

UPI ends free ride for larger transactions

NO CHARGES ON PERSON-TO-PERSON PAYMENTS, MDR ONLY ON LARGE MERCHANT DEALS

Merchant fee on UPI rolling out Centre sets 0.4% fee on UPI payments above Rs 2,000.

NEW DELHI

India's click-and-pay UPI services will attract a fractional charge above Rs 2,000 for merchant payments, the government has notified, though it ruled out charges on person-to-person transactions.

The new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework will be effective from October 15.

The new framework suggests a 0.4% charge will be levied on transactions made by consumers to merchants, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) rules.

This charge is capped at Rs 300 per transaction, with the Finance Ministry advising banks to ensure merchants don't pass on this charge to consumers. For merchant categories like railways, telecom services, insurance, and fuel, the NPCI stated a flat rate of Rs 5 will be levied on UPI payments above Rs 2,000.

"Consumers will continue to transact free of cost using UPI as they have been doing till now. Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions up to Rs 2,000 remain outside the scope of MDR," NPCI said.

In essence, if you make a transaction above Rs 2,000 at a merchant, that seller must pay the 0.4%. But in case you send money to your friend via UPI, it counts as a person-to-person transaction and remains free even if it is above Rs 2,000.



Essential sectors like railways, telecom and fuel get a flat Rs 5 fee per transaction, while capital markets get a lighter 0.02% rate.

MDR on UPI merchant transactions

Transactions up to ₹2,000	Transactions above ₹2,000	For transactions of ₹75,000 and above
0%	0.4%	MDR capped at ₹300
No MDR	MDR Applicable	per transaction
UPI transactions up to ₹2,000 are FREE		

UPI payments remain free for P2P transfers: Govt

Person-to-Person Merchant (P2PM) vendors
Mandatory Zero MDR Vendors operating under the person-to-person merchant (P2PM) category will enjoy a mandatory zero MDR.



New Delhi: The Union finance ministry on Tuesday clarified that Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions between individuals will remain completely free, irrespective of the transaction value.

It said no charges would be imposed on person-to-person (P2P) payments.

However, a nominal Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.4% will apply to person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000.

"UPI Payments to Remain

Free for Person to Person transactions; MDR Applicable Only on Large-Value Merchant Transactions. No charges on person-to-person (P2P) transaction, irrespective of transaction value," the ministry statement said. For high-value merchant transactions of Rs 75,000 and above, the MDR will be capped at Rs 300 per transaction. The ministry said the revised framework applies only to large-value merchant transactions and does not affect free P2P payments.

DETAILS OF THE NEW FRAMEWORK
Effective date: October 15, 2026. Standard fee: A 0.4% MDR applies to general merchant payments exceeding Rs 2,000. Fee cap: Capped at Rs 300 for high-value transactions of Rs 75,000 and above. Who pays: The fee is charged to the merchant, not the consumer. Consumer protection: Regular users and consumers will not be charged any fees; the MDR applies entirely to the receiving merchants. Banks are strictly prohibited from passing this charge on to customers.
Exemptions Person-to-Person (P2P): Transfers between individuals remain completely free regardless of the amount. Small transactions: P2M payments up to Rs 2,000 remain free. Small merchants: Vendors earning up to Rs 1 lakh per month through UPI QR codes are exempt. Transactions below Rs 2K: Per an official notification under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, transactions up to Rs 2,000 continue to carry a zero-MDR rule.

Concessional rates for special sectors
Certain vital and high-value sectors carry modified rates instead of the standard 0.4% charge. Essential Services: Railways, telecom, insurance, and fuel attract a flat fee of Rs 5 per transaction for payments above Rs 2,000. Capital markets: Payments involving mutual funds, stockbrokers, and securities dealers carry a lighter rate of 0.02%, capped at Rs 300.

Beat obstacles to rise as leaders: CM exhorts youth

Shivakumar says disciplined elections should be held in every college to provide opportunities for emerging leaders

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar urged young people to participate in democratic institutions and develop leadership qualities through active engagement.

Speaking after inaugurating International Day of Democracy celebrations at Vidhana Soudha's Banquet Hall on Tuesday, he recalled the challenges he faced from his school days before entering electoral politics.

"Those who become leaders face more obstacles at every step. Young people should come forward to become leaders, and a leader should create more leaders," the CM said.



DKS allays SIR concerns

He said efforts were being made to help 47 lakh people obtain documents required for inclusion in electoral rolls amid concerns over SIR.

Through CM's words
Youth leadership: Every college should provide opportunities for leadership. Model parliaments: Schools and colleges will conduct parliamentary simulations. Democratic values: Dignity, equality, respect and the right to live are essential. Voting rights: No eligible citizen should lose the right to vote.

DyCM: Democracy must be protected for posterity

Bengaluru: Countries that ensure free and fair elections, protect human rights, uphold press freedom and maintain transparency and accountability are more likely to enjoy peace, Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the International Day of Democracy event at Vidhana Soudha, he said India's democratic foundation laid by Dr BR Ambedkar remained strong despite attempts to weaken it. "Nearly 65% of India's population is young and there is a need to instill constitutional and democratic values among them," he said.

"We have a responsibility to hand over a better political system to the younger generation. We must ensure that constitutional and democratic values become part of their lives."

Parameshwara alleged that attempts were being made to weaken the electoral system and warned that any damage to democracy would disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

"Any damage to the electoral system will directly affect Dalits, backward classes and minorities. Constitutional safeguards were provided to protect historically oppressed communities," he said.

BESCOM online services to be hit across 20 towns in K'taka

Bengaluru: Bescom online services will not be available across 20 towns between September 15 and September 17.

According to a statement by Bescom, as a part of the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) IT Phase-2 project, the power utility will be deploying the advanced software application across 20 identified IPDS towns, replacing the existing TRM (Total Revenue Management) software and to facilitate the smooth migration of consumer data from existing software, all online services will remain temporarily suspended.

"During this downtime period, essential online features—including applications for new electricity connections, name transfers, load enhancement requests, and online bill payments will not be available," a statement by the Bescom said.

AFFECTED TOWNS
Bagepalli, Devanahalli, Gudibande, Magadi, Malur, Nelamangala, Srinivasapura, Vijayapura, Channagiri, Chikkanayakanahalli, Gubbi, Holalkere, Honnali, Hosadurga, Jagalur, Koratagere, Madhugiri, Molakalmuru, Pavagada, and Turuvekere.

CHILD SAFETY NON-NEGOTIABLE' Meta agrees to report child abuse cases amid India crackdown

NEW DELHI

Facebook's parent company Meta has agreed to directly report child safety-related cases in India to the cyber-crime portal managed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

The development comes amid growing scrutiny of social media platforms by the Indian government over child sexual abuse material (CSAM), deepfakes and other harmful content.

Online safety of children is a fundamental principle for any social media firm to operate in India and it's non-negotiable, officials



said, adding they are continuously engaging with social media platforms to curb the circulation of harmful content. In a first step towards making social media platforms safe for children, Meta will report all child safety matters to law enforcement agencies, though a lot more needs to be done.

They said the Centre is continuously in talks with all other platforms to identify and remove such con-

Sanjukta IPS becomes first woman IG of CRPF's CoBRA

NEW DELHI

IPS officer Sanjukta Parasor has been appointed the Inspector General (IG) of the CRPF's special jungle warfare commando unit, CoBRA, the first woman to hold the post.

Parasor is a 2006-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) headquarters issued an order to this effect last week. Parasor will succeed 1996-batch IPS officer Danesh Rana as the IG of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA).

"This is the first time that the ten-battalion-strong CoBRA of the CRPF will be headed by a woman officer," as per official sources.

Parasor previously served in the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in addition to working in her cadre state of Assam.

The CRPF raised CoBRA in 2008-09 to tackle Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in multiple Indian states, and insurgency in certain



Northeast states.

Two CoBRA units were recently deployed by the CRPF to check armed violence in Manipur.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) credits the battalion's commandos with successful intelligence-based jungle warfare and guerrilla operations against Naxals, which led to the end of Maoist violence in the country this March.

The order also notified the posting of V K Birdi (IPS 2003-batch) as the new IG of the CRPF VIP security wing, replacing CRPF cadre officer Sunil Joon, who has been posted to the force's officers' academy in Gurugram.

No question of backing down from exposing K'taka scams: HDK

HASSAN

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said he would not back down from exposing alleged scams and illegalities in Karnataka.

Speaking at Mavinakere village here, he said he had sought the blessings of Lord Ranganathaswamy before beginning what he described as a fight against injustice.

"I am committed to my statement of exposing something that will shake the entire state and the country. There is no question of stepping back from exposing and bringing before the people scams and illegalities," Kumaraswamy said.

The Union Minister said he would place documents relating to alleged illegalities before the people and questioned who would take the issues forward and bring them to their logical conclusion.

"I am an individual. I cannot give a logical end to everything. God has to give a logical end to this fight against injustice. The question is who will take these issues forward and bring them to their logical conclusion," he said.

He said nobody could remain silent about alleged illegalities and cited the controversy surrounding recruitment through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) as an example.

He claimed that he had raised the issue of alleged irregularities in the appointment of Assistant Executive



I am committed to my statement of exposing something that will shake the entire state and the country.
HD Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

Engineers (AEE) even before he travelled to the United States. He alleged that the irregularities had taken place during the tenure of the present government and "right under the nose" of its ministers.

Referring to the investigation into the recruitment of veterinary doctors, he said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been constituted and money had been seized during the investigation.

"Whose money is it? It belongs to poor youth who dream of securing government jobs. Their emotions have been played with and they have been extorted. Should I remain quiet?" Kumaraswamy asked.

He also alleged irregularities in the recruitment of 24 AEE candidates and claimed that documents supported the charges. He criticised Home Minister and IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, alleging that he had not answered the questions raised over the recruitment issue.

Quick Read

BMTC to introduce audio ads in 300 buses

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The BMTC plans to introduce location-based audio advertisements in 300 non-AC buses as part of a revenue-generation initiative. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has invited tenders to install and operate an audio advertising system in 300 non-AC buses across Bengaluru. The advertisements will be broadcast on regular, express and night services. Each Kannada advertisement will be limited to 10 seconds, with English translations optional. The selected agency will maintain the system under a three-year contract. BMTC plans to use its GPS network for location-based advertisements while ensuring passenger stop announcements are not affected. The corporation will reserve 10% of advertising time for its own announcements and public-service messages. BMTC said it would regulate the volume, language and quality of advertisements to minimise inconvenience to passengers.

Man allegedly blackmails woman with obscene photos

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A Bengaluru woman has alleged that a man she met on Instagram took obscene photographs of her without consent and later threatened to circulate them to extort money. According to a complaint filed by her father, the woman met Anfal in 2024 while studying at Manipal University. He allegedly took her to a hotel near Manipal, where he photographed her without consent. He later allegedly threatened to upload the pictures on social media unless she paid him through PhonePe.

KTPO land in Whitefield set for major development

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has decided to develop 48.35 acres of KTPO land in Whitefield with world-class trade and exhibition facilities. Industries Minister M.B. Patil said the project would include a convention centre, exhibition halls, venues for mega events and parking facilities to boost trade and commercial activities. Patil inspected the Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation premises with ITPO Chairman Javed Ashraf on Tuesday and discussed development plans. A five-acre site will be developed as a global-standard trade, exhibition and convention centre with 20,000 square metres of exhibition space and parking for 500 cars.

Hindus must work to preserve Sanatana Dharma: Somashekar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Hindus must come forward to protect their traditions and ensure that Sanatana Dharma is introduced to the next generation, said Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekar. Speaking at a Ganeshotsava programme organised at Kengal Hanumanthiah Ward in the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency, Somashekar said Ganeshotsava was celebrated as part of Hindu tradition and with the objective of promoting the well-being and protection of the community. He said Lord Ganesha, revered as the remover of obstacles, is installed and worshipped with devotion with the belief that obstacles should not come in the way of people's

George invites UAE Kannadigas to invest in K'taka

Karnataka seeks UAE Kannadiga entrepreneurs as partners to drive tourism, infrastructure, connectivity and sustainable economic growth.

CH NEWS
BENGALURU/DUBAI

Karnataka Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George has invited UAE-based Kannadiga entrepreneurs to invest in Karnataka's growing tourism and infrastructure sectors.

Addressing 65 prominent Kannadiga business leaders representing more than 20 sectors at the "Invest in Karnataka – NRI Business Community Meet, Dubai 2026," George highlighted the State's investment potential and assured government support for credible proposals.

The interaction, organised by the Karnataka NRI Forum UAE, brought together entrepreneurs, investors and senior Karnataka Government representatives to discuss opportunities spanning tourism, trade, infrastructure, connectivity and business partnerships.

Tourism Secretary Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar, IAS, presented Karnataka's diverse tourism investment opportunities, including leisure, medical, wellness, spiritual, coastal, business and experience-based tourism. He emphasised the potential for private participation and public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

The Tourism Department is focusing on quality accommodation, destination infrastructure, enhanced visitor



“Kannadigas across the world have built successful enterprises and global networks. We want that entrepreneurial strength to connect more closely with Karnataka.”
— K.J. George, Minister for Energy and Tourism

experiences and new tourism products while developing commercially viable opportunities for private investors.

Discussions also covered strengthening air, road and coastal connectivity, investment facilitation and Karnataka's international tourism positioning.

The delegation included KSTDC Chairman Srinivas M., MLC Dr. Arathi Krishna and KSTDC Managing Director Shivaprasad P.R. UAE

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 65 Kannadiga business leaders participated
- 20+ business sectors represented
- PPP opportunities highlighted across tourism
- Focus sectors: Coastal, medical, wellness, spiritual, leisure and business tourism
- Priority areas: Connectivity, accommodation, infrastructure and visitor experiences
- Investor focus: Clear opportunities, facilitation and sustained government engagement

business leaders Dr. Ronald Colaco, Dr. Moideen Thumbay and KNRI Forum UAE President Praveen Shetty participated in the meeting.

The event concluded with

Karnataka Invites UAE Kannadiga Investors

Karnataka Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George invited UAE-based Kannadiga entrepreneurs to partner with the State in tourism, infrastructure and economic growth. At the Dubai NRI Business Community Meet, Tourism Secretary Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar outlined PPP and private investment opportunities across coastal, medical, wellness, spiritual, leisure and business tourism. Government representatives assured investors of facilitation and support for credible proposals, connectivity initiatives and commercially viable tourism projects.

business leaders expressing interest in pursuing specific tourism and investment opportunities in Karnataka with government support.

B'loru CEO repairs broken footpath after complaints go unanswered

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Bengaluru entrepreneur repaired a long-broken footpath in Koramangala for Rs 2,700 after repeated complaints to civic authorities failed to get a response.

Siddharth Dialani, founder and CEO of BharatAgri, shared before-and-after photographs of the footpath on X, saying it had remained damaged for years near his residential society.

Dialani said he had complained to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), emailed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), raised a complaint ticket and contacted the GBA's WhatsApp helpline.

However, he claimed that none of the efforts resulted in action.

He eventually decided to get the footpath repaired himself. The work, including labour and cement used to construct a ramp, cost Rs 2,700.

"Finally, decided to fix it myself," Dialani posted, adding that the repaired stretch would allow parents with strollers and senior citizens using wheelchairs to move conveniently.

His post received significant attention online, with around 3.9 lakh views.

Karnataka showcases parliamentary heritage at Commonwealth Conference

Karnataka delegation highlights the State's democratic legacy, cultural strengths and development journey before global parliamentary representatives in Cape Town.

CH NEWS
BENGALURU/CAPE TOWN

Karnataka Legislature delegation presents state brochure to South African Speaker, highlighting heritage, governance, culture and development.

The Karnataka Legislature delegation presented a special booklet, "A Brochure on Karnataka," to Thoko Didiza, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, during the inaugural ceremony of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

The delegation was led by Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker G.S. Patil and Legislative Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed.

The booklet showcases Karnataka's rich parliamentary traditions, governance framework, cultural heritage and development achievements. It was presented to the South African Parliament as a symbol of parliamentary friendship, cooperation and goodwill.

The conference is being held under the theme, "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership."

More than 800 delegates, including Speakers, Chairpersons and parliamentarians representing nine geographical regions of the Commonwealth, are participating in the conference. Organisers described it as the largest gathering in the history of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

The Karnataka delegation



CPC 2026

69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

800 Delegates participating

9 Commonwealth geographical regions represented

VENUE
Cape Town International Convention Centre

KARNATAKA DELEGATION
G.S. Patil and Saleem Ahmed

FOCUS
Democracy, AI, trade, human rights, peace and climate resilience

Karnataka Commonwealth Meet

Karnataka Legislature showcased the State's parliamentary heritage, governance, culture and development achievements at the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town. Speaker G.S. Patil and Legislative Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed led the delegation, which presented "A Brochure on Karnataka" to South African National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza. More than 800 Commonwealth delegates are attending the conference, which focuses on international law, parliamentary democracy, AI, human rights, peacebuilding and climate resilience.

has also actively participated in workshops and discussions covering inter-parliamentary affairs, economy, trade and the use of artificial intelligence.

Delegates discussed the role of Parliament in protecting human rights, promoting peacebuilding and addressing climate change and resilience.

The participation provides Karnataka an opportunity to showcase its democratic traditions and engage with parliamentary representatives from across the Commonwealth.

Congress chief calls Umar Khalid 'nationalist' amid NLSIU row

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president B.K. Hariprasad's remarks on Umar Khalid have intensified a political row over a documentary screening at NLSIU.

Karnataka Congress president B.K. Hariprasad on Tuesday called jailed activist Umar Khalid a "nationalist" while criticising the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) for opposing a proposed documentary screening at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru.

Hariprasad said the ABVP had no moral right to comment on Khalid, referring to its alleged admiration for Nathuram Godse. His remarks

came amid controversy over the proposed screening of Prisoner No 626710 is Pres-

ent, directed by Lalit Vachani.

The documentary, which focuses on Khalid and issues surrounding his incarceration, was scheduled to be screened at NLSIU on Monday. The university subsequently postponed the programme, citing logistical and security considerations.

NLSIU said the decision was precautionary and maintained that the screening would be held during the current trimester. It said the programme was part of a wider discussion on pre-trial detention, bail, dissent, political incarceration, criminal law and democratic freedoms.

Khalid has been in Tihar Jail since September 2020 following his arrest by the Delhi Police in connection with the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

KPSC SCAM PROBE

KPSC veterinary recruitment scam probe widens

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The probe into alleged irregularities in the KPSC Veterinary Officer recruitment examination has widened with the ED examining financial transactions.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigation into the alleged Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Veterinary Officer recruitment scam has intensified with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) joining the probe.

Investigators are examining allegations that some candidates obtained the question paper before the examination and allegedly prepared answers at a resort in Devanahalli. The investigation is also focusing on the suspected network through which the ques-

tion paper was allegedly circulated and money was collected from candidates.

CID traces alleged paper leak network

According to investigation details, accused Basavaraj Kannale allegedly received the question paper from Gyanendra Kumar. The CID is also probing allegations that candidates from Rajajinagar and Majestic were taken to a resort in Devanahalli, where they allegedly prepared answers before returning to examination centres.

Investigators are examining claims that some candidates who received training linked to Kannale allegedly sold question papers to other candidates for ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh near examination centres.

The CID has reportedly



seized CCTV footage from the resort, vehicles and other material linked to the case. A resort security guard has emerged as an important witness. More than 400 people, including KPSC personnel, accused persons and suspected candidates, have reportedly been questioned.

Search for electronic evidence
The CID has also searched

areas along the Cauvery River near Srirangapatna following suspicions that electronic evidence, including mobile phones and pen drives, may have been discarded there.

ED examines financial trail
The ED has entered the probe to examine suspected financial transactions and the source of funds allegedly linked to the recruitment irregularities.

"The ED is examining the financial trail to establish whether the suspected transactions are connected to the recruitment examination allegations,"

—CID officials

Probe at a glance

The KPSC Veterinary Officer recruitment case centres on allegations of a question-paper leak and illegal assistance to candidates. The CID is investigating the suspected paper distribution network, candidate links and possible destruction of electronic evidence. The ED has joined the probe to examine financial transactions, assets and the source of funds allegedly connected to the case. Investigators are questioning candidates, KPSC personnel and other people linked to the allegations.

CHObserver

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From festive neglect in Risaldar Colony to student-heavy streets in Basavanagudi and defiant litterers in Ashok Nagar and Ittmadu, garbage is choking our neighborhoods. Despite cleanups, waste keeps piling up, turning public spaces into health hazards. When will civic authorities and citizens finally clean up their act?

+91 80730 57594



Residents of Risaldar Colony 2nd Main Road faced uncollected garbage this festival season as sanitation workers skipped duties, citing celebrations. Piles of decaying waste now block pathways and threaten public health.



Residents and students near the back gate of BMS Engineering College, Basavanagudi (1st Cross Road)—right across from Sagar Xerox—are facing severe distress due to a massive garbage dump left unattended for several days. The overflowing waste is creating an unbearable stench, blocking pedestrian walkways, and posing serious health and hygiene risks in this bustling educational zone.



