

Quick Read

Fake drug trail to patients remains unclear

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tracing patients who may have received spurious medicines has emerged as a major challenge in the investigation into an alleged fake-drug racket busted at a farmhouse in Bidadi. The racket allegedly involving manufacturing, refilling and relabelling medicines to resemble expensive antibiotics and distributing them through the medical supply chain. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is probing the case. Drug Action Forum-Karnataka president Dr Gopal Dabade called for a transparent investigation into the entire supply chain, including distributors, hospitals and regulatory mechanisms. K.M. Gopakumar, co-convenor of the Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment, said patients who received the suspected drugs must be identified and appropriate remedial measures taken. The investigation has also raised concerns over procurement practices and regulatory oversight.

Karnataka ESI staff seek pending salaries

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Employees of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme Medical Services (ESISMS) Department have urged the Karnataka government to release their pending September salaries and establish a permanent mechanism to prevent recurring delays. In a letter to the government, they said the annual budget grant was discontinued from 2026-27 following the formation of the Karnataka Employees' State Insurance Society, making salaries dependent on funds received from the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Employees said similar delays occurred in March and April 2026, leaving Drawing and Disbursing Officers in ESI hospitals and clinics unable to submit salary bills on time. They also expressed concern that contractual staff were receiving salaries promptly while permanent state government employees faced repeated delays.

Seer arrested after young woman files complaint

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police have arrested Dayananda, alias Nanjeshwara Shivacharya Swamiji, head of the Hunasamaranahalli Math in Bengaluru, following a complaint filed by a young woman. Based on the complaint, the North-East Division Women's Police Station registered a First Information Report (FIR) and arrested the seer on Monday. He was subsequently taken into custody for questioning as part of the investigation. The nature of the allegations and the details of the complaint have not been disclosed. Further details are awaited as the police investigate the case. The Hunasamaranahalli Math, which belongs to the Veerashaiva community, reportedly owns land worth hundreds of crores of rupees. It is a branch of the Srisailem Math, one of the five principal peethas of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community.

Narayanaswamy dares Siddaramaiah to seek CBI probe in sting

The BJP leader accused the Cong of internal sabotage and questioned its leadership while demanding an investigation into the alleged sting.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Monday urged former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to seek a probe into the alleged sting operation, asking him to write to the appropriate authorities to ensure the truth comes out. Addressing a press conference at the BJP office in Malleshwaram, Narayanaswamy welcomed Siddaramaiah's recent remarks on the controversy, saying he had finally broken his silence after the BJP raised the issue. "D.K. Shivakumar should stop firing shots into the air over the sting operation. If Siddaramaiah wants the truth to emerge, he should write to the Chief Minister or the CBI seeking an investigation," Narayanaswamy said. He alleged that Congress leaders were conducting a



Chalavadi Narayanaswamy
Leader of the Opposition, Legislative Council

sting operation against members of their own party to weaken the organisation. He said the State government should facilitate a CBI investigation to establish the facts. Narayanaswamy also accused the Congress of supporting activities that, he claimed, threatened national security. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening the country's military capabilities and as-

serted that India's economic growth and international standing were drawing hostility from other countries.

'Cockroach Party' remark

Calling the "Cockroach Party" a creation of the Congress, Narayanaswamy claimed that no Gen Z supporters were behind it. He said Rahul Gandhi would never become Prime Minister and questioned his suitability to continue as Leader of the Opposition, demanding his resignation.

He also criticised the Congress leadership, referring to Mallikarjun Kharge's age and Sonia Gandhi's limited public presence. He described party leaders K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala as "clerks", alleging that they were managing the organisation in the absence of effective leadership.

HDK accuses D.K. Shivakumar of masterminding sting operation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday accused Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of being the key figure behind the alleged sting operation, questioning why the Karnataka government had not ordered an investigation into the matter.

He questioned when the government would initiate an inquiry and why it was not investigating the matter despite ordering probes into other issues.

Kumaraswamy also alleged that information had been leaked to the media suggesting that people from North India had conducted the sting operation, with a Union Minister and two BJP leaders allegedly involved. He questioned why the Chief Minister was now silent on the issue.

Referring to a pen drive, Kumaraswamy claimed that the one he possessed was original and accused his opponents of creating fake versions. He said the mention of the pen drive and sting operation had made them nervous.

Sting used to control ministers, alleges HDK Kumaraswamy alleged that the sting operation was being used to control ministers in the Congress government. He claimed that Siddaramaiah had taken the file and related information to a Cabinet meeting for discussion, alleging that the exercise was intended to keep ministers un-

HDK'S CHARGES

Sting used to control ministers

- Demand: an investigation into the operation
- Also raised: a pen drive and alleged media leaks

der control.

"The truth behind this must come out. We will not let this matter go so easily," Kumaraswamy said.

He also mocked Siddaramaiah's photo shoot at Mysuru Palace, criticising the former Chief Minister for posing for photographs while serious issues were unfolding in the State. Kumaraswamy sarcastically suggested that Siddaramaiah could have gone further into the palace and sat on a throne.

HDK DEMANDS PROBE

Kumaraswamy has demanded that the alleged sting operation be investigated, accusing the government of avoiding scrutiny. He claimed the operation was intended to keep Congress ministers under control and questioned Siddaramaiah's reported remarks that time would provide answers. He also raised questions over alleged media leaks and referred to a pen drive. The claims remain allegations; the report does not include responses from the leaders concerned.



BMTC to share real-time bus data with mobility apps

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is preparing to share real-time transit data with third-party mobility platforms to improve journey planning and public transport connectivity across the city.

In the initial phase, BMTC plans to provide its data to Namma Yatri, Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) and Tumloc, officials said. The integration will help commuters access bus information through these applications and plan journeys combining BMTC services, Namma Metro and autorickshaws.

A senior BMTC official said discussions were under way with the three platforms. Once integration is completed, commuters will be able to track BMTC buses through the applications.

The corporation is expected to share details of routes, stops, schedules and fares in the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) format, an internationally recognised standard for

Prajwal Revanna's transfer to Belagavi jail halted midway

Security concerns and the need to ensure his availability for ongoing court proceedings reportedly influenced the decision to stop the transfer.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The proposed transfer of former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail to Hindalga Jail in Belagavi was halted midway on Saturday evening, with the police escort returning to Bengaluru after reaching Tumakuru.

According to reports, Central Armed Reserve (CAR) police personnel were escorting Revanna to the Belagavi prison under tight security when they received a call from a senior police officer. Following instructions from their superiors, the escort turned back and brought him to Parappana Agrahara Central Jail.

The transfer was reportedly stopped amid concerns over the practical difficulties of bringing Revanna back to



THE JOURNEY THAT TURNED BACK

Parappana Agrahara

Central Jail, Bengaluru: the escort set out on Saturday

Tumakuru

Escort turned back on a senior officer's call

Hindalga Jail

Belagavi: the destination, not reached

Bengaluru for court hearings. Security arrangements and other logistical considerations were also understood to have influenced the decision.

Two cases against Revanna are being heard by the Special Court for People's Representatives in Bengaluru. His presence is required at certain stages of the proceedings, potentially making repeated travel between Belagavi and Bengaluru challenging for the authorities.

The decision to halt the transfer is understood to be

linked to the need to ensure his availability for the ongoing legal proceedings while addressing security-related concerns. It is not yet known what instructions the senior police officer issued or whether a fresh transfer order has been issued.

Revanna, who has been convicted in a rape case, remains lodged at Parappana Agrahara Central Jail. Further official clarification on the reasons for cancelling the transfer and any revised arrangements is awaited.

AEROs allege pressure to clear SIR notices without hearings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) have alleged that they are being pressured to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls without conducting proper hearings or verifying documents submitted by voters.

The officers said they were instructed to upload whatever documents voters provided to meet deadlines, despite earlier directions restricting the list of acceptable documents.

They also alleged pressure to clear cases involving voters who could not be found at their registered addresses to prevent automatic generation of Form 7 applications seeking deletion.

As of October 5, 39,169 notices remained undelivered across Karnataka, while 7,82,304 hearings were pending. Bengaluru accounted for more than 4.24 lakh pending hearings.

According to the officers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs)

often asked voters to submit documents at polling stations instead of visiting their homes, despite Election Commission instructions for household visits. Some officials allegedly suggested uploading photographs with neighbours when voters were unavailable.

The officers said the changing instructions had created confusion, with documents previously rejected now being accepted to clear the backlog.

The SIR process involved 43.43 lakh notices issued over discrepancies and lack of mapping.

Although the official timeline places the end of the notice phase on October 22, the Chief Electoral Officer's office has maintained that hearings must be completed by October 12.

BLOs, however, cited difficulties contacting residents and said some Booth Level Agents had stopped cooperating following police cases linked to Form 7 applications.



43.43 L

notices issued

7,82,304

hearings pending

39,169

notices undelivered

DRY CONDITIONS PERSIST

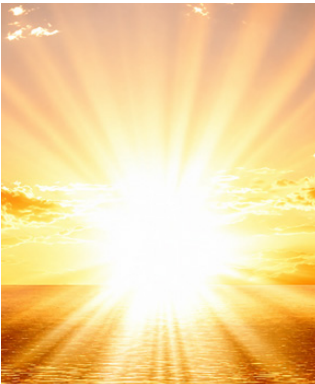
Dry weather to persist across Karnataka; IMD warns of heat

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast continued dry weather across Karnataka over the next few days as monsoon rainfall weakens, with little chance of rain in most districts.

The IMD said dry conditions would prevail across most parts of Karnataka, including the coastal belt. Uttara Kannada is likely to experience sunny weather accompanied by high humidity, while Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are also expected to remain largely dry. No significant rainfall has been forecast for the coastal districts.

Temperatures are likely to remain high in the northern interior districts of Bagalkot, Belagavi, Bidar, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, Vijayapura and Yadgiri. Dry weather is expected to continue



throughout the day in these areas.

The southern interior districts, including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Mandya, Ramanagara, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Kodagu, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Ballari and Vijayanagara, are also likely to experience dry conditions.

According to the forecast,

Precautions against the heat

People should drink sufficient water throughout the day and avoid spending long periods in direct sunlight, particularly during the hottest hours. Those working outdoors should take regular breaks in shaded areas.

weather conditions are expected to remain largely stable in these districts until October 13, with rainfall chances remaining low.

The department has advised people to take necessary precautions against the heat and prevent dehydration. Residents are encouraged to drink sufficient water, avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during the hottest part of the day and take extra care while working outdoors.

300 groups keen to join Bengaluru Jatre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Around 300 organisers and organisations, 80 artists and 20 institutions have expressed interest in participating in Bengaluru Jatre, a 10-day city-wide celebration scheduled from December 4 to 13.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said several prominent institutions and industry bodies were among those keen to participate. These include the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC), Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), Rashtriya Vidyalaya Trust, Bangalore International Centre (BIC), National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Sabha, Manayata Tech Park and Bangalore Creative Circus.

The event has also drawn interest from musicians and performers representing diverse genres. Those who have expressed interest include the Aditya Prakash Ensemble,



Swarathma, Suma Sudhindra, Manasi Prasad, Karthik Mani, Mystik Vibes, Spoorthi and Chitra Srikrishna.

Welcoming the response, Gowda said the interest shown so far reflected the potential of Bengaluru Jatre to develop into a city-wide celebration, adding that enquiries continued to come in from Bengaluru and beyond.

"We want the Jatre to reflect the extraordinary diversity of Bengaluru. An RWA may organise something in its neighbourhood, a cultural institution may curate a programme, an IT company may open its campus to a cultural or community event, a college

There is no single format. The invitation is open, and we hope many more will come forward."

— Krishna Byre Gowda, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister

may organise a performance or exhibition, and an NGO or community group may bring its own idea to the Jatre. There is no single format. The invitation is open, and we hope many more will come forward," he said.

The initiative invites organisations to host, curate, organise, support or partner with programmes during the 10-day celebration, offering participants flexibility to develop activities suited to their interests and communities.

How to participate

Interested organisations can visit www.bengalurujaatre.in or email support@bengalurujaatre.in to explore participation opportunities.

Quick Read

Veteran journalist Bhandigadi Nanjundappa passes away



CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Renowned senior journalist and longtime editor of the local newspaper Voice of Shivamogga, Bhandigadi Nanjundappa, passed away on Monday while undergoing medical treatment at McGann Hospital following a prolonged illness. He was 75. He leaves behind his wife, Uma Bhandigadi, alongside brothers, extended family members, and numerous well-wishers across the state.

A respected figure in regional media, Nanjundappa published his daily paper without interruption for decades, personally affixing stamps and dispatching copies to subscribers every day. Beyond his work as an editor, he served as President of the Press Editors' Association and as a member of the Press Council of India, while actively leading within the Veerashaiva community. Known for his disciplined lifestyle and passion for sports even in advanced years, he earned widespread respect. Leaders across journalistic, political, and social circles deeply mourned the veteran editor's demise.

Sunflower procurement starts under price support scheme

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Kharif season sunflower procurement under the government's support price scheme has commenced across Chitradurga district to assist local farmers. The Karnataka Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Limited will purchase Fair Average Quality produce at Rs 8,343 per quintal. Farmers can sell up to four quintals per acre, capped at 20 quintals per grower, with 80 days allocated for enrollment and 90 days for sales.

Dedicated centers have opened at APMCs and village cooperative societies. Farmers may contact procurement officer Mohammed Riyaz at 9742819478 for details, ensuring local growers secure fair returns on their harvest.

KSRTC launches new long-distance bus routes

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The Mangaluru Division of KSRTC has introduced new inter-state bus services starting Monday, connecting passengers directly to Ernakulam, Tirupati, and Hyderabad. Travelers can book multi-axle Volvo services to Ernakulam departing at 9:00 PM for Rs 1,000, with return buses leaving at 8:30 PM. Non-AC Pallakki sleeper coaches operate to Tirupati at 12:00 PM for Rs 1,600, returning at 5:30 PM. The Hyderabad sleeper service departs at 1:00 PM for Rs 1,800, returning at 4:00 PM. Senior transport officials urged commuters to reserve seats in advance at ksrtc.in and make convenient use of the expanded network.

