CITY HILIGHTS

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ಸಹಕಾರ ರತ್ನ

ಡಾ। ಎಂ.ಎನ್. ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಮಾರ್

ಅವರ **ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಶುಭ ಹಾರೈಕೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ**

ಸಮಾಜಮುಖಿ ಸೇವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ, ಅಶಕ್ತರಿಗೆ ನೆರವು

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಕ್ಕೆ ವಾಹನ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರ

ಇಂದು

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–10–2026ನೇ ಗುರುವಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ: ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ

ಆಶೀರ್ವಚನ



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ಶ್ರೀ ಪೇಜಾವರ ಅಧೋಕ್ಷಜ ಮಠ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು



ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಟಿ.ಕೆ. (IAS)
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ



ಡಾ। ಎಂ. ಮೋಹನ್ ಆಳ್ವ
ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸ್ವಾಗತ ಬಯಸುವ

ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸೂರಿಂಜೆ
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್ ಕೆ.
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಪ್ರಭಾರ)

ಹಾಗೂ **ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು** ಮತ್ತು **ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ವರ್ಗ**

ದ.ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಮಂಗಳೂರು

ವಿ.ಸೂ.: ಹಿತೈಷಿಗಳು ಯಾರೂ ಹೂ ಹಾರ, ಹೂಗುಚ್ಛವನ್ನು ತರಬಾರದಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿ.

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DRY SPELL HITS K'TAKA HARD

9 more taluks declared drought-hit; total rises to 226; relief memo to be ready in a week: DyCM

➲ The 2026 Southwest monsoon in Karnataka has been declared the state's second lowest in 70 years, causing a catastrophic agricultural crisis and severe widespread water scarcity.

➲ Pushed into deep distress by a 30% to 35% overall rainfall deficit, the state government has officially declared 226 out of its 240 taluks as drought-hit as of October 14.

➲ Driven by a powerful El Niño system, the underperforming monsoon has left approximately 79 out of 122 monsoon days completely dry, resulting in withered standing crops and major socioeconomic pressure.

BENGALURU

The number of drought-affected taluks in Karnataka has risen to 226, with nine more being added to the list on Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said. He also said the state government is preparing a final memorandum to seek drought relief from the Centre.

Speaking to reporters here, Parameshwara, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said the final memorandum detailing the drought-related losses across the state is expected to be ready within a week.

"Ground-truthing has been completed in the nine newly identified taluks, while assessment under the Trigger-1 criteria is underway in some of the remaining taluks. Those that qualify will also be taken up for ground-truthing," he said.

The total estimated loss and the amount of relief to be sought from the Centre will be determined after the memorandum is finalised, in accordance with the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines, he said.

"Last year, we sought around Rs 18,000 crore in drought relief. This year, losses have occurred across almost the entire state, and 226 taluks have already been declared drought-affected. If more taluks qualify, the losses will increase further," Parameshwara said.



DROUGHT: CORE DETAILS

Newly-added taluks - 9:

- **Severely drought-affected**: Sakleshpur (Hassan district)
- **Moderately drought-affected**: Khanapur (Belagavi), Hosanagara & Sagara (Shivamogga), Puttur, Moodbidri, and Mulki (Dakshina Kannada), and Joida and Dandeli (Uttara Kannada).

Ground verification
Field inspections and ground-truthing have been completed for the newly added taluks, while assessment under Trigger-1 criteria continues for remaining regions.

Relief memorandum
The Karnataka government is preparing a comprehensive final memorandum detailing state-wide losses to submit to the Central Government under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines, expected to be ready within a week.

Delegation plan
A high-level delegation led by the CM and DyCM plans to travel to New Delhi to push for financial assistance.

He further mentioned that both he and Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had urged the Centre to relax the NDRF norms for drought relief.

Though the Union Agriculture Minister had assured them the request would be examined, the state had not received any further response so far, he said.

Once the final memorandum is ready, the government will decide on sending a delegation comprising the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and others to Delhi to submit it to the Centre and seek appropriate relief, Parameshwara said.

Addressing another critical issue, the Deputy Chief Minister said the state Cabinet would meet on Thursday and discuss the High Court verdict concerning reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Cabinet will decide whether the government should appeal against the verdict in the Supreme Court or seek the inclusion of the reservation law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, he said. Further action would be taken based on the Cabinet's decision, Parameshwara added.

The Karnataka High Court on Monday struck down provisions of a 2022 state law that increased reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) from 15 to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 3 to 7%, holding that the enhanced quota breached the 50% ceiling.

DKS seeks Czech investments beyond Bengaluru

Shivakumar highlights opportunities in energy, automobile manufacturing, aerospace, defence and emerging mobility technologies.

BENGALURU

A delegation led by Czech Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlíček met Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at Vidhana Soudha here on Wednesday to discuss investment and industrial cooperation.

"Karnataka will be a long-term partner of the Czech Republic, and Czech companies should invest in different districts of the state instead of limiting themselves to Bengaluru," Shivakumar said.

The CM highlighted Karnataka's strengths in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and floriculture, besides its established industrial and technology ecosystem.

He said Karnataka offered significant opportunities in energy, given its large power requirements and established renewable energy infrastructure.

The government was supporting prospective investors through Invest Karnataka, Karnataka Udyog Mitra, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board and the single-window clearance system, he said.

BUILDING INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS



Czech expertise in precision engineering, machinery, automobile components and transport technology complements Karnataka's manufacturing, aerospace and electronics sectors. The state is seeking investments that go beyond Bengaluru, bringing technology, strengthening local enterprises and creating skilled jobs. Cooperation between universities, research institutions and industries could also support innovation and the commercial application of emerging technologies. The government's investment facilitation agencies are expected to help companies identify locations and navigate approvals.

> Karnataka will be a long-term partner of the Czech Republic, & Czech companies should invest in different districts of the state instead of limiting themselves to Bengaluru.
> - **D K Shivakumar, Chief Minister**

Investment opportunities

- **Energy**: Solar power, hydropower and emerging energy technologies
- **Automobiles**: Components, electric vehicles and next-generation mobility
- **Aerospace and defence**: Manufacturing and technology cooperation
- **Engineering**: Precision engineering, machinery & specialised manufacturing
- **Research**: Applied research, innovation and skill development

The state aims to attract investments that bring advanced technology, strengthen local industries, generate quality employment and boost exports.

Describing Bengaluru as a major technology, research and entrepreneurship hub, Shivakumar said its engineering talent, industrial base and startup ecosystem could help Czech companies expand in India. He also called for partnerships between Czech research institutions and Karnataka's universities and industries.

India and the Czech Republic agreed on a Strategic Partnership on Innovation in January 2024, creating a framework for cooperation in emerging technologies, research and startups.

Citing companies such as Škoda Auto, Bata and Doosan Škoda Power, Shivakumar called for deeper industrial collaboration and partnerships with Karnataka-based firms.

Another blow to Akhilesh: 3 rebel SP MLAs join BJP

Lucknow: Almost two years after they defied the party whip and voted for the BJP candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh and later expelled, three rebel Samajwadi Party (SP) MLAs Rakesh Pratap Singh, Abhai Singh and Vinod Chaturvedi on Wednesday formally joined the saffron party.

Three joined the BJP at an event held at the residence of Rakesh Pratap Singh at Gauriganj in Amethi in the presence of former union minister Smriti Irani and state BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary.

SP had expelled all the three legislators around two years back after they cross voted in favour of the BJP nominees in the RS polls in 2024.

While Rakesh Singh was an MLA from Gauriganj, Abhai Singh represents Gosaiganj seat in Ayodhya. Vinod Chaturvedi is an MLA from Kalpi in Jalaun district in Bundelkhand. As per sources, some other rebel SP MLAs including Manoj Pandey could also join the BJP in the days to come.

'All countries regardless of size must make own choices'

NEW DELHI

India envisions an Indo-Pacific where all nations — large and small — can make independent choices, protect their interests, and pursue peaceful development, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

Speaking at ASEAN- India Defence Think Tank Forum, Singh emphasised that India and the 10-nation regional grouping ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) share a clear interest in maintaining an open, stable, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

He also called for respecting state sovereignty, abiding by international law, and keeping dialogue channels open to collectively address both conventional and emerging "borderless challenges." The region is witnessing rapid changes in the face of growing strategic competition and pressure, and no country alone can address the challenges, he said.

Rajnath puts forth key principles for ASEAN

➲ **Sovereignty and international law**: Respecting state sovereignty and abiding by international law.
➲ **No forced alignment**: Fostering a regional order where nations can work together without being pressured to choose sides between major powers.
➲ **Dialogue and trust**: Resolving differences peacefully and early through open channels of communication.
➲ **Shared security**: Addressing maritime and emerging "borderless" challenges—such as AI, cyber threats, & drones—through collective capacity-building.



Singh underlined the need to discuss differences "early and peacefully", before they become disputes, and pitched for a regional order where countries work together without being forced to choose sides.

His remarks came amid increasing global concerns over China's increasing military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific. "India believes that security is strengthened when countries build capacity together, respect international law and maintain trust through dialogue," he said.

He highlighted the centuries-old close ties between India and Southeast Asia and reiterated that the New Delhi's Act East policy is a long-term commitment to working with the region as an equal partner.

"India's approach and ASEAN's outlook on the Indo-Pacific can complement each other. We should strengthen cooperation, not create competition between regional forums," he said.

"Keeping the Indian Ocean and the waters of Southeast Asia safe is a shared responsibility as they are part of one connected maritime space, crucial for trade, energy, people and essential goods."

Strengthening maritime domain awareness, interoperability, and collaboration in underwater awareness will be key to ensuring a stable, rule-based maritime order, he said.

Jailing youth is cowardice: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress MP and other Opposition leaders have criticised the five-day judicial custody of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka for trespassing into Jantar Mantar, which was recently denotified as a designated protest site.

"Waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime. Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice," He said in a post on X. The Congress leader said students, young people, journalists and the INDIA bloc were united by a common cause despite protesting under different banners. "Different banners, one cause. All protests are one: citizens demanding their constitutional rights," he said and asserted that Jantar Mantar belonged to the people of India and vowed to reclaim the protest site.

Earlier in the day, Das and Ranka were sent to Tihar Jail on charges of violating their peace bonds which they signed on October 10 and trespassing into Jantar Mantar without any authorisation.

Sudha Yadav to be sworn in as Governor on Oct 16

Bengaluru: Sudha Yadav, who has been appointed the new Governor of Karnataka, will take the oath of office at Raj Bhavan here on October 16. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 am.

The Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court will administer the oath of office to Yadav.

Yadav, who hails from Haryana, was appointed Karnataka Governor as part of a reshuffle of gubernatorial appointments announced by President Droupadi Murmu. Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, outgoing Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, cabinet ministers, legislators, opposition leaders and other dignitaries are expected to attend the ceremony, as per reports.



FAREWELL TO GOVERNOR



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar meets outgoing Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday and thanks him on behalf of the state government.

QUICK READ

Flydubai scare: Air France bans Pak pilots on Israel flights

PARIS

Air France has barred pilots and cabin crew from Pakistan and several other countries from operating flights to and from Israel, following stricter aviation restrictions imposed by Israeli authorities. The move comes after an alleged hijacking attempt involving a Flydubai flight in September, prompting airlines to reassess crew deployment and security procedures. The restrictions reportedly cover nationals of countries that do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. US-based United Airlines has also informed its pilots and cabin crew about nationality-based restrictions, while Czech airline Smartwings has confirmed that it will comply with the Israeli requirements. The developments could have wider implications for international airlines employing crew members from affected countries.

Saudi overturns death sentence for SL man over FB comment

COLOMBO

Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court has set aside the death sentence handed to Sri Lankan Hindu migrant worker, Anojan Sivarasa, over a Facebook comment deemed insulting to Islam and Prophet Muhammad, following sustained diplomatic and legal efforts by Colombo. Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism confirmed the development in a statement issued on Wednesday, saying the Saudi Supreme Court has set aside the death sentence on (October 13). Sivarasa's (24) ordeal began after an incident during a Hindu pilgrimage in Sri Lanka in late June. Footage showing a young Muslim man kicking a dog following Hindu pilgrims circulated on social media, trigging a heated exchange between users. During which, a user posted derogatory remarks about a Hindu deity, to which Sivarasa responded in Tamil with a comment about Prophet Muhammad. He deleted the comment soon and posted an apology video.

'IRONING OUT DIFFERENCES'

India-US trade deal nears 'landing point': Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

India and the US are continuing to engage to iron out differences on the proposed trade deal, and negotiations are heading towards a "landing point," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, while noting that the core fundamentals of the bilateral strategic partnership remain unchanged.

His remarks on the trade negotiations came over a week after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the talks on the trade deal have reached a "plateau".

"I think we are waiting on a few things. I wouldn't be comfortable spilling the beans in public," he said at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum on Tuesday evening when asked about the status of the negotiations between the two sides.

NEGOTIATION SUM UP

Core context: Both India and the US have been negotiating a trade pact since early 2025 to address tariff frictions, eliminate non-tariff barriers, and expand bilateral market access.

Competitive factor: EAM Jaishankar noted that the final outcome depends not only on bilateral terms between India and the US, but also on how India fares relative to competing economies that are negotiating separate deals with Washington.



Active officials: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) are actively engaged in ironing out the details.

Recent background: The optimistic update follows remarks from FM Nirmala Sitharaman a week earlier, who noted that talks had previously hit a temporary "plateau".

Jaishankar said India's trade minister, the US Trade Representative (USTR) and other officials concerned are engaged in talks to move forward on the bilateral trade pact.

"When countries negotiate with an economy like the US, obviously one part of it is what you work out between yourselves and the US, and one part of it is how do you fare vis-a-vis competitive economies.

"And that part of it is not entirely clear because not everybody has worked out a deal. I think people, the trade ministers, USTR (US Trade Representative) there and our Commerce and Industry Minister are there working on that. They're ironing it out," he said.

"My sense is that this is an issue which is heading towards a landing point," Jaishankar said.

India and the US have been in talks since early 2025 on the proposed trade pact to address tariff friction, eliminate non-tariff barriers, and boost bilateral market access.

India is seeking better tariffs than its competitors for its goods in the US market.

Earlier this month, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the United States and India were working to finalise a bilateral trade deal, but an agreement was not imminent.



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Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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Quick Read

Water supply to be disrupted on Oct 15

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Drinking water supply to several areas of Vijayapura city will be disrupted on October 15 due to a leakage in a major water pipeline supplying water to the city. According to an official release, damage was reported on October 14 to the 965/900 mm-diameter main rising pipeline carrying water from the Kolhar source station to the Jalnagar pump house. The damage occurred near Devagiri Thota. The Water Board has taken up repair work on the damaged pipeline on a priority basis. As a result, areas receiving water from the Kolhar treated drinking water plant are likely to experience disruption in supply on October 15. The Assistant Executive Engineer of the Water Board has appealed to the public to cooperate with the department until the repair work is completed.

Man loses Rs 1.04 lakh in Jio network scam

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

A resident of New Raghavendra Colony in Kalaburagi allegedly lost Rs 1.04 lakh after falling victim to an online fraud while trying to resolve an issue with his JioFiber internet connection. According to the complaint filed with the Cyber Crime Police Station, the victim, Ravikumar Rudra, contacted a customer care number found online after noticing that his JioFiber network was showing a slow connection. During the interaction, a person identified as Rahul reportedly assured him that the internet speed could be improved remotely. The caller subsequently sent him an APK file and persuaded him to click on it. After the victim clicked on the file, a total of Rs 1.04 lakh was reportedly debited from his State Bank of India (SBI) and IDBI Bank accounts.

Ravikumar has lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police, seeking action in connection with the incident. The incident highlights the risks of contacting unverified customer care numbers found online and downloading or installing APK files sent by unknown persons. Internet users are advised to contact service providers only through their official channels and avoid clicking on suspicious links or installing unverified applications.

Farmers lock Chincholi centre over delay in supply of PVC pipes

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene locked the Raitha Samparka Kendra in Chincholi and staged a protest against officials for failing to distribute PVC pipes to farmers under a subsidy scheme, despite the beneficiaries having submitted applications and paid the required amount nine months ago.

The protesters gathered in front of the centre and blocked traffic on the Chincholi–Chandapur main road, raising slogans against the delay and demanding immediate distribution of the pipes to all eligible farmers.

