

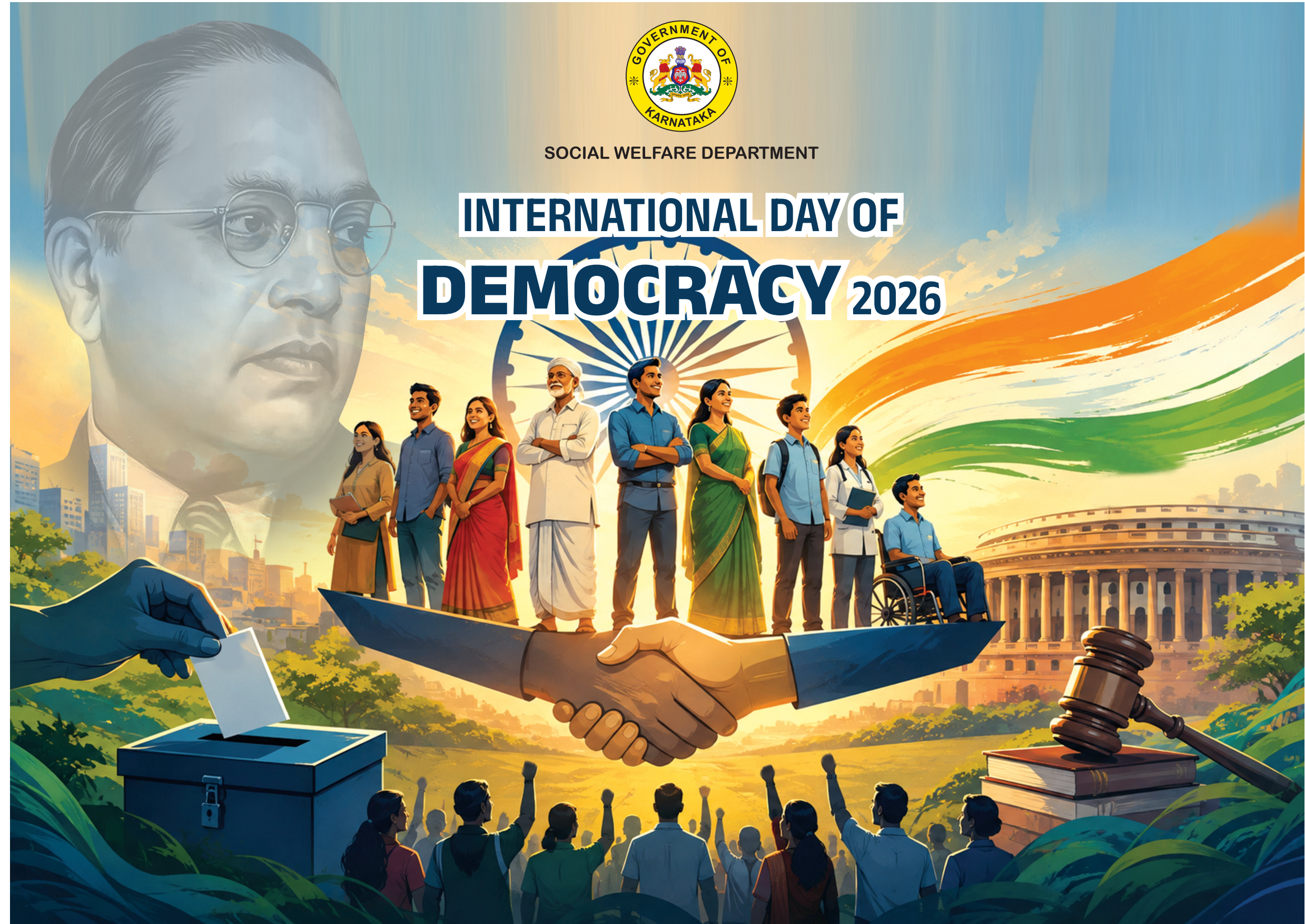
CITY HIGHLIGHTS

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2026



**GUARANTEE SARKARA
REBUILDING
A NEW KARNATAKA**



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

**Empowering youth voice and
strengthening democracy**

“Democracy is not merely a form of Government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience.”
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

**15th September 2026
at 10.00 AM, Banquet Hall,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru**



Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
Shri K.H. Muniyappa greeting
Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri D.K. Shivakumar**



As is enshrined in our constitution, “to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture” - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Secretary to the Government,
Social Welfare Department

 **@SWDGok**



Quick Read



Rapido driver blackmails passenger over lost phone

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A Rapido driver in the city has landed in trouble after refusing to return a phone left behind by a passenger. Instead of handing it back, the driver allegedly blackmailed the rider, demanding 18,000 rupees to give the expensive device back. Frustrated by this greedy behavior, the passenger reported the incident directly to company officials and filed a formal police complaint. Local law enforcement authorities have taken the matter seriously and started tracking down the absconding driver to take strict legal action against him soon.

Karnataka HC rules on police transfer approvals

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court recently ruled that getting approval from the Police Establishment Board after transferring an officer is not a major mistake. The court set aside an older order from the tribunal that had canceled a local police inspector's transfer. Justices D.K. Singh and H. Shanbhushan explained that missing a prior green light is a minor flaw that can be fixed later. While officers usually get a one-year minimum stay, early moves are legally allowed under specific rules. Since the board eventually approved the shift, the transfer stands completely valid and legal now.

KPSC could be scrapped, hints Khandre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political and administrative landscape of Karnataka experienced a massive earthquake as senior Cabinet Minister Eshwar Khandre publicly confirmed that the state government is actively deliberating the complete abolition of the Karnataka Public Service Commission. Speaking extensively in a high-profile media interview, Khandre laid bare the profound frustrations within the state administration, declaring that the current leadership and members of the KPSC have comprehensively failed to discharge their constitutional and administrative responsibilities. He noted that the commission has repeatedly stumbled in its core mandate of conducting clean, merit-based, and corruption-free selection processes for government



jobs, thereby shattering the confidence of millions of aspirants. The minister's explosive revelations come in the wake of persistent allegations, systemic leaks, and widespread irregularities that have continually plagued recruitment cycles. Khandre issued a stern, unequivocal warning that no individual—regardless of their political influence, high-ranking administrative position, or social stature—will be shielded from the long arm of the law if found complicit in the recruitment scandals. He assured the public that exhaustive investigations will unearth the full truth behind the administrative rot. To safeguard the future of the state's educated youth, the Cabinet is currently evaluating radical structural alternatives. Discussions are un-

derway to permanently scrap the existing commission model and transition all state-level recruitment to external bodies. Options include mirroring the rigorous standards of the Union Public Service Commission or channeling future selections through the Karnataka Examinations Authority. The KEA has previously earned administrative praise for executing bulk recruitment examinations with a high degree of digital transparency, security, and institutional efficiency. Khandre emphasized that any final structural overhaul will be reached through collective consultations involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and senior Cabinet colleagues. The primary objective remains implementing foolproof, transparent recruitment protocols that restore absolute sanctity to public service examinations across Karnataka.

FESTIVE CLASH: GANESHA BATTLE

BJP MLA Ramamurthy demands festival guideline relaxation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political tension surrounding the Ganesh Chaturthi festival intensified as Jayanagar Bharatiya Janata Party MLA C.K. Ramamurthy formally addressed a strongly worded letter to Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge. In his official communication, Ramamurthy demanded an immediate and comprehensive relaxation of the rigid administrative guidelines imposed by both the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and the state police department. He strongly accused local law enforcement agencies and municipal authorities of systematically harassing festival organizers, youth committees, and



common citizens under the guise of enforcing standard regulatory protocols. The MLA emphasized that the annual Ganesha festival is not merely a public gathering but a core pillar of traditional cultural heritage and

deeply held religious sentiments across the state. According to Ramamurthy, citizens attempting to install decorative community idols and organize peaceful processions are being subjected to bureaucratic red tape, arbitrary restrictions, and unwarranted intimidation by local field officers. He characterized this alleged targeted interference as completely unacceptable in a democratic society. Urging the state government to shift toward a more rational and inclusive administrative approach, Ramamurthy called for immediate, people-friendly measures that respect public

- Demands & Warnings**
- **End to Harassment:** Immediate halt to obstacles during the installation and immersion of idols.
 - **Citizen-Friendly Approach:** A call for simple, practical measures to protect cultural traditions.
 - **Protest Threat:** A firm warning to launch public agitations if authorities fail to ease regulations.

sentiment while maintaining civil order. He explicitly urged the Home Minister to issue direct, binding instructions to all police commissionerates and municipal zones to extend full cooperation to festival commit-

tees, ensuring that celebrations remain joyous, orderly, and culturally authentic. Concluding his warning with a stern ultimatum, the Jayanagar legislator cautioned that if the state government and municipal authorities refuse to ease the current restrictions and halt police harassment, he will personally lead a massive public demonstration and statewide street protests to defend the religious rights of citizens. This political intervention adds further fuel to the ongoing debate over festival management, compounding pressure on the state home department as public dissatisfaction mounts across various urban and rural districts.

Ashoka defies restrictions on Ganpati processions

Leader R. Ashoka fiercely challenges the government, warning against restrictions on Hindu festivals and targeting authorities.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka issued a stern warning against obstructing Hindu festivals, directly challenging Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Ashoka strongly condemned local police behavior, highlighting an incident involving Inspector Dhananjay in T. Narasipura. He alleged that authorities are unjustly harassing citizens and imposing strict rules on Ganesh Chaturthi processions near mosques,



We will never stop celebrating our traditions, no matter what obstacles are placed in our path.
- R. Ashoka, Opposition Leader

- Highlights of the controversy**
- **Police Restrictions:** Authorities issued strict orders limiting processions and loudspeaker use near religious sites.
 - **Political Fallout:** The BJP leader labeled political leaders as election-time believers who ignore genuine public rights.
 - **On-Site Visit:** Ashoka announced an immediate trip to T. Narasipura to support local organizers and fight for justice.
 - **Direct Challenge:** Ashoka challenged Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to suspend the inspector to prove his Hindu faith.

including bans on firecrackers and music. He questioned why peaceful cultural events face heavy restrictions while other religious gatherings operate without interference.

"Beware of messing with Hindus," Ashoka stated, adding that he would personally visit T. Narasipura to demand justice and support festival organizers. He labeled the state

administration an anti-Hindu and biased government, comparing its style of functioning to oppressive regimes. Furthermore, he criticized D.K. Shivakumar, dismissing him as an election-time politician who only displays faith when votes are needed. Ashoka challenged Shivakumar to prove his genuine beliefs by immediately suspending the inspector responsible for the threats. He warned that if the public remains quiet now, people might soon need official permission just to worship inside their own homes.

He emphasized that the Hindu community will never back down from celebrating their traditions, regardless of political obstacles. Additionally, addressing remarks made by Satish Jarkiholi regarding a recent enforcement complaint, Ashoka stated that leaks originated from close internal circles rather than external sources. He maintained that corruption has no direct link to caste politics and called for a thorough internal check within Belagavi and Bengaluru circles to find the real source.

Priyank Kharge responds to former MP's threats

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge issued a blistering rejoinder to former Member of Parliament Pratap Simha, declaring that law enforcement agencies stand fully prepared to handle anyone attempting to challenge state authority. The fiery exchange erupted after Simha publicly censured T. Narasipura police inspector Dhananjay, whose sharp remarks during a pre-festival peace committee meeting went viral across social media. In the controversial clip, the officer sternly warned that strict punitive measures would be invoked against individuals bursting firecrackers or playing loud music near local mosques during the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Incensed by the warning, Simha lashed out at the department, accusing officers of adopting an authoritarian, British-era mindset. He questioned why heavy restrictions are disproportionately channelled toward Hindu celebrations while daily practices involving mosque loudspeakers proceed unchecked, openly challenging



There is an open invitation for the person who said he would storm a police station. Once he enters, arrangements will be made to send him straight to Parappana Agrahara free of cost.
- Priyank Kharge, Karnataka Home Minister

the inspector by threatening to march directly into the police station. Reacting sharply to the former MP's provocative declarations, Home Minister Kharge did not mince words. In a pointed social media statement, Kharge extended what he termed an open invitation, warning that if Simha chose to step inside the station to intimidate personnel, state authorities would make immediate, cost-free arrangements to transfer him straight to the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. Dismissing the opposi-

- Highlights of the clash**
- **The Trigger:** A viral video showed a T. Narasipura police inspector warning people against bursting firecrackers near mosques during peace meetings.
 - **The Threat:** Angered by the officer's language, Pratap Simha publicly warned that he would personally lead a march to storm the station.
 - **The Official Response:** Home Minister Kharge hit back on social media, dismissing the remarks as desperate attempts by a political figure to stay relevant.

tion figure as a disgruntled political lightweight desperately seeking media attention, Kharge asserted that the Home Department will maintain zero tolerance toward individuals trying to exploit sensitive communal flashpoints. The minister emphasized that any deliberate attempts to obstruct frontline officers from executing their duties or undermine the overall morale of the police force will invite swift, unyielding legal action.

State enumerates over 14 lakh irrigation schemes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has successfully wrapped up the extensive fieldwork for the 7th Minor Irrigation Census and the 2nd Water Bodies Census, recording a massive network of irrigation assets and hydrological structures across the state. Minor Irrigation Minister Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh announced that the sweeping administrative exercise mapped a total of 14,18,894 groundwater schemes, 77,573 surface water schemes, and 38,960 standalone water bodies. The comprehensive enumeration covered 30,671 villages, 300 urban local bodies, and 7,128 urban wards spanning every district. Funded entirely by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti under a centrally sponsored umbrella framework, the census utilized the 2023–24 fiscal year as its foundational reference period to capture an authentic, granular picture of Karnataka's liquid wealth infrastructure. The minor irrigation component primarily cataloged projects with a cultivable command area of up to 2,000 hectares, while the water bodies census focused on logging vital statistics on tanks, ponds, reservoirs, and historic storage systems. Minister Singh emphasized that these empirical metrics will serve as a foundational blueprint for combating recurring climate challenges, including prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall distribution, and sharp ground-level water table depletions. By identifying precise regional deficits, the government aims to pivot away from generic policy-making toward hyper-targeted, data-driven interventions. The collected database will

Accurate water data is crucial given the challenges of drought, declining groundwater levels, and climate change facing the state.



- Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, Minor Irrigation Minister

taka's liquid wealth infrastructure. The minor irrigation component primarily cataloged projects with a cultivable command area of up to 2,000 hectares, while the water bodies census focused on logging vital statistics on tanks, ponds, reservoirs, and historic storage systems. Minister Singh emphasized that these empirical metrics will serve as a foundational blueprint for combating recurring climate challenges, including prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall distribution, and sharp ground-level water table depletions. By identifying precise regional deficits, the government aims to pivot away from generic policy-making toward hyper-targeted, data-driven interventions. The collected database will

Karnataka maps its liquid wealth! A massive census catalogs 1.5 million hydrological assets to combat future droughts.

directly dictate the strategic allocation of resources for high-priority initiatives such as rural tank rejuvenation, localized groundwater artificial recharge structures, check-dam construction, and major multi-village tank-filling grids. Furthermore, the state intends to integrate advanced geographic information systems and digital governance frameworks to ensure that the massive repository of statistical data translates into permanent water security for agrarian communities. Praising the relentless fieldwork executed by thousands of local officials and administrative personnel within tight deadlines, the Minister reaffirmed that transparent, data-backed water management remains central to Karnataka's long-term sustainable development model.

ED technical committee visits Bengaluru unit

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A high-level technical committee comprising senior officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrived from New Delhi to undertake a critical two-day review of ongoing investigations managed by the agency's Bengaluru zonal unit. While the official itinerary remained tightly confidential, the timing of the high-profile visit generated immense political and public curiosity. It directly coincided with the aftermath of extensive multi-city search operations conducted across premises linked to Karnataka Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satish Jarkiholi, his family members, and close associates. According to insider briefings from central financial investigation circles, the special supervisory team is auditing multiple sensitive dockets currently handled by the state unit. The comprehensive case files under scrutiny include the overseas investment investigations concerning the Jarkiholi family, profound financial irregularities flagged within the



Valmiki Corporation, alleged systematic kickbacks tied to PWD infrastructure tenders, irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), and controversies surrounding the illegal allotment of Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) housing sites. During recent search operations executed under provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), federal investigators reportedly uncovered substantial incriminating materials. These encompass digital devices, property deeds, and records indicating unauthorized cross-border financial routing into foreign entities, alongside the seizure of approximately ₹3.3 crore in unaccounted cash and foreign currencies.

