VBHC Vaibhava-Block G1, G2, G3(15,16,17), S No.93, 95/1, 95/2, 9/1A, 9/2, 10/1, Byagadadenahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 562120.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 601077582 : Rs.3,44,290/- 2) 601091418 : Rs.3,37,038/- 3) 624324925 : Rs.3,92,613/- 4) 625398941 : Rs.4,03,575/- Total Amount Rs.14,77,516/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Sixteen Only) as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.06.2024	Flat No 604, Block 16, VBHC Vaibhava-Block G1, G2,G3(15,16,17), S No 93, 95/1, 95/2, 9/1a, 9/2, 10/1, Byagadadenahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 562120.
02	Mrs. Hasinabegam Bilagi (Borrower) Mr. Mohammadwaseem Bilagi(Co-Borrower) Both are residing at: Ward No 30, Rahamat Nagar, Bilal Masjid, Jamkhandi, Bagalkot 587301. Also at: Plot 17/2, S No 631/2, House, 17/2, Vijayanagar Jamkhandi, Bagalkot 587101. Mr. Mohammadwaseem Bilagi(Co-Borrower) Quess Corp Limited, Designation: Senior Executive Department: Operations, C/o Gold Limb Enterprise, Bagalkot 587313	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 639274259 : 6,52,461/- 2) 642231703 : Rs.18,986/- Total Amount Rs.6,71,447/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Seven Only) as on 31.07.2026	18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.05.2025	PLOT 17/2,S NO 631/2, House, 17/2,Vijayanagar, Jamkhandi, Bagalokt, Bagalkot- 587101, Karnataka.
03	Mr. Ravi (Borrower) S/o Shetty Chavan, HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company Limited Designation: Assistant Manager, Department: Insurance Above Adishwar Showroom HDFC, Ergo General Insurance, Gulbarga 585101. Mr. Ravi (Borrower) S/o Shetty Chavan, Mr. Shobha (Co-Borrower) S/o Shetty Chavan, Both are residing at: Kodadur, Chittapur, Near Govt Primary School, Kodadur, Gulbarga 585312. Also at: Plot 40, S No 35/2B of Kusnoor, House 40, Layout Krishna Nagar, District Kalburgi, Kalaburagi, GB GGH, Gulbarga 585105.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 661154547 : Rs.7,92,694/- 2) 663022940 : Rs. 1,283/- Total Amount Rs.7,93,977/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Seven Only) as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.03.2026	Plot 40,S No 35/2b Of Kusnoor, House 40, Layout Krishna Nagar, District Kalaburagi, Gulbarga, Near Reshmi Degree College, Surksha Maternity Hosp, 585105, Karnataka
04	Mr. Mohammad Zamir Hussain (Borrower) HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited, Designation: Training Officer, Department: Training, HDFC Stand Life Insurance Co Ltd, Aisan Plaza 2nd Floor SVP Chowk, Opp Syndicate Bank, Gulbarga R S Gulbarga - 585102 Also at: H-No-2-907/126/A/34, Behind Chevrolet Showroom, 1st Right GDA Layout Dargahroad, Santrawadi, Gulbarga - 585101 Also at: Plot No 34, Municipal No 2/907/126/A/34, First Floor SVP Nagar, GDA Layout, Jagat, Gulbarga - 585104.	Loan A/c Nos: 367959336 Rs.4,45,238/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Eight Only) as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.06.2025	PLOT NO 34, Municipal No 2/907/126/A/34, First Floor SVP Nagar, GDA Layout, Jagat, Gulbarga - 585104

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 08.10.2026
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002



SEARCHING FOR SCIENTIFIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE MARKET OF MIRACLES

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

India’s strength lies not only in its faith but also in its knowledge tradition. The problem arises not in worship, prayer, or religious belief, but when miracles are replaced by evidence and superstition by reason. Societal insecurity and uncertainty also operate behind claims of astrology, palmistry, prophecy, witchcraft, or miracles. In such times, a scientific outlook does not mean opposing religion, but rather cultivating the habit of asking questions and seeking evidence. Children must be taught to question rather than simply memorizing answers. Laboratories alongside temples, reason alongside faith, and a scientific consciousness alongside tradition are the true needs of modern India.

Today’s India presents an interesting paradox. While the country is advancing in areas such as space exploration, digital technology, medicine, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence, many segments of society remain fascinated by claims of miracles, prophecy, astrology, palmistry, witchcraft, and so-called divine powers. From time to time, new religious sites, spiritual centers, and popular saints enter the spotlight. As a pilgrimage site becomes a center of devotion, the number of followers of a storyteller or saint rapidly increases. This is not just a matter of religion, but also a matter of understanding the psychological and intellectual tendencies of society.

It might be sarcastically said that new “gods” become popular here from time to time. But behind this satire lies a serious question: why do people find such an attraction to miracles and supernatural claims?

Humans are inherently curious and fearful of uncertainties. Illness, unemployment, marriage, children, exams, jobs, financial crisis, and worries about the future drive them to seek answers that offer immediate reassurance. Science often takes time to find answers to problems. In contrast, if someone claims to predict the future, explain the cause of illness, or offer a solution to a problem within minutes, a person in distress may be drawn to them. This is the psychological ground where a market for superstition is created.

In India, many people have become popular, including those who predict the future by reading palm lines, predicting marriage and career, determining life’s direction based on planetary positions, and claiming miracles. Visual impact, emotional language, and stories of personal experiences can make a claim seem like evidence, whereas personal experience is not the same as scientific proof.

This is where the need for a scientific approach comes into play.

A scientific approach does not mean that a person should abstain from worship, visit temples, or abandon their religious beliefs. Faith is a matter of personal life, and everyone has the right to their own beliefs. However, accepting a claim about a natural phenomenon, disease, cure, or miracle based solely on faith is not a scientific approach. The scientific approach says: ask questions, look for evidence, test, and be prepared to change your beliefs if the evidence changes.

The Indian knowledge tradition itself has been filled with questions and curiosity. From Aryabhata to modern Indian scientists, our tradition has made significant contributions to mathematics, astronomy, physics, medicine, and other fields. Even today, Indian scientists and technical experts are demonstrating their capabilities worldwide. The real challenge is to ensure that scientific consciousness reaches the last person in society.

Looking at the world’s technological development, technologies like GPS, Google, Microsoft, YouTube, Facebook, and artificial intelligence have been built upon years of research, experimentation, investment, and learning from failures. They were not created by claiming miracles, but by identifying problems, asking questions, experimenting, and developing solutions. Such talent exists in India as well. The question is, where are we channeling that talent?

The role of our schools is crucial here. If a child is given answers to every question simply by citing tradition, their curiosity may be limited. If they are told to ask questions, seek evidence, and investigate for themselves, that same child could become a researcher, scientist, doctor, engineer, or innovative entrepreneur in the future.

To foster a scientific consciousness, families, schools, the media, and social institutions all must understand their roles. Instead of sensationalizing claims of miracles, the media should factually investigate them. Experiment-based education should be promoted in schools. Families should encourage children’s questions rather than suppress them. Instead of immediately believing a video on social media, we must cultivate the habit of investigating its source and evidence.

It’s also important to understand that superstition isn’t limited to the religious sphere. Believing in rumors, assuming someone is an expert without proof, mistaking everything on social media for truth, and relying on health claims without scientific basis are all manifestations of the same problem.

India doesn’t need to take away anyone’s faith. What’s needed is to strengthen conscience. We need a society where temples are also laboratories, prayers are also research, traditions are also questions, and faith is also respected for evidence.

Our greatest goal for the coming generation should not be the discovery of a new miracle, but the discovery of new questions. An India where children don’t ask, “How did this miracle happen?”, but instead have the courage to ask, “What is the evidence for this claim?”

The real progress of a nation is reflected not only in the number of its religious places but also in its schools, universities, libraries, laboratories, research institutes and innovation centres. *Have faith, but with discretion. Have faith, but with room for questions. Tradition should remain, but with scientific consciousness. Because the future of a nation is not created by miracles but by knowledge, logic, research and human discretion.*



BHAGWAT’S USA MESSAGE: HINDUTVA, HARMONY, DIVERSITY AND ONE HUMAN FAMILY

To view Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat’s visit to the United States in August 2026 merely as an outreach programme for the Indian diaspora would be to underestimate its wider significance. His address at the “One World, One Humanity” programme in New York on August 29 came at a time when the RSS has been the subject of diverse perceptions, allegations and ideological debates, not only in India but also abroad. Against this backdrop, the manner in which Bhagwat placed diversity, dialogue, service, coexistence and human unity at the centre of his message offered an opportunity to present the Sangh’s worldview to global audiences from a different perspective.

The significance of the visit is further enhanced by the fact that the RSS is observing its centenary year. Its ideas and its role in Indian public life are increasingly being discussed beyond India’s borders. Bhagwat’s visit to America therefore became an opportunity to explain the Sangh’s thought through direct engagement and dialogue.

For decades, two sharply contrasting perceptions of the RSS have existed in India. One section regards it as a powerful embodiment of Indian culture, national consciousness, social service and organisation, while another associates its ideology with narrow religious politics. The Congress and various opposition parties have, from time to time, raised serious political questions about the RSS and its worldview. In the United States too, before Bhagwat’s programme, certain organisations and political personalities expressed objections to his visit and to the ideology associated with the Sangh. Yet the image of any institution cannot be shaped permanently through allegations and counter-allegations. It is ultimately dialogue that enables society to understand competing perspectives. In doing so, he opened a new space for debate about the RSS – one in which its ideas could be examined through the words and interpretation of its own highest leadership.

One of the most widely discussed aspects of Bhagwat’s



Lalit Gargg

New York address was his unequivocal statement on Hindu-Muslim relations. He said that if a Hindu believes that there should be no place for Muslims in India, then such a person cannot be regarded as a Hindu. This statement is significant not merely as a political observation but because it connects his interpretation of Hindutva with the principle of social inclusiveness. This has been a distinctive feature of the Indian intellectual tradition: differences in belief need not be treated as a threat to existence; they can instead be understood as diverse expressions of humanity’s search for truth.

This raises an important question: if Hindutva is understood as the cultural consciousness of India, can it exclude any community from the Indian nation? Bhagwat’s answer appears to be an emphatic no. His interpretation presents Hindutva not as the monopoly of any one form of worship, but as an expression of a shared civilisational heritage. In this understanding, Indian identity is broader than religious identity and embraces the plural cultural traditions that have evolved on Indian soil. Bhagwat also described India’s diversity not as a weakness but as a source of strength. Diversity and unity, in his view, are intrinsic to the Indian way of life. India has innumerable languages, communities, castes, faiths, traditions, customs and forms of worship, yet a shared civilisational consciousness has historically provided a deeper bond among them.

This message carries enormous relevance for the contemporary world. In several countries, religious identities, racial divisions, cultural disagreements and political polarisation are generating social tensions. India’s civilisational experience suggests that unity does not necessarily require the elimination of differences. Different identities can coexist when diversity is respected rather than suppressed. This is what lifts Bhagwat’s message beyond the conventional framework of a political speech. He sought to place before the



world the Sanatan perspective that regards the entire creation as interconnected and aspires towards the welfare of all humanity.

The essence of this worldview can be found in the timeless Indian expressions, “Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti” (Truth is one, though the wise describe it in different ways), “Atmavat Sarvabhuteshu” (regard all beings as you would regard yourself), “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the world is one family), and “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah” (may all be happy).

