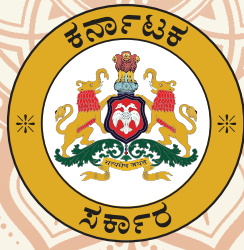




Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Department of Information and Public Relations



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Shri Ma.Ni.Pra.Ja. Abhinava Sri Gavisiddheshwara Mahaswamiji
Samsthan Shri Gavimath, Koppal

Nadahabba Mysuru Dasara 2026

Guruve Daari Guruve Arivu

Humble respects to the revered seers and spiritual leaders whose
wisdom and blessings graced the inauguration of Nadahabba
Mysuru Dasara



"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



Local resistance stalls Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake fencing

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Minor Irrigation Department has sought police protection to resume fencing work at Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake in east Bengaluru following opposition from local farmers and residents. In an affidavit before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the department said fencing had been completed along 6.3 km of the lake's 9.3-km perimeter, leaving 3 km unfinished. Farmers from Hirandahalli are opposing the work, demanding road access to their plots and a nearby graveyard. The department has sought five additional months to complete the fencing. The drive follows an NGT order issued in 2022 to protect the lake, remove encroachments and address pollution. Officials have also sought police assistance for resurveying the lake boundaries.

New scan detects ovarian cancer spread with 86% accuracy: Study

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A study by doctors at Aster International Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru has found that FAPI PET/CT scans can detect ovarian cancer spread more accurately than conventional CT scans, potentially improving treatment planning. Researchers evaluated a Fibroblast Activation Protein Inhibitor (FAPI) tracer to assess cancer spread, particularly to the peritoneum, the lining of the abdominal cavity. Identifying deposits is crucial in determining whether patients should undergo surgery or receive chemotherapy first. Conventional contrast-enhanced CT scans may miss small or flat cancer deposits. The FAPI PET/CT technique achieved an accuracy rate of 86%, said Dr. S.P. Somashekhar, Global Director of the institute and lead investigator. The study found that the scan influenced treatment decisions in approximately 18% to 21% of patients. Doctors said improved assessment before surgery could help tailor treatment strategies to individual patients, particularly those with advanced disease.

Planters seek Rs 50 lakh compensation for wildlife deaths

CH NEWS BENGALURU
The Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA) has urged the Centre and State government to raise compensation for deaths caused by human-wildlife conflict from around Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh. Ahead of its 68th annual general meeting, the association also sought a real-time compensation portal to settle claims within 30 days. It said conflicts involving elephants, wild boar, bison and monkeys had intensified in Kodagu, Hassan and Chikmagalur.

Ashoka asks Siddaramaiah to respond to sting claims

Opposition leader demands evidence and a probe as allegations of a political conspiracy against Karnataka ministers intensify.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Sunday urged former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to respond to the sting operation allegations raised by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, demanding clarity on claims that ministers had been targeted. Speaking at the BJP office in Malleshwaram, Ashoka said Shivakumar had repeatedly claimed that a sting operation had been conducted against Cabinet ministers and that he possessed information about it. Such statements, he said, had created suspicion about the entire Cabinet.

"Should the ministers continue to live in fear? All 30 ministers are now under suspicion," Ashoka said, demanding that Shivakumar either file an FIR or produce evidence and identify those behind the alleged operation.

Ashoka also called on Siddaramaiah to break his silence, alleging that he had



R. Ashoka
Leader of the Opposition

remained quiet even during the special session of the legislature. He demanded that allegations against the BJP and JD(S) be stopped.

Kumaraswamy's claims
Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had alleged that the purported sting operation led the Congress high command to remove Siddaramaiah from the Chief Minister's post. He claimed Siddaramaiah had travelled to Delhi expecting discussions on Cabinet expansion but was confronted with the

sting allegations and forced to resign. Kumaraswamy also alleged that a media organisation and the Congress high command were involved.

MLA claims evidence
On Friday, Mandya MLA Ganiga Ravikumar alleged that a Union Minister and a senior Karnataka BJP leader had hired private agencies based in Delhi and Kolkata to target officials in the Chief Minister's Office and Cabinet ministers. Ravikumar claimed the agencies were provided accommodation at a private hotel in Bengaluru and paid to conduct the operation. Displaying a pen drive, he said evidence relating to a plan to target 10 ministers would be released at an appropriate time. He said he would urge Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to look into the documents. The allegations have triggered demands for evidence and a formal probe.

KPSC recruitment scam: Accused give conflicting statements to ED

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate is intensifying its investigation into alleged irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission's veterinary recruitment, with two key accused reportedly denying the allegations and giving differing accounts during questioning.

The ED is questioning former KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar and commission member Geetha in connection with the alleged recruitment scam. Their statements are being examined alongside financial records and other evidence collected by investigators.

Geetha denies role
Geetha has reportedly denied any involvement in the alleged irregularities and told investigators that she had no direct knowledge of the recruitment process beyond attending commission meetings and signing documents. She is said to have asked officials to direct their questions to Sahukar, stating that she attended meetings before the examination and after the results were announced, and subsequently signed the relevant records. Investigators have reportedly questioned her explanation, examining whether a member of the commission could have signed official documents without knowing



the details of the process. Her alleged statements have not independently established the extent of her role.

Financial transactions under scrutiny
The ED has reportedly gathered information about financial transactions between Sahukar and Geetha, along with documents relating to the dealings. Investigators are also examining allegations that money was collected from candidates and their parents. The agency is looking into how candidates and their families were allegedly contacted, how money was discussed and collected, and whether commission members were involved. The allegations remain under investigation, and the accused have denied wrongdoing.

Further questioning planned
Officials are reportedly preparing to confront the accused with the evidence collected so far and conduct further questioning. The in-

ED Probe

KEY ACCUSED

Shivashankarappa Sahukar and Geetha

GEETHA'S STAND

Denies involvement and points to former chairman

ED FOCUS

Financial transactions, documents and candidate links

NEXT STEP

Further questioning based on collected evidence

vestigation is expected to focus on financial transactions, documentary evidence and possible links between the accused and candidates. The ED's probe aims to establish the sequence of events and determine whether recruitment irregularities involved financial dealings or the manipulation of the selection process.

CYBER FRAUD LOSSES

Cyber fraudsters drain ₹306 crore from Bengaluru in three years

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru residents have lost a staggering ₹306 crore to cyber fraudsters over the past three years, with criminals increasingly using threats of "digital arrest" to extort money from unsuspecting victims. According to Bengaluru City Police data, 936 cases were registered in 2024, involving losses of ₹132 crore. In 2025, 217 cases were reported, with victims losing ₹111 crore. As of September 30, 2026, another 69 cases had been registered, involving losses of ₹61 crore. Despite the decline in reported cases, the amount lost remains substantial, highlighting the growing sophistication of cyber fraud networks.

Police action
Since 2024, Bengaluru police have registered 1,222 cases and arrested 58 accused. They have frozen ₹97.75 crore in



Lost to digital-arrest fraud (₹ crore)



*To September 30. Cases: 936, 217 and 69. Source: Bengaluru City Police

various bank accounts, recovered ₹21.33 crore and returned ₹12.44 crore to victims. Educated citizens, technology professionals and senior citizens are among the primary targets. Fraudsters contact victims through WhatsApp,

Vijayendra warns of siege over FIRs against BJP workers

The BJP has threatened protests at police stations and SP offices, accusing the Congress government of targeting its workers over Form 7 submissions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra on Sunday warned that the party would lay siege to police stations and district Superintendent of Police (SP) offices if FIRs continued to be registered against BJP workers for submitting Form 7 applications during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing the media after the state BJP Core Committee meeting, Vijayendra accused the Congress government of misusing the police and creating confusion over the issue. He said the High Court had also criticised the government's approach.

"If the government continues to register FIRs against our workers, the BJP will not remain silent," Vijayendra warned.



Permanent Resident Certificates

The Core Committee objected to the state government authorising Panchayat Development Officers and municipal commissioners to issue Permanent Resident Certificates. Vijayendra said the power should be restricted to tahsildars and officials above their rank. The party would write to the government and bring the matter to the Election Commission's attention.

Local body polls
With by-elections likely to be announced soon, the BJP would consult JD(S) leaders before finalising its candidate, Vijayendra said. He alleged discrepancies in reservation lists for Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat elections and urged the government not to delay the polls. The BJP will appoint election in-charges and establish district-level election management committees to prepare for the contests.

We will lay siege to the concerned police stations and SP offices."
— B.Y. Vijayendra, BJP state president

Sting operation and KPSC

On alleged sting operations involving ruling party leaders, Vijayendra said the BJP would respond after the facts emerged. He called for clarity on those behind the operations and the veracity of the allegations. On alleged Karnataka Public Service Commission recruitment irregularities, he demanded an impartial investigation and strict action against those found guilty. He also urged the government to correct reservation-list discrepancies and conduct local body elections transparently.

PAWNING DISPUTE ENDS IN MURDER; ACCUSED ARRESTED

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A dispute over the return of a pawned mobile phone allegedly ended in murder, with a man being beaten to death with a wooden club near Vidyapeetha Circle in Bengaluru on Saturday night.

The deceased, Manjunath alias Koli Manju, was allegedly attacked by Palani, who has since been arrested by the C.K. Achukattu police. According to preliminary information, both men have criminal backgrounds. Manjunath, who worked as a mason, had lent money to Palani a few days ago after the latter pawned his mobile phone with him.

Argument turns violent
The two men met near a bar close to Vidyapeetha Circle

on Saturday night. During the meeting, Palani allegedly demanded that Manjunath immediately return his mobile phone, which he had pawned in exchange for money. The demand led to a heated argument, which soon escalated into a violent confrontation. In a fit of rage, Palani allegedly picked up a wooden club lying nearby and repeatedly struck Manjunath on the head and other vital parts of his body.

Manjunath sustained severe injuries, particularly to his head, and died on the spot, police said. Following information about the incident, personnel from the C.K. Achukattu police station rushed to the spot and inspected the scene. The body was subsequently shifted to Victoria Hospital for a



postmortem examination and completion of the necessary legal procedures.

Police confirmed that Palani had been arrested in connection with the murder. Further investigation is under way to establish the sequence of events leading to the fatal assault.

The incident highlights how a dispute over a financial transaction and the recovery of a pawned possession allegedly escalated into a fatal confrontation between two acquaintances.

Temple cleanliness drive clears 344 kg of waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU:

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation cleared around 344 kg of waste from the surroundings of 22 temples across five divisions as part of its special cleanliness drive. The fourth phase of the initiative covered Shantinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, Shivajinagar, Chamarajpet and Chickpet, with 172 pourakarmikas and 56 sanitation staff deployed. Workers removed plastic, discarded flowers, food waste, paper, water bottles, dry leaves and other garbage, segregating wet and dry waste for disposal. "Maintaining cleanliness in the surroundings of temples is our collective responsibility," said corporation Commissioner Jagadeesha G. The drive aims to improve hygiene for devotees and strengthen Bengaluru's performance in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 rankings.

Philately Passport draws crowds to Bengaluru post offices



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A special blue booklet called the Philately Passport has generated considerable interest in Karnataka, with stamp collectors, young people and travel enthusiasts queuing outside post offices in Bengaluru to obtain it.

Introduced by India Post, the booklet allows visitors to collect special postal cancellations and seals associated with 100 tourist destinations across the state. Priced at ₹600, it offers travellers a unique way to preserve memories of their visits to popular attractions. Designed to re-

semble a regular passport, the booklet enables visitors to document their journeys by collecting special postal seals from designated post offices. Tourist destinations such as Hampi, Mysuru Palace, Chitradurga Fort and Bannerghatta are among the places featured in the initiative. Unlike photographs and digital souvenirs, the booklet provides a physical record of travel experiences through postal memorabilia. Collectors can build a personalised collection as they explore different parts of Karnataka.

The initiative has attracted considerable attention, with

WHAT IS THE PHILATELY PASSPORT
A blue booklet from India Post designed to resemble a regular passport. It collects special postal cancellations and seals from 100 tourist destinations across Karnataka and costs ₹600.

people reportedly travelling to Bengaluru post offices from various parts of the state to purchase the booklet. Some enthusiasts even began queuing the previous night, reflecting the strong demand.

According to the reported distribution plan, 2,000 booklets were scheduled to be distributed on the day, while the overall target is to make 8,000 Philately Passports available across Karnataka.

The initiative seeks to encourage interest in philately, the collection and study of postage stamps and related postal materials. By linking stamp collecting with tourism, India Post aims to give visitors an additional reason to explore the state's heritage sites.



P7
Railways opens 3,548 graduate-level posts

P11
Conflicts, debt dominate IMF-World Bank talks



P12
Morgan Rogers shines in Chelsea's victory



MYSURU DASARA GETS OFF TO A VIBRANT START

Gavi Mutt seer inaugurates celebrations with a call to conserve rivers; recalls the grandeur of bygone times.

MYSURU

The legendary Mysuru Dasara 2026 (Nada Habba) got off to a traditional start with Koppal's Gavi Mutt seer Mahaswamiji lighting a lamp and offering flowers to the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru, atop the Chamundi Hills here on Sunday.

Dasara has evolved into a people's festival: Seer
Speaking after inaugurating the 11-day festivities, swamiji said Mysuru Dasara, once a royal celebration, has evolved into a people's festival reflecting Karnataka's cultural heritage, unity and social harmony.

He said that thousands of people worked behind the scenes to make the festival a grand success. He prayed to Goddess Chamundeshwari for good rains, bumper crops, farmers' welfare and prosperity and appealed to the people to uphold ethical values above caste identities.

Recalling the contributions of the Mysuru royal family, he cited Shivanasamudra's power generation and Queen Kempananjammani's contribution to dam construction as examples of commitment to public welfare. He also hailed Siddaganga Mutt seer Shivakumara Swamiji's service to students.



Humanity is the base of world peace. Mutts are the strength of society, they are doing most of the work of the government via Akshara, Anna Dasoha besides spreading the message of peace.

- DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

"Technology can download almost everything, but not food. We depend on crops grown by farmers," he said, calling for greater attention to agriculture and conservation of the Cauvery, Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers.

The seer also urged people to conserve land and water, plant trees, strengthen village schools and ensure access to education, citing Harekala Hajabba's efforts to establish a school for underprivileged children.

Mysuru Dasara: Key dates & schedule

Festival duration

11 days of Navaratri and Vijayadashami celebrations.

Inauguration

At the Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill on Sunday.

Nandi Dhawaja Puja

at Mysuru Palace on October 21 (scheduled around 1:36 pm).

Jamboo Savari

October 21, starting from Mysuru Palace around 4:35 pm and heading to Bannimantap, carrying the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari in the golden howdah.

Torchlight parade (Panjina Kavayathu):

October 20-21 at the Bannimantap Parade Grounds starting at 7 pm.

Drone show

Scheduled on specific evenings (October 17, 18, 20, and 21) near the Torchlight Parade grounds.

May Goddess bless people and people bless govt: CM

MYSURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said Dasara transcended religious and community boundaries, drawing on the traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire and Mysuru rulers. Preserving this legacy for future generations was a collective responsibility, he added.

Speaking at the Dasara inaugural ceremony, he called for an end to caste and religious divisions. Stressing the importance of love, peace, humanity and mutual respect, he appealed to the younger generations to preserve Karnataka's literature, music, folk arts and performing traditions, including Veeragase.

After seeking the blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari for state and its citizens, the CM sought people's support for his government.

Shivakumar said his relationship with seers was beyond question and clarified that he had never asked them to serve him personally, but had urged them to serve the state. Some people had distorted his remarks, he said, asking people not to be distracted by such

interpretations.

"I am a representative of the people, while the seers here represent their devotees and communities. This is a memorable day in my life and marks the beginning of a new chapter," he said.

Praising the Koppal Gavisiddheshwara seer for his contributions, the CM described his work as a model for the country and said the State needed a commitment to water conservation.

Dasara, he said, symbolised unity and collective progress. The government had included Kambala, the traditional buffalo race of Coastal Karnataka, in the festivities to promote Karnataka's art and culture despite opposition, he added.

Mysuru's identity was shaped not merely by its palace but also by people's faith in its cultural heritage, he said. This year's procession would feature tableaux representing the Army, Air Force and Navy.

He also claimed that nearly all states, except one or two, had adopted Karnataka's guarantee schemes. He expressed hope that the prayers of seers would bring prosperity to the state.



