



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



KARAVALI

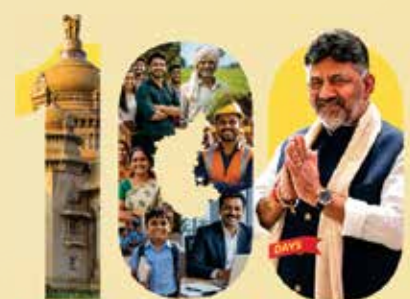
**A new wave of development
to the coastal Karnataka region**

State Cabinet Meeting

Date: 18 September 2026

Place: Deputy Commissioner Office,
Mangaluru

**With a clear focus on strengthening
infrastructure and accelerating
overall growth of the region**



**DRUDHA
KARNATAKADA
SANKALPA**
SHATHAKADA PATHA
PRAGATHIYA RATHA



"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen.
This is affirmed by our Constitution.

construction. The guidelines state that such waste should not be sent to landfills or openly burned.



Modi pushes long-term vision for India's chip mission

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Carney Backs Deeper Canada-EU Ties



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Dulquer's 'Aakasamlo Oka Tara' release date locked



79TH KALYANA KARNATAKA UTSAVA

CM rolls out anti-anaemia drive in KK

Drive targets pregnant women, adolescents and lactating mothers.

Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission and Bio Economy Mission to boost investment and farm incomes.

Kalaburagi gets IT park, 50,000 housing sites, flyover, lake park and heritage circuit.

KALABURAGI

The Karnataka government will launch a special two-year campaign to combat anaemia in the Kalyan Karnataka region, with a focus on screening, prevention and treatment, particularly among pregnant women, adolescents and lactating mothers, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced at the Kalyan Karnataka Utsav held in Kalaburagi on Thursday.

The campaign is among a slew of new measures announced by Shivakumar during the Kalyan Karnataka Liberation Day celebrations in Kalaburagi, covering healthcare, industry, agriculture, infrastructure, technology, tourism and sports.

The government will undertake screening, prevention and treatment programmes over the next two years to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in the region. Special attention will be given to pregnant women, adolescents and lactating mothers.

As part of its plans to accelerate industrial growth and investment, the government will establish the Kalyan Karnataka Economy Mission (KKEM) as a Section 8 company. The mission will seek to attract large-scale investments and create new economic opportunities in the region.

A Bio Economy Mission will also be established to increase farmers' incomes through processing and value addition of agricultural produce. The initiative will focus on major regional products, including tur dal, Kamalapur bananas, raisins and millets.

For Kalaburagi city, the government announced the construction of a flyover on the Sedam Road Ring Road to ease traffic movement. A new peripheral ring road is also being planned, with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) under preparation. A new lake and recreational park will be developed at a cost of Rs 30 crore as a major green and public leisure space for the city.

The government will develop 50,000 housing sites for site-less families in Kalaburagi district as part of its commitment to inclusive development.

Shivakumar also announced plans to develop an IT Park on 30 acres in Kalaburagi to



expand the growth of the IT and innovation sectors beyond Bengaluru. Alongside this, KRIYA — Kalaburagi Research, Innovation and Youth Accelerator — will be established to promote innovation, start-ups and young entrepreneurs.

An AI-based CCTV network will be installed in Kalaburagi city and taluk headquarters to strengthen public safety, crime prevention and traffic management. The network will also be used to monitor civic services, including waste management.

The government will develop a pilgrimage and heritage circuit connecting Kalaburagi Fort, Sharanabasaveshwara Temple, Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah, Buddha Vihara, Malkhed, Sannati and Ganagapur. Heritage sites at Malkhed, Nagavi, Kalagi and Sannati are also being redeveloped through Kalyan Karnataka Regional Development Board funds.

Ganagapur will be developed in the first phase at a cost of Rs 50 crore. A Vachana Mantapa will also be established in Kalaburagi to take the teachings of Basavanna and the vachana tradition to the younger generation.

The CM said the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium would be comprehensively redeveloped with modern

CM's assurances in a nutshell

DK Shivakumar launched development works worth ₹1,775.41 crore and unveiled a 10-point regional growth blueprint during the 79th Kalyana Karnataka Utsav in Kalaburagi.

Development package breakdown

Total outlay: ₹1,775.41 cr covering all seven districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Foundation stones: 557 new projects estimated at ₹1,071.56 crore.

Inaugurations: 244 completed projects executed at a cost of ₹703.85 crore.

Major regional initiatives (10-Point Blueprint)

Infrastructure & urban development: Plans for a ring road and flyovers in Kalaburagi, alongside CCTV camera networks at taluk and district centers.

Housing: Construction of 50,000 residential sites for poor families without homes.

Technology & economy: Setting up an IT park on 30 acres and establishing a Kalaburagi Research, Innovation and Youth Accelerator.

Tourism & heritage: New heritage circuits covering Bidar, Basavakalyan, Kalaburagi, Ballari, and Vijayanagara, alongside ₹50 crore earmarked for Ganagapur development and a Vachana Mantapa.

Grower support: Launch of a Bio-Economic Mission for agriculture value addition.

Women centric steps: A special two-year campaign targeting anemia among pregnant women and mother.

Education & welfare: Targets to set up over 350 Karnataka Public Schools, implement admissions under section 371(J), and launch a 2-year campaign against anemia.

Water resources: Joint efforts by Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh to replace all 19 gates of the Tungabhadra reservoir to save roughly 30 TMC of water.

What's Kalyana Karnataka Utsava

Kalyana Karnataka Utsava is an annual cultural and public festival that marks Kalyana Karnataka Liberation Day, celebrating the region's freedom from the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad and its integration into the Indian Union on September 17, 1948.

sports infrastructure over the next two years. The government would also enter into an agreement with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to develop cricket facilities benefiting the entire Kalyan Karnataka region.

A "Sports City" will be established at Hadgil Haruti village in Kalaburagi taluk to promote sporting excellence,

with international-standard indoor and outdoor facilities for various sports.

The government will also undertake the Koti Vruksha Abhiyan across Kalyan Karnataka over the next two years, with the objective of planting and nurturing one crore saplings to increase green cover and strengthen the region's resilience to climate change.

Shivakumar said the government was committed to the overall development of Kalyan Karnataka and stressed that development should extend beyond infrastructure to improving the quality of life of the people.

"Kalyan Karnataka is our priority," he said, adding that the region was the "Shakti Peetha" of Karnataka while Bengaluru was the crown of the state.

Siddaramaiah's statue installed, removed in Kalaburagi

BENGALURU: A statue of former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah, installed overnight at a spot in Kalaburagi, was removed by district officials on Thursday morning, drawing attention from local residents and leaders.

The statue was reportedly brought to the location by a group of seven to eight people after sundown and installed without permission from the local authorities.

The incident comes ahead of Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's scheduled visit to Kalaburagi for the Kalyana Karnataka Utsava celebrations. Shivakumar is also scheduled to travel from Kalaburagi towards Afzalpur.

The spot where the statue was installed had already been associated with Siddaramaiah. Around three years ago, the location was reportedly named Siddaramaiah Circle, also allegedly without obtaining permission from the authorities.

The newly-installed statue, made in a golden colour, depicts Siddaramaiah with his hands raised as if waving to supporters. After district officials were informed about the installation on Thursday morning, they reached the spot and removed the statue immediately.



mate change.

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Modi pitches India as trusted global chip hub

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday pitched India as a trusted alternative for global manufacturing, telling chip industry leaders that his government is taking every step necessary to make the country a preferred semiconductor destination.

"The world is looking for new and trusted manufacturing destinations; India is steadily preparing itself to meet this need," Modi said, inaugurating the fifth edition of the SEMI-CON India conference here. "India is taking every step needed to become a preferred destination for the semiconductor industry."

The PM paired the pitch with news that Indian-made chips have begun reaching customers for the first time. "Now our chips, coming out of India's plants, have started reaching customers in the country and the world."

He framed the push within a broader narrative of economic momentum, citing 7.8 per cent quarterly GDP growth, a recent sovereign rating upgrade by a Japanese credit rating agency, and the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the BRICS summit India hosted this month. "India's economy is growing, and on the other hand, the world's trust in India is also increasing," he said.

"Young talents who are researching in India should come

KEY POINTS

➔ PM Modi presented India as a trusted global manufacturing hub for the semiconductor industry.

➔ India has started commercial production of chips, with products now reaching customers.

➔ The government is actively supporting the semiconductor sector through policy, investment, and R&D.

➔ India aims to build a complete semiconductor ecosystem, including design, equipment, and materials.

➔ The country is training a large engineering workforce and expanding energy capacity to support the industry.



forward; the youth who are researching abroad should also join the development of advanced technologies in India," Modi said.

He called on semiconductor companies to expand research partnerships with Indian institutions and universities, saying greater industry-led R&D would benefit both companies and the country's technology workforce.

