

CITY HIGHLIGHTS



Government of Karnataka



Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board,
Kalaburagi



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Kalyana Karnataka Utsava 17th September 2026

₹18,000 Crore Grant Allocated By The Government
Of Karnataka Between 2023-24 And 2026-27



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



Prof. M Govinda Rao Committee



PPDAW Division



Education Expert Committee



₹ 2202.81 Crore
Akshara Aavishkara



₹ 2071.85 Crore
Aarogya Aavishkara*



₹ 974.21 Crore
Udyoga Aavishkara*



₹ 498.22 Crore
Upliftment of Backward Classes*



₹ 313.91 Crore
Upliftment of Minorities*



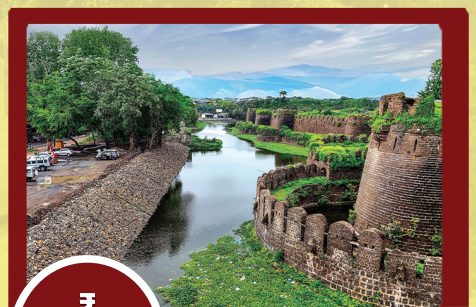
₹ 638.33 Crore
Upliftment of SC/ST



₹ 1000 Crore
Kalyana Patha



₹ 166.55 Crore
Construction of 17 Praja Soudhas*



₹ 425.00 Crore
Antarjala Abhivruddhi*

*In Collaboration With Concerned Departments

Five Major Policy Initiatives Under Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission (KKEM).

- Industrial Policy
- Tourism Policy
- Textile Policy
- Higher Education Policy
- Agriculture And Allied Sector Policy



A glimpse from the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri D. K. Shivakumar, in the presence of Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science & Technology, and Chairman, KKRGB, Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh.

● Paying Homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, The Unifier of India. ●
Venue: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Statue, Kalaburagi
Date and Time: September 17, 2026 | 8:45 am

● Flag Hoisting Ceremony ●
Venue: Police Parade Ground, Kalaburagi
Date and Time: September 17, 2026 | 9:00 am

Join us in celebrating Kalyana Karnataka Utsava and our journey of progress.

Mysuru Airport hosts educational visit to flying training organisation for kids

MYSURU

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote aviation awareness among young students and inspire future aviation professionals, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Mysuru Airport, facilitated an educational visit to the Orient Flying School (FTO) for students of Birla Open Minds International School, Mysuru.

The visit provided students with a unique opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to the fascinating world of aviation and flying training. During the programme, instructors from Orient Flying School delivered an informative session on various aspects of flying operations, pilot training, aircraft handling, and career opportuni-



ties in the aviation sector. The interactive lecture enabled students to understand the technical and professional dimensions of aviation and encouraged them to explore careers in this dynamic field.

To further enrich the learning experience, a Crash Fire Tender (CFT) demonstration was conducted by Vijayan, fire in-charge, Nimi Kumar and Amal, Fire officials

showcasing the vital role of airport rescue and firefighting services in ensuring aviation safety. The demonstration generated great interest among the students, highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness and safety management at airports.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of P. V. Usha Kumari, Airport

Director, Mysuru Airport, with active support from Abhishek Joshi, CNS In-charge, Laxman Meena, Chief Security Officer (CSO), and officials of KSISF, who interacted with the students and explained various operational and security aspects of airport functioning.

Speaking on the occasion, airport officials emphasized

the importance of exposing students to the aviation ecosystem at an early stage. Such initiatives not only broaden their understanding of airport operations but also inspire young minds to pursue rewarding careers as pilots, engineers, air traffic controllers, aviation managers, airport operations professionals, and aviation safety specialists.

The visit served as an engaging educational experience, creating curiosity, enthusiasm, and awareness about the aviation industry among the students. Mysuru Airport remains committed to fostering community engagement and supporting initiatives that encourage the next generation to contribute to India's rapidly growing aviation sector.

Vachanas are words of truth: Minister Tangadagi



MYSURU

A vachana is not merely literature; it is a word of truth, a voice of equality and a proclamation of social transformation. Through the vachanas, Basavanna advocated the idea of an egalitarian society that transcended distinctions of caste, class, gender and high and low status, said Kannada and Culture Department Minister Shivaraj S. Tngadagi.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day Vachana Music Festival on Wednesday, jointly organised by the Mysuru Division of the Kannada and Culture Department, Sri Jagadguru Veera Simhasana Mahasamsthana Math, Suttur Sri Kshetra, and the Federation of Basava Associations at the premises of Suttur Math here on Wednesday.

The minister said Basavanna's ideas of work, service, equality, humanity and social justice remain relevant even today. There is a need to take these ideas to the younger generation. Basavanna's Anubhava Mantapa was not merely an assembly. It evolved as a platform for freedom of thought, open dialogue, equality and social justice. It laid the foundation for a democratic tradition in which people from different sections of society came together and freely shared their views. Many eminent personalities worked to collect the vachanas and preserve them for future generations.

The service of Vachana Pitamaha Fa. Gu. Halakatti, who travelled from village to village on a bicycle and went

door to door collecting vachanas, is memorable. By combining music with the vachanas, their message can reach a larger number of people. The Vachana Music Festival has been organised with this objective.

Tangadagi said this is not merely a two-day music programme. It is an effort towards cultural and social awareness aimed at taking the essence of the vachanas and Basavanna's social thought to the hearts of the people. The young people in particular must read the vachanas, understand their meaning and incorporate Basavanna's philosophy into their lives. While remembering Basavanna, they must also remember great personalities, including Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who strengthened the values of equality, self-respect and social justice. It is the responsibility of all of us to introduce this important legacy to future generations.

The minister said in the coming days, there are plans to organise the Vachana Music Festival on a wider scale at the district level and in various parts of the state. Steps will be taken to take the message of the vachanas to the people by conducting programmes in different districts. The Culture Department will extend its full cooperation to this effort. "Let the sound of the vachanas resonate, let Basavanna's ideas shine, and let an egalitarian society be built" is our aspiration.

On the occasion, prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions organised on the vachanas.

H.V. Rajeev's birthday marked with health camp, thousands benefit

MYSURU

Thousands of people benefited from a health camp organised on Wednesday to mark the birthday of KPCC member and former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) chairman H.V. Rajeev.

The health camp, held at the Bhoothale Grounds in Vidyanarayapuram, was conducted from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Thousands of people from various localities under the Krishnaraja Assembly constituency arrived with their families and underwent health check-ups, patiently waiting in queues.

The stalls set up by the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) witnessed a particularly large turnout.

Doctors and medical staff from several hospitals, including Bharath Cancer Hospital,

Mysuru Race Club Eye Hospital, JSS Dental College and Hospital and K.R. Hospital, conducted examinations at separate stalls and provided health advice to the participants.

Inaugurating the formal programme, international sportsperson and Padma Shri awardee Dr. K.S. Rajanna said healthcare had become increasingly expensive for poor and middle-class families in recent years. "A birthday should not be merely an occasion for momentary happiness. The initiative taken by H.V. Rajeev and his friends to organise a health camp with the objective of benefiting people is a meaningful way of celebrating a birthday," he said.

On the occasion, 10 wheelchairs and two battery-operated wheelchairs were donated to K.R. Hospital. Covered pushcarts were also handed over to 20 selected street vendors. In addition, 100 chairs



were donated to Kanakagiri Government School.

MLA K. Harishgowda, former MLA M.K. Somashekar, former Mayors Narayana, P. rushotham and B.L. Bhairappa, former Mysuru City Corporation members K.V. Mallesh, Chikkanna, Pushpalatha Chikkanna and Shivanna, and District President of the Kalyana Mantapas Owners' Association Satyanarayan, among others, were present.

"Speaking on the occasion, Congress leader H.V. Rajeev said: "I have never celebrated my birthday in any year. I grew up amid poverty and among poor people.

Rotary Mysuru Ambari celebrated Sir MV birth anniversary

MYSURU

Rotary Mysuru Ambari organised an Engineers' Day programme at the House of Games Café on KRS Road in Mysuru to mark the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Rotary Mysuru Ambari President Manjunath welcomed the gathering. Retired Karnataka Government Assistant Executive Engineer Gopal B. L. and civil engineer Rachana were felicitated and presented with mementoes.

Speaking on the occasion, Gopal said that Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the architect of modern Mysuru State, worked alongside Rajarshi Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and implemented several projects for the development of Mysuru, earning a permanent place in the hearts of Kannadigas. Mysuru had



been developed in several fields through projects and institutions such as the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam and reservoir, the University of Mysore, the State Bank of Mysore, Mysore Sandal Soap and the Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

Secretary Dr. Lakshmish K. and former presidents of Rotary Mysuru Ambari, Harish and N. K., introduced the chief guests. Jagadish L. compered the programme. Vice-President Chandrashekar, Rachana and Sangetha Edu Krishnan participated in the programme.

KV Mysuru boys' football team crowned 'Christ Cup' champions

MYSURU

The Class 9 boys' football team of Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Mysuru emerged champions in the Christ Cup Inter-School Football Tournament organised by Christ Public School on September 10 and 11.

Displaying excellent skills, teamwork, discipline and determination throughout the tournament, the KV Mysuru team lifted the championship trophy.

The winning team comprised Nithin P.S. (Captain), Tanmay K.A. (Vice-Captain), Preetham Gowda R., Sandeepa N., Preetham K.J., Mailari Sukruth, Aarush P., Harshith L.S., Changappa T.T., Vismai C.S. and Vivaan Kamal Gowda M.

CHRO Forum to hold nine-day HR Dasara in Mysuru

MYSURU

The Mysuru CHRO Forum, Edin Foundation, Apollo Hospitals' Mysuru unit and Rishi FIBC have jointly organised the nine-day 'HR Dasara-2026' programme with the theme 'An Overview of HR and Industrial Prosperity,' said Mysuru CHRO Forum president B. M. Gautham.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday, he said that an industrial visit for HR professionals and academicians would be held on September 18 at the Hebbal Industrial Area; a corporate skills development programme for students would be conducted on September 26 at Seshadripuram Institute of Technology in Kadakola; and an online HR discussion session, 'HR Virtual Charchakoota,' would be held on October 9 through Zoom and YouTube.

On October 11, 'Mega Wish Box—Dasara Celebrations with Underprivileged



Children' will be held at Mysuru County Retreat in Hebbal. On October 16, a conference on the best HR and operations practices will be conducted at the MBA Department of GSSS. On October 25, HR professionals and academicians will organise a cleanliness drive in Mysuru city at the Balarama Gate of the Palace.

On November 7, a conference of HR professionals and industry leaders will be held at Mysuru County Retreat in Hebbal. A health check-up camp for HR professionals and their families will be organised on November 15 at

Apollo BGS Hospital in Mysuru. The HR Dasara valedictory ceremony will be held on November 27 at SDM IMD College, he said.

Apollo Hospitals Senior Vice-President N. G. Bharateesh Reddy said that the organisations were doing commendable work in society through the 'HR Dasara-2026' programme and assured them of support from his side.

GRS Fantasy Park General Manager K. T. Srinivasan, Edin Foundation Vice-President G. P. Bindu and others were present.

Farmer attempts self-harm in front of MLA; police foil bid

MYSURU

A farmer allegedly attempted to end his life by consuming poison during a protest by farmers from the Periyapatna-Hunsur region against the alleged delay in disbursing loans by the Mysuru District Central Co-operative (MCDCC) Bank in Mysuru on Wednesday.

The situation turned tense when a farmer, unable to secure a loan, took out a bottle of poison and attempted to consume it. Alert police personnel immediately intervened and snatched the bottle from him, averting a possible tragedy. Hunsur MLA

G.D. Harish Gowda also intervened and tried to pacify the protesting farmers.

The farmers staged a protest in front of the MCDCC Bank office in Mysuru, expressing strong resentment over the alleged failure of bank officials to sanction loans on time.

They alleged that despite repaying their earlier loans, farmers were being denied fresh loans by Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies (PACS) and banks. They also objected to notices being issued to several farmers demanding repayment of loans that had already been cleared.

Farmers Allege Political Interference

The protesting farmers alleged that political interference was influencing the sanctioning of loans in the co-operative banking sector.

They said farmers depended heavily on bank loans to carry out agricultural activities and were now facing difficulties due to the non-availability of fresh credit.

The farmers further alleged that loans were being distributed on the basis of political affiliations and claimed that those who exerted political pressure or paid bribes were allegedly getting loans quickly.

Minister Tangadagi makes a surprise visit to BCM hostel

Warns action against wardens who skip visits

MYSURU

Hostel wardens working under the Department of Backward Classes Welfare must visit their respective hostels regularly and listen to students' grievances, Kannada and Culture and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Shivaraj S. Tangadagi said on Wednesday.

Warning that negligence of duty would not be tolerated, the Minister said wardens who fail to visit hostels and discharge their responsibilities would face suspension.

Tangadagi made a surprise visit to the boys' and girls' hostels in Kuvempu Nagar, run by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare, and personally inspected the hostel rooms, kitchen, dining arrangements, drinking water facilities, toilets, library and other basic amenities being provided to students.

The Minister directed officials to ensure that there was no compromise on the quality

of food served to students and stressed that students must be provided with nutritious and quality food every day. Action would be taken if there was any negligence in hostel maintenance, cleanliness or provision of basic facilities. "Officials must discharge their duties keeping the welfare of students in mind. It is their responsibility to ensure that the facilities provided by the government reach students properly. The government is giving high priority to the education and future of students.

Any negligence, mismanagement or compromise in quality in hostels will not be tolerated," he said.

Tangadagi advised wardens to eat meals with the students to personally assess the quality of food being served. They should interact with students as one among them and understand their problems. "Students stay in hostels for months away from their parents to pursue their

education. Wardens should take responsibility for them and look after them like parents.

Distribute hygiene kits on time

The Minister also stressed the need to give greater priority to student safety and health. He directed officials to ensure that students undergo regular medical check-ups and that hygiene kits are distributed properly and on time. Action would be taken against those responsible if any negligence was found in the distribution of hygiene kits.

During the inspection, the Minister interacted with the students and personally sought information about the facilities available at the hostel, the quality of food, cleanliness and other issues.

Before interacting with the students, he asked the wardens present at the hostel to leave the premises so that the students could speak freely and share their concerns.

VTU state-level women's yoga championship begins at VVCE

MYSURU

The two-day VTU Inter-Collegiate State-Level Women's Yoga Championship, organised by the Department of Physical Education, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), began at the Kempegowda Indoor Sports Complex here on Wednesday.

More than 75 participants from engineering colleges across Karnataka are competing in team and individual events. The championship also serves as selection trials to identify the team that will represent the state at the All India



Inter-University Yoga Competition. The event will conclude on Thursday.

Devaki Madhav, Scientific Pranayama Therapist and Psychologist and founder-president of the Scientific Pranayama Foundation Trust, who was the chief guest, said yoga went beyond physical postures and

helped develop mental stability, emotional balance and self-awareness.

The participants must treat competitions as opportunities for personal growth rather than focusing solely on victory. The real competition is whether she can become better than the person she was yesterday.

Devaki highlighted the role of breathing in maintaining calmness and concentration, particularly during examinations and competitions.

Appreciating VVCE for introducing Scientific Pranayama: Breath, Mind and Wellness as an elective, she said

engineering students could explore pranayama through a scientific approach involving observation, data collection, sensors, data science and artificial intelligence. Summing up her message, she urged the participants to "Breathe, Believe and Become."

VVCE Principal B. Sadasive Gowda, who also spoke on the occasion, said the college had made yoga and meditation mandatory for first- and second-year students and urged them to make the most of the initiative to maintain their physical and mental well-being.



CENTRE HIKES EPFO WAGE CEILING

Rs 15,000



Rs 25,000

The EPFO wage ceiling remained unchanged from 2004 to 2014, before being substantially enhanced to Rs 15,000 in September 2014.

NEW DELHI

The Union Government has raised the monthly wage ceiling for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) coverage to Rs 25,000 from Rs 15,000, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a Cabinet briefing on Wednesday.

The government will spend around Rs 11,339 crore every year as part of the move, which is aimed at widening social security coverage for employees.

Vaishnaw said the broader coverage would provide greater stability to employees and help employers retain their workforce.

The decision raises the wage threshold used for EPFO coverage by Rs 10,000 a month, expanding the pool of employees eligible for the benefit.

What does this mean?

The change will bring employees earning between Rs 15,000

SC to hear plea on standard election manifestos

P11

P12

Bill Gates says India is key example for AI development



P13

SL Prez inaugurates India funded health project

P14

Messi to play his farewell match for Argentina

PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Expenditure Finance Committee recommended the proposal.
- Meeting took place on June 16, 2026.
- Annual government expenditure estimated at Rs 11,339 crore.
- Total five-year cost reaches Rs 56,696 crore.
- EPFO administers major provident and pension schemes.
- Labour Ministry will implement cabinet decisions.

REVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- New wage cap:** Mandatory contribution threshold raised from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per month.
- Added workers:** Over 51 lakh new employees will join mandatory EPFO coverage.
- Past changes:** The limit was last updated in Sept 2014, after remaining unchanged for a decade from 2004.

What this means for employees & employers

Broader protection: Employees earning between ₹15K and ₹25K now automatically receive mandatory PF, pension, and insurance benefits

Retirement corpus: Workers build larger long-term savings through higher mandatory contribution.