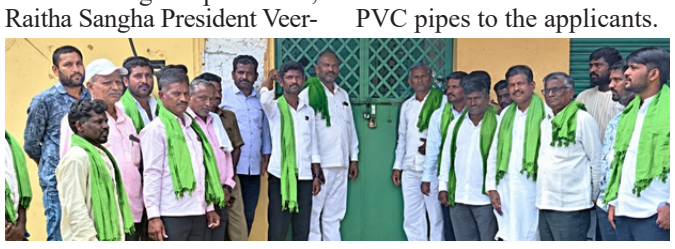
Insisting that they would not withdraw the agitation until the issue was resolved, the farmers demanded that PVC pipes be supplied to every applicant without further delay.

Addressing the protesters, Raitha Sangha President Veeranna Gangani also demanded a support price of Rs 5,500 per tonne for sugarcane, Rs 5,000 for paddy, and Rs 15,000 each for pigeon pea and cotton.

He urged the government to increase the minimum support prices for agricultural produce in accordance with the recommendations of the MS Swaminathan Commission, stating that farmers needed remunerative prices to sustain their livelihoods.

Farmers' leaders KM Bari, Bhimashetty Muruda, Nandikumar Patil, Rajkumar Talwar, Srihari Bainur, Basavaraj Patil, Kallappa Rajapur, Omkar Bainur, Mallu Hugar, Sangamesh Somalingadalli, Santosh Reddy, Jagannath Reddy, Gurunath Talwar, Sharanu Madival, Pavan Bainur and Vittal Pujari participated in the protest.

Following the agitation, officials responded to the farmers' demands and distributed PVC pipes to the applicants.



Cong has become a 'Sting Operation Factory', says Narayanaswamy

Narayanaswamy accuses Congress of misusing Dalit issues, questions SIR opposition and demands CBI probe into alleged sting operation

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing the ruling party of administrative failure, political infighting and mishandling key issues, including the alleged sting operation, SC/ST reservation and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Speaking to the media, Narayanaswamy alleged that the Congress had turned into a sting operation factory, claiming that the production of audio and video recordings had become a political tool within the party. He demanded a CBI investigation into the alleged sting operation, insisting that the truth must emerge irrespective of the political consequences. Questioning Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's reported remarks about an attempt to conduct a sting operation against him, Narayanaswamy said the controversy raised serious questions about the functioning of the government and the relationship between senior Congress leaders. He alleged that even former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was not allowing Shivakumar to remain politically comfortable and referred to the release of a video in the ongoing controversy.



He questioned why a stay had reportedly been sought in connection with the sting operation if there was nothing to hide. He also expressed reservations about entrusting the investigation to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) or the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), alleging that such probes could be used to protect influential people. He insisted that an independent CBI inquiry was necessary to establish the facts.

Referring to the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations, he urged the state government to immediately approach the Supreme Court and seek restoration of the enhanced quota. He also questioned the future of internal reservation, arguing that the existing arrangements had left uncertainty over the share available to different communities. Accusing Congress leaders of using Dalit leaders for political gains, he claimed that AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge had not demonstrated sufficient commitment to protecting reservation benefits.

His charges

Sting operation
A CBI inquiry to establish the facts, not an SIT or CID probe

SC/ST quota
The State should approach the Supreme Court to restore the enhanced reservation

High Court stay
The government failed to argue its case effectively, causing injustice to Dalits

Kharge
Has not shown enough commitment to protecting reservation benefits

Reacting to the High Court's reported stay on the enhanced SC/ST reservation, Narayanaswamy said the increase had been introduced during the tenure of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, based on population considerations. He said there was no objection to a judicial order but criticised the Congress government's handling of the legal proceedings, alleging that it had failed to present an effective argument before the court and thereby caused injustice to Dalits.

Aurad faces a drinking water crisis, despite nearby tank

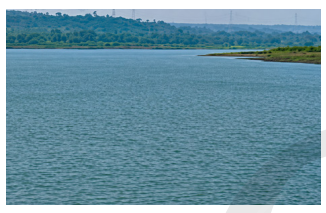
Teghampur Lake offers a potential solution, but decades-old water supply infrastructure lies neglected, residents allege

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Despite the availability of an alternative water source just five kilometres away, residents of Aurad town in Bidar district are struggling to obtain drinking water as the town's main source, the Halhalli barrage, has reportedly run dry. With rainfall deficit casting a shadow of drought over the taluk, the drinking water crisis has intensified even before the onset of peak summer. Residents say they have been facing severe hardship for the past week, forcing the authorities to supply water through tankers in some parts of the town. However, tanker supply has failed to provide a comprehensive solution. Residents have questioned why the authorities have not taken steps to utilise Teghampur Lake, located just five kilometres from Aurad, to address the shortage.

The lake, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Minor Irrigation Department, had supplied drinking water to Aurad town for nearly two decades. However, following the construction of the Halhalli barrage, the Teghampur Lake-based water supply scheme gradually fell into neglect.

Even the status of the motors and other equipment previously used to pump water from the lake remains unclear, raising questions about the maintenance of the public infrastructure. Residents argue that all available water sources must be put to use during drought-like conditions. They say tanker supply can only offer temporary relief and have urged the authorities to revive the Teghampur Lake scheme to ensure a more sustainable supply.



Residents seek an inquiry

Residents have demanded an inquiry into the disappearance of the equipment and the neglect of the scheme. Instead of continuing to spend public money on tanker-based water supply, the authorities should examine the feasibility of restoring the Teghampur Lake project and take immediate steps to resume water supply, residents said.

Rs 1.67-crore scheme left neglected

A drinking water supply project from Teghampur Lake was implemented in 2001 at a cost of Rs 1.67 crore to meet Aurad town's water requirements. In 2019, then Deputy Commissioner Mahadevappa reportedly arranged new motors and other equipment to facilitate an adequate water supply. However, residents now claim that these materials are no longer available at the site. The present crisis has once again brought the focus on the need to maintain existing public infrastructure and ensure that alternative water sources are ready for use during periods of shortage.

Rural post offices struggle without basic facilities in Chincholi

Century-old Ainolli branch post office operates without its own building; residents seek a sub-post office at Kunchavaram

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Several rural branch post offices in Chincholi taluk of the district are struggling with a lack of basic infrastructure, affecting the convenience of customers who depend on postal services. The branch post office at Ainolli village, which is more than a century old, is functioning in the corridor of an old house without its own building or adequate facilities for customers. The situation at several other branch post offices across the taluk is also reported to be poor, with little attention being paid to their infrastructure needs. Chincholi taluk has five sub-post offices located at Nidagunda, Sulepeth, Chimmanchod, Chincholi and Chandapur. While the Chincholi sub-post office has had its own building for many years and the Sulepeth office has also been functioning in its own building for the past few years, rented premises remain the only option in other locations.



At Ainolli, the branch post office operates in the corridor of an old house, where a Branch Postmaster (BPM) and a Gramin Dak Sevak provide services.

The Ainolli branch post office has 976 savings accounts, including 256 Recurring Deposit (RD) accounts and 171 Sukanya Samriddhi accounts, besides more than 40 insurance accounts.

"We visit people's homes and provide services at their doorsteps. The response and cooperation from villagers have been good," said Ainolli BPM Abhishek Chavan.

Residents have also urged the postal department to establish a sub-post office at Kunchavaram, an important village and Gram Panchayat headquarters in Chincholi taluk. Located around 30 km from Chincholi town and close to the Telangana border, Kunchavaram serves as an important centre for surrounding settlements. Establishing a sub-post office there would benefit people from 21 nearby inhabited areas, reducing the distance they need to travel to access postal services. Residents point out that no sub-post office in the taluk is located at such a distance of around 30 km from Chincholi.

> **"Post offices should be located in prominent and easily accessible places. This would help strengthen postal services while ensuring that people receive better and more convenient services."**
>
> – Vijayakumar Rotti
> village leader

MLA Chauhan inspects solar sites, raises compensation concerns

CH NEWS, BIDAR

MLA Prabhu Chauhan conducted a surprise inspection of solar power project sites under construction in Chikli (U), Mudhol and Hippalgaon villages of Aurad taluk, following complaints from farmers over compensation and other issues.

During his visit to the solar project sites at Chikli (U) and Mudhol, farmers submitted complaints against the project authorities. After hearing their grievances, Chauhan pulled up the officials concerned and directed them to take the farmers' problems seriously and initiate appropriate action.

Questioning the disparity in compensation, the MLA pointed out that farmers in neighbouring Maharashtra were reportedly being paid Rs 50,000 per acre for land acquired for solar projects, while farmers in the region were receiving only Rs 35,000 per acre. "Why is there such discrimination in compensation for farmers?" he asked the project representatives, expressing strong displeasure over the issue.



Compensation per acre

reportedly paid in neighbouring Maharashtra
Rs 50,000
paid to farmers in the region
Rs 35,000

Chauhan stressed that the interests of farmers who had given their land for solar projects must be protected and that they should receive fair compensation. He warned that he would not remain silent if the project authorities ignored farmers' grievances or caused inconvenience to them.

He also expressed concern over complaints of middlemen becoming active in solar projects and instructed the project authorities to prevent such practices.

The MLA said he had brought the solar park project to the constituency with the objective of benefiting farmers and creating local employment opportunities. However, he warned that he would take the issue seriously if the projects failed to benefit farmers and local residents.

PROTECTING PLANTS

FOREST DEPT STRUGGLES TO SAVE ROADSIDE SAPLINGS IN HULASUR

CH NEWS, BIDAR

With deficient rainfall and intense sunlight threatening the survival of roadside saplings, Forest Department personnel are working hard to protect and nurture the young plants by supplying water through tankers. The department is watering thousands of saplings planted along various roads, including both sides of the Bhalki–Basavakalyan main road near Sola Dapaka village on the outskirts of Hulasur. Transporting water from distant locations and watering the plants is a laborious task. The challenge is evident from the fact that a single tanker can supply water to only around 25 saplings at a time. Despite these difficulties, forest personnel continue their efforts to prevent the plants from drying up and dying.

However, environmental concerns extend beyond the shortage of water. Environmentalists have expressed concern over incidents in which roadside and field-boundary saplings are damaged by fires lit to burn waste, broken branches and other forms of destruction. There are also allegations that some farmers damage or remove saplings because of the misconception that trees, once grown, will cast shade over agricultural fields and affect crops. Such allegations need to be examined by the concerned authorities, and appropriate action should be taken wherever violations are established.

Protecting saplings is as important as planting them.

Saplings of neem, banyan, peepal, honge and other species can contribute significantly to environmental balance, soil conservation and biodiversity when they grow into mature trees. Setting fire to or cutting down these plants can undermine efforts to improve the green cover. The Forest Department must strengthen monitoring and create greater public awareness to prevent damage to roadside plantations.



The hard work of forest personnel in watering the saplings will yield results only if the public also takes responsibility for their protection. Gram Panchayats, farmers, local organisations and residents should join hands with the department to ensure that the plants survive. Protective fencing should be installed wherever necessary, and care must be taken to prevent fires and other activities that could damage the saplings.

The government, too, should provide adequate funds for plantation maintenance, water supply and protective measures. Regular inspections are needed to assess the condition of the saplings and ensure their survival until they grow into trees. The effort to increase green cover cannot end with planting saplings. Ensuring that every planted sapling survives and grows into a tree is the real test of environmental conservation.

WHAT IS NEEDED

- → Protective fencing wherever necessary
- → Adequate funds for maintenance, water supply and protection
- → Regular inspections until the saplings grow into trees

Quick Read



KSRTC launches new routes from Mangaluru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The Mangaluru division of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launched new bus services to Ernakulam, Tirupati and Hyderabad. A Volvo multi-axle bus service has been introduced on the Mangaluru-Ernakulam route, while Pallakki non-AC sleeper buses will operate on the Mangaluru-Tirupati and Mangaluru-Hyderabad routes. Advance booking facilities are available for all these services, a senior divisional controller stated in a press release.

Mangaluru-Ernakulam (Volvo multi-axle): The bus will depart from Mangaluru at 9 pm and from Ernakulam at 8:30 pm. The travel fare is fixed at Rs 1,000.

Mangaluru-Tirupati (Pallakki non-AC sleeper): The bus will leave Mangaluru at noon and depart from Tirupati at 5:30 pm. The ticket is priced at Rs 1,600.

Mangaluru-Hyderabad (Pallakki non-AC sleeper): The bus will depart from Mangaluru at 1 pm and leave Hyderabad at 4 pm. The fare for this route is Rs 1,800.

Manjunath seeks fair reservation for Scheduled Castes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath met Rural Development Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, State Election Commissioner Dr. G.S. Sangreshi, and Panchayat Raj Department Principal Secretary K.H. Krishnamurthy in Bengaluru. During the meeting, Manjunath submitted a memorandum highlighting the concerns of the Scheduled Caste community in Hunsur taluk. He pointed out that the draft reservation list for Zilla Panchayat constituencies had not allocated any seat for the community. Manjunath urged the authorities to address this issue and ensure fair representation. He requested that one Zilla Panchayat constituency in Hunsur taluk be reserved for Scheduled Castes, correcting the alleged injustice and ensuring the community receives due representation in local governance.

Dharma Jyothi Social Centre holds cybercrime awareness programme

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Dharma Jyothi Social Centre organised a cybercrime awareness programme at Ajjimane Anganwadi Centre. Chandru, cybercrime officer, attended as the resource person and explained various types of cybercrimes, how online fraud occurs, and the precautions to be taken to stay safe online.

He shared relevant examples to help the participants understand cyber threats and preventive measures. Saraswathi, anganwadi teacher, and Renita Lewis from Dharma Jyothi Social Centre were present at the programme. A total of 38 self-help group members participated and benefited from the awareness session.

HC: KIADB must decide SC/ST quota complaint in land allotment

The court asked the industrial development authority to examine a representation challenging the allocation and decide the matter within eight weeks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) to take a decision within eight weeks on a complaint alleging violation of the SC/ST reservation roster in allotting 100 acres of industrial land to Reliance Consumer Products Limited in Vijayapura district.

The direction was issued by a Division Bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice K S Bharath Kumar while disposing of a public interest litigation filed by social activist Basavaraj S Malaghan, a resident of Agarkhed village in Indi taluk.



The High Court has not ruled that the land allotment was illegal

Plea seeks cancellation

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel submitted that land in Mulawad Industrial Area Phase II had been earmarked for entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, backward classes, persons with disabilities and ex-servicemen to establish industries.

The petitioner alleged that 100 acres had been allotted to Reliance Consumer Products Limited on October 24, 2025, in violation of the SC/ST reservation roster, and sought cancellation of the allotment.

KIADB to examine complaint

Appearing for the State, Advocate General K Shashikiran Shetty submitted that 24% of the land was required to be reserved for SC/ST communities and that the prescribed quota had been maintained.

"The petitioner's representation will be considered in accordance with the law," the Advocate General assured the court.

After hearing both sides, the Bench directed the KIADB Chief Executive Officer to consider the representation submitted by the petitioner on August 5, 2026, and take an appropriate decision within eight weeks.

The court disposed of the petition with this direction. The order requires the authority to examine the complaint and decide it in accordance with the law; it does not itself cancel the land allotment.

Land allotment case

- **Location:** Mulawad Industrial Area Phase II, Vijayapura
- **Land:** 100 acres
- **Allottee:** Reliance Consumer Products Limited
- **Allotment date:** October 24, 2025
- **Representation date:** August 5, 2026

Bandipur Tiger Reserve officials shocked by poaching



CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Two suspected poaching incidents have been reported in the Maddur wildlife range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Gundlupet taluk.

A tiger died after getting caught in a snare, while the tusks of a dead wild elephant were found missing, raising concerns about wildlife protection in the region.

According to forest officials, a tiger estimated to be around two years old died after becoming trapped in a snare in the Hongalli beat of the Maddur range. The carcass was discovered in an advanced stage of decomposition, making it difficult to determine the animal's sex. A post-mortem examination has been conducted, and samples have been sent to a forensic laboratory for further analysis.

In a separate incident, an elephant carcass was found at Karadikallu Hill within the same wildlife range. Officials confirmed that both tusks were missing, leading to suspicions that poachers may have been involved. The delayed discovery of both carcasses has raised questions about monitoring and patrols in the forest area.

Bandipur Deputy Conservator of Forests L. Nandish said a special investigation team had been formed to probe the two incidents. He added that the National Tiger Conservation Authority had been informed. Officials have withheld certain details to avoid alerting those suspected of involvement in the incidents.