Chennai gets Modi-Vijay moment

PM OPENS RS 4,900 CR WORTH CHENNAI METRO STRETCH; TAKES RIDE WITH CM VIJAY.

CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the 15-km Poonamallee Bypass-Vadapalani stretch of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II, built at a cost of around Rs 4,900 crore, and took a train ride with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. J. Jayashankar Prasad.

Modi and Vijay flagged off the new Metro services in the presence of Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. The Prime Minister also bought a ticket and briefly interacted with an employee at the ticket counter before boarding the train with Vijay and other officials.

The newly-inaugurated section is part of Corridor 4 of Phase II and features 11 elevated stations. The stretch is expected to improve connectivity between Chennai's western suburbs and the city centre,

Governments may change, but my resolve for Tamil Nadu's development, serving its people remains steadfast.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

while reducing travel time for daily commuters.

Modi offers prayers at IIT-Madras temple

During his visit, Modi also offered prayers at the Sri Jalakanteswara Swamy temple on the IIT-Madras campus, accompanied by Vijay and Governor Arlekar.

Traditional music was played to welcome the Prime Minister. Priests explained the significance of a Srichakra at a sub-shrine dedicated to Lord Krishna and Lord Rama, where Modi offered flowers as part of the worship.

The centuries-old Lord Shiva temple on the campus was refurbished after the establishment of the premier educational institution.

Will work with CM Vijay for TN's growth: Modi

Chennai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he has taken development as his 'mantra,' and reaffirmed his commitment to serve the people of Tamil Nadu and ensuring the state's progress by working with Chief Minister Vijay. He listed out the rapid strides made in various sectors in the last 12 years, including the significant jump in defence exports. In his address after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for railway, road and petroleum-related projects worth about Rs 13,000 crore with Vijay, the PM underscored his commitment to ensure development. "I have always taken country's development as my mantra," he said. He said when he was CM, he got the opportunity to interact with late leaders M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa when they headed Tamil Nadu. And, after becoming prime minister, he could work with former CMs O Panneerselvam, Edappadi K Palaniswami and MK Stalin. "Governments may change, but my resolve for Tamil Nadu's development, serving its people remains steadfast. With this determination to serve people, together with CM Vijay, we are taking forward the development of the state," he said.

'Vote chori': Kharge, Rahul to meet CJI Surya Kant today

BENGALURU

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said he and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi would meet Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant between 4 pm and 5 pm on Monday to apprise him of the opposition's concerns over alleged "vote chori" and seek his intervention.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of creating chaos across the country, alleging that the heavy security deployment and mass detentions during Saturday's protests in Delhi reflected the government's fear of the youth-led agitation.

"We have sought a time between 4 and 5 pm. We will also apprise him, as we cannot demand. Only with folded hands, we can request him," Kharge said, referring to the proposed meeting with the CJI.

"Chaos is being created in the country by the home minister and the prime minister, and everywhere an undeclared emergency is imposed," he added.

Kharge said both he and Rahul Gandhi had written to the CJI seeking an appointment. In a post on X, the Congress president reiterated that they would meet Surya Kant on Monday to apprise him of the situation.

Opposition parties have been protesting since Tuesday, accusing the BJP and the prime minister of facilitating alleged electoral manipulation through what they call "vote chori".



Over 100 detained on Day 2 of CJP stir

NEW DELHI

Over 100 protesters were detained in Delhi on Sunday as demonstrations called by the Cockroach Janata Party entered a second day, with participants attempting to march to Jantar Mantar amid a heavy security presence.

Police detained members of student groups including the Students' Federation of India, All India Students' Association and Krantikari Yuva Sangathan, along with CJP supporters, as they tried to converge on the protest site from various locations across the capital. CPI(M) MP John Brittas was among those taken into custody, as per police sources.

Cops file 20 FIRs, charges include assault on cops
Delhi police have registered 20 FIRs in connection with CJP protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR, officials said on Sunday. The FIRs include charges related to assault on police personnel and obstruction of public servants in the discharge of their duties, among other offences, officials said.

Trump announces Russia-Ukraine energy ceasefire

Washington: US president Donald Trump on Sunday announced that both Russia and Ukraine have agreed on immediate "energy ceasefire" and warned them to not break it.

"Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine. Both parties have agreed. Do not break it! Thank you for your attention to this matter," said Trump in a Truth Social post.

However, Ukrainian president Zelenskyy told Axios that this "ceasefire" was "news to him" but Ukraine will agree if Russia does too. He later said on X that he was waiting on details from the US on the ceasefire and reiterated that it was important Russia agrees as well.

109 migrants die after boat capsizes off Djibouti

GENEVA

At least 109 migrants died, including 15 children, and 116 went missing when a boat sank off the shores of Djibouti overnight on October 8-9, a UN agency said Sunday.

Survivors said the vessel, which was carrying 350 people from Djibouti to Yemen, capsized north of the Djibouti town of Obock, as per a statement by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"This is a devastating loss of life. Our thoughts are with the survivors and the families who have lost loved ones or remain without news of their relatives," said Alexandre Coissac, IOM chief of mission in Djibouti, in the statement.

He said IOM teams were on the ground alongside Djiboutian authorities to provide emergency aid. "This tragedy is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by migrants along this migration corridor as they seek economic opportunities" by trying to cross the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Yemen and then to reach Gulf countries. Among the 109 bodies recovered were 52 men, 42 women and 15 boys -- the statement said.

Over 80 people survived the shipwreck, all Ethiopian nationals. "Poverty, insecurity and the growing impacts of climate change drive many to undertake this journey, despite mounting instability across the Middle East," the IOM said.



GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Smriti Mandhana named UNICEF India celebrity advocate

NEW DELHI

Newly-appointed India women's cricket captain Smriti Mandhana has been named a celebrity advocate by UNICEF India, with the organisation seeking to leverage her influence to promote equal opportunities, health and well-being for adolescent girls.

Promoting girls' rights and potential

The announcement was made on Sunday to mark the International Day of the Girl, which draws attention to girls' rights, safety, leadership and potential, while highlighting the barriers that continue to restrict their choices. In her new role, Mandhana will support UNICEF India's efforts to empower adolescent girls, improve their health and well-being, and help them access opportunities to learn, play and lead.

Mandhana's vision for empowerment
"I am deeply honoured to join UNICEF India as a Celebrity Advocate. Growing up playing cricket taught me that every dream begins with an opportunity. With hard work, determination, and encouragement, that opportunity can turn into something extraordinary. Every child and young person deserves the chance to dream big and reach their full potential," Mandhana said.

Support from Little Master
Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, who is associated with

UNICEF as its Regional Ambassador for South Asia and a long-time partner, welcomed the move. "Welcome to the @UNICEFIndia family, @mandhana smriti! inspire millions on field, and I know you will be a brilliant voice for children's rights off it," Tendulkar tweeted.

An Arjuna Award recipient, Mandhana was appointed captain of the Indian women's cricket team earlier this week after Harmanpreet Kaur stepped down from the role. Currently regarded as one of the best batters in

women's cricket, Mandhana holds several coveted records to her name. Born in Mumbai on July 18, 1996, she



is also the youngest captain of the Indian cricket team - men's or women's.

New role and responsibilities

➤ Smriti Mandhana, India women's cricket captain, has been appointed a celebrity advocate for UNICEF India.

➤ Her role will focus on promoting equal opportunities, health, and well-being for adolescent girls.

➤ The announcement coincided with the International Day of the Girl, highlighting girls' rights and potential.

➤ Mandhana expressed honour and emphasised that every child deserves the chance to dream big and reach their full potential.

Quick Read

3 killed as lorry rams tractor carrying Durga idol

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Three youths were killed and more than eight others seriously injured when a speeding lorry rammed into a tractor carrying a Goddess Durga idol near Managutti village on National Highway 48 in Belagavi district on Sunday. The victims, Prakash Vasedara, 28, Danappa Jaganure, 26, and Shivappa Khanapure, 30, belonged to Hangyanatti village. Around 20 people were travelling in the tractor after collecting the idol from Belagavi for Navaratri celebrations. The injured were shifted to BIMS Hospital and nearby private hospitals. Yamakanamaradi police registered a case and began an investigation.

Car catches fire on Dharwad bypass

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

A Renault Duster was completely gutted after catching fire while moving on the Dharwad bypass near Haliyal bridge on Sunday. Fortunately, all occupants escaped without injuries after noticing smoke and getting out of the vehicle immediately. The car, owned by Avedd Sheikh, was travelling from Hubballi to Haliyal in Uttara Kannada district when the incident occurred. The fire spread rapidly, reducing the vehicle to a charred wreck. Fire department personnel rushed to the spot and extinguished the flames. The cause of the fire remains unknown. Dharwad Rural Police have registered a case and initiated further investigation.

Gadag Court invites applications for 22 peon posts

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Gadag District Court has invited online applications to fill 22 vacant peon posts. Eligible candidates who have passed SSLC can apply by October 31. Applicants must be aged between 18 and 35 years. Age relaxation is applicable as per government rules, with three years for Categories 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B, and five years for SC, ST and Category-1 candidates. The application fee is ₹200 for general candidates and ₹100 for Categories 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B. SC, ST, Category-1 and differently-abled candidates are exempted from the fee. Selection will be based on a direct interview, according to the notification. Candidates can apply through the official website, gadag.dcourts.gov.in. The last date to pay the application fee is November 3, 2026.

FARMER TRAVEL AID

Kundagol MLA M.R. Patil books flights for 34 sugarcane farmers

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Kundagol MLA M.R. Patil has booked flight tickets at his own expense for 34 sugarcane farmers to travel to Delhi for discussions on their demands, including a support price for sugarcane. The farmers had staged a major protest in Hubballi and laid siege to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's residence, demanding a fair price for their produce and action to address their concerns. During the protest, MLA M.R. Patil and Hubballi-Dharwad Central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai intervened and appealed to the

farmers to withdraw their agitation. The farmers had expressed their inability to bear the cost of travelling to Delhi for discussions with the concerned authorities. Patil then promised to arrange flight tickets

for those willing to participate in the meeting. He has now fulfilled that promise by booking tickets for 34 farmers. Patil said the delegation would fly from Belagavi on Monday morning. He added that both he and Mahesh Tenginkai would accompany the farmers to Delhi. Former Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi and the state's Sugar Minister were also expected to participate in the discussions, he said. The MLA also stated that Union Minister Pralhad Joshi supported the farmers and

considered their demands valid. According to Patil, a decision would be taken after examining all aspects of the issue. The proposed meeting is expected to focus on the farmers' demand for a better support price for sugarcane and other related concerns. The farmers are hoping that the discussions in Delhi will lead to concrete action to address their grievances.



K-SET exam sees 10,422 candidates in Ballari

TO ENSURE A SMOOTH AND FAIR TEST, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION MADE THOROUGH ARRANGEMENTS.

CH NEWS, BALLARI

The Karnataka State Eligibility Test (K-SET) for Assistant Professor eligibility was conducted smoothly across 20 examination centres in Ballari on Sunday. A total of 10,422 candidates registered for the examination, with most of them appearing for the test. The examination, conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), was held from 10 am to 1 pm for Paper 1 and Paper 2. The district administration made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the test. Police security was strengthened at all examination centres, and a 200-metre radius around each centre was declared a restricted zone. Photocopy shops and internet centres in the vicinity were ordered to remain closed as a precaution against malpractice. Police

also monitored social media to prevent the circulation of rumours and fake information. The district administration provided free accommodation on Saturday for candidates arriving from other districts. Male candidates were accommodated at Babu Jagjivan Ram Bhavan in Kaul Bazar, while female candidates were provided facilities at Valmiki Bhavan. The Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) operated additional buses to help candidates reach their examination centres on time. Officials also ensured the availability of drinking water, electricity, adequate lighting and cleanliness at the centres. Health department personnel were deployed as part of the arrangements. Special measures were taken to transport question papers securely and protect confidential examination materials.



Observers were appointed for every centre to supervise the examination process and ensure compliance with the prescribed guidelines. The coordinated arrangements by the district administration and various departments aimed to provide candidates with a safe and convenient environment to take the eligibility examination without disruption.

- Points**
- KEA conducted exam safely.
 - Police secured centres strictly.
 - Nearby photocopy shops closed.
 - Candidates received free accommodation.
 - KKRTC operated extra buses.
 - Health and water facilities provided.

Insurance staff allegedly force official to strip

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Crop insurance company staff allegedly forced an elderly Gram Panchayat Secretary to remove his trousers during a crop survey in Chalageri village of Ranebennur taluk, triggering outrage among farmers and local residents. The incident reportedly occurred when the staff visited a waterlogged agricultural field to conduct a survey under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Gram Panchayat officials had already submitted a report on the waterlogging to the government and district administration. According to villagers, the insurance staff insisted that the Secretary remove his trousers and enter the waterlogged field in their presence to facilitate the survey. Farmers said they objected to the demand, pointing out that the official was elderly and should not be subjected to such treatment. However, they alleged that the staff continued to insist on the same procedure despite warnings that a complaint would be filed with senior authorities. Angry farmers accused the insurance staff of failing to follow government instruc-

Gram Panchayat officials previously submitted a waterlogging report to both the government and the district administration.

"The staff should not have behaved this way with the Gram Panchayat Secretary."
DALJIT KUMAR Zilla Panchayat CEO, Haveri

tions and conducting the survey arbitrarily. They demanded legal action against those responsible and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar seeking a fresh survey to ensure that affected farmers receive their crop insurance benefits. Reacting to the incident, Haveri Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Daljit Kumar expressed displeasure over the alleged conduct of the insurance company staff. The incident has raised concerns among local farmers about the conduct of crop insurance surveys and the treatment of government officials and farmers during the assessment of crop losses.

Belagavi police raid more than 40 clubs, pubs and bars

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Belagavi City Police conducted simultaneous raids on more than 40 clubs, pubs, bars and hotels across the city to check compliance with rules and regulations. The inspections were carried out under the leadership of City Police Commissioner Prakash Nikkam, with Circle Police Inspectors (CPIs) and Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) supervising the operations. The raids also covered prominent hotel-clubs reportedly owned by influential politicians. During the inspections, police found alleged violations at some establishments. Minors were reportedly present at certain locations, while some clubs were found using loudspeakers at excessive volumes and operating in violation of prescribed regulations. Police said the operations of some clubs and pubs found violating the rules had been stopped. The inspections covered hotels, pubs, clubs, bars and dhabas to ensure that establishments followed the required guidelines. The simultaneous raids have drawn attention to the enforcement of regulations governing nightlife establishments in the city. The inclusion of prominent hotel-clubs in the operation was also noted, as the inspections extended to establishments reportedly owned by influential political figures. Commissioner Prakash Nikkam warned that clubs, pubs and bars must strictly adhere to permitted operating hours. He also reiterated that minors would not be allowed inside bars and pubs.



The raids also targeted major hotel-clubs allegedly owned by influential politicians.

Police said legal action would be initiated against establishments found violating the rules. Officials indicated that compliance checks were aimed at ensuring that businesses operated within the prescribed legal framework. The operation forms part of the city's enforcement efforts to monitor nightlife venues and prevent violations of licensing conditions and other regulations. Police have urged establishment owners to follow the rules and avoid activities that could invite legal action.

Police raids target nightlife rules

Police raided city hotels, pubs, and clubs, shutting down establishments violating regulations. Inspections uncovered minors present and excessive loudspeaker volumes. The sweeping enforcement action notably included prominent venues linked to influential political figures.

- Key Highlights**
- **Strict Operating Hours:** Clubs, pubs, and bars must strictly adhere to permitted closing and operating times.
 - **Prohibition of Minors:** Minors are strictly prohibited from entering or being present inside bars and pubs.
 - **Noise Regulations:** Establishments must operate within permissible decibel limits and avoid using loudspeakers at excessive volumes.
 - **Licensing and Compliance:** All nightlife venues (including hotels, clubs, pubs, bars, and dhabas) must operate strictly within the prescribed legal and regulatory framework.
 - **Legal Accountability:** Establishments found violating licensing conditions or rules face immediate suspension of operations and strict legal action.