Nikhil urges government to waive farm loans

Nikhil highlighted monsoon failure, crop losses, ₹25,000-per-acre investments, and mounting farmer debts, demanding prompt compensation and relief from microfinance pressures.

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Janata Dal (Secular) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has urged the Karnataka government to immediately waive agricultural loans, citing severe agrarian distress caused by widespread drought conditions across the state.

Speaking to journalists at Tyajuvalli near Shivamogga on Monday, Nikhil demanded that the ruling dispensation take a decisive step to support struggling farming families. He noted that rather than deflecting responsibility toward the Central Government, the state cabinet should announce an unconditional farm loan waiver. Citing a past precedent, he pointed out that former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had boldly written off farm debts during his tenure without waiting for central financial aid.

Nikhil highlighted that deficient monsoon rainfall has crippled cultivation statewide. Many



JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy with farmers during the party's Raitha Swabhimani Yatra near Shivamogga.

growers could not initiate sowing operations due to prolonged dry spells, while those who managed to plant seeds face total crop loss. He stated that cultivators had invested at least Rs 25,000 per acre on input costs and deserved prompt compensation from official coffers. He voiced anguish over farmer suicides triggered by unmanageable debt, remarking that several cultivators are struggling under mounting repayment pressure from pri-

vate microfinance companies.

Warning the administration of escalations, Nikhil announced that JD(S) will stage a massive demonstration outside the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru if authorities fail to deliver timely drought relief.

The youth leader toured rain-deficient villages in the Shivamogga Rural Assembly constituency as part of the party's 'Raitha Swabhimani Yatra'. Accompanied by local JD(S) legislator Sharada

JD(S) will stage a massive demonstration outside the Vidhana Soudha if authorities fail to deliver timely drought relief.

Highlights

- Nikhil Kumaraswamy urged complete farm loan waivers
- Sowing losses estimated at 25,000 rupees per acre
- Microfinance debt burden driving farmers to suicide
- State criticized for blaming the Union government
- JD(S) delegation toured drought-hit Shivamogga farms
- Vidhana Soudha protest announced over poor response

Puryanaik, MLC S.L. Bhoje Gowda, and former MLA K.B. Prasanna Kumar, he inspected parched fields and interacted directly with distressed cultivators, assuring them that the party will continue fighting until their survival demands are met.

Showers fail to cool coastal Karnataka

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Temperatures across coastal Karnataka have stayed above normal in spite of intermittent showers, and residents have been grappling with heat and humidity from early in the morning.

Moderate showers have been falling in the evenings over parts of Dakshina Kannada district, among them Beltangady, Sullia and Bantwal taluks, for the last three to four days. Yet temperatures have not come down; they have kept climbing through the past week. Conditions in

Udupi district have been much the same.

Mangaluru is now recording about 34 degrees Celsius and Udupi about 33 degrees Celsius, and the conditions are likely to persist for the next few days.

The showers bring only brief relief, as the heat is back as soon as the sun breaks through. Those who travel outdoors, especially in the afternoon, are bearing the brunt of it.

During the first 10 days of October, the maximum temperature recorded in Udupi district was 32.5 degrees Cel-

sus and the minimum was 26.1 degrees Celsius.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) data shows temperatures above normal through the past week, and the high temperatures, together with moisture in the air, have left conditions particularly humid.

Weather analysts say the warmer coast could also make for a milder winter this year, and that temperatures

could reach 40 to 44 degrees Celsius in February and March.

The present spell of heat is being put down to El Niño and shifting weather patterns, and the coast could also face hot winds in the coming summer.

With a harsh summer possible, the analysts have called for greater public awareness of environmental protection and water conservation.

34°C Mangaluru now	33°C Udupi now	40-44°C possible in Feb-March
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Cong protests alleged violation of Vande Mataram order

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The District Congress Committee staged a protest and submitted a memorandum in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday, opposing the singing of the Vande Mataram song at a government event in violation of a government order.

During the inauguration of the City Corporation's Dasara programme, only two stanzas of Vande Mataram were supposed to be sung, in accordance with the government order. However, local

MLA SN Channabasappa insisted on the singing of all four stanzas. Although Corporation Commissioner Mayannagowda was present, he made no attempt to stop this violation of the government order. Protesters stated that, in condemnation of this act, the chairpersons of boards and corporations, as well as nominated members, were compelled to walk out of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, District Congress President HC Yogish noted that the same MLA had previously walked out of a programme at Kuvempu

Rangamandira when only two stanzas were sung in compliance with the government order. He had adopted a similar stance in Thirahalli as well, during a visit by the Chief Minister. They stated that this was a pre-planned move. MLA Channabasappa, who serves as the Dasara Committee Chairman, arrived with prior preparation and in violation of government orders, encouraged the singing of the full version of the Vande Mataram song.

The Commissioner has also remained silent on the matter.

Consequently, the District Congress strongly condemns this incident.

The memorandum further demands that the district administration take over the Dasara programme currently being conducted by the City Corporation, as the event is increasingly taking on the character

of a BJP programme.

The memorandum urges that Channabasappa should no longer continue as the committee chairman and that action should be taken against Corporation Commissioner Mayannagowda.

R Prasannakumar, Chetan Gowda, Madhusudhan, SP Dinesh.

AFFIDAVIT

I, SHRAYYA P.V., D/o Vijayabhaskar P.V., residing at Sadashiva Badavane, Gowribidanur Town, Chikkaballapur District, hereby declare that my Class 10 CISCE Marksheet and Passing Certificate, issued by All Vidyanidhi Public School, Gauribidanur, bearing Index No. 7702901 (Year of Passing: 2022), were lost/ misplaced near Gauribidanur Town between 01.10.2026 and 03.10.2026. Despite diligent efforts, the documents could not be traced. I have registered the loss online with Gauribidanur Police under Tracking ID: I request the concerned authorities to issue duplicate certificates. Vide affidavit Dated 3rd October 2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary M.S.Ananda at Gauribidanur .

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BIMLENDU KUMAR S/o SUDHIR MISHRA, R/o Flat No. C-601, C Block, Wilson Manor Apartment, 13th Cross, Near Nimhans Hospital, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BIMLENDU KUMAR MISHRA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATHA C S/o A C CHANDRAIAH R/o 663/675/30, Near Silk Form, Ansuamma Layout, Bidadi, Ramanagar, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562109, have changed the name of my minor son KUSHAL CHANDRA M aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as M. ANAGH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRACHRYA ANNAYYACHAARYA VENKOBACHAYA S/o MANINGAPPAGODU PATIL, R/o Korhalli, Korahalli, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586202, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHARANAGODU M PATIL.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NITHYANANDA . G . alias NITHYANANDA G S/o GOVINDARAJU M, R/o No. 61, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya, BHCS Layout, Near Virat Nagar Park, Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560068, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUDARSHAN G.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAKE VENUGOPALS/o S V KULLAYAPPA R/o Anu Ani, 8th Main, 3rd Floor, Krishna Temple Road, S R Naidu Layout, Hongasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka-560068, have changed the name of my minor son S NISHANTH aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as SAKE JASWITH.

Dakshina Kannada expands cashless healthcare network coverage



Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. at the meeting on cashless treatment at his office in Mangaluru.

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

In a major push to upgrade employee healthcare access, Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. announced on Monday that the Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme (KASS) is being widely expanded to include more private hospitals across Dakshina Kannada district, guaranteeing streamlined access to medical treatment for all state government personnel.

Addressing hospital administrators and health officials during an orientation workshop held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Darshan instructed health authorities to ensure cashless treatment facilities are actively available in premier medical centers across every taluk as well as throughout Mangaluru city.

Dr. Mahesh, Deputy Director of the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, revealed that 14 private hospitals in the district have already enrolled in the network, with onboarding drives actively underway for several others. He highlighted that the state has established lucrative package tariffs alongside a 15 percent incentive bonus for participating healthcare facilities. Ben-

eficiaries require no prior referral and can secure immediate admission by presenting their KGID credentials. Under the system, hospitals must submit claims within 15 days of discharge, with payments cleared within 30 days.

State Government Employees' Association District President Naveen Kumar M.S. noted that employees contribute monthly from their salaries toward the trust. He urged the swift empanelment of more tertiary hospitals, assuring that the association will actively support swift claim settlements.

The briefing also reviewed the PM RAHAT scheme, which covers acute emergency care for road accident victims regardless of income bracket.

Under this initiative, the Central Government provides free treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh for the initial seven days, supplemented by up to Rs 1 lakh from the state government, offering an aggregate cover of Rs 2.5 lakh. Deputy Commissioner Darshan called upon healthcare providers to leverage these twin welfare programs to deliver urgent, life-saving care without financial bottlenecks.

Hospitals warned over neglecting snakebite treatment

Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. has ordered strict action against hospitals that refer snakebite victims without administering essential first aid, noting that avoidable delays have caused tragic deaths.

Presiding over a review meeting on Monday, the Deputy Commissioner instructed health authorities to serve notices to non-compliant medical centers. He emphasized that every Primary Health Centre stocks necessary anti-venom medications, advising victims to report immediately to rural facilities.

With snakebite classified as a notified disease, reporting cases is mandatory. Officials revealed that Dakshina Kannada recorded 527 bites and four fatalities up to September 2026, demanding proactive emergency care.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAKINA JOHAR ABBAS BHAI, W/o. Johar Abbas, resident of No 31, 2nd Floor Khazi Street, Opp Onida Service Centre, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru -560004, have changed my name to SAKINA JOHAR, vide affidavit dated: 12.10.2026, before Notary R Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I TRIPTHI, daughter of Thilak Raj, aged about 27 years, residing at #3-237/1, Kamala Nivas University Road, Opp, Rajarajeshwari Temple, Kuthar Padavu 575017, Karnataka, India have changed my name from TRIPTHI to TRIPTHI RAJ SUDARMA for all my future correspondence & purposes vide Affidavit dated 26th May 2026 before Advocate Zahid Hussain Mangalore in his Notarial Registration No. 0126/2026.

NAME CHANGE

I, AMJAD CHOTE SAB PASHA, S/o Abdul Sattar Chote Sab, resident of No. 46 5th Main Road, Kasturiba Nagar, Governemnt Electric Factory, Bengaluru - 560026, have changed my name to AMJAD PASHA, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.10.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, BUSHRA BANO, W/o Ayub Hanif Bagasrawala, , resident of No.879, A S House, 10th Cross, 3rd Main, Opp Balak English School, Gokul 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022, have changed my name to BUSHRA AYUB BAGASRAWALA, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.10.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, HOSUR O.S.No.293/2024

Varalakshmi and others Plaintiff
-Versus-
Ammayamma and anotherDefendants

Notice to Defendants:

D-1, Mrs.Ammayamma, W/o. Ramana Residing at Bennerughatta, Bangalore District, Kamatka.
D-2, Mrs.Lakshamma, W/o. Varadhappa, Residing at Sanaboganapalia Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Kamatka..
D-3, Mrs.Udayamma, W/o. Nanjappa @ Pillappa, Residing at Ramanurthy Nagar, Bangalore District, Kamatka.
D-4, Mrs.Udayamma, W/o. Nanjappa @ Pillappa, Residing at Ramanurthy Nagar, Bangalore District, Kamatka.
D-5, Mr.Sampangi Raman, S/o. Udhandappa, Residing at Byrasandram, Bangalore, Karnataka.
D-6, Mrs.Marjamma, D/o. Udhandappa and W/o.T.Sreenivasalur,
D-7, Mrs.Papamma, W/o. Munisamappa Naganaya,
D-8, Mrs.Lakshammamma, W/o. Ramanna,
D-9, Mr.Sivadu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
D-10, Seenuadu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
D-11, Rajadu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
Defendant/Respondnet Nos.6 to 11Residing at Thally Road, Anekal Town and Taluk, Bangalore District, Karnataka.

COURT NOTICE

Please take notice that the above case O.S.No. 293 of 2024 came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Additional District Judge, Hosur on 12-08-2026, the Hon'ble court ordered to effect substituted service to Defendants named above and stands posted to 26-10-2026, you should appear before the Hon'ble Court on 26-10-2026 at 10.00 A.M. onwards in person or through a counsel and submit your objections, failing which the court may proceed to pass further order.

/By the order of the court/
Advocate, Hosur
K.M. BABU, B.A.L., LL.B.,
MIG-4, 1st Floor Sri Kashi Vishwanathar Alayam Road
Opp. Uzhavar Santhai, Hosur-635 109
Mob : 86084 59401, 63800 35259

Quick Read

Walk-in drive for courier delivery roles

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The Project Employment Exchange will organize a walk-in interview on October 14 for courier delivery positions at private firm Delhivery Limited. The recruitment drive will take place from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Old RTO Office in Kasturba Nagar, Sirsi. SSLC-passed male candidates are eligible to apply for postings across Karwar, Ankola, Honnavar, and Sirsi. Interested aspirants must attend with copies of their resume. For additional queries, applicants can contact officials directly at 8277005959, 7624869488, or landline 08382-226386, ensuring jobseekers secure dependable local employment opportunities promptly.

Free skill development courses open at GTTC

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC) in Talakal, in collaboration with the Multi Skill Development Centre, has opened admissions for free job-oriented short-term courses to empower local youths. Eligible candidates and job seekers can apply for specialized tracks, including Microsoft Data Analysis, Cyber Security, GST Assistant, Accounts Assistant, E-commerce, and Logistics. Designed to boost employability through practical skills, the initiative bridges the gap between academics and market demands. Interested candidates can apply or seek details by calling 9986088894 or emailing gttcmsdcta-lakal@gmail.com, ensuring early registration to secure placements.

