



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.

Single-window system set up for Ganesh idol installation permissions

MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has established single-window centres at all its zonal offices to facilitate the speedy processing of applications seeking permission for the installation of Gowri-Ganesh idols during this year's festival.

Zonal Commissioners have been designated as nodal officers at the respective centres. Teams comprising officials from the MCC, Police Department, CESC and Fire Department will function at the zonal level to examine applications and ensure all necessary safety measures are in place.

The MCC Commissioner, M.K.Savita, in a press note, said applications received from organisers would be forwarded by the Zonal Commissioners to the concerned

police, CESC and Fire Department officials. A joint site inspection would be conducted to assess safety arrangements and prevent any untoward incidents. Permission would be granted only after obtaining the approval of the concerned departments.

The Zonal Commissioners have also been instructed to obtain an undertaking from organisers along with the prescribed application and ensure compliance with conditions imposed by the MCC, Police, Fire and CESC departments before granting permission through the single-window system. They have been directed to personally inspect the sites and closely supervise the permission process to ensure there are no shortcomings and that law and order is maintained.

The MCC has also issued several guidelines concerning



the manufacture and immersion of Ganesh idols. The manufacture of idols using chemical paints, thermocol and plaster of Paris has been completely prohibited within the corporation limits. Officials have been instructed to inspect places where idols are manufactured or sold and initiate criminal action against those

violating the ban, besides imposing appropriate fines and seizing prohibited materials. The seized material should be disposed of as per rules.

Only eco-friendly clay Ganesh idols will be permitted for manufacture and sale. The MCC will identify suitable immersion points within each zone for large

eco-friendly idols and publicise their locations. Where necessary, mobile vehicles will be arranged to facilitate immersion within ward limits.

Immersion of idols in municipal water bodies has been prohibited. Temporary immersion facilities will be provided at designated locations. The soil, puja flowers, plastic and other materials generated during immersion will be segregated, with green waste sent to processing units and dry waste to designated collection centres.

As the plastic ban is in force, organisers have been instructed not to use banned plastic materials at idol installation venues.

Environmental Engineers and Zonal Development Officers have been directed to co-ordinate with the Zonal Commissioners in implementing all the measures.



Orientation Programme for B.Com & BBA students held at TTL College

MYSURU

TTL College premises buzzed with enthusiasm and energy as the institution successfully hosted its much-anticipated Freshers' Programme and Orientation Ceremony for the newly inducted batch of Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) and Bachelor of Business Management / Administration (BBA) students.

The event was graced and officially inaugurated by the esteemed guest and notable personality, Rachana Mahesh, who emphasized the importance of goal-setting, adaptability, and resilience in the fast-evolving corporate and entrepreneurial landscapes, motivating students to make the best of the academic and extracurricular opportuni-

ties available on campus.

The orientation segment familiarized students with the college's academic rigor, code of conduct, examination structures, and vibrant club activities. Senior students welcomed their juniors with spectacular cultural performances, ice-breaking sessions, and talent showcases, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and inclusion. Faculty members, department heads, and college management extended a warm welcome to the incoming batch, assuring them of holistic mentorship throughout their academic journey.

The programme concluded with an interactive session followed by lunch, marking a memorable beginning to the students' college life.

Sarvajanika Ganesha idol immersion procession

MP Yaduveer launches auto campaign in Mysuru

MYSURU

Mysuru Sarvajanika Ganesh Visarjana Committee launched an auto-rickshaw publicity campaign on Saturday in connection with the 23rd annual Sarvajanika Ganesh Visarjan procession to be held on September 20.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar flagged off the campaign in front of the Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple in the city. Saffron flags were distributed to more than 25 auto-rickshaws and stickers publicising the Mysuru Sarvajanika Ganesh Visarjan Mahotsava were affixed to the vehicles before they were flagged off.

Speaking on the occasion, Yaduveer said Ganeshotsava was not merely a religious celebration but also a festival that promotes social unity, cultural values and patriotism.



He appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers in the public Ganesh Visarjan procession and make the event a success.