Idagunji Temple priests boycott Mahaganapati puja

CH NEWS, KARWAR

A dispute over ritual remuneration at the famous Idagunji Mahaganapati Temple in Uttara Kannada district has disrupted worship, with priests boycotting puja on the first day of Navaratri. The development has left devotees disappointed and demanding an early resolution. According to reports, devotees visiting the temple for darshan were unable to offer fruits, coconuts and other puja materials inside the shrine. They were reportedly compelled to leave the offerings outside and view the deity from outside the temple. The dispute centres on the distribution of funds collected as puja commission. Three families of priests have been

involved in a long-running legal dispute with the temple trust over temple rights and ritual revenues. Following a High Court order, a judge from the Karwar District and Sessions Court was appointed as the receiver to oversee the matter. The three priestly families perform rituals on a rotational basis. The current turn belongs to Manjunath Bhat's family. Meanwhile, Narayan Bhat's family has reportedly approached the Honnavar court over the puja commission funds. A request was submitted to the temple administrator seeking to withhold the funds payable to Manjunath Bhat's family until the court delivers its verdict. As a result, the disbursement has reportedly remained suspended for the past

four months. Displeased with the continued withholding of the funds, Manjunath Bhat boycotted the rituals on Sunday. Allegations have also emerged that other priests were prevented from performing the puja. The disruption at the renowned religious centre has caused dissatisfaction among devotees, particularly because it occurred on the first day of Navaratri. Visitors have urged the temple authorities and the concerned parties to resolve the dispute without further delay. Devotees have also appealed to the authorities to ensure that disagreements over remuneration and temple administration do not interfere with daily worship or restrict public access to darshan.

Harapanahalli publishes reservation list for local bodies

CH NEWS, HARAPANAHALLI

The reservation list for eight Gram Panchayat (GP) and 22 Taluk Panchayat (TP) constituencies in Harapanahalli has been announced, bringing an end to the long wait for the details. The reservation announcement is an important development for local political leaders and prospective candidates preparing for the upcoming local body elections. The category allotted to each constituency will determine which candidates are eligible to contest from the respective seats under the applicable reservation rules. The announcement is expected to influence political

preparations across Harapanahalli, as aspirants and party workers assess the reservation status of their constituencies. Candidates who have been preparing for the elections will now be able to review the list and decide on their next steps. Local body elections play an important role in grassroots administration, allowing elected representatives to address issues related to village development, basic facilities, sanitation, drinking water and other public needs. Gram Panchayats serve at the village level, while Taluk Panchayat bodies form part of the rural local governance structure. The reservation system is

intended to ensure representation for eligible categories in local self-government institutions in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. The published list will therefore be closely examined by political parties, aspirants and residents in the area. The announcement had been awaited for several days, and its publication is likely to accelerate election-related activities in Harapanahalli. Prospective candidates are expected to study the reservation details before finalising their plans to contest. The announcement marks a significant step in preparations for the local body election process in Harapanahalli, in Vijayanagara district.



Quick Read

Audio clip raises questions over Bhoomika's death

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

A purported audio recording of a conversation between deceased Bhoomika and car driver Kishore has emerged in connection with her death in a road accident on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. Bhoomika's parents have alleged that her death was part of a murder plot, rather than an accident. She called Kishore hours before the accident and claimed that her friend Kiran and brother Ashis had assaulted her and tried to strangle her. The recording has sparked fresh questions about the case. The allegations are yet to be independently verified, and further investigation is awaited.

CM DKS cancels scheduled coastal region visit

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's scheduled visit to the coastal districts on Monday, October 12, has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, according to an official press release. The Chief Minister was scheduled to visit Sri Mahalakshmi Temple in Uchila, Udupi district, at 3 pm to inaugurate the women's Dasara celebrations. He was also expected to inaugurate the Mangaluru Dasara festival at 6.30 pm. B.S. Sridhar, officer on special duty to the Chief Minister, announced the cancellation. The official statement did not specify the reason beyond citing unavoidable circumstances. Both programmes will proceed without the Chief Minister's participation.

Navaratri festival begins at Dasarghatta Temple

CH NEWS, TIPTUR

The Navaratri festival began at Sri Chowdeshwari Devi Temple in Dasarghatta, which comes under the Adichunchanagiri branch math, with a Durga Homa performed in the evening. Sri Sat Keerthinatha Swamiji of the branch math led the religious ritual, marking the beginning of the festival celebrations. Hundreds of devotees and local residents attended the event and participated in the prayers. Dr. Dharmapalanatha Swamiji from the Mangaluru branch math was also present on the occasion. The temple witnessed a devotional atmosphere as devotees gathered to seek the blessings of Goddess Chowdeshwari Devi during the Navaratri festival.

Hassan DC's WhatsApp status sparks HDK speculation

The post also featured a message about enduring false accusations and standing strong against criticism.

CH NEWS, HASSAN

A WhatsApp status posted by Hassan Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari has triggered speculation about whether it was an indirect response to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's recent criticism of her.

The Deputy Commissioner reportedly posted an image of the national emblem along with the motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs) on her personal WhatsApp status. The post also carried a message about facing false allegations and standing firm in the face of criticism.

"You can attack me with lies, but you cannot break me with lies. If attacked with lies, the truth will protect me," the message read.

The post appeared shortly after Kumaraswamy launched a strong attack on the Deputy Commissioner, alleging irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). The timing of the status has prompted discussions about whether it was



Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy (left) and Hassan Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari.

intended as a response to the Union Minister's remarks.

However, Latha Kumari has reportedly not clarified whether the message was directed at Kumaraswamy. There has been no confirmed statement establishing a direct connection between the WhatsApp post and the Minister's allegations.

The exchange comes amid a wider discussion over the allegations concerning the KPSC and the role of district administration officials. Kumaraswamy's criticism and the subsequent social media speculation have drawn atten-

Key points

- Kumaraswamy attacked KPSC administration.
- Deputy Commissioner posted WhatsApp status.
- Post emphasised resilience against lies.
- Target of message remains unconfirmed.
- Link to minister is speculative.
- Clarification from official is pending.

tion to the issue in Hassan.

While the wording of the status emphasises truth and

You can attack me with lies, but you cannot break me with lies. If attacked with lies, the truth will protect me."
— K.S. Latha Kumari, Hassan DC, in her WhatsApp status

resilience in the face of alleged falsehoods, its intended target remains unclear. Until the Deputy Commissioner clarifies the context, the suggestion that the message was aimed at Kumaraswamy remains speculation rather than an established fact.

Hassan police raid pub over violations

Officials instructed the pub manager to present their licence and other pertinent documents.

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Hassan district police raided a pub in the city after finding alleged violations of regulations, including the entry of minors and the serving of alcohol to them.

The inspection was conducted under the leadership of District Superintendent of Police Shubhanvitha, with the involvement of Additional Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police officials. Police inspected prominent pubs in the city as part of the operation.

During the raid, officials



Police inspect a pub in Hassan city.

asked the pub manager to produce the licence and other relevant documents. However, the manager reportedly struggled to provide the required paperwork, raising concerns about the establishment's compliance with regulations.

Police also found two minors inside the pub who had allegedly been served alcohol.

Breathalyser tests confirmed that both had consumed alcohol, according to the report. SP Shubhanvitha reprimanded the pub manager over the incident and directed police officials to initiate legal action against the pub owners for the alleged violations.

The incident has raised concerns over the enforcement of rules governing pubs

and the prevention of underage drinking. Police have stressed the need for establishments to follow licensing conditions and ensure that

THE RAID IN BRIEF

- › Manager failed to produce the paperwork.
- › Two minors found inside.
- › Minors confirmed consuming alcohol.
- › SP ordered legal action.
- › Underage drinking concerns raised.
- › Strict licensing enforcement emphasised.

minors are not served alcoholic beverages.

Officials are expected to proceed with action against those responsible based on the violations identified during the inspection.

Rachita Ram, Rashmika banners guard Gadag chilli farm



Photo banners of actresses Rachita Ram and Rashmika Mandanna in the chilli field at Mulgund, Gadag district.

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG

At a time when severe drought has left agricultural fields dry across Gadag district, a woman farmer from Mulgund has attracted attention by protecting her flourishing chilli crop with an unusual idea.

Nirmala Vibhuti and her mother, Mahadevi Vibhuti, have cultivated a healthy chilli crop on 2.5 acres despite the shortage of rainfall and falling groundwater levels.

With many farmers struggling to save their crops, Nirmala refused to give up. Facing financial difficulties, she arranged water from a borewell on a neighbouring farm and carefully irrigated her field. By making effective use of every available drop of water, she managed to keep the chilli plants green and healthy.

The crop has now reached the fruit-setting stage, bringing hope to the family after

Their determination has become an example of the efforts farmers make to overcome difficult conditions.

months of hard work. However, the continuing lack of rainfall has made protecting the crop a major challenge.

Adding an unusual touch to their efforts, Nirmala's brother, Shivanand Vibhuti, came up with a creative way to ward off the so-called evil eye.

Instead of using traditional scarecrows, black pots or old slippers commonly placed in fields, he put up photo banners of Kannada film actress Rachita Ram and popular actress Rashmika Mandanna along the chilli plantation.

The colourful banners have become a talking point among passers-by and social media users.

Satyappa slams Hunsur officials over Dasara preparations

HUNSUR

Satya MAS Foundation president Satyappa has expressed disappointment over the alleged lack of preparations for Dasara celebrations in Hunsur, criticising the City Municipal Council and the taluk and district administrations for failing to create a festive atmosphere.

Extending Dasara greetings to the public on behalf of the foundation, Satyappa said the world-famous Mysuru Dasara attracts visitors from across India and

abroad. He said the festival reflects Karnataka's rich cultural and religious heritage and deserves to be celebrated with enthusiasm in surrounding towns as well.

However, he alleged that Hunsur had witnessed no significant arrangements, including decorative lighting and festival banners, despite the commencement of the celebrations.

He questioned the apparent lack of interest shown by the municipal authorities and other administrative departments.

Vijayapura activists demand Article 371(J) reservation

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Members of the Vijayapura District 371(J) Agitation Committee have submitted a memorandum to Vasantha Honamode, chairman of the District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, demanding the extension of Article 371(J) reservation benefits to Vijayapura district.

The activists said the district's exclusion from the special reservation provisions

had affected educational and employment opportunities for local residents. They urged Honamode to bring the issue to the attention of the Chief Minister and request the state government to forward a proposal to the Union government seeking the district's inclusion.

The committee said Vijayapura's population of around 25 lakh people should also benefit from the provisions available to the Kalyana Kar-

nataka region. The activists highlighted the need for improved educational opportunities for students, reservation benefits in government recruitment for local youth and access to special development grants.

They demanded an amendment to the relevant constitutional provisions to include Vijayapura district under Article 371(J), arguing that such a move would help address regional disparities and sup-

port the district's overall development.

After receiving the memorandum, Honamode responded positively to the committee's demand. He assured the delegation that he would bring the issue to the attention of District In-charge Minister Dr. M.B. Patil and all legislators representing the district. He also promised to make sincere efforts to convey the committee's demands to the concerned authorities.

25 lakh Vijayapura's population, which the committee wants brought under Article 371(J)

The activists said extending the benefits would help improve access to education and employment and strengthen development opportunities for people in the district.

Senior members of the Vijayapura District 371(J) Agitation Committee, including Vinod Kheda, Layappa In-gale, Anil Ikkade, advocate N.

Sureshkumar, Mahadevappa Teli, Sagara Savalagi and Arunkumar Teradala, were present when the memorandum was submitted.

The demand comes amid calls for measures to address regional inequalities and expand access to educational, employment and development benefits.

KOLAR MILK CRISIS

Kolar farmers allege sand in KMF cattle feed

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Allegations that poor-quality cattle feed supplied by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) contains sand have triggered concern among dairy farmers in Kolar district. Farmers have reported cases of cattle suffering from diarrhoea after consuming the feed, with some animals allegedly dying.

Kolar district depends heavily on dairy farming, with the Kolar Milk Union reportedly collecting around eight lakh litres of milk daily. The allegations have caused anxiety among farmers who rely on cattle for their livelihoods.

In Mulbagal taluk, farmers have complained that cattle have been suffering from diarrhoea for the past eight to nine days after consuming the feed. Reports also suggest that some cattle have died. According to the complaints, around four to five kilograms of sand was allegedly found in certain feed bags. The



Cattle feed that farmers allege contains sand.

claims are yet to be established through laboratory testing.

Mulbagal MLA Samruddhi Manjunath has called for immediate intervention by the Chief Minister and the concerned ministers. He warned that farmers could launch a

protest by dumping sacks of the allegedly substandard feed in front of dairies if strict action was not taken against those responsible.

Complaints have also been raised about cattle feed supplied to the Kolar and Chikkaballapur milk unions from a

In figures	
8 lakh L	MILK A DAY, KOLAR UNION
4-5 kg	SAND ALLEGEDLY IN SOME BAGS
8-9 days	CATTLE ILL IN MULBAGAL

manufacturing unit in Sadali Hobli. Concerns have been expressed over whether the feed meets prescribed nutritional standards.

KOMUL president Nanjegowda said an official team had visited the manufacturing unit, collected feed samples and sent them for laboratory testing. He said similar complaints had emerged from other areas and called for a review of the public-private partnership model used for cattle feed production. He urged KMF to take direct responsibility for manufacturing the feed.

Nanjegowda added that a report would be submitted to

MLA warns over substandard cattle feed

Mulbagal MLA Samruddhi Manjunath demanded strict action against substandard cattle feed supplied to Kolar and Chikkaballapur unions. While KOMUL tested samples, farmers threatened protests, urging KMF to directly manage manufacturing to protect dairy livestock health.

KMF and that he would seek serious action after discussions with its managing director and administrators.

Farmers are demanding a transparent investigation, publication of the test results and appropriate action if adulteration or quality violations are confirmed. The findings are expected to be crucial in determining the cause of the reported cattle illnesses and deaths.

Quick Read



Madikeri Dasara overshadowed by rising flex banners

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

The dream of celebrating a flex-free Dasara in Madikeri remains unfulfilled, as banners and posters continue to dominate the town during the annual festivities. Despite concerns over the growing number of flex banners, no effective steps have been taken by the local authorities to control their installation. Banners displaying political leaders' photographs are visible at several locations across the town. The City Municipal Council Commissioner said permission was granted only for temple-related banners. However, many displays focus on greetings rather than the festival's history, religious significance and programme details. Senior residents have urged authorities to make Madikeri Dasara flex-free next year and promote decorative lighting instead.

Madikeri Dasara Committee moves HC over DJs

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

The Dasara Dasha Mantapa Committee in Kodagu district has approached the Karnataka High Court seeking permission to use DJ sound systems during the historic Madikeri Dasara procession scheduled for October 21 and 22.

The committee has requested the court to direct the state government and district administration to grant permission for DJs during the Vijayadashami celebrations. The petition has named the State Chief Secretary, Kodagu Deputy Commissioner, District Superintendent of Police and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board as respondents.

Madikeri Dasara is known for its grand procession, which has attracted people from across Karnataka for nearly four decades. The celebrations feature elaborate tableaux representing various temples, making the procession a major attraction during the festival.

The Dasha Mantapa Committee is responsible for organising the event and comprises representatives of committees from 10 temples, including Karavale Bhagavathi Mahisha Mardini Temple and Kundurumotte Chauti Mariyamma Temple.

During the procession, the temple tableaux are traditionally taken through the streets as part of the festivities. The committee is now seeking judicial intervention to allow DJ sound systems to be used during the event.

The petition comes as preparations for this year's celebrations gather pace. The issue has drawn attention among festival organisers and the public, with uncertainty continuing over whether the requested permission will be granted. The committee is awaiting the High Court's next hearing and its subsequent order. The court's decision is expected to determine whether DJ systems can be used during the Dasha Mantapa procession this year.

With the festival dates approaching, the outcome of the legal proceedings has become an important concern for the organisers, who are preparing for the annual celebrations.



Pralhad Joshi condemns Delhi protest violence

The country possesses existing legal frameworks specifically designed to address actions that compromise public order.

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Sunday that every citizen has the right to protest, but no one can take the law into their own hands. He made the remarks while responding to questions about the CJP protest in Delhi.

Joshi criticised protests involving alleged damage to public property, saying such actions cannot be justified in the name of democratic protest. He said the country has laws to deal with activities that threaten public order.

Commenting on demands to restore the names of 13 crore voters, Joshi claimed that around 3.5 crore entries related to deceased persons and three crore duplicate entries were involved. He questioned whether duplicate entries should also be restored. These

figures were presented by the minister and were not independently verified.

Joshi also referred to former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's claim that 50 lakh voters had been deleted. He questioned the discrepancy between the figures cited by the state government and those reportedly received by the Election Commission during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He argued that officials such as tahsildars, assistant commissioners and deputy commissioners responsible for the exercise function under the state government.