Residents near the Sri Ram Temple on 10th Main Road, Ashok Nagar, are at their wits' end due to persistent illegal garbage dumping on the street corner. When confronted, violators often respond aggressively.



Persistent illegal dumping continues to plague 1st Cross Road, Ittmadu, located near Apollo School and behind Nandi Enclave Apartments. Despite regular cleanup drives, residents report that waste is repeatedly dumped at the spot.

Bengaluru bids eco-friendly farewell to Lord Ganesha

Bengaluru bid a vibrant, eco-conscious farewell to Lord Ganesha, safely immersing over 1.84 lakh idols across the city.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The city of Bengaluru witnessed a massive wave of devotion and community spirit as citizens gathered to bid a heartfelt farewell to Lord Ganesha. According to official figures released by the Greater Bengaluru Authority, a staggering total of 1,84,628 Ganesha idols were safely immersed across the region on September 14, 2026.

To ensure the festival concluded smoothly while protecting local water bodies, authorities made special arrangements. Citizens utilized a well-organized network of mobile tanks as well as permanent and temporary immersion ponds established specifically near lake premises across the metropolitan area. This proactive approach helped manage the heavy influx of devotees while keeping the environment safe from pollution.

The celebrations and subsequent farewells spanned across the five major city corporations managed under the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Officials shared a detailed breakdown of the numbers,



highlighting the varying levels of participation in different neighborhoods.

Leading the charts by a wide margin, the West City Corporation recorded the highest number of immersions, with citizens bidding farewell to an incredible 1,20,079 idols. Meanwhile, the Central City Corporation followed with 28,860 idols immersed. The North City Corporation saw active participation with 16,857 idols, while the South City Corporation recorded 10,372 immersions. Finally, the East City Corporation successfully wrapped up the festive season with 8,460 idols safely immersed.

Civic authorities expressed gratitude to the public for co-operating with guidelines and utilizing the designated mobile tanks and ponds. The smooth execution of the immersion day reflects the ded-



Why this matters

Eco-Friendly Push

Mobile tanks and ponds protected lakes from heavy chemical pollution.

Smooth Operations

Quick coordination by all five city corporations ensured zero major traffic jams or mishaps.

Community Spirit

Neighbors came together joyfully, blending tradition with modern civic care.

ication of both local administration and the residents of Bengaluru in balancing cultural traditions with ecological responsibility.

Corporation wise immersion breakdown

West City Corporation

Led the charts with a massive 1,20,079 idols immersed.

Central City Corporation

Saw heartfelt celebrations with 28,860 idols safely put to rest.

North City Corporation

Families gathered to bid farewell to 16,857 idols.

South City Corporation

Recorded a total of 10,372 eco-friendly immersions.

East City Corporation

Wrapped up the season smoothly with 8,460 idols.

GBA officials review Pourakarmika welfare,safety

Senior officials and labor leaders met in Bengaluru to enhance pourakarmika welfare, mandating NAMASTE app registration, addressing staff shortages, and expanding security benefits.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior government officials and labor representatives gathered at the Greater Bengaluru Authority Central Office for a crucial high-level meeting focused on safeguarding municipal sanitation workers. Chaired by Hardeep Singh Gill, Member of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, alongside GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, the session delivered comprehensive discussions on critical welfare policies, working conditions, and urgent demands raised by local unions.

A major focus of the gathering centered on mandatory digital inclusion. Shri Gill firmly instructed all local sanitation workers, commonly known as pourakarmikas, to promptly register on the central government's official 'NAMASTE' app. Officials



stressed that completing this mobile registration process is essential for workers to secure crucial safety equipment, health coverage, and various welfare benefits directly from federal schemes.

During the extensive review, officials noted that Bengaluru currently employs 15,292 sanitation workers, consisting of 12,924 permanent staff and 2,368 daily-wage earners. Union leaders quickly pointed out a sharp workforce decline from historical numbers exceeding 35,000, which has severely amplified daily workloads. They strongly urged the administration to recalculate staffing requirements using modern, scientific norms to relieve burdened employees.

The meeting also evaluated multiple social security initiatives. Key programs highlighted include financial

housing assistance of up to ₹5 lakh for plot owners, medical expense reimbursements reaching ₹50,000, educational fee waivers for workers' children, and targeted self-employment loans. Furthermore, representatives of manual scavengers voiced pressing demands for fair compensation packages for victims' families, advanced private hospital treatment options, and strict enforcement of occupational safety protocols.

Concluding the session, top administrators pledged to comprehensively review all union demands with welfare commissioners.

Authorities issued strict warnings that worker health and safety must never be compromised, directing municipal teams to accelerate app registrations and ensure timely benefit delivery across all city zones.

Unlocking the traffic flow at Banashankari junction

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a bold push to ease grueling daily commutes, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K. N. Ramesh spearheaded a high-level on-site inspection today alongside senior traffic police officials to tackle chronic gridlock at the heavily congested Banashankari Junction.

Focusing directly on bottleneck relief, the Commissioner carefully evaluated the area situated right behind the Banashankari BMTC Bus Terminal. Officials extensively reviewed potential alternative pathways designed to smoothly channel vehicles traveling from Subramanyapura straight toward Banashankari, bypassing the main junction entirely. Discussions centered heavily on modern connectivity metrics, structural routing feasibility, and how effectively this alternative path could absorb peak-hour vehicle volume.

Moving further along the critical corridor, the Commissioner directed municipal engineers to immediately launch a detailed land survey for widening Subramanyapura Road. This expansion aims to significantly boost overall traffic-carrying capacity for



Action plan for officials

- Feasibility Checks:** Engineers must quickly gather technical data and evaluate the ground reality of the proposed alternative path.
- Traffic Coordination:** The Corporation will team up with the Bengaluru Traffic Police Department to finalize practical steps.
- Public Interest First:** Authorities promised swift action to cut down travel time and ease commuter stress across south Bengaluru.

motorists heading toward Banashankari via Kadirenahalli Cross, providing much-needed relief to thousands of daily commuters navigating this vital southern artery.

CLEAR THE PATH

₹50,000 fine imposed for Subbaiah circle encroachment

BENGALURU

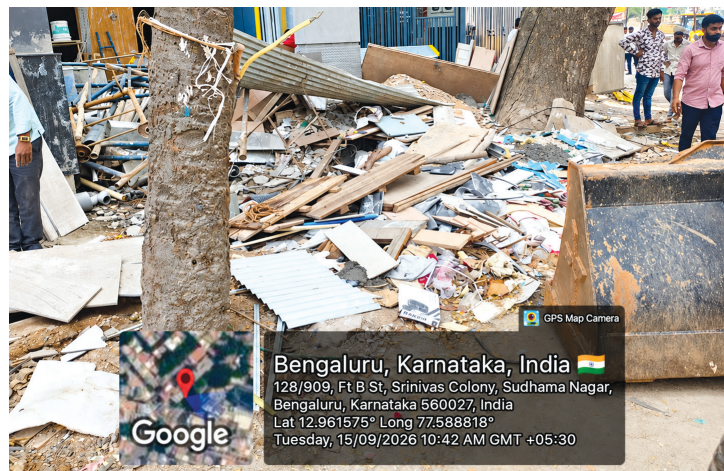
Stepping up efforts to reclaim public walkways, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation launched a massive, uncompromising anti-encroachment drive across key arterial and sub-arterial corridors today. Acting directly on the firm instructions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Sri Krishna Byre Gowda and Central Corporation Commissioner Sri Jagadeesh G., municipal enforcement teams aggressively targeted illegal obstructions to guarantee safe, unhindered passage for everyday pedestrians.

The intensive enforcement sweep zeroed in on the bustling Chickpet division, where civic officials inspected footpaths to root out unauthorized structures, commercial displays, abandoned waste, and construction materials blocking pedestrian flow. During an operation at Subbaiah Circle, enforcement squads un-

covered a blatant violation outside a commercial property. Heaps of Construction and Demolition waste, along with heavy building materials, had been dumped directly onto the pedestrian walkway, forcing citizens to risk their safety by walking on busy motor roads.

Swift action followed the discovery. Municipal workers instantly cleared the accumulated debris to restore the pathway. Simultaneously, Central Corporation Commissioner Sri Jagadeesh G. authorized a steep fine of fifty thousand rupees against the building owner, identified as Mr. Prabhu, sending an unmistakable warning to commercial property owners citywide.

Commissioner Jagadeesh firmly reiterated that public footpaths belong exclusively to citizens and pedestrians. He warned that dumping waste, storing materials, or encroaching upon walkways creates severe safety hazards and will never be tolerated.



Furthermore, the Commissioner stressed that if any offender dares to re-encroach upon cleared public land, municipal authorities will take even harsher legal action, impose heavier financial penalties, and potentially pursue criminal prosecution.

Local residents and pedestrian advocacy groups have warmly welcomed the aggressive clearance drive.



Quick Read



Partial Pink Line unlikely to ease Bannerghatta Rd traffic

CH NEWS
BENGALURU
The partial opening of Bengaluru's Pink Line is unlikely to ease traffic congestion on Bannerghatta Road, commuters and experts said. The 7.5-km elevated stretch between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere is expected to open this month or next. While it will benefit commuters heading towards Jayadeva Hospital and IIMB, those travelling to the CBD and Shivajinagar will still need another mode of transport. Hulinmavu resident Ananth S. who travels towards the CBD daily, said the partial opening would only shift the bottleneck. "If I get off at Tavarekere and have to search for an autorickshaw or wait for a bus, I gain little," he said. Transport expert M.N. Srihari said the line's full benefit would emerge only after the underground section becomes operational.



Man found dead under suspicious circumstances

CH NEWS
BENGALURU
A 55-year-old man was found dead under suspicious circumstances inside his house in Lakshmidevi Nagar, Laggere, early Tuesday. The deceased, Revannasiddaiah, was found in a pool of blood by his son Prashanth, who returned home from work around 2 am. Prashanth alerted neighbours, who rushed to the house. The father and son were the only occupants. Nandini Layout police visited the spot and launched an investigation. Police have not yet established the cause of death and are examining the circumstances. The body was shifted for postmortem examination to determine the cause of death and whether there was foul play. Police are also questioning neighbours and family members as investigation continues.

PIL challenges K'taka order limiting Vande Mataram to 2 stanzas

The plea questions the State's authority, citing constitutional provisions and alleged conflict with Union guidelines on the National Song.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A public interest litigation has challenged the Karnataka government's decision restricting the National Song to two stanzas at most state functions.

The PIL was filed before the Karnataka High Court by advocate Girish Bharadwaj through advocate Angad Kamath.

The petition challenges the September 8 government order, issued following a Cabinet decision on September 3, which directs that only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung at state government programmes. The full six-stanza version is to be sung at functions attended by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor.

The petitioner has contended that the National Song does not fall under either the State List or Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule. It argues that Parliament has exclusive legislative competence



"What the State Legislature cannot do by statute, the Government cannot do by executive order under Article 162."
- Girish Bharadwaj, Petitioner

tence under Entry 97 of the Union List read with Article 248.

The plea further contends that the State government could not exercise executive power under Article 162 in an area beyond the legislative competence of the State Legislature.

It also alleges that the order conflicts with Articles 256 and 257(1), besides provisions of the Prevention of In-

Government order

The Karnataka government directed that the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung at state government programmes. However, all six stanzas will be sung at functions attended by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor. The order cited the song's role in India's national movement and stressed

sults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Key points

- **PIL:** Filed by advocate Girish Bharadwaj.
- **Challenged order:** Karnataka government order dated September 8.
- **Two stanzas:** Prescribed for most state government functions.
- **Six stanzas:** Required when President, Vice-President, PM or Governor attends.
- **Union guidelines:** Petition cites a July 9 MHA communication.
- **Constitutional challenge:** PIL questions the State's authority to issue the order.

The petitioner has alleged procedural irregularities in the Cabinet decision, claiming that the matter was taken up as an "Informal Discussion" without a Cabinet Note or Law Department advice.

Tavarekere Metro station renaming proposal draws opposition

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A proposal to rename Tavarekere Metro station as Bismillah Nagar has triggered opposition from sections of residents and Hindu groups.

Muslim residents of Bismillah Nagar have urged the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to rename the station, ahead of the expected opening of the Pink Line. However, the proposal has faced resistance on social media, with users arguing that the existing Tavarekere name should be retained.

Hindu Janajagruti Samiti leader Mohan Gowda also opposed the proposal, saying Tavarekere was a historic name and should not be changed. Sri Rama Sene chief Pramod Muthalik similarly criticised the demand and called for retaining the existing name.

The proposed renaming has sparked a wider discussion on preserving established locality names while considering requests from residents.

BMRCL is yet to announce any decision on the proposal.

Five held in fake drug racket; prime accused traced abroad

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team probing Karnataka's fake drug racket has detained five people and traced the prime accused abroad.

The prime accused, identified as Prashant, has been traced to a country in the South Caucasus region of Western Asia, and steps are being taken to secure his extradition to India, officials said.

The SIT has conducted searches at more than 10 locations as part of its investigation into the counterfeit medicine network. Viresh Jain, one of the main accused allegedly involved in supplying fake drugs, has also been interrogated.

The probe is continuing to identify other people suspected to be linked to the racket, officials said.

The investigation followed a raid on a farmhouse near Bidadi Toll Gate on August 18 by the Health and Family Welfare Department and

"We did not wait a single day. On August 19, a six-member SIT was constituted to lead a major inter-state investigation."
- U.T. Khader, Health and Family Welfare Minister

Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration. Suspected expired and counterfeit medicines worth around Rs 5 crore were seized.

According to Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader, the accused allegedly procured inexpensive bulk formulations from manufacturing centres in Telangana and Himachal Pradesh. These were allegedly refilled into new vials at the Bidadi facility and falsely labelled as premium imported medicines of multinational pharmaceutical companies.

The medicines were reportedly intended for intensive care units and patients with serious ailments. Khader said the suspected

How the racket allegedly worked

Investigators suspect the network procured cheap bulk drug formulations from manufacturing hubs in Telangana and Himachal Pradesh. The medicines were allegedly refilled into fresh vials at a farmhouse near Bidadi and relabelled as expensive imported products of multinational pharmaceutical companies. The suspected counterfeit medicines were reportedly intended for hospitals, intensive care units and patients suffering from serious ailments, prompting an inter-state investigation.

network was involved in supplying counterfeit cancer drugs and critical-care injections to nearly 90 hospitals and clinics across Bengaluru.

Airport opens Special Assistance Zone at Terminal 1

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has introduced a Special Assistance Zone at Terminal 1 to provide end-to-end support to passengers requiring additional assistance.

The facility caters to Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), senior citizens, pregnant women, unaccompanied minors and other passengers needing assistance.

Located before security screening, with direct access

through Priority Gate 5A, the zone brings check-in, baggage assistance and waiting facilities together.

The wheelchair-friendly facility allows passengers to complete check-in without independently navigating the baggage-drop process. At the assistance desk, staff collect passengers' baggage and transport it to the baggage belt.

The zone has 20 accessible seats with charging points, while additional seating is available outside for family members and caregivers. Flight Information Display

System screens provide updates while passengers wait.

The initiative is part of the airport's wider accessibility programme, which includes Mobility Assist, a sensory room for neurodivergent passengers, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard programme, staff training and digital tools such as Social Story.

The airport has also received ACI Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation Level 3, becoming the first airport in India to achieve the programme's highest level.

Data errors leave Bengaluru voters chasing wrong SIR notices

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Data-entry errors in Karnataka's SIR exercise are leaving voters correcting discrepancies they say were created by officials.

For some senior citizens in Bengaluru, the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has become a paperwork ordeal, requiring visits to verification centres to clarify incorrect notices.

In one case, a senior citizen received a notice for "self-name mismatch", though the actual discrepancy involved the spelling of his mother's name in the 2002 electoral roll.

The voter said he had correctly mentioned his mother's name in the physical enumeration form under progeny mapping. However, the BLO application reportedly showed the incorrectly spelt maternal name as his own, triggering the wrong notice.

The BLO took the voter to a senior official, who reportedly acknowledged the error and sought documents relating to his mother's name. The voter, however, said the original notice still carried the incorrect description.

The incident has raised concerns among voters who

Karnataka opposes Kasturirangan report, CM to meet farmers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Tuesday said the State government would not allow implementation of the Kasturirangan Report, citing concerns over its impact on farmers and residents of the Malnad region.

Bangarappa said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will visit Shivamogga district on September 19 to seek the views of farmers and the public on the proposed implementation of the report.

"The Karnataka Congress government is in favour of farmers, and it will not allow the implementation of the report. The stand of the Congress government over the issue is very clear," Bangarappa said.

The minister, who hails from Shivamogga, said implementation of the report would affect 20,668 square kilometres spread across 1,576 villages in the Western Ghats. Of these, 484 villages are in Shivamogga district.

He said the villages identified as Eco-Sensitive Areas have human habitation and that the Centre's proposal had caused anxiety among residents.

Bangarappa said he had discussed the issue with Shivakumar and reiterated that the State would protect the interests of farmers while also supporting environmental conservation.

The State government has convened a special Assembly session from September 21 to 23, during which the drought



Karnataka has reiterated its opposition to the report, citing concerns over farmers, livelihoods across Western Ghats.

Kasturirangan Report

- Villages covered: 1,576 across Western Ghats
- Area: 20,668 sq km
- Shivamogga: 484 villages
- CM's visit: September 19
- Assembly session: Sep 21-23
- Draft notification: Seventh iteration

situation and implementation of the Kasturirangan Report will be discussed.

The Union Environment Ministry reissued the draft notification on Eco-Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats in July for the seventh time.

The draft proposes a complete ban on mining, quarrying and red-category industries within the notified areas. It also clarifies that agriculture, plantation activities and daily livelihoods of local communities will not be affected.

Bangarappa, however, alleged that the Centre was using the report to harass farmers and stressed the need to protect both the environment and Malnad residents.

Man attacked with sword after egg rice dispute in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A late-night food dispute allegedly escalated into violence, leaving a painter injured in a sword attack.

The incident occurred under the Bannerghatta police station limits in Anekal taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru, after a group of men allegedly arrived at a roadside eatery and demanded egg rice.

According to reports, the group, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, arrived in an autorickshaw late at night. The shop owner was reportedly closing the establishment as the food had run out and told them that egg rice was unavailable.

However, the men allegedly insisted that the dish be prepared and got into an argument with the shop owner. The situation reportedly escalated, with the group allegedly threatening the owner and creating a commotion.

The shop owner subsequently closed the establishment. The group then allegedly turned its attention to Manjunath, a painter working at a nearby shop.

One of the men, identified as Kanakaraju, and his associates allegedly attacked Manjunath with a sword. He sustained serious injuries to his hand and was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Central Bengaluru to get LED streetlights within a month

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's Central City Corporation is set for a streetlight upgrade, with faulty lights being replaced by energy-efficient LED fixtures. Around 30-40% of streetlights in the corporation limits are currently non-functional, prompting authorities to launch a focused replacement and maintenance drive.

The work is expected to be completed within a month. Streetlights in key areas, including MG Road, Shivajinagar and Hudson Circle, have been inspected, with several old connections identified for replacement.

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda had directed officials to intensify inspections after finding more than 100 non-functional lights on Hudson Circle Road. Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesha G. said maintenance would be handed over to an agency and LED lights installed.

He said complaints would be monitored and vendors penalised if faulty lights were not replaced promptly. The initiative is expected to improve nighttime visibility and public safety across central Bengaluru.

ED conference focuses on faster probes, trials and restitution

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate reviewed its investigation strategy, technological capabilities and trial outcomes during its 36th quarterly conference in Bengaluru.

The three-day conference, held from September 13 to 15 at IIM Bangalore, brought together senior ED officers from headquarters and field formations. It was chaired by the Director, ED.

A management and leadership workshop preceded the conference, focusing on technology, artificial intelligence, data analytics, financial inves-



tigations, cyber threats and international cooperation.

The Director directed Zonal Heads to ensure that the approved cadre restructuring is communicated to officers and staff. He called for quicker decision-making in enforcement

actions and greater sharing of intelligence among law enforcement agencies.

The conference stressed the use of artificial intelligence and data analytics while warning officers about risks such as data leakage and AI-enabled

fraud.

Sessions examined economic offences linked to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and PMLA, coordination with State Police and other agencies, international cooperation, extradition and emerging cryptocurrency-related crimes.

The ED also reviewed measures to fast-track PMLA trials, improve prosecution monitoring and ensure better coordination with agencies investigating predicate offences.

A dedicated session on restitution highlighted the Directorate's victim-centric approach to restoring illicit wealth to legitimate claimants.