The 23rd annual procession will commence from the Veeranagere Veera Ganapati Temple on September 20. MLA T.S. Srivatsa, former MP Pratap Simha, BJP city president L. Nagendra, former Mayor Sandesh Swamy, Shivakumar, BJP leaders H.G. Giridhar, N.V. Paneesh, city general secretary Somasundar, Murali, Smart Manju,

Anand, Jagarana Vedike leaders Vasanth, Chandru, Swamy, Thambi, Rajan, Naveen, Raj, Kiran Singh, Pant Ravi, Dinesh Gowda, Rakesh Bhat, Cable Mahesh, Jogi Manju, Doora Rajanna and hundreds of Hindu activists were present.

Publicity activities for the procession organised by the Mysuru Sarvajanika Ganesh Visarjana Committee are currently underway at various parts of the city. A large turnout of devotees is expected for the procession.

SARVAJANIKA GANESH UTSAV CESC issues safety guidelines

MYSURU

The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) has issued safety guidelines to organisations and members of the public installing Ganesha idols at public places during the Gauri-Ganesh festival.

CESC Managing Director M.S. Archana has urged Ganesha mandals and the public to give equal importance to safety along with celebrations and take necessary precautions to prevent electrical accidents.

Organisers have been advised not to obtain unauthorised electricity connections by hooking onto power lines. They must approach the concerned CESC sub-divisional or branch office and obtain permission for a temporary power connection. CESC has also instructed organisers to ensure that there are no electrical lines in and around the site selected for installing the Ganesha idol. Pandals and mantaps should not be erected below or close to power lines and adequate safety clearance

must be maintained.

Banners and signboards should not be tied to electricity poles or transformers. During Ganesha idol immersion processions, organisers should avoid erecting tall flags, cut-outs or other structures that could come into contact with overhead power lines.

If power lines pose an obstruction along the routes of immersion processions, organisers should inform the concerned CESC office in advance and request temporary suspension of power supply, wherever necessary, to ensure safe movement of the procession.

CESC said it would remain prepared to provide necessary assistance to consumers and the public during the festival. For electricity-related assistance or information, the public can contact the helpline 1912.

Archana appealed to Ganesha mandals and the public to seek necessary cooperation from CESC and celebrate the festival safely by strictly adhering to the safety guidelines.



Teachers' role crucial in shaping future leadership: MLA GTD



MYSURU

Teachers have a major role in shaping children who will shoulder the responsibilities of future leadership, said Chamundeshwari Assembly Constituency MLA G.T. Deve Gowda.

Speaking after inaugurating the Mysuru Taluk-level Teachers' Day celebrations organised by the Primary School Teachers' Association at Saraswathi Convention Hall in Hootagalli on Saturday, he urged teachers to resolve to improve the SSLC and II PUC results and bring Mysuru taluk to the top position in the State. Three special programmes would be organised in the taluk from next year. Schools maintaining cleanliness, proper toilets and hygienic surroundings would be identified and felicitated every year. Steps would also be taken to ensure drinking water facilities in every government and private school.

Besides, he said, a special programme would be organised at Kalamandira to identify and encourage schools where students are trained in music, arts and other cultural activities. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's achievements in the field

of education should serve as an inspiration to present-day children. Teachers' Day should become an occasion that truly belongs to teachers, while recalling the contribution of Savitribai Phule, one of India's pioneering women teachers. "People speak about corruption and caste-related issues in one way or another. But the teaching profession and education sector remain among the fields where corruption is absent," he said.

Teachers, he added, are responsible for producing good citizens, soldiers, scientists, doctors and engineers. Teachers were facing considerable pressure due to various responsibilities. Recalling his humble beginnings, he had reached his present position through hard work.

Speaking about the Kamataka State Cooperative Federation, he alleged that some people had been travelling across the State for the past six months with the intention of removing him from the organisation. The federation was the apex body for 44,000 cooperative societies and claimed that those unaware of its functioning were eyeing positions in the organisation.

School Education Department Deputy Director Uday Kumar said the education system was facing several challenges and teachers must be prepared to meet competition from artificial intelligence (AI). Teachers must identify children lagging behind in learning and take steps to help them improve. "Knowledge is not the property of anyone. It should be used effectively to improve the educational progress of children," he said. He also called upon teachers to adopt innovative methods of teaching and work towards securing the top position for Mysuru taluk in SSLC examinations.

Retired Block Education Officer Prakash said not everyone gets an opportunity to serve in the Education Department. Teachers play a crucial role in preparing children who will shape the future of the country. He urged teachers to engage students not only in classroom learning but also in extracurricular activities.