Hindutva, in this broader civilisational sense, is not a narrow or exclusionary doctrine. It represents a way of life that recognises unity amid diversity and seeks the welfare of the entire world. Bhagwat’s formulation that “seeing the world as one is our vision” captures the essence of this approach. Diversity is natural, while unity is the deeper truth. Therefore, celebrating diversity, respecting it and preserving it are integral to Indian culture. At the same time, preserving a sense of inner unity remains a collective responsibility.

Human beings may differ in physical appearance, language, dress, customs, traditions and ways of life, yet there is something fundamental within us that connects us all. It is this civilisational message that Bhagwat attempted to articulate before an international audience with remarkable simplicity and clarity. In the tradition of Swami Vivekananda’s historical presentation of Indian philosophy to the West, Bhagwat’s address sought to com-

municate an expansive understanding of Indian thought and Hindutva in the contemporary global context.

His message to Indians living in America was equally balanced. He emphasised that the country in which they live is their karmabhoomi – their land of action and responsibility – and that their loyalty and duties towards that country must remain paramount. At the same time, India is their janmabhoomi, their ancestral homeland, from which they have inherited cultural values and civilisational traditions. Staying connected with one’s cultural roots and remaining completely committed to the society and nation in which one lives are not contradictory. Both can coexist. Indeed, this ability to accommodate multiple dimensions of identity is itself an expression of India’s cultural openness.

There was opposition to Bhagwat’s programme in America, and sharp criticism of the RSS and its ideology was also voiced. But in a democratic society, ideas are best answered not by suppressing them but by engaging with them. The visit appeared significant because it relied less on defensive argument and more on confidence in its own civilisational narrative. The message was essentially that Indian identity does not become stronger by excluding anyone; it becomes stronger by respecting everyone. Hindutva does not derive its meaning from the exclusion of a community but from a deeper vision of human unity. India’s strength does not lie in making everyone identical but in sustaining cultural unity amid extraordinary

diversity.

The contemporary world needs more than economic power, military strength and technological advancement. It also needs a philosophy of life capable of connecting human beings with one another. Bhagwat’s American address presented a vision of India that can potentially contribute to this global search – a nation drawing upon its civilisational heritage to offer the world a pathway of coexistence, dialogue and unity. For this reason, Mohan Bhagwat’s visit to America may prove memorable.

Ultimately, the greatest strength of any ideology is not its publicity but its practice. The message Bhagwat conveyed from American soil will find its true test on Indian soil in the form of social harmony, service, dialogue, mutual respect and coexistence. If these ideals translate into sustained action, the impact will extend beyond the image of the RSS. It could also contribute to giving India’s

Timeless expressions

Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti
Truth is one, though the wise describe it in different ways

Atmavat Sarvabhuteshu
Regard all beings as you would regard yourself

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
The world is one family

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
May all be happy

civilisational and cultural standing in the world a new depth and a new height.

A FESTIVAL OF ANCESTRAL MEMORIES AND CULTURAL ROOTS



DR. VIJAY GARG

Festivals are not merely occasions for celebration. They are living bridges between the past and the present. They bring families together, preserve traditions and remind us of the people whose lives, sacrifices and values helped shape our own. A festival that encourages us to remember our ancestors is therefore much more than a cultural gathering – it is a journey back to our roots.

In the rush of modern life, we often become disconnected from our family histories. We may know the names of our parents and grandparents, but the stories of earlier generations can gradually disappear. Festivals provide an opportunity to pause, remember and reconnect.

Remembering Those Who Came Before Us

Every family has a story. Behind every home, profession, achievement and tradition are generations of people who worked, struggled, adapted and contributed to the family’s journey. Our ancestors lived in very different circumstances. Many faced economic difficulties, limited resources, social challenges and uncertain times. Yet they built families, cultivated land, es-

tablished businesses, educated their children and preserved traditions. Remembering them does not mean living in the past. It means understanding where we came from and appreciating the founda-



tions on which the present has been built.

The Value of Family Memories

Old photographs, handwritten letters, family stories, traditional recipes, ancestral homes and objects preserved through generations are more than memories. They are pieces of cultural history. When grandparents tell children about their childhood, village, school, festivals or difficult times, they pass on knowledge that may not be found in textbooks. Such conversations help younger generations understand their family’s journey. Unfortunately, many of these stories disappear when elderly family members pass

away. Recording family histories, preserving photographs and documenting oral traditions can help protect this valuable heritage.

Culture Connects Generations

Traditional food, clothing, music, folk songs, language, rituals and community celebrations are important expressions of cultural identity. Festivals give children an opportunity to experience these traditions rather than merely reading about them. A traditional song sung by a grandparent, a family recipe prepared together or a local custom explained to a child can create a powerful connection between generations. At the same time, traditions can evolve. Preserving culture does not require rejecting modernity. A healthy society can respect its heritage while remaining open to new ideas and changing circumstances.

From Memory to Responsibility

Remembering ancestors should also encourage us to think about our responsibilities toward future generations. What kind of environment will we leave behind? What values will we pass on? Will future generations remember us for what we consumed or for what we contributed? Our ancestors left us more than property and possessions. They left languages, values, knowledge, relationships and cultural traditions. We have a responsibility to preserve what is meaningful and improve what needs to change.

Celebrating with Purpose

A festival centred on ancestral memories can include simple but meaningful activities: sharing family histories, displaying old photographs, recording grandparents’ memories, preparing traditional foods, teaching children folk songs, visiting ancestral places or planting a tree in memory of loved ones. Such activities transform a festival from a day of celebration into an experience of learning and remembrance. The younger generation, especially, can benefit from this connection. Knowing one’s family history can help develop a sense of belonging and appreciation for the struggles and achievements of earlier generations.

Roots Give Meaning to the

Future

A tree with strong roots can grow toward the sky while adapting to changing seasons. Human beings are similar. We can embrace technology, modern education and new lifestyles without completely forgetting the cultural foundations that shaped us. Remembering our ancestors teaches humility. Their lives remind us that progress is rarely created by one generation alone. We inherit opportunities from those who came before us and, in turn, have a duty to create opportunities for those who will come after us. A festival of ancestral memories is therefore not simply about looking backward. It is about understanding the past, appreciating the present and preparing responsibly for the future. Our ancestors may no longer walk beside us, but their stories, values and sacrifices

When a festival helps us remember them, it becomes more than a celebration – it becomes a celebration of who we are, where we came from and what we hope to leave behind.”

— Dr. Vijay Garg

continue to live through us.

Fix Bengaluru Traffic Chaos

Through your esteemed paper, I wish to highlight Bengaluru’s worsening traffic. Daily jams waste 2-3 hours of our lives, increase fuel consumption and pollution. Potholes, unplanned Metro work and lack of footpaths make it worse for pedestrians. The IT hub’s productivity is suffering badly. I request authorities to repair roads, regulate signals scientifically and promote public transport and carpooling. Citizens must also follow lane discipline.

— Vidhyashree J.

Save Lakes, Secure Future

I write to express alarm over the shrinking lakes in Bengaluru. Encroachment and dumping of sewage and plastic have destroyed many water bodies. Bellandur and Varthur lakes frothing is a national shame. With water scarcity rising every summer, we cannot afford to lose more lakes. BBMP and BWSSB must act strictly, desilt lakes and penalize polluters. Citizens should also stop dumping waste and volunteer for clean-ups.

— Fransis Jacob



RIGHT POSTURE IS TRUE LIFETIME INVESTMENT

In my opinion, we worry a lot about food, exercise and diet, but we completely ignore two things we do the most in life: sitting and sleeping. An average person sits for 10-12 hours and sleeps for 7-8 hours daily. That means almost 20 hours of our day depends on our position. If that position is wrong, no gym or medicine can save us from back pain, neck pain and fatigue. Posture is not a small matter, it is the foundation of good health. Let's first talk about sitting. Today everyone is a sitting worker: students in college, IT employees in Bengaluru, auto drivers, shopkeepers. We sit hunched, with shoulders forward, neck bent towards the mobile or laptop. This is called "text neck" and

Medicines can give temporary relief, but only correct sitting and sleeping habits give permanent health."

—FRANSIS JACOB

"laptop back". In the beginning it feels normal, but slowly the spine starts bending. The discs get compressed, muscles become tight, blood circulation reduces. That is why so many young people at age 25-30 are complaining of back pain which earlier used to come at age 60.

Right sitting position is very simple. Back should be straight and supported by the chair, feet flat on the ground, knees at 90 degrees. Laptop screen should be at eye level,



not below. Every 45 minutes, we must stand, stretch and walk for 2 minutes. I have seen in many offices that people sit continuously for 4 hours without moving, drinking less water to avoid wash-room. This is very dangerous. It causes obesity, piles, varicose veins and even heart issues. Sitting is the new smoking, doctors say, and I agree.

Now, sleeping position is even more ignored. We think any way we sleep is fine, but our sleeping posture decides how we will feel the next day. Many people sleep on their stomach with face inside the pillow. This twists the neck completely and blocks breathing. Some use very high or very thick pillows that bend the neck all night, leading

to cervical spondylosis and morning headaches. Some sleep on very soft mattresses that sink inside and bend the spine like a banana.

The best sleeping positions are on the back or on the side. Sleeping on the back with a medium pillow that supports the neck curve is ideal, it keeps the spine neutral. Sleeping on the left side is also very good, especially for digestion and heart health. Our elders always said to sleep on left side, and science now proves it helps in reducing acidity and improves blood flow. Using a small pillow between the knees while sleeping sideways reduces lower back pressure.

I strongly feel schools and offices should teach posture.

We teach maths and coding, but we don't teach how to sit. Children carry heavy bags on one shoulder, sit with curved backs, and later pay with life-long pain. Offices should invest in ergonomic chairs, not just colourful interiors. Parents should check if their children are sleeping with correct pillow height. In conclusion, good posture is not about looking smart for photos, it is about saving your spine for the next 50 years. Medicines can give temporary relief, but only correct sitting and sleeping habits give permanent health. As we say in India, prevention is better than cure. So from today, sit straight, sleep right and stand tall. Your body will thank you after ten years.

—FRANSIS JACOB

LEARNING TO LOVE YOUR BODY AGAIN

In my opinion, accepting your weight when you are fat is one of the hardest battles in today's world. We live in a society that worships six-pack abs and zero figure, where every matrimonial ad wants a slim bride, and every Instagram reel says lose 10 kgs in 10 days. If you are overweight, the world makes you feel like you are guilty of a crime. But the truth is, your weight does not decide your worth. Learning to accept yourself is not giving up, it is the first step to becoming healthy and happy.

First, we must understand why acceptance is important. Most overweight people live in self-hatred. They avoid mirrors, they don't go to weddings because they feel no clothes will fit, they eat in secret and feel shame after every meal. This shame does not help in weight loss, it makes it worse. When you hate your body, you punish it either by starving or by over-eating. But when you accept it, you start caring for it. Acceptance says, "Okay, this is where I am today, and I will take care of myself from here." That change in mindset is powerful.

Secondly, people must separate health and beauty standards. The film industry and fashion industry have created a fake idea that fat means ugly and lazy. That is not true. There are fat people who are very active, kind, talented and fit in their own way. And there are thin people who are very unhealthy. Your body



size is influenced by many things: hormones, genetics, PCOS, thyroid, medicines, stress, poverty, lack of time. It is not just about eating burgers. So stop judging yourself with a film poster.