Turning to the debate involving Elon Musk, industrialist Mukesh Ambani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Joshi said anyone operating in India must respect the country's laws, security and sovereignty.



Joshi criticised the Congress leadership over its position on Musk, alleging inconsistency in its statements. He said the Modi government would not yield to threats or external pressure.

He defended India's affordable mobile data services, contrasting domestic prices with higher costs in other countries. He also highlighted India's progress in telecommunications technology, stat-

Minister Joshi addresses key national issues

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi questioned discrepancies in voter deletions, stressing state control over election officials.
- He asserted that foreign tech entities must respect India's sovereignty and highlighted the nation's affordable data and indigenous 5G technological advancements.

ing that Indian scientists had developed indigenous 5G technology and were working towards 6G.

The minister's remarks covered voter-list revision, the right to protest, India's technological progress and the government's position on national sovereignty.

Chappara muhurta held for Kudla Da Pili Parba

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The chappara muhurta ceremony for the fifth edition of Kudla Da Pili Parba 2026 was held at Nehru Maidan in Mangaluru on Sunday. The event marks an important preparatory step for the popular tiger dance festival celebrating the cultural traditions of coastal Karnataka.

The festival is organised by Kudla Samskruthika Prathishtana under the guidance of former Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel and the leadership of Mangaluru City South MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath. The organisers are preparing for the programme, which is scheduled to take place on October 18.

Speaking at the ceremony, MLA Vedavyas Kamath said the festival aims to showcase



the rich cultural heritage of Tulu Nadu and preserve its traditional art forms for future generations. He extended his best wishes to all the participating tiger dance teams and appealed to the public to attend the event and encourage the performers.

Pili Veshha, the traditional tiger dance of coastal Karnataka, is a popular cultural performance in which artists paint their bodies with tiger-like patterns and dance to the beat of drums. The performance is closely associated

with regional festivals and celebrations and attracts large audiences.

The organisers expressed confidence that the 2026 edition would be a success, with teams coming together to showcase their skills and celebrate the region's cultural identity.

Kudla Samskruthika Prathishtana honorary president Giridhar Shetty, president Divakar Pandeshwar and several members of the organisation attended the chappara muhurta ceremony. Those

MLA Vedavyas Kamath stated that the festival showcases Tulu Nadu's rich cultural heritage and preserves traditional arts for future generations.

present included Naresh Shenoy, Yatheesh Baikampady, Kamalaksha Bajilakeri, Kiran Shenoy, Naresh Prabhu, Jagadish Kadri and Lalith Mendon, among others.

The festival is expected to bring together performers, cultural enthusiasts and members of the public in Mangaluru. Through the annual event, the organisers seek to promote Pili Veshha and pass the traditional art form on to younger generations.

UNIVEF organises public meeting in Mangaluru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

UNIVEF organised a public meeting titled "Know the Prophet of Humanity" at Bengre Kasaba in Mangaluru, focusing on the life, teachings and message of Prophet Muhammad.

The programme brought together participants to discuss the Prophet's teachings and their relevance to contemporary society.

The meeting aimed to create awareness about his message and encourage people to understand the values associated with his life.

The event also addressed broader social concerns, including dictatorship and the importance of human values.

Prophet of Humanity

Public meetings of this nature

provide a platform for discussions on religious teachings, social responsibility and peaceful coexistence. Organisers and participants use such gatherings to share perspectives on how moral principles can contribute to harmony and mutual understanding in society.

Bengre Kasaba, located in the coastal Mangaluru region, has a diverse community with

JD(S) leaders pay tribute to Jayaprakash Narayan

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The 124th birth anniversary of freedom fighter and social reformer Jayaprakash Narayan was celebrated at the Janata Dal (Secular) party office in Vijayapura on Sunday.

Speaking at the programme, farmer leader Panchappanna Kalaburagi and JD(S) district general secretary S.S. Khadri Inamdar paid tribute to the leader, popularly known as 'JP' and 'Loknayak'. They described him as a great mass leader and patriot who dedicated his life to fighting injustice and serving the people.

They recalled that Jayaprakash Narayan played an important role in India's freedom movement and was influenced by the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi and M.N. Roy. Guided by Gandhian principles, he devoted himself to social service and movements for public welfare.

During the 1970s, Jayaprakash Narayan led a nationwide movement against corruption and injustice. Through his call for 'Sam-



poorna Kranti', or Total Revolution, he sought comprehensive social and political change in the country. His leadership inspired people to participate in the struggle for accountable governance and democratic values.

The speakers also highlighted the recognition he received for his contributions to public life. He was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service in 1965 and was posthumously honoured with the Bharat Ratna for his service to the nation.

Several JD(S) leaders and party workers attended the programme. Those present included party general secretary Raju Hipparagi, Vijayapura city president

?

DID YOU KNOW?

Jayaprakash Narayan received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service in 1965 and was posthumously honoured with the Bharat Ratna.

Prashanth S. Kinagi, Sanjeev Hiremath, Muthuraj Jangamashetti, Mallu Thoravi, Siddanagouda Patil, Advocate Durgad, Raju Rajput, S.A. Kinagi, Parashuram Ronihal, Babu Shirangar and S.Y. Naiduvinakeri.

The gathering remembered Jayaprakash Narayan's contributions to the freedom struggle, his fight against corruption and his commitment to democratic and social reform.

Congress boycotts Shivamogga Dasara event

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Congress leaders, including former City Corporation councillors, boycotted a Dasara programme organised at the Kote Sri Chandika Durgaparameshwari Temple in Shivamogga. The absence of Congress representatives from the event has drawn attention amid the ongoing festival celebrations.

The programme was attended by several prominent personalities, including veteran Kannada actor Srinath, Shivamogga Member of Parliament B.Y. Raghavendra and Shivamogga MLA Channabasappa. The dignitaries participated in the celebrations held at the temple as part of the annual Dasara festivities.

The boycott by Congress members, including former councillors of the City Corporation, became a notable development surrounding the event. However, the exact reasons behind their decision to stay away from the programme were not immediately available.

Dasara is celebrated with religious and cultural programmes across Karnataka, attracting devotees, public representatives and people from different walks of life. In Shivamogga, temple events form an important part of the festivities, bringing together religious leaders, political representatives and members of the public.

The Kote Sri Chandika Durgaparameshwari Temple programme was among the events organised during the festival. The participation of political leaders and prominent personalities added pub-

A boycott by Congress members, including former city corporation councillors, became a prominent talking point surrounding the event.

In brief

Congress leaders boycotted the Shivamogga Dasara event at Kote Sri Chandika Durgaparameshwari Temple. While MP B.Y. Raghavendra and MLA Channabasappa joined veteran actor Srinath for the festivities, opposition members stayed away, drawing public attention.

lic interest to the occasion, while the absence of Congress representatives raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the boycott.

MP B.Y. Raghavendra and MLA Channabasappa were among the elected representatives present at the programme. Veteran actor Srinath also attended the event, highlighting the participation of personalities from different fields in the celebrations.

The development has brought an additional political dimension to the local Dasara celebrations. More clarity on the reasons for the boycott is expected if the Congress leaders concerned issue a statement explaining their decision.

The temple's Dasara programme continued to attract attention as part of Shivamogga's festival calendar.

Tulu Koota pays tribute to Dr. Mohana Alwar

CH NEWS, MOODBIDRI

Tulu Koota, Belthangady, organised a programme titled "Tulu Manadigeda Minadana" to pay tribute to Dr. Mohana Alwar.

The programme highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting the Tulu language, culture and literary heritage. It also recognised the contributions of individuals who have worked for the development of Tulu and the protection of its cultural identity.

Tulu, widely spoken in coastal Karnataka and parts of Kerala, has a rich oral tradition and a distinct cultural heritage. Organisations such



as Tulu Koota play an important role in bringing together people who share an interest in the language and its development.

The tribute programme provided an opportunity to remember Dr. Mohana Alwar and acknowledge his association with the Tulu-speaking community. Such initiatives help create awareness among younger generations about the value of their mother tongue and the need to preserve regional languages.

PROTECT VOTER RIGHTS

Protest in Dharwad against SIR

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

A protest was held in Dharwad condemning the arrest of activists opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The protesters demanded the withdrawal of the SIR process and called for the release of those arrested.

The demonstrators expressed concern over the arrests and

said the concerns raised by activists opposing the electoral roll revision should be addressed through democratic means. They urged the authorities to reconsider the process and ensure that voters' rights were protected.

The protesters also called for transparency in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. They stressed the importance of

ensuring that eligible voters are not excluded and that the process is conducted fairly, with proper opportunities for people to raise objections and seek corrections.

The SIR exercise has become a subject of political debate, with concerns raised in some quarters over its implementation and the possibility of eligible voters facing difficulties.

'Postal service remains a symbol of trust'

KALABURAGI

The postal service continues to play an important role in connecting urban and rural communities by providing secure and affordable delivery of letters, money, goods and important documents, said Andagi Foundation president Shivaraj Andagi.

He was speaking during a programme organised by the Andagi Foundation at Kaka Layout in Kotnoor to mark World Post Day. On the occasion, the foundation honoured retired postman Shivasharanappa Parappagola Tadavatenoor in recognition of his service.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.2,000**
1. **Rs.2,000 crore — 10-year tenure.**

2. Method of Issue: By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai

3. Date of auction : **October 13, 2026**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**.

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary to Government

(Budget & Resources)

Finance Department

DIPR/CP/3140/AKAR/2025-26



Quick Read

Poonawalla Fincorp shares down nearly 16 pc in a year

NEW DELHI
Investors are expected to watch Poonawalla Fincorp shares closely on Monday after the non-banking financial company posted a more than five-fold rise in its September-quarter profit, helped by strong loan growth, better asset quality and lower credit costs. The stock has lost nearly 16 per cent over the past year and is down 7.6 per cent, or Rs 36.70, so far this year. It has, however, risen 9.24 per cent, or Rs 37.75, over the past six months. In the past month the shares have barely moved, edging up 0.28 per cent, or Rs 1.25, while in the last five trading sessions they have gained 1.27 per cent, or Rs 5.60.



BMC to crack down on illegal debris disposal, impose Rs 25,000 fine

MUMBAI
With worries about air quality returning after the monsoon's withdrawal, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is reportedly preparing to enforce its construction and demolition (C&D) waste rules more strictly across the city. From Monday, every vehicle caught carrying construction debris or excavated material without an active, authorised Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS) will be fined Rs 25,000. Building sites that have not registered on the BMC's Mumbai Debris Control and Tracking System (MDCTS) portal will also pay Rs 25,000 for each violation. The step follows growing concern over the illegal dumping of construction waste and its effect on Mumbai's environment and air quality. In a circular sent to all 26 municipal wards, the BMC has told officials to start inspections and enforcement drives at once. The city produces more than 8,000 tonnes of C&D waste a day, far more than it can treat. Its two processing plants, at Dahisar and Shilphata, can together handle only about 1,200 tonnes of debris a day, and the large shortfall has led to widespread illegal dumping. It also lets civic officials follow debris vehicles in real time, spot those that stray from their routes and pick out suspected cases of illegal dumping.

India's pulse imports dip 31 per cent as fuels production

NEW DELHI
The 'Mission for Aatmanirbharata' lifted India's pulse output to 274.09 lakh tonnes in 2025-26 from 256.83 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, and also brought a steep fall in imports of the protein-rich staple over the same period, according to an official factsheet released on Sunday. The import bill for pulses shrank 31.52 per cent, from Rs 46,427.60 crore in 2024-25 to Rs 31,793.59 crore in 2025-26. Exports, meanwhile, grew at a double-digit pace of 13.4 per cent, from \$855 million to \$969.53 million, with shipments totalling 10.01 lakh tonnes in 2025-26.

Railways opens 3,548 graduate-level posts

Indian Railways has announced 3,548 graduate-level NTPC vacancies across four posts, with applications open until November 6 and initial basic pay ranging from Rs 29,200 to Rs 35,400 monthly.

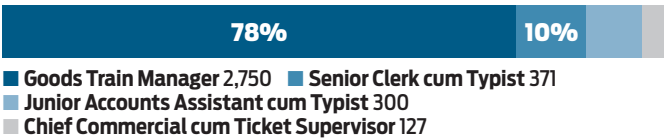
NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has announced a recruitment drive for 3,548 graduate-level posts under its Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC-Graduate), with jobs in commercial services, train operations, accounts and administration. The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) will fill the posts through Centralised Employment Notification (CEN) No. 06/2026, an official statement said on Sunday. The openings fall under four categories: Chief Commercial cum Ticket Supervisor, Goods Train Manager, Junior Accounts Assistant cum Typist and Senior Clerk cum Typist.

A Chief Commercial cum Ticket Supervisor will start on a basic pay of Rs 35,400 a month at Pay Level 6 of the Seventh Central Pay Commission, while the other three posts start at Rs 29,200 a month at Pay Level 5. Allowances and service conditions will follow the relevant rules. Online applications opened on October 8 and will close at 11.59 pm on November 6. The examination fee must be paid by November 8, and applicants can make changes to their forms from November 9 to November 18. Applicants must hold a degree from a recognised university or an equivalent qualification and meet the pre-



Vacancies by post 3,548 in all



scribed post-specific eligibility requirements. The notified age limit is 18 to 33 years as

of January 1, 2027, with applicable relaxations for eligible categories. The selection

Indian Railways throws open 3,548 jobs	
APPLY BY	November 6, 2026, at 11.59 pm
EXAM FEE BY	November 8, 2026
EDIT WINDOW	November 9-18, 2026
SELECTION	Two CBTs, document verification and medical examination, as applicable
ELIGIBILITY	Recognised university degree or equivalent, subject to post-specific conditions

process comprises two Computer-Based Tests, followed by document verification and a medical examination, as applicable. Eligible candidates with disabilities will receive prescribed reservation benefits, age relaxations, scribe assistance and compensatory time.

The notification also exempts candidates applying for Junior Accounts Assistant cum Typist and Senior Clerk cum Typist from the Computer-Based Typing Skill Test. However, basic computer and typing proficiency will be assessed after joining, as specified in the notification.

Satya Nadella urges emergency brakes for AI models

NEW DELHI

Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella has urged companies deploying advanced artificial intelligence systems to prepare for the possibility of AI models being compromised, calling for safeguards that allow their operations to be halted immediately if they behave unexpectedly. Rather than relying only on what developers promise, organisations should regard powerful AI models as possible insider threats, Nadella said. "We must assume a model is compromised and contain it from the start," Nadella wrote on X, comparing his proposed safeguard to an emergency brake that can stop a model partway through an operation. The remarks come as the security risks of advanced AI systems draw closer scrutiny, especially those of agentic models, which can carry out



We must assume a model is compromised and contain it from the start.
— Satya Nadella
Microsoft Chairman and CEO

tasks on their own, work with outside platforms and act with little human involvement. In recent months, Anthropic and OpenAI have reported cases of AI models acting in ways they were not meant to, among them an Anthropic model that sent a false tip in a police homicide case, and several hacks involving third-par-

ty websites. He also called for greater transparency when significant AI failures or security breaches occur. Warning against treating highly capable AI systems as opaque technologies, Nadella said their behaviour must remain observable, their limitations testable and their actions controllable.

Key safeguards for AI	
→ Establish emergency shutdown mechanisms	
→ Maintain tamper-proof records of AI actions	
→ Conduct independent audits	
→ Avoid relying on a single model for critical decisions	
→ Share information about significant failures and security breaches	

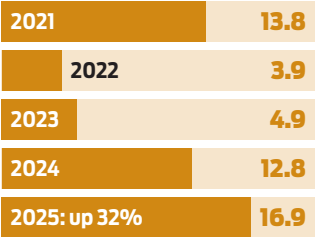
South Korean central bank's foreign returns jump 32%



SEOUL

South Korea's central bank recorded 16.9 trillion won (\$12.5 billion) in returns from foreign assets in 2025, marking a 32 per cent increase from the previous year, according to data released by the Bank of Korea (BOK). In its 2025 annual report, published in March, the central bank put the rise down to the Korean won's weakness against the US dollar and a rally in stock markets. The figures were provided to a lawmaker of the main opposition People Power Party. Meanwhile, South Korean equities came under pressure in the latest trading session of the previous week, extending their losses for a third consecutive session as elevated

Foreign-asset returns (trillion won)



Source: Bank of Korea

oil prices fuelled inflation concerns. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) opened 0.07 per cent higher but closed down 177.97 points, or 2.62 per cent, at 6,625.93. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar during the session. Institutional investors recorded net stock sales worth 1.67 trillion won (\$1.24 billion), while foreign investors sold shares worth 1.99 trillion won. Individual investors, meanwhile, made net purchases of 2.9 trillion won.