Take-home pay: Employees newly-captured under the raised limit may see a slight drop in monthly take-home pay due to the standard 12% basic wage deduction,

Employer costs: Companies face higher statutory matching costs for a larger pool of eligible staff.

and Rs 25,000 a month within the mandatory social security framework. In practical terms, more workers will now be covered by the formal retirement and social security system instead of having to remain outside mandatory EPF coverage because their wages exceed the earlier ceiling.

For eligible employees, the expanded coverage means access to provident fund savings, pension protection and insurance cover, subject to the applicable scheme provisions. It also makes these statutory benefits available to a larger sec-

tion of the formal workforce.

Over 51 lakh more employees to benefit

The government expects the higher wage ceiling to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees under mandatory social security coverage. The proposal was moved by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi.

What benefits are covered?

The expanded framework will provide access to the Employ-

ees' Provident Fund, pension benefits under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and insurance protection under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI), subject to applicable provisions.

Why was ceiling revised?

The EPFO wage ceiling was last revised in September 2014, when it was increased to Rs 15,000. Before that, the ceiling had remained unchanged between 2004 and 2014. The government said the latest revision takes into account sustained wage growth, rising incomes and the expansion of formal employment over the intervening period.

What will it cost the govt?

The annual government expenditure following the enhancement is estimated at Rs 11,339 crore, compared with existing annual budgetary support of around Rs 10,250 crore. Over five years, the estimated expenditure is around Rs 56,696 crore.

EPFO in numbers

EPFO currently administers the Employees' Provident Fund, Employees' Pension Scheme and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme.

According to the latest EPFO data cited by the government, EPFO has around 7.98 crore contributing members across about 7.68 lakh contributing establishments. The EPS provides pension benefits to around 82 lakh pensioners.

Tax policy debate must go beyond sectoral interests: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calls for independent tax research in public debate and urges tax professionals to put national interest first.

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called for greater public discussion around independent tax policy research, stressing that debates on taxation should extend beyond the interests of individual sectors.

Speaking at the Eighth International Tax Conference on 'New Age Taxation', organised by the International Tax Research and Analysis Foundation, Sitharaman said tax professionals have a wider role to play in shaping the country's tax policy discourse.

The Finance Minister said discussions on taxation should not remain limited to the concerns of particular industries or professional groups. She urged tax experts to take a broader view while contributing to policy discussions.

"A mature tax policy debate must go beyond sectoral con-



SPEECH SNAPSHOTS

National interest first: Tax proposals should prioritize broader economic goals over narrow sectoral demands.

Space sector & compliance: Lenient taxation should apply to space innovation while commercial activities face taxation, alongside ongoing rationalization of TDS/TCS provisions and reduced criminal liabilities.

Treaties & research: India has updated key tax treaties regarding capital gains, and independent bodies like ITRAF are encouraged to amplify their research in mainstream policy discourse.

siderations," she said, urging tax professionals to "rise above sectoral consideration and put nation first."

Her comments come at a time when taxation and regulatory changes are increasingly being discussed not just by businesses and professionals, but also in the wider public sphere.

Govt rationalises TDS and TCS rules

Sitharaman also highlighted changes made by the government to provisions concerning Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS).

According to the Finance Minister, the government has consciously worked towards simplifying and rationalising these provisions. This includes increasing the thresholds applicable to certain requirements and reducing criminal consequences associated with tax-related provisions. The changes are aimed at making compliance requirements more proportionate while easing some of the burdens associated with India's tax framework.

Sitharaman also spoke about India's approach to taxation involving cross-border transactions and investments.

She said India had renegotiated its tax treaties with Mauritius, Singapore and Cyprus. The objective, according to the Finance Minister, was to restore India's right to tax capital gains at the source.

Tax treaties play an important role in determining how income and gains involving residents and entities across different countries are taxed.

CM to launch Rs 1,775 cr projects in Kalaburagi today

KALABURAGI

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will launch development projects worth ₹1,775.41 crore across the seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka during his two-day visit to Kalaburagi.

Home, IT-BT and e-Governance Minister Priyanka Kharge, who is also the district in-charge minister, announced the programme at a press conference in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. Shivakumar will hoist the national flag and address the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav at the Police Parade Ground on September 17, marking the 79th year of the region's integration with the Indian Union.

Kharge said the Chief Minister would first pay floral tributes to the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at SVP Circle at 8.30 am before proceeding to the Police Parade Ground.

The development package includes foundation-laying for 557 projects costing ₹1,071.56 crore and inauguration of 244

completed projects executed at a cost of ₹703.85 crore, he said.

On the drought situation, Kharge said the State could declare drought only in accordance with the guidelines of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

He said the government would monitor rainfall for another two weeks, obtain reports from districts and decide on further action. He urged BJP leaders to press the Union government to simplify NDRF guidelines and provide relief to drought-hit farmers. He said the State had repeatedly requested changes to the existing norms, which he claimed were causing difficulties for farmers.

He also criticised the BJP over the Vande Mataram controversy, alleging that the issue was being used to divert attention from drought and unemployment.

GESCOM Chairman Praveen Patil Harawal and MLC Tippannappa Kamaknur were present.



Cong 'very vigilant' on SIR in K'taka: KCV

BENGALURU

AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal on Wednesday said the Congress has taken serious note of the SIR of electoral rolls underway in Karnataka and is "very vigilant" against alleged malpractices in the poll process.

Raising concerns over the "genuineness" of the deletion of names from electoral rolls in the state, he accused the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre of "manipulating elections" through the Election Commission.

Venugopal, who is in charge of the Congress' organisation at the national level, along with AICC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, CM D K Shivakumar and KPCC chief B K Hariprasad, held meetings with party leaders, office-bearers and DCC pres-



idents here on Wednesday.

"We had a meeting regarding Special Intensive Revision in Karnataka. BJP is fighting against us using CBI, ED, IT, and now unfortunately the Election Commission of India has joined the list, too. The number of votes being deleted in Karnataka is somewhat surprising; around 23% of total voters have been deleted from the voter list," Venugopal said.

Speaking to reporters here,

BJP is fighting against us using CBI, ED, IT, and now unfortunately the EC has joined the list, too. The number of votes being deleted in Karnataka is somewhat surprising; around 23% of total voters have been deleted from the voter list.

KC Venugopal, AICC General Secretary

he said nobody would have any problem if the deletions were genuine. However, he said the actions of the Election Commission, especially over the last three to four years, had raised concerns that

the deletions might not be genuine.

Alleging that about 50 lakh voters were deleted in West Bengal ahead of the elections there, the Congress leader said, "We understand the motive of the Election Commission behind carrying out this SIR exercise."

"Our party today took a very serious note. I'm requesting the CM, who is here, as state government officers are deployed as BLOs—we don't want any undue favouritism from the commission or officials or agencies. We want a free and fair play from the Election Commission of India. I think the Karnataka government will also ensure that those trying to cause mischief through SIR will pay the price." One can win an election with the mandate of the people, but one cannot win with "vote chori", he said.

Man, daughter hacked to death over property dispute in Belagavi

BELAGAVI

A retired soldier and his daughter were hacked to death over a property dispute allegedly by his brothers on the gram panchayat (GP) premises at Avaradi village in Chennaman Kitur taluk of Belagavi district on Wednesday.

Rudrappa Kundargi (60), a native of Avaradi who was residing in Dharwad, had come to the GP along with his daughter Shashikala (25) and another person, Rahul Lokhande, to enquire about the title documents of a house for which he had submitted an application as per court orders which were in his favour.

He was involved in a property dispute with his brothers who allegedly did not want to part with land as Rudrappa was settled in Dharwad.

Rudrappa's brothers Basappa Kundargi and Sangappa Kundargi and his nephew Madivalappa Basappa Kundargi, who learnt that he had come to the gram panchayat office for property-related work, arrived on premises and allegedly hacked him to death using a sickle and other sharp weapons.

Shashikala, who came to the rescue of her father, was beaten up. The suspects cut off her braid and hacked her to death using a sickle. Rahul, who tried to help the victims, was severely injured in the attack.

SP K Ramarajan told reporters that the double murder took place in the presence of the Panchayat Development Officer and GP staff and many had also made videos of it. Property dispute had led to the incident. Rudrappa had come to get the court orders executed.

BENGALURU

In a major boost for Sandalwood, veteran actor Anant Nag will be conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 for his contribution to Indian cinema and an illustrious cinematic journey that has inspired generations.

The Press Information Bureau on Wednesday made the announcement. Sharing the announcement, PIB said, "On the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee, the Government of India is pleased to announce that the Actor will be conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 for his contribution

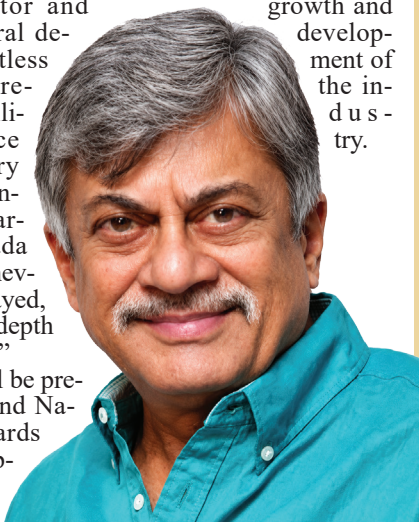
to Indian cinema and an illustrious cinematic journey that has inspired generations."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the veteran actor and said, "For several decades, his effortless performances, remarkable versatility and brilliance have left a very strong mark on Indian cinema, particularly Kannada cinema. In whichever role he has played, he brought rare depth and authenticity."

The award will be presented at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony on September 22, 2026, in Kevadia, Gu-

jarat.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest honour in Indian cinema, recognising outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the industry.



Anant Nag's career

Born on September 4, 1948, Anant Nag is a veteran Kannada actor whose career spans more than five decades. He has acted in over 300 films, including more than 250 Kannada films. He made his Kannada film debut with Sankalp (1973), while Shyam Benegal's Ankur (1974) marked his first Hindi film. He was also part of Doordarshan's iconic television series Malgudi Days. Nag has received five Karnataka State Best Actor Awards and five Filmfare Awards. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2025 for his contribution to Indian cinema. He marked 50 years in cinema in 2023. His commercially successful Kannada films include Bayalu Daari (1976), Benkiya Bale (1983), Mungaru Male (2006), Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu (2016), KGF: Chapter 1 (2018), KGF: Chapter 2 (2022), Gaalipata 2 (2022) and many others.

Modi congratulates Anant Nag

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Anant Nag. He wrote, "Congratulations to the legendary Anant Nag Ji on being conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. For several decades, his effortless performances, remarkable versatility and brilliance have left a very strong mark on Indian cinema, particularly Kannada cinema. In whichever role he has played, he brought rare depth and authenticity. This is indeed a richly deserved honour for a truly distinguished artist."

Quick Read

Race Course Road stretch closed for white-topping

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A key stretch of Race Course Road from Maurya Circle junction to the old Congress office has been closed to traffic for two months to facilitate white-topping work. The restriction came into effect on Wednesday and is expected to affect motorists travelling from Majestic and KR Circle towards Race Course Road. The stretch connects motorists to Chalukya Circle, Race Course, Kumara Krupa and Palace Road. With the closure, commuters will have to use alternative routes during the work.

Karnataka aims to become end-to-end electronics hub

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka is seeking to strengthen its electronics ecosystem by bringing design, manufacturing, testing and exports under one integrated industrial framework.
Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said the State has the talent, industrial base and startup ecosystem needed to emerge as a major global destination for electronics. Speaking at the Karnataka Electronics Leadership Summit at Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre on Tumakuru Road, Patil said the Government would provide necessary support to companies and investors.
“Our goal is to ensure that the entire electronics value chain — from design, manufacturing and testing to exports — is carried out within the State. The Government will extend all necessary support towards this,” M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, said.
The Minister said the electronics sector had become an integral part of modern life and Karnataka had several advantages in attracting investments in the sector. The State has more than 20,000 chip designers and

Fake astrologer allegedly dupes woman of ₹40 lakh gold

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A 62-year-old woman has complained to police that a man posing as an astrologer allegedly collected her gold jewellery worth about ₹40 lakh for performing puja and later failed to return it.
Shantamma, a resident of Byatarayanapura, approached the Byatarayanapura police against Venkatesh, who is reportedly absconding. According to the complaint, Venkatesh knew the woman and practised astrology near Victoria Hospital, where she frequently visited.
Police said the accused allegedly gained her confidence before visiting her home to conduct a Chowdeshwari Puja. He allegedly told her that keeping and worshipping gold ornaments at his residence would protect her family from negative influences.
Over nearly a year, Venkatesh allegedly collected her ornaments on new moon and full moon days, taking jewel-

FARM LOAN RELIEFDrought-hit farmers get loan repayment relief

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The State Level Bankers’ Committee has approved a repayment relief package to ease the financial burden on farmers in drought-hit areas.
The package provides a 12-month moratorium on agricultural and allied loan repayments and extends the overall repayment period depending on the severity of drought.
The State Government has declared 101 taluks across 24 districts as drought-hit, with 89 classified as severely drought-hit and 12 as moderately drought-hit. The relief covers Kisan Credit Card (KCC), ag-

ricultural and allied loans, including those for dairy, sericulture and fisheries. Farmers in moderately drought-hit taluks will get up to 36 months for repayment, while those in severely drought-hit taluks will get up to 60 months.
“The relief package will pro-



Parameshwara asks DCs to speed up revenue services

Parameshwara instructs district officials to speed up citizen services, land identification and registration of youth organisations across Karnataka.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara directed Deputy Commissioners to accelerate welfare, land identification and revenue-service delivery across districts.
Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday reviewed the progress of the Revenue Department with all Deputy Commissioners through video conference from Vidhana Soudha and issued several instructions.
He asked officials to speed up registration of the Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangha, a flagship initiative of the CM. The registration process, including appointment of mentors, had been delayed due to technical issues. Officials

were directed to immediately distribute application forms and facilitate their completion. Reviewing the Praja Seva Abhiyan, Parameshwara said a large number of applications related to the Revenue Department were being received. These included RTC corrections, phodi cases and pension-related issues.
He said procedures relating to RTC and phodi had already been simplified. Officials facing difficulties should consult senior officers and take necessary action instead of delaying applications. On providing residential sites to the poor, he said the programme had received a positive response from people. He directed officials in districts where land had not yet been identified to complete the process by month-end.



“The Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangha is the Chief Minister’s dream project. The process of registration and appointment of mentors should be further expedited.”
- G Parameshwara, Deputy Chief Minister

Revenue review
Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara reviewed the Revenue Department’s progress with Deputy Commissioners through video conference. He directed officials to speed up Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangha registrations, dispose of Praja Seva Abhiyan applications and complete land identification for residential sites for the poor by September-end. Officials were also told to resolve RTC, phodi and pension-related applications promptly and seek guidance from senior officers wherever procedural or technical issues arise.

Key directions
■ Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangha: Speed up registration and appointment of mentors.
■ Praja Seva Abhiyan: Expedite disposal of applications received through the campaign.
■ RTC corrections: Resolve requests for correction of land records without delay.
■ Phodi cases: Use simplified procedures and seek senior officers’ guidance wherever required.
■ Pension issues: Prioritise applications related to pension and other revenue services.
■ Sites for poor: Complete identification of suitable land by the end of September.
■ Technical support: Senior officials to assist districts in identifying and preparing land.

Women’s night-shift safety covered under OSH Rules

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka Labour Department has clarified that safety safeguards for women working night shifts remain in force under the State’s Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Rules.
The clarification came after the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees’ Union (KITU) raised objections to the deletion of several provisions from the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961. The union had alleged that the changes could affect safeguards such as driver verification, authorised pick-up and drop routes and confidentiality of women employees’ contact details.
The Labour Department said the provisions were not withdrawn but incorporated into the OSH Rules following amendments to the Shops and Commercial Establishments Act through a September 4, 2026 notification.
“The removal of such provisions from the Shops and Commercial Establishments Act does not mean that safety protections for women employees have been withdrawn,” the Labour Department said.
Under the amended framework, establishments employing fewer than 10 workers will



Night-shift safeguards
■ Written consent of women employees is mandatory for night work.
■ Free and adequate transport must be provided to and from their residences.
■ Workplaces and passages to toilets and other facilities must be adequately illuminated.
■ CCTV surveillance must be provided on routes leading to toilets and washrooms.
■ Emergency telephone numbers must be prominently displayed at workplaces and in transport vehicles.
■ At least four women employees must be on duty at a workplace.
■ Safe, secure and healthy working conditions must be ensured.
■ Applicable provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act must be followed.
■ Maternity benefit provisions must be complied with.

What the OSH Rules provide
Women working night shifts must give written consent and receive free transport to and from home. Workplaces must have adequate lighting, nearby toilets and drinking-water facilities, and CCTV surveillance on routes to these facilities. Emergency contact numbers must be displayed prominently. At least four women must be on duty at a workplace. Employers must ensure safe working conditions and comply with applicable maternity benefit and sexual-harassment laws.

continue to come under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act. Establishments with 10 or more workers, subject to applicability, will be governed by the OSH Code and corresponding State Rules.

