



PM GatiShakti covers 396 projects worth ₹18.66L cr

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'S. Korea-US alliance intact despite conflicting interests'



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Stefanos Tsitsipas Stages Comeback to Beat Fritz



INDIA bloc moves SC against SIR

Oppn holds a protest march to SC, mobilising large crowds.



Rahul was unable to reach the SC personally due to crowd swelling.

Oppn subsequently filed a petition through Registrar General instead of meeting CJI directly.

Petition names EC, CEC and two ECs as respondents.



Matter is scheduled for a hearing in the top court.

NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc leaders, led by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging large-scale voter deletions and irregularities in the electoral roll revisions.

The plea also raises concerns over restrictions on peaceful demonstrations.

The petition was filed after INDIA bloc MPs and supporters took out a 'March for Democracy' towards the Supreme Court to protest the alleged electoral irregularities in the SIR. Gandhi's legal team subsequently filed the plea on behalf of the Congress leader and other Opposition leaders.

The public interest litigation (PIL) named 11 Opposition leaders as petitioners: Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Trinamool Congress leader Saugata Roy, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, CPI(M) leader MA Baby, CPI leader D Raja, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Mahua Majhi, NCP-SCP leader Supriya Sule



and IUML leader ET Mohammed Basheer.

The EC has been named as one of the four respondents in the plea. Further details of the petition, including the specific directions sought, are yet to be made public.

The INDIA bloc leaders had earlier sought permission to meet Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, but their request was denied. The CJI noted that discussing issues already pending before the Supreme Court in such a meeting would go against the principle of separation of powers.

Turn approver, Rahul tells Gyanesh Kumar

Earlier, Gandhi had announced his decision to approach the Supreme Court after the Chief Justice of India declined a request for a meeting with the Leaders of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Gandhi called on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to resign and "turn approver", alleging that the ECI chief was not the person behind the alleged wrongdoing. "Resign, turn approver; you (Kumar) have made a mistake but you are not the mind behind the mistake," Gandhi said. Gandhi asserted that the Opposition's campaign would continue for as long as necessary. He also claimed that around 200 government officers were in touch with the Opposition and providing it with information.

Details of the march & petition

➔ **March to the SC:** Opposition holds 'March for Democracy' to SC, breaching police barricades and briefly bringing major stretches of the capital to a standstill amid heavy security deployment and files petition against EC.

➔ **Core demands:** INDIA bloc leaders seek SC's intervention in voter deletions, SIR irregularities, halt to the controversial SIR process, an independent investigation into mass voter list deletions, resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, and a return to the paper ballot format.

➔ **CJI's response:** Prior to the march, CJI Surya Kant declined a request by Gandhi and Kharge for a direct administrative meeting, noting that the court's doors are open to everyone via the judicial process, but a private meeting was inappropriate as the electoral roll matters are already sub judice.

➔ **What's next:** The SC registry has been directed to process the petition immediately. A bench led by Justice Surya Kant is expected to take up the matter.

'Jantar Mantar no longer a protest site'

Govt designates 3 other sites in Delhi.

3 newly-designated stir venues

- ➔ Ramila Ground in Old Delhi.
- ➔ CBD Ground in East Delhi.
- ➔ Burari Ground in North Delhi.

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated venue for protests and demonstrations, naming three alternative sites for such gatherings. The move comes amid a standoff with the CJP over permission to hold a peaceful protest and heightened security in the capital ahead of the INDIA bloc's planned march to the Supreme Court.

As per a standing order dated October 11, 2026, the three newly-designated venues are Ramila Ground in Old Delhi, CBD Ground in East Delhi and Burari Ground in North Delhi. Notably, these three sites are

3-km, 13.5-km, and 44-km away from Jantar Mantar in Central Delhi respectively.

The order, signed by Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar, partially modifies an earlier standing order dated April 28, 2022, which had designated Jantar Mantar as a protest venue. The police said detailed, revised standard operating procedures (SOPs) governing the organisation of protests and demonstrations at the three new venues would be issued separately.

Cong seeks to save democracy: CM

Bengaluru: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has criticised the refusal of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to meet with Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, saying the voices of India's people must be heard and the political establishment held accountable for failing to engage with the opposition. Speaking to reporters here, he described the INDIA bloc's efforts as a fundamental struggle to safeguard citizens' rights.



"In public life, we try every avenue to save this country's democracy and the right of every citizen to vote. The right to vote is the right to live, and it is our life. So, this has

been going on, this is the voice of the country, is the leader of the opposition. In democracy, anything is possible." He added, "The voice of the people of this country has to be heard. When the Election Commission doesn't meet [the opposition], the Prime Minister should call them and ask, 'What is your problem?'" The CM explained that the alliance's request for a meeting with the CJI arose from the failure of other means to address grievances. "Since there was no other option, we had to request an appointment with the CJI. Unfortunately, because the courts have been shut down on this issue, the courts don't want to interfere with these common public interest litigations."

Metro Pink Line may open on Ayudha puja or Rajyotsava

BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC) is preparing for the inauguration of the city's much-awaited metro route Pink Line.

The fitness certificate that BMRC needs to get before inauguration is likely to reach this week itself, and the route will soon be open for commercial operations.

The first phase of Pink Line Metro, one of the city's major metro routes, is nearing inauguration. Work on the 7.5-km-long elevated section has been completed, and the inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety has also been successful, and the safety re-



CORE DETAILS

Pink Line inauguration may take place on November 1.

The 21.26-km corridor includes underground and elevated sections.

Key technical approvals and the safety inspection are complete.

port is likely to reach BMRC this week itself.

Last week, the CMRS successfully completed three days of inspection of the route. In the background of completion of inspection, the fitness certifi-

cate of the route is likely to reach BMRC this week itself. The route which was already supposed to be open for commercial operations is getting postponed due to various reasons. It has now reached the final stage, and if the fitness certificate reaches this week, the opening of the route for traffic will also be even closer.

The BMRC is also preparing with this expectation and if the report reaches this week, there is a possibility of opening the route for commercial operations around Ayudha Puja or Kannada Rajyotsava.

The BMRC has also started preparations for inaugurating the route to put a brake on people's waiting.

CBSE Class 12 exams in conflict-hit West Asia from Oct 23-28

New Delhi: The CBSE will conduct Class 12 board exams in West Asian countries from October 23-28 for candidates who were dissatisfied with their marks as per the special assessment scheme, which was developed due to exam cancellation in view of the prevailing war situation, officials said on Monday. CBSE had cancelled the Class 12 board exams in seven Middle Eastern countries -- Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE -- for 40 subjects, including 20 academic papers, according to examination controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

Former Rajasthan BJP MLA beaten to death with sticks

JAIPUR

Former BJP MLA Atar Singh Bhadana was killed after he was allegedly attacked by a group of villagers over a dispute regarding the reopening of a stone crusher in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday night in Bhonda village, where Bhadana had gone to his stone crusher site. Bhadana and local villagers had been involved in a dispute over the crusher for some time.

As per reports, circle officer



(Bhusawar) Neeraj Bhardwaj said Bhadana and his associate, Gagan Sharma, were allegedly attacked with sticks and stones during the confrontation. Both sustained serious injuries and were initial-

ly taken to a hospital in Weir. Bhadana was later referred to SMS Hospital in Jaipur, while Sharma was referred to a hospital in Bharatpur, who succumbed during the treatment.

Police said villagers had accused Bhadana of encroaching on grazing land and carrying out illegal mining activities.

The crusher had remained closed for about a year, and efforts to restart it had led to further disagreements. Villagers claimed they had been staging a peaceful protest for the past 10 to 15 days against the proposed reopening of the stone crusher.

HOW TO STABILISE ECONOMIES

Hall, Woodford win 2026 Economics Nobel

STOCKHOLM

Two US economists have won the 2026 Nobel economics prize for their work developing models that help central bankers and finance ministers to stabilise their countries, avoiding long recessions and runaway inflation.

Robert Hall of Stanford University, California, and Michael Woodford of Columbia University, New York, were recognised for developing the "microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation", giving policymakers better tools to smooth out the peaks and troughs of their economies.

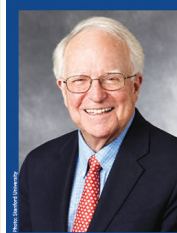
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said it was recognising the pair for generating "a paradigm shift in stabilisation policy", awarding them the prize worth a combined \$1.2m (£900,000).

DETAILS OF THE AWARD

➔ **Laureates:** Robert E Hall (Stanford University) and Michael Woodford (Columbia University).

➔ **Core contribution:** Reconstructed macroeconomic models by building them on microeconomic foundations rather than just top-level statistical links. (Columbia University).

➔ **Impact:** Showed how forward-looking households and businesses react to central bank and government communication, allowing better-timed fiscal and monetary policies to smooth economic peaks and troughs.



"New Keynesian models, a result of their research, allow us to explain and quantify how stabilisation policy affects business cycles and are now used by central banks and finance ministries around the world," the academy said.