➔ *More on Business page*

Tata Sons Board votes to reappoint Chandrasekaran for 3rd term

MUMBAI: Tata Sons' board on Thursday voted to reappoint N Chandrasekaran for a third five-year term as chairman, weeks after he told directors he did not intend to seek re-appointment, people familiar with the deliberations said, a reversal driven by regulatory pressure on the group's holding company.



RBI's listing mandate

The shift follows the Reserve Bank of India's rejection last week of Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration as a non-banking financial company - a decision that revives the prospect of a stock listing the company had spent over a year trying to avoid, including by repaying more than Rs 21,000 crore in debt. Board members reasoned

that continuity of leadership would reassure prospective investors ahead of any listing process, sources said. Potential investors typically seek assurance on management continuity once a company embarks on an initial public offering.

Tata Sons' Nomination & Remuneration Committee will formally ask Chandrasekaran (63) to reconsider the decision he communicated to the board in August - a decision made before the RBI's ruling and under a different set of assumptions about the company's regulatory path.

Chandrasekaran has led Tata Sons since 2017, when he succeeded Ratan Tata as interim chairman, following the board's ouster of Cyrus Mistry, and was reappointed for a second term in 2022.

Hariprasad stands by 'nationalist' remark on jailed Umar Khalid

BENGALURU: Karnataka Congress leader BK Hariprasad on Thursday defended his description of jailed student activist Umar Khalid as a "nationalist", questioning the BJP's authority to label him an "anti-national".

The remarks came amid criticism from BJP leaders over Hariprasad's comments on Khalid, who has been in custody since his arrest in September 2020 in connection with the larger conspiracy case relating to the February 2020 Delhi riots.

"This issue should be viewed within the constitutional and democratic framework of the country. Who are the opponents of the Constitution? Who are the opponents of the Tricolour? Who are the opponents of the national anthem?" Hariprasad told reporters in Bengaluru.

Nurse attacked with machete, acid in B'luru; husband arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 26-year-old nurse was critically injured after her husband allegedly attacked her with acid and a machete following an argument outside a private clinic in JP Nagar here on Thursday morning.

The victim, Madhumita, works as a nurse at the clinic and had married the accused, Venkatesan, two years ago. She is from Kolkata, while Venkatesan hails from Tamil Nadu.

According to preliminary information, Madhumita had stepped out of the clinic after having breakfast when Venkatesan arrived on a motorcycle. He reportedly followed her to the hospital parking area and confronted her.

An argument broke out between the couple, following which Venkatesan allegedly poured acid on her and attacked her with a machete. The

incident occurred in broad daylight and was witnessed by several people in the area.

Passersby attempted to intervene, but were reportedly unable to approach the accused as he was carrying the machete. Some witnesses recorded the incident on their mobile phones before alerting the police.

The Hoysala police reached the spot and arrested Venkatesan. Madhumita sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a hospital. Her condition was reported to be critical.

The JP Nagar police have registered a case of attempt to murder against the accused and are investigating the circumstances leading to the attack.

Police are also expected to examine witness statements and available video footage as part of the investigation. Further details regarding the nature and extent of the victim's injuries are awaited.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 76 years old on Thursday, prompting a wave of celebration across the nation.

Stars from the Indian film industry and political figures conveyed their best wishes on social media in a unique way, hailing his leadership, commitment to public service and contribution to the country's development.

President Droupadi Murmu extends heartfelt birthday wishes to Modi. She wrote on X, "Heartfelt birthday greetings and best wishes to the Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji. Over the past 25 years, during your tenure as Chief Minister and Prime Minister, you have established many new benchmarks of good governance and imparted unprecedented momentum and a new direction to inclusive development. While ad-



vancing on the path of modern progress with a sense of cultural pride, our countrymen are realizing the harmony between heritage and development. I pray to God for your excellent health and long life, so that you may continue to relentlessly advance your campaign of public service and nation-building."

Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay on Thursday extended birthday wishes to PM Modi, praising his efforts towards building a strong India.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath extended birthday greetings to PM Modi, describing him as the "world's most popular leader" and the architect of "New India".

BIRTHDAY CHEERS RESOUND

PM Modi @ 76: From Putin to Meloni, wishes pour in

Modi thanks people worldwide for birthday wishes

Such gestures and blessings hold a very special place in his heart. He added that every blessing strengthens his resolve to serve the people of the nation with even greater dedication and devotion.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

In a post on X, Italian PM Georgia Meloni wrote, "Happy birthday to my friend @narendramodi, to whom I wish health, energy, and success". Meloni further said that Italy and India "continue to strengthen their deep bond of friendship, building together a future of cooperation and prosperity for our Nations".

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a message to PM Modi warmly congratulating him on his birthday. He wrote, "You are rightly enjoying a deep respect from your compatriots and great authority on the global stage. It is impossi-

ble to overstate your personal contribution to strengthening the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia".

Stars in celebration mode
Taking to his X account, Salman Khan, while wishing Prime Minister Modi, wrote, "Janam Din Mubarak Ho Honourable P M Sahab, Wish you a very Happy Birthday Narendra Bhai Modi. Jai Hind. @narendramodi"

Addressing Modi as "Honourable PM," Shah Rukh Khan also wrote, "Here's wishing you a very Happy Birthday, Honourable PM @narendramodi ji. To many more years of good health, happiness and fulfilment. May you always carry the strength and positivity to inspire the nation."

The BJP is holding 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' across India from September 17 to October 17 to commemorate Modi's birthday.

Quick Read



HC reserves order on paid menstrual leave

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court on Thursday reserved its order on petitions challenging the State government’s notification mandating one day of paid menstrual leave every month for women employees. A Bench headed by Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde heard pleas filed by the Bengaluru Employers’ Association, Karnataka Employers’ Association, Bengaluru Hotels Association and women employees from private-sector establishments. The petitioners argued that the government issued the notification without legislative backing or the Governor’s approval. Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty said it was issued following a Cabinet decision and did not require the Governor’s approval. The Labour Department issued the notification on November 20, 2025, covering establishments registered under various labour laws. The petitioners said the policy could affect women’s career prospects and burden employers.

Rajasthan woman abducted from Bengaluru home

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A 21-year-old Rajasthan woman was allegedly abducted from her home in KP Aghara, triggering a dangerous nine-km chase. Pooja had moved to Bengaluru after marrying Om Prakash, an electrician, despite opposition from both families over their inter-caste marriage. The couple had registered their marriage in Rajasthan and were staying at Dasarahalli. Police said four men allegedly entered the house on Wednesday evening and forcibly took Pooja away while her husband and brother were at work. The accused allegedly threatened her with deadly weapons before fleeing in a Rajasthan-registered car. During the chase, the car allegedly rammed into more than 35 cars and over 100 two-wheelers. Locals eventually blocked the vehicle at Vijaya nagar Hosahalli. Three accused — Rakesh, 31, Karan, 35, and Ayan, 18 — were handed over to police. Driver Saddam escaped. Six people sustained serious injuries, with one woman reportedly critical.

Pink Line may miss September opening

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru’s much-awaited Pink Line elevated stretch may miss its September opening deadline as key statutory approvals remain pending. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) is yet to receive rolling stock sanction for its applica-

Equal opportunities sought for SCs, STs, backward classes

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah called for greater representation of marginalised communities in journalism and social institutions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities should get equal opportunities in journalism.

Speaking at an awards and felicitation programme organised by the Karnataka State SC/ST Journalists and Editors Association, he said the under-representation of these communities was due to their historical denial of education and access to literacy, rather than any lack of talent or ability.

Siddaramaiah said the Constitution had provided reservation for SCs and STs in education, employment and political fields, but there was no reservation in journalism. “None of us are inferior to anyone; we have only been deprived of opportunities,” he said.

He urged journalists to present truthful news and ensure the media becomes the voice of the poor, ordinary people and those at the margins of society. Speculative reporting should have no place in journalism, he said, adding that



“The media should be the voice of the last person and bring their hardships and concerns before society.”

- Siddaramaiah, Former CM

information given to people should be as close to the truth as possible.

Siddaramaiah said social inequality, caste discrimination and notions of superiority and inferiority continued to affect Indian society. He urged people to understand the Constitution and work towards fulfilling its ideals.

He recalled that during his tenure as Chief Minister, steps were taken to ensure the Constitution’s Preamble was read in schools and colleges.

He said women, Dalits,

Social Equality Measures	
■ SC/ST reservation: Education, employment, politics	
■ SCSP/TSP allocation in Karnataka: ₹44,000 crore	
■ SCSP/TSP budget share: 24.1%	
■ Siddaramaiah CM terms: 2013–18; 2023 onwards	
■ Key focus: Social equality and representation	

backward classes, minorities and the poor must become economically, socially and politically empowered for meaningful social change.

Siddaramaiah also highlighted Karnataka’s SCSP/TSP legislation, saying around ₹44,000 crore is currently earmarked

MEDIA’S ROLE

Siddaramaiah urged journalists to uphold truth and give greater space to people at the margins. He said media organisations should highlight the problems of the poor, ordinary citizens and disadvantaged communities. He cautioned against speculative reporting, stressing that information should be close to the truth. Journalism, he said, should not merely report society but also question injustice, inequality and discrimination and contribute to meaningful social change.

under the programmes. He recalled that Karnataka had enacted legislation to protect reservation in promotions for SCs and STs.

