

DKS@100

'ON RIGHT TRACK': SIDDU PATS DKS GOVT

Siddaramaiah says he is confident that the govt is 'pro-poor' and adds that the Congress is working towards fulfilling other manifesto promises as well.

BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday congratulated his successor DK Shivakumar on completing 100 days as the Chief Minister and certified the latter's government as being on the "right path".

"In three months, DK Shivakumar has put efforts to continue all guarantees. Alongside, he is trying to provide several new thoughts and programmes to the people. The Shivakumar-led government is proceeding on the right path," the former chief minister said.

He was speaking during the 'Druda Karnataka Sankalpa' event to mark the completion of 100 days of the DK Shivakumar-led government.

The 78-year-old said he was confident that the Congress government was "pro-poor," adding that the Congress was working towards fulfilling other manifesto promises as well.

'Don't pay heed to Opposition's criticism'

"Shivakumar has understood the problems of the people. No matter what, I ask him not to get bothered by the Opposition's criticism. The corruption they did while in power is in front of us.

BY Vijayendra, the BJP state president, speaks against corruption. This is a tragedy."

He further said: "When B S Yediyurappa (former CM and Vijayendra's father) was the chief minister, he (Vijayendra) used to behave as though he was the CM. Yediyurappa's government was drowned in corruption. If such people speak against corruption, don't know if we should laugh or cry."

Siddaramaiah took severe exception to the BJP and JD(S) not participating in debates on the drought situation in the state, and slammed the BJP's 10-day Padayatra in the Kalyana Karnataka as a "gimmick."

"There are burning issues in the state. They didn't discuss that but have gone for a padayatra. This is a gimmick. What for will they do a padayatra?? They don't have an issue and are just doing it for



100-day milestone and praise

Positive assessment: Speaking at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru during the 'Drudha Karnataka Sankalpa' event, Siddaramaiah certified that the administration is moving in the right direction and fulfilling promises made to citizens.

Key initiatives: The government highlighted its focus on social justice, public welfare, and the newly launched 'Praja Seva' initiative aimed at the time-bound resolution of public grievances.

Opposition and challenges

Criticism of BJP: Siddaramaiah dismissed the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) recent padayatra (foot march) as a political gimmick, arguing that the opposition should instead focus on pressing issues like drought management.

Remaining priorities: Siddaramaiah urged the administration to step up drought relief efforts and continue implementing its core guarantee schemes effectively over the remainder of its term.

politics. We shouldn't pay heed. The government and the CM need not pay heed to this."

Contrasting the BJP's padayatra with those the Congress did while they were in Opposition, Siddaramaiah noted that the grand old party's padayatras had a "purpose."

The veteran claimed that his government from 2013-18

CM unveils slew of schemes to mark 100 days in office

The state government on Thursday launched a slew of initiatives to mark DK Shivakumar's 100 days in office as Chief Minister.

- Digital initiatives**

SevaOne: A unified "One Government, One Digital" platform allowing citizens to access public services, submit requests, and resolve grievances.

BMTC 2.0 App: Enables live bus tracking, digital ticketing, wallet facilities, and multimodal journey planning.

KSRTC Avatara 2.0: A One Karnataka Mobility App for booking across all four state transport corporations and accessing tour packages.
- Farm & agriculture schemes**

CM Raitha Chaitanya Scheme: Provides timely, location-specific agricultural advice to make farming more profitable.

Chief Minister Negila Yogi Scheme: Aims to bring fallow agricultural land back under active cultivation, offering free tilling support for eligible farmers.

Thega Siri Scheme: A ₹493-crore teak plantation initiative granting tree rights and a share of maturity proceeds to adjoining farmers.
- Housing & welfare**

Housing sites distribution: A major scheme to distribute five lakh housing sites to landless and homeless individuals, prioritizing rural beneficiaries.

Long-term vision 2037: Unveiled a roadmap targeting a \$1 trillion economy for Karnataka backed by massive capital investments.
- Clean air**

Retrofit Emission Control Device (RECD): Launched for diesel vehicles with an aim to reduce harmful tailpipe emissions and curb air pollution from older diesel-powered vehicles.

Honouring the men in uniform

Sainik Samman scheme: It aims at honoring and supporting soldiers and military personnel.

Govt okays student union elections from next year

The cabinet approved the revival of student union elections in colleges and universities from the 2026-27 academic year. The decision follows consultations and visits to higher educational institutions by a committee headed by Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil.

'Shramika Nivasa' initiative on the cards

To address housing and commuting difficulties of industrial workers, the government has proposed the 'Shramika Nivasa' initiative. Under the scheme, large industrial units will be encouraged to construct around 10,000 houses close to their workplace. The state will allocate land, including KIADB plots, at subsidised rates and will also extend subsidies. The initiative will cover sectors, including IT and biotechnology, with guidelines from the department concerned on the size of rooms and essential amenities in these accommodations.

had fulfilled 158 out of the 165 promises in the manifesto, and accused the Opposition of not standing by their manifestos.

Pointing out that the people were the bosses in a democracy, the two-time CM urged the government to go to the people.

K'taka targets \$1 tn economy by 2037, outlines 'Nava Sankalpa'

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday unveiled state government's long-term vision for 2037, setting a target of turning Karnataka into a \$1 trillion economy and outlining a nine-point 'Nava Sankalpa' focused on jobs, infrastructure, education, healthcare and regional development.

The vision was presented at 'Drudha Karnataka Sankalpa' programme at Vidhana Soudha to mark 100 days of Shivakumar-led government.

The government said roadmap aims to build a Karnataka that is "economically strong, socially empowered, technologically advanced and deeply rooted in its values".

\$1 trillion economy by 2037

The government has set a target of expanding Karnataka's economy to \$1 trillion by 2037, from the current \$343 billion. It has also set targets of reducing malnutrition to below 5 percent, eliminating poverty and bringing school dropouts down to zero. The nine-point roadmap covers healthcare, water security, education, investment and fiscal strength, Bengaluru, social justice, regional balance, jobs and digital governance, and capital investment.

Under investment and fiscal strength, the government plans to attract Rs 3 lakh crore in fresh investments and work towards making Karnataka a revenue-surplus state. It has also proposed a new Department of Global Investment and NRI Affairs.

Rs 1.5 lakh crore capital investment in 500 days

The government has set a target of Rs 1.5 lakh crore in capital investment over the next 500 days for infrastructure and other projects across sectors.

It has also proposed five new major cities to drive growth beyond Bengaluru and promote more balanced regional development. For Bengaluru, roadmap proposes five new Lalbagh-scale green spaces and the rejuvenation of seven lakes.

1L govt jobs, 5L private jobs

The government has targeted 1 lakh government recruitments across Karnataka and the creation of five lakh private-sector jobs. The roadmap includes a CM Jobs Mission, Udyoga Nidhi for employment generation in backward districts, Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangha with 10,000 youth clubs and Yuva Udyoga Sethu, a proposed private employment exchange. The government also plans to fully digitise land records.

AI, education and healthcare

Karnataka plans to establish what it described as India's first Government AI University in Bengaluru, introduce AI education from Class VI and establish an AI Hub and AI Policy.

Other proposals include a Green Data Centre Policy, Karnataka Centre for Drone Excellence and an EV Centre of Excellence.

B'luru, regional development

To boost growth beyond Bengaluru, the government has proposed a Coastal and Malnad Tourism Policy and five Global Technology Centres in Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru and Mysuru. It has also proposed a Local Economy Acceleration Programme to support regional economic growth. For citizen services, the government has proposed a Praja

'Maha Sankalpa, Nava Sankalpa'

CM lists out bold vision for Karnataka 2037

To build a \$1 trillion economy, eliminate poverty and school dropouts, and bring malnutrition below 5%.

Develop 5 new metropolitan cities, create 1 lakh govt and 5 lakh private-sector jobs, provide 5 lakh residential sites, and add 5 new Lalbagh-like parks, and rejuvenate 7 Bengaluru lakes.

Build a economically strong, socially inclusive and technologically ahead Karnataka, and to make the state a model for the India of tomorrow.

Seve Department, Karnataka Data Exchange and Ecosystem Platform (K-DEEP), 'Bhu Guarantee' as the sixth guarantee and 'Seva One', aimed at bringing government services onto a single AI platform.



K'taka govt has 'zero achievements' in 100 days

Ballari: Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra on Thursday hit out at the DK Shivakumar-led Congress government, alleging it had "zero achievements" in its first 100 days and calling it an "advertising government".

He told reporters here that the people had already decided to send the government

home and claimed that even MLAs from the ruling party were speaking out against it.

"This government will go home as soon as possible. The people have already made that decision. Even MLAs from the ruling party are speaking out against the government and the CM," he said.

"Our fight against this corrupt and anti-people government has begun. The BJP will achieve an unprecedented victory on the electoral battlefield. Neither DK (Shivakumar) nor BK (state Congress chief B K Hariprasad) can stop our victory. The BJP will receive the blessings of the people," he added.

SIR: CM's mother, Nilakeni, Zerodhas among names flagged

BENGALURU

Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani and his family, along with Zerodha founders Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath, are among the prominent names figuring in the notice list generated during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, sources said.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's mother, Gowramma, has also been flagged for a "self-name mismatch" in the Kanakapura Assembly constituency, reports said.

Nilekani's family, including his wife and children, has been flagged as "unmapped with last SIR (2002 rolls)", while Nithin Kamath, Nikhil Kamath and their mother Revathi Kamath have reportedly been flagged for a "parents name mismatch" in the Bengaluru South Assembly constituency. Meanwhile, a notice was issued to Kannada actor Shiva Rajkumar after his name was not mapped to the 2002 list.

However, authorities said

prominent persons and VIPs would not be inconvenienced by the verification process and officials would visit them to complete the required formalities. Although notices were generated, authorities have not served them in several such cases.

Similarly, notices generated for Bharat Ratna recipient Professor CNR Rao over a name-related mismatch and Kannada actor Shivarajkumar, whose name was not mapped with the 2002 rolls, were not served. Officials are resolving the issues at their level, sources said. As per the GBA data, of the 24,06,044 notices generated, 6.24 lakh have been found to have anomalies, while 17.81 lakh people have been served notices for no-mapping. A total of 2,67,693 hearings have been held.

Padma Shri awardee and social activist Harekala Hajabba faced a similar name mismatch, which election officials later resolved. Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen was also flagged over a spelling discrepancy.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Govt tweaks e-comm rules to check price scams

NEW DELHI

The government has amended the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, to tighten norms on price transparency, sponsored listings, search result manipulation and dark patterns, the Department of Consumer Affairs said on Thursday.

The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, will come into force from January 1, 2027, it said in a statement.

The rules bar e-commerce entities from manipulating search results that mislead users or affect the relevance of results to a search query.

Sponsored listings will have to be identified through clear and prominent disclosures, the statement said.

E-commerce entities will also be required to comply with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, undertake a yearly self-audit and display a certificate of compliance, the department added.

The amended rules mandate

Key changes for e-commerce platforms



- Mandatory "prior price" disclosure.
- No search manipulation.
- Clear sponsored labeling.
- Dark pattern audits.
- National consumer helpline (NCH) integration.
- Data and fee restrictions.

every e-commerce entity to become a partner in the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline (NCH).

The department said the NCH received 17,71,622 grievances in 2025, of which 5,11,196, or about 29 per cent, related to the e-commerce sector. Every e-commerce entity will have to provide a complainant with a copy of the complaint as recorded by its grievance officer, the rules said.

Marketplace e-commerce entities will have to disclose key information such as best before or use before dates, and

details on returns, refunds, warranty, delivery and payment, to help consumers make informed decisions, according to the rules.

For imported goods, the importer's details and country of origin will have to be disclosed, it said.

The rules also bar marketplace e-commerce entities from using consumer information for specified purposes without express and affirmative consent, and from collecting bundled fees for services unrelated to the e-commerce platform, except for loyalty or membership programs.

Unprecedented rush in Tirumala, 24-hr wait for darshan

Tirumala: An unprecedented rush of devotees has been witnessed in Tirumala, with the waiting time for Srivari darshan reaching nearly 24 hours.

With consecutive holidays from September 12 to 14, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) expects the rush to increase further.

In view of the heavy influx, the TTD has cancelled the VIP Break Darshan scheduled for Sunday, September 13. Ac-

cordingly, recommendation letters for VIP Break Darshan will not be accepted on Saturday, September 12.

The time allotted for the cancelled VIP Break Darshan will instead be utilised to provide darshan to common devotees.

The TTD appealed to devotees to take note of the changes and cooperate with the temple administration in managing the rush.

ECI recognises TVK as state party

CHENNAI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recognised the Tamilaaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a State party in both Tamil Nadu and in the Union Territory of Puducherry after it satisfied the prescribed criteria. Previously, the TVK was a registered, unrecognised party.

With the ECI recognition, the party is entitled to have

its symbol 'Whistle' reserved, besides certain other advantages.

In the 2026 Assembly election, the TVK contested 233 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu and won 108 seats with a vote share of 34.92%. The party also won two of the 28 seats it contested in Puducherry, with a vote share of 16.85%.



CH Observer

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From overflowing school zones to neglected empty plots, a worsening sanitation crisis is gripping city streets. Residents across Connaught Road, Queens Road, and Seshadripuram are fighting a losing battle against stubborn garbage black spots that multiply within days of clearing. Amid mounting health hazards, foul odors, and rising anti-social activity, frustrated communities are asking a blunt question: when will municipal authorities finally clean up their act?

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Residents of Connaught Road are grappling with the emergence of yet another garbage black spot on their street. Locals report that the new site rapidly devolved into a severe health hazard within days, marking the second such dumping ground to plague the same road. Frustrated citizens are questioning the accountability of municipal sanitation workers, demanding to know whether adequate cleaning protocols are being enforced or if routine maintenance is being neglected.



A newly cleared garbage black spot at the corner of Queens Road and Chikka Bazar Street has returned within days due to inadequate sanitation work. Surrounded by schools, a prayer hall, and PGs, the area also suffers from broken streetlights and rising anti-social activity.



An empty plot situated on Seshadripuram 1st A Cross Road has transformed into a major garbage dumping site, with residents reporting that previous notifications to authorities have yielded no action. The situation has recently deteriorated further, with locals complaining that individuals are now using the accumulation site for public urination, compounding the area's severe sanitation and public health crisis.

Over 15,000 tonnes gone: Bengaluru's new chapter

Bengaluru South eradicated over 15,000 tonnes of trash in a month-long drive, targeting chronic urban garbage black spots.

CHE NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major administrative push to overhaul urban sanitation and eradicate chronic urban littering, the Bengaluru South City Corporation has officially concluded its high-profile month-long cleanliness initiative, the "Freedom from Waste" campaign. Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh announced the extraordinary milestone achieved during the comprehensive drive, revealing that a staggering 15,590.42 metric tonnes of accumulated refuse and roadside garbage were successfully cleared and processed between August 1 and September 10, 2026.

The intensive sanitation operation was executed on a war footing across multiple municipal wards, targeting notorious "black spots" locations plagued by chronic, illegal dumping as well as neglected vacant lots and arterial road shoulders. To manage the massive logistical undertaking, the civic body deployed a heavy-duty fleet of 357 specialized municipal vehicles in a phased rollout. Over the course of the campaign, these



A PLEA TO CITIZENS

While the drive has wiped out most ugly black spots, the real test begins now. Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh urged residents to stop tossing garbage onto roadsides and vacant plots. Instead, locals must hand their daily trash directly to municipal collection vehicles. Clean streets reflect a healthy community. If every resident steps up and plays their part, this vibrant southern zone can truly remain a shining example of urban cleanliness for the entire state.

units completed a total of 672 dedicated transport trips, systematically combing through residential and commercial neighborhoods to restore aesthetic and hygienic standards throughout the southern zone.

According to municipal logistics reports, the vast majority of the gathered refuse precisely 15,575.42 metric tonnes was diverted directly to the advanced Vitasandra processing facility for scientific disposal, recycling, and sustainable management.

Meanwhile, the remaining 15.00 tonnes of specialized collected material was routed to the Kallubalu processing plant near Anekal. This structured disposal framework ensured that the massive volume of cleared material did not end up in unmanaged landfills, aligning with municipal environmental guidelines.

The campaign recorded its



peak operational intensity on specific red-letter dates. A single-day municipal record was shattered on August 21, when sanitation crews cleared a massive 1,117.42 tonnes of waste across 48 coordinated trips using 18 heavy vehicles. This followed closely behind another high-volume day on August 25, which saw 1,051.43 tonnes safely disposed of. Furthermore, the civic machinery maintained high operational readiness during national observances, clearing 873.92 tonnes of accumulated waste on Independence Day (August 15) alone through 37

HOW THE CLEANUP UNFOLDED

• **Total Waste Cleared:** 15,590.42 metric tonnes of garbage removed from streets and chronic dumping spots.

• **Fleet Power:** 357 vehicles deployed in phases to sweep through neighborhoods.

• **Trip Count:** 672 dedicated trips completed on a war footing.

• **Peak Days:** August 21 saw a record-breaking 1,117.42 tonnes cleared in a single day, followed by 1,051.43 tonnes on August 25.

targeted trips executed by 17 sanitation vehicles.

While the relentless daily operations have successfully eliminated most prominent garbage mounds and restored cleanliness to local streets, Commissioner Ramesh emphasized that long-term success relies heavily on community participation. Highlighting the risk of recurring dumping at cleared sites, the civic chief issued a stern appeal to residents and commercial establishments to refrain from throwing garbage onto public roadsides or empty plots.

Bengaluru North prepares for eco-friendly Ganesha festival

Bengaluru North rolls out a single-window clearance, strict PoP bans, and eco-friendly immersion setups to ensure a safe, sustainable Ganesha festival.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With the upcoming Ganesha festival approaching, the Bengaluru North City Corporation has ramped up preparations to ensure safe and environment-friendly celebrations across its jurisdiction. Corporation Commissioner Pomma Sunil Kumar chaired a high-level review meeting to outline standard operating procedures, emphasizing strict adherence to ecological guidelines, simplified administrative clearances, and comprehensive public safety protocols for the 2026 festive season.

To eliminate bureaucratic hurdles for neighborhood committees and organizers, the civic body has rolled out a streamlined Single Window System for public idol installations. Citizens can now submit permissions directly at

their local police stations. A joint coordination team consisting of officials from the municipal corporation, local police, BESCO, and the Fire Department will evaluate applications simultaneously, ensuring expeditious approvals.

Environmental protection remains a central focus of this year's guidelines. Authorities have enforced a strict, complete ban on the manufacture, sale, and use of Plaster of Paris (PoP), thermocol, and toxic chemical colors. Dedicated nodal teams comprising multi-departmental officers will conduct surprise raids on manufacturing units and retail outlets. Violators face heavy fines, immediate seizure of prohibited goods, and potential criminal prosecution. Zonal health officers will oversee these enforcement sweeps. Concurrently, the corporation is promoting sustainable alternatives, strongly encouraging citizens to use traditional clay idols and adopt eco-friendly practices such as home immersion in buckets, allowing families to reuse the sacred soil in home gardens. For large community

idols, the corporation is setting up designated temporary immersion tanks, kalyanis, and mobile facilities across Assembly constituencies. These sites will feature floodlighting, barricades, medical booths with ambulances, and trained expert swimmers, with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams on standby for emergency deployment.

To combat post-festival litter, the civic administration has planned meticulous waste management operations at all immersion points. Sanitation crews will systematically segregate organic waste like puja flowers from non-biodegradable materials, routing wet waste to municipal processing units and dry waste to designated collection centers under the direct supervision of the corporation's Deputy General Manager. Furthermore, special zonal squads will crack down on single-use plastics throughout the festive week.

Municipal authorities have appealed to all residents to cooperate with the guidelines, shun polluting materials, and embrace a sustainable, safe festival season.

How B'luru East is protecting lakes, managing festival waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has rolled out comprehensive guidelines and precautionary measures to ensure an eco-friendly and safe Ganeshotsava celebration in 2026. Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh announced that the civic body has implemented a streamlined single-window system to expedite festival permissions, while enforcing a strict ban on environmentally harmful materials across the municipal limits.

To eliminate bureaucratic red tape, ward-wise nodal officers have been appointed to work alongside the Police, BESCO, and the Fire Department. Organizers can submit applications at local police stations, with officials instructed to evaluate and process clearances within twenty-four hours. Any processing delays will be addressed on the same day to ensure smooth community celebrations.