These models improved on John Maynard Keynes's stabilisation models, which struggled to handle the impact of the oil shock in the 1970s,

when countries suffered high inflation, weak growth and high unemployment at the same time. Hall and Woodford demonstrated how traditional models could be reconstructed, based on how individual households and businesses collectively affect an economy through their actions.

Hall's work was based on forward-looking consumer behaviour rather than the more

mechanical rules of thumb used by Keynes, which linked key variables such as inflation, unemployment and gross domestic product (GDP).

Woodford built on this work to create the New Keynesian model, a full macroeconomic stabilisation framework that is the main tool for policymakers now. This model was used after the 2008 financial crisis by policymakers as they steered the global economy away from the risk of a second great depression.

"The laureates' work has provided us with a stable theoretical foundation for the models that are now used by central banks and governments around the world. With them, we are better equipped to deal with shocks in the economy, such as energy crises or sudden changes in how much households consume," John Hassler, the chair of the committee for the economics prize, said.

Centre nod to shift South Karnataka Postal Region HQ to Mysuru

CH NEWS, MYSURU

In a significant development for Mysuru, the Union Government has given in-principle approval to shift the headquarters of the South Karnataka Postal Region from Bengaluru to Mysuru, following sustained efforts by Mysuru-Kodagu Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, has communicated the decision to Yaduveer in an official letter, acknowledging the MP's earlier representation seeking the relocation of the regional headquarters.

In his communication, Scindia said the Department of Posts had examined the

matter as part of its ongoing exercise to revamp and optimise its administrative structure. The proposal to relocate the headquarters from Bengaluru to Mysuru was found justified, and in-principle approval has been accorded. The Minister further clarified that the relocation will be undertaken after completing the necessary formalities, including identifying and ensuring

The proposal to relocate the headquarters from Bengaluru to Mysuru was found justified

the availability of suitable premises to house the regional office.

Yaduveer had taken up the matter with the Union Gov-



ernment through his official letter dated August 7, 2026, highlighting the importance of bringing key administrative institutions closer to Mysuru and strengthening the city's role as a regional administrative centre.

Decentralising administration The decision marks an important step towards decentralising administrative functions and bringing a major regional government office to Mysuru. The relocation is expected to enhance the city's

administrative significance and improve accessibility for stakeholders across the South Karnataka Postal Region.

The MP has thanked Scindia and the Department of Posts for examining the proposal and according in-principle approval.

Commitment to Mysuru

He reiterated his commitment to pursuing initiatives that strengthen Mysuru's infrastructure, expand its institutional presence and promote balanced regional development across the Mysuru-Kodagu constituency.

The MP's office will continue to follow up with the concerned authorities to facilitate the completion of the remaining formalities and the eventual relocation of the headquarters to Mysuru.

Micro foggers keep Dasara flower show fresh in scorching heat

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Micro foggers have been installed inside the Glass House at Kuppanna Park to preserve the freshness of flowers at the Dasara Flower Show, organised by the Department of Horticulture from October 11 to 21, 2026, under the theme "Festival of Democracy," said Roopashree, Joint Director of the Department of Horticulture.

In view of the prevailing high temperatures, micro foggers have been installed inside the Glass House to keep the flowers fresh. To maintain the freshness of the flowers and preserve the beauty of the displays, the department has made arrangements to replace the flowers in the second phase on October 16, 2026.

The Dasara Flower Show at the Glass House in Kuppanna Park has been receiving an encouraging response and appreciation from the public, citizens and tourists.

The main attraction of the exhibition is a massive floral replica of the Karnataka Vidhana Soudha, measuring



57 feet in width, 20 feet in length and 37 feet in height. It has been created using around two lakh red roses, 4,000 chrysanthemum flowers and various green leaves.

Other attractions include floral representations of the three pillars of democracy — the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary — along with models of ballot boxes and electronic voting machines (EVMs). Artistic displays highlighting the importance of voting among women, youth and senior citizens are also drawing visitors' attention.

A floral portrait of Rajarshi Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and a floral interpretation of

Floral Vidhana Soudha

57 ft wide	37 ft high
2 lakh red roses	4,000 chrysanthemums

the historic Stone Chariot of Hampi are among the other highlights of the exhibition.

The exhibition has been organised systematically with the support of various government departments, public and private organisations, and sponsors. The encouraging public response and appreciation reflect the success of the event, Roopashree said in a press release.

Youth awareness key to AIDS eradication: Dr Brinda B

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Youth awareness and responsible behaviour are essential to eliminate AIDS and prevent its spread in society, said Dr Brinda B, District AIDS Control Officer.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a district-level five-kilometre marathon organised jointly by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Maharani's Women's Arts College, Mysuru, and the Office of the District AIDS Prevention and Control Officer.

The marathon began on the college campus. Dr Brinda emphasised the importance of creating awareness among young people about health and AIDS prevention through such programmes. She urged the youth to exercise caution and responsibility in their lives and remain alert to the risks associated with HIV/AIDS.

Rajendra, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Devaraja Sub-Division, Mysuru, flagged off the marathon. He said participation

in health-awareness programmes would help young people contribute to building a healthy society.

Presiding over the programme, college principal Dr M.S. Anita called upon young people to spread awareness in society and help prevent the spread of AIDS in the district and the State.

Dr K.S. Bhaskar, Director of Physical Education and NSS Programme Officer, welcomed the gathering. More

The winners
■ **First (₹5,000):** Purushotham, Manasagangothri; Ashwini, Teresian First Grade College
■ **Second (₹3,500):** Srujan, Yuvaraja College; Prakruthi, K.M.P.R.M. First Grade College
■ **Third (₹2,500):** Yathin K., Maharaja's College; Arpitha H., Teresian First Grade College

than 70 student-athletes from various colleges across the district participated in the event.



In the men's category, Purushotham of Manasagangothri secured first place, while Ashwini of Teresian First Grade College won the women's title. Both winners will represent Mysuru district at the State-level marathon scheduled to be held in Davanagere on October 17. Each winner received a cash prize of ₹5,000.

Srujan of Yuvaraja College secured second place in the men's category, while Prakruthi of K.M.P.R.M. First Grade College, T. Narasipur, finished second among women. Both received ₹3,500 each.

Yathin K. of Maharaja's College secured third place in the men's category, while Ar-

pitha H. of Teresian First Grade College finished third in the women's category. Each received ₹2,500.

Jayakumar, president of the Green Lions organisation, personally donated trophies to all the winners.

The programme was attended by NSS programme officers Dr Lingaraju and Dr Vijayalakshmi; Dr H.V. Udayakumar, principal of T. Narasipur First Grade College; Dr H.S. Krishnakumar, Assistant Director of Physical Education, University of Mysore; Dr Mohan Kumar, teaching and non-teaching staff of Maharani's College; officials from the District AIDS Control Office; and NSS volunteers.

Asia-Pacific Deaf Championship medal winners felicitated

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Three hearing-impaired athletes from Karnataka, who represented India and won medals at the Asia-Pacific Deaf Multi-Sports Championship 2026 held in Penang, Malaysia, were felicitated by

Medal haul	
3	AMBIKA MASAGI: 1 GOLD, 2 SILVER
2	SHREYA: 2 GOLD
1	RISHITHA: BRONZE IN RELAY

various organisations in Mysuru.

Rishitha of Mysuru won a bronze medal in the 4×100-metre relay race. Shreya of Hassan won two gold medals, one each in the Chess Blitz Championship and the Mixed Rapid event.

Ambika Nagappa Masagi



of Dharwad brought laurels to the country by winning a silver medal in the Chess Blitz Championship, a gold medal in Mixed Rapid and a silver medal in the women's Classical category.

The medal-winning athletes were felicitated by internationally-differently-abled sportsperson Alok Jain at a private hotel near Ramaswamy Circle in Mysuru. He honoured them

and wished them success in their future sporting endeavours.

Mysuru Deaf Association president Murthy, vice-president Mahesh Verma, former corporator M.D. Parthasarathy, social workers Gagan Gowda, Amit and Arjun, coach Raghavendra, Lion Subramanya, and the athletes' family members and admirers were present on the occasion.

MLA Srivatsa seeks 'Rajarshi Krishnaraja Administration Day', memorial for Vasudevacharya

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Krishnaraja Assembly Constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take steps to preserve Mysuru's historical and cultural heritage by declaring June 4, the birth anniversary of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, as 'Rajarshi Krishnaraja Administration Day', developing the house of renowned musician Mysore K. Vasudevacharya into a memorial, and providing funds for the development of Sri Karaga Temple at Ittigegud.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Srivatsa highlighted the contributions of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who ruled the erstwhile Mysore State from 1902 to 1940. Describing his reign as a golden era in the State's history, the

MLA recalled Mahatma Gandhi's recognition of the Maharaja as 'Rajarshi'.

KRS dam and Shivanasamudra

Srivatsa pointed to the Maharaja's contributions to social justice and reservation, the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam, and the establishment of the hydroelectric power project at Shivanasamudra, among other initiatives.

He said the ideals, achievements and administrative legacy of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar should be introduced to the younger generation. Declaring his birth anniversary as 'Rajarshi Krishnaraja Administration Day', he said, would help honour his contributions and preserve the State's historical heritage.