He called for collective efforts to secure rights and bring about social change.

Karnataka HC tightens safety norms for Bengaluru PGs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has issued extensive safety and regulatory directions for paying guest accommodations across Bengaluru amid concerns over widespread violations.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj was informed that nearly 2,500 of about 5,000 PG accommodations in Bengaluru East were allegedly operating without proper licences, sanctioned plans or fire safety clearances. Notices have also been issued to 68 PGs in Bengaluru North for violations.

The court directed authorities to identify all premises being operated as PGs, whether licensed or otherwise, and verify building plans, zoning compliance, occupancy and fire safety requirements.

It clarified that a trade licence cannot regularise unauthorised construction. Authorities must check for illegal mezzanine floors, terrace rooms, conversion of parking areas and blocked staircases.

The court said the prescribed minimum area of 70 sq ft per occupant must be verified, while corridors, balconies, staircases and parking areas cannot be used as sleep-

ing spaces. Fire safety violations posing immediate danger should be addressed without waiting for routine proceedings. LPG cylinders cannot be stored in staircases, corridors or sleeping areas.

PGs housing women and vulnerable persons must maintain appropriate security, including controlled entry, visitor verification, functional locks, emergency communication and CCTV in common areas. Staff such as security guards and cooks must undergo police verification.

At the same time, the court stressed privacy safeguards, prohibiting CCTV in bedrooms, bathrooms and toilets.

Violations will be classified into three categories, based on their severity, with closure, sealing or demolition possible under law for serious non-compliance.

The court directed the GBA, constituent corporations, Fire, Health and Food Safety departments and police to coordinate enforcement.

A consolidated protocol and status report on PGs identified, licensed, inspected and found compliant must be submitted within six weeks. The matter will next be heard on September 22.

AI smart parking pilot planned in Jayanagar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has partnered with Park Lens to introduce an Artificial Intelligence-based smart parking system on a pilot basis in Jayanagar, one of the city’s high-traffic areas.

Corporation Commissioner K N Ramesh chaired a meeting with traffic police, Bescom and other officials on Thursday to discuss preparations and coordination for the project.

Officials discussed introducing angular parking lines to prevent cross-parking and haphazard vehicle placement. The design is expected to accommodate more vehicles while reducing obstruction to moving traffic during entry and exit.

Ramesh directed officials to prepare a scientific parking layout that makes optimum use of available road space while ensuring pedestrian safety in busy commercial and residential areas. Under the proposed system, AI-enabled cameras will identify vacant parking spaces in real time. Motorists will be able to scan QR codes installed at parking locations and pay hourly charges digitally through UPI. Park Lens representatives said digital payment would be mandatory within five minutes of parking. The system will have a two-tier penalty mechanism for

Jayanagar will soon test AI-enabled parking to improve space utilisation, digital payments, enforcement and traffic movement.



“The parking layout should maximise road-space utilisation while prioritising pedestrian safety in busy areas.”

- K N Ramesh, Corporation Commissioner

violations. Vehicles parked without paying the required fee and those overstaying their paid duration without digitally extending the parking period will face penalties.

Automated alerts will be generated for violations. Enforcement personnel will clamp off-fending vehicles and place penalty receipts on their windshields. Vehicles will be released after payment of the applicable fine. The pilot will initially cover select roads in Jayanagar. The corporation will assess public feedback, technical performance and traffic improvements before considering wider implementation. Ramesh also directed Bescom to ensure uninterrupted power supply for cameras and sensors. Park Lens has been permitted to mount cameras on streetlight poles.

PARKING PILOT

The Jayanagar pilot will combine AI cameras, digital payments and automated enforcement to streamline parking management. Cameras will detect vacant spaces while motorists can pay hourly fees through QR codes and UPI. Two categories of violations—non-payment and overstaying—will attract penalties. Officials will evaluate technical performance, public feedback and traffic movement

before deciding on wider implementation. Bescom has been asked to maintain uninterrupted power for cameras and sensors during operations.

Parameshwara opposes UPI merchant charges above ₹2,000

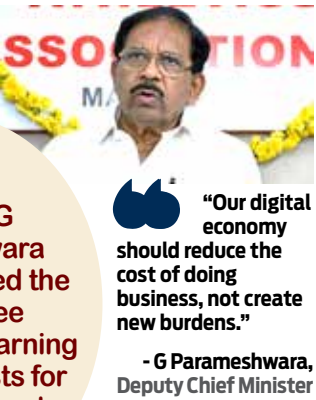
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara has opposed the introduction of a 0.4%

Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on specified UPI merchant transactions above ₹2,000, calling it a setback to India’s digital payments journey.

Under the new framework, effective October 15, 2026, person-to-merchant UPI transactions above ₹2,000 will attract an MDR, while person-to-person transactions will remain free. The MDR will be capped at ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 and above.

Parameshwara said UPI became widely accepted because it was simple, accessible and free, helping ordinary citizens and small businesses move away from cash. He questioned whether additional costs imposed on merchants could eventually affect consumers through higher prices or other charges. He also argued that banks, payment companies and other intermediaries could gain new reve-



Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara has questioned the new UPI fee framework, warning of higher costs for merchants and consumers.

“Our digital economy should reduce the cost of doing business, not create new burdens.”
- G Parameshwara, Deputy Chief Minister

UPI MDR Charges	
■ MDR: 0.4% on specified merchant UPI payments above ₹2,000	
■ Effective: Oct 15, 2026	
■ Maximum MDR: ₹300 per transaction	
■ P2P transactions: No MDR	
■ ₹2,000 and below: No MDR	

WHAT CHANGES?

From October 15, specified UPI person-to-merchant payments above ₹2,000 will attract a 0.4% MDR, paid by merchants. The charge is capped at ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 and above. Person-to-person UPI payments will remain free. Payments up to ₹2,000 will also remain free, while specified essential services and eligible small merchants have separate provisions under the new framework.

nue streams from the MDR.

Parameshwara cited Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s criticism that the move could benefit large financial and technology companies, while placing additional costs on Indian merchants. These are political allegations; the Union government has said the framework is intended to support the sustainability of the UPI ecosystem

and that consumers will not be charged directly. He urged the Union Government to reconsider the decision and protect affordable and accessible digital payments. The government has maintained that UPI payments up to ₹2,000 and person-to-person transactions will remain free, while specified small merchants are also exempt under the new framework.

Tattoo artist alleges cheating and assault by woman

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Popular tattoo artist and actor Arjun, known as ‘Tattoo Ghost’ on social media, has approached Byadarahalli police alleging cheating and assault by a woman. According to his complaint, Arjun met Sampritha at his tattoo

studio around two years ago. She allegedly told him that her husband had died and that she had two children. Their acquaintance later developed into a relationship. After Arjun’s divorce, Sampritha allegedly promised to marry him. He claimed he gave her money sev-

eral times but the marriage was repeatedly postponed. On September 2, an argument reportedly broke out after he found her speaking to another man on a video call. Arjun alleged that he was attacked with an iron rod during the confrontation. Police are investigating.

QUARRY SHUTDOWN PROTEST

Stone quarries, crushers to shut across Karnataka from September 18

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Stone quarry and crusher owners across Karnataka will suspend operations from Thursday, demanding an end to double royalty collection and other measures.

The Karnataka State Stone Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners’ Federation has announced a statewide shutdown of stone quarries, jelly stone crushers and M-sand units from September 18, intensifying its agitation over royalty collection and regulatory issues.

Federation president D. Siddaraju said all district units had extended support to the shutdown and the Karnataka Patta



Stone Sector Shutdown	
■ Shutdown: From September 18	■ Other demand: Uniform royalty system
■ Affected units: Stone quarries, jelly crushers and M-sand plants	■ Support: All district federation units
■ Key demand: End double royalty collection	■ Further action: Legal battle if demands remain unmet

“Our agitation will not stop until our demands are fulfilled.”

- D. Siddaraju, president, Karnataka State Stone Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners’ Federation

Land Quarry and Jelly Stone Crusher Owners’ Association had also backed the protest.

“Our agitation will not stop until our demands are fulfilled. We will withdraw the protest only after the government issues an order on royalty collection and publishes it in the gazette,” Siddaraju said. The federation has opposed the practice of collecting royalty at two levels, arguing that royalty is

already paid by quarry leaseholders. It has also objected to royalty being collected by departments implementing construction works.

Siddaraju said the federation would stop the supply of jelly and M-sand required for construction activities. It also plans to prevent stone-mining materials from entering Karnataka from neighbouring States through checkpoints. The federation has demanded a white paper detailing the total royalty collected from the stone-mining sector so far.