Environmental conservation remains a priority, with the corporation placing a complete prohibition on the manufacture,



We urge every citizen to protect our water bodies by choosing clay idols and following local guidelines.
- D.S. Ramesh, East Corporation Commissioner

PROHIBITED MATERIALS & PENALTIES

• **Banned Goods:** PoP, thermocol, and artificial chemical colors

• **Action Taken:** Spot inspections, heavy fines, material seizure, and criminal charges

• **Waste Management:** Segregation of wet puja waste and dry materials at immersion sites

FESTIVAL QUICK FACTS

• **Single-Window System:** Fast permits via local police stations within 24 hours

• **Strict Bans:** Zero tolerance for Plaster of Paris, thermocol, and chemical dyes

• **Eco Alternatives:** Promotion of clay idols and home bucket immersions

distribution, and sale of Ganesha idols made from Plaster of Paris (PoP), thermocol, and toxic chemical colors. Routine inspections will target production units and retail hubs, with violators facing heavy fines, merchandise seizure, and immediate criminal registration. Authorities are actively promoting traditional clay idols, encouraging citizens to perform home immersions in buckets so the resulting soil can be reused in household gardens.

For larger community idols, the corporation has arranged alternative solutions to protect local lakes and water bodies from pollution.

Experience Divine Bhakti at 'Sharanagathi' Bharatanatyam Recital

BENGALURU

Classical dance enthusiasts are in for a soulful evening as young danseuse Kum. Divya Vijayalakshmi Dharmarajan prepares to stage her solo Bharatanatyam presentation, titled Sharanagathi. Scheduled for September 12, 2026, starting at 5:00 PM, the cultural event will be hosted at Yuvapatha located in the 4th Block of Jayanagar, Bengaluru.

Rooted deeply in the sacred tradition of the guru-disciple bond, Sharanagathi translates to total surrender and devotion. Under the expert mentorship and tutelage of Acharya Dr.

Raksha Karthik, the presentation reflects years of rigorous sadhana, discipline, and artistic refinement. Rather than just a standard stage performance, the recital is conceived as a spiritual offering where bhakti finds its purest voice through the rhythm, grace, and expressive storytelling of Bharatanatyam.

The thoughtfully curated repertoire features a rich sequence of classical compositions. The evening will open with a traditional Pushpanjali, followed by Sangeeta Samrajya in Raaga Mohanakalyani, Mahadeva in Raaga Revathi, Bhaj Man in Raaga Desh, Srinivasa Tiruvenkata in Raaga Hamsaanandi, and the centerpiece Varnam—Ninnu Nera in Raaga Kharaharapriya. The lineup also includes Tiruppavai in Raaga Kuntalavari, Intahennanu in Raaga Maand, a vibrant Tillana in Raaga Madhuvanti, and will conclude with a serene Mangalam featuring Harivarasanam.

Venue: Yuvapatha, 4, 31st Cross, 11th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560011

Date: September 12, 2026, 5.30 pm onwards.
For more information, please call 9845273093, 9740090194



Suraksha-75: Bengaluru East targets traffic and accidents

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation is fast-tracking urban infrastructure upgrades to combat chronic traffic congestion and improve pedestrian safety. Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar chaired a high-level review meeting with municipal engineers, town planners, and the GBA coordination team to evaluate ongoing development projects, with a strong emphasis on critical transit nodes under the Suraksha-75 Programme.

Discussions centered on accelerating pending junction improvements across key high-density zones, including Marathahalli, Doddanekkundi, K.R. Pura, Varthur Kodi, the Tin Factory intersection, Beniganahalli, Bagmane Tech Park, Iblur junction, and Kundalahalli. Acknowledging severe bottlenecks near the Tin Factory and Outer Ring Road service roads, officials were ordered to resolve on-site obstacles immediately and drop administrative delays as an excuse. Furthermore, the administration highlighted the

urgent need to redesign the congested Munnekollal Railway Crossing junction to provide relief to daily commuters and motorists.

To maximize the impact of municipal funds, the Additional Commissioner instructed engineering teams to look beyond major arterial intersections and prioritize smaller, accident-prone black spots. Officials must coordinate closely with the Police Department to map high-risk collision zones across K.R. Pura and Mahadevapura, ensuring that improvement works target areas of genuine public need rather than arbitrary locations. Field inspections and formal reports must precede any new project approvals.

The civic body is also overhauling public transit infrastructure. Plans are underway to relocate existing obstructive bus stops—such as the bottleneck near Vignana Nagar—and systematically construct new, well-planned bus bays to prevent curbside traffic jams. Authorities stressed that bus bay placements must align with passenger volume data and traffic flow assessments to maintain road safety.



Shri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Shri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Former Chief Minister



Dr G. PARAMESHWARA
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

RAITHA SANKALPA

Strength behind
the Hands that
Cultivate Karnataka



Mukhya Mantri Negila Yogi

A 50% subsidy on farm-machinery hire, up to Rs. 4,500 a year for up to 3 acres, booked through a mobile app.



CM Raitha Chaitanya, Digital Agri-tech Mission

Drone and satellite crop surveys giving farmers live, data-driven insights and market-linked price information.



Agriculture, Horticulture & Allied Sectors Export Promotion

A new Agri-Export Mission through a revamped KAPPEC, with a focus on mango, pomegranate, ragi, millets, rice and toor dal.



Comprehensive Rainfed Agriculture Policy

A dedicated policy for our rainfed regions: water conservation, climate-resilient farming, healthier soil and more jobs and wealth.



Tegada Siri

Free saplings, including teak, for landowners to plant on roadsides abutting their land, with 70% of the sale revenue kept by the landowner.



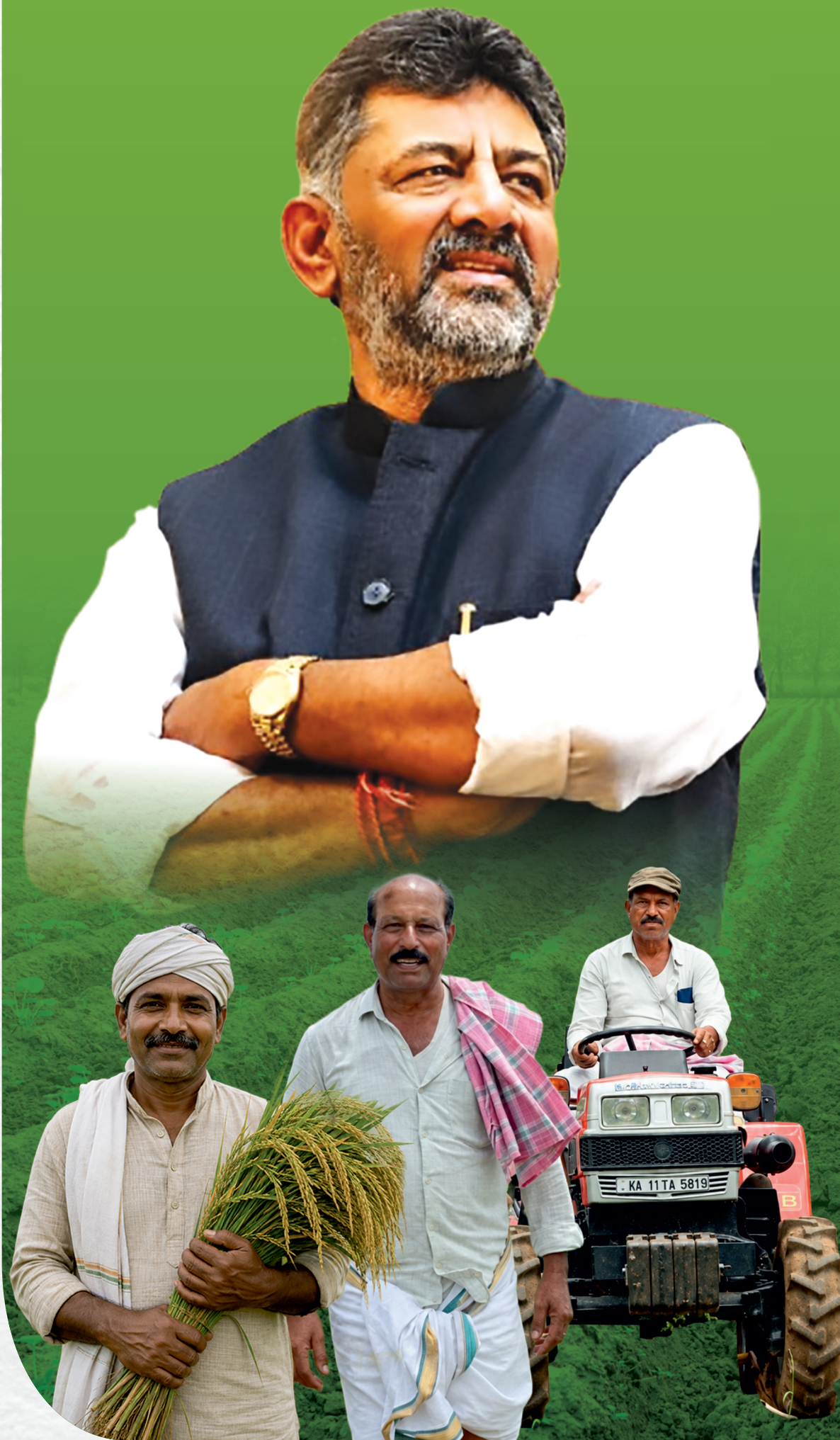
Karnataka Protein Mission

A protein cluster mission to boost livestock and fisheries, strengthen nutrition and grow rural livelihoods.



Gramanubhava, Rural Immersion Programme

School and college students spend a few days in rural areas, learning farming, animal husbandry and folk culture first-hand.



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

<https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/>

Karnatakavarthe

karnataka information

Quick Read

South Bengaluru ring road clears land acquisition hurdle

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka has cleared acquisition of 1,427 acres for the 52-km Bengaluru Business Corridor linking Mysuru and Hosur roads. The final notification covers land required for Peripheral Ring Road-2 (PRR-2), which will connect major industrial and residential areas including Jigani, Bommasandra and Attibele. The corridor is expected to divert industrial traffic away from Bengaluru's congested core and provide an alternative to NICE Road. Landowners have been offered multiple compensation options, including cash, additional FAR, TDR, residential sites and commercial sites, depending on the extent of land acquired. The 100-metre-wide road will include an eight-lane carriageway, service roads, cycle tracks, footpaths and space for a possible future Metro corridor. The 52-km alignment will pass through 31 villages and form the southern arm of a planned 125-km ring-road network.

Karnataka limits Vande Mataram to first two stanzas at State functions

Karnataka has prescribed a shorter rendition of the national song for most government functions, citing protocol and uniformity.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka has issued an order restricting the singing or playing of Vande Mataram to its first two stanzas at State government functions.

The order, issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) following a Cabinet decision, makes an exception for functions involving the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor. At such events, the complete six-stanza version of the national song will be played.

The government said the decision was aimed at maintaining "uniformity, dignity and appropriate protocol" in the rendition of Vande Mataram, depending on the nature and context of government programmes and functions held in the State.

The order noted that Vande



Karnataka has limited Vande Mataram to its first two stanzas at most State government functions, while allowing the complete version at events involving the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor. The DPAR order follows a Cabinet decision and cites uniformity, dignity and protocol. The move reflects the Congress position that the final four stanzas contain religious imagery that may be perceived as exclusionary.

Mataram played an important role in promoting nationalism, unity and patriotism during the Indian national movement. It also referred to guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of

Home Affairs prescribing the official version of the national song and procedures for its singing or playing at government and public programmes. Earlier this year, the Naren-

Protocol Norms
■ Most State functions: First two stanzas
■ Full version: Six stanzas
■ Issuing department: DPAR
■ Decision: Based on Cabinet approval
■ Reason cited: Uniformity, dignity and protocol

dra Modi government mandated the full six-stanza version of Vande Mataram as the national song. Before this, the first two stanzas were generally rendered at public events.

The Karnataka government's decision is in line with the Congress position of retaining only the first two stanzas at most public functions. The party has argued that the remaining four stanzas contain religious imagery that could be perceived as exclusionary.

Prajwal Revanna's judicial custody extended in jail mobile phone case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna was produced before the 42nd ACJM court in Bengaluru on Thursday after completing two days of police interrogation in connection with an Android mobile phone found inside a barrack at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

Judge Sandeep Patil ordered the extension of judicial custody of Revanna and another accused, Pratap Rai, as the investigation continues.

Police are probing how the mobile phone reached the prison and how it was allegedly used while the accused were in custody. Investigators are also examining videos, chats and other material found on the device.

During questioning, Prajwal reportedly told police that he had made calls to his father Revanna and mother Bhavani from inside the jail. He allegedly said that he had called them only once.

The case was registered following the recovery of the Android phone from the jail barracks. Police have named Pratap Rai as A-1 and Prajwal Revanna as A-2 in the case.



Jail phone case

Police are investigating the recovery of an Android mobile phone from a barrack at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. Pratap Rai has been named A-1 and Prajwal Revanna A-2. Police are examining videos, chats and communications found on the device. Revanna reportedly told investigators he had made calls to his parents from inside jail, but claimed he had called them only once. The investigation is continuing.

ED raids politically motivated, alleges Minister Raghuramurthy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Minister for Scheduled Tribe Welfare T. Raghuramurthy on Thursday condemned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at the residences of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, alleging that central investigative agencies were being used for political purposes.

Speaking near Vidhana Soudha, Raghuramurthy said he learnt about the searches through the media and immediately went to Jarkiholi's residence to express solidarity, though he could not meet him.

Questioning the timing and intent of the searches, the minister said the complete picture would emerge only after details of the investigation became available. He alleged that agencies such as



"Jarkiholi is a strong leader with firm convictions. He is not someone who can be intimidated or weakened through raids or pressure tactics."

- T. Raghuramurthy, Minister for Scheduled Tribe Welfare

the ED and CBI were being used against opposition leaders by the BJP-led Union government.

Raghuramurthy also alleged that targeting prominent leaders could weaken the social and political influence of communities they represented. He said agencies should

Minister T. Raghuramurthy alleged ED searches targeting Satish Jarkiholi were politically motivated and intended to weaken the Congress leader.

function according to law and not become instruments of intimidation.

Congress MLA Shivaganga Basavaraj also accused the BJP of misusing central agencies and claimed voters would respond in the next elections.

However, Jarkiholi's brother Lakhan Jarkiholi said ED and Income Tax searches were part of the investigative process. He said necessary documents and information would be provided to officials.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka on Thursday marked 100 days of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's tenure, with ministers highlighting its achievements and outlining plans for the coming years.

Home Minister Priyanka Kharge expressed confidence that Congress would return to power in 2028, saying the government's agenda extended beyond the remaining term and focused on policy, economic and employment acceleration.

"This is just the beginning. It's not going to be a two-year roadmap; it's a seven-year roadmap for the next elections as well," Kharge said.

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara said the government was using the



2028 Power Plan
■ 100 days: D.K. Shivakumar-led government
■ 2028: Congress targets return to power
■ ₹29,679 crore: Investments cleared
■ 66,000: Expected jobs from investments
■ 72,000: Government posts targeted for recruitment
■ 7.5%: Reservation for government-school students in professional courses

Congress' 2028 roadmap
Congress ministers said the government's 100-day milestone was an opportunity to highlight performance and future plans. The administration is targeting 72,000 government recruitments and expects investments worth ₹29,679 crore to generate around 66,000 jobs. Other initiatives include 7.5 per cent reservation for government-school students in professional courses, free student bus passes, farmer-focused programmes, youth entrepreneurship initiatives and stronger employment opportunities through ITIs.

milestone to explain its performance and future plans rather than hold a major celebration.

The programme was kept limited to Vidhana Soudha and its banquet hall in view of the drought situation. Ministers Ajay Singh, Ramalinga Reddy and Sharan Prakash

Patil highlighted initiatives for farmers, students, employment and youth.

Shivakumar, who assumed office on June 3, outlined his "Drudha Karnataka" vision focusing on economic strength, social empowerment and technological advancement.

Karnataka trains college staff to safeguard students' mental health

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of Collegiate Education has undertaken a statewide initiative to equip principals and Mental Health Safety Coordinators of Government First Grade Colleges to identify and respond to student mental health concerns.

More than 800 principals and coordinators from over 420 government colleges participated in three orientation programmes organised in collaboration with NIMHANS and regional partner institutions.

The initiative follows Supreme Court guidelines on safeguarding students' mental health, the Mental Health Policy and a Karnataka government circular.

Experts addressed student mental health, myths and facts, suicide prevention,

tele-support services and digital mental health resources. The first programme, Abhaya, was held at the NIMHANS Convention Centre in Bengaluru on August 11.

Participants included representatives from colleges under the Bengaluru, Mysuru, Shivamogga and Mangaluru regional offices.

The second workshop, Belagutirali Baduku, was conducted at Government College (Autonomous), Kalaburagi, on September 2.

The third, Jeevanapreeti - Baalige Spoorthi, was held at the Karnataka State Higher Education Academy, Dharwad, on September 7.

The sessions also included interactive discussions, allowing participants to raise concerns, share institutional experiences and seek expert guidance.

Kristu Jayanti students learn psychological first aid skills

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of Social Work, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kristu Jayanti University, organised a student-led programme on "Psychological First Aid" for students of Ebenezer Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, on September 10.

The training was led by second-year Social Work students Alan Antony Michael, Paulson Jaison and Ansu Abraham. The

programme aimed to create awareness about mental health and equip students with basic peer-support skills.

The session covered emotional well-being, mental health stigma, active listening, empathy, healthy coping and the importance of seeking professional support when required. Interactive activities such as icebreakers, group discussions, pair exercises on sharing and listening, case-study analysis, perspective swaps and myth-



or-fact sessions encouraged active participation and practical learning.

Participants learnt how to listen without judgment, understand emotional distress, pro-

vide basic emotional support and encourage peers to seek appropriate professional help.

The programme highlighted the role students can play in creating a supportive and empathetic environment by listening, understanding and supporting their peers.

It also stressed that peer support should complement professional assistance, particularly when individuals require specialised mental-health care.

Society must lead efforts to prevent suicides: Dr Dharani Mohan

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dr Dharani Mohan, CEO of MVJ Medical College and Research Hospital, stressed the need for collective efforts to prevent suicides, particularly among young people.

She was speaking at an awareness programme organised by MVJ College of Nurs-

ing in front of the Taluk Office at Hoskote Bus Stand on Thursday, marking World Suicide Prevention Day. Dr Mohan said suicide was not merely an individual tragedy but also reflected pressures and difficulties within society. Academic competition, career expectations, unemployment, bullying, domestic violence, poverty and social isola-

tion could contribute to emotional distress.

She said temporary setbacks could sometimes appear as permanent failures to young people already struggling emotionally. Families, educational institutions, workplaces, healthcare professionals and governments must work together to create supportive environments.

Container truck gets stuck at Rajkumar Road underpass

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A container truck carrying new cars got stuck at the Dr Rajkumar Road underpass early Thursday, triggering traffic chaos. The multi-axle truck entered the underpass around 3.30 am but became stranded due to its heavy load. All its tyres reportedly burst, obstructing vehicle movement through the underpass.

The driver allegedly abandoned the vehicle and fled the spot. Traffic police reached the area and diverted vehicles to ease congestion.

20 people get complimentary Kashi-Prayag air pilgrimage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Twenty winners of a quiz and lucky draw held during a Maha Shivaratri programme in Vijayanagar have been given complimentary air tickets for a pilgrimage to Kashi and Prayag.

The winners were selected from the Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar Assembly constituencies during an all-night Maha Shivaratri programme organised in Vijayanagar on Feb 15, 2026. The organisers had announced that 20 winners would be taken on a free air journey to the holy places.

Vijayanagar MLA M. Krishnappa distributed the flight tickets to the winners and wished them a safe and memorable pilgrimage. He is also bearing the expenses of the trip, including air tickets, travel, accommodation, food and other pilgrimage-related costs.

Vijayanagar youth leader Pradeep Krishna is providing guidance to the winners and overseeing arrangements thro

ughout the pilgrimage. The organisers said all arrangements were being made free of cost for the selected participants.

The winners expressed happiness over the opportunity and thanked Krishnappa for fulfilling his promise made during the Maha Shivaratri programme. They also thanked Pradeep Krishna for taking responsibility for coordinating the pilgrimage from beginning to end. Govindarajanagar MLA Priya Krishna, Neelakanthappa, artistes Mimicry Gopi and Mimicry Dayanand, humour writer M.S. Narasimhamurthy, M. Uday and Prajwal were among those present. Speaking at the programme organised by B'lore Jaanajaneeyara Sams-the, M. Uday said it was gratifying to see the promise fulfilled as assured. The initiative was announced as part of the Maha Shivaratri celebrations and was aimed at providing the selected residents an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage to Kashi and Prayag by air.

