

**Quick commerce
accelerates
toward a \$90B
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**Messi bids
farewell to
Argentina after
21 years**

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.

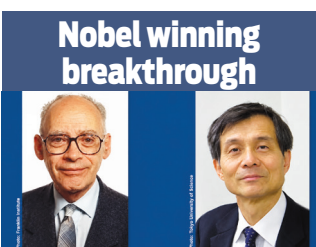
This comes a month after a boys' PG in Delhi's Satya Niketan collapsed on September 6 while repair work was underway. Seven people were killed and several others were injured in the incident.

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

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 (BMRC) 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.

BMRC 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 BMRC seeking global consultants for project implementation.

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

—BMRC 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. BMRC 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.

Quick Read



Light training aircraft makes emergency landing

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

A light training aircraft made an emergency landing in an agricultural field near the airport on Sedam Road following a technical fault. According to preliminary information, two trainee pilots were on board the aircraft when a technical problem was detected suddenly. The pilots acted promptly and managed to bring the aircraft down safely in a wheat-sown field near the airport. Fortunately, both trainee pilots were safe and no casualties were reported in the incident. The incident occurred within the limits of Madabul Police Station. Police and airport authorities reached the spot and took up further action. The exact cause of the technical fault is yet to be ascertained.

BJP, JD(S) trying to delete Congress votes through SIR Form-7: NA Haris

CH NEWS, BIDAR

MLA NA Haris has accused BJP and JD(S) workers of attempting to delete Congress supporters' names from the electoral rolls by filing applications under SIR Form-7. Speaking to reporters on the alleged misuse of Form-7 applications for voter deletions, Haris claimed that individual workers of the BJP and JD(S) were submitting around 1,000 applications each with the intention of getting voters' names removed from the electoral rolls. We have started a fight against this move, he said. Haris alleged that attempts were being made to deprive citizens of the voting rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Taking away the right to vote is an anti-national act. We will not tolerate it under any circumstances, he said. He further alleged that the BJP was resorting to such methods because it was unable to defeat the Congress directly in elections. The people themselves will give a fitting reply to the BJP in the coming elections, Haris said.

Shiv Sena conducts Ganahoma for PM Modi

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The Shiv Sena organised a special Ganahoma and Bharatambe worship to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years in public office. The programme was held at SVP Circle in the city in the name of Prime Minister Modi. Shiv Sena Karnataka State President Andola Siddalinga Swamiji led the worship and Ganahoma.

As part of the programme, offerings were made during the Homa-Havan, and arrangements were also made to distribute food to devotees and participants. Speaking on the occasion, Siddalinga Swamiji said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had completed 25 years in public life and, according to the Shiv Sena, had contributed to taking the country to greater heights during his tenure. Modi is leading the country by undertaking several works. We have organised enemy-destruction rituals, worship and offerings in his name, he said. A large number of Shiv Sena workers and supporters participated in the programme.

Sugar mills must announce cane price before crushing: DC

The interests of sugarcane growers must be protected and payments for cane supplied to factories should be made within stipulated period.

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr K Anand has directed sugar factories in the district not to commence sugarcane crushing for the 2026-27 season without officially announcing the price to be paid to farmers.

Chairing a meeting with sugar factory owners and managing directors, farmers' leaders and officials, the DC directed every sugar factory to clearly announce, on its official letterhead, the net amount that would be credited to farmers' accounts so that growers have complete information about the payment.

Dr Anand instructed factories to introduce a live feeding system to ensure transparency in cane weighing and crushing operations and allow farmers and members of the public to monitor the process. He said regular inspections would be conducted through government-approved weighbridges,



including those at APMCs, to prevent discrepancies or malpractice in weighing cane.

Farmer leaders demanded that cane bills be paid within 14 days and that outstanding dues from the previous crushing season be cleared immediately. They also raised several issues, including implementation of a yield-based cane pricing system, compensation for crop losses caused by accidental cane burning, soil and water testing facilities and training, utilisation of CSR funds for road development and farmer training. The DC asked sugar factories to

listen to farmers' grievances and resolve issues within their jurisdiction wherever possible in the interest of growers.