Environmentalists have expressed concern over the deaths. Environmentalist Joseph Hoover said the snare was reportedly placed within 300 metres of the forest boundary. He questioned the delay in detecting the tiger's death and urged the Forest Department to strengthen regular patrols.

Hoover also raised suspicions about the possible presence of the Bawaria gang in the Bandipur and Mudumalai forest areas, citing concerns over alleged poaching activities. He called for the swift identification and arrest of those responsible, along with public awareness campaigns to help prevent wildlife crimes. The investigation is expected to establish the circumstances surrounding both incidents.

At a glance

Tiger fatality
Young tiger trapped and killed in snare

Elephant poaching
Elephant carcass found with missing tusks

Official action
Special investigation team formed by forest department

Security alarm
Experts urge stronger patrols against poachers

WATER SCARCITY DISRUPTS ECOSYSTEM

MALINGARAYA PUJAR
CH NEWS, GADAG

Severe drought in Gadag district has created a serious crisis for wildlife in Kappathagudda, a major green belt in North Karnataka. With natural water sources drying up, animals and birds are struggling to find drinking water and food. Leopards, deer, foxes and peacocks are increasingly moving towards nearby villages in search of survival.

Lakes, ponds, streams and small water channels across the hill region have dried up completely. Although the Forest Department is supplying water to artificial ponds, wildlife continues to move towards human settlements. The shortage of grass and other food sources has also affected herbivorous animals, leaving carnivores with fewer opportunities to find prey.

A male leopard found inside a pipe in a farm well near Singatarayanakeri Tanda in Mundaragi taluk was rescued by Forest Department staff on



Tuesday and taken for treatment at the Gadag Zoo. However, the animal, which had reportedly gone without food and water for several days and was suffering from a high fever, died at the zoo. DCF Santoshkumar Kencheppa expressed concern over the incident, highlighting the difficulties faced by wildlife during the drought.

Kappathagudda is known for its medicinal plants and rare wildlife. The drying up of its natural water sources has disrupted the local ecosystem and food chain. As animals enter populated areas, farmers, herders and other residents are becoming concerned about their safety, particularly at night.

Nittur School begins preparations for its 125th anniversary

CH NEWS, Udupi

Former MLA K. Raghupathi Bhat said that contributing to the development of the school where one studied is a noble gesture and a meaningful way to give back to the institution.

He made the remarks while inaugurating the special committee's office, established to coordinate activities for the 125th anniversary of Nittur Aided Higher Primary School.

Bhat recalled that the importance given to education by earlier generations had helped Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts emerge as prominent educational centres. He expressed pride that more than 200 students are studying at Nittur School at a time when several Kannada-medium schools are struggling to survive.

He said the special committee had planned several development works to mark the anniversary. These include renovating the existing school building, constructing a new building and improving the institution's facilities. He appealed to former students, donors, parents and members of the public to support the initiatives and work together to ensure their successful completion.

Several office-bearers and members attended the programme, including management committee member Denis Cornelio, Alumni Association president Ramesh S. Barittaya, Alumni Golden Fund Trust president U. J. Mohammed Hanif and special committee treasurer Chandrakanth K. N. Other committee members, teachers, Parent-Teacher Association president Kavitha Shetty and Anganwadi teacher Savitha were also present.



ECI INQUIRY DEMANDED

Catholic Sabha seeks impartial probe into SIR irregularities

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The Catholic Sabha, Mangalore Pradesh, has submitted a memorandum to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, seeking urgent intervention and an impartial inquiry into alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and concerns regarding the functioning and accountability of the Election Commission of India (ECI), particularly its Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The memorandum was submitted to Deputy Commissioner HV Darshan at his office in Praja Soudha. The Deputy Commissioner received the memorandum and assured the delegation that it would be forwarded to the President for consideration.

In the memorandum, the Catholic Sabha expressed serious concern over alleged discrepancies in electoral rolls, the possibility of eligible voters being excluded and the need for transparency and accountability in the electoral revision process. It emphasised that the credibility of Indian democracy depends on the preparation of accurate electoral rolls and ensuring that every eligible citizen has a fair opportunity to exercise



their constitutional right to vote.

The representation stressed that while the removal of duplicate and ineligible entries is a legitimate administrative objective, the process must strictly adhere to constitutional principles, applicable electoral laws and the principles of natural justice. It called for adequate safeguards to prevent the wrongful deletion of eligible voters and accessible mechanisms to verify, correct and restore names wherever necessary.

The memorandum also highlighted the importance of examining concerns regarding the decision-making procedures and institutional accountability of the Election Commission of India. It called for an impartial examination of the allegations by the competent authorities, emphasising that any findings must be based on evidence and established through due process.

The Catholic Sabha reiterated that the independence of constitutional institutions is fundamental to a healthy democracy, but such independence must go hand in hand with transparency, accountability and strict adherence to the law.

The delegation expressed hope that the representation would receive due consideration and that appropriate steps would be taken to safeguard the integrity of electoral rolls and strengthen public confidence in India's democratic institutions.

The delegation comprised Rev Fr Rupesh Madtha and Roy Castelino, PROs of the Diocese of Mangalore, Santhosh D'Souza, President, Catholic Sabha, Mangalore Pradesh, Stany Lobo, former President and Political Convenor, Wilma Monteiro, General Secretary, Usha Fernandes, Secretary, Pastoral Council, Diocese of Mangalore, Sunil Monis, Vice-President along with other office-bearers and members of the organisation.

AT A GLANCE

Presidential petition: Catholic Sabha submits memorandum to Droupadi Murmu

Core demand: Impartial inquiry into electoral roll SIR process

Voting rights: Protection against wrongful deletion of eligible voters

ECI accountability: Scrutiny over CEC Gyanesh Kumar's functioning

Rajendra Singh Babu stresses film industry preservation

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Do not neglect the film industry, which provides employment to lakhs of artists and technicians. Cinema is a form of culture, and the responsibility to preserve and nurture it rests with everyone, said renowned Film Producer and Director Rajendra Singh Babu.

He spoke after inaugurating the Film Dasara event at Samskruti Bhavan on Wednesday, part of the grand 'Nammura Nadahabba' Shivamogga Dasara, organised jointly by the City Corporation and the Department of Kannada and Culture.

It is tragic that the film festival, a tradition associated with the famous Mysuru Dasara since 1936, has been dropped this year due to a lack of funds, following the Deputy Commissioner's approval. Abroad, technicians from various countries begin preparations six months in advance for events like the Cannes Film Festival, through such efforts, they have nurtured the film industry and contributed messages to society, he noted.

For the past 14 years, I have been running from pillar to post, approaching politicians with the proposal to build a Film City in Mysuru. In the past, films used to run for 36 hours, yet audiences would still ask for a couple more songs. Now, the duration is limited to 90 minutes. Shivamogga is organizing Dasara in a way that poses a challenge to Mysuru. Art and the Goddess of Art reside here. Elected representatives have extended their support, he said.

Presiding over the event, MLA SN Channabasappa noted that the Dasara celebration, which once began as a single-day event at Marnamibail, has now evolved into a grand 11-day festival featuring the participation of thousands of artists across various activities.

NAME CHANGE

GAJJELLA SAVITHRI w/o **GAJJELA BHASKAR REDDY** resident of Nemalladinne bedusupalli Gangavaram Seetaramapuram Nellore, Andhra Pradesh- 524310. have changed my name to **BASIREDDY SAVITHRI** vide affidavit dated: 07.10.2026, before Notary **KANTHARAJU. S**, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **BAVESH GIRISH KESARKAR**, S/o. Girish Kesarkar, resident of No. 80, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Aijappa Block, Dinnur, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560032, have changed my name to **BHAVESH GIRISH KESARKAR**, vide affidavit dated: 12.10.2026, before Notary R Yankoba, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AYESHA SIDDIQUA** W/o. Nadeem Ahmed Resident of No.39/1, Ground Floor, Bismilla Masjid Main Road, Bismilla Nagar Bengaluru -560 029 Karnataka, have changed my name to **AYESHA SIDDIQA.N** vide affidavit dated: 14.10.2026 before notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYED SARVAR SIDDIQHA**, W/o. Mohamed Shoyab, Resident of No. 18, Annayappa Block, 1st Cross, Jayamahal, Bengaluru -560006, Karnataka, have changed my name to **SYEDA SARVAR SIDDIQHA**, vide affidavit dated: 14.10.2026 before notary **G. DAYANANDA**, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR.
C.MIS.No.680/2026.

Between:
1.Sri. Ramesh, Age 34 S/O Muniyappa, R/at Nasikunte village, Nandhi Hobali, Chikkaballapura Taluk & (D)
...PETITIONERS.

V/S
The Tahashildhar, Doddaballapur.
...RESPONDENT.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the above named petitioners have preferred an petition seeking Death Certificate of the Grandmother of the petitioner by name **Smt. Lakshmamma W/o. Late. Motappa @ Doddamuniyappa** who died on 03/02/1969 at Chikkarayappanahalli Majara, Sonnapura Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk.
The said petition is coming before the court 13/11/2026. If anybody having objection regarding issue of Death Certificate, they may report their objection before on 13/11/2026 at 11.00 a.m.
Given under my hand and seal on this the 14-10-2026 at Doddaballapur.
By Order of the Court: Sheristedar 1st Addl Civil Judge at doddaballapur.
Advocate for petitioners:
M. G. Vijayendra Kumar,
No.11, 1st Floor, PLD Bank Complex, Doddaballapur.

Quick Read

Gadag-Betageri announces water supply for Oct 15

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council has announced water supply to several areas of the twin cities on October 15, 2026, according to an official notification. The supply will cover parts of Wards 4, 6, 7, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 and 35. Areas include Zakir Hussain Colony, Hanuman Nagar, Veereshwara Nagar, HUDCO Colony, Manjunatha Nagar, Panchakshari Nagar, Old Bus Stand Line, Bevinakatti, Sangama Bazaar Line and several other localities. The municipality has also listed various residential lines, colonies and surrounding areas for supply. Residents are advised to check the announced coverage details to confirm their locality. The municipal commissioner has requested public cooperation if technical problems disrupt water supply. Residents are urged to cooperate with the civic authorities during any unexpected interruptions.

Chitradurga urges ration card holders to complete e-KYC

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Food Department has extended the facility to complete ration card e-KYC through its 'Anna Seve' app to all districts across Karnataka. In Chitradurga, 6,77,293 of 8,94,600 beneficiaries completed e-KYC between September 1 and October 13, achieving 75.70% coverage. However, 2,17,307 beneficiaries are yet to complete the process. Antyodaya and BPL ration card holders whose e-KYC was completed five or more years ago must update their details. Beneficiaries can visit fair price shops or use the app by entering their district, ration card number and linked mobile number, verifying the OTP and selecting the pending family member. Delays may affect access to government benefits.

KSOU announces 45-day training for competitive examinations

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has announced a 45-day training programme to prepare candidates for recruitment examinations for various banking, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) posts across India.

KSOU Registrar Professor M.P. Sadashiva said interested candidates must register before 4 pm on Oct 17.

Bidar MLA demands better power supply and farmer compensation

An MLA demanded at least seven hours of daily power for agricultural pump-sets and prompt repair of faulty transformers

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has urged the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to address farmers' electricity-related problems, agricultural losses and delays in compensation payments.

He raised these concerns during a public hearing on the draft Karnataka Electricity Supply Regulations (ESR), 2026, held at the GESCOM office in Bidar.

The hearing was chaired by KERC Chairman P. Ravikumar, a retired IAS officer. Beldale stressed that the practical needs of farmers must receive priority while framing electricity supply regulations, particularly in rural areas where agriculture depends heavily on reliable power.

The MLA demanded a minimum of seven hours of electricity supply daily for agricultural pump-sets. He also called for the prompt repair of faulty transformers and immediate action to prevent power interruptions from affecting farming activities. He specifically highlighted the need to restore damaged 63 kVA and 100 kVA transformers quickly to reduce the difficulties faced by farmers.

Beldale also raised concerns about compensation for farmers who suffered losses when sugarcane crops were destroyed by fire. He urged officials to ensure that eligible farmers receive their pending compensation without unnecessary delays. In addition, he sought compensation, as prescribed under the applicable regulations, for farmers who lost livestock.



He emphasised that electricity supply rules should reflect ground-level agricultural challenges and provide practical solutions for rural communities. Reliable power, he said, is essential for sustaining farming operations, especially during drought conditions, when farmers face increased difficulties.

Beldale urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures to improve electricity services, speed up transformer repairs and ensure timely compensation for affected farmers. He stressed that regulations should offer meaningful support to the agricultural sector and protect farmers from avoidable losses.

AT A GLANCE

- **Power Demands:** MLA seeks seven hours of power supply
- **Infrastructure Repair:** Swift restoration of damaged agricultural transformers urged
- **Crop Relief:** Prompt compensation for fire-damaged sugarcane demanded
- **Livestock Support:** Regulatory payouts requested for cattle loss

Accept life with positive thinking, urges judge



CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman T.P. Ramalingegowda has urged people to accept life's challenges with optimism and seek timely medical help for mental health problems instead of hiding them.

He was speaking after inaugurating a World Mental Health Day programme at St. Joseph's Convent Girls' High School and Pre-University College on Wednesday. The event was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Advocates' Association, police department and health authorities.

Ramalingegowda said mental illnesses should be treated like physical ailments. He encouraged people to discuss their difficulties with family members, trusted friends and doctors. He also called on students to spread awareness about mental health. People experiencing severe stress or suicidal thoughts should approach the nearest health centre or hospital. The Tele-MANAS helpline, 14416, is also available for support.

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu said self-confidence, positive thinking and a disciplined lifestyle contribute to a healthy personality. He stressed the importance of maintaining mental balance and peace, noting the widespread burden of mental health problems worldwide.

District Superintendent of Police Padmini Sahu said stress is common at different stages of life, including during examinations. She advised students to focus on regular preparation rather than fear and reminded them that no single examination determines their entire future. She encouraged them to share their problems with trusted people.

District Advocates' Association president K.V. Abhilash highlighted the need to identify depression, anxiety, addiction and emotional or behavioural difficulties in children at an early stage.

High Court extends stay on Form 7 FIR against BJP booth agents

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has extended its interim stay on the investigation into an FIR against BJP booth agents Vasanthalakshmi and Deepak Singh over allegations of misusing Form 7 applications to delete voters' names during the electoral roll revision process. The court has reserved its order and directed the Election Commission to preserve relevant CCTV footage.

The petitioners approached the court seeking to quash the FIR, which alleges that they submitted applications containing incorrect information to remove voters' names. Government counsel, led by Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty, urged the court to vacate the stay and allow the investigation to continue.

Shetty argued that the agents had allegedly visited homes with Booth Level Agents and Booth Level Officers before submitting applications to delete minority voters' names despite knowing that residents were present. He maintained that an investigation was necessary to establish whether the applications were filed with malicious intent and to protect electronic evidence. He also assured the court that the petitioners would not be arrested during the investigation.



Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde questioned the need for a parallel police investigation when designated election officials are legally responsible for deciding Form 7 objections. The court also raised questions about the objection process, the responsibilities of voters and the authority empowered to determine whether names should be removed from electoral rolls.

The Advocate General said reports from inquiries conducted by the Election Commission and police would be submitted for the court's consideration. He maintained that deliberate attempts to remove voters required examination.

Senior advocate Vivek Reddy, appearing for the petitioners, argued that voters whose names were deleted could appeal through two available levels of appeal. He said a police complaint was unnecessary at this stage because remedies existed under election procedures.

The government opposed this argument, maintaining that alleged denial of voting rights warranted a police complaint. The court observed that, unlike ordinary criminal complaints, electoral roll disputes also provide alternative legal remedies. Its final decision on the petition remains pending.

AT A GLANCE

High Court extends stay on FIR investigation

- **Evidence Preservation:** Court directs Election Commission to preserve CCTV footage
- **Core Allegations:** BJP booth agents accused of misusing Form 7
- **Legal Debate:** Arguments centre on police probe versus statutory options

ADC orders faster completion of pending development works

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has directed officials to complete all pending projects under the MP and MLA Local Area Development Schemes within the stipulated deadlines.

He issued the instructions during a progress review meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday.

Expressing displeasure over delays and slow progress, Kumaraswamy warned that excuses involving land disputes or technical issues would not be accepted when officials had already inspected sites, submitted recommendations and obtained approvals. He said responsibility would be fixed for avoidable delays and appropriate action taken against those concerned.