POLICE VEHICLE LEASING

Karnataka weighs rental, leasing model for police vehicles

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is exploring rental and leasing models for police vehicles as an alternative to conventional outright purchases, Home Minister Priyanka Kharge said on Thursday.

Kharge held a meeting with officials from the Karnataka Police's communications, logistics and modernisation wing and representatives of more than 20 automobile and 2-wheeler manufacturers. Companies offering both electric, conventional vehicles participated in the discussions.

The meeting examined the feasibility of allowing the de-



partment to obtain vehicles through rental or leasing arrangements, potentially enabling it to expand its fleet faster according to operational requirements.

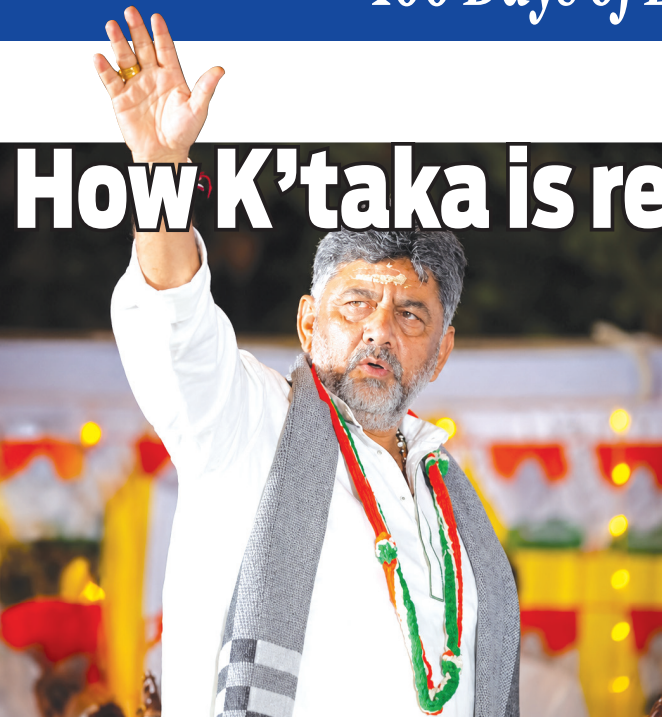
Kharge said direct procurement involved substantial capital expenditure at one time, while leasing or renting could provide greater flexibility and improve utilisation of public funds. "The government's ob-

Police Mobility Model
■ 20+ automobile and two-wheeler manufacturers attended
■ 2 options — rental and leasing
■ EVs and conventional vehicles under consideration
■ Key uses: Patrolling, law and order, emergencies and investigation
■ Factors: Maintenance, repairs, service costs and replacements

jective is not merely to purchase vehicles, but to use public money judiciously and

improve the efficiency of the police department," Kharge said. He said modern policing required stronger mobility, technology and infrastructure, besides adequate manpower. The proposed model could help the department respond to changing operational requirements while managing maintenance and replacement needs more efficiently.

Before taking a decision, the government will assess vehicle usage, contract duration, maintenance, repairs, replacement availability and service costs. Financial and operational feasibility will also be examined.



How K'taka is rewiring its urban corridors, rural heartlands

TWIN ENGINES OF TOMORROW

Karnataka exists as a state of profound and simultaneous realities. On one end of the spectrum lies Bengaluru, a global titan of technology, aerospace, and startup innovation, characterized by its glass facades and restless urban energy. On the other end lies the vast, sun-drenched hinterland—districts like Kalaburagi, Hassan, and Belagavi—where millions of families look to the soil, the seasons, and the skies to sustain their livelihoods. For decades, a conceptual and economic

chasm has separated these two distinct versions of the state. Urban centers have clamored for seamless mobility, cleaner air, and infrastructural upgrades, while rural expanses have demanded equitable market access, technological empowerment, and climate resilience. Today, an unprecedented, multifaceted policy framework is unfolding across Karnataka. Categorized into two comprehensive clusters—one focusing on Farmers, Rural Prosperity, and Rural Development, and the other on Ben-

galuru and Urban Transformation—the state is orchestrating a dual-engine growth strategy. This is not merely a collection of isolated welfare schemes; it is a meticulously woven tapestry of technological integration, infrastructure overhaul, and social guarantees designed to future-proof the state's economy from the ground up. This deep-dive feature explores the intricate details, the sweeping targets, and the anticipated on-ground human impact of these transformative initiatives.

AGRARIAN RENAISSANCE

For generations, agriculture has been heavily reliant on traditional wisdom and the unpredictable mercy of the monsoons. The first cluster of this new policy rollout aims to fundamentally disrupt that narrative. By injecting artificial intelligence, democratizing heavy machinery, securing climate resilience, and opening global export pathways, policymakers are attempting to redefine what it means to be a farmer in the 21st century.



CM Raitha Chaithanya: Karnataka agri-tech mission

Imagine a smallholder farmer in Udupi, traditionally reliant on generational intuition, suddenly receiving localized, algorithmically generated advice directly on their mobile phone. This is the vision of the CM Raitha Chaithanya initiative. Approved on July 19, 2026, and codified through a government order on August 18, 2026, this mission seeks to replace agricultural guesswork with data science. The cornerstone is a massive digital advisory rollout, which launched its AI component on September 10, 2026.

- Financial Outlay:** The mission is backed by tiered funding allocations of ₹250 lakh, ₹200 lakh, and ₹1,201.38 lakh for its various digital and assessment components.
- Communication Scale:** The immediate target is the dissemination of 60 lakh SMS advisories within the year. The rollout is aggressive: 10 lakh messages by October and scaling to 30 lakh by December.
- Conversational AI:** By December 2026, ten pilot districts will be equipped with sophisticated chatbots and voicebots capable of conversing with farmers in native dialects to solve pest issues and advise on irrigation, with a planned expansion to all districts by March 2027.
- Active Outreach:** An outbound calling system is targeting 5,000 personalized calls a day to ensure digital literacy is not a barrier.
- Digital Mapping:** A massive digital crop assessment covering 1,000 square kilometers, and a granular digital crop survey across five specific hoblis (in Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Udupi, Hassan, and Chikkaballapura), are slated for completion by March 31, 2027.



Mukhya Mantri Negila Yogi: Incentivizing farm mechanization

While digital advisories tell a farmer what to do, the physical execution of farming remains incredibly labor-intensive. Recognizing the acute shortage of agricultural labor and the rising costs of traditional farming methods, the Mukhya Mantri Negila Yogi scheme was approved on August 3, 2026, and officially launched on September 10, 2026. This initiative, backed by a robust financial outlay of ₹152.278 crore, incentivizes mechanized farm operations. For the aging farming population, mechanization is no longer a luxury; it is a survival imperative. By providing financial incentives for mechanization, the state enables marginal farmers to plow their land faster and deeper, translating directly into better soil aeration and higher yields.



- Initial Phase:** Backed by ₹50 crore, the program targets 3 lakh farmers covering 3 lakh acres by December 2026.
- Full Scale:** Rapidly expanding to encompass 10 lakh farmers across 15 lakh acres in all 31 districts of the state.

Raita Mitra and Badavara Bandhu: Custom hiring of farm machinery

Closely complementing the mechanization push is the Raita Mitra and Badavara Bandhu initiative. Approved in late August and launched on September 11, 2026, this program tackles the high capital expenditure associated with modern farming equipment. Most smallholders cannot afford to purchase a tractor or an agricultural drone outright. The solution lies in a sharing-economy model adapted for rural landscapes. Operating in collaboration with private partners, these custom hiring centers offer a critical lifeline. A farmer with a half-hectare plot can now utilize a precision seed drill or a heavy-duty harvester that was previously the exclusive domain of wealthy landowners, thereby democratizing the means of production.

Taking Karnataka to the world: Export promotion

Agricultural surplus means little if it does not translate into wealth for the primary producer. The Agriculture, Horticulture, and Allied Export Promotion initiative, backed by a ₹59 crore outlay over three years, is designed to transform local farmers into global suppliers. Launched in early September 2026, the immediate goal is to facilitate 2,000 metric tonnes (MT) of additional agricultural exports within the current year.

- Geographical Expansion:** Coverage will rise from 15 districts to all 31 districts by March 2027.
- Capacity Building:** Training programs will upskill 2,000 farmers and prospective exporters on international logistics, phytosanitary standards, and global market demands.
- Brand Protection (GI Tags):** Aggressive pursuit of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for iconic regional produce, including specific varieties of mango, pomegranate, ragi and millets, rice, and toor dal.
- Infrastructure:** The notification of eight dedicated export clusters will create specialized economic zones tailored for agri-business.



KARNATAKA PROTEIN MISSION

Nutrition and rural economics are intrinsically linked. The Karnataka Protein Mission, launched on September 13, 2026, addresses the state's nutritional security while providing highly lucrative allied income streams for rural communities. With a direct outlay of ₹100 crore and a massive ₹293.11 crore in convergence funds, the mission heavily capitalizes the sector. It targets 40,142 individual beneficiaries and 555 community groups, with goals to inject 11.368 crore eggs into the supply chain, add 1,500 tonnes of fish, and specific targets of 2,931.17 tonnes of meat and 855.90 tonnes of pork.

Weathering the Storm: Climate-resilient rainfed agriculture

As climate change accelerates, rainfed agriculture—which constitutes a massive portion of the state's arable land—is becoming increasingly precarious. The Climate-Resilient Rainfed Agriculture Roadmap, launched on September 11, 2026, acts as a vital defensive maneuver against erratic weather patterns. Projected 5-Year Impact: Yields include a massive rise in pulses from 19.25 lakh MT to 32.04 lakh MT, and oilseeds projected to increase from 10.00 lakh MT to 13.40 lakh MT.

- Immediate Scope (2026-27):** Targeted intervention for 5 lakh farmers across 5 lakh hectares.
- Ultimate Vision:** A massive rollout encompassing 46 lakh farmers across 64 lakh hectares.
- Micro-Irrigation:** Implementation of advanced water-saving micro-irrigation systems across 10 lakh hectares.

UNTANGLING THE GRID: KARNATAKA MOBILITY GRID MISSION

THE URBAN METAMORPHOSIS

If the agrarian initiatives represent a deepening of roots, the urban policies represent a structural overhaul. Bengaluru, the economic engine of the state, has long been a victim of its explosive, uncoordinated growth, leading to legendary traffic gridlocks, strained infrastructure, and deteriorating air quality. The second cluster of the state's plan treats urban transformation holistically.

Urban planning in India has historically been reactive—widening roads only after the traffic becomes unbearable. The Karnataka Mobility Grid Mission, spearheaded by the Urban Development department, aims to shift this to a proactive stance. Approved in August and notified on September 7, 2026, the mission is currently in its critical plan preparation phase.

- Wide Coverage**
Targeting 210 towns through the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and 115 towns through the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP).
- Comprehensive Mobility Network Plans**
Out of a target of 318 plans by March 2027, an impressive 197 have already been prepared.

Digital Commute: 'One Bengaluru and One Karnataka' mobility apps

Karnataka has launched the One Karnataka Mobility App, a unified digital platform bringing together services of the state's four road transport corporations. Chief Minister launched the upgraded KSRTC AWATAR 2.0 mobile app and a WhatsApp ticket-booking service during a 100-day programme at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday. The app is designed to simplify passenger access to booking and transport-related services. Users can securely log in, view previous bookings, manage transactions, and submit complaints related to KSRTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC, and BMTC. They can also monitor complaint status and track the progress of its resolution. Digital monthly bus passes will be

introduced in phases, with QR-code verification planned to make travel more convenient and transparent. Passengers can book tickets for KSRTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC services through WhatsApp by sending a message to 6364940880. The interactive booking system guides travellers through reservation steps and supports payments via UPI, credit cards, debit cards, wallets, and other available methods. Once payment is completed, passengers receive booking confirmation and e-tickets through both WhatsApp and email. The service also allows ticket cancellations through the same WhatsApp number. To cancel a booking, passengers must choose the cancel-

- Booking Process:**
 - Passenger shall select the origin, destination and journey date to search for available bus services.
 - Passenger shall select a suitable bus service based on their travel preference.
 - Passenger shall enter the required passenger details.
 - Passenger shall verify the ticket details and complete the payment using any of the available payment options.

lation option and enter their PNR number, mobile number, and the transaction password received while booking. This gives travellers a simple digital alternative.

Paving the future: Bengaluru road connectivity mission

While public transit is the long-term cure, the immediate symptom—decaying and inadequate road infrastructure—requires urgent surgical intervention. The Bengaluru Road Connectivity Mission is backed by a formidable ₹2,000 crore outlay approved in mid-August 2026. The mission is broken down into 129 highly specific work packages to be tendered throughout 2026-27. This decentralized approach aims to repair arterial roads, fill chronic potholes, and redesign dangerous junctions.

Vidyarthi Mobility Guarantee
Transportation costs should never be a barrier to education. The Vidyarthi Mobility Guarantee, launched rapidly in June 2026, operates on a simple premise: provide a free student bus pass to empower the next generation. As of September 3, 2026, an impressive 8,69,433 passes have already been issued out of a 10 lakh target.

Air Pollution Control Strategies
The Transport Department's policy mandates and financially supports the retrofitting of emission control devices for older three-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, and commercial diesel vehicles. By providing a lower-cost compliance route than outright vehicle replacement, the state protects livelihoods while reducing smog.



The ease of urban living

Effective June 22, 2026, the GBA Town Planning department removed the stringent requirement of an occupancy certificate for securing an electricity connection. This unblocks thousands of residential and commercial properties previously stranded without power.

Securing the safety net

Launched on July 1, 2026, the Energy Department has undertaken a massive verification drive for the Gruha Jyoti scheme, targeting 1.65 crore beneficiaries to ensure energy subsidies reach legitimate households without systemic leakage.

Conclusion

When viewed in isolation, a subsidized rotavator delivered to a farmer in Hassan and a digital metro ticket downloaded by a software engineer in Indiranagar seem to belong to entirely different universes. However, when analyzed as a comprehensive policy matrix, they reveal a state operating with a profound understanding of macroeconomic synchronicity. A state cannot maintain its status as an international technology and aerospace titan if its urban infrastructure collapses under the weight of its own growth. Conversely, it cannot claim true, holistic prosperity if its vast agrarian population remains trapped in cycles of debt, labor shortages, and climate vulnerability. By simultaneously launching the CM Raitha Chaithanya Mission and the One Bengaluru App, by funding the Mukhya Mantri Negila Yogi scheme alongside the ₹2,000 crore Bengaluru Road Connectivity Mission, the administration is effectively firing both engines of its economy. The targets are undeniably ambitious, the outlays are massive, and the timelines are tight.



BJP Padayatra concludes with massive Ballari convention

BJP’s massive convention in Ballari marked the conclusion of its padayatra, drawing thousands of workers and supporters to Municipal College Grounds

CH NEWS, BALLARI

A massive Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) convention began at the Municipal College Grounds in Ballari on Thursday, marking the conclusion of the party’s padayatra in the district. Thousands of BJP workers and supporters gathered at the venue, turning the grounds into a major centre of political activity.

The convention has been organised as the concluding programme of the padayatra conducted by the party. The BJP has made elaborate arrangements for the event, with a large stage prepared to accommodate more than 100 leaders. Party workers from different parts of the district have arrived in large numbers to participate in the programme.

Several senior BJP leaders were already present at the venue. They include Karnataka BJP co-in-charge Sudhakar



Reddy, former minister B. Sriramulu, BJP leader Chhalavadi Narayanaswamy, Raju Gowda Naik, Renukacharya, C.T. Ravi, Murugesh Nirani and actor-turned-politician Jaggesh. Former minister B.P. Harish, Aruna Lakshmedevi, B.C. Patil, Hemalatha Naik, Somashekar Reddy, Bharathi Shetty, Dadesugur and N. Ravikumar were also among those attending the convention.

Several other prominent leaders are expected to join

the programme. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra, former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, R. Ashoka and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai are expected to reach the venue and address the gathering.

The large turnout has created a festive political atmosphere at the Municipal College Grounds. Party workers carrying BJP flags and raising slogans gathered around the venue as preparations contin-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thousands of BJP workers gather at Ballari
- Convention concludes BJP's district-wide padayatra
- Stage prepared to accommodate over 100 leaders
- Several senior Karnataka BJP leaders attend
- Top national leaders expected to address gathering
- Workers raise slogans, creating festive political atmosphere

ued for the arrival of senior leaders. The convention is expected to provide a platform for the party leadership to interact with workers and supporters and highlight its political priorities in Ballari and across Karnataka. The concluding event has also drawn considerable attention because of the participation of several senior state and national BJP leaders.

Quick Read

Lorry crashes into canal, cleaner dies instantly

TUMAKURU

A lorry carrying rice sacks from Tumakuru towards Kunigal plunged into the Hemavathi Canal near Kurudihalli after the driver reportedly lost control. The vehicle hit a roadside divider before overturning into the canal, leaving it badly damaged and rice sacks scattered nearby. The cleaner died at the spot in the crash. The driver, who became trapped inside the mangled vehicle, suffered critical injuries. Local residents and police worked to rescue him before shifting him to Tumakuru District Hospital for treatment. Police suspect speeding and driver negligence may have caused the accident. Kunigal police inspected the scene and began further investigation.

Chitradurga residents urged to conserve water

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Water supply to Chitradurga city is expected to face disruptions as repair work on the jack-well motor at Vani Vilasa Sagara, also known as Mari Kanive, is underway. The reservoir is a major source of drinking water for the city. The repair work is scheduled from September 9 to September 15. Municipal Commissioner Lakshmi has asked residents to use water carefully during this period. She advised people to depend on nearby borewells and RO plants wherever possible. Residents have also been urged to avoid wasting water and cooperate with authorities until the repair work is completed and regular supply resumes.

Eight courses scrapped, students face uncertain future

CH NEWS, HAVERI

More than 100 students and over 20 teaching and non-teaching staff members at Kamataka Janapada University in Haveri district are facing an uncertain future after the Higher Education Department ordered the closure of eight postgraduate courses. The courses were reportedly started without obtaining the required approval from the government and the Governor. The university, located near Gotagodi in Shiggaon taluk, had introduced the courses during the 2018-19 academic year. They included MA Economics, MA Kannada and Folklore, MA English, MA Sociology, Master of Social Work, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and MA Women’s Studies. The Higher Education Department has now directed the university to immediately stop teaching these courses.

The decision has raised concerns among the staff working in the affected departments. University Assistant Registrar Shahajan Mudakavi reportedly

said the government had instructed the university to close the courses and relieve the teaching and non-teaching employees working in them. More than 20 employees are therefore reportedly worried about losing their jobs.

The university was originally permitted to offer programmes related to folklore, including Folk Arts, Folklore Science, Folklore Tourism, Folklore Journalism, Tribal and Women’s Studies and Folklore Literature. However, former vice-chancellors D.B. Nayak and Bhaskar reportedly introduced additional courses without the necessary approvals. The university later sought post-facto approval from the government in 2024 and 2025.

The government constituted a committee headed by Prof. Boralingaiah to examine the matter. The committee reportedly observed that the university should focus only on subjects related to folklore and that offering general subjects like other universities would defeat its purpose.

KSRTC denies rule violations on Hosadurga route

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has rejected allegations that its buses are breaking rules while operating between Hosadurga and Hiriyur.

Divisional Controller Venkatesh said all services on the route are being run according to government regulations.

His statement came after reports quoted Shafulla, president of the Private Bus Owners' Association, claiming that 15 private buses make 35 to 40 trips daily. He alleged that KSRTC was operating 14 single-trip buses, leading to unfair competition for private operators. Venkatesh clarified that the required permits were obtained from the Chitradurga Regional Transport Authority under the approved area scheme and the Karnataka Comprehensive Area Scheme issued by the state government. He said legal approval allows six KSRTC vehicles to make 36 single trips on the route.

Upalokayukta orders officials to clear pending public files

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Karnataka Upalokayukta Justice B. Veerappa inspected the Nagamangala Taluk Office and reviewed pending files, public services and complaints during his visit.

He directed officials to speed up work and ensure people receive services without unnecessary delays.

Around 400 ration card applications were pending in the taluk. The Upalokayukta instructed officials to dispose of them quickly and ensure eligible people receive their cards. Complaints have also been received against 45 of the 95 fair price shops. Officials were told to personally inspect the shops, examine the complaints and take suitable action.

