



Saudi oil pipeline shut after drone attack

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India broadens Gulf ties beyond oil



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Rashmika joins HYBE India to inspire young artists



BRICS SUMMIT 2026

BRICS UNITES ON NEW DELHI DECLARATION

Stresses nuclear safety amid armed conflicts; dialogue & diplomacy to resolve global turmoil; pushes WTO reforms, faster dispute settlement; flags trade barriers, sanctions hurting economy; backs UN Security Council reforms, greater Global South role; calls for smooth flow of global trade, energy.

NEW DELHI

The BRICS group of emerging economies on Saturday adopted its New Delhi Declaration, voicing serious concern over the rise of 'unilateral' tariffs and non-tariff measures that distort trade and are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, as the expanded bloc sought to project unity on trade, geopolitics and global governance.

The declaration was adopted unanimously at the BRICS Summit in New Delhi after India led sustained consultations to bridge differences among members, including over the Middle East conflict.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally proposed the adoption of the declaration at the summit.

"The draft of the BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026 is before us. It encapsulates the essence of our discussions and reflects our perspectives on key global and regional issues. It also outlines priorities for further strengthening BRICS cooperation. If no member has any objection, I propose that we adopt the declaration. No objections have been raised by any member. The New Delhi Declaration 2026 is adopted unanimously," Modi said.

The consensus marks a significant diplomatic breakthrough for the grouping, after BRICS foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi in May failed to issue a joint statement because of differences between Iran and the UAE.

The declaration comes as the United States and Iran have resumed tit-for-tat strikes in their six-month-old war, following a pause in fighting through much of August. Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen have also tightened their grip in the Red Sea region.

The negotiations involved differences over several contentious issues, but India led sustained consultations to build consensus among members, an Indian source with direct knowledge of the development said. The source described securing agreement



against the backdrop of ongoing conflicts and heightened tensions in the Gulf region as a particularly complex diplomatic challenge.

Putin, Xi, Pezeshkian attend Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan are among the leaders attending the summit.

Xi said BRICS countries should firmly stand on the "right side of history" by steering the international order towards greater equity and justice.

The BRICS bloc comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. The bloc was established in 2009.

A new world order cannot be shaped by old, outdated institutions and rules.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

New Delhi declaration highlights

Conflict prevention & diplomacy: The declaration stresses peaceful dispute resolution, dialogue, & avoiding actions that worsen global conflicts.

Global governance reform: It calls for a structural update and reform of multilateral institutions, including the United Nations Security Council.

Trade & tariffs: The text addresses concerns over unilateral trade measures, coercive policies, and unjust tariffs that run counter to WTO rules.

Bridging divisions: The consensus was achieved following intensive negotiations led by India to reconcile differing regional positions among member states regarding West Asia.

Pahalgam terror attack finds mention in declaration

The BRICS joint declaration strongly condemned the April 22, 2025 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed and several others injured. The bloc reaffirmed its commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, terror financing and the provision of safe havens.

Modi: Global south must become rule-shaper

...India ready to take lead

NEW DELHI

The Global South must transform from a "rule-taker" to a "rule-shaper," Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told a gathering of world leaders during the BRICS summit in New Delhi, underlining the need for every member state to have a voice.

In his opening statement, PM Modi also said India is ready to take the lead to ensure policymakers of BRICS nations are equipped with the required training.

The Global South finds itself at the centre of global



crises but lacks decision-making powers. "Today, the Global South stands in the front row of global crises but in the back row of decision-making. We must transform this 'pyramid of privilege' into a 'platform of partnership', where every nation has a voice, every member has a stake, and the development of humanity lies at the heart of every effort," the PM said.

"In this regard, I propose that we jointly formulate 10 proposals for global gover-

nance reform, aiming to shape them into a BRICS reform roadmap by the time of the next summit," Modi said.

He also said BRICS has established a distinct identity on the global stage and the grouping is not against anyone, remarks seen as a message to the US and other Western powers.

Modi made the remarks in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

The other leaders attending the summit are Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung.

PM Modi's 10- points BRICS reform roadmap

Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed formulating a 10-point roadmap for global governance reform at the BRICS Summit, focusing on moving the Global South from the back row of "rule-taker" to "rule-shaper".

Core pillars of the reform agenda

The 10-point framework centers around three primary dimensions:

a. Representation: Restructuring global bodies so emerging economies have a proportional and fair voice.

b. Responsiveness: Making international systems agile and action-oriented to handle modern crises.

c. Rule-making: Empowering developing nations to co-create policies in new sectors rather than just complying with external mandates.

THE 10-POINT FRAMEWORK

- 1. UN Security Council (UNSC) Reform:** Call for fixed-timeframe, outcome-driven negotiations to restructure permanent and non-permanent categories.
- 2. Global Financial Institutions:** Adjust voting power, leadership selection, and policy priorities to match current global economic weights.
- 3. Emerging Technologies & AI:** Establish inclusive and fair global governance for artificial intelligence, cyberspace, and biotechnology.
- 4. New Frontiers:** Secure active participation of the Global South in shaping rules for outer space and critical technologies.
- 5. Seafarers Emergency Support Network:** Improve distress alerts, medical assistance, and evacuation coordination for maritime workers.
- 6. Local Currency Trade & Payments:** Expand trade frameworks utilizing local currency settlement mechanisms (such as UPI rails) to reduce dollar dependency.
- 7. Development Finance & Guarantees:** Utilize alternative funding windows, like the New Development Bank's (NDB) guarantee mechanisms.
- 8. Resilient Supply Chains:** Build diversified, redundant, and decentralized production hubs to protect developing economies from geopolitical shocks.
- 9. Climate Justice, Sustainable Access:** Bridge gaps in affordable and clean energy transition finance for the Global South.
- 10. Institutional Continuity Mechanism:** Track initiatives across rotating annual chairs using a secure digital repository and designated nodal deadlines.

BRICS should play 'peacemaker' in West Asia conflict: Xi

NEW DELHI

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday called on BRICS countries to play their "due role" in bringing peace to West Asia, saying the ongoing war in the region had caused serious losses and did not serve the interests of the international community.

Addressing the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Xi said China would work with other members to achieve peace and stability in West Asia and the Gulf region.

"As the situation in West Asia and the Gulf region continues to evolve, the war there has caused serious losses to people across the region and does not serve the common interests of the international community," Xi said, according to state-run Xinhua news agency.

The grouping should work to make global governance more just and equitable and build a "community with a shared future for humanity."

-Xi Jinping, Chinese President



Calling on emerging economies to "stand on the right side of history", Xi urged BRICS members to oppose a Cold War mentality, violations of national sovereignty and interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Xi also called for greater cooperation among BRICS countries on artificial intelligence to promote industrial development. He said the grouping should take the lead in global governance of cyberspace, outer space and the deep sea, while amplifying the voice of the Global South.

BE THE ROLE MODELS

Use knowledge, skills for nation-building: Guv

BIDAR

Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday urged students to use their knowledge, skills and talent for the welfare of society and the nation.

Addressing the first convocation of Bidar University, Gehlot said the youth had a crucial role in India's development and advised students to remain humble in success, face challenges with courage and overcome failures with determination.

He said students should ask themselves how their knowledge and abilities could contribute to the welfare of the country and society whenever they faced uncertainty about their future.

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies were rapidly transforming the



world, he said, urging students to develop innovative solutions to local problems. There were significant opportunities for innovation and start-ups in agriculture, healthcare, education, tourism, digital services, environment and rural development.

Gehlot highlighted India's thousands-of-years-old knowledge tradition and its contributions to mathematics, medicine, astronomy, philosophy, languages, literature,

agriculture and environmental practices. He called for scientific research into this heritage and its appropriate application in the modern world. "We must build an India rooted in its knowledge tradition and equipped with the wings of modern science," he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047, Gehlot said today's university students would become tomorrow's scientists, teachers,

entrepreneurs, doctors, administrators and nation-builders.

He said Bidar's rich history, culture and heritage reflected India's knowledge and cultural traditions. The talent in Kalyana Karnataka should be linked with quality education, skill development, research and modern opportunities, he said.

Gehlot expressed confidence that Bidar University would emerge as a major centre for knowledge-based development and fulfil the aspirations of the region's youth.

He congratulated students who received degrees and medals and felicitated honorary doctorate recipients Sri Shivayya Swamiji and R.M. Janawadkar. Retired Justice Dr Krishna S. and Vice-Chancellor Prof B.S. Beeradar were among those present.

Mallya backs Jarkiholi, takes swipe at ED over raids

BENGALURU

Former MP and fugitive Vijay Mallya termed the Enforcement Directorate's raids on Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi as "character assassination" in public, saying such a practice does not happen in any other country.

Mallya particularly criticised the ED for issuing a press release on the searches and subsequently posting details on X, which, he said, amounted to publicly revealing information about Jarkiholi's businesses and investments without a fair trial.

Sharing the ED's press release from his personal handle on X, Mallya wrote: "Enforcement Directorate boasting this. No chargesheet. No trial. Just character assassination in public. This does not happen in any



other Country. Please think for yourself." In another post on X, he said: "Shameful. In which country in the world do any enforcement agency boast like this without a fair trial?"

Mallya, who has himself been the subject of investigations by Indian agencies, said he would expose what he described as alleged falsehoods and fabricated charges by the CBI and ED. He added, "For those who want to know the truth, I will slowly reveal all the lies and false charges concocted by the CBI and ED who are masters in deception. I have stood strong and patient and will continue as I do not believe in "giving up" to falsehood. But I pity all those other victims who have been wrongly targeted by these agencies. It is public knowledge on what they do."

Prakash Raj to conduct 'social audit' of SIR

BENGALURU: Actor Prakash Raj on Saturday announced a campaign across 10 districts in Karnataka from September 20 to 30 to conduct a "social audit" of the SIR of electoral rolls.

Raj said he, along with some civil society groups, would visit different districts and polling booths to compare the names in the Election Commission's records with those deleted from the electoral rolls. "Now, when the final roll came, what we were worried about and what we were speculating became true," he told reporters here. He alleged that the SIR was carried out within a short time frame. "If your real intention is that every eligible voter should be on the electoral roll, please take your time. This is not a T20 match or a five-over match because of a rain delay. We have two years before the election."

BJP did Ballari Chalo to 'burn fat': Nagendra

Ballari: Former minister and Congress MLA B. Nagendra on Saturday mocked the BJP, saying its leaders undertook the Ballari Chalo padayatra to reduce their "excess fat and cholesterol".

Speaking to reporters at Roopnagudi village, Nagendra said BJP leaders had no time to walk at home and therefore used the padayatra to improve their health.

"BJP leaders undertook the

padayatra to reduce their cholesterol and fat. They did not have time to walk at home. Now, after the padayatra, each of them has lost five kg," he said.

Nagendra alleged that the

BJP had undertaken the march without any substantial issue. Responding to criticism over his resignation as a minister, he said he had not resigned due to pressure from the BJP.

Uttarakhand ex-CM quits Cong posts amid ED raid on aide

New Delhi: With just months away for Assembly polls in the hills state, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat on Saturday announced his resignation from all his positions in the Con-

gress following a raid by the ED at his personal assistant's Dehradun residence two days ago from where cash and jewellery were recovered.

He said he was taking the decision to resign from being

a Permanent Invitee to the Congress Working Committee and a member of Uttarakhand Congress Executive Committee as he did not want his party to suffer or weaken in its fight in the run up to the poll.



Shri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Shri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Former Chief Minister

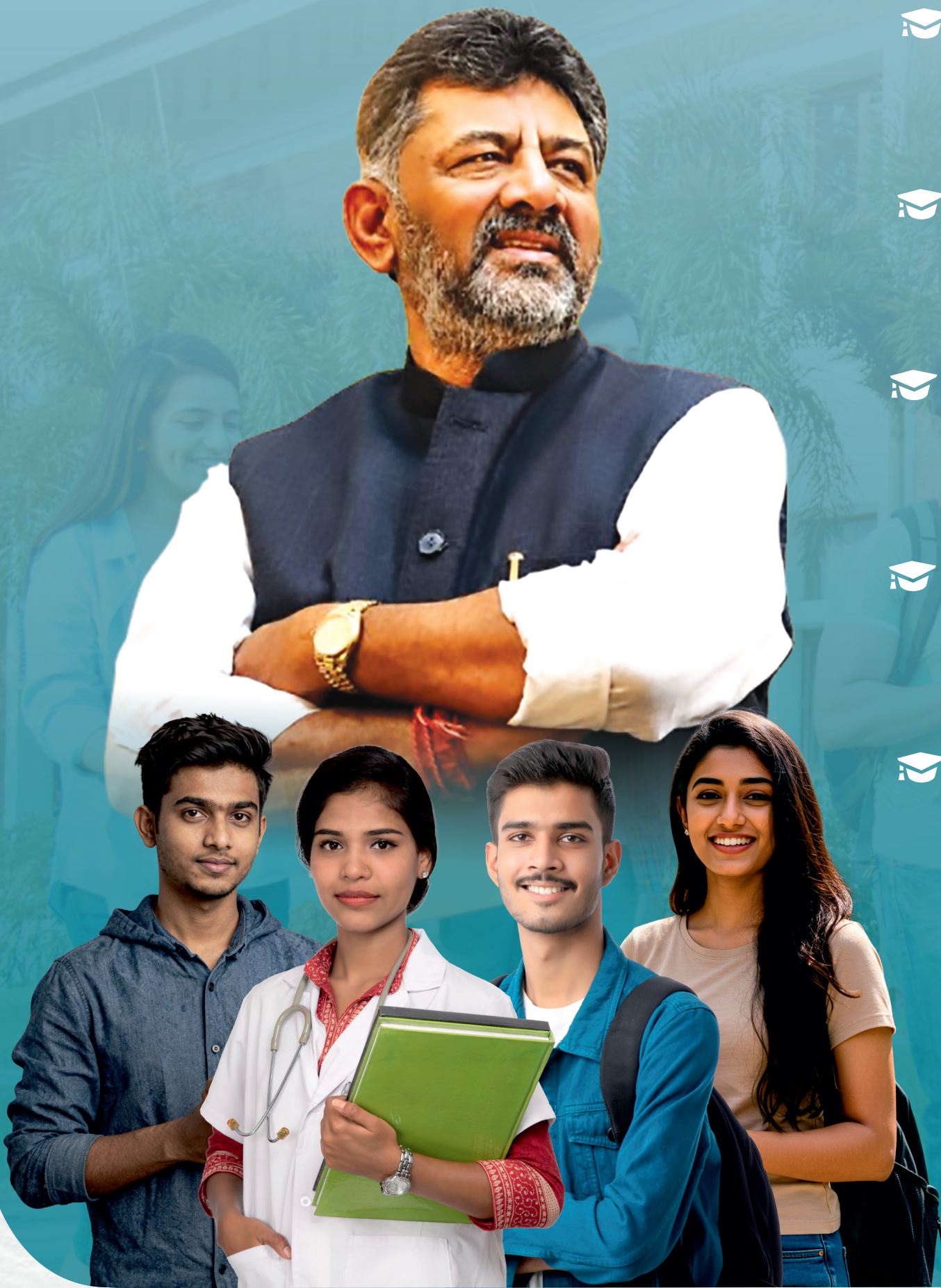


Dr G. PARAMESHWARA
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri D.K. Shivakumar with
Hon'ble Higher Education Minister Sri Basavaraj Rayareddi