It has also sought comprehensive revision of amendments made to the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994. The federation

INDUSTRY DEMANDS

The federation is seeking an end to double royalty collection, a government order and gazette notification on royalty, and a white paper on total royalty collected from the sector. It has also demanded comprehensive revision of the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994, and a review of remote-sensing surveys used to assess mineral extraction. The federation says small quarry operators face financial pressure and administrative difficulties.

termed the remote-sensing survey conducted to assess the quantity of stone extracted as unscientific. Siddaraju said small and local entrepreneurs who had been involved in quarrying for generations were facing difficulties due to govern-

ment policies and administrative problems in the Department of Mines and Geology.

He warned that the federation would approach courts if its demands, including uniform royalty collection, were not addressed.

CHObserver

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From uncollected garbage turning residential walls into open dumps on Seshadripuram 2nd Cross Road and Serpentine Road, to hazardous broken footpaths caused by a neglected tree stump on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road and a missing pavement slab near Palace Road's busy bus stop, Bengaluru residents are grappling with mounting civic neglect that threatens public safety.

+91 80730 57594



Residents on Seshadripuram 2nd Cross Road, behind Renaissance Crags, are demanding answers after unattended garbage collection vehicles turned residential compound walls into open dumping sites, posing health hazards for children in the neighborhood.



Residents are questioning why authorities are ignoring a prominent garbage dumping spot on Serpentine Road, right at the Kumarapark corner in front of Chetty's Corner, which poses a severe health hazard for children visiting the nearby park.



A felled tree on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road, directly in front of Prashanth Grand Hotel, remains uncollected, while the removal of its stump has left the footpath completely broken and hazardous for pedestrians.



A missing section of the footpath on Palace Road, right at the corner of Hotel Tulip Inn near Vyalikaval Circle, poses a severe hazard for pedestrians navigating the heavy traffic and nearby bus stop.

BECC plans rain preparedness

Bengaluru East City Corporation launched high-alert monsoon preparations, deploying rapid-response teams, clearing clogged drains, and reviving local lakes.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In response to intensifying weather forecasts and the looming threat of seasonal heavy downpours, the Bengaluru East City Corporation has initiated a comprehensive, high-alert preparedness campaign. Commissioner D.S. Ramesh chaired a high-level administrative review meeting today, bringing together key engineering and executive wings to enforce stringent precautionary protocols across all vulnerable zones within the eastern municipal limits.

With historical data highlighting recurring distress points during torrential downpours, the administration has prioritized the immediate identification and continuous monitoring of flood-prone pockets. Commissioner Ramesh directed field teams to deploy specialized rapid-response units directly to notorious trouble spots, including Geddalahalli, Sai Layout, the K.R. Puram Underpass, and the Doddanekkundi Underpass.

Each rapid deployment squad will consist of 10 to 15 dedicated corporation personnel equipped with heavy-duty machinery, tractors, JCBs, cranes, and high-capacity water pumps. Crucially, the Commissioner mandated that field staff must maintain a physical presence on-site



KEY ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Focus area	Action taken / plan
Flood monitoring	Dedicated ward-level teams stationed at risk spots
Traffic flow	Immediate removal of fallen trees and road debris
Water management	BWSSB coordination to fill lakes with treated water
Road safety	Making every ward pothole-free before heavy rains

during active rainfall to reassure citizens and drastically cut down response times. Zero tolerance has been announced for administrative absenteeism during weather emergencies, ensuring that public grievances logged through civic portals receive instant, on-ground resolution.

Acknowledging that clogged waterways remain the primary driver of urban flooding, municipal authorities have ordered an aggressive, zone-wide desilting initiative. Maintenance crews are tasked with clearing accumulated silt, soil, and solid waste from arterial storm drains and side gutters to

guarantee unobstructed water flow.

Parallel to drainage operations, the corporation has launched a massive clearance drive targeting construction debris and discarded waste obstructing footpaths and road shoulders. Sanitation squads are instructed to clear all roadside obstacles prior to peak monsoon intensity, allowing rainwater to drain freely away from high-traffic pedestrian and vehicular corridors.

Looking beyond immediate flood control toward long-term water security and drought mitigation, the administration has laid out a

Monsoon preparedness steps

- Emergency Teams:** Special units deployed at vulnerable zones with JCBs, cranes, and water pumps.
- Drain Desilting:** Special cleaning drives to clear silt and garbage from roads and stormwater drains.
- Debris Clearance:** Immediate removal of construction waste from footpaths to stop waterlogging.
- Lake Rejuvenation:** Plans to channel treated STP water into local lakes to fight future droughts.
- Pothole Repairs:** Fixing damaged stretches like Varthur-Gunjur Palya Road on a priority basis.

blueprint to revive local water bodies. Commissioner Ramesh instructed engineering wings to expedite infrastructure works aimed at replenishing six major lakes within the corporation's jurisdiction.

To achieve this sustainably, the civic body is formally coordinating with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to assess the daily availability and quality of treated wastewater originating from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). Comprehensive mapping of pipeline connectivity and water health status is currently underway to channel treated effluents safely into depleted neighborhood lakes, transforming waste management into an ecological asset.

BNCC imposes ₹16 lakh penalty for faulty streetlight

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Municipal authorities in the northern zone of the city have clamped down on negligent infrastructure maintenance, levying heavy financial penalties against private contractors responsible for public lighting. Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar announced that inspections uncovered thousands of broken streetlights, prompting immediate administrative action to protect public safety.

The crackdown follows comprehensive night inspections carried out on September 10 and 11, 2026, acting on direct orders from the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Joint teams comprising senior administrative officers and municipal engineers patrolled 156 major arterial and sub-arterial corridors across multiple constituencies, including Yelahanka, Byatarayanapura, Pulakeshinagar, Sarvagnanagar, Hebbal, Dasarahalli, and select wards in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. During these nocturnal checks, survey teams identified a staggering 2,290 non-functional streetlights. Officials noted that the widespread outages were caused directly by a lack of routine monitoring and poor upkeep by maintenance personnel, creating hazardous dark spots that threatened pedestrian and commuter safety.

GBA announces new urban heat strategy

The GBA unveiled comprehensive heat-health protocols, repurposing Indira Canteens as cooling centers and fortifying citywide medical facilities against extreme temperatures.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officially unveiled comprehensive, operational Heat-health protocols for the metropolis of Bengaluru, establishing a decisive framework designed to safeguard urban populations against mounting climate extremes.

Formulated not merely as an ad-hoc emergency response mechanism, but as an institutionalized long-term resilience and equity strategy, the initiative addresses the city's rapidly escalating thermal risks. Over the past decade, Bengaluru's mean air temperature has climbed by approximately 0.5°C per decade, culminating in localized heat spikes nearing 40°C during the peak summer months.

Developed through close, collaborative synergy between the GBA, C40 Cities, urban living lab Sensing Local, community organization Hasiru Dala, and Dr. Santu Ghosh, Associate Professor at St. John's Medical College, these protocols outline precise, action-oriented directives for municipal frontline workers, health facility administra-



tors, and departmental stakeholders. The operational guidelines meticulously map out pre-event preparedness, active crisis management protocols, and post-event evaluative measures across all institutional tiers. To guarantee immediate public relief during high-temperature advisories, the frameworks leverage a robust network of 417 government health-response facilities citywide.

This infrastructure explicitly incorporates 162 Indira Canteens repurposed as immediate public cooling centers, alongside 108 Namma Clinics, 140 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs), and 7 apex referral hospitals.

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao emphasized the vital necessity of proactive institutional synchronization. He highlighted that extreme heat has evolved into a primary public health and municipal governance crisis for Bengaluru. Rao noted that the primary objective centers on ensuring systemic preparedness before thermal events strike, enabling health and civic frameworks to respond dynamically while embedding seasonal lessons into future resilience planning.

South Bengaluru intensifies garbage clean-up operations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a decisive move to completely eradicate chronic garbage hotspots and enforce strict sanitation protocols across the southern zone, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh conducted an extensive, ground-level inspection of key commercial and residential neighborhoods, including HSR Layout and Singasandra. The high-level visit focused on evaluating the ground realities of daily solid waste management, streamlining multi-tiered cleanup operations, and ensuring absolute compliance with source-segregation mandates.

The day's inspections commenced in HSR Layout, where the Commissioner closely monitored the ongoing special cleanliness drive implemented along prominent arterial and sub-arterial corridors, focusing particularly on the zones situated directly behind the BMTC bus depot on 19th Main Road. Central to this operational push is the specialized "Gang Work" model—a synchronized team-based deployment strategy executed daily between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, immediately following the completion of primary door-to-door waste collection rounds.

During these designated hours, cohesive units comprising sanitation personnel, auto-tipper drivers, and support helpers systematically clear residual refuse, accumulated silt, and litter from public footpaths, parks, and chronic dumping points, commonly referred to as garbage



Scientific management of transfer stations

Concluding his municipal tour, Commissioner Ramesh evaluated the advanced operational framework governing the Singasandra Waste Transfer Station. Praising the scientific management practices implemented at the facility, he noted that comprehensive environmental safeguards—including perimeter shielding sheets and specialized odor-neutralizing solutions—have been successfully deployed to prevent foul smells and minimize any airborne discomfort for nearby neighborhoods and passing commuters.