So how to accept your weight? The first step is to change your self-talk. Stop standing on the weighing machine daily and cursing yourself. Look at what your body does for you: it walks, it hugs your mother, it works for your family, it survived many hard days. Thank it. Second, wear clothes that fit you now, not clothes you want to fit into after two years. When you wear good fitting clothes today, you feel confident today. Third, unfollow social media accounts that make you feel insecure. Follow body-positive people, nutritionists who talk about health, not shame.

Acceptance also does not mean you ignore health. It means you choose health out of love, not hate. If you love

your body, you will want to feed it better food, take it for a walk, give it proper sleep.

You will not do crash diets that damage your liver. You will go to a doctor for a health check-up, not to a fake fat-loss tea seller. You will do exercise because you enjoy moving, not because you want to punish yourself for eating a samosa.

I also request families to be kinder. In many Indian homes, relatives openly body-shame: "You have become so fat, who will marry you?" This is cruel and causes depression, especially in girls. Instead, families should encourage healthy habits together: cook together, walk together, without taunting weight.

Your weight is a part of you, but not your whole identity. You are much more than a number on the weighing scale. Accept your body today, respect it, care for it, and if you want to lose weight for health, do it with patience and love.

—J. JANANI



CCTV CAMERAS WATCH YOU MORE THAN CRIMINALS

In my opinion, CCTV is presented to us as a tool for safety, but today it has become a serious threat to our privacy. Everywhere we go — in schools, offices, apartments, roads, malls, even in washroom corridors — there is a camera watching us. We are told it is for our security. But the real question is, who is securing our privacy from these cameras? We have slowly entered a world where we are being recorded 24 hours without our real consent.

First, let's talk about how common it has become. In Bengaluru itself, there are lakhs of CCTV cameras under Safe City projects, plus private cameras in every shop and PG. Your face, your bike number, your clothes, who you meet, what time you come home — everything is recorded. Earlier, only police could watch criminals. Now, any shop owner, any apartment security guard, any hacker who gets the password can watch a common citizen. I have seen many times that CCTV footage of couples in a cafe or a woman in a trial room gets leaked on WhatsApp and social media. That is not safety — that is voyeurism.

Second, there is no law about how long this data is stored and who can see it. In India, we have no strong CCTV privacy rules. A company can keep your office footage for years. Your boss can use it to check how many times you went to the washroom or if you talked to a colleague. Schools are putting cameras inside classrooms and even sending live feed to parents. It creates a jail-like feeling for children and teachers. Children should feel free to make mistakes and learn, not act as if they are in Bigg

—RICKEY

LOYALTY IS RARE ART OF CHARACTER

In my opinion, loyalty is one of the most beautiful arts in today's world. Everyone wants loyalty from others, but very few are ready to give it. We live in a time of quick changes: we change jobs for 5% hike, we change friends if they are not useful, we change relationships if we get bored. In such a time, a loyal person shines like a diamond. Loyalty is not just staying with someone, it is an art that needs patience, character and heart.

What is loyalty actually? Many people think loyalty means blindly supporting someone even when they are wrong. That is not loyalty — that is slavery. Real loyalty means standing with the right people at the right time, even when it is difficult. If your friend is going on the wrong path, loyalty is to tell him the truth, not to clap for his mistakes. If your company is facing loss, loyalty is to work harder, not to run away first. Loyalty is not about words, it is about actions during tough times.

I have seen loyalty first in my family. My father worked in the same organization for 25 years. He got many

offers with more salary, but he stayed because that company supported him when my grandfather was ill. Today's youth call it foolishness, but I call it gratitude and art. Similarly, a dog is called man's best friend not because it is expensive, but because it is loyal. It will wait for you the whole day even if you scold it. We humans with big degrees and big phones often fail to learn this simple art from a dog.

Why is loyalty becoming rare? Because we have become very selfish and short-term thinkers. Social media teaches us that there is always a better option. Better job, better partner, better life somewhere else. So we never invest deeply in one place, one relation, one organization. We keep our options open and that makes us disloyal. But the truth is, depth gives happiness, not options. A person who is loyal to one skill for ten years becomes a master. A person who changes skills every three months remains a beginner.

The art of loyalty also needs courage. It is easy to be loyal when everything is good. The real test comes when your

friend fails, when your partner gets sick, when your company goes down. Most people leave in that time. But loyal people stay and become pillars. History remembers loyal people like Hanuman's loyalty to Ram, like soldiers loyal to the nation, like friends who stay in poverty.

How to learn this art? First, keep your promises. If you say you will come at 5 pm, come at 5 pm. Small promises build big loyalty. Second, don't talk behind people's backs. If you are loyal, you will not gossip about your own friend. Third, be loyal to yourself also. Don't betray your own values for money or fame.

Loyalty is not old-fashioned, it is timeless. In a market where everything is available, loyalty is the most premium currency. Companies don't need talented people who leave in six months, they need loyal people who grow with them. Friends don't need perfect friends, they need loyal friends who don't leave. If you want to be successful and respected, master the art of loyalty. It will never go out of style.

—VIDHYASHREE J.



HR IS THE HEARTBEAT BEHIND EVERY COMPANY

In my opinion, many people think HR means just hiring and firing people. In movies and memes, HR is shown as a department that sends birthday emails and organizes office parties. But the reality is very different. HR is the backbone, the heart, and the brain of any successful company. A company can have best products, best funding, best office in Bengaluru, but if it does not have a good HR team, it will fail. Because at the end of the day, business is not about buildings, it is about people.

First, HR builds the company. Finding the right person for the right job is an art. It is easy to see a resume, but difficult to see attitude, honesty and long-term potential. A good HR person does not just check marks and degrees, they check character. One wrong hire in a key position can destroy team culture, while one right hire can change the whole company's future. Especially in today's competitive world where talent is scarce, HR's role in attracting and retaining talent is priceless.

Second, HR protects culture and mental health. In modern offices, pressure is very high. Targets, late night calls, office politics, burn-out — all are real. Who listens to employees? HR does. A good HR creates a safe space where an employee can say, "I am stressed, I need help" without fear of losing the job. They make policies for leaves, work-from-home, harassment complaints, and work-life balance. When I talked to many IT employees in Bengaluru, they said the main reason they stay in a company is not salary, but good manager and good HR support. If HR is rude or only sides with management, people leave quickly.

Third, HR handles the toughest moments with humanity. When a company has to do layoffs, it is HR who has to sit with that crying employee and explain. When there is a fight between two teams, HR becomes the judge. When someone faces sexual harassment, HR must give justice, not just save company image. This needs a lot of



A good HR creates a safe space where an employee can say, 'I am stressed, I need help' without fear of losing the job."

—SHARON FAUSTINA J.

courage and empathy. Many people hate HR during such times, but they don't see the pressure HR itself faces from both sides — management and employees.

Fourth, HR is crucial for growth and learning. A company cannot grow if its people don't grow. HR designs training, upskilling programs, promotion paths and performance reviews. Without this, employees feel stuck and bored. Good HR identifies future leaders, mentors them, and creates a second line of leadership. This is why big companies like Infosys, Tata and Google invest so heavily in their HR departments.

Sadly, in many small start-ups and factories, HR is treated as a cost, not an investment. They keep one person to do payroll and compliance and think HR work is done. Then they complain about high attrition and low motivation. They forget that machines can be bought, but loyalty, trust and culture must be built by humans, and that is HR's job.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that importance of HR will only increase in future with AI and automation. When AI will do technical work, human qualities like empathy, conflict resolution and team building will become even more valuable. So, to all founders and CEOs: respect your HR, listen to them, and give them a seat at the main table, not just a corner cabin. Because if finance is the mind of a company, HR is definitely its heart.

—SHARON FAUSTINA J.

Quick Read

10 schools in Ahmedabad receive bomb threats

AHMEDABAD

Ten private schools in Ahmedabad received bomb threat emails on Wednesday, prompting security checks that later confirmed the threats were a hoax. The sender claimed links to the “Khalistan National Army” and warned of blasts at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on November 1 and Ahmedabad’s Narendra Modi Stadium on November 21. Both dates coincide with scheduled concerts by singer Diljit Dosanjh. Police, bomb disposal squads, dog squads and anti-sabotage teams searched all 10 schools. Officials said nothing suspicious was found.

TGCSB arrests 101 in multi-state cybercrime crackdown

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested 101 people, including 18 women, and traced fraudulent transactions worth around ₹17 crore during a two-week cybercrime operation across six southern states and Union Territory of Puducherry. The operation, launched on September 23, targeted cyber-enabled financial crimes and the use of mule bank accounts. Six teams involving more than 100 personnel carried out coordinated action in Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Of those arrested, 35 were from Kerala, 22 from Andhra Pradesh, 17 from Karnataka, 14 from Tamil Nadu, 12 from Telangana and one from Puducherry. The operation is linked to 51 cases, with investigators tracing 1,172 cyber-crime links nationwide.

4 students die after toxic gas exposure in Vrindavan

MATHURA

Four students died and another was injured after being exposed to suspected toxic gas while cleaning an underground water tank at a residential Sanskrit school in Vrindavan’s Chaitanya Vihar, officials said. The incident occurred after a foul smell was detected from the 12-14-foot-deep tank. One student entered to clean it but became unconscious. Four others entered to rescue him, and all five were later pulled out and taken to hospital. Four students, aged between 17 and 20, died, while the fifth student, identified as Rudra, survived and is undergoing treatment. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered to examine the circumstances, the institution’s recognition and why students were asked to clean the tank.

PM Modi outlines ambitious goals for Viksit Bharat 2047

PM Modi outlines India’s goals for 2047, focusing on economic growth, self-reliance, manufacturing, Olympics and advances in space exploration.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday outlined an ambitious roadmap for India’s future, including becoming a top-three global economy, building a self-reliant nation, emerging as a global manufacturing hub, hosting the Olympics and making further advances in space. He said the country’s collective confidence would help achieve these goals.

Reflecting on completing 25 continuous years as head of government, Modi said the milestone was not an occasion for personal glorification. His journey began as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001 and continued as Prime Minister. He recalled his earlier years of grassroots work and service in remote areas before entering administrative governance at the age of 50.

Modi said his public life had been guided by a mission



rather than personal ambition. Recalling his organisational work within the Bharatiya Janata Party, he said electoral prominence had never been his personal pursuit. He credited the values instilled during childhood for shaping his approach to public service and said collective effort remained essential for the country’s progress.

He invoked his call for “Sabka Prayas”, or collective effort, and said India’s energy

and self-confidence were extraordinary. He also referred to the achievements of Captain Machchhar and called on citizens to dedicate themselves to the nation. Modi said visionary policies combined with hard work would be necessary to realise India’s future ambitions ahead.

The Prime Minister also expressed confidence that a Made-in-India aircraft would one day gain global recognition. He urged citizens not to

THE 2047 GOALS
ECONOMY
A top-three global economy
SELF-RELIANCE
A self-reliant nation
MANUFACTURING
A global manufacturing hub
SPORTS
Hosting the Olympics
SPACE
Further advances in space
AVIATION
A Made-in-India aircraft with global recognition

become complacent and instead continue working with determination and dedication. His remarks came as he reflected on his quarter-century in executive governance and presented a series of long-term national goals centred on development, self-reliance, manufacturing, sports and space exploration.

Delhi Police files FIR against Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered an FIR over the alleged unauthorised entry of Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, along with other INDIA bloc leaders, into Akashvani Bhavan during Tuesday’s protest against the Election Commission of India.