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"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
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Quick Read

Rajyotsava awardee seeks one-year SIR window for NRIs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Kannada Rajyotsava awardee Mohamad Meeran Saheb has urged the Election Commission to give NRIs a year to complete electoral verification. The 81-year-old, who has lived in Dubai since 1974, appealed to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer to provide a reasonable verification window for NRIs under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In a letter, Saheb said several NRIs, particularly from Udupi and Uttara Kan-nada, were reportedly asked to return to India before September 20 and submit additional documents. He said short-notice international travel involved high costs and was difficult for families, while some NRIs could travel only during winter holidays. Saheb suggested allowing NRIs to submit applications and documents online initially, followed by personal verification when convenient. He sought a one-year facilitation period to prevent genuine voters from being excluded.

Priyank Kharge questions ED raids, conviction record

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge accused central agencies of targeting Opposition leaders and demanded evidence behind recent searches.

CH NEWS, ENGALURU
Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday criticised the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Income Tax Department, alleging that central agencies were being used to target Opposition leaders. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kharge questioned the number of raids and press notes issued by the agencies compared with convictions. He claimed that 196 raids or press notes had been recorded in recent years but resulted in only two convictions. Kharge also alleged that a large majority of the agency actions were directed against Opposition leaders and described the trend as politically motivated. His remarks came days after the ED conducted searches linked to Karnataka Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi, his daughter and Lok Sabha MP Priyanka



“Present the facts, make them public, and we will debate the matter.”
-Priyank Kharge, Karnataka Home Minister

Jarkiholi, and other people associated with the case. The ED conducted searches at 18 locations, including the residences of Satish Jarkiholi, Priyanka Jarkiholi and Jarkiholi’s brother-in-law Y Manjunath. The agency has said the searches were part of a separate money-laundering investigation against Satish Jarkiholi and were not connected with the alleged excise case involving

ED Raids Controversy	
■ Claim by Kharge: 196 raids/press notes	■ Recent searches: 18 locations
■ Convictions cited: 2	■ Key figure: PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi
■ Targeting alleged: Opposition leaders	■ Law invoked: Prevention of Money Laundering Act

ED searches in Karnataka
The Enforcement Directorate recently conducted searches at 18 locations linked to an alleged money-laundering case involving Karnataka PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi. Premises linked to Jarkiholi, his daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi and Y Manjunath were searched. The ED said the investigation was separate from the alleged excise case involving Manjunath. The searches were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and in coordination with security forces.

Manjunath. The searches were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Kharge questioned whether political leaders could be considered guilty merely on the basis of an agency press note. He demanded that the ED make the evidence and facts concerning the case public. He said the matter could be discussed during the Assembly session if the agency placed the evidence before legislators.

Karnataka to hold youth parliament across state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka will launch a state-wide youth parliament programme on September 15 to mark International Day of Democracy and introduce young people to the country’s parliamentary system, Social Welfare Minister K.H. Muniyappa said. Speaking at Vidhana Soudha, Muniyappa said the United Nations General Assembly declared September 15 as International Day of Democracy in 2007. Karnataka has been observing the day for the past three years to remind citizens that they are the true sovereigns of the country and encourage them to uphold constitutional values. A state-level celebration will be held at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha on September 15. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara will inaugurate the programme. Similar programmes will be inaugurated in every district on the same day under the chairmanship of district in-charge ministers. Taluk-level youth parliament meetings



will be conducted from September 16 to October 10, with students selected from these sessions moving to district-level programmes. From October 11 to 30, students selected at the district level will participate in the state-level selection process. One student will be selected from each Assembly constituency. The final state-level youth parliament programme will be held in Bengaluru on November 26, observed as Constitution Day. Muniyappa said video conferences had already been held to coordinate the taluk- and district-level programmes, and officials had been given necessary instructions. He also commented on the Enforcement Directorate raids involving Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, alleging that the BJP was misusing the agency. Muniyappa said the government had no objection to lawful raids but condemned politically motivated action. He expressed confidence that Jarkiholi would be cleared of the allegations.

FSL report finds 173 files on Prajwal’s jail phone

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report in the case involving the recovery of a mobile phone and pen drive from the jail cell of former MP Prajwal Revanna has reportedly revealed details of the digital material stored on the devices. According to police sources, 173 files were recovered from the mobile phone, while more than 100 videos were reportedly found on the pen drive. Investigators are examining the contents as part of the ongoing probe. Police sources said the files on the mobile phone included movies and web-series content in Kannada, Hindi and English. They also reportedly found pornographic material, which

is being examined as part of the digital evidence. The police are also investigating how the mobile phone allegedly entered the prison. According to sources, Tausif, an accused in the DJ Halli violence case, is suspected of having handed over the phone to a jail warder. Investigators are probing the alleged role of the warder and the circumstances surrounding the device being taken into the prison. The Parappana Agrahara police are examining call records and other data from the phone. Sources said Prajwal allegedly made WhatsApp and video calls to several people, including women,



The FSL report has reportedly identified 173 files on the mobile phone, while over 100 videos were found on a pen drive.

while he was in jail. Investigators are also looking into reported calls involving his family members and lawyer. The call details and digital records will be examined before deciding on further action, police sources said. The pen drive contents are also undergoing scrutiny. Police are reportedly considering sharing relevant material with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for further examination.

Digital evidence under scanner
The FSL findings have added a digital-evidence component to the investigation into the mobile phone recovered from Prajwal Revanna’s jail cell. Police are examining files, videos, call records and other data from the phone and pen drive. Investigators are also probing how the device allegedly entered the prison and whether a jail warder facilitated it. Further action will depend on the findings of the ongoing examination and investigation.

Police intensify child labour checks across East, North Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Bengaluru City Police have launched a special drive against child labour across the East and North divisions, deploying multiple teams to inspect establishments where children could be employed. Around 85 teams were deployed in the East division as part of the operation. Led by senior police officers, the teams inspected go downs, marketplaces, hotels, lodges, bakeries, bus stops, railway stations, apartment complexes and construction sites falling under the jurisdiction of all police stations in the division. During the inspections, police personnel are verifying the age and employment details of workers to identify children engaged in labour in violation of the law. Children found working are being rescued and referred for rehabilitation. A similar drive is being conducted in the North division. According to the police, nine children have been rescued so far during the ongoing inspections. The special drives are aimed at identifying establishments employing children and taking action against those violating child labour laws. Police officials said the inspections would continue across vulnerable locations to prevent children from being engaged in work.



“Teams are checking vulnerable locations, verifying the age of workers and rescuing children found to be engaged in labour.”
- Bengaluru City Police officials

Police teams inspect workplaces and public areas to identify children employed illegally and ensure their rescue and rehabilitation.

Child labour action
■ Divisions covered: East and North Bengaluru
■ East division teams: About 85
■ Locations checked: Godowns, markets, hotels, lodges, bakeries, bus stops and railway stations
■ Other locations: Apartments and construction sites
■ North division: 9 children rescued so far
■ Focus: Detection, rescue and rehabilitation

Child labour crackdown
The Bengaluru City Police have stepped up inspections in the East and North divisions to identify children working illegally. Teams are checking commercial establishments, transport hubs, construction sites and other vulnerable locations. Police are verifying workers’ ages and employment details during the inspections. Children found engaged in labour are being rescued and efforts are being made to ensure their rehabilitation, while establishments violating child labour laws face action.

Hilton Garden Inn launches Desi Quotient

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy TechVillage has launched DQ – Desi Quotient, a contemporary Indian dining destination on Bengaluru’s Outer Ring Road. Spread across 3,500 sq ft, DQ celebrates India’s regional flavours, culinary traditions, craftsmanship and contemporary culture. Its concept, “The Story of Bharat, on a Plate,” takes diners across the country through dishes inspired by home recipes, food memories and regional traditions.

The menu moves beyond conventional course-based dining, drawing inspiration from railway platforms, street food stalls, family kitchens and regional celebrations. Highlights include Ajmer Station Kadhi Kachori, Champaran Mutton, Donne Chicken Biryani, Mangalore Chicken Sukka, Chha Gosht with Siddu, Pakhala Bhaat and Chenna Poda. The beverage menu complements the culinary journey with Indian favourites including Nimbu Pani, Ragi Ambli, Paacha Manga Saru, Gud Nu Shikanji, Narasu’s Coffee and

Dhaba Kadak Chai. Abhiram Menon, Cluster General Manager, Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy TechVillage Outer Ring Road, said DQ was created as more than a restaurant, bringing together Indian food, craft, music and stories in a contemporary setting. Gaurav Anand, Cluster Director of Culinary, Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy TechVillage, said several dishes were inspired by recipes, memories and food traditions shared by the culinary team.

The experience extends beyond food, with interiors featuring Lippan art, timber, exposed brick, woven rattan, brass pendants and a Kerala boat reimaged as an art installation. Music blends desi house and Indian fusion with traditional instruments such as tabla, dhol, sarangi and bansuri. Located within the 84-acre Embassy TechVillage, the hotel has 211 rooms and forms part of a 529-key dual-branded development. DQ joins the hotel’s all-day dining restaurant, Merigo, offering a distinctly Indian social dining experience.

Chickpet traders invite CM to witness problems

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Traders in Chickpet have invited Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to visit the area and witness their problems firsthand, following his recent surprise inspection of the APMC yard in Yeshwantpur. One of Bengaluru’s oldest and busiest trading centres, Chickpet has been struggling with dug-up roads for the past seven to eight months. Traders said uncertainty over whether roads would be asphalted or white-topped has delayed completion, leaving potholes, dust and traffic disruptions. They said daily movement has become difficult, while customers are reportedly hesitant to visit shops because of the poor road conditions. Vehicle movement has also been affected. Despite Metro connectivity, traders said the area around the stations lacks proper roads, drainage and streetlights. They also raised con-



Chickpet Road Woes
■ Road works delayed for 7-8 months
■ Chickpet is a major trading hub
■ Traders cite potholes, dust and traffic
■ Poor drainage and streetlighting flagged
■ Customers reportedly avoiding the area
■ Traders seek CM’s intervention

cerns about safety at night, alleging that thefts have in-

creased in the area. Traders said businesses were under increasing pressure as they continued paying shop rents, employee salaries and other expenses despite declining customer footfall. They claimed the government earns substantial tax revenue from trade in Chickpet but has failed to address the infrastructure problems adequately. They urged the government to expedite road works, improve drainage and streetlighting, and restore smooth access to the commercial area.

Chickpet seeks urgent infrastructure repairs
Chickpet traders have sought Chief Minister D K Shivakumar’s intervention over prolonged road works and inadequate civic infrastructure. They said potholes, dust, poor drainage and lack of streetlights were affecting customers, traffic and business. Traders also raised safety concerns and claimed declining footfall was hurting revenues. They urged the government to complete road works quickly and improve basic infrastructure in the historic commercial hub.

Private bus fares surge ahead of Gowri-Ganesha festival

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Private bus operators have sharply increased fares ahead of the Gowri-Ganesha festival, leaving passengers travelling to their hometowns facing steep costs. Despite warnings from the Transport Department and RTOs against arbitrary fare hikes, passengers alleged that private operators were charging significantly more than regular rates. Tickets that cost around Rs 500-700 earlier are reportedly being sold for Rs 3,500-4,000 during the festival season. Passengers said bus travel had become nearly as expensive as air travel, adding to the financial burden of families travelling for the festivities. Private transport operators, however, defended the fare increase, citing higher diesel



prices, toll charges, maintenance expenses and spare-part costs. They also said they had been seeking a reduction in road tax since the Covid-19 pandemic. Sharma said the government had failed to fix minimum and maximum fares despite discussions with the fare fixation committee. He also claimed the Shakti free travel scheme for women had affected private bus opera-

tors. The federation warned of legal action if buses were stopped or operators faced action over the fare hike. Meanwhile, the Transport Department has maintained that arbitrary fare increases will invite action. With large numbers of passengers travelling for the festival, the dispute between private operators and authorities has left commuters bearing the impact.

