



**100 days
100 ways
One Vision**

**DRUDHA
KARNATAKADA
SANKALPA**



SHATHAKADA PATHA

CM RAITHA CHAITANYA
DIGITAL AGRI-TECH MISSION

RAITHA MITRA

AGRI-EXPORT MISSION

COMPREHENSIVE RAINFED
AGRICULTURE POLICY

KARNATAKA PROTEIN MISSION

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BHARAT JODO YUVA SANGHA

UDYOGA NIDHI

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JOB-LINKED ITI

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KARNATAKA GLOBAL OUTREACH

RESERVATION FOR STUDENTS
FROM GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

EDUCATION HUBS IN RURAL AREAS

CM VIDYARTHI SAHAYA HASTHA

INVESTMENT ACCELERATION
PACKAGE

FAST-TRACK APPROVALS
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ONE BENGALURU
& ONE KARNATAKA TRAVEL APP



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Former Chief Minister



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
CHIEF MINISTER



VIDHANA SOUDHA
BENGALURU - 560001

Namaskara,

It has been a hundred days since I was given the opportunity to serve the people of Karnataka. These hundred days have deepened my appreciation of the enormous responsibility we carry in building a better future for crores of Kannadigas.

Shri Siddaramaiah avaru has given Karnataka a strong foundation of social justice, reminding us that governance must stand with those who need it most, and this is a commitment I share and carry forward. The five guarantees have brought meaningful support and security to families across the state. But governance cannot stop with what has already been delivered. It must respond to what people need next.

In these first hundred days, we have begun that work: **7.5% reservation for government-school students** in professional courses, **free student bus passes**, **Rs.29,679 crores** cleared investments with potential to create around **66,000 jobs**, **10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas** for sports, culture and nation building, India's first government-sponsored **AI university**, **AI education from Class 6** onwards, cloud seeding, **Udyoga Nidhi** to create **1 lakh new jobs** in the 10 most backward districts, filling of **72,000 government posts** initiated, and a dedicated **"Praja Seve" department** for grievance redressal under my direct supervision.

These are important steps, but this is only the beginning. I know your expectations are immense, as they should be. Your expectations are a reminder of your aspirations from the Congress government, and you have every right to demand this of us.

We are a government that listens and learns. When necessary, we have the courage to reconsider a decision or change course. That is the strength of a government that listens.

Our goal is a **Drudha Karnataka**: economically strong, socially empowered, technologically advanced, and deeply rooted in its values.

The road ahead will not be easy. Our farmers, particularly those facing drought, remind us how much more needs to be done. The next 500 days demand greater determination and effort. But I have faith in Karnataka's ability to meet these challenges. Karnataka does not wait for opportunities, **it creates them.**

That is the Karnataka I believe in. That is the **Kannadiga Spirit.**

With that faith, my Cabinet and I make you a simple promise: We will keep showing up. **We will keep working. And for as long as I breathe, serving Karnataka and Kannadigas will remain my Sankalpa.**

Always in your service,

D. K. Shivakumar
Praja Sevaka



100 days - 100 ways - One Vision

Drudha Karnatakada Sankalpa.



DRUDHA
KARNATAKADA
SANKALPA
SHATHAKADA PATHA
PRAGATHIYA RATHA

Shakthi

Anna
Bhagya

Gruha
Jyothi

Gruha
Lakshmi

Yuva
Nidhi



"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen.
This is affirmed by our Constitution.

CMofKarnataka

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Mysuru advocates protest derogatory remarks against revered personalities

MYSURU

Members of the Bar Association of Mysore staged a protest here on Wednesday condemning the alleged derogatory remarks made by an individual, Vedomurthy, against several revered personalities and social reformers.

The advocates came out of the courts and staged a dharna in front of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi, located opposite the court building on Krishna Boulevard Road. Later, they also staged a rasta roko, briefly disrupting traffic on the busy road to draw the attention of the authorities to their demand for strict action.

Addressing the protesters, Bar Association of Mysore president Lokesh alleged that



Vedomurthy had misused the fundamental right to freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution and made objectionable remarks against icons such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 12th-century social reformer Basavanna and Gautama Bud-

dha. "Freedom of speech does not give anyone the right to insult or denigrate personalities who have made immense contributions to society," Lokesh said.

He urged the authorities to take serious note of the al-

leged remarks and initiate stringent legal action against the person responsible. Strict cases should be registered against the accused and appropriate punishment should be ensured, he demanded.

The protesters also called

upon the State Government to enact stringent provisions to deal with individuals who make derogatory or offensive remarks against respected personalities and social reformers.

Lokesh said that such statements could hurt the sentiments of people and create unnecessary tension in society. Maintaining dignity and respect towards national and social icons was the collective responsibility of citizens, he added.

The advocates urged the authorities to act promptly and ensure that such incidents are not repeated. The protest concluded after the advocates submitted their demands and called for effective enforcement of the law.

Ballari Padayatra a grand success, claims BSY

MYSURU

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said that the BJP's Ballari padayatra had been a resounding success, exceeding the party's expectations, with the people of Karnataka extending unprecedented support and response to the protest.

Speaking to reporters in the city on Wednesday, he said the people had extended their full support to the agitation led by BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra. Therefore, the padayatra could be termed a complete success, he said. Yediyurappa said the State Government should have immediately provided a

venue for the concluding public meeting of the padayatra when the BJP sought permission. Though the venue was allotted later, he said he was not prepared to claim that the Government had been scared of the padayatra because of the delay.

Yediyurappa said he could not participate in the padayatra directly due to various reasons. However, he had been closely monitoring all the developments related to the agitation.

He added that he would participate in the massive public meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, marking the conclusion of the padayatra.

Nursing is a noble profession: Nursing Council official

MYSURU

A graduation ceremony for students of B.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing and M.Sc. Nursing was organised by JSS College of Nursing, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, at the Sri Rajendra Centenary Auditorium here on Wednesday.

Srikant Pulari of the Karnataka State Nursing Council, Bengaluru, was the chief guest. R. Mahesh, Director, Medical Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, and Dr. C.P. Madhu, Director, JSS Hospital, Mysuru, were the guests of honour.

The programme was presided over by Dr. C.G. Bettasur Math, Executive Secretary, JSS Mahavidyapeetha. JSS College of Nursing Principal Prof. Ashwathi Devi, faculty members, 99 graduating stu-



dents and their parents participated in the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Srikant Pulari said nursing was one of the noblest professions and expressed his happiness at being part of the graduation ceremony. The nursing profession was in high demand, particularly in foreign countries, and advised the graduates to make the best use of the opportunities available to them.

He said trained nurses had excellent career opportunities in government, semi-govern-

ment and private sectors as well as abroad. The graduates must pursue their profession with dedication and a spirit of service and contribute to the further growth and development of the nursing sector.

Dr. C.G. Betsurmutt said nursing was a highly noble service that required compassion and a strong sense of humanity. He urged the graduates to serve patients with dedication and empathy and contribute to making the nursing profession even more respected and vibrant.

Environmental conservation is everyone's responsibility: Judge Ankasadoddi

MYSURU

Every citizen of the country must be aware that protecting forests, natural resources, wildlife and the environment around us is a fundamental responsibility, said senior judge and Member of the Legal Services Authority, Justice Nagaraj Siddappa Ankasadoddi.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Kadu Habba (Forest Festival), organised jointly by the Mysuru Grahakara Parishat and Heartfulness, a social organisation, at the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens here on Wednesday. He inaugurated the programme by planting a sapling.

The judge said that, in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court, the State Legal Services Authority has been working to promote respect for the environment, wildlife and water resources. Efforts are also being made to implement various programmes aimed at protect-

ing forests, wildlife and other natural resources and preventing their destruction. The co-operation of the public was essential in these efforts.

The Article 48A, introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife. Similarly, Article 51A(g) makes it the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife.

"The Kadu Habba programme aimed at creating awareness about environmental conservation is truly commendable," he said.

P. Anusha, Executive Director of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, said preparations were already under way at the Kurgalli centre to grow plants that could be used as fodder for animals and wildlife. The saplings provided by Heartfulness would be planted within the zoo premises.



Founder of Mysuru Grahakara Parishat, Bhamy V. Shenoy, said a tree was worth crores of rupees in terms of its ecological value. He recalled that 42 trees had been removed on Haidar Ali Road despite there being no compelling need for their removal. Three trees were also felled on the pretext that they obstructed the view of a hospital in Yadavagiri.

He said the Parishat, which was formed in 1992 following protests against the felling of trees, had continued to fight

for the protection of trees over the years. "The city corporation's initiative to develop mini-forests at five locations is welcome. These will eventually grow into large urban forests in Mysuru. Programmes to increase the green cover within the zoo premises are also welcome," he said.

Deputy Director of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens Lakshmikanth and founder of Mysuru Grahakara Parishat D.V. Dayananda Sagar were among those present.

Veteran newspaper distributor Ramadevi feted

MYSURU

On the occasion of Newspaper Distributors' Day, senior newspaper distributor Ramadevi, who has been serving in the Old Santhepet area of the city for more than 35 years, was felicitated by the KMPK Charitable Trust in recognition of her dedicated service.

Newspaper distributors play a vital role in ensuring that daily news reaches people and households across society. Recognising Ramadevi's decades-long commitment to delivering newspapers to homes without being deterred by rain, wind or scorching heat, the Trust honoured her for her exemplary service.

Speaking on the occasion,

KMPK Charitable Trust president Vikram Iyengar said newspaper distributors serve as a vital bridge between the media and the public. Their hard work, dedication and commitment to ensuring the timely delivery of newspapers should always be recognised and respected by society, he added.

G. Raghavendra, S.N. Rajesh, Naveen, Kanaka Patina Cooperative Society director Ravichandra, Rakesh, Durga Prasad and Harish Naidu, among others, were present at the programme.



AGB of Postal Housing Co-operative Society held in Mysuru

MYSURU

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Postal Housing Co-operative Society, Mysuru, was held here.

The meeting was presided over by Society President D. Shivaiah. Various issues concerning the functioning and future activities of the society were discussed. Members also held detailed discussions on plans for developing residential sites for the society's members. Society directors S. Rajasekhara, Dr. P. Shantaram Urs, Nataraj, Shivananjaya, T.C. Guru, Bhagyalakshmi, Yellappa, Mahadevaswamy and Lakshminarayana, along with several esteemed members of the society, participated in the meeting.



Lions Club Golden City to Mark 5th Annual Inauguration with Service Initiatives

MYSURU

The Lions Club of Mysore Golden City will celebrate its 5th Annual Inauguration Ceremony for 2026-27 on September 12 at 11 a.m. The programme will feature a series of service and appreciation initiatives aimed at supporting the underprivileged and recognising sporting talent.

As part of its service activities, the club will facilitate artificial limbs for 10 beneficiaries and sponsor eye surgeries for 12 persons. Grocery kits will also be distributed to three needy families. In addition, a college scholarship will be provided to a woman labourer to support her higher education. The club has also organised a felicitation programme to honour a sportsman who has excelled in cricket, recognising



the individual's achievements and contribution to the field of sports.

Announcing the programmes at a press conference held in Mysuru on Wednesday, Lions Club of Mysore Golden City President J. Asha Manjunath said the club would continue to focus on meaningful community service and recognition of deserving individuals. Secretary Pramila S., Treasurer Suresh, Club Manager Prajeesh P., and Shankaracharya and Shankar Guru were present. The inauguration and ser-

vice programme will be attended by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa, Chamaraj MLA K. Harishgowda, former Mysuru MP C.N. Manjegowda, and former Lions Club President Lion Dr. N. Krishnagowda, among others.

The event is expected to bring together Lions Club members, public representatives and beneficiaries to celebrate the organisation's continued commitment to community service.

Free treatment for excessive menstrual bleeding

MYSURU

The Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital will organise a free examination and special treatment camp for Asrukudara (excessive menstrual bleeding) from September 10 to October 10. The camp will be conducted by specialist doctors at the Outpatient Department of Prasuti Tantra and Stree Roga from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People from Mysuru and surrounding areas can make use of the facility. For further information, they may contact Assistant Professor Dr. Noor Fathima at 9591181057, according to a release issued by the Principal of the Government Ayurveda Medical College.

Krishna Janmashtami: Bhagavadgita books distributed to children

MYSURU

Sri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with enthusiasm at Petals Pre-Nursery School in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar, Mysuru.

As part of the celebrations, young children dressed up as Lord Krishna, Radha and various mythological characters, attracting the attention of everyone present. On the occasion, Bhagavad Gita books were distributed among the children with the objective of introducing them to the life values and guidance imparted by Lord Krishna through the

sacred scripture.

Gagan, a prominent resident of the locality and chief guest, distributed the Bhagavad Gita books to the children and spoke about the importance of good values, discipline and moral principles in shaping their lives. Another locality leader, Mohan Rao, attended the programme as a guest and conveyed his best wishes to the children.

School principal Niphi, along with teachers Rajini, Ramya and Manju, were present and contributed to the success of the programme.

The Janmashtami celebration served as an opportunity to introduce children to Indian culture, spiritual values and the significance of the Bhagavad Gita in an engaging and meaningful manner.



"IMPORTANCE OF FESTIVALS IN PRESERVING DHARMA MUST BE TAUGHT TO YOUNG GENERATION" YOUNGER GENERATION

MYSURU

Panchayat Development Officer Shobha Dinesh stressed the need to educate the younger generation about the importance of celebrating traditional festivals to preserve Hindu Dharma and Sanatana culture.

Speaking after distributing prizes to the winners of an online 'Varamahalakshmi with Lakshmi' photo competition, organised by Sri Durga Foundation Trust as part of the Sri Varamahalakshmi festival celebrations, she said the festival was one of the major occasions that brought women together and encouraged them to actively participate in reli-



gious and cultural traditions.

More than 250 participants from different places took part in the online competition by sending photographs of themselves with the beautifully decorated Varamahalakshmi idols installed in their homes. The prizes were dis-

tributed to the winners at a function held here.

Speaking on the occasion, Shobha Dinesh said festivals such as Varamahalakshmi Vrata were important for keeping traditions and religious values alive. If Hindu Dharma is to be preserved,

such festivals must be celebrated collectively and with greater participation across society.

She emphasised the importance of imparting cultural and religious values to children from a young age. Instead of merely creating wealth for their children, they must make them the greatest wealth. They must also create awareness about their religious and cultural traditions among everyone. Parents must encourage children to participate in religious and cultural programmes so that the younger generation develops an understanding and respect for Hindu Sanatana culture and

traditions.

The winners of the online photo competition included Sharada Jagadish of Chamundipuram, Anitha of Ashokapuram, Kavaya of Lakshmiapuram, Pushpa of Bogadi, Meghana of Dattagalli, Malathi of Ashokapuram, Chaitra of Mandi Mohalla, Kavitha of Chikkamagaluru, Shobha of Bengaluru and Varalakshmi of Nanjangud.

Former MUDA member Lakshmidhevi, Sri Durga Foundation president Rekha Srinivas, KPCC member Narabadh Nataraj, G. Raghavendra, Vijayalakshmi Iyengar, S.N. Rajesh, anchor Purushotham, Roopa and others were present.

Sandalwood stars to bring star power in Dasara Jamboo Savari

MYSURU

The grandeur of the Mysuru Dasara Jamboo Savari will receive a sparkling touch of Sandalwood this year, with several prominent Kannada film personalities set to participate in the spectacular procession, said Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the Kannada film industry held here on Wednesday, the DC, who chaired the meeting, said the participation of leading actors, actresses and artistes from the Kannada film industry, along with sportspersons who have excelled in their respective fields, was being planned as per the wish of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. “These distinguished personalities will be taken in a special Ambari bus as part of the grand Jamboo Savari procession,” he said, adding that their presence would add further glamour and colour to the historic Dasara celebrations.

Quick Read

Zonal-Level Vachana Music Festival from Sept 16

Mysuru
The Department of Kannada and Culture, Sri Jagadguru Veera Simhasana Mahasamsthana Mutt, Suttur Srikshetra, and the Federation of Basava Balagas will jointly organise a Zonal-Level Vachana Music Festival on September 16 and 17 at Sri Suttur Mutt, at the foothills of Chamundi Hill in Mysuru. The inaugural ceremony will be held at 4.30 p.m. on September 16. Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami will grace the occasion with his divine presence. Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy will be the chief guest, while Urban Development Minister and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra S. will inaugurate the programme. Minister for Kannada and Culture and Backward Classes Welfare Shivaraj Tangadagi, former Chief Minister and Varuna MLA Siddaramaiah, will be the guests of honour. Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa will preside over the programme.

Power cut in Yadavagiri area today

Mysuru
Power supply will be disrupted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 10 in the V.V. Mohalla Sub-Division limits due to underground cable work on the 11 KV Yadavagiri power line. The affected areas include Yadavagiri, Vivekananda Main Road, the area around Yadavagiri Moti Clinic, Yadavagiri Ramanna Circle and surrounding localities, according to a release issued by the Executive Engineer of CESC, V.V. Mohalla Division. Power supply will be disrupted today owing to quarterly maintenance works at the D.K. Maidan Power Distribution Station. The affected areas include Shankaramatha, Aghara, Ramanuja Road Crosses 1 to 4, Thyagaraja Road, Narayana Shastri Road Crosses 1 to 6, Chamaraja Double Road, Mall of Mysore, Chamundi Hill, Gundurao Nagar, Suttur Mutt, Uttaradi Mutt, Sunnadakeri, Basaveshwara Road Crosses 1 to 14, Hosakeri, Madhwachar Road, JSS Hospital, Race Course, Gaurishankaranagar, Muneshwaranagar, Sachidananda Ashram and surrounding areas, said the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Chamundipuram Sub-Division issued the information.