The MLA also sought the development of the house of

Sangeetha Kalanidhi Mysore K. Vasudevacharya in Aghara, Mysuru, which has been declared a heritage building by the government. He proposed converting the house



Request 1 June 4 as "Rajarshi Krishnaraja Administration Day"

Request 2 A memorial at Vasudevacharya's house

Request 3 Funds for Sri Karaga Temple, Ittigegud

into a memorial, music study centre or cultural centre showcasing the musician's life, compositions and contributions to Karnataka's musical heritage.

Pointing out that Vasudevacharya composed more

than 200 musical compositions, Srivatsa said his legacy deserved to be preserved and passed on to future generations. He also requested the government to issue an official order to organise a government-sponsored Jayanti programme on May 28, the musician's birth anniversary.

In his third request, Srivatsa sought financial assistance for the comprehensive development of Sri Karaga Temple at Ittigegud. He said the temple, with a history of about a century, was closely associated with the religious beliefs, cultural traditions and practices of the people of Mysuru.

Citing his association with Mysuru, particularly the Ittigegud area, the MLA urged the government to allocate the necessary funds for the temple's development and preservation of its heritage.

BJP women's wing stages dharna over JNU harassment case

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Mysuru City Mahila Morcha staged a protest near Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry in Mysuru on Monday, demanding justice for women and calling for accountability over allegations of sexual harassment involving students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

According to reports, 11 female students have levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Prof. Angomcha Bimol Alokjiam, a JNU professor and Congress MP representing the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency in Manipur.

Reports stated that, following an inquiry by the university's internal committee, an order was issued on October 9, 2026, dismissing him from his position as a professor. He had previously denied the allegations. Some student representatives have also re-

portedly raised objections regarding the procedures followed in the case.

Addressing the issue, the protesters stressed that women's safety and dignity must be given priority over political considerations. They said educational institutions should be places where female students can pursue knowledge, develop confidence and feel secure.

They emphasised that complaints from female students must be taken seriously, investigated transparently and addressed in accordance with the law and established rules. The protesters also called upon all political parties that advocate women's rights to uphold accountability and transparency in dealing with such serious allegations.

The protest reiterated the demand that justice for women, their dignity and their safety must remain the highest priority.



The protest was presided over by Mysuru City Mahila Morcha president Monika. General secretaries Kaveri and Rashmi were among those present.

Other participants included Mysuru City BJP general secretaries Somasundar and C.K. Rudramurthy; vice-president T.N. Shantha; corporator Pramila Bharath; State Mahila Morcha vice-president Prafulla Malnadi; and leaders Hema Nandish, Shobha and Lakshmi.

Mahila Morcha mandal presidents Chandrakala, Sar-

vamangala, Putamani and Anita also participated, along with Manjula, Sudhamani, Roopa, Vatsala, Rashmi and another Manjula.

Rural Mahila Morcha

Representatives of the Rural Mahila Morcha, including Venkatamma, Poornima and Jayalakshmi, were also present. Other BJP leaders who attended included vice-presidents Maipu Rajesh, S. Muralidhar and Rakesh Gowda, as well as mandal presidents Dinesh Gowda, P.T. Ravi, Manjunath and Rakesh Bhat.

CPR training to help save lives during cardiac arrest

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administered promptly when a person suffers a cardiac arrest, can significantly improve the chances of survival. With the aim of creating public awareness about this life-saving first-aid technique, Kaveri Heart and Multispecialty Hospital, Mysuru, in association with the Mysuru chapter of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM), organised a CPR training programme on Sunday.

The programme was held to mark National Critical Care Day and witnessed the participation of more than 200 people, including members of the public and students.

Doctors demonstrated the practical steps involved in



recognising the symptoms of cardiac arrest, seeking emergency medical assistance and performing CPR by delivering chest compressions until medical personnel arrive.

Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar, chairman of Kaveri Hospital,

What doctors taught

- 1 Recognise the symptoms of cardiac arrest
- 2 Seek emergency medical assistance
- 3 Perform CPR: chest compressions until medical personnel arrive

inaugurated the programme by hoisting the ISCCM flag.

Training sessions

Dr. R. Vaidyanathan, president of the ISCCM Mysuru chapter, Dr. K. Prashanth Kumar, secretary, critical care specialists Dr. Mahadev and Dr. Lakshmikanth, and anaesthesiologists Dr. Reshma and Dr. Chaitra conducted the training sessions. Postgraduate medical trainees of Kaveri Hospital extended their support.

Thunder before triumph: Dasara jumbos and horses face final cannon test

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The thunder of cannons echoed across the Dasara Exhibition parking ground in Mysuru on Monday as the majestic Dasara elephants and ceremonial horses underwent the third and final round of the cannon-firing endurance test ahead of the grand Jamboo Savari on October 21.

?

WHY THE CANNON TEST?

The test is intended to minimise the possibility of panic or unpredictable reactions when the traditional 21-gun salute reverberates during the final procession.

The powerful blasts marked a crucial stage in the preparations for the world-famous Mysuru Dasara procession, in which caparisoned elephants, decorated horses, police contingents and cultural troupes add splendour to the royal streets of the heritage city. The exercise was conducted by City Armed Reserve (CAR) police personnel as part of the arrangements to ensure that the animals remain accustomed to the loud



and sudden sounds of cannon fire. The test is intended to minimise the possibility of panic or unpredictable reactions when the traditional 21-gun salute reverberates during the final procession. For the elephants and horses, the booming sound is not an everyday experience. A sudden explosive noise can startle even well-trained animals, potentially causing them to become restless or lose control. Gradual exposure under controlled conditions helps the animals become familiar with the sound, allowing their handlers and mahouts to assess their reactions and take appropriate precautions. The cannon-firing exercise is therefore an important component of Dasara's safety

preparations. It helps protect the animals, mahouts, handlers, police personnel and thousands of spectators who gather to witness the spectacular Jamboo Savari. CAR personnel carried out the exercise with due care and discipline, ensuring that the endurance test was conducted systematically without causing unnecessary inconvenience. With all three rounds of the cannon-firing test completed, attention now turns to the fi-



nal rehearsal scheduled for next week. The rehearsal will provide another opportunity to assess the preparedness of the participating elephants, horses and personnel before the much-awaited procession. As Mysuru prepares for October 21, Monday's thunderous test served as a reminder that behind the grandeur, colour and pageantry of Jamboo Savari lies meticulous preparation, animal training and a strong commitment to public safety.

Prabhudeva seeks seers' blessings

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

From Mysuru's soil to Bollywood's spotlight

A meeting of spirituality and cinematic brilliance unfolded when celebrated dancer, choreographer and filmmaker M. Prabhudeva called on Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji, the revered pontiff of Suttur Mutt, and sought his blessings ahead of his participation in Mysuru's vibrant Yuva Dasara celebrations. Prabhudeva, who has earned a special place in Indian cinema with his electrifying dance movements and distinctive choreography, visited the seer along with his mother. The interaction was marked by warmth and mutual respect, with the dancer receiving the Swamiji's blessings before taking centre stage at one of the biggest attractions of Mysuru Dasara. The meeting also carried a special emotional significance, as Prabhudeva hails from Mugur village in T. Narasipur taluk of Mysuru district. Though he has made Chennai his home and built an illustrious career across the Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi film industries, his connection with Karnataka remains strong. A fluent Kannada speaker,



Prabhudeva conversed naturally in his mother tongue during the brief interaction. His visit reflected the enduring bond between the celebrated artiste and his native region, where his journey began long before he became a household name across India. Later, the ace dancer also met Sri Abhinava Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji of the Gavi Mutt, who opened Dasara 2026 in Mysuru on Sunday, and also had a brief interaction with him. Popularly hailed as the 'Indian Michael Jackson' for his exceptional dancing techniques, lightning-fast footwork and innovative movements, Prabhudeva has trans-



formed dance into a powerful language of entertainment. His performances have captivated generations of moviegoers, while his choreography has influenced countless aspiring dancers. Prabhudeva is scheduled to inaugurate Yuva Dasara, which begins on October 13 as part of the grand Mysuru Dasara festivities. The youth-focused extravaganza is expected to draw thousands of music and dance enthusiasts, with noted Bollywood singers set to enthrall audiences through live performances. As Mysuru gears up for a spectacular celebration of music, rhythm and youthful energy, Prabhudeva's visit to Suttur Mutt adds a spiritual touch to the excitement surrounding Yuva Dasara. For the artiste who rose from a village in Mysuru to national fame, the visit was also a meaningful homecoming — one that brought together his cultural roots, family bonds and artistic journey.

Two meet records fall as CM Cup athletics takes centre stage

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Two new meet records in the 1,500m events highlighted the opening day of the Dasara Kreedakoota CM Cup 2026 on Monday, as athletes and swimmers from across Karnataka produced impressive performances in the state-level sporting competition.