Health dept unveils rural hospital adoption scheme

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government has released a new circular to improve medical services in rural regions. Under a special program, all public and private medical colleges must adopt one taluk hospital, community health center, and primary health center each. These colleges will provide expert doc-

tors, proper training, and better care facilities locally. This plan aims to solve specialist doctor shortages, upgrade rural healthcare, and significantly reduce heavy patient crowds at major urban hospitals. Officials hope this smart integration will fully utilize existing equipment while giving medical students valuable rural experience.

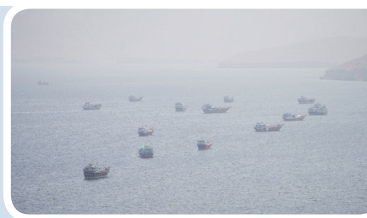


UAE
outreach brings
Odisha Rs 2.43
lakh cr

P9

P11

Hormuz
Attack Deepens
Global Oil
Fears



P12

Ugochukwu
Makes
American F3
History



BRICS SUMMIT 2026

15 bilaterals in 3 days: PM Modi's diplomatic marathon

Besides bilateral meetings, the PM held pull-aside conversations with other visiting leaders and representatives of international institutions.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held 15 formal bilateral meetings with heads of state and government over three days around the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, besides several pull-aside interactions with world leaders and heads of international institutions, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Sunday.

India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13 under the theme "Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". The gathering brought 13 world leaders and 17 delegations to the capital.

PM Modi's diplomatic engagements began with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he met for the second time in less than a month after their interaction at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Bishkek on August 31.

The meeting with Xi drew particular attention as it was his first visit to India in nearly seven years. The Chinese leader last travelled to the country in October 2019 for an informal summit

with PM Modi in Mamallapuram.

PM Modi's engagements continued on Sunday with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who also attended in his country's capacity as chair of the Eurasian Economic Union.

The meetings allowed India to pursue separate bilateral priorities while using its BRICS chairship to press a wider agenda around the Global South.



Chronological breakdown of key bilateral engagements

Day 1 (Sept 11): Focus on strategic alignment

Russian President Vladimir Putin: Reviewed the India-Russia strategic partnership, targeting a \$100 billion bilateral trade goal by 2030, while emphasizing dialogue to resolve the Ukraine conflict.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian: Focused on security, regional dynamics in West Asia, and the strategic development of the Chabahar Port.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres: Discussed global governance reforms and voice amplification for the Global South

Day 2 (Sept 12): High-stakes border & trade talks

Chinese President Xi Jinping: Marking an incredibly closely watched meeting, the two leaders evaluated the stabilization of the India-China border, trade, and economic ties, with PM Modi reinforcing that differences must not become disputes.

Other leaders: Met with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (semiconductors and fintech), Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali, UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Vietnamese leadership

Day 3 (Sept 13): Outreach to Africa, Southeast Asia & Central Asia

Concluded the summit by meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Burundian President Évariste Ndayishimiye, as well as the top leadership of Uganda and Nigeria.

BRICS chairship passes to China as New Delhi Summit ends

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended his best wishes to China, which will host the next BRICS summit in 2027, saying the world now expects "concrete results" from the grouping as it enters its third decade. Addressing the open session on the second day of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Modi said BRICS was entering its third decade and that the world expected concrete results from the grouping, rather than just ideas and commitments. He expressed confidence that the member countries would meet these expectations through their collective efforts. The PM also congratulated China as the next host of BRICS and commended the leaders and their teams for making the New Delhi Summit a success.

BJP misusing Hindutva for political gains: DKS

'Congress believed in serving people irrespective of their caste or religion'

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday accused the BJP of using Hindutva for political purposes and alleged that money and materials donated for the Ram Temple were misused, while attacking the Centre's Ujjwala scheme over the rise in LPG prices.

Speaking at the Congress office here during an event where some former BJP leaders joined the party, Shivakumar said Congress believed in serving people irrespective of their caste or religion.

"Some people do this theatrically in the name of religion. 'They took the money meant for Rama and misappropriated it. You sent bricks from here, you sent money, and they misused it. We will not do that.'" Shivakumar said Congress' welfare schemes were meant for people across communities and accused the BJP of unnecessarily criticising the party's five guarantees.

"Five guarantees? The BJP people are the ones who criticise them. They are the ones who say they are impossible. What, are only Congress peo-

ple getting the benefit of the five guarantees?" he asked.

He said the Congress government was providing free electricity to 1.64 crore families, Gruha Lakshmi assistance to 1.21 crore women and Anna Bhagya benefits to 4.40 crore people. Attacking the Ujjwala scheme, Shivakumar said the BJP-led government had projected it as a measure to reduce the burden on poor women but LPG prices had subsequently risen.

The CM said Congress' approach was based on humanity and not religious or caste divisions. "We are Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Vokkaligas, Lingayats, Kurubas, Brahmins and others. We are all one. That is the difference between them and us," he said. "Whatever the religion, the principle is one; whatever the names, the God is one; what-



They took the money meant for Rama and misappropriated it. You sent bricks from here, you sent money, and they misused it. We will not do that.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

ever the form of worship, devotion is one; whatever the actions, dedication is one; one God, many names," he added.

Ganesha not BJP's property, it belongs to everyone: CM

Bengaluru: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said Ganeshotsava would be celebrated peacefully in the state and asserted that his government would not restrict the festivities, amid BJP allegations that police were imposing curbs on processions. His remarks came after Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka accused the Congress government of "harassing" people over Ganeshotsava celebrations and alleged that police were imposing restrictions on processions. "Now, we have to celebrate the Ganesh festival very peacefully. If any procedure has to be followed, the overhead poles, wires, discipline, all documents — everything should be in place. The procedure has to be followed," Shivakumar told reporters here. "There is an attempt being made simply to create unrest. We are also aware that a big conspiracy is going on. So, we have told our police to be alert. We are not threatening anybody," he said. "Ganesh is not anybody's property. It is not the BJP's property. It belongs to everyone," he said, adding that the government had given a holiday for the festival and was encouraging its celebrations.

**GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS**
North • East • South • West • Central

SHRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

DR G. PARAMESHWARA
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

SHRI KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA
Hon'ble Minister for
Greater Bengaluru Development,
Parliamentary Affairs and
Bengaluru Urban District In-charge
Government of Karnataka

**HAPPY GOWRI GANESHA
FESTIVAL TO ALL**

**LET'S CELEBRATE
AN ECO-FRIENDLY
GANESHA FESTIVAL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is requested to follow the guidelines given below and celebrate the festival safely and responsibly

Install eco-friendly Ganesha idols made of clay or turmeric.

Ganesha idols installed at homes should be immersed at home, or in the mobile immersion tanks provided by the City Corporation or at designated immersion ponds.

Prior permission must be obtained from the City Corporation's Single Window Centre for installing Ganesha idols in public places.

To prevent overcrowding at immersion locations, follow the queue system.

Before immersing the Ganesha idol, separate wet and dry waste such as flowers, garlands, banana stems, etc., and dispose of them only at designated locations.

During the immersion of Ganesha idols, hand them over to the City Corporation staff.

Do not use plastic, polythene, thermocol or Plaster of Paris (POP) Ganesha idols.

Strictly follow the rules and guidelines already issued by the Government and any further instructions issued from time to time.

NOTE

For details of the single-window centres, lake premises/temporary immersion tanks, temporary mobile tankers established by the City Corporations within the GBA limits, and the concerned nodal officers
<https://apps.bbmp.gov.in/ganesha2026/> Alternatively, citizens can call **1533** to obtain further information.

SCAN THE QR CODE

MAHESHWAR RAO M., I.A.S.
Chief Commissioner, GBA

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

**Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
and
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board**

Dr. G. Parmeshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Advantages of Soil/Clay Ganapathi

Environment Friendly- Clay Idols dissolve easily in water and do not cause water pollution.

Biodegradable - Clay decomposes naturally and does not leave behind toxic residues.

Protects Aquatic Life - Clay idols do not release harmful chemicals or synthetic colours into the water and therefore do not harm aquatic plants or animals.

Reduce waste - Clay idols disintegrate quickly after immersion and do not leave behind solid waste.

Go Green... Celebrate Traditionally

**Wishing everyone a
Happy
Gowri & Ganesha
Chaturthi Festival**

**Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
With the eco-friendly Clay Ganesha idol**

Disadvantages of PoP Ganapathi

Causes significant Environmental Pollution

Does not dissolve easily after immersion

Chemical Paints may release toxins into water

Persistent presence of Pop in water depletes the dissolved oxygen levels

Avoid PoP... Avoid Pollution

**Karnataka Government has
Strictly Prohibited
the Manufacture, transportation,
Sale and Immersion of
Plaster of Paris (PoP)**

**A Cleaner Environment
for a Brighter Future**

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 #49, "Parisara Bhavan" 1st to 5th Floor, Churru Street, Bengaluru - 560 001
 Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax : 080-25586321
 e-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

Quick Read

Shoppers pack KR Market amid festive rush

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
A massive shopping frenzy has hit Bengaluru's K.R. Market as thousands of citizens flock to purchase essentials for the Gauri-Ganesha festival. With both celebrations falling on the same day and coinciding with a Sunday, huge crowds began swarming the area early in the morning. This sudden rush of shoppers and street vendors has triggered severe traffic jams around the bustling marketplace, leaving motorists stranded and struggling to navigate the congested roads. Authorities are managing the massive influx as festive preparations reach their peak across the city.

Not scared of another FIR, says Pratap Simha

Pratap Simha fiercely fires back at Priyank Kharge, defying prison threats over festival policing tensions.

BENGALURU

The political war of words between the state government and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders escalated sharply as former Member of Parliament Pratap Simha fiercely responded to Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge's recent warning regarding potential police station threats.

The unfolding controversy stems from a volatile incident in T. Narasipura within the Mysuru district, where local police inspector Dhananjay warned citizens and youth committees against bursting firecrackers and executing traditional processions near mosques during the upcoming Ganeshotsava celebrations.

There are 21 FIRs against me; I won't be scared even if another case is filed. I am ready to go to jail for the sake of a grand Ganeshotsava celebration.

- Pratap Simha, Former MP



This controversial directive sparked immediate public outrage and prompted Simha to issue a fiery warning that he would personally lead a march to storm the police station if officers continued utilizing aggressive, intimidating language against festival organizers.

Weighing in on the escalating tensions, Home Minister

Priyank Kharge launched a blistering counter-attack on social media. Without explicitly naming him, Kharge targeted the former MP by labeling him a "street-level rowdy" who had lost political relevance, portraying him as a disgruntled figure desperately seeking media attention. Kharge issued a stark, uncompromising warn-

Clash highlights

- The Warning: Home Minister Kharge lashed out at Simha, warning that any attempt to target police stations would earn a free ticket straight to Parappana Agrahara prison.
- The Defiance: Simha retorted that he already faces 21 police cases and refuses to back down from advocating for Hindu celebrations.
- Counter Attack: The former MP mocked the Home Minister, claiming that corruption scams and prison thoughts dominate Kharge's future.

ing, stating that any individual attempting to storm a police facility would receive an "open invitation" resulting in a direct, free-of-cost transfer straight to Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. He emphasized that the Home Department would not tolerate obstruction of police duties or attempts to destabilize commu-

nal harmony. Refusing to back down or cower under legal threats, Pratap Simha issued a defiant challenge. Retorting sharply to the Home Minister, Simha declared that he already has twenty-one First Information Reports registered against him from past political agitations and would not hesitate or fear if yet another case was slap-

ped against his name. He proudly affirmed that he is completely prepared to face imprisonment if it means standing up for the unhindered, grand public celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Furthermore, Simha turned the tables on the Home Minister personally, claiming that recent revelations concerning recruitment irregularities placed Kharge's own political future in jeopardy, quipping that Parappana Agrahara is likely the only thing occupying the minister's thoughts. As senior opposition figures rally behind local organizers to rep- rimand official overreach, the fiery exchange underscores deepening polarization over festival policing across Karnataka.

Minister Joshi calls out govt's appeasement politics

BENGALURU



A major political controversy has erupted in Karnataka after a local police officer allegedly threatened young festival organizers. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has stepped into the fray, demanding the immediate suspension of Inspector Dhananjay.

The trouble began in T. Narasipura, located in the Mysuru district. Young members of a local Ganesha committee were busy planning their upcoming celebrations. Instead of receiving support, they faced harsh words from Inspector Dhananjay. The officer publicly scolded the youth and threatened to cancel their event, citing potential law and order

issues regarding the festival's installation and immersion processions.

This aggressive approach quickly sparked anger among local residents and pro-Hindu groups. Soon, the news reached high levels of government.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi took to social media to voice his deep frustration. He argued that it is heartbreaking to see citizens forced to beg for permission to honor their traditions in their own homeland.

Joshi did not stop at criticiz-

ing the local officer. He aimed his words directly at the ruling Congress administration. He questioned whether the police officer acted on his own or under pressure from leaders practicing appeasement politics. Furthermore, he accused the state leadership of adopting an anti-Hindu stance by trying to restrict peaceful religious gatherings under the guise of security. Other political figures have also joined the chorus of disapproval. Former Member of Parliament Pratap Simha added fuel to the fire, warning that local leaders might storm the police station if the intimidation continues. As tension mounts across the region, community leaders are calling for calm while demanding accountability from law enforcement. The core debate centers on finding a balance between public safety and the freedom to celebrate cultural heritage.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated a modern medical facility at Mathrushree Manovikas Kendra in Nelamangala. The launch marks a major milestone for healthcare and social inclusion in the region.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Governor highlighted that humanitarian service stands as a core value of Indian civilization. He stressed that helping others without expecting rewards reflects true dedication to humanity. Furthermore, he noted that building an inclusive society where every individual lives with dignity fulfills the true spirit of the nation's constitution.

Reflecting on his past tenure as the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment,

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot champions social inclusion and child wellness during a major medical facility launch in Nelamangala.

Gehlot shared proud details of past national achievements. Between 2014 and 2015, the ministry secured eight Guinness World Records through targeted empowerment programs for citizens with special needs. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of inclusive development for driving these transformative welfare efforts forward.

The Governor pointed out key legislative reforms, such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016. This vital law expanded recognized disability categories from seven to twenty-one. It also boosted job reservations in government sectors to four percent and educational quotas to five percent.

Moreover, he emphasized recent nationwide progress, including the creation of a ten-thousand-word Indian Sign Language dictionary and the Accessible India Campaign.

Turning his focus to modern child development, Gehlot issued an important warning to

parents. He strongly advised families to limit children's daily screen exposure. Excessive digital device usage, he explained, can severely harm a child's sleep patterns, social skills, and mental growth. He urged parents to invest more quality time into meaningful interactions with their kids.

Finally, the Governor praised the facility's founders, doctors, and social workers. He expressed full confidence that the new medical hub will serve as a beacon of hope, offering specialized rehabilitation, early diagnosis, and counseling support to countless families across Karnataka. Prominent dignitaries, including chief patron Gopal B. Hosur and Padma Shri awardees Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi and Dr. S.G. Sushilamma, attended the memorable event.

ED Chief Navin to oversee Jarkiholi case review

BENGALURU

Karnataka's political landscape has been jolted following high-stakes raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on properties linked to state minister Satish Jarkiholi. In a dramatic escalation, ED Director Rahul Navin has personally flown into Bengaluru alongside a specialized technical committee from New Delhi to take direct charge of the investigation.

The central agency's aggressive move follows coordinated search operations across multiple locations in Bengaluru,

Belagavi, and Goa. During the raids, enforcement teams reportedly recovered ₹3.3 crore in unaccounted cash alongside foreign currency reserves from premises connected to the minister. These discoveries have intensified speculation that formal notices could be issued to key individuals at any moment.

According to investigators, the ongoing probe heavily scrutinizes potential violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Authorities are examining suspicious overseas investments, cross-border fund transfers,

and stakes in mining operations connected to associates and family members. Furthermore, the technical team is analyzing financial trails related to public works contracts and alleged kickbacks.

Beyond the Jarkiholi case, Director Rahul Navin's personal intervention signals a broader review of high-profile corruption cases shaking the state. During his two-day camp in the capital, he is scheduled to evaluate the progress of other major inquiries, including the controversial Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) irregu-

larities, the MUDA land allotment case, and the Valmiki Development Corporation scam.

The direct involvement of the central agency's top chief has triggered intense political friction. Opposition figures are closely monitoring the developments, while ruling party leaders have questioned the timing and motives behind the central crackdown. As senior officials pore over seized documents and digital records behind closed doors, the unfolding inquiry threatens to trigger wider ramifications for the state administration.

BENGALURU

Private school educators in Karnataka could soon be eligible for the prestigious state-level 'Best Teacher Award.' School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced that the government is actively reviewing this proposal, bringing fresh hope to thousands of teachers outside the government sector.