THE SILENT REVOLUTION

STATE REWRITES SOCIAL CONTRACT VIA BASIC RIGHTS

Governance is undergoing a profound transformation from distant administration to direct, compassionate intervention. As India approaches the final quarter of 2026, the state is increasingly focusing on policies that translate ambitious plans into tangible improvements in people's everyday lives.

This emerging social contract is not a collection of isolated welfare schemes but a coordinated effort to address deep-rooted inequality. Its priorities range from strengthening rural healthcare and protecting the mental well-being of young people to expanding social security and securing land rights for historically displaced communities.

The significance of these measures lies not merely in their financial allocations or statistical targets, but in their potential human impact. A functioning health facility in a remote taluk can mean timely treatment and a saved life. Verified access to direct financial assistance can provide a vulnerable family with dignity and stability. Ownership of a modest 30-by-40-foot plot can transform a landless worker's sense of security, belonging, and future prospects.

Yet ambitious policy announcements alone cannot guarantee transformation. Effective implementation, transparent institutions, local accountability, and sustained political commitment will determine whether these promises become lasting change. The real test of governance, therefore, is not the scale of its declarations, but its ability to reach the person at the very end of the line.

Racing against the Golden Hour: The emergency lifeline

In emergency medicine, time can determine the difference between survival and tragedy. The Golden Hour following a major trauma or medical crisis is especially critical. For communities scattered across rural roads, remote villages, and difficult monsoon terrain, an effective ambulance network is therefore not simply a transport service it is a vital component of public healthcare.

Yet emergency fleets have long faced challenges including breakdowns, inadequate coverage, and delayed response times. The state's response, Arogya Spandana, seeks to strengthen this crucial link in the healthcare chain. With its financial framework finalized in July and implementation aligned with the broader healthcare rollout in

October 2026, the programme represents a significant investment in emergency preparedness.

The government has earmarked ₹31 crore to purchase 100 new, fully equipped advanced life-support ambulances.

At the same time, authorization has been given to hire an additional 217 ambulances, creating a hybrid model that combines government-owned vehicles with contracted capacity.



Dawn of absolute healthcare: Democratizing survival

For too long, geography has shaped the quality and accessibility of healthcare in India. A farmer suffering a heart attack in a remote northern district may face dramatically poorer odds than a metropolitan executive with access to specialists, advanced diagnostics, and intensive care. The persistent shortage of medical professionals and critical infrastructure in rural areas has therefore remained a profound and largely invisible crisis.

The state's response is the ambitious Yallarigu Arogya initiative, scheduled for launch on October 31, 2026. Conceived as a commitment to universal and equitable healthcare, the programme goes beyond simply expanding existing facilities. Its detailed implementation framework reportedly assigns specific responsibilities and approvals to individual activities, aiming to prevent bureaucratic delays from undermining delivery.

Yet infrastructure alone cannot transform healthcare. A hospital without doctors, nurses, and specialists is merely a building.

Recognizing this, the initiative places strong emphasis on an aggressive recruitment drive, seeking to bring skilled medical professionals closer to underserved communities and make quality healthcare genuinely accessible regardless of



geography.

Human capital and digital leap

The scale of human-capital deployment under Yallarigu Arogya is extraordinary.

By October 2026, the state plans to appoint 120 specialists and 100 general-duty medical officers on regular posts, bringing critical expertise including cardiology, pediatrics, and trauma care closer to rural

communities. The grassroots network will also be strengthened through 1,205 Primary Health Care Officers and 305 Health Information Officers.

To bridge the gap created by conventional recruitment timelines, a contractual reinforcement drive is scheduled for September, adding 250 doctors, 600 staff nurses, 400 laboratory technicians, and 400 pharmacists to the public-health system.

Technology forms the initiative's other transformative pillar. Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) are planned for 14 district hospitals, 148 taluk hospitals, and 88 community health centres, reducing delays and dependence on paper-based reporting. Meanwhile, 170 hospitals are slated to receive digital X-ray facilities, while 100 taluk hospitals will establish dedicated hearing-care units.

War for the soul of the youth: Narcotics and the mind

While the health department fights to save the physical body, the law enforcement and education machineries are currently locked in a brutal, invisible war for the psychological survival of an entire generation. The proliferation of synthetic narcotics has seeped out of the urban underground and penetrated the semi-urban and rural student communities. It is an epidemic that destroys families, hollows out the state's demographic dividend, and fuels violent organized crime.

The state has abandoned the passive, reactionary policing of the past. Instead, it has launched a deeply aggressive, two-pronged offensive: targeting the ruthless supply chain through absolute force, and targeting the vulnerable demand side through unprecedented cultural infiltration.

The iron fist: Disrupting the supply chain Launched in the summer of 2026, the RISE mission (Refuse, Inform, Support, Empower) is the tactical, enforcement-heavy wing of this war. The mandate given to law enforcement is clear: dismantle the networks, seize the capital, and break the peddlers.

Metrics of enforcement (target vs. reality up to Dec 2026):

- The crackdown:** Against a target of booking 500 drug cases, the police have already registered a staggering 1,099 cases.
- The peddlers:** The goal was to arrest 300 street-level and mid-tier peddlers. By December, 293 were already behind bars, choking the local distribution veins.
- The syndicates:** Organized crime thrives in the shadows. The state aimed to dismantle 150 organized crime syndicates; it has successfully crushed 215.
- Community vigilance:** Law enforcement alone cannot hold the line. The state aimed to form 4,500 civilian vigilance committees. They have over-delivered, mobilizing 5,005 local committees, turning neighborhoods into hostile territories for drug runners.



Great verification of dignity: Empowering the matriarch

If healthcare protects survival and education shapes the future, financial autonomy provides dignity. The state's direct cash-transfer programme for female heads of households represents a significant intervention in rural poverty and gender-based economic inequality. Putting resources directly into women's hands can strengthen household spending on essentials such as nutrition, children's education, healthcare, and debt repayment, while giving women greater financial independence.

However, the effectiveness of any welfare programme ultimately depends on the accuracy and integrity of its beneficiary database. Duplicate records, ineligible claims, and fraudulent beneficiaries can drain public resources while preventing genuine recipients from receiving crucial support.

To address these risks, the state

launched the Five-Guarantee Verification process, with large-scale field verification beginning on September 15, 2026. The exercise involves the physical and digital verification of approximately 1.27 crore (12.7 million) beneficiaries, making it one of the largest administrative data-verification exercises of its kind.

For genuine beneficiaries including widows, landless workers, and daily-wage earners the process represents more than bureaucratic scrutiny. Accurate verification can strengthen their connection to the state's welfare system and reduce dependence on intermediaries.

By cleaning and validating the beneficiary database, the government aims to create a more reliable foundation for direct benefit transfers, ensuring public funds reach the women and families they are intended to support.



Shield of Awareness: Rewiring the demand

But arresting peddlers is an endless game of whack-a-mole if the psychological demand for narcotics remains high among the youth. This is where the Beda Bro (Let's Refuse, Bro) campaign steps in. Launched statewide with immense institutional backing, it is one of the most culturally astute government programs in recent history. By using colloquial slang, the state is dropping the rigid, preachy tone of traditional anti-drug campaigns and speaking to Generation Z in their own linguistic territory. The scale of this psychological inoculation is breathtaking. The targets for March 2027 were set at infiltrating 5,000 schools and 3,000 colleges to sensitize 7 lakh students. By December 2026, the campaign had already swept through 3,348 schools and 1,826 colleges. Over 5.46 lakh young minds have been engaged, educated, and equipped with the mental tools to resist peer pressure. Crucially, the state recognizes that teachers are the frontline defense. Against a target of training 10,000 educators to identify the early behavioral markers of addiction, 10,297 teachers have already been empowered. They are no longer just teaching math or history; they are trained observers, ready to intervene with empathy and psychological first-aid before a student crosses the point of no return.

Earth beneath their feet: Reclaiming landm, dignity

Perhaps the most emotionally significant element of this governance agenda is its focus on housing and land rights. Landlessness is more than an economic condition; it can create generations of insecurity. Families without legal ownership remain vulnerable to eviction, exploitation, and the absence of a stable address—often limiting their access to formal finance and other opportunities.

In August 2026, the state leadership announced an ambitious directive aimed at accelerating the distribution of residential sites to homeless families. The revenue administration was instructed to identify, acquire, and convert suitable vacant government land for this purpose.

At the centre of the programme is the 50,000-site mandate, under which Deputy Commissioners have been directed to facilitate the distribution of 50,000 residential sites

per district. The policy also recognizes differing spatial realities. Rural beneficiaries are to receive 30-by-40-foot plots, while beneficiaries in densely populated urban areas are to receive 20-by-30-foot plots.

The significance of land ownership extends far beyond the physical plot itself. A legally recognized home can provide security, a permanent address, and greater access to formal economic systems. It can also strengthen a family's sense of belonging and social stability.

For marginalized households, therefore, secure land ownership can represent a decisive shift from precarious existence to recognized participation in the economic and civic life of their community.



BROADER WEB OF INCLUSION

This massive push for residential sites does not exist in a vacuum. It is supported by a web of parallel initiatives designed to secure the working class and fortify legal ownership.

INDUSTRIAL DIGNITY: While the revenue department carves out rural plots, the industrial sector is constructing 10,000 dedicated worker housing units. This attacks the proliferation of urban slums, ensuring that the blue-collar workers who fuel the state's industrial engines do not have to raise their children in squalor.

THE IRONCLAD TITLE: Distributing land is meaningless if the legal title is flimsy. Land disputes and predatory litigations have ruined millions of Indian farmers. In response, the state is executing a massive digital fortification of land records, granting absolute title security to an unbelievable 1.4 crore (14 million) single-ownership agricultural record holders and 85 lakh rural residential property owners. This digitization vaporizes the power of corrupt middlemen and allows the poorest farmers to finally walk into a formal bank and leverage their land for credit, breaking the back of the local loan shark.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY: Furthermore, social justice is being hardwired into the intellectual future of the state. By legally carving out 7.5 percent of the existing rural quota specifically for students of rural government schools to secure highly coveted medical and engineering seats, the state is ensuring that the doctors and engineers of tomorrow actually possess the lived experience of the villages they will eventually serve.

CONCLUSION

THE ARCHITECTURE OF A NEW ERA

When viewed together, these initiatives reveal a distinct philosophy of governance. The strengthening of rural hospitals, digital ICU networks, the campaign against narcotics, financial support for 1.27 crore women, and expanded housing and land rights are not isolated interventions. They form an interconnected strategy aimed at addressing the foundations of inequality. The underlying message is simple: health cannot be separated from housing, financial security cannot be separated from dignity, and protecting the next generation requires confronting both physical illness and addiction. Yet the real test begins with implementation. As the deadlines of late 2026 approach, success will depend not on policy documents or budget announcements, but on execution at the ground level. Deputy Commissioners must overcome obstacles to identify land, doctors must serve in challenging rural settings, and police must sustain pressure on organized drug networks. If this administrative machinery delivers on its promises, the outcome could extend far beyond improved services.

Quick Read

Karnataka Sahitya Sangha hosts interfaith, scholarly speakers

BIDAR
A special panel discussion titled "Prophet Muhammad: The Beacon of Revolution" was recently held at the Karnataka Sahitya Sangha. Organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Hind as part of their ongoing Seerat campaign, the event explored the remarkable life and historical achievements of Prophet Muhammad. Numerous local intellectuals, scholars, and community leaders shared their views on how his teachings brought profound spiritual, social, political, and ethical transformations in a short time. Discussions also emphasized core human values, education, and justice. Several prominent dignitaries attended the gathering, which concluded with insightful closing remarks from state advisory council members.

Bidar district intensifies hearings and notice disposals

BIDAR
The district administration is fast-tracking the Special Summary Revision process to address voter roll discrepancies. Additional Deputy Commissioner Surekha reported that over 32000 notices were issued after comparing draft rolls with older records. Thousands of hearings have already concluded across multiple constituencies, while pending cases are being rescheduled. Officials are also providing doorstep services to verify documents for senior citizens and disabled voters. Citizens must present valid birth proof, residence certificates, or other accepted government documents. The final electoral roll will be published on October twenty-seventh, following the upcoming registration deadlines.

Illegal firecracker market sparks safety outrage

CH NEWS, LAKSHMESHWARAM
Malingaraya Pujar

Public safety concerns have reached a boiling point in the heart of Lakshmeshwar town, where local firecracker merchants are openly flouting official administrative directives. Despite strict and explicit orders issued by the District Magistrate mandating the relocation of all seasonal firecracker stalls to the spacious Uma Vidyalaya stadium or the town outskirts, traders continue to operate out of cramped, high-density commercial lanes. This blatant defiance has sparked widespread outrage among residents, who warn that conducting hazardous retail trade in heavily populated areas creates an imminent danger of catastrophic accidents. The controversy centers on the stark contrast between official safety protocols and commercial stubbornness. Every festival season, the district administration establishes mandatory guidelines to prevent



devastating fire-related tragedies. This year's directive specifically required merchants to move operations away from congested retail hubs. However, prioritizing convenience and foot traffic over human lives, local businessmen have ignored the relocation orders. They continue to pile volatile explosive materials directly within narrow market corridors without adhering to basic safety requirements, such as maintaining safe distances, keeping water and sand buckets on hand, or avoiding overhead electrical lines. Local citizens and community leaders have expressed deep alarm over the utter lack of emergency access within the marketplace. Because the

Diverse merchants drive festive economy in northern Karnataka

BELAGAVI
Ahead of the grand celebrations welcoming Lord Ganesha, commercial activity is hitting record highs across the state's northern districts. Much like the famous festive markets in Mumbai and Pune, Belagavi's historic Pangul Galli has transformed into a bustling commercial epicenter for festival shoppers. Local merchants anticipate a massive business turnover of approximately 50 crore rupees packed into a mere fifteen-day trading window, drawing thousands of enthusiastic buyers from across Karnataka, neighboring Goa, and parts of Maharashtra.