The ADC instructed officials to verify the availability of suitable land before initiating projects. Engineers should inspect the sites and submit reports only after confirming their suitability. He also directed that proposals and approvals for work-related bills must be processed through the 'e-Sakshi' software.

Projects under various stages of implementation include community halls, toilets, school classrooms, drinking water units, roads and other public infrastructure. Noting that some projects remained stalled at the foundation stage, he asked officials to take personal responsibility for speeding up construction and making facilities available for public use.

Kumaraswamy stressed that Anganwadi and school buildings must follow approved departmental designs and prescribed construction standards. He also made it clear that obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the property owner is compulsory before construction begins, including on land belonging to trusts or under government control.



For government land in rural areas, including grazing land, officials must coordinate with the Tahsildar, Panchayat Development Officer and Revenue Department. Completed projects should be handed over to the concerned authorities only after securing the required permissions and NOCs.

The ADC announced that the next review meeting would be held by November 13 and instructed departments to resolve long-pending projects and demonstrate measurable progress. Officials from the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Nirmithi Kendra, KRIDL, PRED and other departments attended the meeting.

Highlights

- → ADC directs timely completion of pending MP-MLA projects.
- → Officials warned against avoidable delays and excuses.
- → Land suitability checks mandatory before project initiation.
- → e-Sakshi made compulsory for work-bill approvals.
- → NOCs required before construction on all properties.
- → Next progress review scheduled for November 13.

TECH TRADE TALKS

Karnataka and Singapore strengthen industrial investment ties

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Industries Minister M.B. Patil held discussions with Enterprise Singapore Chairman Lee Chuan Teck to strengthen bilateral cooperation in aerospace, defence, semiconductors and aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO).

The talks focused on areas offering mutual benefits to Karnataka and Singapore, particularly trade, technology and investment. Both sides discussed ways to expand business opportunities and encourage stronger industrial partnerships.



A key outcome was the agreement to strengthen cooperation between the Invest Karnataka Forum and Enterprise Singapore, which operates an office in Bengaluru. Patil explained Karnataka's industrial policy and outlined the state's industrial ecosystem to Lee.

The minister also shared the outcomes of investment-related discussions held with several companies during his recent visit to Singapore. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore further collaboration and attract investments into Karnataka's priority sectors.

Patil invited representatives from Singapore to participate in the Global Investors Meet scheduled for 2027, aiming to deepen economic ties and create new investment opportunities between Karnataka and Singapore.

Gadag cancels markets and declares dry day for polls

CH NEWS, GADAG

In view of the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency biennial election scheduled for October 23, Gadag Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate C.N. Sridhar has announced restrictions to ensure peaceful polling.

Weekly markets, fairs and festivals scheduled at Hole-Alur in Ron taluk and Lakshmeshwar will remain cancelled on Friday, October 23. The order aims to prevent crowds and traffic disruptions that could inconvenience voters travelling to and from polling stations.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ/100/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.10.2026
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಆಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವರ್ಗ–1/15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ/ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿ ಖರೀದಿ/ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ
1. Procurement of Electrical Items – RDPR/2026-27/IND14707/CALL-2 2. Procurement of Cleaning Materials -RDPR/2026-27/IND14710/CALL-2 3. Procurement of Pump Motors and Allied Accessories- RDPR/2026-27/IND14709/CALL-2. 4. Annual Solar Street Light Service And Purchase-RDPR/2026-27/SE4440 5. Procurement And Installation of CCTV Camera –RDPR/2026-27/IND15103 6. Procurement of Anganawadi Materials And Furnitures–RDPR/2026-27/IND15098 7. Providing Tractor and JCB Services on Hire Basis for Various Works (Hourly Rate)–RDPR/2026-27/SE4280/CALL-2 8. Procurement of PVC, CPVC, HDPE Pipes and Electrofusion Fittings for Water Supply Works – RDPR/2026-27/IND14708/CALL-2. 9. Procurement and Supply of Office Stationery Items for Official Use– RDPR/2026-27/IND14765/CALL-2 10. Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Demonstration of Survey Rover Receiver and Controller with GNSS Field Survey Software and Accessories, Including Three Years On Site Warranty and Training–RDPR/2026-27/IND15105 11. Supply of New Mahindra Bolero Pik-Up 1.5 fitted with BATHLA Vehicle-Mounted Telescopic Ladder, complete with Winch, Pulley, Self-Locking Mechanism, Mounting Arrangement, RTO Registration, Road Tax and Insurance- RDPR/2026-27/IND15062
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.10.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16–00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು/ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್/ EMD ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಆಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್
ಸಹಿ/– ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಆಲೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್
ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಪಾಪ್ರ/3239/ಕಿರಿದಿ ಸಾಯ/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜನಗರ
Ph: 08223-262228 Email: eepred.krn09@yahoo.com
ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ:/ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ/ಕೃರಾನ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ–08/ಜೆ.ಇ/2026–27
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ("ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ" ಮೂಲಕ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ಇವರು KW-1/2/3 (Standard Tender Document) ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.10.2026 ರಿಂದ 27.10.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.10.2026 ಸಮಯ 17:00:00 3) ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.10.2026 ಸಮಯ 17:30:00.
1) Category 2A Work: RDPR 2026-27/BD/WORK INDENT 29514 **2) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/ WORK INDENT 29036 **3) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29373 **4) Category S.C Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29880. **5) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK INDENT 26575/call-3 **6) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK INDENT 26573/call-2 **7) General Work:** RDPR/2025-26/ IND12171/call-2 **8) Category S.C Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/ WORKINDENT 29867 **9) Category S.T Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29868 **10) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 29889 **11) General Work:** RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_ INDENT29890
ಸದರಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.6.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಗಳಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.77.28 ಲಕ್ಷದವರೆಗೆ ಇರುವಂತಹ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ (WWW.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್
DIPR/DDMYS/847/KSMCA/517/2026-27

India seeks to rebuild ties with China: Goyal

India is seeking to rebuild ties with China while addressing trade imbalances, supply-chain concerns and geopolitical uncertainties through renewed diplomatic and economic engagement.

NEW DELHI

India is working to rebuild its relations with China, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday, adding that future engagement must ensure fairness, continuity and stability. Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, he said the process remained ongoing amid geopolitical uncertainties.

Goyal said India was open to engaging with countries provided the terms were fair and the geopolitical situation remained stable. His remarks followed a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September. The leaders discussed trade imbalances, supply-chain concerns and predictable market access.

India-China ties soured after the 2020 border clash in the Galwan Valley. Bilateral trade continued, but India tightened rules on Chinese investments. Recent diplomatic engagements point to renewed efforts to address outstanding concerns and improve economic cooperation.

China remained India's largest source of imports in the 2025-26 financial year, accounting for 17 per cent of total inbound shipments. India recorded a trade deficit of $112 billion with China during the period. However, India's shipments to China climbed nearly 37 per cent to $19.47 billion in FY26, and China was among India's three biggest export markets between April and August.



Goyal also described India-US relations as substantive and consequential, expressing confidence in continued cooperation despite uncertainties surrounding bilateral trade negotiations. The two countries began talks on a trade agreement in March 2025, but discussions remain ongoing beyond their original target of concluding an interim deal in 2025.

> **"We are working to develop relations with China once again, but the last word has not been scripted on this journey."**
> — **Piyush Goyal,** Union Commerce and Industry Minister

Quick Read

SEBI extends IPO fresh issue size relaxation until March 2027

NEW DELHI

Companies can now raise or cut the fresh issue portion of their initial public offerings (IPOs) by up to 50 per cent without filing new draft offer documents, after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended a relaxation. The extension covers IPOs opening on or before March 31, 2027.

The earlier relaxation was due to expire on September 30, 2026. The extension comes after the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) told the regulator that companies and merchant bankers found it hard to revise IPO sizes once the process was under way.

AIBI chairman Mahavir Lunawat said the flexibility would let companies adjust their fundraising plans as business needs and market conditions change. He added that the measure would cut procedural hurdles while keeping the requirements on transparency, due diligence and investor protection in place.

Bengaluru IT firm awaits $672,102 in unpaid export dues

CHENNAI

A Bengaluru technology firm, Ticvic Technologies Pvt. Ltd., is awaiting $672,102 from an overseas client for work completed over 19 months ago, highlighting payment risks faced by smaller Indian IT exporters.

Founder Thiyagu Ganesan said the company completed the project and the client's technical team confirmed its functionality. He mortgaged land and pledged gold to pay 47 employees, but the company's operations have since shrunk significantly.

The company has approached Chinese authorities and the Indian Embassy in Beijing, but the dispute remains unresolved.

Experts recommend contractual safeguards, buyer verification, arbitration and export-credit insurance. While large IT companies have stronger risk-management systems, a single payment default can severely affect smaller firms.

The case highlights that securing an overseas contract does not guarantee export revenue until payment is received.

US inflation rises to 3.7% as fuel prices surge

WASHINGTON

US consumer inflation rose to 3.7 per cent in September 2026 from 3.4 per cent in August, driven largely by a sharp increase in gasoline prices, according to data released by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics on Wednesday.

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.6 per cent month-on-month, compared with 0.4 per cent in August. A 9.1 per cent jump in gasoline prices made up more than half of the monthly increase in consumer prices.

Energy prices as a whole rose 5.2 per cent in September and 20.4 per cent over the year, while gasoline was up 34.2 per cent from a year earlier.

Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, increased to 2.6 per cent annually from 2.4 per cent in August. Housing costs also rose, with the shelter index increasing 0.4 per cent.

Wholesale inflation hits 11.4% as food, fuel prices rise

NEW DELHI



India's wholesale price inflation surged to 11.4 per cent in September 2026, the highest in the current Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series, which has data from April 2023. Under the older series, the inflation rate marked a 49-month high, highlighting mounting pressure from rising food and fuel costs.

The latest increase continues an upward trend in wholesale prices, driven by higher global crude oil and fertiliser costs. Disruptions tied to the West Asia conflict and the reported blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for crude oil shipments, have added to the pressure on commodity prices.

Higher fuel and fertiliser costs have also affected food prices, contributing to broader inflation across commodities.

The current WPI series uses 2022-23 as its base year and contains data from April 2023 onwards.

The sharp rise in wholesale inflation signals increased cost pressures for businesses, particularly those dependent on fuel, transport, agricultural inputs and raw materials. Sustained increases in these costs could also affect prices across supply chains, although the extent of any impact on retail inflation will depend on how businesses pass on higher expenses to consumers.

In focus

- **11.4%:** Wholesale inflation in September 2026
- **49-month high:** Highest under the older WPI series
- **April 2023:** Data begins in the current WPI series
- **August 2022:** Previous series' last comparable peak period

NPCI defers UPI merchant charges until after Diwali

NEW DELHI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has put off a 0.4 per cent merchant discount rate (MDR) on select Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions above ₹2,000 until after Diwali. It announced the decision on Tuesday, just two days before the charge was due to be rolled out on October 15.

NPCI said the UPI and Services Steering Committee had decided to delay the charges due to the festive season, and a fresh implementation date will be announced separately. The fee is meant for select person-to-merchant (P2M) payments on platforms such as PhonePe, Paytm and BHIM. Consumers will not be charged directly, as merchants are responsible for paying it.

Person-to-person UPI transfers will stay free under the September 15 circular. Payments for essential services, including railways, telecommunications, fuel and insurance, carry an MDR of no more than ₹5 per transaction above ₹2,000. According to NPCI's clarification, fuel payments below ₹2,000 will continue to attract no MDR.

Trade bodies and Opposition parties criticised the proposal, arguing that the charges could raise costs for customers and push people towards cash payments. NPCI has also issued guidance on how the fee will apply to fuel purchases made through UPI.

Vinod Kumar, president of the India SME Forum, called the postponement a timely decision that would protect micro, small and medium enterprises during the festive period. He cited a survey of 7,497 enterprises in which more than 97 per cent of respondents said UPI had helped increase sales or prevent customer losses.

0.4%	₹5	Free
MDR on select P2M payments above ₹2,000	cap per transaction for essential services	person-to-person UPI transfers

Centre forms panel on sugar prices, farmer payments

NEW DELHI

A committee headed by former NITI Aayog member Professor Ramesh Chand was set up by the Centre on Wednesday to look into demands for higher payments to sugarcane farmers and for a revision of the minimum selling price of sugar. The move comes amid rising production costs and concerns over the financial health of sugar mills.

Although the cost of procuring sugarcane has risen, the minimum selling price of sugar has stayed at ₹31 per kg since February 2019. The panel will assess farmers' demand for better returns by considering cultivation expenses and other relevant factors. It will also review sugar production costs, market prices and the financial viability of mills.

The systems used to test and report sugar recovery will also be reviewed, to make it clearer how much sugar is extracted from sugarcane. The committee will look at weighing practices at mills, and at the deductions made from the weight of mechanically harvested cane, to see whether



they reflect actual losses and whether they affect payments to farmers.

The panel was formed after sugarcane farmers' representatives from Karnataka and Maharashtra met the Union Ministers of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Its members include senior officials from the agriculture, food distribution and consumer affairs ministries.

Before it submits its findings and recommendations to the government, the committee will consult farmers' representatives, sugar mill associations, State governments and other experts. The review could affect mill earnings and their ability to pay farmers, but no immediate changes to sugar prices or farmer payments have been announced.

Global oil demand set to fall sharply in 2026

NEW DELHI

The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects global oil demand to fall by 2.6 million barrels per day in 2026, with diesel making up a quarter of the decline. The agency blamed the Iran war, fuel shortages, rising prices and weakening economic conditions affecting consumers and industries worldwide.

In its October report, the IEA projected that demand would recover by two million barrels per day in 2027. However, consumption would remain 620,000 barrels per day, or 0.6 per cent, below 2025 levels.

In September, global oil supply rose by 2.5 million barrels per day from August to 102.3 million barrels per day. OPEC+ production rose by 2.1 million barrels per day, led by Saudi Arabia, while the United Arab Emirates accounted for most of the gains among producers outside the group. The IEA expects supply to average 100.7 million barrels per day in 2026 before rising by 7.7 million barrels per day in 2027.

Refinery operations are also facing pressure from higher shipping and crude costs. The agency expects global refinery runs to fall to 81.3 million barrels per day in October before recovering to 84.6 million barrels per day by the end of the year. Annual refinery runs are projected to decline by 2.3 million barrels per day in 2026 and increase by 2.8 million barrels per day in 2027.

Diesel exports fell by 700,000 barrels per day year-on-year in September, as reduced supplies from Russia and the Middle East outweighed gains elsewhere. Global oil inventories declined by 10 million barrels during the month, while total stocks remained 509 million barrels below their end-February level.

THE OUTLOOK

Oil demand to shrink by 2.6 million barrels a day in 2026

– A recovery of 2 million barrels a day expected in 2027

Tata semiconductor investments target India's long-term growth

MUMBAI

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has described the group's semiconductor investments as a long-term commitment to India's growth, saying the sector's importance should be assessed beyond short-term financial returns. Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2026, he highlighted India's potential to strengthen its position in global manufacturing and supply chains.

Chandrasekaran said semiconductors would be essential for domestic consumers and that India had the talent and market potential to become a significant global player.



Tata Electronics is developing a semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat, in collaboration with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation. In Assam, the company is building a chip assembly and testing unit that is expected to turn out 48 million chips a day.

Chandrasekaran cautioned businesses against taking excessive financial risks, urging them to monitor balance sheets and assess demand before making major investments.

He argued that businesses should prioritise resilience alongside efficiency to withstand unpredictable conditions. Citing a cyberattack that disrupted Jaguar Land Rover's operations and caused nearly six weeks of lost production, he underlined the need for stronger operational safeguards. Despite these challenges, the Tata Group expects double-digit growth while maintaining margins, although no specific period or financial projections were provided.

India tightens Mauritius tax treaty to curb tax avoidance

NEW DELHI

Indian tax authorities can now refuse treaty benefits on a transaction when one of its main purposes is to obtain a tax advantage, under changes to India's tax treaty with Mauritius notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The amendment aims to prevent investors from using Mauritius-based entities primarily to reduce their tax liabilities.

The amended protocol to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement came into force on August 10, 2026. It introduces a principal purpose test (PPT), an anti-abuse provision designed to bring the treaty in line with international standards. Benefits may still be granted if doing so is consistent with the objectives of the relevant treaty provisions.

Tax experts said genuine investors are unlikely to face major disruptions if their investment structures have legitimate commercial purposes and sufficient business activity in Mauritius. However, dividends, interest and other income may face closer scrutiny when companies lack real operations or exist mainly to obtain tax advantages.