93 Years of Kannada Cinema to Come Alive
Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president and actor Dr. Jayamala said a special tableau showcasing the fascinating journey of the Kannada film industry over the past 93 years would be created for the Dasara procession. The tableau will portray the evolution and milestones of Kannada cinema. Around 30 prominent Kannada film actors and actresses will take part in the procession and wave to their fans from the tableau, she

said.
Call for Felicitation of Film Personalities
Former Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Sa. Ra. Govindu urged the district administration to organise a special felicitation programme for eminent personalities of the Kannada film industry during Dasara. He also suggested that an exhibition depicting the glorious journey and evolution of the Kannada film industry be organised as part of the festivities.

Film Artistes’ Association president Rockline Venkatesh requested the Deputy Commissioner to make suitable accommodation arrangements for the artistes who will travel to Mysuru to participate in the Dasara celebrations.
Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, SI and RD Director Sheikh Tanveer Asif, Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi, members of the film chamber and representatives of various government departments were present.

‘25 lakh litres of water for Kambala when lakes lie dry?’

MYSURU

The Joint Action Committee has strongly condemned the State Government’s decision to continue preparations for organising Kambala as part of the Mysuru Dasara festivities, despite stiff opposition from environmental organisations, experts, writers and prominent citizens.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Parisarakke Naavu General Secretary Parashurame Gowda and KRRS leader Badagapur Nagendra said repeated appeals to the authorities to drop the Kambala event had fallen on deaf ears. The committee had personally appealed to the Deputy Commissioner, District Minister, Chief Minister, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mysuru-Kodagu MP and Suttur Sri. Letters had also been addressed to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Despite this, the Government had remained insensitive to the growing opposition.

The leaders questioned the wisdom of spending huge sums of public money on Kambala at a time when large parts of Karnataka are reeling under severe drought. Around 200 taluks in the State are reportedly facing drought conditions, while groundwater levels have declined sharply in more than 150 taluks, leaving thousands of villages struggling for drinking water. The situation in Mysuru district was equally alarming, they said. Of the 2,991 lakes in the district, as many as 2,928 were without water, while only 63 lakes were full.



Borewells within a 10-km radius of Mysuru city had also dried up, and several parts of the city were already witnessing drinking water shortages. “When people are struggling for drinking water, what is the justification for wasting more than 25 lakh litres of water for Kambala?” they questioned.

They also objected to the alleged expenditure of Rs.10-12 crore of public money and questioned why nearly 25 per cent of the total expenditure on Dasara programmes was being earmarked for Kambala. The Government’s alleged preferential treatment to Kambala had also angered the local cultural fraternity. While local artists were not being paid respectable remuneration or provided adequate facilities, a coastal rural sport was being accorded disproportionate importance during Mysuru Dasara, they alleged.

The environmentalists further claimed that trees were being felled every day in the name of preparations for Kambala. “Two or three trees are reportedly being cut and removed every day. Small trees are being planted around the lake and covered with soil merely to create an impression that the environment is being protected,” they alleged.

They criticised the Puttur MLA and Kambala organisers for claiming that the event would be conducted without cutting trees or damaging the environment. The leaders also pointed out that organisers had initially claimed that around 10 lakh people would attend Kambala, but reports had now suggested that the expected footfall could be as high as 25 lakh.

They said the existing Dasara programmes were themselves not being organised in a systematic manner and questioned the need to burden the world-famous festival with an additional event. The Joint Action Committee also claimed that the Mysuru royal family and citizens were strongly opposed to any move that could dilute the cultural identity, grandeur and traditional character of Mysuru Dasara by introducing Kambala.

The leaders appealed to the Government to “wake up before it is too late” and immediately withdraw the Kambala event. Recalling Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s statement that organising Kambala was not a matter of prestige for him, they urged him to honour his own words and immediately stop all preparations for the event.

Gandaberunda Trophy South Zone to showcase state’s young kabaddi talent

MYSURU

Mysuru is set to witness three days of high-energy kabaddi as the Gandaberunda Trophy South Zone Championship will be held from September 11 to 13 at Sri Mahadeshwara Temple, Kumbarakoppal in Mysuru.

Organised under the aegis of the Karnataka Rajya Amateur Kabaddi Association and supported by MLA K. Harish Gowda, the championship will feature Under-25 men’s teams from 11 districts, providing a platform for emerging kabaddi players to showcase their talent. The participating districts are Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Kolar, Hassan, Chikkaballapur and Tumakuru. The 11 teams will be divided into two pools, with six teams in one pool and five in the other. They will play a single round-robin league, with the top four teams from each pool advancing to the quarter-finals. The semi-finals, third-place match and final will be held on the concluding day.

Matches on September 11 and 12 will be conducted in morning and evening sessions from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. On



September 13, matches will be held from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. The tournament will continue with the new Power Play and Best of Three formats introduced during the North Zone championship held at Harugeri in Belagavi earlier this year.

Players must be born after January 1, 2001, and weigh not more than 85 kg. Each team will comprise 14 players, a coach and a manager.

The South Zone carries a prize purse of ₹1.05 lakh. The winners will receive ₹50,000, runners-up ₹30,000 and the third-placed team ₹15,000. The Best Raider and Best Defender will receive ₹5,000 each.

The Gandaberunda Trophy will subsequently move to the Central Zone, with the top four teams from each zone qualifying for the Grand Finale in November. The final championship will carry a prize purse of ₹4.5 lakh.

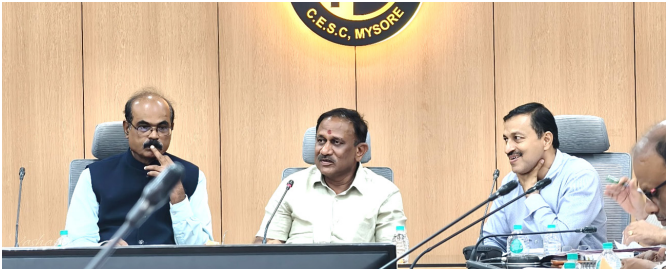
“Give Dasara Illumination a Fresh Concept and Captivating Design”

MYSURU

The electrical illumination planned for the grand Mysuru Dasara celebrations should shine with a fresh concept and an entirely new visual appeal this year, said MLA and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) Chairman Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, directing officials to make elaborate preparations in this regard.

Addressing a meeting held here on Wednesday to review preparations for Dasara illumination, he said the responsibility on the corporation was greater this year and officials should work on a war footing to complete the arrangements within the limited time available. “Our responsibility is greater this year compared to the previous years. We must complete the preparations at a rapid pace and create illumination with a new design and concept that Mysuru has not witnessed in the last three years,” he said.

Think out of box
He said they have to create the illumination in line with



the vision and expectations of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Everyone should come forward with fresh ideas, discuss them collectively and work towards implementing the best concepts effectively. The officials must seek suggestions from those who had been involved in Dasara illumination works in previous years and work together as a team. “People are expecting something new from CESC this Dasara. The illumination should therefore be designed in a more attractive and innovative manner to match their expectations and add a fresh sparkle to the city’s festive atmosphere,” he said.

Ramesh Bandisiddegowda stressed that utmost care should be taken to protect trees while installing decora-

tive lights. Officials and contractors must ensure that no nails are driven into trees and that the illumination work is carried out without causing any damage to the green cover. “Safety must be given the highest priority. At the same time, quality should be maintained in every work undertaken. All preparations for Dasara illumination should be completed successfully while ensuring high standards of workmanship and safety,” he said.

During the meeting, CESC Superintending Engineer Sunil Kumar briefed the gathering on the preparations being undertaken for the Dasara illumination.

CESC Technical Director L. Lokesh, other senior officials and electrical contractors were present at the meeting.

Temporary school opens at Mysuru Palace for kids of Mahouts, Kavadis

MYSURU

In a thoughtful initiative aimed at ensuring that children accompanying the mahouts and kavadis of the Dasara elephant squad do not miss out on their education, the School Education Department has opened a temporary school on the premises of the Mysuru Palace.

The temporary school, established to bridge the learning gap among the children and ensure continuity in their education while their families are in Mysuru for the 2026 Dasara festivities, was formally inaugurated on Wednesday by District Deputy Director of School Education D. Uday Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Kumar encouraged the children to make full use of the temporary school facility and urged parents to ensure that their children attend classes regularly. He also spoke words of encouragement to both the children and their parents, stressing the im-



portance of education. DYPC Shobha, BEO Krishna, BRC M.B. Srikanthaswamy, ACF Prabhugowda, RF Reshma and officials from the concerned educational zone were present.

Writing materials were distributed to the children and sweets were also given to them. The officials urged the children to attend the school regularly and continue their learning without interruption.

The temporary school will function every day until the completion of the Dasara fes-

tivities and the return of the elephant squad after the Gajapayana. To further support the children, the Akshaya Patra Foundation has made arrangements for providing midday meals at the school.

The initiative was warmly received and the inaugural programme was held successfully, reflecting the administration’s commitment to ensuring that children of the elephant camp families remain connected with education even while participating in the historic Dasara traditions.

World Suicide Prevention Day today

MYSURU

The Department of Public Libraries’ City Central Library, Peoples’ Park, Mysuru, Viveka Health Institute and Inner Wheel Club of Mysuru will jointly observe World Suicide Prevention Day at 11 a.m. on September 10, 2026. The programme will be held at the mini auditorium of the City Central Library located at Peoples’ Park.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mysuru Traffic Division, M. Shivashankar, will inaugurate the programme. City Library Authority member and retired Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes Ramesh Narasayya will preside.

Viveka Hospital Director Dr. Arun Kumar, Inner Wheel Club president Chaitra Arun, and Viveka Hospital city psychiatrist Dr. Vasu M. will participate as chief guests, said City Central Library Deputy Director Manjunath B. in a release.

Akshatha Pandavapura’s ‘Leak Out’ Reaches Landmark 125th Show

MYSURU

Theatre artist, award-winning Kannada film actress and National School of Drama (NSD) alumna Akshatha Pandavapura is set to mark a significant milestone with her acclaimed 90-minute experimental solo play “Leak Out”, presented as part of the Navyasi Ranga initiative. The landmark 125th show will be staged at the Indian Institute of Educational Theatre, Mysore, on September 11 at 6 pm, marking another memorable chapter in the play’s celebrated journey across Karnataka and its growing reputation in modern intimate theatre.

Conceived as an interactive exploration of societal dynamics, silenced voices and deeply human experiences, “Leak Out” delves into the complexities of modern life, touching upon themes of identity, gender, and the human condition. The play is a powerful statement on the need for empathy and understanding in a world often divided by differences.

Speaking about the play, creator Akshatha Pandavapura said: “My objective has always been to bring theatre closer to the people and locate my characters right within the audience.”

Theatre enthusiasts, artists, students and the general public are warmly invited to witness this special 125th performance of “Leak Out” and experience an intimate theatrical journey that breaks the conventional barrier between performer and audience.

Organising Enquiries: 968682255 Cheluvraj H.R.9686892255.

ences, “Leak Out” brings together the compelling stories of diverse women. The performance takes an unconventional approach, evolving with every show and directly involving members of the audience as active participants in the unfolding narrative. Through a blend of powerful storytelling, humour and emotional insight, the play examines social norms, gender dynamics and systemic silence.

Event & Show Details
Date & Time: September 11, 2026, at 6.00 p.m. Venue: Indian Institute of Educational Theatre, Mysore. Entry: Open to all. Artist/Performer: Akshatha Pandavapura — NSD alumna and State Award-winning actress. Format & Duration: Solo Experimental / Intimate Theatre | 90 minutes.

Speaking about the play, creator Akshatha Pandavapura said: “My objective has always been to bring theatre closer to the people and locate my characters right within the audience.”

Theatre enthusiasts, artists, students and the general public are warmly invited to witness this special 125th performance of “Leak Out” and experience an intimate theatrical journey that breaks the conventional barrier between performer and audience.

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Quick Read



DRI seizes 180 star tortoises in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials seized 180 star tortoises allegedly being smuggled in Gandhinagar and detained a man. The officials reportedly noticed the man's suspicious movements and stopped him for questioning. During the search, they found 180 star tortoises in his possession. The man allegedly told officials that he was transporting the tortoises to a customer in Majestic. The DRI seized the reptiles and took him into custody for further investigation. Officials are probing whether the case is linked to a larger tortoise smuggling network and are gathering details about the intended recipient and possible handlers. Indian star tortoises are protected wildlife, and their illegal transport and trade are offences under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Bengaluru turns quieter, but night noise persists

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Bengaluru's noise levels have declined from 2018, but several areas still exceed permissible limits, especially at night, KSPCB data shows. Near NIMHANS, noise levels were 14.2% above the permissible limit during the day and 45% higher at night. At RVCE on Mysuru Road, they exceeded limits by 24.4% and 55.3%, respectively. Domlur recorded levels 16.9% above limits during the day and 30.7% at night, while BTM Layout recorded 17.6% and 34.9%. Activists questioned whether existing monitoring stations reflect the city's expansion. Experts cited traffic and unnecessary honking as major contributors.



Tree felling at HRBR Layout sparks outrage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents of Kalyan Nagar have protested the felling of three trees, including a decades-old ficus tree that shaded walkers.

The chopping of three trees in Kalyan Nagar's HRBR Layout has triggered anger among residents, who staged a peaceful protest demanding action against those responsible.

A sprawling ficus tree, believed to be more than 30 years old, was reduced to a stump overnight. Two nearby pongamia (honge mara) trees were also felled.

Residents alleged that the trees had suddenly started shedding leaves and dried up within seven to 10 days. They suspected that the owner of the property behind the trees could be responsible.

Priyanka Lal, a resident and educator working on nature and wildlife issues, said she noticed the trees had disappeared after construction began at the property. The site earlier housed an ice cream outlet, which was later closed

CNR Rao flagged over name mismatch in Karnataka SIR

A name mismatch in electoral rolls has flagged Bharat Ratna scientist C N R Rao during Karnataka's Special Intensive Revision process.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bharat Ratna recipient and eminent scientist Professor C N R Rao has been flagged for a "self-mismatch" in his name during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka.

Rao's name appears in the list of persons to whom notices have been issued during the verification exercise. His name in the older electoral rolls was recorded as Prof. C.N.R Rao, while the new draft reportedly carries it as "Proff. C.N.R Rao", leading to the discrepancy.

However, Election Commission officials clarified that no notice was actually served on Rao or any member of his family. The Booth Level Officer (BLO), without serving a notice, recommended that Rao's name be retained in the final electoral roll. The final



"No notice was served to the eminent scientist or his family members." — Election Commission officials

rolls are expected to be published next month.

Rao, who was born in Bengaluru, has been summoned for a hearing scheduled in Malleshwaram, near the Indian Institute of Science. Officials explained that

C N R Rao — SIR discrepancy

- Old roll:** Prof. C.N.R Rao
- New draft:** "Proff. C.N.R Rao"
- Issue:** Self/name mismatch
- Notice:** Listed for hearing, but not served
- BLO action:** Recommended inclusion in final roll
- Final rolls:** Expected next month

"self-mismatch" is categorised as a logical discrepancy. It can arise when details supplied by a voter who is present in the 2002 electoral roll do not match the information recorded during the revision.

Other logical discrepancies can include mismatches in parents' names, unusually small age gaps between parents and children, and cases where parents are recorded as

What is a self-mismatch?
A self-mismatch is treated as a logical discrepancy during electoral-roll revision. It may occur when a voter's details from the 2002 electoral roll do not match information submitted during SIR. Similar discrepancies can involve parents' names, unusually small age differences between parents and children, or inconsistencies in the number of children recorded for parents. Such discrepancies are verified before names are included in the final electoral rolls.

having more than six children.

Rao, one of India's most distinguished scientists, was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2014 for his contributions to solid-state and materials chemistry.

The issue comes days after Padma Shri awardee Harekala Hajabba faced a similar SIR-related name discrepancy, which was resolved shortly after it came to light.

International cooperation vital for future spaceflight: Sunita Williams

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Renowned astronaut Sunita Williams on Wednesday stressed the need for greater international cooperation in future human spaceflight, saying humanity would return to the Moon and travel farther "as human beings, not as one country".

Speaking at the Bengaluru Space Expo, Williams said countries could learn from each other's approaches to solving challenges. She highlighted the need for self-reliant space stations, onboard databases, reliable 3D printing and in-space analysis of experiments.

Williams said commercial stations could accelerate innovation, while humans, robotics and AI would need to work together during exploration.

Group Captain Angad Pratap said India needs critical technologies for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, including regenerative life support, space-suits and docking systems.

1,126 landowners face losing property as BDA revives PRR-2

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As many as 1,126 landowners are set to lose their properties as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) moves to acquire 1,427 acres for the second leg of the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR-2).

The 52-km, 10-lane road will run parallel to NICE Road, connecting the Hosur, Mysuru and Tumakuru roads. It will also provide connectivity to the proposed township at Bidadi.

The State Government last week issued final notifications for acquiring land in 30 villages, covering areas including Attibele, Jigani, Begur, Uttarahalli, Kengeri and Dasanapura.

The project, sanctioned in 2004, has remained stalled for nearly two decades. The preliminary land acquisition notification was issued in December 2005. Several landowners subsequently approached the courts, and the High Court has quashed preliminary notifica-



tions in some cases.

T Yashvantha, state general secretary of the Karnataka Prantha Raittha Sangha, said landowners were likely to oppose the acquisition unless compensation reflected current market values.

"Unless landowners are paid the current market value for their land, there is bound to be opposition. So far, there is no clarity on the compensation structure," he said.

A senior BDA official said the authority would soon begin passing consent awards to landowners. The compensation structure is similar to options offered for the Bengaluru Business Corridor, with a slight modification awaiting government approval.