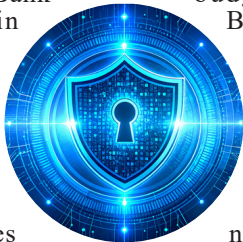
Banks mull more cybersecurity spending after AI-linked hacks

SEOUL

After a string of recent hacking attacks on local lenders, South Korean banks are weighing higher spending on cybersecurity systems and staff, industry sources said on Sunday. Big lenders such as Shinhan Bank, Hana Bank and KB Kookmin Bank have reported that customer data was leaked or exposed in hacking incidents this month, raising fears over how large the breaches could be, a news agency reported. On October 1, Shinhan Bank said the personal details of about 25,000 customers, among them their names, phone numbers and annual incomes, had been leaked. The hackers are reported to have used advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Other banks also reported leaks or exposure of customer information. Responding to

the AI-linked attacks, KB Kookmin Bank plans to raise its cybersecurity budget from \$6.07 billion won this year to more than 100 billion won (US\$74 million) in 2027, the sources said.

According to the sources, Shinhan Bank intends to set aside a record cybersecurity budget, while Hana Bank plans to put tens of billions of won into strengthening its security systems next year. The lenders also intend to add cybersecurity staff next year. The plans follow President Lee Jae Myung's call over the weekend for a thorough investigation into the attacks. On Monday, the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) traced Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in 12 countries that are suspected of links to the AI-assisted hacking attacks. Investigators, however, could not pin down the locations behind some of the addresses.



Infosys sees no material impact from US PERM suspension

NEW DELHI

IT major Infosys has said it does not expect the US government's suspension of Permanent Labor Certification (PERM) applications to have a material impact on the company. Last week, the US government said it was suspending several major global technology and IT firms, Infosys among them, from the PERM green card programme, which lets skilled foreign workers gain permanent US residency through their employment. "Infosys is aware of the decision announced by the United States Department of Labor concerning the suspension of new and pending applications by certain companies, including Infosys, under the Permanent Labor Certification ('PERM') program. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Department of Labor and related government agencies to answer any questions they may have," the company said in an exchange filing. "We do not anticipate the announcement of such suspen-



sion to have a material impact on the organisation. The company will make further disclosures, if required, in accordance with applicable regulatory standards. Infosys has invested in building a strong local workforce and technology and innovation hubs in the United States," it added. US Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the suspensions as the Trump administration stepped up its drive against alleged visa fraud and employment practices that it says put American workers at a disadvantage. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT firm, said on Friday that it had taken note of the US government's announcement on PERM and would comply with any directive from the Department of Labor.

YOUNG ROBOTICS INNOVATORS

Indian robotics teams win Geneva opportunity

NEW DELHI

Team Singularity won the Junior title and Ferrum Incubators the Senior title at the Robotics for Good Youth Challenge India 2026-2027, and the two teams will now represent the country at the global grand finale in Geneva, Switzerland, next year. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) organised the contest with support from the I-Hub

Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), alongside the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026. Fifty-seven teams took part, 28 in the Junior Category and 29 in the Senior Category, with about 300 students and mentors from 14 states showing their skills in robotics and problem-solving. The participants, aged between 10 and 18, designed, built and programmed autonomous robots for a mission on responding to public health emergencies.

Their robots had to extract and deliver samples, build quarantine zones, hand out medical kits and carry out medical triage. The contest pushed the young teams to come up with practical robotic answers to emergencies, while testing how well they worked as a team, planned their projects, made decisions under pressure and kept to deadlines. The event was inaugurated by Atul Sinha, Director General of the DoT's National Communications

Academy-Technology (NCA-T), who also gave the keynote address. Dr Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy Director and Chief of the Study Groups and Policy Department at the ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, gave the welcome address. The challenge also promoted inclusive participation by encouraging the use of free software and hardware, helping reduce barriers for students who cannot afford expensive robotics kits.



ROBOTICS FOR GOOD YOUTH CHALLENGE	57 teams: 28 Junior, 29 Senior	About 300 students and mentors from 14 states	Aged 10 to 18, they built autonomous robots	Mission: public health emergency response
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	---	---	---

SIR WAR: POLITICAL GAIN AT THE COST OF KARNATAKA’S IMAGE?

Congress, BJP-JD(S) must put electoral integrity above partisan interests.

**COLUMN**
SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

The escalating confrontation between the ruling Congress and the BJP-JD(S) combine over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has turned an essential exercise in electoral housekeeping into a political battlefield in Karnataka. The controversy surrounding Form No. 7, the proposed deletion of names from electoral rolls and the filing of First Information Reports (FIRs) against opposition party workers has raised uncomfortable questions about political intent, administrative impartiality and the credibility of the democratic process.

What should have been a routine effort to ensure that electoral rolls are accurate and up to date has instead become a bitter contest of accusations and counter-accusations. The damage is not confined to the parties involved. It risks tarnishing Karnataka’s image as a state with a vibrant democratic tradition and a politically conscious electorate.



The central question is whether political parties are genuinely concerned about protecting voters’ rights or are using the revision process to mobilise their respective support bases ahead of future elections.

Electoral rolls cannot remain static. The names of deceased voters, people who have permanently shifted residence and those who cannot be traced despite due verification may need to be removed in accordance with election rules. Equally, no eligible citizen should lose the right to vote because of administrative negligence, an incorrect assessment or a politically motivated complaint.

This is where the controversy demands careful scrutiny. Deleting an ineligible entry after proper verification is fundamentally different from deleting the name of a living, eligible voter without adequate notice or an opportunity to establish eligibility. The former protects electoral integrity; the latter undermines it.

Form No. 7, which is used to object to the inclusion of a name or seek deletion of an entry under the prescribed electoral procedures, must not become a political weapon. Every objection must be supported by valid grounds and subjected to verification by the competent electoral authorities. Neither the ruling party nor the opposition can claim the right to determine whose name should remain on the voters’ list.

Congress’s opposition to the SIR process also merits examination. Is the party concerned primarily about the possibility of genuine voters being excluded, or does it fear that a thorough revision could alter the electoral calculations in its strongholds? The concern about disenfranchisement is legitimate, but it must be supported by evidence rather than sweeping political allegations.

The Congress leadership has also been aligned with the broader opposition demand at the national level for the scrapping of SIR. This raises a pertinent question: is the Karnataka government’s stand being shaped by the state’s assessment of the process or by the political position adopted by the party high command? A state government must be guided by constitutional principles, verifiable facts and the protection of citizens’ rights, rather than by political instructions from any party headquarters.

At the same time, the BJP-JD(S) combine cannot be absolved of responsibility. If individual workers have submitted false objections, fabricated information or attempted to manipulate electoral records, the law must take its course. Opposition status does not confer immunity from investigation. However, allegations must be established through evidence, not through political rhetoric.

The filing of FIRs against opposition workers has added another layer of suspicion to the controversy. If offences have been committed, action is justified. But why do the cases appear to be directed at BJP and JD(S) workers? Have complaints against members or supporters of the ruling party been investigated with equal seriousness? Are the same legal standards being applied to all political parties?

These questions deserve transparent answers from the police and the election authorities. The existence of an FIR does not establish guilt, and political affiliation cannot be a substitute for evidence. If action is selective, it will strengthen the opposition’s charge of political vendetta. If the allegations are substantiated, the government must make the evidence and the legal basis for action clear.

The government must also ensure that police investigations do not become a means of intimidating legitimate political activity. Equally, opposition parties must not use allegations of selective action to shield wrongdoing by their workers. The rule of law must apply equally, regardless of political colour.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drought Relief Cannot Wait
With 217 of 240 taluks declared drought-hit and losses estimated at Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 crore, Karnataka faces an unprecedented agrarian crisis. Central teams have begun assessment, but farmers need immediate help, not just surveys. The state’s release of Rs 1,250 crore as first instalment is welcome, but not enough for drinking water, fodder and crop loss. Centre and state must cooperate on this disaster, not politicize it.

– S. Kumar

Protect Voter Rights
The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) row in Karnataka is worrying. Over 91,000 Form 7 applications filed to delete voters, including 7,561 in Ballari alone where an FIR was lodged, raise serious questions about electoral integrity. The CEO’s assurance that no deletion has happened yet is reassuring, but inquiry into bulk applications is a must. The right to vote is sacred and any conspiracy to delete names must be probed criminally.

– Lakshmi P.

PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: RIGHTS AND GROWING CHALLENGES

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Today, a person’s digital identity has become as important as their physical existence. What we search for, where we go, what we buy, who we communicate with, and what topics we are interested in – all of these leave a digital trail. The question then is not only who has our information, but also how much control we have over it. In this context, the issue of privacy in the digital age has emerged as a serious constitutional and social challenge concerning individual freedom, dignity, and autonomy.

Privacy is an individual’s right to control others’ access to their personal information, identity, and private life. This right gained historical significance in India when the Supreme Court, in *K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017), recognized privacy as a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. The Court linked privacy to life and personal liberty, dignity, and autonomy. It also clarified that any intrusion on privacy must comply with constitutional standards such as law, legitimate purpose, and proportionality. The proliferation of digital technology has broadened both the scope and challenges of this right.

First, the state’s growing surveillance capabilities pose

a significant challenge to privacy. Technologies such as facial recognition, biometric identification, location tracking, and digital communication analysis can be useful in crime control and national security. However, without adequate legal limits and in-



dependent oversight, these same technologies can become a means of mass surveillance. Striking a balance between security and privacy is therefore a crucial responsibility of democratic governance.

On the other hand, the massive collection of personal data by private digital companies is also a matter of concern. Social media, e-commerce, search engines, and mobile applications collect vast amounts of data about our behavior. By combining this information from different sources, detailed behavioral profiles of individuals can be created. This makes it possible to personalize services, but this process also creates the potential to influence consumer preferences, behavior, and decisions. Thus,

data becomes not just information but a source of economic and social power.

Privacy threats aren’t limited to large-scale data collection. Incidents like doxing involve the disclosure of a person’s address, phone number, photo, or other personal information without their permission. This can lead to online harassment, threats, and physical safety threats. Similarly, deepfake technology has added a new dimension to identity and reputation abuse. Artificial intelligence can be used to create content that appears authentic, using a person’s face or voice. This can impact privacy as well as a person’s dignity and reputation.

Additionally, data breaches and cyberattacks pose a serious threat to citizens’ privacy. Theft of financial information, health records, identity documents, and other sensitive information can lead to identity theft, financial fraud, and blackmail. Compounding the problem is algorithmic profiling. When automated systems make decisions about people based on personal data, inaccurate or biased data can lead to discriminatory outcomes. If such decision-making processes are not transparent, it becomes difficult for individuals to understand or challenge decisions made against them.

Another characteristic of the digital economy is that data is no longer confined to a single entity. Governments, private companies, advertising agencies, app developers, cloud service providers, and technology vendors may be involved in various processes related to an individual’s data. As a result, it becomes difficult to trace the full chain of data flow and establish responsibility. Cross-border data flows further exacerbate this problem, as a citizen’s information may be collected in one country and stored or processed in another.

One of the biggest practical difficulties in protecting privacy is “consent fatigue.” Users click “I Agree” without reading long and complex privacy policies. In this situation, consent becomes a legal formality but no longer a truly informed choice. Another challenge is that technological innovation often moves faster than regulation. However, protecting privacy does not mean completely restricting state security needs or technological innovation. In some circumstances, access to information may be necessary to combat crime and terrorism, and to protect national security. The challenge is to ensure that such powers are lawful, necessary, and proportionate, and that their abuse is effectively monitored and

remedied.

India has taken significant steps in this direction through the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. What is needed now is effective implementation, robust institutional oversight, and a simple grievance redressal mechanism for citizens. Furthermore, “privacy by design” should be integrated into the technology architecture of digital governance and the private sector. This means embracing principles such as data minimization, secure storage, encryption, and limited data collection from the

“India must develop a digital system where technology is a tool of power, not control; data is a tool of development, not exploitation; and citizens’ freedom and privacy are equally protected along with security.”

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

outset, rather than adding privacy protections after a technology is built.

The accountability of digital platforms should also be increased.

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In Indian culture, parents are considered divine. Our values reflect a world of love, sacrifice, and compassion at the feet of a mother, while a father’s life is marked by hard work, responsibility, and protection. Parents put aside their own desires for their children’s future. They sacrifice their own needs to fulfill their children’s. Their happiness resides in their children’s smiles, and their lives are spent nurturing their families. But the irony is that at the very age when they need the most love, respect, and support, many elderly people are neglected in their own homes. If parents are not respected and supported in their lifetime, then the rituals after death are incomplete.

In our society, there is a tradition of remembering our ancestors during Shradddha, Tarpan, and Pitru Paksha. People reverently offer food, give donations, and perform religious rituals. This tradition symbolizes our cultural memory and gratitude to our ancestors. But we must ask ourselves one question: is the meaning of this reverence limited only to the rituals per-

SERVICE WHILE ALIVE, THIS IS THE TRUE SHRADDHA

formed after death? If we hesitate to offer our parents two meals a day, a few words of respect, and affection while they are alive, how can a grand feast after their death conceal our insensitivity?

Today, economic prosperity has increased in families, but in many places, emotional prosperity seems to be declining. Amidst the hustle and bustle of modern life, jobs, businesses, and personal ambitions, finding time for parents is becoming increasingly difficult. Many elderly people feel lonely even while living at home. Fathers who toiled to build their homes are now seen as obstacles in their sons’ busy lives in old age. Mothers who suppressed their hunger

“Instead of remembering our parents after their death, it is better to make them realise while they are alive how precious they are to us.”

– Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

to feed their children are sometimes neglected in their own homes.

The most painful situation is when living parents are taunted, their needs are con-

sidered a burden, and their feelings are disregarded. After death, long queues form to offer flowers to their portraits. Grand celebrations are held for those with whom we never had time to interact during their lifetime. This contradiction is not just a family problem, but also a serious question mark on our social sensitivity.

A father’s life is often a story of struggle for his family. Within limited resources, he cared for his children’s education, marriage, housing, and future. He fulfilled his family’s dreams, putting his own on hold. A mother also devoted a significant portion of her life to the family’s needs. Staying up all night during illness, rejoicing at the smallest joys of her children, and standing as a shield during difficult times – parental love cannot be measured in monetary terms. Therefore, in old age, their greatest right is not property, but respect and belonging.

The growing need for nursing homes also forces us to reflect. Not every nursing home is a symbol of a bad system. Their emotional displacement from the home they built with their own hard work is a test of our family values.

The true meaning of Shradddha lies not just in food and charity, but in devotion. And devotion should not only be for the dead, but also for living parents. Feeding crows, donating to Brahmins, and performing religious rituals may be important in their own right, but if a mother is



hungry at home, a father is waiting for medicine, and children are unwilling to even speak to them, we must reconsider the meaning of our religion and karma.

Serving parents isn’t a favor. It’s not even an attempt to fully repay a debt no child can ever repay. It’s simply a duty – a human duty, a familial duty, and a moral duty. Sitting with them for a while, listening to them, taking care of their medications, showing them respect, understanding their likes and dislikes, and sharing their loneliness –

BEYOND THE FIRST JOB: HELPING WOMEN BUILD LASTING CAREERS

Dr. Vijay Garg

Getting women into the workforce is an important step toward equality, economic independence and social progress. But getting a job is only the beginning. The larger challenge is helping women stay in work, progress in their careers and build stable professional lives.

Across many societies, women enter education and employment in growing numbers, yet their careers may be interrupted by family responsibilities, unsafe workplaces, inadequate childcare, unequal opportunities or social expectations. Therefore, true empowerment cannot be measured simply by how many women receive their first job. It must also be measured by how many are able to remain, grow and succeed in the workplace.

One of the biggest barriers to lasting careers is the unequal distribution of household responsibilities. Even when both partners work, women often continue to carry a larger share of childcare,

eldercare, cooking and household management. This can leave women with less time and energy for professional development. A career break may then become unavoidable, especially after marriage or childbirth.