Earlier CBDT clarifications say existing grandfathering provisions continue to protect capital gains on shares bought before April 1, 2017. However, a January 2026 Supreme Court ruling in the Tiger Global case held that such protection does not automatically prevent scrutiny under domestic anti-avoidance rules when investment structures lack genuine commercial substance.

Experts have advised funds and holding companies to maintain clear records of governance, decision-making and commercial objectives.

? WHAT IS THE PPT?

The principal purpose test lets authorities deny treaty benefits when obtaining a tax advantage is one of the main purposes of a transaction.

ODISHA INDUSTRY PUSH

Odisha launches ₹39,383 crore industrial projects in 14 districts

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday inaugurated industrial facilities and laid foundation stones for 53 projects involving investments of ₹39,383 crore, with an estimated employment potential of 42,512 jobs across 14 districts. The initiative aims to strengthen the state's industrial base and convert investment commitments into operational facilities.



The projects cover 46 industries and span sectors such as steel, chemicals, textiles, food processing, renewable energy, electronics, information technology, logistics and tourism. The ceremony was held at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district as part of the state's efforts to accelerate industrial development following the Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave 2025.

> **"What we commit, we complete. We are moving from MoUs to reality, from intent to investment, and from investment to production."**
> – **Mohan Charan Majhi** Chief Minister of Odisha

According to the government, the projects would help Odisha grow beyond its traditional base of minerals, metals and steel. Companies associated with the programme include Tata Steel, Jindal Stainless, Linde India, Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys, Dalmia Bharat Refractories, Luminous Power Technologies and Reliance Bio Energy.

The state also announced 14 more investment proposals alongside the 53 projects: 12 memorandums of understanding and two investment intent proposals. Together they account for ₹4,805.66 crore of investment and could create another 9,170 jobs.

Majhi urged government departments and industries to coordinate closely, resolve implementation hurdles and ensure projects progress towards production. He also called on companies to strengthen local procurement and build supplier networks involving micro, small and medium enterprises and local entrepreneurs.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION: SECURING THE FUTURE WITH NATURE



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Wildlife is not just a country's natural wealth; it is also a vital link in its ecosystem. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, and marine ecosystems can remain balanced only when the diverse species inhabiting them are protected. India is among the world's most important countries in terms of biodiversity. It is home to a diverse range of habitats, from the Himalayas to the Western Ghats, the Thar Desert to the Sundarbans and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, wildlife conservation is not just an effort to save a few rare



species, but also a question of protecting natural resources and human life. The efforts to scientifically reintroduce the captive-bred Great Indian Bustard to its natural habitat in Rajasthan are an example of India's emphasis on scientific interventions alongside traditional conservation measures.

The first and most obvious importance of wildlife conservation is protecting biodiversity. Every species plays a role in the ecosystem. The extinction of a species is not simply the loss of a single individual, but can also affect many biological processes associated with it. The conservation of a critically endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard is important because its survival is linked to the protection of its entire grassland habitat. Similarly, the conservation of the tiger has promoted the protection of large forest areas, prey species, and the entire food chain in India. Therefore, the conservation of an 'umbrella species' can provide a protective shield for many other species.

Wildlife also plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Predatory species control herbivore populations, pollinators aid plant reproduction, and many birds and small creatures contribute to seed dispersal. Weakening a crucial link in the food chain can have devastating effects on the entire ecosystem. Healthy forests and grasslands also contribute to water conservation, soil quality, and carbon sequestration. Thus, wildlife conservation is directly linked to climate and environmental security.

Wildlife conservation also ensures numerous ecological services for human society. Conservation of forests and wetlands helps conserve water, recharge groundwater, control floods, and moderate temperatures. Conservation of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is linked to agricultural productivity. Similarly, natural habitats contribute to carbon storage and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, protecting nature is not just an environmental responsibility; it is also fundamental to food, water, and livelihood security.

Wildlife conservation is also of no small economic importance. National parks, sanctuaries, and tiger reserves promote nature-based tourism, creating employment and income opportunities for local communities. If tourism is developed with local participation and within environmental constraints, conservation and livelihoods can complement each other. Furthermore, wildlife is part of India's cultural and natural heritage. It is our generation's responsibility to ensure that future generations see tigers, elephants, Great Indian Bustards, rhinoceroses, lions, and numerous bird species in their natural surroundings.

However, the challenges facing wildlife conservation are serious. The most significant challenge is habitat degradation and fragmentation. Growing populations, agricultural expansion, mining, roads, railways, industries, and other infrastructure projects are shrinking wildlife habitats. Fragmented forests affect animal movement and breeding. Protecting wildlife corridors is essential, especially for large species such as elephants, tigers, and leopards.

Modern infrastructure development has also brought new challenges. Road and rail accidents, collisions with power lines and energy infrastructure can threaten many birds and other wildlife species. The Great Indian Bustard is a significant example. Simply increasing bird numbers is not enough to conserve it; threats to its habitat must also be mitigated. This highlights the need for conservation strategies to be both species-focused and landscape-focused.

Human-wildlife conflict also poses a major conservation challenge. When elephants enter farmlands, leopards appear near settlements, or wild animals damage crops, they pose real economic and security challenges for local people. If conservation benefits do not reach local communities, resentment towards conservation can develop. Similarly, poaching and wildlife trafficking continue to threaten some species. Climate change further complicates this challenge, as changing temperature and rainfall patterns are impacting the traditional habitats of many species.

Therefore, the strategy ahead must be multifaceted. First, natural habitats must be protected while simultaneously restoring damaged habitats. Wildlife corridors must be scientifically identified and protected. Environmental clearances for development projects must consider not just a single protected area, but the entire landscape and wildlife movement. Where scientifically appropriate, captive breeding, gene banks, radio-tagging, camera traps, and other modern technologies should be utilized. Breeding and restoration programs for endangered birds like the Great Indian Bustard will only be successful if their natural habitats are also protected.

The participation of local communities is one of the most important prerequisites for conservation. Instead of treating villagers as mere conservation law enforcers, they should be

"Saving wildlife is actually saving the ecosystem, which ultimately underpins human survival."
— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

made partners in conservation. Eco-tourism, local handicrafts, sustainable livelihoods based on natural resources, and conservation-related employment opportunities can be promoted. In the event of human-wildlife conflict, prompt and transparent compensation systems and rapid response mechanisms at the local level are also essential.

Ultimately, wildlife conservation needs to go beyond the narrow concept of "saving animals." The real goal is to protect the forests, grasslands, wetlands, and biological corridors on which the future of countless species and humanity depends. Scientific research, modern technology, stringent laws, safe habitats, and the active participation of local communities all must be integrated. India's development journey will be considered sustainable only if it also includes adequate space for nature.

FOREIGN OIL, DOMESTIC INFLATION



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh



Inflation isn't simply a rise in the price of goods in the market; it's driven by numerous domestic and global factors. When the price of goods or raw materials imported from abroad increases, impacting domestic market prices, it's called imported inflation. This challenge is even more serious for a country like India, as our economy relies heavily on imported crude oil for its energy needs. Fluctuations in global crude oil prices are therefore not limited to petrol and diesel prices alone; they impact transportation, industry, agriculture, food, and ultimately, the common man's pocket.

India imports more than 85 percent of its crude oil needs. Therefore, rising oil prices in

"The need today is not just to fight inflation, but to build an economy that is stronger, more self-reliant, and more resilient to external price shocks."
DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

the international market directly signal higher import costs for India. When crude oil prices suddenly rise due to factors such as global war, geopolitical tensions, production cuts by oil-producing countries, supply disruptions, or increased demand, India has to spend more foreign exchange to purchase the same oil. This is the starting point where imported inflation pressures begin.

The most direct impact of rising oil prices is on fuel costs. As petrol and diesel become more expensive, transportation costs increase. Road transport is the backbone of trade and the supply chain in India. Fuel plays a vital role in transporting most goods from farms to markets, from markets to wholesale markets, and from there to shops. Therefore, freight costs can increase as diesel becomes more expensive. Transportation companies incorporate the increased costs into freight charges, ultimately passing them on to consumers.

The impact of oil is not limited to transportation. Many industries in the economy are energy-dependent. Fuel and energy play a significant role in the production costs of cement, steel, chemicals, fertilizers, and other energy-intensive industries. Rising crude oil prices directly or indirectly increase production costs. Industries may raise product prices to control their costs. Thus, the initial oil shock gradually spreads to different sectors of the economy.

This could also impact food inflation. Diesel is useful for farmers in irrigation, agricultural machinery, and transportation. Fuel is also needed to transport agricultural produce from one place to another. If transportation and agricultural costs rise, prices of vegetables, fruits, grains, and other food items could be pressured. This is why a shock to the international oil market could reach household kitchens.

The rupee exchange rate also plays a significant role in this process. Crude oil is generally traded in US dollars in the international market. If global oil prices rise while the rupee weakens against the dollar, crude oil becomes more expensive for Indian importers. This means India has to spend more rupees for the same amount of oil. This could further increase the pressure on imported inflation.

A sustained rise in oil prices also impacts inflation expectations. When individuals and businesses anticipate further increases in fuel costs, they tend to increase their prices. This can have a cascading effect on wages, freight, services, and other commodity prices. Thus, an initial oil shock has the potential to escalate into widespread inflation. The Reserve Bank of India's estimates also consider the impact of rising crude oil prices on inflation; a frequently cited estimate is that a 10 percent increase in crude oil prices could exert approximately 20 basis points of upward pressure on consumer price inflation, although the actual impact varies depending on circumstances.

At such times, the government and central bank face a balancing challenge. Excessive fuel tax increases could impose additional burdens on consumers, while excessive tax cuts could strain government revenues. Therefore, a balanced and timely tax policy is essential during times of extraordinary global oil shocks. Similarly, monetary policy is crucial to prevent a second wave of inflation, but excessively stringent measures could impact economic growth.

The long-term solution lies not just in controlling oil prices, but in reducing dependence on oil. India must diversify its crude oil import sources and strengthen its strategic petroleum reserves to mitigate immediate pressure during times of global supply shortages. It also needs to promote electric vehicles, renewable energy, public transport, and energy efficiency. The faster the economy shifts to alternative energy sources, the less vulnerable it will be to shocks in the international oil market.

For India, crude oil is not just a source of energy, but a crucial issue for economic stability. We cannot control the price of oil in the global market, but the impact it will have on our economy depends largely on our policies and preparedness. While it's not possible to completely eliminate imported inflation, its impact can certainly be mitigated.

Every oil price shock reminds us that energy security is a crucial foundation for economic security. Until India reduces its import dependence, global oil market fluctuations will continue to impact the Indian market and the pockets of ordinary consumers.

NEW DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF THE BRAIN: A NEW LIGHT FOR HUMANITY



LALIT GARGG

The journey of human civilization is, in many ways, a journey from darkness towards light. At times, human beings have looked towards the skies to understand the mysteries of nature; at others, they have ventured into the depths of the earth to discover the secrets of life, and they have also turned inward to explore the extraordinary powers hidden within the human body. Every significant scientific discovery has opened a new horizon before humanity. Yet, among all these mysteries, the human brain remains one of the greatest enigmas. The very brain that enabled humanity to cross mighty mountains, explore the depths of oceans, reach outer space and develop artificial intelligence is still not fully understood. How thoughts originate, how memories are formed, how emotions influence our behaviour, and how mental suffering can transform a person's life – these questions have long challenged scientists.

Against this backdrop, research into controlling nerve cells through light represents far more than a scientific achievement. It offers new hope for understanding the human mind and reducing human suffering. The research associated with Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, as referred to in connection with the 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine, exemplifies this remarkable scientific quest. The development of optogenetics has provided scientists with a powerful method to study brain activity by enabling them to activate or inhibit specific nerve cells using light.

What makes this achievement particularly remarkable is that it did not begin with experiments on the human brain in some sophisticated laboratory. Its origins can be traced to attempts to understand light-sensitive proteins found in a tiny alga. A secret hidden within a microscopic organism ultimately opened new possibilities for studying the human brain. It reminds us that nothing in nature is truly insignificant. Sometimes, solutions to humanity's greatest challenges are hidden in the smallest components of



life.

To understand the essence of this discovery, we must first understand how the brain works. Our brains contain an enormous network of nerve cells, or neurons, which communicate with one another through electrical and chemical signals. These interactions influence memory, sensation, fear, happiness, decision-making and behaviour. Earlier, scientists could observe which regions of the brain became active during a particular activity, but merely observing activity did not necessarily establish whether a particular group of neurons was actually responsible for that activity. The ability to selectively control neurons through light has helped bridge this gap. Scientists can now investigate with much greater precision what happens when a particular group of neurons is activated or when its activity is suppressed, and how such changes affect behaviour or physiological responses. Brain research has therefore moved beyond merely observing activity towards understanding the relationship between cause and effect.

At the same time, it is equally important to distinguish scientific promise from established medical achievement. The safe application of such techniques in the human brain still involves significant scientific, medical and ethical challenges. Similarly, this research may have important implications for understanding the relationship between the brain and artificial intelligence, but every potential application should not be presented as an established accomplishment. True scientific thinking keeps hope alive while remaining firmly committed to facts and evidence.

This discovery can also be viewed in the broader context of scientific breakthroughs that have transformed human life. Vaccines opened new avenues for preventing infectious diseases; antibiotics made it possible to treat numerous life-threatening infections; and modern surgery has saved countless lives. The significance of such discoveries lies not merely in their scientific novelty but in their far-reaching social impact. At the same time, some scientific breakthroughs took decades to move from laboratories into everyday medical practice. Research on the brain is part of this same long journey. Its true value will become evident when the knowledge it generates leads to safe treatments, accessible healthcare and tangible improvements in the lives of patients. The greatness of science lies not merely in unlocking a mystery, but in using that knowledge for the welfare of humanity.

In this context, the significance of the Nobel Prize also deserves to be understood in a broader sense. It is not merely a celebration of an individual scientist's achievement; it is also a recognition of years of perseverance, curiosity, failures, experimentation and patience without which major discoveries would rarely be possible.

This discovery also raises profound ethical and philosophical questions. The human brain is not merely the centre of thoughts and responses; it is deeply connected with our identity, experiences and sense of self. If scientists can activate or inhibit specific groups of neurons and thereby influence behaviour, an important question arises: what should be the limits of our ability to control brain activity? The development of such technologies for treating disease and alleviating human suffering is undoubtedly welcome. But their use must necessarily protect human dignity, individual freedom, privacy and informed consent. The scientific ability to understand a person's thoughts and emotions cannot be allowed to become a justification for claiming the right to control the human mind. The greater the power science acquires, the greater the responsibility that must accompany it.

For a country like India, the message of such research is particularly significant. Providing quality healthcare to a vast population, overcoming social hesitation surrounding mental health and connecting scientific research with the needs of ordinary people remain major challenges. Mental illnesses must not be treated as signs of weakness or sources of social stigma. They need to be approached with sensitivity, scientific understanding and appropriate medical care. New scientific discoveries will become truly meaningful only when their benefits are not restricted to affluent sections of society or developed countries. Treatments emerging from research must also be safe, accessible and affordable. The real democratization of knowledge will occur only when even the most vulnerable sections of society can benefit from scientific progress.

Ultimately, the quest to understand the mysteries of the brain gives us much more than new knowledge about the biological structure of the human mind. It also encourages us to reflect on the very purpose of civilization. The highest use of the intelligence with which humanity has sought to understand nature should be to understand and alleviate the suffering of others. The true meaning of light is not merely the removal of darkness; it is also the transformation of the way we see life.

The journey from a scientific possibility hidden within a tiny alga to the complex functioning of the human brain teaches us humility, patience and curiosity. It reminds us that the mysteries of nature are limitless and that human knowledge remains incomplete. Therefore, every new scientific achievement should not be regarded as the final answer, but as an opportunity to ask better questions and seek more humane solutions. The ultimate success of any discovery will be measured not merely by what it achieves within the laboratory, but by whether it can bring relief to a suffering person, hope to someone living in despair and greater sensitivity to society.

The true human test of science and the new vision that the world needs today

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tackle Air Pollution Urgently

The worsening Air Quality Index in our metros is no longer a seasonal issue but a public health emergency. In Delhi, Bengaluru and other cities, children and the elderly suffer most, with rising cases of asthma and respiratory illness. Stubble burning, vehicular emissions and unchecked construction are known causes, yet action remains fragmented. We need strict enforcement of emission norms, investment in public transport, and incentives for green energy. Citizens too must adopt car-pooling and waste segregation. Clean air cannot wait for the next winter. It demands urgent, year-round political will.