PRR-2 at a glance	
Particulars	Details
Total length	52 km
Width	10 lanes
Land acquisition	1,427 acres
Landowners affected	1,126
Villages covered	30
Estimated cost	Rs 3,500 cr
Existing stretch	10 km
Remaining stretch	42 km
Proposed township	Bidadi

Of the proposed 52-km corridor, BDA has already constructed a 10-km, 10-lane stretch between Magadi Road and Mysuru Road. The latest notification covers the remaining 42 km.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 3,500 crore. Clover-leaf junctions are proposed at intersections with Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kanakapura and Hosur roads. Additional land may be required for these junctions.

Man dies by suicide after allegedly killing wife with beer bottle

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 38-year-old Bengaluru man allegedly killed his wife with a beer bottle before dying by suicide after a domestic quarrel.

A 38-year-old man allegedly killed his wife by attacking her with a beer bottle before dying by suicide at their residence in Vibhuthipura, near HAL, on Tuesday night, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Raghavendra M, 38, and his wife Shruthi R, 30. The couple had been married for 15 years and had two children. According to the police, Raghavendra suspected that

his wife was having an affair and frequently quarrelled with her over the issue. The couple's children are currently staying with their maternal grandparents in Davangere.

Police said the incident occurred following a quarrel between the couple on Tuesday night. Raghavendra allegedly attacked Shruthi with a beer bottle, causing fatal injuries. He later allegedly hanged himself.

The HAL police rushed to the residence after being alerted and shifted both bodies for post-mortem examination. Further investigation is under way to establish the exact se-

quence of events and circumstances leading to the deaths.

Raghavendra was working as an autorickshaw driver, while Shruthi was employed as a housemaid at an apartment.

Police are examining the circumstances surrounding the domestic dispute and the events immediately preceding the incident. Statements from relatives and others familiar with the couple are also expected to form part of the investigation.

The incident has left the couple's two children without their parents. Their maternal grandparents in Davangere are currently looking after them.

Overseas voters caught in Karnataka SIR hearing rules

Overseas Karnataka voters who filed SIR forms online now face hearings they may struggle to attend in person.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has created a fresh dilemma for voters living abroad, with several receiving notices over discrepancies in their online enumeration forms.

Many overseas voters who submitted their SIR forms online have reportedly been issued notices for non-mapping of data or logical discrepancies. They are now required to appear personally before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) during SIR hearings.

The issue stems partly from confusion over the category under which overseas electors submitted their forms. The draft electoral roll published on August 24 contained only 951 NRI electors. Officials suspect that a large number of voters living abroad may have completed online enumeration as general electors or resident Indians instead of registering through Form 6A, which is specifically prescribed for NRI electors.

This distinction has significant consequences during the verification process.

NRI electors are exempted from appearing personally at SIR hearings because their passport and visa details are already available with the



Issue	Details
Draft roll	Published August 24
NRI electors	951
Correct form	Form 6A
Suspected error	Overseas voters enrolled as resident electors
Notices	Non-mapping/ logical discrepancies
Resident-electtor requirement	Personal appearance at ERO hearing
NRI exemption	No personal appearance required

EROs. However, overseas voters who registered themselves as resident Indian electors are being treated differently and are expected to appear before officials in person to establish their eligibility.

The situation has left several overseas voters facing practical difficulties, particularly those who cannot travel to Karnataka solely to attend a hearing.

The Election Commission's verification exercise is intended to ensure that electoral-roll entries are accurate and that discrepancies are resolved before publication of the final rolls.

The latest issue adds to the challenges emerging from the SIR process, with thousands of voters being asked to clarify discrepancies in their electoral records.

WHY FORM 6A MATTERS

Form 6A is specifically meant for Indian citizens living abroad who wish to register as overseas electors. NRI voters are treated differently during SIR verification because passport and visa details are available with electoral authorities. Overseas voters who instead enrolled as resident Indian electors may have to attend hearings personally to resolve discrepancies, creating difficulties for those currently living outside India and unable to travel to Karnataka.

K'taka fourth-highest recipient of biodiversity funds

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as the fourth-highest recipient of National Biodiversity Authority funds under the Access and Benefit-Sharing framework.

Karnataka has emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of funds released by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) under the Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework, ranking fourth among States.

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has received Rs 65.23 lakh, following Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, which received higher allocations.

The NBA has sanctioned a total of Rs 8.23 crore to 27 State Biodiversity Boards and five Union Territory Biodiversity Councils under the ABS framework. The funds were collected from the access to and use of biological resources such as bitter gourd, okra, chilli and onion.

The funds were distributed to States because the biological resources were accessed through open markets or traders and could not be linked to specific farmers, communities or geographical locations.

Experts, however, have urged the Karnataka Biodiversity Board to focus on creating awareness about biodiversity conservation and the ABS mechanism.

Akshay Heblikar, founder of Eco Watch and a former member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), said many communities were unaware that they were required to pay ABS fees and did not know where the payments had to be made.

He said the funds should be used to conduct workshops, seminars and sensitisation programmes, while local communities should also be informed about how their biological resources are being used and their entitlement to benefits.

City already 4°C above normal; K'taka may heat up further

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru has been experiencing unusually high temperatures, with the mercury touching 32-33°C in recent days against the normal 28-29°C for this period.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that temperatures across Karnataka are likely to remain above normal over the coming week and could rise by another 1-3°C, scientist C S Patil said.

The absence of active weather systems has resulted in dry conditions across several districts. Fewer clouds and prolonged sunshine are allowing the land surface to heat up during the day, pushing

HEAT RISE FORECAST

RAIN MAY BRING RELIEF

Bengaluru could receive light rainfall on September 11, 12 and 14, offering some respite from the prevailing heat. More widespread rainfall activity is expected after September 16. However, the continuing deficit has reduced moisture in soil, reservoirs and lakes. Lower moisture, along with reduced vegetation, could contribute to higher temperatures in the coming months, according to IMD scientist C S Patil.

ing temperatures higher.

A sharp decline in rainfall over the past one to two weeks has further contributed to the warming. Reduced soil moisture means the land heats

up faster, while lower moisture levels in reservoirs and lakes could add to the problem.

Northern interior Karnataka has recorded the highest tem-

Area	Temperature trend
Bengaluru	32-33°C
Bengaluru normal	28-29°C
Kalaburagi	Around 36°C
Northern interior Karnataka	4-5°C above normal
Southern interior Karnataka	Around 4°C above normal
State rainfall deficit	26%
Bengaluru rainfall deficit	40-50%

peratures, with Kalaburagi reaching around 36°C. Several districts in the region have recorded temperatures 4-5°C above normal. Southern inte-

rior Karnataka has also experienced temperatures around 4°C above normal.

Karnataka has received about 26% less rainfall than normal so far this year, while Bengaluru has recorded a rainfall deficit of around 40-50%, according to Patil.

He attributed the subdued monsoon activity partly to El Niño and the weakening influence of regional climate systems, including the Indian Ocean Dipole and Madden-Julian Oscillation.

The weather may offer some temporary relief, with Bengaluru likely to receive light rain on September 11, 12 and 14. More widespread rainfall activity is expected after September 16.

Quick Read

Jal Nadige walkathon to promote water conservation

CH NEWS, MANDYA
A "Jal Nadige" water walkathon will be held on September 12 to promote water conservation and water management. It will begin at 6:30 am from the Collector's Office and cover Sanjaya Circle, Nanda Circle, Dr. Besagarahalli Ramanna Circle, Karnataka Bank Circle, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Circle and Vinobha Road. Participants will learn about saving drinking and domestic water, rainwater harvesting, recycled water, groundwater recharge and water use in agriculture. The walk will return to the Collector's Office at 8 am. Officials urged people to participate and help protect water for generations.

Loan applications invited for backward classes development

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Applications have been invited online through the Seva Sindhu portal for loan schemes supporting the economic development of backward communities. The schemes include personal loans, Ganga Kalyan irrigation, education loans, Swavalambi Sarathi and other programs offered through various community development corporations. Eligible applicants can apply for assistance from corporations representing communities including Vokkaliga, Arya Vaishya, Ambigara Choudaiah, Uppara, Madivala Machideva, Maratha, Kadugolla, Veerashaiva Lingayat, Savita Samaj, and nomadic and semi-nomadic groups. For details, applicants may contact the respective corporation websites, the District Manager's office in Chitradurga, or call 08194-220882 for further guidance.

Bhadra water reaches Chitradurga, raising farmers' hopes

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Bhadra Upper River Project water has reached Chitradurga district, bringing fresh hope to farmers who have waited for irrigation support for years.

Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi said the State government has kept its promise and taken steps to bring Bhadra water to drought-prone parts of the district.

Pappi said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has taken special interest in the project and provided guidance for its progress. The arrival of water has brought happiness among farmers and could open a new chapter for agriculture in the district. He said the project aims to provide reliable irrigation and reduce the impact of uncertain rainfall.

According to the MLA, filling lakes with Bhadra water can also help increase groundwater levels. As lakes and other water bodies receive water, nearby borewells and open wells could benefit from improved recharge. Better water availability may allow farmers to grow different crops, increase production and strengthen agriculture-related economic activities.

Farmers and several organizations have campaigned for the project for many years. Pappi said authorities must closely monitor the canals, project works and water distribution system to ensure that water reaches the intended areas. He also stressed the need for careful water management, lake conservation and measures to prevent wastage. The project could also support drinking water needs in rural areas by improving local water sources and groundwater availability.

Karnataka to review fair sugarcane prices for farmers

Farmers demanded ₹5,500 per tonne, citing improved recovery, fair pricing, and transparency in recovery-rate testing after factories offered lower prices

CH NEWS, HAVERI

The Karnataka government will hold discussions on fixing a fair and profitable price for sugarcane growers, Sugar and Textiles Minister Rudrappa Lamani said.

Speaking at a meeting at the District Collector's Office, he said the government wants to address farmers' concerns while ensuring fairness to all sides.

Farmers at the meeting demanded Rs. 5,500 per tonne for sugarcane. They said some factories had offered lower prices last year because of poor recovery rates. Although recovery has improved this year, growers complained that sugarcane prices have not increased accordingly.

They also sought transparency in the testing process used to calculate recovery rates.

Farmers demanded that growers should be allowed to verify recovery testing and urged the government to establish a dedicated



laboratory for such tests. They also pointed out differences between recovery-based price calculations in North and South Karnataka. The farmers called for uniform standards across the State and asked sugar factories to begin operations early.

Responding to the concerns, Minister Lamani said payments pending from the previous year, factory dues and additional payments would be reviewed.

He said the farmers' demands would be placed before the government and discussed with the Chief Minister and Cabinet. He added that the State would

examine the issue within the framework of existing Central government guidelines.

The meeting also reviewed records on sugarcane crushing, recovery rates and prices at factories during 2024-25 and 2025-26. Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Mahantesh, Superintendent of Police Yashoda Vantagodi, Food Department Deputy Director D.J. Manjunath, farmer leaders, growers and officials attended.

The discussions offered farmers hope that their concerns over fair prices and transparent recovery testing will receive attention at the government level.

'Industries Must Support KPS Schools'

Industries in Haveri district must use CSR funds to improve government schools and support poor children, Minister Rudrappa Lamani said. Speaking at a meeting, he stressed that CSR support should provide quality education, modern infrastructure and better facilities in Karnataka Public Schools. LKG and UKG classes are being introduced in 184 government schools during 2026-27, with English-medium education. A phased plan is also underway for selecting KPS schools, securing land and developing infrastructure. Lamani warned that industries failing to cooperate or honour commitments could face government action.

The district administration urged companies to support education and school development.

Mandya Officials Urge Peaceful Ganesh Festival Celebrations

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The district administration has assured full support for peaceful and joyful Gauri-Ganesh festival celebrations, while warning of strict action against anyone who disturbs law and order.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar said the festival should be observed with devotion and harmony, without creating fear or tension among people.

Speaking at a taluk-level harmony meeting, he urged citizens to prevent incidents that could damage communal peace.

He said everyone, including community leaders, has a responsibility to guide young people, stop antisocial activities and respect the law. He also reminded residents that no individual is above the law.

MANDYA USES MUSIC TO INSPIRE YOUNG VOTERS

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Music is being used in Mandya to encourage young people to understand the value of voting. The District SWEEP Committee organised a youth singing competition called 'Hadu Nanna Goto' at Mandya University.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini said creative programmes like this can make voter awareness more interesting and effective.

Nandini said every citizen who turns 18 should register as a voter and take part in elections. She stressed that every vote matters in a democracy because people choose their representatives through voting. A strong democratic system, she said, can support the country's progress and help citizens take greater responsibility.

The competition is being held under the SVEEP programme, which promotes voter education and participation. Young participants are writing



lyrics, composing music and singing about voting rights and responsibilities. So far, 15 teams have registered. The winner will receive Rs 10,000, while the second and third place winners will receive Rs 5,000 and Rs 2,500.

The best song will be selected as the 'Mandya District Election Theme Song' and may be used in voter awareness programmes across the district. Officials said the programme will also support campaigns planned for September 19 and 20, while promoting voter registration and participation during the Special Comprehensive Revision 2026.

'Akka Cafe draws tourists, boosting rural women'

Zilla Panchayat CEO Nandini K.R. visited Akka Cafe at Pandavapura Taluk Panchayat premises and reviewed its operations and turnover. Tourists visiting Melukote and Bhu Varahanatha Temple are helping the cafe attract customers, self-help group women said. Nandini suggested GST registration to expand catering services for government offices and other organizations. The cafe already receives outside catering orders, giving women additional income. They said foreign tourists had also praised the food's cleanliness and taste.

Shivamogga gears up for grand Maha Ganapathi

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

With Ganesh Chaturthi approaching, preparations for installing Ganesh idols are underway across Shivamogga. The city is gearing up for the grand celebration organised by the Shivamogga Hindu Mahamandali, which is known for its large-scale Mahaganapathi festivities.

The organisers have been making elaborate arrangements for the installation and celebrations. With thousands of devotees expected to participate, the police department has also stepped up security measures to ensure that the festival passes off peacefully.

Police officials have taken precautionary steps to prevent any untoward incidents during the celebrations. Security arrangements have been strengthened at important locations, while officials are also

keeping a close watch on the movement of people and vehicles during the festival.

The police have issued guidelines for the Ganesh idol immersion procession. Organisers and participants have been advised about what can and cannot be carried during the procession. They have also been urged to cooperate with the police and follow the instructions to maintain law and order.

The Shivamogga Hindu Mahaganapathi celebration is expected to attract a large number of devotees. Authorities and organisers are working together to ensure that the celebrations are conducted peacefully and in an orderly manner. Detailed arrangements have been made for the immersion procession, with special attention being given to public safety and traffic management.

Sunil Kumar seeks special grants for Mahamastakabhisheka

CH NEWS, KARKALA

Karkala MLA V Sunil Kumar has urged the Karnataka government to provide special grants for the upcoming Mahamastakabhisheka ceremony and development works in Karkala. The major Jain religious event is scheduled to be held for 10 days from February 18, 2027.

The Mahamastakabhisheka, conducted once every 12 years, attracts thousands of devotees and visitors from different parts of the country. Considering the importance of the event, Sunil

Kumar has sought additional financial support to improve infrastructure and provide better facilities for devotees.

The MLA has called for funds to strengthen roads, sanitation, drinking water supply, lighting and other basic facilities in and around Karkala. He also stressed the need to improve traffic management and arrangements for the large number of visitors expected during the celebrations.

The special grants, he said, would help the administration complete essential development works before the religious event.

Bhovi Corporation told to speed up welfare projects

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman Ramappa M. has directed officials to speed up welfare projects aimed at improving the economic, social and educational conditions of the Bhovi community.

He said eligible beneficiaries should receive government assistance within the prescribed time and urged departments to respond quickly to community needs.

Speaking at a progress review meeting at the J.H. Patel Hall, Ramappa reviewed the implementation of various corporation schemes. He said programmes covering self-employment, entrepreneurship, Ganga Kalyan, microcredit and land ownership should reach eligible beneficiaries without delay. Officials were also asked to work towards achieving the targets fixed for each scheme.

Ramappa called on lead bank managers to cooperate in providing banking services for credit-based programmes. He also instructed GESCOM officials to ensure timely electricity connections for borewells being provided under the Ganga Kalyan scheme. Such coordination, he said, would help beneficiaries use government support effectively and become financially independent.

During the meeting, Ramappa examined the progress of different schemes and stressed the need for regular monitoring. He encouraged members of the Bhovi community to make full use of the available programmes and use the opportunities to improve their livelihoods. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation District Manager N. Pushpalatha explained the schemes being implemented during the current year.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwara,



Bhovi corporation steps up welfare scheme implementation

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman Ramappa M. said the government is working for the social and economic progress of the Bhovi community. Speaking at a press conference, he said Rs. 75.60 crore has been allocated for welfare schemes in 2026-27, with Rs. 18.90 crore already released. In Koppal, several schemes have benefited community members through self-employment loans, subsidies, vehicle assistance, microcredit and irrigation support. Under the Land Ownership Scheme, 34 beneficiaries received 47.25 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 4.80 crore. Ramappa said efforts would continue to ensure welfare benefits reach eligible beneficiaries.

Bhovi Development Corporation General Manager Shivaswamy, Deputy Conservator of Forests Nirmala N.K., Assistant Commissioner Maheebul Jilani and other officials attended the meeting. Representatives from social welfare, women's and child development, backward classes welfare and banking departments also participated.