Speaking at a combined celebration in Attibele hosted by the Anekal Taluk Private Schools Association, Minister Bangarappa addressed various long-standing demands from educators. He confirmed that the administration is carefully evaluating the request to include private teachers in state honors and promised a final decision following further departmental discussions.

Beyond state awards, the minister touched upon several critical policy issues affecting the education sector. Representatives of private institutions had raised concerns regarding the renewal process for school recognition and the extension of House Rent Allowance benefits to educators



in government and aided schools across Bengaluru Rural. Bangarappa noted that an expert committee led by Legislative Council member Putanna has already submitted its official recommendations on these matters.

Another major topic on the table is the supply of state-curriculum textbooks. Private school managements have expressed willingness to cover the full cost if the government supplies official textbooks directly, a proposal that officials are currently reviewing to ensure timely distribution for students.

Reflecting on past educational reforms, the minister recalled the historic 'Akshaya'

program launched by his father and former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa. That initiative successfully boosted student attendance by offering daily incentives to children attending government schools. Stressing that the education department oversees more than ten million children, Bangarappa reiterated his commitment to implementing meaningful structural reforms.

As teachers and school managements await the government's final decisions, these potential policy shifts signal a more inclusive approach toward recognizing educational contributions across both public and private sectors in Karnataka.

Bengaluru markets bustling for Gauri-Ganesha festival

BENGALURU

Markets across Bengaluru are packed with shoppers as families gear up for the Gauri-Ganesha festival. Despite notable price hikes driven by high demand and lower crop yields, residents are enthusiastically purchasing essentials to celebrate the holiday.

Popular shopping hubs like K.R. Market, Malleshwaram, Basavanagudi, Gandhi Bazaar, and Yeshwantpur have witnessed heavy crowds since

morning. Shortages caused by deficient rainfall and dropping groundwater levels have pushed up the costs of essential items. Flowers like jasmine and crossandra, along with fruits such as apples and pomegranates, are selling at significantly higher rates. Vegetable prices have also climbed, adding financial pressure to household budgets.

Vendors report that although shoppers are questioning the elevated costs, festive traditions remain strong. Rather than canceling their plans, many fami-

lies are simply scaling back quantities to manage expenses. Meanwhile, the demand for eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols and traditional 'Bagina' gift kits has surged as residents embrace sustainable celebrations.

The festival timing, falling alongside a long weekend, has also triggered massive outmigration. Thousands of residents are traveling to their hometowns, creating heavy gridlock on major arterial routes like Tumakuru, Hosur, and Ballari roads. Railway stations and bus

terminals are equally packed, prompting transport corporations to deploy special services.

Local authorities have stepped up safety measures for public immersion days, emphasizing strict adherence to environmental rules and clay idol use. City officials remind everyone that meat sales are officially banned in Bengaluru on September 14 to respect religious sentiments. As markets remain lively and colorful, citizens continue their preparations with devotion and joy.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Facing mounting pressure over chronic urban gridlock, the Karnataka government is seriously considering a proposal to revise school timings across Bengaluru. School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced that the administration is exploring structural schedule adjustments to alleviate the massive vehicular congestion that paralyzes the city during peak commuting hours every weekday.

The initiative comes in re-



sponse to numerous appeals submitted by private school associations, urban planners, and frustrated citizens. In bustling metropolitan areas like Bengaluru, traffic infra-

structure often buckles under the simultaneous influx of school buses, private vans, and office-bound commuters hitting the roads at the exact same time. This convergence

Highlights of the proposal

- Staggered Timings: Shifting school opening hours by 30 minutes to an hour to ease simultaneous morning and evening traffic rushes.
- Stakeholder Consultations: Comprehensive meetings will soon be held with traffic police, parents, school managements, and vehicle driver associations.
- Consensus-Driven Approach: The minister stressed that no unilateral decisions will be made without factoring in public and expert feedback.

creates massive bottlenecks, significantly increasing travel times and daily stress for thousands of families.

To ensure a balanced approach, the Education Department plans to conduct

comprehensive stakeholder consultations. Minister Bangarappa confirmed that official meetings will be organized with traffic police authorities, school management boards, transport and driver

associations, and concerned parents. The government has stressed that no unilateral decisions will be implemented; instead, a final framework will emerge only after weighing feedback from every affected group.

This policy discussion also aligns with earlier recommendations issued by the High Court, which previously urged state officials to explore staggered school and office schedules to better manage urban mobility. Transport experts estimate that adjusting school entry and dismissal times by thirty

minutes to an hour could effectively stagger traffic flows. Such a shift would separate school transit from corporate rush hours, easing overall road pressure and improving safety for students.

As discussions progress, the state government remains focused on finding a practical solution that prioritizes student welfare while bringing much-needed relief to Bengaluru's congested commuters. Stakeholders are eagerly awaiting the upcoming consultative sessions to see how the final schedule adjustments will be structured.

STATE'S DUAL RENAISSANCE

GREENER GROWTH, SMARTER PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The machinery of public administration is rarely synonymous with speed or radical imagination.

For generations, citizens have largely accepted that bureaucratic change moves at a glacial pace, offering only incremental, often invisible adjustments to the policies that fundamentally shape their daily lives.

However, a profound and quiet revolution is currently sweeping through the corridors of power a systemic transformation that is aggressively rewriting the social contract between the state, its environ-

ment, and its people. This is not merely a reshuffling of physical files or a rebranding of old schemes; it is an ambitious, dual-pronged strategy aimed at revitalizing the natural landscape while systematically dismantling the archaic red tape of daily governance.

On one side of this ledger, we are witnessing an unprecedented commitment to ecological restoration, the generation of green wealth, and curated, sustainable tourism.

On the other, the state is rapidly architecting a hyper-modern digi-

tal ecosystem designed to make public service frictionless, transparent, and instantly accessible to the common man. By examining the intricate details and ambitious targets of these newly launched initiatives, we can decode the blueprint of a future where economic growth and environmental stewardship are finally synchronized, and where the citizen is placed firmly and permanently at the center of the administrative universe.

Karavali and Malnad tourism policy: A coastal renaissance

While the state works tirelessly to turn its farmlands green, it is simultaneously casting a renewed, appreciative gaze toward its spectacular shorelines and rolling hills.

The newly notified Karavali and Malnad Tourism Policy represents a decisive, strategic pivot away from haphazard commercial exploitation toward curated, high-value, and ecologically conscious tourism. Following rigorous inter-departmental consultations in August 2026 and swift cabinet approval by mid-September, the policy's rapid operationalization signals a new dawn for a region

that has long yearned for structured development.

Historically, the coastal and Malnad belts have punched significantly below their weight in the global tourism market, severely hampered by disjointed planning, poor connectivity, and inadequate infrastructure. This new policy acts as a definitive corrective, introducing a comprehensive Coastal Tourism Perspective Plan, complete with a long-term development roadmap and a strict, measurable first-year action plan. The administrative emphasis is abundantly clear: unlock the immense economic potential of the region without compromising the delicate, pristine ecological balance that makes it so attractive in the first place. By streamlining the vision, the state aims to attract premium investments, foster local, sustainable employment, and elevate the coastal experience from a brief, chaotic stopover to a premier, standalone global destination.

EARTH, WIND, AND WATER

Tega Siri: Green partnership transforming agroforestry

The relationship between the state and its forest reserves has historically been viewed through a restrictive lens of conservation versus exploitation. The newly approved Tega Siri initiative shatters this binary, proposing a breathtakingly ambitious green partnership that marries ecology with rural economics. Backed by a substantial financial outlay of ₹112.44 crore, this is not a conventional, feel-good tree plantation drive destined to be forgotten after a photo opportunity. It is a meticulously engineered socio-economic intervention designed to turn the state's vast geography into a decentralized, living treasury. The sheer scale of the target is awe-inspiring: planting ten

crore teak and other commercially valuable trees alongside farms and roadways across all thirty-one districts over a strict three-year period.

The operational mathematics of this initiative are carefully calibrated.

The administration is tasked with raising 3.50 crore high-quality seedlings in the 2026-27 period. This aggressive target will double to 7 crore in 2027-28, finally hitting the ultimate 10 crore mark in the subsequent two years. But the true, transformative genius of Tega Siri lies in its human element the agrarian community. By 2030, an estimated fifteen lakh landowners will be integrated into the program, expanding the green footprint

from an initial 35,000 hectares to a staggering one lakh hectares. Farmers who plant and nurture these saplings are officially issued "Tree Pattas."

This vital piece of documentation legally guarantees the farmer a seventy percent share of the revenue generated from the final timber produce.

It effectively transforms environmental conservation into a highly lucrative, long-term financial safety net for farmers who have long suffered the crippling unpredictability of crop yields and market crashes.



Air pollution control: Reclaiming the skies

Yet, all these green and blue developmental initiatives would ring hollow if the state willfully ignored the immediate, visceral threat of urban and industrial pollution. Acknowledging that clean, breathable air is a fundamental human right rather than a luxury, a comprehensive Air Pollution Control framework has been quietly but forcefully rolling out. Armed with successive approvals, the strategy targets a staggering

1,200 out of 4,803 highly polluting industrial units in its first year alone representing a full 25 percent of the state's absolute worst offenders.

The proposed interventions within this framework are refreshingly aggressive.

The government is currently deliberating on absolute bans on highly toxic, cheap furnace oils in heavy industries, pushing instead for a massive, state-wide conversion from coal-based fuels to

much cleaner Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG).

Furthermore, the policy looks intently at the micro-level contributors to daily smog mandating the stringent reduction of road dust, enforcing the aggressive expansion of urban greenery, and heavily encouraging the adoption of public transport systems.

In a move that will surely impact the daily commuter,



the framework also proposes mandatory mechanical retrofits for any private vehicle that fails its pollution test.

GOVT GOES DIGITAL TO DELIVER FASTER CITIZEN SERVICES

If the aforementioned environmental policies represent the state's deep commitment to the physical world, its sweeping governance initiatives represent an absolute mastery of the digital one.

For the average citizen, interacting with government departments has historically been an exercise in supreme patience and immense frustration. The newly launched IP-GRS 2.0 (Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System) aims to permanently shatter this paradigm. Launching with an arsenal of nine dis-

tinct, high-tech features, it completely modernizes how a citizen demands accountability from the state apparatus.

The integration of an Artificial Intelligence chatbot on WhatsApp fully accessible via voice or text is a masterstroke of democratic accessibility.

It bypasses the need for complex, often intimidating government web portals, bringing the state directly to the messaging app used by almost every smartphone owner in the country.

Furthermore, physical government offices will now dis-

play prominent QR codes, empowering citizens to instantly log feedback or lodge complaints right on the spot.

AI does the heavy lifting in the background, categorizing complaints, routing them to the exact correct officials, and running root-cause analyses on systemic failures.

Crucially, the introduction of the Jana Alike Dina (People's Governance Day) dashboards every Wednesday forces a weekly, inescapable cadence of transparency, putting public officials' performance under a bright public microscope.



Namma Seve (Seva One): Unified citizen portal

Running seamlessly in parallel to the grievance revolution is Namma Seve, appropriately also known as Seva One. Approved by the cabinet in July 2026 and launched alongside the grievance portal, this platform represents the holy grail of public administration: a genuine single-window interface. By aggressively integrating 80 diverse departments and 75 disparate government agencies into one unified digital space, it completely eliminates the citizen's need to understand the complex, Byzantine internal topology of the government.

A citizen no longer needs to know which specific bureaucratic silo handles their particular issue, be it a birth certificate or a trade license; the platform seamlessly connects the user to the required service based on simple inputs. This is a profound, philosophical shift from an outdated government-centric model

where the citizen must navigate the maze to a modern citizen-centric model, where advanced technology navigates the maze on behalf of the user.

K-DEEP: Engine of data exchange

To fuel these intelligent, forward-facing public systems, the state astutely realized it must first clean up and modernize its own backend architecture. Enter K-DEEP (Karnataka Data Exchange and Ecosystem Platform). Over a carefully structured thirty-six-month, three-phase rollout extending all the way to September 2029, this vital initiative will fundamentally rewire how government data is stored, shared, and utilized across the board.

By comprehensively assessing 42 departments in its first phase and drafting a robust State Data Policy, K-DEEP aims to permanently destroy the administrative silos that have traditionally hoarded information.



Bhu Guarantee (Revenue Department): Era of Form 16A RTCs

However, the undisputed crown jewel of this entire digital governance overhaul is the monumental Bhu Guarantee program. Land has always been the primary source of wealth, identity, and, unfortunately, generational conflict. Inaccurate records, missing ledgers, and fraudulent land transfers have clogged the judiciary for decades, stripping families of their rightful assets. The massive push to issue Form 16A RTCs (Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops) is arguably the most radical, comprehensive land verification exercise ever undertaken in the region.



ly provide indisputable, mathematically precise proof of ownership to millions of landowners. It effectively digitizes trust, permanently removing the dark cloud of ambiguity that has long plagued property ownership.

Bhu Guarantee (Rural e-Khata): Securing village titles

This intense demand for digital certainty extends deeply into the rural heartlands through the rural e-Khata revolution. The state has set a monumental target of generating 85 lakh rural e-Khata overall, seeking to bring the

Governance Takeaways:

- Omnipresent Accessibility:** Shifting the heavy burden of grievance redressal from the citizen to intuitive, AI-driven WhatsApp chatbots and immediate QR codes.
- Data Liquidity:** The K-DEEP initiative actively destroying departmental silos to allow seamless, instantaneous citizen services across 80 distinct departments.
- Unlocking Dead Capital:** The monumental Bhu Guarantee scheme providing clear, digitized titles and enabling the vital B-Khata to A-Khata transition, economically empowering millions of citizens.

hinterlands firmly into the digital age.

In the current financial year alone, the administration aims to rigorously process 25 lakh applications. By moving systematically to digitize village property records—documents that have historically languished in dusty, vulnerable paper ledgers subject to tampering, loss, and decay—the state is permanently securing

the ancestral wealth of its rural populace. A digital e-Khata ensures that a modest village home or a piece of farmland is recognized, tracked, and protected with the exact same legal exactitude as a metropolitan commercial skyscraper.

Bhu Guarantee (Rural B-Khata to A-Khata): Unlocking agrarian wealth

Perhaps the most economically liberating and immediately impactful aspect of the rural Bhu Guarantee initiative is the systematized conversion of rural B-Khata to A-Khata. A 'B-Khata' has long been a mark of administrative purgatory for anxious property owners. It serves merely as an acknowledgment that property tax is being paid, but critically, it does not serve as a legally absolute title of ownership. This ambiguous status tragically restricts the owner's access to formalized bank loans and official building permits.

The newly launched policy

allows for a highly streamlined, optional, fee-based conversion, targeting a massive 12.60 lakh conversions overall, with three lakh applications processed this year alone. By facilitating this transition, the state is essentially unlocking billions of rupees in dormant, dead capital. Rural families who were previously unable to leverage their properties for vital agricultural loans, business capital, or higher education credit will suddenly find themselves holding highly bankable, liquid assets.

Bhu Guarantee (Urban e-Khata): Taming the concrete jungle

The sheer chaos of land records is certainly not confined to the villages; it is often violently magnified in the rapidly expanding, highly contested concrete jungles of our major cities. To combat this urban sprawl, the state is sprinting to generate 9,50,000 urban e-Khata strictly within the current financial year.

Quick Read



16-year-old boy drowns while swimming

Shivamogga
A 16-year-old boy drowned while swimming in Somnakhoppa lake on the outskirts of Shivamogga city on Sunday. The deceased, Mohammed Burhan, a resident of Somnakhoppa and an SSLC student at a local school, had gone to the lake to swim when he went missing. After locals alerted the police and fire department, fire personnel launched a search operation. Following an intensive search, the boy's body was recovered from the lake. It was later sent for a post-mortem examination. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Vinobanagara police station.

Youth dies by suicide after instagram post

Haveri
A 24-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after posting an emotional message on Instagram in Haveri city's Devadar area. The deceased has been identified as Manjunath Agadi, who had been in a relationship with a young woman for the past two years. According to reports, the couple had recently left together and married at a temple. However, the woman's parents reportedly opposed the marriage and filed a missing-person complaint at the Haveri Women's Police Station. The couple was also questioned at the police station a few days ago in connection with the complaint. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding Manjunath's death.

SSLC student dies by suicide in Tumakuru

Tumakuru
A 16-year-old SSLC student allegedly died by suicide at Huchhanahalli village in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk. The deceased has been identified as Manvitha. According to reports, she took the extreme step when no one else was present at home. The reason behind the incident is not yet known. Following the incident, Handanakere police visited the spot and conducted an initial inspection. A case has been registered, and police have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the student's death. Further details are awaited as authorities continue their inquiry into the incident.