Veerappa also reviewed nearly 500 pending files at the taluk office and ordered officials to give priority to public-related matters. He noted that 353 RTC applications were pending in Nagamangala Kasaba Hobli and directed officials to clear them within 20 days. He also stressed that services should be offered online wherever possible.

The Upalokayukta directed officials to speed up digitisa-



tion of records and files. As many as 2,385 offline records were pending, and officials were instructed to convert them into online records within 20 days. He also asked officials to stay at their headquarters and respond promptly to public complaints.

Veerappa said public work must be completed within the prescribed time without delay. He stressed that transparency, efficiency and accountability should remain central to administration.

Officials were reminded that timely action on public requests can improve trust and make government services more effective. The visit highlighted the need for faster decisions, better record

AT A GLANCE

- 400 ration card applications await speedy disposal
- 45 fair price shops face complaints
- Nearly 500 taluk office files remain pending
- 353 RTC applications must clear within 20 days
- 2,385 offline records need digitisation within 20 days
- Officials told to ensure timely public services

management and stronger public service delivery across the taluk.



Railway projects gain speed across Kolar district

CH NEWS, KOLAR

MP M. Malleash Babu said permission has been granted for a four-line track between Whitefield and Bangarapet, aimed at improving train connectivity.

He said railway development works across Kolar district are being accelerated in phases.

Speaking at a press conference at the Journalists’ Bhavan, he said a required bridge in Malur town has entered the tender process. Efforts are being made to complete the work by June 2027. He added that officials will soon inspect four proposed Road Over-Bridges after discussions with the Rail-

way General Manager.

Funds have been allocated for flyovers near Desihalli and S.N. Resort, and a groundbreaking ceremony will be held soon. He said infrastructure including flyovers is also planned at Sanatorium, Kamasamudra, Kolar, Tekal Road and Urigam. Providing land near Urigam would help complete these works without delay. He urged the district administration to support the projects.

Regarding the bullet train project, Babu said a survey has been completed and construction is expected to begin in 2028. He urged the state government to provide land for

direct rail connectivity between Kolar and Whitefield. Train timings in KGF have changed because of ongoing construction work. He said a new pipeline has been installed to address water stagnation near Khadripura, and inspection will follow.

Finally, Babu said a letter was sent to the Chief Secretary over a protocol breach during Praja Seve Andolana. He said title deeds would be distributed to BGML workers at a programme attended by the Minister. He added that candidate selection would be decided six months ahead and urged JD(S) workers to support NDA candidates.

Attempt to mislead on Kasturirangan report issue: MLA

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

MLA Araga Gyanendra accused Congress leaders of misleading people on the Kasturirangan report issue with the intention of gaining political gains.

Speaking at an emergency press conference in the city on Thursday, he said that a non-partisan discussion should be held keeping in mind the environmental protection of the Western Ghats and the interests of the people there. Environmental protection cannot be done by excluding the people. Therefore, a solution should be found in a way that does not cause any trouble to the residents of the Western Ghats.

The Gadgil Report and the Kasturirangan reports were initiated during the Congress-led UPA government. The Gadgil

Committee was formed during 2009-10 under the leadership of the then Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh. Later, the Kasturirangan Committee was also appointed by the UPA government. The first notification in this regard was also issued during the UPA government. He demanded that if the Congress has any self-respect for the injustice being done by the report, it should apologize to the people of the Western Ghats.

The Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports came out during the period when Kimmane Ratnakar was an MLA from 2008 to 2018. Araga Gyanendra criticized that those who were silent then are now using this issue politically as the elections are approaching.

The question was how much

study does Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa have on the Kasturirangan report, and it is appropriate to conduct a comprehensive study before speaking on the issue.

The state government should prepare a comprehensive report on which areas of the Western Ghats should be included in the scope of the report and which should be excluded, on the model of Kerala, and submit it to the Center. He said that it is not right to blame the Central Government instead of doing that work.

I welcome the state government calling a special session on the Kasturirangan report. A decision will have to be taken in a non-partisan manner. We will all participate in this matter, he said.

Officials urge peaceful, eco-friendly Ganesha festival celebrations

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

District officials have been directed to ensure peaceful Gauri-Ganesha celebrations and encourage eco-friendly idols.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya issued the instruction at a preparatory meeting with district and taluk officials. She asked organizers to follow rules during idol installation and immersion processions, while taking safety measures to prevent untoward incidents during celebrations.

Officials were also told to promote clay idols without chemical paints or Plaster of Paris. Such idols can lower pollution and help protect lakes and other wa-

Guidelines for installing flex boards and banners

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy called for strict rules to control unauthorized installation of flex boards, banners and cutouts in Hiriyur. He said authorities must decide where displays can be placed, the quantity allowed and display period. Rules should be enforced near government offices, minority-populated areas and places where banners could create confusion or disturb peace. Every display must carry printing press details and permission number. Owners must remove banners after the permitted period. Ahead of elections, officials were urged to act quickly as supporters are now putting up displays indiscriminately citywide. Municipal bodies were asked to ensure compliance and maintain public order.

ter bodies. Ramya stressed that protecting lives and property is a shared public duty. Departments

must use checklists to review arrangements and fix even small gaps before the festival.

City Municipal Council commissioners, tahsildars, assistant commissioners and medical officers must stay at their headquarters until celebrations and immersions are over. They may leave only after getting direct permission from the Deputy Commissioner. Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru said security arrangements are ready across the district. Public idols will be installed at 1,783 locations.

About 927 idols are expected to be immersed on the third day and 453 on the fifth day. The Hindu Maha Ganapathi procession in Chitradurga city is set for October 3.



BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager,
Landfill and Legacy Waste Management Division, 1st Floor, BBMP Building,
Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.



No: DGM(L&LWM/BSWML/TEND/11/2026-27 **Date: 10-09-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

1) The Deputy General Manager, Landfill and Legacy Waste Management Division, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the work detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka ([viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in](https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)). The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.

2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka.

3) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract Completion Period
1	Waste Compaction and Operation & Maintenance of Scientific Landfill Facility at Byappanahalli - Eastern Landfill Area. (Call-2)	969.02	Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-Payment under of the following i.e., Online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the Balance Rs. 14,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	As per KPP Portal	3 Months

1) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **17-09-2026 at 15.00 Hours** in the Office of the Chief Engineer and Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, BBMP Building, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

2) Last Date for Submission of the Bids: **22-09-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**

3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **23-09-2026 at 16.30 Hours.**

4) Date of Opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

5) The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the Tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP Portal help desk Telephone Numbers are: **080-22371090 / 22373788**. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.

6) Any corrigendum / addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only.

Sd/-

Deputy General Manager (L&LWM) BSWML

DIPRI/CP/2696/Adverto/2026-27

Justice calls for dignity and safety of senior citizens

Gangannavar said urbanisation, technology and nuclear families challenge seniors, stressing care, respect, protection, legal awareness, and humanitarian values

UDUPI

Principal District and Sessions Judge Kiran Siddappa Gangannavar called for greater public awareness of laws protecting senior citizens, saying such awareness can help prevent abuse and neglect and allow elderly people to live peacefully and with dignity.

He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day workshop on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall in Manipal. The programme was organised by the district administration and several departments and senior citizen organisations. The workshop focused on helping officials and voluntary groups understand and implement the law effectively.

Gangannavar said changing lifestyles, urbanisation, technology and the growth of nuclear families have created



new challenges for elderly people. He said senior citizens carry valuable life experience and wisdom and deserve care, respect and protection. He stressed that legal awareness must be supported by humanitarian and social values.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Abid Gadyal said society must protect senior citizens just as children are cared for while growing up. Deputy Director Premamurthy K. said the rising number

of elderly people has also increased the need for old-age homes and care centres. He said efforts are being made to spread awareness about financial security, healthcare and social inclusion.

District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Nitin Yashwant Rao spoke about ethical values and social responsibilities in implementing laws. Ravindranath Shanbhag discussed important cases and case studies, while retired officer M. Niranjana Bhat ex-

AT A GLANCE

- Greater awareness urged on senior citizens' laws
- Workshop focuses on effective Act implementation
- Changing lifestyles create new elderly care challenges
- More old-age homes and care centres needed
- Financial security, healthcare awareness efforts highlighted
- Senior citizens raise concerns and seek guidance

plained the Act and tribunal procedures. Senior citizens also shared their concerns with officials and received guidance on resolving them. The programme highlighted the need for collective responsibility to ensure elderly people receive security, respect and support.

Development plan faces backlash over tree loss

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

A plan to remove more than 600 mature trees along the Mundargi-Yeklasapura road has sparked strong opposition from environmentalists, farmers, and local residents.

The trees, planted around 12 years ago, have grown into a valuable green cover along the seven-kilometre road. Residents say the trees provide shade, improve the local environment, and offer relief from the region's rising temperatures. They fear their removal will cause lasting environmental damage.

The proposed tree cutting is linked to electricity work for drip irrigation facilities under Package 5 of the Singatapur Lift Irrigation Project. The project aims to supply power to irrigation works in the Alur section. Large electricity poles are now being installed along the roadside. Officials have reportedly planned to remove the trees because their branches and trunks could interfere with the proposed power lines.

Residents have made it



The concerned District Collectors and top officials of the Irrigation Department should immediately pay attention to this and find an alternative way to save these dams and implement the project

- Ashwini Bidnal (Gowda), Farmer activist

clear that they support irrigation facilities for farmers and do not oppose development projects. However, they question whether hundreds of healthy trees should be sacrificed when other options may be available. They say the power lines could possibly be shifted to the opposite side of the road or installed along another route. Such changes, they argue, could protect the trees while allowing the electricity work to continue.

Environmentalists have criticised the departments for choosing what they describe as the easiest solution. They point out that the government spends large amounts encouraging tree planting and protecting greenery, while another project could destroy trees that have taken more than a decade to mature. Locals say

the loss would be especially serious in Gadag, where hot weather and rising temperatures are already a concern. Farmer groups have also warned that they will strongly oppose the cutting.

The issue has now created anger among people who want development to continue without damaging the environment. Environmentalists and residents are demanding that HESCOM and the Irrigation Department reconsider the proposed route and explore safer alternatives. They believe protecting the trees should be treated as part of development, not as an obstacle to it. For locals, the coming decision will test whether development can move forward while preserving the greenery that communities have carefully nurtured for years.

Magadi to distribute 1,008 eco-friendly Ganesha idols

MAGADI

As part of an annual environmental initiative, 1,008 free eco-friendly Gauri-Ganesha idols will be distributed at Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy Temple in Magadi on Sunday, September 13, at 10 a.m.

Committee president H. Shivakumar announced the programme at a press conference on Thursday.

This is the fifth year of the initiative, which began during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. Shivakumar said the programme was started to ensure devotees could receive Ganesha idols freely when idol sales had stopped during the lockdown. The service has

continued every year through the Sri Gauri-Ganesha Free Distribution Committee.

Shivakumar urged people, especially students and youth, to choose clay idols painted with water-based colours instead of chemical-painted or plaster of Paris idols. He suggested immersing the idols at home in a bucket and using the clay for plants and trees.

Former town municipal council president H.J. Purushotham praised the initiative and appealed to residents to support eco-friendly celebrations.

Ministers, legislators, spiritual leaders, political representatives and community leaders are expected to attend the programme.

North Karnataka leaders demand fairer Legislative focus

GADAG

Former minister and MLA H.K. Patil has called for more attention to North Karnataka during the Belagavi Assembly session.

He said time should be divided fairly so the region's problems receive serious discussion instead of constant focus on Bengaluru. Speaking at a civic felicitation event in Gadag, Patil said the concerns of people here must reach the House clearly and regularly. He said regional voices must be heard.

Patil also highlighted the region's educational problems. He said only about five percent of proposals in the proceedings came from North Karnataka, while nearly 80% of university posts were vacant. He described this as evidence of continuing educational backwardness. He urged the government to review the eight key resolutions passed during the Belagavi session. The decisions, he said, should



not remain on paper, but must be implemented through reviews by government officers.

Speaker G.S. Patil said North Karnataka must get more attention because development in its taluks has lagged behind southern districts. He said he had written to the Chief Min-

ister against decisions he felt were unfair to the region. Patil added that raising farmers' concerns was part of his duty. He said he would continue speaking against injustice, even if there was pressure. He also stressed that discipline and unity were necessary.

Council Chairman Salim Ahmed said Gadag, Haveri and Dharwad were his working areas and promised to work with both ruling and opposition parties. He said he would act without bias while handling his constitutional responsibility. Ahmed promised to keep farmers' issues, including drought and water shortages, at the centre of discussions. Deputy Speaker Umashree said holding constitutional offices brought a duty to respect the Constitution.

Former MLA D.R. Patil criticised the opposition for blocking detailed discussion on farmers' difficulties during the drought. He said political differences should not stop cooperation on public issues. He also supported efforts related to cloud seeding and urged all sides to keep the state's needs above political arguments. The event also highlighted Gadag's pride, with leaders from the district holding important posts. Participants said unity mattered.

Dayananda Patil named Bagalkote district Cong chief

BAGALKOTE

Congress party has appointed Dayananda S. Patil as the new Bagalkote district president following an order issued by the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Patil, from Mudhol town, is the son of former MP late S. T. Patil. He holds BA and LLB degrees and has been active in Congress since 2007. He served as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee secretary from 2017 to 2022, and has worked as its general secretary since 2022.

Patil has also trained Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in 36 assembly constituencies across North Karnataka. He served as in-charge of the Chikkodi parliamentary constituency during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. During the 2022 Goa assembly elections, he was appointed AICC in-charge of the Nuvem assembly constituency. He also worked for Congress during Maharashtra assembly elections in 2014, 2019, and 2024. His long organizational experience and election responsibilities are seen as key factors behind the appointment. The new district president is expected to strengthen the party in the district and build stronger coordination among workers for future elections and programmes ahead of future party challenges.

Excise Officials Seize Four Kilograms Of Ganja In Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Excise officials arrested an Andhra Pradesh native and seized 4.17 kilograms of dry ganja, valued at roughly ₹50,000, near Dandinakurubanharti Gate in Chitradurga taluk. The accused was identified as Kari Srinivas, also known as Srinu, from Chinnadoddigallu village. Acting on credible intelligence regarding illicit drug peddling along State Highway-48 toward Challakere, an enforcement team led by the Deputy Superintendent of Excise conducted a raid at the local bus shelter on September 7. Officials recovered the contraband from the suspect's bag and registered an official case at the Chitradurga Zone Excise office.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
FIC Division No-4, Almel. Tq:Sindagi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Phone No:08488 -232016, Email:eeefic4@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/FIC/D-4/PB/4705/NIT/2026-27/181 Dated:02.09.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal)

on behalf of the Administrator Krishna CADA Bheemaranagudi, the Executive Engineer KBJNL FIC Division No.4, Almel, invites the **Percentage tenders**, from eligible contractors registered in KPWD for **22 No. of works** under **4705-132** Head of Account. The Tenderers are required to submit the bid in **Single Cover system for KW1, KW2 and Two Cover system for KW3** through e-proc 2.0 The detailed information may be had from the undersigned during office hours or [http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in\(e-proc2.0\)](http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in(e-proc2.0))

Calender of Events;
Tender Notification No. No. 180 Date:-02.09.2026
Access to e-Tender **11.09.2026, 11-00 AM** Onwards
Last Date for Queries **23.09.2026** Up to 4.00 PM
Last Date of submission of Bid in e-Portal **25.09.2026** Up to 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid **28.09.2026** Up to 11.00 AM
Date of Opening of Financial Bid **30.09.2026** Up to 11.00 AM
1) If any Calender of event dates are postponed that shall be published in KPPP portal only, not in newspapers publication.
2) In any circumstances, without any reason, the tender inviting authority can reject or cancel the tenders.
3) For further details and queries approach division office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, FIC Division -4, Almel.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಘ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/301/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎಂಎ/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ - 581 334
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08387-295236 E-mail: dcf.honavar@gmail.com
ಸಂ. ಎ/2/ಬೆಚ್/ಚಿಂಡರ/ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ/ದ-59/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.08.2026

ಚಿಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(1) 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ರಚನೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನರ್ಸರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026 ರಂದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಒಟ್ಟು 10 ಯುನಿಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಂಡರು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(2) 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕುಮಟಾ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ರಚನೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನರ್ಸರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026 ರಂದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಒಟ್ಟು 12 ಯುನಿಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಂಡರು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(3) 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಭಟಕಳ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ರಚನೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನರ್ಸರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026 ರಂದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಒಟ್ಟು 8 ಯುನಿಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಂಡರು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 93.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(4) 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಗೇರಸಪ್ಪಾ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಚೂಣಿ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಕ ಗೃಹ (Group Housing Model) ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು 1 ಯುನಿಟಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026 ರಂದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 67.92 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಚಿಂಡರುದಾರರು <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08387-295236 ಮೂಲಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹ/- ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/417/26-27 dt. 10.09.2026

Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru
Website: www.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in
Office No:0816-2272200, Helpline: 9449872599
e-mail : ka.tumakuru.cc@gmail.com
No:TCC/Engineer Section/ele&ws/Tender/CR/16/2026-27
DATED: 07.09.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

The Commissioner, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for Tumakuru City Corporation, for 01 Nos Electrical Related Tumakuru Dasara temporary illumination Work, One Water supply related work under General fund 2026-24 For more information go to website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> and contact technical section in the office hours.

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Scheduled calendar of events and other information are as follows:

1. Date of Queries of Tenders : 10-09-2026 at 4.30 pm. 2. Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 16-09-2026 at 5.00pm. 3. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 17-09-2026 at 5.00 pm onwards Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakuru City Corporation Tumakuru
DIPR/TUM/254/KSMCA/2026-27

 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ೮, ಚಿಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.			
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಆಪ್ರಾ/ವಿಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ(ಬಿಬಿಎ-1)/19/2026-27			ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.09.2026
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ			
PRR-1 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 29.07.2027ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹಾಗೂ 2022ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ/ವಾರಸುದಾರರಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಣಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಆಇ 168 ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್, 2024(ಇ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.10.2025 ಮತ್ತು ಸಆಇ 168 ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್, 2024(ಇ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026ರಂದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ವಿವಿಧ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್-1) ಯೋಜನೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬಿಬಿಎ-1 ರವರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಯಲಹಂಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಲಹಂಕ/ಜಾಲ ಹೋಬಳಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಾದ (1) ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, (2) ಕೆಂಚೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, (3) ವಾಸುದೇವಪುರ, (4) ವೆಂಕಟಾಳ, (5) ಮಂಚೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, (6) ವಡೇರಪುರ, (7) ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆನಹಳ್ಳಿ, (8) ಕೋಗಿಲು ಮತ್ತು (9) ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.			
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹೆಸರು	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ/ರೇವಿನ್ಯೂ/ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು
1	ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 18/1, 18/2, 19/2, 19/3, 19/4, 21/1, 23, 27/2 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	KEBECSL/(KEB) ಲೇಔಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
2	ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ	28/1, 28/2 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	MCHS ಲೇಔಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
3	ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 29/1 & 2 ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 38/1 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಾಸನಿ/ರೇವಿನ್ಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
4	ವೆಂಕಟಾಳ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 69/1 & 2, 70 ಮತ್ತು 71 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಲೇಔಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ವಿಶ್ವಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬಾಲಾಜಿ ಲೇಔಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
5	ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆನಹಳ್ಳಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 126, 127/1, 2, 3, 128/1, 2, 3 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಾಸನಿ/ರೇವಿನ್ಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
6	ಕೋಗಿಲು	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 10, 12, 13/1,2,3,4,5, 14, 15/1, 16, 48/1,2,3,4, 49, 64, 65/3, III ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಾಸನಿ/ರೇವಿನ್ಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
7	ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂ. 22, 26/1, 65 ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳು	ಶಾಸನಿ/ರೇವಿನ್ಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು
ಈ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವಂತಹ ವಿವಿಧ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್. ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಪಂಕ್ತಿಕ್ರೋಮೋಳಿಗೆ ರಚನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೋರಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಾನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು/ವಾರಸುದಾರರು/ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು/ಆಸಕ್ತಿದಾರರುಗಳು/ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆಯುವವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬಿಬಿಎ-1 ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಅನ್ವಯ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸಹಾಯಾಣಿ/ವಾಟರ್ಸ್: 9483166622 (24x7). @BDAOOfficialGok			
ಸಹ/- ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ -01, ಪೆಂಪ್ಲೆರಲ್ ರಿಂಗ್ ರಸ್ತೆ-1, ಬೆಂ.ಆ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು			

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- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

100 DAYS OVER, D.K. SHIVAKUMAR’S REAL TEST BEGINS NOW

The countdown to 2028 has begun, and the Chief Minister has little room for political complacency. D.K. Shivakumar may have completed 100 days in office as Chief Minister, but the real test of his political acumen begins now. With the Karnataka Assembly elections due in April-May 2028, he has roughly 18 months to rebuild the image of the Congress government, contain growing discontent within the party and prepare the organisation for what promises to be a fiercely contested electoral battle.