Quick Read

Centre launches
Amnesty scheme for
provident fund trusts

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched the 'Amnesty-2026' scheme to regularize eligible Provident Fund (PF) trusts, announced Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of Ballari, K. V. Praveen. The initiative provides a one-time window for establishments whose PF trusts are recognized under the Income Tax Act, 1961, but lack formal exemption under the Employees' Provident Fund Act. The scheme commenced on July 11, 2026, and concludes on December 28, 2026. Successful applicants will receive formal statutory exemptions with retrospective effect from earlier qualifying periods. Praveen urged eligible organizations to utilize this regularization opportunity before the deadline.

Centre makes
biometric e-KYC
mandatory for farmers

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Union Government has made biometric and face-based verification mandatory for all PM Kisan beneficiaries to curb bogus claims, ensure transparent fund transfers, and weed out deceased individuals. Agriculture Joint Director Smt. Chetana Patil stated that failure to authenticate will block the upcoming 24th installment scheduled for release this October. Previously accepted OTP verification has been discontinued to prevent fraudulent transactions. Farmers can complete their physical biometric scanning at Grama One, Karnataka One, Common Service Centers, or Raitha Samparka Kendras. Alternatively, beneficiaries can use face-recognition authentication through nodal officers or directly via the PM Kisan mobile app before the release date.

'Doddappa made great
contributions to
freedom'

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Revered Doddappa Appa made historic contributions to preserving Kannada heritage during the Nizam era, stated DDPU Devanagouda Patil on Tuesday. Speaking at a discussion organized by Kannada organizations at Sharanabasaveshwara Arts and Commerce College, Patil recalled how Doddappa Appa bravely taught Kannada inside classrooms while displaying Urdu signboards outside under Nizam rule. He urged the inclusion of Kalyana Karnataka's liberation history in textbooks and advised youth to preserve this legacy. Activists Manjunatha Nalavarkar, Sachin Farahatabad, Lingaraja Siragapura, and Principal Shivakumar Saijan attended the meet.

Dy CM Parameshwara unveils
logo for Tumakuru Dasara

Tumakuru Dasara has grown into a major community celebration rivaling Mysuru, uniting all religions through diverse cultural and military exhibitions over two years

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

The annual Tumakuru Dasara festival will be celebrated on a grand, inclusive scale this year from October 11 to 21, District In-charge Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara announced on Tuesday.

Unveiling the official festival logo at the Central Library hall, Dr. Parameshwara stated that the upcoming celebrations will feature high-tech exhibitions highlighting artificial intelligence and technological advancements alongside rich regional traditions. Over 2,000 children will participate in cultural programs, showcasing the district's distinct heritage and history. He noted that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been formally invited and has assured his presence at the grand event.

Reflecting on the festival's



evolution over the past two years, the Minister noted that Tumakuru Dasara has grown into a major community celebration rivaling Mysuru Dasara by transcending caste and religious boundaries. Recalling last year's edition, he highlighted successful initiatives including Navadurga rituals, Homa-Havanas, poetry sessions, Yuva

Dasara, and Mahila Dasara. The previous festival had featured an ISRO rocket assembly exhibition, a 'Prachanda' combat helicopter display with joyrides, and performances by 150 Alva's artists supported with funds sanctioned under former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Tumakuru City MLA G.B. Jyothiganesh, BMT

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tumakuru Dasara scheduled from October 11 to 21.
- High-tech exhibitions will showcase AI and technology.
- Over 2,000 children will participate in programs.
- Festival aims to promote inclusive community participation.
- Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar invited for celebrations.
- Previous edition featured ISRO and helicopter exhibitions.

Vice-Chairman Niket Raj Maurya, Guarantee Schemes Committee Chairman Chandrashekar Gowda, Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan, ZP CEO B.V. Ashwija, City Corporation Commissioner Shubha, and SP Ashok K.V. attended the launch.

Strict action warned against
illegal mining operations

CH NEWS, CHIKKA-BALLAPURA

Mining operators violating statutory safety and environmental norms will face simultaneous multi-departmental raids and strict legal action, warned Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu on Tuesday.

Addressing an inter-departmental review meeting following a public grievance hearing with local farmers, Prabhu instructed the Departments of Mines and Geology, Police, Revenue, and Transport to coordinate joint inspections. Farmers from Mandikallu Hobli had complained that unregulated stone-crushing units generate severe dust pollution, damaging standing crops, ruining cattle fodder, and creating respiratory

health risks for residents. Furthermore, overloaded tipper trucks have battered rural roads into hazardous potholes, leading to frequent traffic accidents.

Prabhu assured agrarian families that a permanent resolution would be enforced. He directed the Sub-Divisional Officer to chair a joint grievance meeting between farmers and quarry owners within a week to work out immediate mitigation steps. While acknowledging that Chikkaballapura supplies nearly 50 percent of building aggregates and sand to northern Bengaluru, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that lawful commerce cannot override ecological and public safety.

Operators were directed to

install mandatory water sprinklers along conveyor belts and quarry roads, use speed governors on transport vehicles, execute controlled blasting, and adopt AI-based surveillance cameras to detect regulatory breaches. Reaffirming that the administration will not yield to external pressures, Prabhu stated that non-compliant crushing units face immediate closure. Sub-Divisional Officer D.H. Ashwin, Mines and Geology Deputy Director Suresh, Tahsildar Rashmi, and District Environmental Officer Vimalakshamma attended the session.

The meeting concluded with a decisive commitment to protect public health and enforce environmental accountability.

Minister Khandre visits
protest site, offers assurance

CH NEWS, BIDAR

An indefinite sit-in demonstration demanding the formal allocation of a traditional burial ground for the Scheduled Caste community of Amalapura entered its eighth consecutive day on Tuesday, with agitators refusing to call off their demonstration despite government overtures.

The protesters have been demanding that land in Survey No. 71, utilized for community burials over several decades, be formally sanctioned and entered in official land records (Pahani). Rural Development and District In-charge Minister Eshwar Khandre visited the protest site, met with the demonstrators, and listened to their grievances. Khandre offered verbal assurances that the administration would resolve the

Democratic values
diminish societal
problems, says Suresh

CH NEWS, CHIKKA-BALLAPURA

Adopting constitutional ideals and democratic principles in daily life can effectively resolve most societal problems, stated Transport and Chikkaballapura District In-charge Minister Byrathi Suresh on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the International Day of Democracy celebrations at Kannada Bhavan, organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Social Welfare Department, the Minister strongly defended affirmative action. He asserted that reservations remain indispensable as long as social inequality persists, warning that eliminating them would widen the divide between the rich and the downtrodden.

Describing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution as the nation's guiding light—comparable to the Bhagavad Gita, Quran, and Bible—Suresh noted that its protections helped eradicate bonded labor and untouchability while decentralizing power to marginalized communities.

Highlighting this year's theme, "Youth Parliament," Suresh urged young citizens to participate actively in democratic governance and make conscientious decisions, transcending barriers of caste, creed, and language to live unitedly as patriotic Indians. On the occasion, dignitaries paid rich floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya on his birth anniversary, recalling his engineering feats and dedicated nation-building legacy.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu remarked that democracy stands superior to alternative systems like monarchy or military regimes because people retain supreme sovereignty.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat led the ceremonial reading of the Preamble. Karnataka Janapada Academy Chairman Gollahalli Shivaprasad, District Guarantee Schemes Authority Chairman N. Ramesh, Superintendent of Police Padmini Sahoo, Assistant Commissioner D.H. Ashwin, Tahsildar Rashmi, and community leaders attended the convention.

KRS demands
probe into
marriage scheme
irregularities

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Alleging large-scale financial irregularities amounting to nearly ₹21.95 crore in the implementation of the inter-caste marriage incentive scheme, the Karnataka Rashtra Samithi (KRS) has demanded a comprehensive high-level probe into the Social Welfare Department's operations in Kalaburagi district.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, KRS District President Sachin Chauhan revealed that serious procedural violations had occurred across 878 applications. Under the scheme's statutory guidelines, incentives of ₹2.50 lakh for eligible male applicants and ₹3 lakh for female applicants are granted. While a portion is transferred directly to joint bank accounts via NEFT, the remaining funds must be secured in fixed deposits for a mandatory three-year lock-in period. Chauhan alleged that these fixed deposits were prematurely liquidated within days of creation without mandatory verification checks.

In Chincholi taluk alone, funds totaling around ₹4.22 crore across 169 applications were reportedly drawn down in violation of norms, pointing to an estimated local scam of ₹6 crore. Chauhan warned that fraudulent practices—including duplicate submissions, bogus couples, forged caste and income certificates, falsified marriage registrations, and fabricated identification cards used for name alterations—may extend statewide, potentially affecting around 40,000 applications.

Announcing plans to submit a formal memorandum to the Chief Minister seeking an independent inquiry, the party insisted on stringent accountability. Party office-bearers Mohsin Patel, Sitaram Pawar, Paramesha Kavalagi, Razak Mannar, Phoenix Shanappa, Shivaraj Donnur, and Shivaputra Garur were present at the briefing.

Dairy farming drives
rural economic growth

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Dairy farming serves as the essential lifeline of the rural economy, stated Pushpalatha Dhananjaya, President of the Huchhahanumegowdanapalya Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, on Tuesday.

Addressing the society's annual general meeting in Magadi taluk, she emphasized that dairying has grown into a major commercial activity, driving economic self-reliance for village women and agrarian households. Highlighting that prevailing dry spells and acute fodder shortages have caused noticeable drops in milk yields, she urged the dairy federation to formulate supportive policies and raise milk procurement prices to assist struggling producers.

Pushpalatha advised farmers to prioritize veterinary healthcare and cattle nutrition, reminding members that BAM-

UL offers educational scholarships and financial aid for their children's higher studies. She noted that steady milk income sustains numerous families during agricultural distress, commending the managing committee for ensuring smooth operations.

Marking the event, the society distributed free milk cans to dairy farmers from Tigalarapalya and Huchhahanumegowdanapalya. Vice-President Javarayya, Secretary Shivaramayya, along with Directors Chandramma, Kempegowda, Ramachandrayya H.R., Krishnamurthy H.J., Ramachandrayya, Suresh, Ramesh, Kumaraswamy H.K., Narayanaswamy H.G., and Venkatesh H.L., attended the gathering. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with members resolving to boost milk procurement and strengthen community welfare across the taluk.

Koppal DC demands faster delivery
of minority schemes

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed district authorities to ensure government welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries from minority communities within stipulated timelines without administrative delays.

Presiding over the first-quarter review meeting of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the 2026–27 financial year, Dr. Itnal emphasized that programs covering Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Parsis must achieve departmental targets to bring these communities into the mainstream. Addressing delayed student scholarships caused by portal errors, he ordered technical glitches resolved so pending funds are disbursed before the next review. He also instructed education officials to draft an assessment on Urdu teacher

shortages and directed joint site inspections with PWD engineers to identify unsafe school buildings.

During discussions, district implementation committee member Nazeersab Moolimani urged the administration to submit recruitment proposals to fill long-standing vacancies in Urdu schools. Committee member Manvi Pasha advocated razing unsafe, aging school structures across urban and rural belts to build modern facilities, alongside renovating the municipal Anganwadi center at Sardargalli. Member M.D. Siraj Siddapura insisted on strict quality supervision for the residential school building under construction for girls in Siddapura.

Superintendent of Police Sahil Bagla, Assistant Commissioner Maheboob Jeelana, District Minority Welfare Officer Ajmeer Ali, and senior district officials attended the deliberations. The meeting

AT A GLANCE

- DC directs faster delivery of minority welfare schemes.
- Departments must meet prescribed programme targets promptly.
- Scholarship portal glitches delaying student funds must resolve.
- Urdu teacher vacancies require immediate recruitment proposals.
- Unsafe schools need inspections and modern replacement buildings.
- Residential school construction requires strict quality supervision.

concluded with a collective commitment to track scheme targets diligently and uphold infrastructure quality across all minority institutions.

‘Democratic values serve as
India’s core strength’

CH NEWS, YADGIR

India's democratic setup is an exceptional structure founded upon enduring values of equality, liberty, and fraternity, remarked City MLA Channareddy Patil Tunnur on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the International Day of Democracy celebrations and the Taluk and District-level Youth Parliament competitions at the District Administration Building Auditorium, the legislator offered floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's portrait. He highlighted that global bodies like the United Nations instituted the Interna-

tional Day of Democracy to uphold human rights, promote peace, and maintain developmental stability. Patil underscored that the spirit of fraternity enshrined in the Preamble imposes a duty on every Indian to model and share these foundational principles globally.

Addressing the assembly, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandve observed that while the Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, it equally delineates civic duties essential for national cohesion. He urged the youth to adopt Dr. Ambedkar's core teachings of education, organization, and public service into their daily lives.

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Nutritious food plays a foundational role in building robust personal health and securing a disease-free society, stated Anita S., senior scientist at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the 'Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyan-2026' and a sapling-planting drive under the theme "Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Zimmadari" at Chandurayanahalli, Anita noted that September is observed nationwide as National Nutrition Month to promote balanced



dietary habits. Addressing visiting students from Shiksha Academy, Bengaluru, she emphasized that tackling both undernutrition and rising obesity remains vital to creating a malnutrition-free India. She high-

lighted that building a resilient workforce requires prioritizing the health of pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children through effective welfare schemes.

The scientist urged citi-

zens and youth to incorporate locally grown grains and fresh seasonal vegetables into their daily meals. Emphasizing home kitchen gardens for clean produce, she pointed out that biofortification helps eliminate micro-nutrient deficiencies, noting that farmers are actively growing iron- and zinc-rich varieties of pearl millet, paddy, and wheat.

Concurrently, scientist Varalakshmi V. conducted practical demonstrations on organic manure preparation, soil enrichment, and ideal gardening techniques for household fruit and vegeta-

Quick Read

Tragic crash in Mandya claims three lives

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A devastating collision between a milk tanker and a two-wheeler claimed the lives of a couple and their daughter at Koppa village in Maddur taluk early Tuesday morning.

The victims were identified as Bengaluru residents Muthuraj (35), his wife Kavya (30), and their eight-year-old daughter Keert-hana. The family was returning to the city after celebrating the Gauri-Ganesha festival when a speeding tanker rammed their vehicle from behind around 4:00 AM. Another child sustained critical injuries and remains hospitalized. Koppa police inspected the scene, retrieved CCTV footage of the collision, and registered a case of reckless driving.

Young Kannada writer honoured for literary contributions

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Young writer Siddavvanahalli Veeresh Kumar has received the Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya Award for his contributions to education and Kannada literature. He teaches at Government High School in Avinahatti and has encouraged young people to value Kannada language, writing, and culture. His books cover grammar, prosody, Old Kannada, poetry, and other subjects. His articles, stories, and poems appear in Kannada newspapers, while his programs have featured on All India Radio. He also creates online content and has earned several honours, including the 2024-25 Kannada Rajyotsava Award. The award celebrates his service to Kannada.

Youth Congress delegation felicitates former MLA Manjunath

HUNSUR

A delegation of local Youth Congress leaders and committee members called on former legislator H.P. Manjunath at his residence to consult on key regional matters and extend their regards. The visiting delegation included Hunsur Taluk Guarantee Committee member Mahesh Biratammanahalli, Youth Congress Spokesperson Moduru Prasanna, Vice President Rangesh Mailambaru, and General Secretaries Abhi Elakkikatte and Manu Kanagal. During the visit, the delegation formally felicitated the senior leader by presenting a traditional Karl Kambali (black wool blanket) alongside notable books, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's biography, Rajakarani Hegirabeku, and Laksha Nudi Muttugalu. Several party workers, supporters, and well-wishers attended the felicitation.

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KOPPAL IRRIGATION BOOST

‘Alavandi-Betageri project will irrigate 9000 acres’

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Irrigation facilities will soon reach 9,000 acres under the Alavandi-Betageri Lift Irrigation Project, Koppal MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, he stated that the project work was progressing quickly and would benefit farmers in several villages.

The project, located near Hanakunti village, has received an allocation of 0.50 TMC of Tungabhadra River water. The government had earlier approved a Detailed Project Report worth ₹87.10



Raghumurthy calls for equality, stronger democratic values

The minister ordered Youth Parliament sessions statewide, aiming to educate youth about democracy, parliamentary practices, constitutional duties, and democratic values

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Minister T. Raghumurthy on Tuesday said every citizen must enjoy social, religious and economic equality in keeping with the values of the Constitution.

Speaking at an International Day of Democracy programme in Chitradurga, he said political equality has improved through reservation, but wider equality is still needed.

He urged people to read, understand and protect the Constitution, recalling Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's call to move the constitutional chariot forward. Raghumurthy said young people and students have a major role in carrying democratic values ahead and becoming responsible citizens. He also highlighted government welfare schemes aimed at supporting poor and disadvantaged families.

The minister directed officials to conduct Youth Parlia-



ment sessions at taluk and district levels from September 16 to 30. He asked them to use the programme to increase awareness of democracy, parliamentary practices and constitutional duties among students and youth. He stressed that protecting democratic values is the responsibility of every citizen.

Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya said India has a long democratic tradition, pointing to the Vedic period's Sabha and Samiti. She said such institutions allowed people to

choose leaders and take important decisions. Referring to Gautama Buddha and the Shakya republic, she said India's democratic roots should inspire today's youth to build an equal and responsible society.

Writer Arakalavadi Nagendra said political equality alone is not enough and urged faster progress in social and economic equality. He praised constitutional awareness programmes, including the Preamble reading and Youth Parliament. The event ended with

AT A GLANCE

- Raghumurthy urges equality across social, religious, economic spheres.
- Youth must uphold constitutional values and democracy.
- Youth Parliament sessions scheduled from September 16–30.
- Officials instructed to conduct constitutional awareness programs.
- Karnataka observed Constitution awareness through massive human chain.
- Democracy Day observed annually since 2008 nationwide.

a pledge, as officials and students renewed their commitment to protecting democracy and constitutional values for all.

Special teams track suspected Naxal's possible movements

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Police have launched an intensive search operation in Pavagada taluk following reports of suspected Naxal activity.

A major combing operation is underway in the Kanakalabende area to trace Uppar Venkatesh, who is suspected of being involved in the activity. Police are using drones to search difficult hill and forest areas. The operation is being conducted under the leadership of Additional Superinten-

dent of Police Gopal. Five special teams have been formed to locate Venkatesh. The teams include one Deputy Superintendent of Police, five inspectors and ten sub-inspectors. Officers are checking villages and surrounding areas as part of the effort to find the suspect.

Police conducted a search from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Tuesday across more than ten villages near Kanakalabende. Drone cameras were used to monitor areas that are difficult for officers to reach on foot.

The operation is continuing as police examine possible routes and hiding places in the region.

According to police, villagers have reported seeing Venkatesh occasionally. A letter believed to have been written by the suspected Naxal was also recently found in the village, leading to further inquiries. Officials suspect he may be hiding in the hilly and forested parts of Pavagada taluk, where dense terrain could make the search more difficult.

V-Guard launches premium modular switches



CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Leading electrical and electronics manufacturer V-Guard Industries Limited has officially introduced its premium modular switch collections, Arizo and Xyro, alongside designer cover plate series Paceart and Trossia, during a special unveiling ceremony in Hubballi.

Senior company leadership, including Managing Director Mithun Chittilappilly, Director & COO Ramachandran Venketaraman, Senior VP of Marketing Deepak Augustine, and National Product Head Vimal Dixit, presided over the launch alongside regional channel partners. The expansion aims to transform switches from mere functional utilities into integral elements of contemporary interior decor.

The design-oriented Arizo col-

lection showcases sculpted forms in finishes including White, Champagne Gold, Metallic Steel Grey, and Dark Wood. It pairs with Paceart customizable acrylic plates—recognized at India's Best Design Awards 2026—and carries a 15-year warranty. Designed for minimalist spaces, the ultra-slim Xyro range pairs with elegant Trossia plates and offers a 10-year warranty.

Both collections feature flame-retardant, impact-resistant materials engineered for enhanced safety, tactile precision, and easy installation. Managing Director Mithun Chittilappilly stated that the launch reinforces V-Guard's commitment to bridging aesthetics with innovation, while Director V. Ramachandran affirmed that every detail has been tailored to match evolving modern lifestyles.

Kushtagi chosen for Nulenuro Shankarappa Hasiru award

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Thinker and social activist Raghavendra Kushtagi has been selected for the prestigious Nulenuro Shankarappa Hasiru Award for his long work in social causes and environmental protection.

The award carries ₹25,000 and a memento, with the ceremony scheduled in Raichur during the first week of October.

Foundation member Chikkappanahalli Shanmukha announced the selection at a press conference on Tuesday.

Kushtagi played an important role in the campaign for Article 371(J) for Kalyana Karnataka. He co-founded Jana Sangrama Parishat with S.R. Hiremath to oppose illegal mining, unfair land acquisition, and damage to natural resources.

Balakrishna rebuts HDK's claims over Prajwal case

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Congress MLA and Minister H.C. Balakrishna strongly countered Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's recent allegations that the Prajwal Revanna sexual abuse investigation is being deliberately highlighted by the state government to deflect public attention from alleged irregularities in the NICE project and KPSC examinations.