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: 20/2026-27/1544 Date: 07.09.2026

Tender Notice
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Development of Road going from Gollarahalli to Jodibokikere in Jodibokikere G.P., Ajjapurah Taluk in Chikkamagaluru District (Indent No.: 29158) (Rs. 70.00 lakhs). Amount put to Tender for the work Rs. 59.15 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW - 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 07.09.2026 to 21.09.2026 up to 5.30 PM. If possible the Technical Bid will be opened on 23.09.2026 at 5.30 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 28.09.2026 at 5.05 PM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/26-27/10/779

HASSAN UNIVERSITY
(ಸತ್ಯಪನ-2023)
Hemagangothri Phone : 08172-220014
BM Road, Kenchatathalli, Hassan E-Mail:reg.hassan.uni@gmail.com
Phone : 08172-220014 E-Mail : reg.hassanuni@gmail.com

E-TENDER
Hassan University invites bids from eligible agencies for providing the required human resource services to the University. An e-tender has been issued in this regard. E-Tender No.: HU-2026-27/SE0013 The details of the tender are as follows: Sl. No. Description 1)Human Resource Services / Manpower Services Estimated Amount Rs.66,96,102 Tender Schedule Sl. No.Particulars 1)Last date for tender enquiry Date 17.09.2026 Time 5:00 PM 2)Start date for submission of applications through the e-Procurement portal Date 05.09.2026 Time 11:00 AM 3)Last date for submission of applications through the e-Procurement portal Date 19.09.2026 Time 5:30 PM 4)Opening of Technical Bid Date 21.09.2026 Time 11:00 AM 5)Opening of Financial Bid Date 22.09.2026 Time 11:00 AM Interested agencies are required to participate in the tender through the Karnataka Government e-Procurement portal. The tender documents can be obtained from the e-Procurement portal and the details are available at: http://kppt.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- B A Jagadeesha KAS Registrar
Hassan University, Hassan
ಹಾಸನಸಂ/ಹಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/476/ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪರಿಷತ್/2025-26



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

KARNATAKA MUST SPEAK IN ONE VOICE ON MEKEDATU

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

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

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

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

But it would be wrong to interpret this as a blanket final clearance to start construction immediately. The Central Water Commission returned Karnataka’s revised DPR in June this year, seeking modifications to bring it in conformity with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award and the Supreme Court judgment. The Supreme Court has also held that the preparation



of a DPR is not the same as final project approval and that the DPR has to go through the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

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

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

The timing is particularly important. Tamil Nadu has already begun mobilising opposition to the project. The Coordination Committee of All Farmers’ Associations of Tamil Nadu has announced a five-day statewide campaign from September 20 and indicated that it would seek an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi if necessary.

The BJP and JD(S), which are in Opposition, should therefore rise above partisan politics and extend constructive support to the Congress government on Mekedatu. If the project is genuinely in Karnataka’s long-term interest, there should be no question of who gets the political credit. The credit should belong to Karnataka.

This is precisely where the culture of ‘credit politics’ must end. Projects involving the State’s water security, drinking-water requirements and long-term development cannot be reduced to electoral slogans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN A LAKE IS DESTROYED AND ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS HAPPENS WHO IS ACTUALLY HELD RESPONSIBLE?

Kada Agrahara quarry lake a land mark to few is being fading as each day goes by due to our silence. Now construction debris and mud being dumped into the lake small portion by portion the entire lake will be filled with mud and debris to the land level reaching a point where there is no sign of the lake. Already the sides are filled with mud making a pathway for the vehicles carrying debris and mud to dump in the lake and a little portion of the lake is already in process of being covered removing that

part from the lake. Because the lake is being converted into land over time and not immediately people don't recognise the lake fading away. We stay silent now but complaint and worry during the rainy days to how the water floods our roads even during light rainfall that lasts only for 15 mins .our silence now is going to affect us in various ways in future, natural spaces like these would help retain water as each disappear one by one there will be no space for the water to settle in that is when flooding becomes a part of our daily life. After a few years that land would be



purchased by companies or individuals who aren't even aware of the lake, would build buildings or flats, and innocent people will be held responsible and be asked to pay fine and vacate. Are we the one's who are actually responsible paying the price?

Government takes action after the lake is completely destroyed and buildings have come up, who bears the consequences?The people responsible for this disaster would live their lives in peace while the innocent citizens pay the price of their doings.

- IVANIA MARY WILLYS

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY- SEP 10, 2026

In India’s rapidly changing urban landscape, financial setbacks, business losses, mounting loans, job insecurity, family responsibilities and the pressure to maintain a particular standard of living are increasingly becoming sources of intense psychological distress. World Suicide Prevention Day 2026, observed on September 10 with the theme “Changing the Narrative on Suicide,” highlights the urgent need to replace silence and stigma with open conversations, empathy and timely mental-health support.

India continues to face a significant suicide burden. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 171,418 suicides were reported in 2023, compared with 170,924 in 2022. The suicide rate was approximately 12.3 per lakh population in 2023. Importantly, nearly two-thirds of reported suicides in 2023 were among people aged 18–45 years,

highlighting the vulnerability of the economically and socially active population. Mumbai recorded 1,406 suicides in 2024, according to official data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Mumbai ranked fourth among major Indian cities for absolute numbers, behind Delhi (2,905 cases), Bengaluru (2,403 cases), and similar to other metropolitan centers.

For people living in cities, financial distress can become particularly overwhelming. Business failure, accumulated loans, EMI pressures, loss of employment, professional competition, relationship difficulties, social isolation and the perceived need to “keep up” with peers can create a combination of pressures. Financial distress should not be viewed in isolation; it can interact with depression, anxiety, substance use, family conflict and other mental-health challenges.

Family and relationship-re-

lated stress can also contribute significantly to emotional distress. Frequent relationship quarrels, marital conflict, separation or divorce, extramarital affairs, differences between partners or families over caste and social background, family opposition to relationships, domestic disagreements, emotional rejection, loss of trust, loneliness within relationships and unresolved conflicts can leave individuals feeling isolated and overwhelmed. In some situations, intense emotions following a relationship breakdown or prolonged family conflict may compound existing financial, professional or mental-health difficulties. These factors should be understood as possible contributors rather than single or definitive causes of suicide.

Dr. Pratik Surandash, MD Psychiatry, Consultant Psychiatrist, from Apex Group of Hospitals, Borivali said, “A business loss, failed venture, unemployment or inability to

repay a loan can feel like the end of the world when a person is already emotionally overwhelmed. But a financial crisis is a situation not a person's identity or the end of their future. In our cities, where success is often measured through income, lifestyle and professional achievement, people may hesitate to admit that they are struggling. We need to change this mindset. Asking someone how they are coping, listening without judgement and encouraging professional help can be extremely important. The message should be clear: financial problems can be solved step by step; a life cannot be replaced.”

Dr. Pratik Surandash, MD Psychiatry, Consultant Psychiatrist, from Apex Group of Hospitals further added, “Family and relationship conflicts can be equally distressing. Quarrels between couples, separation, divorce, relationship breakdowns, family opposition to a relationship,

differences in caste or social background, betrayal and unresolved emotional conflicts can deeply affect a person's sense of security and belonging. When several stresses occur together, a person may feel that there is no way forward. This is precisely when family members and friends need to listen rather than judge, stay connected and encourage professional help.”

Experts emphasise that suicide prevention requires communities to recognise warning signs early and create safe spaces for conversations. Families, employers, colleagues and friends can play an important role by noticing withdrawal, hopelessness, major behavioural changes or expressions of being unable to cope. This World Suicide Prevention Day, the message is simple but powerful: Start the conversation. Listen without judgement. Encourage help.

- PRITI DOKE

VINOBA BHAVE’S BHOODAN AND SARVODAYA: A VISION FOR INCLUSIVE INDIA

Whenever a nation advances towards economic prosperity, technological excellence and global prominence, it faces a fundamental question: Is development merely about material achievements, or must it also encompass the growth of morality, compassion, coexistence and a sense of responsibility within human beings? India today is moving forward with the vision of a New India, a Developed India and a Prosperous India. At such a moment, the life and philosophy of Acharya Vinoba Bhave remind us that the strongest foundation of nation-building is human character.

September 11 marks the birth anniversary of Vinoba Bhave, whose original name was Vinayak Narahari Bhave. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, freedom fighter, thinker, spiritual seeker and pioneer of the Sarvodaya movement, Vinoba was much more than merely Gandhi’s spiritual successor. Such a description would confine the vastness of his personality. He developed an independent intellectual and spiritual vision of his own. Deeply influenced by saints such as Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram, he regarded the Bhagavad Gita as a

spiritual foundation of his life, while social transformation remained the practical expression of his thought. Vinoba’s greatest contribution was his ability to connect spirituality with the real and pressing problems of society. The Bhoodan Movement was a remarkable manifestation of this vision. He travelled from village to village, often on foot, appealing to landowners to voluntarily donate a portion of their land for the landless. This was not merely an effort to redistribute land; it was an attempt to transform the psychology of ownership into a consciousness of sharing and social responsibility.

Bhoodan gradually evolved into the idea of Gramdan, the collective sharing of village resources, expressed in the profound thought, “All land belongs to Gopal.” Embedded in this concept was not merely economic justice, but also social harmony, collective responsibility and ethical trusteeship. Vinoba believed that society could not be transformed by laws alone; it had to be awakened through the conscience of individuals. This vision naturally led him towards Sarvodaya the welfare and upliftment of all. It envisaged a society in which the benefits of development

reached the last person and no individual’s progress came at the cost of another’s exploitation. His ability to persuade the Chambal dacoits to surrender was a powerful demonstration of his moral leadership. Vinoba believed deeply in the capacity of human beings to transform themselves. What was needed, he felt, was not merely punishment or coercion, but an awakening of the goodness within.

There was a profound affinity between Vinoba Bhave’s moral vision and the Anuvrat Movement pioneered by Acharya Tulsi. When Acharya Tulsi launched Anuvrat as a movement for character-building and moral awakening, several leading national personalities supported and encouraged his efforts. Vinoba Bhave was among them. The two great personalities met from time to time and engaged in meaningful discussions on the indispensability of ethical values in nation-building. Both believed that politics, society and the economy could remain healthy only when guided by people of character and conscience. Their journeys on foot also reflected a remarkable spiritual kinship. For them, walking was not merely a means of travelling from one place to another; it was a discipline of

public contact, social awakening and inner discovery. Vinoba often emphasised that walking brings one into direct contact with the earth and deepens one’s relationship with nature.

I have personally experienced this truth. I had the opportunity to walk for many years alongside Acharya Tulsi, the pioneer of the Anuvrat Movement. I discovered that a padyatra does much more than keep the body in motion it opens the closed doors of the mind and intellect. An ordinary person encountered along the way can become a teacher, and life itself becomes an open classroom.

There is a deeply moving personal connection between my family and Vinoba Bhave. My father, the late Shri Ramswaroop Garg, and my mother, the late Smt. Satyabhama Garg, were associated with the Sarvodaya movement. In 1959, Vinoba Bhave came to Ajmer during one of his walking journeys. He came to know that Satyabhama Garg, one of his workers, was suffering from cancer and was struggling between life and death. He personally went to meet her, walking through the narrow lanes of Imli Mohalla and climbing up to the third floor, where he blessed her.

That incident reveals the



- LALIT GARGG

deeply human dimension of Vinoba’s leadership. His concern was not confined to great movements, public platforms or social campaigns. He was a compassionate saint who could feel another person’s suffering as his own. Another significant episode took place at a Sarvodaya conference in Hatundi near Ajmer. My father was an active Sarvodaya worker.

He took Muni Rakesh Kumar Ji, a disciple of Acharya Tulsi, to the conference, where they had an extensive and meaningful interaction with Vinoba Bhave. It was more than a dialogue between two streams of thought; it was a meeting of two powerful currents of moral awakening—the social consciousness of Sarvodaya and the personal ethical discipline of Anuvrat.

Their ultimate objective was the same: transform the individual, transform society and enable the nation to advance on the strength of moral character.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Life Worth Living Ahead

As World Suicide Prevention Day approaches, we must recognize that every life carries immense value. Mental health struggles often go unnoticed behind everyday smiles, making compassionate community support vital. We need accessible helplines, reduced social stigma, and active listening in our schools and workplaces. Checking in on friends and offering a safe space to speak can literally save lives. Choosing life is a journey best taken together; let us always choose hope over despair.

- Girish Nair

Hope Overcomes Darkest Hours

Rising pressure in daily life has made suicide prevention an urgent priority. Mental health must receive the same attention and care as physical health. Open conversations about anxiety, burnout, and depression can normalize seeking professional help early. Simple acts of empathy, kindness, and early intervention create strong safety nets for those struggling in silence. By prioritizing compassionate healthcare and personal connection, we can remind everyone that no crisis is permanent and hope always remains.

- Sharon Faustina J.

Need Safer Footpaths

Through your paper, I wish to highlight the pathetic condition of footpaths in Bengaluru. Most are broken, encroached by vendors or used for parking, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads. This is unsafe, especially for children and elders. The BBMP must clear encroachments, repair footpaths, and ensure they are pedestrian-friendly. Safe footpaths are a basic right, not a luxury.

- Ganesh



PERSONAL HYGIENE IS FREQUENTLY REDUCED TO A MATTER OF SUPERFICIAL APPEARANCE

A routine designed to ensure crisp clothes, fresh breath, and a neat presentation. Yet, viewed through the lens of modern epidemiology and social responsibility, self-care practices form the frontline of defense against infectious diseases. Maintaining personal hygiene is not merely a private routine; it is a fundamental pillar of community health and individual well-being.

At its core, basic hygiene interrupts the transmission cycle of harmful pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, and parasites thrive in subtle environments on skin, under fingernails, and across unwashed surfaces. Simple habits like washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds drastically cut the spread of respiratory infections and gastrointestinal illnesses. Routine oral care prevents dental caries and periodontal disease, conditions increasingly linked to systemic health issues, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes. By taking care of the body, individuals reduce the burden on healthcare systems and build a personal shield against preventable ailments.

Beyond disease prevention, the psychological impacts of personal hygiene are profound. Daily cleansing rituals send a powerful psychological signal to the brain, promoting mental clarity and self-worth. People who maintain steady personal care habits often report higher self-esteem and reduced stress. Conversely, neglecting personal care is frequently both a symptom and an accelerator of mental distress. A clean physical state provides a sense of control and renewal, offering a stabilizing anchor amid chaotic



ic schedules.

On a social level, hygiene functions as a silent currency of respect. In workplaces, schools, and shared public spaces, personal cleanliness influences how individuals interact and collaborate. It reflects consideration for the comfort and safety of those around us. In close-knit communities, one person's hygiene practices directly affect everyone else. Poor hand hygiene in a shared kitchen or office environment can trigger an outbreak, illustrating how personal choices carry collective consequences.

However, recognizing the importance of hygiene requires acknowledging the structural barriers many face. Clean water, affordable soap, menstrual products, and safe sanitation facilities are not uni-

versally accessible. True progress demands treating hygiene access as a fundamental human right rather than a privilege. Public health initiatives must focus on expanding infrastructure and education, ensuring that everyone regardless of socioeconomic status has the tools needed to maintain bodily integrity.

As global density grows and public health challenges evolve, personal hygiene must be reframed. It is far more than a morning checklist or cosmetic effort; it is an active form of self-respect and civic responsibility. Cultivating mindful hygiene habits protects our bodies, preserves our dignity, and helps create a healthier, more resilient society for everyone.

- SIDDHU

GRIDLOCK CULTURE: RETHINKING HOW WE NAVIGATE CITIES

Urban traffic was once viewed merely as an inevitable inconvenience a minor tax paid for the conveniences of modern city living. Today, however, constant gridlock has evolved into a defining crisis of modern metropolitan life, stifling economic vitality, deteriorating public health, and consuming millions of human hours every single day. Solving this pervasive issue requires shifting our perspective from simply building more roads to fundamentally rethinking how people move.

At its core, traffic congestion is a straightforward failure of space and efficiency. For decades, urban planning has prioritized the private automobile above all other modes of transport. City layouts expanded outward, highways were widened, and massive parking structures replaced green spaces. Yet, highway expansion consistently triggers a phenomenon known as "induced demand": adding lanes attracts more drivers, quickly returning the road to its previous state of congestion. The fundamental truth of urban mobility is that individual passenger vehicles are inherently space-inefficient tools for high-density transport.

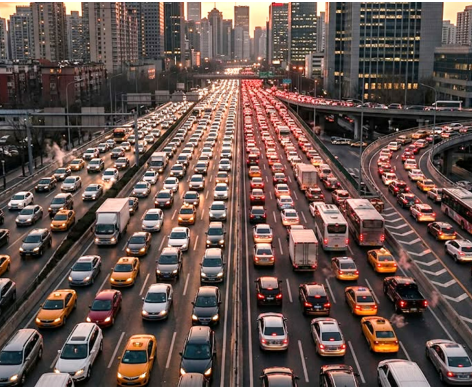
The consequences of this reliance extend far beyond idle frustration at red lights. Economically, traffic congestion drains billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, wasted fuel, and delayed supply chains. Environmentally, idling vehicles contribute significantly to urban carbon emissions and localized air pollution, driving up rates of respiratory illnesses in densely populated neighborhoods. Moreover, the daily stress of navigating severe congestion exacts a quiet, cumulative toll on mental health, reducing quality of life and eroding community cohesion.

Addressing this challenge demands bold,

structural interventions rather than incremental fixes. Modern urban planning must pivot toward robust public transit networks, dedicated cycling infrastructure, and walkable city designs. Investments in high-frequency buses, light rail, and protected bike lanes provide reliable, affordable alternatives to solo driving. Furthermore, innovative policies like congestion pricing charging vehicles a fee to enter high-density zones during peak hours have proven effective in cities worldwide, simultaneously reducing bottleneck traffic and generating revenue to fund public transit upgrades.

Ultimately, taming traffic is not about waging a war on cars; it is about providing genuine choices. When individuals have fast, safe, and dignified alternatives to driving, roads clear up for essential commercial vehicles, emergency services, and those who truly need to drive. Reclaiming our streets from endless gridlock is essential to building cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant cities for future generations.