Shivakumar is undoubtedly a seasoned politician and an astute strategist. He played a crucial role in the Congress’s impressive victory in the 2023 Assembly elections, when the party crossed the 130-seat mark. The victory, however, was driven not merely by the Congress campaign but also by strong anti-incumbency against the previous BJP government and widespread criticism of its governance.

The irony today is that the Congress government appears to be facing some of the very challenges that helped bring it to power. A series of controversies and allegations, rising costs of essential services, the financial pressure created by the five guarantee schemes and growing factionalism within the ruling party have begun to test the government’s credibility. While the guarantees have provided political dividends, managing the state’s finances while meeting these commitments remains a formidable challenge.

For Shivakumar, therefore, improving the government’s image is not simply a matter of administration. It is an electoral necessity. One of the most politically sensitive issues confronting the Congress is its handling of religious and community-related questions. Sections of the party have adopted an increasingly aggressive position against the RSS and other Hindu organisations. Such statements may enrage a section of the party’s traditional support base, but they also risk alienating a wider section of voters.

More importantly, apprehension appears to be growing among some Congress legislators that excessive reliance on identity politics and what critics describe as minority appeasement could hurt them in the next election. Individual ministers may gain political mileage by making provocative statements, but the electoral consequences are ultimately borne by the entire party. Shivakumar, meanwhile, appears to be pursuing a different political strategy. His frequent temple visits and public association with Hindu religious traditions, including his recitation of the RSS anthem on an occasion, have been interpreted as an attempt to project a broader Hindu identity and connect with the majority community. Whether this strategy will translate into votes remains to be seen. But one thing is clear: the Congress cannot afford to send contradictory political signals to the electorate.

The BJP, for its part, appears to have sensed an opportunity. The successful Bellary padayatra has given the opposition party renewed confidence and provided its cadre with a much-needed sense of momentum.

THE SILENT RESURGENCE OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC SPACES

In an era dominated by digital acceleration and isolated screen routines, an unprecedented movement is quietly reshaping our cities: the revival of the neighborhood public park. For decades, urban planning prioritized rapid commercial development and vehicular transit, gradually reducing communal green spaces to mere afterthoughts. However, recent civic initiatives across major metropolitan centers are reversing this trajectory, converting vacant lots and abandoned rail corridors into vibrant, accessible public grounds.

These rejuvenated spaces serve as essential anchors for civic life. Beyond offering environmental relief from urban heat islands, they provide neutral territory where diverse demographics mingle, converse, and build social cohesion. Sociologists observe that communities with accessible green infrastructure report lower stress levels, stronger civic engagement, and heightened neighborhood safety. When citizens share a common physical space, the boundaries of urban isolation begin to dissolve.

Urban authorities are taking notice, shifting municipal budgets to fund sustainable community design. Yet, the long-term success of these spaces relies heavily on local stewardship. When residents actively participate in maintaining their public squares, they reclaim a sense of shared ownership over their environment. Investing in public spaces is not merely an aesthetic choice; it is a vital strategy for fostering healthy, connected, and resilient human communities.

- ELENA VANCE

BENGAL’S BOLD STEP TOWARDS AN INDIAN EDUCATION RENAISSANCE

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

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



- LALIT GARG

extensive voluntary educational networks.

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

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

“That is the educational transformation India needs and perhaps Bengal has an opportunity to show the way”.

ophy, literature, agriculture, architecture, medicine, sports and other areas of India’s contribution to human civilisation. The policy also stresses the importance of connecting the curriculum with Indian and local contexts, including culture, traditions, languages, geography and indigenous knowledge traditions. Seen from this perspective, the educational experiment of Vidya Bharati and several objectives of the National Education Policy appear broadly complementary. The distinction is that



NEP 2020 provides a national policy framework, whereas voluntary organisations such as Vidya Bharati have been experimenting with value-based education at the grassroots level for decades. This complementarity can become particularly meaningful if the West Bengal government links the proposed expansion with high-quality teacher training, modern science, technology, digital learning, skill development and constitutional values. In that case, the initiative could transcend the simple objective of opening new schools and evolve into a wider educational transformation. For opening schools is relatively easy. Building good schools is much harder.

The real challenge lies in providing competent teachers, trained principals, well-equipped libraries, laboratories, sports facilities, digital resources and relevant teaching material. Therefore, the success of this initiative should not be measured merely by the number of schools established. It must ultimately be judged by the quality of education delivered and the quality of citizens produced. If the

new institutions become merely impressive buildings, the objective will remain incomplete. But if they become centres where children acquire knowledge, discipline, confidence, compassion, scientific temper, cultural awareness and a sense of responsibility, the initiative could indeed become historic. This is also where the role of voluntary organisations becomes crucial.

A particularly powerful dimension would be a comprehensive teacher-development programme. Teachers of the new institutions should be equipped not only with knowledge of Indian philosophy and cultural traditions but also with modern pedagogy, child psychology, artificial intelligence, digital technology, skill-based education and contemporary assessment methods. A teacher who understands both India’s civilisational heritage and the rapidly changing technological world can become a genuine nation-builder. The proposed expansion in districts such as Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas has also been discussed in the context of concerns regarding alleged anti-national activities. Whatever the political dimensions of such statements, the educational question is much larger and more constructive: Can schools in socially diverse and sensitive regions strengthen constitutional citizenship, scientific thinking, social harmony, civic responsibility and national integration? The best answer education can provide to social anxieties is not suspicion towards any community. It is the creation of responsible, informed and conscious citizens among children belonging to every community.

THE CROW’S AMAZING MEMORY: REMEMBERING FACES FOR YEARS

Crows are often regarded as ordinary black birds, but scientific research reveals that they possess remarkably sophisticated learning and memory abilities. One of the most fascinating discoveries is their ability to recognize and remember individual human faces especially faces associated with danger.

Researchers at the University of Washington studied wild American crows and found that the birds could learn to recognize a particular human face after a negative encounter. In one experiment, researchers wore distinctive masks while capturing and releasing crows. Later, the birds responded strongly to those same masks by making alarm calls and gathering together.

What makes this ability especially remarkable is its durability. The original experiments demonstrated recognition for at least 2.7 years, showing that a brief experience could create a surprisingly long-lasting memory.



Later observations of the same research population suggested that the learned response could persist for many years.

Crows can also learn socially. A crow does not necessarily have to experience a threat itself to learn that a particular person may be dangerous. Researchers found evidence that young crows can learn from their parents, while other crows can learn by observing the alarm and mobbing behaviour of their companions. In this way, information about

a perceived threat can spread through a crow community.

This does not mean that crows remember events exactly as humans do, or that they experience a human-like “grudge.” A more scientific explanation is that they form strong associations between a recognizable face and an experience they consider threatening. When they encounter that face again, their learned response is activated.

Scientists have even investigated what happens inside the crow’s brain. Brain-imag-



- DR. VIJAY GARG

ing research found that familiar threatening and caring faces activate different neural circuits involved in perception, attention, emotion and learning. This provides evidence that crows are not simply reacting randomly; their brains process familiar human faces in sophisticated ways.

The story of the crow teaches us an important lesson about animal intelligence. Intelligence does not belong exclusively to humans or mammals. Birds have evolved remarkable ways of observing their surroundings, remembering important information and learning from one another.

So, the next time you see a crow watching from a tree or rooftop, it may be doing more than simply looking at you. Its sharp eyes and powerful memory are part of a sophisticated survival system one that helps it recognize danger, learn from experience and pass useful information to others.

“The crow may look ordinary, but its memory is anything but ordinary”.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Urgent need for Urban Greenery

Rapid urbanization is transforming our cities into concrete landscapes, sacrificing natural green cover for high-rise infrastructure. As summer temperatures reach unprecedented highs, urban heat islands are becoming an urgent public health crisis. Concrete surfaces absorb solar heat, worsening air quality and increasing cooling energy demands. Expanding urban forestry, establishing rooftop gardens, and preserving existing public parks are immediate necessities rather than architectural luxuries. Green spaces act as natural carbon sinks, absorb storm water runoff, reduce noise pollution, and greatly enhance community mental well-being.

- Girish Nair

Governing Sovereign AI Deployment

The rapid escalation of agentic artificial intelligence into national infrastructure, law enforcement, and financial networks demands urgent global regulatory standards. While algorithmic autonomy offers unprecedented efficiency, deploying self-executing AI agents without clear human oversight introduces systemic vulnerability. Emerging state-level regulations are overly fragmented, leaving critical gaps that cross-border technology can easily exploit. Leaving AI governance to corporate self-regulation poses profound risks to public privacy, democratic transparency, and national security.

- Elena Rostova

Safeguarding Global Supply Networks

Recent geopolitical tensions and increasing export restrictions on critical minerals highlight the fragile nature of global supply chains. As key industrial powers restrict access to essential raw materials, manufacturing sectors worldwide face severe operational disruption, rising production costs. Relying heavily on centralized trade routes and single-source suppliers exposes modern economies to continuous political leverage and sudden supply shocks. To build lasting economic resilience, nations must accelerate local recycling technologies, diversify international trade partnerships, and invest in sustainable processing infrastructure.

- Marcus Vance

INDIA'S SPORTING RENAISSANCE: FROM MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM



India has traditionally been known as a nation obsessed with one sport. For decades, cricket was not just a game but a religion, while other sports lived in its long shadow. However, a quiet but powerful transformation has taken place in the last few years. Today, sports in India is no longer a one-sport story; it is a multi-disciplinary movement gaining unprecedented importance, investment, and inspiration.

One of the most visible reasons for this shift is India's improved performance on the global stage. The Tokyo Olympics 2020 and the recent Paris Olympics 2024 were watershed moments. Neeraj Chopra's javelin gold, PV Sindhu's consistent brilliance, the men's hockey team ending a 41-year medal drought, and the rise of athletes in wrestling, boxing, and badminton showed the country that victory is possible beyond cricket. These heroes have become household names, giving young children new dreams and new role models to emulate.

This success is not accidental. It is the result of a changing ecosystem. Government initiatives like Khelo India, Target Olympic Podium Scheme [TOPS], and Fit India Movement have systematically identified talent at the grassroots level and provided financial support, world-class coaching, and international exposure.

Private leagues have also revolutionized the landscape. The Indian Super League [ISL] for football, Pro Kabaddi League, Premier Badminton League, and Ultimate Table Tennis have brought professionalism, money, and prime-time visibility to indigenous and non-cricket sports. They have made athletes financially secure and sports a viable career option.

Furthermore, the societal attitude towards sports as a career has changed dramatically. Earlier, middle-class parents discouraged their children from taking up sports, fearing an insecure future and prioritizing academics. Today, parents are increasingly willing to enroll their children in sports academies.

The success of athletes from small towns and modest backgrounds has proven that sports can bring not only fame but also economic upliftment. The media, too, has played a crucial role by broadcasting diverse sports and celebrating athletes' journeys.

The economic dimension is equally significant. The sports industry in India is now a multi-billion-dollar market involving sponsorships, sports goods, fitness technology, broadcasting rights, and sports tourism. This growth generates employment for coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists, sports managers, and data analysts, creating a whole new professional sector. For a young nation with 65% of its population under 35, this is a demographic dividend waiting to be channeled.

However, challenges remain. Rural talent still lacks access to quality infrastructure.

Gender disparity persists, with women athletes often struggling for equal pay and facilities. Doping, corruption in sports federations, and lack of scientific training in many districts are issues that need urgent attention.

In conclusion, the increasing importance of sports in India is more than just about winning medals. It is about building a healthier, fitter, and more confident nation.

Sports teaches discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership values that a developing nation desperately needs. If this momentum is sustained with inclusive policies and continued investment, the day is not far when India will not just participate in global sporting events but dominate them. The playground is finally becoming as important as the classroom.

- ASHLEY SHARAN R

ERADICATING CHILD LABOR REQUIRES DECISIVE GLOBAL ACTION



Across the globe, millions of children are routinely denied their fundamental right to a safe childhood, education, and basic dignity. Despite decades of international treaties, economic charters, and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating exploitation, child labor remains a persistent human rights crisis. Today, vast numbers of young individuals are forced into agricultural fields, sweatshops, brick kilns, and informal domestic work. This pervasive reality not only robs children of their formative years, but it also systematically undermines the socio-economic stability of developing communities worldwide.

The root causes of child labor are deeply intertwined with systemic poverty, economic inequality, and inadequate access to affordable education. When families face extreme financial hardship, children are often viewed as essential breadwinners needed to ensure household survival. Unscrupulous employers frequently exploit this vulnerability, favoring young workers because they are cheap, easily manipulated, and unlikely to demand fair wages or safe working conditions. Moreover, sudden economic shocks, regional conflicts, and climate induced disasters continually push millions more vulnerable households below the poverty line, further exacerbating the crisis.

Allowing child labor to persist creates a self-perpetuating cycle of generational poverty. When children are pulled out of classrooms to enter the workforce, they are deprived of the foundational literacy, vocational training, and critical skills necessary for higher-paying adult employment. As a result, they remain trapped in low-wage, unskilled labor cycles, eventually raising families that must rely on child labor to survive. Breaking this intergenerational trap requires viewing free, accessible, and high-quality public education not as a luxury, but as an indispensable human right and economic necessity.

To effectively eradicate child labor, govern-

ments must move beyond token declarations and enforce comprehensive legislative reform. Labor laws must be strictly applied across all sectors, including informal and rural economies where oversight is historically weak. Supply chain transparency is equally crucial; multinational corporations must be held legally accountable for auditing their third-party contractors to ensure no stage of production relies on exploited youth.

When businesses face stiff financial penalties and public accountability for labor violations, the economic incentive to exploit young workers diminishes significantly.

At the same time, legal enforcement must be paired with robust social safety nets. Governments must invest in targeted cash transfer programs, subsidized healthcare, and community-level nutritional support to relieve the financial pressure on low-income families. When

parents are provided with basic economic stability, the financial pressure to send children to work vanishes. Community awareness campaigns are also vital to shifting cultural attitudes that normalize youth employment over schooling.

Eradicating child labor is both a moral imperative and an economic necessity. No society can build a prosperous, sustainable future on the backs of its most vulnerable citizens. Protecting the rights of young people requires a coordinated, sustained commitment from governments, international agencies, civil society, and global corporations. By prioritizing compulsory education, enforcing strict labor standards, and alleviating household poverty, the global community can finally ensure that every child is granted the freedom to learn, grow, and thrive.

- ALLY SIM

SACRED PETALS: JASMINE'S ROLE IN INDIAN CULTURE



In the vast tapestry of Indian heritage, few botanical elements possess a presence as enduring, deeply cherished, and culturally significant as the jasmine flower. Known locally by various regional names such as Mogra, Mallipoo, Mullai, and Jui, this unassuming white blossom holds a place of profound honor across the subcontinent. Far beyond its visual delicacy, the jasmine represents a subtle yet powerful thread connecting spiritual devotion, social traditions, daily aesthetic rituals, and ancient wellness philosophies across generations of Indian life.

Central to jasmine's revered status is its deep-rooted association with sacred practices and divine symbolism. In Hindu philosophy, the pristine white hue of the jasmine petal symbolizes purity, innocence, and spiritual transcendence, while its captivating fragrance represents divine grace. The flower is intimately woven into daily temple rituals and home altars across India. It serves as a favored offering to deities such as Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Goddess Lakshmi. Unlike many seasonal blooms, the persistent fragrance of jasmine which intensifies during the stillness of the night is viewed as a metaphor for divine love and un-

wavering faith that illuminates even the darkest hours.

Beyond spiritual worship, jasmine plays an essential role in marking major life transitions and cultural ceremonies. At Indian weddings, woven garlands of fresh jasmine are exchanged between couples, symbolizing purity, auspicious beginnings, and everlasting matrimonial harmony. The flowers grace mandate spaces, bridal attire, and traditional venues, filling the air with a calming aroma that ele-

vates the sacred ambience.

In Southern India, the practice of Gajra stringing fresh jasmine buds into intricate hair adornments worn by women is a centuries-old tradition that transcends social boundaries. It is celebrated as a symbol of grace, prosperity, personal care, and timeless feminine beauty.

Jasmine also holds an indispensable position in traditional Indian medicine and holistic wellness systems like Ayurveda. Historically

valued for its therapeutic properties, the fragrance of jasmine (Jati) is celebrated for its natural cooling and mood-elevating qualities. Ayurvedic principles utilize jasmine extracts to soothe the nervous system, alleviate stress, relieve headaches, and promote emotional balance. Furthermore, the essential oils derived from its delicate petals have long formed the heart of traditional Indian perfumery (Attar), offering a natural fragrance that lingers as an embodiment of elegance and tranquility.

In contemporary India, even as rapid urbanization and modern lifestyles transform daily routines, the cultural resonance of the jasmine flower remains entirely undiminished. Street vendors carrying fresh, hand-strung jasmine strands remain a ubiquitous sight outside temples, train stations, and bustling city markets, bridging the gap between ancient custom and modern daily life.

Ultimately, the jasmine flower is much more than a simple blossom; it is an enduring living emblem of India's rich cultural identity, seamlessly blending the sacred, the aesthetic, and the sensory into an unforgettable expression of tradition.

-SHARON FAUSTINA J

UNLOCKING HUMAN POTENTIAL THROUGH DAILY READING HABITS



In an era increasingly dominated by short-form video content, algorithmic notifications, and rapid-fire social media feeds, the sustained act of reading books has become a quiet act of cognitive resistance. While digital media offers immediate stimulation, it often fragments human attention, reducing our capacity for deep, analytical thought. Books, by contrast, demand presence, imagination, and continuous mental engagement. Cultivating a regular reading habit is not merely a nostalgic hobby; it remains an indispensable foundation for personal development, intellectual growth, and emotional well-being in a fast-paced world.

At its core, reading books serves as a powerful engine for cognitive enhancement. Unlike passive entertainment, engaging with written narrative or complex non-fiction requires active mental processing. As eyes trace words across a page, the brain constructs vivid imagery, decodes intricate arguments, and retains structural details across chapters. Neuroscience demonstrates that this process strengthens neural pathways, enhances long-term

memory retention, and improves concentration span. In a professional landscape where critical reasoning and complex problem-solving are paramount, reading books equips individuals with the mental discipline needed to process nuanced in-

formation without falling prey to superficial conclusions.

Beyond intellectual development, literature provides an irreplaceable framework for emotional intelligence and empathy. Fiction, in particular, invites readers to step

inside the minds of characters whose backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences differ vastly from their own. Experiencing worldviews through another perspective breaks down ideological biases, fosters compassion, and expands emotional literacy. By witnessing how characters navigate grief, triumph, conflict, and ethical dilemmas, readers develop a deeper understanding of human nature. This expanded empathy directly translates into real-world relationships, enabling better communication, conflict resolution, and social cohesion across diverse communities.

Furthermore, books serve as the ultimate democratizer of knowledge, offering lifelong education to anyone willing to open a cover. Through written literature, readers gain direct access to the accumulated wisdom, scientific discoveries, and philosophical insights of human history. Whether exploring historical biographies, scientific treatises, or modern self-improvement guides, reading provides actionable tools to navigate contemporary challenges. It expands vocabulary, refines language acquisition, and sharpens written expression

skills that are essential for effective leadership, academic success, and career progression across all disciplines.

In addition to these intellectual and emotional benefits, reading offers a vital sanctuary for mental health. Taking time to immerse oneself in a book provides a structured respite from the constant sensory overload of modern life. Studies show that even a brief session of reading significantly reduces stress levels, slows heart rates, and eases mental fatigue by diverting attention away from daily anxieties. Substituting screen time with a book before sleep also improves rest quality, creating a healthier daily routine.