Haliyal to host annual Youth Festival

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports will host this year's district-level Youth Festival on October 28 at the Haliyal Convention Centre. Open to Uttara Kannada residents aged 15 to 29, the festival includes folk song, dance, painting, poetry, and a drug-free-themed street play competition. Participants must carry their own props and arrive by 9:00 AM. Organizers will provide meals and standard travel allowance to contestants. First-place winners qualify directly for the state-level competitions, offering young regional talents an ideal launching pad for wider cultural recognition.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy called on the youth to cultivate strong awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and take necessary safety precautions to prevent infection during an awareness marathon held in the city on Monday.

Flagging off the run organized by the District AIDS Control and Prevention Unit (DAPCU) at Kanaka Circle on Holalkere Road, Kumaraswamy observed that growing cases among young people re-

BJP protests in Belagavi against Congress MP

Protesters accused Congress leaders of shielding Akoijam despite complaints from 11 female students, alleging double standards on women's safety and dignity

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Police detained several members of the BJP Mahila Morcha on Monday when they attempted to enter the Congress office in Belagavi during an intense protest rally directed against Congress MP An-gomcha Bimol Akoijam over sexual harassment allegations. Demonstrators claimed that Mr. Akoijam, a former JNU professor, faces complaints from 11 female students, yet Congress leaders are actively shielding him from accountability. Accusing the party of displaying double standards regarding women's dignity



and security, protesters urged the Congress leadership to clarify its official stance. They pointed out that a party using slogans like 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' must actively demonstrate genuine respect and safety for women rather than protecting accused lawmakers.

Demanding an impartial, transparent inquiry and complete justice for the complainants through established legal channels, the demonstrators maintained that public representatives must remain accountable. The rally featured prominent participation from BJP Mahila Morcha State sec-

retary Sonali Samobhat, alongside leaders Shilpa Kekare, Ujwala Badavanache, Sunita Patil, numerous morcha office-bearers, and several energetic BJP Yuva Morcha workers.

Police intervened quickly at the Congress premises to control the gathering, taking several demonstrators into preventive custody to prevent clashes and maintain civil peace throughout the city center. Authorities confirmed that normalcy was restored shortly after the demonstration concluded peacefully under heavy security surveillance.

HIGHLIGHTS

BJP Mahila Morcha members staged rally

Police detained protesters near Congress office

11 female students filed harassment complaints

Impartial investigation and justice demanded

'Cultural values are vital for every student'

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Along with routine academic study, introducing children to regional heritage and traditional arts remains essential for their overall growth, said District Advocates' Association President K. Kempayya on Monday.

Speaking at the Sharannavaratri celebrations hosted by Sharath Memorial School, Kempayya highlighted that balanced personal development requires moral grounding alongside formal degrees. He noted that families and educators must foster optimistic mindsets by actively teaching core ethical values and local customs. Kempayya cautioned that society itself has slowly drifted away from indigenous practices, stressing that elders must understand their heritage to guide the younger generation. Commending the school for organizing cultural events, he added that Dasara stands as a

celebrated international symbol of state pride, which every citizen holds a duty to protect for coming generations.

Addressing the gathering, the school's founding president Adinarayana Reddy observed that rapid lifestyle changes often cause families to forget historical traditions. He explained that community festivals impart crucial lessons in harmony, unity, and mutual respect, noting that lasting personal progress comes from embracing Indian philosophy and classic ideals.

Students performed dynamic cultural showcases that captured enthusiastic appreciation from the audience. The program was attended by School President Nagireddy, Secretary Rajeshwari Reddy, Dr. Sagar, Dr. J. Puneeth, Dr. Dakshatha, Ravikumar, Advocate Darshan Reddy, C.J. Naveen, CRP Manjunath, Govindaraju, Principal Roopadevi, and Headmistress



Cultural programs add splendor to Sharannavaratri celebrations

Students' cultural programs added vibrancy to the three-day Sharannavaratri celebrations at Sharath Memorial School. The event commenced with a dance-drama invoking Lord Ganesha, followed by students presenting various dance-dramas that highlighted the significance of Sharannavaratri. Several other activities, including a quiz, were also

organized. An initiative was undertaken to narrate the history of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Dasara festival by arranging various dolls brought by students and teachers. The way first-grade children introduced the doll displays while reciting Sanskrit shlokas captured everyone's attention.

Pushpavathi, along with teachers Vidyavathi, Mamatha, and Shruti.

School leaders and parents praised the colorful performances.

Women get self-employment subsidies up to ₹2 lakh

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Karnataka Christian Community Development Corporation has extended the last date for submitting online applications under its various welfare and development schemes for 2026-27 to October 31.

The corporation offers multiple financial assistance programs. Under the 'Arivu' scheme, Christian students

securing professional seats via entrance tests or pursuing regular degree, diploma, and PhD courses receive interest-free educational loans. For overseas postgraduate studies, students can access interest-free loans of up to Rs 20 lakh. Women's self-help groups can secure a 50 percent back-end subsidy, capped at Rs 2 lakh, for self-employment ventures.

Infrastructure grants are also available, including up

to Rs 30 lakh for burial ground amenities, up to Rs 50 lakh for renovating churches over a decade old, and up to Rs 1 crore for community halls. Financial support extends to mobile food trucks, shelter homes for individuals with HIV or disabilities, and registered non-profit old-age homes and orphanages.

Applicants who missed the earlier September 30 deadline

can apply online via kccdc-online.karnataka.gov.in. The District Manager of the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation announced that interested applicants can call 08539-225008 for queries. Eligible individuals and community organizations are urged to submit their documents before the revised October 31 closing date to utilize the welfare benefits promptly.

₹1 cr community halls	₹50 lakh church renovation	₹30 lakh burial grounds	₹20 lakh overseas PG loans
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Post offices extend daily Aadhaar center timings

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

In response to heavy citizen footfall driven by mandatory ration card e-KYC updates and the ongoing Gruha Lakshmi scheme, post office Aadhaar service centers will oper-

ate with extended hours until October 20. Across Karnataka, citizens have faced considerable inconvenience, with local media reporting prolonged queues, system bottlenecks, and repeated visits to complete their enrollments

and biographical updates. Addressing these public grievances, authorities have added two extra operating hours daily. Service centers will now open one hour earlier in the morning and close one hour later in the evening. The Se-

nior Superintendent of Post Offices, Kolar Division, urged residents across Kolar and Chikkaballapura districts to take full advantage of the adjusted schedule to resolve pending documentation smoothly.

Degree exams during Dasara holidays, students protest



CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Students of the city's renowned St Agnes College boycotted the exams and staged a massive protest in front of the college gate, protesting against the college administration's scheduling of semester exams amidst the Dasara celebrations.

Semester examinations for degree students are being organized at St Agnes College near Bendoorvel from October 12 to October 28.

Mangaluru Dasara is a major festival on the coast and has brought joy and celebration everywhere. However, the college administration's decision to conduct exams without giving students a Dasara holiday has caused intense outrage.

The college students have protested against the college's move. The protest has been supported by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

Hundreds of students, who objected to the college administration's move to prevent them from participating in Dasara celebrations and religious programs, boycotted the exams and staged a sit-in in

front of the college.

A request was made to the administration to postpone the exam earlier. However, the students have alleged that the administration is ignoring the interests of the students and is showing indifference without giving any response.

Student organizations have also filed a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner, demanding that the problems faced by students during the Dasara festival be rectified and the exams be postponed immediately. Currently, the students' protest in front of the college gate is continuing, and slogans are being raised against the decision of the administration.

Lingayat Mahasabha talent award ceremony this Sunday



CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Koppal district and Kushtagi taluk units of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha will host a district-level talent award ceremony and membership campaign on Sunday, October 18, at NCH Palace on Koppal Road, Kushtagi.

Announcing details at a press conference at the Press Club on Monday, District President Kalakanagouda Patil Kallur said the gathering begins at 10:00 AM under his chairmanship.

Pontiffs from Mundaragi Annadaneshwara Matha, Kankanur Sri Dr. Mahadeva Swamiji, and Kushtagi Madhani Hirematha will grace the occasion with their blessings.

Rural Development Minister and Mahasabha National President Eshwar Khandre will formally inaugurate the event alongside National Women's President Veena Vijayananda Kashappanavar. State Unit President Shankar

Rural Development Minister Eshwar Khandre will inaugurate the event

M. Bidari, Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy, State Women's President Muktaba B., and former ministers Amaregouda Patil Bayyapur, Sharanna Munavalli, and Murugesha Nirani will pay floral tributes to Hangal Sri Kumara Mahaswami.

Dignitaries, including former MPs Sanganna Karadi and Shivaramegowda, former minister Halappa Achar, local legislators, and Mahasabha leaders will attend as special guests. Office-bearers Shivaputrappa Kadannavar, Lalita Myagalamani, and Sharanappa Hatti were present at the briefing. Patil urged students, community elders, and the general public to attend in large numbers to celebrate local talent and strengthen community solidarity.

YOUTH URGED TO BUILD STRONG HIV AWARENESS



main a serious concern. He urged students to follow preventive guidelines and embrace disciplined, healthy habits to protect their future.

Addressing the gathering,

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Sunil Kumar M.C. pointed out that although overall infection numbers across the district show a decline, rising vulnerability

among youngsters requires urgent public intervention. He stated that interactive initiatives like community marathons help mobilize youth directly against health risks.

In the competitive run concluding at Onake Obavva Stadium, Isiri, Bindu, and Sindhu claimed the top three spots in the female category. In the male section, Fakirappa, Swami, and Kiran took the first, second, and third prizes.

District AIDS Control Officer Dr. Tulasi Ranganath V. distributed cash awards and medals to the winners. Urging

students to adopt the proven 'ABC' approach—Abstinence, Being faithful, and Condom use—he demonstrated how the 'Break Free' QR code helps people confidentially check transmission risks on smartphones. District Supervisor Ashok announced that top finishers will represent Chitradurga at the state marathon in Davanagere on October 17.

The event saw spirited coordination by Durga Runners and civic groups, including Suchethana Network, Saukhyia, and local blood centers.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020
No. BDA/E.E.(E)/636/2026-27 Date: 08.10.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT284). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-port: **09.10.2026.** (2) Date & time for submission of Pre-Bid queries: **13.10.2026, 11.00 Hrs.** (3) Date & time for submission of Pre-Bid meeting: **13.10.2026, 15.00 Hrs.** (4) Last date and time for submission of Tender: **17.10.2026, 17.00 Hrs.** (5) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **19.10.2026, 17.10 Hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-port, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-port.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru

Quick Read

Centre to cap trade margins on cancer drugs

NEW DELHI
The Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday that it will cap trade margins on anti-cancer medicines at 30 per cent of the maximum retail price (MRP), while the court asked for a wider review of how medicines are priced across the pharmaceutical sector. Appearing for the Union government before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Centre would notify the list of cancer drugs covered by the cap. The country's second-highest law officer added that the list could be updated from time to time to take in more anti-cancer medicines.



US stock futures steady as oil jumps to 2-week high

NEW YORK
Wall Street futures were muted on Monday as investors kept an eye on oil prices and geopolitical events ahead of key bank earnings and inflation data later in the week that could shape the US Federal Reserve's interest-rate outlook. Brent crude futures climbed to their highest in about two weeks, trading above \$106 a barrel, after deadly strikes on Riyadh's international airport over the weekend. The gain was limited, however, after President Donald Trump said Ukraine and Russia had agreed to stop attacking each other's energy facilities following a US diesel-supply deal with Moscow. Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG, said the flare-up in the Houthis conflict had cancelled out any hope that Trump's deal with Putin might help bring prices down.

India's retail inflation rises to 5.54% in September

NEW DELHI
Retail inflation in India climbed to 5.54 per cent year-on-year in September 2026, up from 4.83 per cent in August, according to provisional figures the National Statistics Office (NSO) released on Monday. Prices rose faster in rural areas, where consumer inflation was 6.08 per cent in September, than in urban areas, where it was 4.88 per cent. "Retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index in September, 2026 is 5.54 per cent," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said. "Year-on-year food inflation, based on Consumer Food Price Index, in September, 2026 is 7.74 per cent," it added.

Tourist traffic on Annapurna trail picking up

NEW DELHI
Nepal's iconic Annapurna Circuit is showing signs of recovery after weeks of disruption caused by floods, landslides, and heavy rain and snowfall, according to a media report from Kathmandu. Tourist arrivals on this circuit are picking up, with around 150 to 200 visitors now arriving daily at the tourist check and information centre in Dharapani, reported The Himalayan Times on Monday.

PM GatiShakti covers 396 projects worth ₹18.66L cr

OF THESE, 198 PROJECTS ARE UNDER IMPLEMENTATION, STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED PLANNING ACROSS TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC NETWORKS NATIONWIDE.

NEW DELHI

A government factsheet released on Monday showed that 396 major infrastructure projects, involving a total investment of Rs 18.66 lakh crore, have been evaluated under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). The figures, updated as of August 11, 2026, highlight the growing role of integrated planning in the country's infrastructure development. Of the 396 projects, 256 have been sanctioned, while

198 are currently under implementation. The initiative uses a digital platform that brings together geospatial data, satellite imagery and analytical tools to support coordinated planning and decision-making. Launched on October 13, 2021, PM GatiShakti was designed to improve coordination among ministries, states and Union Territories by bringing infrastructure-related information onto a common Geographic Information System-based platform. It

enables planners to assess transport networks, economic zones, geographical features and other relevant information together before undertaking projects. The master plan maps roads, railways, ports, airports, waterways and utilities alongside economic and social infrastructure. This integrated approach helps identi-

fy missing connectivity links, reduce duplication and improve the utilisation of existing infrastructure. Economic zones are on the platform too, among them textile and pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters and agricultural zones. Seeing them on the same map as the trans-

port network shows planners the connections that industrial and regional development will need. The Khagaria-Purnea corridor in Bihar is one example of this approach. Its planned upgrade is expected to connect five PM GatiShakti economic nodes, including a textile cluster, mega food parks and fishing and seafood parks, as well



as 11 logistics nodes.