Primary School Teachers' Association district president Shashikumar said teachers were under pressure to perform duties unrelated to teaching. There has been little time for teaching during the current academic year as teachers have been assigned several other duties, including SIR-related work. Such additional responsibilities should be stopped," he demanded.

As many as 86 teachers who retired during 2025-26 were felicitated at the programme. Students who secured the highest marks in SSLC and II PUC examinations and schools that achieved 100 per cent results were also honoured.



State-Level Brahmin matrimonial meet in Mysuru on Sept 19, 20

MYSURU

A state-level matrimonial meet for Brahmin brides and grooms, along with Sri Srinivasa Kalyanotsava, will be organised in Mysuru on September 19 and 20.

The two-day event is being organised by various Brahmin organisations in Mysuru in association with Mangalasutra Foundation, Saptapadi Foundation Trust and Sri Rama Mandir. The matrimonial meet will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sri Rama Mandir on New Kantharaj Urs Road in Krishnamurthypuram, Mysuru. The organisers will also conduct Sri Srinivasa Kalyanotsava seeking divine blessings for the eligible brides and grooms to find suitable matrimonial alliances. Interested brides and grooms can participate by bringing one passport-size photograph, biodata and horoscope. For further information, participants may contact the coordinators, Srinivas Bharadwaj on 8088843300 or 9449425536.

Ilai Alwar Swamiji, social worker Dr. Raghuram Vajpayee, Madhav Rao, Srinivasan Gururaj, Venugopal, Raghavendra Prasad and Brahmin organisations' coordinator Srinivas S. Bharadwaj were present.

BEYOND THE CRIME SCENE Exploring career opportunities in Criminology and Forensic Science

MYSURU

The Department of Criminology and Forensic Science of Teresian College, Mysuru, organised an introductory programme titled "Beyond the Crime Scene – Exploring Career Opportunities in Criminology and Forensic Science" for students at its college premises in Mysuru on Saturday.

The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among students about the various academic and professional opportunities available in the fields of criminology and forensic science and to guide them in making appropriate career choices in the future.

The resource person for the programme was Pradeep Kumar N., faculty member of the Forensic Science Department at the Karnataka Police Acad-

emy (KPA), Mysuru, forensic science expert and researcher, who provided valuable guidance to the students on various career prospects in the field.

The programme provided students with information on various career avenues, including forensic laboratories, crime investigation, scientific analysis of evidence, police and law enforcement agencies, cyber and digital forensics, crime analysis, research and teaching.

Students were informed that criminology and forensic science are not limited to crime scene investigation but are multidisciplinary fields encompassing science, law, technology and investigative skills. It was also emphasised that scientific thinking, analytical abilities, keen observation, the capacity to make evidence-based decisions and

a research-oriented approach are essential for building a successful career in these fields.

The programme served as a useful platform for students to gain clarity about higher education, specialised training and future employment opportunities. It also provided them with an opportunity to interact directly with an expert having extensive experience in the field.

Organised with the message "Explore, Learn, Grow and Build Your Future," the programme encouraged students to identify their interests and abilities, explore emerging career opportunities and work towards building a successful future.

The department expressed its gratitude to Pradeep Kumar N. for his valuable contribution towards the success of the programme.





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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Healthcare support for the City’s unsung heroes

Free medical check-up held for 320 civic workers across 25 wards

MYSURU

A free health check-up programme was organised for civic workers in Mysuru on the occasion of Civic Workers’ Day on Saturday, with several reputed hospitals joining hands with the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to safeguard the health of sanitation workers.

The programme at Brindavan Hospital on Kalidasa Road, Jayalakshimpuram, was attended by MCC Commissioner Savitha M.K., who stressed the need to prioritise the health and safety of civic workers who work tirelessly to keep the city clean and beautiful. “Protecting the health of sanitation workers who work hard to maintain

the cleanliness and beauty of the city is our collective responsibility,” she said.

Appreciating the hospitals that had come forward to support the initiative, the commissioner urged more reputed hospitals in Mysuru to join hands with the MCC and contribute to the welfare of civic workers.

Dr. Gururaj of Brindavan Hospital said the hospital was happy to be part of the initiative and advised sanitation workers to pay greater attention to their health. He also offered guidance on preventive healthcare and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

As part of the initiative, 320 civic workers from 25 wards underwent free health check-ups at different hospitals

across the city.