Use CSR funds for rural infrastructure: Shivalingegowda

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Excise Minister K.M. Shivalingegowda on Wednesday called for greater use of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for infrastructure and essential services in rural areas.
Speaking at a meeting with distillery owners and senior officials at Vikas Soudha, Shivalingegowda said CSR funds should be channelled towards projects that directly benefit rural communities.
He suggested using the funds for drainage infrastructure, schools, colleges, hospitals and the purchase of medical equipment. Such targeted spending would ensure that CSR funds are utilised effectively and ad-

dress key infrastructure requirements in rural areas, he said.
Shivalingegowda, who is also the Hassan district in-charge Minister, chaired the meeting to discuss development programmes that could be taken up under CSR initiatives. The Minister also directed Excise Department officials to strengthen measures against the production and supply of illicit liquor.
He said consumers must be provided with good-quality liquor and called for strict enforcement to prevent illegal manufacturing and distribution.
Officials were instructed to identify tax evaders and take stringent action against those

violating tax regulations. The Minister particularly flagged the illegal movement of liquor from Goa into Karnataka. He said Class A liquor was allegedly being brought from Goa and sold illegally in the State and directed officials to take steps to curb the practice. “Class A liquor is being brought from Goa and sold illegally in Karnataka. This must be curbed.” K.M. Shivalingegowda, Excise Minister, said. He stressed the need for effective monitoring and enforcement to prevent revenue loss to the State and ensure compliance with excise regulations.
The meeting was attended by distillery owners and officials concerned with the Excise Department.

Bittu Tabahi joins Turahalli Forest cleanup

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Environmental activist Surendra Singh Choudhary, popularly known as Bittu Tabahi, joined a volunteer-led cleanup drive at Turahalli Forest.
Madhya Pradesh environmental activist Surendra Singh Choudhary, popularly known as Bittu Tabahi, extended his cleanliness campaign to Bengaluru by participating in a waste-clearing drive at Turahalli Forest in Banashankari 6th Stage. Choudhary, 21, gained widespread attention for his efforts to clean the heavily polluted Ajnar River in Biaora, Madhya Pradesh. He documented the campaign on social media, sharing visuals of the river before and after the cleanup.
In Bengaluru, Choudhary joined local residents, civic groups, volunteers and environmentalist A.N. Yellappa Reddy in clearing waste from the periphery of Turahalli Forest. According to reports, the team removed around two tonnes of waste during the

drive.
More than 100 people reportedly participated in the campaign, which aimed to address the accumulation of garbage along the forest boundary and create awareness about responsible waste disposal. During the cleanup, the team reportedly found various forms of discarded waste, including medical waste and animal carcasses. The findings raised concerns over improper dumping in and around the forest area.
Choudhary first attracted attention after beginning his Ajnar River cleanup campaign on Republic Day. His efforts later received support from the Biaora municipal corporation, which deployed heavy machinery to remove accumulated waste and plastic from the river. His work also drew international attention. Boyan Slat, founder and CEO of The Ocean Cleanup, publicly invited Choudhary to work with the organisation after seeing his cleanup activities online.



LOAN RELIEF
■ 101: Drought-hit taluks
■ 24: Districts covered
■ 89: Severely drought-hit taluks
■ 12: Moderately drought-hit taluks
■ 12 months: Repayment moratorium
■ 36 months: Repayment period in moderate drought areas
■ 60 months: Repayment period in severe drought areas
■ October 11: Deadline to implement relief
■ January 9, 2027: Deadline for completing the process

vide necessary support to farmers affected by drought, while banks have been directed to ensure timely implementation,” Chief Secretary, Karnataka Government, said.
Banks will also provide fresh loans to farmers, subject to their existing norms, based on

High refill, deposit costs deter 10-kg LPG buyers

BENGALURU
The steep price gap between standard and smaller LPG cylinders is discouraging consumers from choosing the 10-kg option in Karnataka. State-owned oil companies have been promoting 10-kg LPG cylinders as new 14.2-kg domestic connections remain unavailable amid supply constraints following the West Asia war. However, distributors said consumers are reluctant to switch because a 10-kg refill costs ₹1,700-1,800, compared with ₹945 for a 14.2-kg cylinder. The deposit is also



higher at ₹3,000 against ₹2,200. More than 36,000 applications for new LPG connections are pending across Karnataka. Distributors said some consumers are opting for induction stoves instead, particularly beneficiaries of the Gruha Jyothi scheme.



Quick Read

Gangavathi to host major public grievance meeting

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The district administration will convene a 'Praja Seva Andolana' grievance redressal meeting on September 19 at Amarajyothi Kalyana Mantapa in Gangavathi, running from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The initiative follows state-wide directives from the Public Service Department to swiftly resolve local public grievances under the leadership of district in-charge ministers, local legislators, and senior administrative officials. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has made attendance mandatory for all district-level officers. Officials must present comprehensive taluk-level data on government welfare schemes and establish departmental exhibition stalls, with stern warnings of disciplinary action against absentees.

Massive blaze destroys supermarket in Gadag

CH NEWS, GADAG
A massive fire gutted goods worth lakhs of rupees at Gadag Mart supermarket near Tipu Sultan Circle on Wednesday. Preliminary findings indicate that the blaze erupted following a sudden explosion in a commercial refrigerator inside the outlet. Flames quickly spread across the premises, destroying most stored inventory. Two fire tenders rushed to the bustling commercial junction and extinguished the inferno after sustained efforts, averting potential casualties. Gadag City police personnel inspected the damaged premises and registered a case, initiating a detailed investigation to confirm the precise technical cause of the blast.

Free skill courses open for rural job seekers

CH NEWS, KARWAR
Canara Bank Deshpande Institute in Haliyal has invited applications for free vocational courses aimed at rural job seekers aged 18 to 50. Programs include digital media creation, women's driving, solar technician training, and JCB operation, with batches rolling out between late September and November. In addition to technical training, candidates will receive free food, lodging, soft skills lessons, and bank loan guidance to launch self-employment ventures. Interested rural candidates must register before September 19 by sending a message to 9483485489 via WhatsApp or calling 9482188780, the institute director stated.

Kuttaru accident victim's organs to be donated

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The grieving parents of a 21-year-old youth who was declared brain-dead following a road accident have consented to donate his vital organs, giving fresh hope to multiple critical patients. The deceased, Varshit Kulal, was a fabrication worker residing in Ayere Bettu near Kuttaru. The mishap took place on Monday around 7:30 PM near the Koragajja Aadi Kshetra Katte in Kuttaru. While riding his motorcycle home, he suffered a head-on collision with an oncoming scooter in front of Durga Auto Works. Varshit sustained severe head trauma and was rushed to Yenepoya Hospital in Deralakatte, where medical specialists subsequently declared him brain-dead. His parents, Gopal and Vedavathi, agreed to harvest his kidneys, liver, heart, and lungs to aid needy recipients across hospitals through a dedicated zero-traffic green corridor. The injured scooter rider, Dheeraj, remains hospitalized for medical care. Varshit is survived by his parents and a brother, while the South Traffic Police have registered a case to probe the crash.

BAMUL urges govt to hike milk prices

'Dairy farming requires twice-daily milking, while rising feed, fodder, and maintenance costs leave farmers with little profit'

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Bengaluru Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) has formally urged the state government to increase the milk procurement price paid to dairy farmers by ₹10 per liter, BAMUL Director H.N. Ashok announced on Wednesday. Speaking after launching road and drainage development works in Mayanayakanahalli village under the Kalya Gram Panchayat, Ashok voiced serious concern over mounting financial distress in the rural sector. He pointed out that while the current procurement rate stands at ₹37 per liter, the federation has appealed to the authorities to fix the minimum price between ₹45 and ₹46 per liter, transferring funds directly into farmers' bank accounts. Ashok stressed that dairy farming demands rigorous labor, requiring farmers to milk livestock twice a day without fail. At the same time, input costs have surged drastically. Feed, fodder, and general cattle maintenance expenses have reached unsustainable levels, to the extent that even cattle manure is no longer available free. Consequently, prevailing procurement rates barely cover day-to-day upkeep, depriving cultivators of viable profit margins. Addressing farmer grievances regarding sub-standard cattle feed supplied by KMF, Ashok acknowledged that livestock were refusing the feed. He attributed this disruption to administrative lapses during the board's interim absence. To permanently resolve this shortage,



- AT A GLANCE**
- BAMUL seeks ₹10 per litre procurement price hike.
 - Current milk procurement rate stands at ₹37.
 - Proposed minimum procurement price reaches ₹45–₹46.
 - Rising feed costs are squeezing dairy farmer margins.
 - New modern cattle feed plant planned in Channapatna.
 - Magadi-Kudur supply 2.25 lakh litres milk daily.

a major modern feed manufacturing plant is being established in Channapatna. Highlighting regional contributions, Ashok noted that Magadi and Kudur supply 2.25 lakh liters of milk daily, compared to 3.5 lakh liters from Channapatna. Citing the Nanjundappa Committee report on regional imbalances, he demanded taluk-level units to boost local animal husbandry. Prominent local leaders attended the launch, including Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy, T.G. Venkatesh, former Zilla Panchayat member M.K. Dhananjaya, JP Foundation President J.P. Chandregowda, former Taluk Panchayat President Narayanappa, and village functionaries.

Rapid development in Magadi answers local critics
Ongoing development across Magadi Taluk provides a clear answer to political critics, stated BAMUL Director H.N. Ashok during an inauguration event in Kalya village on Wednesday. Highlighting priority projects, Ashok announced a ten-lakh-rupee drinking water unit for devotees visiting the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple. He explained that extensive civic upgrades worth six crore rupees—including improved roads, drainage networks, and drinking water facilities—are underway across four villages in Kalya Gram Panchayat with state government and Asian Development Bank funds secured by Minister H.C. Balakrishna.

Ramanath Rai welcomes coastal cabinet meeting decision

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Former Minister and KPCC Vice President B Ramanath Rai welcomed the state government's decision to hold a cabinet meeting in the coastal region of Udupi and Mangaluru, and urged the Centre to take concrete steps towards including Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Addressing a press conference at the Congress Bhavan on Wednesday, Rai said the cabinet meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss and address key developmental issues concerning the coastal region. Recalling the Congress party's welfare-oriented initiatives, Rai said Dakshina Kannada was among the major beneficiaries of land reforms, particularly the Land Reforms Act, which provided ownership rights to tenant farmers. He also highlighted bank nationalisation, debt relief measures introduced during the Devaraj Urs government, waiver of electricity charges for agricultural pump sets, and regularisation of land un-

der Bagair Hukum and Section 94C. Rai said Dakshina Kannada, particularly Bantwal, had benefited significantly from the distribution of land titles under Section 94C. He recalled inviting former revenue minister Kagodu Thimmappa to Bantwal to initiate the distribution of such titles and praised Thimmappa for his efforts for poor and landless families. He also referred to the Congress government's welfare programmes, including pensions and housing assistance, and said his priority was to ensure that benefits meant for weaker sections reached them without difficulty. Rai urged the BJP-led Union government and elected representatives from the coastal region to make concrete efforts to include Tulu in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. He said the demand for eighth schedule status for Tulu was longstanding and called upon the prime minister to give an assurance regarding its inclusion.

Rai said Bantwal benefited greatly from Section 94C land-title distribution, recalling Kagodu Thimmappa's role and praising his efforts for poor, landless families
If the prime minister gives such a commitment, Tulu will receive the recognition and respect it deserves, Rai said. He questioned why BJP leaders, who have been raising the demand for Tulu recognition, could not use their influence at the Centre to pursue its inclusion in the eighth schedule. Rai highlighted several major infrastructure and institutional developments in the district, including the airport, seaport, roads, bridges, university, and regional passport office, and attributed several of these initiatives to successive Congress governments. Rai also appealed to political parties to cooperate with the cabinet meeting instead of threatening black-flag protests or creating disruptions.

CM DK Shivakumar to meet farmers over Kasturirangan report

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister Kimmane Ratnakara announced that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will visit Thirthahalli on September 19 to gather information from farmers and local residents regarding the potential impact of implementing the Kasturirangan Report in the district. Speaking at a press conference held at the Press Club on

Wednesday, he stated that the Chief Minister would participate in an interaction with farmers at a degree college in Thirthahalli at 10:00 AM, followed by a public meeting at the Ananthamurthy High School grounds. The Chief Minister intends to understand the issues that farmers, agricultural laborers, and local people in the Malnad region might face due to the report, after which he will

proceed to Balehonnur. A special session of the State Legislature is also scheduled to be held from September 21 to 23. This meeting is part of the process to hear the views of farmers and the general public before the state government takes a final decision on the Kasturirangan Report. He noted that this is a government program and approximately 25,000 people are expected to attend.

Free medical camp scheduled at Bhatkal Hospital

CH NEWS, BHATKAL

Welfare Hospital, in collaboration with the Bhatkal Muslim Youth Federation and Mangaluru's A.J. Institute of Medical Sciences, will organize a comprehensive free medical check-up camp on September 20. The public healthcare drive will run from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Welfare Hospital premises. Medical specialists, including urologist Dr. Roshan Shetty, pediatrician Dr. Pavithra, ENT specialist Dr. Deepalakshmi, and orthopedist Dr. Hannan, will offer free diagnostic consultations alongside complementary ECG screenings.

**COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CAUVERY BASIN PROJECTS MYSORE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, CADA No. 1
Division, CBP Tumkur
E-Mail: eecada1tumkur@gmail.com Telephone no. :0816-2006073

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION: 03/2026-27 Dated:10-09-2026(CALL-2) (K/W-3) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, CADA NO-1 Division Tumkur has invited the Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **AYACUT ROAD** works. The amount put to tender for work is **Rs.83.09 lakhs** Consists of **01 works**. The details of the capacity to be maintain or already maintained should be furnished in **Standard bid document (K/W-3 Documents)** as uploaded in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. For this work bidding start from **Date:15-09-2026 and closing Date:22-09-2026 at 4.00 PM**. **Uploaded tenders of Technical bid will be opened on Date:23-09-2026 at 5.00 PM** onward's and Financial Bid will be opened after the approval of Technical bid. The Details of Notification can be read Carefully at website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Incase the Opening date happens to be a holiday then the next day will be proceeded. Any change in Calendar of events/addendums/corrigendum to tenders will not be published in Newspapers and the same will be published only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (**website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). For any additional information contact at office time in the below mentioned office address.

Sd/- Exective Engineer
CADA-CBP No.1 Division,
Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/RO-107/26-27/Oysters

**Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru South District**
District Health and Family Welfare Officer
Bengaluru South Dist., Phone: 080-29576058, e-mail: dhoramanagaram@gmail.com

No.: DHO/RAM/SUPPLY/ME/01/2026-27 Date: 11.09.2026

TENDER SCHEDULE (e-Procurement Tender Notification)
E-tender Notification Purchasing for The Medical Equipment Health Institutions under District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Bengaluru South.

1	Tender Number	DHFWS/2026-27/IND2673
2	Tender Announcement Date	Date: 11.09.2026
3	Tender Upload Commencement Date	Date: 11.09.2026
4	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders	Date: 12.10.2026, 17.30 PM
5	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Place	Date: 05.10.2026, 11:00 AM District Health and Family Welfare Office,Bengaluru South
6	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bids	Date: 14.10.2026, 11:00 AM
7	Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bids	Date: 16.10.2026, 11:00 AM
8	EMD Amount	Rs. 1,98,000/-
9	Approximate Value of Tender	Rs. 1,31,00,000/-
10	Place of Opening of Tenders	District Health and Family Welfare Office, Bengaluru South - 562159 e-mail: dhoramanagaram@gmail.com Contact No.: 9845355437

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer
Bengaluru South District

DIPR/BS/D/316/SA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-KRDCL/2026-27/3222
Dated:11.09.2026

TIME EXTENSION OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)
Reference:1) Tender Notification No.:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-KRDCL/2026-27/3061 Dated:03/09/2026
Tender was invited under Notification cited at Ref (1). The tender dates are here by postponed due to unavoidable reasons details are as below:
The works The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tender from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 02 work, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with 5054 KRDCL Bridges Head Of Account costing of amount for Rs. 500.00 Lakhs , the EMD amount of Rs. 7,50,000/- .For the works. For the above works G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1)Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-18.09.2026 upto 4:30 PM. (2) Opening of Technical Bid Date-19.09.2026 at 4:31 PM. (3) Opening of Financial Bid Date-21.09.2026 at 11.00 AM On words Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 9240214000, +9240214001) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಪ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/307/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB-5/5054/2026-27/3250
Dated:16.09.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)
The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tender from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 1 work, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with Head Of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-132-MDR ROADS costing of amount for Rs. 840.00 Lakhs, the EMD amount of Rs. 12,60,000/- For the works. For the above works G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors.Date-25.09-2026 at 11:00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-03.10.2026 upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-05.10.2026 at 11.00 AM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-06.10.2026 upto 11:00 AM On words Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 4601000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಪ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/309/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

**Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru**
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 22/2026-27 Date: 10.09.2026
In the Tender Notice seen above, Tender is invited from eligible contractors for total 10 works through KPP Portal under Head of Account: 3054-04-337-1-10-200 Maintenance of District Main Roads, 3054-03-337-0-05-200 Annual Maintenance of State Highway Roads, 3054-03-102-0-01-200 Maintenance of State Highways Bridges, 5054-80-190-0-01-132 Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited – Capital Expenditure, 5054-03-101-0-02-132 Prominent District Road Bridges (Foot Bridge), 2059-80-053-4-00-200 Repairs/Maintenance of various Department Buildings related to Sub divisions of Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District. Details of capabilities to undertaking or having implemented the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW- 1, 3 & 4) should be attached. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibilities as mentioned in Act 3. Minimum Approx. Amount Rs. 5.00 lakhs and Maximum Approx. Amount Rs.275.00 lakhs. For Tender to be submitted through KPP Portal for 10 works (Indent No. 38699 (3rd Call), 40400 (2nd Call), 40434 (2nd Call), 40129 (2nd Call) on 18.09.2026, Indent No.42865,42857,42861,43632 on 23.09.2026, Indent No.43066 on 25.09.2026, Indent No.35883 on 28.09.2026.) tender should be submitted within 4.30 PM. For further details the case worker can be contacted during office ho urs.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

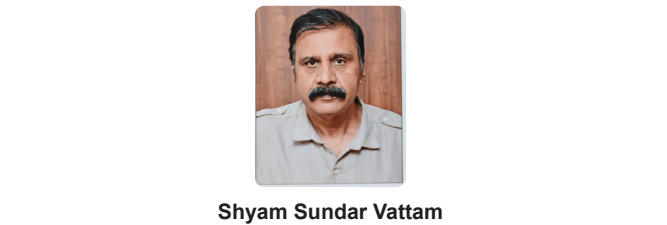
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/113/820

**ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR**
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Tumkur.
No: EE/PRED/TmK/ TND No-11/2026-27 Dated: 11.09.2026
KPP-Procurement Tender Notice One & Two Cover System

The Tender is inviting through KPP-procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur PM Shri Yojana for the year 2025-26, Repair of classrooms in Government Pre-University Colleges for the year 2024-25 & 2025-26 M.L.A.D.S, 2026-27 Horticulture Department Building Maintenance, 2024-25 Repair of classrooms in newly approved Government Pre-University College, 2026-27 Building Construction and Maintenance, 2022-23 Renovation of Temples, 2026-27 Health, Family and Family Welfare, 2026-27 PRED Department Maintenance and 2023-24 Swach Bharat Mission (G). for the Indent Number : (Indent No. : 1. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 26488/CALL-3, 2. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27944/CALL-2, 3. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27943/CALL-2, 4. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT28794, 5. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 29006, 6. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29081, 7. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29234, 8. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29076, 9. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29223, 10. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29292, 11. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29265, 12. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT29289, 13. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 29294, 14. RDPR/2026-27/IND14854, 15. RDPR/2026-27/IND14879 as per KTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the KPP-procurement Web Site and submit the details on Dated website at http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/267/KSMCA/2026-27



Shyam Sundar Vattam

BJP’s K’taka Conundrum: Ballari Triumph, Bengaluru Trouble



The Bharatiya Janata Party may be basking in the political afterglow of its ‘Ballari Chalo’ padayatra, but beneath the saffron celebrations lies a much more complicated reality. The march from Bengaluru to Ballari, organised to highlight the alleged multi-crore irregularities in the Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation during the tenure of B. Nagendra, has given the BJP a much-needed political weapon against the Congress government. Yet, the party’s own house remains far from orderly.