Food and Civil Supplies Department Deputy Director Vinay Kumar Patil informed about the fair and remunerative price-related information based on cane recovery at various sugar factories in the district and stressed the need to clear pending payments to farmers at the earliest. He directed all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure that the crushing season proceeds smoothly without confusion, while giv-

Warning to factories

DC Dr Anand warned sugar factories against discharging untreated or polluted effluents into rivers, lakes, canals or other water bodies. The Pollution Control Board would take stringent legal action against factories found discharging contaminated water into water bodies, he said.

ing priority to farmers' interests and public safety.

Joint Director of Agriculture Shivangouda, technical adviser to S Nijalingappa Sugar Institute CB Patil, Indi sub-divisional DySP, Environment Department officials, Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Tahsildars, police officials, representatives of sugar factories and leaders and office-bearers of various farmers' organisations were present.

Rs 16.05 cr recovery notice to Hemareddy Mallamma Cooperative Bank

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Serious financial irregularities and alleged dereliction of duty have come to light at the Mathoshree Hemareddy Mallamma Souharda Cooperative Bank, with an interim inspection report pointing to alleged violations of the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative Act and financial loss to the institution. A Souharda Development Officer was appointed to inspect the bank's affairs following allegations of irregularities. The officer has submitted an interim report on the bank's functioning.

According to the report, the directors and Chief Executive Officer allegedly violated co-operative circulars and failed to discharge their duties, resulting in financial loss to the cooperative. The report has recommended action against the management and staff under the provisions of the Karnataka Souharda Sahakari Act, 1997. Notices have reportedly been served on the persons concerned, directing them to pay Rs 16.05 crore within seven days of receiving the notice and rectify the deficiencies identified during the inspection.

One of the major findings in the inspection report concerns 189 pigmy loan accounts. According to the report, around Rs 5.60 crore was transferred from these accounts to members' loan and savings ac-



Inspection report flags alleged violations, financial irregularities and unsecured loans; action recommended against board and CEO

counts. The report further alleges that pigmy agent Sanganna Vaddodagi subsequently transferred the amounts to his personal savings account. The inspection also reportedly found irregularities in a Rs 2 lakh loan sanctioned against an FD allegedly in the name of Smita, daughter of bank Vice-President Chandrashekar Lingadalli. The report states that, in reality, no deposit was found in Smita's name, raising questions over the sanctioning of the loan.

The report states that the bank has 554 pigmy loan accounts with outstanding dues of around Rs 14.48 crore. Another serious finding is that loans amounting to approximately Rs 16.45 crore were allegedly issued without adequate security.

The report has recommended necessary action against former bank President Basangouda Mali Patil and board members Chandrashekhara Lingadalli, Shankargouda Yalawar, Vishwanathreddy Police Patil, Manikareddy Mallar, Basangouda Hosagoudru, Basavaraj Patil, Mallareddy Patil, Shakuntala Desai, Anita Mali Patil, Shankargouda Patil, Sangeeta Chavan and Ningappa Dore, besides the Chief Executive Officer.

Illegal OFC cable work puts lives at risk on Indi roads

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Illegal Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) works allegedly carried out on key roads in Indi by an agency associated with BSNL cable work have raised serious concerns over public safety, with the Public Works Department (PWD) alleging that roads have been damaged without obtaining mandatory permission. According to the Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD Sub-Division, Indi, Polycab India Limited, represented by its manager Vishwanath Chauhan, allegedly began OFC cable installation on September 27 and 29 without securing permission from the department.