– Angel

Regulate AI Deepfakes Now

The rapid spread of AI-generated deepfakes is threatening democracy and personal dignity. From fake videos of political leaders during elections to morphed images of women on social media, the misuse is alarming. Such content misleads voters, damages reputations and erodes trust in genuine news. Current IT laws are inadequate to detect and punish offenders swiftly. The government must mandate watermarking of AI content, hold platforms accountable for quick removal, and launch digital literacy campaigns in schools. Technology should empower society, not become a tool for deception and harassment.

– Shalani Kumar

Promote Healthy Eating Habits

India is facing a silent epidemic of lifestyle diseases among youth due to excessive consumption of oily, fried and ultra-processed foods. Heart attacks in people in their 30s, obesity and diabetes are now common. Fast-food chains, long work hours and lack of awareness have replaced home-cooked meals. Schools must include nutrition education, and junk food advertisements targeting children should be restricted. Public health campaigns should promote millets, fruits and traditional balanced diets. It is time we remember that what we eat today decides how healthy we will be tomorrow.

– Vasu

Quick Read

CJP founder Dipke claims 'unofficial emergency'

NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke has sharply criticized the authorities following the detention of party members Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka. Both leaders were remanded to five-day judicial custody and placed in Tihar Jail for allegedly violating peace bonds and trespassing at Jantar Mantar. Dipke denounced the arrests as proof of an "unofficial emergency" designed to stifle political dissent and suppress civil liberties. The incident has triggered sharp political reactions across capital circles, with party supporters demanding their immediate release while legal teams expedite bail applications to challenge the custody order.

NMC issues advisory on digital medical record authentication

NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued an advisory on the remote authentication of medical records using digital signatures, aiming to address confusion over existing practices in healthcare establishments.
In a public notice dated October 13, the NMC said different practices followed by healthcare institutions had created uncertainty regarding the remote review and authentication of medical records. The advisory seeks to provide clarity on the use of digital signatures for verifying such documents.

Death penalty for Muskan, lover in 'blue drum murder' case

MEERUT

A Meerut court has sentenced Muskan Rastogi and her lover, Sahil Shukla, to death for the brutal murder of Muskan's husband, Saurabh Rajput, in the high-profile "blue drum murder" case. The convicts were earlier found guilty of murdering the former Merchant Navy officer, dismembering his body, and concealing the remains inside a cement-filled plastic drum. Declaring the case as falling within the "rarest of rare" category, the court handed down the capital punishment after a rigorous trial featuring numerous hearings and witness testimonies.

SC takes note of fake medical college in UP

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to warn the public about fake institutions after learning that a fake medical college was operating out of a dilapidated farmhouse in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district, reportedly chaired by a local tea-seller. Taking serious note of the fraudulent institution, the apex court expressed deep concern over the proliferation of sham educational bodies duping students and undermining public health standards. The bench questioned regulatory authorities on how such an operation went unnoticed and demanded immediate, strict action against those responsible to protect unsuspecting aspiring medical students from severe financial and academic fraud.

Shah predicts fourth straight defeat for Congress in 2029

He says public trust cannot be earned through manufactured media events and repeated falsehoods.

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah criticised the Congress over its protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and predicted that the party would face its fourth consecutive defeat in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Shah said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would return to power with an overwhelming majority in the next general elections. He made the remarks following the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) victory in Gujarat's local body elections.

Taking aim at the Congress, Shah said public trust could not be earned through what he described as manufactured media events and repeated falsehoods. His comments came amid the political confrontation over the ongoing revision of electoral rolls and opposition allegations concerning the deletion of voters' names.



4th
consecutive Lok Sabha defeat Shah predicts for the Congress, in 2029

The SIR exercise has emerged as a major point of disagreement between the BJP and opposition parties, with the Congress and other political groups raising concerns about the electoral process. The BJP, meanwhile, has defended the revision exercise and criticised the opposition's protests.

The Congress has continued to raise concerns over the revision of voter lists, arguing that the process must protect the voting rights of eligible citizens. The dispute has intensified political exchanges between the ruling party and the opposition.

Key highlights
- → SIR exercise sparks political disagreement.
- → Opposition alleges voter rights threat.
- → BJP defends voter list revision.
- → Political friction intensifies over changes.
- → Shah predicts 2029 electoral victory.

With the 2029 Lok Sabha elections still more than two years away, Shah's prediction sets the tone for the BJP's political messaging ahead of the next general election. The electoral contest will ultimately depend on voter preferences and the performance of political parties in the coming years.

Mob torches murder accused's medical store in Mansa

PUNJAB

A mob set fire to a medical store allegedly belonging to an accused in the murder of an anti-drug activist in Punjab's Mansa district, amid bulldozer action against the accused's property.

The protesters reportedly pulled furniture out of the medical store and dragged it onto the road before setting it on fire. The incident occurred amid growing anger over the killing of the anti-drug crusader.

The violence came as authorities undertook bulldozer action against property linked to the accused in the murder case. The developments triggered tension in the area, with members of the public expressing anger over the killing.

The deceased activist had reportedly been involved in efforts to oppose drug abuse and raise awareness about the drug menace. His murder has drawn attention to the continuing concerns over narcotics and their impact on communities in Punjab.

The destruction of the medical store and the burning of furniture added to the tension surrounding the case. Such incidents also raised concerns about public order and the possibility of further violence amid strong public reactions to the murder.

Authorities are expected to take steps to maintain law and order and prevent further incidents in the area.

The incident highlights the anger that can follow crimes involving individuals engaged in anti-drug campaigns, particularly in areas affected by concerns over narcotics.

Police action and further developments in the murder investigation are likely to remain a focus as authorities work to address the case and maintain peace in Mansa.

CBI files supplementary chargesheet in NEET paper leak case

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a supplementary chargesheet in the NEET paper leak case, alleging that an accused, Sheshrao Bajrang Suryawanshi, provided the medical entrance examination question paper to several candidates in exchange for money.

According to the supplementary chargesheet, Suryawanshi allegedly supplied the examination paper to various candidates and collected money from them. The latest filing forms part of the agency's ongoing investigation into the alleged leak of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) question paper.

NEET is the national-level entrance examination for students seeking admission to undergraduate medical courses across India. Allegations of question paper leaks and irregularities have raised concerns among students, parents and educational institutions about the fairness and transparency of the examination process.



The CBI has been investigating the alleged leak and the roles of individuals suspected of being involved in the network. The agency's supplementary chargesheet presents additional allegations and details relating to the accused person's purported role in distributing the examination paper.

The filing is part of the legal process through which investigators place their findings before the court. Further proceedings will determine how the allegations are examined and whether the evidence presented is sufficient to establish criminal liability.

The NEET paper leak controversy has attracted nationwide attention because of the examination's importance to medical aspirants. Every year, large numbers of students appear for the test, making the integrity of the examination process a major concern.

Any compromise in the confidentiality of examination papers can undermine the confidence of candidates who prepare for the test through legitimate means. The case has therefore highlighted the need for strong safeguards in examination paper preparation, transportation and distribution.

? WHAT IS NEET?
The national-level entrance examination for students seeking admission to undergraduate medical courses across India.

The CBI's latest chargesheet marks another development in the investigation. The allegations against Suryawanshi will be subject to judicial scrutiny, and the accused is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in accordance with the law.

Patnaik urges BJD leaders to target BJP government

BHUBANESWAR



Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik has urged party leaders to highlight what he described as the incompetence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha, alleging that the future of Generation Z was bleak under its administration.

Targeting the government led by CM Mohan Charan Majhi, the former Odisha chief minister accused it of failing to address the concerns of different sections of society. Patnaik alleged that farmers, women, elderly citizens, poor people and the middle class were facing difficulties under the current administration.

He called on BJD leaders and workers to expose the government's shortcomings and raise public issues effectively. He also urged party members to strengthen their engagement with people and communicate their concerns about the state's administration.

Patnaik's remarks come as the BJD continues to challenge the BJP government, which came to power in Odisha in 2024, ending the regional party's long tenure in the state.

The BJD president expressed concern about the prospects of young people, particularly Generation Z, and alleged that the government's policies were not providing them with sufficient opportunities or a clear future.

The party has been seeking to regain public support by questioning the BJP government's performance and highlighting issues related to farmers' welfare, employment, social security and economic opportunities.

SFI, DYFI hold rally to reclaim Jantar Mantar as stir site

NEW DELHI

Activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) attempted to march towards Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday but were stopped by police barricades.

The march came two days after the Delhi Police denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site. The decision has affected the venue's status as a location for organised demonstrations in the national capital.

The activists attempted to proceed towards the protest site but were prevented from crossing the barricades put up by the police.

SFI and DYFI are organisations associated with student and youth movements.

The latest incident has brought attention to the rules governing public protests in Delhi, particularly the restrictions imposed on demonstrations at designated locations. Jantar Mantar has traditionally served as a prominent venue for protests by political parties, student groups, trade unions and civil society organisations.

Police blocked activists at barricades, preventing them from entering the restricted protest site.

The Delhi Police's decision to denotify the site has raised questions about where demonstrators can assemble and express their demands.

The activists' attempt to march towards Jantar Mantar highlights the continuing importance of access to public spaces for organised demonstrations.



At a glance
1. Delhi Police denotified Jantar Mantar site.
2. Supreme Court directions prompted site removal.
3. Activists faced police barricades blocking access.
4. Unauthorized gatherings risk strict legal action.

The development comes amid wider discussions about the regulation of protests in the national capital and the balance between maintaining public order and allowing peaceful demonstrations.

Tamil Nadu plans extra spending to prevent power cuts

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government may spend up to Rs 7 crore extra every day to prevent power cuts as electricity demand in the state continues to rise, a minister said on Wednesday.

The state's power requirement has reached 21,000 megawatts (MW), an increase of 5,000 MW compared with the same period last year. The sharp rise in demand has increased pressure on the state's electricity supply system, prompting the government to take steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

According to the minister, the additional expenditure will help the state meet its growing electricity needs and avoid power shortages. The government is prepared to spend more, if required, to ensure that households, businesses and industries receive adequate electricity.

Power demand
extra spending a day, at most
Rs 7 cr
the state's power requirement
21,000 MW
rise on the same period last year
+5,000 MW

Tamil Nadu has a substantial demand for electricity from domestic consumers, commercial establishments, agricultural activities and industrial units. Rising consumption has made it necessary for the authorities to arrange additional power to meet the requirements of different sectors.

The proposed additional spending is expected to help the state manage peak demand and reduce the possibility of power interruptions.

The increase in demand by 5,000 MW over the previous year highlights the growing pressure on the state's power infrastructure.

The minister's statement comes amid efforts to maintain a reliable power supply across Tamil Nadu. The government is seeking to meet the increased requirement by arranging additional electricity and allocating more funds, if necessary.

However, the actual additional expenditure will depend on the amount of power required and the arrangements made to meet demand. The government's stated priority is to prevent power cuts and ensure that consumers continue to receive electricity without major disruptions.

DROUGHT SUPPORT

Maha declares 85% area drought-hit, announces aid

MUMBAI

Nearly 85 per cent of Maharashtra has been declared drought-hit, and affected farmers will receive financial assistance of Rs 5,000 before Diwali, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has announced.

Fadnavis said the state government had issued a supplementary Government Resolution (GR) adding 40 more talukas to the list of drought-affected areas. The decision aims to extend relief to farmers facing difficulties due to inadequate rainfall and drought conditions.

With a large part of the state facing drought conditions, the government has expanded the coverage of affected areas to ensure that more farmers can benefit from relief measures. The addition of 40 talukas reflects the growing geographical extent of the drought situation.

Drought conditions can severely affect agricultural production, particularly in regions dependent on rainfall for cultivation.

The government's announcement comes as farmers across several parts of Maharashtra face challenges in sustaining their crops and managing financial pressures. The promised assistance is intended to provide some immediate relief to affected families.



The supplementary GR formally adds the newly identified talukas to the drought-hit list, expanding the areas eligible for applicable relief measures.

Fadnavis's announcement highlights the state's efforts to respond to the drought situation and support the farming community.

The financial aid is expected to offer temporary support to farmers ahead of Diwali, while the wider drought situation continues to pose challenges for agriculture and rural livelihoods across Maharashtra.

Quick Read

SC advances Delhi SIR hearing to Oct 28

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has advanced the hearing date for the Delhi Special Intensive Revision (SIR) case to October 28. The decision follows an extension granted by the poll panel on September 26, which pushed the deadline for filing claims and objections under the ongoing voter list revision by a month to October 30. The apex court's intervention aims to ensure smooth electoral preparations and address concerns regarding transparency and timelines in the capital's voter roll revision process ahead of upcoming polls.

Viral video of 'abuse' of tribal students: MP cop suspended

BHOPAL

A police officer in Madhya Pradesh has been suspended after a video allegedly showing him abusing tribal students during a protest went viral on social media. The incident occurred on Tuesday, following which Ratan Singh Parihar, in-charge of the Misrod police station, was suspended, according to officials. The video reportedly shows the officer using abusive language against the protesting students, triggering concern over police conduct. The action against the officer follows allegations of inappropriate behaviour while dealing with tribal students during the protest.

Delhi Police term viral Rahul Gandhi video fake

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has refuted claims of an attack at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's residence, describing a video circulating on social media as fake and unrelated to any recent incident.

The police said the footage was old and had been shared misleadingly to create a false impression. In a post on its official X handle, Delhi Police clarified that the viral video showed an incident from December 2019. It stated that the footage had no connection with recent events and dismissed claims suggesting that an attack had taken place at Gandhi's residence.

The clarification came after the video began circulating on social media, with claims linking it to an alleged incident at the Congress leader's residence. The police urged people not to believe or share unverified information that could mislead the public.

Officials explained that the footage being circulated was from an earlier incident and that presenting it as recent was factually incorrect.

The incident highlights the growing concern over the circulation of old videos and misleading claims on social media platforms. Such content can quickly spread and create unnecessary alarm, particularly when it involves prominent political leaders or sensitive security-related matters.

Rahul Gandhi, a senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, is frequently the subject of political debate and social media discussions. However, the police clarification specifically addressed the authenticity of the circulating video and its alleged connection to a recent attack.

'Stop misleading country': BJP slams Rahul over CJP row

BJP national media convenor Ashish Agarwal accused Gandhi of public misrepresentation regarding the issue.


Ashish Agarwal
BJP national media convenor

BJP-Congress clash over protests

BJP and Congress spar over police actions against CJP leaders during public demonstrations. The BJP defended maintaining order, while the Congress criticised the authorities, intensifying political debates on protest limits.

NEW DELHI

BJP national media convenor Ashish Usha Agarwal has criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the action taken against CJP leaders, asking him to stop misleading the country.

In a post on X, Agarwal said public spaces could not be turned into political battlegrounds. He argued that public order and the rule of law must be respected, responding to Gandhi's criticism of the action against the CJP leaders.

Agarwal accused Gandhi of presenting the issue in a way that, according to him, could mislead the public.

Gandhi had criticised the action against the CJP leaders, raising concerns over the authorities' response. The BJP, however, defended the action and maintained that public spaces should not be used in ways that disrupt normal activities or create law-and-order concerns.

Agarwal stressed that political differences should not be used to justify actions that violate established rules. His comments reflected the BJP's position that the authorities must be allowed to maintain public order while dealing with protests and other public gatherings.

The exchange highlights the continuing political disagreement between the BJP and the Congress over protests, public demonstrations and the response of law enforcement agencies.

The issue has added to the broader political debate over the limits of public protest and the responsibilities of political leaders when responding to government action.

Rahul backs protesting students against Modi

Gandhi's remarks followed mounting concerns over the govt's handling of student protests and alleged crackdowns against demonstrators.



NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has voiced support for protesting students, asserting that nobody can stop them from raising their voices against injustice. Addressing the issue, Gandhi said students represent the voice of India and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to recognise their right to protest.

While speaking to the media, Gandhi assured protesting students that action would be taken against those responsible for any alleged wrongdoing. He said accountability would extend to everyone in positions of power, from the Prime Minister to police constables.

Gandhi's remarks came amid concerns over the handling of student protests and allegations of action against demonstrators. He emphasised that students should be allowed to express their views without intimidation and that their grievances must be heard by the authorities.