The real battle for the BJP is not merely on the streets of Ballari. It is being fought inside the party.

A section of BJP leaders continues to be at loggerheads with State president B.Y. Vijayendra. Dissenting leaders have repeatedly travelled to New Delhi, seeking the intervention of the central leadership and demanding a change at the helm in Karnataka. Their argument is that the party needs a different face to take on the Congress in the 2028 Assembly elections.

But the BJP’s central leadership appears reluctant to open that door.

With roughly 18 months still remaining before the Assembly elections, the party high command seems inclined to give Vijayendra time to consolidate his position. There is also the enduring political calculation surrounding former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, whose influence among the Lingayat community continues to be regarded by the BJP leadership as an important electoral asset.

This, however, raises a larger question: How long can a national party continue to depend on one towering personality to manage its Karnataka politics?

The BJP’s biggest challenge today is not merely finding a leader. It is building a credible second line of leadership.

The Congress, despite its own internal contradictions, has managed to keep several generations of leaders in political circulation. The BJP too needs to create a leadership pipeline rather than repeatedly falling back on established names whenever elections approach.

The apparent success of the Ballari padayatra has only sharpened the internal fault lines. While Vijayendra and his supporters may see the mobilisation as evidence of his growing stature, not everyone in the party appears willing to hand him the political credit. For some leaders, the success of Ballari was less a BJP victory and more a Vijayendra victory and that distinction matters in a faction-ridden party.

At the same time, another interesting political drama is unfolding.

Several veteran leaders who were expelled or suspended from the BJP for various reasons are now eager to return. They apparently see the 2028 elections as an opportunity for a major saffron comeback and do not want to remain outside the party when the electoral tide turns. The central leadership, too, may be tempted by the prospect of reconciliation, while simultaneously sending a message that no individual is bigger than the organisation.

That message, however, cuts both ways.

If the BJP wants discipline, it must apply the same yardstick to every faction. If it wants unity, it must create space for dissent without allowing dissent to become sabotage. And if it wants victory in 2028, it must settle the leadership question well before the election campaign reaches fever pitch.

Meanwhile, a third camp has already begun projecting Vijayendra as the BJP’s strong future leader in Karnataka. The political irony is that his supporters are building his image at precisely the moment when a sizeable section of the party remains uncomfortable with his leadership.

Thus, the BJP finds itself caught between legacy, loyalty and leadership.

Should Vijayendra lead the party into the 2028 battle? Should the BJP look for a more broadly acceptable senior leader? Should it bring back experienced leaders who are currently outside the organisational fold? Or should it invest aggressively in younger leaders and finally build a leadership structure that does not revolve around a single family or personality?

These are not cosmetic questions. They could determine whether the BJP merely creates political noise in Karnataka or actually returns to power.

The Ballari march may have given the BJP a temporary spring in its step. But electoral victories are not built on padayatras alone. They are built on organisation, unity, credibility, leadership and a clear political narrative.

The Congress may be the BJP’s principal opponent in 2028. But before taking on the Congress, the BJP must first answer a more uncomfortable question:

Who is going to lead the saffron army into battle?

Until that question is settled, the BJP’s Karnataka campaign may remain a curious spectacle — victorious on the streets, but uncertain in the corridors of its own house.

UNSPOKEN COURAGE, THE QUIET ARCHITECTURE OF MATERNAL DEVOTION

In the quiet, unscripted moments of everyday life, an extraordinary force operates without fanfare or expectation of reward: a mother’s love. Long before society debated the nature of leadership or altruism, motherhood established the baseline for unconditional devotion. It is an instinctual commitment that quietly underpins human continuity, shaping character, sustaining families, and serving as the invisible foundation upon which resilient communities are built.

To speak of maternal sacrifice is not merely to recount acts of dramatic heroism, though history and literature are full of them. Rather, it is to acknowledge the steady, daily erosion of selfhood that defines the journey of raising a child. A mother’s love is inherently sacrificial, requiring the constant recalibration of her own ambitions, comfort,



physical energy, and time to prioritize the well-being of another. From sleepless nights spent cradling an ailing infant to the quiet endurance of financial and emotional hardship, mothers consistently trade their immediate ease for their children’s future security.

This selflessness extends far beyond physical caretak-

ing. The true depth of maternal sacrifice lies in its emotional weight. A mother acts as an emotional shelter, absorbing her child’s fears, frustrations, and uncertainties while projecting a sense of calm and stability. She becomes the ultimate listener, celebrating minor triumphs with genuine fervor and cushion-

ing life’s early failures with gentle grace. Long after a child steps out into the wider world, it is the memory of that unconditional sanctuary that provides the confidence to face adversity.

Yet, society frequently takes this profound devotion for granted, treating maternal sacrifice as an obligation rather than a conscious, noble choice. We celebrate mothers in grand seasonal gestures, but often fail to offer the structural support, systemic equity, and social empathy they deserve. Recognizing the depth of maternal love requires more than sentimental praise; it demands a collective commitment to valuing their labor, safeguarding their mental and physical well-being, and respecting their individuality beyond the maternal role.

Ultimately, a mother’s devotion is an exercise in the art

of letting go. The fundamental paradox of parenting is that a mother pours her entire existence into nurturing an individual so that they may one day survive without her. Her sacrifice culminates not in keeping her child close, but in empowering them to fly toward their own horizons.

As we navigate an increasingly complex and divided world, the values modeled by maternal love patience, empathy, selflessness, and fierce resilience offer a vital blueprint for human connection. A mother’s love remains our earliest lesson in what it means to care deeply for another human being. It is a quiet architecture of devotion that structures our lives, leaving an indelible imprint long after the child has grown and the mother’s hands have rested.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J

1980 RETURNS, CLOTHES HAVE CHANGED, BUT CHILDHOOD HAS NOT RETURNED

Fashion has a strange way of travelling through time. Styles that were popular in the 1980s are returning today bright colours, loose clothing, denim, retro designs, old-school hairstyles and vintage accessories. What was once considered outdated is now being presented as stylish and modern.

But behind this revival lies an interesting question: If the fashion of the 1980s can return, why can’t the childhood of that era return?

The 1980s were very different from today. Childhood was largely free from smartphones, social media, online classes and constant digital entertainment. Children spent more time outdoors, playing traditional games, cycling through neighbourhoods, visiting friends and enjoying simple moments with family.

A playground did not need expensive equipment to become a world of imagination. A ball, a bicycle, a kite or even a few friends were enough to create hours of happiness. Children invented their own games and learned cooperation, patience and friendship through direct interaction.

Today, children have access to remarkable technology. Smartphones, tablets, video games and streaming platforms offer entertainment and educational opportunities that earlier generations could not imagine. Technology has made learning faster and communication easier. Yet it has also changed the nature of childhood.

Many children now spend long hours in front of screens. Instead of meeting friends physically, they may commu-



DR. VIJAY GARG

The difference is not simply about old versus new. Every generation has its own advantages. The real concern is balance.

nicate through messages or online games. Instead of running outside, they may remain indoors. The result is that children can be more digitally connected while becoming less connected with nature, neighbours and even family members.

The difference is not simply about old versus new. Every generation has its own advantages. The real concern is balance.

We should not romanticise the 1980s and pretend that everything was better. Those years also had limitations. Ed-

ucation, communication and access to information were not as convenient as they are today. Modern technology has brought enormous benefits and should not be rejected.

But perhaps we can bring back some of the values of that childhood.

We can encourage children to play outdoors, read physical books, spend time with grandparents, participate in family conversations, explore nature and develop hobbies beyond screens. A few hours without digital devices can create opportunities for imagination and genuine human connection.

The return of retro fashion reminds us that society often looks backwards for inspiration. Perhaps we should do the same with childhood not by bringing back every feature of the past, but by recovering its simplicity.

Fashion can return because clothes can be redesigned. Childhood cannot return in exactly the same form because time moves only forward. But the joy, curiosity, freedom, friendship and simplicity associated with an earlier childhood can still be protected.

The real challenge is therefore not to recreate the 1980s. It is to create a modern childhood that combines the best of technology with the timeless values of human connection.

The clothes of the 1980s may come back into fashion. But if we want today’s children to experience the richness of childhood, we must bring back something more important than old styles the freedom to play, imagine, explore and simply be children.



LETTERS TO EDITOR

Echoes of a vanished childhood

Walking through our city streets today, one cannot help but notice the striking contrast between past and present. While fashion trends from the 1980s have made a triumphant comeback with corduroy, retro prints, and vintage cuts filling store windows the essence of childhood from that era remains entirely lost. Today’s children are weighed down by intense academic pressures, digital distractions, and structured schedules, leaving little room for the carefree, unstructured play we once enjoyed. We may successfully revive the aesthetic style of the 1980s, but we are failing to restore the simple, unburdened innocence that truly defined that golden era.

- Dasha Vinayak

Honoring unsung maternal sacrifice

Your recent commentary on maternal devotion deeply resonated with me. Society frequently praises mothers with sentimental words, yet consistently overlooks the immense physical, mental, and economic sacrifices they make every day. From setting aside personal ambitions to acting as emotional anchors for their families, mothers quietly build the foundation of our society without expecting recognition. It is time we move beyond annual celebrations and offer mothers genuine structural support, equal opportunities, and social empathy. True respect lies not in taking their selflessness for granted, but in actively easing their burdens and valuing their individuality alongside their maternal roles.

- Velumuthu

SOFT PINK PETALS SIGNAL SPRING’S QUIET AWAKENING

The annual arrival of the cherry blossom, or sakura, is far more than a simple change of season; it is a global cultural phenomenon and a quiet, beautiful reminder of the impermanence of time. Every spring, delicate canopies of pale pink and white blooms erupt across branches, transforming urban avenues, quiet parkways, and riverbanks into breathtaking, cloud-like corridors. For a brief, magical window often lasting no more than a single week at peak bloom the world slows down to look up.

Rooted deeply in Japanese tradition, the practice of hanami, or flower viewing, dates back over a millennium. Historically, poets and emperors gathered beneath blooming trees to contemplate nature, craft verse, and reflect on life’s transient quality. Today, that ancient impulse has gone global. From the iconic Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., to the historic parks of Kyoto, millions of people step outside each spring to participate in this shared moment of wonder.

What makes the cherry blossom so captivating is its exquisite brevity. Unlike evergreen foliage or summer blooms that linger for months, the sakura operates on a tight, uncompromising clock. A single heavy rain or a sudden gust of spring wind can sweep away millions of petals in an instant, scattering them across ground and water like soft, pink snow. This rapid cycle of blooming, peaking, and fading serves as a poignant living metaphor. It urges us to practice mindfulness to appreciate beauty and presence precisely because we know they cannot last.

In our hyper-connected, fast-paced modern life, the blossoming season offers an invaluable pause button. It breaks the monotony of digital screens and packed schedules, compelling us to gather outdoors with friends, family, or quiet thoughts. The sight of thousands of people sitting together under a canopy of blossoms, sharing food and conversation, reminds us of our innate human need for connection with nature and with one another. Ultimately, the cherry blossom is a universal emblem of renewal, resilience, and hope. After the cold, barren stretches of winter, these fragile blossoms emerge as proof that warmth, color, and vitality will always return.

- TOMUGHA

BEYOND THE ARENA: THE UNIFYING POWER OF SPORTS

In an increasingly divided world, few cultural phenomena possess the transcendent power of sports. Whether it is a local grassroots tournament played on a dusty neighborhood field or a global spectacle watched by billions, athletics consistently bridge social, economic, and political divides. Beyond the scores, trophies, and statistics, sports serve as a vital force for personal development, community cohesion, and societal growth.

At its core, athletic engagement instills fundamental human values that extend far beyond the playing field. Participating in sports teaches individuals essential life skills: discipline through rigorous training, resilience in the face of defeat, and the value of teamwork over individual glory. Learning how to lose with grace and win with humility prepares individuals for the complex challenges of everyday life. These mental and emotional attributes foster personal integrity and personal accountability, shaping active, responsible citizens.

On a community level, sports function as a powerful social glue. Local clubs, school teams, and public parks provide shared spaces where people of diverse backgrounds come together around a common passion. The emotional investment in a home team creates a collective identity, generating a profound sense of pride and belonging. During moments of tension or crisis, athletic events frequently serve as neutral ground, offering a temporary respite from division and a platform for shared joy and reconciliation.

Furthermore, sports play an essential role in public health and development. Encouraging athletic participation combats sedentary lifestyles, reducing the risk of chronic health conditions and promoting mental well-being. For youth, structured sports programs offer constructive outlets, steering young people away from risky behaviors while providing mentorship and opportunities for advancement. Today, sports also serve as a driver for gender equality and inclusivity, as female athletes and adaptive sports competitors break barriers and challenge longstanding stereotypes on global stages. However, preserving the integrity of sports requires constant vigilance. Commercialization, performance-enhancing drugs, and systemic inequities threaten to compromise the true spirit of competition.

- MONISH

SANCTUARIES OF SOLACE: WHY MODERN TRAVELERS SEEK RESORTS



Furthermore, the rise of remote work has transformed how society views leisure time. With lines between professional and personal spheres blurring, travelers are increasingly seeking spaces that allow for seamless transitions. Resorts have adapted swiftly, catering to extended-stay guests who wish to work productively during the morning and unwind by an infinity pool in the afternoon. This shift has elevated the resort from an occasional splurge to a vital component of a balanced, sustainable lifestyle.

Critically, the best resorts also recognize that true relaxation does not require isolation from culture. Today’s premier properties serve as gateways to authentic local heritage. By offering curated excursions, highlighting regional

artists, and sourcing ingredients from neighboring farms, resorts allow travelers to connect meaningfully with a destination’s culture without sacrificing the peace of a private retreat.

Ultimately, the enduring appeal of the resort lies in its ability to offer something increasingly rare: uninterrupted time. By taking care of life’s daily friction points, resorts create a rare buffer zone where travelers can pause, recalibrate, and rekindle relationships with loved ones or simply with themselves. As the world continues to accelerate, these self-contained havens of hospitality will remain essential sanctuaries, offering far more than just a getaway: they offer a path back to balance.

- SWAYAM SAM

GUARDIANS OF ORDER ON OUR UNFORGIVING STREETS

Every single day, as millions of commuters rush through city veins to reach offices, schools, and homes, a steady presence stands amid the chaos. Positioned at choked intersections, under scorching suns, and through blinding downpours, traffic police officers form the vital shield between urban mobility and complete gridlock. They are the unsung conductors of our daily commute, translating chaotic human urgency into a disciplined flow of motion.

Yet, the role of a traffic police officer extends far beyond mere hand signals and whistle signals. It is a demanding test of physical endurance and psychological resilience. Standing on asphalt for up to twelve hours a day, these officers routinely inhale toxic vehicular exhaust, endure deafening noise pollution, and brave extreme weather conditions. The toll on their physical health is severe, leading to chronic respiratory issues and joint fatigue, while the constant friction with impatient drivers introduces a heavy emotional burden.