- NANDU



TRAGEDY IN HIGH ALTITUDE: HIMALAYAS DEMAND CLIMATE ACTION

The catastrophic flash floods that tore through northern Nepal stretching along the Trishuli River through Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and neighboring districts represent far more than an isolated, seasonal disaster. Triggered by a massive collapse of rock and glacial ice high in the Himalayas near Langtang Lirung, a surging torrent of water, sediment, and debris swallowed entire villages, destroyed vital infrastructure, and claimed over a thousand lives within minutes. This tragedy is a terrifying look into the escalating vulnerability of fragile mountain ecosystems under a rapidly changing climate.

For generations, the high Himalayas were viewed as enduring, immovable shields. Yet, warming global temperatures are destabilizing bedrock, accelerating glacial retreat, and turning ancient mountain slopes into volatile hazards. When tens of millions of tons of ice and rock plunged thousands of meters downstream, standard river monitoring systems designed primarily for monsoon rain surges were rendered utterly useless. The destruction washed away roads, breached hydropower tunnels, and flattened homes, instantly severing tens of thousands of people from healthcare, clean water, and emergency aid.

While immediate emergency responses are critical to provide shelter, medical aid, and clean water to displaced families, the underlying crisis demands a complete transformation in how we address high-altitude disaster management. Developing nations like Nepal bear a disproportionate burden of climate-induced catastrophes despite contributing marginally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Traditional disaster mitigation models such as static flood walls or standard weather monitoring are no longer sufficient against complex, high-velocity events like glacial



collapses.

The path forward requires urgent international solidarity and adaptive infrastructure. Multi-hazard early warning networks equipped with satellite monitoring, seismic tracking, and real-time remote sensing must be deployed across vulnerable alpine regions. Furthermore, global climate finance must actively support mountain communities in building resilient infrastructure that can withstand extreme geological events. The catastrophe along the Trishuli River serves as a stark warning: as mountain landscapes deteriorate, the cost of climate inaction will continue to be measured in human lives.

- ANNA B.

TREES ARE FALLING, AND OUR FUTURE IS COLLAPSING

Every single minute, our planet loses the equivalent of twenty-seven football fields of forest. What was once a lush, breathing blanket of green spanning across continents is being systematically dismantled, burned, and bulldozed. Deforestation is no longer just an environmental talking point buried in academic journals; it is an active, ongoing catastrophe that threatens the foundational stability of our global ecosystem, climate, and economy.

The drivers behind this destruction are largely commercial. Vast tracts of ancient, biodiverse forests are cleared to make room for beef cattle, soy plantations, palm oil production, and timber extraction. Driven by short-term financial gains and relentless consumer demand, industrial agriculture continues to encroach upon lands that took millennia to form. However, treating forests as disposable assets ignores a fundamental truth: trees are the primary biological regulators of life on Earth.

When forests are clear-cut, the consequences spill far beyond the immediate local perimeter. Forests act as massive carbon sinks, absorbing billions of tons of carbon diox-

ide every year. When trees are cut down or burned, that stored carbon is released directly into the atmosphere, transforming what was once a natural defense against global warming into a primary driver of climate change. Roughly 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions can be traced directly to deforestation and land degradation making it a larger contributor to global emissions than the entire global transportation sector.

Equally alarming is the catastrophic loss of biodiversity. Tropical rainforests, which cover less than 10% of Earth's land surface, harbor more than half of the world's terrestrial species. When we destroy these habitats, we trigger an irreversible wave of extinctions, wiping out plant and animal species that are crucial for ecological balance, medicine, and scientific discovery. Furthermore, indigenous communities who have served as nature's most effective stewards for generations are systematically displaced, losing their homes, cultures, and livelihoods to industrial expansion.

The destruction of forests also disrupts the global water cycle. Trees pull water from the soil and release it into the atmosphere through transpiration, generating clouds and rainfall that nourish agricultural regions hun-

dreds of miles away. Stripping forest cover leads to severe soil erosion, desertification, altered weather patterns, and heightened vulnerability to extreme droughts and flash floods.

We cannot simply plant our way out of this crisis with monoculture commercial tree farms; preserving intact, old-growth primary forests is essential. Halting deforestation requires aggressive, non-negotiable policy action and systemic accountability. Governments must enforce strict anti-deforestation laws, eliminate subsidies that fuel illegal land clearing, and legally protect indigenous territorial rights. Global supply chains must be audited to ensure zero-deforestation compliance, and international finance must prioritize compensating developing nations for forest conservation rather than exploitation.

The choices we make today will dictate the habitability of the planet tomorrow. We are rapidly approaching tipping points from which our climate cannot recover. Protecting Earth's remaining forests is not a luxury or a secondary goal it is an urgent imperative for human survival.

- JOHNATHAN

THE SILENT GUARDIANS OF OUR GLOBAL TABLE

Every morning before dawn breaks, millions of men and women step out into fields, paddocks, and orchards to begin work that sustains human life. Agriculture is the ultimate foundation of civilization, yet those who labor to feed the world frequently remain its most overlooked workers. Farmers do not merely grow food; they manage delicate natural resources, drive local economies, and preserve centuries of essential knowledge. Today, as global food systems face unprecedented pressures, supporting agricultural communities is an urgent moral and economic necessity.

The modern farmer operates at a complex intersection of ancient tradition and high-stakes risk. Agriculture requires navigating unpredictable weather patterns, volatile market prices, rising input costs, and shifting environmental regulations. A single hailstorm, late frost, or sudden market crash can erase an entire year's income in hours. Despite taking on enormous financial and personal liabilities to cultivate our crops and livestock, small- and medium-scale farmers often capture only a tiny fraction of the final retail price of the food they produce.

Moreover, farmers stand directly on the front lines of global climate change. Unprecedented droughts, shifting seasonal rainfall, and emerging pests pose daily threats to crop yields and soil fertility. Adapting to these environmental realities demands significant capital investment

in modern technologies such as precision irrigation, drought-resistant seeds, and sustainable soil management costs that many independent growers simply cannot absorb alone. When agricultural infrastructure falters, the resulting food insecurity ripple effect extends to every consumer worldwide.

Beyond economic and environmental challenges, rural farming communities face growing social pressures. High rates of stress, limited access to healthcare, isolation, and an aging workforce threaten the long-term viability of family farms. As younger generations migrate to urban centers in search of financial stability, the world risks losing invaluable generational expertise in land stewardship and sustainable food production.

Protecting our agricultural future requires concerted policy action and consumer support. Governments must reform agricultural subsidies to prioritize independent growers and incentivize eco-friendly practices. Investments in rural infrastructure ranging from cold-storage logistics to high-speed internet access can bridge the gap between farms and modern markets. Consumers, too, hold power by choosing locally grown produce and supporting fair-trade supply chains that guarantee equitable compensation for agricultural labor.

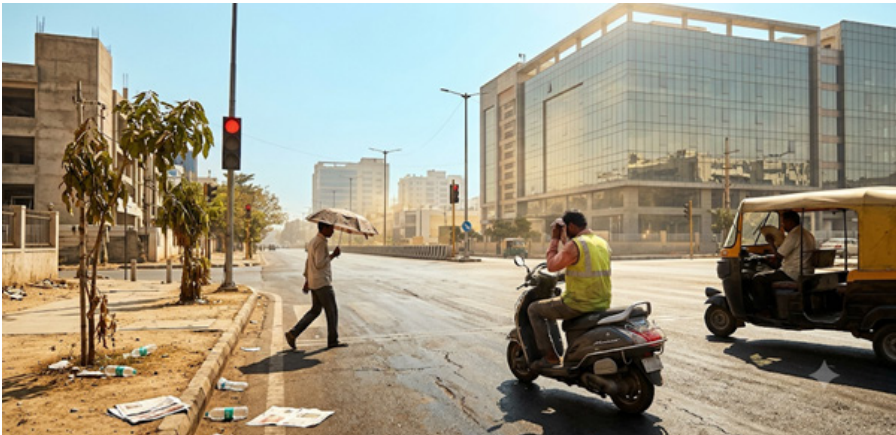
- JOSH

WHEN SUMMER HEAT BECOMES A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

Summer was once the season of ease, long daylight hours, and vibrant outdoor life. Across cultures, it evoked images of coastal retreats, bountiful harvests, and a welcome pause from the routine rhythm of the school and work year. Today, however, that classic identity is undergoing a fundamental transformation. As global temperatures continue to break historic records year after year, summer is rapidly shifting from a period of carefree recreation into a critical annual test of public health, infrastructure, and ecological resilience.

The environmental reality of modern summers is defined by intensity. Heatwaves that used to occur once in a generation are now expected seasonal occurrences, carrying prolonged periods of dangerous temperatures. Urban centers transform into severe heat islands, trapping thermal energy within concrete and asphalt, raising night temperatures, and providing little physical relief for residents. Furthermore, extended summer dry spells amplify the conditions that spark catastrophic wildfires, burning through millions of acres of forest land, destroying ecosystems, and sending dangerous smoke plumes thousands of miles across international borders.

Beyond the visible environmental



destruction, summer heat imposes a severe tax on public health and equity. High temperatures place immense physiological stress on the human body, leading to spikes in heat-related illnesses, cardiovascular distress, and dehydration. Unsurprisingly, the burden falls unevenly across society. Outdoor workers, the elderly, low-income households without access to adequate air conditioning, and urban populations living in areas with minimal canopy cover bear the brunt of extreme heat. What was once viewed as a simple seasonal shift has effectively become a public health challenge that disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations.

Our built infrastructure is similarly struggling to adapt to these new seasonal conditions. Power grids face unprecedented strains as air conditioning demands surge simultaneously across entire regions, risking widespread blackouts precisely when cooling is most critical. Transportation networks suffer as extreme heat warps railway lines, softens road surfaces, and forces flight cancellations. Meanwhile, agricultural operations face shrinking crop yields as intense summer heat and water scarcity combine to stress livestock and deplete crucial soil moisture levels.

- AKASH

Quick Read

Police use DNA, CCTV to trace child abuse suspect

JAIPUR
Police in Kota are examining DNA samples, forensic evidence and CCTV footage to identify the suspected accused in the alleged sexual abuse of a three-year-old girl. A case has been registered under the POCSO Act and other relevant sections. The case came to light after the child fell ill and was taken to a paediatrician, who noticed pain and swelling around her waist and genital area and suspected sexual assault. Due to her young age, police are relying on scientific evidence. DNA samples have been collected from male staff members of the child's nearby play school and other relevant individuals. An FSL team has also examined the location. Police are reviewing CCTV footage to trace the child's movements and identify people who may have contacted her. The accused has not yet been identified.

Woman alleges harassment by Rapido rider

NOIDA
A woman in Noida has alleged that a Rapido delivery partner harassed her after she booked a parcel service. Geetika Srivastava shared screenshots of their conversation on LinkedIn, showing the rider greeting her, asking how she was and later sending an "I love you" message. Srivastava said she warned the rider that she would approach police if he contacted her again. According to her, the rider instead dared her to file a complaint and contact Rapido. Rapido responded to her post, apologised for the experience and asked her to share the booking details, Ride ID and registered mobile number. The company said it takes such complaints seriously and that customer safety, dignity and respect are its priorities.

Kanpur businessman dies after assault outside shop

KANPUR
A businessman, Amit Gupta, died after being severely assaulted by local men when he objected to public urination outside his shop. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital without regaining consciousness. Gupta's family alleged that despite submitting CCTV footage of the assault to police, no arrests were made even 72 hours after the incident. DCP Atul Srivastava said an FIR has been registered at Kakadev police station. Around a dozen people have been detained for questioning, while four suspects have been identified through CCTV footage. Police have formed four dedicated teams to locate and arrest the accused. The investigation into the assault and the circumstances surrounding Gupta's death is underway.

Himachal CM seeks technology push in remote areas

NEW DELHI
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday met Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh and discussed proposals to strengthen science and technology initiatives, particularly in remote and tribal areas of the state. Sukhu proposed establishing a centre for astronomy and astrophysics in the high-altitude tribal regions of Lahaul-Spiti and Pangi, modelled on astronomical initiatives in Hanle, Ladakh. He said the areas offered favourable conditions for astronomical research and observations while creating opportunities for local students and youth to develop scientific interest. The proposed centre could also create new avenues for sustainable, knowledge-based tourism in Himachal Pradesh's tribal regions. Sukhu also sought support from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for expanding demonstration sites for lavender cultivation. He said wider demonstrations would help farmers understand suitable cultivation practices, improve awareness and encourage adoption of lavender as an alternative and remunerative crop.



Vijay-led TVK alliance gets new name

Tamil Nadu's ruling TVK-led coalition adopts a new alliance name amid Congress tensions and differing positions over the 2029 elections.

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's ruling coalition, led by Chief Minister Vijay and his Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), has been named the Secular Social Justice Victory Alliance. The name was announced on Wednesday after an alliance meeting chaired by Vijay at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur. The gathering focused on formalising the coalition and settling key organisational issues. The meeting was the second gathering of the alliance since the post-poll coalition formed the government. Congress leaders attending included Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president B Manickam Tagore, Rajya Sabha member Praveen Chakravathy and Assembly floor leader Tharaihai Cuthbert. Leaders of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, including Vaiko and his son Durai, also participated.



Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi chief Thol Thirumavalavan and Indian Union Muslim League leaders KM Kader Mohideen, AM Shahjahan and Syed Farooq Basha were among those present. However, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Communist Party of India leaders, who support the government, did not attend the meeting at Panaiyur. The coalition includes TVK, which won 108 seats in its debut Tamil Nadu Assembly election, along with Congress, which has five MLAs, and two MLAs each from the Indian Union Muslim League and VCK/Left factions

through external support. The TVK-led government was formed after the election results, with Vijay requiring support from at least 10 MLAs to take oath. The alliance meeting came amid reported tensions with Congress. Tamil Nadu Tourism Minister S Rajesh Kumar had said Congress ministers would resign if TVK did not support Rahul Gandhi as the party's prime ministerial candidate for the 2029 general election. Congress had ended its alliance with the DMK after the polls and backed TVK on the condition that communal forces remain outside the government.

J-K Police conduct security drill in Samba

SAMBA

Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a security mock drill on Wednesday at a border police post in Samba district to strengthen security and improve operational preparedness along the Indo-Pak border. Officials said the exercise tested standard operating procedures for responding to a fidayeen or armed attack and assessed personnel readiness during an emergency. The drill was led by the Samba Additional Superintendent of Police and attended by the Samba Deputy Superintendent of Police, Special Op-



eration Group and the in-charge of Mawa Border Police Post. Personnel were briefed on their responsibilities, including sentry duties, the response to suspicious movement or an attack, and the roles of the LMG post and sentry. The exercise also focused on timely activation of alarm systems and technical monitoring by designated police

personnel. Emphasis was placed on quickly sharing information with the Special Operation Group, police control rooms in Samba and Jammu, and adjoining districts. Officers were also instructed on safe and coordinated movement after ensuring clear visibility, including advancing in buddy pairs while maintaining wireless communication. A detailed debriefing followed the exercise to assess the response and identify areas requiring improvement. Samba Police also displayed the Samba Police Control Room contact number at wa-

Assam strengthens child protection system with new safeguards

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the state government has introduced a series of measures to strengthen child protection and address gaps in the existing system. The steps are aimed at ensuring greater safety, care and accountability for children across the state, with stronger safeguards for institutions and personnel responsible for their welfare. Sarma said the state has notified the State Child Protection Policy and Juvenile Justice (JJ) Rules, 2026, describing the move as an important step towards building a stronger and more organised child protection framework. He said the government had identified shortcomings in the existing system and was taking systematic measures to improve safeguards. As part of the new measures, Assam has made the appointment of child safeguarding officers and staff screening mandatory. The requirement is intended to ensure that personnel involved in caring for and



Assam introduces new child protection rules, mandatory staff screening and stronger monitoring to improve safety, accountability, care and rehabilitation statewide.

protecting children meet necessary safety standards. The functioning of Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and more than 10 statutory bodies has also been streamlined to improve coordination and accountability. The government has additionally institutionalised Individual Care Plans and home audits to ensure that children's individual needs and safety are regularly assessed and monitored. These measures are designed to strengthen oversight and ensure that children receiving care and protection are sup-

KEY INITIATIVE	
■ Policy:	Child Protection Policy + JJ Rules, 2026
■ Staff:	Mandatory screening
■ Monitoring:	Home audits + care plans
■ Institutions:	CWCs, JJBs and 10+ bodies
■ Focus:	Prevention, care, monitoring and rehabilitation

ported through a structured system. The broader framework covers prevention, institutional care, monitoring and rehabilitation, while placing greater responsibility on statutory bodies and officials working with children. Sarma stressed the importance of closing regulatory gaps and strengthening every safeguard required for child safety. The latest policy and rules are expected to provide a more structured approach to implementing protection measures and improving oversight of institutions and personnel across Assam.

Naidu vows to protect land rights, resolve disputes

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said the NDA coalition government was committed to protecting people's rights over their land and resolving long-pending disputes. Addressing the "Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku" programme at Machavaram in BR Ambedkar Konaseema district, Naidu said governance must reach people and improve their lives, while highlighting land and water as vital to livelihoods. Naidu said the government was giving high priority to both areas, noting that more than 1,000 TMC of Godavari water had flowed into the sea despite the severe impact of El Nino on the state. He said better utilisation of the water could have delivered significant benefits. He also highlighted the government's "Pedala Sevalo" programme and its efforts to improve living standards through Public-Private-People Partnership. On land issues, Naidu alleged that the previous YSRCP government between 2019 and 2024 had tampered with and destroyed land records and introduced the Land Titling Act in an attempt to acquire people's

"If water is life, land is livelihood. That is why the NDA coalition government is giving high priority to both these programmes."
—Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister
lands. He said the NDA government repealed the Act after coming to power. He also alleged that properties of people disliked by the previous rulers were placed on a prohibited list, causing difficulties for owners. The government is conducting a comprehensive re-survey and issuing Patta-dar Passbooks carrying the Rajamudra, along with e-KYC, QR codes and blockchain-based security features. Naidu said auto-mutation had benefited 1.2 lakh families, while 16 lakh acres had been freed from restrictions and 224 long-pending land issues resolved. He said the government had also settled a 120-year-old land dispute and addressed cases in Shettipalli, Vatticherukuru, Kalidindi, Kangundi and Mudinepalli. In one initiative, action concerning 56.37 acres was taken to benefit 1,410 people and remove difficulties linked to the land dispute.