The medical examinations included blood tests, ECG, X-rays, eye examinations and ultrasound scans, among other tests, enabling civic workers to undergo basic health screening free of cost.

At Brindavan Hospital in Zone 4, 30 civic workers underwent medical examinations. Among those present were Zone Commissioner Mahesh, Assistant Executive Engineer Madhukar, Environmental Engineer Mrityunjaya, Environmental Engineer Sri-devi, and Health Inspectors Prakash, Harish and Rajeshwari. Hospital coordinator Gururaj and hospital staff also participated.

The health camps were organised with the participation

of hospitals across the seven MCC zones. Arya Hospital and Venus Hospital screened 25 civic workers each in Zone 1. In Zone 2, Aravind Hospital examined 50 workers, Phaneesh Hospital 25 workers, Kamakshi Hospital and Suyog Hospital screened 20 each in Zone 3.

In Zone 5, Bharath Cancer Hospital screened 45 workers, while ASG Eye Hospital examined 30 workers in Zone 6. St. Joseph’s Hospital on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Road screened 25 civic workers in Zone 7.

The initiative highlighted the importance of ensuring regular healthcare and preventive medical screening for the city’s sanitation workforce.

MCCI holds interaction program on IP, trademark

MYSURU

Mysore Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with Altacit Global’s Bengaluru, an Associate Partner and serves as a full-service legal hub for Karnataka’s thriving business and innovation ecosystem, organized an Interaction meeting here.

Adishesh, Founder, Scogen, Mysuru explained in detail about the intellectual property, corporate law, IP litigation, trademark and patent prosecution, and commercial legal services beneficial to Trade and Industry sectors. Altacit Global company represents technology companies, pharmaceutical research institutes, startups, government institutions, and individual entrepreneurs across Bangalore helping them secure patents, register trademarks, protect copyrights, and navigate complex corporate matters with confidence. As one of the top IP and Corporate law firms in



Bangalore, Altacit Global is ranked by Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, and Asia IP, and is CRISIL Rated and ISO 9001 certified credentials that reflect our unwavering commitment to legal excellence for clients across Bengaluru and Karnataka.

Dr. K.B. Lingaraju, President, Mysore Chamber of commerce & Industry presided the Programme and released the book related to the above subject.

S.J.Ashok welcomed the Members and chief guests to the programme. Likhitha and Swathi, Senior Legal Associ-

ates, Altacit Global delivered the IP Awareness sessions on why IP is the next growth Driver and Developing an IP strategy, Insights and Practical Takeaways through power point Presentations. Vinod Jain, Honorary Joint Secretary, MCCI delivered a vote of thanks. Shivaji Rao A.K. Honorary Secretary moderated the session. M.C. Members S.Achutha, P.Kumar were present. Around 50 participants from Various associations and Women’s wing, Export Members attended the Seminar and benefitted.

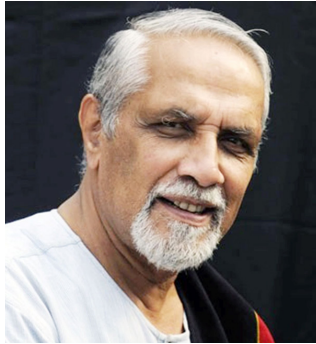
Veteran theatre personality Chidambar Rao Jambe passes away

MYSURU

Renowned theatre director Chidambar Rao Jambe passed away at his residence in Heggodu village of Sagar taluk in Shivamogga district on Saturday. He was 77.

He is survived by his wife and son.

Jambe, who graduated from the National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi, also served as a professor at the prestigious institution. He served as the Principal of the Theatre Education Centre of Neenasaam in Heggodu and the Theatre Education Centre in Sanehalli. He also served as the Director of Rangayana,



Chidambar Rao Jambe

Mysuru.

Having directed plays for several renowned theatre groups across the country, Jambe had students and admirers in the theatre fraternity

across India. Among the notable plays he directed were Kattalege Hattu Tale, Loka Shakuntala, Trivali Sahodariyaru and Aa Mani. He also directed the solo play Sharmishte for veteran actor Umashree.

For Shivamogga Rangayana, he directed the play Nam-molagobba Gandhi.

Jambe was the recipient of several honours, including the prestigious Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, in recognition of his contribution to Indian theatre. According to family sources, his last rites will be performed at 11 a.m. on Sunday at Adderi village in Sagar taluk.