The department has alleged that heavy machinery, including four JCBs, was deployed to dig up road shoulders at multiple locations. The works were subsequently stopped by PWD officials and staff. The most serious violation has reportedly occurred on SH-177, connecting the Maharashtra border-Hadisang-NH-13-Horti-Rugi-Salotagi-Satalagaon PI-Rudagi to the Uda-chana Bridge in Kalaburagi district. Around 2 km of the road shoulder between Khe-dagi Cross and Satalagaon PI was allegedly damaged.

PWD officials have estimated the loss caused to the road at around Rs 18 lakh. Another 1-km stretch between Indi and Mavinahalli on the Indi-Mavinahalli-Lachyan-Padnur-Shiragur-Inam Gubbevad district main road was also allegedly dug up without departmental permission. The estimated damage in this stretch is Rs 9 lakh.

The manner in which the cable work was reportedly un-



PWD alleges Rs 27 lakh damage; night-time digging sparks serious accident fears

dertaken has become an even bigger safety concern. Road digging during night hours, without adequate warning signs, barricading or proper illumination, can leave motorists facing sudden deep excavations on the carriageway or roadside. A driver travelling at night may have little or no time to identify an unexpected trench, particularly on a single-lane road. The situation is particularly dangerous for buses and heavy vehicles. A sudden excavation can force a driver to brake sharply or swerve, potentially causing the vehicle to overturn or collide with another road user.

The PWD has also alleged that excavated shoulder material and drainage-layer GSB material were dumped on the single carriageway, seriously obstructing the smooth movement of public vehicles. Such obstruction, particularly at night, can create a deadly combination of poor visibility, sudden road-level changes and inadequate warning for motorists.

The PWD has warned that the condition could lead to accidents and has sought directions to the concerned agency/contractor to restore the damaged roads to their original condition.

Road damage, PWD estimate

SH-177: Khedagi Cross-Satalagaon PI, 2 km	Rs 18 lakh
Indi-Mavinahalli road, 1 km	Rs 9 lakh

HISTORY REDISCOVERED

Remains of 11th-century flower garden unearthed at Nagavi

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Physical remains believed to be linked to an ancient flower garden mentioned in Kalyana Chalukya-era inscriptions have been discovered at Nagavi in Chittapur taluk, once a prominent Mahagrahara and home to a Ghatikasthana, an ancient centre of higher learning.

The discovery was made during conservation and renovation work being carried out by the State Department of Archaeology around the historic Kari Masjid monument at Nagavi. While clearing bushes and vegetation from the area, workers came



across a silt-filled ancient well and a sloping stone-lined channel built along a stone wall. The structure appears to have been designed to draw water from the well and channel it towards a garden. The discovery is significant as inscriptions at Nagavi dating to the 11th century contain references to flower gardens maintained for temple worship.

A stone inscription dating

to 1058 CE, from the reign of Kalyana Chalukya ruler Someshvara I, records grants made at Nagavi by Mahadanayaka Madhuvappa Arasa of Aralu-300, identified with present-day Allur-B. The inscription mentions grants to various professionals associated with the temple and Ghatikasthana and contains a reference to the house granted to Kantayya, a garland maker.

Another inscription of 1058 CE, recording grants made by Lokarasa of the Haihaya dynasty, a Mahamandaleshwara of Aralu-300 during the reign of Vikramaditya, specifically mentions three units of land for a flower garden meant for temple worship. A third inscription, dating to 1093 CE, records a grant made at Nagavi by Haihaya ruler Anemadrasa, Mahamandaleshwara of Aralu-300 during Vikramaditya's reign. It refers to the garden of Rameshwara Deva associated with the requirements of the temple's rituals.

The newly discovered stone-lined sloping channel and ancient well are located

Rastapura youths step in to fill highway potholes

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Fed up with years of official apathy towards the deteriorating highway, a group of youths from Rastapura village in Shahapur taluk took matters into their own hands and repaired hundreds of potholes on the road. The stretch near Rastapura had reportedly been in a poor condition for several years, posing a serious risk to motorists. With large potholes making travel hazardous, local residents had repeatedly urged the Public Works Department (PWD) and elected representatives to take up repairs.