396 major infra projects	₹18.66 lakh crore investment	256 projects sanctioned	198 under implementation
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India poised to become global auto hub, says Goyal

NEW DELHI

India is set to become a global hub for automobile manufacturing as international car-makers step up production in the country, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. Speaking at the 'Dilli Dialogue: Policies for a Future-Ready India', Goyal said rising domestic demand, a growing manufacturing ecosystem and the economic goals of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision would make India a key global production base for the automobile industry. The minister said India was pursuing a twin-track strategy of adopting advanced global technologies while identifying sectors capable of generating employment, encouraging en-



trepreneurship and supporting business growth. Highlighting India's trade policy, he said the country was expanding access to international markets through free trade agreements (FTAs). India was not shutting itself off from global markets but opening its doors wider to international partnerships and investment, Goyal said. He was confident the country could reach its trillion-dollar export target while working

“We want to be a part of the global marketplace. Providing opportunities for people, providing opportunities for jobs, for our startups, for our youth to come up with newer ideas.”

— Piyush Goyal, Union Commerce and Industry Minister

towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. A detailed roadmap had been drawn up to identify the sectors that could drive economic growth in the coming decades, the minister said. With a population of 1.4 billion, India offers substantial opportunities for domestic manufacturers and international investors. Rising demand for electronics and white goods could encourage further investments in manufacturing and semiconductor facilities. In the automobile sector, global manufacturers would increasingly look at India as a production base as domestic demand reaches the scale needed to support expanded manufacturing, Goyal said.

Brent crude likely to hit \$90 in Dec amid supply risks

NEW DELHI

Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, is expected to reach \$90 a barrel in December 2026, 6 per cent above the earlier forecast of \$85, a report has said, citing continuing supply-side risks from the West Asia conflict that keep a hefty risk premium in time spreads. “The new December 2026 forecast surged because of ongoing downside risks to supply likely to slow the moderation in the time spreads risk premium—which we estimate at just over \$20 today,” the report from Goldman Sachs said. Even so, the December forecast is nearly 13 per cent below the current price of around \$103 a barrel. The investment bank kept its 2027 average Brent forecast at \$80 a barrel. Its estimate weighs downside risks to supply, low inventories and interest-rate sensitivity to oil, factors that support physical restocking and financial hedging. “Our 2027 average Brent forecast of \$80 per barrel is



unchanged and balances downward price pressure from faster-than-expected adaptation in Gulf supply against a slower moderation in the risk premium,” Goldman Sachs said. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) could average \$81 in December 2026 and \$73 in 2027, the report said, reflecting unusually wide WTI-to-Brent spreads caused by high US-to-Europe shipping costs. When the West Asia war broke out at the end of February, Brent was trading at around \$70 a barrel. It then

jumped above \$125 a barrel as shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the route for nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil shipments, was disrupted. As the strait gradually reopened, prices eased back to pre-war levels before oil climbed again to test the \$100-a-barrel mark. Brent could average about \$125 a barrel in 2027 if Gulf output that year stays 5 million barrels a day below February 2026 levels, against 0.3 million barrels a day below in the bank's base case.

Cocoon arrivals fall as water scarcity hits Coimbatore sericulture

COIMBATORE

Sericulture farmers in the Coimbatore region are facing declining output as water shortages and high temperatures affect mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing. The production setback has reduced supplies to the government cocoon market, sending prices sharply upward. Arrivals at the Coimbatore market have dropped by 30 to 40 per cent during the past three months against the earlier daily average of about 1.5 tonnes. The decline reflects difficulties farmers face in maintaining production amid adverse weather conditions. Auction prices climbed to Rs 820-850 a kilogram last week as supplies tightened, before settling at approximately Rs 750 in recent days. The Coimbatore facility is among nearly 18 government cocoon markets operating across Tamil Nadu to facilitate sales by farmers. The shortage has coincided with a steep contraction in mulberry cultivation, which supplies the leaves needed to feed silkworms. Acreage has shrunk by more than half, from around 1,200 acres to approximately 500 acres, weakening the sec-



tor's production base. With irrigation becoming increasingly difficult, farmers have cut back cultivation, including on larger holdings. The extended rainfall deficit, attributed to the El Niño effect, has created drought-like conditions, limiting water availability and disrupting the supply of mulberry leaves essential for silkworm rearing. Farmers are consequently struggling with both water scarcity and damage to their remaining crops. The crisis has interrupted a recovery that began after the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Some farmers who returned to sericulture in anticipation of improved prospects are now facing declining output and worsening irrigation difficulties. At one farm near Avinashi in Tiruppur district, the borewell water level has reportedly dropped from around 500 feet last year to nearly 1,000 feet, illustrating the growing pressure on groundwater resources.

TDB signs Rs 86 cr deal with Peptris for AI-driven drug development



NEW DELHI

Peptris Technologies Pvt Ltd will receive Rs 86 crore from the Technology Development Board (TDB) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for an AI-led drug development programme, under an agreement signed through the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, an official statement said on Monday. The pact falls under the RDI Fund, the Ministry of Science & Technology said. The project, 'VIGOR: Advancing AI-Discovered Molecules from Bench to Clinic', will cost Rs 172 crore in all, the ministry added. Its goal is to take four drug candidates from Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-6 through preclinical development, validation and groundwork for clinical trials. The support will come as Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD).

According to the ministry, Peptris' VIGOR programme aims to bridge this crucial step by using the company's own AI-driven drug discovery platform to move a portfolio of molecules towards clinical development. It concentrates on therapeutic areas where major medical needs remain unmet. The four candidates are 'PEPR111' for neuromuscular disorders and oncology, 'PEPRX101' for alopecia, 'PEPR202' for neuropathy and 'PEPR112' for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). All four now stand at TRL-4 and should reach TRL-6 under the project. Over three years, the programme will also carry out advanced preclinical studies, investigational new drug (IND)-enabling studies, formulation development, and the preparation and start of clinical trials, subject to regulatory and scientific requirements.

Centre directs states to display healthcare rates

NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday told all States and Union Territories (UTs) to make sure clinical establishments put up the rates they charge for healthcare services and facilities where patients can clearly see them, in a move meant to make healthcare more transparent, accountable and patient-centric. Writing to the Chief Secretaries of the States and UTs, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava asked them to check whether the rules in force are being followed and to take the steps needed so that patients and their attendants can easily see and find information on healthcare charges. The ministry said displaying treatment costs would help patients and their families understand the likely expenditure involved in medical care, make informed decisions and plan their finances. Greater transparency could also reduce confusion over billing, minimise disputes and strengthen public trust in healthcare institutions. The letter cited the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010,



- Key requirements**
- **Display charges:** Clinical establishments must prominently display rates for healthcare services and facilities wherever applicable regulations require it
 - **Languages:** Rates must be displayed in English and the local language under the central regulatory framework
 - **State responsibility:** State and Union Territory authorities are responsible for implementation and enforcement

and the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012. The ministry also noted that States and UTs where the central law does not apply regulate healthcare facilities through their respective legal frameworks, many of which contain similar provisions on displaying service charges. Pointing out that health is a State subject, Srivastava said it is for State and UT authorities to implement and enforce the regulations.

ITI MODERNISATION

PM-SETU pacts to upgrade nine government ITIs

NEW DELHI

India has taken a step towards modernising its vocational training system with Shareholders' Agreements (SHAs) signed to upgrade nine government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme. The Directorate General of Training (DGT) of the Minis-

try of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) signed the agreements, an official statement said on Monday. Under the partnership, a cluster of five government ITIs in Surat, Gujarat, and four in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, will be upgraded. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up for the purpose



will run the ITI clusters and oversee the programme. Calling the agreements the start of a transformative journey for ITIs, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Secretary Debashree Mukherjee said PM-SETU institutions must be developed into centres of excellence capable of nurturing future WorldSkills champions. AM/NS India will carry out the programme with the New Age Makers' Institute of Tech-

nology (NAMTECH) as its academic and technical partner. The company will bring its manufacturing know-how, and NAMTECH will help with curriculum reform, faculty development, academic innovation and better delivery of training.

Who owns the ITI cluster SPVs

51%	24.5%	24.5%
■ AM/NS India 51%	■ Central government 24.5%	■ State government 24.5%

Planned interventions include modernising workshops and laboratories, introducing emerging technology trades, updating curricula to meet industry needs, strengthening instructor training and expanding hands-on learning opportunities. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between vocational education and industry requirements, equipping trainees with relevant skills and improving their employability.

FROM FOURTH PLACE AT THE ASIAN GAMES TO A RESOLVE FOR THE TOP SPOT

 **LALIT GARGG**

India’s fourth-place finish at the Asian Games is undoubtedly an achievement, but for a nation aspiring to become a Vishwaguru, a global leader, it should not become a reason for complacency. Instead, it should serve as an occasion for introspection and a renewed resolve. At the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, Indian athletes won 85 medals: 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze, demonstrating the depth and potential of Indian sporting talent. Finishing among the top four nations in Asia, a continent that is a powerhouse of sport, is by no means an ordinary accomplishment. Yet the question remains: when China and Japan are ahead of us, when will India rise to the first or



second position? An even larger question is this: if we aspire to see India at the forefront of the world in economic, scientific, technological and strategic power, why has our sporting prowess still not reached the heights we expect?

The Asian Games medals present two contrasting pictures of India’s sporting journey. The first is inspiring. India’s nine medals in archery, including five golds, demonstrate the country’s growing dominance in the discipline. Kumkum Mohod’s individual achievement in the recurve category, Pranavi Urs becoming the first Indian woman to win an individual golf gold medal, and the impressive performances in boxing and wrestling reflect the breadth of India’s sporting talent. Indian dominance in cricket, hockey and kabaddi also continued.

The success of the women’s hockey team is particularly significant. Defeating defending champions China to win the gold medal was not merely another addition to the medal tally; it ended a wait of more than four decades. The victory demonstrates that when talent, discipline, team spirit and unwavering commitment to a goal come together, Indian athletes can challenge and defeat any opponent.

But the second picture demands serious introspection. India’s performance in athletics was below expectations. Shooting, traditionally regarded as one of India’s strongest medal prospects, also failed to fully live up to expectations. The decline in the overall medal tally as well as the number of gold medals compared with the previous edition is a serious signal. Therefore, fourth place should not be regarded as our destination; it must be seen as a stepping stone towards the next great leap.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India’s approach towards sport has changed significantly in recent years. Sport is no longer viewed merely as entertainment or as a field reserved for a select group of athletes. It is increasingly being linked with national prestige, youth empowerment and the creation of a healthy society. Initiatives such as Khelo India have created an important environment for identifying sporting talent at the grassroots level. India’s growing presence at the Olympics and Asian Games is also evidence of this transformation. But the next phase must be far more ambitious. We should not merely ask how many medals India can win; we should ask in which sports India can become a world-leading power. We must move beyond a medal-centric approach and create a comprehensive sporting ecosystem in which responsibility is clearly defined at every stage from discovering talent to developing, supporting and sustaining an athlete’s international career.

For decades, sport and education in India were treated as competing priorities. That mindset must change. Sport is not an obstacle to a student’s education; it is a powerful instrument of personality development. Schools should provide dedicated sports hours, trained coaches, modern playing facilities and structured fitness programmes. India’s next challenge is not merely to win medals but to create champions consistently. After one athlete achieves success, the next generation in that sport should already be in preparation. For this, sports science must become an integral part of training. Modern fitness systems, data analytics, biomechanics, sports medicine, psychology and nutrition science need to be incorporated extensively into India’s sporting ecosystem.

Mental strength is equally important. On the international stage, the ability to handle pressure can be as decisive as talent itself. Athletes therefore need regular access to sports psychologists and mental-conditioning experts. A poor performance in one competition should not be treated as the final verdict on an athlete’s ability.

Women have also made their mark in archery, boxing, wrestling, athletics, golf and several other disciplines. The next priority should be to launch focused programmes to bring more girls from rural and semi-urban areas into sport. Safe sporting facilities, women coaches, scholarships and a supportive family environment can bring about a major transformation. India cannot aspire to become a global sporting powerhouse without fully involving half of its population in its sporting journey. The Los Angeles Olympics 2028 are not far away. Therefore, the achievements and shortcomings revealed by the Asian Games should not remain confined to headlines and post-event discussions. For every sport, a realistic assessment of medal prospects, a list of potential athletes, a scientific training programme and

The India that aspires to become a Vishwaguru must also take equally determined steps towards becoming a global leader in sport.

an international competition calendar should be prepared well in advance.

India must identify the sports in which it can make a major breakthrough at the next Olympics. At such a moment, world-class sporting excellence must also become an integral part of our national identity. Aichi-Nagoya gives India every reason to feel proud, but even more importantly, it gives us a reason to strive harder. Fourth place is not the destination; it is both a warning and a challenge. India must now resolve that in the next Asian Games we will not enter the arena merely to remain among the top four – we will compete for the first and second positions. And at the Olympics, our ambition should not be limited to increasing the medal count; we must prepare ourselves to emerge as a genuine global sporting power.

STING OPERATION: UNVEILING OF TRUTH OR A GAME OF POWER?

The buzz of secret operations in politics; the question of accountability amid allegations.

 **COLUMN**
Manjunath G.Y.

A sting operation has now created a new storm in Karnataka’s politics. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has alleged that an attempt was made to carry out a sting operation targeting him and his ministers. In response, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has counter-alleged that a sting operation was used to bring down Siddaramaiah from the post of Chief Minister. Congress leaders have dismissed these allegations as politically motivated. But conclusive evidence regarding the operation in question, its motive and the persons behind it has not yet been publicly established. Therefore, instead of concluding that the allegations are true, it is essential to examine them on the basis of evidence.