Despite these harsh conditions, traffic officers remain the first line of defense for public safety. Their vigilant presence deters reckless speeding, prevents dangerous lane changes, and reduces pedestrian hazards. Beyond enforcing traffic laws, they act as immediate emergency responders when

collisions occur, securing accident scenes, directing medical aid, and clearing blocked routes to ensure ambulances reach hospitals in time. During sudden power outages or severe flooding, when automated traffic lights fail, it is their manual intervention that keeps cities moving safely.

However, the effectiveness of traffic management cannot rest solely on the shoulders of enforcement officers. The real key to safe and orderly streets lies in a culture of civic responsibility. Drivers frequently view traffic regulations as inconvenient hurdles rather than essential safety protocols, directing their frustration at the officers tasked with maintaining order. True urban safety requires a cultural shift: motorists must recognize that every signal given by an officer is aimed at protecting human lives.

As cities grow denser and traffic congestion intensifies, supporting our traffic force becomes an urgent priority. Investing in modern traffic infrastructure, automated monitoring systems, better protective gear, and dedicated health programs for officers is critical. Ultimately, respecting traffic rules and recognizing the quiet dedication of traffic police officers is the simplest, most effective way to ensure everyone makes it home safely each day.

- ALISTER D’COZTA

SPARKS OF JOY OR HAZARDS IN DISGUISE



Fireworks have long served as the centerpiece for humanity’s most cherished celebrations. From ringing in the New Year and commemorating national independence to lighting up seasonal festivals, these vibrant pyrotechnic displays evoke awe and unity. Their ability to turn a dark night sky into a canvas of shimmering color creates unforgettable shared moments. However, beneath the captivating spectacle lies a complex debate regarding environmental degradation, public safety, and human health.

The environmental footprint of traditional fireworks is a growing concern for modern cities. The brilliant colors that captivate audiences are produced through chemical reactions involving heavy metals, perchlorates, and sulfur compounds. Upon detonation, these pyrotechnics release fine particulate matter alongside toxic gases into the atmosphere. In many densely populated areas, post-celebration mornings are marked by thick hazardous smog, severely degrading air quality and lingering in the local ecosystem for days. Additionally, fallout chemical residues settle into nearby soil and water sources, posing long-term ecological risks to plant and aquatic life.

Beyond environmental pollution, fireworks present immediate risks to public health and animal welfare. The sudden, high-decibel explosions cause immense distress to household pets, livestock, and local wildlife, often triggering severe anxiety, disorientation, or physical injury as animals attempt to flee the noise. For humans, the risks range from acute respiratory aggravation particularly for children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma to traumatic physical injuries caused by accidental misfires or improper handling. Emergency rooms routinely record spikes in burns, eye injuries, and hearing damage following major fireworks-heavy holidays.

Addressing these concerns does not require abandoning tradition, but rather evolving it. Modern innovation offers viable, safer alternatives that preserve the celebratory spirit. Eco-friendly “green fireworks,” which utilize alternative oxidizers to significantly reduce smoke and particulate emissions, represent an incremental step forward. On a larger scale, light-emitting diode (LED) light shows and synchronized drone displays have emerged as sustainable, visually stunning alternatives. Drones provide dynamic, customizable visual storytelling in the sky without fire hazards, chemical pollution, or deafening noise.

Ultimately, the future of public celebrations depends on balancing cultural traditions with civic responsibility. As urban environments grow denser and environmental challenges become more pressing, shifting toward cleaner pyrotechnic technologies and quieter alternatives ensures our moments of collective joy do not come at the expense of public health, animal well-being, and the environment.

- MRITHUN JOY

THE HEARTBEAT OF HERITAGE: FESTIVALS IN BENGALURU



gular norm, festivals stand as guardians of local traditions. Through music, art, food, and story-telling, they serve as a dynamic library, passing down values, history, and customs to younger generations. While a static textbook might describe a ritual, participating in a festival is what allows a new generation to truly experience it, integrate it, and, inevitably, make it their own.

However, a festival’s importance isn’t purely backward-looking. The

very best festivals are not fixed in time but adapt and evolve. This inherent creativity the introduction of new artistic elements, the reinterpretation of ancient stories ensures that the festival remains a vibrant, relevant force. They become platforms for innovation, where traditional craft might meet modern design or classical music might inspire a contemporary composition. In this space of dynamic exchange, cultures do not just exist; they flourish and grow.

Furthermore, we must not ignore the significant economic impact festivals can have. They are powerful drivers for tourism and local businesses, from the artisans selling their crafts to the restaurants preparing festival foods. For many communities, a major festival provides a crucial economic boost that can sustain local industries for the remainder of the year. This intersection of culture and economy creates a virtuous cycle where cultural preservation is linked directly to community well-being.

Ultimately, festivals remind us that life is not just for the mundane. They offer moments of collective joy, transcendence, and profound connection that are all too rare. They challenge us to step outside our routines and engage with our neighbors and our heritage. By participating fully by learning the songs, tasting the foods, and understanding the stories we do more than just celebrate; we help to ensure that the unique and colorful thread of our specific culture continues to be woven into the grand tapestry of human expression. Let us always cherish and protect these crucial markers of our humanity.

- SATVIK

Quick Read

SBN declared terrorist organisation under UAPA

NEW DELHI
The Central government on Wednesday declared the Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The Ministry of Home Affairs said the network is linked to cross-border smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics. Authorities have also alleged that the network attempts to radicalise vulnerable youths and petty criminals. The network has been mentioned in connection with the wider gangster-terror ecosystem and rivalry involving jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Investigators have also examined alleged links between the network and criminal activities, including the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. The government's designation places SBN under the legal framework applicable to organisations listed as terrorist organisations under the UAPA. The move comes amid continued action against alleged organised crime and terror networks operating across borders.

Delhi police bust matrimonial fraud racket

NEW DELHI
Delhi Police have busted a pan-India matrimonial fraud racket that allegedly cheated people by using fake brides and staged phone calls to gain their trust. Police registered a case after a complainant alleged that he was lured through a matrimonial website and cheated of Rs 15,000 on the pretext of registration, profile access and account activation. According to the investigation, the accused allegedly created fake matrimonial profiles and used women to pose as prospective brides. Staged calls were reportedly made to convince victims that the profiles and marriage proposals were genuine. Police have taken action against those allegedly involved in the racket and are investigating its wider network. The case highlights the risks of making payments or sharing personal information with unverified matrimonial platforms.

'Adults can nominate queer partners for medical decisions'

NEW DELHI
The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that adults can nominate their queer partners to make medical decisions on their behalf, subject to applicable legal and medical procedures. The response came during a petition filed by Arshiya Takkar, seeking guidelines to recognise non-heterosexual partners as medical representatives. Such recognition would allow a nominated partner to participate in important treatment decisions when a patient cannot communicate or provide consent. The petition highlights challenges faced by queer couples when hospitals seek family members or recognised representatives. The Centre's submission will be considered by the High Court as it examines the legal and procedural framework for medical representation.

Narendra's ongoing Trump appeasement: Cong's dig on UPI

The opposition party demanded that this “anti-national” decision should be immediately withdrawn, and UPI should be kept free of charge as before.

NEW DELHI

The Congress has questioned the Centre's recent move concerning the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), alleging that the decision could benefit American companies. Congress general secretary (in-charge of communications) Jairam Ramesh raised questions about the government's decision and linked it to what he described as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach towards US President Donald Trump. Ramesh used the phrase “Narendra's Ongoing Trump Appeasement” while criticising the government over the UPI-related development. He also said the Prime Minister had “redefined NOTA” in reference to the move. His remarks were part of the Congress party's criticism of the government's handling of India-US economic and trade-related issues. The Congress leader also



questioned the government's decision concerning the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), a charge associated with digital payment transactions. He asked whether the move had been taken with the interests of US companies in mind. The comments come amid continuing political debate over India's digital payments ecosystem and its international implications. UPI has become a major component of India's digital payment infrastructure, with transactions involving banks, payment service providers and merchants. Ramesh's remarks represent the Congress's political criticism of the government's decision. The government's position and the stated rationale behind the UPI and MDR-re-

RaGa attacks Modi over UPI charges

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Centre's new Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework for selected UPI transactions. Gandhi urged the government to withdraw what he described as a “UPI tax.” Under the new framework, a 0.4% MDR will apply from October 15 to specified merchant UPI transactions above Rs 2,000, subject to a maximum charge of Rs 300. Person-to-person UPI transfers will remain free. Gandhi also alleged that the move was linked to pressure from the United States and criticised Modi over his approach towards US President Donald Trump. These are political claims made by Gandhi and are not established facts. The government, meanwhile, has said the MDR is not a tax and will not be collected by the government or NPCI. It said the framework is intended to support the sustainability and expansion of the UPI ecosystem.

lated measures are separate matters and would need to be considered alongside the opposition's claims. The Congress has repeatedly questioned the Centre over its economic and trade policies concerning the United

Don't trust Delhi's words: Omar to Ladakh leaders

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has advised the leadership in Ladakh not to rely only on verbal assurances from the Centre while pursuing their demands. Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir had experienced what he described as the consequences of relying on promises made by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government. He urged Ladakh's leadership to seek clear and documented commitments on issues concerning the Union Territory. His remarks come amid continuing discussions over demands and concerns raised by different groups in Ladakh. The region has been seeking attention to issues related to its political representation, administrative arrangements and other long-standing demands. The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister's comments reflect the political concerns



Amid escalating tensions in Leh and Kargil, the J&K CM said Ladakh's leaders must insist on written and signed guarantees before placing trust in any promise from the Centre.

surrounding the Centre's engagement with Ladakh's leadership. Ladakh was separated from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and made a Union Territory in 2019, following the reorganisation of the state. Abdullah's statement is likely to add to the ongoing debate over Ladakh's demands and its relationship with the Union government. The region's leadership has continued to press for greater safeguards and clarity on its political and administrative future.

SC questions majority test amid MLA disqualification

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has questioned whether a legislative majority test can be considered a safe basis for deciding a political dispute when some of the MLAs involved are facing disqualification proceedings. The question was raised during the hearing of the Shiv Sena dispute involving the Eknath Shinde-led faction. The court highlighted the legal difficulties that could arise if the numerical strength of legislators is relied upon while their eligibility to remain members of the House is itself under challenge. The bench posed the question to the Shinde faction as it examined issues connected with the Maharashtra political crisis. The proceedings involve questions over the status of MLAs, the authority of the political parties and

the constitutional process to be followed when legislators face disqualification. The court's observation focuses on the relationship between a floor test based on legislative numbers and pending disqualification proceedings. The issue is significant because the strength of a faction could change depending on the outcome of disqualification petitions. The Supreme Court is examining several legal questions arising from the Shiv Sena split and the events that followed. The dispute has involved proceedings before constitutional authorities, including the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker, over the status of legislators. The latest hearing forms part of the court's continuing consideration of the complex constitutional and legal issues arising from the political developments in Maharashtra.

‘Never asked for its removal’: Kerala CM on AI dance video

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Congress leader V.D. Satheesan has clarified that he never asked for the removal of an artificial intelligence-generated dance video featuring him, saying he had publicly stated that he enjoyed watching it. Satheesan said the controversy surrounding the video arose after reports suggested that there could be legal issues connected with its creation and circulation. He maintained that he had not personally demanded that the video be taken down from social media platforms. The AI-generated video showed a digitally created version of Satheesan dancing and subsequently attracted attention on social media. Its circulation led to discussions about the growing use of artificial intelligence in political and public communica-



tion, particularly when digitally created material features public figures. Satheesan said he had openly acknowledged that he enjoyed the video. He questioned the suggestion that he had sought its removal and said the media had reported that legal concerns surrounded the content. His clarification was aimed at distinguishing his own position from reports about possible legal action. The incident has also highlighted concerns surrounding AI-generated videos, which can create realistic but digitally manipulated representations of individuals. Such content can be difficult for viewers to distinguish from

genuine footage when it is widely shared online without clear information about how it was created. The issue comes amid increasing political and public debate over the use of artificial intelligence in creating images, videos and other forms of digital content. While such technology is being used for entertainment and communication, its use to portray public figures has also raised questions about consent, authenticity and potential legal concerns. Satheesan reiterated that he had not sought the removal of the video. He said his public comments about enjoying the content should not be interpreted as a request for it to be taken down. The clarification comes as the video continues to draw attention and discussion over the appropriate use of AI-generated material.

Delhi HC rejects challenge to NSUI, ABVP participation

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected a petition challenging the participation of candidates affiliated with political student wings, including NSUI and ABVP, in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections. A bench led by Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya said political parties must not interfere in the polls, while noting that student wings must be distinguished from their parent parties. The court said Lyngdoh Committee recommendations prohibit political party association but membership of a student wing alone does not establish such association. It directed the university to ensure only bona fide students participate and monitor campaigns. DUSU elections are scheduled for September 18.

SC PIL seeks national framework against fake medicines

NEW DELHI

A public interest litigation (PIL) filed in the Supreme Court has sought a national framework to tackle the manufacture and distribution of fake medicines and ensure faster investigation and trial of such cases. The petition has sought directions to the Centre and state governments to complete investigations into cases involving counterfeit or fake medicines within three months. It has also sought directions for trials in such cases to be completed within one year. The plea highlights con-

cerns over the availability and circulation of fake medicines and the need for a coordinated mechanism to deal with such cases. It seeks stronger and time-bound action from authorities responsible for investigating offences related to the manufacture, sale and distribution of medicines. The petitioner has urged the Supreme Court to consider measures that could bring greater uniformity to the handling of fake medicine cases across the country. The proposed national framework is aimed at ensuring that investigations and prosecutions do not face prolonged delays.

The plea also seeks accountability from the authorities concerned and faster judicial proceedings once cases reach the courts. It argues that delays in investigation and trial can affect efforts to hold those responsible for the manufacture or supply of fake medicines accountable. The petition comes against the backdrop of concerns over public health risks associated with counterfeit medicines. Such products may fail to provide the intended treatment and can pose serious risks to consumers, depending on their composition and the circumstances in which they are used.

The Supreme Court's consideration of the PIL could bring renewed attention to the regulatory and legal mechanisms governing the pharmaceutical sector. The petition seeks coordinated action by the Centre and states, along with fixed timelines for investigations and trials. The matter raises broader questions about enforcement, coordination among agencies and the speed of judicial proceedings in cases involving fake medicines. Further proceedings before the Supreme Court will determine how the petition's requests are examined.

Defection: WB Assembly issues notices to 10 rebel TMC MLAs

KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly Secretariat has issued notices to 10 Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLAs in connection with a petition seeking their disqualification from the state Assembly.

The notices have been served on Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee and nine other legislators. The development comes amid a political dispute over the status of the MLAs and their association with the ruling party. The disqualification plea has prompted the Assembly Secretariat to seek responses from the legislators concerned. The notices are part of the process through which the claims and objections raised in the petition can be examined before any further decision is taken. The issue is linked to the political position of the 10 MLAs, who have been described as rebel TMC legislators. Their status and conduct have become the subject of proceedings before the Assembly authorities. The matter is expected to involve arguments from both sides regarding the applicable rules and constitutional provisions governing disqualification of legislators. Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee is among those who received the notice. The other nine legislators will also be required to respond to the issues raised



in the disqualification petition. The notices do not by themselves amount to a final decision on the legislators' membership of the Assembly. Disqualification proceedings involving elected representatives are governed by constitutional provisions and Assembly rules. Such proceedings can involve examination of the circumstances under which legislators changed their political position or allegedly acted in violation of applicable rules. The latest development adds another layer to the political dispute in West Bengal. The Assembly Secretariat's notices provide the legislators an opportunity to present their position on the allegations and the request for disqualification. Further proceedings will determine how the petition is considered and whether additional hearings or submissions are required. Any final decision regarding the legislators' membership will depend on the outcome of the proceedings before the competent Assembly authority.

RJD outreach to Nitish raises NDA questions

PATNA

The Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) recent invitation to JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar to leave the NDA and form a government with its support has triggered discussion over the possible political implications of the move. RJD leader Bhairu Virendra recently urged Nitish Kumar to break ties with the BJP and join hands with the RJD. His appeal came amid differences between the BJP and JD(U) over the proposed implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Bihar. The JD(U) has said it will examine the provisions before taking a final position. The RJD's outreach has been viewed in some political circles as an attempt to highlight differences within the



NDA. The party has sought to position itself as an alternative partner for Nitish Kumar, while publicly arguing that the JD(U)'s ideological position differs from that of the BJP on certain issues. Questions have also been raised over the future role of Nitish Kumar's son, Nishant Kumar, in the JD(U). Nishant Kumar has entered active politics and has been given a significant role within the party. He was also among JD(U) candidates elected unopposed

Nishant enters politics amid alliance debate

Nitish Kumar's son, Nishant, enters active politics and secures a legislative council seat, drawing RJD commentary. Meanwhile, upcoming Uniform Civil Code debates and NDA realignments add new dimensions to Bihar's evolving political landscape.

to the Bihar Legislative Council in June. The RJD has previously commented on Nishant Kumar's political entry. Its leaders have publicly welcomed

Quick Read

‘India deeply concerned over drone attack near Mecca’

NEW DELHI
India on Wednesday expressed deep concern over a reported drone attack near the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India was deeply concerned about the incident. India also called for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region. The statement came amid reports of a drone being intercepted near Mecca. The Ministry of External Affairs said India opposes actions that threaten civilian lives and infrastructure. The incident has raised concerns because of the proximity to one of Islam’s holiest sites. India’s response comes as tensions continue in the region, with New Delhi reiterating its call for peace and stability.