However, the road remained neglected, forcing motorists to navigate the damaged stretch at considerable risk. Concerned over the frequent accidents and the danger faced by commuters, the youths of Rastapura decided to act instead of waiting for the authorities. They collected materials and personally filled hundreds of potholes along the highway, providing temporary relief to motorists.

The initiative has drawn appreciation from villagers, motorists and social media users. Many praised the



youths for taking up a civic responsibility that, they said, should have been addressed by the concerned authorities. Locals expressed their anger over the alleged negligence of the PWD and disappointment with elected representatives for failing to ensure timely repairs. They urged the authorities to undertake permanent repairs of the highway instead of leaving residents to deal with the problem on their own. The efforts of the Rastapura youths have now become an example of community initiative, with motorists and netizens applauding them for stepping in to prevent accidents and make the road safer.

Applications invited for Anganwadi-cum-Creche worker, helper posts

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Applications have been invited from eligible women candidates for the appointment of creche workers and helpers at 10 Anganwadicum-Creche centres under the Rural Child Development Project. According to a notification issued by the Rural Child Development Project Officer, the applications will be accepted offline.

As per government norms, selected creche workers will receive an honorarium of Rs 5,500 per month, while creche helpers will receive Rs 3,000 per month. Eligible candidates should fill out the

prescribed application form, attach the required documents and submit the application in person by October 23 by placing it in the sealed box kept at the office of the Rural Child Development Project Officer.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Application forms and further details regarding the recruitment are available at the office of the Child Development Project Officer located near District Bal Bhavan, Zilla Panchayat Road, Managuli Road, Vijayapura. For further information, applicants may contact 08352-276391, the department said.

Sugarcane fire causes Rs 43 lakh loss in Muddebihal

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

A major fire broke out in sugarcane fields at Vaniyakal village in Muddebihal taluk, destroying sugarcane crops and agricultural equipment and causing an estimated loss of Rs 43 lakh, fire department officials said. According to Muddebihal Fire Station officer Thippanna Navadagi, the fire damaged the sugarcane fields belonging to four farmers.

The affected farmers and their respective landholdings are: Geetha Biradar 2 acres and 1 gunta, Shivanagouda Biradar 4 acres and 9 guntas, Shantagouda Biradar 3 acres and 30 guntas, Nagappa Humnabavi 5 acres and 10 guntas.

The fire spread across the sugarcane fields, damaging the standing crop and farm-related equipment. The total loss has been provisionally estimated at around Rs 43 lakh. Fire personnel from the Muddebihal and Talikoti fire stations rushed to the spot



and carried out the firefighting operation, preventing the flames from spreading further. Muddebihal fire station personnel Zakir Hussain Nalatwad, Shivanand Bovi, Lakshman Karnalagi, Shri Shailagouda Patil and Karthik Ajmani, along with Talikoti fire station personnel Mahantappa Biradar, Veeresh Handargal, Srinivas Chavan and Devendra Rathod, participated in the operation. The cause of the fire was not immediately stated by the fire department.

towards the south-eastern side of the Rameshwara temple, corresponding to the location described in the inscription.

The garden in the inscriptions

- **1058 CE**
Under Someshvara I, a house is granted to Kantayya, a garland maker
- **1058 CE**
Lokarasa grants three units of land for a flower garden for temple worship
- **1093 CE**
Anemadrasa's grant refers to the garden of Rameshwara Deva

scription. This has led to the



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 Seetarampuram 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.

VIS RESPONDENT: The Tahasildar, 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

Cri Misc No. 14/2026

PETITIONERS: SRI.T.H.Rajanna, S/o Late Hanumantharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Riat. 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, Doddaballapura Taluk, 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 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

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

Cri Misc No. 16/2026

PETITIONERS: Sri.T.H.Rajanna, S/o Late Hanumantharayappa, Aged about 60 years, Riat. 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, 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.

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-

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

Karnataka moves to regulate used cooking oil for biodiesel production

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSDB) 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 KSDB 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.