Cleanliness drive highlights

- Gang Work Schedule:** Special cleaning crews operate daily from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Waste Sorting:** Teams gather dry leaves, silt, and garbage separately using tractors and autos.
- Singasandra Kiosk:** A dedicated facility open from 7 AM to 7 PM for residents who miss collection autos.
- Odor Control:** The Singasandra waste transfer station uses organized covers and odor-neutralizing solutions.

blackspots. Emphasizing the mechanical and logistical efficiency of this framework, Commissioner Ramesh noted

that heavy debris and roadside silt are rapidly hauled away using tractors, while dry leaves and segregated fractions are concurrently gathered via dedicated auto-tippers for safe transport.

While reviewing these field operations, the Commissioner paused to directly interact with frontline waste collection drivers and sanitation field workers. He listened intently to their operational bottlenecks, evaluated the everyday challenges they encounter during collections, and verified critical administrative protocols, including the consistent distribution of standard safety gear and the timely disbursement of monthly wages.

110 Tons of festival waste cleared near KR Market

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation executed an intensive, highly coordinated three-day special sanitation campaign spanning September 14 to September 16, 2026, targeted directly at the historic K.R. Market and its surrounding commercial perimeters within the Chamarajpet division. Led under the direct administrative oversight of Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G., the extensive civic operation was mobilized to address the massive surge of organic refuse, discarded floral garlands, unmarketable



produce, fruit remnants, and religious worship waste generated by the peak Gauri-Ganesh Chaturthi festivities.

During this continuous 72-hour operational window, municipal crews successfully cleared and scientifically pro-



cessed an astounding 110 tons of festival-generated waste. To cope with the extraordinary logistical demands and heavy pedestrian congestion characteristic of the festival season, the corporation deployed a specialized work-



force comprising 100 dedicated sanitation personnel alongside 26 enforcement marshals. These teams maintained round-the-clock surveillance and continuous cleaning cycles across the congested market lanes. Heavy mechanized

infrastructure was deployed to expedite the clearance and transit of refuse. Operations utilized 6 JCB earthmovers to scoop and aggregate large volumes of piled market debris, alongside 14 high-capacity compactors assigned to haul the collected refuse swiftly away from the commercial hub to designated processing facilities. Commissioner Jagadish G. emphasized that continuous inspections were enforced to prevent bottlenecks, protect public health, and ensure that commercial activities and consumer access remained unobstructed.

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BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
 Office of the Executive Engineer,
 Shanthinagara Division, P.U Building,
 9th Floor, M.G Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

No:EE/SN/TEND/15/2026-27 Date:17.09.2026

INVITATION FOR TWO COVER TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover Tender-KW 1 & 2)

(Through **GOK KPP Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagara), BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP/KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/MES/National highway or any State Government Organization for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document KW-2)**

Sl No.	Name of works/Category
1.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Ward No-27 Ambedkarnagara. Call-2 (Others) Approx. Value of Work: Rs.25.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.50,000/-
2.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Ward No-29 Austin Town. Call-2 (SC) Approx. Value of Work: Rs.25.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.25,000/-
3.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Ward No-30 Vinayakanagara. Call-2 (Others) Approx. Value of Work: Rs.25.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.50,000/-
Single Cover	
4.	Removal of Deviation portions of Residential Building under Construction Site No. 63/2, Agaram in Ward No -24 Agaram Old Ward No.89 Jogupalya) A, B & C Block. Call-2 Approx. Value of Work: Rs.9.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.22,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **24.09.2026** at 3:30 pm in the office of the Executive Engineer, East Zone, 9th Floor, Public Utility Building, Bengaluru - 560001. Headed by the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division, BBMP. (2) Last date for submission of tender documents on or before **28.09.2026** at 4:00 pm. (3) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division on **28.09.2026** at 4:30 pm. **Sd/- Executive Engineer
Shanthinagara Division**



Shyam Sundar Vattam

AT LAST, A VOICE FROM WITHIN THE RULING PARTY FOR KPSC REFORM

At last, a lone voice has risen from within the ruling party calling for the abolition of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), an institution that has for years faced allegations of corruption, nepotism, irregularities and lack of transparency.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has now urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to consider scrapping the KPSC and either restructure the recruitment system on the lines of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) or entrust the responsibility to the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA).

The suggestion is significant because similar demands have been raised by members of the Opposition in the past. The government, however, did not appear inclined to act on those suggestions. The fact that a minister from the ruling establishment has now openly called for shelving the KPSC should prompt a serious examination of the way recruitment to government services is conducted in Karnataka.

Khandre said serious allegations had been levelled against the KPSC since 1998 and argued that a new system was necessary to ensure transparent recruitment. He maintained that the KPSC, being an autonomous body, had a responsibility to conduct recruitment to various departments in a transparent manner and that the failure to inspire confidence warranted consideration of its abolition.

His remarks have come amid the controversy surrounding the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of veterinary doctors.

The minister’s proposal to strengthen the KEA deserves particular attention. The KEA already has experience in conducting examinations and recruitment for several government posts. Khandre argued that if safeguards were put in place to prevent question-paper leaks and ensure transparency in examinations, evaluation and even oral interviews, a lasting solution could be found.

This is precisely where the government needs to move beyond episodic investigations and establish a recruitment mechanism that commands public confidence.

For thousands of Karnataka’s aspirants, government examinations are not merely another competitive test. They represent years of preparation, financial sacrifice and the hope of securing a stable career through merit. Every allegation of a leak, manipulation, favouritism or procedural irregularity therefore damages not only the credibility of the particular examination but also the faith of an entire generation of job aspirants in the state recruitment system.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that candidates who have studied hard are not denied a fair opportunity. Recruitment must be demonstrably merit-based, transparent and insulated from political or administrative influence.

Khandre’s intervention is welcome because it brings the issue from the realm of Opposition criticism into the government’s own deliberations. He said several ministers, including himself, had already conveyed their views on the matter and expressed confidence that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara would take an appropriate decision.

The choice before the government should not be reduced merely to whether the KPSC should continue or be abolished. The larger question is how Karnataka can create a recruitment architecture that is transparent, technologically secure, accountable and capable of withstanding scrutiny at every stage.

If the KPSC is retained, the government must consider fundamental reforms to restore confidence in it. If it is abolished, the alternative institution must be given the necessary autonomy, expertise, manpower and safeguards to prevent the problems associated with recruitment from simply shifting from one agency to another.

The KEA, with its existing examination infrastructure and experience, could be strengthened for this purpose. A clearly defined system of accountability, secure examination procedures, independent oversight, transparent evaluation and safeguards in interviews could provide candidates with greater assurance.

Credit is due to Eshwar Khandre for placing this idea before the government. His call provides an opportunity to rethink a recruitment system that has been under a cloud of controversy for years and to build an institution capable of restoring faith and trust among Karnataka’s youth.

The government should now treat the issue as an institutional reform rather than a political controversy.

MONEY LAUNDERING, THE GAME OF LAUNDERING THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Money laundering is no longer just an economic crime; it has become a significant financial backbone for organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal trade. Simply put, money laundering is the process by which criminal proceeds are presented as legitimate or legally obtained, concealing their true source. Criminals understand that simply earning money illegally is not enough; it is also necessary to incorporate that money into a system that makes it difficult to trace its true origin. This is why the challenge of money laundering in the modern financial system is becoming increasingly complex.

The process of money laundering is generally understood to have three major stages placement, layering, and integration. In the first stage, criminal proceeds are introduced into the financial system. This is called placement. For example, large amounts of illicit cash may be deposited in separate bank accounts, divided into smaller amounts for transactions, or integrated into the financial system through cash-based businesses. Criminals exercise particular caution during this stage because it is the first contact between illicit funds and the financial system. The second stage is called



— DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

“Only through a coordinated effort of strong laws, efficient institutions, a vigilant financial system, modern technology, transparency, and international cooperation can India effectively prevent the illegal proceeds of crime from entering the legitimate economy”.

The biggest concern about

layering. Its purpose is to conceal the true source of funds and complicate their path for investigating agencies. Multiple bank accounts, companies, intermediaries, and financial transactions can be used to achieve this. Money can be transferred from one account to another, from one company to another, or from one country to another. Sometimes, through paper companies or complex business transactions, layers of money are created that make it difficult to trace its original source. While digital financial systems have made transactions easier, the rapid movement of money internationally has created both new challenges and opportunities for criminals.

The third stage is integration. In this stage, funds are reintroduced into the economy in a manner that makes them appear like legitimate income or investments. Criminal proceeds may be used to purchase property, invest in businesses, capitalize on companies, or engage in other legitimate economic activities. Once funds become part of legitimate economic activities, it can become more difficult to identify their criminal origins. Thus, criminal proceeds gradually become absorbed into the legitimate economy.

The biggest concern about

money laundering is that it serves as a dangerous bridge between crime and the economy. If criminal proceeds can be easily legalized, criminals are encouraged to continue their activities. Corruption proceeds, drug trafficking, illegal mining, fraud, smuggling, and organized crime can be concealed through money laundering. This strengthens the economic foundation of crime and weakens the rule of law.