The Secretary, K. S. Swaroopini; Principal, Harshida Harikumar; Vice-Principal, Susie Pinto; her mother, Rashmi Sharma; and her family expressed immense pride and happiness over Vriddhi’s outstanding achievement and congratulated her on this well-deserved success.

Sgt Vriddhi Sharma wins bronze medal at All India Thal Sainik Camp 2026

MYSURU

Sgt Vriddhi Sharma of 14 KAR Battalion NCC, a Grade 10 student of Manasarowar Pushkarini Vidyashrama, has brought immense pride to her school by winning a Bronze Medal in the Group Firing Competition at the prestigious All India Thal Sainik Camp (AITSC) 2026. The national-level camp was held in New Delhi from 31st August to 11th September 2026, bringing together NCC cadets from across the country. Vriddhi’s

selection for the prestigious camp was the result of several months of dedicated training, relentless hard work, discipline, determination and perseverance, said Unit Commander Third Officer N. Ravikumara.

Winning a medal at this prestigious national-level camp is a remarkable achievement and a proud moment for Manasarowar Pushkarini Vidyashrama. Her accomplishment stands as an inspiration to her fellow students and reflects her commitment, discipline and dedication.

Drug addiction is anti-social: DCP Dr. Harsha Priyamvada

MYSURU

Students have a crucial role to play in the fight against drug abuse, and staying away from drugs should be everyone’s goal, said DCP (Law and Order) Dr. Harsha Priyamvada.

“Drug addiction is anti-social. ‘BEDA BRO’ should be the goal of everyone,” she said.

The DCP was speaking after inaugurating a walkathon organised here on Saturday with the message “Say No to Drugs”, aimed at creating awareness among youngsters about the harmful effects of drugs and promoting a healthy, drug-free society.

The walkathon was flagged off near SDM College on JLB Road, where Dr. Priyamvada handed over the national flag to a student. The walkathon culminated at Maharaja Junior College on JLB Road and witnessed the participation of thousands of students. Holding placards carrying anti-drug messages and raising slogans, the students took part in the walkathon to



spread awareness among the public about the dangers of drug abuse.

“Several years ago, I too participated in such walkathons as a student. Such initiatives are very important in building a better society,” Dr. Priyamvada said.

She called upon everyone to join hands in the fight against drug abuse, describing it as a collective social responsibility.

Dr. M. R. Seetharam, founding member of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and noted orthopaedic

surgeon, said all forms of addiction could have a devastating impact on families.

Recalling several experiences from his service journey, Dr. Seetharam said that drug abuse and other harmful addictions not only affect individuals but also have serious consequences for their families and society as a whole.

Kamakshi Hospital Managing Director Mahesh Shenoy, Madhava Krupa Ganeshotsava Samiti chief convener Darshan Raj, M.R. Suresh, and others were present.

Four-day service drive to mark H.V. Rajeev’s Birthday celebrations

MYSURU

Various social service programmes will be organised in the Krishnaraja Assembly constituency from September 16 to 19 to mark the birthday of KPCC member and former Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) chairman H.V. Rajeev.

Addressing a press conference at the Mysuru District Journalists’ Association here on Saturday, former mayor Bhytrap-pa said the H.V. Rajeev Friends’ Forum had been involved in social service activities for several years. The four-day programme had been planned to celebrate Rajeev’s birthday in a meaningful manner.

A mega free health camp will be held at Bhoothale Grounds, Vidyananyapuram, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 16. Health screening will be conducted in association with the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research for heart-related ailments, Bharat Cancer Hospital for cancer, Mysuru Race Club Eye Hospital for eye-related problems, JSS Hospital for dental care and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing for speech and hearing disorders, besides other general health check-ups.

A blood donation camp will also be held at the venue. The blood collected will be donated to the Jayadeva Hospital and K.R. Hospital.

The programme will be inaugurated by Padma Shri awardee and international athlete Dr. K.S. Rajanna. Congress city president R. Murthy



and other dignitaries will participate.

As part of the programme, 10 wheelchairs and two battery-operated wheelchairs will be handed over to K.R. Hospital. Besides, 20 covered pushcarts, one for each ward, will be distributed to street vendors.

A city tour in the Dasara Ambari vehicle will be arranged for deaf and mute students. One hundred chairs will also be distributed to Kanakagiri Government School.