According to police, the INDIA bloc had planned to march from Parliament House to Nirvachan Sadan, but no official permission had been sought or granted. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others then entered Akashvani Bhavan premises and continued their protest.

Police said the protesters were asked to leave but allegedly refused, insisting that a delegation of MPs should be allowed to meet

Delhi Police filed an FIR after Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi allegedly entered Akashvani Bhavan during an INDIA bloc protest.

Election Commission officials. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other protesters were subsequently removed and detained.

Around 260 people, including 10 MPs, were detained during the protest. The demonstration was organised over opposition concerns regarding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Delhi Police said further details about the sections invoked in the case were awaited.

CJI Surya Kant to decide plea on CEC law

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday said the Supreme Court will soon decide whether to list an application seeking recall of its order referring a challenge to the law governing appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners to a Constitution bench.

CJI Surya Kant said, “We will examine and take a call.” The plea was filed by Naman Shertra, one of the petitioners challenging the validity of the CEC & ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

The application seeks recall of the September 23 order passed by a bench of Justices

Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma. The judges had delivered a split verdict on whether the challenge should be heard by a five-judge Constitution bench. Justice Datta said a reference was unnecessary, while Justice Sharma held that substantial constitutional questions required consideration by at least five judges under Article 145(3). Shertra’s plea seeks recall of Justice Sharma’s order and the order referring the petitions to a constitution bench. It argues that Justice Sharma should have recused himself because his son appears for the Election Commission before the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The application does not seek recall of Justice Datta’s separate opinion.

Uttarakhand CM Dhami directs officials to resolve SC-ST concerns

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday interacted with members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and directed officials to resolve their concerns on priority. People from Tehri, Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Chakrata and Kalsi raised issues related to development, roads, education, employment, drinking water, livelihoods and basic infrastructure.

Dhami said the state government’s objective was to bring every section, region and individual into the mainstream of development. He



said officials must ensure that welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries and that development benefits extend to remote and disadvantaged areas. He also stressed the need for direct communica-

“The real success of democracy lies in maintaining direct and continuous communication between the government and the people.”

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI
Uttarakhand Chief Minister

tion between citizens, public representatives and officials.

He recalled the contribution of Dr BR Ambedkar and said the Constitution’s principles of equality, social justice and equal opportunities continued to guide efforts to empower disadvantaged sections.

He highlighted his visits over nearly five years to Chakrata, Kalsi, Jaunsar-Bawar, Uttarkashi and other mountainous and border districts, saying such visits help officials understand ground realities and plan development according to regional needs.

He also highlighted efforts to preserve tribal culture and heritage. Dhami said the Aadi Gaurav Mahotsav provides a platform for tribal traditions, folk art, songs, handicrafts and lifestyles, and noted that the event has expanded beyond Dehradun to remote tribal areas, including a recent programme in Champawat.

M’rashtra seeks maximum NDRF aid for drought-hit areas



MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has sought maximum assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund for drought-hit areas after drought was declared in 265 talukas across the state. He raised the issue during a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Wednesday.

He said Shah assured him that the Centre would provide maximum assistance and that an inter-ministerial Central government team would visit Maharashtra from October 8 to 11 for a detailed assessment.

The team, headed by Agriculture Department Joint Sec-

Drought has been declared in more than 265 talukas in Maharashtra, and drought relief measures have been announced. In such a situation, a request was made to him to provide maximum assistance on behalf of NDRF.”

— Devendra Fadnis,
Maharashtra Chief Minister

retary Muktanand Agrawal, includes representatives from several Central departments and agencies.

The Maharashtra government declared drought in 265 of the state’s 358 talukas in September following deficient and erratic monsoon rainfall. The affected talukas account for nearly three-fourths of the state’s total.

Fadnis has also said areas outside the initial drought list could be considered for relief because erratic rainfall and dry spells affected crops, even where the standard Trigger-1 criteria under the Drought Management Code, 2016, were not met.

Nadda to launch ‘JOSH’ teams for TB elimination

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will lead the national launch of JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) teams on October 8 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as part of efforts to strengthen community participation in India’s tuberculosis elimination campaign.

The initiative, being launched by the Health Ministry with the Ministries of Youth Affairs and Sports and Defence, will initially cover 55 districts across 11 states. The launch will bring together senior officials, elected representatives, Class-I officers, MY Bharat Volunteers, NCC Cadets and other stakeholders involved in TB elimination efforts.

JOSH Teams will combine Class-I officers, MY Bharat Volunteers and NCC Cadets to support community-level mobilisation. Their work will include spreading information

about TB symptoms, prevention, timely diagnosis and completion of treatment. The teams will also address myths and misconceptions, reduce stigma and encourage greater participation in the national TB elimination campaign.

The programme will feature a video highlighting milestones of the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, along with new Information, Education and Communication materials. An AI-powered chatbot, Khushi Avatar, will also be launched to strengthen public awareness, community engagement and participation in the campaign.

The initiative builds on the government’s emphasis on Jan Bhagidari in TB elimination. In 2025, 67,933 Panchayats across 697 districts were recognised as TB Mukta. The launch is expected to strengthen last-mile outreach and encourage communities to participate actively in India’s TB elimination efforts.

55	11	67,933
districts in the first phase	states in the first phase	Panchayats TB Mukta in 2025

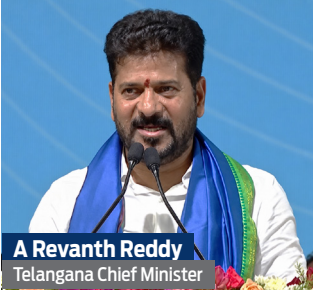
Revanth Reddy criticises BJP over Gandhi’s detention

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday criticised the BJP-led Central government over the detention of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other INDIA bloc MPs during protests concerning electoral issues. He alleged that the action reflected the government’s fear of opposition efforts to protect voting rights and constitutional institutions.

In a statement released by the Chief Minister’s Office, Reddy described the detention as unlawful and accused the government of attempting to suppress opposition voices. He claimed that the BJP was concerned about Rahul Gandhi’s leadership and his campaign to protect democratic rights. Reddy also maintained that such actions would not discourage opposition parties from continuing their protests.

Drawing comparisons with India’s freedom struggle, Reddy recalled the arrests of prominent national leaders under British rule. He mentioned Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma



Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose, saying they had faced detention during their struggle for independence. He argued that the present opposition movement would similarly continue despite government action.

Reddy said citizens, particularly young people, were increasingly participating in efforts to protect voting rights and democracy.

The BJP and the Central government have rejected the opposition’s allegations, maintaining that electoral procedures follow existing laws. The disagreement has intensified political exchanges between the ruling party and opposition leaders over electoral reforms and constitutional institutions.

CJP DELHI PROTEST

CJP submits notice for October 10 protest at Jantar Mantar



NEW DELHI

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) has formally informed the Delhi Police about its proposed October 10 protest at Jantar Mantar, with chief spokesperson Saurav Das saying the demonstration would focus on concerns over elections and voter lists.

Das said he visited Parliament Street Police Station and submitted a formal letter

informing authorities that the CJP and youth from across the country would gather for the protest. He said the police acknowledged the notification, obtained an undertaking and completed the required formalities.

According to Das, the proposed demonstration would raise concerns among young people about what he described as “theft of votes” and “hijacking of elections”. He also alleged that the Election Commission of India was

failing to include Gen Z members in voter lists.

Das said the demonstration should not be viewed only as a CJP programme, but as a Gen Z and youth protest. He said young people would take to the streets until Chief

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resigns.

The protest is scheduled for October 10 at Jantar Mantar. Das said “Chalo Delhi” would be the slogan and urged supporters to assemble in the national capital.

PROTEST IN FOCUS

CJP to hold October 10 protest at Jantar Mantar

Saurav Das formally notified Delhi Police about the protest

Youth and Gen Z voter issues will be highlighted

CJP demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar’s resignation

“Chalo Delhi” is the protest slogan

Quick Read

Food safety team
seizes artificially
ripened bananas

NAVI MUMBAI

Food safety officials seized 1,394kg of bananas worth about Rs 67,814 from a stall at APMC Fruit Market, Turbhe, after allegedly finding them artificially ripened using BTHILEX, labelled Ethephon 39% soluble liquid. Officials said a worker admitted mixing two caps of the chemical in five litres of water. The chemical packaging allegedly carried illegitimate manufacturer details and lacked the required registration number. They warned that directly dipping fruit in ethephon is prohibited due to possible health risks.

Teen couple die by
suicide during
Instagram
livestream

VADODARA

A 22-year-old man and a 16-year-old girl, who were in a relationship, died by suicide in a forested area of Dahod district while livestreaming on Instagram on Sunday, police said. The livestream was reportedly watched by around 50 people, including members of the couple's families, who were left shocked. Police identified the man as Rajesh Ninama, a resident of Limkheda taluka. An officer said Ninama had recently taken the girl to meet his parents and sought their permission to marry. His parents allegedly refused, citing that both belonged to the same clan and shared the same surname. Police said the couple was upset following the refusal and decided to take the extreme step. Officials said no suicide note was found and an investigation is underway to determine whether any other factors contributed to the deaths.

HC extends stay on
govt employee
terminations

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday extended its stay on the termination of government employees whose appointments were affected by the cancellation of examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC). Justice Deepak Roshan heard a series of petitions filed by employees challenging the state government's decision to cancel the examinations and subsequently terminate their services. The employees have challenged the government's decision, seeking relief against termination of their services following the cancellation of the recruitment examinations.

Madras HC questions Vijay's ₹30 cr omission

The court raised concerns over discrepancies in Vijay's declared assets, examining whether the alleged omission could have legal consequences.

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday questioned whether the alleged omission of assets worth ₹30 crore from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's 2026 election affidavit could amount to a corrupt practice when he had declared assets worth around ₹600 crore. Justice V Lakshminarayanan raised the issue while hearing Vijay's application challenging an election petition against his victory. The judge questioned whether an error by the chartered accountant could justify setting aside an election. "He would have definitely relied on a CA. The CA might have missed some assets.

For that, can the election be set aside?" the court asked. It questioned whether omitting ₹30 crore from ₹600 crore in declared assets could amount to corrupt practice. The court further examined whether the alleged omission could have influenced voters, particularly since Vijay won Perambur by more than 50,000 votes. Justice Lakshminarayanan asked whether a voter's decision would have changed if Vijay had failed to disclose assets worth ₹30 crore. The observations came during a petition filed by Perambur voter S Dinesh. Dinesh has alleged discrepancies in Vijay's disclosure of immovable properties and sought

a declaration that his election be declared void. The petition questions 50 cents of land in Vilpatti village, Kodaikanal, and a Porur property, with allegations over their disclosure and purchase price. Vijay has denied the allegations and sought dismissal of the petition, describing them as false, unfounded and misconceived. His senior counsel argued that the petition lacked material particulars and failed to explain how the discrepancies affected the election result. Vijay also said voters knew they were choosing him as a well-known cinema actor offering a political alternative. Further arguments in the case will be heard on October 8.



“He would have definitely relied on a CA. The CA might have missed some assets. For that, can the election be set aside?”