Shilpa Rakesh Hosamani of Belagavi set a new meet record in the women's 1,500m, clocking 4 minutes 42.69 seconds to better the previous mark of 4:44.36 set by Prathithi. Vaibhav Balu M. Patil of Bengaluru Urban rewrote the men's record with a timing of 3:56.57, surpassing Ashrith's previous record of 3:57.93. Bengaluru Urban made a strong impression in athletics, winning both the men's and women's 100m gold medals. Prasannakumar Virupakshappa Mannur won the men's sprint in 10.56 seconds, while Amudha Yalini A clinched the women's title in 12.42 seconds. Mysuru athletes dominated the high jump events, with Sinan winning the men's gold with a clearance of 1.98 metres and G.M. Keerthi taking the women's title at 1.56 metres.

Mysuru also secured the men's discus gold through Muhammed Saqlain Ahmed, who recorded a throw of 54.78 metres. Tejaswini C of Bengaluru Urban won the women's discus with 41.80 metres.

In women's weightlifting, Mysuru's Shravya M won the 49kg category with a total lift of 146kg, while Lakshmi B of Bengaluru Urban topped the 53kg category with 155kg. Kalaburagi athletes captured both reported gold medals in the Indian Round archery events. Devaraja won the men's 50m event with 574 points, while Annapurna claimed the women's 30m title with 533 points.

Bengaluru Urban dominate swimming Bengaluru Urban emerged as the dominant force in swimming, winning 13 of the 17 gold medals on the opening day, including all eight women's events.

In the men's section, Bengaluru Urban's Shivank Vishwanath won the 400m freestyle in 4:12.88, while Mysuru's Alistair Samuel Rego claimed gold in both the 50m butterfly (26.06 seconds) and



200m freestyle (1:58.20). Belagavi's Aman Abhijit Sungar won the 200m backstroke in 2:15.99, and Tanuj Singh secured the 50m breaststroke gold in 30.58 seconds.

Bengaluru Urban's Yash H. Pal won the men's 100m breaststroke in 1:07.78, while Ujwal Reddy took the 100m backstroke in 1:01.03. Bengaluru Urban also won the men's 4x100m freestyle relay in 3:44.91.

The Bengaluru Urban women swept all eight gold medals, including the 4x100m freestyle relay, which they won in 4:21.55. Rishika M.V. took the 400m freestyle in 4:57.20, Shamani H. Gowda won the 200m freestyle in 2:21.08, and Shruti K.R. claimed both the 200m and 100m backstroke titles. Hitai-shi V emerged as a double gold medallist, winning the 100m breaststroke and 50m butterfly.

Bengaluru Urban also won the 4x50m mixed medley relay in 2:00.15, ahead of Mysuru and Belagavi.

Mysuru shine in team events

Mysuru recorded victories in the women's team competitions, defeating Belagavi 18-13 in handball and edging

Belagavi 30-29 in women's kabaddi. Mysuru also beat Belagavi 32-30 in men's kabaddi.

Bengaluru Urban defeated Kalaburagi 29-13 in men's handball and 15-2 in women's handball. Bengaluru Rural also registered victories over Kalaburagi in both men's and women's kabaddi, winning 28-19 and 62-14 respectively.

In women's fencing, S. Tanvi of Bengaluru Urban won the individual sabre title, with Anika Teja Pushpal of Bengaluru Rural taking silver. Nayana Shree of Mysuru and Varsha Shamishta K of Kalaburagi shared the bronze medals.

The opening day's results reflected Bengaluru Urban's strength in swimming and sprint events, while Mysuru made its presence felt in athletics, weightlifting and team competitions. The men's hockey match between Belagavi and Bengaluru was also held, with international hockey player and Asian Games gold medallist H.S. Mohith attending as the chief guest.

The competition continues with athletes from districts across Karnataka vying for honours in the Dasara CM Cup.

Five nights of musical magic, star power and youthful energy

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Get ready for five spectacular evenings of music, entertainment, food and youthful exuberance as Mysuru Yuva Dasara 2026 unfolds from October 13 to 17 near the Jwalamukhi Tripura Sundari Temple on the city's Ring Road in Mysuru.

One of the major cultural attractions of the world-famous Mysuru Dasara celebrations, Yuva Dasara promises to bring together music lovers, young people and visitors from across Karnataka and beyond for an unforgettable festival experience. A series of grand musical performances, a massive food festival and state-of-the-art stage technology are set to make this year's edition a major crowd-puller. The celebrations will begin on October 13 at 6.30 pm, with renowned film actor, director



Five nights. Five musical experiences.

Music will take centre stage throughout the five-day extravaganza, with a star-studded line-up featuring celebrated performers from the Indian music industry.

From electrifying musical arrangements to soulful melodies and vibrant Kannada film songs, each evening promises a distinctive entertainment experience for audiences.

100+ food stalls	14 acres, approx.	80×60 feet stage
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and choreographer Prabhudeva inaugurating the festival.

Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Mysuru District Minister in charge, will attend as the chief guest, while G.T. Devegowda, MLA representing the Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency, will preside over the inaugural ceremony.

A feast of flavours with over 100 food stalls

Beyond the stage and spotlight, food lovers will have plenty to celebrate. A grand food festival featuring more than 100 stalls will be one of the major attractions of Yuva Dasara 2026. The festival aims to offer visitors,

music enthusiasts and young people an opportunity to savour a wide variety of culinary delights. Food stalls will serve an assortment of South Indian and North Indian dishes, bringing diverse flavours together under one festive roof.

International-standard stage, sound and lighting

The event will be organised across an expansive area of approximately 14 acres, with a massive stage measuring around 80 feet by 60 feet. To deliver a high-quality concert experience, the organisers are installing advanced sound and lighting infrastructure suited to international-standard musical performances. The technical arrangements will include a German-engineered d&b audiotechnik sound system, a DiGiCo Quantum mixing console, and sophisticated lighting and laser systems. These technologies are intended to deliver powerful,

crystal-clear sound and immersive visual effects, enhancing the concert experience for audiences.

With large crowds expected to attend the concerts, comprehensive security arrangements are being planned in coordination with the police department.

The proposed deployment will include police personnel,

Mysuru Yuva Dasara 2026

- OCTOBER 13**
Inaugural ceremony; live music by Ajaneesh Loknath
- OCTOBER 14**
Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy
- OCTOBER 15**
Sid Sriram
- OCTOBER 16**
Sandalwood Nights: Kannada film music
- OCTOBER 17**
Jasmine Sandlas

Home Guards, Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), District Armed Reserve (DAR) personnel, Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and other security units. Surveillance will also be strengthened through drones and CCTV cameras. Ensuring public safety, smooth traffic movement and the peaceful conduct of the celebrations will remain key priorities.

Mysuru runs short of ₹10 and ₹20 notes

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

As Mysuru glitters with festive fervour during the Dasara season, a peculiar cash crunch is troubling traders and the public alike. Fresh currency notes of ₹10 and ₹20 denominations have become increasingly difficult to obtain, forcing some traders to send their workers to prominent temples

At the bank counter

✓ Fresh ₹50, ₹100, ₹200 and ₹500 notes: reportedly in stock

✗ Fresh ₹10 and ₹20 notes: no fresh supplies

— ₹10 and ₹20 coins: difficult to obtain at some counters

within and outside the city in search of the small-denomination notes.

The shortage has reportedly reached nationalised banks as well, where customers seek-



Traders turn to temples in search of small change

ing ₹10 and ₹20 notes are often met with an apologetic refusal. Bank personnel say they have not received fresh supplies of these denominations. Whatever remains in circulation consists largely of soiled notes that many people find unhygienic to handle. Even ₹10 and ₹20 coins are reportedly difficult to obtain at some counters.

The situation raises an uncomfortable question: how can small businesses and ordinary citizens manage everyday cash requirements when even banks cannot provide small-denomination currency?

A bank manager told City Highlights that the growing use

of digital payments has reduced the circulation of physical cash, as many people increasingly depend on online transactions. However, the continued demand for smaller notes during festivals exposes the limitations of relying predominantly on digital payments.

The shortage is particularly inconvenient during Dasara, when religious and cultural traditions involve cash offerings. Families performing pujas at home often distribute dakshina, while women observing special festive rituals traditionally offer ₹10 or ₹20 to other women. The absence of these denominations is turning a simple customary practice into a frustrating exercise.

Traders, too, need smaller notes for cash transactions, particularly when customers pay in cash and expect change. Sending employees to temples to collect or exchange small-denomination notes

highlights the extent of the difficulty.

Ironically, banks reportedly have fresh notes of ₹50, ₹100, ₹200 and ₹500 denominations, but not the ₹10 and ₹20 notes that are in particular demand during the festive season.

The Reserve Bank of India must take serious note of the situation and examine the supply and distribution of small-denomination currency in Mysuru. Banks should be provided with adequate stocks of fresh ₹10 and ₹20 notes and coins to meet public demand.

Digital payments may be convenient, but cash remains essential for many everyday transactions and traditional practices.

A festive city should not have to hunt for ₹10 and ₹20 notes. It is time for the RBI and the banking system to address this shortage before it becomes a bigger public inconvenience.