The Congress leader's statement highlighted the opposition party's support for students seeking justice and accountability. He indicated that those responsible for alleged excesses should face appropriate action, regardless of their position or authority.

Gandhi's comments underlined the importance of protecting this right and ensuring that students can express their concerns freely.

He also stressed the need for accountability within the system, suggesting that allegations involving officials should be examined and addressed through appropriate action. His remarks were directed at the government and the authorities responsible for maintaining law and order.

The statement is likely to add to the political debate over the treatment of protesting students and the government's response to demonstrations. The Congress has repeatedly raised concerns over issues involving civil liberties, democratic rights and the handling of public protests.

Gandhi's message was clear: students should not be prevented from raising legitimate concerns, and those found responsible for misconduct must be held accountable.

TVK will decide only if AIADMK MLAs switch sides: Arunraj

CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) will take a decision on the political situation only if AIADMK legislators switch sides, Tamil Nadu Health Minister Arunraj has said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at Kilpauk Medical College in Chennai, Arunraj clarified that his party had no specific plan to pursue the matter at present. However, he indicated that TVK would remain open to considering the situation if AIADMK MLAs decided to leave their party and join its ranks.

The minister's remarks come amid discussions over possible political realignments in Tamil Nadu and the future strategies of various parties. Any movement of legislators between political parties could influence political calculations and alliance dynamics in the State.

Arunraj made it clear that TVK was not currently pursuing a specific initiative to attract AIADMK legislators. Instead, the party would assess the circumstances and decide on its course of action if such developments took place.



Key points

1. TVK denies actively courting AIADMK legislators.
2. Party stance remains strictly reactive currently.
3. Defections could shift regional power equations.
4. Actor Vijay's party seeks political footing.

TVK, led by actor-turned-politician Vijay, has emerged as a new player in Tamil Nadu politics and is seeking to establish its position in the State's political landscape. Its future political decisions, including possible alliances and responses to changes within rival parties, are being closely watched.

The AIADMK remains one of the major political parties in Tamil Nadu. Any decision by its sitting legislators to switch parties could have implications for the party's organisational strength and the broader political equation.

Arunraj's statement suggests that TVK intends to respond to any such development rather than initiate a move at this stage. He did not announce any immediate decision regarding possible defections or political arrangements.

The minister's remarks coincide with ongoing discussions about potential political realignments and party strategies in Tamil Nadu.

The remarks highlight the continuing uncertainty surrounding political alignments in Tamil Nadu, where parties are assessing their strategies and positions ahead of future electoral contests.

Stalin offers legal aid to arrested CJP activists

CHENNAI



Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M.K. Stalin has said that his party is ready to provide legal assistance and support to activists of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) who were arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

In a social media post, Stalin expressed solidarity with the arrested activists, Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das. He stated that the DMK was prepared to extend all necessary legal representation and support to them.

Stalin's statement followed a post on the social media platform X by Abhijeet Dipke, the founder and convenor of the CJP. Referring to Dipke's post, Stalin voiced support for the activists and indicated that the DMK would help them through legal channels.

The arrests and subsequent remand of the activists have drawn attention to the circumstances surrounding their protest and the action taken against them. Stalin's intervention signals the DMK's willingness to assist the activists as they pursue their legal options.

The DMK president emphasised the importance of standing by those facing legal proceedings following their participation in protests. His offer of legal assistance could help the arrested activists obtain representation and navigate the judicial process.

The development also brings renewed focus on the role of political parties in supporting individuals facing legal action in connection with protests.

Stalin's statement makes clear that the DMK is willing to provide the two activists with legal support. The next steps are likely to depend on the progress of the judicial proceedings and the legal assistance arranged by the party.

The development comes as questions surrounding protests, arrests and the rights of demonstrators continue to feature in public debate. The DMK's offer places the party in a position to assist the activists while their cases proceed through the legal system.

Students demand SRFTI VC's removal

KOLKATA

Students of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) in Kolkata continued their sit-in protest for the third consecutive day, demanding the removal of the institute's Vice-Chancellor over alleged campus violence.

The protesting students have accused the administration of failing to address their concerns and demanded accountability for the incidents.

The students alleged that the authorities had not taken adequate steps to resolve the situation and ensure the safety of those on campus. They called for the Vice-Chancellor's removal, claiming that the administration's handling of the violence had raised serious questions about its functioning.

The protesters also accused the institute authorities of diluting police complaints related to the alleged incidents. They further claimed that students participating in the agitation were being threatened with disciplinary action. According to the protesters, the administration had refused to engage in meaningful dialogue to address their demands.

The sit-in entered its third day as students continued to press for action against those they held responsible for the campus violence. They maintained that their protest would continue until the administration responded to their concerns and appropriate steps were taken to address the allegations.

The students' charges

- **Demand:** removal of the Vice-Chancellor over alleged campus violence
- **Police complaints:** diluted by the institute authorities
- **Protesters:** threatened with disciplinary action
- **Dialogue:** refused by the administration

The students' demands centre on accountability, campus safety and the handling of complaints related to the violence. They have also raised concerns about the alleged pressure on protesters, arguing that disciplinary threats could discourage students from raising issues affecting them.

The students are seeking a clear response from the authorities and action on their demand for the Vice-Chancellor's removal. Their allegations regarding police complaints, disciplinary threats and the lack of meaningful dialogue remain central to the protest.

Delhi HC seeks FSSAI stand on paneer

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the Centre and the Delhi government on a public interest litigation (PIL) raising concerns over the sale of non-dairy products resembling paneer under the same name.

The petitioners have expressed concern that dairy analogue products could be sold to consumers as paneer, potentially misleading buyers about the nature and nutritional value of the food they purchase.

According to the petition, paneer is a standardised dairy product under the country's food safety regulations. However, non-dairy analogue products may contain ingredients other than milk and may not offer the same nutritional value as conventional paneer.

The petitioners argued that consumers should be able to distinguish between genuine dairy paneer and products made using non-milk ingredients. They raised concerns that inadequate identification or labelling could prevent consumers from making informed decisions about their food choices.

The PIL has brought the issue of food labelling, product standards and consumer protection before the court. It seeks attention to the manner in which dairy analogue products are marketed and sold, particularly when their appearance resembles traditional paneer.

Court seeks answers on paneer labelling

The Delhi High Court asked authorities to respond to a PIL regarding misleading labels on dairy analogue products resembling paneer. Petitioners emphasise that clear FSSAI standards are vital for consumer choice.

The responses from these authorities are expected to address the existing regulatory framework and the measures, if any, governing the sale and labelling of such products.

Clear product descriptions and accurate labelling are important for helping consumers understand the ingredients used in food products and distinguish between different categories of items available in the market.

The matter will proceed as the court considers the responses from the concerned authorities and examines the issues raised by the petitioners.

GOLD SPIRES ROW

Kashi Vishwanath Temple faces missing gold allegations

VARANASI

The famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Uttar Pradesh has come under scrutiny following allegations that certain gold structures, described as swarna kalash (golden spires), are missing from parts of the temple.

A lawyer based in Varanasi has raised concerns over the alleged disappearance, calling for an investigation into the matter.

According to the lawyer, the golden structures were reportedly missing from two locations above the temple's northern entrance. He described the issue as serious and said it required immediate attention from the concerned authorities. The allegation has raised questions about the presence and maintenance of gold structures associated with the historic religious site.

The Kashi Vishwanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the most prominent Hindu pilgrimage centres in India. Located in Varanasi, the temple attracts large numbers of devotees throughout the year.



However, the claim that the golden spires are missing remains an allegation, and further verification is necessary to establish the facts.

Probe sought into missing gold spires

Allegations regarding missing golden spires at a prominent temple have sparked calls for transparency and an official inquiry. Authorities must verify records and inspect the site to address devotee concerns.

The matter is expected to draw attention from temple authorities and government officials, who may need to examine records and inspect the relevant locations to determine whether the structures were removed, altered or are absent for another reason.

The lawyer has stressed the need for a clear explanation, saying the matter should not be overlooked. An official assessment could help establish the current status of the structures and address concerns among devotees.

No confirmed explanation has been provided regarding the alleged missing gold structures. The temple administration's response and any official inquiry will be important in determining the facts.

The development has renewed attention on the need for transparency and proper documentation in the upkeep of valuable items and architectural features at prominent religious institutions. Any conclusions, however, must await verification by the concerned authorities.

Quick Read

Incheon stabbing toll rises to ten wounded

SEOUL

South Korean law enforcement authorities have confirmed additional victims following a violent stabbing rampage that shook Incheon, raising the total number of wounded individuals to 10. Local police successfully apprehended the male suspect at the scene near the capital city of Seoul shortly after the incident unfolded. Medical officials report that while one victim remains hospitalized in critical condition, no fatalities have been officially recorded so far. Investigators are continuing to look into the full circumstances surrounding the attack as public safety measures remain heightened throughout the area.

Yemen's Houthis vow more attacks on Saudi Arabia

RIYADH

Yemen's Houthi group has pledged to intensify drone and missile strikes against Saudi airports and energy facilities following a direct hit on a facility of oil giant Saudi Aramco. The escalating conflict has already caused significant infrastructure damage, closed major airports, and sparked regional security alarms. While the Saudi-led coalition successfully intercepted several incoming missiles over the capital, authorities confirmed that recent strikes have disrupted local travel and business. International shipping lines, civilians, and workers have been strongly urged to evacuate targeted energy zones as military tensions continue to surge sharply across the kingdom.

Ohio working class reconsiders Trump support

WARREN

Blue-collar voters in Ohio are beginning to question their long-standing support for Donald Trump and the Republican Party ahead of the upcoming November elections. Rising consumer prices, ongoing global conflicts, and frustration with aggressive political rhetoric have caused many traditional labor workers to rethink their political loyalties. Early voting trends show high enthusiasm among Democrats, who see a vital opening to regain ground in key legislative and gubernatorial races. However, deep divisions remain across the state, as other residents continue to back the administration's stance on border security and core social values.

Bulgaria to join NATO anti-drone defense system

SOFIA

Bulgaria is moving swiftly to fortify its eastern maritime borders and expects to officially join a collective North Atlantic Treaty Organization anti-drone defense initiative by the end of October. Defense Minister Dimitar Stoyanov announced the accelerated timeline during a parliamentary hearing, underscoring the urgent security demands facing the alliance's southeastern flank amid escalating hostilities in the region. The diplomatic push for enhanced regional protection follows a dramatic escalation in maritime warfare across the western Black Sea. As commercial traffic along the alternative shipping corridors near NATO member states faces mounting peril, Bulgarian authorities are banking on closer alliance integration.

Starlink restrictions cripple Ukrainian drone operations

Tensions soar as SpaceX restricts Starlink services, crippling Ukrainian drone operations amid devastating Russian missile strikes.

KYIV

Tensions between Kyiv and Washington escalated sharply as Ukrainian defense officials accused Elon Musk's SpaceX of abruptly restricting military-grade Starlink services, severely crippling frontline drone operations. The sudden technical bottleneck coincided with a wave of devastating Russian missile strikes on critical energy infrastructure that left hundreds of thousands without power.

According to Ukrainian military authorities and presidential advisers, SpaceX implemented unannounced limitations overnight, cutting off or heavily degrading Starlink connectivity for terminals moving at high speeds. Ukrainian forces rely extensively on these high-speed mobile terminals as onboard communication and guidance systems for long-range attack and reconnaissance drones.

Serhiy Beskrestnov, an adviser to the defense ministry and radio technology expert, confirmed that terminals moving above threshold speeds experienced intermittent dropouts lasting 10 to 20 seconds, rendering fast-moving aerial platforms difficult to control.



The move drew a swift international rebuke. Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski publicly challenged Elon Musk on X, writing: "Hey, @elonmusk, big man, are you playing politics with your products again? As your European customers, we are watching you."

Bilateral friction intensified after U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly lifted sanctions on Russian diesel and publicly criticized Ukrainian leadership, urging Kyiv to halt military strikes on Russian oil refineries.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy condemned the latest onslaught of Russian missile attacks—which struck at least 30 energy facilities across Kyiv and Kharkiv, cutting power to over 600,000 residents—as an "ostentatious disrespect" to U.S. diplomatic efforts following a purported energy ceasefire agreement. While Kyiv maintains that it has ceased refinery attacks, Ukrainian officials warn they will resume defensive targeting if Russian bombardments persist.

10–20

seconds: the Starlink dropouts on fast-moving terminals that left drones difficult to control

With Washington reportedly threatening to withhold critical intelligence-sharing and satellite communications support, Ukrainian commanders warn that losing unhindered access to Starlink threatens to severely handicap logistics and frontline combat coordination at a critical juncture in the conflict.

Trade conflicts threaten global prosperity, warns Germany

BERLIN



Escalating trade conflicts, protectionist tariff disputes, and systemic distortions in international competition are severely undermining global stability and eroding economic prosperity worldwide, German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil warned. Speaking from Berlin ahead of his departure for high-stakes international summits, Klingbeil emphasized that trade fragmentation poses a direct threat to post-pandemic recovery and long-term financial security.

The German finance chief is scheduled to travel to Bangkok, Thailand, to participate in the joint annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and the G20 assembly of finance ministers and central bank governors. Klingbeil noted that in an era defined by overlapping geopolitical crises and heightened market uncertainty, nations must prioritize open dialogue, robust multilateral institutions, and dependable economic partnerships over insular trade barriers.

"In times of global crises and economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to build on dialogue and reliable partnerships," Klingbeil stated. He stressed that Germany will utilize the multilateral forums in Bangkok to position itself as a stable, predictable, and attractive hub for international commerce and industrial investment. "Especially in such an uncertain world, we need strong partners, open markets, and shared rules," he added.

The diplomatic trip underwent recent logistical adjustments. Klingbeil was originally slated to undertake a broader Asian diplomatic tour, but cancelled a planned leg to India following the sudden domestic political upheaval surrounding the resignation of Germany's labor minister and Social Democratic Party (SPD) co-leader Baerbel Bas. Despite the domestic reshuffling, the Ministry of Finance confirmed the Thai itinerary on Wednesday, highlighting the overriding priority of economic diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

Ebola crisis triggers a secondary healthcare collapse

BUTEMBO

Deep fear and false rumors are keeping mothers and sick children away from hospitals in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo as the country fights its worst Ebola outbreak ever recorded. Health workers report that dangerous myths are causing a massive drop in hospital visits, leading to soaring maternal deaths and a sharp fall in childhood immunizations.

The current epidemic has already spread across seven provinces, infecting over 8,000 people and claiming more than 4,000 lives. In Ebola hot spots like Ituri province, United Nations data reveals that maternal deaths jumped by nearly 70 percent between May and July compared to the previous year. Many pregnant women are choosing to give birth at home without professional help because they are terrified of catching the virus or mistakenly believe that clinic medicines are contaminated with Ebola.

At the Masiki healthcare center in Butembo city, maternity wards sit mostly empty. Head nurse Liliane Adronga explained that patients often stay away until it is too late, sometimes resulting in tragic losses from easily treatable conditions like malaria. Statistics from the United Nations Population Fund show a 30 percent drop in hospital deliveries and a 50 percent drop in emergency treatments for pregnancy complications since the outbreak began.



Fear and false rumors surrounding the DRC's worst Ebola outbreak are keeping mothers and sick children away from hospitals, causing soaring fatalities.

Children are also suffering as routine vaccination programs collapse. Local health facilities administered 23,000 fewer routine vaccine doses in May and June, exposing vulnerable children to deadly and preventable diseases.

Parents often avoid health centers out of fear that their children will be forcibly sent to isolation wards. Pediatrician Dr. Mupenzi Mumbere noted that many families turn to traditional healers or dangerous self-medication first, bringing children to hospitals only when their conditions have become critical. Aid workers stress that stopping the spread of misinformation is now just as important as fighting the virus itself to save young lives.

EU canvasses allies at IMF talks to close Ukraine funding gap

BANGKOK

As global financial leaders gather in Bangkok for high-stakes discussions, the European Union has launched an urgent diplomatic and financial push to close a looming funding gap for Ukraine. Speaking on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and G7 meetings, European Economic Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis outlined the bloc's strategy to secure substantial multi-national monetary commitments to sustain Kyiv through 2027 and beyond.

While financial provisions for the year 2026 are largely secured—backed by roughly 31 billion euros from EU coffers awaiting final disbursement contingent on agreed parliamentary reforms—future projections indicate a widening fiscal deficit. Although Brussels has already pledged an additional 45 billion euros ($50 billion) for 2027, Ukrainian defense and reconstruction requirements are expected to vastly outstrip these initial commitments, prompting the EU to actively canvass wealthy international partners.