— Justice V Lakshminarayanan, Madras HC

₹600 crore	₹30 crore	50,000+
Vijay's declared assets (approx.)	allegedly left out of the affidavit	votes: his Perambur margin

Kandla forum highlights India's green fuel potential



GANDHIDHAM

India has the potential to become a low-cost supplier of green fuels to the world, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Director Dr Prasad Chaphekar said at the Kandla Forum 2026 on Wednesday. He said discussions at the forum would help demonstrate India's capabilities in green hydrogen and green fuels. Chaphekar said participants exchanged views on green hydrogen, green fuels, the Port of Kandla and the mission. He said the forum received a response and could help convince partners about India's ability to supply green fuels at competitive costs. Hydrogen Council CEO

India aims to emerge as a low-cost green fuel supplier, with Kandla Forum discussions highlighting its hydrogen and clean energy potential.

Ivana Jemelkova said the organisation was pleased to participate in the forum. She said the council brings together chief executives from companies working on hydrogen-related energy challenges and has 70 member companies from America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Jemelkova said it was encouraging to see India recognise hydrogen's importance for energy security, sustainability and economic growth. Hosted by the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, the forum was themed "Anchoring Maritime Decarbonisation" and brought together global stakeholders from hydrogen, clean energy, shipping, shipbuilding, engineering, technology and finance. Discussions focused on knowledge sharing, technology transfer, investment and projects.

IN FOCUS	
200+	EXECUTIVES ATTENDED
62	HYDROGEN COUNCIL COMPANIES REPRESENTED
70	HYDROGEN COUNCIL MEMBERS GLOBALLY
2070	INDIA'S NET ZERO TARGET
2026	KANDLA FORUM EDITION

The forum was designed to connect companies developing the green-energy value chain with port leadership. More than 200 executives representing 62 Hydrogen Council member companies participated. The delegation included equipment manufacturers, energy and industrial gas companies, engineering firms, mobility manufacturers, shipping and maritime organisations, classification bodies and project finance institutions. Deendayal Port Authority is advancing Kandla's green hydrogen and clean-fuel ecosystem as part of India's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2070.

Study traces Gujarat's water governance reforms

NEW DELHI

A study launched at IIM Bangalore has traced 25 years of water governance reforms in Gujarat and India, highlighting lessons for policymakers. The study, "From Gujarat to India: Water Lessons for the World", examines reforms that began in Gujarat in 2001 under Chief Minister Narendra Modi and were reflected in national water programmes. The study was authored by Daniel W Smith of George Mason University, Nitin Bassi of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and Parameswaran Iyer, former secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The study traces how elements of the Gujarat approach later informed national initiatives including Jal Jeevan Mission, Jal Shakti Abhiyan,

Namami Gange, Atal Bhujal Yojana and Per Drop More Crop. Parameswaran Iyer said reforms under Modi in Gujarat included river management through Narmada, micro irrigation and institutions focused on drinking water and sanitation. He said a decentralised, community-based approach was important for Jal Jeevan Mission, while the creation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti brought different water-related responsibilities together. Nitin Bassi said Gujarat's water grid helped address supply problems after droughts and enabled drinking water, groundwater recharge, river rejuvenation, livestock needs and supplemental irrigation. The study noted that Gujarat had constructed more than 76,000 check dams under the Sardar Patel water conservation programme by 2013.



Vijay presents medals to new DSPs in Chennai

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay attended the passing-out parade and graduation ceremony of the 14th batch of Deputy Superintendents of Police at the Tamil Nadu Police Higher Training Ground in Unamancheri, near Vandalur, Chennai, on Wednesday. The ceremony marked the completion of training for the trainee DSPs before they take up responsibilities in the state police force. The event was held at 4 pm, with the trainee officers participating in the formal passing-out parade. Vijay received the ceremonial salute from the graduating officers and reviewed the parade as part of the proceedings. During the programme, Vijay presented medals and trophies to officers who performed well in different training categories. The graduating officers will now prepare to assume their responsibilities as Deputy Superintendents of Police in Tamil Nadu. The event was also significant for their families and colleagues, who witnessed the officers complete an important phase of their professional journey.

BJP backs West Bengal name change proposal

KOLKATA

West Bengal is likely to be renamed "Paschim Banga" if the BJP forms the government in the state, BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said on Wednesday. He said the proposed name would preserve the state's historical identity and that there should be no further ambiguity over the party's position on the issue, which has remained under discussion. "How many times must I say, brother? The name will be 'Paschim Banga'," Bhattacharya told reporters, reiterating his earlier statement. He said the proposed change would be backed by legislation and a bill could be introduced during the first session of the Assembly after the BJP forms the government in the state. Bhattacharya said names including "Paschim Bangla", "Bangla" and "Banga" would no longer be used once the proposed change was implemented. He said the objective was to ensure that the state's official identity remained connected with its history. The issue of



changing West Bengal's name has been debated for years. The Trinamool Congress government had earlier proposed changing the state's name to "Bangla", arguing that the existing name placed it lower in alphabetical listings and did not reflect the Bengali name used locally. However, the proposal did not receive approval from the Centre. The proposed move would follow several Indian states that have changed names for linguistic, cultural or historical reasons in different periods. Bhattacharya also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address marking 25 years in public life, saying it reflected dedication to the country.

Keralam forms task force for holistic health model

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Keralam government has constituted a 16-member task force to develop a comprehensive health model focused on prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, healthy ageing and longevity, officials said on Wednesday. The Kerala Holistic Model for Health, Wellness and Longevity Task Force will be headed by Chief Minister V D Satheesan, with Health Minister K Muraliedharan as vice chairman. Senior officials and medical experts are also part of the panel. The government order said the committee may invite eminent stakeholders and form focused working groups with technical experts. Satheesan said the initiative aims to shift the healthcare system from treating illnesses after they emerge towards preventing diseases and detecting them early. The task force will examine disease patterns, ageing and available health facilities, while assessing the use of modern medicine and traditional treatment methods,

WHAT NEXT

- ▶ A report within two months of the first meeting, proposing:
 - ▶ Two or three pilot projects
 - ▶ A three-year phased action plan
 - ▶ Estimated costs and possible fundraising options
 - ▶ A mechanism to evaluate progress
 - ▶ The responsibilities of each department
- “The government is trying to implement a healthcare system that will be a model for the world.”
- V D SATHEESAN Kerala CM

including Ayurveda. The Chief Minister said the initiative follows the creation of a special department for senior citizens, formed in view of the state's growing elderly population. He said the task force would prepare systems for timely testing and explore measures to ensure healthy ageing. The task force will submit its report within two months of its first meeting.

Mithun named Bengal government cultural adviser

KOLKATA

Veteran actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty has been appointed as an adviser to the West Bengal government, with Cabinet rank in the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, according to an announcement made by Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari on Wednesday. The appointment gives Chakraborty a formal role in the state administration's cultural affairs. Chakraborty will serve as an adviser to the department, which is under the charge of Adhikari. The appointment comes as the BJP government seeks to strengthen its focus on Bengal's cultural and film sectors. Chakraborty, a veteran figure in Bengali cinema and a BJP leader, is expected to take on a role connected with the government's cultural priorities. Adhikari announced the appointment during an event associated with the centenary celebrations of legendary Bengali actor Uttam Kumar. The state government has been presenting the celebrations as

part of efforts to promote Bengal's film heritage and revive its position as a major cultural and cinematic centre. The appointment places Chakraborty in a Cabinet-rank position while giving him an advisory role in a key department. The Information and Cultural Affairs Department handles matters linked to the state's cultural activities and film sector, according to the announcement. The move comes amid the government's stated focus on Bengal's cultural identity and cinematic heritage. The Uttam Kumar centenary celebrations have been positioned as part of this wider effort to highlight the state's contribution to Indian cinema. Chakraborty's appointment adds a prominent film personality to the administration's cultural affairs, with the veteran actor now set to serve as an adviser with Cabinet rank. The announcement also highlights the administration's stated intention to use the celebrations to promote Bengal's film heritage and cultural identity.

META CHILD SAFETY

Meta reports 5.3 million child exploitation content

NEW DELHI

Meta said on Wednesday it had taken action against 5.3 million pieces of child sexual exploitation content on Facebook and Instagram in India between January and June 2026, with more than 98 per cent detected proactively. The company also said it had introduced additional measures to strengthen efforts

to combat child sexual exploitation on its platforms. The disclosure comes after the government told Meta that it could not continue to rely solely on its intermediary status and needed to take greater responsibility for child sexual abuse material appearing on its services. The government had warned that Meta could risk losing the "safe harbour" immunity available to inter-

mediaries if it failed to meet its obligations. Officials also raised concerns about the company's recommendation and advertising systems, arguing that these functions gave Meta responsibilities beyond simply hosting users' posts. Meta had admitted to lapses in handling child sexual abuse material and assured authorities that it would immediately report such content, according to people familiar with the

matter. The government had also directed attention towards removing material that could cause serious harm to children. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights separately warned Meta representatives during an inquiry into alleged advertisements linked to child sexual exploitation and abuse material on the platform. Meta India chief Arun Srinivas and



senior executives appeared before the panel as part of the proceedings. Against this backdrop, Meta said it had introduced further measures to strengthen its systems and response to child sexual exploitation. Authorities are

THE CENTRE'S WARNING

- **Intermediary status:** Meta cannot rely on it alone; it must take greater responsibility for child sexual abuse material
- **Safe harbour:** Meta could lose the immunity available to intermediaries if it fails to meet its obligations
- **Algorithms and ads:** its recommendation and advertising systems give Meta responsibilities beyond simply hosting users' posts

also examining how platforms detect, report and remove harmful material, while seeking stronger safeguards for

children using social media services across India and improve accountability for companies.

Quick Read

RBI brings interoperability for account aggregators

NEW DELHI
The Reserve Bank of India announced full interoperability among non-banking financial company account aggregators. This new system allows customers to seamlessly share and view financial information across different institutions regardless of their specific app. Users can now consolidate bank accounts, demat holdings, and other financial details into a single statement. The central bank set a December deadline to implement these updates. Additionally, the RBI plans to form a specialized technical committee for financial markets. Officials hope these major regulatory steps will boost customer convenience and strengthen lending networks.

Airtel raises postpaid tariffs with new plans

NEW DELHI
Bharti Airtel announced a price hike of up to 10 percent on its postpaid mobile plans, starting Thursday. Individual and family packages will see increased monthly rates. To offset the higher costs, the telecom provider added a free international roaming benefit to the updated packages. The new plans also include unlimited data, calling features, and built-in spam protection. Existing customers can easily upgrade to these revised options through the network. Company officials stated the changes aim to deliver better overall service value and enhanced digital experiences for subscribers.

India smartphone sales slow due to costs

NEW DELHI
India's festive smartphone market is set for lower sales volumes as soaring memory costs push device prices up. A recent industry report shows that overall sales numbers may drop twelve percent compared to last year. However, market value will still rise 5 percent because buyers are choosing more expensive premium models. High prices for essential parts are lengthening replacement cycles and keeping many shoppers on the sidelines. To boost sales, brands plan to rely on financing deals and trade-in offers instead of deep discounts. Experts say companies face tough competition for fewer buyers.

US luxury spending dips before midterms

NEW YORK
Retail spending on high-end goods across the United States has hit another speed bump, marking three straight months of declining purchases as consumers exercise heightened caution. According to credit card metrics, overall transaction values on luxury brands fell by 6 percent year-on-year in September. Market observers attribute the downswing to a mix of economic anxieties and political uncertainty as the nation approaches the November 3 midterm congressional elections. Recent consumer sentiment surveys reveal growing unease regarding rising mortgage rates and climbing Treasury yields, leading shoppers to pull back on discretionary high-ticket purchases.