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
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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)

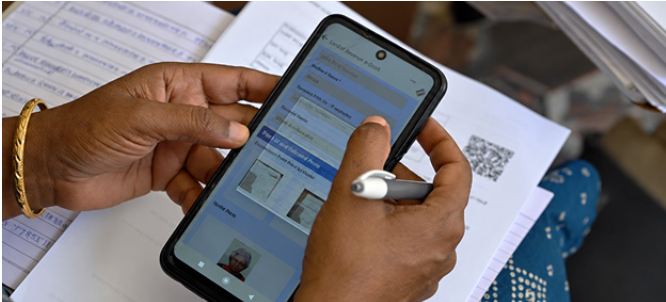
often asked voters to submit documents at polling stations instead of visiting their homes, despite Election Commission instructions for household visits. Some officials allegedly suggested uploading photographs with neighbours when voters were unavailable.

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
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DRY CONDITIONS PERSIST

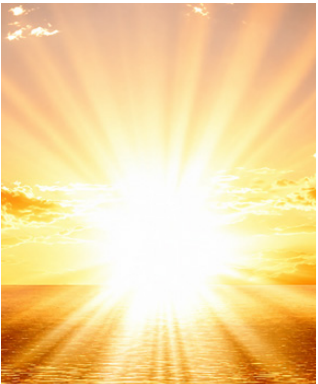
Dry weather to persist across Karnataka; IMD warns of heat

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, Manyata 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, Mystic 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.bengalurujatre.in or email support@bengaluru-jatre.in to explore participation opportunities.

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.

SAKE VENUGOPAL S/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.

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.

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 Bennerghatta, Bangalore District, Karnataka.
 D-2, Mrs.Lakshamma, W/o. Varadhappa,
 Residing at Sanaboganapalia Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Karnataka..
 D-3, Mrs.Udayamma, W/o. Nanjappa @ Pillappa,
 Residing at Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore District, Karnataka.
 D-4, Mrs.Udayamma, W/o. Nanjappa @ Pillappa,
 Residing at Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore District, Karnataka.
 D-5, Mr.Sampangi Raman, S/o. Udhandappa,
 Residing at Byrasandiram, Bangalore, Karnataka.
 D-6, Mrs.Nanjamma, D/o. Udhandappa, and W/o.T.Sreenivasalar,
 D-7, Mrs.Papamma, W/o. Munisamappa Naganaya,
 D-8, Mrs.Lakshamma, W/o. Ramanna,
 D-9, Mr.Sivadu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
 D-10, Seenudu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
 D-11, Rajadu, S/o. Late. Ramanna,
 Defendant/Respondent 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 Aalayam Road
 Opp. Uzhavar Santhai, Hosur-635 109
 Mob : 86084 59401, 63800 35259**

Quick Read

Tragic tree collapse claims retired teacher's life

CH NEWS, TIPTUR

A 62-year-old retired teacher died on the spot after a roadside tree fell on him while he was riding an electric bike on B.H. Road in Tiptur. The deceased, Shivaswamy, was a resident of Suguru village in Nonavinakere Hobli, Tiptur taluk. The incident occurred around 11:30 a.m. in front of Kalpataru College when the tree suddenly snapped and fell on him. He reportedly died instantly due to the severe impact. Tiptur City Police Sub-Inspector Yathish, Rural Circle Inspector Venkatesh and City Municipal Commissioner Vishweshwara Badaragade visited the spot and inspected the scene. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

Top medical honour conferred on Dr. Prabhakar

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Dr. Prabhakar K., the respected Dean and Principal of Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, has received the coveted Fellowship from the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. This major milestone honours his lifelong service to clinical research, patient health, and teaching. Over the years, he has guided students, improved local hospital care, and strengthened the university's academic standards. Faculty members and campus leaders expressed immense joy over the award, noting that the national recognition brings great pride to the entire institution and sets an inspiring benchmark for future doctors.

Lokayukta to hear citizen grievances in Malavalli

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Karnataka Lokayukta officials will hold a public hearing at the Malavalli Taluk Office premises on October 14 between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to directly address citizen grievances. According to the District Superintendent of Police, team leaders DySP Sunil Kumar H.T. and police inspectors will attend the session. The public can submit petitions regarding corruption, administrative delays, or harassment by staff across government and semi-government departments. Authorities have urged residents to attend and report pending issues, ensuring prompt accountability and transparent action against errant employees.

Mandya gears up for grand Dasara festivities

The Deputy Commissioner urged full youth registration across taluks and directed officials to complete crop surveys by October 15 for timely farmer subsidies

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar on Monday issued key administrative directions during an official meeting, ordering the rapid completion of pending civic tasks while finalizing elaborate arrangements for the upcoming Srirangapatna Dasara festival. Reviewing core governance schemes, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to accelerate youth registrations under the ‘Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas’ across all taluks to achieve complete coverage. He stressed that both rural and urban youth must register promptly through online and offline channels. Turning to agrarian relief, Dr. Kumar issued a strict deadline of October 15 for concluding the district-wide crop survey. He warned that delays could obstruct the release of essential input subsidies to affected farmers, urging revenue and agriculture teams to work together seamlessly. Focusing next on the historic Srirangapatna Dasara celebrations running from October 12 to 18, Dr. Kumar called for meticulous public arrangements. Given the large anticipated crowds, depart-

ments must provide clean drinking water, adequate sanitation, efficient vehicle parking, and strict crowd safety measures to ensure visitors and visiting artists face no difficulties. The celebrations begin with the energetic ‘Yuva Sambhrama’ on October 12 and 13 at the Taluk Sports Stadium. The formal inauguration and traditional Jumbo Savari procession will take place on October 15 at Kirangur Banni Mantapa, followed by evening classical dance recitals and vocal performances near Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple. An action-packed schedule is slated for October 16, featuring a morning marathon, yoga contests, traditional games, a chess tournament, and film screenings at local cinema halls. Literary enthusiasts will attend a poets’ meet, while renowned singer Kailash Kher will perform live at night. On October 17, visitors can participate in a Karighatta hill-climbing trek, mass Surya Namaskara, rural wrestling matches, and a musical show headlined by popular playback artist Javed Ali. The festival concludes on October 18 with festive sports



Grand Kaveri Aarathi to begin at Brindavan Gardens

The famous Brindavan Gardens at Krishnaraja Sagara will host the six-day ‘Kaveri Aarathi’ and vibrant cultural celebrations from October 16 to 21 to mark this year’s Dasara festivities. Reviewing arrangements at an official meeting on Monday, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar directed departments to work in close coordination. The

Water Resources Department, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited, and the local administration have jointly organized the festival. The Chief Minister will officially launch the grand celebrations on Friday evening alongside prominent religious pontiffs and state ministers, offering visitors a memorable cultural experience.

competitions, a regional body-building championship, and the valedictory ceremony. Singer Chandan Shetty will deliver the grand musical

finale. Organizers urged people from across the state to attend in large numbers to celebrate Karnataka’s rich cultural legacy.

Activists protest ‘voting irregularities’ by EC

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Progressive organizations staged a major street demonstration demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged voter list manipulation, accusing the Central Government of subverting democracy. The protest brought together multiple civic bodies, including DaSaMS, CPM, the Farmers’ Association, and the Solidarity Youth Movement. Speaking to the gathering, social activist J. Mahadev alleged that authorities are misusing the Election Commission of India to systematically disenfranchise genuine voters and weaken constitutional institutions. He warned that compromising electoral lists threatens the democratic rights of regular citizens. Supporting these concerns, CPM leader Basavaraju V.



Kalkunike noted that peaceful protest remains the strongest tool for ordinary people to hold elected leaders accountable. He argued that the current administration is suppressing dissent and acting against the Constitution, making everyday survival challenging for the common public. Urging citizens to remain alert, Kalkunike called for collective civic action against administrative overreach. The agitation commenced with an energetic march from Constitution Circle through

Peaceful protest remains the strongest tool for ordinary people to hold elected leaders accountable

key local thoroughfares. Demonstrators shouted slogans condemning democratic backsliding and demanded immediate institutional accountability. Activist Hunumayya performed a stirring revolutionary song that set a determined tone for the rally. Several community leaders

addressed the crowd, including Kattemalavadi Kiran Kumar, Peace Committee member Aziz Ulla, Thattekere Nagaraju, Farmers’ Association City President Kirijaji Dhananjaya, and D. Kumar. The demonstration was organized under the leadership of youth convenors Mudassir and Munjamil, along with Gowripura Venkatesh, Ratnamma, Benkipura Chikkanna, CPM Secretary H.D. Beereswar, Kiranguru Swami, and other grassroots representatives. Prominent local figures, including Bilikere Basavaraju, Varadaraju, Raju Chikkahunasuru, and Mahadevamma, stood alongside numerous residents. The gathering concluded peacefully, with participants resolving to sustain their campaign until fair, transparent electoral practices are fully restored for all citizens across the region.

Homeowner catches thief hiding under bed in Devanahalli

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

A homeowner caught a thief hiding under a bed after he allegedly stole 130 grams of gold jewellery from the house in Gobbaragunte village of Devanahalli taluk. The incident occurred on Sunday when the family had gone to watch a movie, while the homeowner, Krishnappa, had gone to his farm. Taking advantage of the empty house,

They found the accused hiding under the bed

the accused allegedly broke in and stole gold jewellery from a wardrobe. When Krishnappa returned, he noticed that the door was locked from inside. Suspecting something was wrong, he called his neighbours, and they forced the door open.