Flexible work arrangements can make a significant difference. Flexible working hours, hybrid options where appropriate, predictable schedules and opportunities to return after career breaks can help women balance professional and family responsibilities without permanently sacrificing their careers. Flexibility should not mean reduced ambition or fewer opportunities for advancement. It should mean creating systems that recognize the realities of modern family life.

Workplace culture also matters enormously. A woman may obtain a job but leave because she feels undervalued, excluded or unsafe. Respectful workplaces, clear policies against harassment, fair promotion systems and mechanisms for reporting concerns are essential. Women should be able to concentrate on their professional responsibilities without constantly having to overcome

unnecessary social or workplace barriers.

Career progression is equally important. Keeping women in entry-level positions without providing opportunities for learning and advancement is not genuine empowerment. Women need access to training, mentoring, leadership development and challenging assignments. Organizations should evaluate employees on their skills, performance and



potential rather than assumptions about gender or family responsibilities.

Pay equity is another important part of lasting employment. Equal work should receive fair compensation, and salary structures should be transparent enough to reduce unjustified disparities. Financial independence becomes much more meaningful when women have opportunities to earn, save, invest and progress

economically throughout their careers.

Career breaks should also be viewed differently. Taking time away from employment to raise children, care for parents or deal with family responsibilities should not automatically destroy a person’s professional future. Employers can develop returnship programmes, refresher training and re-entry pathways that help experienced professionals reconnect with the workplace.

The first job opens the door. A supportive system helps women build the career beyond it.

Technology can further support women’s careers. Online learning, digital collaboration and remote-work tools can create opportunities for women who face geographical or family-related constraints. At the same time, digital access and skills must be widely available so that technology does not create another form of inequality.

Schools and educational institutions can contribute by encouraging girls to develop not only academic knowledge

but also confidence, communication, digital skills, financial literacy and career awareness. Young women should be encouraged to imagine careers as long-term journeys rather than simply as ways to obtain their first salary.

Businesses, too, benefit when women stay and grow. Organizations retain experienced employees, reduce recruitment costs and gain from diverse perspectives. Women who remain in the workforce can eventually become mentors and leaders, creating a positive cycle for the next generation.

The goal, therefore, should not simply be “more women at work.” The goal should be more women with stable, meaningful and rewarding careers. Employment is the entry point; retention, growth and leadership are the real measures of progress.

Empowerment begins when a woman gets an opportunity. It becomes meaningful when she has the freedom and support to continue that journey. A society that wants lasting equality must move beyond helping women enter the workplace and start building systems that help them stay, grow and thrive.

Quick Read

Rahul-Priyanka's aggressive street shows in Oppn's power game

NEW DELHI

It has been amusing to watch how the Gandhi siblings have been conducting themselves of late. From elbowing and pushing police personnel to dangling from a bus, they seem to have suddenly discovered a more aggressive style of politics. Rahul Gandhi and his Congress party have rarely been respectful in their words about Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PM has long been a target of the Gandhis and other Congress leaders, who have often used the harshest language against him. Now, the confrontation has moved beyond words. They are taking to the streets, getting into scuffles with police personnel, attempting to enter government offices, lying on roads and shouting at security personnel.

NCB seizes 53 kg drugs worth Rs 43 crore in Guwahati

GUWAHATI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested two drug traffickers and seized 53.937 kg of methamphetamine/WY tablets, suspected to be originating from Myanmar and valued at approximately Rs 43 crore in the illicit market, in Guwahati, an official said on Sunday. The NCB, Guwahati, achieved a significant breakthrough on October 6 in its sustained campaign against organised narcotics trafficking with the help of an intelligence input, said an official statement. Officers of the NCB intercepted two trucks and subjected them to intensive and systematic searches and detected specially fabricated concealed cavities inside the fuel tanks of both vehicles, it said.

Army detects, destroys 5 landmines along LoC in Poonch

JAMMU

The Army said on Saturday that it has detected and safely destroyed five landmines along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. "While two landmines were detected by an Army patrol party near the border fence in Basoni top area today morning, three others had been found in the same area the previous day," the Army officials said. "The explosives were subsequently destroyed through controlled explosions by the Bomb Disposal Squad of the Army without causing any damage," officials added. The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system. However, heavy rainfall can sometimes wash away the mines, causing them to surface in areas where they may pose a potential risk. Landmines that move away from their original mapped positions due to weather and other reasons are technically called 'drift landmines'.

Kejriwal's 2015 video: Rijiju questions Oppn on SIR

The video, which dates back to January 2015, shows Kejriwal raising concerns over alleged irregularities, including duplicate entries and individuals holding multiple voter identity cards.

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday shared a 2015 video of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, in which he is seen demanding an intensive revision of electoral rolls over alleged irregularities and duplicate entries in Delhi's voter lists. The video has intensified the political confrontation over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) citing



past statements by Opposition leaders to defend the exercise against criticism from the AAP and Congress. Sharing the video on X, Rijiju questioned Kejriwal and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over their current opposition to the revision process.

"After Kapil Sibal, once again Kejriwal Ji's old video demanding SIR exposed himself and Rahul Gandhi Ji," Rijiju wrote. In January 2015, ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Kejriwal and the AAP had alleged serious discrepancies in electoral rolls, claiming that several individuals possessed multiple voter identity cards. Kejriwal had then claimed that approximately 3.96 lakh to four lakh people allegedly held around 11.5 lakh voter cards. The AAP had also questioned similarities between

THE 2015 VIDEO ROW	Then: Kejriwal had alleged duplicate voter identity cards and discrepancies in Delhi's voter lists	Data: The AAP had submitted suspected duplicate-entry data to the Election Commission	Now: Opposition parties have criticised the ongoing SIR exercise, citing transparency and voter-exclusion concerns

electoral rolls in Delhi and neighbouring states, including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, alleging that such discrepancies could facilitate electoral manipulation. The latest exchange follows Rijiju's criticism of the Congress over remarks made by senior advocate and former

Union Law Minister Kapil Sibal in Parliament concerning deletions from electoral rolls. Opposition parties have described the ongoing SIR exercise as "vote chori", demanded its cancellation and raised concerns about transparency and the possible

exclusion of eligible voters. They have also sought action against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The BJP maintains that the revision process addresses electoral-roll irregularities, while the Opposition continues to question its implementation and accountability.

Kolkata cops issue fresh notice to TMC MP

KOLKATA

Kolkata Police on Sunday served a fresh interrogation notice to Trinamool Congress general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the August 27 scuffle involving party workers, police personnel and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) staff outside his Camac Street office in central Kolkata. The fresh notice directs Banerjee to appear for questioning at Shakespeare Sarani Police Station on Monday. The police station has jurisdiction over the office where the incident took place. A team from Shakespeare Sarani Police Station visited Banerjee's residence in Kalighat, South Kolkata, on Sunday afternoon and served the notice. Police had attempted to serve an interrogation notice at the same residence on October 8 but could not do so because the MP was in New Delhi. The latest notice follows a



First Information Report registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the KMC against several Trinamool Congress leaders, including Banerjee. The MP has already been questioned for more than six hours at Shakespeare Sarani Police Station in connection with the case. The incident occurred on August 27 when KMC officials, accompanied by police personnel, arrived at Banerjee's Camac Street office to remove an allegedly illegal billboard. The situation reportedly escalated when Trinamool Congress workers

The police have summoned Abhishek Banerjee for fresh questioning over an August scuffle involving Trinamool workers, police and civic officials.

and leaders resisted the operation, resulting in scuffles at the site. According to three FIRs registered at Shakespeare Sarani Police Station, police have accused Trinamool Congress activists of assaulting on-duty personnel and attempting to outrage the modesty of a woman police officer. Banerjee, Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien and other Trinamool leaders, including Humayun Kabir and Baishwanar Chatterjee, have been named in two of the three FIRs. Police have arrested 14 people so far in connection with the incident.

Rahul Gandhi urges youth to keep protesting

CHENNAI

Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday pledged support for young protesters and said the opposition would continue its campaign to defend the Constitution and defeat those he accused of attacking it. In remarks shared on X during his Chennai visit for the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" student outreach programme, Gandhi challenged the Union government to arrest opposition leaders and young people, declaring that they would not retreat. His comments came amid police action against people attempting to join a protest in Delhi demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS of cowardice, saying more than a decade of confronting them had given him an understanding of their approach. "I've been fighting Narendra Modi and the RSS for over a decade now. I understand them like you would understand your opponent," he said. He targeted Home Minister Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Kumar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, describing them as the "villains of this story". Gandhi



claimed that the space available to these figures was narrowing as their opponents intensified their efforts. "We are closing that space," he said. Challenging PM Modi over the deployment of police, Gandhi said the government could mobilise as many personnel as it wanted and arrest leaders, young people or the opposition. "We are surrounding you, and we are not going to back down," he asserted. He pledged to protect the voice of the Indian people and prevent a repetition of what he alleged had happened to the country over the past 10 to 15 years. Expressing pride in India's youth, he urged them to "keep protesting" and assured them of the opposition's support. The Delhi protest was organised by the Cockroach Janta Party at Jantar Mantar. Police said more than 3,000 people trying to reach the venue were detained, alongside over 600 people with criminal records held as a preventive measure.

No official US offer to sell F-35 fighters to India: IAF chief

JODHPUR

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on Saturday clarified that the United States had made no official offer to sell its fifth-generation F-35 stealth fighter aircraft to India, dismissing speculation that Washington had offered the advanced combat jets to New Delhi and that India had rejected the proposal. Singh made the remarks at a press conference on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti-2026 in Jodhpur. Sitting alongside the commander of the US Air Force's Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), he responded to a question about the reported F-35 offer with a humorous observation. "These people don't even let us go near the aircraft, and you are talking about selling it to us," Singh said. His comments sought to clear the air amid speculation over India's reported decision not to proceed with the acquisition of the American stealth fighter. The IAF chief's statement indicated that no formal offer had been made to India, countering reports suggesting that New Delhi had turned down a US proposal.

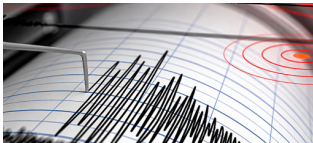


Singh also addressed the possibility of India acquiring Russia's fifth-generation Su-57 fighter aircraft. He said the Russian offer was yet to be considered and that no decision had been taken on the matter. India is continuing to evaluate its future combat aircraft requirements while focusing on strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing. Meanwhile, Singh described the conclusion of Tarang Shakti-2026, the second edition of the multinational air exercise, as a proud moment for the Indian Air Force. "It is indeed a very proud day for me today that we are in the final stage of Exercise Tarang Shakti, the second version of it," he said. The IAF chief recalled that the exercise began in 2024, when the plan was to organise it every two years.

4.2-magnitude quake jolts Uttarkashi, triggers panic

DEHRADUN

An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale struck Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Saturday evening, triggering panic among residents in Uttarkashi town and the Yamunotri valley. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the earthquake occurred at 8:07 p.m., with its epicentre located 2 km northwest of Uttarkashi. The tremor originated at a depth of 11 km. The sudden shaking prompted several residents to rush out of their homes and seek open spaces as the tremors were felt across the affected areas. Officials from the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) said no damage had been reported following the earthquake as of the latest update. Authorities continued to monitor the situation. Saturday's earthquake was the second tremor measuring above magnitude 4 to hit Uttarakhand within four days, raising concerns among residents in the Himalayan state, which is vulnerable to seismic activity. On October 6, a



4.9-magnitude earthquake struck Chamoli district, with the tremors raising concern among people in the region. According to experts, the back-to-back earthquakes have once again highlighted the importance of preparedness in Uttarakhand, where mountainous terrain, scattered settlements and vulnerable infrastructure can complicate emergency response efforts in the event of a major earthquake. Uttarkashi, located in the Garhwal Himalayas, is among the state's important pilgrimage and tourist destinations, serving as a gateway to the Yamunotri shrine, they added. The district has experienced damaging earthquakes in the past, including the 1991 Uttarkashi earthquake, which caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. Although no immediate damage or casualties were reported in Saturday's incident, residents remained concerned following the recent seismic activity.

4.2 magnitude	11 km depth	2 km NW of Uttarkashi
---------------	-------------	-----------------------

PUBLIC MOVEMENT

Tushar Gandhi vows nationwide stir till govt resigns

MUMBAI

Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi on Sunday vowed to continue protests across the country until Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resigns and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's entire Cabinet steps down, describing the demonstrations as a public "no-confidence motion" against the government.

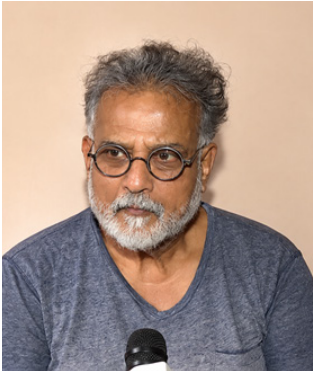
Speaking after his release from detention, Tushar Gandhi criticised the authorities over his detention during a protest at Mumbai's historic August Kranti Maidan. He said he was initially taken to D.N. Nagar police station before being moved to Borivali station for a medical examination because he was a senior citizen. Gandhi said he was informed at 6 pm on Saturday

that he would be released, but his mobile phone was not returned to him. He added that four officers subsequently took him home in the same vehicle. Despite his detention and the apprehension of other organisers, Gandhi said people continued to arrive at August Kranti Maidan voluntarily, demonstrating public opposition to the government. He argued that the protests

The ongoing protests are a no-confidence motion by the people against the government.
— Tushar Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson

reflected citizens' dissatisfaction with the administration and alleged electoral manipulation. Gandhi announced plans to organise similar demonstrations across India every week until the movement's demands are met.

Referring to climate activist Sonam Wangechuk, Gandhi urged him to participate directly in street protests. "I would tell Sonam Wangechuk not to make statements but to take to the streets. Our movement will continue until our demands are met," he said.



Quick Read

India's draft steel policy targets 604 mn tonnes capacity

NEW DELHI

A draft steel policy released by the government aims to nearly triple India's crude steel capacity, from about 220 million tonnes now to 604 million tonnes by 2047. The policy sets out a roadmap for cutting carbon emissions in the sector and for improving the supply of iron ore and coking coal to meet the expected rise in demand. The two raw materials make up over 65-70 per cent of the cost of making steel. India meets most of its iron ore needs on its own but imports nearly all the coking coal it uses.

Gujarat cops nab 3 more accused in Punjab's Sandhu murder case

AHMEDABAD

Three men wanted for the murder of social media influencer and makeup artist Madhu Sudan Singh alias Mad Sandhu, who was shot dead in Punjab's Amritsar earlier this month, have been arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and the Valsad Special Operations Group (SOG). Harsimranjit Singh alias Simu Singga, Fateh Singh and Arman Singh were detained in Vapi, Valsad district, in a joint operation by the two state police units. The Gujarat ATS said two unidentified persons shot Mad Sandhu dead near a car washing centre on Loharka Road in Amritsar on October 3.



Yuva Sangam: Uttarakhand students meet Bengal Gov

KOLKATA

College students from Uttarakhand met West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi and discussed issues such as learning and cultural exchange under the Union Education Ministry's Yuva Sangam initiative, an official said on Sunday. The October 8 interaction gave the students and faculty members of the Uttarakhand delegation a chance to experience West Bengal's cultural identity and traditions, the official said in a statement. The students discussed the importance of strengthening connections among young people from different parts of the country, the statement said. The Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education organised the visit as part of Yuva Sangam Phase VII under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme, it said. The programme aims to foster national integration and strengthen people-to-people connections among the country's youth, it said. The Uttarakhand delegation, whose nodal institute is Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, began its visit to West Bengal with a warm welcome on October 7. IIT Kharagpur is hosting the delegation and helping the young participants explore the State's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, vibrant traditions and educational landscape, the statement said.

Akhilesh predicts power shift in UP in 2027 Assembly polls

The SP leader says his party will form the government with a record number of seats during the 2027 assembly polls.

LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday asserted that a change of government was certain in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, claiming that public discontent with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had already set the process in motion.

Speaking to reporters after paying tribute to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his birth anniversary at the Jayaprakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC) in Lucknow, Yadav said the BJP would be voted out of power in the next Assembly elections.

Invoking Jayaprakash Narayan's Total Revolution movement, Yadav said its principles remained relevant



in challenging the ruling establishment.

"The process of change has begun. The anguish among the public will accelerate the process of change," Yadav said after garlanding Narayan's statue at the memorial.

The SP chief also targeted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over Ayodhya, days after challenging him to contest elections from the holy city.