Youth questioned over fake ai leopard image

Davanagere
Police questioned a 22-year-old youth for allegedly creating and circulating an AI-generated leopard image to spread false news in Harihara taluk. Sunil, a resident of Vasana village, shared the image on social media three days ago, claiming a leopard had been spotted in an orchard at Nandishwara Camp. The post quickly went viral across the district, prompting forest officials to inspect the area. However, officials found no pugmarks or other evidence of a leopard. Following a complaint at Malebennuru police station, Sunil was questioned. During questioning, he reportedly admitted creating the fake leopard image using artificial intelligence for fun.

Kodagu police tighten Ganesha festival safety rules

Organisers have been instructed to follow SOPs for crowd management, particularly during processions where large gatherings are expected.

MADIKERI

With the Gauri-Ganesha festival approaching, the Kodagu Police Department has introduced strict safety measures to ensure peaceful and incident-free celebrations. Organisers of Ganesha processions have been instructed to follow designated routes, dates and timings without making any changes. Police have focused particularly on crowd management, electrical safety, loudspeaker usage and precautions at idol immersion locations. Organisers have been directed to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing crowds, especially in view of the possibility of large gatherings during processions. The police are obtaining undertakings from organisers and explaining the necessary crowd-control measures. Organisers have also been



warned that violations of the guidelines will invite strict action. Special attention has been given to electrical safety along procession routes. Organisers have been instructed to ensure that Ganesha idols, vehicles and decorations do not come into contact with low-hanging power lines, electric poles or other utility connections. Such contact could result in short circuits and serious accidents. To prevent such incidents,

the police have coordinated with concerned departments, including the Public Works Department (PWD), through a single-window arrangement to address potential obstructions and safety concerns along procession routes. The use of loudspeakers and DJ systems has also come under strict scrutiny this year. Police have directed organisers to ensure that sound systems remain within the prescribed decibel limits. The permitted limits are 55 decibels in residential areas, 65 decibels in commercial areas, 75 decibels in industrial areas and 50 decibels in silence zones. In addition, the use of loudspeakers has been prohibited between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Police have cautioned organisers against excessive noise and stressed the importance of complying with the regulations. The Kodagu Police Department has appealed to Ganesha

HIGHLIGHTS

- Police require crowd-control undertakings from organisers.
- Guidelines violations will face strict enforcement.
- Electrical safety prioritised along procession routes.
- Contact with power lines risks short circuits.
- PWD coordination ensures route obstruction clearing.
- Single-window system streamlined multi-department safety permissions.

festival organisers and the public to cooperate with the authorities and follow all safety instructions. The measures are aimed at ensuring that the festival, processions and immersion activities are conducted smoothly while protecting public safety and maintaining law and order.

Harangi water release sparks farmers' outrage

Farmers questioned the water release, citing government advice to adopt regulated cultivation and plan farming activities based on available water resources.

MADIKERI

The reported release of water from the Harangi Reservoir into the Cauvery River has sparked strong opposition among farmers in Kodagu. Farmers have alleged that around 3,000 cusecs of water was released without prior notice, raising concerns about water availability for agriculture and drinking purposes. The Harangi Reservoir is an important water source in the Cauvery basin. Farmers questioned the decision to release water when the government has been advising them to adopt regulated cultivation and plan agricultural activities according to available water resources. They also questioned what



they described as a difference in approach towards Karnataka farmers and the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. Farmers demanded that the government consider the reservoir's storage level, inflow and future drinking water requirements before releasing large quantities of water. The reservoir has a maximum storage capacity of 8.5 TMC and currently holds around 6.03 TMC, while the inflow is reportedly only about 101 cusecs. Of the stored water, approximately one TMC is considered dead storage, further raising concerns over the quantity actually available for use.

POINTS

1. Farmers questioned releasing water despite regulation warnings.
2. Inter-state Cauvery water allocation approaches raised concern.
3. Reservoir holds 6.03 TMC of total 8.5.
4. Depleting storage threatens summer drinking water supplies.
5. Warmer weather accelerates Kodagu water scarcity fears.
6. Local residents demand government clarity on release.

Farmers and residents fear that continued release of water could significantly reduce reservoir levels before the summer season. They are particularly worried about drinking water availability during January and February, when demand could increase due to

rising temperatures. The concerns have intensified as Kodagu is already experiencing warmer weather conditions. Residents fear that if reservoir storage falls substantially now, the Harangi could face difficulties meeting drinking water requirements later. Farmers have urged the government to adopt a cautious approach and ensure that adequate water is preserved for essential needs. They said water is necessary for both agriculture and drinking, but long-term availability must also be taken into account. The reported release has therefore triggered questions about water management and allocation in the Cauvery basin. Farmers and residents are seeking clarity from the government on the reasons for the release, its duration and whether sufficient water will remain in the Harangi Reservoir to meet Kodagu's drinking water needs during the coming summer.

State faces power deficit, unannounced load shedding

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The state is currently grappling with unannounced load shedding as soaring temperatures and a severe monsoon deficit push the state's daily electricity demand to 19,140 MW against a total generation of 18,889 MW. Meanwhile, specific areas in Mangaluru will also face a scheduled power cut on September 15 due to routine feeder maintenance. The state is facing a daily shortfall of 251 MW. The sudden spike in electricity usage is driven by the lack of rain and increased reliance on air conditioners and coolers. Compounding the issue are technical glitches in generators at the Raichur (RTPS), Ballari (BTPS), and Yellapur thermal power plants, along with a reduced supply from the Central Generating Stations (CGS). Officials note that the current disruptions are temporary. To manage the crisis, authorities are attempting to balance supply during peak consumption hours (6 am to 8 am, and 6 pm to 9 pm). Furthermore, under a prior agreement, Karnataka is obligated to return power to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh during the monsoon, power that was borrowed during the summer, adding to the current strain as reservoirs hold back water to prevent severe shortages next summer. Power supply will be suspended from 10 am to 5 pm due to maintenance work on the Ekkur New, Gorigudda, Naguri, and Pumpwell feeders.

Gauri-Ganesha festivities continue despite drought concerns

SHIVAMOGGA

Despite uncertainty over rainfall and water availability, preparations for the Gauri-Ganesha festival are progressing with enthusiasm across Shivamogga city. Ganesha Utsav committees and the public are busy making arrangements for the celebrations amid concerns over drought-like conditions. The Science Ground in the city has turned into a busy marketplace, with more than 30 vendors displaying Ganesha

idols in various shapes, sizes and designs. Prices of the idols range from around ₹300 to ₹30,000, depending on their size and decoration. Bookings for Ganesha idols began on Saturday, attracting thousands of devotees to the ground. People are visiting the stalls to select idols for installation in homes, shops and public celebration venues. Eco-friendly and unpainted clay Ganesha idols are also available, although their numbers are limited. Despite growing awareness about environmental conser-

vation, colourful and elaborately decorated Ganesha idols continue to attract considerable demand among devotees. The vendors, however, are facing space constraints this year. Construction of a new building at the Science Ground has reduced the area available for the idol market. As a result, vendors have been forced to arrange their stalls and tents within the limited space. One of the vendors said the college has also collected a fee from sellers for using the ground this year.

No rift in Congress, leaders united: Khader

GADAG

Health Minister U.T. Khader has dismissed reports of differences within the Congress party, stating that all senior leaders are united and working together. He said attempts were being made to create a political narrative of division within the party. Speaking in Gadag, Khader responded to allegations concerning the involvement of a Congress colleague in the district. He said such allegations were part of efforts to target the Congress party politically and create confusion among party workers and the public. Khader maintained that there is complete coordination among the party's senior leadership. He specifically referred to Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Satish Jarkiholi and G. Parameshwara, saying that the leaders are working together to strengthen the party. He stated that repeated negative campaigns or political statements would not succeed in creating an impression of a rift within the Congress. According to Khader, there is mutual understanding among the leaders and a commitment to taking everyone along. The minister also said that some individuals were making different statements about Congress leaders with the intention of politically targeting



U.T. Khader said the allegations were politically motivated attempts to target the Congress party and create confusion among workers and the public.

them. He urged people not to attach any other meaning to such comments. Khader reiterated that Congress leaders remain united and that there are no internal differences affecting the party's functioning. He said the leadership was focused on working together and maintaining coordination at different levels. His statement comes amid political discussions and speculation about differences among senior Congress leaders in Karnataka. Khader's clarification sought to reject such speculation and emphasise unity within the party. He further maintained that attempts to portray disagreements among individual leaders as a major internal conflict were politically motivated. The minister expressed confidence that the party's unity and coordination would continue despite criticism and negative publicity. Khader's remarks were aimed at reassuring Congress workers and supporters that the party leadership remains united and committed to working collectively.

HESCOM issues safety guidelines for Ganeshotsava

HUBBALLI

Ahead of the public Ganeshotsava celebrations, the Hubballi Rural Division of HESCOM has issued safety guidelines to Ganesha committees, urging organisers to take necessary precautions while installing idols, setting up pandals and conducting immersion processions. HESCOM officials have strictly warned committees against making unauthorised electrical connections, including directly hooking wires to power lines. Organisers must approach the concerned HESCOM sub-divisional or branch office and obtain permission for a safe and authorised electricity connection. Officials have also instructed committees to ensure that there are no electricity lines close to the Ganesha installation site. Pandals and mantapas should not be constructed directly below or immediately next to overhead power lines. Organisers must maintain a safe distance from electrical infrastructure to prevent accidents. Another important instruction is that banners, posters and placards should not be tied to electricity poles or transformers. Such practices could create safety hazards and interfere with electrical

equipment. HESCOM has also issued special instructions for the Ganesha immersion procession. Committees have been asked not to use excessively tall flags, cut-outs or other structures that could come into contact with overhead power wires. If electricity lines create an obstruction along the immersion procession route, organisers should immediately inform the concerned HESCOM office. Officials have stated that HESCOM is prepared to temporarily suspend power supply on affected lines to facilitate the safe movement of the procession. The Executive Engineer of the HESCOM Hubballi Rural Division urged all Ganesha committees to strictly follow the safety instructions during the festival. HESCOM has warned that it will not be responsible for incidents resulting from failure to follow prescribed safety precautions. Officials appealed to organisers and devotees to celebrate Ganeshotsava responsibly while giving priority to electrical safety. The guidelines are aimed at preventing electrical accidents and ensuring that public celebrations and immersion processions are conducted safely and smoothly.

MLA INAUGURATES LAXMI GOVIND

Land Trades unveils Laxmi Govind in Kadri



MANGALURU

City-based Land Trades Builders and Developers inaugurated its latest residential project, 'Laxmi Govind', at Alvares Road, Kadri, on Sunday. The inauguration ceremony featured a traditional pooja, ribbon-cutting and lighting of the lamp in the presence of distinguished guests, family members, friends and well-wishers. MLA D Vedavyas Kamath, former Mayor M Shashidhar Hegde, Naveen D'Souza, Manohar Shetty, Lancy D'Souza, Satish Kumar, CA and landowner, and K Shrinath Hebbar, Managing Director, Land Trades Builders and Developers, were among those present. Addressing the gathering, MLA D Vedavyas Kamath congratulated Land Trades

Builders and Developers on the completion of the project and wished the residents a happy and prosperous life at Laxmi Govind. He appreciated the company's contribution to the growth of Mangaluru and praised its commitment to quality construction and customer satisfaction.

The inauguration marks another significant milestone for Land Trades Builders & Developers, which is celebrating 35 years of excellence in the real estate sector. Laxmi Govind is the company's 45th completed project, further strengthening its long-standing legacy of creating quality res-

idential spaces in Mangaluru. The development comprises 25 exclusive 2BHK and 3 BHK apartments, which have received an encouraging response from homebuyers. Laxmi Govind has been designed to offer residents a comfortable, modern and secure lifestyle. The project fea-

tures two lifts, covered ground-floor parking and a covered rooftop community hall. Other amenities include CCTV surveillance, intercom connectivity, continuous water supply, reticulated gas connection and 100 percent DG power backup. The project also incorporates sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting and the utilisation of solar power, reflecting Land Trades' commitment to responsible and environmentally conscious development. With its blend of thoughtful planning, modern amenities and a trusted legacy, Laxmi Govind adds another promising residential address to Kadri, while marking yet another successful chapter in Land Trades' 35-year journey of building quality homes and communities in Mangaluru.

Eco-Friendly Ganesha idols gain popularity Tumakuru

DEVOTEES BELIEVE CLAY IDOLS WITHOUT CHEMICAL PAINTS ARE ECO-FRIENDLY AND HELP REDUCE POLLUTION DURING IMMERSION.

TUMAKURU

With Ganesha Chaturthi just a day away, the Junior College grounds in Tumakuru city are witnessing brisk sales of Ganesha idols. Devotees are arriving in large numbers to purchase idols in different sizes and designs, with a noticeable shift towards eco-friendly options this year. A significant number of people are showing interest in unpainted Ganesha idols made entirely of clay. Compared to last year, the demand for these idols has increased considerably. Devotees believe that clay idols without chemical paints are more environmentally friendly and cause less pollution during immersion. Idol makers at the Junior College grounds said the trend has become increasingly no-

ticeable this year. Manjunath, a Ganesha idol maker, said customers are specifically asking for idols without paint. According to him, growing environmental awareness has influenced devotees to choose simple clay idols over painted varieties. Since these idols do not require paint or additional decoration, they are also available at relatively lower prices. Idol makers are therefore preparing more unpainted clay idols to meet the growing demand. Only a small amount of gold-coloured paint is being used on some idols when requested by customers. Meanwhile, preparations for the festival are in full swing across Tumakuru. Markets are crowded with people purchasing flowers, fruits, banana stems, coconuts and other materials required for



Ganesha worship. Vendors have reported increased demand for festival-related items. Prices of flowers and fruits have also increased ahead of the festival. Despite the price rise, devotees are continuing to purchase the necessary items to celebrate Ganesha

Chaturthi with enthusiasm. The growing preference for unpainted clay idols highlights increased environmental awareness among people. As Tumakuru prepares for the festival, the demand for eco-friendly Ganesha idols has added a green dimension to this year's celebrations.

Quick Read

Car hits Ganesha idol tractor, three injured

Chikkaballapur Three people, including a teacher couple and their 12-year-old son, were injured after a car rammed into the rear of a tractor carrying a Ganesha idol near Aimareddy Gate on the Chintamani-Madanapalle road on Saturday night. The family was travelling from Bengaluru to their native village in Sriniwasapura to celebrate the Ganesha festival. The collision severely damaged the car and caused head and facial injuries to all three passengers. As an ambulance reportedly failed to arrive promptly, locals shifted the injured to Chintamani Hospital in a private vehicle. Police registered a case and began an investigation.

Police constable dies of heart attack after duty

Chikkaballapura A police constable serving with the Chikkaballapura District Armed Reserve (DAR) died of a sudden heart attack after returning home from night duty. The deceased, Airaju, 40, was a resident of Venkatagirikote Colony in Chintamani. He returned home after completing his night shift and suffered a heart attack at around 5:30 AM. Despite efforts to save him, he died. Airaju is survived by his wife and three sons. Officers and personnel of the District Armed Reserve and Chintamani Police Department expressed condolences over his untimely death and remembered his service.

Lorry overturns, onions and garlic spill road

Kolar A canter truck carrying onions and garlic from Bengaluru to Chittoor overturned near Vaddarahalli village in KGF on the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway. The accident caused the produce to spill across the road. The driver and cleaner escaped without life-threatening injuries. Bethamangala police visited the spot and inspected the accident site. Police personnel remained at the location to provide security and prevent the onions and garlic from being stolen. Authorities also took steps to ensure the area remained safe for motorists following the incident.

Vultures crucial for ecological balance: Ramakrishnappa

RAMANAGARA

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Bengaluru South Division) M. Ramakrishnappa said vultures play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and stressed the need for greater public participation in their conservation.