After searching the house, they found the accused hiding under the bed in the room where the theft had taken place. The accused was identified as Ajay, a native of Chittilappilly in Kerala’s Thrissur district. He was reportedly living with friends in an apartment near Yelahanka and working as a cab driver for Ola and Uber. According to police, the ac-

cused had allegedly monitored the family’s movements for two to three days before committing the theft. CCTV footage reportedly captured him arriving at the house. Police recovered the stolen gold jewellery and handed it over to the owner. The Vijayapura police have taken the accused into custody for questioning. Further details are expected as the investigation continues.

RURAL POWER RACE

Reservation draft sparks ticket race in Gadag district

MALINGARAYA PUJAR CH NEWS, GADAG



dia platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram. Many are highlighting their loyalty to their parties and their years of service, expressing confidence that senior leaders will consider them for tickets. The competition is not limited to social media. Aspirants and their supporters are visiting the homes of influential MLAs, former ministers and other senior leaders to seek support for their candidacy.

Zilla Panchayat seats, Gadag



The number of Zilla Panchayat constituencies in Gadag district has increased from 19 in the previous election to 25, adding six constituencies. This has further intensified competition among candidates. Similar activity is also being seen in Taluk Panchayat constituencies.

Reservation draft faces strong opposition

Meanwhile, the draft reservation list has triggered protests among several aspirants. Allegations have emerged that reservation changes in certain

areas could disadvantage particular communities and candidates who have been preparing to contest from those constituencies for years. Some aspirants have expressed disappointment over constituencies they considered favourable being reserved for different categories. The government has provided 10 days for filing objections to the draft list, and many objections are expected during this period. The issue has also caused dissatisfaction among some Congress workers, who have openly questioned the role of senior district leader and Minister H.K. Patil. Social media posts have raised concerns over the distribution of general, caste-based and women-reserved constituencies across the district. An activist named Mohan

Guthammavara has questioned why Gadag Assembly constituency appears to favour general candidates while other constituencies face different reservation arrangements. The post has sparked debate, with activists calling for a legal fight without political bias. Some workers have also accused the district administration of acting under political influence while preparing the reservation list. They have invoked Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s constitutional principles of social justice while demanding fairness and transparency. With the objection period underway, the reservation issue has become a major political concern in Gadag district. The final list is expected to influence candidate selection and shape the contest for the local body elections scheduled for December.

‘Youth must care for our country’s future’



CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Young people need to build genuine care, commitment, and concern for everyday citizens right now if they wish to lead tomorrow, said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akash S. on Monday. Speaking while opening the taluk-level Youth Parliament at the Zilla Panchayat Hall, he urged students to understand civic duties early. The event was held jointly with the District Administration, District Legal Services Authority, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, Education Department, Saraswathi Law College, and the Advocates’ Association. Dr. Akash highlighted the core values of the Constitution, noting that the Preamble ensures fundamental freedom of thought, speech, faith, and worship for all people. He explained that citizens hold every right to highlight their grievances through peaceful protest when official policies cause hardship to the public.

However, he cautioned youth to always verify if their actions, slogans, and ideas truly benefit the country. He also noted that healthy democracy relies on both ruling and opposition parties working responsibly, adding that youth parliaments should set high standards for real legislative debates. The gathering began with floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Constitution’s Preamble, followed by a collective recitation of the text. Organizers then distributed certificates to student winners and active participants. Key dignitaries joined the function, including Social Welfare Deputy Director Mallikarjun, Advocates’ Association President Maheshwarappa, Saraswathi Law College Principal M.S. Sudhadevi, and Assistant Director Parameshwarappa. A large number of college students actively participated, making the civic initiative a memorable success for the local youth community.

At a glance	
YOUTH LEADERSHIP Students must build genuine civic care	CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS Preamble ensures fundamental freedoms for all
PEACEFUL DISSENT Citizens can protest hardships peacefully	DEMOCRATIC DUTY Responsible governance requires strong collaboration

Leopard kills farmer picking flowers in Magadi field

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

What next

A 62-year-old farmer died in a leopard attack while picking flowers in his field at Kalladevanahalli village in Magadi taluk, Bengaluru South district, on Monday morning. The deceased, Shivaswamy, also served as a temple priest in the village. He had gone to his farmland to collect Kakada flowers when a leopard suddenly attacked him. He died on the spot due to severe blood loss. The incident has triggered anger among villagers, who alleged that the Forest Department had failed to address the growing leopard menace in the area. Residents said leopard activity had increased over the past several months, with repeated attacks on livestock. They had previously urged officials to capture the animal. Following the incident, villagers staged a protest and initially refused to allow the

Forest officials planned a drone operation to capture the leopard. Magadi police have registered a case. body to be moved. The body was later sent for a post-mortem examination after officials assured them that steps would be taken to capture the leopard. District Forest Officer Ramakrishnappa said an operation to capture the animal using drones would begin on Monday evening. The incident has raised fresh concerns about public safety in villages affected by leopard activity. Residents have urged the Forest Department to take immediate action to prevent further attacks. Magadi police have registered a case in connection with the incident. Further action is expected as forest officials begin efforts to locate and capture the leopard.

Hassan police arrest man in elderly woman murder case

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Police have arrested a 58-year-old man accused of murdering a 67-year-old woman over a loan of ₹50,000 and dumping her body in a canal in Hassan district. The victim, Lakshamma, was reported missing on October 3. Her body was found inside a plastic bag in a canal near Bettadahalli village in Arkalgud taluk on October 7. Following an investigation, Konanur police arrested the accused, Ramesh. According to the police investigation, Lakshamma had borrowed ₹50,000 from Ramesh. Police said he allegedly killed her after she repeatedly delayed repaying the money.

On October 3, Lakshamma left home after telling her husband that she was going to V.G. Koppalu. Ramesh allegedly offered her a ride on his motorcycle but took her to an isolated location near Bettadahalli, where he strangled her. Police said the accused removed her gold jewellery, placed her body in a plastic bag and threw it into the canal. Investigators recovered around 120 grams of gold jewellery, including a thali, earrings, necklaces and rings. Police said one ring had been pawned, while the remaining jewellery was hidden in an old room near a ginger field. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody as further legal proceedings continue.

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 Samobat, 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

At a glance

- **Protest Action:** Students boycotted exams and staged a gate sit-in
- **Core Grievance:** Semester exams scheduled during Dasara celebrations
- **Support Base:** Agitation backed by ABVP student organization
- **Official Appeal:** Formal complaint filed with Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner

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)/636/2026-27Date: 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-portal: **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-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru

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 Moham-mad 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

SCROLL, LIKE, REPEAT: YOUTH CAUGHT BETWEEN

Open Instagram for five minutes and you will see two different worlds. In one, a 19-year-old from Indiranagar is teaching JavaScript to 100k followers. In another, a 16-year-old is crying because her reel got only 40 likes. Both are young. Both are on the same app. Social media is not good or bad. It is a mirror, and what young minds see in it depends on who is holding it and for how long.

Let's start with the positive, because we blame social media too quickly.

Social media has democratized learning and opportunity. My cousin in Mysuru wanted to learn guitar. In 2005, he needed money for classes. In 2025, he learned it free on YouTube. Today, a kid in a small town in Karnataka can learn coding from a Stanford professor, sell her art on Instagram, or raise funds for a stray dog through a story. Social media has given young people a voice without asking for a surname, a degree, or an office in Bangalore. Movements like climate justice, mental health awareness, and

“The scroll is infinite. Your time and mind are not.”

— MARGARET ROSSARIO

body positivity were spread not by newspapers, but by teenagers with Canva and courage.

It has created community. For many young people who feel lonely in their



classrooms or families — LGBTQ youth, kids with anxiety, first-generation learners — social media is the first place where they feel, “I am not alone.” Discord servers, Reddit threads, and even comment sections have become support groups.

But the same tool that connects can also corrode. And it corrodes young minds more because their minds are still being formed.

The biggest negative is comparison. Social media does not show life — it shows highlights. Filters, foreign trips, perfect bodies, perfect relationships. When a 17-year-old scrolls for three hours a day, her brain starts to believe that everyone else is

happy, successful and beautiful except her. Psychologists call it the “comparison trap.” The result is anxiety, low self-esteem, and what doctors in NIMHANS Bangalore are now reporting — rising depression and sleep disorders among adolescents.

Second, the attention span crisis. TikTok, Reels, Shorts. Everything is 15 seconds. If you don't hook me in 2 seconds, I swipe. Young brains are being trained to crave constant novelty and instant dopamine. Reading a 10-page chapter, sitting through a 45-minute class, or working on a project for three months feels boring in comparison. We are raising a generation that knows a lot about

everything and depth about nothing.