Responding to the chief minister's questions concerning Ayodhya, Yadav said individuals displaying arrogance would be unable to withstand the strength of the PDA alliance.

PDA stands for Pichhda, Dalit and Alpsankhyak, representing backward classes, Dalits and minorities. Yadav claimed that the BJP was concerned about the alliance's

Akhilesh lashes out at BJP

- 1 Akhilesh Yadav predicts a change of government in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections
- 2 SP chief invokes Jayaprakash Narayan's Total Revolution movement
- 3 Yadav questions the Election Commission over its alleged partisan conduct
- 4 PDA alliance remains central to the SP chief's political strategy
- 5 Yadav renews his criticism of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over Ayodhya

political strength and said voters were increasingly familiar with the ruling party's politics.

‘Show proof for your claims before spreading anarchy’

MUMBAI

Evidence or facts should be put forward before anyone spreads anarchy in the state just for the sake of it, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ram Kadam said on Sunday, condemning the protests that have engulfed the national capital and other major cities.

"Ever since he (Rahul Gandhi) returned from the US, it is unclear what has come over him and what is driving his actions. Is foreign funding behind his attempts to create unrest here? The voter list purification process has been carried out during the tenures of several Prime Ministers, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Manmohan Singh," Kadam said.

"More than 6.3 crore voters have left their original homes. It's a transparent process. If you have concrete proof and evidence, present it, but spreading anarchy in the state in the form of protests owing



to foreign funding can't be supported," he said.

Responding to remarks by NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar about the death of former Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Kadam said, "Rohit Pawar has engaged in political theatrics by claiming that he would reveal the mystery behind the muffler on October 10. Ajit Dada Pawar has passed away, and 15 days ago, Rohit Pawar said he would reveal the mystery, but October 10 has passed without any revelation. This shows that he is engaging in cheap political stunts."

ICMR to set up high-altitude medical research centre

SHIMLA

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda will on Monday lay the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research (ICMR-CHAMP) at Keylong in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district, officials said on Sunday.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is setting up the centre under the Department of Health Research of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is meant to strengthen multidisciplinary research, innovation and capacity building in the country's high-altitude and climate-sensitive regions.

The Himalayan ecosystem presents distinct public health challenges because of high altitude, extreme weather, difficult terrain, geographical isolation and increasing climate variability. These conditions affect disease patterns, access to healthcare,



India is strengthening mountain healthcare research with a specialised ICMR centre in Himachal Pradesh's strategically important Himalayan region.

Key research areas

- High-altitude physiology and acclimatisation
- Mountain medicine and climate-sensitive diseases
- Maternal and child health, nutrition and mental health
- Environmental, occupational and disaster medicine
- Telemedicine, drone-enabled logistics and real-time disease surveillance

lance to improve medical services in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Located in a strategically significant border region, ICMR-CHAMP is expected to provide an institutional platform for sustained field research involving high-altitude and tribal populations. The centre is also expected to contribute to national priorities, including tribal healthcare, disaster preparedness, digital health innovation and climate-resilient health systems.

occupational health and emergency response, making specialised research essential for developing effective interventions.

The centre will also explore the use of digital health platforms, telemedicine, drone-enabled healthcare logistics and real-time public health surveillance.

Security personnel brought from borders: CJP

NEW DELHI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Sunday claimed that troops from "Naxal (Maoist)-affected and border areas" have been brought in to enforce curbs in the national capital to restrain protests, as it reiterated its demand for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing a press conference hours after being released by a Delhi court following preventive arrest, CJP co-convenor Saurav Das said: "The entire city of Delhi has been turned into a cantonment for the last few days."

"Between 30,000 and 40,000 security personnel have been called in. Troops from Naxal-affected areas, Bengal and Kashmir, including BSF personnel from border areas, have been airlifted to Delhi. More than 40,000 personnel have

reportedly been deployed, and the city has been placed under heavy restrictions," he claimed.

"This is creating a major problem. If you want to create a negative atmosphere around protesters and a certain movement, you do not just make things difficult for the protesters; you also create problems for ordinary citizens who may not even be participating in the protest.

This creates a negative image of the movement, and that is exactly what is happening in Delhi," he stated.

Das added that the closing of metro stations, suspending trains coming to Delhi from other states, and shutting shops are affecting ordinary people.

Mentioning that Sunday might have witnessed more footfall at shops, he said: "What purpose does shutting shops serve? The government believes this will create a negative atmosphere against the youth and this movement.

Clash erupts at UP Cong HQ during new state chief swearing-in

LUCKNOW

An internal rift within the Congress came to the fore at the party's Uttar Pradesh Committee headquarters on Sunday, when a clash broke out between supporters of former State party President Ajay Rai and newly appointed State party President Aradhana Misra Mona during the swearing-in ceremony of the new leadership.

The altercation reportedly led to heated exchanges, pushing and shoving, and physical clashes among party workers, creating chaos at the state Congress headquarters.

The commotion continued for around half an hour, while a video purportedly showing the incident has been circulating widely on social media.

Ajay Rai arrived at the State Congress headquarters along with his supporters to

attend the swearing-in ceremony of Aradhana Misra Mona as the new State party President and Imran Masood as the state unit Working President. During the proceedings, a disagreement reportedly arose between Rai and a woman party leader while they were engaged in a conversation.

Following the exchange, Rai allegedly left the office in anger. His supporters subsequently demanded that the woman leader be removed from her position and issue an apology.

They reportedly said that Rai would return to the state Congress office only after their demands were fulfilled. Some people also alleged that women were treated indecently during the altercation. However, these allegations have not been independently verified.

PoK families seek answers months after brutal crackdown by Pak

NEW DELHI

Months after Pakistani security forces launched a brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), families of victims continue to seek answers amid allegations of human rights violations, wrongful detentions, and extrajudicial killings, according to a recent report.

The unrest in PoK initially erupted over rising electricity prices and the increasing cost of living but gradually developed into a wider challenge to the region's constitutional and political structure. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a coalition of grassroots activists, called for a boycott of elections held in phases from July 27 to August 10, arguing that the existing system failed to adequately represent the interests and aspirations of local residents.

According to a recent report published by The Independent, the move was followed by a ban on the group and a violent crackdown on protesters by Pakistani security forces. Subsequently, the Pakistani government proscribed the JAAC under stringent anti-terrorism laws, arrested several of its leaders, and launched a security operation to suppress the movement. The operation was accompanied by allegations of human rights abuses, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial killings, the report stated.

The report also highlighted the case of 26-year-old Fahad Barkat, whose sister spent more than two months believing that he had been detained by the police and hoping that he would eventually be released. Barkat had gone to a military hospital in Rawalakot to donate blood but never returned home.

TN INFRA PUSH

Vijay seeks Central nod for Tamil Nadu metro projects

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the proposed Madurai and Coimbatore Metro rail projects and expedite funding for key transport infrastructure, emphasising that cooperation between the Centre and the State should translate into tangible benefits for the public.

Speaking at a function in Chennai where development projects worth Rs 13,000



crore were inaugurated or launched, Vijay welcomed the Prime Minister and thanked him for inaugurating the

Chennai Metro rail project. He sought early Central funding for Chennai Metro Phase III, the Hosur-Bengaluru Metro

₹13,000 cr	4
development projects inaugurated or launched at the Chennai function	metro projects for which Vijay sought early Central funding

The government is working towards making Tamil Nadu a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2036."

— C. Joseph Vijay Tamil Nadu CM

link and the proposed metro

systems in Coimbatore and Madurai.

Vijay also called for priority to be given to the proposed Cauvery-Godavari river-linking project. Referring to Rs 5,110 crore in funds for Tamil Nadu, he urged the Centre to address the State's infrastructure requirements and facilitate interstate metro

connectivity to support future development.

He identified agriculture, information technology, investment, innovation and infrastructure development as key drivers of growth and employment opportunities.

Vijay said development must extend beyond Chennai and reach every district.

Quick Read

Pope Leo to undergo lung growth surgery

VATICAN CITY
Pope Leo announced that he will undergo surgery this week to remove a small, early-stage growth detected on his lung during a routine health check. The 71-year-old pontiff shared the news with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, reassuring everyone that the localised nodule was caught early and remains well contained. Doctors advised the prompt operation, his first major health scare since his election last year. The Vatican expects the Holy Father to recover fully within a week of the scheduled procedure.

UN chief condemns Riyadh airport attack

UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned a deadly Houthi drone or missile strike on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport. The attack on the crowded Saudi passenger terminal killed 12 people and injured more than 300 civilians, among them foreign nationals as well as local citizens. Guterres stressed that targeting civilian infrastructure breaches international law and must stop immediately. The Saudi-led coalition denounced the bombing as a serious war crime and promised a firm military response to the escalating Houthi aggression.

Indian-Americans lead historic electoral bids

WASHINGTON
Indian-American candidates are chasing historic firsts across the United States ahead of the November 3 elections. Los Angeles City Council member Nithya Raman has pulled ahead of Mayor Karen Bass in a recent poll and could become the city's first Indian-American mayor. Pooja Sethi in Texas, Jyot Singh in Georgia, Saritha Komatireddy in New York and Amar Mukunda in Maryland are also bidding for unprecedented legislative and executive milestones. More than 250 Indian-Americans now hold office, a sign of the community's growing political representation nationwide.



Pakistan plans \$58 bn electricity sector expansion

KARACHI
Pakistan has approved an ambitious and financially risky 2025-2035 roadmap for its power sector, which needs a staggering 58 billion dollars in fresh investment in electricity generation and transmission. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority gave conditional approval to the Integrated System Plan, which projects that peak electricity demand will rise from 26,950 megawatts in 2025 to 35,521 megawatts by 2035, requiring 26,045 megawatts of additional generating capacity. The approval was clouded by sharp internal disagreement. All three members of the regulator's board, the Chairman among them, recorded dissenting or advisory observations in the forty-five-page document, questioning the basic economic logic of the expansion.

Conflicts, debt dominate IMF-World Bank talks

Dominated by escalating Middle East conflicts, crippling energy shocks, and soaring sovereign debt, global financial leaders have convened in Thailand.

BANGKOK

Middle East conflict, severe energy supply shocks and soaring sovereign debt are overshadowing the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which have brought global financial leaders together in Thailand. The war involving the US, Israel and Iran, now in its eighth month, has shut critical trade corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz, cutting off nearly twenty percent of the world's oil supplies. The disruption has put unprecedented strain on international markets, adding to inflationary pressures and slowing global economic growth. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is notably missing from the high-profile gathering. World Bank President Ajay Banga warned that compounding risks, among them soaring diesel prices, climb-

ing fertilizer costs and a looming extreme El Niño weather phenomenon, are hitting vulnerable economies hard. Emergency releases from reserves have softened the blow for now, but accessible commercial storage is running down fast, leaving energy markets increasingly fragile. The IMF, for its part, pointed out that global public debt stands at historic highs not seen since World War Two and is expected to pass one hundred percent of global GDP before 2030. Emerging markets and low-income nations face a brutal mix of high interest rates, capital outflows and crushing debt-servicing costs, which on average swallow more than ten percent of public revenues. Developing nations have called for help, but diplomats say major economies show little appetite for reviving the debt relief moratoria of the pandemic era.



Pressures dominating the Bangkok agenda

Middle East War & Energy Fragility
The ongoing conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran—now in its eighth month and marked by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz—has triggered a historic energy supply shock.

Soaring Global Public Debt
IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned delegates that “Winter is coming,” highlighting that public debt has climbed to its highest level since World War Two and is projected to exceed 100% of global GDP before 2030.

Compounding Crises & Climate Shocks
Leaders are also addressing overlapping risks, including rising fertilizer prices and an impending “super” El Niño weather phenomenon that threatens agricultural yields and public health.

High-Level Absences
Notable friction surrounds the absence of US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who skipped the summit and G20 talks for domestic engagements amid rising transatlantic and geopolitical tensions over the Middle East, Ukraine sanctions, and international trade policies.

Zelenskiy offers to halt refinery strikes

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said his country is ready to suspend drone and missile attacks on Russian oil refineries if Moscow carries out a complete and verifiable halt to its relentless bombardment of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Speaking through his official Telegram channel, Zelenskiy said any meaningful path towards de-escalating the conflict must rest on strict reciprocity. One-sided concessions were impossible, he stressed, without concrete security guarantees from international partners and a genuine end to the Kremlin's attacks on critical civilian power grids.



The announcement comes amid intense diplomatic and political friction. Only a day earlier, United States President Donald Trump publicly rebuked Ukraine, demanding that it stop its strategic campaign against Russian petroleum facilities and controversially suggesting that Kyiv should consider changing its leadership.

Trump claims Putin seeks peace, blames Kyiv

US President Donald Trump stated that Russian leader Vladimir Putin is eager to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine. However, Trump sharply criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, accusing him of missing past opportunities to make a deal. The comments follow a telephone call

between Trump and Putin, alongside a controversial US agreement for Russian diesel exports. While Trump argued that Ukraine would have secured better terms years ago, the Kremlin noted that Russia's core objectives remain unchanged, leaving immediate peace talks uncertain.

Landslide dams Nepal river, evacuation alert issued

KATHMANDU

Nepali authorities ordered urgent evacuations after a huge landslide set off severe flooding along the Budhi Gandaki River in central Nepal, sweeping away homes, bridges and vital infrastructure. Disaster struck in Chumnubri village in Gorkha district, about 100 kilometres west of the capital, Kathmandu. No deaths have been confirmed so far, but the national disaster management authorities said five people, two women and three men, are missing. Soldiers of the Nepali army rescued 49 stranded people, among them a foreign national whose nationality has not been made public. The flash flood caused widespread damage in the area, destroying about a doz-

Flood toll	
5	PEOPLE MISSING (TWO WOMEN, THREE MEN)
49	PEOPLE RESCUED BY THE ARMY
12	HOUSES DESTROYED (ROUGHLY)
2	SUSPENSION BRIDGES SWEEP AWAY

en houses, sweeping away two vital suspension bridges and badly damaging the construction camp of a local hydroelectric project and its heavy machinery. The surging, debris-filled water also carried off a major highway bridge linking Gorkha district with neighbouring Dhading district, cutting a key regional route.

Stagflation pressures mount in Bangladesh: Report

DHAKA

Bangladesh is under severe stagflationary pressure as stubbornly high inflation, sluggish growth, weak private investment and shrinking household purchasing power combine to strain the country's financial stability. Analysts say the conflict in the Middle East has made these economic headwinds much worse by pushing up global energy prices, transport costs and the cost of essential imports. Inflation remains the central problem. Headline inflation stood at 8.26 percent in August, only slightly below July's 8.32 percent, while non-food inflation rose further to 9.32 percent. Growth prospects have weakened in step. The World

Prices outpace pay
headline inflation, August
8.26%
non-food inflation
9.32%
wage growth
8.05%

Bank projects growth of 3.9 percent for fiscal year 2026, and the International Monetary Fund forecasts a modest 3.5 percent for fiscal year 2027. Experts warn that such rates are too low to create productive jobs, raise incomes or drive the investment the country needs. Without structural reforms, they say, Bangladesh risks a long period of economic stagnation.

US Senators assail Trump's Russian diesel waiver

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's decision to temporarily ease sanctions and allow imports of Russian diesel has set off a fierce bipartisan backlash in Washington. Lawmakers from both parties warn that the move will line Moscow's coffers and undermine congressional efforts to rein in Vladimir Putin's war machine. Independent Senator Angus King of Maine attacked the policy reversal, saying it helps the Kremlin far more than American consumers struggling with fuel costs. A powerful group of Democratic leaders, among them Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Elizabeth Warren, echoed him and condemned the decision as a “to-

tal betrayal” of Ukraine and Western allies. Senator Richard Blumenthal sharply criticised the administration, called for the decision to be reversed at once and warned American companies against accepting what he called “Putin's blood money”. The White House defends the measure as a necessary step to ease high fuel costs for truckers, farmers and ordinary businesses, but critics argue that the small short-term volumes will do little to bring prices down. Congressional opponents warn instead that the concession rewards Moscow at a time of intense conflict, setting up a high-stakes standoff between the White House and Capitol Hill over the enforcement of foreign policy.