Money laundering also impacts the credibility of financial institutions. If banks and other financial institutions fail to detect and stop the flow of illicit funds, the transparency of the entire financial system is questioned. Furthermore, large-scale illicit money flows can distort market competition. Individuals and institutions conducting business honestly may lose out to those with access to capital acquired through crime. Thus, money laundering is not only a law and order problem, but also a question of economic justice and financial stability.

India has developed a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to combat money laundering. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, is its primary legal foundation. This law aims to enable the identification, in-

vestigation, attachment, and confiscation of proceeds of crime, as appropriate. It provides the basis for action against activities that attempt to conceal, retain, utilize, or otherwise legitimize criminal proceeds.

The Enforcement Directorate plays a key role in implementing this law. The Enforcement Directorate investigates money laundering cases and pursues the process of tracing and prosecuting criminal assets. Meanwhile, the Financial Intelligence Unit, India analyzes information related to suspicious financial transactions. Identifying suspicious activities through the analysis of information received from financial institutions is a crucial part of the anti-money laundering system.

Know Your Customer (KYC) systems are also a crucial tool for financial institutions in this fight. Monitoring customer identification and financial activity helps identify suspicious accounts and unusual transactions. Suspicious transaction reporting obligations also enhance transparency in the financial system. However, simply establishing rules is not enough. The real challenge is ensuring that these rules are enforced effectively, uniformly, and technically competently.

THE BIOLOGY OF BONE AGING, DEGENERATION, MECHANISMS AND REJUVENATION

Bone is often viewed simply as the framework that supports the body, but it is a living, dynamic tissue that constantly renews itself. Throughout life, old or damaged bone is removed by osteoclasts and new bone is produced by osteoblasts. With advancing age, however, this delicate balance gradually becomes disturbed. Bone loss, structural deterioration and reduced repair capacity can ultimately increase the risk of osteoporosis and fractures. Recent research describes bone aging not as a single process, but as a complex interaction of molecular, cellular, tissue and systemic changes.

How bones age
Bone remodeling is essential for maintaining skeletal strength. In younger individuals, bone formation and resorption remain relatively well coordinated. Aging can shift this balance toward greater resorption and reduced formation. Trabecular bone may become thinner and more disconnected, while cortical bone can become thinner and more porous. These structural changes reduce the ability of bone to withstand mechanical stress, even beyond what can be explained by bone mineral density alone.

At the cellular level, several populations are affected. Osteoblasts become less capable of producing new bone, while osteoclast activity can become relatively dominant. Osteocytes, the long-lived cells embedded within bone also undergo age-related dysfunction. At the same time, skeletal stem and progenitor cells may lose regenerative potential and show a greater tendency toward fat-cell for-

mation rather than bone-forming lineages.

Oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction
One important mechanism of bone aging is the accumulation of cellular stress. Excess reactive oxygen species can damage DNA, proteins and cellular membranes. In bone-forming cells, excessive oxidative stress can impair differentiation and mineralization while promoting cellular dysfunction.

Mitochondria, the energy-producing structures of cells, also become less efficient with age. Disturbed mitochondrial quality control and impaired removal of damaged mitochondria can increase oxidative stress and contribute to cellular senescence. These changes can interfere with the high energy demands of bone formation and repair.

Cellular senescence: when aging cells become harmful
Cellular senescence is another important feature of skeletal aging. Senescent cells stop dividing but do not necessarily disappear. Instead, many release inflammatory molecules and other substances collectively known as the senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP).

In an aging bone microenvironment, these signals can promote inflammation and influence neighboring cells. Research indicates that senescent cells can impair osteoblast function while promoting conditions favorable to osteoclast activity. Experimental studies in mice have shown that removing senescent cells can reduce age-related bone loss, highlighting

cellular senescence as a potential therapeutic target.

However, translating these findings into routine human treatment remains challenging. A 2024 phase 2 clinical trial of intermittent dasatinib plus quercetin in postmenopausal women did not show a significant difference in its primary bone-resorption endpoint, illustrating that promising laboratory findings do not automatically become effective clinical therapies.

Inflammation, hormones and the bone environment
Bone does not age in isolation. Chronic low-grade inflammation, changes in immune-cell behavior and alterations in the bone marrow environment can influence skeletal health. Aging is also accompanied by hormonal changes. The decline in estrogen around menopause, for example, can accelerate bone resorption, while age-related changes in male sex hormones can also affect skeletal maintenance.

Blood vessels and nerves within bone are also important. Bone formation and vascular development are closely connected, and age-related deterioration of specialized blood vessels can reduce support for bone-forming cells. Changes in neural signaling may further disturb bone remodeling.

Can aging bone be rejuvenated?
The concept of bone rejuvenation does not necessarily mean making old bone biologically identical to young bone. Rather, it involves restoring some of the mechanisms that maintain healthy skeletal remodeling.

Current approaches include



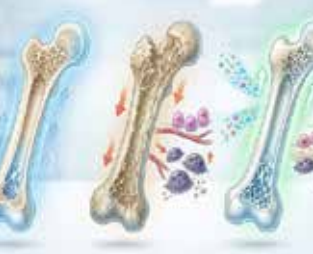
- DR. VIJAY GARG

Bone aging is therefore not simply a matter of “getting older.” It is a biological process involving the gradual loss of cellular coordination and regenerative capacity.

established antiresorptive medicines that reduce excessive bone breakdown and anabolic treatments that stimulate bone formation. Lifestyle measures including adequate nutrition, appropriate physical activity and avoidance of tobacco and excessive alcohol also remain important components of skeletal health.

Research is now exploring more targeted strategies. These include senolytic therapies aimed at senescent cells, approaches targeting mitochondrial dysfunction and defective autophagy, regenerative medicine, tissue engineering and gene-based interventions. Researchers are also investigating how mechanical stimulation and cellular mechanosensing might rejuvenate aged skeletal stem cells. A 2026 study reported experimental evidence that mechanical stimulation can influence chromatin remodeling and the behavior of senescent stem cells in aged bone.

The road ahead
The future of bone-aging research is moving from treating bone loss as a single disease toward understanding it as a network of interacting processes. Genetics, epigenetics, inflammation, oxidative stress, cellular senescence, metabolism, vascular health and mechanical forces all contribute to the aging



skeleton.

The recently published comprehensive review in Bone Research emphasizes the need for integrated approaches, including multi-omics maps of bone aging, bone organoids, computational models and precision therapies directed at specific aging pathways.

Bone aging is therefore not simply a matter of “getting older.” It is a biological process involving the gradual loss of cellular coordination and regenerative capacity. Understanding these mechanisms could eventually allow medicine to move beyond simply treating fractures and osteoporosis toward preserving skeletal health earlier and restoring aspects of bone function later in life.

Time to Fix KPSC

The administrative inertia surrounding Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment needs urgent political intervention. For years, thousands of aspirants have faced severe delays, opaque evaluation standards, and recurring legal hurdles, leaving their careers in limbo. When voices within the ruling government finally advocate for internal overhaul, it brings a long-overdue ray of hope. Reforming the KPSC is not merely an administrative detail; it is a direct test of governance and institutional integrity. The state must implement a fixed, transparent examination calendar, establish stringent accountability for paper leaks, and streamline the evaluation process. Public trust in state institutions relies heavily on meritocracy. Systemic reforms will restore credibility, boost the morale of dedicated job seekers, and ensure that Karnataka’s civil services are led by qualified, capable individuals selected through a fair process.

- Vipin

Unlocking Bone Rejuvenation

Bone aging is often viewed as an inevitable decline marked by brittleness and osteoporosis. However, recent breakthroughs in cellular biology are shifting this narrative from managing degeneration to actively driving rejuvenation. As we age, the delicate balance between bone-building osteoblasts and bone-resorbing osteoclasts collapses. Senescent cells accumulate within the bone marrow, triggering inflammation and hindering natural repair mechanisms. Emerging therapies targeting these cellular drivers offer immense promise. By clearing senescent cells and stimulating stem cell pathways, researchers are laying the groundwork for treatments that restore structural integrity rather than merely slowing decay. Prioritizing research funding for skeletal longevity is essential. Age-related fractures place an immense strain on public healthcare systems and reduce independence for millions. Investing in cellular bone therapies will help translate cutting-edge biology into practical clinical solutions, helping aging populations maintain mobility and quality of life.

- Anna

Protect Public Healthcare Services

The growing reliance on private medical infrastructure highlights a troubling decline in public healthcare availability. While advanced private facilities offer high-quality care, their soaring costs remain completely out of reach for a vast majority of citizens. Access to reliable, affordable medical treatment should be a fundamental right, not an exclusive privilege. Underfunded public hospitals regularly grapple with severe overcrowding, chronic shortages of essential medicines, and inadequate medical equipment. This dynamic places an intolerable burden on low-income families, often driving them into deep financial debt during medical emergencies. Governments must prioritize robust funding to upgrade district hospitals, modernise diagnostic equipment, and retain skilled healthcare personnel. Strengthening primary health centers ensures early diagnosis and relieves pressure on tertiary facilities. Rebuilding robust public health infrastructure is essential to creating an equitable society where quality medical care is accessible to all.