Third, the validation addiction. Likes have become self-worth. A photo is not posted to preserve a memory, but to perform. If it gets fewer likes, we delete it. This is dangerous. It teaches young people that their value is decided by strangers on the internet. And when trolling or cyberbullying starts, that same need for validation turns into trauma. In India, with easy access to cheap data and no real digital literacy in schools, abuse, fake news, and online scams target teenagers the most.

So what do we do? We cannot ban social media. That is like banning the road because there are accidents.

We need three things. At home, parents need to move from surveillance to conversation. Don't just check your child's phone, ask them what they watched and why they liked it. In schools, we need digital literacy as a subject: not how to use apps, but how to understand algorithms, how to spot fake news, how to handle hate. And for young people themselves, the mantra should be: use social media, don't let social media use you. Follow people who make you grow, not just glow. Set time limits. Create more than you consume.

Social media is a powerful knife. In the hands of a chef, it makes a feast. In careless hands, it cuts. Our youth need to learn to be chefs, not victims.

— MARGARET ROSSARIO

NAGA CHILLY: INDIA'S FIERY GIFT TO WORLD

If chilli was a kingdom, Naga Chilly would be its angry king. Small, wrinkled, innocent-looking, but one bite can make a grown man cry, sweat, and question all his life choices. Known as Bhut Jolokia, Ghost Pepper, Naga Jolokia, this is not just a chilli. For the people of Nagaland, Assam, and Manipur, it is identity, medicine, pride, and now, global fame.

I first tasted it in a small dhaba near Dimapur. The owner warned me, “Sir, only touch.” I thought he was joking. I put half a chilli in my pork curry. For the next 20 minutes, I could not feel my tongue. My ears were ringing. My eyes were watering. And yet, after the fire settled, there was a strange, smoky, fruity sweetness I had never tasted in any Guntur or Kashmiri chilli. That is the speciality of Naga Chilly. It is not just hot. It has character.

Scientifically, Naga Chilly is one of the hottest chillies in the world. It measures over 1 million Scoville Heat Units. To compare, your regular green chilli is 5,000–10,000 SHU. The Naga is 100–200 times hotter. In 2007, Guinness World Records declared it the hottest chilli in the world. It has since been overtaken by Carolina Reaper, but for us Indians, it is still our world champion. The heat comes from capsaicin, but in Naga, it is so concentrated that it releases slowly. First you feel nothing, then a burn starts at the tip of your tongue, then it spreads to your whole mouth, throat, and stomach. That delayed blast is what

makes it “Bhoot”: ghost. The ghost that comes later.

But to reduce Naga Chilly to just its heat is to miss its soul. In Nagaland, it is not used by the spoonful like we use chilli powder. It is used with respect. One small chilli is dried, smoked over the kitchen fire for weeks, then pounded with fermented soya bean, ‘akhuni’, and eaten with rice. That smoking process is its second speciality. Naga farmers don't sun-dry it like other chillies. They smoke-dry it over firewood in their traditional kitchens. This gives it an intense, earthy, al-



most chocolatey aroma. That is why top chefs in London and New York now import smoked Naga paste for \$50 a bottle.

It is also a survival chilli. The Naga Chilly plant grows in high rainfall, poor soil, and steep hills where other crops fail. It is organic by default: no farmer in a Naga village can afford pesticide, and the plant's own extreme pungency keeps insects away. It is a poor man's crop that became a rich man's luxury. Today, its Geographical Indication (GI) tag belongs to Nagaland, Assam and Manipur, meaning only chillies grown there can be called authentic Naga

Chilly. It has lifted thousands of tribal families from subsistence farming to export business.

Medicinally, our grandmothers knew what science is now proving. A tiny paste of Naga Chilly is used in Nagaland to treat stomach gas, to keep the body warm in freezing winter, and as a natural remedy for respiratory issues. The capsaicin increases metabolism, burns fat, and releases endorphins — the happy hormones. That is why after the tears, you feel a strange high. The army has even used it to make chilli grenades and pepper sprays for crowd control: a non-lethal weapon from a chilli.

The real speciality, however, is cultural. In Naga culture, offering a guest a dish with Naga Chilly is a test and a welcome. If you can handle it, you are accepted. Every family has its own secret pickle recipe. Naga Chilly chutney competitions are held at the Hornbill Festival. It is pride on a plate.

But we must protect it. Due to climate change and commercial over-cultivation, the authentic, slow-grown, smoked Naga Chilly is becoming rare. Hybrid, less flavourful versions are flooding the market.

If you have never tried it, don't start with a full chilli. Start with a drop of its pickle. Feel the fire, then wait for the flavour.

“The lesson Naga Chilly teaches us: the best things in life come with a little burn first.”

— UMMI JAANAM

BRUSH TWICE DAILY, SMILE FOR LIFE

We all have done it. Woke up late for work, picked up the toothbrush, brushed for 20 seconds, and ran out. And at night, we think, “I already brushed in the morning, why again?” We treat brushing twice a day as a suggestion from our dentist. Actually, it is the cheapest health insurance you will ever have.

I am not a dentist, but like most Indians, I grew up with the one-time brushing culture. Morning brush was mandatory, night brush was for people with “foreign habits.” It took a painful root canal at age 24 to understand why my dentist had been shouting the same thing for 10 years. Brushing twice is not about having white teeth for Instagram. It is about saving your body from a chain of problems that starts in your mouth.

Let's start with the obvious: your mouth is not clean after 12 hours. Think about it. In a single day, you drink filter coffee, eat sambar rice, biscuits, maybe chicken biryani, and sweets. Food particles stay between your teeth. Brushing in your mouth love this. They feed on the food and create acid. This acid attacks your enamel within 20 minutes of eating. If you only brush in the morning, you give these bacteria 24 hours to do their work. That is why we get cavities, bad breath, and bleeding gums. Brushing at night breaks this cycle. It removes the day's food and plaque before you sleep, which is when your mouth is most vulnerable because sali-



va flow reduces.

Brushing twice saves you from embarrassment and pain. How many of us have covered our mouth while laughing because of yellow teeth or bad breath? Morning breath is not just “morning breath.” It is bacteria that multiplied all night. People who brush at night wake up with significantly fresher breath, less plaque, and cleaner gums. In a country where we are so conscious about personal hygiene, we ignore oral hygiene the most. Two minutes at night is the difference between a confident smile and a shy one.

This is what most people don't know: your mouth is connected to your whole body. This is not my opinion; this is what cardiologists and diabetologists now say. Gum infection causes inflammation. This inflammation can enter your bloodstream and has been linked to heart disease, diabetes complications, and even preterm births. A study by the Indian Dental Association found that people with poor oral hygiene are 2–3 times more likely to have heart issues. When you brush twice, you are not just protecting your teeth, you are reducing load on your heart.

It saves you money. A toothbrush costs Rs. 30. A toothpaste tube lasts two months. A single root canal in Bangalore costs Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 12,000. An implant costs Rs. 30,000. I have seen families spend more on teeth in one week than on vegetables in a year. Prevention is not just better than cure; it is cheaper by a factor of 100. Two-time brushing is the best investment a middle-class family can make.

It teaches discipline to children. When a child sees his parents brushing at night, he learns that health is a daily habit, not a one-time event. In schools where mid-day meals are given, teaching children to brush twice has shown a reduction in absenteeism due to toothaches. It is a small habit with big dignity.

So how should we brush? Not like we are scrubbing a floor. Dentists say 2 minutes, twice a day, with fluoride toothpaste, using circular motions, not horizontal cutting. And don't brush immediately after eating acidic food; wait 30 minutes. Replace your brush every 3 months. And yes, tongue cleaning is part of it.

We spend 2 hours scrolling Instagram, 1 hour deciding what to watch on Netflix. We can spend 4 minutes on our teeth. Your smile is the first thing people see. Don't let laziness at 11 pm ruin what nature gave you for free. Brush tonight. Your future self will thank you with a full set of teeth.

— DR. ROHIT SHETTY

SMART CLASSROOMS, SMARTER FUTURE: WHY UPGRADE NOW

Walk into most government schools in India and you will see the same scene from 1990: a blackboard, chalk dust, a teacher shouting to be heard, and 60 kids crammed together. Now walk into their pockets. Each child has a smartphone that can access the Library of Congress, learn coding from MIT, and translate Kannada to French in seconds. The gap between the world inside the classroom and the world outside it has never been bigger. That is why the demand for smart, technology-updated educational institutions is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity.

For decades, we treated technology in education as an accessory. A computer lab with ten dusty PCs that worked once a week. A projector that was only brought out when inspectors came. COVID changed that forever. When schools shut, the classroom shifted to Zoom, Google Meet, and WhatsApp. Parents who had never used email were suddenly attending PTMs online. That crisis showed two things: one, technology can keep education alive when everything else stops; two, our institutions were woefully unprepared for it.

The demand for smart institutions today is coming from three places.

From students. Gen Z and

Gen Alpha are digital natives. They don't learn by just listening; they learn by watching, interacting, and doing. A 14-year-old understands photosynthesis better from a 3D animation than from a diagram drawn with yellow chalk. Why should they memorize the solar system when they can experience it in VR?