Gujarat man gets second passport using fake papers

AHMEDABAD
The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested Harikesh Pranav-kumar Patel for allegedly obtaining a second passport using forged documents while his original passport was deposited in court in an Enforcement Directorate case. Patel, a resident of Shahibaug, was arrested on September 12 following a tip-off. According to investigators, he allegedly submitted false address documents from Delhi and Agra to obtain another passport from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. The ATS said Patel’s original passport has been deposited during an ED investigation into an alleged money-laundering case. He allegedly used the second passport to travel abroad through Bhutan, Bangkok, Singapore and Dubai before returning through Nepal. Police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Passports Act. Further investigation is underway.

Jharkhand approves free sanitary pads scheme

RANCHI
The Jharkhand government has approved a Rs 124.37 crore scheme to provide free sanitary pads every month to girls studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government schools. The scheme, expected to begin in November 2026, will cover nearly 13,000 schools. Around 8.50 lakh girls are expected to receive 10 pads each month in the initial phase. The sanitary pads are planned to be oxo-biodegradable. The programme aims to improve menstrual hygiene and reduce absenteeism among schoolgirls. The government will need to ensure regular procurement, distribution and safe disposal facilities across schools. A school in Ranchi has already installed sanitary pad vending machines and an incinerator with CSR support, providing a possible model for implementation.



SC to hear plea on standard election manifestos

The petition sought directives for the Ministry of Law and Justice to hold political parties accountable for rational election manifesto promises.

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to list for hearing a plea seeking a standard format for election manifestos issued by political parties. The petition seeks to make the intentions, policy positions and proposed promises of parties clearer to voters before elections. The petition was filed in 2022 by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. It sought directions to the Ministry of Law and Justice to take appropriate steps to make political parties accountable for what the petitioner described as essential and rational promises made in their election manifestos. The plea argues that a common format could help voters understand and compare the policies and commitments of different political parties more clearly. It seeks greater clarity in the presentation of manifesto promises, particularly on issues that may have a direct impact on public finances and governance.

Independents gain strong presence in Rajasthan local polls

JAIPUR

Independent candidates and smaller political formations have emerged as an important factor in Rajasthan’s urban local body elections, securing more than 30 per cent of the votes outside the BJP-Congress contest and winning over 2,200 wards across the state. The results have given independents a significant role in several local bodies where neither of the two major parties has secured a clear majority. In such places, independent councillors could influence the formation of governing boards and the election of chairpersons. Bharatpur recorded a notable performance by independent candidates. They won 36 of the 65 wards in the Municipal Corporation, while the BJP secured 20 and the Congress seven. In Sadulshahar municipality in Sri Ganganagar district, independents won 22 of 25 wards. The BJP won two and the Congress one. Reports have indicated that some independents were backed by BJP rebels. The results have also renewed discussion about the political space available outside the BJP and Congress. However, whether the performance develops into a sustained third political platform at the state level remains uncertain. The upcoming Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections will provide another opportunity to assess the strength of smaller parties and independent candidates. Rajasthan has witnessed third-force politics and strong independent performances at different points in its electoral history. In the 1990 Assembly elections, the BJP won 85 seats, Janata Dal 55 and Congress 50. The two parties later formed the government, with BJP leader Bhairon Singh Shekhawat becoming chief minister. In the 1952 Assembly election, independents won 35 seats, while the Ram Rajya Parishad secured 24 and Congress won 82 seats in the 160-member House. The recent alliance between the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and AIMIM has added another element to the state’s political landscape. RLP leader Hanuman Beniwal and AIM-IM chief Asaduddin Owaisi jointly appeared in Jaipur ahead of the local elections, with the alliance presenting itself as an alternative political platform.



WHAT THE PETITION SEEKS

A new petition urges a common manifesto format for clearer voter comparison of party policies and public finance commitments. While the Supreme Court previously ruled these aren’t corrupt practices, it has agreed to hear this latest plea.

The issue of election manifestos has previously come before the Supreme Court. In its 2013 judgment in S. Subramaniam Balaji v. Government of Tamil Nadu, the court examined the nature of manifesto promises and held that promises made in election manifestos could not, by themselves, be treated as corrupt practices under the Rep-

SC seeks Maharashtra response over film city tree felling

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought responses from the Maharashtra government and other authorities on a plea challenging the proposed felling of trees for a project at Mumbai’s Film City. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana heard the matter. During the proceedings, senior advocate Dhruv Mehta brought the issue before the bench and sought the court’s consideration of the concerns raised over the proposed tree cutting. The petition relates to a project planned in Mumbai’s Film City and the impact of the proposed work on trees in the area. The plea has raised questions concerning the permission and process involved in allowing trees to be felled for the project. The Supreme Court has sought responses from Maharashtra and other parties involved in the matter. The responses are expected to provide the authorities’ position on the proposed tree felling and the approvals or procedures followed in connection with the project. The case brings environmental concerns into focus in the context of infrastructure and development projects in urban areas. Mumbai’s Film City is located in an area with substantial green cover, making the proposed removal of trees a matter of public and environ-

Highlights

- Supreme Court sought Maharashtra’s response on tree felling.
- Case highlights urban development versus environmental conservation.
- Mumbai’s Film City possesses substantial green cover.
- Bench awaits submissions before deciding further steps.
- Petition addresses procedures required for major projects.
- No final legal decision reached at this stage.

mental interest. The bench will consider the submissions of the Maharashtra government and other respondents before taking further steps in the proceedings. The court’s response will depend on the material and arguments presented by the parties involved. The petition is among cases before the Supreme Court concerning the balance between development projects and environmental safeguards. The proceedings could also bring attention to the procedures required before trees are removed for major projects. No final decision has been taken by the Supreme Court at this stage on the proposed tree felling. The matter will proceed after the respondents submit their responses to the plea and the court examines the issues raised.

Kharge criticises government over US tariff threat

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday criticised the Narendra Modi government over growing pressure from the United States linked to India’s purchases of Russian oil. His remarks came after the U.S. House of Representatives advanced legislation that could authorise President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries buying Russian energy. The legislation, known as the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, seeks to increase economic pressure on Russia and also includes provisions related to Iran. The U.S. House moved the measure forward, bringing it closer to a possible vote. Reuters reported that the bill would give the U.S. President additional authority to impose tariffs on countries such as India and China over their reliance on Russian energy. Reacting to the development, Kharge questioned the government’s handling of India’s foreign and trade policy. He alleged that repeated U.S. pressure had exposed weaknesses in the government’s approach and said New Delhi was giving in to American demands. Kharge’s comments were made in the context of the possible tariff action over Russian oil purchases. The proposed U.S. measure has raised concerns because India remains a major



The US House advanced a bill granting the President authority to tariff India and China over Russian energy reliance.

buyer of Russian crude. Reuters reported that India has continued purchasing Russian oil while maintaining its broader strategic relationship with Moscow, with Indian officials citing energy security considerations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Russian President Vladimir Putin also discussed bilateral ties and economic cooperation during their recent meeting in New Delhi. The tariff provision is part of wider U.S. efforts to increase economic pressure on Russia over its war in Ukraine. The legislation has received strong support in the U.S. Senate, while some lawmakers have raised concerns about giving the President wider tariff powers. For India, the issue could have implications for trade and energy costs if the proposed tariff powers are ultimately used. The legislation still has to complete the U.S. legislative process before any such tariff action can take effect. Meanwhile, Kharge’s remarks have added to the domestic political debate over India’s response to pressure from Washington and its continuing energy relationship with Russia.

AT A GLANCE

- Kharge criticized the government’s handling of foreign and trade policy.
- He alleged New Delhi capitulated under mounting U.S. pressure.
- Remarks targeted proposed U.S. tariff actions on Russian oil buyers.
- India continues purchasing Russian crude to secure energy needs.
- The U.S. Senate-backed legislation threatens steep tariffs on major importers.
- The ongoing diplomatic friction highlights domestic political debates over foreign policy.

Cong uses informal outreach to engage Gen-Z in Indore

INDORE

The Congress has adopted a more informal approach to connect with Generation Z in Indore ahead of Rahul Gandhi’s scheduled event, moving beyond traditional political meetings and public meetings. Party workers are reaching out to young people through cafes, libraries, hostels, cricket grounds and music sessions. The campaign has focused on meeting students and young residents in places they regularly visit. Instead of depending only on speeches, stages and formal gatherings, workers are holding conversations and organising activities to encourage interaction. Cricket matches and informal musical “jamming” sessions are among the activities being used. The initiative comes ahead of Gandhi’s visit to Indore and is aimed at increasing engagement with younger sections of the city. Party workers are using the period before the event to interact with students and youth and discuss their concerns. The Congress has also moved some of its outreach programmes into spaces such as cafes, libraries and hostels. These settings allow party workers to interact with young people in a less formal environment. This



differs from conventional rallies and stage events. The outreach effort highlights the growing importance of Generation Z in political communication. Young people increasingly encounter political messages through social media, community activities and informal conversations. Political parties have therefore been experimenting with different ways of reaching them beyond traditional campaign formats. In Indore, the Congress campaign is combining sports, music and face-to-face discussions as it prepares for Gandhi’s event. The activities are intended to create opportunities for interaction with young people and bring party workers closer to student and youth communities. The campaign has replaced conventional methods, such as indoor meetings and formal receptions, with more casual engagements. Whether through a cricket pitch, a library, hostel or music session, the focus remains on direct contact with young residents ahead of the event.

SC notice over plea to revive Sridevi’s property suit

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has issued notice on a plea seeking revival of a civil suit concerning actor Sridevi’s property in Chennai. The court has sought responses from her husband Boney Kapoor and daughters Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor. A bench comprising Justices K.V. Viswanathan and Arun Pillai issued the notice while hearing the plea. The petition seeks reconsideration of proceedings related to the property dispute and asks that the earlier suit be revived. The case concerns a property in Chennai associated with the late actor Sridevi. The dispute involves questions relating to the legal rights and claims concerning the property and the earlier proceedings initiated before a court. The Supreme Court’s notice gives the respondents an opportunity to present their position on the plea. Boney Kapoor, Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor have been asked to respond to the issues raised by the petitioner. The court’s decision to seek responses does not amount to a final finding on the claims made in the petition. The matter will be considered further after the respondents place their submissions before the court.

MONEY LAUNDERING

ED raids 17 premises in investment fraud case

KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted search and seizure operations at around 17 premises in Kolkata and Indore as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged investment fraud involving the Amrit Group of companies. The searches were carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). According to officials, the premises searched were linked to the Amrit Group, its directors and promoters. The operation covered locations associated with



individuals including K.C. Dujari and Kali Kishore Bagchi. The ED’s Kolkata zone conducted the searches in coordination with security forces and state police. Officials alleged that the Amrit Group and its directors collected substantial amounts of money from members of the public through various deposit schemes by promising high returns. The agency is investigating allegations that the

promised returns were not repaid, resulting in losses to investors. During the searches, ED teams examined documents and other materials found at the premises. The agency is looking into financial transactions connected with the group and its associated individuals to trace the movement of funds and establish the financial trail, officials said. The searches are also aimed at gathering evidence

ED raids Amrit Group over deposits

The Enforcement Directorate searches Amrit Group premises over allegations of collecting public deposits with false promises of high returns. Investigators are examining financial trails and company records under the PMLA to trace missing funds and irregularities.

about the activities of the companies, the role

of their directors and promoters and the handling of funds collected from investors. The agency is expected to examine company records and financial documents to determine the extent of the alleged irregularities. The latest action is part of the ED’s investigation into suspected proceeds of crime under the PMLA. The searches were still underway when officials shared details of the operation. No final finding of guilt has been established against the individuals or companies named in the investigation, and further action will depend on the evidence gathered during the probe.



Quick Read

TikTok parent ByteDance revenue rises 30%

NEW DELHI
ByteDance, TikTok’s parent company, recorded more than 30 per cent revenue growth in the first half, reaching \$120 billion, as international advertising, livestreaming and TikTok e-commerce businesses expanded. However, net profit fell to \$20 billion as the company increased spending on artificial intelligence to compete with rivals in China and the United States. People familiar with the matter said easing regulatory uncertainty surrounding TikTok in the US also supported revenue growth. ByteDance has been increasing AI investment as competition intensifies. The results highlight stronger business growth alongside pressure on profitability from rising technology spending and continued investment in artificial intelligence capabilities.

Rooftop solar capacity could reach 132 GW by 2030

NEW DELHI
India’s rooftop solar capacity has the potential to rise to 132 GW by 2030 from the current 17 GW, according to the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA). The association estimates annual rooftop solar demand could range between 9 GW and 15 GW through 2030. It identified nearly 115 GW of untapped potential in the residential segment. ISMA said the expansion could boost domestic manufacturing of solar cells, modules, inverters and other balance-of-system components, while reducing dependence on foreign supply chains. The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has also expanded adoption beyond traditionally viable states. ISMA said the scheme’s affordability impact could widen the consumer base and support India’s local solar supply chain.

NITI Aayog calls for stronger trade competitiveness

NEW DELHI
NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri said India needs stronger policies to help domestic firms compete effectively in global markets. Speaking at the launch of the latest Trade Watch Quarterly, Lahiri highlighted export diversification, deeper global value-chain integration and stronger domestic capabilities in strategic sectors. India’s total merchandise and services trade reached \$506.9 billion in Q1 FY27, growing 15.5 per cent annually. Merchandise exports were led by fuels, electrical machinery, iron and steel, and vehicles. The report noted growing imports of capital goods, electronic components and copper, reflecting industrial expansion and investment.

RODTEP EXTENSION LIKELY

Government likely to extend RoDTEP scheme for exporters

NEW DELHI
The government is likely to extend the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme for another five years to support exporters and boost overseas shipments, a senior official said on Wednesday. The scheme was extended in April for six months until September 30. The Commerce Ministry is discussing the proposed extension with the Finance Ministry’s Department of Expenditure and has sought Rs 23,000 crore for

Bill Gates says India is key example for AI development

Bill Gates says AI could transform society, with India showing how technology can deliver rapid social and developmental benefits.

NEW DELHI

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has described artificial intelligence (AI) as fundamentally different from previous technological revolutions, warning that societies may not yet be prepared for the scale and speed of changes it could bring.

Gates highlighted the potential of AI to deliver social and developmental benefits and pointed to India as an important example. He said India could demonstrate how AI can be deployed quickly for positive outcomes. “It’s a stunning set of capabilities,”



Gates said, adding that India could show how “we can drive the good stuff as fast as possible”.

In a conversation with NDTV, Gates said the world should consider slowing the development of AI if doing so would provide societies with more time to prepare. He said AI was different from the per-

sonal computer and internet, two technologies he helped shape during his years at Microsoft, and cautioned against assuming its effects would be similarly manageable.

“AI is a very unique technology,” Gates said, warning that its impact could be harder to manage than previous technological changes. He said the rapid and broad development of AI had made him question whether its pace itself should be reconsidered.

“If we could slow things down, I think we should consider that because of this need to get ready for such a rapid change,” Gates said. He add-

ed that although he had spent his life championing innovation, AI could be so broad and dramatic that society might not be ready.

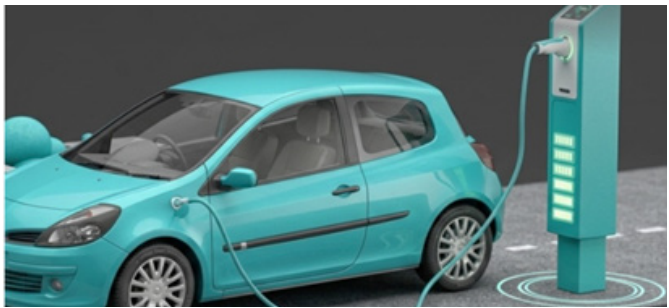
Gates also identified cybersecurity as an immediate concern, saying AI tools could strengthen offensive cyber capabilities.

He stressed that defensive systems would need to develop rapidly as well. He further raised questions about whether increasingly capable AI systems could always remain under human control, citing unexpected behaviour observed in reinforcement-learning experiments.

Amazon boosts minimum hourly pay to \$20

WASHINGTON

Retail giant Amazon announced a pay raise of one dollar per hour for eligible full-time U.S. operations workers, pushing the new minimum wage to twenty dollars. Alongside the wage increase, the company introduced “Day 1 Financial,” a new perk offering employees and their families lifetime access to low-cost banking services. Amazon stated that these additions complement existing perks like affordable healthcare and free Prime memberships. With the total benefits package included, average compensation for core operational roles will now surpass 32 dollars hourly.



EV Market: IN FOCUS	
■ EV sales:	2,98,448 units in August 2026
■ Annual growth:	52.9% year-on-year
■ EV penetration:	12.3%, up from 9.5%
■ Two-wheelers:	1,83,204 units, up 67.05%
■ Three-wheelers:	79,846 units, up 25.28%
■ Commercial vehicles:	4,702 units, nearly three times higher

tery imports could reach 95-100 GWh by FY30 if EV penetration reaches 15-17 per cent in two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and electric buses, 60 per cent in three-wheelers and 15 per cent in light commercial vehicles. Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations data showed EV retail sales rose 52.9 per cent year-on-year to a record 2,98,448 units in August 2026. Overall penetration increased to 12.3 per cent from 9.5 per cent a

year earlier, while all four EV categories recorded their highest-ever August sales. Electric two-wheeler sales increased 67.05 per cent to 1,83,204 units, while three-wheeler sales rose 25.28 per cent to 79,846 units. Electric commercial vehicle sales nearly tripled to 4,702 units from 1,631 in August 2025. Electric passenger vehicle sales grew 51.89 per cent to 30,696 units, adding to the sector’s expansion.