In conclusion, the importance of reading books cannot be overstated in our modern society. It is the bedrock of critical thinking, emotional depth, and continuous self-improvement. By prioritizing books over fleeting digital distractions, we invest in our own cognitive resilience and safeguard our capacity for thoughtful reflection.

- HEPSIBA

Quick Read

DRI seizes
amphetamine worth
Rs 1.6 crore in Indore

INDORE
The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested a suspected drug trafficker and seized 2.067 kg of amphetamine worth around ₹1.6 crore in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Acting on intelligence, DRI officials intercepted a passenger travelling by bus from Delhi to Indore at the Indore-Dewas Toll Plaza on September 9. A search of his baggage led to the recovery of four sealed envelopes hidden inside salwar suit sets. Field tests confirmed the substance as amphetamine. The four packets, weighing 2,067 grams including packaging, were seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The suspect was arrested under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway.

Pune man rescued
after alleged
abduction

PUNE
Pune City Police rescued a 28-year-old man allegedly abducted in a black Scorpio in the early hours of Thursday. Two suspects were arrested after police tracked the vehicle following an emergency call around 12:30 am. The victim, Prasad Suryavanshi, was allegedly assaulted and taken towards Sinhadag Road after he spoke with a female friend of one accused, police said. Suryavanshi was rescued and provided medical treatment. Police identified the arrested suspects as Sagar Ramesh Borade, 32, and Kishor Balasaheb Sawant, 32. A case has been registered against four people, while efforts are underway to trace the remaining two accused. Further investigation is underway.

Rajasthan women
use slingshots to
restore Aravallis

JAIPUR
Women in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district are using traditional slingshots to spread seed balls across barren and rocky areas of the Aravalli hills. The initiative, running for eight years, aims to restore vegetation in places difficult to reach through regular plantation. The seed balls contain soil, cow dung, organic material and seeds of local plants. More than 1.5 lakh seed balls have been scattered across several areas, while 50,000 seeds are targeted this year. Each ball costs about ₹2 and has recorded a success rate of around 70 per cent. Students, villagers and environmental groups also participate in the campaign.

Rajasthan urban polls
enter second phase

JAIPUR
Rajasthan will hold the second phase of its urban local body elections on Friday, with 87,60,884 voters eligible to cast ballots across 147 civic bodies. Polling will take place from 7 am to 6 pm at 9,758 polling booths, with 18,266 candidates contesting for 4,774 wards. The second phase covers six municipal corporations, 24 municipal councils and 117 municipalities. The corporations going to polls are Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur and Pali. Jaipur is the largest civic body in this phase, with 150 wards, 723 candidates, 24.33 lakh voters and 2,256 polling stations. Jodhpur has 100 wards and 7.12 lakh voters, while Kota also has 100 wards and 8.26 lakh voters. Ajmer has 80 wards and 4.38 lakh voters, Udaipur has 80 wards and 4.16 lakh voters, and Pali has 65 wards with 1.81 lakh voters. Officials said polling parties have been dispatched and arrangements completed for the election. Jaipur has 2,204 main polling stations and 52 auxiliary stations. The first phase, held on September 9 across 162 urban local bodies, recorded a 76.41 per cent turnout, with 20,623 candidates contesting 5,393 wards.



Maharashtra to become
India's nuclear power hub

Maharashtra plans over ₹6 lakh crore in nuclear investments, aiming to create 1.5 lakh jobs and expand its energy sector.

MUMBAI
Maharashtra is set to emerge as India's nuclear power hub, with proposed investments of more than ₹6 lakh crore expected to generate around 1.5 lakh jobs. Chief Minister and Energy Minister Devendra Fadnis are overseeing the programme, with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited guiding the state. The state has a long history in nuclear energy. Tarapur Atomic Power Station, commissioned in 1969, was home to India's first two nuclear power plants and is located nearly 140 km from Mumbai. Tarapur now has four reactors, with Units 1 and 2 having 60 MW capacity each, while Units 3 and 4 have 540 MW each. The state's expansion plans include the proposed 9,900 MW Jaitapur nuclear project in Ratnagiri, being developed by NPCIL with France's EDF. Several major companies have also signed agreements or proposed projects across

Delhi court
orders charges in
IRCTC money
laundering case

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Thursday ordered the framing of money laundering charges against former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and four others in a case linked to alleged irregularities in the allotment of two IRCTC hotels. Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court said there was a "strong suspicion" against the accused regarding the offence of money laundering. The court also rejected the defence argument that the investigation was driven by political vendetta. The judge observed that the nature, timing and course of the investigation did not support the claim of political motivation. The court's order allows the case to proceed against the accused under the money laundering allegations arising from the hotel allotment case. The nine accused facing trial include Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav. Others named are Lalu's close associate Prem Chand Gupta and his wife Sarla Gupta, along with Sujata Hotels directors Vinay Kochhar and Vijay Kochhar, and the companies Lara Projects and Sujata Hotels. The case concerns alleged irregularities in the allotment of two IRCTC hotels. With the court directing that charges be framed, the proceedings will now move forward against the accused. The order marks another significant stage in the long-running case involving the former railway minister and members of his family.

Rajasthan urban polls
enter second phase

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Maharashtra. These include Reliance Industries, Adani Power, NTPC, JSW Energy, Torrent Power and the Bajaj Group. Adani Power and Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy have proposed a 6,000 MW project at Barsu in Ratnagiri with an investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore and employment potential of around 12,000. Reliance has proposed reactors at Purnagadh, with investments ranging from ₹8,000 crore to ₹2 lakh crore and potential employment exceeding one lakh. NTPC has proposed a 4,000-7,200 MW plant at Devgad, involving about ₹1 lakh crore and around 5,000 jobs. JSW Energy plans a 2,800 MW plant at Bhiv Bunder with ₹44,000 crore investment and 8,000-10,000



Arunachal targets Mission
Shikshit goals by 2029

ITANAGAR
Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday said the state government is undertaking major education reforms to improve the quality of government schools and aims to achieve the objectives of Mission Shikshit Arunachal by 2029. The reforms are being implemented alongside the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Khandu said a task force was formed to implement NEP 2020, followed by consultations with community organisations and other stakeholders. The government is rationalising schools and strengthening the Inter-Village school model, with greater focus on infrastructure and adequate teachers, particularly subject specialists. He also highlighted the encouraging increase in government school enrolment in recent years. Addressing the Golden Jubilee Meritorious Students Awards ceremony, Khandu felicitated 30 state-level toppers from Classes III to XII, while around 840 students received awards at the district level. The award was instituted in 2022 and its implementation began from the 2023-24 academic year. He urged students to remain disciplined, focused and committed to excellence while preserving Arunachal's traditions of respecting parents, elders and teachers. The Chief Minister also

INSIGHTS ON
NUCLEAR POWER
GROWTH

- ₹6 lakh crore+ investment planned in Maharashtra's nuclear sector.
 - Around 1.5 lakh jobs expected to be created.
 - Tarapur became home to India's first nuclear plants in 1969.
 - Jaitapur project has a proposed capacity of 9,900 MW.
 - Adani, Reliance, NTPC, JSW, Torrent and Bajaj have proposed nuclear projects.
- jobs. Torrent Power has proposed a 1,400 MW plant worth ₹35,000 crore, while Bajaj Group has committed ₹2 lakh crore for 5,000 MW, with around 3,000 jobs expected.



Sonam Wangchuk announces
fresh Ladakh protest plans

NEW DELHI
Activist Sonam Wangchuk has warned of a fresh agitation in Ladakh from September 19 to 24 if the government fails to give an assurance within a week on the region's key demands. His warning came after he expressed disappointment over talks between Ladakh groups and a Ministry of Home Affairs sub-committee in New Delhi. The meeting on September 9 focused on demands for statehood and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh. Wangchuk said leaders of the Apex Body of Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance were disappointed with the discussions, claiming that little new had emerged. The groups had expected progress on a detailed draft for a proposed Ladakh Assembly, including its powers and rights. The Leh Apex Body is ob-



**Wangchuk warns of fresh
Ladakh protests from
September 19 to 24 if the
government fails to
assure action on key
demands.**

serving September as a "Martyrs' Month" to remember people killed, injured or jailed during last year's unrest. A planned padyatra from Kargil to Leh on September 10 was postponed because of the MHA talks. Wangchuk said the march could be revived if the discussions failed to deliver a satisfactory outcome. Wangchuk, who spent six months in Jodhpur jail after being booked under the Na-

**"We have collectively
decided to postpone the
padyatra for the time being."**
—Sonam Wangchuk, Activist

tional Security Act last September, has remained a prominent figure in the Ladakh statehood movement. The government had blamed him for provoking violence in Ladakh in September last year, when four people were killed and dozens injured. He said the circumstances surrounding September 24 were not normal and suggested that the Apex Body could reveal what it knows about last year's violence and arson if required. Wangchuk also appealed for support from across India, saying the agitation would focus on Ladakh, its environment and its people, while pressing the government for equal treatment and meaningful long-term constitutional protection.

Kerala school empowers students,
parents through livelihoods

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A government higher secondary school in Pathanamthitta district is helping students and their families build additional sources of income through livestock, poultry and self-employment training. The Government Higher Secondary School at Kissimunnur near Ranni has been running these initiatives since 2023, focusing mainly on tribal families and economically weaker sections. The school initially provided goats to 10 selected students, with beneficiaries required to return at least one goat or its value, around ₹4,000 to ₹5,000, after a year. Families also received five chicks each, while parents were trained in poultry farming. Funding for the programme came through sponsorships and donations. The number of student beneficiaries later increased to 15, and

INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE
- 38 goats supplied to students so far.
- 15 students received goats in the latest expansion.
- Families received five chicks each for poultry farming.
- 22 parents received incubators worth about ₹3,000 each.
- Parents are now trained in LED bulb manufacturing.
- School has around 185 students from Classes 1 to 12.

38 goats have so far been supplied. School principal Vijesh V said the initiatives were designed because many students from the area traditionally took up jobs during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season. The school wanted to create opportunities that could help families earn while allowing students to continue their ed-

Madurai court
remands four
cops in
custodial death

MADURAI
A sessions court in Madurai on Thursday remanded four Tamil Nadu police personnel to judicial custody in connection with the custodial death of temple guard B. Ajithkumar in June 2025. The accused include former Manamadurai DSP N. Shanmugasundaram, former Thirupuvanam Inspector S.P. Ramesh Kumar, former Sub-Inspector Sivakumar and former Head Constable Ilayaraja. The court framed murder charges under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Ajithkumar, a security guard at Madapuram Badrakali Amman Temple, was detained over missing jewellery and later died in custody. The CBI took over the probe, arrested six police personnel and filed chargesheets. It opposed bail for the four accused, citing concerns over the investigation and witness protection.

Jagan alleges major irregularities
in DSC 2025 recruitment

TADEPALLI
Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday alleged major irregularities in the DSC 2025 teacher recruitment process and demanded a CBI probe. He also sought the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, accusing the state government of misleading the legislature over the issue. Jagan alleged that some candidates received government jobs without appearing for the examination and claimed that several sports quota appointments were based on questionable participation certificates. He said 39 appointments were made under the sports quota and alleged that certificates linked to tournaments in Khammam were issued despite the Telangana Judo Association stating that such events were not held. He also alleged irregulari-

ties involving softball and Kho-Kho certificates. In one case, he claimed a candidate and his sister secured appointments using medals allegedly won at a Kho-Kho championship in Nalgonda, although the Telangana Kho-Kho Association reportedly denied that the competition took place. Jagan further alleged that candidates from Kurnool and Kadapa districts had discrepancies involving TET qualification, marks and reservation details. Jagan questioned the government's claim that verification had been conducted seven times before appointments. He alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh attempted to mislead the legislature to cover up the matter. He also claimed that an outsourcing employee accessed the examination paper, secured first rank and was later removed from the merit list. Jagan referred to alleged audio and video evidence concerning job offers.

DU HOSTEL EXPANSION

Delhi University announces major hostel expansion after tragedy

NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Thursday announced a major expansion of its hostel infrastructure, with the combined residential capacity of the university and its affiliated colleges set to rise to 12,754 seats. The announcement comes days after the collapse of a private student hostel in Satya Niketan killed seven people. DU currently has 3,422 university-level hostel seats, with another 3,922 seats be-



ing added. This will take the university's total capacity to 7,344 seats. Affiliated colleges currently have around 3,788 seats, while another 1,622 seats are planned, taking their combined capacity

to 5,410. Among the major projects underway is a 1,450-seat Institute of Eminence hostel at the Dhaka Complex, which is expected to be completed shortly. The university is also developing a 1,000-seat Nirbhaya Residential Accommodation for women and a 1,050-seat studio apartment complex, along with several other residential projects. DU said the expansion is the result of efforts undertaken over the past four to five years and will more than

double the university's available hostel accommodation. The university has also asked college principals to review existing residential facilities and speed up ongoing hostel projects. Colleges have been encouraged to explore additional construction based on available land and government schemes. The expansion assumes significance amid concerns over limited student accommodation, which forces many students to rely on private paying guest facilities and

rented rooms near DU campuses. The September 6 Satya Niketan tragedy highlighted these concerns after a five-storey building being used as a private boys' hostel collapsed near South Campus, killing five students and two labourers. The university said further proposals for hostel projects would also be submitted to the government.

IN FOCUS
U's hostel capacity will rise to 12,754 seats after the expansion.



Iran war won't end until after US midterm poll: Trump

‘I think war is going to end immediately after the election because they can’t hold out any longer. They’re desperate to try and affect the election’

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said he expects the six-month-old war with Iran to end after the November U.S. midterm elections, while again threatening to strike a heavily fortified Iranian site linked to the nuclear programme.

His remarks came as Iran and the United States launched their largest wave of attacks on shipping since the conflict began, raising fears of a wider regional crisis. Iran said it attacked 10 ships near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait after the United States sank five Iranian oil tankers.

The conflict has disrupted energy and shipping routes through both the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea. Brent crude prices remained above \$100 a barrel on Thursday as traders assessed supply risks.



Tensions also rose around Yemen, where Houthis were moving closer to gaining greater leverage over the Bab el-Mandeb, a key maritime chokepoint. Saudi civil defence authorities issued emergency alerts in Khamis Mushait four times in 24 hours amid clashes with the Houthis.

Trump said Tehran was

seeking to influence the U.S. elections, which will determine Republican control of Congress. “I think war is going to end after the election,” he told reporters, saying Iran could no longer hold out.

He also warned Iran against activity at Pickaxe Mountain, near the Natanz uranium enrichment facility. Trump said the United States would hit

Trump-Iran Tensions Put Oil, Shipping At Risk:

- Trump expects war to end after November midterms,
- Iran and U.S. escalate attacks on shipping,
- Brent crude remains above \$100 a barrel,
- Houthis gain leverage near Bab el-Mandeb,
- Trump renews threat against Pickaxe Mountain.

the site “very hard” if necessary.

Meanwhile, a Wall Street Journal report said White House advisers warned Trump the war could continue through the remainder of his presidency. Said it could not immediately verify the report.

WAR ANXIETY GROWS AHEAD OF RUSSIA VOTE

MOSCOW

As Russia prepares for its first parliamentary election since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, growing public anxiety over the war is increasingly visible in everyday life, from home security measures to fears of another mobilisation.

Yuri, a Moscow resident, recently installed shatter-resistant film on his apartment windows after a Ukrainian drone blast sent glass flying into a friend's home and caused minor injuries. He said protecting his family had become necessary in what he described as unsettled times.

The Kremlin continues to insist that Russia is winning the war, but Ukrainian drone strikes deep inside Russian territory have brought the conflict closer to ordinary citizens. Ukraine has targeted oil refineries, logistics facilities and military sites with hundreds of drones during the summer.

Russia has responded by intensifying air attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, fu-



Russia's approaching parliamentary election is exposing growing public anxiety as Ukraine's drone war increasingly reaches homes, businesses and daily life.

elling concern that the war is entering a more dangerous phase.

The September 18-20 parliamentary election is unlikely to threaten the dominance of President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party, given Russia's tightly controlled political system. However, authorities are expected to close-

WAR COMES HOME

- Demand for protective window film has risen 50% this year.
- Home insurance covering drone damage is gaining popularity.
- Some men fear a new mobilisation after the election.
- Ukraine has increasingly targeted sites deep inside Russia.

ly watch turnout and voting patterns for signs of war fatigue and public unease.

Weekly surveys by a state pollster indicate high anxiety, while some Russian men have temporarily left the country amid fears of another mobilisation, despite Kremlin denials. Demand for protection against drone attacks is also rising. Insurance covering such damage is becoming more popular, while premiums have increased.

Solartek, a Russian company producing protective window film, reported a 50% increase in demand this year, with customers including homeowners, businesses and state institutions.

Quick Read

Iceland moots whaling ban, leaving Norway, Japan isolated

COPENHAGEN

Iceland's government will submit a bill in February to ban whaling, a move that would leave Norway and Japan as the only two countries in the world to continue commercial whaling. Whaling in Iceland has sparked years of protests from animal welfare campaigners and Hollywood celebrities. The bill will include “a permanent ban on whaling,” the government, which has a majority in parliament, said on its website.

Singapore PM defends political pay hike

SINGAPORE

Singapore's prime minister said on Thursday he deliberated “long and hard” over an increase in ministerial and lawmakers' salaries, already among the highest in the world, but felt it was necessary to attract talent into government ranks. Lawrence Wong said in a parliamentary debate that the increase was “the responsible course to take”. “One of our most important responsibilities is to ensure that Singapore continues to have capable political leadership in the years ahead,” he said. The salary hike starts from October 15 and will increase the prime minister's annual pay by 64% to S\$3.6 million (\$2.85 million).

Cairo waste machines stir Zabaleen fears

CAIRO

A recycling scheme offering phone credit in exchange for empty bottles and cans has triggered an unusual dispute in Cairo, highlighting the delicate balance between modern waste initiatives and the city's longstanding informal collection networks.

Two machines installed last month in Dokki, a middle-class district west of central Cairo, quickly drew opposition from the city's traditional rubbish collectors, known as the “zabaleen”. The machines, which reward residents for depositing recyclable waste, have operated for years in universities, malls, private clubs and gated communities around Cairo.

But the zabaleen saw their

arrival in Dokki differently. They feared the machines could encroach on territory where they have collected household waste for generations.

The dispute briefly erupted into a live television confrontation between a local official and Shehata El-Moqaddas, head of the zabaleen syndicate. “Where are the zabaleen in what you've done?” Moqaddas demanded.

The disagreement has since eased, but it exposed the complicated politics of waste collection in a city of more than 20 million people.

Cairo has no cohesive waste-management system, leaving rubbish to accumulate in informal dumpsites, alleys, canals and vacant lots. Some waste is also



burned, worsening air pollution.

For decades, the zabaleen have helped fill the gap left by the state and formal businesses. Mostly drawn from Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, they collect rubbish door-to-door, transport it to sorting sites and separate reusable materials.

Their system has attracted praise from academics and

ZABALEEN'S RECYCLING ROLE

- Collectors gather roughly half of Cairo's waste.
- They recycle an estimated 80% of what they collect.
- Most zabaleen are from Egypt's Coptic Christian minority.
- Their door-to-door system has operated for almost a century.

environmentalists, with research estimating that they collect roughly half of Cairo's waste and recycle about 80% of what they gather.

The episode demonstrates that introducing new recycling technology in Cairo involves more than improving waste management—it also means navigating the livelihoods of a deeply established informal workforce.

COVID corruption: Ecuadorean court sentences ex-Prez

QUITO

An Ecuadorean court sentenced former President Abdala Bucaram to nine years and four months of imprisonment for his involvement in a criminal organization that fraudulently sold medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bucaram, 74, who was in power from August 1996 to February 1997, may serve his sentence under house arrest due to his age, in accordance with Ecuadorean law. One of Bucaram's sons, Jacobo Bucaram, was also convicted in the same case.

“The defendants formed an organized criminal structure that, repeatedly and in a concerted manner, committed

crimes,” the prosecutor's office said in a statement on the ruling. Bucaram's lawyers did not comment on the ruling, but he still has the option to appeal the sentence.

A total of four individuals were accused by the Attorney General's Office of having obtained financial benefits by negotiating the purchase of some 21,000 rapid COVID-19 tests and other medical supplies between March and August 2020, while Ecuador was experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of the pandemic in the region.

Bucaram's son was sentenced to the same term as his father. The others were a former traffic officer who was sentenced to 13 years and four months, while an Israeli citizen received a reduced



sentence of two years and eight months for his cooperation during the trial.

Bucaram listened to the hearing via video conference from a hospital in the coastal city of Guayaquil, where he has been hospitalized due to heart problems.