MPSC aspirant death sparks outrage over leaks

PUNE

The alleged suicide of MPSC aspirant Prathamesh Deshmukh in Pune has triggered outrage among competitive examination candidates amid allegations of paper leaks and financial distress. Police suspect that financial difficulties, including an unpaid debt of Rs 2.5 lakh, may have contributed to his death. The incident has intensified scrutiny of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission and its handling of examinations. Pune, an education hub in Maharashtra, has faced criticism over examination leak controversies involving NEET, CET and the drug inspector examination. MPSC aspirants staged protests in Pune on Monday and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the commission's chairman and other officials over alleged leaks. The protests followed allegations concerning the MPSC Excise (Departmental) Examination. Protesters claimed institutional involvement in administrative irregularities and referred to reports alleging that a joint secretary-level officer

was linked to the leakage of examination marking patterns. They demanded the removal and replacement of the MPSC chairman and secretary, criminal investigations and legal action against officials and middlemen allegedly involved. Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Harshvardhan Sapkal attacked the government and demanded resignation of the MPSC chairman and secretary. He alleged that the government was avoiding responsibility over the death of a student from Dharashiv. Cockroach Janata Party founder Abhijit

Dipke expressed grief and urged aspirants not to take extreme steps, highlighting the dependence of families on students who move to Pune for preparation. NCP SP MLA Rohit Pawar backed the aspirants, saying the protest was about protecting their future rather than politics. He said candidates would not accept corruption involving payments for government posts. Key demands include comprehensive investigations, strict action and structural reforms to restore integrity in MPSC recruitment and examinations.

MP RAISES INTERN DOCTORS' STIPEND AFTER PROTEST

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday agreed to increase the monthly stipend of MBBS intern doctors to Rs 21,500 after a three-day protest demanding higher remuneration. The decision followed a meeting between Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Rajendra Shukla

and representatives of intern doctors, the Junior Doctors' Association and the Medical Teachers Association. The agitation was held at several locations across the state, including a major demonstration near Kamala Park in Bhopal. The protests intensified after police used lathis and water cannons to disperse students. Several intern doctors were

injured during the action, prompting the government to order an inquiry into the incident. Shukla said two police personnel who were prima facie found involved had been reassigned to police lines, while an inquiry team had been formed. He assured the delegation that students injured during the police action would re-

ceive proper medical treatment. He also said the government was committed to addressing their concerns with sensitivity. The meeting also discussed strengthening healthcare services in rural areas and the contribution of young doctors to medical facilities in remote parts of Madhya Pradesh. Shukla said the state was working to

improve rural healthcare through an MoU with Sevankur Bharat and appealed to young doctors to serve rural communities with a spirit of service and sensitivity. The revised stipend is expected to offer financial relief to MBBS graduates during their compulsory internship, which involves clinical training and pa-

tient-care responsibilities in government hospitals and other healthcare institutions. The agreement marks an end to the three-day agitation, with the government addressing the central demand for improved remuneration while also focusing on rural healthcare needs and recognising the concerns raised by protesting students statewide.

RAILWAY PROJECTS APPROVED

Cabinet approves 5 railway projects worth Rs 10,021 cr

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved five railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 10,021 crore across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The projects will add about 540 km to the railway network across 17 districts. They include new lines and doubling works covering Whitefield-Bangarapet, Arakkonam-Renigunta, Hosur-Omalur, Salem-Karur-Dindigul and Secunderabad-



Kazipet. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the projects, planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan,

will improve connectivity, logistics efficiency and railway capacity. They are expected to ease congestion and strengthen movement of

PROJECT AT A GLANCE	
Investment:	₹10,021 crore
Network expansion:	About 540 km
States covered:	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
Villages connected:	Nearly 2,121
Freight capacity:	47 million tonnes annually
Key corridors:	Whitefield-Bangarapet, Arakkonam-Renigunta, Hosur-Omalur, Salem-Karur-Dindigul and Secunderabad-Kazipet

people, goods and services.

The projects will improve rail access to nearly 2,121 villages with a combined population of around 52 lakh. They will also support connectivity to tourist destinations including Tirupati, Tiruttani and Hogenakkal Falls. The upgraded corridors are important for transporting coal, cement, steel, automobiles, food grains, petroleum products and fertilisers. The additional capacity is expected to generate 47 million tonnes of freight traffic annually, supporting industrial growth and economic activity.



Quick Read

Satya Niketan collapse: Three get police custody

NEW DELHI

A Patiala House Court on Wednesday granted two days of police custody to Mahesh Gupta, contractor Sanoj Kumar and PG operator Sudhanshu in the Satya Niketan building collapse case. Delhi Police had sought three days to investigate the incident and trace another PG operator, Shubham Tyagi. Seven people were killed when the five-storey building collapsed on September 6. Mahesh was produced after completing two days in custody, while Sanoj and Sudhanshu were produced after their fresh arrests. The court ordered a closed-door hearing following a request from Sudhanshu's counsel. Rescue operations have been completed, with 12 people rescued and seven deaths reported.

Water tank collapse in Ranchi kills one worker

RANCHI

An old water tank collapsed near Radium Road, behind the Kotwali police station, on Wednesday evening, killing one worker and leaving several others feared trapped under the debris. The tank collapsed while construction work was underway nearby, trapping labourers at the site. Police and rescue teams rushed to the spot, while JCB machines were deployed to clear the rubble and search for survivors. The area was cordoned off and public movement restricted. Ranchi MLA C.P. Singh visited the site and reviewed rescue efforts. Officials said the tank was structurally weak, but the exact cause remains unclear. A detailed investigation will follow.

Centre seeks Class 6 third-language relief

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday assured the Supreme Court that consultations would be held soon on granting the current Class 6 batch a one-time exemption from the mandatory third-language board examination in Class 10. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said a meeting with officials would be held "today or tomorrow" to consider the relief. The Centre also raised an "issue" over treating English as a native language and sought time to make submissions. The hearing was adjourned to September 17. The court said the three-language formula would eventually need implementation but stressed better planning, infrastructure and sufficient time for students to adapt. It also issued notice on petitions from minority schools challenging the policy.

No woman’s dream will remain unfulfilled due to lack of capital : Yogi

VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday felicitated working women, including Anganwadi workers, cooks, sanitation workers and ASHA workers, at a Working Women’s Honour Ceremony in Babatpur-Pindra. Addressing the gathering, he stressed the importance of respecting women and recognising their contributions to society. Yogi said women’s safety remained a top priority for the state government and highlighted Mission Shakti as a strong foundation for their security. He said 20 per cent reservation had been ensured for women in the Uttar Pradesh Police. The number of women personnel in the state police has risen

Modi’s youth-first pitch focuses on young nation-builders

BJP highlights Modi’s youth-first governance, focusing on entrepreneurship, technology, sports, women’s empowerment and young Indians as drivers of growth.

NEW DELHI

The BJP’s pitch on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 25 years in public life highlights a shift in how young Indians are viewed in governance — from beneficiaries of government schemes to drivers of economic growth and national development. The narrative focuses on a generation shaped by smartphones, startups, technology and growing global ambitions. According to BJP national president Nitin Nabin, Modi’s governance has sought to expand the scale of Indian ambition across infrastructure, manufacturing, startups, technology, sports, space and defence. The party argues that young Indians increasingly want to build businesses and create opportunities rather than remain limited to seeking employment. The startup ecosystem has become a key symbol of this approach. The BJP describes young entrepreneurs as moving from “job seekers” to “job givers”, with startups and innovation presented as important pathways to economic opportunity. The party also points to initiatives such as Khelo India and Fit India, which it says have brought sports, fitness and youth participation closer to mainstream public policy. Technology and innovation form another part of the governance narrative. The pro-



YOUTH POWER PUSH

■ Youth-first: Young Indians positioned as growth drivers.

■ Startups: Shift from job seekers to job givers.

■ Innovation: Focus on technology and young innovators.

■ Sports: Khelo India and Fit India initiatives.

■ Women: Push for economic empowerment and participation.

posed Seva First – Innovation Challenge, aimed at students, startups, professionals and young innovators, is presented as an effort to connect political messaging with India’s emerging innovation

Maharashtra Government suspends 5 officials over newborn deaths

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday ordered the suspension of five health department personnel over the deaths of three infants in a fire at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Amravati District Women’s Hospital on August 24. The action followed an inquiry by a high-level committee, which found the official’s prima facie responsible for supervisory lapses. The suspended personnel include the Deputy Director of Health Services, Akola Circle, the hospital’s Medical Superintendent, Additional District Civil Surgeon, Administrative Officer and an electrician. The inquiry report high-

lighted serious lapses in technical inspections and equipment maintenance. It found that ventilators were not serviced on time, while fire alarms and sprinkler systems were non-functional. The report also noted that the fire pump house was locked. The government directed disciplinary action against the concerned officers and staff under Rule 8 of the Maharashtra Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1979, citing negligence, supervisory failures and carelessness. During the incident, 36 infants were rescued and safely shifted to other hospitals. The government has also ordered action against contractual employees and directed that re-

sponsible officials from the Public Works Department be penalised. M/s AOV International LLP was held responsible by the inquiry and steps have been ordered to blacklist the company. Proceedings to blacklist Shilar Company will also be initiated after its forensic report is expedited. The state has announced stronger safety measures across government hospitals following the incident. CCTV systems will be installed in all SNCUs and Neonatal Intensive Care Units, while fire safety mock drills will be made mandatory. Hospitals have also been directed to strictly implement standard operating procedures covering fire safety, electrical safety and

medical equipment maintenance. Health Services Commissioner Sanjay Katkar has been asked to regularly coordinate with PWD, electrical, fire, bio-medical and maintenance departments to review safety measures. District Collectors, Zilla Parishad chief executive officers and Municipal Commissioners must complete electrical and fire safety audits of hospitals within three months. The Health Commissioner will also oversee fire safety audits, monitoring and compliance reporting in public and private hospitals. The government further directed that officers and staff who risked their lives to rescue the infants be recognised for their efforts.

DMK to hold Sep 12 protest over Vijay’s remarks

CHENNAI

The DMK on Wednesday announced a statewide protest on September 12 against what it described as “scurrilous remarks” made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay in the Assembly against party chief MK Stalin and late party patriarch M Karunanidhi. The party said the remarks, which included corruption allegations against their respective regimes, were condemnable and had lowered the dignity and tradition of the Assembly. In a statement, the DMK alleged that Vijay’s speech on September 7 trivialised the party, Karunanidhi, late Union minister Murali Manan and the sacrifices of Stalin. The party particularly objected to remarks concerning Stalin’s imprisonment during the Emergency between 1975 and 1977. The DMK said Stalin had endured “torture” during his one year in prison after being arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). The party alleged that the Assembly had never witnessed such a “disgusting speech” and accused the Chief Minister of setting aside its dignity, traditions and history. It further claimed that Vijay had resorted to crass rhetoric because he was unable to answer questions

Why DMK Protests?
Vijay’s remarks: Remarks against Stalin, Karunanidhi.
Assembly dignity: DMK says dignity was lowered.
MISA row: Dispute over Stalin’s detention.
Corruption claims: DMK rejects Vijay’s allegations.
Political clash: Growing DMK-government confrontation.

DMK announces September 12 statewide protest against Vijay’s Assembly remarks targeting Stalin and Karunanidhi, accusing him of lowering Assembly dignity.

concerning alleged governance failures. The DMK said the Chief Minister had thereby transformed himself into an individual “without standards.” The statewide protest will be organised under the leadership of district secretaries, with the party describing it as a major demonstration against Vijay’s Assembly remarks. The announcement comes amid an escalating political confrontation between the ruling government and the DMK over corruption allegations and the conduct of Assembly proceedings. Vijay had mounted a strong attack on the DMK in the Assembly on September 7, alleging serious and organised corruption during its previous regimes. He cited the Sarkaria Commission report while targeting the Karunanidhi-led government and also referred to Murali Manan. The Chief Minister additionally cited ED documents shared with the state government regarding alleged corruption during the DMK’s 2021-26 tenure and named Stalin and Udhayanidhi in this context. The controversy over Stalin’s Emergency detention has also drawn a response from Law Minister R Nirmal Kumar, who claimed there was no official record showing that Stalin’s detention was under MISA. He said Stalin was arrested following remarks concerning former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her 20-point programme.

Chidambaram questions India’s gains from BRICS summits

NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP P Chidambaram on Wednesday questioned the tangible benefits India has received from recent BRICS summits, saying he had not seen significant outcomes from the last two or three meetings. His remarks came ahead of the BRICS Summit 2026 in Delhi. Chidambaram said India is part of several multilateral groupings, including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, G20 and QUAD, but questioned what concrete benefits the country was receiving from these forums. He said earlier BRICS summits had produced some tangible benefits, unlike the more recent meetings. “I don’t think the last two or three BRICS summits have



resulted in tangible benefits or tangible results,” Chidambaram told ANI. He also questioned how many presidents and prime ministers would attend the upcoming summit and said he could not identify significant benefits from the recent gatherings. Meanwhile, preparations for the BRICS Summit 2026 are underway in New Delhi. Delhi Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar and Public Works Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar conducted a joint inspection of key areas

on Wednesday. The inspection covered the summit venue and areas around Bharat Mandapam. Officials were directed to intensify cleaning and maintenance along summit routes, venues, markets, roads, footpaths, green belts and other sensitive locations. The team also inspected movement corridors including Sarai Kale Khan, Lodhi Road, Nizamuddin, Saket and Sheikh Sarai. Departments were asked to strengthen sanitation, animal and vector control, beautification, lighting and branding. New Delhi is set to hold the BRICS chairship for the fourth time in 2026. India’s chairship is guided by the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”, reflecting a people-centric and humanity-first approach.

CENTRE CLEARS SEPARATE ENGINEERING CADRE FOR DELHI PWD

NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved the Delhi government’s proposal to create a separate engineering cadre for the Public Works Department (PWD), giving the capital greater control over its engineering workforce. The move is expected to improve administrative responsiveness, speed up infrastructure projects and strengthen accountability in the execution of public works. Under the decision, 3,214 sanctioned engineering posts across 36 categories in the Delhi PWD will be separated from the Central Public Works Department cadre and brought under an independent Delhi PWD Engineering Cadre. The proposal had earlier received approval from the Delhi Cabinet under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta’s leadership.

The issue had remained pending for nearly 30 years. Until now, Delhi PWD’s engineering services were largely dependent on the CPWD cadre, with appointments to sanctioned posts being handled through the Central government system. The Delhi government said the arrangement could sometimes slow decisions and make it difficult to respond quickly to the capital’s specific infrastructure and administrative requirements. Gupta said Delhi has distinct infrastructure needs because of its scale and pace of development. The city requires continuous construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, government buildings, offices and other public facilities. A separate cadre will allow the government to manage vacancies, deploy engineers, monitor

projects and assign officials according to the requirements of different works. The reform is also expected to improve accountability and transparency. Under the previous system, the government said, fixing responsibility for construction deficiencies or irregularities could sometimes be difficult when officials were transferred. The independent cadre would link engineering officials more closely with the Delhi government’s administrative structure. The move comes as Delhi prepares for several major projects, including a new Secretariat, mini-secretariats in all 11 districts, mandis, sports grounds, roads, bridges and other public facilities. The government expects the new cadre to create a workforce more familiar with Delhi’s infrastructure challenges and development priorities.

NHAI NEW PROJECTS

NHAI sets 80% plantation, 90% survival targets

NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Wednesday tightened plantation requirements for national highway projects, making provisional completion certification and maintenance payments dependent on meeting prescribed plantation and sapling survival targets. Under the revised guidelines, contractors must carry out plantation on at least 80 per cent of the available right of way (ROW) earmarked for plantation. They must also maintain a minimum 90 per cent survival rate when the plantation is inspected. Median and avenue plantation will have to follow the relevant contract or concession agreement, the Green Highways Policy of 2015, Indian Road Congress specifications and



guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and NHAI. Plantation will qualify for the Provisional Certificate of Completion (PCC) or Provisional Commercial Operation Date (PCOD) only when the required thresholds are achieved. If plantation falls below the 80 per cent target, the shortfall must be specifically recorded along with a timeline for completing the

remaining work. NHAI will enforce financial withholdings under the agreement until the plantation is completed and the prescribed target is achieved. The authority has also linked plantation maintenance to payments during the operations and maintenance (O&M) period. In Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC), Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and Build-Operate-Transfer

(BOT) Annuity projects, O&M or annuity payments will depend on compliance with the sapling survival norm. Similar compliance will be assessed for BOT-Toll projects. The guidelines require contractors to promptly replace dead plants with saplings of similar age and growth to maintain plantation density and continuity along highway corridors. Before processing operation or annuity payments or certifying maintenance compliance, NHAI will seek assistance from environment and plantation experts to verify field-level compliance and survival rates. The revised requirements aim to ensure that plantation commitments under highway projects are maintained beyond the initial planting stage and continue through the O&M period.

Quick Read

Pak poverty, unemployment rise sharply in FY26

New Delhi

Pakistan's poverty rate rose sharply to 28.9 per cent in fiscal year 2026 from 21.9 per cent a year earlier, according to a report citing the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2025-26. Unemployment also increased, highlighting growing economic pressure on households. Poverty increased across major provinces. Punjab's rate rose to 23.3 per cent from 16.5 per cent, while Sindh recorded 32.6 per cent against 24.5 per cent earlier. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's poverty rate reached 35.3 per cent, while Balochistan remained the poorest at 47 per cent. The number of unemployed people increased to 5.9 million from 4.5 million, while the unemployment rate rose to 7.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent. Pakistan allocated Rs 722.9 billion to the Benazir Income Support Programme in FY26, with Rs 540.27 billion released. The report stressed that stronger job creation, education, skills development, healthcare and economic growth are needed to achieve lasting poverty reduction.