Water bottles for students On September 17 at 3 p.m., stainless steel water bottles will be distributed to 650 students of Karnataka Public School in Kuvempu Nagar. JSS School Coordinator Tripurantaka will speak about children on the occasion.

‘Green in Every Home’ initiative

On September 18 at 11.30 a.m., 1,000 plates and tumblers will be donated to the Plate Bank set up near the Akkamahadevi statue in JP Nagar by Adamya Chetana and Lions Plate Bank as part of the campaign for a plastic-free Mysuru.

As a continuation of the ‘Green in Every Home’ initiative, 4,000 saplings will be distributed to citizens near the

Lisa Step School close to the BEML Arch at 4.30 p.m. the same day.

Senior citizens to be felicitated

On September 19 at 11 a.m., more than 300 senior citizens will be felicitated under the title ‘Jeevanotsaha’ at Puttaraju Gavaigala Grounds in JP Nagar. Orator Chetan Ramarao will speak about the role and contribution of senior citizens.

At 4 p.m. the same day, prizes will be distributed to organisations that conducted various competitions. The participating organisations include Abhyudaya Mahila Sangha, Arivina Mane Mahila Balaga, Akkamahadevi Mahila Balaga, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Vishwa Vokkaligara Sangha, Sharanu Vedike, Mutyal Associates, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Kabaddi Sangha, Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Yoga Trust, Ambedkar Foundation, Ramabai Ambedkar Sangha, Ramamandir Trust, Uppara Sangha and Bhovi Sangha, among others.

Former Mysuru City Corporation member K.V. Mallesh and H.V. Rajeev Friends’ Forum members Jayanth, Murali, K.S. Ram Prasad and Vasu were present at the press conference.

Students should be intelligent with wisdom: Dr. K. Anantharamu

MYSURU

Intelligence and wisdom are two different things, and the students should strive to become intelligent persons guided by wisdom, said senior scholar Dr. K. Anantharamu.

He was speaking after inaugurating a talent felicitation and Guruvandana programme organised by the Sri Kashi Shesha Shastri Charitable Trust at the Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education in Yadavagiri here on Saturday.

He said the students are in no way inferior when it comes to intelligence. But there are also highly intelligent people among them who, despite their intelligence, are capable of destroying the world. This is because they possess more intelligence but less wisdom. Therefore, intelligence should be complemented by wisdom. There is no moral education at present. Students are confined merely to the syllabus. Intelligence is like a wild horse, while wisdom is its rein. When



Programme held every year

Kashi Shesha Shastri had served as the Rajaguru of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar. Sadananda, who belongs to his lineage, is a bachelor and has been extending assistance to the educational and religious sectors through the Trust. Every year, the Trust conducts programmes in different parts of the State to felicitate students who secure the highest marks in SSLC examinations and honour the teachers who trained them. For this cause, Sadananda spends his pension money and has also donated his entire property to the Trust.

intelligence and the heart are brought together, it assumes greater significance. One can attain inner happiness by becoming intelligent with wisdom.

Dr Anantharamu said stu-

dents should live in such a manner that their lives have no ‘remarks’ despite scoring marks. One should live without any blemish rather than merely seeking marks. Students should strive to become

complete human beings in accordance with the ideals of the divine trio — Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda. The students must follow the principles of speaking words that are beneficial, measured and truthful, and to understand the importance of wholesome, moderate and necessary food. They should realise that when one’s speech is proper, everything else will also remain proper.

Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) B.C. Trust District Director Vijayakumar Naganala, who was the special invitee, said assistance would be provided for the education of children of the organisation’s members under the Sujnananidhi scheme.

Presiding over the programme, Sadananda, head of the Trust and a retired Assistant Accounts Officer of the Postal Department, said students should give up ego. If they give up ego, everything else will fall into place.

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.

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.

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 ad-

dress, 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.

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.

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.