Originally a quiet residential lane known primarily for jewelry shops, Pangul Galli has evolved over the past two decades into a sprawling marketplace featuring over one hundred dedicated commercial establishments. As the countdown to the festival begins, massive crowds flock to the street to purchase everything required for home worship and large public pandals. Store owners report exceptionally high demand for modern decorative goods, ranging from vibrant artificial flowers and pearl strings to intricate fabric backdrops and ornamental shrines crafted from thermocol and foam.

Vijayapura DCC Bank sets new profit record

Century-old Vijayapura DCC Bank achieved record net profits exceeding 28 crores, empowering local farmers and rural communities.

VIJAYAPURA

The Vijayapura District Central Cooperative Bank has achieved a historic financial milestone during the 2025 to 26 fiscal year, recording an all-time high net profit. Former minister and bank chairman Shivananda Patil proudly revealed the institution's exceptional performance during a press conference held at the headquarters located in K C Nagar. The century-old bank crossed major financial boundaries, establishing robust stability and showcasing massive growth across every single operational metric while serving local farming communities. During the financial year, the cooperative bank registered an impressive business turnover totaling over eight thousand crores. After accounting for all operational expenses and paying income taxes, the institution secured a net profit of nearly twenty-nine crores. Chairman Patil attributed this remarkable



success to the dedicated cooperation of the bank staff, management team, and member societies. Operating across fifty-one branches throughout rural and urban sectors, the bank continues to expand its reach and strengthen grassroots economic development in its 180th year. The institution played a vital role in supporting local agriculture by distributing massive crop loans to hundreds of thousands of farmers across the district. Alongside agricultural financing, the bank extended substantial non-agricultural loans and credit support to numerous regional sugar factories. Financial indicators reflected strong upward trends, including a significant rise in deposit mobilization, working capital, and total investments. Furthermore, the bank maintained an exceptional loan repayment rate, particularly among farmers, while successfully reducing its net non-performing assets to zero through careful financial provisioning. Embracing modern financial technology, the cooperative institution operates entirely under a core banking system, offering digital services like mobile banking, UPI, and ATM networks. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to empowering rural communi-

ties through self-help groups and transparent credit facilities. As the bank enters another year of service, its robust capital ratio and consistent top-grade audit ratings underscore its position as a trusted financial pillar for the district's residents and agricultural workers alike.

- **Massive Agricultural Credit:** The bank disbursed ₹2,115 crore in crop loans to approximately 2.55 lakh farmers, maintaining an impressive agricultural loan repayment rate above 96 percent.
- **Robust Financial Growth:** Total deposits surged by 15.42 percent to reach ₹4,402.36 crore across 51 branches, while working capital climbed to ₹5,599.89 crore.
- **Zero Net NPA:** Through full provisioning for non-performing assets, the bank achieved a zero Net NPA level while retaining a top 'A' grade audit classification and a 12.79 percent CRAR ratio.

Wisdom and degrees: SIT honors new graduates

TUMAKURU

Siddalinga Swamiji of Siddaganga Math urged graduates to embrace lifelong learning, develop practical skills and uphold ethical values at SIT's 17th annual convocation. He encouraged students to learn from failures and explore diverse career opportunities. Chief guest Naveen Bishnoi called on graduates to contribute to nation-building. Over 1,400 students received degrees, while 81 gold medals were presented to outstanding academic performers during the ceremony.

technology, and direct market linkages to convert traditional farming into a highly profitable enterprise. A cornerstone of the administrative push is robust financial backing for rural producers. This year, the state has allocated over twenty-five thousand crore rupees to provide zero and low-interest crop loans to more than twenty-eight lakh farmers across the districts. Furthermore, to provide dependable water security for food-producing lands, official approval has been granted for one hundred twenty-one major irrigation

projects backed by a seventeen-thousand-crore-rupee investment. These measures are designed to protect farmers against seasonal vagaries and boost overall agricultural productivity statewide. Technology and digitalization form the core of the government's newly launched welfare policies. Under the Chief Minister's 'Negila Yogi' scheme, small and medium landowners receive annual machinery rental subsidies of up to forty-five hundred rupees, backed by a convenient digital mobile booking system to save time and reduce labor costs.

New Ganesha temple inaugurated at Hulikeri Lake

ALNAVAR

Spiritual fervor and traditional celebrations marked the grand inauguration of the newly constructed Sri Ganesha Mandir, beautifully situated on the banks of the historic Indiramma Lake in Hulikeri village. The sacred consecration ceremonies commenced with elaborate Vedic rituals, special pujas, sacred fire homas, and havana offerings dedicated to the presiding deity, whose main idol was specially brought from Pandharpur. The sacred kalasarahana ritual was ceremoniously performed by Abhinava Siddalinga Swamiji of Nayanagar, accompanied by the divine presence of Channabasava Deva of Bilaki Aravalli, amidst the rhythmic beating of traditional drums and devotional chants resonating across the waterfront. Addressing the gathering of local devotees, community leaders, and distinguished guests, speaker Shrikant Gaik-

wad emphasized the profound cultural and spiritual significance of the newly established shrine. He expressed an earnest vision for the temple to flourish as a vibrant nucleus of devotion, fostering deep social unity, communal brotherhood, and lasting harmony among all residents of the region. Echoing these sentiments, Abhinava Siddalinga Swamiji delivered a powerful benediction underscoring the vital role that sacred spaces play in inspiring peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and collective welfare within rural society. The ceremonial program also served as a platform to honor civic contribution and community service. Ramanand Bharathi Swamiji of Kakkeri Siddharoodha Mutt, along with prominent local dignitaries, donors, and active contributors to the temple project—including Vishnu Kittur, Virupaksha Kittur, and the Veeresh Jinappagola couple—were felicitated by the seers for their dedication.

State allocates ₹25,652 crore for low-interest farm loans

HUBBALLI

Karnataka's agricultural landscape is undergoing a massive transformation as the state government unveils a series of ambitious rural development initiatives. Marking the successful completion of its first one hundred days in office, an administration program titled 'Dridha Karnataka-da Sankalpa' was launched by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The comprehensive policy package aims to revolutionize traditional farming by blending land management, water conservation, modern digital technology, and direct market linkages to turn agriculture into a profitable, sustainable enterprise. A cornerstone of the new agricultural push is massive financial backing for rural communities. The administration has allocated over twenty-five thousand crore rupees this year to provide zero and low-interest crop loans to more than 28 lakh farmers. Furthermore, to combat water scarcity across the state's vast dryland regions—the second-largest in the nation—authorities have sanctioned 121 major irrigation projects backed by a 17000-crore-rupee investment. These irrigation efforts are paired with unique environmental schemes like the 'Tegada Siri' program, which encourages farmers to plant valuable teak trees on vacant land for long-term financial security. Technology and digitalization form the beating heart of these newly introduced welfare policies. Under the Chief Minister's Negila Yogi

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar launched 'Dridha Karnataka-da Sankalpa' to revolutionize farming through massive loans, irrigation projects, digitalization, and export promotion.

scheme, small and medium landowners receive annual machinery rental subsidies, with digital mobile booking options designed to save time and cut operating costs. Simultaneously, the CM Raitha Chaitanya Digital Agriculture Mission deploys advanced drones and satellite imaging to track crop growth and detect pest infestations early. Farmers also receive direct mobile updates on live market prices, empowering them to sell their produce at the most profitable times and locations. Global market access and renewable energy integration have also received unprecedented administrative priority. The Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation is being heavily strengthened to brand and export local crops like mangoes, millets, and ragi to international buyers. Additionally, Karnataka has claimed the top spot in southern India by successfully solarizing pump sets for over one hundred eighty thousand farmers under the PM-KUSUM scheme, drastically reducing electricity expenses. Through these integrated reforms, state leaders hope to secure a prosperous, technology-driven future for millions of rural families.

Organic farming a necessity for future generations: Swamiji

RAMANAGARA

Transitioning away from chemical-heavy agriculture toward comprehensive organic farming is no longer just an alternative choice, but an absolute necessity to safeguard the health and well-being of future generations. This powerful message was delivered by Sri Nishechalanandanatha Swamiji while addressing farmers and agricultural experts during a monthly meeting organized by the 'Sampoorna Savayava Krishikara Sangha' at the farm of organic cultivator B.C. Vasu in Bilagumba village. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the gathering, the Swamiji noted that growing public awareness is driving a major surge in demand for organic produce. He urged farming communities to completely abandon excessive chemical fertilizers and pesticides, embracing holistic organic methods capable of yielding premium, export-quality food items. Furthermore, he lauded the relentless awareness efforts spearheaded by the Organic Farmers' Association across Bengaluru South, Mandya, and neighboring districts. Echoing these views, Dr.



S.V. Suresh, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), described the association's regular meetings as invaluable learning hubs for rural cultivators. He stressed that the primary collective objective must be chemical-free production, ensuring that society receives toxin-free nutrition while restoring degraded soil fertility. Retired Joint Director of Horticulture Dr. B. Krishna added historical context, remarking that while the mid-20th-century Green Revolution was crucial to combat mass hunger, a modern organic revolution is now urgently required to combat lifestyle diseases. To foster this shift, over 100 dedicated farmer associations have already been established across the district. Host farmer B.C. Vasu shared his practical experience, warning that modern grains grown with heavy synthetic chemicals have been stripped of natural nutrients, turning daily meals into slow toxins.

CLAY IDOL EXHIBITION

MLA H.K. Patil inspects eco-friendly Ganesha hub

GADAG

In a decisive push toward ecological sustainability and grassroots artisan support, MLA H.K. Patil conducted a comprehensive site visit to the ongoing "Sale of Eco-Friendly Ganesha Idols under One Roof" initiative. Hosted at the Swami Vivekananda Sabha Bhavan within the city's Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) premises, the special exhibition-cum-sale serves as a vital commercial platform for local sculptors dedicated to preserving traditional, non-toxic craftsmanship. During his ex-



tensive tour of the facility, the legislator closely inspected the meticulously crafted clay idols and evaluated the centralized marketplace system designed to streamline direct consumer access without intermediaries.

The visit featured deep-dive interactions between the legislator, local artisans, and association representatives. MLA H.K. Patil engaged directly with the sculptors to understand the operational challenges they face, ranging

from the rising costs of natural raw materials to logistical hurdles in seasonal marketing. Recognizing the decade-long dedication of the regional creative community, the Gadag District Ganesh Idol Makers Association—which has successfully facilitated these unified sales for the past 11 years—felicitated the MLA with a warm public reception. Association leaders, including General Secretary Muthanna Bharadi, alongside office bearers and participating craftspeople, shared insights into how institutional backing transforms their seasonal trade into a viable livelihood.

Discussions during the event heavily emphasized the critical environmental imperative of phasing out chemically treated plaster of Paris idols and synthetic paints in favor of pure, river-safe clay and natural organic colors. Speakers and local leaders noted that collaborative platforms like the APMC-hosted marketplace are indispensable for safeguarding municipal water bodies from heavy metal pollution during festive immersions. Furthermore, the gathering reached a strong consensus that such institutionalized support structures must be expanded and continued.

Quick Read

Air India pilot dies during Delhi layover

NEW DELHI

A Mumbai-based Air India pilot in his 40s died in Delhi after being found unconscious at a hotel during a layover, the airline said. The pilot was staying at The Grand Hotel in Vasant Kunj when he was found unconscious on Friday evening. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. The pilot had earlier worked with Air India Express and joined Air India a few months ago. He was scheduled to operate a flight early Saturday morning. Air India expressed grief over his death and said it was supporting his family.

Bengal man arrested for assaulting minor daughter

KOLKATA

A man from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting his 13-year-old daughter, police said on Saturday. The accused, a hawker by profession, was arrested by officers of the Baruiপুর Women Police Station. Police said the man's elder daughter had earlier left home after allegedly being sexually assaulted by her father. She later complained that her younger sister was also facing similar abuse. The younger daughter allegedly told her sister about the incidents, following which both sisters informed their mother. Police said their mother remained silent despite knowing about the allegations. The elder daughter later contacted the police helpline. Officers arrested the accused from the Kulpi Road area. A case has been registered under the POCSO Act, and police have sought his custody for further investigation.

Indian woman accused of killing two friends in California

SAN JOSE

Indian-origin woman Anila Baby, 32, has been accused of killing her two friends, Ann Mary Mathew, 35, and Anjana Hari, 35, in separate incidents in California within about 90 minutes. Prosecutors said Baby allegedly strangled and stabbed Mathew at her San Jose home on August 28. Mathew was found unconscious with stab wounds and declared dead at the scene. About 90 minutes later, Baby allegedly struck Hari with her SUV at their Milpitas apartment complex before fleeing. Police later found the vehicle near a pharmacy. Baby was arrested after officers found blood on her arms and legs. The Kerala government is assisting the families in bringing the victims' remains to India.