Allegations and counter-allegations are not new in politics. But the very fact that an issue as sensitive as a sting operation is raising questions about trust within the government, sharing of power, and political morality is a serious development. Who should be afraid of a sting operation? Those who have done wrong, or those who lay traps in the name of truth? The answer to this question will not be found in the statements of political leaders. It must be found in evidence, in investigation, and in the courage to face the truth.

If D.K. Shivakumar has documents related to the allegations, he should provide them for a proper investigation. If Kumaraswamy says that a sting operation was used to remove Siddaramaiah from power, he should disclose evidence supporting that allegation. Those who make allegations also have accountability; those who face allegations also have the opportunity to clarify their stand. What people need is not mudslinging among political leaders but a clear answer

as to what the truth is.

Sting Operation: A Weapon of Democracy, or a Secret Weapon of Politics?

A sting operation is a powerful tool of investigative journalism. It can help bring to light corruption, abuse of power and illegalities that do not come out through normal reporting. But if the same tool is used to frame a person, to weaken a political opponent or to influence public opinion, the very purpose of the investigation becomes questionable.

In the history of India, such operations have led to several major controversies.

Operation West End (2001) brought allegations of corruption in defence procurement to a national debate. In the sting operation conducted by Tehelka, visuals of the then BJP President Bangaru Laxman accepting money were revealed. In 2012, a special CBI court found him guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act and sentenced him. This case highlighted the role of investigative journalism in questioning the accountability of those in positions of power.

Narada sting operation (2016) created a stir in West Bengal politics. In an operation conducted by posing as representatives of a fictitious company, visuals purportedly showing several Trinamool Congress leaders accepting money were released. The allegations of corruption led to political conflict; actions by investigative agencies brought the case further into discussion. But the difference between a political allegation and legally proven guilt should not be forgotten.

Operation 136 (2018) questioned not politicians but the media itself. This operation conducted by Cobrapost sparked a debate on whether some media houses were willing to publish specific political or religious propaganda for money. This case served as a reminder that if the line between news and paid propaganda is erased, the credi-

bility of the media itself is at risk.

Cricknet match-fixing controversy (2000) raised serious questions about sporting integrity and the influence of money. This controversy did not come out of a single sting operation; various aspects came to light through journalistic reports, police investigations and official inquiries. It should also be noted that the lifetime ban imposed by the BCCI on former Indian captain Mohamad Azharuddin was revoked by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 2012. It is essential to consider allegations and subsequent judicial developments separately.

Live India–Uma Khurana case (2007) is a cautionary example of how a fake sting can ruin a person’s life. After a report containing serious allegations against Delhi teacher Uma Khurana was telecast, public outrage and assault occurred. A subsequent investigation revealed that a key part of the sting was pre-planned. This case taught the harsh lesson that verification of truth is more important than the speed of news.

All these five cases give the same message: A sting operation can expose the truth; but unverified visuals and false allegations can also cause injustice.

A camera can be evidence, but it is not the final verdict

A secretly recorded video can trigger a public debate. But in what context was that visual recorded? Has it been edited? What is the complete meaning of the conversation? Does independent evidence corroborate the allegation? Has the accused person been given an opportunity to respond? All of these are questions that need to be examined. Public interest should be the purpose of an investigation. The purpose should not be to insult a person, to provoke and entrap, or to gain political advantage. Projecting an allegation as a court verdict is also not responsible journalistic conduct. Questioning power is the duty of the media. But



questioning the credibility of their own investigation is also their duty.

What Karnataka Needs Is Clarification, Not Sensation

In the present sting operation controversy, two things are important. The first is the veracity of the allegations made by D.K. Shivakumar about the operation against him. The second is the credibility of Kumaraswamy’s allegation that a sting operation was used to bring down Siddaramaiah from the Chief Minister’s post. In both these matters, verifiable evidence is more important than political statements. If the government has information and documents, they should be provided for a proper investigation. Those who make allegations should also provide a basis for their statements. If an investigation is conducted, it should be free from political influence. At a time when cabinet meetings in the state should be discussing development, employment, price rise, farmers’ issues and public services, if allegations of political conspiracies are coming to the forefront, it raises concern about the health of democracy. The competition for power may be an internal matter of political parties. But if the consequence of that competition falls on the administra-

tion, the people have the right to question.

Conclusion: Truth has no fear; politics in the name of truth needs answers

The term sting operation itself is not evidence of wrongdoing. Similarly, an allegation does not become true merely because a political leader has made it. Visuals, documents, context and independent investigation all together must determine the reality. Politicians need not fear the truth. The media need not hesitate to question power. But no one should sell lies in the name of truth; no one should use political power to obstruct investigation. In a democracy, a camera can capture the truth. But what delivers justice to the truth is evidence, transparency and an impartial investigation. The

“That question will not be answered by political attacks. It will be answered only by the courage to face the truth.”

MANJUNATH G.Y.

simple question that the people of Karnataka are asking today is: Rather than who targeted whom in the name of a sting operation, who will reveal what actually happened?

STARDOM ONLINE, LONELINESS OFFLINE

become a successful food creator. A young artist can reach an international audience without leaving home.

This democratization of attention has many positive possibilities.

But attention is not the same as affection. Followers



are not necessarily friends. Likes are not necessarily love. Views are not necessarily understanding. That distinction is important.

Social-media platforms are designed around feedback. A person posts something and waits for reactions. The screen then provides numbers: likes, comments, shares, views and followers.

When the numbers rise, the creator may experience excitement and validation. When they fall, disappointment can follow. A photograph that once existed simply as a photograph may become a test of popularity. A video may no longer be created for enjoyment but for engagement. A creator may repeatedly ask: How many people watched it?

Why did yesterday’s post receive more likes? Why did another person’s video go viral while mine did not?

Social media encourages people to present selected versions of themselves. People usually upload achievements rather than failures, celebra-

stardom can become less a source of freedom and more a responsibility that never switches off.

Human beings need meaningful relationships, not merely communication. A person can exchange hundreds of messages in a day and still lack someone with whom they can honestly discuss their fears, failures and uncertainties. Digital communication can connect people across continents, but physical and emotional closeness remain important. A “like” requires only a second. Genuine friendship requires time, patience, trust and mutual understanding. This is why a large follower count should never automatically be interpreted as evidence that a person is socially or emotionally fulfilled. For some creators, this creates a constant fear of becoming invisible. The smartphone becomes both a workplace and a stage.

People do not compare their ordinary lives with other people’s ordinary lives. They often compare their behind-the-scenes reality with someone else’s carefully selected high-

“After all, the most meaningful applause is not always the loudest one on a screen. Sometimes it is the quiet presence of a person who stays beside us when the screen goes dark.”

— Dr. Vijay Garg

lights. Every successful post usually represents only one

moment in a much larger life. Behind every public achievement may be years of effort, failures, uncertainty and personal struggle that the audience never sees.

Social media can provide creativity, community and learning opportunities. It can help young people discover interests and connect with people who share their passions. At the same time, excessive dependence on digital approval can make identity fragile. If a young person begins to believe, “I am valuable because people like my content,” then a decline in online attention may feel like a decline in personal worth.

Attention is temporary. Connection is deeper. A viral video may disappear from people’s memories within days. A conversation with a trusted friend may remain meaningful for years. People can periodically examine their relationship with social media by asking simple questions:

- Can I spend time with family and friends without checking my phone?
- Do I have relationships that exist beyond social media?
- Can I accept low engagement without questioning my self-worth?

A person’s worth cannot be reduced to followers, subscribers, views or likes.

Real success also includes relationships, character, knowledge, health, contribution, kindness, resilience and inner peace. Numbers tell us how many people are watching.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rethink Bengaluru Traffic Chaos

Bengaluru’s traffic has become unbearable. A 5 km stretch takes one hour. Potholes, unscientific road cutting, and lack of public transport are to blame. The government must prioritize metro connectivity, footpaths, and strict parking rules. Citizens lose health and work hours daily. It’s time to act, not just announce.

— Pradeesh

Save Lakes From Encroachment

Bengaluru’s lakes are dying due to encroachment and sewage. Once 1,000 lakes, now fewer than 200 remain. Bellandur and Varthur frothing is shameful. BBMP and BDA must clear encroachments and install STPs. Citizens must also stop dumping waste. Saving lakes is saving Bengaluru’s future water security.

— Gontu

Quick Read

IndiGo flight diverted after power bank catches fire

HYDERABAD

A Delhi-Chennai IndiGo flight carrying 191 people was diverted to Hyderabad on Sunday after a passenger's power bank caught fire. The cabin crew extinguished the fire, and the aircraft landed safely at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport around 3.15 pm. The aircraft was grounded for inspection and maintenance, with its return to service subject to damage checks. Under DGCA guidelines, power banks are prohibited in checked-in baggage and cannot be used during flights. Passengers may carry up to two power banks under international rules effective March 27, 2026.

Ahmedabad Crime Branch arrests MP man in family massacre

AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Crime Branch arrested 37-year-old Ramusingh Tomar in Gurugram over the killing of six family members in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district in May 2023. He carried a reward of Rs 30,000. Police traced Tomar to a warehouse in Gurugram's Gopalpur industrial area. He reportedly concealed his identity while living across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana, working as a security guard and labourer. The killings occurred in Lepa village following a land dispute. Three women and three men died in the attack, allegedly linked to revenge over a 2013 dispute involving Tomar's uncles and the rival family.

Speeding truck kills 3, injures one on Meerut highway

MEERUT

Three men were killed and another seriously injured after a speeding truck hit them while they were crossing the Meerut-Karnal highway near Dabthua village in Sardhana on Sunday night, police said. The accident occurred around 10.30 pm when Ramesh, 55, Sushil, 47, Amar, 30, and Rohit, all residents of Dabthua, were crossing the road. The truck, travelling from Meerut, struck them, killing Ramesh, Sushil and Amar on the spot. Rohit sustained serious injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment. Ramesh worked as a clerk at Kisan Inter College in Muradnagar, Sushil ran a grocery shop in the village, and Amar worked as a labourer. Passers-by and local residents rushed to help and alerted the police. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Abhijeet Kumar confirmed the deaths and said the bodies had been sent for postmortem examination. The truck driver fled after the accident, leaving the vehicle behind. Police seized the truck and launched a search to trace the driver.

Bihar transfers ₹112 crore flood relief to affected families

Over 1.6 lakh flood-hit families in Bihar receive ₹7,000 each in a ₹112.14 crore transfer, while officials assess the damage to speed up rehabilitation.

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday released ₹112.14 crore in flood relief to 1,60,201 flood-affected families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with ₹7,000 credited to each family as the state pressed ahead with relief work after severe floods hit several districts.

The latest payment takes the number of flood-affected families who have received assistance to 10,37,391, and the total amount paid out to ₹726.17 crore.

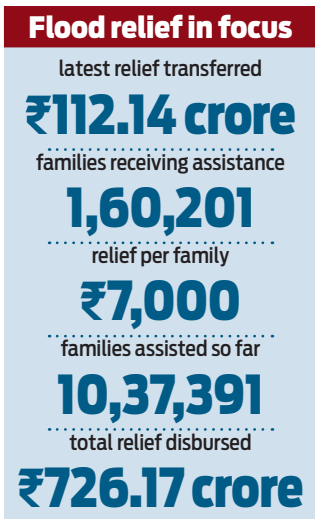
Choudhary had reviewed the flood situation on October 6 at a meeting in the Sankalp auditorium at Lok Sevak Awas, which BJP national president and MP Nitin Nabin attended. Water Resources Department Secretary Dr Chandrashekhar Singh



Bihar is the first state in the country to formulate a silt policy.”
— Samrat Choudhary, Chief Minister of Bihar

explained that the floods had come in two phases. In the first, the Ganga, Son, Ghaghra, Kosi and Punpun rivers rose above their previous record levels. In the second, heavy rainfall drove the

Gandak River to record highs at four locations. Embankments were damaged at six places in West Champaran, Gopalganj and Saran districts. Santosh Kumar Mall, Principal Secretary of the Disaster Management Department, gave an account of the relief and rescue work carried out during the floods. Choudhary blamed this year's severe flooding on unusually large volumes of



water in the Ganga, Gandak and Son rivers and on silt building up in riverbeds. The Chief Minister told officials to keep a constant watch on river conditions and to assess the damage caused by the floods.

CMRL-Exalogic case: Keralam Vigilance registers two FIRs

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Keralam Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered two FIRs over financial dealings between Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) and Exalogic Solutions, naming former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter T Veena and others as accused.

The cases follow a Kerala High Court order directing the Vigilance Department to initiate proceedings based on a report submitted by the Enforcement Directorate. One FIR concerns alleged monthly payments and has been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, with Vijayan named as the first accused. The second concerns an alleged hawala transaction, with Mohammed Riyas named as the first accused. Veena has been named as an accused in both cases.

The FIRs cite provisions of the Prevention of Corruption



Act, including Sections 13(2) and 13(1)(d), along with provisions under the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The allegations relate to transactions between CMRL and Exalogic, a company linked to Veena. Responding to the allegations last month, Vijayan maintained that the arrangement between the companies was legitimate. He said Exalogic had entered into a contract with CMRL to provide services and received payments under the agreement. The registration of the FIRs marks the initiation of vigilance proceedings following the court's direction.

HP Governor unveils 100-day youth development roadmap

The 100-day roadmap promotes youth skills, entrepreneurship and rural employment, aligning Himachal Pradesh's higher education with Viksit Bharat @2047.

SOLAN

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta has unveiled a 100-day youth development roadmap at Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, focusing on skill development, entrepreneurship, employment generation and sustainable rural livelihoods under the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The roadmap was prepared following directions from the Chancellor's Inter-University Viksit Bharat Task Force, recently constituted to bring universities across Himachal Pradesh onto a common platform. The initiative aims to



strengthen innovation, improve coordination among universities and connect higher education with practical skills and emerging economic opportunities.

Gupta said youth empowerment, skill development and entrepreneurship were essential drivers of national progress.