Valdis Dombrovskis
European Economic Commissioner

"From the beginning, we have emphasised that the European Union aims to cover roughly two-thirds of Ukraine's financing needs, and we would expect other partners to cover the remainder."

— Valdis Dombrovskis, European Economic Commissioner

"This is one of the primary topics being addressed during the current IMF and G7 sessions, where our objective is to mobilize collaborative support from allied nations," Dombrovskis stated during an interview. He emphasized that from the inception of the conflict, the European Union has maintained the operational position that it intends to cover approximately two-thirds of Kyiv's aggregate external financing requirements, leaving international allies to pool resources for the remaining share.

Beyond pure financial aid, Dombrovskis drew sharp attention to systemic shortfalls in military hardware delivery, noting a persistent gap between public defense pledges made by various NATO member states and the actual deployment of armaments to the front lines. Closing this delivery deficit, he argued, remains vital to alleviating the severe pressures weighing on Ukraine's national treasury. Pointing to positive exceptions within the international donor community, he highlighted Norway's robust contributions, including a newly pledged sum of more than $9 billion for next year, contrasting it with other affluent partners who have lagged behind in scaling their commitments proportionally.

Colombia opens Jerusalem embassy and restores free trade with Israel

JERUSALEM

Marking a sweeping diplomatic pivot, Colombia officially inaugurated its embassy in Jerusalem, becoming the tenth nation to establish its diplomatic mission in the contested city. The move comes under newly elected conservative President Abelardo de la Espriella, who assumed office in August and swiftly moved to undo the hostile policies of his leftist predecessor, Gustavo Petro. Alongside the embassy relocation, Bogotá formally reinstated its bilateral free trade agreement with Israel.

The inauguration signals a dramatic turnaround in bilateral relations. In May 2024, former President Petro severed diplomatic ties with Israel and vehemently criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's military campaign in Gaza.

Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Omar Bula Escobar, speaking at the embassy opening ceremony alongside Israeli officials, emphasized the historic nature of the correction. "Today, we are taking a concrete step towards restoring diplomatic relations between our countries, relations that should never have been broken," Bula stated, hailing Israel as an enduring strategic partner.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar welcomed the delegation, praising the policy reversal. "Opening an embassy in Jerusalem is not only recognition of the simple political fact that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. It is also recognition of a historical truth that no honest person can deny," Saar remarked. Following the inauguration, Saar and Bula convened for comprehensive bilateral talks aimed at expanding security, technology, and economic cooperation.

The turnaround

- **2018** The US moves its embassy to Jerusalem
- **MAY 2024** Petro cuts ties with Israel, shuts the Tel Aviv embassy and ends the free trade pact
- **AUGUST** Abelardo de la Espriella takes office
- **NOW** Colombia opens its embassy in Jerusalem, the tenth nation to do so, and restores the trade pact

The status of Jerusalem remains one of the most sensitive and fiercely contested issues in the Middle East conflict. While Israel considers the entire city its undivided capital, Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the seat of a future independent state. The vast majority of the international community maintains diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv. However, a small group of nations—including the United States, which moved its embassy in 2018, alongside Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Somaliland—have chosen to position their embassies in Jerusalem.

ORTEGA'S SECRET DETENTIONS

'Escalating crisis of enforced disappearances in Nicaragua'

MEXICO CITY

Families in Nicaragua are facing immense agony as a growing number of government critics and former revolutionaries disappear into state custody without a trace. Human rights monitors warn that state-backed enforced disappearances are being used as a deliberate tactic to spread fear across society.

Among the missing are 71-year-old retired army colonel Carlos Brenes and his wife, Salvadora Martinez. Brenes was once a prominent fighter who helped President Daniel Ortega overthrow a previous dictatorship in the 1970s. However, he later became an outspoken critic of Ortega's government. Neighbors witnessed police escorting the couple away from their rural home in August 2025.

"The government uses enforced disappearance as a deliberate strategy: to sow fear not only among the detained person, but also among their family members, and to warn the entire society: 'This could happen to you.'"

– Reed Brody UN Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua

International organizations and human rights groups report that at least 68 people are currently imprisoned for political reasons in Nicaragua,



with 31 classified as victims of enforced disappearance. The regime offers no formal arrest warrants, schedules no public court hearings, and ignores inquiries from desperate relatives. United Nations experts state that at least eight political detainees have died in state custody since crackdowns began during anti-government protests in 2018.

Other former Sandinista fighters have faced similar fates. Victor Boitano, a retired colonel who began criticizing government corruption, was arrested without a warrant by armed officers at his Managua home in April 2024. His wife, Eugenia Valle, spent months searching various prisons before fleeing into exile in Italy after police surrounded her residence. She remains deeply distressed, noting that no one has seen her husband in over two years.

The Nicaraguan government, along with its interior ministry and army, has consistently ignored inquiries from international agencies and families. Experts emphasize that these secret detentions mirror dark periods of Latin American history, designed entirely to silence opposition and terrorize citizens into complete submission.

CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
THURSDAY ▸ OCTOBER 15, 2026 IBCWORLDNEWS.COM



Barcelona and Arsenal shine in Champions League victories

European giants enjoyed mixed fortunes on Tuesday, with impressive comebacks, late drama and unexpected setbacks shaping an eventful night of continental football action.

ISTANBUL

Barcelona and Arsenal secured convincing victories in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday, while Bayern Munich were held to a draw and Manchester United suffered another defeat. The results brought contrasting fortunes for Europe's leading clubs during the league phase.

Barcelona recovered from an early setback against Galatasaray to take control of the match and secure a comfortable victory. After conceding first, the Spanish champions responded with improved attacking play and made the most of their chances. Their comeback maintained their perfect start to the season across all competitions.

Arsenal also impressed with a strong second-half performance against Lille. After



breaking the deadlock, the London side quickly extended its advantage through effective attacking moves and disciplined teamwork. The victory continued Arsenal's winning run in the competition and highlighted the team's ability to turn sustained pressure into goals.

Bayern Munich, meanwhile, experienced disappointment after allowing Viking to fight back and secure a late equaliser. Despite recovering from an early deficit and taking the lead, Bayern were unable to hold on for victory after Michael Olise was sent off. The result gave the Norwegian side a memorable night in front of its home supporters.

Atletico Madrid added to Manchester United's difficulties with a victory that extended the English club's winless run to five matches. The result increased pressure on United coach Michael Carrick, with defender Lisandro Martinez also expressing concerns about the club's recruitment and squad strength.

Elsewhere, Club Brugge defeated Inter Milan in an exciting contest, while Villarreal overcame Napoli. Sporting Lisbon and Leipzig also registered victories, and Azerbaijani side Sabah celebrated a historic win in the competition. The latest round delivered comebacks, late drama and important results as teams continued their Champions League campaigns.

BFI suspends secretary over alleged financial irregularities

A leadership dispute within India's boxing administration deepens as disciplinary action and a pending no-confidence motion raise questions about the federation's governance.



KOLKATA

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh has suspended secretary general Pramod Kumar, escalating the ongoing dispute between the two officials. The action follows Kumar's move to bring a no-confidence motion against Singh, with the federation's general house scheduled to decide the president's fate on October 28.

In a letter issued on Tuesday, Singh cited several pending enquiries against Kumar, who had previously received a show-cause notice over alleged irregularities involving various actions and financial decisions. The suspension marks a fresh development in the dispute over the federation's administration and leadership.

Singh's letter accused Kumar of failing to cooperate and attempting to destabilise the organisation. It also alleged that the secretary general had issued directions and notices without proper authority, intimidated and maligned senior federation officials, and circulated unsubstantiated allegations through the media. These allegations formed the grounds cited for the disciplinary action.

Following the suspension, Singh barred Kumar from exercising all powers associated with his position and removed him from all BFI panels. The move came after Kumar initiated the no-confidence process against the president, intensifying tensions within the national boxing governing body.

Responding to the action, Kumar challenged Singh's authority to suspend him while the no-confidence motion remained pending. "Ajay Singh cannot suspend me as a no-confidence motion has been moved against him. The general house will decide his fate on October 28. We have the support of 28 associations and we will stop his dictatorship," Kumar said. His statement underlined the continuing confrontation between the two office-bearers. The outcome of the October 28 meeting is expected to be significant for the federation's leadership, as the dispute continues to unfold. The competing positions have placed the federation's internal governance under scrutiny ahead of the scheduled decision by its general house.

T Natarajan returns to SRH as Zeeshan joins DC





MUMBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have brought back left-arm pacer T Natarajan from Delhi Capitals (DC), while DC have acquired leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari in the first player trade ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 season. The exchange sees both franchises strengthen their bowling options before the upcoming campaign.

Natarajan represented SRH for five seasons between 2020 and 2024, establishing himself as an effective Indian left-arm seam bowler. His most successful IPL season came in 2024, when he claimed 19 wickets, the highest tally among SRH bowlers that year. His performances also contributed to the team's run to the final. He returns to a franchise where he enjoyed considerable success.

Delhi Capitals had acquired Natarajan for Rs 10.75 crore at the IPL 2025 player auction. He will now return to SRH at a revised fee of Rs 5 crore. During his two seasons with DC, he did not feature in the 2025 campaign and managed five wickets in 10 matches this year. He recorded an average of 71.20 and an economy rate of 11.18 during that period.

Across his IPL career, Natarajan has taken 72 wickets in 73 matches for SRH, DC and Punjab Kings. His record with Hyderabad stands at 65 wickets in 55 games, making him the franchise's third-highest wicket-taker. Bhuvneshwar Kumar leads the list with 157 wickets, followed by Rashid Khan with 93. The return gives SRH an experienced bowler familiar with the franchise.

Ansari moves to DC after playing 10 matches for SRH in IPL 2025. The 26-year-old leg-spinner made an impressive debut against DC, taking three wickets. He has six wickets from 10 IPL appearances and is expected to add depth to Delhi's spin attack. Ansari will join DC at his existing fee of Rs 40 lakh, completing the opening trade of the IPL 2027 season.

BENGAL THRASH DELHI TO WIN RANJI TROPHY OPENER

KOLKATA



Bengal opened their Ranji Trophy Group C campaign with a nine-wicket victory over Delhi on Wednesday, chasing a target of 89 on the fourth and final day. Bengal first dismissed Delhi for 277 in their second innings, having secured a substantial first-innings lead after scoring 429 against Delhi's 240.

Delhi resumed at 101 for three but were bowled out in 106.2 overs. Captain Ayush Badoni top-scored with 85 off 134 balls, including 10 fours, while wicketkeeper-batter Anuj Rawat contributed 39 from 76 deliveries. Badoni and Rawat steadied the innings after Delhi lost three wickets for 59, but their dismissals left the visitors struggling to build a competitive total.

Pradipta Pramanik claimed three wickets for Bengal, while Aamir Gani and Sumanta Gupta took two wickets each. Mohammed Shami, Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar picked up one wicket apiece. Bengal completed the chase in just 15.3 overs, reaching 89 for one. Ankur Paul scored 38 off 41 balls, captain Abhimanyu Easwaran remained unbeaten on 34, and Sudip Gharami finished not out on 16.

In Ahmedabad, Gujarat defeated Odisha by 10 wickets to earn a bonus point in their Group C opener under new-season coach Monty Desai. Left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai took five for 36 as Odisha, resuming at 119 for four, were dismissed for 161 in 46.1 overs. Gujarat needed only 47 runs and reached the target without losing a wicket in 9.3 overs. Sandeep Pattnaik scored 65 and Ninad Rathva made 53 for Odisha, while Arzan Nagwaswalla claimed six wickets in the match.

Elsewhere, Jharkhand drew against Kerala in Jamshedpur, earning three points through a first-innings lead. Utkarsh Singh was named Player of the Match after scoring 71 and taking five wickets. Maharashtra also registered a 127-run victory over Services in Delhi, completing another Group C result.

Neeraj Goyat to face Anthony Pettis in January

NEW DELHI

Indian professional boxer Neeraj Goyat will face former UFC lightweight champion Anthony "Showtime" Pettis in a six-round super welterweight bout on January 23, 2027. The fight, scheduled at 154 pounds, will be presented by IPBL Boxing and sanctioned by the Indian Boxing Council. Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Chennai are competing to host the event, with the venue expected to be announced in November.

Goyat, 34, from Haryana, has a professional boxing record of 21 wins, four losses and two draws, including nine knockout victories. He became the first Indian boxer to receive a World Boxing Council ranking and previously held the WBC Asia title. In 2024, he became the first international fighter to sign with Most Valuable Promotions, founded by Jake Paul and Nakisa Bidarian. He subsequently defeated Brazil's Whindersson Nunes on the Jake Paul-Mike Tyson event.

Pettis, who has an MMA record of 25 wins and 14 losses, including 11 knockout victories, won the WEC lightweight title in 2010 and the UFC lightweight championship in 2013. The Milwaukee native will return to India for the contest, which also carries personal significance following his younger brother Sergio Pettis's defeat to India's Sabari Jaishankar in Hyderabad in March 2025.

Goyat said he was eager to compete before an Indian crowd after fighting internationally for much of his career. Pettis also expressed his determination to win, referring to his brother's previous defeat in India. The matchup brings together an established Indian professional boxer and a former mixed martial arts champion for a major domestic combat sports event.

The card will also feature Indian fighters Akshay Chahal, Faizan Anwar, Pavan Kalyan, Ritesh Singh and Laldinsanga Ramlawt. Organisers said the complete fight card, broadcast arrangements and ticket information would be announced alongside the host city in November. The event aims to bring an international boxing spectacle to Indian audiences.



> I have seen what Indian fighters can do, and Neeraj is the best of them. That is who I want. I have thought a lot about Sergio's loss. This one is for him, and I am coming to win.
> Anthony Pettis, former UFC lightweight champion

KCL season two auction set for October 17

NEW DELHI

The Kabaddi Champions League (KCL) will hold its season two player auction on October 17, 2026, with more than 300 players expected to go under the hammer. The auction will feature a total purse of Rs 5 crore, following central trials in Sonipat and Rohtak that attracted over 6,000 registrations.

Several prominent players are expected to attract attention, including Asian Games gold medallists and members of India's national team. Sunil Malik, who captained India at the Asian Games, will be among the notable names, alongside Ayan Lochab, Ankit Jaglan and Jaideep Dahiya. Meetu Sharma, Neeraj Narwal, Yogesh Dahiya, Vijay Malik, Surjeet Narwal and Nitin Dhankar are also expected to feature.

The total purse of Rs 5 crore will be divided equally among 10 franchises, with each team receiving Rs 50 lakh to assemble its squad. The auction will play a crucial role in determining team combinations and strengthening the participating sides ahead of the upcoming season. Franchises will assess available players as they seek to build competitive line-ups.

INDIA CLEARS 281-MEMBER contingent for Asian Para Games

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has approved a 281-member Indian contingent for the fifth Asian Para Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scheduled from October 18 to 24. The contingent comprises 168 athletes, 98 team officials and support staff, and 15 contingent staff members.

India's athlete count is lower than the 303 who represented the country at the 2023 edition in Hangzhou, China. The reduction is attributed to the absence of disciplines such as blind chess, para-rowing and para-canoeing, along with strict participation quotas imposed by the organisers. In para-athletics, India's representation has dropped from 123 athletes in the previous edition to 62.

Of the 168 athletes selected, 112 are men and 56 are women, competing across 11 disciplines. Para athletics has the largest representation with 62 athletes, followed by para badminton with 28 and para swimming with 16. The contingent also includes 13 para shooters, 11 para-archers, 10 blind football players, 10 para table tennis players, eight para powerlifters, seven para judokas, two boccia players and one para cyclist.



The Indian contingent will be led by Paralympic champions Pramod Bhagat and Bhavina Patel, who have been named flag bearers for the opening ceremony. Their selection recognises their achievements and contributions to Indian para sports.

Bhagat, one of India's leading para badminton players, has won six Asian Para Games medals between 2014 and 2023, including two gold and four bronze medals. Patel, a prominent para table tennis player, has earned two medals across the 2018 and 2023 editions, winning one silver and one bronze.

The Indian team will receive support from officials, including coaches, medical personnel, support staff and representatives of the National Paralympic Committee. The Games will provide Indian athletes an opportunity to compete internationally across multiple disciplines and represent the country at the continental para-sporting event.

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