Speaking to reporters in Ramanagara, Balakrishna criticized Kumaraswamy for repeatedly raising the sensitive issue, questioning how a criminal investigation could possibly be linked to distinct administrative controversies surrounding NICE or the state public service commission. Balakrishna alleged that Kumaraswamy's recurring remarks contributed to Prajwal being remanded to judicial custody, further claiming that the Union Minister harbored an underlying political motive to keep Prajwal imprisoned in order to dismantle his political career and pave the path for establishing his own son in regional leadership.

Criticizing Kumaraswamy's conduct, Balakrishna remarked that an individual holding a cabinet portfolio at the Centre ought to conduct himself with institutional dignity rather than engaging in petty political rhetoric reminiscent of a local gram panchayat member. He challenged the Union Minister to formally demand a Central Bureau of Investigation probe if he possessed legitimate suspicions regarding how Prajwal accessed communication devices while in custody.

Addressing Kumaraswamy's sarcastic remarks regarding the Congress administration's '100 Days of Achievements' initiative, Balakrishna dismissed the critiques, stating that the JD(S) leader operates under a self-righteous conviction that he alone understands governance while others do not.



HDK accuses govt of fabricating prison phone controversy

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy accused the state leadership of orchestrating the recent Parappana Agrahara prison controversy to divert attention from administrative scandals surrounding the Bidadi, KPSC, and NICE projects.

Speaking to reporters at Mavinakere, Kumaraswamy questioned how an unauthorized mobile phone and explicit digital files allegedly surfaced with former MP Prajwal Revanna only after public scrutiny mounted over land and recruitment irregularities. He claimed the ruling Congress administration was systematically releasing timed allegations to target and silence former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family. Asserting that he would not be intimidated, Kumaraswamy reiterated that the opposition will continue challenging governmental corruption.

Hunsur MLA faces criticism over meeting absence

HUNSUR

MAS Foundation representative Satyappa has criticised Hunsur MLA G.T. Harish Gowda for missing a public service meeting held at Gavdagere Hobli.

The meeting was intended to hear farmers' and residents' complaints and discuss development needs.

Satyappa said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had directed that Praja Seva Abhiyan meetings be organised in every taluk under the respective MLA's leadership. Accordingly, people gathered at the Gavdagere Hobli centre with several grievances, but the MLA was absent.

Satyappa said he later learned that Gowda had travelled to Bengaluru for official work.

He contrasted this with the neighbouring taluks, where Priyapatna MLA Venkatesh

and K.R. Nagar MLA Ravishankar reportedly attended similar meetings, heard public complaints and visited affected locations. Satyappa said Gowda's absence had disappointed residents and demanded a public explanation.

He also questioned whether the MLA avoided the meeting because farmers are angry over the failure to fill local lakes with water.

Satyappa said Gavdagere Hobli, a low-rainfall area, faces serious water problems. The foundation had recently submitted a memorandum to the district in-charge minister seeking action on the Gavdagere lift irrigation project and lake-filling works.

According to Satyappa, a meeting on lake filling was held after the minister instructed the MLA, but such discussions had not been organised regularly in recent years.

Hindu-Muslim children set model of communal harmony in Gadag

Malingaraya Pujar
CH NEWS

Amid an era where adult socio-political discourse frequently divides communities along religious and caste lines, children from Mundargi town in Gadag district have delivered an inspiring demonstration of mutual respect and unity during the Ganesha festival.

In the Hudedu Oni locality of Mundargi, young boys from both Hindu and Muslim households came together spontaneously to install a Ganesha idol christened 'Samrat'. Setting a remarkable precedent for interfaith solidarity, the youngsters placed the idol adjacent to the neighborhood mosque. Untouched by sectarian prejudice, the children jointly conducted traditional



rituals, performed devotional aarti, cracked coconuts, and distributed consecrated prasad among themselves and passing residents.

The celebration stood out for its unpretentious innocence. Devoid of political speeches, polarizing narratives, or artificial fanfare, the initiative reflected pure festive joy and deep neighborhood camaraderie. Observers noted that while adult societies often grapple with

communal discord surrounding public festivities, the children demonstrated through everyday friendship that festivals serve primarily to foster affection, inclusion, and collective goodwill.

Gadag district holds a storied heritage as a historic land of Sufi saints and enduring communal brotherhood. The children's gesture in Mundargi continues this rich cultural tradition, reaffirming the town's legacy of cross-community solidarity.



Quick Read

Gadag district announces Taluk Dasara sports meet schedule

CH NEWS, GADAG
The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has announced the 2026–27 Taluk-level Dasara sports meet schedule across Gadag district, mandating online registration via <https://dasaracmcup.in>. Competitions commence in Gajendragod on September 17–18 at S.A.V. High School, Naregal. Meets in Gadag, Naragund, and Ron follow on September 18–19 at their respective taluk stadiums. Mundargi and Lakshmeshwar will host events on September 19–20 at Annadaneshwara Stadium and SJFC High School, Yalavatti. Assistant Director Dr. Sharanu Gogeri stated that athletes must report by 9:00 AM, advising participants to consult local physical education officers for assistance.

Lokayukta seeks complaints on poor school footwear

CH NEWS, KARWAR
The Karnataka Lokayukta has invited complaints regarding poor quality shoes and sandals distributed to primary school students across the district for the 2026–27 academic term. The Superintendent of Police issued a formal notification urging concerned parents and guardians to report substandard footwear supplies by September 18. Citizens can share grievances by calling 08382-295293 or 220198, sending emails to klr-kwsp-ka@nic.in, or reaching out via WhatsApp at 9364062572, 9364062676, and 9364062677. Officials confirmed that submitted reports will face prompt scrutiny to ensure student welfare and prevent corruption in government supply programs.

Information Commission penalizes errant officials in Belagavi

CH NEWS, KARWAR
State Information Commissioner Prakash Narayana Channala, heading the Belagavi Bench, has imposed financial penalties on multiple government officials for repeated dereliction of duty. The punitive order impacts officials serving in the Police, Revenue, and Panchayat Raj departments across the Belagavi division. Authorities faced fines for persistently failing to supply required details during appeal proceedings and ignoring official hearing notices issued by the panel. The Commissioner directed the defaulting officers to pay the assessed fines to the Commission immediately. Officials warned that repeated negligence toward statutory disclosure obligations will attract stricter administrative consequences.

Kittur Utsav modelled after grand Mysuru festivities

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI
The historic Kittur Utsav will be organized on the lines of the renowned Mysuru festivities this year, Belagavi District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi announced on Tuesday. Presiding over a preparatory review meeting at the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner's office, the Minister shared that the state intends to depart from convention. Rather than being inaugurated by the district in-charge minister, the cultural celebration will be formally launched by notable literateurs, intellectuals, or prominent achievers. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar alongside Deputy Chief Minister Parameshwara will attend the

MP urges swift action on Malpe highway delays

POOJARY URGED OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE PENDING LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES STALLING THE MALPE-THIRTHAHALLI HIGHWAY PROJECT

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has directed officials to complete pending land acquisition work for the Malpe-Karavali Bypass stretch of National Highway 169A without further delay. He also instructed authorities to ensure that eligible landowners receive compensation promptly so construction can progress. Poojary issued the directions while reviewing the highway project at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Manipal. He said work on the Malpe-Thirthahalli section was nearing completion in the district, but construction remained stalled at some locations because land acquisition had not been finalised. He asked the Revenue Department and National Highway officials to coordinate and resolve the pending issues. Discussing the Parkala delay, the MP said ₹8.25 crore



had been deposited in court. The acquisition involves 13 people along a 419-metre stretch, but only one person had approached the court. Officials were asked to conduct a re-survey and take steps to begin the work. Poojary also stressed that landowners must receive fair compensation based on proper assessment. The administration has completed acquisition of the 2.69-kilometre Hiriyadka-Perdoor stretch. In the Hebri-Padigara area, permission has been granted to remove trees along 1.4 kilometres, but the work is pending. Officials were instructed to complete the clearance. The government has released ₹72 crore for the Hebri-Agumbe Ghat section, and preparations for its Detailed Project Report were ordered to be expedited. Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K. directed officials to issue notices to landowners and settle court cases quickly. Acquisition for the 1.18-kilometre Kalma-di-Malpe Harbour stretch is complete, and engineers were told to start construction immediately. Authorities were

At a Glance

- Land Acquisition: Pending work ordered completed without delay.
- Compensation: Eligible landowners to receive payments promptly.
- Parkala: ₹8.25 crore deposited in court.
- Acquisition: 13 people affected across 419 metres.
- Hiriyadka-Perdoor: Acquisition completed for 2.69 kilometres.
- Hebri-Agumbe: ₹72 crore government funding released

also asked to meet affected landowners and resolve compensation concerns to ensure the highway project moves forward smoothly.

Constitutional values ensure disciplined life, says Judge

CH NEWS, UDUPI

A disciplined and purposeful life is achievable only when citizens understand and embrace constitutional principles, observed Principal District and Sessions Judge Kiran Siddappa Gangannavar on Tuesday. Inaugurating the 'Youth Parliament' competition organized to observe International Day of Democracy at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall in Rajatadri, Manipal, the judge offered floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's portrait. Organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Departments of Education, Law, and Social Welfare, the initiative seeks to promote civic awareness among students. Gangannavar noted that India's parliamentary democracy flourishes amid vast cultural diversity, varying ideologies, and social differences. He pointed out that studying the perspectives of the founding figures helps citizens grasp the intellectual depth behind the Indian Constitution. Urging educational institutions to field articulate students for the two-and-a-half-month district exercises, he emphasized that youth must recognize parliamentary sanctity and cultivate good citizenship to steer society forward. MLA Yashpal A. Suvarna noted that constitutional safeguards enable 1.4 billion people to live together harmoniously, encouraging students to develop leadership qualities early. Coastal Development Authority Chairman M.A. Gafoor remarked that mutual trust strengthens democratic bonds, empowering youth to elect representatives who prioritize regional progress. Adding to this, Sri Narayana Guru Development Corporation.

Election officials review voter list in Karwar

CH NEWS, KARWAR

District election authorities have concluded inquiries into 18,904 cases of discrepancies identified in the local voter list under the Special Summary Revision drive, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla announced on Tuesday. Presiding over an all-party meeting, Mulla reported that out of 65,248 notices generated regarding logical errors and unmapped voter entries, officials have successfully delivered 58,687 notices. Around 39,783 inquiries remain pending completion. During scrutiny, officials un-

covered 19 instances involving duplicate registrations or deceased electors. Detailing constituency-level progress, he stated that staff have addressed 4,618 cases in Haliyal, 4,483 in Yellapur, 3,111 in Karwar, 2,385 in Sirsi, 2,350 in Kumta, and 1,957 in Bhatkal. Mulla clarified that citizens have time until September 23 to submit claims, corrections, and formal objections, while the final voter list will be officially released on October 27. To assist elderly, unwell, or overseas voters, adult relatives are permitted to present verified documents on their

behalf. Additionally, youth turning 18 by October 1, 2026, can enroll before the deadline. Booth Level Officers will conduct a dedicated weekend drive at local polling booths on September 19 and 20 between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM to help residents update entries. Eligible voters for the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency were instructed to file Form 18 at local taluk offices. Representatives from various political parties attended the review meeting, pledging complete cooperation to ensure a clean, accurate electoral registry.

High Court quashes political clash cases in Magadi

CH NEWS, MAGADI

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed two long-pending rioting cases registered under the Magadi Town Police Station, providing major relief to dozens of local political party workers, JD(S) leader Thammanna Gowda announced on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference in Eligenahalli village, Gowda explained that local police had filed two separate cases related to public clashes, one in 2018 naming 76

workers from both JD(S) and Congress, and another in 2022 naming 136 individuals. Affected persons had endured repeated court visits for nearly eight and four years respectively, facing prolonged procedural delays without reaching bail or trial resolution. Challenging the proceedings, former Zilla Panchayat member Kalkere Dhananjaya, Gowda, and fellow petitioners approached the High Court. Advocates Mayur D. Bhanu, Shamanth Gowda, and Shishikumar H.S. argued that the

charges lacked concrete evidence and factual basis. Convinced by their submissions, the High Court quashed the cases, leading to their subsequent closure before the Magadi JMFC Court. Gowda expressed deep gratitude to the legal team for providing free representation and moral support to secure justice. He further urged the remaining named individuals across both cases to contact legal counsel and seek formal dismissal under the High Court's precedent.

Authorities shut down two Shivamogga juice centers

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Shivamogga Sub-Divisional Officer and District Food Safety Officer Dr. Maithri conducted sudden inspection raids across several food establishments in Tilak Nagar on Tuesday afternoon, ordering the immediate closure of two juice shops after uncovering live worms and fungus in stored fruits. The inspection team visited the long-running

'Tanu Juice Center' in Tilak Nagar alongside its second branch situated directly opposite the Raghavendra Swamy Matha. During the surprise check, authorities discovered decaying stocks of grapes, sapota, dragon fruit, and pomegranates infested with worms and extensive fungal growth. Alarmed by the hazardous conditions, Dr. Maithri instructed Tahsildar Rajiv and local health officials to shut down both centers immediately and serve official notices to the management.

MLA Beldale directs officials to accelerate development

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale chaired an extensive progress review meeting at the Bidar Taluk Panchayat office hall, directing officials across multiple departments to speed up public infrastructure works and resolve citizen grievances without delay. The meeting evaluated progress across vital sectors, including the Public Works Department, Rural Development, Water Resources, Health, Education, Agriculture, Revenue, and Social Welfare. Dr. Beldale conducted department-wise assessments regarding roads, bridges, drainage networks, school classrooms, Anganwadis, community halls, and primary health clinics. In light of regional rainfall deficits, he instructed agriculture officials to assist affected farmers promptly through crop insurance and relief programs. Health authorities were asked to ensure adequate staffing, functional ambulances, and abundant medicine supplies across rural healthcare centers. Addressing the Education Department, Beldale prioritized resolving teacher vacancies and improving school sanitation, drinking water, and classroom infrastructure. To mitigate future water shortages during dry spells, drinking water agencies were instructed to adopt proactive contingency measures across every village. Furthermore, the MLA examined rural electricity distribution, ordering power utilities to ensure reliable supply for agri-

MLA Beldale celebrates eco-friendly Ganesha festival

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi at his residence by installing and worshipping an eco-friendly clay Ganesha idol alongside his family members. Special rituals and prayers were offered to the deity to promote environmental conservation during festivities. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Beldale prayed for health, peace, prosperity, and the removal of obstacles for all citizens across the state. Emphasizing sustainable celebrations, he urged everyone to adopt eco-friendly traditions. Following the family prayer ceremony, the legislator conveyed his warm festive greetings to the public, wishing collective happiness and progress.

cultural pump sets. He directed Revenue Department officers to resolve pending land documents and public applications within set timeframes. Beldale stressed inter-departmental coordination, insisting that officers move out of office cubicles to inspect work sites directly and resolve grievances on the spot. Tahsildar Ravikumar Dama and Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Manikrao Patil were present during the review.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division,
Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru - 560103.

No: EE/BECC/MRH/PR/129/2026-27Date: 15-09-2026

CANCELLATION

Sub: Regarding Cancellation of 34 Works out of the 47 Works called for under the zone of Marathahalli Division, Bengaluru East City Corporation due to Technical & Administrative reasons and publication of the same in Newspapers.

Ref.: EE/BECC/MRH/TN/03/2026-27, Dated: 24-08-2026.

With reference to the above Subject, a Total of 47 works were invited by the Marathahalli Division, Bengaluru East City Corporation for taking up POW works and the said tender notification was published in Kannada and English daily newspapers on 25-08-2026. Further, during the course of scrutiny of the said tender process, it was observed that, due to certain technical issues and administrative reasons, 34 Tender Works have not been uploaded on the KPP Portal. Therefore, it has been decided to Cancel the Tender Notification Sl. No: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42 & 44 - Total of 34 Works. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, BECC.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division,
SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/2026-27/25Date: 08.09.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK (<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) from eligible Tenderers for the following works. Name of the work: (1) Providing Housekeeping works in 3rd stage east and west wings, (2nd and 3rd gate) 4th gate and 5th gate floors, external cleaning of concrete pathways, premises and passages, external sweeping of double road from M.S. Building 5th stage to Vidhana Soudha West Gate and other allied works at M.S. Building premises, Bengaluru (Period from 01.08.2026 to 31.07.2027). Tender Reference: PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT43020. Approx. value of work: **Rs. 200.87 lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 3,01,400/-**. Time Period: **12 Months (including rainy season)**. No. of Call: 1. Reserved Category: **Others**. (2) Providing essential manpower and other services to secretariat office, CE Office Design Section and other offices of PWD Bengaluru (Period from 01.08.2026 to 31.07.2027). Tender Reference: PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT39407. Approx. value of work: **Rs. 145.17 lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 2,18,000/-**. Time Period: **12 Months (including rainy season)**. No. of Call: 1. Reserved Category: **Others**. (3) Providing housekeeping for inside and outside premises, other necessary maintenance, external cleaning of pathways, premises, passages and other allied works in 1st stage at M.S. Building, Bengaluru. (Period from 01.08.2026 to 31.07.2027). Tender Reference: PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT39417. Approx. value of work: **Rs. 169.40 lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 2,55,000/-**. Time Period: **12 Months (including rainy season)**. No. of Call: 1. Reserved Category: **Others**. (4) Providing housekeeping for inside and outside premises, other necessary maintenance and other allied works at 2nd stage (1st Gate) floors, external cleaning of pathways, asphalt road and other allied work at M.S. Building, Bengaluru. Tender Reference: PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT39429. Approx. value of work: **Rs. 157.96 lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 2,37,000/-**. Time Period: **12 Months (including rainy season)**. No. of Call: 1. Reserved Category: **Others**. Cost of Document for each work: **As in e-portal**. Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **For Sl. No. 1 & 2: 18.09.2026. For Sl. No. 3 & 4: 22.09.2026 up to 4.30 PM**. Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer DIPR/DD-C.P/2744/KSMCA/2026-27

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)/2026-27/18568Date: 10.09.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Services as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Nomenclature of the work	Tender No
1	Providing goods vehicle services of 2500CC or higher capacity (Mahindra Bolero pickup or equivalent vehicle) along with driver to CESC jurisdiction on monthly rental basis for period of one year.	CESCOM/2026-27/SE0277

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **16-09-2026** For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/22631200/68948777** or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/714/Shirdi Sai/2026-27Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru.

PARYUSHAN: A JOURNEY FROM SELF-PURIFICATION TO SELF-AWAKENING

Paryushan Mahaparva, the most significant spiritual festival of Jainism, is being observed across the country with devotion, austerity, self-discipline, meditation and introspection. It is not merely an eight-day religious observance; it is a profound opportunity to awaken the soul, purify one’s life and restore harmony in human relationships. The concluding phase will be marked by Samvatsari on September 14, followed by Kshamapana and World Fellowship Day on September 15, when people seek forgiveness from one another and reaffirm the spirit of friendship. In essence, Paryushan is a beautiful spiritual journey—from self-purification to universal fellowship. The true meaning of Paryushan is to turn inward, become established in the self and cleanse the layers of passions, impurities and negligence that have accumulated within us. Most of human life is spent pursuing external achievements, desires, competition and worldly ambitions. We remain busy judging and changing the world, but seldom find time to look within ourselves. Paryushan teaches us to pause, introspect and discover our own inner reality. That is why practices such as meditation, austerity, scriptural study, Samayik, Pratikraman and Pratyakhyan become significant during these days. They provide an opportunity to transform life from within.

The relevance of Paryushan has become even greater in the world we live in today. Warmth in family relationships is gradually declining, social divisions are deepening, economic competition is pushing people into an endless race



- LALIT GARG

for more, and political rivalry often replaces dialogue with confrontation. Distrust, violence and terrorism between nations continue to challenge humanity. In such circumstances, the message of Paryushan is profoundly relevant: outer peace begins with inner peace. Unless human beings reduce anger, ego, greed, deceit, possessiveness, prejudice and hatred within themselves, lasting peace cannot be established in families, societies or the world. The central message of Paryushan is introspection. Pratikraman is the spiritual process through which this introspection takes concrete form. Prati means “back” and kraman means “to move”—thus, Pratikraman signifies returning to one’s true self by turning away from one’s mistakes. It means moving from falsehood to truth, from negativity to goodness, from negligence to awareness and from hostility to friendship. Mistakes are an inevitable part of human life; the real problem is our unwillingness to acknowledge them. The moment a person accepts a mistake, the possibility of transformation begins. But when one remains busy justifying one’s mistakes, the path to self-improvement closes.