He highlighted the potential of horticulture, forestry and allied sectors to help young people establish businesses, generate employment and strengthen rural economies. He stressed the need to encourage students to become job providers rather than remain job seekers, bridging the gap between academic education and market

The roadmap reflected the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat @2047, with youth empowerment, skill development and entrepreneurship serving as key drivers of national progress.”
— Kavinder Gupta, Himachal Pradesh Governor

demands. The roadmap includes practical training in orchard management, grafting, nursery production, protected cultivation, mushroom farming, beekeeping, tissue culture, soil testing, agroforestry and value addition.

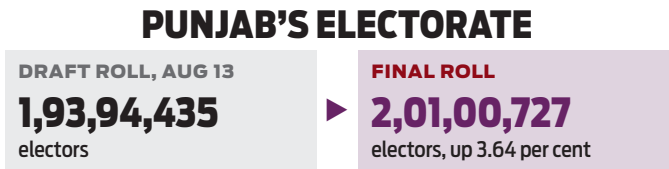
Punjab publishes final voter rolls with 7.97 lakh new electors

CHANDIGARH

Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer on Monday published the final electoral rolls for all 117 Assembly constituencies after completing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026, adding 7,97,263 new electors and taking the state's total electorate to 2,01,00,727, an increase of 3.64 per cent from the draft list released in August.

The final rolls include 1,03,76,026 male voters, 97,24,195 female voters and 506 third-gender electors. The final electoral roll for service voters, with October 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, was also published. Chief Electoral Officer Anindita Mitra said physical and digital copies had been provided to representatives of recognised political parties.

The revision exercise began on June 25 under Phase III of the Election Commission of India's directions. Following house-to-house enumeration, the draft rolls were published



on August 13, listing 1,93,94,435 electors. During the claims and objections stage, officials issued notices to 35,49,036 voters over unmapped records or discrepancies. After hearings and village-level verification, 86,038 electors were declared ineligible through formal orders.

Authorities also rationalised polling stations across Punjab, increasing their number from 24,453 to 25,332 to improve

voter accessibility. Mitra thanked voters, booth-level officers and political parties for their cooperation, particularly acknowledging the contribution of 89,395 booth-level agents across the state. Voters can check the final rolls through the CEO Punjab website, the Election Commission's citizen service portal or the offices of district election officers, electoral registration officers and booth-level officers.

Supreme Court seeks wider price controls on medicines and devices

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday urged the Centre to examine drug pricing across the pharmaceutical sector, questioning why its proposed 30 per cent trade margin cap applied only to specified cancer medicines despite substantial markups on other drugs and medical devices.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta sought broader regulation, citing price differences between retailers' purchase costs and maximum retail prices (MRPs). It noted that a saline drip line costing Rs 11 was being sold for Rs 270. The bench also cited an Indian-made cardiac stent with a price to retailer of Rs 5,000 and an MRP of Rs 25,000. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said cardiac stents were already subject to price caps.

The Centre proposed

Markups before the bench

- **Cardiac stent:** Rs 5,000 to the retailer, MRP Rs 25,000
- **Life-saving drugs:** bought for about Rs 2,700, MRP Rs 27,000
- **Centre's cap:** 30 per cent trade margin, specified cancer medicines only
- **Bench asks:** why not a uniform 16 per cent cap over retailer prices

notifying a list of cancer drugs covered by the margin cap and updating it periodically. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati argued that regulation must balance affordability, availability and market conditions, warning that excessive intervention could disrupt supplies. The bench questioned why controls could not cover

a wider range of medicines. It also raised concerns about Azithromycin pricing, citing figures of Rs 78.29 and Rs 2,850.

The court was hearing a petition that seeks regulation of the initial prices of non-scheduled medicines, price caps on medical devices and compulsory prescription of generic drugs. Petitioner Kishan Chand Jain told the court that about 82 per cent of medicines lie outside the scheduled category under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013, so manufacturers face no upfront price fixing for them.

The bench had previously questioned steep markups on life-saving medicines, citing drugs purchased for around Rs 2,700 and sold at an MRP of Rs 27,000. It had asked why a uniform 16 per cent cap could not apply to medicines and medical devices over retailer prices.

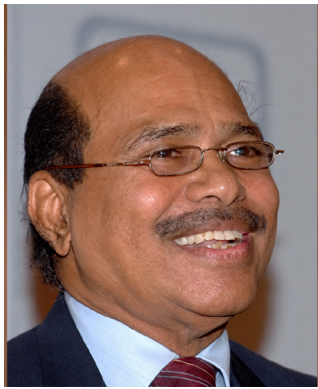
6th POC SO case filed against granite businessman Veeramani

CHENNAI

Police have registered a sixth case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against granite businessman R Veeramani in connection with an ongoing investigation into the alleged sexual abuse of minor girls. The fresh case was registered on October 10, based on statements from two minor girls.

With the latest case, Veeramani faces six pending cases, while police action has covered alleged sexual violence involving 10 minor girls so far.

Veeramani and his alleged accomplices, Shanthi and Mahendra Simhan, were initially arrested on August 29 by the Anti-Vice Squad of Greater Chennai Police. The arrests followed the discovery of video evidence on a pen drive recovered earlier during the



investigation. Veeramani and Shanthi were formally arrested in another related case on October 8 and lodged in Puzhal Central Prison.

Others suspected of helping the businessman have also been arrested. Ganesan was arrested on September 22 and remanded to Puzhal Central Prison; he is accused of keeping another related video and not reporting it to the authorities. On October 5,

HOW THE CASE GREW

- **AUG 29**
Veeramani, Shanthi and Mahendra Simhan arrested
- **SEP 22**
Ganesan arrested over a related video
- **OCT 5**
Drivers Lazar, Parthiban and Babu arrested
- **OCT 8**
Veeramani and Shanthi formally arrested in a related case
- **OCT 10**
Sixth POC SO case registered

police arrested three drivers: Lazar, Parthiban and Babu. The three drivers were accused of bringing minor girls to the businessman and facilitating the alleged abuse. They were also lodged in prison. The latest case adds to the ongoing investigation into the allegations and the possible involvement of others.

DELHI BOOSTS CAMPUS SAFETY

Delhi plans 1 lakh smart streetlights to improve women's safety

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday interacted with female student representatives from colleges across the capital to discuss women's safety, campus security and public transport, announcing plans to install approximately one lakh smart streetlights to address poorly lit areas around educational institutions.

During the meeting at Mukhyamantri Jan Seva

Sadan, Gupta assured students that their concerns and recommendations would receive priority attention. The proposed streetlights will be connected to the Integrated Command and Control Centre. Under an Annual Maintenance Contract system, agencies will be required to repair non-functional lights within a specified timeframe. The government will coordinate with local bodies and college



administrations to identify locations requiring additional lighting. The Chief Minister also

directed officials to establish an active coordination channel, including a dedicated WhatsApp group connecting

student representatives with administrative and police officials. She urged students to use emergency helpline 112 during distress situations. Students called for safety audits of vulnerable locations, increased deployment of women police personnel, regular patrolling near student hubs such as Mukherjee Nagar and Siri Fort Road, and accessible Pink Booths. They stressed that safety measures should enable women to

move freely rather than restrict their participation through curfews. Reaffirming the government's commitment, Gupta said, "Direct dialogue is the bedrock of sensitive and accountable governance." She added that the concerns highlighted the need for secure campuses and seamless mobility, enabling women students to pursue their aspirations and contribute fully to society.

Quick Read

Delhi reopens Metro stations after Congress protest

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday reopened all stations after temporarily closing six amid security restrictions linked to the Congress protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The entry and exit gates of Patel Chowk, Janpath, Rajiv Chowk, Mandi House, Central Secretariat and Barakhamba Road stations had remained shut since 6 am. In its latest update, the corporation confirmed that entry and exit gates across the entire metro network were open. Interchange facilities at the affected stations were also restored. The restrictions were imposed as the Congress staged a protest against the Chief Election Commissioner. The temporary closure affected access to six key stations in the national capital.

Goa HC orders ₹20 lakh interim aid for victims' families

PANAJI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra to deposit ₹20 lakh each as interim compensation for the families of 25 people killed in a fire at their North Goa establishment in December 2025. A division bench of Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit Jamsandekar issued the order while hearing a petition seeking relief for the victims. The families had sought ₹50 lakh each, against the ₹25 lakh earlier offered by the owners. The court clarified that the interim payment would not affect the parties' arguments in the main case. It asked them to discuss the arrangement and report back by October 21. The fire broke out during a dance party at the Arpora nightclub on December 6, 2025, killing 25 people and injuring 50. The Luthra brothers were deported from Thailand on December 17 and are currently lodged in Colvale Central Jail in North Goa.

Mumbai Crime Branch arrests 12th accused in MPSC leak

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Crime Branch on Monday arrested Mayur Chandrakant Thakre, the 12th accused in the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) paper leak case. A court remanded him to police custody until October 17. The arrest comes after the MPSC cancelled the recruitment process for Drug Inspector posts in the Food and Drug Administration department following alleged examination irregularities. Investigators found that a candidate had allegedly accessed the question paper before the March 22 screening examination. Complaints received between July 22 and 26 alleged that questions were leaked on March 20 and circulated through social media and electronic platforms. The Crime Branch had arrested six people on August 26 in connection with the alleged breach of confidentiality.

India to host first BIMSTEC home ministers' meeting

The meeting will bring seven member nations together to coordinate intelligence, law enforcement and joint strategies against terrorism, trafficking and cybercrime.

NEW DELHI

India will host the first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on October 13, focusing on strengthening regional cooperation against terrorism, transnational organised crime and other security threats. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the meeting, which aims to improve coordination among law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies across the seven-member regional grouping. Discussions will focus on



terrorism, narcotics, radicalisation, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and cyber threats. Shah announced the meeting on Monday through a post on X, welcoming home min-

isters and delegations from member countries. He said the gathering reflected a shared commitment to addressing common security challenges and building a safer and more secure region

“Through decisive coordination, we remain committed to building a safer, stronger, and more secure BIMSTEC region.”

— Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

through coordinated action. “India is honored to host the First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on 13 October 2026. I extend a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Home Ministers and member state delegations,” Shah posted on X. He added that the meeting underscored the participating

BIMSTEC at a glance

FOUNDED 1997	MEMBERS 7 nations
MEETING October 13	CHAIR Amit Shah

countries' resolve to combat terrorism, organised crime and other cross-border threats. The gathering is expected to provide a platform for strengthening cooperation on emerging security challenges that affect countries across South and Southeast Asia. Established in 1997, BIMSTEC promotes economic and technical coopera-

tion among countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood. Its seven members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The organisation connects South and Southeast Asia and facilitates cooperation in regional connectivity, trade, development and security.

AIADMK dissidents regroup after TN bypoll defeat

AIADMK dissidents met in Chennai after October 9 bypoll defeats, discussing factional unity, leadership grievances and their future role within the Assembly.

CHENNAI

Internal divisions within the AIADMK resurfaced on Monday after the party's defeat in the October 9 bypolls in Dharapuram and Madurantakam constituencies. A group of dissident leaders met in Chennai to review the setback and discuss their future political options. The meeting was attended by former ministers S P Velumani, C Ve Shanmugam, Natham Viswanathan and P Thangamani, who had earlier opposed the party leadership and supported the Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) gov-

ernment during the Assembly trust vote on May 13. Sources said the leaders discussed the possibility of functioning as a separate group in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Although no official statement was issued after the meeting, the dissidents reportedly considered ways to consolidate different factions within the party. They have also advocated bringing previously expelled leaders, including TTV Dhinakaran, back into the AIADMK fold. Despite their differences with the leadership, the group maintains that its members remain part of the party.

The latest developments follow months



of unrest after the AIADMK lost the April Assembly election and its position as the principal opposition party. The party's leadership has also faced dissatisfaction from rebel members who claim their requests to regain key organisational positions were ignored. Most of the leaders, except Shanmugam, had earlier signed an apology letter and returned to the party after supporting the government during the trust vote. The political setback has affected both major Dravidian parties, with the TVK emerging as the governing force under Vijay. The party formed a minority government with support from the DMK's long-term allies.

Delhi HC orders takedown of Kangana Ranaut deepfakes

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the removal of artificial intelligence (AI)-generated, fake and obscene content involving Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and actor Kangana Ranaut from online platforms. The court has also restrained unauthorised use of her name, image, likeness, voice, speeches and other personality attributes.

Justice Vikas Mahajan, in an order passed on October 8, directed Meta to remove identified infringing content within 72 hours of receiving the order. The directive covers videos, reels, posts, accounts and channels that unlawfully use or imitate Ranaut's persona. Meta has also been instructed to file a compliance affidavit within two weeks.

The interim order followed a lawsuit filed by Ranaut seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights. Her lawyer objected to sexual and pornographic material, fake news and AI-generated content falsely attributing statements to the actor and politician. Although the plea also raised concerns about



objectionable satirical content, including memes, the lawyer did not seek interim relief against such material at this stage.

The court directed the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Telecommunications to issue necessary instructions to internet service providers and telecom operators to block identified infringing websites within two weeks.

The court further extended protection to AI-generated and morphed sexual content and explicit deepfakes. It clarified that websites or social media accounts mistakenly blocked under the order could approach the court with an undertaking that they would not infringe Ranaut's personality rights. The court may then consider modifying the injunction.

Bullet train project clears a major rail crossing hurdle

VADODARA

India's first bullet train project has achieved a major construction milestone in Gujarat's Vadodara, with the installation of all 14 portal beams over the busy Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani railway line as part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. The milestone marks significant progress in constructing the elevated track for the country's first high-speed rail corridor. With the portal beam installation completed, construction will move to the next stage, involving the launching of 40-metre-long composite girders to advance the elevated viaduct.