Rentomojo flags key risks ahead of IPO

New Delhi

Rental platform Rentomojo has identified supplier dependence, customer defaults and revenue concentration as key risks ahead of its IPO. The company said disruptions among suppliers, higher procurement costs and quality issues could affect inventory and profit margins. Its top five asset suppliers accounted for 12.18 per cent of capital and operational expenses in FY26. Rentomojo also warned that customer churn, payment delays and contract cancellations could hurt profitability. The top 10 cities contributed 89.51 per cent of its FY26 revenue. The Rs 1,255.57-crore IPO includes a Rs 150-crore fresh issue and Rs 1,105.57-crore offer for sale. The price band is Rs 384-404 per share.

Stocks tumble as West Asia tensions rise

MUMBAI

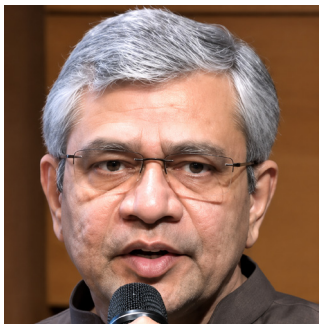
Indian equity markets opened sharply lower on Wednesday as escalating tensions in West Asia and a surge in crude oil prices weakened investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 500.25 points to 75,060.61 in early trading, while the NSE Nifty declined 129.40 points to 23,506.10. The sell-off came amid growing concerns over the impact of higher oil prices on inflation and the Indian economy. Brent crude crossed the \$100-a-barrel mark as the conflict in the Middle East intensified, raising fears about disruptions to global energy supplies. Investors also remained cautious because of weak global market signals and continued geopolitical uncertainty.

Cabinet clears Rs 10,783 cr rail projects

The expanded network will boost freight movement and connectivity across key industrial and cargo corridors in eastern and central India.

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved three railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 10,783 crore across five states, adding about 656 km to the Indian Railways network. The projects will cover 14 districts in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The projects are aimed at increasing railway capacity, reducing congestion and improving the efficiency of train operations. The expanded network is expected to strengthen connectivity across important industrial and freight corridors in eastern and central India. The government expects the projects to support an additional 27 million tonnes of freight movement annually. Better rail capacity is also expected to improve the movement of essential commodities and industrial goods while making logistics more efficient.



The projects are targeted for completion by 2029-30. Their implementation is expected to generate employment during construction and create wider economic benefits by improving access to markets, industries and key production centres. The multi-tracking works are part of the Centre's broader effort to expand railway infrastructure and improve the capacity of existing routes. By adding additional tracks on busy sections, Indian Railways aims to handle growing passenger and freight demand while improving operational reliability.

Project fact-file
■ Projects add 656 km of tracks.
■ Target completion set for 2029-30.
■ Spans five eastern and central states.
■ Boosts freight capacity by 27 million tonnes.
■ Improves industrial logistics and commodity movement.
■ Generates localized employment during construction.

The Cabinet decision comes as the government continues to accelerate railway infrastructure expansion across different parts of the country. The latest projects are expected to provide stronger rail connectivity and support economic activity across the five states.

INDIA EYES GLOBAL EXPANSION FOR FINTECH EXPORTS

MUMBAI

India should use its experience in fintech, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and digital public infrastructure (DPI) to expand into international markets, particularly countries in the Global South, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, Agrawal said India has a major opportunity to increase financial services exports by securing a larger share of the growing global fintech trade. He said that if India captures even 10 per cent of global fintech services trade, its exports could rise substantially from around \$8 billion currently to an estimated \$60-80 billion. Agrawal said India is already sharing its digital public infrastructure experience with other countries. The country has signed memoranda of understanding with around 23 nations for cooperation in DPI. The government is also exploring payment-system integration with partner countries, particularly those with large Indian diaspora populations. Such interoperability could make cross-border transactions easier and more affordable. The Commerce Secretary said technology can help reduce the cost of financial services, including remittances and lending. Wider adoption of interoperable digital payment systems and Indian fintech solutions could improve access to financial services in developing economies. He said countries in the Global South could particularly benefit from India's experience in building large-scale digital systems.

Agrawal also highlighted the importance of free trade agreements (FTAs) in supporting fintech exports. India is seeking to address regulatory barriers involving financial services, telecommunications, cross-border data flows, artificial intelligence, investment and movement of professionals through trade negotiations. He said services trade, including financial services, is an important part of these discussions. According to Agrawal, India has concluded nine FTAs over the past four to five years covering countries with a combined GDP of around \$60 trillion. These agreements could create new opportunities for Indian fintech and financial services companies seeking to expand overseas.

PhonePe Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam outlined the company's vision for the next decade of financial inclusion at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026, focusing on making digital financial services accessible to people across India. Nigam said progress should be measured by whether people are included in the digital economy. He said PhonePe's products were designed to reduce barriers and create a financial system flexible enough to serve users. He highlighted the company's work with NPCI to address barriers linked to smartphones, bank accounts and borders. Nigam pointed to UPI

Greenply adopts LNG trucks for greener logistics

VADODARA

Greenply Industries Limited has partnered with GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd to introduce LNG-powered trucks into its outbound logistics operations, marking a move towards cleaner and more sustainable freight transportation. The partnership was formally launched with the flag-off of GreenLine's LNG-powered trucks at Greenply's manufacturing facility in Vadodara. Under the initiative, the trucks will transport Greenply products from the facility to destinations across its distribution network. The company said the move will help bring cleaner mobility solutions into its freight operations while supporting cost-effective logistics. According to Greenply, the LNG-powered trucks can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 40 per cent, sulphur oxides by up to 100 per cent, nitrogen oxides by up to 59 per cent, particulate matter by up to 91 per cent and carbon monoxide by up to 70 per cent. The company said the initiative is part of its wider sustainability efforts, which now extend beyond manufacturing to logistics and distribution activities. Greenply Joint Managing Director Sanidhya Mittal said sustainability should cover the movement of products across the entire value chain. He said the introduction of

GREENPLY DE- PLOYS LNG FREIGHT TRUCKS

Greenply partnered with GreenLine Mobility to introduce LNG trucks at its Vadodara facility, cutting carbon emissions by up to forty percent. This logistics initiative aims to extend supply chain sustainability while maintaining operational efficiency across transport networks.

LNG trucks at the Vadodara facility was a first step towards adopting more responsible mobility solutions while maintaining supply-chain efficiency and reliability. GreenLine CEO Madhur Taneja said the partnership would support cleaner freight transportation without compromising operational efficiency. GreenLine currently operates more than 1,000 LNG- and electric-powered heavy commercial vehicles across major freight corridors in India. Its fleet has travelled more than 100 million kilometres and helped customers reduce over 27,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Greenply will evaluate the operational feasibility of alternative-fuel vehicles across its dispatch network and explore further opportunities to make its logistics ecosystem more sustainable.

India launches advanced ocean research vessel

NEW DELHI

India has launched a state-of-the-art ocean research vessel, ORV Sagar Manthan, to strengthen indigenous oceanographic research and expand the country's maritime capabilities, according to an official statement. The vessel was launched at Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata in the virtual presence of Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. It was designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Singh praised the team for completing the launch within two years of signing the contract and about five months after keel laying. ORV Sagar Manthan is equipped with advanced systems for detailed ocean studies. These include dynamic positioning, multibeam bathymetry, multichannel seismic equipment, sub-bottom profiling, weather radar and deployment facilities for remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles. The vessel will support surveys along the Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges to study mineral resources, establish environmental baselines, collect upper-air data and conduct CTD profiling. Designed to work in extreme conditions, including the Southern Ocean, the vessel has a projected service life of 30 years. It will gradually replace the 43-year-old ORV Sagar Kanaya as India's advanced oceanographic platform.

PhonePe outlines decade-long fin inclusion vision

NEW DELHI

PhonePe is working to expand opportunities for merchants through its Business App, SmartConnect, SmartStore and payment gateway services. Sameer Nigam, PhonePe founder and CEO

PhonePe is working to expand opportunities for merchants through its Business App, SmartConnect, SmartStore and payment gateway services. Sameer Nigam, PhonePe founder and CEO

UAE, France and Nepal. On savings and investments, Nigam outlined PhonePe's "Sachetization Philosophy", aimed at making financial products easier to adopt through small contributions. PhonePe Daily FD allows users to begin fixed deposits with Rs 100 a day, while gold, silver and mutual fund SIPs can start at Rs 10. He introduced CRISP for market information and discussed AI-based lending, which can complete loan disbursements in 2.5 minutes. Nigam said He said the company's goal was to use technology to make financial security, savings, credit and business growth more accessible to millions of Indians across the country.

US agencies warn Chinese firms copying AI

WASHINGTON

US national security agencies have accused several China-based artificial intelligence companies of using large-scale efforts to extract capabilities from leading American AI models, raising fresh concerns over technology theft and the growing US-China rivalry in artificial intelligence. The warning was issued jointly by the National Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Nifty slips below 23,500 as crude surges

MUMBAI

Indian stock markets ended sharply lower on Wednesday, with the Nifty closing below the 23,500 mark and the Sensex losing more than 1%, as Brent crude oil prices crossed \$100 a barrel amid escalating tensions in West Asia. The BSE Sensex fell 812.85 points, or 1.08%, to settle at 74,764.23, while the NSE Nifty declined 203.40 points, or 0.86%, to 23,431.50. Both benchmark indices ended at their lowest levels since June 11, reflecting growing investor concerns over the economic impact of higher oil prices. Brent crude moved above the \$100-per-barrel level for the first time since July as the conflict in the Middle East intensified. Rising crude prices have increased concerns over inflation, India's import bill and corporate costs, putting additional pressure on equities. Selling was broad-based, with 13 of the 16 major sectoral indices ending in negative territory. Information technology stocks were

among the biggest losers, with the Nifty IT index falling 3.2%. Small-cap and mid-cap indices also declined 0.5% each. However, energy and metal stocks bucked the broader trend, gaining 0.6% and 1.8%, respectively. Adani Enterprises was among the notable gainers, rising 5.1% after its parent group announced a stake sale in its airport business. Market analysts said persistent increases in crude and commodity prices remain a major concern for investors.

APSEZ expands eastern India port ops

BHUBANESWAR

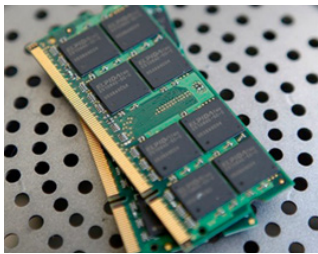
Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has secured the contract to develop and operate two dry bulk berths at Paradip Port in Odisha, marking its entry into one of India's major ports and strengthening its presence on the eastern coast. The project will add 18 million metric tonnes (MMT) of mechanised dry bulk handling capacity to APSEZ's domestic portfolio. It will be developed under a build-operate-transfer model with a 30-year concession period. The project is expected to improve the company's access to the mineral-rich hinterland of eastern

and central India. The new berths are expected to support the handling of commodities such as coal, limestone and other dry bulk cargo. Their location at Paradip will help APSEZ serve major industrial and manufacturing centres in the region and support the movement of raw materials and finished goods. APSEZ said the expansion is part of its broader strategy to strengthen its port network and improve logistics connectivity across India. The company's entry into Paradip is expected to complement its existing operations on the eastern coast and provide additional capacity for future cargo growth.

India needs targeted localisation to cut China reliance

NEW DELHI

India's growing electronics manufacturing industry continues to depend heavily on China for key components, highlighting the need for targeted localisation of critical parts, according to a recent industry report. While domestic electronics production and exports have expanded rapidly, imported components remain a major weakness in the supply chain. The report noted that India has made significant progress in assembling electronic products, particularly smartphones. However, deeper localisation is required



to increase domestic value addition and reduce dependence on imported components. China remains an important source for several essential parts used by Indian electronics manufacturers. Industry experts said the focus should now move beyond final assembly towards manufacturing

India's electronics manufacturing
Shift focus beyond final assembly.
Manufacture core components domestically.
Target high-import vulnerable items.
Strengthen supply chain resilience.

ing core components such as printed circuit boards, semiconductors, displays, sensors and other critical inputs. Building these capabilities

within India would help strengthen supply chains and reduce exposure to external disruptions. Recent government initiatives, including the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, are aimed at encouraging investment in domestic component production. The scheme has already approved projects with a combined outlay of around Rs 40,000 crore, supporting a shift towards higher-value manufacturing. The report suggested that India should adopt a targeted approach rather than attempting to localise every component immediately. Priority should

be given to products where imports are large, strategically important or vulnerable to supply disruptions. Such an approach could help companies develop competitive domestic capabilities while keeping manufacturing costs under control. Analysts said stronger local component production would also improve India's position as a global electronics manufacturing hub. As exports continue to grow, deeper localisation could create new investment opportunities, strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce the country's long-term dependence on China.

Quick Read

Hong Kong's first leader Tung Chee-hwa dies at 89

Hong kong
Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's first leader after the territory returned to Chinese rule, has died aged 89. Tung, a former shipping tycoon, served as chief executive from 1997 to 2005, overseeing the city during its early years under Beijing's sovereignty. He resigned before completing his second term, citing health reasons. Tung later became a prominent voice supporting closer ties between Hong Kong and mainland China. During the major pro-democracy protests in 2019, Tung strongly criticised demonstrators, calling them anti-China disruptors and accusing them of seriously harming Hong Kong. He remained influential in Chinese political affairs after leaving office and served as a vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Nepal flood: Death toll rises to 1,365, search ops on

Kathmandu
The death toll from devastating floods in Nepal has climbed to 1,365 as rescue teams continue searching for missing people, officials said on Wednesday. At least 5,326 people remain unaccounted for, including 589 foreign nationals. Rescue teams are working in several affected areas despite difficult conditions. Authorities have deployed emergency personnel to locate survivors and recover those still missing after widespread flooding. The disaster has caused extensive damage to homes, roads and other infrastructure. Relief operations are continuing, with authorities focusing on rescue, medical assistance and support for affected communities. Officials said search operations would continue until all possible survivors are located and saved.

Singapore police question 5 over online comments

Singapore
Singapore police have interviewed five people over online comments related to the devastating Nepal floods and the Singapore Airlines-Air India deal, with investigations continuing. Authorities are examining the comments and the circumstances surrounding the posts. The police have not disclosed further details about the individuals interviewed or indicated whether any charges have been filed. The investigation comes as Singapore closely monitors online content concerning major regional developments. Officials have continued to stress the importance of responsible online behaviour and compliance with the law. Police said investigations into the matter are ongoing. Further action will depend on the findings of the probe and any evidence gathered during the investigation.

'Russia-linked airport attack narrowly avoided'

BERLIN
German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Wednesday that a drone attack targeting Leipzig/Halle Airport had been prepared in Russia over several months and that a major disaster was narrowly avoided.
Speaking during a debate in Germany's lower house of parliament, Merz said the attack was specifically aimed at Germany. He claimed that only by chance were significant material damage and casualties prevented.
The German chancellor's comments came days after the drone

'Civilisational twins': India-SL reaffirm regional security co-op

Rajnath Singh and Lankan Prez Dissanayake explore avenues to enhance bilateral ties and foster mutual development and prosperity.

COLOMBO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Wednesday and reaffirmed India and Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthening cooperation for regional security, peace and prosperity.

Singh conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warm greetings to Dissanayake and congratulated him on completing 2 years in office.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation and promote the welfare and development of both countries. Singh said India and Sri Lanka, as close neighbours, civilisational partners and maritime nations, would continue working together to ensure safety, security and stability in the region. Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha and other officials were also present.

Singh arrived in Colombo for a three-day official visit focused on strengthening defence and maritime cooperation. Before his departure for Sri Lanka, he had said he looked forward to productive discussions with the country's leadership. Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Defence Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd.) and High Commissioner Jha received him at Bandara International Airport.

The Defence Ministry said Singh's visit would further



strengthen traditionally friendly bilateral ties across several areas, particularly defence and maritime security. It highlighted the deep civilisational links between the two countries and their cooperation in regional security, defence, trade, economic matters and people-to-people relations.

He also interacted with the Indian community in Colombo on Tuesday and praised its contribution to strengthening relations between the two countries. He described the diaspora as a bridge between India and Lanka and assured that India would continue to support Sri Lanka during times of crisis.

Singh's visit also underlined India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and Prime Minister Modi's MAHASAGAR vision for security and growth across the region.

Meeting outcome
■ Focus on defence maritime cooperation
■ Engaged the local diaspora.
■ Highlighted past economic aid.
■ Reinforced regional Neighbourhood policy.
■ India aided Sri Lanka's economic crisis.
■ Rapid response followed Cyclone Ditwah
■ Demonstrates commitment to regional neighbors

RAJNATH SINGH'S LANKA VISIT TO RESOLVE TN FISHERMEN ISSUE: BJP

Chennai: Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagenathan on Wednesday said Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit to Sri Lanka would strengthen regional maritime security and pave the way for a permanent solution to the issues faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen. Highlighting the significance of the trip, he said this was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 38 years, since K C Pant travelled to Sri Lanka in 1988. Visits by Indian Defence ministers have been avoided due to sensitivities surrounding India's past military involvement during Sri Lanka's civil war, even as administrative and diplomatic exchanges continued. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Colombo on Tuesday for a three-day official visit, he said in a statement. The TN BJP leader said that the visit holds strategic importance given Sri Lanka's key position along major international sea routes in the Indian Ocean. Additionally, he said, the visit is expected to boost joint military exercises.