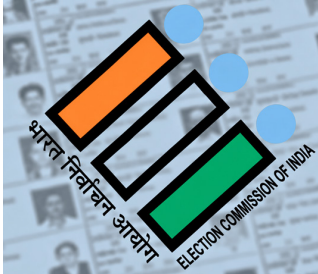
Bidar assembly constituency records highest notice count

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. Chaluvaryaswamy 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, Chaluvaryaswamy 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

construct reservoirs at Nugu Dam and Tannur Lake.

Chaluvaryaswamy said he had participated in farmers' agitations before becoming a minister and would never forget that he was a son of the soil.

MLC Dinesh Gooligowda, MLA Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, Mysugar Chairman C.D. Gangadhar, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar, Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini, SP N. Shobharani and farmer leaders were present.

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 Chikkamada, 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.

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.

Plan grand Rajyotsava, DC tells officials

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar instructed officials to make necessary preparations for Kannada Rajyotsava on November 1 and celebrate it in a meaningful and grand manner reflecting Karnataka's land, language, art, culture and heritage.

Presiding over a preparatory meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Dr. Kumar said the Rajyotsava programme at the district stadium should be organised carefully. As minis-

ters, elected representatives, dignitaries and prominent personalities would attend, he directed officials to complete invitation, reception and seating arrangements well in advance.

He instructed officials to assign department-wise responsibilities for the stage, flag hoisting, parade, cultural programmes, drinking water, electricity, cleanliness and security. Site inspections should also be conducted, and all departments must coordinate to avoid any lapses.

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 scien-tists.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 cen-tral 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 cen-tral 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.

Ramappa reviews Bhovi community schemes in Udupi

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Karnataka Bhovi Develop-ment Corporation Chairman Ramappa M instructed offi-cials 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 Guaran-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.

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 atten-tion 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.

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ಸಹ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಗಾ.ಕು.ನೀ ಮತ್ತು ಸೈ, 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
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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 the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to HDFC by the said Borrower(s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured 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) 625399841 : 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) Quesz 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, Santraswadi, 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: 367959536 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

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 downsizing 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-



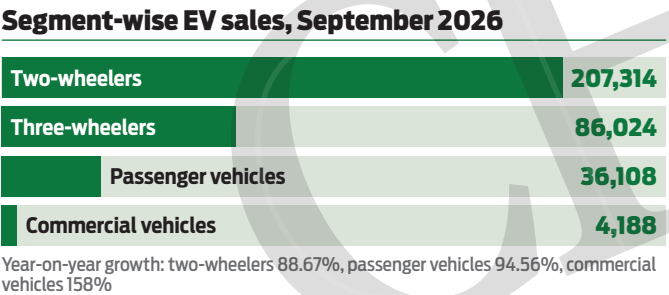
Fueled by festive momentum and soaring mass-market demand, India's electric vehicle sector achieved a record-shattering 333,634 retail sales in September 2026.

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.



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.

Faith is a personal belief, but the future of a nation is determined by logic, evidence, research and innovation.”



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

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



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 Sarva-bhuteshu” (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 historic presentation of Indian philosophy to the West, Bhagwat’s address sought to communicate 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 jannabhoomi, 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 essen-

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

tially 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.

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, established 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 foundations 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

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

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 plac-

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 continue to live through us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

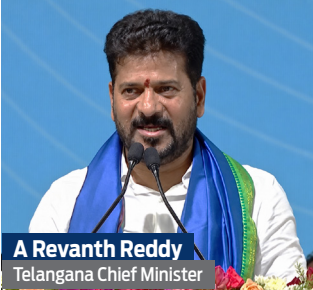
Revanth Reddy criticises BJP over Gandhi’s detention

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



A Revanth Reddy
Telangana Chief Minister

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.

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

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 displaced 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-

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.

Myanmar's Prez visits Malaysia amid regional friction

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.



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.