ED CMRL ALLEGATIONS

Pinarayi calls ED charges ‘old allegations’ again

KANNUR

Kerala Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday rejected the Enforcement Directorate's latest allegations in the CMRL case, calling them "old allegations in a new script" and accusing the agency of trying to use the law as a political weapon. The ED recently wrote to State Police Chief Ravada A Chandrasekhar seeking registration of an FIR against Vijayan and his family, citing evidence collected during its investigation and searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The agency

West Bengal ends ₹10,000 mobile aid for students

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced the end of ₹10,000 mobile assistance for Class 11 and 12 students, citing concerns over phone use.

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday announced that the state government will stop providing the one-time ₹10,000 financial assistance to Class 11 and 12 students for buying mobile phones. The scheme was introduced by the previous Trinamool Congress government. Adhikari said the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government was willing to spend more on modern infrastructure to improve students' education, but would not provide money for mobile phones. The announcement marks a change from the "Taruner



Swapno' scheme launched in 2022. Under the scheme, students in Classes 11 and 12 received one-time financial assistance to purchase smartphones, tablets and computers. Adhikari said schools should instead follow the Gujarat model and keep students away from mobile phones as much as possible.

IN FOCUS

₹10,000 aid scrapped for Class 11-12 students

Taruner Swapno scheme launched in 2022

Gujarat model cited on mobile restrictions

More funds for modern school infrastructure

The chief minister had earlier indicated that his government could consider banning mobile phones in schools. Speaking at a Teachers' Day function last week, he cited Gujarat, where students up to

Class 12 are prohibited from bringing mobile phones to schools. Adhikari argued that mobile phones have a major negative impact on schoolchildren and said excessive use could affect their sleep. He acknowledged that restricting phones could be politically difficult, but maintained that the government was prepared to take a tough decision in the interest of students. The TMC, which governed West Bengal for 15 years, was voted out of power this year. The new government's decision ends the financial assistance previously provided under its flagship student-focused scheme for digital devices.

Adhikari attacks Left, TMC over Hindu traditions

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday accused the previous Left Front and Trinamool Congress governments of undermining Hindu religious traditions and culture in the state. He made the remarks while inaugurating a Ganesh Puja at Kestopur on the northern outskirts of Kolkata. Adhikari said the Left Front ruled West Bengal for 34 of the past 49 years and accused Communists of treating religion as the "opium of the masses". He also criticised the CPI-M for its book stalls outside Durga Puja pandals, alleging they promoted works by Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin while not displaying Indian religious books. The chief minister also targeted the Trinamool Congress, which governed West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. He alleged that the previous government attempted to turn the state into "Greater Bangladesh" and accused it of repeatedly attacking the traditions and culture of Sanatani Hindus.

Gandhinagar gets Rs 1,848 crore development boost

GANDHINAGAR

Gandhinagar district in Gujarat received development projects worth Rs 1,848 crore on Saturday, covering roads, drainage, water supply, healthcare, public transport and urban amenities. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi also flagged off around 30 new electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa scheme. Of the total investment, projects worth Rs 798 crore will be undertaken by the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation, while the Roads and Buildings Department will execute works worth Rs 1,050 crore. Patel also announced new projects worth Rs 48.26 crore for the capital's development. Among the major works is a Rs 20.76 crore underpass at Bhat-Koteshwar Crossing to ease traffic pressure on the Gandhinagar-Koba-Airport Road. The government will spend Rs 12.80 crore to strengthen the Sabarmati River bridge connecting Raksha Shakti Circle towards GIFT City-Shahpur. Another Rs 7.70 crore will fund junction and road development between GIFT City and PDPU, while Rs 7 crore is earmarked for road safety and paver works from Raksha Shakti Circle to GIFT City Circle. Civic works will include an 80-metre road linking Airport Road with Raysan and a service road from Raksha Shakti to Sargasan. Concrete roads will be developed in several areas. An overhead water tank is planned at Randheja, while drainage lines will be laid in Sectors 1 to 30 and seven surrounding villages to address monsoon waterlogging. An urban primary health centre will come up in Sargasan. Modern theme-based smart Anganwadis, gardens and urban facilities are planned. Patel and Sanghavi travelled as ordinary passengers on one of the e-buses after flagging off. Mayor Mira Patel said the projects would benefit both old sectors and newly incorporated villages, with emphasis on basic facilities and connectivity.

Murmu meets Pezeshkian, stresses peace through dialogue

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday met her Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian at Rashtrapati Bhavan and reiterated India's commitment to achieving enduring peace through dialogue and diplomacy. The two leaders discussed the long-standing friendship between India and Iran, including strong cultural and people-to-people ties. The meeting came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. Modi said India and Iran should pursue a long-term and mutually beneficial strategy while discussing the prevailing situation in the region. Modi described Pezeshkian's visit as special as it was his first trip to India. The two leaders also discussed India-Iran friendship and the need for continued co-operation. Modi reiterated India's commitment to enduring peace during their discussions. During the meeting, Modi also stressed the importance of protecting freedom of navigation and commerce, along with the safety and well-being of seafarers.

HISTORIC FIRST: 3 INDIAN INSTRUCTORS TO TRAIN UK PILOTS

NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force has deployed three Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs) to the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Valley in Wales, marking the first time IAF instructors will train Royal Air Force pilots in the UK. The deployment has been described by the IAF as a historic first in India-UK defence cooperation. The three Indian instructors have joined RAF Valley, a training base of the Royal Air Force, where they will train RAF pilots. Their deployment represents a new step in professional cooperation between the two air forces and is expected to provide an opportunity for both sides to share expertise and training practices. The IAF said the move would further strengthen professional excellence and interoperability between the Indian and British air forces.



It also highlighted the deployment as part of the defence relationship between India and the UK. The presence of Indian QFIs at RAF Valley places IAF instructors in a training role for Royal Air Force pilots. The arrangement reflects growing professional engagement between the two countries' defence forces and adds a new dimension to their established cooperation. The IAF said the deployment would contribute to strengthening defence ties while promoting greater interoperability and professional excellence. The three instructors will carry out their training responsibilities at RAF Valley, which serves as a key centre for Royal Air Force pilot training in Wales. The move is being viewed as a significant milestone in India-UK defence cooperation, with the IAF describing it as a historic first. The deployment underscores the role of experienced Indian flying instructors in international military training. By joining the RAF programme, the QFIs will strengthen professional links and deepen cooperation between the two air forces.

Adhikari attacks Left, TMC over Hindu traditions

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday accused the previous Left Front and Trinamool Congress governments of undermining Hindu religious traditions and culture in the state. He made the remarks while inaugurating a Ganesh Puja at Kestopur on the northern outskirts of Kolkata. Adhikari said the Left Front ruled West Bengal for 34 of the past 49 years and accused Communists of treating religion as the "opium of the

masses". He also criticised the CPI-M for its book stalls outside Durga Puja pandals, alleging they promoted works by Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin while not displaying Indian religious books. The chief minister also targeted the Trinamool Congress, which governed West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. He alleged that the previous government attempted to turn the state into "Greater Bangladesh" and accused it of repeatedly attacking the traditions and culture of Sanatani Hindus. Without directly naming former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Adhikari referred to an incident involving restrictions on idol immersion during Muharram. He claimed the former chief minister had said at a Puja coordination meeting that idol immersion would not take place on Vijaya Dashami in a particular year because of Muharram. Adhikari also referred to his electoral victory over Banerjee in Nandigram in 2021, where he defeated her by a margin of less than 2,000 votes.

Quick Read

N. Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles toward sea

SEOUL
North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles from the Won-san area toward the sea off its east coast, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Saturday. The missiles were launched from around 5:20 a.m. and flew about 250 km (155 miles), the JCS said in a statement, adding that South Korean and U.S. authorities were conducting a detailed analysis of their specifications. South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities had tracked and shared information on the launches from the outset, while information on the ballistic missiles was also shared with Japan, the JCS said.

Explosion hits another EMCO weapons site in Bulgaria

SOFIA
Bulgaria is investigating the cause of a fire at a weapons storage facility operated by EMCO, including the possibility of sabotage and a link to a previous blaze at another of the company's facilities in August, the interior minister said. No injuries were reported in the fire, which broke out near the village of Tsareva Livada and lit up the night sky, according to videos broadcast locally. The incident came weeks after an explosion and fire at another EMCO weapons depot in western Bulgaria.

'Love' to see a united Ireland: Trump

Washington
U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he would "love" to see Ireland and British-run Northern Ireland become unified, suggesting that such a development would eventually take place despite the political and constitutional sensitivities surrounding the issue. Speaking to reporters after meeting Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin in Dublin, Trump said he believed Irish unification would ultimately be achieved and described it as a potentially "fantastic thing." At the same time, he acknowledged that Britain would have an important say in any such process. "Well, I don't want to cause any problems, but I will tell you, I'd love to see it unified," Trump said when asked about the prospect of a united Ireland. "The way I look at it, it's going to happen eventually ... I think it would be a fantastic thing," he added. Trump also recognised the role of the United Kingdom, saying: "Now the UK will have something to say about it ... but I think it would be a great thing."

Saudi oil pipeline shut after drone attack

Saudi Arabia halted its East-West oil pipeline after a drone strike, threatening another shock to energy markets as attacks disrupt major Gulf and Red Sea shipping routes and raise prices.

ADEN

Saudi Arabia has shut its 1,200-km East-West oil pipeline after an aerial attack, raising concerns over crude supplies as the Middle East war intensifies. The pipeline, which crosses the Arabian Peninsula, has become important because fighting has severely disrupted tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Energy Ministry said the closure was a precautionary measure after a drone attack that Saudi Arabia and Iraq said originated in Iraq. The strike caused injuries and damage, which authorities were assessing. Satellite images showed black smoke rising from an area of the pipeline south of Medina.

The pipeline has recently transported an estimated 4 million to 5 million barrels of crude per day, equivalent to



roughly 4% to 5% of oil supply. Its closure could tighten a strained market, particularly because it provides Riyadh with an alternative route to export terminals on the Red Sea. No group immediately claimed responsibility. US President Donald Trump said Iran was probably behind the attack, while adding that he expected the war to end after the November midterm elections and oil prices to fall.

The development came as oil prices climbed during the past week and US diesel prices crossed \$6 a gallon for the first time. Meanwhile, Iran,

Saudi pipeline gains importance amid Iran tensions

Pipeline carries: 4–5 million barrels daily

Route length: 1,200 km across Saudi Arabia

Global impact: Handles about 4–5% of oil supply

Key concern: Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea disruptions

Suspected culprit: Iran, according to Trump

the United States and Iran-aligned Houthi forces have increased attacks involving Gulf and Red Sea shipping. Seizure of Yemen's strategic Perim Island by the Houthis has added to concerns about the Bab el-Mandeb route. Together, the attacks threaten energy corridors and could deepen pressure on fuel prices.

Death toll from Philippines ferry fire climbs to 35

CORON

Philippine authorities began the painstaking process of identifying victims from a ferry fire on Saturday, a day after responders recovered bodies from the burned-out vessel, raising the death toll to at least 35 and leaving more than 50 people missing.

The bodies were transported to a port in Coron town, where temporary tents were set up for forensic teams to process and identify the victims. Near the port, some family members anxiously watched as responders in protective suits carried black body bags from a Coast Guard vessel to temporary tents. One of them was Anelyn Magbanua, 37, whose husband was returning to Coron

after visiting their children in Manila when the ferry, which was carrying more than 130 people, caught fire near the end of its more than 20-hour journey. "I hope he is not among the dead being brought off the ship. I hope he is alive and has only drifted to another island," she said. "It will be very difficult to accept if he's really gone," she said. "He loved his children very much." Firefighters entered the ferry for the first time after extinguishing the blaze more than a day after it broke out, giving authorities access to areas that had been hard to reach because of thick smoke and extreme heat. The Coast Guard said burnt remains were discovered in the ferry's economy accommodation section.

Russian attacks on Kyiv petrol stations kill 2

MOSCOW

Russia attacked two Kyiv petrol stations with jet-powered drones early, killing two people in an escalation of strikes that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said were becoming "increasingly terrorist in nature."

Three more people were killed in Russian strikes in southeastern Ukraine's Dni-propetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions and in Kharkiv in the northeast, according to the governors of those regions. Ukraine also carried out drone attacks on Russia, killing two people in the Tula region overnight and one in the Kursk region, local officials said.

With fighting on the front line largely stalled more than 4-1/2 years into the war in Ukraine, Russia and Ukraine increasingly have struck logistics and other

economic targets in recent weeks to try to damage the other's war effort.

Russia has for two weeks been carrying out almost constant attacks with faster jet-powered drones that have killed a number of Kyiv residents and disrupted daily life in Ukraine's capital. The attacks were paused while U.S. peace negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited Kyiv at the weekend, but then resumed.

"Russia's escalation with jet-powered 'shaheds' is gradually becoming increasingly terrorist in nature," Zelenskyy said on X. Both sides deny targeting civilians in the war, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. The two dead in Kyiv were at one of the two petrol stations that was attacked, officials said, one by a double-tap strike.

Strikes followed what appeared to be the first attack

UK holds firm on Irish unity

LONDON

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham's government said Saturday that its position on Irish unification had not changed, after US President Donald Trump publicly expressed support for a united Ireland.

Trump made the comments during his visit to Dublin, where he met Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin. Speaking to reporters, Trump said he would "love" to see Ireland unified and predicted that it would eventually happen, while acknowledging that the United Kingdom would have a role in the process.