Samvatsari represents the culmination of this process of self-purification. It invites us to review our conduct, thoughts and actions throughout the year and ask ourselves: Whom have I hurt? Towards whom have I developed resentment? Whose feelings have my words wounded? When did ego influence my behaviour? Where did anger, greed or insistence overpower my wisdom? Such introspec-

tion lightens the burden carried within. Seeking forgiveness is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of inner strength. It takes courage to acknowledge one’s own mistake and an even greater heart to forgive another. The concluding message of Paryushan is Kshamapana, asking for and granting forgiveness and universal fellowship. It is not merely a ritual expression of Micchami Dukkadam, but a



sincere resolve to remove bitterness and hostility from the heart. Forgiveness becomes meaningful only when it is genuine. If we seek forgiveness with our lips while resentment remains in our hearts, the process remains incomplete. Similarly, asking forgiveness does not make a person smaller; it makes the relationship larger and more meaningful.

Lord Mahavira’s eternal message, “Mitti me savva bhu-esu, veram majjham na kenai”, “I have friendship with all living beings and enmity with none” is immensely relevant to the contemporary world.

The Bhagavad Gita too pres-ents the ideal of Atmaupamy-: seeing others as oneself and recognising their joys and sor-rows as one’s own. The es-sence of both teachings is uni-versal to treat another person’s happiness and suffering as we would our own. At a time when bitterness and distance are increasing in personal rela-tionships, Paryushan can offer a new perspective to families as well. Whether between

istence are universal human values. Religious beliefs may differ and forms of worship may vary, but respecting every human being is not the mo-nopoly of any one faith. Vi-olence cannot provide a lasting solution to any problem. It breeds revenge, and revenge gives birth to further violence. Dialogue, tolerance, forgive-ness and friendship, on the other hand, create possibilities for genuine resolution. The

by restraint, compassion and ethical responsibility. Pary-ushan offers precisely this bal-ance: change yourself before attempting to change the world. When anger within is calmed, conflict outside be-gins to diminish. When ego is reduced, relationships become more natural. When greed de-clines, exploitation decreases. When friendship expands within, trust grows in society. Paryushan can therefore be-come not merely a religious observance but a movement for the moral renewal of indi-viduals and society.

The true celebration of Pa-ryushan will begin when the discipline of these eight days becomes a way of life for the rest of the year. The intro-spection of Samvatsari should not remain confined to a single day, nor should the spirit of forgiveness be-come merely an annual ritu-al. We should ask ourselves every day: Whom did I bring closer today? Whose pain did I understand? Which bit-terness did I remove from my heart? This is the path of genuine self-elevation. In-deed, Paryushan is a spiritual dawn that awakens human beings from the sleep of ne-gligence and leads them from the darkness of ignorance to-wards the light of awareness. If Samvatsari on September 14 awakens us to our mis-takes, and World Fellowship Day on September 15 fills our hearts with forgiveness, compassion and friendship for all, it will be the true ful-filment of Paryushan. In to-day’s troubled world, if there is one force humanity needs most, it is the force of non-violence, forgiveness and peaceful coexistence.

LET THE WATER FLOW, NOT THE DISPUTE, SON WATER AGREEMENT PAVES A NEW PATH FOR COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

I nterstate rivers are not just flowing streams, but lifelines that support agricul-tural production, drinking water supplies, industries, ecosystems, and the liveli-hoods of millions. However, rivers can also cross state boundaries, so their manage-ment can lead to conflict be-tween states. The recent Bi-har-Jharkhand agreement on the Son River, which aims to resolve a nearly 25-year-old water dispute through dia-logue, is an important exam-ple of sustainable water man-agement a water issue that can only be resolved through cooperation, not conflict.

The main reason interstate water conflicts persist is due to conflicting interests in wa-ter development. One state may want to use more water for irrigation, while another for drinking water, industry, or urban development. All of these needs are legitimate, but water is limited. If multiple states depend on the same river, resources become scarce, and balancing these needs poses a challenge for the fed-eral administration.

Water imbalances across regions and seasons further compound the complexities. Areas that receive good rain-fall during the monsoon sea-son may experience heavy rainfall during that time, but may experience a lack of rain-fall during the summer. Thus, a river may be abundant one year and scarce the next. This situation is becoming even more uncertain due to climate change. Changing rainfall pat-terns are altering river flows,



while prolonged droughts and extreme weather events are also affecting water availabil-ity and making projections about water availability less reliable.

Administrative reorganiza-tion can also lead to disagree-ments over historical agree-ments. This is also the case with Bihar-Jharkhand rela-tions. Agreements reached within the same adminis-trative structure may have to be reconsidered if states are reor-ganized and their agricultural, demographic, and economic needs evolve. The concept of "fairness" prevalent decades ago may not necessarily apply in the current context.

Another major source of conflict is the development and utilization of ongoing projects in the upstream areas. Dams, barrages, and irrigation schemes can impact water supply and discharge sched-ules in the downstream areas. Lack of information sharing and project coordination be-tween states can also lead to mistrust in technical exper-tise.

The lack of transparent and real-time hydrological data further fuels disputes. States may have different goals re-garding the amount of water allocated and the amount of water available. Without shared, scientifically accepted information on rainfall, river flows, reservoir levels, and water use, negotiations can easily devolve into debates over conflicting demands.

If people become politically organized, the situation could worsen. The water issue is emotive and directly impacts farmers, families, and local economies. If a technical problem becomes a regional issue or a political dispute, compromise becomes diffi-cult. This is the purpose of institutional dialogue, so that it does not become a protract-ed federal conflict.

The Bihar-Jharkhand status agreement for the Son River exemplifies the importance of negotiations. Both states have attempted to resolve the dis-pute non-violently by engag-ing with each other to find a mutually agreed solution. Ac-

cording to reports, Bihar re-ceived a water allocation of 5.75 billion acre-feet (MAF) and Jharkhand 20 million acre-feet (MAF). But the impact of this agreement is not limited to these figures; it has far-reach-ing consequences. Its real sig-nificance lies in the message it sends that states are capable of protecting their own interests while also understanding the needs of other states.

Dialogue can also provide opportunities for better utili-zation of shared infrastruc-ture. Integrated water manage-ment, rather than fragmented water management, can yield greater benefits from the In-drapuri Barrage and its associ-ated canal network. Shared infrastructure should become the basis for cooperation, not a new cause for division. It is time for India to move away from a state-based approach and adopt a river-basin-based approach. A river basin is a single ecological-economic unit. Therefore, water plan-ning must take into account upstream and downstream communities, groundwater, environmental flows, agricul-tural, drinking water, and in-dustrial uses.

First, it is crucial to estab-lish open and up-to-date pro-cesses for sharing hydrologi-cal data. All interested states should have access to the same reliable information. Technology can help improve the accuracy of river monitor-ing and reduce conflicts over data from different sources.

- DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

FROM THE EAGLES TO THE OCEAN: BIRDS HELPING BIRDS

T he world of birds is full of remarkable connec-tions. Birds may belong to different species and live in completely different environ-ments, yet human communi-ties can sometimes bring them together in unexpected ways. One such interesting connec-tion links the Philadelphia Eagles with the protection of migrating seabirds.

The Philadelphia Eagles are famous as an American foot-ball team, but their name and identity have also become connected with a broader message of bird conservation. The idea of “birds helping birds” shows how sport, pub-lic awareness and environ-mental responsibility can come together for a mean-ing-ful cause.

Migrating seabirds under-take extraordinary journeys across oceans and continents. They depend on healthy beaches, islands, wetlands and coastal waters for food, rest and breeding. During these long journeys, they face numerous threats, including habitat destruction, pollution, fishing-related dangers, cli-mate change and disturbance at important nesting sites.

This is where public sup-port becomes valuable. A fa-mous sports team has the ab-ility to reach millions of peo-ple. When an organisation associated with the word “Ea-gles” draws attention to real birds and their conservation, it can turn an environmental issue into something people can easily understand and re-member.

The story also reminds us



DR. VIJAY GARG

that conservation is not lim-ited to scientists, wildlife de-partments or environmental organisations. Schools, sports teams, businesses, communi-ties and ordinary citizens can all contribute. Protecting a beach, reducing plastic waste, keeping nesting areas undis-turbed or supporting conser-vation programmes may ap-pear to be small actions, but together they can make a dif-ference.

There is also a beautiful symbolism in the connection. An eagle represents strength and freedom, while a migrat-



ing seabird represents endur-ance and an extraordinary in-stinct for navigation. Both remind us of the remarkable diversity of life in the sky.

Bird conservation ultimate-ly benefits humans as well. Birds are important parts of ecosystems, helping control insects, disperse seeds, recy-cle nutrients and indicate the health of natural habitats.

The message is simple but powerful: different birds may follow different paths, but they share one sky and one planet.

When the world of sport helps draw attention to the world of wildlife, a game can become more than entertain-ment it can become a plat-form for protecting nature.

“From the Eagles to the ocean, every wing matters”.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

On Global Diplomacy

The hosting of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi marks a pivotal moment for Global South diplomacy. As world leaders gather to address trade, economic integration, and emerging technology frameworks, India’s leadership serves as a crucial bridge between differing global blocs. To foster genuine multilateral progress, member nations must prioritize tangible economic cooperation over ideological posturing. Resolving regional trade imbalances and establishing transparent supply chain networks will ensure that the summit yields equitable benefits. A collaborative approach in New Delhi can set a constructive precedent for future international governance.

- R. K. Sharma

On Urban Safety and Governance

The tragic collapse of a multi-storey building in Satya Niketan highlights the systemic failure of urban safety oversight. Thousands of students reside in uninspected paying guest accommodations that blatantly disregard building codes and structural safety guidelines. The High Court’s directive to inspect all hostel properties across the capital is a necessary step toward accountability. However, municipal bodies must implement continuous monitoring rather than reactive audits following disasters. Stricter compliance rules, routine structural tests, and harsh penalties against non-compliant property owners are urgently required to ensure young lives are never compromised again.

- Ananya Deshmukh, New Delhi

On Environment and Conservation

The Supreme Court’s firm stance setting a strict November deadline for defining the Aravalli range offers hope for an imperiled ecosystem. Delays in finalizing ecological boundaries have long left this vital natural shield vulnerable to illegal mining and unchecked urban sprawl. The Aravallis play an irreplaceable role in checking desertification and replenishing depleted groundwater reserves across northern India. Committee members and policymakers must meet the court’s deadline without seeking further extensions. Defining clear statutory protections and strictly enforcing land preservation rules are paramount to protecting environmental health for future generations.

- Vikramaditya Sen, Gurugram

DELIVERING YOUR
DINNER AT WHAT COST?



It is 11 PM, it is raining, and your biryani arrives in 30 minutes. You tip Rs. 20 on the app and close the door. But have you ever thought about the person on the other side of that delivery?

India's 10-minute delivery dream runs on the backs of over 5 million gig workers. They are called partners, but they have no health insurance, no accident cover, no minimum wage, and no right to say no. Their incentive is cut if they reject an order, and their rating falls if the customer is unhappy about something they cannot control.

Every day, these young men and women, mostly migrants in their early 20s, race against time, traffic, and algorithms. The more they ride, the more they earn a system that rewards risk. Road accidents involving delivery partners have shot up by over 40% in major metros in the last two years. Their bikes are their own, petrol is their own, and if the bike breaks, the day's income is gone.

We as consumers have become incredibly entitled. We abuse them for late delivery, for not climbing four floors, for spilled curry. We forget that we are asking someone to risk their life for our convenience.

This model needs urgent reform. Platforms must provide mandatory accident insurance, heat and rain allowances, and proper washroom and rest stops. The government must bring gig workers under social security, as Rajasthan has attempted. And we, as customers, must do the minimum offer water, be patient, and treat them with dignity. That biryani tastes better when it is not seasoned with someone else's exploitation.

- ALLAN

SCROLLING CHILDHOOD:
HOW PHONES STEAL INNOCENCE



A child cries, and a phone is handed to silence it. A family eats dinner, with four people looking at four screens. This is not the future; this is the present of childhood in urban India

We have outsourced parenting to an algorithm. Children between 8 and 15 are now spending an average of 7 hours on screens. What are they watching? A relentless stream of short videos, designed by the best psychologists in Silicon Valley to be addictive. The impact is profound.

Firstly, attention. A child raised on 15-second reels cannot concentrate on a 15-page chapter. Teachers across the country complain about reducing attention spans and an inability to read long-form text. Secondly, language and emotion. Children are learning to express themselves in slang and emojis, but struggling to articulate real feelings, leading to anger and anxiety.

Most alarming is the loss of play. The scraped knee, the fight over a cricket ball, the lesson of losing these are how resilience is built. A virtual world offers instant wins and no real consequences. When such a child faces real-world failure in college or a job, they collapse.

The fault is not of the child but of us. We give phones to avoid tantrums, to show off, and because we ourselves are addicted. The fix needs to be at home. No phones till age 14, no social

media till 16, no phones in bedrooms and at dining tables these should be non-negotiable house rules. Governments must also enforce age-gating on social media like Australia has done. We must give children back their boredom, because only in boredom does imagination grow.

- ANNA B.

THE LONELY REALITY OF
WORKING FROM HOME



The pandemic gave us work from home as a privilege. Five years later, it has become a permanent trap for many. We celebrated the end of traffic, office politics, and formal clothes. But in the silence of our bedrooms-turned-cubicles, a quiet crisis of loneliness and burnout is growing.

The human being is a social animal. An office was never just a place to work; it was a place to belong. The chai break, the gossip, the spontaneous idea that came from a corridor conversation all of that is gone. Today, a young employee in a 1BHK in Whitefield or Gurugram starts the day on a laptop and ends it on the same chair, with only Slack notifications for company. Studies show remote workers are 67% more likely to feel lonely and disconnected.

This isolation is affecting mental health. The boundary between home and work has dissolved. There is no log-out time. Managers assume you are always available because your laptop is always at home. The result is digital presenteeism you are online for 12 hours but productive for only 5, feeling guilty throughout.

The solution is not to force everyone back to office, but to re-imagine work. Companies must create intentional human connection mandatory no-meeting days, monthly in-person gatherings that are not about work, and the right to disconnect after 6 PM. As individuals, we need to reclaim our third spaces parks, cafes, hobby clubs where we are not workers but people.

Work from home gave us freedom of location, but it took away freedom from work. It is time to fix that.

- TARUN

YOUNG MINDS FEARING THE BURNING PLANET

A new kind of anxiety is filling the counselling rooms of psychologists not about exams or relationships, but about the planet. It is called climate anxiety, and Gen Z is its biggest victim.

A 16-year-old today knows that the Delhi's AQI crosses 400, that the Himalayan glaciers are melting, that summer now comes in March. They have watched floods in Kerala and Himachal on Instagram. Unlike their parents who saw climate change as a distant concept, they see it as their personal future being stolen.

This fear is real. A recent global survey found 59% of young people are very or extremely worried about climate change, and 45% say it negatively affects their daily life. Many are questioning whether they should even have children, whether they should plan a long-term career.

The tragedy is that those who contributed least to the crisis are suffering most from its psychological burden. And our response is to tell them not to worry.



What we need is not reassurance, but agency. Schools must move from teaching climate change as a chapter in geography to teaching it as a life skill how to conserve, how to grow food, how to repair. Cities need to give young people a seat at the planning table for transport and waste management.

Instead of doom-scrolling, we need to show them stories of restoration lakes being revived, forests being replanted.

Hope is not blind optimism; it is action. When a young person plants a tree and sees it grow, anxiety turns into purpose. We must give them tools to heal the planet, not just facts to fear it.

- KAVITA SHALINI

CAN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE TRULY
REPLACE ARTISTS



A poster made in 10 seconds on Midjourney wins an art competition. A song that sounds like Arijit Singh but is sung by AI gets 10 million views. An entire book is written by ChatGPT in a day. We are in the middle of a creative revolution, and artists are scared.

The fear is legitimate. AI can produce, but can it create? AI learns by scraping millions of artworks, photographs, and songs made by human artists without permission or payment.

It then mixes and matches them to create something new. It is technically impressive but ethically questionable it is collective imitation, not imagination.

What AI lacks is lived experience. A painter who has seen poverty in Dharavi paints differently than one who has not.

A writer who has lost his mother writes grief differently. AI has no childhood, no

heartbreak, no nostalgia. It can mimic the style of pain, but it has never felt it. That is why AI art often looks perfect but feels empty.

The real danger is not that AI will replace artists, but that companies will use AI to replace paying artists. Why pay an illustrator for a book cover when AI can do it for free? This is already happening and livelihoods are being destroyed.

We need urgent rules. AI companies must be transparent about the data they train on and must compensate original creators. And we as an audience must make a choice. Do we want a world full of cheap, instant, soulless content, or do we want to sustain human creativity with all its imperfection and beauty?

Technology should be a brush in the artist's hand, not the hand that replaces the artist.

- SUSHMIYHA GOUWDA

CASHLESS INDIA: CONVENIENCE OR NEW DIVIDE

In India, you can buy a Rs. 10 chai with a QR code. UPI has made us the global leader in digital payments, with over 14 billion transactions a month. It is fast, seamless, and revolutionary. But behind this success lies a new invisible divide.

For the urban, smartphone-savvy population, cashless is freedom. But for 400 million Indians the elderly vegetable vendor, the migrant worker, the blind student, the small farmer in Vidarbha cashless can be exclusion.

Digital illiteracy is real. Many still do not understand how a wrong link can empty their life savings in seconds.

UPI frauds have increased by over 300% in the last three years. When a fraud happens with cash, you lose what is in your pocket; when it happens digitally, you can lose everything in your



account. Then there is the network divide. UPI needs a smartphone, a bank account, and stable internet. In many rural areas, all three are unreliable. When the server is

down, a shopkeeper who has gone fully digital cannot sell anything. We have replaced the risk of carrying cash with the risk of total dependence on technology.

This does not mean we should go back. It means we should go forward more inclusively. We need stronger consumer protection and instant refund mechanisms for fraud.

We need voice-based UPI for the illiterate and elderly, and offline UPI that works without internet, which is already being piloted. Banks must be mandated to maintain cash services too, not force everyone to digital.

A truly Digital India is not one where everyone is forced to pay digitally, but one where everyone has the choice and safety to do so.

- DURGHYA

Quick Read

Bengal launches AI-enabled app to curb land, property registration fraud

Kolkata
The West Bengal government has launched a technology-driven mobile application to prevent fraud and forgery in land, flat, and house registrations by introducing a mandatory identity verification mechanism for buyers and sellers. The new app, named 'Apani', has been developed to address complaints of properties being sold or registered in the name of individuals without their knowledge. Under the new system, both buyers and sellers will be required to complete identity verification through the mobile application before the registration process can proceed.

India, China working to address trade imbalance issue

New Delhi
Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said that India and China were working to address concerns over bilateral trade, including the structural imbalance and supply-chain challenges. The two countries are exploring measures to narrow the trade gap and make cross-border commerce more balanced, the official said here. The BRICS meeting in New Delhi, last week, provided an opportunity for senior officials from the two countries to take up trade concerns, with more talks expected as India and China work toward resolving the issues that have strained their economic relationship.

EOW arrests fugitive in Burari jewellery scheme fraud

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Tuesday arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly cheating more than 700 people of approximately Rs 1.5 crore through a jewellery kitty scheme.
The accused, identified as Aniket Verma, lured members of the public into depositing Rs 1,000 every month with the promise of receiving jewellery worth Rs 28,000, or an equivalent amount, after completion of the 24-month kitty period. According to the EOW, a multi-victim case was registered under FIR No. 128/25 dated October 8, 2025, under Sections 420, 406 and 120B of the IPC. The case was registered on the complaint of multiple victims against Naresh Kumar Verma, proprietor of M/s Baba Shyam Giri Jewellers in Jagatpur, Burari, and his son Aniket Verma.
The accused persons operated jewellery kitty societies and committees in the Burari area and induced members of

Kishau MoU boosts Shekhawati water security

Six states sign Kishau MoU, advancing a Rs 15,000 crore multipurpose project expected to significantly strengthen Shekhawati's water security, irrigation, drinking water access and regional development over the coming years.