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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

Jarange announces indefinite Mumbai hunger strike

JALNA

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Saturday announced an indefinite hunger strike at Mumbai's Azad Maidan from September 19, seeking reservation for Marathas in jobs and education. His agitation at Antarwali Sarati entered its 15th day. Jarange said he and his supporters would march to Mumbai on September 15. Protesters will halt at Patoda in Beed on September 15, Srigonda in Ahilyanagar district on September 16, Hadapsar in Pune district on September 17 and Khopoli in Raigad district on September 18. They will then camp at Khoparkhairane in Navi Mumbai before proceeding to Mumbai. The protesters are expected to cover 100 kilometres each day, with the hunger strike at Azad Maidan scheduled to begin at 10 am on September 19. Jarange urged supporters to maintain peace and follow the code of conduct, asking them not to engage in stone-pelting or arson. He



also appealed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis not to obstruct the march.

Jarange accused the state government of failing to implement gazette-related demands and issue caste certificates based on 58 lakh Kunbi records. He described the Mumbai agitation as the final fight and urged Marathas to

participate. His demands include a Government Resolution allowing Marathas to claim reservation available to the Kunbi community under the Other Backward Classes category based on old records and gazette documents. The protest comes amid Ganpati festivities from September 14 to 25. The Bombay High Court on Friday declined to pass an urgent order stopping the protest, observing that people have a right to protest and apprehension of law-and-order problems alone was insufficient for a restraining order. OBC groups oppose Jarange's demand, fearing it could affect their share of reservation benefits.

Krishnankutty seeks action over water diversion

PALAKKAD

Former Kerala Water Resources Minister K Krishnankutty on Saturday urged the state government to intervene urgently over the alleged diversion of irrigation water to Tamil Nadu, warning that the move could affect farmers across several districts. Krishnankutty said the Aliyar dam should be maintained at adequate levels to ensure water availability for farmers in Palakkad. He alleged that the entire water from the dam had been diverted to the Cauvery basin. The JDS leader said officials and authorities had failed to properly manage water covered under inter-state sharing agreements. He recalled that an earlier intervention had resulted in the chief ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu discussing the issue and reaching an agreement, but

said the matter was not pursued further. Krishnankutty said Kerala was allocated 30 TMC of the 147 TMC of water in the Cauvery basin, but even its allotted share was not being fully utilised. He also alleged that at least 40 TMC of water from Parambikulam Dam was being diverted beyond the Parambikulam region into the Cauvery basin. He appealed to farmers to raise the issue, saying the farming community was facing serious difficulties. Krishnankutty, who said he earns his livelihood through agriculture, urged stronger intervention from farmers and criticised the state government for what he described as insufficient action. He expressed disappointment over the chief minister's alleged lack of involvement in addressing the matter and said he was registering his protest over the issue.

CBI arrests distributor over illegal SIM cards

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested an area distributor of a mobile operator in Bihar's Vaishali district for allegedly issuing SIM cards fraudulently and facilitating their use in an illegal SIM Box operation linked to cyber-enabled frauds. The agency conducted searches at 10 locations in Vaishali and Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district, recovering mobile phones, laptops, SIM cards and other incriminating material. The case relates to an illegal SIM Box operation detected in Bihar's Supaul district last year and later transferred to the CBI. More than 1,300 SIM cards were recovered from the premises where the operation was allegedly being run.

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.

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for Gandhinagar's development, and the vision of transforming it from an administrative centre into a world-class smart and green city is being realised.” —Mayor Mira Patel

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

al 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

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



on a Kyiv petrol station a day earlier. In recent months, Russia hit some 300 petrol stations, mainly in or near Ukraine's frontline regions.

"There is no military objective behind such strikes. This is terror of the civilian population," said Bohdan Kukura, CEO of Ukrainian oil company Ukrnafta. A further 12 people, including a 12-year-old boy, were injured in Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. An attack on a Kyiv residential block injured eight people overnight.

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.

King Oyo to be buried in western Uganda

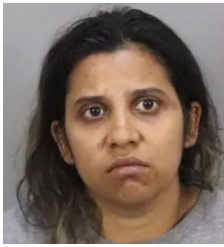
KAMPALA

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 (SJPD) 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 SJPD 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.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

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

died at Mezzeh through executions, torture or maltreatment.

In a September 8 letter, SJAC warned Syria's National Commission for Missing Persons that excavation and construction could damage remains and evidence needed to identify victims. The group said it had not received a response.

Rights advocates say development should wait until the site is investigated and protected, highlighting the difficult balance between attracting investment and addressing Assad-era abuses.

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.

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

"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.

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.

Amyra Dastur almost lost role in Chumbak

NANI EXPLAINS WHY PARADISE HAS NO TRAILER

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.