The remarks prompted renewed attention on the politically sensitive question of Northern Ireland's constitutional future. The region remains part of the United

Trump backs Irish unity, angering unionists

DUBLIN

US President Donald Trump said Saturday he would "love" to see Northern Ireland unify with Ireland, comments that drew opposition from pro-British unionists during his visit to Dublin.

Speaking alongside Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin, Trump said he believed Irish unity would be "a fantastic thing" and suggested it could happen eventually, while acknowledging that the United Kingdom would have a say in the process. He later described unity as a "very cool thing", although he also said there was no good answer to the question.

The remarks came weeks after British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said a referendum on Northern Ireland leaving the United Kingdom was "off the table". Downing Street reiterated Saturday that the British government's position remained unchanged following Trump's com-

I would "love" to see Northern Ireland unify with Ireland as it's potentially "a fantastic thing" and later "a very cool thing".
Donald Trump, US President

ments.

Under the 1998 Good Agreement, which ended three decades of sectarian violence, a referendum on Northern Ireland's status can be called only at the discretion of the British government. The agreement established a framework for Irish nationalists seeking unity and unionists determined to remain part of the UK.

Trump's intervention is sensitive because Northern Ireland remains divided over its future. Polling continues to show a comfortable majority favouring Northern Ireland remaining in the United Kingdom, although that margin has narrowed since Brexit brought the question of Irish unity higher on the agenda.

there would not be another vote.

A spokesperson for Burnham's office confirmed Saturday that the prime minister's remarks remained his position following Trump's intervention.

Under the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, a referendum on Northern Ireland's constitutional status can be called at the discretion of the British government. The agreement helped end three decades of violence between nationalists and unionists. Trump's comments have therefore placed renewed international attention on an issue that remains deeply sensitive in Northern Ireland. While polls continue to show support for remaining in the UK, the margin has narrowed in recent years, particularly since Brexit brought the question of Irish unity further into political debate.

BORDER POLL

A referendum on Northern Ireland's constitutional status is permitted under the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

The British government decides whether conditions justify holding such a vote.

Burnham says there is currently no evidence of majority public support.

Trump has publicly said he would like to see a united Ireland.

Kingdom, but Irish nationalists support eventual unification with the Republic of Ireland, while unionists favour remaining within the UK.

Responding to questions from lawmakers in Parliament on Wednesday, Burnham said he was not aware of majority public support for another referendum, commonly known as a border poll. He said that until public opinion changed,

King Oyo to be buried in western Uganda

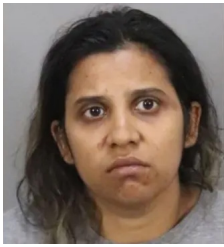
KAMPALA

Uganda's Tooro Kingdom prepared on Saturday to bury its late king, Oyo Nyimba, long the world's youngest monarch, following days of a bitter succession battle within the royal family. Royal guards clad in orange shawls and beating wooden sticks led the hearse carrying Oyo's casket in a solemn procession through the streets of the kingdom's capital, Fort Portal, in western Uganda. King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV made global headlines in 1995 when he took the throne at age 3. Images of the toddler king donning a crown and royal robes sparked curiosity and adoration around the world. He died last month at 34 in the United States, where he was receiving treatment for cancer.

His casket, draped in the blue-and-yellow Tooro flag, was driven from the royal palace to St. John's Cathedral for a ceremony before hundreds of mourners, including senior Ugandan government officials and delegations from chiefdoms in neighbouring countries. Uganda is led by an elected head of state but retains several kingdoms that pre-date the British colonial era and are seen as bulwarks of traditional identity and heritage. Oyo went on to become a U.N. goodwill ambassador who championed the fight against HIV and AIDS.

"Although he became king and carried responsibilities far beyond what most people ever experience, he never completely lost the young boy who loved to have fun," said his sister, Ruth Komuntale, in her eulogy.

Indian-origin woman arrested for killing 2 Malayali friends in US



HOUSTEN

An Indian-origin woman has been arrested for killing two of her friends, allegedly stabbing one and running over the other with her car, in separate incidents in California, authorities said.

The 32-year-old Indian-origin woman, Anila Baby, allegedly killed her two friends, Ann Mary Mathew, 35, and Anjana Hari, 35, in separate attacks within about 90 minutes of each other, according to police and media reports.

The accused and the two victims were friends and trace their roots to Kerala.

The killings occurred on August 28 in San Jose and Milpitas, two South Bay cities in the US state of California located less than 20 kilometres apart.

Investigators later linked the two killings and identified Baby as the suspect, the ABC7 News reported.

Baby was arrested the same day and initially charged in the Milpitas killing.

However, on September 8, prosecutors also charged her with murder in Mathew's death.

"The motive and circumstances surrounding the event are still under investigation," the San Jose Police Department (SYPD) said in a statement on Thursday.

Baby appeared in Santa Clara County court on Thursday for the first time and is scheduled to return on November 17, when she is expected to have an opportunity to enter a plea, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Baby faces two counts of first-degree murder and a potential sentence of 50 years to life if convicted, the ABC 7 news reported.

According to investigators, the first killing occurred in San Jose on August 28 at Mathew's home on Linda Vista Street, the report said.

Witnesses reported that an unexpected guest arrived at Mathew's door.

Prosecutors said Mathew was later found by her husband inside the home.

Investigators said she had been strangled and stabbed and was left in a pool of blood, according to the report.

Mathew was found unconscious inside her San Jose home with stab wounds and was pronounced dead at the scene, the SYPD said.

Around ninety minutes later, Baby called Hari to the parking lot of her apartment complex in Milpitas.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROHAYA BEEVI (old name), a resident of NO 256/3, 16TH MAIN, 17TH A CROSS, BTM 2ND STAGE, Bengaluru, 560076, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to ROHAYA BEEVI NAGOOR MEERAN (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-09-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Smt. G.B. Sandhya @ Sandhyarani, residing at: Ganalu Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk and Bangalore South District, has lost Original Registered Gift Deed dated: 17-07-2003, executed by Sri. B. Basavaraje Urs in favour of Smt. G.B. Sandhya @ Sandhyarani, which is duly registered as Document No. 1752/2003-04, Volume No. 3275, Book-1, Registered on 25-07-2003 and Registered at Sub Register Office, Kanakapura, while Xerox at Kanakapura Town on 03-09-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client. Contact Address: Rajini M.S., B.A., LL.B., Advocate, 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159. Mob: 8884242935. Place: Ramanagara. Date: 12-09-2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGOOR MEERAN MOHAMMED YOUSUF (old name), a resident of NO 256/3, 16TH MAIN, 17TH A CROSS, BTM 2ND STAGE, Bengaluru, 560076, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to NAGOOR MEERAN KATTAIKARAN MOHAMMED YOUSUF (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-09-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

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DAMASCUS

Syria's plans to convert a military airport in Damascus into a private-jet hub are facing opposition from rights groups and residents who fear construction could disturb suspected mass graves and revive unresolved property disputes.

The civil aviation authority said it was preparing to reclassify Mezzeh military airport for limited civilian use, private and executive aviation, alongside Damascus International Airport.

Rubble removal and infrastructure work have be-



gun, according to SANA.

The redevelopment has raised concerns because Mezzeh played a central role in the security apparatus of ousted President

Bashar al-Assad and his father, Hafez al-Assad.

The airport housed Air Force Intelligence facilities and detention centres where opponents were allegedly

tortured, executed and forcibly disappeared.

Documents reviewed show military officials approved Mezzeh in 2012 as an execution site for detainees sentenced to death by military field courts. Officials discussed using a firing range and a hangar near the runway, while construction was ordered under secrecy.

The Syria Justice and Accountability Centre has identified two suspected grave sites inside the airport linked to detainees who died there. The group said more than 1,150 detainees

APL Season Two Gets Global Boost

HYDERABAD

The Archery Premier League returns for its second season with an expanded field, bringing together 36 leading Indian archers and 12 international stars from 10 countries in Hyderabad from October 8 to 18.

The six-franchise competition will feature Olympic medalists, world champions, World Cup winners and established stars, giving the league greater international depth in its second edition.

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari and World Championship silver medalist Atanu Das headline India's recurve contingent, while reigning Asian champion Dhiraj Bommadevara is also part of the field. In compound, multi-time World Cup and Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam, former World No. 1 Abhishek Verma and former World Champion Ojas Pravin Deotale will lead India's challenge.

The international contingent includes Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Mete Gazoz of Türkiye, Paris 2024 bronze medalist Casey Kaufhold of the United States, Brazil's World No. 1 Marcus D'Almeida and Great Britain's World No. 2 Ella Gibson. Dutch compound star Mike Schloesser, a former World

The APL's second season brings India's top archers together with global stars, adding international depth and a faster shot clock ahead of the Asian Games campaign in Hyderabad this October.

Champion and four-time World Cup Final winner, will also compete.

All 12 members of India's Asian Games-bound archery squad will feature, adding importance ahead of the country's Aichi-Nagoya campaign later this month.

The Indian roster combines established performers and emerging talent. Twenty-one of the 36 Indians featured in the inaugural season, while 15 will make their APL debut. The league will retain its 15-second shot clock, five



Archery Premier League Returns with Global Stars:

- 36 Indian archers will compete alongside 12 international stars from 10 countries.
- Olympic champion Mete Gazoz and Paris 2024 bronze medalist Casey Kaufhold headline the international field.
- All 12 Asian Games-bound Indian archers will participate.
- 21 Indian archers return, while 15 make their APL debut.
- The league retains its 15-second shot clock.
- Six mixed-gender franchises will compete in Recurve and Compound.
- Matches will be held at People's Plaza, Hyderabad, from October 8 to 18.

seconds faster than Olympic timing, testing speed, decision-making and composure. Six mixed-gender franchises

Razdan Backs Iyer at Number Four

PATNA

Former India cricketer and renowned commentator Vivek Razdan believes India captain Shreyas Iyer should retain his position at number four when India begin their three-match T20I series against Afghanistan at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday.

The first T20I presents India with a selection puzzle at the top of the order, with four potential opening options in Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Iyer, who bats at number three for Punjab Kings in the IPL, could also be considered for a higher position.

However, Razdan feels the captain should not change his batting slot for the series opener. According to him, India already have sufficient choices for the top three and should focus on maintaining balance rather than selecting a batter solely because of his right-handed profile.

Razdan particularly highlight-

ed the number of left-handers among India's opening options. Abhishek, Kishan and Sooryavanshi are all left-handed, while Samson provides a right-handed alternative.

"I think Shreyas should not change his number at the moment. He should remain at number 4," Razdan said, backing the captain to maintain his role rather than moving up the order.

His comments come as India prepare to settle their batting combination for the opening game. With several young and established options available, the management faces a decision over how best to structure the top order. The presence of Sooryavanshi, just 15, adds another intriguing dimension to the selection debate, while Samson's experience gives India a proven right-handed opening option.

For Razdan, however, Iyer's role should remain unchanged, allowing India to use the captain at number four while resolving the competition among their multiple opening candidates.

Vivek Razdan wants Shreyas Iyer at four, with Sanju Samson opening for India against Afghanistan in Sunday's series opener.

Shelton advances to US Open final for Zverev showdown

NEW YORK

Ben Shelton defeated compatriot Frances Tiafoe 4-6 6-3 6-3 7-5 in an electric U.S. Open semi-final to secure a title clash with Alexander Zverev and move closer to ending a 23-year American wait for a men's singles Grand Slam champion. Zverev booked his place in Sunday's final by fighting past unseeded Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 7-6(7) 7-6(6) earlier in the day to close in on a second major title.

Victory sent the German top seed into his second final in New York after his runner-up finish in 2020 to Dominic Thiem. Shelton, the big-hitting 23-year-old, now stands one victory away from becoming the first American man to win a major singles title since Andy Roddick hoisted the trophy at Flushing Meadows in 2003.

With the semi-final line-

up having already ensured a Black American man would reach the final, Shelton's win made him the first to do so in New York since Arthur Ashe in 1972, and at any of the majors since MaliVai Washington at Wimbledon in 1996. French Open champion Zverev was pushed to five sets in each of his opening two rounds, but has now won four straight matches without dropping a set to charge into his third consecutive major final and stand in Shelton's path.

"I'm going for it," Shelton said. "I'm going to leave it all on the court. I hope you guys come and back me, let's do this for the U.S. "It's a lot of emotion. My dad, my mom have sacrificed a lot for me to be in this position today. My dad lost his mom earlier this year and she's the reason he was able to play tennis. Without her there's no Ben Shelton standing here today.

World Cup final tug-of-war escalates as Morocco PM rebukes FA head

RABAT

The battle over who will host the 2030 World Cup final intensified after Morocco's prime minister told his country's football federation head to stop making promises before the Spanish FA chief insisted it should be held in Spain.

Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch took aim at Royal Moroccan Football Federation (RMFF) President Fouzi Lekjaa, who boldly declared at a political party event that Casablanca would have the 'honour' of hosting the final.

World soccer's governing body FIFA has not yet announced which of the three co-hosts -- Spain, Portugal or Morocco -- will host the final in 2030, with a spokesperson saying a decision would be made in due course.

"Do not offer to host the big final game in Morocco while we still have not discussed the matter with our allies, Spain and Portugal. There should be some respect, brothers," Akhannouch said at a rally ahead of elections later this month.

"Stop using electoral promises to pull the rug out from under us. These are huge matters. Deciding where the final will be held is a major issue." The RMFF did not respond to a request for comment on Lekjaa's remarks.

Spanish football federation (RFEF) head Rafael Louzan dismissed Lekjaa's promise as



nothing more than election sloganeering before propping up Spain as potential hosts since they are the defending world champions.