JAIPUR

The long-pending Kishau Multipurpose Project moved closer to implementation on Tuesday with six participating states signing a memorandum of understanding in New Delhi, in a move aimed at strengthening water security across North India. The agreement was signed at a meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and the chief ministers of the other participating states signing the MoU in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil. The project, proposed on the Tons River along the Uttarakhand-Himachal Pradesh border, is estimated to cost



around Rs 15,000 crore and will generate 660 MW of hydropower. Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are expected to benefit from the project. For Rajasthan, the project could be significant for the water-scarce Shekhawati region, including Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu. Under the revised arrangement, part of Himachal Pradesh's allocated water share will be made

Rs 15,000 Crore Project To Transform Rajasthan Water Supply

- **Rs 15,000 crore:** Estimated project cost
- **660 MW:** Hydroelectric power generation capacity
- **124 MCM:** Rajasthan's proposed water allocation
- **Six states:** Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
- **90%:** Central assistance for the water component

available to Rajasthan and Delhi, while participating

BJP confident of Bengal bypoll wins

NEWTOWN

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday announced its candidates for the Nandigram and Rejinagar Assembly bypolls in West Bengal, with Minister of State and former state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar expressing confidence that the party will win both seats on October 6.
The BJP has fielded Hasirani Rath from Nandigram and Sakharav Sarkar from Rejinagar. Rath is the mother of Chandranath Rath, a former personal assistant to Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. Sarkar is a former BJP president of Murshidabad district and currently serves on the party's state committee.
Majumdar said the BJP candidates were capable of

BJP BYPOLL PICKS

Nandigram: Hasirani Rath

Rejinagar: Sakharav Sarkar

Polling date: October 6

Rath: Mother of former Suwendu Adhikari aide Chandranath Rath

securing victories despite the presence of multiple political parties in the contest. He pointed to the possibility of the Left, Congress and Trinamool Congress fielding candidates in Rejinagar and said the resulting political contest could work in the BJP's favour. "Both BJP candidates will win," Majumdar told

IANs, arguing that the political combination emerging ahead of the bypolls would ultimately benefit his party.
The BJP leader also commented on the Bengal CID investigation involving the residence of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee. He said the investigation would proceed based on information provided by accused individuals and documents recovered by investigators. Majumdar further asserted that the Uniform Civil Code would be implemented in West Bengal. He referred to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks and said the BJP government was working towards the measure. According to Majumdar, a committee has already been formed and is consulting various stakeholders.

BJP launches major nationwide public service drive

NEW DELHI

The ruling party has announced a massive month-long campaign named the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and his remarkable 25 years in public office.
Beginning September 17, the nationwide initiative will feature special cleanliness drives, tree plantation programs, and community discussions. A key highlight is the Seva Yatra, where dedicated groups will journey across rural areas.

BJP gets urban poll boost in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Tuesday said the BJP's performance in the state's Urban Local Body elections reflected public approval of the government's work over two-and-a-half years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.
The ruling BJP won 4,179 wards, finishing ahead of the Congress, which secured 3,613 wards. The BJP also secured clear majorities in four of Rajasthan's 10 municipal corporations, while Independents emerged as a major force with 2,273 wards.
Sharma said the outcome demonstrated faith in development initiatives undertaken by state and Central governments. He highlighted projects and programmes covering water, investment, metro expansion and tourism.
"Certainly, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the work accomplished in Rajasthan over the past two-and-a-half years has received the seal of approval from the people of Rajasthan," Sharma said.
He also claimed that his government had fulfilled 78 per cent of the promises made

BJP won 4,179 wards against Congress's 3,613, while Independents secured 2,273. The BJP won clear majorities in four of 10 municipal corporations. Bharatpur saw Independents take 36 of 65 wards, adding significance because it is Sharma's hometown.

in its election manifesto within two-and-a-half years. The chief minister thanked Rajasthan's youth and voters for supporting the BJP and said the result reflected their confidence in Modi's vision.
However, the election verdict also produced setbacks for the ruling party. Congress won a majority in the Bikaner Municipal Corporation and secured a significant victory in the Jhalawar Municipal Council, a stronghold of former chief minister Vasundhara Raje.
The most striking result came from Bharatpur, Sharma's hometown. Independents won 36 of 65 wards, compared with 20 for BJP and seven for Congress.
BSP and RLP won one ward each, making the verdict politically significant.

Patiala House Court grants interim bail to Bhardwaj

NEW DELHI

The Patiala House Court on Tuesday granted three weeks' interim bail to self-styled "influencer" Swatantra Bhardwaj, who is in judicial custody in connection with the alleged assault of the father of a minor activist during a protest at Jantar Mantar. Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Pratap Singh

Lal of the Patiala House Court passed the order granting Bhardwaj interim relief. The development comes a day after the court had reserved its order on Bhardwaj's regular bail plea. During the hearing, the court had questioned the Delhi Police on whether Bhardwaj had used caste-indicative words at the time of the alleged incident.

BJP QUESTIONS RAHUL GANDHI OVER ED ACTION AGAINST AIDES

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday questioned Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's "silence" following the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) actions against the aides of two senior Congress leaders in connection with exam irregularities.
The BJP's reaction comes after former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat resigned from two party posts after the ED seized large amount of cash and jewellery from his personal assistant (PA) Chandan Singh Jeena.
The ED arrested former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel's former OSD Chetan Borghariya, in the case of illegal appointments of DSPs and Collectors through exam paper leaks.



Addressing a press conference, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj said: "It seems that the only business conducted in the Congress party's so-called 'Mohabbat ki Dukaan', is that of corruption. I want to ask Rahul Gandhi, on one hand, he talks about students, but when people from his own party tamper with the future of the nation's youth and students, does that 'goonj' fail to reach his ears?"
Bansuri Swaraj's jibe was in reference to LoP

Rahul Gandhi's 'Chattron ki Goonj' programmes over the repeated NEET paper leaks in the country.
She further said: "All of you recently witnessed that in Uttarakhand, the ED raided the premises of former Chief Minister Harish Rawat's PA in connection with the VPDO exam scam.
The ED recovered assets and properties vastly disproportionate to the PA's known sources of income during the raids.
This raises grave questions regarding the Congress government's machinery, especially their recruitment system."
Referring to the arrest of Bhupesh Baghel's former CGPSC scam, she reiterated that such incidents raise grave questions. "Recently, the son of a politician has been accused of taking cut money in outsourced recruitments in Himachal Pradesh," she claimed.

Jharkhand HC orders quick response in JPSC case

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Tuesday continued its interim stay on the state government's decision to cancel appointments made through several recruitment examinations, including the JPSC 11th to 13th Combined Civil Services Examinations, CDPO, FSO and JSSC-CGL.
A bench of Justice Deepak Roshan directed the state government to clarify its stand and submit a response within 48 hours. The matter will next be heard on September 18.
During the hearing, the state government informed the court that a report on the progress of the ongoing CID investigation would be submitted in a sealed cover.
The government also sought additional time to file an affidavit detailing the status of the probe and requested a week's extension for the purpose. However, the court declined the request and allowed only 48 hours for filing the response.
The bench also orally observed that the matter concerns the future of a large number of candidates and employees who had secured ap-

pointments through the recruitment process, and therefore could not be subjected to unnecessary delays. It also commented on the pace of the CID investigation and asked the government to provide a clear and time-bound update on the probe.
Appearing for the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC), advocate Sanjoy Piprawal presented the commission's case. The petitioners were represented by senior advocate Indrajit Sinha along with advocates Amritansh Vats, Chanchal Jain and others.
The state government was represented by senior Supreme Court advocate Meenakshi Arora along with the Advocate General. The controversy arose after the state government decided to cancel appointments linked to examinations in which TDPL, a company associated with conducting the recruitment tests, had played a role.
The government ordered the cancellation of appointments made through the JPSC 11th to 13th Combined Civil Services Examinations, JPSC-CGL, CDPO, FSO and JSSC-CGL, among others.

Nitin Nabin to visit Mumbai, Pune Ganesh Pandals

MUMBAI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President, Nitin Nabin, will undertake a significant one-day religious and spiritual visit to Maharashtra on Wednesday, visiting prominent Ganesh pandals and temples in Mumbai and Pune during the ongoing Ganeshotsav celebrations. On the auspicious occasion of the holy Ganeshotsav, Nabin will visit several prominent places of worship and Ganesh pandals across the two cities to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Vighnaharta Lord Ganesh. During his visit, he will pray for peace, prosperity and the overall well-being of Maharashtra as well as the entire country. Nabin is scheduled to arrive at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai at 10:20 a.m. From the airport, the BJP National President will proceed directly to the historic Shri Siddhivinayak Temple, where he will offer prayers and perform darshan of Lord Ganesh.

PUNJAB DRUG ROW

Pilot Sachin leads Punjab 'anti-drug' protest

CHANDIGARH

Congress Punjab in-charge Sachin Pilot on Tuesday led a protest march against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party government, demanding the resignation of Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema over the alleged suicide of Sangrur resident Gulzar Singh. Gulzar Singh had publicly raised concerns about the availability of drugs, commonly referred to as "chitta", in his village and had questioned Cheema on the issue. He allegedly consumed poison after claiming that he faced pressure and intimidation following his public inter-



vention. Pilot accused the Punjab government of failing to respond adequately to the matter and said Cheema had been named by Gulzar Singh. He demanded an inquiry and registration of an FIR, alleging that pressure had been placed

on the victim. "The Finance Minister is responsible for this, and he has been named by Gulzar Singh," Pilot told IANS, adding that the government had become disconnected from the people and was not addressing the wider drug

- **Sachin Pilot:** "They won't be able to suppress the voice of the people of Punjab."
- **Sachin Pilot:** "This issue is not about one person or one party. It is an issue concerning the entire state and the new generation of Punjab."
- **Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa:** "We want the Minister to be arrested and immediately removed from the ministry."

problem in Punjab. The Congress leader also accused the

AAP government of attempting to suppress the protest through baton charges and water cannons. He said the Congress would continue raising the issue, describing it as a matter concerning Punjab's youth and future. Pilot also alleged that political and administrative authorities could not be unaware of the drug trade operating in the state. Congress MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa demanded Cheema's immediate removal and arrest, pointing out that an FIR had allegedly been registered against the village sarpanch but not against the minister.

Quick Read

SC issues notice to education secretary over alleged non-compliance

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice in contempt proceedings against the Secretary of the Union Education Ministry over alleged non-compliance with its direction to take a decision on a representation seeking registration, recognition, regulation, and monitoring of institutions imparting secular or religious education to children below the age of 14 years. A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu sought a response from the official, T.K. Anil Kumar of the IAS, on the contempt petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, alleging that the Centre failed to comply with the apex court’s direction within the stipulated period.

'Unless we instil fear of law, such incidents will continue': Gurugram victim Sia

New Delhi
Gurugram’s Golf Course Road hit-and-run victim Sia on Tuesday called for strict action against those who harass and endanger people on the roads, saying such incidents will continue unless there is a strong fear of the law. Sia said she had narrated the entire incident to the police, as she alleged that the occupants of the car were trying to harass her and that there had been an attempt on her life. “As I showed in the video, he was driving from my side. I told the police everything, how they were trying to harass me, molest me, and how an attempt was made on my life,” she said. “I also gave him a sign to drive far from me. I was afraid that they would hit me, so I rode my bike farther away.

Kolkata police probe tantrik extortion complaint

Kolkata
A Kolkata woman has lodged a police complaint against a self-styled tantrik, accusing him of extorting Rs 7.66 lakh from her on the false promise of resolving her marital and health-related problems through occult practices and special rituals, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place recently in the Watganj area in Kolkata but came to light after a complaint was lodged, police added. According to police, the accused came in contact with the woman through Facebook. Believing his claims that he could improve her relationship with her husband, address health concerns, and ward off future dangers through tantric rituals, the woman reached out to him using a phone number listed on his social media profile.

Suvendu alleges 'nephew-gang' behind ex-PA's killing

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari has alleged that a “nephew-gang” conspired to kill former aide Chandranath Rath, as his mother entered the Nandigram poll contest.

KOLKATA

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday alleged that a “nephew-gang”, an indirect reference to Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, was behind the murder of his former personal assistant Chandranath Rath. Adhikari made the allegation as Hasirani Rath, Chandranath’s mother, filed her nomination as a BJP candidate from Nandigram Assembly constituency. The constituency is scheduled to go to polls on October 6. Chandranath Rath, a retired Indian Air Force serviceman, was shot dead in Madhyamgram, North 24 Parganas, on the evening of May 6, two



days after the West Bengal Assembly election results were announced. He was reportedly returning home when unidentified attackers opened fire on him from point-blank range. Although Adhikari did not name any individual directly, his reference to the “nephew-gang” was understood as an indication towards Abhishek Banerjee, the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha

Adhikari's allegations

Chandranath Rath was shot dead in Madhyamgram,

His mother Hasirani Rath files BJP nomination,

Adhikari claims Rs 2 crore contract killing,

CBI is investigating the murder case,

member and nephew of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. “I have received specific information that the ‘nephew-gang’ was behind Chandranath’s murder,” Adhikari alleged. He further claimed that contract killers had been

hired for Rs 2 crore to carry out the assassination. Adhikari also said he had heard multiple call recordings which, according to him, pointed towards a conspiracy behind Rath’s killing. He alleged that Chandranath was targeted because of his association with him while serving as his principal aide when Adhikari was Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly. The West Bengal Police initially investigated the case before the Central Bureau of Investigation took over the probe. Seven people have so far been arrested in connection with the murder, but questions remain over who allegedly masterminded the killing.

Manipur governor urges youth to drive development

IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday highlighted the crucial role of young people in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, urging them to contribute meaningfully through their respective fields. Addressing the presentation ceremony of the Governor’s Award, 2026 and Rajkumari Sanatombi Devi Awards, 2026, Bhalla said Viksit Bharat-2047 and Viksit Manipur-2047 remain key priorities and can be achieved only through the wholehearted participation of citizens, particularly the younger generation. Congratulating the awardees, the Governor said their achievements reflected dedication, hard work and commitment. He noted that awards not only recognise excellence but also motivate others to pursue higher standards. Bhalla recalled that the Governor’s Award, instituted in 1998, recognises excellence in academics and co-curricular activities among students of Rajkumari



Viksit Bharat-2047 as well as Viksit Manipur-2047 are priorities of the government. Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya. The Rajkumari Sanatombi Devi Awards, established in 1983, recognise achievements across teaching, teacher education, nursing, sports, social work, the differently abled category and co-curricular activities. Emphasising holistic education, Bhalla said excellence extends beyond academics. Participation in sports and co-curricular activities, he said, helps students build confidence, teamwork, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility.

He also acknowledged the role played by parents, teachers, coaches, institutions and communities in supporting the awardees. He urged recipients to uphold discipline, perseverance, integrity and a spirit of service. The Governor’s Award, 2026 was presented to Sushitra Ningthemchamayum, a Class 11 Science student of R.K. Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya. Bhalla also honoured selected students and personalities with the Rajkumari Sanatombi Devi Awards for their contributions across multiple fields. Manipur University Vice Chancellor Prof. R.K. Hemakumar Singh and Awards Selection Board Chairman Dr R.K. Nimai Singh attended the ceremony.

Punjab police take Bishnoi aide into custody at Delhi airport

CHANDIGARH

In another breakthrough against transnational organised crime, Punjab Police’s Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) has taken custody of Karamveer Singh, a close associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, on his arrival at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi following his deportation from Canada. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Karamveer Singh had provided logistical support and a hideout to Anmol Bishnoi in the US. He was wanted in the first information report (FIR) registered in Mohali under relevant sections of the IPC, the Arms Act and the Passport Act. A Look Out Circular (LOC) was initiated by AGTF Punjab on September 3. He said the accused has a criminal history involving cases related to murder, attempt to murder, robbery, extortion, Arms Act offences and other criminal activities. Further investigation is underway to uncover his wider criminal network and activities.

CBI seeks time on ex-judge's bail application

JABALPUR

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday granted no immediate relief to former district judge Giribala Singh, who is in jail in connection with the death of her daughter-in-law and model-actress Twisha Sharma, deferring consideration of her bail plea. The court sought a response from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Giribala Singh’s bail application and granted the agency a week’s time to file its reply. The matter has now been fixed for hearing after a week. A single bench of Justice



Ajay Kumar Nirankari heard arguments from both sides during the hearing. Senior advocate Surendra Singh, appearing for Giribala Singh, sought bail on the grounds of her age and health condition. The defence argued that she had not committed any

act that could make her liable for the alleged offence and there was no material to suggest that she had instigated her daughter-in-law to die by suicide. The defence also assured the court that Giribala Singh would fully cooperate with the investigation and comply with any conditions imposed by the court if granted bail. The CBI sought one week’s time to respond to the bail plea and said it wanted to place the case diary before the court. The agency has also filed its objection to the bail application, according to the defence counsel. Af-

ter hearing the submissions, the court granted the CBI time to file its response and posted the matter for hearing after a week. Giribala Singh, who is currently in jail, will continue to remain in custody till then. Twisha Sharma died under suspicious circumstances at her in-laws’ residence in the Katara Hills area of Bhopal on May 12, with her family alleging foul play. The CBI, which is probing the case, filed a 636-page charge sheet in August against Twisha’s husband Samarth Singh and Giribala Singh.

Tech leadership essential for future warfare: Rajnath

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called for greater investment in innovation and technology, stressing their importance for strengthening India’s defence capabilities and securing strategic advantages in future warfare. Addressing the DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet VIMARSH 2026 in New Delhi, themed ‘Varta Se Vikas’, Singh described technology as a powerful tool of the 21st century. He said technological capability can shape India’s future, strengthen self-reliance and strengthen India’s strategic position. The Defence Minister highlighted the emergence of a new generation of Indian defence startups working in areas including drone technology, Artificial Intelligence and cyber security. He said these enterprises were giving a fresh direction to the defence landscape, while innovations today could become tomorrow’s military capabilities. “Whoever leads technology today will gain a strategic advantage in future warfare,” Singh said, underlining the importance of maintaining technological leadership. He also urged India’s youth to develop confidence in indigenous capabilities and contribute to self-reliance. Singh said startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have become important drivers of innovation, ranging from deep technology to futuristic defence solu-

Rajnath Singh urged stronger technology and innovation efforts, saying indigenous capabilities are vital for India’s defence strength and strategic advantage.

KEY FOCUS:

DEFENCE STARTUPS, DRONES, AI, CYBER SECURITY, DEEP TECH AND FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGIES. SINGH CALLED FOR STRONGER DRDO-INDUSTRY-ARMED FORCES COLLABORATION TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, BOOST SELF-RELIANCE AND STRENGTHEN INDIA'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

tions. Calling for stronger coordination among DRDO, industry and the Armed Forces, Singh said closer collaboration would accelerate technology development and reduce dependence on external sources. He stressed that the defence sector would play a decisive role in achieving the goal of Developed India 2047. According to Singh, combining DRDO’s research, industrial manufacturing, startup innovation and youth aspirations would strengthen India’s military capability. The minister described this convergence as the collective strength of a new India.

Uddhav Thackeray’s govt turned blind eye, claims BJP’s Ram Kadam

MUMBAI

BJP MLA Ram Kadam on Tuesday blamed the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led government of turning a “blind eye” to the Disha Salian death case and alleged that the police tried to “cover up” the matter to protect the individuals whose names have emerged in the case. Kadam said, “At the time of Disha’s death, her father repeatedly came forward, expressing his anguish and seeking justice, saying that his daughter had

been murdered and that she had been subjected to torture and atrocities before her death. He also raised suspicions of gang-rape. Despite this, the Uddhav Thackeray government at the time appeared to turn a blind eye, while the police seemed to be trying to cover up the matter. Why was a case not registered at the time? What was the reason?” The BJP MLA alleged, “A sting operation which came to light showed a person present there at the time of the post-mortem.

Main focus now on international Ramkatha museum: Nripendra Misra

AYODHYA

Ram Mandir Construction Committee Chairman, Nripendra Misra, on Tuesday said that the main construction of the Ram Temple in the Ram Jannbhoomi complex has been completed and added that the committee’s primary focus has now shifted to establishing the International Ramkatha Museum. He said tenders for this project would be floated from October 10. Speaking to reporters, Nripendra Misra said, “There will be a discussion on the museum today as well. The biggest work for the museum is now about to begin. Tenders for each gallery will be issued from October 10. There are 20 galleries in total-Gallery 1, Gallery 2, and so on.” He further said that the theme for each gallery was different and has already been decided. “The theme for each gallery has been decided, and the storyline has also been finalised. Our Director, Sanjeev Kumar Singh, has worked very hard to prepare the entire storyline,” he said. Misra said that videos will now have to be created using various technologies, including immersive technology, 3D technology and others. “Based on that, videos will now have to be created using



various technologies, including immersive technology, 3D technology and others. The tender for the technology, including the hardware and software required, is expected to be issued by October 10. The tender is likely to be finalised by the end of October, after which it will take around six months to complete the galleries,” he said. Misra added that now that the construction of the Ram temple has been completed, the focus has shifted to taking the remaining work to its logical conclusion. “Our main focus now is on the International Ramkatha Museum. Within the temple complex, and outside the complex, there is an auditorium whose construction is currently underway. There has been a delay of around three to four months in its construction. However, we hope that it will definitely be completed by January or February,” he added.

OMAN VESSEL ATTACK

One Indian Seafarer Missing After Oman Attack

NEW DELHI

Search and rescue operations are continuing to locate an Indian seafarer who remains missing after a commercial vessel carrying 14 Indian nationals was attacked off the coast of Oman on Sunday, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said 13 of the 14 Indian seafarers aboard the Panama-flagged vessel had been rescued with assistance from the Omani authorities. One Indian national remains unaccounted for, with search teams continuing efforts to



locate him. “The seafarer was on board. Search and rescue operations continue with the help of the Omani authorities,” Jaiswal said during the ministry’s bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

The Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with Omani authorities involved in the rescue operation. The incident has also prompted India to reiterate its concerns over attacks target-

Targeting of commercial shipping, targeting of seafarers, civilians and civilian infrastructure in the region is unacceptable to us. Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson

ing commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region. Jaiswal said such targeting was unacceptable and called for the restoration of free and safe navigation through international and national waterways. The MEA had earlier condemned the attack on the commercial vessel MT El

Gaia and urged immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace in the region. Meanwhile, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy said the super oil tanker El Gaia caught fire after hitting naval mines while attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz through what it described as a “forbidden” route south of the waterway. According to the IRGC, warnings had been issued about the risks of using the route. It maintained that the Strait of Hormuz remained closed and under the control of Iranian naval forces.