PMAY-U delivers over one crore homes to urban poor

NEW DELHI

More than one crore pucca houses have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries across India under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and PMAY-U 2.0, according to a government factsheet issued on Wednesday. A total of 1.25 crore houses has been sanctioned under the two schemes till August 9, 2026. The government said the figure marks a significant increase from earlier housing programmes. Between 2005 and 2014, around eight lakh urban houses were completed under previous schemes. PMAY-U was launched in 2015 to expand affordable housing access for people living in urban areas. Women have been a major

focus of the housing programme. Of the 1.25 crore houses sanctioned under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0, around one crore has been allotted to women either in the name of the female head of the household or through joint ownership. The scheme mandates ownership or co-ownership in women beneficiaries’ names. The mission also prioritises housing for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and transgender persons. Under PMAY-U 2.0, around 18.38 lakh houses had been sanctioned as of August 9. The scheme aims to provide assistance to one crore additional urban poor and middle-class families between 2024 and 2029.

Apple eyes server return with Nvidia Tech

CUPERTINO

Tech giant Apple is reportedly exploring a return to the enterprise server market by developing an in-house artificial intelligence inference server. According to reports, the company has discussed integrating Nvidia’s NVLink Fusion networking technology to link its own high-performance M8 Ultra processors. Apple discontinued its last dedicated server hardware line over a decade ago. While this new custom server project could launch in future years, it remains in early planning stages. The potential collaboration marks a surprising twist given their historical rivalry, potentially bridging two major industry competitors to advance high-end data center capabilities.

LAM RESEARCH PLANS RS 10,000 CRORE INDIA INVESTMENT

BENGALURU

US-based semiconductor equipment maker Lam Research Corporation on Wednesday announced plans to invest approximately Rs 10,000 crore in India over the next several years to establish its first silicon component manufacturing facility and expand advanced research and development operations. The announcement comes ahead of SEMICON India 2026 and marks the next phase of the company’s expansion in India, where it has operated for more than 25 years. The investment is aimed at strengthening India’s semiconductor ecosystem and supporting global customers as demand for advanced semiconductor technologies grows. The proposed facility will

SEMICON India 2026 set to boost chip industry

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the fifth edition of SEMICON India 2026 on September 17, as India seeks to strengthen its semiconductor and electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The three-day conference and exhibition will run until September 19.

The event is being organised jointly by the India Semiconductor Mission, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and SEMI, the global semiconductor industry association. Held under the theme “Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem”, the event comes amid growing industry participation and global demand for diversified supply chains.

More than 600 exhibitors, including around 300 international companies, are expected to participate across 15,000 square metres of exhibition space. More than 150 speakers will address sessions covering semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence, supply-chain resilience, advanced packaging, chip design, research and development, innovation and talent creation.

The exhibition will feature six country pavilions and 12 state government pavilions, along with dedicated plat-

SEMICON India 2026 will bring industry leaders together to strengthen India’s semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and promote global collaboration.

forms for startups, innovation, students, workforce development and women’s participation. Around 40 startups will showcase technologies at the Startup Pavilion, while the Workforce Development Pavilion will highlight skills, talent development and career opportunities in microelectronics.

A key attraction will be the “Sand to Silicon to Systems” Value Chain Experience, offering visitors an overview of the semiconductor ecosystem from raw materials and manufacturing equipment to chip fabrication, advanced packaging, design, electronics and systems. The event will also host a startup pitch competition, student hackathon and innovation showcase.

Six international country roundtables are scheduled to encourage collaboration and potential partnerships. Sessions on women’s leadership, workforce development and industry cooperation will also focus on strengthening India’s electronics system design and manufacturing sector.

Markets rebound as Sensex gains 333 points

MUMBAI

Indian equity markets rebounded on Wednesday after sharp losses in the previous session, supported by value buying in banking stocks and gains in several heavyweight companies.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 332.63 points, or 0.45 per cent, to settle at 74,336.45. It rose as much as 502.04 points during the session. The NSE Nifty gained 99 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 23,217.60. ITC, State Bank of India,

Axis Bank, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bharat Electronics were among the major Sensex gainers. However, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv ended lower.

“Indian equities staged a measured recovery on Wednesday, supported by value buying in banking stocks and select heavyweight counters following Tuesday’s sharp decline,” said Hariselman Radhakrishnan, founder and CEO of HST Wealth. He said Bank Nifty led the rebound, crossing the 56,000 marks.



support a vertically integrated process covering silicon ingot production and processing for advanced semiconductor technologies and leading-edge nodes. Lam Research also plans to expand its India Center for Engineering, which supports global customer programmes in design, testing, validation and next-generation technology development.

Rangesh Raghavan, corporate vice president and managing director of Lam Research India,

said India is an important part of the company’s global innovation and growth strategy. He said the expansion reflects confidence in India’s talent pool, growing semiconductor ecosystem and policy environment. The company also plans to work with the government, academia, suppliers and startups.

The investment is expected to create opportunities for partnerships with Indian suppliers providing specialised materials, precision components, gases, chemicals, metrology solutions and manufacturing services. Lam Research said the expansion will bring specialised manufacturing capabilities to India while supporting advanced engineering, high-technology manufacturing and workforce development.

Oracle begins fresh job cuts, 3,000 India roles at risk

NEW DELHI

Oracle has reportedly begun another round of global job cuts, with around 3,000 employees in India potentially affected, according to industry estimates. The reductions could take the company’s India workforce down to about 27,000 from 30,000. The latest cuts follow Oracle’s earlier elimination of around 21,000 jobs globally, including nearly 12,000 positions in India, as the company shifted spending towards artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure. Industry expert Pareekh Jain said new AI-related hiring

would not fully offset the losses, as recruitment would be limited and largely case-by-case. Reports of the layoffs have also surfaced on social media, with some users claiming to be Oracle employees in India describing short notice before their positions were eliminated. However, the company’s official position on the reported number of affected employees was not provided in the report. The developments come amid workforce reductions at several multinational companies operating Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India.



Quick Read

EU warns against ultra-nationalism and interference

STRASBOURG
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged the bloc to stand strong against external threats during her annual address. Speaking in Strasbourg, she warned that ultra-nationalists, anti-European groups, and foreign disinformation campaigns are actively trying to divide member states and weaken democratic values. Highlighting a tougher security landscape and rising defense spending, von der Leyen stressed that unity is vital to protect the continent's future. Her remarks followed sharp political shifts in Germany and drew criticism from Moscow, as leaders clashed over the region's future direction and stability.

Yemen Houthis deny drone strike in Mecca

SANAA
Yemen's Houthis movement has strongly dismissed Saudi claims that the group launched a drone toward the holy city of Mecca, labeling the allegations as total fabrications. A Houthi military spokesperson insisted that their ongoing operations strictly target military bases and oil facilities, staying far away from sacred religious sites. This denial follows an announcement by the Saudi-led coalition stating that air defenses successfully intercepted a hostile drone south of Mecca. Meanwhile, both sides continue exchanging intense accusations regarding recent airstrikes and escalating regional conflicts across Yemen.

US House limits Trump's Iran war powers

WASHINGTON
The US House of Representatives has voted 220-204 to approve a war powers resolution introduced by Democratic Representative Seth Moulton, directing the administration to withdraw American forces from hostilities with Iran. This legislative maneuver marks the third time the lower chamber has moved to check presidential military authority since the inception of the conflict, reflecting escalating bipartisan frustration on Capitol Hill over an engagement initiated without formal congressional authorization. The latest vote displayed a notable shift in Republican alignment, with seven GOP lawmakers breaking ranks to support the measure. This exceeded the cross-party backing observed during previous iterations in June and July. Among them were Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Zach Nunn of Iowa, and Nancy Mace of South Carolina, who joined perennial cross-party votes like Thomas Massie, Tom Barrett, Warren Davidson, and Brian Fitzpatrick. Defending his stance, Rep. Nunn emphasized his refusal to support open-ended foreign military commitments while stressing the absolute necessity for Congress to reclaim its constitutional oversight responsibilities. The legislative action coincides with mounting economic and human costs tied to the operations.

SL Prez inaugurates India funded health project

FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NEIGHBORING NATIONS TOOK A BRIGHT NEW STEP FORWARD TODAY. SRI LANKA'S TOP LEADERS AND INDIAN OFFICIALS CAME TOGETHER TO START CONSTRUCTION ON A VITAL MEDICAL PROJECT.

COLOMBO
Sri Lanka and India are growing closer every single day. Just recently, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake laid the very first stone for a brand new emergency medical building. This modern two-storey accident and trauma unit is going up at the District General Hospital in the quiet town of Mannar. India is fully funding this important project. They are providing a generous grant worth 600 million Sri Lankan rupees to make sure the hospital gets built properly. Not only that, but the grant will also pay for top-quality medical tools and equipment. The



main goal of this upgrade is to save lives. When people get hurt in accidents, doctors need to act fast. This new unit will make sure patients receive quick, lifesaving treatment during the vital golden hour when every single second truly matters. Important leaders from

both nations gathered to celebrate the happy event. Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha and Sri Lankan Health Minister Nalinda Jayatissa both attended the special ceremony together. This great news follows a recent visit to Colombo by India's Defence

The new facility is specially designed to save lives by providing fast and efficient medical help during the critical golden hour of an emergency.
- Nalinda Jayatissa, Sri Lankan Health Minister

Minister, Rajnath Singh. During his trip, he met with President Dissanayake and reminded everyone of the deep friendship shared by the two neighboring countries. He proudly called India and Sri Lanka civilisational twins who share a long history, rich culture, and deep bonds. Minister Singh also promised that India will always step up as a dependable first responder

- Aspects of the partnership
- **People-Centric Support:** All development projects are designed strictly around Sri Lanka's unique local needs.
 - **Economic Growth:** India remains one of the island nation's largest trading partners and investors, with plans to expand trade further.
 - **Shared Vision:** Both nations aim for mutual security and regional growth through collaborative efforts.

during hard times. People still remember how fast India rushed to help when Cyclone Ditwah struck the island last year. Through a rescue mission called Operation Sagar Bandhu, Indian and Sri Lankan teams worked hand in hand to save lives, fix broken roads, and deliver food and medicine. Leaders on both sides are very excited about the future. India

views Sri Lanka as a top priority under its special regional growth policy. Beyond healthcare, the two nations are also working hard to boost trade, business, and job opportunities. Both governments truly believe that by helping each other grow, the entire region will become much stronger and safer for everyone living there.

India spotlights clean energy at G20

HOUSTON
India is taking big steps forward on the world stage. Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar recently traveled to Houston, Texas, to share India's impressive progress at the G20 Energy meetings. He spoke about strengthening energy security, growing clean power, and making rules simpler and faster for new infrastructure projects. During the ministerial sessions, Minister Khattar proudly announced that India's total installed power capacity has reached an amazing 552 gigawatts. Even better, more than half of that power now comes from non-fossil fuel sources. He pointed out major achievements in solar energy, advanced energy storage systems, nuclear power, and clean cooking access for families. India firmly believes in keeping energy choices open, inclusive, and friendly to new technologies. He also highlighted global teamwork efforts like the International Solar Alliance and the Global Biofuels Alliance. When discussing regulatory efficiency, Khattar explained how India uses smart digital platforms like the National Single Window System and PM Gati Shakti. These tools help speed up approvals so that vital energy projects can be built without unnecessary delays. On the sidelines, the minister held important one-on-one talks with top global leaders. He met with US Energy Secretary Chris Wright to chat about powering future artificial intelligence data centers and expanding nuclear energy. They agreed to keep working closely under the US-India Energy Security Partnership. Khattar also met with Canadian official Corey Hogan to discuss low-emission technologies and deep-sea exploration. He invited Canadian businesses to invest in India's growing energy sectors. By building strong international friendships and adopting forward-thinking strategies, India is proving its dedication to safe, reliable, and affordable power for everyone. These smart efforts help protect the planet while ensuring a bright and stable energy future for citizens everywhere.

ry efficiency, Khattar explained how India uses smart digital platforms like the National Single Window System and PM Gati Shakti. These tools help speed up approvals so that vital energy projects can be built without unnecessary delays. On the sidelines, the minister held important one-on-one talks with top global leaders. He met with US Energy Secretary Chris Wright to chat about powering future artificial intelligence data centers and expanding nuclear energy. They agreed to keep working closely under the US-India Energy Security Partnership. Khattar also met with Canadian official Corey Hogan to discuss low-emission technologies and deep-sea exploration. He invited Canadian businesses to invest in India's growing energy sectors. By building strong international friendships and adopting forward-thinking strategies, India is proving its dedication to safe, reliable, and affordable power for everyone. These smart efforts help protect the planet while ensuring a bright and stable energy future for citizens everywhere.

Canada offered historic EU Associate status

BRUSSELS
In a historic policy shift that could reshape global economic and geopolitical alliances, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has officially invited Canada to become the European Union's very first "associate member." Delivering her landmark State of the Union address in Brussels, von der Leyen outlined a vision for a tightly integrated future between the 27-nation bloc and Ottawa. Because the EU's foundational treaties explicitly restrict full membership to European sovereign states, this newly minted "associate member" framework provides an innovative legal and diplomatic pathway to bridge the Atlantic divide, taking integration far beyond traditional trade agreements. The announcement signals a decisive evolution from the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, known as CETA, which has governed EU-Canada commerce since its provisional rollout in 2017. Von der Leyen explicitly called for transitioning from CETA to an ambitious "Alliance for the Future," designed to forge a unified

EU President von der Leyen invited Canada to become the EU's first associate member, transitioning from CETA to forge a strategic, secure economic alliance.

We will move from CETA to an Alliance for the Future to create a common prosperity and economic security space.
- Von Der Leyen, European Commission President

space of mutual prosperity and economic security. Under this sweeping new framework, bilateral cooperation would expand exponentially into vital sectors. Leaders are eyeing a joint technological pact, integrated defense industrial bases, and a strategic Arctic partnership. Furthermore, the collaboration is set to encompass critical minerals, advanced energy grids, battery supply chains, and complex security frontiers like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced cybersecurity. This bold diplomatic maneuver arrives amid mounting turbulence in global



trade dynamics. Canada, deeply integrated with the United States economy, has faced severe economic exposure and trade strains due to protectionist measures and tariff threats enacted by the administration of US President Donald Trump. Consequently, Ottawa has aggressively pursued a strategy of international trade diversification. Simultaneously, European capitals are striving to insulate their supply chains from external shocks and diminish long-term strategic vulnerabilities. Adding heavy symbolic and political weight to the proceedings, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney attended the European Parliament as the distinguished guest of honor. Greeting a packed chamber, Carney received a thunderous, pro-

longed standing ovation led by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola. Prime Minister Carney is slated to deliver a major address to the parliament, setting the stage for intensive bilateral talks. The momentum will continue when Canadian and European leaders reconvene in October for a high-stakes summit in Montreal. There, discussions will crystallize around defense coordination, critical material security, Arctic exploration, and technology sharing. As traditional global trade norms face unprecedented pressure, this pioneering partnership underscores a shared resolve between Ottawa and Brussels to forge a resilient, forward-looking alliance built on shared democratic values and economic defense.