Rahman's BRICS Summit visit to India remains unconfirmed

DHAKA

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has declined to comment on whether Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will attend the BRICS Summit's outreach session in New Delhi, leaving uncertainty over Dhaka's participation in the India-hosted event. India has invited Tarique Rahman to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit, scheduled in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. The invitation was extended in view of Bangladesh's role as the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Khalilur Rahman was asked about the Prime Minister's possible visit during a media interaction. However, he avoided giving a clear response, saying that he was addressing the briefing in his capacity as President of the United Nations General Assembly. He suggested

ed that questions concerning bilateral matters should be raised with him separately in his capacity as Bangladesh's foreign minister. The lack of confirmation comes amid efforts to strengthen engagement between India and Bangladesh. India has invited Tarique Rahman to the BRICS outreach programme, but Dhaka has so far not officially confirmed whether he will travel to New Delhi for the summit. Bangladesh's participation is therefore being closely watched in diplomatic circles.

The BRICS summit will bring together leaders of member and partner countries for discussions on global cooperation and development. Tarique Rahman's participation, if confirmed, would provide an opportunity for direct engagement with Indian leadership and other participating heads of government.

As of September 9, however, Bangladesh has not announced a final decision on his attendance.

Indonesia wildfire emissions surge to global high

JAKARTA

Indonesia's wildfire emissions have surged to the highest level in the world as fires continue to burn across forests and peatlands on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, according to data released on Wednesday. Fire emissions between September 1 and 7 reached an estimated 19.7 million metric tonnes, overtaking Russia and accounting for more than one-third of the global total, data from the European Union's Copernicus climate monitoring service showed.

incident at Leipzig/Halle Airport, which raised concerns about security and possible foreign involvement. German authorities have been investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident and whether it was part of a wider campaign targeting critical infrastructure.

Russia has denied any involvement in the incident. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov rejected accusations that Moscow was behind the drone attack and warned that such allegations could contribute to escalating tensions between Russia and Germany.

Merz made the remarks after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) secured a major victory in a state election in Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday. The party has advocated closer relations with Moscow, making Russia-related security concerns a politically sensitive issue in Germany. The incident comes amid heightened tensions between Russia and European countries over the continuing war in Ukraine. European governments have increasingly warned about potential threats involving drones and other forms of hybrid activity targeting critical infrastructure.

B'desh Awami League slams govt over Hindu priest's imprisonment

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Awami League on Wednesday strongly criticised the ruling BNP government over the continued imprisonment of Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das, describing it as an "extreme manifestation of inhumanity".

The party demanded his immediate and unconditional release and called for the withdrawal of what it described as false cases filed against him during the former Muhammad Yunus-led interim government.

The Awami League said keeping Das in prison despite his critically ill mother's plea for his release showed "brutality and cruelty" by the authorities. His mother, Sandhya Rani Dhar, is reportedly suffering from Stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatment in a hospital's high-dependency unit. The party said she had suffered another heart attack while battling low blood pressure and severe breathing difficulties.

According to the Awami League, Dhar has repeatedly appealed to the authorities to allow her to see her son, possibly for the last time. The party said she had made emotional appeals to leaders of both the former interim administration and the current BNP government, including BNP leader Tarique Rahman. It questioned whether humanitarian concerns could be ignored be-



The party demanded his immediate, unconditional release and the dropping of fabricated charges from the Yunus interim government.

cause of political considerations.

The party also defended Das's activities, saying that raising concerns over the rights of religious minorities and members of one's own faith should not be treated as a crime in a democratic country. It alleged that Das was arrested for speaking about the legitimate rights of Bangladesh's minority and Hindu communities.

Das, spokesman for the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jot, has remained in custody despite reportedly securing bail in two cases. His release has been blocked by two other cases, local media reports said. He was arrested in Dhaka on November 25, 2024, and sent to jail the following day after a Chattogram court rejected his bail plea. A High Court bench later granted bail after hearing two separate petitions filed by him.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED TAMEEN, Resident of No. 8, P N 3rd Street, 3rd Cross, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru -560001, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED TAMEEM**, vide affidavit dated: 09.09.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 940/2025
PETITIONER: K.V. Manjunath S/o Late Veeratippaiah Aged about 46 years, Riat Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Grand mother Late Nyatamma W/o Late Veeratippaiah died on 21.06.2006 at Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 653/2025
PETITIONER: G.N. Narasimha Raju Aged about 38 years, Riat Doddagundappanayakanahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Grand father Late Narasappa S/o Late Nallappa died on 10.06.1994 at Doddagundappanayakanahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 1009/2025
PETITIONER: Venkatasamaiah S.V S/o Late Venkatappa, Aged about 55 years Riat Sulukunte Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Father Late Venkatappa S/o Late Muniyappa died on 05.06.1986 at Sulukunte Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED PARVEEZ MAHAMOOD, Resident of No. 14, Police Line D Street, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru -560001, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED PARVEEZ**, vide affidavit dated: 09.09.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 776/2025
PETITIONER: Sri Mariyappa S/o Late Muttaiah, Aged about 75 years Riat No. 29, Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Father Late Muttaiah S/o Late Narasimhaiah @ Late Ajanarasimhaiah died on 03.03.1951 at Kottigemachenahalli, Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 1007/2025
PETITIONER: K.Hanumanthaiah Aged about 81 years, Riat Vinayakanagara, Hesarugutha, Bangalore North, Bangalore Urban District
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Mother Late Maduramma W/o Late Chikka Kempaiah died on 08.05.1979 at Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 786/2025
PETITIONER: Girish D N. S/o Narasimha Murthy, Aged about 28 years Riat Sigenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Grand Father Late Arasappa S/o Late Eradippaiah died on 14.12.1982 at Sigenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

NAME CHANGE

I, MUFEEQ AHAMED SHARIEF resident of No.663, Chikkagollaratti, Magadi Main Road, Indra Colony, Lakshimpura Post, Bengaluru - 562 162, have changed my name to **MUFEEQ AHMED SHARIEF**, Vide affidavit dated: 05.09.2026 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 775/2025
PETITIONER: Smt. Chinnamma S/o Late Chinnappa, Aged about 81 years Riat Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's husband Late Chinnappa S/o Late Muttaiah died on 15.05.2004 at Kottigemachenahalli, Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated : 07-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CrI.Misc.No.: 787/2025
PETITIONER: Sri Mariyappa S/o Late Muttaiah, Aged about 75 years Riat No. 29, Kottigemachenahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Vs
RESPONDENT: Registrar of Birth and Death The Tahshildar Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Mother Late Chikathayamma W/o Late Muttaiah died on 01.01.1952 at Kottigemachenahalli, Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear the before on 30-09-2026 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
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Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G

US Open shocker: Shelton knocks out Alcaraz

NEW YORK

American tennis star Ben Shelton pulled off the biggest victory of his career, stunning defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a late-night thriller at the US Open. In an epic quarter-final that stretched over four hours and 28 minutes, Shelton defeated the Spanish powerhouse 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10/7) to reach the semi-finals at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2023.

This extraordinary showdown also wrote history by recording the latest finish ever at the US Open. As the clock ticked deep into the morning, Shelton sealed the match with a blistering 146-mph ace at precisely 3:33 a.m. The previous record for the latest finish was set exactly two years prior, when Alcaraz edged Jannik Sinner in another five-set classic that wrapped up at 2:50 a.m.

With this loss, Alcaraz saw his impressive 18-match winning streak at Grand Slam tournaments come to a sudden halt. The Spaniard entered the tournament following a 4-month injury layoff and was aiming for his eighth major title. He was also trying to become the first male player to successfully defend the US Open crown since Roger Federer. Despite dropping only one set en route to the quarter-finals, Alcaraz could not find a way past Shelton's explosive serving and fierce baseline aggression in the closing tiebreak.

Shelton, who recently claimed his second ATP Masters 1000 title in Montreal, displayed incredible mental toughness to bounce back after dropping the opening set and later surrendering the fourth. His powerful serve proved to be the ultimate weapon under the New York lights, wearing down the defending champion in the tense final-set tiebreak.

Looking ahead, Shelton advances to an all-American semi-final clash against 11th seed Frances Tiafoe. Both players are chasing a spot in their very first Grand Slam final. Shelton currently holds a 3-1 head-to-head advantage over Tiafoe, though their previous meetings at Flushing Meadows have proven that neither player will back down easily on this grand stage.

Ben Shelton shattered history and Carlos Alcaraz's crown at 3:33 a.m. in an unforgettable New York thriller



Vini gave everything, insists Jose Mourinho

Jose Mourinho fiercely defended Vinicius Junior after home fans booed him, praising the winger's relentless work ethic following their Champions League victory over Inter Milan.

MADRID

Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho has strongly defended forward Vinicius Junior, urging supporters to keep faith in the Brazilian star after he faced boos from sections of the home crowd during a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in their Champions League opener at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The controversy arose in the 87th minute when Vinicius was substituted off the pitch. Frustrated by a quiet evening where the winger struggled to break down Inter's compact, highly organized defensive block, some fans voiced their discontent. Rather than joining the criticism, Mourinho stepped forward in his post-match press conference to shield his player, emphasizing that commitment and hard work must always take precedence over temporary dips in offensive flair.

Mourinho openly acknowledged that the talented forward is currently navigating a challenging spell. He stated that the player is well aware he is not operating at his absolute peak, but stressed that his work ethic behind the scenes has never been stronger. According to the veteran manager, Vinicius is putting in more effort than ever before to rediscover the lethal form that typically turns matches around for Los Blancos.

The Portuguese tactician further explained that physical exhaustion played a major role in the winger's limited output late in the fixture. When Vinicius failed to track back to support his full-back, Mourinho attributed it strictly to fatigue accumulated over a grueling contest against a well-drilled Italian outfit utilizing an aggressive three-man central defense and active wing-backs. Mourinho made it clear that he deeply respects this version of the player—one who fights tirelessly for the collective cause even when individual magic is missing.

Despite the whistles from the stands, Mourinho pledged his unwavering backing as long as the forward maintains his tireless attitude. He noted that had Vinicius been sharp enough to win his individual duels down the left flank, the narrative of the match would have looked entirely different. Real Madrid ultimately claimed all three crucial points in their European campaign opener thanks to clinical goals from Kylian Mbappe and Federico Valverde.



Thrilling openers mark day 1 of Jayantian Cup



BENGALURU

The first day of the Jayantian Cup 2026 brought intense college sports action across campus. Basketball teams started strong, with Mount Carmel University defeating RV 37 to 30. Christ Central Campus also dominated, crushing Jain CMS 47 to 18 in a one-sided matchup.

Football matches delivered high drama as multiple games required penalty shootouts to decide winners. Christ KC B edged past Christ YC three to two on penalties after a tense draw. Meanwhile, volleyball and throwball courts saw fierce competition. Host team Kristu Jayanti University clinched solid wins in both volleyball and throwball categories, keeping local fans cheering.

Student athletes across all disciplines displayed incredible stamina and sportsmanship today. Teams are already preparing for tougher matches as the national tournament continues. Organizers promise even more thrilling encounters as players fight for the ultimate championship trophy.



Jerome Vinith Charles Leads India's quarter-final charge

FUKUOKA

The Indian men's volleyball team has officially booked a spot in the quarter-finals of the AVC Asian Championship for the first time since 2019. India advanced as one of the two best-ranked third-placed teams in the pools, with Bahrain's straight-sets victory over Oman on Wednesday securing their qualification path.

This continental tournament in Japan acts as a crucial qualification stage for the upcoming Los Angeles Olympic Games and the FIVB World Cup. India kept their tournament hopes alive by securing a dominant three-nil win over New Zealand in Pool B. The squad delivered a brilliant performance, winning in straight sets with scores of 25 to 22, 25 to 18, and 25 to 21.

Captain and opposite hitter Jerome Vinith Charles led the team from the front with a match-high nineteen points, which included two vital kill blocks. Outside hitters Chirag Yadav and Amit Balwan Singh provided massive support on the court, contributing fourteen and thirteen points respectively through powerful spikes, aces, and solid defensive blocks.

India's qualification fate rested entirely on the outcome of the match between Oman and Bahrain. If Oman had managed a three-point victory against Bahrain, they would have overtaken India in the standings. However, Bahrain's clean sweep over Oman cleared the path, allowing India to safely secure their ticket to the last eight alongside other top contenders. In other pool action, host nation Japan



maintained an undefeated record by defeating Australia three-nil to claim the top spot in their group, while the Australians finished second. With the group stage now complete, the Indian squad turns its full attention toward the knockout rounds, aiming to build on this momentum and make a deep run in the championship.

Kristu Jayanti University hosts Jayantian cup 2026

BENGALURU

Energy is high as Kristu Jayanti University launches the fifth edition of the Jayantian Cup. This three-day national championship kicked off across the campus grounds. Around 150 teams from different states have gathered to compete in various sports.

Student athletes are currently facing off in basketball, football, volleyball, kabaddi, and throwball. Martial arts enthusiasts can also watch exciting bouts in karate, taekwondo, and pencak silat. Organizers designed this large sports meet to encourage teamwork, build healthy competition, and celebrate athletic talent among young people.

University leaders believe events like this help students stay active and build lasting friendships beyond the classroom. Spectators and sports fans are welcome to cheer for their favorite college teams over the next three days. For more details on game schedules, campus visitors can reach out to the university's physical education department.

Spinner Zampa joins Hobart for new season

HOBART

Australian star leg-spinner Adam Zampa has signed a two-year contract with the Hobart Hurricanes ahead of the 16th edition of the Big Bash League.

This move makes Hobart the fifth different franchise of his professional career. However, the veteran cricketer revealed that his choice was driven just as much by the culture and camaraderie within the team as it was by athletic factors.

After his previous agreement with the Melbourne Renegades ended, Zampa evaluated multiple options before choosing Tasmania. He explained that being surrounded by familiar faces is vital at this stage of his career. Conversations with team captain Nathan Ellis helped finalize the choice.

Because several squad members also represent Australia internationally, stepping into the Hobart dressing room will feel remarkably similar to joining the national team camp. Beyond personal

connections, the bowler believes the team's strong lineup will directly benefit his performance on the field. Partnering with fast-bowling threats like Nathan Ellis and Riley Meredith creates an environment where he can apply heavy pressure on opposing batting orders and claim more wickets.

The arrival of the experienced spinner solves a major tactical need for the franchise. Last season, the team relied heavily on overseas options to fill their spin quota.



Japan pitches could aid spin, predicts Chakaravarthy

TOKYO

Indian wrist-spinner Varun Chakaravarthy believes that potentially underprepared pitches in Japan could heavily favor slow bowling during the upcoming Asian Games. Speaking ahead of the continental multi-sport event, Chakaravarthy highlighted that adaptability will be the ultimate key for the national bowling attack, though he acknowledged that unpredictable local weather patterns could significantly alter how the surfaces behave over the course of the tournament.

The defending champions enter the men's T20 competition directly at the quarter-final stage in Aichi-Nagoya. Assessing the conditions at the Korogi Sports Park, the mystery spinner emphasized that meticulous planning remains essential regardless of scheduling constraints. Having fully recovered from a Grade 2 left hamstring injury picked up during the preceding T20I series against England, Chakaravarthy spent crucial rehabilitation weeks at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, focusing heavily on intense strength training and running drills to rebuild his physical resilience.

Reflecting on an eventful season, the Chennai-born cricketer described his journey as a thrilling rollercoaster. He finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker with 14 scalps during India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign on home soil, balancing that high with overcoming minor injury hurdles, including hairline fractures in his left hand and toe during the IPL. Starting his competitive cricket journey relatively late at age 26 before making his international debut at 28 and a half, Chakaravarthy views himself as a late bloomer who is still navigating the early phases of a uniquely unconventional career path.

When discussing the evolution of his bowling arsenal, the spinner noted that while he constantly experiments with new variations behind the scenes, mastering his established core skills remains his foremost priority. Addressing the modern challenge of high-tech video analytics and advanced scouting, he asserted that technology and artificial intelligence can only reveal so much. Ultimately, the crucial human element—the split-second decision made by the bowler at the top of the mark—remains completely unpredictable to any analytical software.

Looking forward, Chakaravarthy prefers maintaining a pragmatic approach by establishing short-term targets rather than mapping out distant milestones in a volatile sport. With packed international assignments ahead, including T20Is against Afghanistan and a historic one-off clash against Japan, the spinner remains focused purely on immediate execution.

We want to be a really brave team: Arbeloa

NEW DELHI

Fulham head coach Alvaro Arbeloa has firmly addressed his team's challenging start to the Premier League season, stressing that a difficult run of early fixtures will not compromise the core standards he demands at Craven Cottage. Despite the club remaining winless and searching for its first points of the campaign, the Spanish manager insists that professional attitude and collective resilience remain far more important than immediate scoreboard outcomes during this transition period.

The former defender addressed the media to outline his philosophy, emphasizing that how a squad reacts to adversity sets the baseline for long-term success. Arbeloa explained that while winning matches is the ultimate goal, true character is revealed when teams face difficult moments on the pitch. He noted that total effort and an uncompromising mindset are mandatory requirements for every member of his squad, regardless of whether they are leading, trailing, or encountering tough refereeing and tactical decisions.

This philosophical stance arrives during a period of major structural adjustment for the west London club. Following a busy summer transfer window that saw several key figures depart, the leadership brought in fresh talent designed to match the manager's tactical blueprint. Arbeloa acknowledged the turnover, stating that ambition requires bringing in quality individuals who naturally understand and adapt to an adventurous style of play. Integrating these new arrivals quickly while establishing strong on-field chemistry remains a primary objective for the coaching staff behind the scenes.

Beyond squad logistics, the manager detailed his tactical ambitions for the club. Moving away from cautious or defensive structures, he wants Fulham to dictate the tempo through proactive possession, intense bravery on the ball, and immediate defensive pressure whenever possession is surrendered. This aggressive, front-foot identity is designed to ignite the club's competitive spirit and entertain supporters at Craven Cottage.