Quick Read

Sensex, Nifty plunge amid broad market sell-off

MUMBAI

Indian benchmark indices ended sharply lower on Tuesday as rising oil prices triggered broad-based selling across key sectors. The Sensex fell 777.94 points, or 1.04 per cent, to 74,003.82, while the Nifty declined 279.50 points, or 1.19 per cent, to 23,118.60. The sell-off intensified towards the session's close. Metal, realty and chemical stocks faced heavy pressure, with Bharat Electronics, Shriram Finance and IndiGo among the biggest Nifty losers. Broader markets also weakened, with MidCap falling 2.12 per cent and Small-Cap 2.43 per cent. Realty plunged 4 per cent. IT bucked the trend, gaining around 2 per cent during trading.

ITAT allows Rs 25 lakh as business loss

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Income Tax Appellate Tribunal ruled in favour of a Mathura taxpayer, allowing a Rs 25.09 lakh futures and options (F&O) loss as an ordinary business loss. The taxpayer earned Rs 8.64 crore from real estate trading and reported a total trading loss of Rs 34.21 lakh. The Assessing Officer treated the F&O loss as speculative and denied its set-off. The tribunal held Section 73 cannot override eligible derivatives under Section 43(5)(d), while classifying Rs 9.11 lakh share trading loss as speculative.

INR weighed down by escalating Middle East conflict

Rising crude oil prices and West Asia tensions pushed the rupee lower, as stronger dollar demand added pressure on currency markets.

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee fell 38 paise to close at 95.92 against the US dollar, pressured by escalating tensions in the Middle East, rising crude oil prices and a stronger dollar.

The rupee opened at 95.84 at the interbank foreign exchange market before weakening during the session. Traders said increased dollar demand from oil importers raised concerns over inflation and India's external trade balance.

Brent crude rose 1.92 per cent to \$107.71 a barrel in futures trading, with oil



prices reaching around \$108 amid fears of supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz.

Weak domestic equities, rising global Treasury yields and a strong US dollar also weighed on investor sentiment. The dollar index was trading 0.22 per cent higher at 99.61.

Market analysts expect the rupee to remain under pres-

Forex at a glance
95.92 — Rupee's closing value against US dollar
38 paise — Rupee's single-day decline
\$107.71 — Brent crude price per barrel
99.61 — Dollar index level
\$785.706 billion — India's record forex reserves
777.94 points — Sensex decline

sure amid global risk-off sentiment and elevated crude prices. However, possible intervention by the Reserve Bank of India could provide

support to the currency at lower levels.

Investors are also expected to remain cautious ahead of the US Federal Open Market Committee's policy decision on Wednesday. The USD-INR spot rate is expected to trade between 95.75 and 96.15.

On the domestic equity market, the Sensex fell 777.94 points to 74,003.82, while the Nifty declined 279.50 points to 23,118.60.

Meanwhile, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$44.903 billion to a record \$785.706 billion in the week ended September 4, according to RBI data.

'You must lead, put country first': FM to Gen Z, Alpha

CHENNAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday urged students to embrace humility, responsibility and leadership while keeping the nation's interests at the centre of their professional journeys.

Addressing students at MGR University in Chennai, Sitharaman cited renowned scholar Sir Isaac Newton as an example of humility. She said Newton acknowledged the contributions and assistance of other scholars in helping him achieve success and make important discoveries.

"A brilliant scholar like Newton acknowledged that he required the assistance of various other scholars to achieve his success," Sitharaman said, highlighting how the scholar recognised the role of collaboration in his achievements.

The finance minister stressed that students should develop humility alongside academic and professional excellence. She said recognising the contributions of others was an important quality that could help young people grow personally and professionally.

Sitharaman also called on graduating students to take up leadership responsibilities and



Nirmala Sitharaman urged students to lead responsibly, stay humble, embrace collaboration and prioritise national interests.

put the country first as they enter their professional careers. She emphasised that the security and strength of the nation were essential for providing a stable future for its citizens.

She further encouraged the students to remain humble while pursuing excellence and adapting to rapid technological changes. Her message focused on combining ambition with responsibility, collaboration and a strong commitment to the nation.

Addressing the younger generations, including Gen Z and Gen Alpha, Sitharaman underlined the importance of developing leadership qualities while remaining grounded. She urged students to recognise that success is often built through collective efforts and support from others.

The minister's address highlighted humility, responsibility and national interest as key values for young people preparing to navigate changing academic, professional and technological environments.

India sees rise in labour participation, employment

NEW DELHI

India recorded an increase in labour force participation and employment in August, with official data showing higher Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) compared with the same month last year.

The overall LFPR for people aged 15 years and above rose to 55.6 per cent in August from 55 per cent in August 2025, marking a 0.6 percentage point increase. It was also higher than the 55.4 per cent recorded in July. Rural LFPR rose to



58.2 per cent from 58 per cent in July, while urban LFPR remained unchanged at 50.4 per cent.

Rural LFPR increased by 1.2 percentage points year-on-year. Female participation also improved, with overall female LFPR rising to 34.8 per cent from 34.4 per cent in July and 1.1 per-

centage points higher than August last year. Rural female LFPR increased to 39.4 per cent, while the urban figure remained broadly stable at 25.4 per cent.

Overall WPR increased to 52.8 per cent in August, its highest level since March this year. Rural WPR rose by 1.3 percentage points year-on-year to 55.8 per cent. Meanwhile, the overall unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5 per cent. Rural unemployment declined to 4.1 per cent, the lowest level recorded since January 2026.

The figures were released

by the National Statistics Office under the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the primary source of data on employment and unemployment conditions. The survey methodology was modified from January 2026 to provide monthly and quarterly estimates of labour force indicators.

The latest figures indicate improving labour participation, particularly in rural areas and among women, while unemployment remained stable nationally during the month amid continued monitoring of labour market trends.

We are all ready to listen to what you have to say. But you must reflect on what is happening around you, what your role is, and what can be achieved for the country through you.

—Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

India's semiconductor sector draws \$1.4 billion funding

NEW DELHI

India's semiconductor sector has attracted \$1.4 billion in equity funding, with nearly half of the capital raised since 2025, according to a report by Tracxn Technologies released on Tuesday.

The report said India's semiconductor ecosystem consists of 3,557 companies, of which 281 have raised funding and 142 have secured equity investments. Funding activity has accelerated in recent years, with investors increasingly directing capital towards a smaller number of larger transactions.

The two biggest funding rounds were IL JIN Electronics' \$198 million private

IN FOCUS
■ \$1.4 bn — Equity funding
■ 3,557 — Semiconductor companies
■ 626 — Bengaluru companies
■ 62 — Acquisitions in 2026
■ 42 — IPOs in 2026
■ ₹13.11 lakh cr — Electronics production

equity raise in September 2025 and Tessolve Semiconductor's \$150 million private equity round during the same month.

Electronic Manufacturing Services emerged as the

most-funded segment, attracting \$313 million since 2025, including \$89 million in the past 12 months. Embedded Hardware followed with \$51.9 million, all of which was raised over the last year. Power Management Integrated Circuits and Fabless Semiconductor Manufacturing were among other segments drawing investor interest.

Bengaluru remained the leading semiconductor hub, with 626 companies, accounting for around 18 per cent of the country's semiconductor ecosystem. The city also accounted for about 40 per cent of total equity funding raised by the sector. Noida, Gurugram, Kochi and Hyderabad were also

identified as key semiconductor clusters.

The sector recorded 62 acquisitions and 42 initial public offerings as of 2026 year-to-date, highlighting growing investor activity.

Government data cited in the report showed electronics production rising from about Rs 1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 13.11 lakh crore in 2025-26. Electronics exports increased from around Rs 38,000 crore to Rs 4.24 lakh crore during the same period.

Mobile phone production also rose sharply from Rs 18,000 crore to Rs 6.27 lakh crore, while mobile phone exports increased from about Rs 1,500 crore to Rs 2.59 lakh crore.

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India may raise its policy rates by 25 basis points each in October and December as inflationary pressures broaden and higher crude oil prices increase risks, according to an SBI Research report.

The report expects consumer price inflation to cross 6.5 per cent in the coming months before easing below 6 per cent in early 2027. It said two calibrated rate hikes could help the central bank build a policy buffer before pausing to assess incoming data.

Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent in August from 4.45 per cent in July. Rural inflation stood at 5.23 per cent, compared with 4.31 per cent

SBI Research sees 2 RBI rate hikes

in urban areas, while food inflation climbed to 5.66 per cent. Core inflation also increased to 4.16 per cent from 3.87 per cent.

SBI Research said inflation was becoming more broad-based. Its analysis showed that 51 commodities accounted for the bulk of CPI's weighted contribution in August, compared with 22 in January. The contribution of the top 25 commodities, excluding gold and silver, fell to 62 per cent from 83 per cent during the period.

The report projected inflation at 5.88 per cent in September and 6.70 per cent in October, before moderating to 6.19 per cent in November and 5.64 per cent in December.

Rising crude prices were

Going forward, we believe CPI inflation may cross the 6.5% mark before dropping to less than 6% in early 2027.

—SBI Research

identified as another major risk. The Indian crude basket increased from \$82.04 a barrel in July to \$109.76 in September. SBI Research said Brent crude could remain above \$100 in the near term, adding to imported inflation.

The report also cautioned against aggressive liquidity withdrawal, saying strong credit growth could naturally absorb surplus funds. It recommended a calibrated approach, followed by a pause to assess inflation, oil prices, liquidity and financial-market conditions.

India-NZ FTA likely from Oct 19

NEW DELHI

The India-New Zealand free trade agreement is likely to come into force from October 19, an official said, opening the way for increased trade in goods and services between the two countries.

India and New Zealand signed the free trade agreement on April 27 to boost bilateral commerce and promote investments. The pact provides duty-free access for 100 per cent of India's exports to the New Zealand market.

Currently, New Zealand imposes peak tariffs of up to 10 per cent on several key



Indian products, including ceramics, carpets, automobiles and auto components. The removal of these duties is expected to improve market access for Indian exporters.

The agreement is aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two countries by expanding opportunities across goods and services while encouraging greater investment flows.

New Zealand has also

committed to invest \$20 billion in India over 15 years under the broader economic partnership.

The pact comes as India continues to pursue trade agreements aimed at expanding export opportunities and improving access to international markets. The agreement with New Zealand is expected to provide Indian businesses with greater access to the country's market once it becomes operational.

The FTA is therefore set to deepen bilateral economic engagement, with Indian exporters expected to benefit from duty-free access across the entire range of India's exports to New Zealand.

Pak sugar exports raise food security concerns

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's decision to allow the export of 108,000 metric tonnes of sugar has raised concerns over domestic prices, food security and the country's agricultural resources, according to a report published by The Express Tribune.

The move marks a shift from the government's earlier approach of importing sugar to maintain domestic supplies and stabilise prices. Critics fear that exporting available stocks could reduce buffer reserves and increase the risk of shortages if domestic supplies tighten.



The policy could also expose consumers to higher sugar prices, particularly if imports become necessary in the future to meet local demand. Similar situations in the past have resulted in Pakistan importing sugar after domestic supplies fell.

Environmental concerns have also been raised over the decision. Sugarcane is a highly water-intensive crop and relies heavily on Paki-

stan's groundwater reserves, which are already under pressure. The report argued that government support and export incentives for sugar producers could effectively encourage the export of water through sugar.

The policy could have wider agricultural implications as well. Increased emphasis on sugarcane cultivation may divert farmland and resources away from other important crops, including wheat, potentially affecting food security.

The report also highlighted concerns over the influence of sugar mill owners on government policy. It referred to previous warnings from the Competition Commission of

Pakistan regarding the reliability of industry data used while making decisions on sugar exports.

Earlier reform proposals had called for reducing government intervention in the sugar trade and allowing market forces to determine production, prices and imports.

However, the latest export decision has renewed debate over the balance between supporting the sugar industry and protecting consumers. Critics warn that reducing domestic stocks could leave consumers exposed to sharper price increases if supplies become insufficient in the coming months.

GROWTH SURGE

Passenger vehicle sales soar 36.5% in Aug

NEW DELHI

India produced more than 31.57 lakh vehicles in August 2026, while domestic sales recorded strong growth across passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Passenger vehicle sales rose 36.5% year-on-year to 4,39,309 units in August, compared with 3,21,901 units during the same month last year. SIAM said total produc-

tion of passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, two-wheelers and quadricycles stood at 31,57,822 units during the month.

Three-wheeler sales increased 22.8 per cent to 93,764 units from 76,324 units a year earlier. Within the segment, passenger carrier sales climbed 22.4 per cent to 78,680 units, while goods carrier sales rose 34.9 per cent to 13,320 units.

However, sales of e-rickshaws declined six per cent to 1,264 units, while e-cart sales fell 38.3 per cent to 500 units.



Two-wheeler sales grew 10.5 per cent to 20,34,698 units from 18,41,954 units in August 2025. Scooter sales recorded a sharper rise of 23.8 per cent to 8,55,715 units, while motorcycle sales increased 2.4 per cent to 11,33,047 units.

SIAM Director General

Rajesh Menon said passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers recorded their highest-ever August sales in 2026. He attributed the growth partly to a lower base in the previous year.

Menon said strong consumer confidence, resilient rural markets, improving financing conditions and growing adoption of alternative drivetrains were supporting demand. He added that festive demand was expected to provide an additional boost and contribute to healthy second-quarter numbers.

India's imports from China rise to \$65.49 billion

NEW DELHI

India's imports from China rose sharply to \$65.49 billion during April-August 2026-27, making China the country's largest import source during the five-month period, according to Commerce Ministry data released on Tuesday.

Imports from China increased from \$51.56 billion in the corresponding period of 2025-26, reflecting a rise of nearly \$14 billion. Russia was the second-largest import source at \$41.44 billion, followed by the United States at \$28.09 billion and the United Arab Emirates at

\$24.36 billion.

India's imports from South Korea stood at \$12.10 billion during the period, while imports from Saudi Arabia reached \$11.81 billion. Singapore accounted for \$11.40 billion in imports, followed by Japan at \$9.71 billion.

Hong Kong and Germany also remained among India's major import sources during the period, with imports valued at \$9.41 billion and \$9.16 billion, respectively.

On the export side, the United States remained India's largest export destination during April-August 2026-27, with exports reach-

ing \$42.79 billion.

The data highlights the continued importance of China in India's import basket, with the country maintaining a substantial lead over other major trading partners during the first five months of the financial year.

India's trade figures continue to be closely watched amid efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing and diversify supply chains. The widening value of imports from China also underscores the scale of bilateral trade and India's dependence on Chinese goods and components across several sectors.



Quick Read

Weeks after Nepal flood, kin of missing hold out hope

Kathmandu

Every day since a torrent of mud and rocks destroyed a Nepal-China border crossing high up in the Himalayas last month, Arushi Gupta's parents have called and messaged their missing daughter hoping she somehow survived. The last photo she sent on the day of the flood was the facade of the Gyrlong Port Immigration post. But the calls and messages from her parents, who are among many families in Nepal and abroad awaiting news of loved ones, have gone unanswered.

Survivor saw vessel capsize, waited 10 hrs for rescue

JAKARTA

Rizky Apriansyah was asleep on the top deck of the Virgo Transport 8, the ferry that capsized in Indonesia's Java Sea, when friends woke him up at around 1 a.m. on Sunday, urging him to grab a life jacket. Panicked, he and his four friends rushed out of their room. Rizky, who worked as a waiter on-board, recalled seeing waves as high as 3 to 4 metres hitting the vessel multiple times, sending the ship listing even further. No alarm was rung, he said, and he feared other passengers might not be aware of the impending tragedy.

Hungary files bill to roll back Orban-era anti-LGBTQ+ rules

BUDAPEST

Hungary's government submitted a bill to parliament late on Monday that would remove anti-LGBTQ+ rules prohibiting the "promotion of homosexuality" to under-18s implemented by Viktor Orban's former nationalist government.

Orban's government, which was ousted after 16 years in an election in April, promoted a Christian-conservative agenda and in 2021 banned the "display and promotion of homosexuality" and gender change in media content accessible by under-18s.

Orban said the anti-LGBTQ+ laws were to protect children, but the restrictions attracted strong criticism from rights groups and the European Union.

Hungary's new Justice Minister Marta Gorog said in May that Hungary would need to revise legislation restricting access to LGBTQ+ content after the EU's top court ruled in April that the restrictions breached EU law and contributed to the stigmatisation and marginalisation of gay and transgender people.

Prime Minister Peter Magyar, who swept to power in April, has pledged to repair

Houthis escalate attacks on Saudi

Houthis strengthens Red Sea positions, raising fresh concerns over regional escalation and global oil supplies.

RIYAD

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis launched a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia while strengthening their positions along Yemen's western Red Sea coast, Yemeni officials said, as Riyadh held urgent deliberations over its response to the group's rapid advance. The Houthis said on Monday that they fired dozens of missiles and drones at a military airbase in Khamis Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia. They claimed to have targeted aircraft hangars, radar



systems, runways and ammunition depots in retaliation for Saudi airstrikes in Yemen. Saudi authorities issued emergency alerts in Khamis Mushait and three other southern cities.

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said 13 civilians were wounded in the attacks. The escalation comes as the Houthis have expanded their presence along the Red Sea. Their

Houthi attacks escalate Red Sea regional tensions

- Houthis launch dozens of missiles and drones at southern Saudi Arabia
- 13 civilians wounded in Houthi attacks, Saudi-led coalition says
- Houthi forces strengthen positions along Yemen's Red Sea coast
- Perim Island captured near the strategic Red Sea entrance
- Saudi and Yemeni forces intensify airstrikes on Houthi targets
- Saudi pipeline outage threatens up to 4% of global oil supply

recent advances include the capture of Perim Island at the entrance to the strategic waterway. Yemeni officials said the group also maintains effective control over almost the entire

western coastline. Saudi and Yemeni air forces have intensified strikes on Houthi positions, including areas around the historic Red Sea port of Mocha. However, the bom-

bardment has not halted the group's advance. The developments have added pressure on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure after an attack on Thursday knocked its 1,200-kilometre east-west pipeline offline. Riyadh blamed Iranian-backed militias in Iraq for that attack. Traders warned that a prolonged pipeline shutdown could remove up to 4% of global oil supply while the Strait of Hormuz remains largely blockaded. Crude prices rose more than 4% before settling around 1% higher on Monday.

US Senate faces Crypto Bill vote

WASHINGTON

The US Senate is set to vote Tuesday on whether to advance the Clarity Act, a cryptocurrency bill that could establish a federal regulatory framework for digital assets.

The legislation is a key priority for the cryptocurrency industry, which argues that clearer rules would provide companies with legal certainty. The industry has spent hundreds of millions of dollars lobbying and campaigning to support the bill.

However, Senate Republican leaders face uncertainty over whether the measure can secure the 60 votes required to advance. Republicans released revised legislation Sunday to address concerns raised by the banking industry and some Democrats, including questions over ethics and office-

holder conflicts.

The procedural vote, scheduled shortly after 2 p.m. EDT, could become a decisive test. Analysts say the Senate has limited time remaining on its calendar, with the election year creating competing priorities. A failed vote could leave little opportunity to revive the bill. The crypto market has largely anticipated that the bill would not become law soon. Investors may therefore not view another delay as a major market shock, although passage could reduce regulatory uncertainty and encourage institutional participation. A major dispute involves restrictions on public officials benefiting from cryptocurrency businesses. Democrats have sought tighter safeguards, with concerns partly focused on President Donald Trump's cryptocurrency interests.

KYIV

Russia and Ukraine exchanged fresh attacks on energy infrastructure on Tuesday, despite US President Donald Trump's announcement that the two sides had agreed to stop targeting each other's energy facilities.

Russia launched around 200 drones overnight at Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, killing two people, according to Ukrainian officials. The attacks also hit petrol stations in the capital as well as energy and port infrastructure in other regions.

Ukraine responded by striking an oil refinery in Syzran, in Russia's Samara region along the Volga River, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said. Ukrainian drones also targeted facilities involved in drone production in the Taganrog and Oryol regions.



The Samara regional governor confirmed that an industrial facility had been hit but did not identify the site. In Taganrog, the regional governor said a warehouse belonging to e-commerce company Ozon was struck.

Zelenskiy said Russia was continuing attacks against Ukraine's energy sector, logistics network and critical infrastructure, adding that Kyiv's responses were having a tangible impact.