"Even though no decision has been taken (by FIFA), I believe Spain is the place because it cannot be any other way. As you know, we are currently world champions," Louzan told Cadena SER radio.

"I believe Spain's organisational capacity for major events is beyond question and that is why reality dictates that the grand final cannot and must not be held anywhere other than in Spain."

Antonelli leads Spanish GP practice as Mading makes its F1 debut

MADRID

Formula One championship leader Kimi Antonelli lapped fastest for Mercedes in free practice at Madrid's new Spanish Grand Prix circuit with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton close behind.

Second in a first practice led by teammate George Russell, Antonelli then set the pace in a later session halted briefly by Racing Bulls' British rookie Arvid Lindblad becoming the first F1 driver to crash at the Mading and bring out red flags.

"It is a very cool circuit to drive around. It is a real challenge for us as drivers, with lots of high-speed corners and walls close by," said Antonelli.

Antonelli's best lap of one minute and 33.662 seconds was 0.113 quicker than Leclerc's fastest effort.

Seven-times champion Hamilton was 0.149 off the pace with Lindblad fourth de-

spite the crash ending his session with 24 minutes to go. The 19-year-old lost control of the rear of the car and smashed into the barriers sideways at Turn 13.

"It looked quite bad from the outside, but thankfully the impact wasn't too heavy and I feel completely fine. There's some damage to the car, so I apologise to the team for the extra work they'll have to do tonight," said Lindblad.

Russell, Antonelli's closest title rival who led practice one with a time of 1:34.077, was fifth. The Briton is 66 points behind his teammate after 13 rounds with two wins to the Italian's seven.

Leclerc and Hamilton had been third and fourth in the first session at a bright and sunny Mading, a challenging track that runs around the IFEMA exhibition centre near the capital's Barajas airport. "It's a challenging street track, which is the type I usually enjoy and this one is no exception," said Leclerc.

Suthar Spins Historic County Championship Feat

NEW DELHI

India's rising left-arm spinner Manav Suthar is making a strong impression in English county cricket, producing a remarkable spell for Warwickshire in the County Championship Division One.

The 24-year-old has already claimed seven wickets against Hampshire and followed it with three wickets against Glamorgan in Cardiff. His latest performance also produced a rare statistical milestone, as Suthar took all three wickets in just 15 balls without conceding a single run.

The feat made him the first bowler in 131 years of first-class cricket to achieve three wickets without giving away a run. England's Tom Hayward was the previous player to accomplish the feat, taking three wickets in six balls for Leicestershire against Surrey at The Oval in 1895.

Suthar has played only three Tests for India but has quickly emerged as a promising successor to the country's established spin masters. His fluid action and high-arm release allow him to float the ball above the batter's eyeline, forcing batters to linger longer before committing to their shots.

His success is also underpinned by detailed preparation. Before travelling to Sri Lanka, Suthar trained at the BCCI Centre of Excellence under former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi. Their work included refining his run-up, using Kookaburra balls and recreating Galle's open-field conditions and sea-driven drift.



- "Three wickets in 15 balls without conceding a single run" — Suthar's remarkable Glamorgan spell.
- "First bowler in 131 years" — the unique first-class record created by his performance.
- Tom Hayward was the previous bowler to achieve the feat, doing so for Leicestershire against Surrey in 1895.
- Suthar's preparation with Sunil Joshi included work on his run-up, Kookaburra-ball bowling and conditions resembling Galle.
- His early Test record includes seven wickets against Afghanistan and 16 against Sri Lanka.

Delhi Rain Threat Clouds T20I Opener

NEW DELHI

Delhi's weather could play a role when Afghanistan host India in the opening T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday, before the series gets underway in Delhi.

The match is scheduled to begin at 7 pm, with showers a potential disruption during the afternoon and evening. According to AccuWeather, the chance of precipitation is 64 percent on Sunday. Hourly forecasts indicate rain chances of 10 per cent or less until noon before rising to around 50 per cent from 1 pm.

The possibility remains around 40 per cent at 6 pm and falls to 37 per cent at 7 pm, before staying near 40 per cent for the following two hours. It then drops to 37 per cent at 10 pm and 34 per cent at 11 pm. The forecast does not point towards a washout, but occasional showers could interrupt play.

If conditions allow, attention will turn to India's returning stars. Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Sanju Samson and Axar Patel are back in the

Delhi's rain threat adds uncertainty to India's T20I opener against Afghanistan, with showers potentially disrupting the evening contest.

The weather threat looms mainly through the afternoon and evening, though forecasts suggest the match may avoid a complete washout.

KEY WEATHER WATCH

- Match: Sunday, 7 pm
- Venue: Arun Jaitley Stadium
- Precipitation: 64% overall
- At 7 pm: 37%
- 8-9 pm: 40%
- 11 pm: 34%
- Concern: Intermittent showers



squad after missing the 3-0 T20I series against Zimbabwe. Bumrah, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar have been declared fit. The BCCI confirmed that Harshit Rana will miss the series because of a rectus femoris strain, with Yash Thakur replacing him.

The series is notable for Shreyas Iyer, who will captain India in a T20I on home soil for the first time. He previously led the side in the UK and Zimbabwe. India will aim to build on their 3-0 Zimbabwe sweep after losing the Ireland series 2-0 and England series 4-0 on tour.

BRICS SUMMIT 2026

INDIA BROADENS GULF TIES BEYOND OIL

India’s BRICS Presidency is positioning Gulf ties beyond oil, linking energy security with technology, investment, food and regional cooperation.



NEW DELHI

India’s 2026 BRICS Presidency is widening its energy relationship with Gulf countries into a partnership covering investment, technology, food security, clean energy and regional stability.

A new Gulf Today report said energy ties remain the foundation of cooperation at the 18th BRICS Summit, while areas are emerging. Gulf capital and renewable-energy expertise could combine with India’s engineering capabilities, manufacturing strength and market scale to develop solar equipment, green hydrogen, battery storage and low-carbon technologies.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s May 2026 visit to the UAE, India and the UAE deepened cooperation on crude oil, LNG and LPG. The two sides also agreed to increase UAE participation in India’s strategic petroleum reserves and explored strategic gas reserves.

Food security is another area for cooperation. Gulf demand could be linked with India’s agricultural and food-processing capabilities through investments in storage, logistics and reliable supply chains.

The report noted that regional tensions have renewed focus on energy security, mar-

Expanding partnership

- Crude oil, LNG and LPG remain key pillars.
- UAE participation in India’s strategic petroleum reserves is set to increase.
- Green hydrogen, solar equipment and battery storage offer new opportunities.
- Food storage, logistics and supply chains can strengthen food security.
- GCC trade talks add an economic dimension to the partnership.

itime trade and safe shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Gulf states are also diversifying their economies and strengthening technology and commercial links with Asia.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE represent the Gulf in expanded BRICS, increasing the bloc’s weight in energy and finance. India’s relationships with all six GCC states position it as a bridge between the Gulf and wider BRICS community.

India supplies food, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles and digital services to Gulf markets, while millions of Indians live and work there. In February 2026, India signed terms of reference with the GCC.

India-Malaysia ties moving into ‘ambitious new areas’: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India-Malaysia ties are moving into "ambitious new areas" as both countries continue to work together to realise the full potential of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"Maritime neighbours, close partners and a friendship powered by our people. Delighted to meet PM Anwar Ibrahim. India-Malaysia ties are moving into ambitious new areas like semiconductors, critical minerals, clean energy, infrastructure and talent mobility," said PM Modi after holding discussions with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

"Our growing defence partnership, expanding two-way investments and deeper people-to-people links reflect the new momentum in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. India and Malaysia will continue to work together and realise the full potential of this relationship," the Prime Minister reflected further.

While warmly welcoming Ibrahim to India, PM Modi appreciated Malaysia’s participation in the BRICS Summit as a Partner Country. The leaders took stock of the outcomes of Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Malaysia in February 2026 and reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation across a range of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security,



semiconductors, infrastructure, digital economy, energy, fintech, education, tourism and people-to-people ties.

Ibrahim conveyed Malaysia’s concurrence to the establishment of Consulate General of India in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

"Prime Minister Modi appreciated Malaysia’s continued support in strengthening ASEAN-India relations. The leaders exchanged views on key regional and global issues of mutual interest. They expressed their continued commitment to advancing the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

The Malaysian PM, who began the day meeting Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian, said that he expressed his appreciation to PM Modi for the "exceptional service" provided since the Malaysian delegation arrived in New Delhi.

"We agreed to continue the momentum of the close Malaysia-India relationship and to strengthen the friendship rooted in a long history and warm ties between the peoples of both nations.

Quick Read

India’s gem, jewellery exports rise 12.52% as studded gold surges

New Delhi
India’s gem and jewellery exports continued positive momentum in the month of August, with gross exports rising 12.52 per cent year-on-year to Rs 21,945.87 crore, a report said on Saturday. The report from the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said the month saw a marked shift toward value added jewellery, with studded gold jewellery exports surging 64.96 per cent to \$642.85 million. The growth was driven by strong demand from the US, the UAE, Hong Kong, the UK, and France.



Sri Lanka’s betel exports slump amidst Pakistani tariffs

New Delhi
Sri Lanka’s betel export sector has been hit by a sharp fall in shipments and dollar earnings to Pakistan--its primary betel market--amid tariff and regulatory barriers, a new report has said. The report from Sri Lanka Guardian said that a lack of coordination between trade and agriculture agencies risks leaving farmers exposed to overproduction. Exports to Pakistan fell from 4,387.02 metric tonnes in 2019 to 2,250.99 tonnes in 2024 with export earnings dropping from \$17.77 million to \$9.27 million over the same period.

Adani Electricity offers temporary connections to Ganesha pandals

MUMBAI

Adani Electricity said on Saturday that it is committed to supporting the upcoming Ganesha Festival celebrations in Mumbai by making temporary electricity connections available to Ganesh pandals at a residential rate.

This initiative ensures that pandals across the city have access to reliable power during the festivities. Ganesh pandals can receive their temporary electricity connection within 48 hours of submitting their application.

"By offering reliable temporary electricity connections for Ganesh Pandals, we aim to ensure the festival’s spirit is celebrated with uninterrupted power. This initiative reflects our dedication to serving our customers," an Adani Electricity spokesperson said.

The pandals can visit the Adani Electricity website

www.adanielectricity.com and navigate to the ‘New Connection’ section for temporary connection supply.

"Last year, we successfully provided uninterrupted power to over 1000 Ganesh pandals across the city. We’ve made thorough preparations to expedite connection approvals and maintain reliable power supply throughout the festival. Our dedicated Quick Response Team is strategically deployed to address any issues swiftly," the spokesperson added.

For the safety of devotees visiting Ganesh pandals, Adani Electricity urges all organisers to utilise only authorised licensed electrical contractors for electrical wiring.

Additionally, "we will be providing illumination with 2,958 floodlights at over 167 idol immersion locations", said the spokesperson.

Adani Electricity said that

organisers should ensure wiring readiness at the pandal site; allow only authorised personnel to access the meter cabin; use standard wires and switches for the connection; install a single isolation point for emergencies; securely tape wires with standard insulation tape; maintain clear access to the meter cabin and switches; and ensure the connected load doesn’t exceed the sanctioned load.

They should have a fire extinguisher with clear operating instructions near the meter cabin; secure a danger board near the meter cabin; and ensure proper earthing at the meter cabin.

Also, pandals should not use unauthorised extensions or direct power supply or create unnecessary joints in wiring, block access to the meter cabin entrance, exceed the sanctioned load, allow public access to floodlights, pedestals, fans, or insulated joints.

Accelerated govt divestments could ease India’s market imbalance

NEW DELHI

Strong government divestments could expand Indian equity market’s investable universe, ease valuation pressures and support fiscal consolidation as mounting fiscal risks threaten targets, a report said on Saturday.

The report from Axis Capital said the government’s holdings in listed companies have risen to Rs 44 trillion, roughly four times pre pandemic levels and that a sustained divestment programme could generate substantial receipts, deepen market free float, support fiscal consolidation, and strengthen capital flows.

A 15 per cent reduction in government ownership over

the next three years could raise nearly Rs 6.6 trillion, expand market free float and help reduce the risk of capital outflows.

The government’s listed holdings have a significant concentration in banks and NBFCs.

"Accelerated divestments could help narrow the demand-supply imbalance, reduce pressure for foreign investor exits, and address the market’s underlying plumbing problem of excess demand for equities," according to the report.

India’s capital outflows over the past 2 years and the EM benchmark index outperformed the US over the past 18 months.

Moreover, Taiwan and

South Korea, the principal beneficiaries of the AI theme, have seen large outflows recently.

The report said that expensive valuations and prolonged earnings disappointment were the primary drivers of foreign selling in India.

Strong domestic inflows also provided FPIs an exit by absorbing secondary market selling at high valuations.

As fiscal strains are likely to persist in FY28 with the implementation of the 8th Pay Commission, divestment offers a more durable solution, the report said.

"Assuming a 12 per cent growth rate for income tax compared to the implied rate of 18 per cent leads to a shortfall of Rs 762 billion. \

SECL contributes 17% of India’s total coal production: Govt

The Coal India subsidiary has expanded production, productivity, rail connectivity, mechanisation, digital systems, CSR initiatives and environmental efforts across Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI

The South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is contributing approximately 23 per cent of Coal India Limited’s (CIL) output and registered around 17 per cent of India’s total coal production in FY 2025-26, the government said on Saturday.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India’s coal sector has undergone a far-reaching transformation since 2014, propelled by a series of policy and structural reforms of the Centre aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency, technology adoption, infrastructure development, ease of operations and energy security.