He was speaking after inaugurating International Vulture Awareness Day at the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary near Ramanagara on Sunday. The programme was jointly organised by the Karnataka Forest Department's Ramanagara Territorial Division and the Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust. International Vulture Awareness Day is observed annually on the first Saturday of September to create awareness about the importance of vultures and the threats they face. Ramakrishnappa said several awareness and conservation programmes were being undertaken to protect these endangered birds. He said the vulture breeding centre established at Bannerghatta is expected to become operational soon. Vulture chicks raised at the centre will later be brought to the Ramanagara Vulture Sanctuary. A dedicated releasing centre is being established at Ramadevara Betta as part of efforts to increase the vulture population and improve their



survival. Ramadevara Betta is the country's first vulture sanctuary and is an important breeding habitat, particularly for the Long-billed Vulture and Egyptian Vulture. Since vultures lay only one egg a year, their population increases slowly, making habitat protection and conservation measures especially important. Ramakrishnappa said the Forest Department was giving high priority to protecting vulture habitats and populations. He also called for cooperation from local communities to ensure the long-term survival of the species. Environmentalist Marasappa Ravi said wildlife and bird conservation was closely linked to environmental protection. He stressed that human life is interconnected with animals and birds and that protecting them is a shared responsibility. Veterinary Officer Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Karnataka Vulture

Rare long-billed vulture spotted in Ramanagara

Visitors at Ramanagara's Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary were thrilled to spot the rare long-billed vulture. Environmentalists and trekkers observed these birds during an International Vulture Awareness Day event. Experts later shared insights on vulture habitats, behavior, and conservation importance.

Conservation Trust president Chandregowda, resource persons Darshan and Satya Pramod, Sundari from Tamil Nadu and Zonal Officer Dr. Nawaz Sharif also addressed the gathering. Forest officials, Trust members and other conservationists were present.

Solar power unit inaugurated at Gadag medical institute

GADAG

Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Minister Dr. Sharanaprakash Patil inaugurated state-of-the-art medical equipment and a solar power generation unit at the K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences in Gadag on Sunday.

The newly inaugurated medical equipment has been installed for various departments of the institute to strengthen healthcare services and improve facilities for patients. The solar power generation unit is expected to support the institute's power requirements and promote the use of renewable energy.

Speaking at the programme, Dr. Patil highlighted the importance of modern medical infrastructure and advanced equipment in providing quality healthcare services. The addition of upgraded equipment is aimed at strengthening the capacity of different hospital departments and improving patient care.

The solar power unit is also expected to contribute to energy efficiency at the medical institute. The initiative reflects the growing emphasis on adopting renewable energy solutions in public institutions while supporting sustainable development.

The programme was attended by several senior district officials and representatives of the medical institute.

Former Zilla Panchayat President Vasanna Kuradagi, Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar, Superintendent of Police Mithun H.N., Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K.R., and Director of K.H. Patil Institute of Med-



Solar power unit installed at medical institute

A new solar power unit has been introduced at the K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable development in public institutions. The green energy initiative aims to reduce operational power costs while supporting environmental sustainability.

ical Sciences Dr. Basavaraja Bommanahalli were present.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. S.S. Neelagunda, Dr. Karigoudra, Dr. Raghavendra and other officials and medical professionals also participated in the programme.

The inauguration marked an important step towards strengthening medical infrastructure and introducing sustainable energy solutions at the institute. The upgraded facilities are expected to benefit both healthcare professionals and patients by supporting better medical services and creating improved institutional infrastructure.

Beldale sings full Vande Mataram at event

BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale personally took the microphone and sang the full version of Vande Mataram during a Praja Seva Andolana (Janaspandana) programme held at Bemalkhedavillage. The incident occurred at the beginning of the programme when the patriotic song was stopped after the first two stanzas. The Karnataka government has issued directions regarding the singing of Vande Mataram at government programmes, under which only the first two stanzas are to be sung.

Following the song being stopped, Dr. Beldale, who was present on the stage, took the microphone and restarted the rendition. He went on to sing all the stanzas of Vande Mataram, with members of the public and party workers joining him. The gathering witnessed an atmosphere of patriotism as the MLA continued singing the complete version of the national song. The incident attracted attention among those present at the Janaspandana programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Beldale said Vande Mataram was a symbol of patriotism and should not be subject to restrictions on its rendition. He urged the government to withdraw the order limiting the song to two stanzas at government functions.

He said patriotic sentiments should be respected and people should have the freedom to express their love for the nation through the song. The Praja Seva Andolana programme was organised to interact with people and address issues concerning the constituency. The participation of the MLA and local residents added significance to the event.

Holy Cross Church Kulshekar celebrates annual feast with religious fervour

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The annual feast of Holy Cross Church, Kulshekar, was celebrated with great devotion and religious fervour on Sunday.

Fr Richard Aloysius Coelho, vicar of Mangaluru City Zone and parish priest of St Theresa Church, led the solemn festive Eucharistic celebration and delivered the homily.

Reflecting on the significance of the Holy Cross, Fr Richard said the cross is a symbol of patience, forgiveness, compassion and self-sacrifice for the salvation of others. He explained that during the time of Jesus Christ, crucifixion was considered a severe punishment for blasphemy and other grave offences, and death on the cross was viewed as humiliating.

However, Jesus Christ, who



was without sin, willingly accepted death on the cross for the redemption of humanity and thereby gave the cross its sacred significance. For Christians, the cross has since become a symbol of hope and a source of strength, he said.

Fr Clifford Fernandes, parish priest of Holy Cross Church, Kulshekar, concelebrated the Eucharistic celebration along with Fr Denzil

Lobo, Fr Lloyd D'Souza, Fr Jovin Sequeira, Fr Rajesh Rosario, Fr Leo Lasrado, Fr Ronson Pinto, Fr Wilson Taurro, Fr Noel and Fr Melvin D'Cunha.

Church vice-president Ruth Lobo, secretary Anil D'Sa, commission coordinators Wilfred and Maxim D'Souza, and Mangaluru diocese public relations officer Roy Castelino were present.

Gauri-Ganesha festival promotes social harmony: Swamiji

MAGADI

Shivananda Shivacharya Swamiji of Kanakapura Chikkallumatha said Gauri and Ganesha hold a significant place in Sanatana Hindu tradition and stressed the importance of celebrating festivals with devotion, unity and social responsibility.

He was speaking after inaugurating a free Gauri-Ganesha idol distribution programme organised by the Free Gauri-Ganesha Idol Distribution Committee at the Sri Gururaghavendra Swamy Matha auditorium in Magadi town.

The Swamiji said the Gauri-Ganesha festival has been celebrated since ancient times and also played a role in bringing people together during the pre-independence period. He said human life becomes meaningful when people act as responsible citi-

zens, follow righteous values and contribute positively to society.

Basava Maacideva Mahaswamiji of the Chitradurga Basava Maacideva Gurupetha said Indian culture and history attach great importance to religious traditions. He said devotion and faith, rather than wealth, are central to worship and appreciated Shivakumar of Manuganahalli for strengthening religious values through the free distribution of idols.

Ranganathananda Mahaswamiji of Bhaktamunneshwara Kshetra highlighted the severity of drought and urged the Minister to take steps to fill local lakes and water tanks. He appealed to youngsters to celebrate the festival peacefully by avoiding violence, alcohol and smoking.

Srinivasa Acharya, head priest of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matha, said free

Gauri and Ganesha idols had been distributed for the past five years, describing the initiative as an example of social commitment.

Executive Director H.N. Ashoka praised the distribution of eco-friendly clay idols and urged people to avoid idols made from plaster of Paris and harmful chemical paints to protect the environment.

Council member Raghu Kautilya said the festival promotes social harmony by bringing people together beyond caste and religious differences.

Committee chairman B. Shivakumar said small idols were being distributed for home worship to avoid competition and disturbances associated with large idols. He pledged to continue the initiative and announced plans to distribute 10,008 Gauri-Ganesha idols next year.

HAVERI

A spiritual discourse (Chintana-Shravana), Udi Tumbuva ceremony for married women and Shravana Mangalotsava were held at Sri Murugharajendra Matha on Kaginele Road in Haveri.

The programme was organised jointly by the Sri Naighantina Siddhabasava Murugharajendra Mahaswamiji Seva Samiti, Akkana Balaga and Basava Kendra.

Presiding over the event, Sri Basavashantalinga Swamiji of Sri Hosamatha ex-

plained the spiritual significance of the conscience and the need for individuals to keep their body and mind pure. Referring to a Vachana, he said the conscience exists within every individual and forms the essence of human life.

He said recognising the conscience as divine could transform the human body into Kailasa, or a divine abode. Therefore, maintaining purity of the body and mind should be regarded as an important responsibility. He urged people to remove ego,



negative thoughts, greed, violence, wickedness and other vices from their lives.

Explaining the significance of Shravana, meaning listening, the Swamiji said people

should listen to noble teachings and put them into practice. Merely hearing spiritual messages would have little meaning unless they influenced one's conduct and daily life.

Senior litterateur Hanumanthagouda Gollar said the Sharanas worked to dispel superstition and noted that listening to their philosophy could help people overcome mental distress.

Entrepreneur Parashurama Harlapura said Sri Murughamatha is among the oldest Mathas in Haveri and ex-

pressed happiness that such a significant spiritual centre was located in the locality.

Ningappa Arera welcomed the gathering and compered the programme, while Goolappa Aralikatti delivered the vote of thanks. Haripriya presented a Vachana recital.

Several residents of the locality, including Malleshappa Bagali, participated in the event. The programme brought together devotees and members of the community for spiritual reflection, cultural activities and the celebration of Shravana traditions.

Quick Read

Rain to reduce in south Bengal, north to receive more

KOLKATA
In a relief to south Bengal, the Met Office on Sunday said that there is no forecast of heavy rain in the region for the next few days, but scattered light to moderate showers, along with thunderstorms, may continue in the area, including Kolkata. A Met Department said that the current low-pressure area is located in south Chhattisgarh, and it has no further impact on West Bengal. The monsoon axis extends from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan to Gopalpur in Odisha and extends to the east-central Bay of Bengal."Light to moderate rain with thundershowers is likely in Kolkata. Gusty winds may blow at a speed of 30 to 40 kilometres per hour.

Jagan continues to target Naidu over DSC scam

AMARAVATI
YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy continues his attacks on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of teachers through DSC.The former Chief Minister on Sunday came out with another post on social media over the DSC scam."One teacher post. A rollercoaster of twists & turns in this DSC scam," posted YS Jagan.He told Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that the explanations keep changing, and every new explanation gives rise to even more questions for teacher aspirants.

Still under Ashok Siddharth’s influence: Mayawati

LUCKNOW
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday renewed her attack on her nephew and former coordinator Akash Anand, who was expelled from the party last week, claiming that he was still not acting on his own judgement but at the behest of his father-in-law and former Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Siddharth. The ties between Mayawati and Akash Anand have deteriorated over the past few months, primarily over Siddharth’s anti-party activities and alleged attempt to seize control of the party through

Modi meets Kazakhstan Prez Tokayev

Modi and Tokayev met on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, reinforcing India-Kazakhstan engagement amid a broader push for cooperation.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held a bilateral meeting with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George and other senior officials were present during the meeting. The two leaders exchanged warm greetings before the talks, with Modi also meeting members of the Kazakh delegation accompanying Tokayev. The meeting came as India hosts the two-day 18th BRICS Summit as chair for



India and Kazakhstan share a robust strategic partnership anchored in strong cultural and people-to-people ties.

— Ministry of External Affairs

The summit has brought together leaders of BRICS member countries, partner nations, outreach invitees and heads of international organisations in New Delhi. Earlier on Sunday, Modi and Tokayev joined other leaders

INDIA-KAZAKHSTAN
Tokayev arrived in New Delhi on Saturday
Bilateral meeting held at Bharat Mandapam
NSA Ajit Doval attended the talks
Kazakhstan is a BRICS partner country
Tokayev attended Modi's gala dinner
India is chairing BRICS in 2026

for a family photograph at Bharat Mandapam. Tokayev had arrived in New Delhi on Saturday to participate in the summit and was received at the airport by Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar. The Ministry of External

Affairs described India and Kazakhstan as having a robust strategic partnership based on strong cultural and people-to-people ties. Tokayev also attended a gala dinner hosted by Modi for visiting leaders at Bharat Mandapam on Saturday evening. The BRICS member countries unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration on Saturday. The declaration commended India’s hosting of the Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue segment and said the country’s chairship had provided “new impetus” to strengthening international cooperation and solidarity. The declaration also reaffirmed the bloc’s commitment to mutual respect, sovereign equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, collaboration and consensus.

Sanitation workers get safety, welfare support

NEW DELHI

Nearly 91,000 sewer and septic tank workers have been profiled and validated under an initiative aimed at improving dignity, safety and welfare for sanitation workers, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Sudhansh Pant said. According to a statement issued on Sunday, 90,942 sewer and septic tank workers have been profiled, of whom 89,248 have been validated. Pant said 87,037 sanitation workers have received Personal Protective Equipment kits, while 76,247 have been covered under health insurance schemes. The initiative has expanded

Key numbers
- 90,942 sewer and septic tank workers profiled
- 89,248 workers validated
- 87,037 workers received PPE kits
- 76,247 covered under health insurance
- 3,78,547 waste pickers profiled
- Rs 34.17 crore subsidy released to 983 workers
- 364 sanitation vehicles supported
- 1,562 safety workshops conducted

its focus to waste pickers en-

gaged in waste management. Pant said 3,78,547 waste pickers have been profiled, with 2,52,163 validated through e-KYC. Around 1,31,864 waste pickers have received PPE kits, while the data of 1,24,835 workers has been processed for generation of Ayushman Cards. Financial assistance is also being provided to strengthen mechanised sanitation and create livelihood opportunities. An upfront capital subsidy of Rs 34.17 crore has been released to 983 sanitation workers for procurement of 364 sanitation vehicles, Pant said. To strengthen emergency safety infrastructure, 753 safe-

ty devices have been dispatched to Emergency Response Sanitation Units established in major municipal corporations and districts. Alongside welfare measures, the government has conducted 1,562 workshops across the country on preventing hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The scheme’s coverage was expanded in June 2024 to include waste pickers engaged in waste management in urban and rural areas. The measures are intended to support safer working conditions, improve access to healthcare and strengthen livelihoods among workers involved in sanitation and waste management.

Shah to inaugurate Hindi Diwas meet

MUMBAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address the inaugural session of Hindi Diwas 2026 and the sixth All India Official Language Conference in Mumbai on Monday, bringing together political leaders, scholars, writers and senior government officials for a two-day programme focused on Hindi and India’s linguistic traditions. The event, organised by the Department of Official Language under the Ministry of Home Affairs, will underline Hindi’s relationship with Maharashtra’s diverse linguistic, cultural and literary heritage, an official statement said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, Members of Parliament and distinguished guests from several fields are expected to attend. During the inaugural session, Shah will present the Rajbhasha Gaurav and Ra-



The conference to be held in Mumbai will feature awards, book launches, Vande Mataram discussions and sessions on language and governance.

jbhasha Kirti Awards for 2025–26. The honours recognise institutions and individuals for outstanding work and significant contributions to the promotion and use of the Official Language. The conference will also see the launch of several books and publications, including a special commemorative issue of Rajbhasha Bharati dedicated to the National Song Vande Mataram. Other publications include Bharatiya Gyan Tantra: Srot aur Swaroop, Shiv Anadi Hain, Anant Hain, and Andheron Se Ujalon Tak, featuring writings by prison inmates. A special discussion on Vande Mataram will be among the key attractions. Joydeep Chattopadhyay, a fifth-generation descendant of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, who wrote the National Song, will make a special appearance. The programme will also feature a session on the role of Town Official Language Implementation Committees, known as TOLICs or NARAKAS. The event will encourage wider participation.

HINDI CONFERENCE DETAILS
■ Shah to address inaugural session in Mumbai
■ Rajbhasha Gaurav and Kirti Awards to be presented
■ Several books and publications to be launched
■ Special discussion on Vande Mataram
■ Session on TOLICs/NARAKAS and Official Language implementation

SCHOOL GUARD SHOT WHILE FOILING ROBBERY ATTEMPT IN WB

KOLKATA

A night guard at a school in West Bengal’s Asansol sustained serious injuries when he was shot by robbers as he fought back against them, police said on Sunday. The robbers intercepted the motorcycle-riding guard, identified as Haridas Layek, on a deserted road under the cover of darkness last night. However, he resisted their attempts, leading to a brief scuffle. Unable to overpower him, the robbers fired multiple shots at him before fleeing the scene. Layek has been admitted to a

hospital, and his condition is said to be stable. According to the police, Layek works as a night guard at Srihari Global School in Asansol in West Burdwan district. He hails from Dhaguri village under the Alladi Panchayat in Salanpur area and comes to work on a motorcycle every night. He had set out from home as usual on Saturday night, and while he was travelling along National Highway 19, a group of masked robbers intercepted him. After forcing him to stop, the robbers brandished weap-

ons and attempted to take away his valuables. When he resisted, they fired two rounds in quick succession, hitting him in the leg. Despite the injury, the young man continued to fight back against the attackers. Eventually, the robbers abandoned Haridas on the road and fled. Upon receiving the news, officers from Salanpur Police Station arrived at the scene. The guard was rescued in a bloodied state and taken to Asansol District Hospital, where doctors performed surgery on his leg that same night.