The latest strikes came a

"Our responses to them for this are tangible," Zelenskiy said, accusing Russia of continuing attacks on Ukraine's energy sector and critical infrastructure.

day after Trump said Russia and Ukraine had agreed to halt attacks on each other's energy infrastructure. Trump has described such strikes as a major factor behind a global fuel shortage that has pushed US diesel prices to record levels.

'Orlen rushes to find alternatives to Saudi oil supply'

LONDON

Polish integrated oil firm Orlen is rushing to find crude oil cargoes from the North Sea and further afield to replace disrupted Saudi imports, five industry sources told Reuters.

Orlen is one of the major European term customers of Saudi crude oil, but an escalation of the conflict in the Middle East - including Yemeni Houthi attacks against Saudi installations - has left the Polish firm seeking alternative supplies in recent days.

Orlen purchased several cargoes of crude oil in spot tenders on Friday and Monday, the sources said. It picked up North Sea grades including Grane, Johan Sverdrup and Johan Castberg, two of the traders said.

It also tendered for grades further afield including U.S. WTI Midland and Kazakh CPC Blend, two sources added. No further details were available and the tender results could not be directly confirmed with the counterparties.

Orlen declined to comment on details of specific commercial transactions, but said it actively manages its supply portfolio to ensure the uninterrupted operation of its refining assets.

Noncitizens accused of illegal US voting challenge Trump's authority

WILMINGTON

As U.S. President Donald Trump seeks to crack down on what he says is widespread illegal voting by noncitizens, several people charged with that crime are trying a novel strategy to get their cases dropped.

Five people being prosecuted in separate federal cases in Miami and Madison, Wisconsin, have argued for the first time in court that the 1996 law used to charge them is unconstitutional, according to a Reuters review of court filings. A ruling for the defendants, which could come before the November 3 midterm elections, would raise questions about the federal government's authority to prosecute noncitizen voting cases. The Trump administration has pushed to deport noncitizen voters, raising the stakes for defendants who previously faced as little as a \$150 fine if convicted. The defendants were accused of violating the federal "Voting by Aliens" statute enacted three decades ago. The law makes it illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections, and violators can be fined up to \$100,000 or imprisoned for up to a year. In the five cases identified by Reuters, defendants have asserted that the right to determine voter qualifications is reserved for U.S. states under the Constitution. While all states require voters to be citizens, the defendants argue that it is up to states to prosecute a violation, not the federal government. Trump's Justice Department has argued that the Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has the authority to protect the integrity of elections and has passed laws such as one criminalizing repeat voting in the same election.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANOJ KUMAR Y B, S/o Brahmadev Sharma, Resident of No 6, 5 K Lane, 2d Cross, RT Street Cross, BVK lyengar Road, Chickpet, Bengaluru-560 053, have changed my name to **MANOJ KUMAR SHARMA**, Vide affidavit dated: 11.09.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, NUZHAT MAQSOOD, W/o Maqsood Alam Hafeez, resident of No 6/1, Haines Road, 2ND Cross Near Wesley Tamil Church, Bengaluru- 560051, have changed my name to **NUZHATHZANJANI**, Vide affidavit dated: 15.09.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, MAQSOOD ALAM JUNAIDI, S/o Abdul Hafeez, resident of No 6/1, Haines Road, 2nd Cross, Near Wesley Tamil Church, Bengaluru 560051, have changed my name to **MAQSOOD ALAM HAFEEZ**, Vide affidavit dated: 15.09.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIFA JUNAIDI .M, W/o Mohammed Abdul Khadir, resident of No 21, Haines Road, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to **SHIFA JUNAIDI**, Vide affidavit dated: 15.09.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.MIS.No. 1261/2025.
PETITIONERS: SRI. LAKSHMANIA S/o Late. HUCHAKADARAIH Aged about 48 years riat Hullikunte village Doddaballavangala hobli Doddaballapura taluk Bangalore Rural District
AND RESPONDENT: THE TAHASHILDAR Doddaballapura taluk Bangalore Rural District
PAPER PUBLICATION
Thepetitioners Have filed this petition for grant of deth certificate of Brothre of Late. HUCHAKADARAIH s/o Late. KADARAIH who died on 14/01/1974 Hullikunte village. Doddaballavangala hobli. Doddaballapura taluk Bangalore Rural District Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of deth of SRI. LAKSHMANIA may hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 01/ 10/2026 at 11 am in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned it will be heard and determined ex- parte.
Given under my hand and sel of the court on this the 11th day of September 2026
By order of court
Chief Ministerial officer, 1st Addl Civil Judge And JMFC AT Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: Sri. Kumar M, Advocate Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA C.MIS No.6,10/2026
BETWEEN: Petitioner- Lachi Ram Naik S/o Narayana naik Kantanakunte,kasaba Hobli Doddaballapur Taluk
AND: Respondent: Registrar of Birth and Death The Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Where the petitioner has filed the above petitioner under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act,1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father by name late Narayana naik S/o Late Somala Naik Who died on 26-06-2016 at 4th ward behind police station vinayaka Nagar Doddaballapur town.
In this regard it is hereby notice to general public whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 31.10.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an Ex-parte order.
Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 15th day of September 2026.
Advocate, Doddaballapur
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Ptl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.MIS.No. 1261/2025.
PETITIONERS: SRI.GOPALA KIRSHNA S/o Late. CHIKKANNA Aged about 53 years, riat Appakaranahalli village, Doddaballavangala hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore Rural District
AND: RESPONDENT: THE TAHASHILDAR Doddaballapura taluk Bangalore Rural District
PAPER PUBLICATION
Thepetitioners Have filed this petition for grant of deth certificate of Brothre of Late. Govindraju s/o Late. CHIKKANNA who died on 24/11/2020 Appakaranahalli village. Doddaballavangala hobli Doddaballapura taluk Bangalore Rural District Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of deth of SRI.GOPALA KIRSHNA may hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 01/ 10/2026 at 11 am in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned it will be heard and determined ex- parte.
Given under my hand and sel of the court on this the 11th day of September 2026
By order of court
Chief Ministerial officer, 1st Addl Civil Judge And JMFC AT Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: Sri. Kumar M, Advocate Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE FAMILY JUDGE AT CHENGALPATTU O.P.No.109 OF 2026
Ritu Sharma -Vs- **...Petitioner**
Mr.Padmesh -Vs- **...Respondent**
To,
Mr.Padmesh, S/o. Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sewda,
Ramdev Kitchen World Building,
Bettadasanapura Main Road,
Doddahatturu,
Electronics City Phase 1, Electronic City,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560100
NOTICE
In the above matter the petitioner has filed a petition section 13(1)(ia) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order notice to you in the above original petition in O.P.No. 109 of 2026, returnable by 25.09.2026. Please make it convenient to appear before the HON'BLE FAMILY JUDGE AT CHENGALPATTU on 25.09.2026 at 10.30 a.m. failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.
RVG HARIHARABALAN
Counsel for Petitioner

NAME CHANGE

V. SRINIVASA Son of M. Venkateshappa, residing at 11th Cross Karanji katte, Kolar Town, Kolar-563101 States that Completed his 10th in ICSE in his document my Daughter MANALI-S such as Marks Card (Statement of marks) Migration Certificate and Transfer certificate my name inadvertently mention mentioned as **SRINIVASA V** instead as **V.SRINIVASA**, hence this affidavit sworn before notary. M.Ramalinge Gowda Dated: 15.09.2026 and to produce the Same before school authorities of vidyayothi and also authorities of ICSE Board to change my name as **V. SRINIVASA**, in Marks Card (statement of marks) Migration certificate and Transfer certificate. pertaining to my Daughter MANALI.S.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Gutta Harish Kumar Naidu** and **Uppara Nagrajana**, Office at. No. 71/1, Sanvi Aero Gardens, Kannamangala Gate, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural, to bring to the notice of the general public that the below mentioned original sale deeds pertaining to,
1. The property bearing Sy. No. 75/1 measuring 1 acre 03 guntas, situated at Bandikodigehalli village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka taluk, AND
2. The property bearing Sy. No. 77/3 measuring 3 acres 08 guntas, situated at Bandikodigehalli village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka taluk, are lost from the custody of my client. Therefore they lodged the complaint before the Bangalore City Police Unit. The authority has issued separate NCR's as stated below:
Deeds and NCR copies of Sy. No. 75/1

Sl. No.	Deed No.	NCR No.
01	1839/1967-68	2419641/2026
02	1088/1994-95	2419668/2026
03	25/2000-01	2419673/2026
04	1203/1968-69	2419651/2026
05	3523/1992-93	2419662/2026
06	3149/1966-67	2419630/2026
07	3148/1966-67	2419618/2026
08	6968/1988-89	2419657/2026

Deeds and NCR copies of Sy. No. 77/3

Sl. No.	Deed No.	NCR No.
01	2344/1991-92	2419681/2026
02	1087/1994-95	2419693/2026
03	3525/1992-93	2419687/2026
04	33/2000-01	2419698/2026

The above said original sale deeds are lost at Bandikodigehalli Village. If any persons, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim or holding the above mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
Name and address:
Gutta Harish Kumar Naidu and **Uppara Nagrajana**, Office at. No. 71/1, Sanvi Aero Gardens, Kannamangala Gate, Devanahalli Taluk 562110, Bangalore Rural. Mob: 808898839 & 901938855
Advocate for service:-
Sri. M.V. Srinivasachar,
Advocate, Chickballapur-562 101.
M.V. SRINIVASA CHAR, M.Com., L.B ADVOCATE
Opp. S.B.I. Bank, M.G.Road, CHICKBALLAPUR-562101
E-mail: srinivasa.char80@gmail.com

NATIONAL SECURITY

China tightens foreign travel curbs

BEIJING

China on Tuesday implemented new exit-and-entry rules that allow authorities to restrict citizens from leaving the country if they are considered a potential threat to national technology and industrial security. The measures, unveiled in July, target violations of export controls and technology import and export regulations that authorities believe could endanger China's national interests or technological security. Under the new rules, Chinese citizens who return home after committing illegal or criminal acts overseas that harm national security or

interests can face an exit ban lasting between six months and three years. The regulations also allow foreign nationals to be denied entry for one to five years if they provide false information in visa applications. China has historically imposed foreign travel restrictions on senior government officials and executives of state-linked companies who have access to confidential information. In recent years, Beijing has also expanded scrutiny of private foreign travel and overseas connections among civil servants and employees of state-owned enterprises. Foreign governments have reported cases of people

being prevented from leaving China while facing security-related investigations. The broader restrictions have raised concerns among governments and businesses about how Beijing could use national security provisions to control international movement. Taiwan has urged its citizens to exercise additional caution when travelling to China, particularly those working in the technology sector. Taipei has expressed concern that the new references to export controls and technology management could give authorities greater discretion over exit restrictions.

CH

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Charani first Indian bowler to cross 800 points

Sree Charani becomes first Indian bowler to cross 800-rating mark, reaching 804 after her 4-20 performance in the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka.

NEW DELHI

India's Sree Charani has become the first Indian bowler to cross the 800-rating mark in the ICC Women's T20I rankings. The left-arm spinner reached 804 points following her impressive performance in the Asia Cup 2026 final, where she took 4-20 against Sri Lanka to help India secure the title. Charani finished the tournament with 12 wickets and strengthened her position at the top of the T20I bowlers' rankings. She is only the third bowler overall to breach the 800-rating mark. Australia pacer Megan Schutt holds the highest-ever rating of 806, while former No.1 Sophie Ecclestone had previously reached 802. The achievement adds to Charani's impressive year, after she surpassed Poonam Yadav's record for the most wickets by an Indian bowler in a calendar year. Her latest ratings milestone puts her within touching distance of Schutt's record as she continues to lead the rankings. Deepti Sharma also made significant progress after her performance in the Asia Cup final. The star all-rounder claimed 3-19 and finished the tournament as its leading wicket-taker with 14 wickets. Her performances earned her a four-place rise to No.2 in the bowlers' rankings with 729 points, although she remains well behind Charani. India's record-extending eighth Asia Cup title also brought gains for Shafali Verma. She moved one place up to sixth in the T20I batters' rankings following her match-winning 68 in the final. Shafali also climbed five places in the all-rounders' rankings to reach No.15. The latest update highlights the strong impact of India's players across the rankings following their successful Asia Cup campaign.



Dhiraj Bommadevara makes history with WC gold

VIJAYAWADA

Indian archer Dhiraj Bommadevara's historic Archery World Cup Final triumph has been hailed by his family as the result of years of dedication, discipline and relentless practice. Bommadevara won the men's individual title at the 2026 Archery World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico, becoming the first Indian male archer to win the season-ending event's individual crown. His father, Bommadevara Sravan Kumar, said Dhiraj regularly trained for six to seven hours a day and began his sporting journey in 2006. "We were extremely happy when Dhiraj became a world champion," Sravan Kumar told ANI, describing the victory as the culmination of 19 years of hard work. Dhiraj defeated Japan's Nakanishi Junya 6-5 in a closely fought final that was decided by a shoot-off. With the match level at 5-5, Dhiraj held his nerve and hit a 10 with his deciding arrow, while Nakanishi managed a nine. The victory made Dhiraj only the second Indian archer to win an individual title at the Archery World Cup Final, after Dola Banerjee's women's recurve triumph in Dubai in 2007.

Govt forms task force to revive Formula 1 in India

NEW DELHI

The government has constituted a task force under NITI Aayog to examine the revival of Formula One and development of the motorsport's ecosystem in India. The panel will study challenges facing the sector and formulate a roadmap for its sustainable growth. The task force will assess taxation-related issues, along with infrastructure requirements for hosting major events. It will also examine the international, economic, tourism and investment benefits of bringing Formula One back to the country. The panel will recommend priorities, a policy framework and Public-Private Partnership models. The Task Force for Formula One Grand Prix feasibility assessment is chaired by Yugal

Kishore Joshi, Programme Director at NITI Aayog. Its members include Kunal, Joint Secretary, Department of Sports; senior officials from the Departments of Commerce and Tourism; representatives from CBIC and CBDT; officials from the Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra governments; representatives of Buddh International Circuit and Madras International Circuit; and the President or Secretary General of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India. A technical expert nominated by FMSCI and other co-opted members may also join.

ing Formula One back to Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, nearly 13 years after the last Indian Grand Prix there. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the circuit this year, indicating plans for a revival. The Indian Grand Prix was held at Buddh International Circuit from 2011 to 2013, with Germany's Sebastian Vettel winning all three editions for Red Bull Racing. The inaugural race was held October 30, 2011. India also hosted a MotoGP round at the circuit in September 2023, but the event has not returned since. Formula One has remained absent from India since 2013.

The government is considering bringing-

Govt forms NITI Aayog task force to assess Formula One's revival in India, infrastructure needs and economic benefits for India.



Hockey: Pakistan to play Asian Champions Trophy in India

MOHALI

Pakistan will be among six countries competing in next month's Men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said. The tournament will run from October 27 to November 5, with India, Pakistan, China, Japan, Malaysia and Korea taking part. The league-stage matches will be played in Jalandhar, while the semi-finals and final will be held in Mohali. Mann said Punjab is committed to hosting the championship, which will be the first tournament of its kind in the state. The Punjab government has allocated Rs 25.40 crore for its organisation, while entry to all matches will be free. India enters the tournament as defending champions after winning the title in 2023 in Chennai and 2024 in Hulubuir, China. The Asian Hockey Federation event is an annual competition, although it



was not held last year. Oman and Bangladesh have been named as reserve teams in case any participating side withdraws. Pakistan's participation follows the Union government's policy allowing India and Pakistan to compete in multilateral sporting events, despite restrictions on bilateral engagements. Mann said there was no problem with multinational tournaments, while individual India-Pakistan series could not take place. Pakistan had withdrawn from last year's Junior World Cup in

Tamil Nadu, citing tensions between the countries. The India-Pakistan match is scheduled for November 1 in Jalandhar and will coincide with Punjab Day. Mann said the fixture would be an attraction for hockey fans. Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh said relations between the hockey federations of both countries are excellent, highlighting mutual respect between their players. The championship will open in Jalandhar on October 27 and conclude with the final in Mohali on November 5.

Ganges Grandmasters win Global Chess League 2026

NEW DELHI

Ganges Grandmasters defeated Alpine APL Pipers 1.5-0.5 in the final to win the Global Chess League 2026. Ian Nepomniachtchi produced a decisive victory over Magnus Carlsen, while teammate Stavroula Tsolakidou defeated Koneru Humpy to secure the title for the Grandmasters. The opening round of the final ended in a closely fought 3-3 draw. Ganges Grandmasters then dominated the second match, winning 4-2 with the Black pieces to seal the championship. Nepomniacht-

chi played a strong game against Carlsen in the Catalan Opening, an opening Carlsen had also used during their 2021 World Championship match. Carlsen initially caught Nepomniachtchi off guard, but an inaccuracy on the 28th move, when he captured a pawn, allowed Nepomniachtchi to launch a powerful attack. The Russian combined his rook and bishops effectively and defeated Carlsen in 39 moves. Levon Aronian also contributed to the Grandmasters' success, defeating Anish Giri in the first game.



India's Adhiban Bhaskaran coached the Ganges Grandmasters, while Tsolakidou earned the Player of the Tournament award with 21 points. She was popularly known as

the Greek Goddess. Interestingly, Carlsen has never been part of a team that won the GCL; Alpine APL Pipers won the previous edition without his participation.



“Neymar has definitely played an important role in my life. He's a friend I've had since childhood.” — Philippe Coutinho, Santos FC midfielder.

Ex-Barca star Coutinho joins Santos until December

SANTOS

Former Liverpool and Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho has joined Brazilian club Santos FC on a free transfer, with the 34-year-old signing a contract that runs until the end of 2026. Coutinho completed his medical at the Rei Pele training centre over the weekend before finalising the move. Santos confirmed the signing on Tuesday, describing Coutinho as a midfielder with recognised technical quality and vision, along with a successful career in European

football and with the Brazilian national team. He had been without a club since leaving Vasco da Gama in February, when he cited mental fatigue. Coutinho revealed that his long-time friend Neymar played an important role in convincing him to join Santos. The two have known each other since childhood and previously played together for Brazil at youth and senior levels, including the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. Neymar first contacted Coutinho after his departure from Vasco but was initially unable to persuade him.

India eye elusive singles gold in squash

NEW DELHI

India's eight-member squash team will travel from Chennai to Japan on Friday for the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, targeting a better medal tally than the five won at Hangzhou 2022, held in 2023, while chasing a first-ever singles gold. India have collected 18 squash medals at the Asian Games since the sport debuted in 1998, including three gold, four silver and 11 bronze. However, the country's best singles results remain Saurav Ghosal's silver medals in 2014 and 2022, along with bronze medals won by Dipika Pallikal Karthik in 2014 and 2018 and Joshna Chinappa in 2018. At Hangzhou, India won gold in mixed doubles through Dipika and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu and in the men's team event. Ghosal claimed singles silver, while Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh won mixed doubles bronze and the women's team earned an-

“We know the challenge is immense, but we also believe we have players capable of making that breakthrough.” — Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, national coach.

other bronze. This year's squash competition runs from September 23 to October 2, with singles champions earning direct berths for the sport's Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028. Women's world No. 20 Anahat, the reigning junior world champion and third seed, and men's world No. 24 Abhay, the second seed, lead the singles challenge. Veer Chotrani, ranked 38th and seeded fourth, and Tanvi Khanna, ranked 63rd and seeded seventh, will also compete. Joshna, 39, will make her seventh consecutive Asian Games appearance and pair with Velavan Senthil Kumar in mixed doubles. National coach Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu said the team has a strong blend of experience and new talent.

Rodri says Barcelona not Champions League favourites

NEW DELHI

Barcelona midfielder Rodri has played down his side's status as favourites for the UEFA Champions League despite an impressive start to the season, saying the La Liga winners still have areas to improve before they can challenge for European glory. Hansi Flick's Barcelona have scored 21 goals and conceded only four across their last five matches in all competitions. Their Champions League campaign has also begun positively, with Barcelona currently third in the league phase standings behind defending champions Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich. Rodri, who recently joined Barcelona after his spell with Manchester City, believes winning the Champions League would be an important step as the club seeks to return to the top of European football. He said Barcelona remain realistic

about their chances and must correct several issues before being considered favourites. Barcelona last won the Champions League in 2015, defeating Juventus 3-1 in the final in Berlin. Since then, the Catalan side have endured several disappointing European exits. They lost to Paris Saint-Germain in the 2020/21 last 16, suffered consecutive group-stage exits in 2021/22 and 2022/23, and were eliminated by PSG again in the 2023/24 quarter-finals. They reached the 2024/25 semi-finals but lost to Inter Milan, before Atletico Madrid ended their 2025/26 campaign in the quarter-finals. Rodri said players such as himself were brought in to help Barcelona take the final step. He stressed that Champions League success can depend on crucial moments during knockout matches, including red cards, penalties and goals conceded.



“The Champions League is possible, but I don't think we are the favourites.” — Rodri, Barcelona midfielder.