These reforms have accelerated decision-making, mod-

ernised mine planning, strengthened evacuation infrastructure, and lifted productivity across the sector. The outcome is visible at the national level, according to the Coal Ministry.

India’s domestic coal production crossed the landmark 1 billion tonne (BT) mark for the second consecutive year in FY 2025-26, reaching 1.04 BT (provisional), as coal continues to power about 73 per cent of the nation’s electricity generation and ensure energy security for the nation.

SECL, a Mini Ratna subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) operating across the coalfields of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, has been one of the principal architects of this national achievement.

From an ordinary coal production of 34.2 MT in its year of inception (FY 1985-86), SECL has transformed itself into a major coal behemoth producing 176.28 MT of coal in FY 2025-26.

Coal production has risen from 124.26 million tonnes (MT) in 2013-14 to 176.28 MT in 2025-26, a year in which the company also re-



KEY POINTS

- SECL accounts for 17 pc of national and 23 pc of Coal India output
- Output per Man-Shift more than doubled to 16.47 tonnes in 2025-26
- Gevra, Kusunda and Dipka mines hold 185 MT of capacity

corded coal offtake of 178.63 MT across 13 states, up from 122.03 MT in 2013-14, a growth of over 46 per cent.

What stands out most is the leap in productivity. Output per Man-Shift (OMS), the key measure of mining efficiency, has more than doubled, from 7.23 tonnes in 2013-14 to 16.47 tonnes in 2025-26, said the government.

BOCW conference pushes stronger worker welfare

MUMBAI

A two-day conference on Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) brought states and Union Territories together to review welfare, skilling, employment and service delivery measures for construction workers. The conference provided a platform for sharing experiences, discussing challenges and identifying ways to strengthen the welfare ecosystem.

Dr Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Secretary, Labour and Employment, said strengthening the skill ecosystem and placing dignity of labour at the centre of policy and programme design were critical to creating a more responsive, inclusive and resilient labour ecosystem.

He highlighted information and accessibility gaps in the labour market and stressed the need for stronger mechanisms linking jobseekers with employers. He also said worker mobility, both interstate and international, should be considered while designing social security and welfare schemes.

The Secretary called for greater attention to occupational health, physical safety and other workplace concerns faced by construction workers. He also encouraged frequent virtual engagements between the Centre and states to sustain collaboration and facilitate mutual learning.

STATES SHARE BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKER WELFARE

- States and UTs share BOCW welfare practices.
- Focus on skilling, employment and service delivery.
- Centre stresses dignity of labour in policymaking.
- Worker mobility to be considered in welfare schemes.
- Greater focus urged on safety and occupational health.
- Rajasthan highlights Digital Labour Chowks.
- Bihar and Assam showcase worker service platforms.

Looking ahead, Kumar outlined pathways to strengthen the BOCW welfare ecosystem, including consolidation of diverse measures and use of actuarial analysis to support sustainable welfare interventions.

The second day featured presentations from states and UTs on initiatives and best practices. Uttar Pradesh presented its work on skill development of building workers, Rajasthan shared its experience with Digital Labour Chowks, Bihar highlighted Shram Seva Suvidha Kendras, and Assam presented the Nirman Sakhi Portal. The exchanges underlined the importance of innovation, accessibility and coordinated efforts in improving services for construction workers.

STRENGTHENING SPACE SOVEREIGNTY

INDIA’S SPACE ECONOMY MAY TOUCH ₹4.22 LAKH CR BY 2033

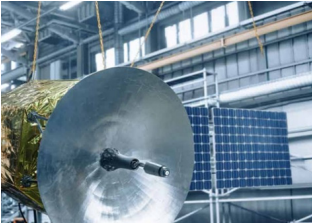
NEW DELHI

India’s space economy could expand to Rs 4.22 lakh crore (\$44 billion) by 2033 due to policy reforms, greater private sector participation and growing demand for space-enabled services, according to a report.

According to a joint report by EY and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), said the Indian Space Policy 2023, reforms introduced through the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) and the role of NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL) have laid the foundation for a transition from a government-led space programme to a more industry-driven ecosystem.

Achieving the projected growth will require coordinated efforts by government agencies, industry, startups, investors, academia and strategic users over the next seven to eight years, it said.

The report identified six priority areas for action, including scaling adoption of



space-based applications across sectors, strengthening domestic manufacturing and launch capabilities, improving the regulatory and financing environment, leveraging government demand to support commercial adoption, enhancing defence and strategic space capabilities and positioning India as a global space partner and export hub.

In addition, the entire space value chain covers upstream activities such as satellite manufacturing, launch vehicles, propulsion systems and avionics; midstream segments including ground infrastructure and satellite operations; and downstream applications such as Earth Observation (EO), satellite communications (SATCOM), navigation services and geospatial ana-

lytics.

Mallavarapu Apparao, Chairman of the CII National Committee on Space, said India’s space sector has evolved from a scientific exploration programme into an innovation-driven economy supported by satellite-enabled services and applications.

CDR Gautam Nanda, Partner, Aerospace, Defence and Space at EY India, said the next phase of growth would depend on building industrial depth, commercialising technologies, strengthening supply chains and translating satellite-generated data into actionable services across commercial, public and strategic sectors.

Moreover, downstream applications are increasingly supporting agriculture, logistics, disaster management, infrastructure planning, climate resilience and governance, while also strengthening defence capabilities through secure communications and maritime domain awareness, according to the report.

Actress Amyra Dastur has revealed that she almost missed the opportunity to act in the upcoming streaming series Chumbak because her former manager failed to inform her about the audition. The actress shared the story while promoting the series in Mumbai with co-stars Arjun Bijlani, Helly Shah, Delnaaz Irani and Anant Joshi.

Dastur said she learned that auditions were being held for a Parsi character and immediately felt she could be a strong choice because she belongs to the Parsi community. She contacted casting director Jogi herself and asked why she had not been invited. To her surprise, he said the team had contacted her earlier, but had been told she was not interested in the project.

The actress quickly cleared up the misunderstanding and agreed to audition. She recalled that she auditioned twice before receiving the call confirming her selection. Dastur said she was relieved that the confusion was resolved, especially because she strongly connected with the character and the story. She also said representing her culture made the opportunity more special.

Dastur further praised the experienced actors around her, saying their performances encouraged her to improve her own work. She added that comedy was something she had always wanted to explore.



Amyra Dastur

almost lost role in Chumbak

ALLU ARJUN FANS TURN FANDOM INTO AWARENESS

Fans of actor Allu Arjun have launched a health awareness campaign across eight states, focusing on human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical cancer prevention and vaccination. The initiative has reached more than three lakh girls through hundreds of programmes held in schools and communities.

Led by the Allu Arjun Fans Association (AAFA), around 820 awareness programmes have been conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The campaign aims to help young girls understand HPV, its prevention and the importance of vaccination.

The programmes also encourage students and families to seek reliable health advice from professionals. By taking the message directly to schools and communities, the association hopes to reduce confusion and fear surrounding HPV and cervical cancer.

The initiative has given fans a chance to use their collective strength for a cause beyond cinema. Instead of limiting their activities to film celebrations, they are helping spread an important public health message. The campaign shows how fan communities can create a positive social impact when their enthusiasm is directed towards meaningful work.



Toxic actor asks fans to judge themselves

Actor Benedict Garrett has defended Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups after the Kannada film received heavy criticism from critics and audiences. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film hit theatres on August 26 and has reportedly earned about ₹300 crore worldwide.

Garrett shared pictures from his scenes on social media and asked viewers not to judge the movie only through reviews. He said people should decide for themselves whether criticism is genuine or paid, reminding them that they have their own minds.

He also explained why he connected with the film. Although he is not a major fan of action movies, Garrett said Toxic surprised him and affected him deeply. He described it as a dark fairy tale about trauma, power, religion, colonialism and society, rather than simply violence or spectacle.

He praised Yash's performance and said he was proud to be part of the film. Garrett admitted it would not appeal to everyone, but admired Mohandas for creating different work. He encouraged viewers to watch it and form their view.



Gaga and Polansky reportedly welcome first baby

Lady Gaga and her fiancé, Michael Polansky, have reportedly welcomed their first child, according to recent reports.

The couple was reportedly seen with their new family in Northern California, marking what is believed to be their first public appearance as a family of three. However, Gaga and Polansky have not confirmed the news or shared details about their newborn.

The couple has kept the baby's name, sex, and date of birth private. Representatives for both stars reportedly have not commented on the reports. Gaga, whose full name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, has stayed mostly away from public attention in recent months, making the reported sighting especially notable to fans.

The reported arrival comes after a demanding period for the singer. Gaga completed her Mayhem Ball tour in April after nearly nine months on the road, performing 86 shows around the world. She



NANI EXPLAINS WHY PARADISE HAS NO TRAILER

Actor Nani has confirmed that The Paradise, his upcoming film with director Srikanth Odela, will not have a trailer before its September 24 theatrical release. Speaking to reporters, Nani said the decision was made because the post-production team is working hard to deliver a quality film. He explained that preparing a strong trailer would require taking valuable time away from the final work.

Nani said the film already has enough excitement among audiences, but he does not want to take their support for granted. A teaser was released in August, giving fans a glimpse of the project. The actor added that the team had hoped to release a trailer, but decided that completing the film properly was more important under the current circumstances.

The actor also spoke openly about Srikanth's struggles with time management during production. Nani revealed that the director once admitted he had not managed time well and wanted to improve. According to Nani, Odela plans to learn from filmmaker SS Rajamouli after completing The Paradise. Nani said he was happy that the director recognized an area where he could become better.

The Paradise marks Nani and Odela's second collaboration after Dasara. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under SLV Cinemas, the film also stars Kayadu Lohar, Raghav Juyal and Mohan Babu, with music by Anirudh Ravichander. The film faced several delays after earlier release plans for March and August. It is now scheduled to reach theatres on September 24.



Rashmika joins HYBE India to inspire young artists

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has joined HYBE India to encourage young women across the country to follow their dreams and explore opportunities in the global entertainment industry. She will also mentor aspiring artists through the ongoing HYBE INDIA Audition: Final Call.

As part of the campaign, Rashmika appeared in a video sharing her journey in Indian cinema. She spoke about the opportunities she received, the hard work behind her success and the importance of believing in oneself.

Rashmika encouraged young girls to take advantage of the audition opportunity. She said many aspiring artists dream of becoming performers and role models, and urged them to give themselves a chance to turn those dreams into reality.

HYBE India announced the audition initiative on September 2 to discover and develop new Indian talent with global potential. Online applications will remain open until October 31. The campaign has already attracted applications from all 28 states, six union territories and more than 1,650 cit-



Dorothy wins standing ovation at Toronto premiere

Karthik Subbaraj's Tamil film Dorothy received a warm response at its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film, shown in the Centrepiece section, earned a standing ovation from the audience. The event marked an important moment, as Dorothy became the first Tamil film to premiere at the festival in ten years.

Actors Keerthy Suresh, Sananth and Rishikanth attended the premiere along with producers Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain. Videos from the screening showed the cast and crew taking the stage after the end credits, where the audience welcomed them with loud applause and a standing ovation. The response added excitement around the film's international journey.

Dorothy features an original score by veteran composer Ilayaraja, marking his 1540th film. The movie is backed by Jio Studios and Sikhya Entertainment. Subbaraj said the story explores friendship, love, identity, caste, masculinity and compassion through deeply human characters. Although the film is rooted in Tamil Nadu's culture and landscape, he believes its emotions can connect with audiences everywhere.

The filmmaker also said he had carried Dorothy with him for a long time and was proud to begin its journey at a global festival. The film will now move toward its worldwide theatrical release on September 25. After receiving such an encouraging response in Toronto, Dorothy enters its next chapter with growing attention and expectations from viewers.



Kareena feels like newcomer working with Meghna

Kareena Kapoor has said working with filmmaker Meghna Gulzar on Daayra made her feel like a newcomer despite spending 26 years in the film industry. The upcoming film, starring Prithviraj Sukumaran alongside Kareena, marks her 68th movie.

Kareena described Meghna as a strict but caring director who maintains strong control on set. She said Meghna's discipline made her arrive early and remain careful throughout filming. Kareena added that the experience reminded her why actors must continue learning.

Playing Ajooni, a strong and principled woman, also pushed Kareena to change her usual acting style. She said Meghna often asked her to keep her expressions controlled and avoided showing her character's figure through tight costumes.

Prithviraj, who plays Raman, also discussed his appearance in the film. He had gained muscle while preparing for another project, and Meghna later felt his build did not match her vision for the character. Daayra is scheduled to release in theatres on September 18. The film aims to make viewers think about society and the systems shaping people's lives.



Alia Bhatt finds joy in producing new film

Alia Bhatt became emotional while discussing her upcoming film Don't Be Shy at its trailer launch. The actress, who is also producing the coming-of-age romantic comedy with her sister Shaheen Bhatt, said the project holds a special place in her heart. She admitted that she feels nervous as the film introduces four new actors and a debutant director.

Alia thanked Amazon for supporting the film and giving it a wide platform. She said the story is close to her heart because it explores growing up, something she believes audiences can easily understand. According to her, the film took about two years to develop after filmmaker Shri brought the original idea to the team. Reflecting on her career, Alia said she entered the film industry as an actor 14 years ago and now feels a different kind of happiness as a producer. She explained that producing allowed her to help build the story and its world from the beginning. The experience, she said, gave her a deeper sense of fulfillment beyond acting.