Police to grill ex-soldier in Secunderabad armoury heist case

HYDERABAD

A court in Telangana’s Secunderabad has sent former army NCO Upputholla Mallesh to police custody for seven days in connection with the theft of firearms and ammunition from the 20 Battalion, Madras Regiment’s armoury in Bolarum. Police will take the accused into custody on Monday for further interrogation in the sensational case, sources said on Sunday. The investigators will grill Mallesh further on the basis of information provided by him during the pre-

liminary questioning after his arrest. Mallesh, 37, had allegedly committed the theft on the intervening night of August 30 and 31. The police had announced the arrest of Mallesh on September 11. The same day, he was sent to judicial custody for 14 days and lodged at Chanchalguda Central Prison. Telangana Police will also share details to be gathered during the questioning with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Army authorities for further

investigation. Telangana Director General of Police C. V. Anand had stated at the press conference on Friday that prima facie, Mallesh acted alone in committing the offence. He, however, had said that police were continuing the investigation into the possible role of others. During police custody, investigators are likely to elicit information from Mallesh if he was helped by anyone in committing the offence and if he handed over weapons to others for hiding.

Making connectivity foundation of Assam’s next growth phase: Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said his government was making connectivity the foundation of the state’s next phase of growth, asserting that improved road and rail infrastructure was essential to ensure the benefits of development reached people. CM Sarma made the remarks after dedicating a Railway Overbridge (ROB) at Cinnamara in Jorhat, which he said would ease traffic congestion at a major choke point in the historic town and form part of the

state’s wider effort to make railway crossings traffic-free. “People often ask me why Assam is obsessively building bridges in its cities, towns and villages. It’s because for decades we lagged behind in connectivity and fruits of development could not reach the people,” CM Sarma said in a post on X. The Chief Minister said the state was “duty-bound” to reverse the connectivity deficit and ensure that unhindered movement became the norm rather than an exception. He said the Cinnamara ROB was part of the govern-

ment’s statewide efforts to eliminate congestion and delays caused by railway crossings. The infrastructure project is expected to improve traffic movement in Cinnamara and provide commuters with a smoother route across the railway line. Such projects are also aimed at reducing waiting time for motorists and pedestrians at railway level crossings, particularly in busy urban and semi-urban areas. CM Sarma said that the connectivity was not merely an infrastructure priority but a critical requirement for As-

sam’s economic and social development. Improved connectivity can facilitate the movement of people, agricultural produce and goods while providing businesses and industries with better access to markets. It can also help connect communities to educational institutions, healthcare facilities and employment opportunities. The Chief Minister has repeatedly stressed infrastructure development as a key component of Assam’s broader growth strategy, with road, bridge and railway-related projects being taken up across the state.

Cong questions Modi’s China policy

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, raising concerns about the government’s approach to ties with Beijing and what it described as a mismatch between its statements and actions. Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh accused the Modi government of pursuing “calibrated capitulation” before China and questioned whether India’s negotiating position had weakened following the 2020 Galwan Val-

ley clashes. Ramesh referred to Modi’s June 19, 2020 remarks that no one had entered Indian territory and asked whether the statement had affected India’s position on border negotiations. He also alleged that India had given up traditional patrolling and grazing rights in parts of eastern Ladakh. The Congress leader raised concerns over alleged Chinese activity in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. He claimed reports indicated loss of access to some patrolling points and fresh standoffs in Arunachal Pradesh. Ramesh also cited China’s



continued claims over Arunachal Pradesh, including the renaming of places, its reference to the region as “South Tibet” and the construction of the proposed 60,000-MW Medog hydropower project on the Brahmaputra.

His remarks came a day after Modi told Xi that peace and tranquillity along the India-China border remained an “essential component” of improving bilateral relations. Ramesh further questioned what he described as a softening of the government’s position on China’s alleged support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. He contrasted earlier remarks by Lt General Rahul Singh with a later assessment by former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, arguing that the differing positions raised questions about the government’s strategy.

CHENNAI

The Left parties have decided to contest the upcoming Assembly bypolls in Madurantakam and Dharapuram independently, while continuing to extend outside support to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led Tamil Nadu government, party sources said on Sunday. The CPI-M will field its candidate in Madurantakam, while the CPI will contest Dharapuram. The decision was taken following separate meetings of the state leaderships of the two parties on Saturday. CPI-M state secretary P Shanmugam told reporters in Tiruchy that

the party had decided to enter the electoral contest in consultation with the CPI and CPI-ML Liberation. He said the Left parties were not part of any of the three existing political alliances in Tamil Nadu. Shanmugam said the Assembly bypolls were neither a general election nor a contest that would determine the survival of the TVK government. Therefore, the CPI-M and CPI had decided to contest one constituency each under the Left Front. The candidates will be introduced at a meeting of the state secretaries of the CPI-M, CPI and CPI-ML Liberation in Chennai on September 15.

The deadline for filing nominations is September 16. In Chennai, CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said the party’s state executive had resolved to maintain its earlier position of remaining outside all existing alliances. He confirmed that the CPI would contest Dharapuram and the CPI-M Madurantakam. Veerapandian noted that the CPI had offered outside support to the TVK government after the state Assembly election to respect the people’s mandate and prevent any attempt by the Governor or the Bharatiya Janata Party to exercise indirect control over the administration.

Quick Read

Coal Ministry rejects inadequate coal supply

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal on Sunday clarified that adequate coal has been made available to power plants in Punjab and attributed the state's reduced power generation to factors including low utilisation of its own plants, reported breakdowns at independent power plants and inadequate lifting of coal already offered by Coal India Limited (CIL).The clarification came after media reports attributed reduced generation at Punjab's thermal plants to plant outages and inadequate coal supply. The ministry said the government has already enabled coal movement to Punjab's independent power plants (IPPs).

'BRICS can propel India's semiconductor ambitions'

NEW DELHI

The recent BRICS Summit and the upcoming SEMICON India 2026 can together provide a significant opportunity for India to strengthen its position in the global semiconductor and electronics ecosystem, India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) said on Sunday.Ashok Chandak, President of IESA, said the timing of the two platforms was particularly significant, as BRICS has underscored the need for resilient technology supply chains, semiconductors, critical minerals and frontier technologies, while SEMICON India 2026 can help translate these strategic priorities into industry partnerships, investments and concrete opportunities.

Vaccination gap: Pak remains 1 of 2 countries with endemic polio

NEW DELHI

Pakistan continues to face a major challenge in its efforts to eradicate polio, remaining one of only two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where wild poliovirus transmission remains endemic, as gaps in vaccination coverage and community resistance continue to put children at risk, a report has said.

Despite repeated nationwide vaccination campaigns and

UAE outreach brings Odisha Rs 2.43 lakh cr

Odisha's UAE outreach secured Rs 2.43 lakh crore in investment proposals, with the govt projecting nearly 9 lakh jobs and momentum towards its prosperity.

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday described his five-day UAE investment outreach as a major milestone in the state's drive towards a "Samruddha Odisha", after securing proposals worth Rs 2,43,162 crore.

Majhi said the September 9-11 outreach in Abu Dhabi and Dubai focused on attracting investment, accelerating industrialisation and creating employment. He said the delegation held 52 business meetings, including six roundtables and 46 one-to-one meetings, with around 400 industrial leaders and representatives.

The visit resulted in eight Memorandums of Understanding and 16 Investment Intents, according to the Chief Minister. The proposals are expected to create 6,18,725 direct employment opportunities, while including indirect jobs, total em-


Investment highlights
Rs 2,43,162 crore investment proposals secured
8 MoUs signed during UAE outreach
16 Investment Intents generated
6,18,725 direct jobs projected
Nearly 9 lakh total employment opportunities expected
Investment pipeline reaches Rs 22.5 lakh crore

ployment generation could reach around nine lakh.

Majhi said the delegation also interacted with representatives from Oman and Jordan. Industry Minister Sampad Chandra Swain and senior government officials

accompanied him during the UAE visit.

The Chief Minister said the state's investment mobilisation efforts continued after the Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave held in Bhubaneswar in January 2025. Outreach programmes have since been undertaken in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Gujarat and Singapore.

With the latest proposals, Odisha's total investment pipeline has risen to Rs 22.5 lakh crore, including more than Rs 20 lakh crore secured earlier. Majhi said the government is working to realise its vision of a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and build a \$500-billion economy within the next decade.

He said the administration is using its political and administrative capabilities to prioritise industrialisation, attract new capital and expand employment opportunities across the state further.

BRICS bodies seek stronger biz integration

NEW DELHI

BRICS business bodies have called for stronger economic integration, greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs and deeper cooperation among member countries to convert the grouping's economic potential into tangible growth.

Presenting the 2026 Annual Report under India's chairmanship, BRICS Women's Business Alliance Chairperson Avarna Jain said women entrepreneurs across BRICS are creating businesses, generating jobs, driving innovation and contributing significantly to economic growth.

Jain said the next priority should be enabling more women-led enterprises to move from participation to



BRICS business bodies seek stronger trade and greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs as India pushes deeper economic cooperation.

"The next step is to enable more women entrepreneurs to move from participation to leadership, from small enterprise to scale and from success in one market to opportunities across BRICS," Jain said.

leadership, scale beyond small businesses and access opportunities across BRICS markets. She argued that women's economic empowerment and leadership should be treated as an economic strategy rather than a sectoral issue.

The alliance's recommendations focus on improving access to capital and innovation, building resilience through women-led solutions and expanding successful initiatives across BRICS. Jain also acknowledged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in placing women-led development at the centre of India's growth story.

BRICS Business Council Chair Jai Shroff, meanwhile, called for greater economic integration through increased trade, investment, stronger value chains, technology sharing and new partnerships between businesses.

Shroff said BRICS already possesses enormous economic capacity, but greater collaboration is needed to translate that strength into opportunities for entrepreneurs and enterprises. The council's recommendations align with the four pillars of India's BRICS chairship: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.

India to host global circular economy forum

GANDHINAGAR

India will host the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from September 15 to 18, marking the first time the forum will be held in South Asia.

Organised under the theme "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity", the forum will be jointly inaugurated on September 15 by Union Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The opening session will also feature representatives from Finland and the Netherlands.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said the forum will

highlight India's efforts to advance circularity, which involves reusing, refurbishing and recycling materials and products and returning them to the economy as valuable resources.

WCEF 2026 is being jointly organised by the Central Pollution Control Board, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, Government of Finland, the environment ministry, Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Pollution Control Board.

Over 2,000 stakeholders from 65 countries are expected to attend, including business leaders, innovators, researchers, policymakers and academicians. The forum will showcase Indian circular initiatives while strengthening international cooperation,

WCEF 2026 AT A GLANCE
■ Dates: September 15–18.
■ Venue: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
■ Participants: 2,000+ stakeholders.
■ Countries: 65+.
■ Exhibition: 125+ exhibitors.
■ Sessions: 4 plenary and 16 thematic sessions.
■ Focus: Circular finance, innovation, technology, sustainable products and startups.

particularly in the Global South.

Discussions will focus on mobilising circular finance and private investment, policy dialogue, partnerships, innovation and technology. The first two days will feature four plenary and 16 thematic sessions on artificial intelligence, employment, energy, finance, governance, sustainable products, startups and youth leadership.

An exhibition featuring more than 125 exhibitors will showcase circular solutions developed by startups and investment-ready solutions.

The ministry said the forum will strengthen collaboration on circular solutions and India's role in environmental governance globally.

Eliminating non-tariff barriers can solve 75% of engineering exporters' issues

NEW DELHI

Engineering exporters' body on Sunday urged BRICS nations to eliminate non-tariff barriers and establish a smooth payment mechanism in national currencies to facilitate trade and address challenges faced by exporters. According to the apex body EEPC India, this decision would reduce the industry's problems by up to 75 per cent.

"Around 75 per cent of the problems faced by exporters can be solved by eliminating non-tariff barriers and having a smooth and efficient payment mechanism in individual national currencies," EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha said.He said a common agreement on non-tariff barriers among BRICS nations is the need of the hour.

"We can have a common agreement on non-tariff barriers between BRICS nations and agree to a set of standards. While we have been discussing this for a while now, it is time to move to its execution," Chadha said.

Non-tariff measures are widely considered to impose higher costs on exports than tariffs in many countries, un-



derscoring the need to simplify regulatory procedures among trade partners.With BRICS accounting for nearly one-fourth of global trade, reducing non-tariff barriers could further increase the bloc's share in international commerce, according to the industry.

Such trade facilitation measures are expected to particularly benefit India's engineering sector which remains one of the country's largest export segments.According to the latest industry data, engineering goods contribute nearly 27 per cent of India's total merchandise exports. Among BRICS economies, key destinations for Indian engineering exports include Brazil, China, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

In July, the nation's engineering goods exports rose 18 per cent year-on-year to \$12.24 billion despite geopolitical uncertainties and disruptions along key trade routes in West Asia.

FM meets Iranian counterpart

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday met Iranian counterpart Dr Seyed Ali Madanizadeh here and discussed issues related to economic cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

According to the Finance Ministry, FM Sitharaman thanked Iran for its active participation in the BRICS Summit and productive engagement in deliberations under the Finance Track.The two sides exchanged views on ways to further strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries, the ministry said in a post on X.

Earlier in September, the Finance Minister had met Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) President Zou Jiayi and discussed opportunities to deepen the India-AIIB partnership. The discussions included supporting India's infrastructure and transport connectivity priorities, enhancing local-currency financing, increasing private-sector participation and expanding the global presence of AIIB, according to the Finance Ministry.

FM Sitharaman had also met Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, with

the two sides discussing ways to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

It was agreed to advance negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to establish a mutually beneficial framework for enhancing investment flows and economic engagement. The two sides also discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation in the financial services sector.

Apart from that, FM Sitharaman held discussions with Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in the last week to advance negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and explore deeper cooperation in financial services as the two countries seek to strengthen economic engagement and achieve ambitious trade and investment targets.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Declaration 2026 at the 18th BRICS Summit in the national capital. In his closing remarks, Modi said the declaration gives clear direction to the shared resolve of BRICS members and called for translating the agreed resolutions into concrete results.

GUWAHATI

The 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang railway line, built through challenging hilly terrain and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi a year ago, has given Mizoram a new logistics identity, officials said on Sunday.

According to railway officials, the deeper significance of Sairang, near Mizoram capital Aizawl, lies in what it has made possible. A railway line built through challenging hilly

terrain has compressed distances, widened choices and given Mizoram a new logistics identity, while placing Aizawl on India's railway map for the first time.It has linked mobility with dignity, infrastructure with enterprise, and connectivity with opportunity.

On September 13, 2025, the Prime Minister inaugurated the 51.38 km Bairabi (along southern Assam) -- Sairang (near Aizawl) railway line and the Sairang Railway station, opening a new chapter of

progress and development for Mizoram.

Officials said that within just one year, the railway line has brought transformative development to this remote hill state, from a line on the railway map into a gateway to improved mobility, greater access to markets, enhanced tourism and new opportunities.

For generations, Mizoram's difficult terrain made long-distance movement heavily dependent on roads, making travel very time-consuming,

uncomfortable and unreliable. The commissioning of the Bairabi-Sairang new railway line has completely changed the scenario.

The Bairabi-Sairang railway line is an engineering marvel, traversing steep hills, deep valleys and gorges of Mizoram. The project comprises 153 bridges, including 55 major bridges, 88 minor bridges and 10 Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.

As many as six bridges exceed 70 meters in height, with

the tallest rising to 114 metres, which is 42 metres taller than Delhi's Qutub Minar. The alignment also passes through 45 tunnels stretching over almost 16 kilometres.

The rail corridor connects the national railway network onwards from Bairabi to the four newly developed stations of Hortoki, Kawnpui, Mualkhang and finally the Sairang railway station, thereby completing rail connectivity to the very threshold of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

India emerges as vaccine powerhouse

NEW DELHI

India has emerged as the world's largest vaccine producer and a major global supplier by volume, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh said on Sunday, highlighting the country's expanding capabilities in vaccine research, epidemic preparedness and biomedical innovation.

Addressing a high-level reception for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) Board and In-



vestors Council in New Delhi, Singh said India has moved well beyond the limitations of a decade ago. He pointed to the growth of a vibrant bioeconomy, stronger vaccine development capabilities and a scientific ecosystem capable of supporting global prepared-

ness against future epidemics and pandemics.

The event, jointly hosted by the Department of Biotechnology and CEPI, brought together scientists, policymakers, industry representatives and global stakeholders involved in vaccine development and epidemic preparedness. The CEPI Board and Investors Council meetings in New Delhi were held a decade after the organisation's previous governance meeting in India.