Quick commerce accelerates toward a \$90B future

India's quick commerce sector is projected to skyrocket to ninety billion dollars by fiscal year 2031.

NEW DELHI

India's rapid retail sector is poised for exponential financial expansion over the next several years, transforming how urban and semi-urban populations purchase everyday household goods. According to a comprehensive new market study, the nation's burgeoning quick commerce industry is projected to skyrocket from an estimated 13 billion US dollars in fiscal year 2026 to a staggering 90 billion US dollars by fiscal year 2031. Market analysts attribute this aggressive growth trajectory to shifting consumer habits, rapid technological adoption, and an expanding base of active digital shoppers. Projections indicate that the total number of monthly



transacting users across the country will surpass the milestone of 100 million within the decade. Metro cities are expected to remain the primary growth engine, generating approximately 60 percent of all incremental market expansion through fiscal year 2031. In major metropolitan areas, quick commerce's share of total retail spending is fore-

casted to climb sharply from nearly 6 percent today to 23 percent. Concurrently, the user population in these urban hubs is set to nearly double, scaling from 28 million to nearly 50 million active shoppers. Because no single retail category has yet crossed 15 percent overall market penetration, substantial room for widespread commercial scaling remains wide open.

India's quick commerce market



As the sector transitions from a convenient novelty into an established component of daily household routines, platforms and consumer brands are actively expanding their product inventories beyond basic convenience items. Industry experts emphasize that capturing future market share will require penetrating deeper into traditional grocery segments, moving beyond small top-up orders toward comprehensive monthly household pantry replenishment. Companies are being urged to optimize sup-

GROWTH DRIVERS AND PROJECTIONS

Festive Surge: Quick commerce sales are projected to jump 110 percent year-on-year during the ongoing festive season

Metro Expansion: Metros are expected to drive about 60 percent of incremental growth through FY31, with retail spend share rising to 23 percent

User Base Growth: Active metro users are on track to nearly double from 28 million to roughly 50 million

Category Diversification: Platforms are transitioning from quick grocery top-ups to monthly pantry replenishment and high-ticket electronics

ply chain transparency, stock recency, bulk packaging options, and value-oriented

pricing structures. Industry leaders note that the market has evolved far beyond a single uniform business model, with consumer purchase behaviors varying significantly between major metropolitan centers and emerging non-metro regions. While early adoption was driven primarily by quick grocery and snack deliveries, modern platforms now routinely handle high-ticket electronics, apparel, and personal care items. Experts advise brands to leverage targeted digital marketing, automated re-order nudges, and data-driven engagement strategies to build consumer trust and foster long-term brand loyalty as the industry marches toward its ambitious decade-end targets.

India EV retail sales smash records

NEW DELHI

India's electric vehicle market achieved a historic milestone in September 2026, registering an all-time high of 333,634 retail units sold. According to data, overall EV sales surged by an impressive 74 percent compared to the same period last year. Overall EV market penetration across all automotive categories climbed to approximately 13 percent, up significantly from 10 percent in September 2025. Industry leaders noted that this record-shattering performance was powered heavily by surging mass-market demand, particularly within the two-wheeler and passenger vehicle segments, both of which set new historic highs. FADA President Sai Giridhar highlighted that this explosive growth is driven by genuine consumer demand rather than temporary government subsidies. Factors such as festive season enthusiasm, highly attractive running-cost economics, expanding model line-ups, and ongoing policy support from national and regional schemes have trans-



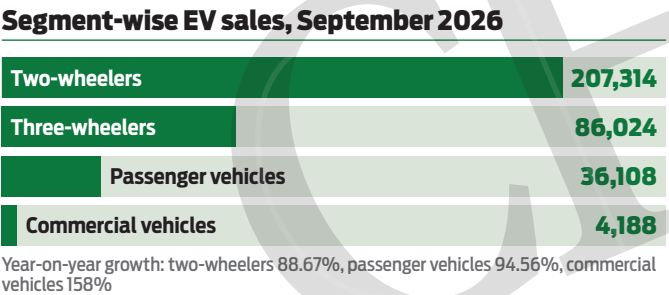
Fueled by festive momentum and soaring mass-market demand, India's electric vehicle sector achieved a record-shattering 333,634 retail sales in September 2026.

formed electric mobility into a default choice for a rapidly growing base of car and bike buyers. A breakdown of the retail data reveals stellar performance across specific vehicle categories. Commercial and three-wheeled segments also

Electric vehicles did not merely grow against last year, they set a new all-time high and are becoming a default consideration for buyers."

- Sai Giridhar FADA President

demonstrated exceptional strength. Electric three-wheeler retails climbed to 86,024 units, maintaining a dominant market penetration rate of nearly 65 percent. Electric commercial vehicles more than doubled their figures from last year, reaching 4,188 units and signaling a broad-based transition toward sustainable freight and public transit across the nation's expanding economy.



India targets global 3D printing market

NEW DELHI

India is rapidly accelerating its digital industrial transformation by scaling up advanced 3D printing and additive manufacturing technologies across multiple critical sectors. According to a government factsheet, the nation's targeted policy framework is successfully establishing a competitive ecosystem for next-generation manufacturing. Introduced in 2022, the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing has already recorded impressive milestones. Government-backed initiatives have successfully trained over 154,000 individuals in specialized 3D printing skills while actively supporting 56 pioneering start-ups. Building upon this solid foundation, authorities are now preparing to roll out the NSAM 2.0 phase. This upcoming iteration aims to capitalize on expanding global markets—projected to reach 149 billion US dollars by

2035—while positioning advanced fabrication as a core pillar of domestic self-reliance and technological leadership. The transformative impact of additive manufacturing is already visible across several high-profile industries. In the aerospace sector, India's burgeoning space program utilizes 3D printing to design lighter, highly complex rocket engines rapidly. Furthermore, the healthcare and electronics domains are witnessing groundbreaking innovations. Domestic institutions are manufacturing customized 3D-printed bone grafts and bioceramic medical implants tailored precisely to individual patient anatomies, significantly reducing import dependence. To further catalyze these strategic advancements, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is organizing the second edition of India's Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave later this month.

European markets slip as oil surges past \$100

LONDON

European stock exchanges and the single currency experienced a sharp downward slide, dragged lower by a fresh energy market shock and lingering fiscal anxieties across member states. Market sentiment soured as benchmark Brent crude oil prices breached the 100-dollar threshold, climbing 1 percent to 101.58 dollars per barrel. The rally was driven by mounting supply constraints resulting from severe weather heading toward American oil-producing regions, coupled with escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East following attacks by Yemen-based Houthi forces on Saudi infrastructure. Concurrently, European equities struggled under heavy selling pressure. MSCI's primary global stock index slipped 0.28 percent, while Europe's pan-continental STOXX 600 index fell 0.45 percent. The gloomy regional performance contrasted sharp-

ly with Wall Street, where the S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq recently touched record highs. Asian markets also trended downward, led by notable losses in Hong Kong and Singapore. In Europe, political uncertainty and deteriorating fiscal dynamics—particularly concerning France ahead of its upcoming 2027 elections—weighed heavily on investor confidence. Widening yield spreads between French debt and safe-haven German Bunds reflected rising risk premiums demanded by bondholders. These fiscal worries triggered a broader selloff in the euro, which tumbled 0.47 percent to 1.1208 dollars, hovering near multi-month lows. Meanwhile, global investors turned their attention to upcoming United States Treasury bond auctions to gauge deep-seated demand for long-dated sovereign debt. US 10-year Treasury yields hovered near 5.30 percent amidst ongoing fiscal and inflation concerns.

RBI rate hike impacts loans & growth

MUMBAI

Borrowers across the country are facing a renewed financial squeeze after the central bank implemented its first interest rate hike in nearly three and a half years. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee announced that it is raising the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50 percent, shifting its overarching policy stance from neutral to calibrated tightening. Top bankers and financial economists warn that the decisive move, prompted by mounting inflation risks and volatile global energy pressures, will directly increase borrowing costs for retail consumers and small enterprises. Industry leaders noted that everyday retail borrowers will feel the impact almost immediately through higher equated monthly installments on existing and new floating-rate loans. Small businesses, which rely heavily on accessible credit lines to man-

age working capital, will likewise navigate tighter financial conditions. Financial experts emphasize that commercial banks must carefully balance the transmission of these higher benchmark rates while continuing to support healthy productive credit demand across expanding industrial sectors. The central bank defended the pre-emptive policy adjustment as a necessary safeguard to keep retail inflation under strict control while maintaining overall macroeconomic stability. Although India's domestic economic growth remains resilient—with the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year revised upward to 7.1 percent—policymakers signaled that further monetary tightening could follow if price pressures persist in upcoming quarters. As financial institutions adjust to the revised rate structure, consumers are being advised to review their financial planning and loan commitments.

STARLINK CLEARS HURDLES

Musk's Starlink prepares for launch in India

NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's satellite internet venture is moving closer to launching commercial services across the subcontinent, signaling a major technological shift for the nation's digital infrastructure. Speaking at the ongoing India Mobile Congress 2026, Starlink Business Operations Vice President Lauren Dreyer announced that the satellite communications provider is fully prepared to commence operations pending final regulatory clearances.

Dreyer emphasized that the company has meticulously customized its global architecture to align with strict national security regulations. To satisfy domestic mandates, Starlink has established localized controls at every operational layer, ensuring that all user data generated within the country remains securely stored inside national borders. Furthermore, the enterprise has forged strategic partnerships with major domestic telecommunications giants, including Reliance Jio and

Bharti Airtel, positioning itself as a collaborative player rather than a disruptive competitor. While Starlink has already secured crucial operational licenses from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre along with a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite authorization, it currently awaits final security clearance and formal foreign direct investment approval from the central government. Industry analysts point out that satellite broadband could play a transformative role in



bridging the digital divide, particularly in remote and geographically isolated regions where traditional fi-

ber-optic cables are economically unviable. Dreyer noted that while the nation has achieved remarkable success

"We've built our Starlink operations specifically for India in recognition of Indian security requirements and other regulations, keeping Indian user data within India."
LAUREN DREYER VP of Starlink Business Operations

with affordable mobile data and expanding urban networks, conquering the final mile remains the ultimate challenge.

Quick Read

Pacific climate fund receives new boost

NADI
Several nations pledged 15 million dollars toward a special fund for climate resilience in Pacific islands. Leaders meeting in Fiji emphasized that rising sea levels pose an urgent threat to their communities. The recent donations bring the total pool to nearly 200 million dollars. However, this amount remains far below the ambitious five hundred million dollar goal set for next month. Officials hope international donors will step up support before the upcoming UN climate conference. Meanwhile, local projects are already working hard to protect vulnerable coastal areas.

NASA rover captures stunning Martian dawn

WASHINGTON
NASA's Curiosity rover captured a breathtaking image of early morning sunlight on the Martian surface. The photograph reveals ancient, wind-carved rock layers resembling rugged desert landscapes on Earth, though featuring a striking orange sky and blue sunrise. Operating on Mars since 2012, the car-sized vehicle is currently climbing the three-mile-tall Mount Sharp. Scientists hope the robot will reach these unique geological formations by next year to study the planet's past climate. The ongoing mission continues to explore whether ancient conditions could have once supported microbial life on our neighboring world.