Indonesia relocates endangered Borneo orangutans

JAKARTA

Indonesian authorities and conservation specialists have successfully relocated eight critically endangered Borneo orangutans to a secure habitat after devastating wildfires obliterated their natural jungle homes. The Southeast Asian nation is currently battling its most ferocious wildfire crisis in 11 years, primarily ravaging the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Government officials warn that these catastrophic blazes could persist through November, drastically worsened by the compounding pressures of an intense El Niño weather phenomenon. According to a joint statement from the Indonesian government and the wildlife protection foundation Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia, the recent



rescue mission saved three mother-child pairs alongside two adolescent male orangutans between August and September. Conservation teams carefully transported the group to the Batu Nyambu protected forest area, a move designed to grant the primates a vital second chance at thriving in the wild. Orangutans remain critically endangered great apes, native exclusively to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Their populations face severe and continuous decline due to rampant deforestation, illegal

Amid ferocious El Niño-driven wildfires scorching Borneo's jungles, conservationists have successfully relocated eight critically endangered orangutans to safety.

THE JOURNEY TO SAFETY	
By car	six hours
By boat	one hour across rivers
On foot	two hours, the sedated apes in cages on bamboo poles
Batu Nyambu	the protected forest

poaching, and recurrent wildfires.

Tehran slams Saudi-Pakistan defense pact over Yemen

TEHRAN

Tehran has stepped up its diplomatic and rhetorical campaign against the newly operational defence pact between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey, widely known as the Mecca Defence Alliance, warning that any military involvement or intervention in Yemen would have severe destabilising consequences for the wider Middle East. The three-way security framework formally became operational after a sharp rise in cross-border missile and drone attacks on critical Saudi energy infrastructure by groups aligned with Yemen. Once the pact's mutual defence mechanisms were activated, Ankara and Islamabad both took preliminary steps to give Riyadh defensive and technical support. Those deployments immediately drew



fierce criticism from Iranian officials, who see the alignment as a direct geopolitical challenge. Responding to reports that tens of thousands of troops could be sent to the Arabian Peninsula, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei publicly dismissed the rumours but added a stark warning: regional capitals know well that meddling in Yemen brings unwelcome blowback across the region. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi echoed those concerns,

calling for regional self-reliance and cautioning that multilateral military pacts would neither constrain Iran's strategic posture nor change its calculations. Tehran's diplomatic anger has been aimed more sharply at Islamabad than at Ankara. Pakistan has long kept a delicate diplomatic balance, often acting as a mediator between Iran and Western or Gulf powers, so its formal alignment with Saudi security initiatives has angered Iranian observers.

TUSK THREAT PLOT

Warsaw on alert as Polish leaders face threats

WARSAW

Poland's security agencies held an emergency high-level meeting after receiving credible intelligence about a possible threat to Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz. Interior Ministry spokesperson Karolina Gałeczka said on social media that the Polish Police had flagged the potential plot, prompting immediate action from top government officials.



Official spokespeople gave no details of the nature, origin or methods of the plot, but private broadcaster Radio Zet reported that law enforcement

had received an anonymous threat by email. Officials remain on high alert after a series of recent security incidents at home. In

A nation on edge

Sunday's scare arrives during an already tense week for Polish authorities, who remain on edge following recent domestic tragedies, including a violent school incident that left a caretaker dead. Security agencies have not yet publicly revealed the exact source or origin of this latest threat. However, investigators are working around the clock to track down the sender and ensure complete safety for the country's leadership. Citizens and officials alike hope that swift, decisive action will keep the nation stable during these uncertain times.

August, police detained a twenty-three-year-old who was formally accused of incit-

ing the assassination of senior state leaders. Tusk also said publicly that he had received

direct threats in 2024, shortly after the shocking attempt on the life of neighbouring Slovakia's Prime Minister, Robert Fico. Sunday's emergency security meeting also came at a time of intense national vigilance after a tragic wave of school violence that ended in the fatal stabbing of a school caretaker earlier in the week. As investigations go on, state security services have stepped up protection around key ministers to deter any hostile actors and keep the country stable.



Morgan Rogers shines in Chelsea's victory

LONDON

Chelsea head coach Xabi Alonso has offered high praise for Morgan Rogers, calling him a complete modern football player. This glowing remark came after Chelsea secured a dominant 5-1 victory over Bournemouth in the Premier League at Stamford Bridge. Rogers played a starring role in the match, scoring his fourth goal for the club since completing a high-profile transfer from Aston Villa before the start of the current campaign. The match itself was an absolute goal fest from the opening whistle. Chelsea burst out of the blocks when experienced midfielder Jordan Henderson opened the scoring inside just two min-

utes on his home debut. Henderson collected a precise pass from Cole Palmer before unleashing a powerful long-range strike that went in off the post. Just a minute later, Henderson turned provider by setting up Rogers. The twenty-four-year-old forward expertly curled his shot into the far corner with a slight deflection, doubling the lead. Following a comfortable first half, Joao Pedro extended the advantage to three goals immediately after the restart. Although Bournemouth managed to pull one back through Evanilson, Joao Pedro quickly restored the three-goal cushion. Henderson then capped off a stellar individual performance by scoring a magnificent free-kick from twenty-five yards out to seal the comprehensive win. Rogers has enjoyed an ex-

plosive start to his career at Stamford Bridge. Alongside his latest strike, he has already scored against Fulham, Arsenal, and Hull City, while chipping in with four assists across eight appearances. Despite enduring a grueling schedule that has seen him play over seventy matches for club and country—including England during their third-place World Cup finish—Rogers continues to display exceptional energy and fitness. When asked by reporters if this incredible run of form caught him off guard, Alonso insisted he was not surprised by the youngster's seamless adaptation. "His form isn't a surprise because he is young, fresh, strong, and quick," Alonso explained to club media. "His availability is very high, and he is enjoying his football.

Praising Morgan Rogers as a complete modern player, Xabi Alonso guided Chelsea to a dominant five-goal victory.

Linda Noskova withdraws from Wuhan Open

Wimbledon champion Linda Nosková has withdrawn from the Wuhan Open due to a left calf injury, prioritizing recovery ahead of her debut WTA Finals appearance.

CHINA

World No. 6 and Wimbledon champion Linda Nosková has officially withdrawn from the prestigious Wuhan Open due to a left calf injury. The late-breaking tournament scratch comes just days after the 21-year-old Czech star secured her maiden career qualification for the elite year-end WTA Finals, alongside compatriot Mirra Andrejeva. Because Nosková pulled out before the publication of the opening order of play, tournament organizers restructured the singles main draw hierarchy. No. 9 seed Belinda Bencic inherited Nosková's open slot on Line 48, moving directly into the

second round via a first-round bye. Meanwhile, Anna Kalinskaya stepped up into Bencic's previous position on Line 9 to face veteran player Zhang Shuai in her opening match. An incoming lucky loser will fill the vacancy left by Kalinskaya's shift ahead of Monday's main draw matches. Nosková's absence adds her to a growing list of marquee withdrawals from the high-profile WTA 1000 event during the grueling Asian swing, joining world No. 1 Elena Rybakina, Coco Gauff, Naomi Osaka, and Amanda Anisimova on the sidelines. Additionally, lower-tier qualifying adjustments saw Oleksandra Oliynykova drop out

due to a right ankle issue, clearing a path for qualifier Aoi Ito. The setback arrives during a breakthrough 2026 campaign for Nosková, highlighted by her historic grass-court major title at Wimbledon, a semifinal run at the WTA 1000 Indian Wells event, and a stellar quarterfinal appearance at the US Open.



Dilmeris sets high goals for ISL opener

GUWAHATI

The excitement is building up rapidly as football fans gear up for a thrilling clash in the Indian Super League. Mohun Bagan Super Giant is ready to kick off their brand new campaign with a tough away match. They will face North-East United FC right on their home turf at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium. Ahead of this much-awaited showdown, the team's head coach has made his ambitions crystal clear to everyone. Coach Panagiotis Dilmeris spoke openly with reporters about his mindset and expectations for the upcoming season. He firmly stated that his squad must display a much higher level of aggression and energy on the pitch. According to him, settling for anything less than a victory is simply not an option for a

club of their stature. The Kolkata giants enter this match following a very busy and productive pre-season schedule. They took part in multiple tournaments, including a successful run in the IFA Shield, which gave the players crucial match practice. Dilmeris noted that this packed schedule helped the team practice different tactical formations. The players have successfully adapted to playing

in both a three-man and a four-man defensive setup. This tactical flexibility allows the team to switch strategies smoothly during a match depending on how the game unfolds. However, the coach also admitted that playing with high intensity for an entire

ninety minutes might take a little more time. The squad is still building up their full physical stamina for the long season ahead. Star forward Lee Harry Erwin also shared his positive thoughts on the team's current mood. He mentioned that despite facing a few tough hurdles during their preparation months, the squad atmosphere remains exceptionally cheerful and united. Winning two trophies recently has given them a wonderful platform to build upon. Fans can expect an action-packed game tomorrow as Mohun Bagan looks to start their journey on a winning note. The players know the expectations are sky-high, and they are fully prepared to leave everything on the grass to bring home the three points.



Ben Shelton stunned at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI

Professional tennis can be a brutally tough sport, and even the biggest stars experience sudden heartbreak on the court. American tennis sensation Ben Shelton learned this lesson the hard way today after suffering a surprising defeat at the Shanghai Masters. The world number four fought hard but ultimately fell in a tight straight-set loss to France's Arthur Gea, who played the match of his life to pull off a massive upset. The encounter was a fierce battle from the first point to the last, with both sets heading into tense tie-breaks. Gea handled the immense pressure with total calmness, edging out Shelton to claim his very first career victory against a top-ten opponent. Following the disappointing exit, Shelton showed complete sportsmanship by openly admitting that his opponent simply outplayed him on the day. Speaking to reporters after the match, Shelton pointed

out that he arrived in China without enough time to properly adjust to the local conditions and recover from jet lag. His recent schedule has been incredibly demanding, following a historic run to his first-ever Grand Slam final at the US Open. That heavy workload, combined with minor injuries and a taxing Davis Cup journey, disrupted his usual preparation. However, the American star made sure to give full credit to the young Frenchman. Gea neutralized one of Shelton's greatest weapons: his famously powerful left-handed serve. The winner consistently returned deep balls right to the baseline, completely robbing Shelton of the easy points and aggressive baseline control he usually relies on. Despite this unexpected stumble, Shelton can still look back proudly on a fantastic season. He has already captured a career-best four titles this year and remains in a strong position to qualify for the prestigious year-end championships in Turin.

Iraola urges Liverpool to embrace tough fixtures

LIVERPOOL

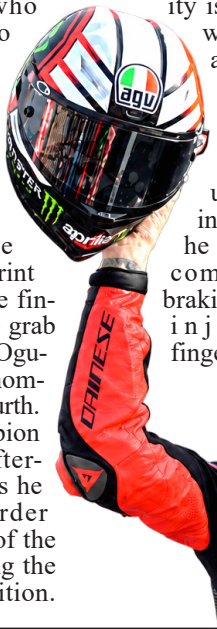
The football world is buzzing with excitement as domestic leagues prepare to return following the recent international break. Liverpool manager Andoni Iraola has delivered a powerful message to his squad, urging them to brace themselves for a punishing stretch of matches. With club football kicking back into gear, the Reds face a daunting mountain to climb, featuring nine high-stakes fixtures packed tightly into just twenty-eight days across various top-tier competitions. The immediate challenge for Liverpool is monumental as they prepare to lock horns with table-toppers Manchester City at a roaring Anfield. City arrives in exceptional form, having won every single match they have played so far this season. For Iraola, this upcoming battle marks his very first encounter against City since taking charge of the Merseyside club.

Bezzecchi wins as Aprilia dominates Indonesian GP

MANDALIKA

The thrilling world of motorcycle racing delivered another dramatic chapter at the Indonesian Grand Prix. Marco Bezzecchi put on a stunning masterclass at the Mandalika International Street Circuit to secure a much-needed victory, keeping his championship dreams alive. Meanwhile, the battle at the top of the standings took a massive twist as Jorge Martin reclaimed the championship lead from Marc Marquez in an unforgettable afternoon of high-speed action. The race delivered historic scenes for Aprilia, who dominated the track to lock out the top four positions. In a remarkable display of sheer grit and determination, Raul Fernandez claimed second place despite suffering from two broken fingers he sustained during the sprint race. Martin crossed the finish line in third place to grab crucial points, while Ai Ogura rounded out the phenomenal Aprilia sweep in fourth. For seven-time champion Marc Marquez, the afternoon proved difficult as he slipped down the order during the second half of the race, ultimately crossing the finish line in sixth position.

This shift allowed Martin to snatch back the overall championship lead. Martin now sits at the top of the standings with 355 points, holding a razor-thin two-point advantage over Marquez, who has 353 points. Meanwhile, Bezzecchi's brilliant triumph brings him right back into the title conversation with 309 points, keeping the championship wide open with just a few rounds remaining. Speaking after his first victory since Mugello, Bezzecchi admitted that he had to take extra risks this weekend to stay in the title hunt. "I'm still far, but anyway, my mentality is still the same. I will keep fighting and trying my best," Bezzecchi said. Fernandez reflected on his incredible podium finish, explaining the intense pain he managed to overcome while bracing with injured fingers.



Rahmat Shah hits century on captaincy debut

ABU DHABI

The international cricket arena witnessed a breathtaking display of leadership and resilience today at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Afghanistan captain Rahmat Shah etched his name permanently into the history books during the opening match of the one-off Test against Bangladesh. Stepping onto the field for his very first assignment as the official Test captain, Shah delivered a masterclass in batting, crafting a magnificent century that kept his team afloat against a fierce bowling attack. Replying to a formidable first-innings total of 346 posted by Bangladesh, Afghanistan found themselves under immense pressure early in the innings. Wickets fell at regular intervals as the rival seamers exploited the early morning moisture on the pitch. However, Shah stood firm like a solid rock amidst the ruins, anchoring the innings with remarkable patience and technical brilliance. By reaching the three-figure mark, Shah achieved

a historic milestone, becoming the very first Afghan cricketer to score a century on his Test captaincy debut. His patient knock of 105 runs came off 216 deliveries and included ten elegant boundaries and two towering sixes, showcasing both his defensive solidity and his ability to punish loose deliveries. Support for the captain came in brief spells from opener Abdul Malik, who contributed a steady 62 runs from 120 balls, and wicketkeeper-batter Ikram Alikhil, who chipped in with a fighting 32. Despite their efforts, Afghanistan was eventually bundled out for 240 runs, giving Bangladesh a crucial 106-run lead. The standout star for Bangladesh was fast bowler Hasan Mahmud, who ripped through the batting lineup with a sensational hat-trick and a five-wicket haul. Mahmud became the first Bangladeshi pacer to claim a Test hat-trick, cementing his legacy. As teams prepare for the next phase, cricket fans celebrate a truly unforgettable day of historic performances.



Dasara sports meet winners to get higher cash prizes: Dr GP

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Revenue and Youth Empowerment and Sports Dr. G. Parameshwara inaugurated the Dasara Sports Meet CM Cup-2026 at the Chamundi Vihar Indoor Stadium in Mysuru as part of the historic Mysuru Dasara celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Parameshwara said that sports had received encouragement from rulers since the time of the Vijayanagara kings and the Mysuru royal family. In keeping with this tradition, the government would increase the cash prizes awarded to winners of the Dasara Sports Meet, he announced. He said the government was extending greater encouragement and support to sports. To recognise the achievements of Karnataka's sportspersons in international competitions, the government had announced cash awards of ₹1 crore for gold medallists, ₹75 lakh for silver medallists and ₹50 lakh for bronze medallists.



MLA Tanveer Sait said sportspersons training to participate in national and international competitions should be provided with better facilities at the district level. This would encourage more athletes to participate in such events, he added. Member of the Legislative Council Dr. K. Govindaraj said the government was encouraging sportspersons by increasing cash incentives for Asian Games medallists and providing two per cent reservation in government employment. These measures would help prevent national and international athletes from migrating to other places in search of jobs, he said.

On the occasion, Asian Games gold medallist golfer Pranavi S. Urs and Commonwealth Games medallist para-athlete Shilpa K.S., who attended the event as special invitees, were felicitated. Animal Husbandry Minister C. Puttarangashetty, MLAs D. Ravishankar and Anil Chikmagalur, Sports Authority Vice-President Machayya, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department Principal Secretary Naveen Raj Singh, Commissioner M.N. Anucheth, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshminatha Reddy, Joint Director Jitendra Shetty and Assistant Director Bhaskar Nayak were among those present.