- Ummi



Earth’s Fragility Revealed Through Hostile Planetary Neighbors

The planets drift in predictable, elegant arcs around our sun, serving as reminders of physics and dynamic history. Yet, beyond their visual majesty, these distant worlds offer humanity a far more profound lesson: a stark reflection of how exceptionally fragile Earth truly is. Consider our immediate neighborhood. Mercury, charred by relentless solar radiation, swings between searing heat and freezing dark. Venus, often dubbed Earth’s twin due to its size, presents a nightmare scenario of a runaway greenhouse effect its crushed, acid-choked surface hot enough to melt lead. Further out, Mars sits as a frozen desert, its thin atmosphere long stripped away after its core cooled and its protective magnetic field collapsed. Beyond the asteroid belt, gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn dominate the realm with brutal storm systems, crushing pressures, and radiation belts that would destroy any earthly organism instantly. For centuries, humanity viewed these celestial bodies through a lens of pure curiosity or imperial ambition, imagining a future where we might easily leap from world to world. Science fiction promised terraformed habitats on the Red Planet and sprawling colonies floating in the clouds of Venus. But as space telescopes and deep-space probes send back increasingly detailed data, the reality becomes unassailable: the universe is overwhelmingly hostile to life as we know it.

Every planet in our solar system tells a story of divergence. Billions of years ago, Mars may have hosted flowing rivers, and Venus might have possessed temperate oceans. Yet subtle shifts in mass, atmospheric composition, and distance from the sun set them on radically different evolutionary tracks. Earth alone managed to maintain the delicate equilibrium necessary to nurture and sustain complex life. We inhabit an astonishingly rare anomaly a sanctuary wrapped in a thin veneer of oxygen and shielded by a protective magnetic cocoon.

To study the planets is to understand the boundaries of planetary survival. The climate crises and environmental shifts we face today mirror, in miniature, the physical processes that transformed our cosmic neighbors into barren wildernesses. Observing Venus is not merely an exercise in astronomy; it is an urgent lesson in thermal dynamics and atmospheric tipping points. Studying Mars provides a window into what happens when an active world loses its vitality and dries into dust. As space agencies push deeper into space, mapping exoplanets orbiting distant stars, the core takeaway remains clear. Our exploration of the cosmos should not be driven by a desire to abandon a broken Earth for a distant alternative. There is no easy “Planet B” waiting to rescue us. Instead, looking outward at the cold, beautiful, and unforgiving worlds surrounding us should inspire a renewed commitment to preserving the only world that nurtures us. The planets serve as both a monument to cosmic wonder and an urgent warning: habitability is a rare privilege, not a guarantee.

- Sunil J

True Leadership Is Built On Quiet Integrity. In an era dominated by noise, speed, and instant visibility, our definition of effective leadership has become dangerously distorted. Too often, we mistake charisma for capability, loud conviction for vision, and relentless self-promotion for authority. We live in a culture that rewards the performer on stage rather than the steward behind the scenes. Yet, as organizations navigate increasing volatility and human disconnect, it is becoming clear that true leadership is not about command and control, but about quiet, consistent integrity.

At its core, genuine leadership is an act of service rather than a pursuit of status. The most impact-driven leaders do not demand respect through titles or top-down mandates; they earn it by establishing trust, demonstrating empathy, and prioritizing the collective good over personal ambition. They understand that a leader’s primary role is not to have all the answers, but to build an environment where others feel safe enough to innovate, speak truth, and take calculated risks. Psychological safety, long dismissed as a soft preference, has proven to be the absolute foundation of high-performing teams. Furthermore, authentic leadership requires the courage to embrace vulnerability and accountability.

In moments of crisis or failure, poor leaders point fingers, shield themselves behind bureaucratic excuses, or scramble to control the narrative. In contrast, strong leaders step forward to absorb responsibility, acknowledge mistakes, and focus on constructive solutions. This transparency does not diminish authority; it solidifies credibility. People do not follow flawless leaders; they follow honest leaders who demonstrate sound judgment, intellectual humility, and an unwavering moral compass under pressure. Another vital dimension of modern leadership is

Quiet Integrity Defines True, Sustainable Leadership



the commitment to developing others.

A leader’s success should never be measured by how dependent the organization is on their presence, but by how well it thrives in their absence. Sustainable leaders actively mentor, delegate meaningful authority, and elevate emerging talent. They measure their legacy not by the power they accumulate, but by the leaders they create along the way. In doing so, they build resilient institutions capable of outlasting indi-

vidual tenures. As we face complex economic, technological, and social shifts, the demand for grounded leadership has never been higher. Superficial charisma may win attention in the short term, but only character sustains progress over time. It is time to look beyond the spectacle and redefine what it means to lead. True leadership is silent in its ego, clear in its purpose, and steadfast in its values.

- Ummi



Two Wheels Offer Freedom In Modern Life

In a world increasingly dominated by automation, climate-controlled cabins, and predictable routines, the motorbike stands as a defiant symbol of raw agency and engagement. While cars offer transportation wrapped in isolation, motorcycles present an entirely different proposition: an immersive, tactile connection to the open road. Riding a motorbike is not

merely a method of commuting from one point to another; it is an active experience that demands presence, sharpens focus, and offers an unmatched sense of personal freedom. To ride a motorcycle is to participate directly in your environment. Unlike automobile drivers, who observe the passing landscape through double-paned glass, riders exist within the elements.

They feel subtle shifts in ambient temperature, smell the changing landscape, and react dynamically to every curve and texture of the asphalt. This sensory immersion creates a state of heightened mindfulness. On two wheels, distraction is a luxury no one can afford. The constant calibration of balance, throttle, gear selection, and road awareness forces the mind into the present moment, offering a rare sanctuary from the digital noise of daily life. Beyond the psychological thrill, motorcycles represent a practical response to modern urban congestion. As global cities grow denser and traffic stalls into gridlock, two-wheeled transport offers agility and efficiency. Motorbikes occupy a fraction of the road space, consume significantly less fuel than standard passenger vehicles, and provide accessible mobility to millions around the globe. In many developing economies, the motorcycle is not a hobby it is the economic lifeblood of families and small businesses, enabling commerce, connection, and opportunity where traditional infrastructure falls short. Yet, the culture surrounding motorbikes extends far beyond pure utility or speed. It has fostered an enduring, global community bound by mutual

respect and shared passion. Whether it is long-distance touring, weekend carving on mountain roads, or urban commuting, riders share an unwritten code of camaraderie. A wave between passing bikers on an open highway signifies membership in an informal brotherhood that transcends age, background, and geography. Naturally, this freedom comes with inherent risk. Riding demands respect for physics, continuous self-discipline, and an unwavering commitment to safety. The lack of a protective metal shell requires riders to develop superior spatial awareness and defensive habits. But for those who choose this path, the trade-off is clear: the heightened responsibility is precisely what makes the rewards so rich. As the automotive world pivots toward autonomous systems and passive travel, the motorbike preserves something essential about the human spirit the desire for adventure, skill mastery, and direct agency over our journey. In an era where life often feels overly programmed, two wheels continue to offer an open door to liberty, reminding us that the greatest joy is found not in the destination, but in every mile along the way.

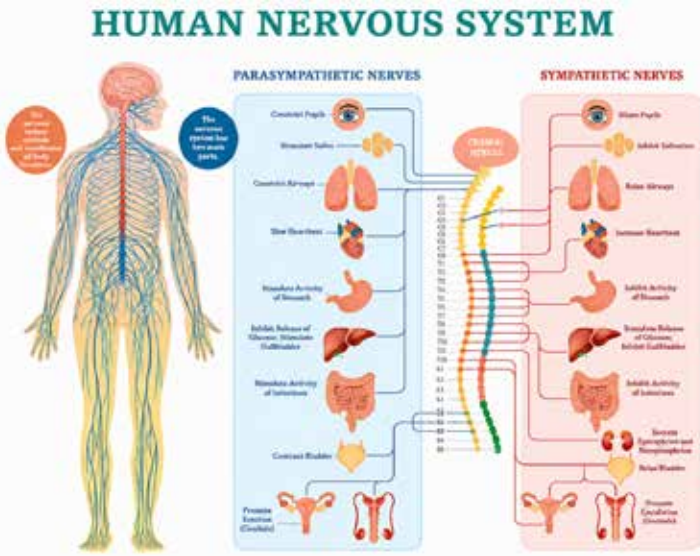
- Arshad Alank

The Silent Architect Of Our Everyday Human Life

We rarely spend our days contemplating the intricate, electrical grid operating beneath our skin. Every heartbeat, every sudden intake of breath, every fleeting memory, and every physical movement relies on an astounding network of biological circuitry: the human nervous system. Operating ceaselessly behind the scenes, this complex biological masterpiece quietly governs the entire spectrum of human experience. Yet, in our modern, high-speed world, we frequently push this vital machinery to its absolute limits without fully understanding how it shapes our physical and mental reality. At its core, the nervous system serves as the ultimate command center, orchestrating an ongoing dialogue between the internal mind and the external environment. Composed of the central nervous system—the brain and spinal cord and the peripheral nervous system, which branches out to every extremity, this network processes billions of electrical signals every second.