French, Japanese researchers win Chemistry Nobel

STOCKHOLM
French scientist Henri Kagan and Japanese researcher Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The duo solved a century-old mystery regarding asymmetric "mirror image" molecules and how living organisms rely exclusively on one version. Their breakthrough provides essential tools for manufacturing safe pharmaceuticals, preventing dangerous side effects like those seen in past drug scandals. The prestigious prize includes a shared financial award of twelve million Swedish crowns. Both laureates will receive their medals from the King of Sweden during a formal ceremony in December.

Russia defends handling of Siberian lab worker's death

MOSCOW
Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov asserted that Russian health authorities strictly adhered to established international protocols by properly informing the World Health Organization regarding the recent death of a laboratory employee at a Siberian anti-plague research facility. The 28-year-old laboratory technician, identified in regional reports as Darya Shipilova, fell acutely ill after becoming unwell at the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute of Siberia and the Far East, subsequently passing away in a hospital in the nearby town of Shelekhov. Unconfirmed local accounts suggested the worker may have been exposed following a minor laboratory accident involving a compromised test tube, touching off intense public anxiety about a possible pneumonic plague outbreak.

Izmir Mayor defects to Erdogan's ruling party

In a stunning political earthquake, Izmir's mayor defected to Erdogan's ruling party, handing secular opponents a devastating blow.

ANKARA

In a stunning political earthquake that has reverberated across Turkey's domestic landscape, the mayor of Izmir—the nation's third-largest metropolis and the historic heartland of its secular opposition—officially switched allegiances to join President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Cemil Tugay, who originally secured the mayoral seat during the March 2024 local elections under the banner of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), formally stepped into the AKP fold during a high-profile ceremony in Ankara. The defection hands President Erdogan's conservative political machine a monumental symbolic victory in a coastal stronghold that the AKP has famously never managed to capture through the traditional democratic ballot box.

Tugay, who had stepped down from the CHP in June following a controversial court ruling that annulled party leadership structures,



Key political developments

Secular Heartland

Izmir is Turkey's third-largest city and has traditionally remained an unyielding stronghold for the secular opposition.

First-Time Control

The conservative AKP has historically never managed to win the Izmir metropolitan municipality at the ballot box.

Prior Resignation

Tugay previously left the CHP in June following a contentious court ruling that annulled party leadership titles.

Broader Crackdown

The move coincides with a wider government crackdown that has left dozens of opposition mayors jailed awaiting trial.

defended his transition by emphasizing administrative pragmatism. "I have no doubt that, with harmony between the local administration and the central government, we

will achieve great things," Tugay remarked during his induction.

The political realignment occurs against the backdrop of an intense, long-running

government crackdown on opposition municipal leaders. Following a major electoral setback in the 2024 local polls where the AKP suffered heavy losses, Turkish authorities launched widespread corruption investigations targeting opposition officials. Dozens of mayors, including prominent Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu—widely regarded as President Erdogan's chief political rival—as well as former Izmir Mayor Tunc Soyer, currently find themselves imprisoned pending trial.

Opposition figures have fiercely denounced these legal maneuvers as politically motivated witch hunts designed to dismantle local democratic resistance. Ozgur Ozel, leader of the splintered opposition faction, launched a blistering critique against the ruling party, accusing the AKP of deploying systematic blackmail and imprisonment threats to coerce mayors into defecting. "Those who sell out and leave are genuine traitors," Ozel declared before a parliamentary assembly, condemning the pressure tactics.

3 years on: Israel, Gaza mark October 7 anniversary

GAZA CITY

Israelis observed solemn memorials to mark three solemn years since the devastating October 7, 2023, attacks, while Palestinians across the war-torn Gaza Strip grappled with profound displacement and ongoing humanitarian ruin.

In the southern kibbutz of Kfar Aza—where Hamas militants breached border defenses three years ago in the deadliest assault in Israel's history—surviving residents and families gathered for a somber morning vigil. Accompanied by the mournful notes of a bugle call, community leaders read out a roll call of the victims. Similar reflections took place nationwide, intertwined with fierce political demonstrations outside parliament in Jerusalem. Protesters condemned the government's handling of historical security lapses and demanded full accountability from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, just weeks ahead of a crucial general election on October 27.

Meanwhile, the landscape in Gaza presented a stark contrast of suffering and resilience. Marking the first anniversary since a fragile regional ceasefire took effect, hundreds of thousands of dis-



placed residents continue to shelter among expansive tent encampments and concrete rubble. Families separated by years of continuous military operations recounted the collapse of their pre-war lives, with medical agencies noting that localized skirmishes and aerial strikes continue to claim civilian lives amid a sluggish reconstruction process.

Political analysts note that the solemn milestone underscores an unhealed regional trauma. While Israeli voters prepare to render a verdict at the ballot box over leadership and national security, the population inside Gaza remains trapped in the devastating aftermath of a conflict that permanently altered the geopolitical contours of the Middle East.

Houthi strike Aden airport escalating Yemen conflict



ADEN

Conflict across the Arabian Peninsula escalated sharply as Yemen's Houthi movement launched a coordinated barrage of ballistic missiles and explosive drones targeting vital aviation infrastructure in the south.

According to Yemen's Transport Ministry, a ballistic missile landed near the active runway of Aden International Airport just minutes before a scheduled commercial flight from Cairo was due to touch down. Aviation authorities scrambled to divert the incoming aircraft to Jeddah while relocating grounded planes away from the impact zone to avert a catastrophic disaster. The assault on Aden's primary civilian gateway—the provisional seat of the internationally recognized government—coincided with simultaneous Houthi aerial

attacks directed at facilities inside neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Ground fighting has intensified dramatically along Yemen's western coastal plains near the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Saudi-backed government forces, spearheaded by specialized units such as the Giants Brigade, launched a sweeping counter-offensive this week to claw back territory seized by the Iran-aligned group in September. Control over these coastal corridors and mountain highlands remains intensely contested as both sides vie for dominance over critical maritime trade and energy shipping lanes.

The renewed hostilities threaten to completely unravel fragile local truces, reigniting a devastating 12-year civil war that created one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises.

US and Greece launch joint security framework

ATHENS

Cementing a robust bilateral partnership against an evolving landscape of international instability, United States and Greek authorities have announced a sweeping framework to expand law enforcement cooperation and counter emerging transnational security threats.

During an official diplomatic visit to the Greek capital, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Hellenic Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis to formally launch the sixth round of the bilateral Strategic Dialogue.

Addressing reporters at the Greek Foreign Ministry, Secretary Rubio underscored Greece's pivotal role as a reliable NATO ally, noting that the country's strategic geographical crossroads expose it uniquely to regional vulnerabilities, including mass migration pressures and transna-



“We're proud to announce a new memorandum of understanding establishing a joint security program to strengthen counterrorism information sharing.”

— Marco Rubio

tional human trafficking networks.

Foreign Minister Gerapetritis reiterated Athens' willingness to extend practical cooperation to Washington by offering maritime support within the strategic Strait of Hormuz, contingent upon the emergence of a viable and sustainable regional peace process. Greece already commands respect across allied defense circles for leading international naval operations to protect commercial shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

WHO prioritizes lifestyle over GLP-1s for youth

GENEVA

Amid a sharp global rise in juvenile weight issues, the World Health Organization has issued its first comprehensive international guidelines, firmly prioritizing structured lifestyle interventions over popular weight-loss medications for children and adolescents.

According to recent data cited by UNICEF, childhood obesity has overtaken undernourishment to become the most prevalent form of malnutrition for school-aged youth worldwide, with approximately 170 million children and adolescents living with obesity in 2024.

Under the updated guidelines, the health agency strongly advises against pharmaceutical treatments, medical devices, or bariatric surgery for children under the age of 10, citing insufficient long-term safety data. For adolescents aged 10 to 19, approved anti-obesity medications—including breakthrough GLP-1 receptor agonists—should only be considered as a secondary option when supervised lifestyle programs fail to yield results.



The World Health Organization's new guidelines prioritize structured lifestyle interventions over weight-loss medications for children, urging diet and family support as primary defenses.

Similarly, invasive weight-loss surgeries are strictly restricted to physically and mentally mature teenagers dealing with severe clinical obesity after exhausting conventional treatments.

Medical experts note that while blockbuster drugs like Wegovy and Saxenda have seen rapidly growing usage among younger demographics in certain Western nations, long-term safety evaluations for pediatric populations remain limited.

North Korea warns US over Taiwan, backs Russia

SEOUL

North Korea launched a sharp diplomatic rebuke against the United States, strongly condemning Washington's ongoing military assistance and arms sales to Taiwan.

State-run media agency KCNA published a commentary featuring international affairs analyst Kim Myong Chol, which accused American policy makers of intentionally stoking instability and fueling dangerous friction across the Taiwan Strait. Pyongyang specifically took aim at the recent delivery of US-manufactured fighter aircraft to Taipei, warning Washington that it should carefully evaluate the severe geopolitical consequences of entering a direct confrontation with Beijing. The strongly worded statement underscores Pyong-

yang's increasingly tight alignment with China on core sovereignty issues, following leader Kim Jong Un's reaffirmation of the "One China" principle during a high-profile summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Concurrently, North Korean leadership reiterated its unwavering diplomatic and material support for Moscow. Expressing full confidence in the Kremlin's objectives, Kim described Russia's ongoing military campaign as a sacred defense of its territorial integrity and national sovereignty that would ultimately culminate in absolute victory.

Western intelligence and defense analysts note that Pyongyang's synchronized messaging highlights a deepening trilateral axis between North Korea, China, and Russia.

KUALA LUMPUR

Myanmar's military-backed leader, Min Aung Hlaing, touched down in Malaysia for a high-profile two-day official visit, marking a significant shift as the once-isolated general seeks international legitimacy.

The visit comes as Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim pursues direct engagement with Naypyitaw, balancing domestic political pressures against mounting humanitarian concerns. Central to the bilateral discussions is the contentious repatriation of thousands of undocumented Myanmar nationals currently residing in Malaysia. While Kuala Lumpur insists the returns are conducted on a voluntary basis

and maintains that assurances have been given regarding returnee safety, the United Nations and human rights organizations have strongly criticized the initiative, warning that deportees face grave dangers amid the ongoing civil war.

Myanmar has remained deeply fractured since the 2021 military coup led by Min Aung Hlaing, a conflict that has triggered widespread displacement and a severe humanitarian crisis. Although regional bodies like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have previously frozen top-level invitations over implementation failures regarding peace roadmaps, individual member states have increasingly resumed bilateral interactions.



Human rights advocates argue that hosting the Myanmar leader offers tacit diplomatic recognition despite ongoing violence, including recent deadly airstrikes. However, analysts note that domestic public sentiment in Malaysia—shifting significantly following waves of online anti-migrant rhetoric—has left Prime Minis-

The crisis in figures	
10,000	DEPORTED SINCE JANUARY
193,000	REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
100,000	LIVES LOST (ESTIMATE)
3.5m+	DISPLACED SINCE 2021

ter Anwar eager to secure cooperation on refugee returns. As bilateral talks continue in Putrajaya, the visit underscores the complex diplomatic trade-offs confronting Southeast Asian leaders as they grapple with protracted regional instability.

Messi bids farewell to Argentina after 21 years

In a glittering farewell at Monumental stadium, Lionel Messi orchestrated a magical three-nil victory over Benin.