Smart boards, AR/VR labs, AI-based adaptive learning that changes difficulty based on the child's pace — these are not gimmicks. They match how young brains actually learn today.

From the job market. We are preparing children for 2035 with a curriculum and tools from 2005. The jobs they will do — AI prompt engineer, drone operator, data ethicist, EV battery

technician — don't even exist in our textbooks. If we don't teach them with technology, how will they work with technology? Companies in Bengaluru's Whitefield are not asking for marksheets; they are asking for portfolios, GitHub links, and problem-solving skills. Those skills are built on smart labs, not on rote learn-

ing. An institution that doesn't teach coding, digital literacy, and data handling is not an educational institution anymore; it is a museum.

From equity. We often think technology widens inequality. But done right, it narrows it. A great physics teacher in Kota can now teach a student in Koppal through a smart classroom. An AI tutor can give personal attention to a child in a class of 60,

something a single teacher can never do. Digital libraries, recorded lectures in Kannada and other regional languages, and automated assessments can give rural students the same quality that urban private schools charge lakhs for.

But smart does not mean just buying gadgets. I have seen schools in Bengaluru put a Rs. 2 lakh smart board in a classroom with no stable electricity or internet. Within six months, it becomes a white elephant. Making institutions smart needs a system, not shopping.

It needs infrastructure first: reliable power, high-speed internet, device maintenance. It needs teacher training most: a smart board is useless if the teacher only knows how to turn it on.

We need to invest Rs. 10 on teacher upskilling for every Rs. 100 we spend on hardware. It needs cybersecurity and digital discipline: children should know how to be safe online, how to protect data, how to avoid addiction.

And it needs a mindset change. Smart education is not about replacing teachers with screens. The best technology can never replace a teacher who inspires.

“The question is no longer, should we make educational institutions technology-updated? The question is, can we afford not to?”

— DIANA ARUN

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, REAL ENVIRONMENTAL COST: NATURE PAYS

We love to imagine AI as something in the cloud. Clean, invisible, floating somewhere above us. It is not. AI lives on the ground, in giant warehouses full of servers that never sleep, that drink water like a city and eat electricity like a factory. While we debate whether AI will take our jobs, we are ignoring a more urgent question — whether AI is taking a toll on nature itself.

And it is. Let's talk about energy. Training a single large AI model like GPT-3 uses as much electricity as 120 average American homes use in a year. Not using it, training it once. Every time you ask ChatGPT to write an essay,

generate an image, or make a video, servers in data centers somewhere in Arizona or Hyderabad have to work. A recent study found that a single AI image generation can use as much energy as charging your phone fully.

Where does this energy come from? Mostly still from fossil fuels. Google, Microsoft and Meta have all reported that their carbon emissions have jumped 30–50% since 2020, and they have openly said the reason is AI expansion. We spent 20 years trying to reduce emissions, and in 3 years AI has pushed them up again. The irony is painful: we are building an intelligence to save us from climate change, and in the



process, we are accelerating climate change.

Water. This is the part no one talks about. Data centers need massive cooling. A small

data center uses 300,000 gallons of water a day — enough for 1,000 homes. Large ones use millions. Microsoft disclosed that its global water

consumption went up 34% in one year due to AI. In drought-prone areas in the US and India, new data centers are being built where water is already scarce. When you generate 50 AI images for fun because you didn't like the first 49, you are literally evaporating fresh water into the air for cooling.

Electronic waste and resource mining. AI needs special chips — GPUs. These chips need rare earth minerals like cobalt, lithium, nickel. Mining them is destroying forests in Congo, Indonesia and even in parts of India. A single Nvidia H100 chip requires mining and processing that scars the earth. And these chips become obsolete

in 2–3 years. So we mine, we make, we dump. E-waste from AI hardware is becoming the next big environmental disaster, full of toxic metals that seep into soil and rivers.

Fourth, and most dangerously, AI is making it easier to exploit nature faster. AI-powered drones can find fish shoals in seconds, leading to overfishing. AI algorithms help mining companies find deposits faster. AI helps loggers map forests. AI makes industrial farming more efficient, which sounds good until you realize it also makes deforestation more efficient. We gave a super-tool to industries that already exploit nature, without giving nature

any protection from it. Does this mean we should stop AI? No. That would be like stopping electricity because it can cause a fire. But we need to be honest about its price.

What can we do? AI companies must be forced to disclose their energy and water use, just like factories have to disclose pollution. Govern-

“AI is not in the cloud. It is on earth. And earth is paying for it.”

JUDAH S.

ments should not allow data centers in water-stressed areas like Bengaluru or Chennai without 100% renewable energy and water recycling.

— JUDAH S.

Quick Read

IndiGo flight diverted after power bank catches fireHYDERABAD

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 massacreAHMEDABAD

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 highwayMEERUT

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

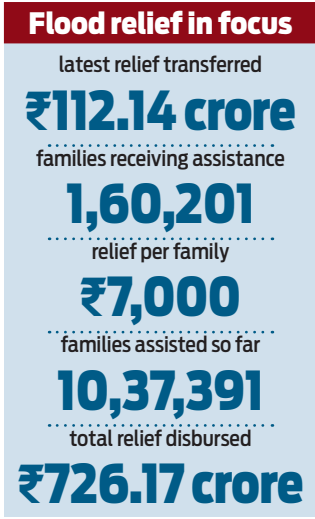
Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday released ₹112.14 crore in flood relief to 1,60,201 flood-affected families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with ₹7,000 credited to each family as the state pressed ahead with relief work after severe floods hit several districts. The latest payment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

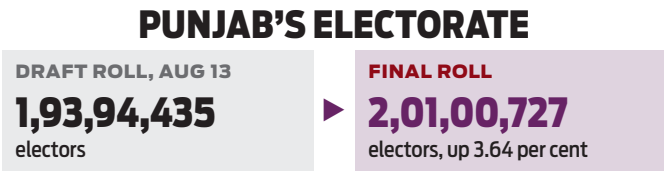
The roadmap reflected the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat @2047, with youth empowerment, skill development and entrepreneurship serving as key drivers of national progress.”
— Kavinder Gupta, Himachal Pradesh Governor

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



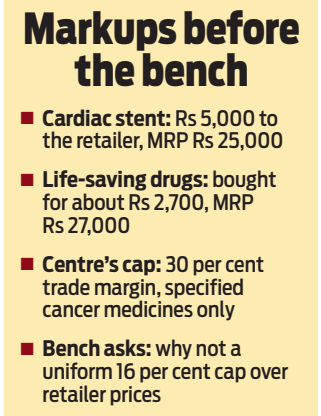
on August 13, listing 1,93,94,435 electors. During the claims and objections stage, officials issued notices to 35,49,036 voters over unmapped records or discrepancies. After hearings and village-level verification, 86,038 electors were declared ineligible through formal orders. Authorities also rationalised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



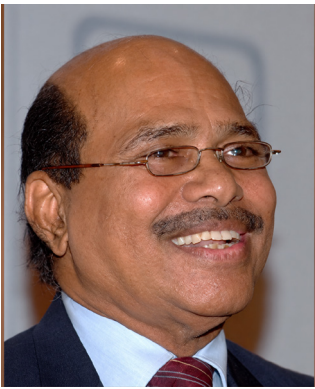
notifying a list of cancer drugs covered by the margin cap and updating it periodically. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati argued that regulation must balance affordability, availability and market conditions, warning that excessive intervention could disrupt supplies. The bench questioned 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 POCSO 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 POCSO 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 protestNEW 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' familiesPANAJI

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 leakMUMBAI

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

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.

Key growth drivers

- Expanding automobile manufacturing
- Free trade agreements and export opportunities
- Growing demand for electronics and white goods
- Investment in semiconductor facilities
- Viksit Bharat 2047 development vision

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.

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.

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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.

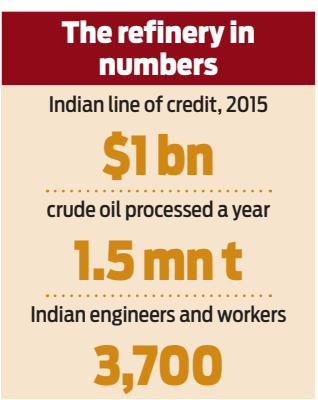
Mongolian President thanks India for oil refinery support

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



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

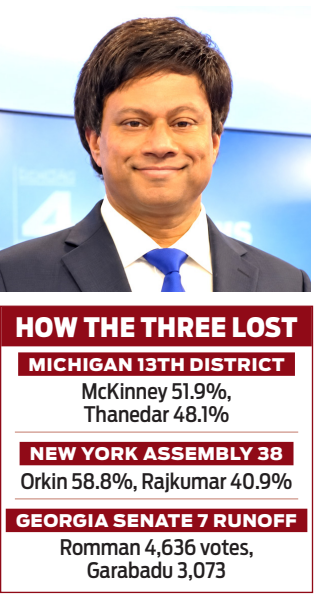
WASHINGTON

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-



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.



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.

‘You can’t take that performance away from Maresca, Man City’: Gary Neville

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.

150 YEARS OF TEST CRICKET

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).



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.