Singh noted that India has

been associated with CEPI since its formative years as a founding member and long-standing strategic partner. He credited scientists and institutions for strengthening the country's vaccine and biomedical ecosystem.

India's bioeconomy reached \$195.3 billion in 2025, growing 18 per cent year-on-year. Its biotechnology startup ecosystem expanded to 11,855 startups, including 1,780 established during 2025. Biopharma contributes nearly 30

per cent of the bioeconomy.

In the vaccine sector, India has expanded from affordable production to research, innovation, advanced biologics, clinical development and large-scale manufacturing. Singh said India supplies vaccines to more than 100 countries, accounts for nearly 60 per cent of global vaccine production and meets over 65 per cent of WHO routine immunisation requirements, strengthening its global health role further.

The Real Cause of Nepal’s Flash Floods

It Wasn’t an Earthquake or a “Glacier Burst”



A vast section of ice and rock fell from high in the Himalayas, struck a river system and transformed into a fast-moving wall of mud, boulders and water. Climate change may have prepared the mountain for failure, but the disaster was a chain of events not a single burst, cloudburst or earthquake.

Editor’s note: This is a developing disaster. Casualty and damage figures were changing rapidly at the time of publication. The scientific reconstruction presented here reflects the strongest evidence available on 28 August 2026 and may be refined as higher-resolution imagery, field surveys and seismic analysis become available.

A wall came down the valley

The first images made the disaster look like a flood. A brown wall raced through the Himalayan gorge, swallowed roads, buried buildings and carried vehicles, timber and boulders downstream. People ran with only seconds to spare. Some never had even that.

On 26 August, communities along the Nepal–Tibet border and farther down Nepal’s Bhote Koshi–Trishuli river system were struck by one of the most destructive high-mountain disasters in recent memory. The torrent tore through the Gyirong border area, entered Nepal’s Rasuwa district and continued far downstream. Bridges, markets, electricity infrastructure and hydropower projects were swept away or buried.

In the first confused hours, three explanations circulated. One report blamed an earthquake. Another called it a cloudburst. A third described it as a glacial lake outburst flood, or GLOF; the sudden failure of a lake held back by ice or loose glacial debris. On social media and television, all three were often compressed into a frightening but scientifically imprecise phrase: “glacier burst.”

The emerging evidence tells a more complicated story

The most likely immediate cause was the catastrophic collapse of part of a high-altitude glacierised slope near Langtang Lirung, close to the China–Nepal border. Ice and rock fell roughly 1.4 kilometres in elevation, accelerated down the valley and entered the upper Lhende Khola river system. The moving mass then became a debris flow, possibly blocking or severely constricting the river before releasing a sudden surge of water, sediment, shattered ice and boulders.

In other words, this was not merely water overflowing a riverbank. It was a cascading mountain disaster in which one physical process turned into another: glacier collapse, ice-rock avalanche, debris flow, temporary river obstruction and then flash flooding.

That distinction is the key to understanding the “real cause.” It also explains why the first explanations were incomplete and why Nepal’s disaster-planning system must now look beyond known glacial lakes.



But closer analysis reversed the order of cause and effect

The United States Geological Survey reclassified the event as a magnitude 5.2 landslide after examining nearby stations, long-period seismic waves and satellite imagery. Its conclusion was that no tectonic earthquake had occurred. The glacier collapse and debris flow themselves generated the seismic energy.

This can seem counter-intuitive. Most people think of ground shaking as the cause of a landslide, not its product. But a sufficiently large mass of ice and rock slamming into a valley can send vibrations through the Earth that seismometers detect far away. A tectonic earthquake usually begins with a sharp rupture on a fault and produces a characteristic set of seismic waves. A large landslide or avalanche generates a shallower, longer, more complex signal as millions of tonnes of material accelerate, strike the ground and continue moving.

Satellite imagery provided the second part of the forensic record. It showed the source scar and missing ice where the collapse occurred. When the seismic signal and the physical change in the landscape were compared, the initial earthquake interpretation no longer held.

The conclusion matters for more than correcting a headline. If an earthquake caused the collapse, the principal trigger would have been a largely unpredictable tectonic shock. If the glacierised slope failed under its own evolving instability, scientists must look for different warning signs: accelerating ice movement, widening crevasses, rock deformation, high-elevation heat, meltwater pressure, permafrost thaw and changes in the support provided by surrounding ice.

The “earthquake” did not bring down the glacier. The glacier’s collapse made the Earth shake.

The shortest honest answer

If the cause has to be stated in one sentence, it is this:

A large section of glacier and rock collapsed from a steep Himalayan slope, generated an avalanche and debris flow, struck and probably obstructed a river, and unleashed a catastrophic debris-rich flood downstream.

That reconstruction is supported by several independent lines of evidence.

Before-and-after satellite images show a large part of the glacier missing after the event. Reuters’ visual investigation located the break near an altitude of about 5,200 metres, with debris extending toward the valley floor around 3,800 metres. The collapse generated an avalanche of ice and rock that swept into the Lhende Khola. A Chinese

government geologist estimated that the debris flow travelled at about 50 metres per second around 180 kilometres per hour; over more than 20 kilometres before and through the border area. The combined flood and debris pulse then continued along the river network, changing channels more than 100 kilometres downstream after descending over 4,500 metres from its high-mountain source.

River gauges recorded the extraordinary speed of the surge. According to the World Meteorological Organization, water at Galchhi on the Trishuli reportedly rose by as much as nine metres in 30 minutes; at Malekhu, it rose by about seven metres over a similar period. Several monitoring stations were damaged or washed away.

Those numbers help explain why ordinary flood response

was overwhelmed. A monsoon river can rise over hours or days. This surge moved through a steep, confined valley with the force and density of flowing concrete. It contained not only water but pulverised rock, sediment, trees, ice and boulders. Each kilometre of travel gave it more material to carry and more power to destroy.

The disaster’s precise sequence is still under investigation. Scientists must determine how much water was already in the river, how much was held temporarily behind debris, how much came from saturated sediment and snow or glacier melt, and whether any small ice-marginal or supraglacial pond contributed. But the initiating event is no longer much in doubt: a huge mass of glacier and rock detached and fell.



The earthquake that was not an earthquake

The first major correction concerns the reported earthquake.

Automated seismic systems initially registered what appeared to be a magnitude 4.4 earthquake near the border. Nepalese officials understandably considered a familiar Himalayan sequence: an earthquake shakes an unstable mountain, the shaking triggers a landslide or avalanche, the fallen material

blocks a river, and the dam later fails.

That sequence was plausible. Nepal sits in one of the world’s most seismically active mountain belts. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake triggered thousands of landslides and avalanches, including the disaster that devastated Langtang village. An earthquake-induced collapse therefore could not be dismissed in the first hours.

Where did so much water come from ?

The videos create an obvious question: if no large lake has been shown to burst, how did a falling glacier produce such an enormous flood?

The answer is probably that the destructive mass did not come from one source.

First, the avalanche entered an existing river during the monsoon. The Bhote Koshi–Trishuli system was already carrying water, and the region had experienced persistent rainfall during the preceding ten days, according to the WMO. A sudden impact into a confined channel can displace water much as a rock thrown into a container creates a wave, except here the “rock” was a colossal moving mass and the container was a steep gorge.

Second, the avalanche likely entrained water-rich sediment. Monsoon-soaked soil, river gravel and unstable banks can be incorporated into a moving flow. Once mixed with enough fine sediment and boulders, water behaves less like an ordinary flood and more like a debris flow. It becomes denser, can carry much larger rocks and strikes structures with far greater force.

Third, a temporary blockage could have impounded the river before partially failing. Even a short-lived natural dam can convert steady flow into a concentrated pulse. The dam itself then becomes additional ammunition when it erodes. Fourth, water can already exist within and beneath a glacier, in snow, crevasses, subglacial channels and saturated debris. Intense melt can increase water pressure and reduce friction at critical interfaces. Some ice may melt during and after the collapse, but it would be simplistic to imagine the entire flood as a glacier instantly turning into liquid water through impact. Much of the volume probably came from the river and wet landscape that the avalanche encountered.

Only detailed modelling will reveal the proportions. Investigators will need high-resolution satellite data, seismic records, rainfall and temperature observations, river-gauge data and field mapping of the deposit.

Why this should not yet be called a GLOF

The second correction is equally important. Despite widespread reports, the 26 August disaster has not been confirmed as a classic glacial lake outburst flood. A GLOF occurs when water stored in a lake associated with a glacier is suddenly released. Such a lake may sit in front of a retreating glacier, on its surface, beneath it or beside it. It may be dammed by ice, bedrock or a moraine; the ridge of loose rock and sediment left behind by a glacier. If the dam is overtopped, eroded or otherwise breached, an immense volume of water can drain within minutes or hours.

An avalanche can trigger a GLOF by crashing into a glacial lake and producing a displacement wave that overtops the dam. But the mere pres-

ence of ice in a flood does not make the event a GLOF. There must be evidence that a pre-existing glacial lake suddenly drained.

So far, no emptied lake has been identified as the primary source of the 26 August surge. Professor Dave Petley, a landslide specialist writing for the American Geophysical Union’s Eos, noted that the satellite evidence clearly locates the collapse but does not establish a glacial-lake outburst. He described the source of the enormous water volume as an important unresolved question.

The preliminary mechanism described by scientists advising the WMO is different. The ice-rock avalanche may have entered a narrow section of the Lhende Khola

and temporarily blocked it. Water accumulated behind an unstable mixture of shattered ice, boulders and sediment. Overtopping, seepage or erosion could then have opened the obstruction, releasing the impounded water together with part of the natural dam. As the surge moved downstream, it scoured the riverbed and banks and incorporated still more debris.

The technically accurate working description is cumbersome but revealing: an ice-and-rock-avalanche-induced debris flow, possibly followed by a landslide-dam outburst flood.

“Glacier burst” is misleading because glaciers do not burst like balloons. “GLOF” may turn out to describe one component if later imagery reveals a drained glacial pond, but it is not yet demonstrated. “Cloudburst” is also inadequate because the evidence does not show that a local extreme rainstorm directly created the initial wave. Persistent monsoon rain may have amplified the event without being its initiating cause.

This is not an argument over vocabulary for its own sake. Classification determines what authorities monitor. A known glacial lake can be repeatedly mapped, fitted with water-level sensors and linked to downstream sirens.



Hormuz Attack Deepens Global Oil Fears

Fresh attacks near the Strait of Hormuz and Saudi Arabia's oil pipeline raise fears that widening regional hostilities could further squeeze global energy supplies and drive crude prices even higher.

ADEN

A fresh attack on a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz has heightened fears of further disruption to global energy supplies, as Saudi Arabia temporarily closed its key East-West oil pipeline after a drone strike.

The British navy-affiliated United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency said on Sunday it had received a report that a projectile struck a vessel travelling through the Strait of Hormuz. A fire broke out and the crew were evacuated by local authorities, it said.

The incident came a day after Saudi Arabia announced

the temporary closure of its 1,200-km East-West pipeline as a precaution following a drone attack. Baghdad and Riyadh said the drone originated in Iraq, where Iranian-backed militias operate.

The pipeline has become a critical alternative route for Middle Eastern oil exports during the war-driven disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. It has been carrying about 4 million to 5 million barrels per day, equivalent to roughly 4% to 5% of global oil supply.

Satellite images showed black smoke rising from an area south of Medina. Saudi authorities said the attack caused injuries and damage,



while its effect on exports was still being assessed. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran was probably responsible for the pipeline attack. Separately, Iranian state media reported that an

Hormuz Attack, Pipeline Strike Threaten Oil Supplies

• **Vessel attacked:** A projectile struck a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a fire and evacuation of its crew.

• **Saudi pipeline shut:** Riyadh temporarily closed its 1,200-km East-West pipeline following a drone attack.

• **Major supply route:** The pipeline has carried 4–5 million barrels of oil daily.

• **Oil price risk:** Brent crude has already moved above \$100 a barrel.

• **Iran blamed:** U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran was probably responsible for the Saudi pipeline attack.

Iranian commercial vessel was struck off the country's southern coast, killing one person and injuring three.

The latest incidents threaten to push energy prices higher after Brent crude climbed above \$100 a barrel last week.



Indonesia Ship Disaster Leaves 130 Missing

JAKARTA

Indonesian rescuers searched on Sunday for 130 people missing after a passenger ship carrying 243 people encountered trouble in the Java Sea, with six deaths confirmed, with 107 evacuated, authorities said.

The Virgo Transport 8 was travelling from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan after departing. The vessel lost contact with authorities early Sunday while sailing through bad weather, prompting a large-scale search-and-rescue operation.

Indonesia's search and rescue agency deployed ships, a helicopter and rescue teams to the vessel's last known position. Evacuees were transferred to other ships, with some expected to be taken to a port in East Java.

Authorities initially said the vessel had sunk. Later, Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said the ship had flipped rather than sunk, based on observations reported by a helicopter crew. He said the cause of the incident would require further investigation.

The search continued as rescuers worked to locate those still missing. The confirmed death toll stood at six, while 130 people remained unaccounted for.

Ship carrying 243 people flips in Indonesia's Java Sea, leaving six dead and 130 missing during rescue efforts.

The accident highlights safety concerns in Indonesia, an archipelago of around 17,000 islands where ferries are a crucial part of everyday transport. Sea travel is often cheaper and more accessible than air travel, particularly for communities spread across the country's many islands.

However, maritime safety standards are not always consistently enforced, contributing to a relatively high rate of ferry accidents.

The disaster has renewed attention on passenger safety and emergency preparedness as rescue teams race to find survivors in Java Sea.

Rescue Operation
Rescue teams deployed ships and a helicopter after the Virgo Transport 8 lost contact during bad weather. Authorities said 107 people were found safe and evacuated, while six died. Officials initially reported the vessel had sunk, but Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi later said it had flipped, citing helicopter observations. The incident has renewed concerns over ferry safety standards in Indonesia.

Quick Read

Russian drone attack injures five in Ukraine's Odesa

KYIV
At least five people were wounded in a Russian attack on the Ukrainian city of Odesa on Sunday morning, officials said, a day after strikes on the city killed two people. Residential areas were damaged in several districts of the city. Authorities are assessing the full extent of the damage, the head of Odesa military administration, Serhiy Lysak, said on Telegram. Odesa, home to Ukraine's main port hub, has faced persistent Russian missile and drone attacks in recent months, forcing the closure of sea-ports crucial to Ukrainian exports.

Carney pushes idea of making Canada 'associate member' of EU

BRUSSELS
Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney wants closer links with the European Union and is exploring whether his country could become an associate member of the bloc. The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. The EU, which has not been flexible about membership rules in the past, is open to the idea of granting Canada a yet to be created status of associate membership, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed officials both from the EU and Canada. The Canadian embassy in Brussels and spokespeople at the European Commission did not respond to separate requests for comment.

Turkey detains 26 people after raids targeting LGBTQ+ groups

ISTANBUL

Turkish authorities have detained 26 people and searched the offices of six LGBTQ+ associations in a series of raids that followed allegations of prostitution and obscenity, prosecutors said. The crackdown is part of a campaign that the government says is aimed at protecting family values.

The Istanbul chief prosecutor's office said operations were carried out across 12 provinces against 38 suspects over the weekend, with authorities seizing drugs, digital equipment, smuggled alcohol and a firearm.

Ankara-based LGBTQ+ association Kaos GL said at least 50 activists had been detained - a higher figure than that given by the chief prosecutor's office - including more than 10 who were taken in police raids on their homes.

In addition, it said authorities blocked access to dozens of websites and social media accounts linked to LGBTI+ organisations, activists and rights advocates.

Dubbed My Family is

Sweden Votes With Far Right Rising

Sweden's election could reshape its political identity, with the far right seeking government power amid a tight contest.

STOCKHOLM

Swedes voted on Sunday in a closely contested parliamentary election that could bring the far-right Sweden Democrats into government for the first time or return the country to its traditional liberal political direction.

Opinion polls before the September 13 election showed the centre-left opposition holding a narrow advantage over the governing right-wing bloc. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, however, has narrowed the gap during

the final weeks of campaigning, while Social Democrat leader Magdalena Andersson has lost some support.

Kristersson has pledged to bring the Sweden Democrats into government if his coalition wins. The prospect has made the election closely watched across Europe, where several far-right parties have gained strength.

The government's supporters argue that its policies have helped reduce immigration and curb gang violence. They say voters should endorse a tougher approach to immigration and integration and allow the right-wing coalition to continue those policies.