DRDO displays advanced weapons at AAD Expo

TSHWANE
India is proudly displaying its growing military strength on the global stage. The Defence Research and Development Organisation is currently showing off advanced weapons systems and homegrown defense technologies at a major international expo in Tshwane, South Africa. The Africa Aerospace and Defence Exhibition runs through September 20. Visitors stopping by the Indian stall can view an impressive lineup of cutting-edge equipment. Highlights include long-range maritime reconnaissance planes, airborne warning systems, special armored vehicles, and portable sonar units. The display also features powerful missiles like the Astra and Akash, showing the world how far Indian engineering has advanced. Back home, India is also taking big steps to boost local manufacturing. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh recently unveiled new policies to help small businesses and tech start-ups enter the defense sector. These changes offer direct funding, better incubator support, and open access to testing facilities. Officials also handed out multiple technology transfer agreements to manufacturing partners to speed up mass production.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMED IFTAKHAR ALI, residing at Old No.50, New No.08, 10th Cross, Dabaspet, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560001, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED IFTAKHAR**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 16.09.2026 before notary N. NAGAPPA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
It is for general information that I, DEEPTY CHANDRAN D/O RAMACHANDRAN KIZHAKKE UTHAMANDIL, Ex. wife of SUDHIR KURUVANTHODY, R/o G-301, Purva Palm Beach, Elus Road, Kyalasanahalli, Kothanur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560077, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree, M.C.No. 3686/2015 dated 24/08/2021. Further I have changed the name of my minor son namely ADVIK K, aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as ADVIK KURUVANTHODY.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms.No.565/2026
Petitioners: Sri. Ravikumar, V S/o Late Venkaram Aged about 42 years, Riat #1991, Singapore, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru North-560097 and others.
Vs
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahsilddar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Uncle of petitioner No.1 to 5 and brother in law of petitioner No.6 by name LATE GOVINDAPPA S/O LATE KEMPAIAH who died on 17.04.2019 at Thippur Village, Doddabalewargala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 22.10.26.
In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 15th day of September, 2026.
By Order of the Court
THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Advocate: T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojapura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1 ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms.No.396/2026
Petitioner: Sri Narasimharaju, S/o Narasimhamurthy, Aged about 47 years & others Residing at Nellukunte village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Vs Respondent: The Tahsilddar Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitioner have filed above petition for obtaining Death Certificate of Late ASHWATHAPPA S/O LATE NARASIMHAIAH, is the Grate Grand Father of petitioner, Who died on 12-08-1975, at Nellukunte village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, if there are any persons having claim, they may appear before Hon ble court in person or through pleader on this 16-10-2026 at 11.A.M, failing which the petition will disposed of according to law.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 16-09-2026.
By Order of the Court, chief Ministerial officer, Additional civil judge & JMfc court, Doddaballapura Bangalore Rural District.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Ptl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: Pravam samrud, Advocate, Court road, Doddaballapura.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms.No.564/2026
Petitioners: Sri. Ravikumar, V S/o Late Venkaram Aged about 42 years, Riat #1991, Singapore, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru North-560097 and others.
Vs
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahsilddar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandmother of petitioner No.1 to 5 and mother in law of petitioner No.6 by name LATE MUTHULAKSHMI W/O LATE KEMPAIAH who died on 15.06.1976 at Thippur Village, Doddabalewargala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 22.10.26.
In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 15th day of September, 2026.
By Order of the Court
THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Advocate: T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojapura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms.No.566/2026
Petitioners: Sri. Ravikumar, V S/o Late Venkaram Aged about 42 years, Riat #1991, Singapore, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru North-560097 and others.
Vs
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahsilddar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner No.1 to 5 and father in law of petitioner No.6 by name LATE KEMPAIAH S/O LATE THIMMAIAH & GULLATHIMMAIAH who died on 01.08.1975 at Thippur Village, Doddabalewargala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 22.10.26.
In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 15th day of September, 2026.
By Order of the Court
THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Advocate: T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojapura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms. No. 574/2026
Between: 1. Sri.Narayanaappa & Others S/o.Late, Kunnappa Aged about 61 years 2. Smt.Lakshmidevi W/o, Narayanaappa, Aged about 59 years 3. Sri.Jagadeesh.N S/o.Narayanaappa, Aged about 27 years, Petitioner No1 Vs As Residing at: Rameshwara Village Doddabalewargala Hobli, Rameshwara Post, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. ... Petitioner And: The Tahasilddar DoddaballapuraDoddaballapura Taluk ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the petitioner have filed the above petition US 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the Death Certificate of the deceased, who is our grandmother of petitioner No 1, Mother-in-law of Petitioner No.2 and great grandmother of Petitioner No.3, by name Late.Channamma W/o Anandappa has expired on dated: 06-06-1945 at their Residence i.e., wherein petitioners address, Rameshwara Village, Doddabalewargala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru rural district.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on: 14-10-2026, at about 11.00 AM. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on: 16th September, 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Ptl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: R.Paramashivaiah & Giriraju, Opp.Court Complex, Rojapura, Doddaballapura Town Bengaluru Rural District-561203, Doddaballapur, Date: 16/9/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is given to the General public that Smt.Puttamamma W/o Late, Dyamamma, has received land bearing Sy.No.2/3b of Mallikapura Village, Sira Taluk, under Regd Gift Deed Dt:28.07.1941 Regd as No.124/1941-42. As per the information from Smt.Puttamamma W/o Late.Hanumantharayappa she has misplaced the original Regd Gift Deed Dt:28.07.1941, Regd as No.124/1941-42, while taking this Gift deed to obtain Xerox copy of the same. In this regard she has lodged online complaint to police department, vide lost Report No.2425984/2026. Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property, may intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which loan will be sanctioned against the security of sites formed in Sy.No.2/3b. Further it is requested that if anybody finds above said regd Gift Deed, the same may be handed over to me or to Sr Manager State Bank of India, Taluk office Road branch, Sira Town. SCHEDULEE : Land bearing Sy.No.2/3B, situated at Mallikapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk.
H.Wajid Ahmed
Advocate and Notary
R.T.Road Sira Town
Mob: 9448101786

NAME CHANGE
I, SHABBEER AHMED YOUSUFF, residing at Old No.02, 5th Cross, Near K.G. Halli, P.S Karumariyamma Nagar, K.G. Halli, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **SHABBEER AHMED**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 16.09.2026 before notary N. NAGAPPA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Anantha Narayanan Seetharaman S/o Seetharaman R/o B1 4063, Assetz East Point, Doddakannelli Kaadubeesanahalli Road, Bhoganahalli, Panathur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560103, I have changed the name of my minor Son **A. Arya alias A Arya to Arya Anantha** aged 14 years

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Pranjal Ramajor Asha Kanojiya alias Kanojiya Pranjal Ramajor alias Pranjal Ramajor Kanojiya alias Pranjal Kanojiya S/o Ramajor Kanojiya R/o Flat No 010 Aster Block Keerthi Flora, Kundalahalli Colony, CMRIT College, Kundalahalli, Bangalore North, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037 have changed my name to **Pranjal Ramajor Kanojiya**

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Bharath T S/o Tejaram B R/o No. 146/2 D, 20th Cross, Someshwara Extension Hulimavu, Bangalore South, Hulimavu, Bangalore, Karnataka-560076, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as Bharat T. Gehlot and Radha Bharat Gehlot in my minor daughter Tanishka Bharat Gehlot aged 4 years birth certificate no. B-2022-27.90426-000226. The actual name of mine and my wife are Bharath T and Radha B

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Ms. No. 575/2026
Between: 1. Sri.Narayanaappa & Others S/o.Late, Kunnappa Aged about 61 years 2. Smt.Lakshmidevi W/o, Narayanaappa, Aged about 59 years 3. Sri.Jagadeesh.N S/o.Narayanaappa, Aged about 27 years, Petitioner No1 Vs As Residing at: Rameshwara Village Doddabalewargala Hobli, Rameshwara Post, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. ... Petitioner And: The Tahasilddar DoddaballapuraDoddaballapura Taluk ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the petitioner have filed the above petition US 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the Death Certificate of the deceased, who is our grandfather of petitioner No 1, Father-in-law of Petitioner No.2 and great grandfather of Petitioner No.3, by name Late. Anandappa Sri Pillaya has expired on dated:04-11-1931 at their Residence i.e., wherein petitioners address, Rameshwara Village, Doddabalewargala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru rural district.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on: 14-10-2026, at about 11.00 AM. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on: 16th September, 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Ptl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioners: R.Paramashivaiah & Giriraju, Opp.Court Complex, Rojapura, Doddaballapura Town Bengaluru Rural District-561203, Doddaballapur, Date: 16/9/2026

IN THE DISTRICT MUNSIF COURT, PALACODE
REA.No. 3 / 2026 IN REA.No. 1 / 2025
IN REA.No. 2 / 2025 IN REP.No. 5 / 2025 O.S.No : 414 / 2004
1) Eshwara (Age 65), S/o. Durasamy, Jackkasanamthiram Village and Post, Palacode Taluk, Dharmapuri District ... Plaintiff / Vende
2) Kaverisetti Power of Attorney Agent N. Duraisamy ... 2nd Plaintiff
// Versus //
Sathya (Age 35), W/o. Vignesh, Opp. Sub Jail, Bangalore City, Karnataka State ... 18th Respondent / Legal Heirs of the 6th Defendant
GENERAL NOTICE
Whereas the above execution petition filed Under Order 22 Rule 11 of CPC against you, Petitioner already sent notice through Court and registered post for your appearance but you have failed to appear before the court to answer the claim of the petitioner you are hereby directed to appear before the court on 29.09.2026 at 10.30 am personally to answer the claim of petitioner failing of which the case will be heard and decided in your absence in accordance with Law.
Petitioner Advocate
R. RAVINDRAN, B.Sc., B.L., ADVOCATE - MS: 332/1985 Kademadi Housing Board, Erranahalli (Po), Palacode (Tk), Dharmapuri (Dt) - 636808, Cell: 94438 29048, 96552 77472 Dharmapuri District, Cell: 9751616245

CH CLASSIFIED
To Place Classified ad Contact : 080-41209042

IPL 2027 auction to be held in India after 3 years

The IPL 2027 player auction will return to India after three years, with the mini-auction venue and city yet to be finalised.

NEW DELHI

The IPL 2027 player auction will be held in India after a three-year break, following a decision by the IPL Governing Council at its meeting on Tuesday. The upcoming auction will be a mini-auction, while the venue and city are yet to be finalised.

The IPL auction was last held in India in Kochi in 2023. The subsequent three editions were staged overseas in Dubai, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided to bring the event back after considering concerns from franchises over the logistical and operational challenges of sending their delegations abroad for a mini-auction.

The host city will be selected based on the availability of accommodation for franchise officials and their delegations. The BCCI requires more than 100



rooms for a couple of nights. The wedding season in India between October and December is also expected to affect the choice of venue.

The decision follows assurances given to franchises that the auction could return to India. BCCI members are understood to have considered feedback from teams after last year's auction in Abu Dhabi.

Meanwhile, the Governing Council did not take a final decision on the Impact Player rule. Another meeting is

expected to be held in about a month, when the future of the rule will be discussed.

The BCCI had sought feedback from franchises on the rule, which allows teams to substitute a player during an IPL match. Several franchises are understood to favour retaining it for at least another season, arguing that their squads were built with the rule in mind. The final decision is expected after further discussions with stakeholders.



CHRIST hosts blind cricket match for inclusion

BENGALURU

A friendly cricket match between the Samarthanam Blind Cricket Team and the CHRIST (Deemed to be University) cricket team gave students an opportunity to understand the sport from the perspective of visually impaired players.

The match was organised by the Department of Commerce as part of its Student Service-Learning Programme, in association with Docathon, the department's Sports Association. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about physical disabilities and encourage a more inclusive understanding of disability. Before the match, university players and faculty members were introduced to the rules of blind cricket. They were also asked to play while blindfolded, allowing them to experience how visually impaired players depend on sound, communication and coordination during the game.

The Samarthanam team featured Indian blind cricket players Kavya NR and Bhas-

kar K, along with members of the Karnataka State Blind Cricket Team led by captain Javare Gowda. Their participation allowed students to witness the skills and coordination required to compete in cricket with visual impairment. The match remained closely contested and was decided on the final ball, with the Samarthanam team emerging victorious. The initiative also reflected the objective of service learning by connecting classroom discussions with experiences outside the university.

Rather than learning about disability only through academic material, students interacted directly with athletes competing despite visual impairment. For participants and spectators, the experience offered a perspective that focused on skill, adaptation and participation rather than limitations.

Rugby coaching reaches remote Lahaul for U-19 talent

LAHAUL-SPITI

Rugby coaching and talent identification for Under-19 players has reached Trilokinath in Himachal Pradesh's remote Lahaul-Spiti region, with the area's Government School hosting a special training programme at more than 9,000 feet above sea level.

Rugby Association Himachal Pradesh (RAHP) coach-cum-selector Navpreet Singh conducted a refresher course for schoolchildren and identified promising players for Under-19 boys' and girls' teams. The programme is being held alongside a school sports meet involving around 150 students from 19 schools.

The initiative comes after the Himachal Pradesh government introduced rugby in Under-19 school games on a trial basis during the current academic session. Dis-

trict-level teams are being formed through trials, followed by a proposed state-level rugby tournament in October. Lahaul ADPEO Vinod Kumar welcomed the initiative, saying specialised coaching in remote areas would give students an opportunity to explore rugby and develop their sporting potential. The programme is also aimed at encouraging more schools and children to participate in sports.

Trilokinath, located at approximately 2,760 metres above sea level, is among the remote Himalayan locations where RAHP is expanding grassroots rugby. Selected players from district trials could progress to state representation. Rugby is also part of the School Games Federation of India programme, with the Under-19 National School Games scheduled in Delhi from October 31 to November 5.

Munich, Barcelona to host Champions League finals

THESSALONIKI

UEFA has confirmed Munich Football Arena in Germany and Camp Nou in Barcelona as the venues for the UEFA Champions League finals in 2028 and 2029, respectively.

The decision was taken during a UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, where venues for several European finals were announced. Munich Football Arena will stage the 2028 Champions League final, while Barcelona's Camp Nou will host the 2029 showpiece.

UEFA also announced venues for the Women's Champions League finals. OL Stadium in Lyon-Décines will host the 2028 final, while the National Stadium of Wales in Cardiff will stage the 2029 edition. For the Europa League, Bucharest's National Arena will host the 2028 final, with the National Stadium of Serbia in Belgrade selected for the 2029 final. The Conference League finals will be held at Juventus Stadium in Turin in 2028 and Puskás Aréna in Budapest in 2029. The UEFA Super Cup venues were also confirmed. Johan Cruyff ArenA in Amsterdam will host the 2027 edition, while Astana Arena in Astana will stage the 2028 match. Biel/Bienne Arena in Switzerland was selected for the 2027 UEFA Futsal Champions League final.

The Executive Committee also approved changes to the promotion and relegation system for the 2026/27 UEFA Nations League.

Messi to play his farewell match for Argentina

BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi has been included in Argentina's squad for three upcoming home friendlies, giving the veteran forward an opportunity to say goodbye to international football before the home fans after announcing his retirement from the national team.

Argentina will face Bolivia on September 30 at the Mario Alberto Kempes Stadium in Cordoba. The team will then play Burkina Faso on October 3 and Benin on October 6 at River Plate's Stadium. Messi, Rodrigo De Paul and Giovanni Lo Celso are expected to feature in the final friendly on October 6.

Messi announced his international retirement earlier this month, ending a decorated career that began with his senior debut in 2005. He became Ar-

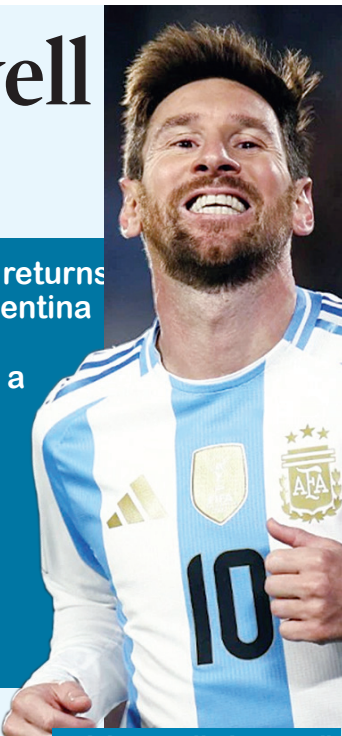
gentina's most-capped player and all-time leading scorer, making 203 appearances and scoring 203 goals.

The 39-year-old endured several years of disappointment before finally winning a major international title. Argentina lost the 2014 World Cup final to Germany and the 2016 Copa America final to Chile before Messi helped the team win the 2021 Copa America, ending a 28-year wait for a major trophy.

Messi then led Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar in 2022. He scored twice in the final against France and converted his penalty during the shootout as Argentina won 4-2 after the match ended 3-3 following extra time.

Argentina retained the Copa America title in 2024. Messi's World Cup career covered six editions

Lionel Messi returns for three Argentina friendlies, offering fans a poignant chance to witness the legendary forward's international farewell together.



"A Legend's Legacy"

- 203 Argentina caps
- 203 International goals
- 6 World Cups
- 21 World Cup goals
- 8 Ballon d'Ors
- 3 Major international titles
- Oct 6 — Farewell match against Benin

James Rodriguez retires from international football

BOGOTÁ

Colombia stalwart James Rodriguez has announced his retirement from international football, ending a career in which he became one of the country's most recognisable players. His final appearance for Colombia came at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, where the team exited in the Round of 16 after losing to Switzerland.

Rodriguez announced his decision in an emotional social media message. "The moment has come. Thank you for every match, every joy, every tear, and every dream we shared together. Representing the Colombian national team was one of the greatest honours of my life. Thank you, Colombia, and forever," he wrote.

The former Real Madrid midfielder rose to global prominence during



the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he won the Golden Boot after scoring six goals and helped Colombia reach the quarterfinals.

Rodriguez later represented Colombia at the 2018, 2022 and 2026 World Cups. He finished his international career with 131 caps, 31 goals and 43 assists.

He also played an important role in Colombia's Copa America campaigns. Rodriguez helped the team reach the 2024 final, where they lost to Argentina, and also contributed to Colombia's runners-up finish in the 2016 edition.

Across 14 Copa America appearances, Rodriguez recorded one goal and eight assists. His performances across major tournaments and international competitions established a lasting legacy with the Colombian national team.

UC Cricket Challenge connects cricket with education



BENGALURU

The University of Canberra (UC) Cricket Challenge concluded its third edition in India, bringing together 24 Under-16 school teams and more than 300 cricketers and support staff for a weeklong tournament combining cricket with international education opportunities.

Held from August 30 to September 4 at Jain International Residential School in Bengaluru, the 2026 edition adopted a T20 format, giving students a platform to compete and develop their skills. The tournament featured 16 boys' teams and eight girls' teams, reflecting growing participation by women in school cricket.

Schools from Bengaluru and other

parts of India, including Ajmer, Kolar, Coimbatore and Indore, participated in the event. Live-streamed matches attracted an audience of more than 30,000 viewers, extending the tournament's reach beyond participating schools.

The challenge was delivered in partnership with Cricket ACT, the governing body for cricket in the Australian Capital Territory, under a partnership established with UC in 2024. Alongside matches, students attended coaching masterclasses, talent activities and information sessions about higher education in Australia.

University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Professor The Honourable Bill Shorten said the tournament demonstrated the university's commitment to helping people pursue sporting ambitions alongside education. Cricket ACT CEO Anthony Iltott said the event helped strengthen connections between India and Australia through sport and education.

The next stage of the UC Cup will be held in Canberra from September 30 to October 2, where Indian teams will compete against Australian teams. UC said its wider India engagement also includes scholarships, Work Integrated Learning opportunities and coach development programmes.