The Vadodara stretch of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor is approximately 8.3 km long. The

alignment crosses five railway lines operated by Indian Railways, including two main lines, and passes diagonally over the heavily used Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani route. The completion of the 14 portal beams clears a key structural stage in the Vadodara section. The upcoming installation of composite girders will help extend the elevated structure

and bring the project closer to completing this section of the high-speed rail alignment. The Vadodara milestone represents progress in constructing the specialised infrastructure required for the corridor, including elevated tracks across existing railway routes. The next phase will focus on placing the long composite girders as work continues on the elevated viaduct.

India condemns Hormuz ship attacks; 2 sailors missing

NEW DELHI

India on Monday condemned attacks on two commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz region on October 11, 2026, after two Indian seafarers went missing following a reported drone strike on a tanker near Oman.

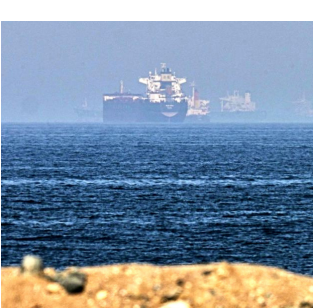
The vessel, MT Petro Dolphin, carrying 11 Indian crew members, was reportedly struck by a drone at Sohar Anchorage. Two seafarers were reported missing following the incident. The attack has raised concerns over the safety of Indian nationals working aboard commercial

ships operating in the strategically important maritime region. A second vessel, MT Valthera, a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, was struck by an unidentified projectile, triggering a fire onboard. All 11 Indian seafarers aboard the vessel were reported safe, according to the statement issued by Indian authorities. India strongly condemned the attacks on commercial vessels and stressed the importance of ensuring the safety of seafarers and maritime traffic in the region.

The Embassy of India in Muscat is closely monitoring

2 Indian sailors missing	11 Indians on MT Petro Dolphin	11 Indians safe on MT Valthera
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developments and coordinating with Omani authorities and the respective ship management companies. The embassy is working to facilitate the rescue of the missing Indian crew members and provide all possible assistance to the affected seafarers. Authorities are continuing coordination efforts following the incidents, while the status of the two missing crew members aboard MT Petro



Dolphin remains a key concern.

KERALAM SENIOR CITIZENS BILL

Keralam bill proposes 3-year jail term for elderly abuse

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Keralam government's proposed Senior Citizens (Care and Protection) Bill, 2026, provides for imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of Rs 50,000 for family members who mentally harass elderly persons, force them to leave their homes or abandon them at care facilities. The bill, cleared by the state Cabinet last week, is scheduled to be introduced in the Assembly on Tuesday. The proposed legislation



aims to strengthen the protection, dignity and welfare of senior citizens by defining cruelty to include mental harassment. Family members covered under the bill include children, adopted children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law

and grandchildren. If these relatives are absent, siblings will be considered family members under the proposed provisions. Attempts by relatives or caregivers to siphon off the wealth of elderly persons could also attract imprisonment of up to three years.

The bill proposes stricter regulation of old-age homes, making registration mandatory and prescribing minimum standards for their operation. Those running care homes without registration or violating registration requirements

could face imprisonment of up to one year. The legislation also provides for state- and district-level senior citizen protection units to strengthen implementation and enforcement. Every police station would designate an assistant sub-inspector-rank officer as a nodal officer to address issues affecting elderly residents.

The proposed law outlines several rights for senior citizens, including affordable care services, legal assistance, accessible government digital

services and support facilities such as hearing aids and spectacles at reasonable rates. It also provides for preference for elderly women in receiving protection and care.

The government also plans caregiver training programmes, a registry of certified caregivers and complaint redressal mechanisms. Dedicated senior citizen cells would be established in cybercrime police stations to address online and artificial intelligence-based fraud targeting elderly people.

What the bill proposes
Jail term Up to three years and Rs 50,000 fine for relatives who harass or abandon elders
Care homes Registration mandatory; up to a year in jail without it
Police An ASI-rank nodal officer at every police station
Cyber cells Senior citizen cells against online and AI-based fraud

Quick Read

Indian embassy monitors Riyadh airport attack

RIYADH

The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia is monitoring injured Indian nationals following the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The Embassy confirmed that one Indian national died, three remain in intensive care in stable condition, and two are receiving treatment in general wards. The remaining injured nationals have been discharged. Embassy officials visited hospitals across Saudi Arabia and thanked authorities for providing medical care. The mission assured the victims' families of all possible assistance. The deceased, Mohammed Yusuf Ali, was from Hyderabad. His two sons and an aunt were also injured in the attack.

Assaults on South Australian police officers rise 25%

SYDNEY

Assaults on police officers in South Australia rose by 25 per cent, despite declines in several other crime categories, according to official statistics released on Monday. South Australia Police reported that assaults on officers on duty increased from 635 to 793 in the 12 months ending August 2026. This marked the 12th consecutive increase in such offences. Meanwhile, robberies declined by 13 per cent, from 501 to 438. Homicide-related offences fell by 21 per cent, from 53 to 42, while retail thefts decreased by three per cent. However, residential break-ins rose to 5,947, and non-residential break-ins increased to 3,513. Sexual offences also edged up to 2,718. Assistant Commissioner David O'Donovan attributed the decline in robberies to targeted action against repeat offenders, including detention and strict bail conditions.

Djibouti boat disaster death toll rises to 139

DJIBOUTI

The death toll from a migrant boat capsizing off the coast of Djibouti has risen to 139, while 84 people remain missing, according to reports. The boat was carrying migrants travelling towards Yemen when it capsized. Rescue teams have continued searching for missing passengers amid fears that the death toll could rise further. The tragedy highlights the dangers faced by migrants undertaking hazardous sea journeys in search of better opportunities. Authorities and humanitarian organisations are monitoring the situation and assisting survivors. The incident has renewed concerns over migrant safety and the need for safer migration routes.

Over 100 foreign trekkers stranded in flood-hit Nepal

KATHMANDU

More than 100 foreign trekkers remain stranded in flood-hit areas of Nepal, an official said on Monday, as rescue operations continued despite a decline in floodwaters. The Nepalese Army said rescue teams were continuing their operations to reach people trapped in affected areas. Authorities and rescue teams are working to reach those affected and assess the situation.

‘S. KOREA-US ALLIANCE INTACT DESPITE CONFLICTING INTERESTS’

The controversy erupted after Unification Minister Chung Dong-young’s remarks regarding a suspected North Korean uranium enrichment facility in Kusong and related issues.

SEOUL

South Korea’s Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Monday dismissed concerns that the country’s alliance with the United States was weakening, saying the two nations continued to share common values despite differences in their national interests.

Chung said an alliance did not require both countries to agree on every issue.

The minister’s remarks came amid opposition criti-

cism over US restrictions on sharing intelligence with South Korea. The controversy followed his comments about a suspected North Korean uranium enrichment facility in Kusong and other related issues.

Chung described the summit between South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump in New York last month as a milestone in advancing South Korea’s national interests.

He also rejected allegations that his remarks about the Ku-



song facility had damaged relations with Washington. Chung said the comments were made in July last year, when he was a lawmaker attending his confirmation hearing, rather than while serving as a government minister.

He added that he had explained the circumstances to US officials and asked South Korea’s ambassador to the United States to clarify the matter.

Meanwhile, South Korea’s National Intelligence Service (NIS) said that the two countries continued to cooperate on a wide range of intelligence matters, including North Korean missile activities and conventional military capabilities.

The agency acknowledged restrictions in certain areas but denied reports that the overall volume of intelligence shared by Washington had declined.

Chung rejected calls from the main opposition People Power Party and other critics for his dismissal and the removal of NIS Director Lee Jong-seok. He described the demands as politically motivated attacks and urged an end to ideological labelling.

The minister maintained that differences between Seoul and Washington did not mean their longstanding alliance was in danger.

Contacts continue on Ukraine energy truce: Kremlin

MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Monday that it had no new information to share about a proposed energy ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, even as contacts on the issue continued.

Russian Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a regular media briefing that discussions were ongoing.

Peskov declined to clarify whether the proposed truce would cover only oil refineries or extend to other energy facilities. He also did not identify the parties involved in the discussions.

The Kremlin’s statement followed an announcement by US President Donald Trump on Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an immediate ceasefire covering energy infrastructure.

Trump announced the agreement on his Truth Social plat-

form, saying both sides had agreed to stop attacking each other’s energy facilities. The White House subsequently repeated the announcement on its official X account.

However, Trump did not provide details about when the agreement was reached, which facilities would be covered, how long the arrangement would remain in force or how compliance would be monitored.

Peskov also criticised European countries while commenting on efforts to resolve the conflict. He claimed that European governments were not part of what he described as the “party of peace” and accused them of taking positions that, in Russia’s view, were preventing the war from ending.

The Kremlin’s latest comments left the status and scope of the proposed energy truce unclear, with further details awaited from the parties involved.



Hormuz security depends on ending the war: Iran

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday warned that security in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz would not return as long as the United States continued its war, rejecting claims by US President Donald Trump that Tehran had lost its influence over the vital waterway.

Esmacil Baghaei, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, made the remarks during a weekly press conference, saying Washington’s statements did not reflect the situation on the ground.

“The Americans can keep saying that Iran has lost its leverage, but we will continue doing our work,” Baghaei was quoted as saying by Iran’s semi-official Tasnim news agency.

He said financial markets operated according to their own rules and were not neces-

sarily influenced by political statements. Baghaei blamed the current situation on what he described as US and Israeli

As long as the US continues the war, security will not return to this waterway”

— Esmacil Baghaei, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson

aggression, adding that Iran had taken measures it considered consistent with international law.

“As long as the US continues the war, security will not return to this waterway,” he said, adding that Tehran did not welcome the prevailing situation and held Washington responsible for creating problems for the region and the wider world.

Baghaei also provided an update on communications

between Tehran and Washington, saying messages continued to be exchanged through mediators. He said seven points under discussion included lifting the blockade, stopping the war on all fronts and releasing Iran’s frozen assets.

Separately, Iran’s Acting Defence Minister, Brigadier General Majid Ibn al-Reza, warned against turning historical and cultural differences into political or military confrontation.

Speaking at a meeting with defence-related industrial organisations, he said promoting a clash between civilisations could have dangerous consequences.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global shipping route for oil and other energy supplies, making tensions in the area a major concern for international markets.

B’desh steps up Durga Puja security for minorities

DHAKA

Bangladesh has introduced extensive security measures at 33,851 Durga Puja venues across the country ahead of the Hindu festival, amid continuing concerns over the safety of religious minorities.

Inspector General of Police Ali Hossain Fakir said a three-tier security plan had been introduced to cover the period leading up to the festival, the celebrations and idol immersion, and the days following the event. Police operations have already begun, according to reports in Bangladeshi media.

Uniformed and plainclothes officers will be deployed alongside Special Weapons and Tactics teams, Crime Response Teams, Quick Response Teams, crime scene vans and bomb disposal units. Police headquarters and other

Puja security	
33,851	PUJA VENUES UNDER WATCH
3	TIERS IN THE POLICE PLAN
2	HELICOPTERS FOR IMMERSION
24 hr	CONTROL ROOM AND HOTLINE

police units will run monitoring cells around the clock to track developments and respond to incidents.

The Special Response Battalion-2 (SRB-2) has announced enhanced intelligence gathering, regular patrols, checkpoints, special motorcycle patrols and a 24-hour control room and hotline service.

SRB-2 Commander Additional Deputy Inspector Gen-

eral Naimul Hasan said two helicopters and drones would be deployed during idol immersion. The battalion has also launched the Surakkha app, allowing people to report incidents at puja venues directly to law enforcement agencies.

Hasan said action would be taken against individuals or groups attempting to disrupt communal harmony through unlawful activities. He added that SRB-2 would coordinate with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police traffic division to manage congestion.

According to Bangladesh’s 2022 census, Hindus account for around eight per cent of the country’s population of nearly 170 million. Durga Puja is the largest annual festival of the Hindu community and is celebrated at thousands of temporary and permanent venues nationwide.

Mongolian President thanks India for oil refinery support

ULAANBAATAR

Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India’s continued support for Mongolia’s first oil refinery project, which is expected to help the country produce refined fuel domestically.

Khurelsukh visited the refinery construction site at Altanshiree Soum in Dornogovi Province on Monday and expressed satisfaction with the progress of the strategically important project, according to the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

During the visit, the Mongolian President interacted with engineers and workers involved in construction and appreciated their efforts. He also acknowledged the contribution of Indian Ambassador to Mongolia Atul Malhari Gotsurve in advancing the

The refinery in numbers

Indian line of credit, 2015

\$1 bn

crude oil processed a year

1.5 mn t

Indian engineers and workers

3,700

project. The Indian Embassy said Khurelsukh described India and Mongolia as “spiritual siblings” and thanked the governments and workforces of both countries for their contribution to the major infrastructure project. The President, the ambassador and other dignitaries also planted a tree at the site.

Khurelsukh was accompanied by Mongolian ministers

responsible for industry and mineral resources, road and transport, and finance, along with Dornogovi Province Governor O. Batjargal, Mongol Refinery Executive Director D. Altantsetseg and other senior officials. The refinery project received a major boost during Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Mongolia in 2015, when India approved a \$1 billion line of credit for infrastructure development. Mongolia decided to use the credit to construct its first oil refinery in Dornogovi Province.

The refinery is designed to process 1.5 million metric tonnes of crude oil annually.

In August, Mongolian Prime Minister N. Uchral also visited the project site and thanked India for supporting its construction. He praised the contribution of around 3,700 Indian engineers and workers involved in the project.

US left-wing challengers topple 3 Indian-American Democrats

WASHINGTON

Three Indian-American Democratic politicians have lost their primaries to progressive or Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)-backed challengers ahead of the November 3 US midterm elections.

Congressman Shri Thanedar of Michigan, New York Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and Georgia state Senate candidate Rahul Garabadu were defeated in their respective contests.

Thanedar, who represents Michigan’s 13th Congressional District, lost the August 4 primary to state Representative Donovan McKinney. McKinney secured 51.9 per cent of the vote against Thanedar’s 48.1 per cent, according to Michigan Public.