Prosecutors said that traffic police officers provided security for two foreign nationals

who were transporting the supplies to Bucaram's residence in the coastal city of Guayaquil.

“According to the investigation, those involved pretended to be members of the diplomatic corps or agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA),” the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

NATO allies foil Russian subsea cable sabotage plot

LONDON

Deep in Arctic waters near the remote Svalbard archipelago this spring, NATO allies caught Russian subs training to unleash a secret weapon designed to disable critical undersea cables without leaving any fingerprints.

The clandestine Russian operation, described by two Western officials, was carried out by Moscow's GUGI undersea warfare directorate, which used deep-sea submersibles to simulate the deployment of the sophisticated and destructive technology.

A joint operation involving Britain, Norway and the United States tracked and confronted the Russian vessels at sea, said the two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. The vessels were prevented from completing their exercise and eventually left the area.

Britain and Norway disclosed in April that they had uncovered a covert Russian operation in Arctic waters.

But the discovery of the new weapon, the location of the operation and the U.S. involvement have not been reported.

The deep-sea face-off comes at a time when some Western intelligence officials fear the Kremlin is ramping up sabotage operations in Europe and preparing for a conflict with NATO.

Some U.S. intelligence analysts are increasingly concerned Russia may test NATO's mutual defence pact, known as Article 5, three U.S. officials said. If it does, destroying subsea cables could be a critical part of that effort, the Western officials said.

Cables no thicker than a garden hose, lying on the seabed or buried just below, are critical to global internet connectivity and financial transactions. Their economic and strategic importance has made them targets in past conflicts, including in the First and Second World Wars, when they were critical to delivering orders by telegraph or telephone.



Succession battle grips Ugandan kingdom post monarch's death

KAMPALA

The traditional Ugandan kingdom of Tooro was plunged into a bitter succession battle on Thursday after the family of the late king, Oyo Nyimba, rejected clan members' choice of a television news anchor to succeed him.

While Uganda is a constitutional republic, it has several ancient kingdoms whose leaders are revered as symbols of tradition and wield vast social influence. King Oyo, who became the world's youngest reigning monarch when he took the throne in 1995 as a 3-year-old boy, died on August 27 at the age of 34 in the United States, where he had been receiving treatment for cancer. He is scheduled to be buried on Saturday.

The royal clan's succession committee announced that it had chosen Prince Edward Rukidi Kijangompa, a news anchor and editor at the state-run broadcaster UBC, as the new king. Kijangompa is a

cousin of the late king.

But hours after the committee made its announcement, Oyo's sister, Princess Ruth Komuntale, told a press conference that her brother's will indicated that his son should succeed him.

The kingdom's spokesperson shared a copy of the relevant portion of the will, which is dated September 14, 2022. It states: “I hereby declare and direct that if, at the date of my death, I am survived by a Son lawfully recognized as my biological Son, I appoint him as my heir to the Throne of the Kingdom of Tooro.”

In a statement published early on Thursday, Oyo's mother, Queen Kemigisa, denounced a “self-appointed group of clan members” who had selected a new king despite having had the will read to them hours earlier.

She said that Uganda's military had also removed royal guards from the palace without notice and placed the family under house arrest.

FAR-RIGHT AT POWER DOOR

Sweden vote tests far-right power

STOCKHOLM

Swedes head to the polls on Sunday in a closely contested election that could determine whether the far-right Sweden Democrats enter government and complete their transformation from political outcasts into accepted partners of the centre-right.

The Sweden Democrats, which have roots in the neo-Nazi fringe, are polling at around 19%. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson's ruling centre-right minority coalition has pledged to bring the party into its governing bloc if that secures him a second term.

“We have agreed to campaign on a platform of building a common, majority government and that I will lead that government,” Kristersson told during the campaign.

The election will test whether voters want to continue Sweden's sharp political shift on immigration, integration and national identity. Once regarded as one of Europe's most liberal societies, Sweden has introduced tough-



er policies on citizenship, welfare, residency and border controls.

Since taking power, Kristersson's government has abolished permanent residency for refugees, tightened welfare rules and increased expulsions of migrants without legal grounds to remain. Asylum applications have fallen to their lowest level in four decades.

Kristersson credits cooperation with Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Akesson since 2022 for helping deliver economic growth, lower food and energy prices and progress

against gang crime and shootings. He has promised deeper cooperation and cabinet positions for the Sweden Democrats after the election. But the party wants still tougher measures.

Mattias Karlsson, a senior Sweden Democrat lawmaker, said Swedish culture, language, laws, norms, morals and traditions must be accepted by everyone living in the country.

The result could therefore reshape Sweden's political mainstream and determine how far its tougher migration agenda goes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATHISH SHEELAN S/o MUNISWAMY T M, aged about 32 years, residing at No. 35/1, Padma Ram Nivas, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, R T Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560032, India, changed my name to M SATISH SHEELAN, vide affidavit dated 09-09-2026 sworn before Notary Ravi Kumar. V., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, ANKITA RAHUL KALSHETTI alias ANKITA D/o VISHWANATH KALSHETTI Ex. W/o RAHUL KALSHETTI, R/o No.3-350, Opp. Vijay Lodge, Gazipura, Gulbarga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585101, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree M.C.No.53/2026 dated 09/04/2026. I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANKITA VISHWANATH KALSHETTI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AADIL AHMED S/o Nisar Ahmed, aged about 45 years, residing at # 1193 8th Cross RK Hegde Nagar Bangalore Arabic College Bangalore Karnataka 560045, India, changed my name to ADIL AHMED, vide affidavit dated 09-09-2026 sworn before Notary Ravi Kumar. V., Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAVEEDA PARVEEN KALEEMULLA SHARIFF, C/o. Kaleem Ulla Shariff, resident of. No 08, Ground Floor, 1st A Cross, Chamundinagar Main Road, Kenchappa Garden, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore -560032, have changed my name to JAVEEDA PARVEEN, Vide Affidavit Dated: 08.09.2026 before notary SUMITHRA. N, Bengaluru.

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Quick Read

Philippines eyes India ties to boost space ambitions

New Delhi
India's space programme and growing private sector ecosystem are being seen as potential catalysts for the Philippines' efforts to build indigenous space capabilities as the Southeast Asian nation accelerates investments in satellite technology, launch systems and space infrastructure, a report has said. According to a report published in The Manila Times, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) could benefit from closer cooperation with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to gain access to cost-effective engineering expertise, satellite development capabilities and shared priorities among developing nations.

Rupee slumps 38 paise to close at 95.46 against US dollar

MUMBAI
The rupee depreciated 38 paise to close at 95.46 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as Brent crude breached the USD 102 threshold, mounting concerns over the country's import cost trajectory. Forex traders said the currency is currently facing opposing forces, with downside pressure driven by a resumption of foreign portfolio outflows, following positive flows in July and August and crude oil trading above USD 102 per barrel. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.15 against the US dollar, then lost ground to close at 95.46 (provisional) against the American currency, registering a loss of 38 paise from its previous close.

Oil tops \$100 as Middle East conflict threatens supplies

New Delhi
Global crude oil prices surged up to nearly 2 per cent on Thursday with Brent crude breaching the \$100-a-barrel mark following escalating attacks by Iran and the United States on shipping routes. The international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.68 per cent to \$101.90 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 1.81 per cent to \$97.79 a barrel. Iran has said it had attacked 10 ships near the Strait of Hormuz after the US sank five Iranian oil tankers. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps also said it would escalate its response to any further attacks. The developments have heightened concerns over oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz which is a key global energy transit route.

Europe eyes India to cut China dependence

Britain's strategy to reduce China dependence could offer Europe a practical pathway, with India positioned as a key diversification partner.

LONDON

Britain is emerging as Europe's front-runner in reducing dependence on China by diversifying trade and investment ties, with India emerging as a potential partner.

An article in Eurasia News argues that the European Union's reliance on China for goods and critical raw materials creates vulnerabilities extending well beyond the bloc's trade deficit. Heavy dependence can constrain Europe's strategic autonomy, particularly on sensitive issues including Taiwan, human rights and trade disputes.

The article says European policymakers may hesitate to challenge Beijing strongly when economic relationships depend on Chinese supplies. The vulnerability is particularly significant in sectors such as electronics, solar components, pharmaceuticals and rare earths, where China remains deeply embedded in supply chains.

Britain's approach could offer other European countries a template for gradually reducing that exposure. Rather than seeking an immediate, wholesale replacement of Chinese suppliers, the report recommends beginning with selected sectors where alternatives are available and India can offer scale.

India's electronics assembly and components industry has expanded rapidly, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The country could also increase its role in supplying active pharmaceutical ingredients, building on its established generic medi-



EUROPEAN REASSESSMENT

European leaders are facing a major wake-up call regarding supply chain vulnerabilities. For years, China sold goods below production cost in foreign markets. This practice is known as market dumping (selling products abroad cheaper than at home to weaken local competitors).

Textiles provide another opportunity, with manufacturing infrastructure in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu positioned to support European demand.

The article suggests that individual EU member states could initially deepen economic ties with two or three Indian states rather than waiting for a single bloc-wide framework.

Such a state-level approach could allow Europe to test supply-chain diversification gradually while building investment relationships tailored to specific industrial strengths. "The UK's China playbook offers a template

■ **Ignored warning:** India previously cautioned Europe about the risks of relying too much on Chinese supply chains. Europe did not listen at the time.

■ **Public admission:** In September 2026, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever spoke in New Delhi. He admitted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was right about the dangers of overdependence.

■ **New Priority:** De Wever stated that India is now the top strategic partner for Europe to build safer and more trusted trade networks.

the rest of Europe would do well to follow." – Piyush GoyalThe report argues that India can help diversify European supply chains without requiring an abrupt break from China. Electronics, pharmaceuticals and textiles offer immediate opportunities, while partnerships between individual European countries and Indian states could make diversification more targeted, gradual and commercially practical.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance opens Chikkaballapur branch

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapur

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL) has expanded its presence in Karnataka with the launch of a new branch in Chikkaballapur, taking its total branch network in the state to 20.

The expansion is part of the housing finance company's broader plan to strengthen its pan-India distribution network and improve access to customised home financing solutions in high-growth markets.

Chikkaballapur has been witnessing steady development in its residential sector, supported by improving infrastructure, better connectivity



and its proximity to Bengaluru. Rising access to employment, education and essential services has also increased interest among families and individuals seeking homes in the region.

ABHFL offers a range of housing finance products covering affordable and prime housing, construction finance and loans against property.

Its offerings cater to salaried customers, self-employed professionals, self-employed

non-professionals and emerging income groups.

The company said its digital ecosystem enables seamless customer onboarding, faster approvals and greater transparency, helping simplify the borrowing process.

To mark the new branch launch, ABHFL is offering zero login fees and spot loan sanctions of up to ₹50 lakh. The promotional offer will remain valid from September 10 to September 30, 2026.

Speaking on the expansion, Pankaj Gadgil, MD and CEO of ABHFL, said Karnataka is a key growth market for the company, citing strong demand and rising aspirations among customers.

Modi opens India's next space frontier to world

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited France and other countries to partner with India in the next phase of its space exploration, highlighting the country's expanding capabilities and rapidly growing private space sector.

Addressing the first International Space Summit in Paris through video conferencing, Modi said India's space programme is guided by global cooperation and the belief that the benefits of space technology should reach humanity as a whole.

He called for a safe, secure, peaceful and sustainable space domain founded on international law, dialogue and multilateral cooperation. "Cooperation over confrontation, sustainability over short-term gain, and inclusion over exclusion" should guide the future of the global space sector, he said.

Modi highlighted ISRO's international reputation for cost-effective missions and technologies supporting farmers, fishermen, weather forecasting, disaster management and navigation.

More than 430 satellites from 34 countries have already been launched aboard Indian rockets, he said, re-

The PM invited France and other nations to partner India's next space frontier, highlighting ISRO's achievements, private-sector growth and ambitious Moon plans.

flecting growing international confidence in India's space capabilities.

The Prime Minister also cited major milestones including Chandrayaan-3's historic soft landing near the lunar south pole and the Aditya-L1 mission's work studying the Sun.

Looking ahead, India has set ambitious targets, including establishing an Indian space station by 2035 and sending an Indian to the Moon by 2040.

Modi also stressed the growing contribution of private companies to India's space ambitions. He said the sector is expanding rapidly alongside ISRO and strengthening India's position in the global space economy.

"Cooperation over confrontation, sustainability over short-term gain, and inclusion over exclusion" should guide the future of the global space sector. - ISRO

"The energy of enterprise is joining the excellence of ISRO." – PM Modi

CAMPCO posts ₹3,735 cr turnover, recommends 14% dividend

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

The Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Co-operative Limited (CAMPCO) has recorded a strong financial performance in 2025-26, posting a total business turnover of ₹3,735 crore and Profit Before Tax of ₹49.62 crore despite volatility in the arecanut market and challenging conditions in the cocoa sector.

Reflecting its financial strength and commitment to grower-members, CAMPCO's Board of Directors has recommended a 14% dividend for the year. The performance was supported by sustained procurement and marketing operations, farmer-oriented initiatives, business diversification, digital transformation, infrastructure investments and value addition.

Arecanut continued to remain the backbone of CAMPCO's operations. During the year, the cooperative procured 58,742.76 metric tonnes of arecanut valued at ₹2,924.32 crore, comprising 24,052.07 MT of red arecanut and



34,690.69 MT of white arecanut. It sold 59,088.64 MT valued at ₹2,985.19 crore.

CAMPCO has expressed concern over the growing inflow of imported arecanut, particularly instances of imported produce being mixed with domestic arecanut and circulated as local produce. The cooperative said this could affect traceability, market transparency, price discovery and domestic prices. It has urged the government to strengthen import monitoring, enforce regulations and prevent misclassification and mixing. The issue was raised with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during CAMPCO's meeting in New Delhi.

Agentic AI Could boost banking efficiency: SBI chairman

MUMBAI

Targeting customer engagement, proactive risk management, and increased employee productivity, the State Bank of India (SBI) proposes to deploy agentic artificial intelligence soon. Stating this to the media on the sidelines of the Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai, the SBI Chairman, Challa Srinivasulu Setty, said agentic AI was an emerging technology that can deliver hyper-personalised services to customers and simplify internal operations for staff. It can also avoid systemic risks and bolster institutional safeguards.

He stated, "I think we will be focusing on three major areas in adoption of agentic AI: mainly on customer engagement and hyper-personalisation, improving productivity simplify the process, and on the risk management side, the proactive risk management deployment of agentic AI for that." When asked regarding the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) accounts, Setty observed, "I think everybody will be more responsible in lending.

So it will take about three to four months for the deployment of the liquidity." From Predictive Tools to Autonomous Execution Earlier, while addressing the gathering at Global Fintech Fest, Setty said that the institution is moving beyond conventional predictive tools toward autonomous technologies capable of taking independent actions.

FSSAI open to stricter food warning labels from outset

NEW DELHI

India's food regulator on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it is open to introducing stricter warning labels on packaged food products from the outset, following concerns over its proposed two-phase approach to front-of-pack labelling.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had last month proposed red-coloured hexagonal warning labels for food products exceeding prescribed limits in at least two of three categories added sugar, salt and saturated fat.

The regulator had proposed tightening the labelling requirements in a second phase. During Thursday's hearing, the Supreme Court questioned FSSAI over the rationale behind adopting a two-phased approach, amid criticism from activists that the initial proposal could be too lenient and delay clear health warnings to consumers.

FSSAI informed the court that it was willing to consider

implementing stricter warning labels from the beginning, including labels for products that exceed the prescribed limit for even one of the three ingredients. The court emphasised the need to prioritise public health, particularly the health of children.

"We are concerned about the health of people especially growing children," a bench led by Justice JB Pardiwala observed. The bench also said that all stakeholders should contribute to the issue, describing it as a matter of national interest. The Supreme Court has asked all parties to study the order to be passed later on Thursday and submit their suggestions by September 28, when the matter is scheduled to come up for further hearing.

"We are concerned with the health of people, more particularly growing children. We have taken it up very seriously. We expect one and all to extend their cooperation to a cause which is in national interest," the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

INCHING CLOSER TO GAGANYAAN

ISRO fires 220 kN CE20 engine again!

NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday said that it has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of its CE20 cryogenic engine at uprated thrust conditions of 220 kN, marking another step towards the upcoming LVM3 mission.

The test was carried out at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, according to a post shared by the space agency on social media platform X. The CE20 engine tested is earmarked for the



C32 upper stage of the upcoming LVM3 mission. The test at 220 kN represents the uprated thrust condition for the cryogenic engine and is aimed at validating its performance ahead of its flight

assignment.

"Flight acceptance hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine earmarked for the C32 upper stage of upcoming LVM3 mission at uprated thrust conditions of 220kN is suc-

cessfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri on September 09, 2026," ISRO said. "Performance of the LOX Tank Pressurization Module (LTPM) meant for the C32 stages for Gaganyaan missions was also successfully demonstrated in this test," it added.

During the same test, ISRO also successfully demonstrated the performance of the LOX Tank Pressurization Module (LTPM), which is designed for the C32 stages intended for the Gaganyaan missions. The successful hot test

Rajpal confident tennis will deliver medals

NEW DELHI

Representing India in major events such as the Asian Games and Davis Cup brings a unique sense of responsibility and pressure, said Rohit Rajpal, India's non-playing Davis Cup captain. He expressed confidence that Indian tennis players will continue the country's strong medal-winning record at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Rajpal, who won a tennis bronze medal at the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, said playing for the country is different from competing in individual events. India will face South Korea in the Davis Cup World Group Qualifiers Round 2 in Seoul on September 18 and 19, just before the Asian Games, which will be held from September 19 to October 4.

The Indian tennis contingent has been reduced from 12 players to seven, with no representation in women's singles. However, Rajpal re-



Rohit Rajpal noted that playing for your country differs uniquely from competing in individual events

mained optimistic about the team's chances. He pointed out that tennis has regularly contributed medals to India's Asian Games tally. At the Hangzhou Asian Games, Indian tennis players won three medals, including a silver and two bronze medals across doubles events.

Rajpal also spoke about the difficulties Indian players face when moving from junior tennis to the profes-

sional circuit. He said the transition can be challenging because young Indian players often face physically stronger and more experienced opponents. Cultural and family factors can also affect their development, as players in India are often treated as children even at 17 or 18. He said the situation is improving with better training, physiotherapy and support systems. Modern

tennis has become more physical, making strength and mental preparation increasingly important. Rajpal stressed that players need a strong support ecosystem during this transition so they can compete on an equal footing with experienced professionals. He believes continued efforts will help Indian tennis produce strong results in major international competi-

Jayantian Cup sees intense action on Day 2

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Day two of the Jayantian Cup 2026 at Kristu Jayanti University witnessed knockout-stage action in football and throwball, besides close contests across disciplines.

In men's basketball, CMRIT defeated Christ Mysore 39-15, while Christ CC beat MCU 40-18. Jain SSER defeated CMRIT 39-19, and SJU overcame Christ Kengeri 24-16. In the women's section, Christ CC beat JNC 44-12 and Jain SSER defeated MCU 36-15.

Christ Bengaluru edged DSCE 1-0 in men's football, while MCU beat Acharya by the same margin. Athiyaman defeated Government RC College 4-3 on penalties, Jain FET beat Christ Mysuru 4-0 and New Horizon defeated Sindhi 1-0.

In women's football, SJU recorded wins over Presiden-

cy (5-0) and Christ KC (4-0). Kristu Jayanti University defeated JNC 7-6 on penalties after a 1-1 draw, while Alagappa beat Christ CC 5-4 on penalties.

SJU emerged winners in men's throwball after defeating KJU-B 26-24, 18-25, 15-5. In the women's event, She-shadripuram defeated MCU 2-1 in the semifinal before facing KJU in the final.

Kristu Jayanti University defeated Christ Mysore 36-26 in men's kabaddi. Other winners included Alagappa, New Horizon and Indian Academy.

Taekwondo also produced several medal-winning performances. Akshaya B.S. of MCU won girls' individual Poomsae gold, while Kaif Pasha of Indian Academy took the boys' gold. Kristu Jayanti University won pair Poomsae gold and secured multiple sparring titles across men's and women's categories.

Mona wins silver, secures LA28 quota



CHANGWON

India's Mona Agarwal secured a quota place for the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles after winning silver in the Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 event at the World Shooting Para Sport Championships on Thursday.