Opponents argue that the government has weakened civil liberties and created a harsher society by pressuring immigrants to conform to

ELECTION STAKES	
Right-wing bloc	Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson seeks another term.
Far-right role	Kristersson has promised to bring the Sweden Democrats into government.
Opposition	Magdalena Andersson's Social Democrats lead the centre-left bloc.
Key issues	Immigration, gang violence, civil liberties and economic growth.
European impact	A Sweden Democrats breakthrough could further energeise Europe's far-right parties.

Swedish cultural norms or leave. Andersson said Sweden had become poorer and more divided, arguing that greater unity was needed.

Voters reflected that divide at polling stations. Market analyst Johanna Tornqvist said concerns about Sweden Democrats entering government had been exaggerated and that keeping the centre-left out

was her priority.

First-time voter Susanne Cherment, however, said the far right's growing appeal among young people frightened her.

A Sweden Democrats breakthrough could also strengthen Europe's wider far-right movement, following recent gains by Germany's Alternative for Germany party.

Russian nuclear head says Ukraine attacked fuel trucks

MOSCOW

The head of Russia's state nuclear energy corporation accused Ukraine on Sunday of attacking diesel fuel trucks, killing two Russian servicemen and deliberately jeopardising safety at the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Alexei Likhachev said the attack took place on Friday and also resulted in injuries to other Russian soldiers. The Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's largest with six reactors, was seized by Russian forces in the early weeks of the Ukraine war that broke out in February 2022. Each side has regularly accused the other of actions that endanger safety at the plant and increase the risk of a nuclear accident.

Likhachev issued a state-

ment saying Ukrainian forces had launched a series of combined strikes on Friday on fuel trucks which deliver diesel to the station. The strikes hit very close to the perimeter of the station's site, he said.

Two servicemen were killed, and a large number of Russian soldiers were injured, some seriously. They were all involved in supporting this purely civilian mission.

Fuel is critically important for the plant as diesel generators provide power to keep nuclear fuel in the reactors cool when the plant's two external power links are down. Both were down for nearly three weeks in August and September. Ukraine has demanded that Russia abandon the station and hand its operation back to Kyiv, a demand rejected by Moscow.

Lithuania says drone sighting turns out to be flock of birds

VILNIUS

Lithuania said that a perceived drone sighting in its airspace earlier on Sunday that prompted authorities to close Vilnius airport and NATO to summon at least one fighter jet, turned out to be a flock of birds.

The air alert was lifted and the airport reopened within 38 minutes, after the NATO jet made a visual identification, Lithuania's National Crisis Management Centre said. On initial radar readings, marks left by birds and drones can be similar, it added in a statement.

A jet had been summoned from Siauliai in northern Lithuania, the centre said, where



the Italian air force is currently based as part of the NATO Baltic Air Defence mission.

Military drones straying into the airspace of Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are stoking concerns that the war in Ukraine is spilling over into NATO's northern borders with Russia.

The Vilnius marathon, which was taking place in the capital, was not interrupted, the organisers told.

STRIKE NEAR NATO

Russia Strike Near Poland Raises Tensions

MOSCOW

Russia attacked a truck near Ukraine's border with Poland on Sunday, Ukrainian and Polish officials said, in the latest strike to hit an area close to NATO territory as Moscow and Kyiv intensify attacks on infrastructure.

The attack occurred around 800 metres from Poland near the Dorohusk-Yahodyn border crossing. Polish border guards said the crossing was briefly halted following the strike but later resumed operations.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had targeted infrastructure supporting military cargo deliveries from Europe into western Ukraine. Kyiv relies heavily on its borders with Poland, Romania and Moldova for trade and weapons supplies.

The incident comes as Russia has increasingly targeted Ukrainian border crossings and transport infrastructure connected to Western allies. Ukraine and Russia have both expanded long-distance strikes in recent weeks, seeking to weaken each other's economic and logistical capabilities after more than four years of war.



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The strike near Poland could add to concerns about the conflict spilling closer to NATO territory, although officials did not report the attack crossing into Poland.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to end the war remain

uncertain. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had offered to help broker a peace settlement.

Peskov also said Russian President Vladimir Putin had briefed Modi on developments on the battlefield. Rus-

sia has not ruled out restarting three-way talks involving Russia, Ukraine and the United States in October.

Modi has previously urged Putin to end the war, while other BRICS leaders, including Brazil and China, have called for renewed negotiations.

Israeli strike kills two people in Gaza, medics say

CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike killed at least two Palestinians and wounded 13 others in Gaza City on Sunday, medical staff said. The strike hit a vehicle in the Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood in western Gaza City, leaving it badly damaged. Medical workers sought information to help identify the two people killed in the explosion. The Israeli military said the attack targeted two Hamas militants but provided

no further details.

A U.S.-backed ceasefire agreed in October 2025 halted large-scale fighting in Gaza, but Israeli strikes have continued amid little progress towards permanent peace.

Hamas and Israel have accused each other of violating the ceasefire agreement. Gaza health officials say more than 1,300 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed since the ceasefire began, while Israel says four of its soldiers have been killed.

Philippine ferry fire victims may take months to identify

CORON

Authorities in the Philippines said identifying victims of a deadly ferry fire could take weeks or months as forensic teams collect and compare DNA samples from badly burned remains.

The fire killed at least 76 people, while 13 remain missing. The ferry was carrying more than 130 people from Manila to Coron in Palawan province when it caught fire near its destination.

Forensic specialist Richard Allan Mangalip said many remains were severely charred, with some found clustered together and others scattered across the vessel. Rescuers recovered 41 additional remains on Saturday. Officials warned that more victims could be found as flooded sections of the ferry have not yet been fully searched. Investigators are also working to determine the cause and origin of the blaze. Key areas, including the flooded lower decks and engine room, are yet to be fully examined. Coast Guard images showed extensive damage, including twisted steel bed frames covered in ash.



Gladbach Sack Polanski After Three Defeats

MONCHENGLADBACH

Borussia Mönchengladbach have parted ways with head coach Eugen Polanski after the club opened the 2026-27 Bundesliga season with three consecutive defeats. The decision ends Polanski's tenure less than a year after he initially took charge as interim coach following Gerardo Seoane's departure. He was appointed permanently in November and guided Gladbach to 12th place in the 2025-26 Bundesliga season. Gladbach's new campaign began with a 3-0 defeat away to RB Leipzig. They then suffered a dramatic 4-3 home loss against newly promoted Elversberg before being thrashed 5-0 by Freiburg in their third match. The heavy defeat proved to be Polanski's final game in charge.

Eugen Polanski has been dismissed after Borussia Mönchengladbach suffered three straight Bundesliga defeats, with Jan-Moritz Lichte taking interim charge ahead of Mainz's visit on Matchday 4 as the club responds.

Pointers:

- Three straight defeats opened Gladbach's Bundesliga campaign.
- 5-0 loss to Freiburg proved Polanski's final match.
- Tobias Trulsen has also left the coaching staff.
- Jan-Moritz Lichte takes interim charge.
- Gladbach host Mainz on Matchday 4.

Sporting director Rouven Schröder said the club acted after positive pre-season performances failed to translate into Bundesliga results. He thanked Polanski and assistant Tobias Trulsen for their commitment, while confirming that Trulsen has also left the coaching staff. Polanski, a former Gladbach youth player who represented the senior team from 2004 to 2008, said the decision was particularly painful because of his longstanding connection with the club. He acknowledged that Gladbach had made changes after successfully avoiding relegation and entered the season with ambitious targets, but failed to deliver. Jan-Moritz Lichte will take over on an interim basis. His first challenge will come on Matchday 4, when Gladbach host Mainz. The club will hope for an immediate reversal as it seeks to halt a damaging start and stabilize its season after Polanski's dismissal. The change reflects urgency, with Lichte tasked with restoring confidence swiftly now.

Baartman ruled out of Australia ODIs with hamstring injury

NEW DELHI

South Africa have dealt with an injury blow ahead of the ODI series against Australia as right-arm medium pacer Ottneil Baartman has been ruled out of a three-match series, which starts on September 24 in Durban, due to a left hamstring injury. Duan Jansen has been named as his replacement and will join the squad and his brother Marco when they convene in Durban on September 19, Cricket South Africa said on Sunday. Baartman is the second player to miss out on the series after Kagiso Rabada was also made unavailable for the ODIs with a hamstring concern. CSA, however, will take a call on his availability for the three-Test series closer to its start on October 9. The Proteas have named a 16-member squad last week, which was as close to their available full strength as possible. Regular captain Temba Bavuma is back, while senior batters David Miller and Quinton de Kock are also part of the ODI series. The squad also sees the return of Gerald Coetzee, who last played an ODI in the 2023 World Cup, as he fills in the void left by Rabada, who is out of the ODIs and racing to be fit for the Tests due to his hamstring injury. Meanwhile, swashbuckling batter Dewald Brevis is not part of the squad as he will be preparing for the Test season, with him featuring in first-class cricket. Aiden Markram will be available for the second and third ODIs.

'All set for the trophy': Harmanpreet backs India

DUBAI

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur believes her side's steady improvement across batting, bowling and fielding has put them in a strong position to challenge Sri Lanka in the Women's T20 Asia Cup final at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. India have been unbeaten in the tournament and will be aiming to reclaim the continental title after Sri Lanka defeated them in the 2024 final. Harmanpreet said the team has adapted well to the conditions and produced encouraging performances throughout the campaign. "I think so far the tournament has been really, really good for us. We have seen massive improvement, whether it's batting, bowling, or fielding, day by day. We're getting used to these con-

ditions and coming up with some really solid performances," Harmanpreet said in a BCCI video. With the title clash now at hand, the India skipper stressed that the team would not make drastic changes to its approach and would instead focus on remaining positive. "All set for the trophy. Hopefully, we'll come up with some really positive approach," she said. The tournament has also seen several individual milestones for India, with Harmanpreet herself completing 150 matches as captain. The skipper believes having experienced players around her has provided the team with confidence. "Every day we're celebrating some great milestone, whether it's Smriti's runs or me representing the 150th game as a captain.

Karan Singh Completes Bali Title Double

CHANDIGARH

Indian tennis player Karan Singh capped an outstanding fortnight by winning back-to-back ITF M15 singles titles at the Bali Beach Country Club in Bali, Indonesia. The 23-year-old Roundglass Tennis Academy athlete successfully defended his title, defeating USA's Chang, ranked 1296 by the ATP, 7-6(5), 7-5 in a closely fought final on hard courts. The victory gave Singh another 15 ranking points, taking his haul from the two Bali tournaments to 30. It also lifted his career tally to five ITF singles titles, alongside three doubles crowns. The fifth-seeded Indian produced another strong run through the draw, overcoming compatriot and fourth seed Digvijay Pratap Singh, ranked 557 by the ATP, 6-4, 7-6(2) in the semifinals. Earlier, he defeated Hayden Jones 7-5, 6-1 in the quarter-finals.

Singh's consecutive victories underline his growing confidence and consistency on the ITF circuit.

Karan Singh's dominant Bali fortnight ended with consecutive ITF M15 singles titles and an unbeaten record across two tournaments.

Singh's remarkable run began with his title triumph at the same venue the previous week. He defeated three Indonesian players before beating Ja-



pan's seventh seed Ryotaro Taguchi 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals. In the final, he overcame New Zealand's fifth seed Isaac Becroft 7-5, 7-6(3).

Bali Dominance:

- Titles: 2 consecutive ITF M15 singles titles
- Record: 10-0 matches
- Sets: 20-0
- Career singles titles: 5
- Ranking points earned in Bali: 30
- 2026 doubles title: Astana, Kazakhstan

The two-week campaign ended with an extraordinary 10-0 win-loss record, with Singh not dropping a single set. His overall record across the tournaments was an impressive 20-0 in sets. The Bali double adds to a promising 2026 season. In August, Singh also won the ITF M15 Astana doubles title in Kazakhstan with Russia's Martin Borisoiuk, underlining his growing consistency across both singles and doubles competitions.

Ugochukwu Makes American F3 History

MADRID

Ugo Ugochukwu created history on Sunday by becoming the first American driver to win the Formula 3 championship, securing the title with a second-place finish in the second feature race in Madrid. The 19-year-old Campos Racing driver entered the season finale level on points with Audi rival Freddie Slater but held the advantage on the championship tie-breaker. That edge became crucial

after Slater failed to finish feature race following a crash. Ugochukwu started Sunday's decisive race from second on the grid, while Slater lined up eighth and dropped a position during the opening exchanges. Ugochukwu maintained his composure to finish second, securing enough points to claim the championship. Slater finished eighth, matching his starting position, and ended the season runner-up with 145 points. Ugochukwu topped the standings with 159 points.

Tuukka Taponen won the Madrid feature race and finished third in the championship with 109 points, four ahead of Taito Kato on 105. Ugochukwu celebrated the breakthrough achievement after the race, crediting Campos Racing for its support throughout the campaign. He said the team knew the priority was to avoid mistakes and bring the car home cleanly, which they successfully accomplished. Campos Racing also completed a memorable weekend

by securing the 2026 Teams' Championship. The team finished the season with 334 points, comfortably ahead of Trident, which ended second with 217. Ugochukwu's individual title, combined with Campos Racing's team crown, capped a remarkable Formula 3 campaign and marked a landmark achievement for American motorsport. "We did it, FIA F3 Champions! Super, super happy, and I can't thank the team enough for an amazing year."

Historic F3 Triumph:

- Champion: Ugo Ugochukwu
- Team: Campos Racing
- Points: 159
- Runner-up: Freddie Slater, 145
- Third: Tuukka Taponen, 109
- Race finish: P2 in Madrid finale
- Team title: Campos Racing, 334 points

India Retain Junior Asia Cup Crown

MOQI

India women retained their Junior Asia Cup crown after defeating hosts China 1-0 in a closely contested final on Sunday, completing a hat-trick of titles in the continental tournament. Sanika Chandrakant Mane scored the decisive goal in the 17th minute, giving India an early advantage after both teams played out a goalless opening quarter. China pushed for an equaliser, but the Indian defence held firm throughout the remainder of the contest to preserve the narrow lead. India entered the final after an impressive knockout campaign. They defeated South Korea 5-1 in the semifinal, with Supriya making an impact through her drag-flicking ability. In the quarterfinal, India produced a stunning attacking display to beat Pakistan 19-0. The champions had also gone unbeaten during the pool stage, collecting 10 points from three wins and a draw. They finished top of the Elite Pool on goal difference before progressing through the knockout rounds. The latest triumph continues In-



- Sanika Chandrakant Mane: Her 17th-minute strike proved decisive as India held China scoreless for the remainder of the final.
- Hockey India: The federation announced Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for each support staff member following the title-winning campaign.
- Key achievement: India have now won the AHF Women's Junior Asia Cup three consecutive times and qualified for the FIH Junior World Cup.

dia's dominance in the AHF Women's Junior Asia Cup, with the team having now lifted the trophy in each of the last three editions. The title also secures India's qualification for the FIH Junior World Cup. The successful campaign comes after Hockey India introduced a structured training programme under newly appointed coach Tim White, who took charge earlier this year. Hockey India has rewarded the achievement by announcing cash prizes of Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for every member of the support staff.

At the starting line, medal is the only target: Gulveer

NEW DELHI

Buoyed by his recent Commonwealth Games success, India's premier long-distance runner Gulveer Singh has set his sights firmly on a medal haul at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, revealing that once he stands at the starting line, his sole focus remains on winning a medal rather than worrying about the competitors. Gulveer, who became the first Indian runner to clock a sub-60-minute half marathon earlier this year, admitted that while the level of competition at the continental bash will be tough, his mind-set at the starting line remains strictly focused on podium success. "There will definitely be pressure because high-calibre

athletes compete at the Asian Games. But the medals at the Commonwealth Games gave me a lot of confidence, and the continuous support from the government has been a massive driving force," Gulveer, who relocated his training base in Colorado Springs, USA, in 2024, under American coach Scott Simmons. At the Asian Games 2023, the national record holder in 10000m and 5000m, Gulveer, won bronze in the 10000m adding to the 5000m bronze he had claimed earlier that year at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok. At the Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan, Gulveer will compete in 1500m, 5000m and 10000m event.. At the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Gulveer

clocked 13:24.95 to secure a bronze medal in the Men's 5000m after winning a silver medal in the Men's 10,000m with a timing of 27:49.78, achieving a historic first for the country in the Commonwealth Games 2026. Sharing about the learnings from competing in the international events and facing athletes from across the world, Gulveer said, "When you stand on the starting line, there is only one thought in your mind; to win a medal for the country. It doesn't matter who is standing next to you. Everyone works equally hard, and on race day, it all boils down to whose body holds up better. All the competitors will come fully prepared, but I am confident I will bring home medals for India."