McKinney received support from Justice Democrats, which reportedly spent nearly \$1 million on the race. Sena-

HOW THE THREE LOST

MICHIGAN 13TH DISTRICT

McKinney 51.9%, Thanedar 48.1%

NEW YORK ASSEMBLY 38

Orkin 58.8%, Rajkumar 40.9%

GEORGIA SENATE 7 RUNOFF

Romman 4,636 votes, Garabadu 3,073

tor Bernie Sanders and Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar and Summer Lee also backed him. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries supported

Thanedar, who had about \$5 million available for his campaign, compared with \$1.37 million raised by McKinney.

In New York, Rajkumar lost the June 23 primary in Assembly District 38 to DSA member David Orkin. Orkin received 58.8 per cent of the vote, while Rajkumar secured 40.9 per cent, with more than 94 per cent of votes counted.

In Georgia, Garabadu lost the June 16 Democratic runoff for state Senate District 7 to state Representative Ruwa Romman.

Despite these defeats, Indian-American voters continue to lean towards the Democratic Party. A summer survey by AAPi Vote and AAPi Data found that Indian-American voters favoured Democratic House candidates over Republicans by 66 per cent to 18 per cent. All six current Indian-American members of the US House are Democrats.



STRAINED TIES

Bangladesh HM to skip BIMSTEC meet in India

DHAKA

Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed will not attend the first-ever meeting of home ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in New Delhi, amid strained relations between India and Bangladesh.

Home Affairs Senior Secretary Manzur Morshed Chowdhury will lead the country’s delegation at the two-day

meeting, which began on Monday with discussions among senior officials from the home and interior ministries of member states. The home ministers are scheduled to meet on Tuesday.

The meeting aims to strengthen regional security cooperation among the seven BIMSTEC members — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Discussions are expected to cover law enforcement coordination, intelligence

sharing, counterterrorism measures and efforts to combat transnational crime.

The reason for Ahmed’s absence has not been officially specified. However, the decision comes at a time when relations between New Delhi and Dhaka remain strained following the removal of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s government in August 2024. Hasina subsequently fled to India. Her presence in India has become a major point of disagreement

between the two countries. Bangladesh has sought her extradition, while India has said the request is being examined under applicable laws and established legal procedures.

Chowdhury’s delegation is also expected to include senior

officials from Bangladesh’s foreign ministry. Representatives from several other member countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, are expected to attend the ministerial meeting.

Diplomatic friction mars BIMSTEC meet

Amid strained bilateral relations following Sheikh Hasina’s ouster, Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed is skipping the inaugural BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in New Delhi. Dhaka instead sent a delegation led by a senior ministry secretary.





Tsitsipas on comeback win over Fritz

- Tsitsipas defeated 11th seed Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.
- The match lasted two hours and 13 minutes.
- The Greek has recorded 34 tour-level wins in 2026.
- He has secured seven victories against Top-20 opponents this season.
- Tsitsipas will face Daniil Medvedev or Dalibor Svrčina in the fourth round.

Stefanos Tsitsipas Stages Comeback to Beat Fritz

Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Taylor Fritz in three sets at the Shanghai Masters, reaching the fourth round and strengthening his comeback after a challenging, injury-disrupted previous season on tour.

SHANGHAI

Stefanos Tsitsipas rallied from a set down to defeat 11th seed Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, securing a place in the fourth round and continuing his return to form after an injury-disrupted 2025 season.

The Greek struggled to make an impression on Fritz's serve in the opening set, allowing the American to take an early advantage. However, Tsitsipas gradually found his rhythm and improved his attacking game to shift the momentum. He claimed the second set 7-5 before maintaining the pressure in

the decider to complete the comeback in two hours and 13 minutes.

The match featured a dramatic moment when Fritz, serving at 2-5, had a ball fall out of his pocket on consecutive points. Both points were replayed. During the second incident, Tsitsipas missed a match point with a forehand that sailed wide, before Fritz called a let on himself after acknowledging that the ball had fallen from his pocket.

Although Tsitsipas missed three match points in that game, he recovered in the next to close out the contest. The victory improved his head-to-head record against Fritz to 5-2.

The win was Tsitsipas' 34th tour-level victory of the season and his seventh against a Top-20 opponent in 2026. He failed to register a victory against a Top-20 player last year, making the result another encouraging sign of his progress.

The former World No. 3 ended a 16-month title drought by winning in Gstaad in July. He has now reached the fourth round of a Masters 1000 tournament for the second time this season, following his run in Madrid.

A Shanghai semi-finalist in 2019, Tsitsipas will next face either fifth seed Daniil Medvedev or qualifier Dalibor Svrčina.

Hamilton Apologises After Costly Pitlane Error

SINGAPORE

Lewis Hamilton apologised to Ferrari after missing the pit entry during a crucial Virtual Safety Car (VSC) period at the Singapore Grand Prix, costing the team a potential double podium finish.

Ferrari were running second and third behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen when the VSC was triggered by Lance Stroll's retirement. Ferrari team principal Fred Vasseur confirmed that both Hamilton and Charles Leclerc had been instructed to pit for fresh tyres, but Hamilton missed the entry while Leclerc successfully stopped.

Leclerc eventually secured second place after overtaking his teammate, while Hamilton's race unravelled in the closing stages.

Struggling with tyre degradation, the seven-time world champion was overtaken by Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli and McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, dropping to sixth.

Hamilton accepted responsibility for the decision to remain on track after missing the pit entry, describing the experience as a painful lesson. He said the team had called him in under the VSC, but he chose to preserve track position rather than attempt another pit stop.

“Sorry boys, I let you down today with that strategy. My call and I lost us valuable points.”

Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari driver).

Lewis Hamilton apologised to Ferrari after missing a crucial pit entry, costing the team a potential double podium in Singapore.

“Under the VSC, the team called me in but I missed the entry. After that, I decided to stay out and try to hold track position to the end,” Hamilton said. The Briton also apologised over team radio after the race, acknowledging that his decision had cost Ferrari valuable points. He praised the pit crew while promising to recover in the next race.

Vasseur said Ferrari had kept both tyre strategies open depending on the timing of the VSC and believed the team could have finished second and third. He added that there had been no miscommunication.

The missed opportunity was particularly disappointing after Ferrari's strong performance in Saturday's sprint, where Hamilton and Leclerc finished second and third behind Verstappen.

Sachin, Yuvraj, Gambhir, Zaheer know why they had to leave the team: Sandeep Patil

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer and ex-chief selector Sandeep Patil has stated that iconic cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Gautam Gambhir, and Zaheer Khan 'know the reasons' why they were phased out of the national side, adding that his selection committee had to put the future of Indian cricket ahead of personal relationships. Patil, a member of India's 1983 ODI World Cup-winning team, headed the five-member senior men's selection committee during a critical transition phase from 2012 to 2016.

“First of all, I want to make it clear: I wasn't the only one making these decisions. There was a selection panel of five, and I was its chairman. “Whatever decisions we made, we made with the future of Indian cricket in mind. It feels very bad to bring this up today, but legends as great as Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, and Zaheer Khan had to leave the team or retire. They know the reasons.”

“Our job as selectors was to put the interests of the country, the BCCI, and Indian cricket first,” Patil, currently the mentor of Mumbai's senior and age-group men's teams, said.

The tenure of Patil's committee coincided with a major overhaul following the 2011 Men's ODI World Cup triumph, as several veteran stalwarts made way for younger talent across formats. Patil, who was the former head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), now known as the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE), further said about the professional boundaries selectors must maintain with players as they had to take decisions that impacted long-term friendships.

China Open champion Zheng Qinwen, Andreeva withdraw from Wuhan Open

BEIJING

China Open champion Zheng Qinwen and Russian tennis player Mirra Andreeva have withdrawn from the Wuhan Open following their final in Beijing, with Zheng citing a right shoulder injury and Andreeva opting out because of a scheduling change.

Zheng defeated Andreeva 7-5, 6-4 to become the first Chinese player to win the China Open. The victory also secured her maiden WTA 1000 title and her first singles trophy since winning in Tokyo in 2024.

However, the title-winning campaign followed a demanding period for Zheng, who



recently returned to competition after an injury layoff. She subsequently competed at the US Open, the Billie Jean King Cup and the China Open, leaving her physically fatigued. In a statement an-

nouncing her withdrawal, Zheng expressed regret at missing the tournament, which holds special significance for her as her hometown event. She said the intense run of matches had tak-

en a toll on her body and that she hoped to return next year in her best possible condition.

The withdrawals have triggered changes to the Wuhan singles draw. American teenager Iva Jovic will replace Andreeva in the draw and receive a direct passage into the second round. Anna Bondar, entering as a lucky loser, will take Jovic's original position and face Mia Pohankova on Monday.

Zheng's vacancy will be filled by lucky loser Camila Osorio, who is scheduled to face Ann Li in the opening round on Tuesday. The Beijing title has significantly improved Zheng's ranking prospects.

Lack of dew and Indian bowlers execution made the difference in Indore, says Springer

INDORE

West Indies all-rounder Shamar Springer said that the lack of dew and disciplined bowling by India's bowlers on a low-bounce pitch were the difference as the visitors lost by 14 runs in the third T20I held at the Holkar Stadium.

Chasing 224, the West Indies scored only 209/7, though Springer made an unbeaten 35, including hitting Axar Patel for three fours and a six in the final over. “I thought the Indian boys executed really well today in the middle, kind of stifled us and eventually left us with too many runs at the end. We thought the wicket would play a little better.”

“The ball was keeping a little lower than we anticipated. We also thought there might

be some dew in the second innings, but there wasn't really that much dew. And as I said, the nature of the wicket was a little low (and) the Indian bowlers used the wicket a lot better than us,” said Springer in the post-game press conference.

India had earlier posted a formidable 223, thanks mainly to Abhishek Sharma's 69 off 30 balls and his 108-run stand for the second wicket with Ishan Kishan (37 off 18 balls). “He's a world-class player. Kudos to him, for sure. But I guess our Plan B was to just be as defensive as possible and try to make him get singles and twos rather than boundaries. Nothing too extravagant.”

“It was just a matter of trying to pull him back and be as defensive as possible.

LIVERPOOL

Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville has praised Manchester City for their commanding 3-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield, which came amid scrutiny surrounding Premier League financial charges.

Enzo Maresca's side produced a magnificent all-round display to silence the hostile Anfield crowd and maintain their perfect start to the season, making it six wins from six in the league.

Down the years Anfield has rarely been a happy hunting ground for the Blues. But victory made it successive wins at Anfield following on from City's 2-1 win here in February. In the process it meant the Blues enjoyed back-to-back league victories at Liverpool's home for the first



time since January 1953.

“Anfield is a very difficult ground to win at. Those City players and staff are celebrating together. Liverpool fans are singing 'you're going down.' So you get a sense of the background of this game.

charges related to serious financial breaches last month. As a result, heavy points deduction or relegation are looming over the club, which, however, strongly deny the accusations and are expected to launch an immediate appeal.

“That's the first Man City game I've done since the charges came out a few weeks ago. I did say if you could take me off Man City games until the verdict, that'd be perfect.”

“We should be able to praise the win without the thing in the back of your mind. Ruben Dias, Gianluigi Donnarumma and Elliott Anderson were excellent. At the end of the game you're imagining if the guilty verdicts are confirmed there's going to be a cloud over the club,” Neville added.

PCB relocates President's Trophy games amid political unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

NEW DELHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has revised the President's Trophy Grade 1 schedule, shifting matches from Peshawar and Abbottabad to Lahore and Sheikhupura following political unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The changes follow the federal government's declaration of emergency and imposition of governor's rule in the province. Matches scheduled in Islamabad and Rawalpindi will continue as planned.

Under the revised schedule,

Ghani will face Hyderabad Kingsmen Academy at Rana Naveed Academy in Sheikhupura on October 14. The SNG-PL-OGDCL match will take place at Lahore's LCCA Ground on the same day.

The LCCA Ground will also host Markhor IT Solutions against Pakistan TV in the final league round. Meanwhile, Islamabad will stage Hyderabad Kingsmen Academy's clash with State Bank of Pakistan. The final league round now begins on October 19. The top two teams will contest the final, whose venue remains unannounced.

Australia Unveils Special Anniversary Test Whites

MELBOURNE

Australia will wear a special edition of their traditional Test whites featuring green and gold for the 150th Anniversary Test against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) next March, Cricket Australia (CA) announced on Monday.

The special kit was unveiled 150 days before the historic match, which is scheduled to begin on March 11. The day-night Test will be played with the pink ball, with public tickets for the first three days already sold out.

The commemorative uniform retains the design of Australia's current Test kit, introduced during the 2025-26 summer, while incorporating distinctive gold detailing to mark the occasion. The golden wattle-coloured trimmings have been replaced with gold, and a green placket has been added to the shirt.

Gold accents will also feature on the collar, buttons and piping along the side seams of the shirt and trousers. The sleeve will carry the anniversary Test logo in gold alongside the logo of Japanese sportswear manufacturer Asics.

The kit will retain Indigenous artwork by renowned Aboriginal artist Auntie Fiona Clarke on the shoulders. Titled ‘Land & Sea’, the design incorporates the Walkabout Wickets motif and extends the tribute to Australia's first touring cricket team, the 1868 Aboriginal XI, which travelled to England.

The anniversary match will celebrate the longstanding cricketing rivalry between Australia and England, whose first Test meeting took place in 1877 at the MCG. The upcoming fixture will mark 150 years since that historic encounter.

“The special edition kit celebrates 150 years of Test cricket between Australia and England, honouring one of the sport's most historic rivalries.”

Cricket Australia (Official statement paraphrase).

The ‘Land & Sea’ artwork pays tribute to Australia's Indigenous cricketing heritage and the historic 1868 Aboriginal XI that toured England.

Cricket Australia (Official statement paraphrase).