It was a memorable day for India as two-time Paralympic champion Avani Lekhara also won the bronze medal in the same event. Serbia's 22-year-old Kristina Trifunovic claimed gold with a score of 250.2,

while Mona finished just behind her with 250.0. Avani recorded 229.4 to take the third spot.

The silver was Mona's first medal at the World Championships.

She had won a silver medal at the World Cup in Changwon last year. Mona, who won bronze at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, has now added another major achievement by earning an LA28 quota place through her performance at the global event. Avani also continued her strong record in para shooting.

Finn Allen joins Melbourne Stars for BBL

MELBOURNE

New Zealand power-hitter Finn Allen has joined Melbourne Stars for the 2026-27 Big Bash League season, adding further strength to a batting line-up that includes Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis. The new BBL season will begin on December 12, with Melbourne Renegades facing Perth Scorchers in the opening match.

Allen was the leading run-scorer in BBL 15, scoring 466 runs at an average of 42.36 for Perth Scorchers. The 27-year-old said he was excited to move to Melbourne and play for the Stars at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"The Stars are a powerhouse team in this competition, so it's going to be a lot of fun playing for them,"

Allen said. He added that playing at the MCG as his new home ground was especially exciting and that he was looking forward to being part of the club's growing fanbase.

Allen has enjoyed an outstanding 2026 across T20 cricket. He smashed 101 off 53 balls for the Scorchers earlier this year and later hit the fastest century in World Cup history, reaching his hundred from just 33 balls during New Zealand's semi-final victory over South Africa.

He continued his impressive form in the Indian Premier League, scoring an unbeaten 100 off 47

balls for Kolkata Knight Riders.

The New Zealand opener has played 62 T20 internationals and most recently represented San Francisco Unicorns in Major League Cricket, where he worked under new Melbourne Stars head coach Cameron White.

His flexible contract with New Zealand Cricket allows him to play in international T20 leagues while remaining available for national selection. Under updated BBL signing rules, the Stars can directly sign up to three overseas players this season because the Overseas Player Draft is not being held. Allen becomes the 12th player signed by Melbourne Stars for BBL 16, leaving six spots available in their squad.



Sabalenka eyes US Open three-peat

NEW DELHI

Aryna Sabalenka will aim to move closer to a historic US Open three-peat when she faces American third seed Jessica Pegula in the first women's singles semi-final at Flushing Meadows.

The two-time defending champion has defeated Pegula in nine of their 13 meetings, including the final when Sabalenka won her first US Open title. However, Pegula enters the contest with confidence after beating Sabalenka in their most recent meeting in the 2026 Berlin semi-final. Their last four encounters have been closely contested, with each player winning

twice and all four matches going to deciding sets.

Sabalenka said she was happy to have given herself a chance to fight for a third straight title but remained focused on the immediate challenge. She said shutting out outside noise and concentrating on her own game would be important as she looks to join Chris Evert and Serena Williams as the only women in the Open Era to win the US Open three consecutive times. In the other semi-final, newly crowned World No. 1 Elena Rybakina will meet fourth seed and former champion Coco Gauff. The two players have split their only two previous meetings. Rybakina arrived in New York after an injury scare in Cincinnati but has progressed deep into the tournament and hopes to complete her comeback with a maiden US Open title.

Gauff has also produced an impressive run, losing only one set after winning 20 consecutive sets.

That defeat came against Mirra Andrejeva in the quarter-final, where Gauff saved a match point before advancing. The semi-final line-up is historic, with the top four seeds reaching the US Open last four for only the second time in the Open Era. The previous occasion was in 1975. Sabalenka and Pegula will play first at Arthur Ashe Stadium, with the match scheduled for 4:30 a.m. IST on September 11, followed by Rybakina and Gauff.



Zverev stayed up watching Shelton-Alcaraz thriller

NEW YORK

Alexander Zverev revealed that he stayed awake until 3:30 a.m. to watch Ben Shelton defeat Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling five-set US Open quarter-final in New York. The German star said he did not go to bed as he wanted to watch one of the tournament's most eagerly anticipated matches.

"I watched Shelton-Alcaraz until 3:30 a.m. last night. I did not go to bed," Zverev said after reaching the semi-finals with a straight-sets victory over Botic van de Zandschulp. He added that he was able to stay up because he planned to sleep until 1 p.m. the next day.

Shelton defeated two-time US Open champion Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10-7) in a dramatic contest before the home crowd. The victory earned the American a place in an all-American semi-final against Frances Tiafoe.

"Credit to Ben, he played an unbelievable match," Zverev said. "Friday is going to be a fun semi-final between two



Americans." Zverev, meanwhile, will face Karen Khachanov for a place in the final.

The German reached the last four after beating van de Zandschulp 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 on Wednesday. It is his third US Open semi-final appearance and adds to an impressive season in which he won his maiden Grand Slam

title at Roland Garros earlier this year.

Zverev has also emerged as the ATP Tour's leading match winner in 2026, with 51 victories. His 23 Grand Slam match wins this season have taken him past Boris Becker's German record of 22, set in 1989. Against van de Zandschulp, Zverev showed his composure under pressure, saving a break point after a 33-shot rally and capitalising on an important forehand error. After sacrificing another night of sleep for the blockbuster quarter-final, Zverev now turns his attention to Khachanov and a chance to reach his second Grand Slam final of the season.

Tim Seifert joins Sydney Sixers for BBL 16

NEW DELHI

New Zealand's hard-hitting opener Tim Seifert has signed a one-year deal with Sydney Sixers for the 16th season of the Big Bash League, moving from Melbourne Renegades.

Seifert is expected to strengthen the Sixers' opening combination, with Australia batter Steve Smith likely to miss BBL 16 because of international commitments.

The New Zealand batter is joining the Sixers after an impressive season with Manchester Super Giants in The Hundred.

The move could also raise questions over Babar Azam's future with the Sixers. Babar struggled for runs last season, scoring 202 runs in 11 innings at a strike rate of 103.06. Seifert, meanwhile, brings strong T20 experience and an aggressive approach at the top of the or-

der. Seifert said he was excited to join one of the most successful teams in the BBL and make the Sydney Cricket Ground his new home. Sixers general manager Rachael Haynes also welcomed him, praising his experience, attacking style and ability to change matches.

Seifert made his Hundred debut in 2026 and played an important role in Manchester Super Giants' title-winning campaign. He scored 394 runs in 10 innings at a strike rate of 168.37, including a match-winning 72 off 38 balls against Trent Rockets in the final.

He also scored 326 runs in the 2026 T20 World Cup, helping New Zealand finish runners-up. With Seifert joining the squad, the Sixers now have two experienced wicket-keeping options, with Josh Philippe also available. His addition gives the Sydney side another powerful batting option ahead of BBL 16.



India thrash Pakistan 19-0 in Junior Asia Cup



MOQI

India produced a stunning 19-0 victory over Pakistan in the quarterfinal of the Women's Junior Asia Cup on Thursday, storming into the semifinals and moving closer to a third consecutive continental title.

The defending champions opened the scoring in the seventh minute through Puja Sahoo. Roshni Aind doubled the lead two minutes later before India launched a relentless attacking display. Tanushree Dinesh Kadu and Sukhveer Kaur scored in the 11th and 13th minutes, while Sanika Chandrakant Mane also found the net in the 13th minute. Madhu Sidar, Geeta Yadav and Mane again added more goals as India took complete control.

Tanuja Toppo and Pooja Malik extended India's lead before Purnima Yadav scored in the 33rd minute. India went into the break

with a huge 10-0 advantage, leaving Pakistan with little opportunity to recover.

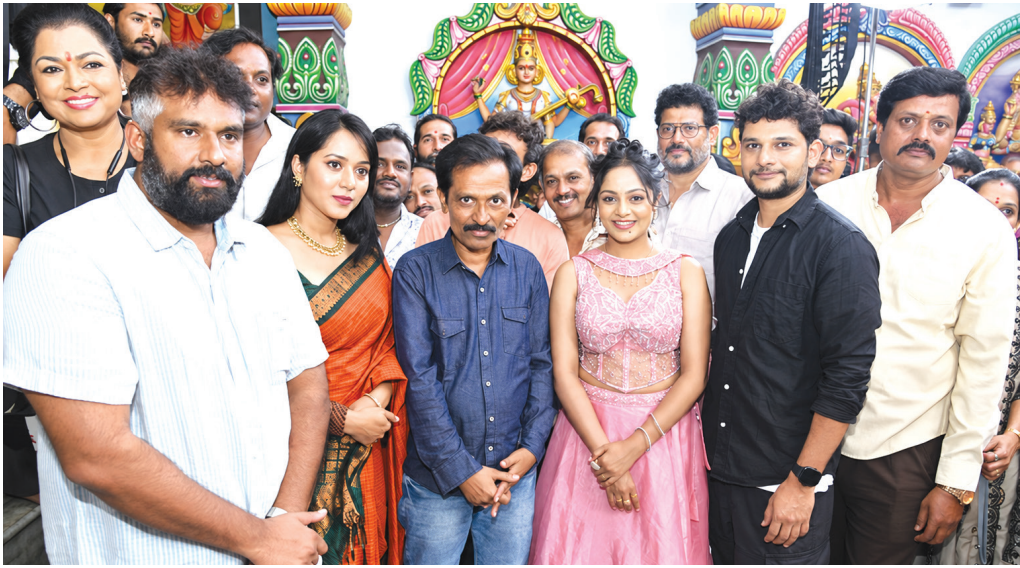
India continued their dominance after the interval. Sidar scored again in the 39th minute, followed by Supriya a minute later. Malik then completed her hat-trick with goals in the 49th and 51st minutes. Krishna Sharma, Binima Dhan and Supriya added further goals before Roshni scored her second in the final minute to complete the 19-0 rout.

India had already topped their group after victories over Japan, Malaysia and South Korea. The reigning champions will now face the winner of the South Korea-Malaysia quarterfinal in the semifinals.

India won the Junior Women's Asia Cup in 2023 and 2024. Another two victories would give them a third successive title in the continental tournament.

Rakesh Adiga's mass action drama 'Kalila' launched

The muhurta ceremony of the film 'Kalila' was held in a grand manner at the Sri Panchamukhi Ganapati Temple. Star director Simple Suni clapped for the first scene and wished the team all the best. KVR Pictures is taking the responsibility of production. K. Raghav is writing the story, screenplay and directing. Speaking later, the director said that this is a mass content along with the brother-sister relationship. As the proverb goes, 'One minute of anger, a whole life is heat', in the film, an innocent boy who knows nothing makes a mistake in anger and how does he face the disaster and pain that will happen later? If his long name is shortened, it is called Kalila. Also, what do some hot-blooded girls do while riding bikes and being fighting against bad people? Such situations unfold in Bijapur. The fictional scenes have been created keeping in mind the factors that audience like



today. More details will be announced in the coming days. K. Raghav requested the cooperation of the media. I am appearing as a poor labour. I am portraying a role that I have not done so far, hero Rakesh Adiga paused. Heroine Khushi as a poor village girl is a unique opportu-

nity. The rest of the cast includes Apoorva, Shille Manjunath, Jogi Umeshpunga, Kaddi Vishwa, Balrajawadi, Kak-roch Sudhi, Vardhan, Shobhi-ta, Mufti Pradeep, Pooja Shetty, Shilpa, Nagendra Kote and others. The music for the four

songs is by Manuraj, cinematography by S. Halesh, editing by Girish Kumar, dance by Raghu.R.J, and action by Johnny Master-Mariswamy. The team has planned to complete the shooting in one phase for forty-five days in the beautiful locations of Bangalore, Bijapur and Mysore.

Bethlehem Kudumba Unit hits Rs 279 crore globally

The Malayalam festival release Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju, continues its stellar box office run, holding strong during its third week. Despite experiencing a modest 7.9% dip in daily numbers following a lucrative weekend, the film raked in an estimated Rs 2.90 crore net across India on its twentieth day, bringing its cumulative domestic net collection to Rs 133.15 crore. Driven by strong Onam holiday momentum and favorable audience word-of-mouth, the film was screened across 1,651 shows nationwide, maintaining an overall occupancy rate of 32.0%. The Malayalam version remained the primary driver, contributing Rs 2.45 crore, while regional dubs added steady numbers with Rs 20 lakhs from Tamil screens and Rs 25 lakhs from Telugu markets. State-wise figures indicate solid regional holding.

Taapsee Pannu views Jaya Bachchan comparison as compliment

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu is addressing her notoriously strained relationship with the paparazzi, turning frequent public comparisons to veteran actress Jaya Bachchan into a badge of honor. Known for her outspoken nature and refusal to conform to conventional industry expectations, Taapsee recently opened up about how media outlets frame her character, standing firm against critics who label her as short-tempered or rude during public outings and promotional events. The friction between the actress and press photographers dates back several years, notably flaring up during the 2022 promotional campaign for her psychological thriller Dobaaraa. During that promotional tour, a heated verbal exchange erupted after photographers accused the actress of running late, while Taapsee countered that specific individuals were being unprofessional and acting as though capturing her image was an enormous personal favor. The confrontation left lingering tension, resulting in some media circles branding her as unapproachable and triggering online comparisons to Jaya Bachchan, who has frequently made

headlines for reprimanding media personnel invading her personal space. Rather than distancing herself from the parallel, Taapsee welcomed it during a recent candid interview. She noted that being likened to a cinematic legend like Bachchan is inherently flattering, praising her senior's formidable acting credentials and unyielding personality. However, the actress drew a sharp line regarding the accuracy of her reputation, insisting that she has never raised her voice or crossed professional boundaries. Instead, she attributes the friction to a deeper societal discomfort with assertive women who enforce strict personal limits. According to Taapsee, maintaining a firm stance on privacy and mutual respect often unnerves individuals accustomed to more submissive compliance from public figures.



L Manjula Umashankar launches 24 devotional album songs

The launch program of 24 album songs under the leadership of Sri Suresh, who has composed music for more than thirty films and three hundred lyrical songs, was held recently at the Puneeth Rajkumar Auditorium. The songs have been created in the concept of 'first devotion, first poem' in the lyrics and vocals of his disciple L. Manjula Umashankar. Among these, renowned singer Anuradha Bhat has sung the lines of the song 'Happy Women's Day'. Padma Shri awardee Sushilamma and others inaugurated the program and wished good luck. The album will have a total of 24 songs including Ganesh, Chowdeshwari, Banashankari, Anjaneya, Venkateswara,



Nonavinakere Sri Sri Karivishabha Deshkendra Shivayogeeshwara Swamygalu, Amma-Appa, Sankranthi Habba. The director has said that two of these songs will be used in untitled films. Husband Umashankar has decided to make a film to fulfill his wife's

dream of becoming a businessman. He has already held talks with a few directors and said that he will provide information in the coming days. Those interested can watch the 'L.Manjula Umashankar' YouTube channel.

When Fanboy Met Star: Dominic discusses 'Lokah' with Allu Arjun

Malayalam filmmaker Dominic Arun recently experienced a major career milestone, meeting Telugu superstar Allu Arjun to discuss his critically acclaimed fantasy adventure Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, which stars Kalyani Priyadarshan in the lead role. The young director took to social media to share a snapshot from their interaction, describing it as an unforgettable fanboy moment where he was initially rendered speechless by the sheer presence of the national award-winning actor. According to Arun, Allu Arjun took the time to watch the Kalyani Priyadarshan starrer and offered detailed appreciation for its world-building, narrative ambition, and execution.

The Raaka star's encouraging words regarding the future chapters of the franchise provided a massive boost to the creative team, validating their experimental approach to regional fantasy cinema. The social media post immediately went viral, setting off intense speculation among cinephiles regarding a potential pan-India expansion. Eager fans flooded the comments section with questions about whether Allu Arjun could make a surprise appearance or step into an extended role within the expanding Lokah cinematic universe. Other followers drew parallels to recent industry gossip linking Allu Arjun with multifaceted Malayalam talent Basil Joseph for an unannounced collaborative venture, pointing toward a growing wave of creative exchanges between the Malayalam and Telugu film industries. Dominic Arun carved a niche for himself in Mollywood with his 2017 dark comedy debut Tharangam, starring Tovino Thomas and Balu Varghese. With Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, he successfully launched an ambitious new franchise that has captured the imagination of audiences beyond traditional regional boundaries.

Sailing through storms: Mandaadi's mixed voyage

The new Tamil drama Mandaadi has officially hit the big screen, bringing a unique blend of traditional sport and deep human emotion. Directed by Pugazhendhi Mathimaran, the film features a talented cast including Soori, Suhas, Mahima Nambiar, and veteran actor Sathiyaraj. Fans have been curious about how this coastal rivalry unfolds in cinemas. The story takes place in a coastal village called Kalinapatnam. 20 years ago, Muthukaali, played by Soori, and Sattapuli, played by Suhas, were close friends and expert traditional boat sailors. A bitter fallout destroys their bond, turning them into life-long enemies who rule opposite sides of the village. The plot follows the reasons behind their rivalry and leads up to a high-stakes boat race that forces them to face each other once again. Both lead actors deliver standout performances. Soori makes a bold and smart choice with this nuanced script, offering a quiet, emotional, and restrained performance. His silence during key moments

leaves a massive impact. On the other side, Suhas shines brightly in an intense antagonist role. His powerful voice and fiery screen presence make his character truly magnetic. The strong friction and verbal battles between the two leads create wonderful dramatic tension, supported nicely by G.V. Prakash Kumar's energetic background score and S.R. Kathiir's neat cinematography. Despite these strong points, the film faces a few noticeable issues. While the first half moves forward with a clear purpose and builds good momentum, the second half falls into formulaic predictability. The script fails to dig deep into the emotional history of the former friends, making some of the dramatic moments feel a bit surface-level. Furthermore, Sathiyaraj remains underutilised in his brief role, and the middle portion drags a bit due to a lack of creative narrative twists. Ultimately, Mandaadi turns out to be an engaging watch that succeeds through solid acting, a fresh sporting backdrop, and a thundering musical score.



Mohanlal's #L370 makers issue warning over fake casting calls

The creative team behind Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's highly anticipated upcoming project, temporarily titled #L370, has issued a stern public warning regarding fraudulent audition scams currently making the rounds online. The alert comes in response to unauthorized casting posters, fake social media messages, and unverified phone calls falsely claiming to recruit actors for the film. Director Jude Anthony Joseph took to his official social media handles to urge movie aspirants and the general public to exercise extreme caution. He explicitly stated that the production team has not authorized or announced any casting requirements or auditions for #L370 at this stage. Furthermore, the filmmaker strongly advised people against sharing sensitive personal details, identification documents, or transferring money to unknown individuals under the guise of securing a role. He emphasized that any genuine updates regarding casting will exclusively be shared through verified official communication channels. The casting controversy follows the major official announcement of the film, which teams Mohanlal up with hit director Jude Anthony Joseph and producer Ashiq Usman.



Karthi shines, but Sardar 2 stumbles badly

Actor Karthi is back on the big screen with his latest spy thriller, Sardar 2. Directed by PS Mithran, this movie comes as a sequel to the hit film Sardar. Fans had huge expectations for this release. However, the new film fails to match the magic of the first part, leaving viewers with a below-par experience. The story focuses on a dangerous threat called Operation Doku, which can cause massive destruction to the country. A villain named Black Dagger, played by SJ Suryah, brings this deadly plan back

to life. RAW agents Sardar and Vijay Prakash, both played by Karthi, step forward to stop this crisis and save the nation. Karthi tries his best to save the film. He shines brightly in dual roles as father and son, delivering a solid performance. His emotional scenes stand out as a major highlight. The movie also deserves praise for addressing a real and serious issue in today's world. It highlights the dangers of the overuse of antibiotics through some meaningful dialogues. Supporting actors

like Malavika Mohanan, Ashika Ranganath, and SJ Suryah play their parts well. Despite these good points, the movie suffers from major flaws. The biggest issue is the weak screenplay. While the first film kept audiences hooked with tight narration and great action scenes, this sequel misses that spark. The makers tried to make the film on a larger scale and a bigger budget, but they forgot to focus on a strong story. The tension and gripping moments from the original movie are completely missing here. The second half of the film

becomes very dull and lengthy. A comedy scene involving SJ Suryah, Yogi Babu, and Nizhalgal Ravi feels totally out of place. It damages the serious mood of a spy thriller and raises doubts about the logic behind the plot. Technical work is average. Sam CS delivers an okay background music score, while George Williams does a neat job with the camera. Overall, Sardar 2 turns out to be a disappointing follow-up. Good acting and a relevant social message cannot save a slow and messy script.