BUENOS AIRES

Soccer legend Lionel Messi closed the final chapter of his incredible 21-year international journey. Playing inside a packed Monumental stadium, the veteran captain delivered one last magical performance, scoring a goal and providing two assists to lead Argentina to a comfortable three-nil victory over Benin.

More than eighty-five thousand adoring fans filled the venue to honor the national hero. Iconic landmarks across the capital glowed in bright sky blue and white, while celebratory fireworks lit up the evening sky. Before kickoff, visiting players and teammates offered warm tributes, reflecting the deep admiration the sports world holds for the iconic playmaker.

The match remained scoreless through the first half before Messi took complete control of the pitch. He first set up longtime teammate Nicolas Otamendi for the opening strike. Shortly after, Messi delivered a precise pass to rising talent Nico



Paz to double the lead. Fittingly, the 39-year-old superstar capped off his fairytale evening in the 71st minute by converting a penalty kick, securing his 126 international goal.

When the final whistle blew, teammates and officials rushed to embrace the departing legend. Holding back tears, Messi addressed the

emotional crowd. He expressed profound gratitude for wearing the national jersey for over two decades, admitting that stepping away from the squad will be deeply painful. His family watched proudly from the stands alongside former World Cup champions.

Messi departs as his nation's most-capped player with 208 appearances and remains its all-time leading scorer. His storied career transformed years of intense pressure and heart-break into unforgettable triumphs, including glorious World Cup and Copa America victories. On this unforgettable night, Argentina did not just celebrate a resounding friendly win; the entire nation came together to say a heartfelt thank you to its greatest sporting icon.



Arsenal secures Arteta on long-term deal until 2030

LONDON

Exciting news is buzzing around the football world today. Mikel Arteta, the brilliant manager of Arsenal, has officially signed a brand-new contract that will keep him at the club until June 2030. This is a huge moment for all the fans who bleed red and white. Just last season, Arteta led the team to win their very first Premier League title in 22 long years. That unforgettable victory brought tears of joy to supporters all over the globe and proved that hard work truly pays off.

When Arteta first arrived at the club back in 2019, many people doubted him. It was his very first full-time job as a manager, and the team was struggling to find its identity. Critics wondered if he was ready for such a massive challenge. But Arteta rolled up his sleeves, trusted his gut, and began



building a strong culture based on unity and high standards. Slowly but surely, he turned things around. He brought Arsenal back into the prestigious Champions League after a painful six-year absence, showing everyone that the club belonged among the elite teams in Europe.

Even back in his very first season as manager, Arteta showed his winning mentality by lifting the FA Cup. He has always understood what the club means to the fans because he used to play for them on the pitch. That deep connection helps him lead

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has signed a contract extension until 2030, committing his long-term future after leading the Gunners to a historic Premier League title.

with passion and understanding every single day.

Speaking about his big extension, a smiling Arteta shared his thoughts with the press. He talked about how much it means to him and his family. He said it is a true privilege to commit his future to the club and keep working with such amazing people who always want the best for Arsenal. He added that the club is completely unique, from its special character to the way it makes people feel inside, and he feels deeply lucky that their shared journey will continue for many years to come.



PV Sindhu advances at Arctic Open

VANTAA

Badminton star PV Sindhu made a brilliant and winning return to the court at the Arctic Open in Finland. The experienced Indian player breezes past Canada's Wen Yu Zhang in straight games to book her spot in the next round. It took the two-time Olympic medallist just 28 minutes to wrap up a dominant victory with scores of 21-8 and 21-11. Sindhu controlled the pace from the very first minute, leaving her qualifier opponent with no chance to settle. She will now face Japan's Riko Gunji in the second round.

While Sindhu sailed through with ease, the rest of the Indian women's singles contingent faced a very difficult opening day packed with heartbreaking losses. Unnati Hooda fought hard against China's Han Qianxi in a thrilling three-game battle. After bouncing back to win the second game, Hooda came within just two points of a famous comeback before falling 24-22 in a tense decider that lasted nearly seventy minutes.

Ashmita Chaliha also showed in-

credible fighting spirit against seventh seed Line Christophersen. After losing the first game badly, Chaliha stormed back to take the second, only to suffer a narrow 26-24 defeat in the third. Malvika Bansod and Isharani Baruah also exited the tournament after tough losses against strong international opponents. However, young talent Tanvi Sharma brought some cheer to the camp by defeating Chiu Pin-Chian in straight games to join Sindhu in the next round.

Meanwhile, the men's qualifiers brought better news for the Indian contingent. Tharun Manneppalli and Rounak Chouhan both fought their way through intense three-game matches to secure well-earned spots in the main draw. They will join seasoned campaigners like Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy. As the BWF World Tour resumes following the recent Asian Games break, the remaining players will look to shake off these early setbacks and build momentum on the international circuit. Fans hope for stronger performances in the upcoming matches as the tournament heats up across all categories.

Can Ronaldo and Jesus repair their relationship?

LISBON

Cristiano Ronaldo has spoken out about his sudden departure from the Portugal national team camp. The legendary 41-year-old forward recently released a detailed statement accusing national team coach Jorge Jesus of breaking his word on two separate occasions. The dramatic dispute began last week ahead of Portugal's matches, sparking a huge talking point across the global football community and leaving fans completely shocked by the unexpected fallout.

According to Ronaldo, the trouble started over a fitness management plan that both men had originally agreed upon. The star player stated that the coach promised he would sit out the games against Norway and Denmark to rest his body. However, things changed drastically on the day of the Norway match when Jesus suddenly told him he would need to warm up and play for thirty minutes. Ronaldo followed instructions, warming up from halftime onwards while watching the clock run down, but the coach ultimately never substituted him into the match.

The veteran striker felt deeply let down, describing that moment as the first time the coach broke his promise. Following this incident, a private meeting took place with the club sporting director present. They supposedly created an eight-point written agreement stating that Ronaldo never demanded playing time and that making him warm up without playing was a mistake. They agreed the coach would clarify this at his next press conference.

Unfortunately, Ronaldo claimed that the public remarks made by Jesus bore no resemblance to their private agreement. Feeling betrayed for a second time, the captain decided to pack his bags and leave the training camp early to avoid any further frustration.

It has been kind of draining, says Gauff

BEIJING

American tennis star Coco Gauff crashed out of the China Open after suffering a tough straight-sets defeat against Belgium's Elise Mertens. The third seed lost 6-3, 6-3 in the round of 16, wrapping up a very difficult and emotional week for the young champion. Gauff admitted to reporters after the match that the previous couple of days had felt extremely draining both mentally and physically.

Just a short time ago, the talented 22-year-old revealed she had faced a massive wave of nasty online abuse. Following a controversial match where a replayed point sparked an intense internet backlash, she received an unbelievable amount of hateful messages on social media. When asked how she coped with the noise over the last thirty-hours, Gauff kept it honest. She explained that she simply turned off her phone and tried to move on because there was nothing else she could do to fix it.

The heavy emotional toll clearly carried over onto the tennis court. Even though Gauff had beaten Mertens in all five of their previous encounters, she struggled to find any rhythm this time. Her game unravelled quickly as she committed a staggering thirty-four unforced errors, including eight costly double faults, during their 78-minute battle. At one point while trailing in the second set, a visibly exhausted Gauff told her coaching team that she had zero energy left and felt like she might pass out right there on the court.

Meanwhile, Mertens played a very smart match. She capitalized on every big point and kept the pressure high, securing a brilliant victory to reach her first-ever quarter-final in Beijing.



Iga Swiatek powers into China Open quarters

BEIJING

Tennis star Iga Swiatek put on a brilliant masterclass, defeating American teenager Iva Jovic in straight sets. The former world number one secured a dominant 6-1, 6-3 victory to march smoothly into the quarter-finals of the China Open. Taking just over an hour and a half on court, the Polish champion proved too strong for the eighteen-year-old, ending her impressive six-match winning streak.

The match started with Swiatek in total control. She raced ahead by winning the first five games back-to-back. Jovic finally managed to get on the scoreboard after saving multiple set points, but Swiatek stayed calm and quickly closed out the opening set.

However, the young American refused to back down easily. Coming in with great momentum after winning a title in Guadalajara last month, Jovic raised her intensity in the second set. She started finding much deeper groundstrokes and even fought back to take a surprising 3-2 lead, leaving fans on the edge of their seats.

Just when the momentum seemed to shift, Swiatek showed her championship pedigree. The experienced star shifted gears right when it mattered most, breaking her opponent's serve twice in a row to regain control and finish off the match.

With this solid win under her belt, Swiatek moves deeper into the hard-court tournament and now looks ahead to a tough next round. She will face Elise Mertens, ready to give her absolute best as she continues her hunt for another major trophy in Beijing.

Harry Kane shines as England beats Czechs

LONDON

Football fans witnessed an action-packed night of Nations League matches as world champions Spain mounted a brilliant comeback to defeat Croatia 2-1. Meanwhile, England cruised to a comfortable 3-0 victory over the Czech Republic, highlighted by a historic and unforgettable performance from their captain, Harry Kane.

In Split, Croatia threatened a major upset when veteran player Ivan Perisic headed home a precise shot in the 17th minute to give the home side an early lead. However, Spain refused to give up. Substitute Mikel Merino stepped up to equalize in the 61st minute with a sharp left-footed strike. Croatia's chances took a serious blow when Perisic



received a 2nd yellow card and was sent off late in the game. Taking full advantage of the extra man, Merino scored his second goal in the final minutes to complete the comeback. This hard-fought victory extends Spain's incredible unbeaten run to 42 matches and seals their place in the quarter-finals.

Over at Wembley Stadium, England put on a dominant display against the Czech Republic. The breakthrough came when Vladimir Coufal accidentally turned the ball into his own net following a cross from Kane. The night belonged entirely to the English captain, who celebrated his milestone 125th cap by

equaling the legendary Peter Shilton's all-time national appearance record. Kane added a second goal right before halftime with a clinical finish and sealed his brace with a powerful header in the 57th minute.

England manager praised his squad for maintaining high energy and focus through a demanding stretch of fixtures. With these latest results, Spain comfortably leads League A3 with twelve points, while England sits right behind them with nine points. Both powerhouse teams are looking strong as they prepare for the final group stage fixtures coming up during the November international break. Fans everywhere can expect more thrilling football when the tournament continues.

Carey highlights quality of Bangladesh spin attack

BRISBANE

Australian cricket star Nicola Carey has warned her teammates not to take Bangladesh lightly. As the squad prepares for an upcoming three-match ODI series kicking off this week, Carey pointed out that their upcoming opponents boast a very talented spin bowling attack. Even though both teams do not cross paths on the cricket pitch very often, Australia is fully expecting a tough and highly competitive battle at Allan Border Field.

The home side enters this series dealing with a few notable injury setbacks. Australia will be missing their regular captain Sophie Molineux, alongside fast-bowling options Lucy Hamilton and Darcie Brown. Despite these changes, the squad remains in high spirits and full of confi-

dence following their recent success. Carey noted that the group has spent plenty of time focusing inwardly on their own game plans and the specific style of cricket they want to execute out on the field.

This historic assignment marks Bangladesh's very first bilateral tour to Australia. In their previous 50-over World Cup meeting last year, Australia secured a dominant 10-wicket win, but the global standards of women's cricket have been rising every single year. Leg-spinner Alana King also spoke to reporters, emphasizing that the leadership group has encouraged complete tactical freedom and full accountability across all formats.

Fresh off an unbeaten run to claim the T20 World Cup title earlier this year, the Australian team is eager to maintain their winning momentum.