Specialized cells called neurons transmit information at remarkable speeds, allowing us to react instantly to danger, sense subtle environmental changes, and synthesize abstract thoughts. It is the very foundation of conscious awareness, turning raw environmental data into emotion, perception, and physical action. However, the nervous system is not merely a passive conduit for signals; it is a dynamic, highly adaptive struc-

ture. One of its most powerful components is the autonomic nervous system, which balances our physiological responses through the sympathetic (“fight or flight”) and para-



sympathetic (“rest and digest”) branches. In ancestral times, acute stress responses protected us from immediate physical threats, triggering adrenaline and elevating heart rates to survive immediate danger.

Once the threat passed, the parasympathetic system restored balance, allowing the body to recover and heal. In today’s hyper-connected environment, this ancient system faces unprecedented challenges. Chronic stress, digital overload, constant notifications, and relentless schedules keep many people

trapped in a state of prolonged sympathetic arousal.

When the body remains on high alert indefinitely, the nervous system cannot effectively reset.

Over time, this chronic activation can manifest as physical fatigue, sleep disturbances, anxiety, and impaired immune function. We are living with biological hardware designed for rhythmic cycles of tension and recovery, yet operating in a world that rarely allows for pause. Understanding the nervous system reframes how we view overall health and self-care.

Nurturing this delicate network is not a luxury; it is a fundamental necessity. Simple, intentional practices—such as deep breathing, regular physical movement, adequate sleep, and moments of quiet mindfulness directly engage the vagus nerve, sending signals of safety throughout the body. By learning to tune into our physiological signals rather than overriding them, we cultivate resilience and protect our long-term vitality. Ultimately, the nervous system is the silent architect of our daily existence. It connects our internal biological world to the vast universe outside us, shaping how we feel, think, and interact every single moment. Recognizing its profound influence encourages us to live with greater awareness, honoring the quiet balance that makes human life possible.

- SWAYAM SAM



Where Ancient Traditions Gracefully Meet Modern Progress

Japan exists as a captivating study in contrasts, where centuries-old customs and cutting-edge innovation do not merely coexist—they reinforce one another. Across its volcanic archipelago, neon-lit skyscrapers stand in the shadow of mist-shrouded mountains, while high-speed bullet trains glide past quiet wooden temples. In a world rushing toward digital homogenization, Japan offers a compelling model of how a nation can embrace hyper-modernization while fiercely safeguarding its cultural soul. At the heart of this harmony is a profound cultural philosophy rooted in omotenashi a form of selfless hospitality and kodawari, the relentless pursuit of perfection in one’s craft. Whether it is a master chef spending decades perfecting a bowl of ramen, a tea master guiding a deliberate ceremony, or an engineer fine-tuning high-speed transit systems, there is an overarching commitment to mindfulness and detail. This reverence for quality turns everyday interactions into acts of art, imbuing ordinary life with quiet dignity.

Yet, Japan’s modern identity is equally defined by its relentless push toward the future. As a global leader in robotics, sustainable urban design, and consumer technology, the nation continually redefines convenience and efficiency. Its cities are masterpieces of urban engineering, boasting public transit systems renowned for unmatched punctuality, cleanliness, and safety. Walking through Tokyo or Osaka, one encounters an urban landscape that feels light-years ahead, yet structured around deeply ingrained social discipline, civic consideration. Beyond its physical architecture, Japan’s cultural influence has crossed every ocean. Through anime, gaming, cinema, architecture, gastronomy, Japanese soft power has captivated global audiences for decades. From minimalist interiors to culinary traditions recognized by UNESCO, the nation’s aesthetic sensitivity resonates deeply in an era searching for balance, beauty, and simplicity amidst chaos.

-Joshua Rithvik

Quick Read

Ladakh governance plan faces local differences

Leh

Differences have surfaced among Ladakh's local groups over the proposed elected body under a new governance plan being discussed with the Centre. The Leh Apex Body (LAB) is consulting legal experts before responding to questions raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has urged the Centre to first prepare and share a detailed draft of the proposed arrangement. It wants clarity on the body's powers, structure and functioning. The discussions come amid demands for greater political representation and safeguards for Ladakh. Differences between Leh and Kargil groups may shape further negotiations with the Centre on the proposed governance framework.

2 terrorists killed in ongoing Udhampur operation

Jammu

Two terrorists were killed during an ongoing anti-terror operation in a forested area of Udhampur district in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, security officials said. An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists during the operation. The forces retaliated after coming under attack, leading to an exchange of fire in the area. The operation was underway when the latest reports were received. Security forces rushed additional personnel to the site to strengthen the operation and prevent the terrorists from escaping. Officials said the security forces were continuing searches in the forested area. Further details about the identities of the slain terrorists and the operation were awaited.

Odisha rejects Dara Singh remission plea

NEW DELHI

The Odisha government has rejected the remission plea of Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, who is serving a life sentence for the 1999 murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons. The decision was communicated to the Supreme Court on Thursday, September 17. A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Vijay Bishnoi was hearing Singh's petition concerning the delay in deciding his request for premature release. The Odisha government informed the court that the competent authority had passed an order rejecting the remission request on August 31. A copy of the order was also supplied to Singh's counsel. Following the development,

DUSU poll: NSUI-ABVP clashes, Prof assaulted at DU campus

NEW DELHI

A Delhi University teacher was allegedly assaulted by a student involved in Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election campaigning, as clashes and allegations of violence were reported at several parts of the campus on the final day of campaigning. The incidents came a day before polling scheduled for September 18. The alleged assault took place at Motilal Nehru College. Faculty members gathered at the college after the incident and demanded action against the student. Teachers

UPI fee row escalates

Rahul Gandhi demands rollback, govt pushes back

Five Congress MPs including P Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, Gaurav Gogoi, Kishori Lal and K Gopinath were present on August 12 when the report was adopted.

NEW DELHI

The Centre has questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the newly announced charges on certain UPI transactions, citing a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance that recommended a tiered revenue framework for the digital payment system. A senior government functionary said the committee had called for a tiered Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework for UPI and recommended that it be notified and implemented without delay. The functionary said five Congress MPs — P Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, Gaurav Gogoi, Kishori Lal and K Gopinath — were present when the report was adopted on August 12. According to the government, no



dissent was recorded in the published minutes. The government's remarks came after Gandhi criticised the Centre's decision to introduce an MDR on certain merchant transactions above ₹2,000. The new framework is scheduled to take effect from October 15. Under the announced system, a 0.4% MDR will apply to eligible person-to-merchant UPI

points
Centre introduces MDR on UPI transactions.
0.4% charge applies above ₹2,000.
Government cites ecosystem financial sustainability needs.
Congress criticizes framework, demands withdrawal.

transactions above ₹2,000, while smaller transactions and person-to-person payments will remain outside the charge. The government has described the proposed MDR as a mechanism to support the financial sustainability of the UPI ecosystem rather than a tax on consumers. The finance panel had also raised

concerns about the long-term sustainability of the existing zero-MDR model and the pressure it places on government finances. However, Congress MPs have disputed the government's interpretation of the committee proceedings. Gogoi said the Finance Department had not presented a specific proposal on the UPI charge when officials met the panel. He said members had raised questions about the need for MDR but had not received specific or satisfactory answers. Congress has maintained that the newly announced policy should be withdrawn. The dispute has therefore centred on how the parliamentary committee's earlier recommendation should be understood in relation to the government's current UPI fee framework.

Kerala CPI(M) begins revival after poll rout

KOZHIKODE

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has begun an organisational exercise to recover from its poor performance in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, but the changes announced so far have largely focused on reshuffling party committees rather than replacing its top leadership. The CPI(M) lost power after a decade, with its Assembly strength falling from 62 seats to 26. The party's extended state committee meeting in Kozhikode reviewed the reasons behind the electoral setback and discussed organisational weaknesses. The leadership acknowledged lapses in connecting with people, candidate selection and communication of the Left Democratic Front government's achievements. The party also decided to strengthen its organisational and ideological activities and review the implementation of its decisions after six months. The meeting approved changes to the state secretariat, including the induction of P Jayarajan, M B Rajesh and V Sivankutty. LDF convenor T P Ramakrishnan and former finance minister T M Thomas Isaac were removed from the secretariat. The state committee also saw the induction of more young and women leaders as part of the organisational exercise. However, the party stopped short of replacing its principal state leadership. State secretary M V Govindan faced criticism and was reportedly cen-

CPM REVIEWS SETBACK
THE KERALA CPM STATE COMMITTEE REVIEWED ELECTORAL SETBACKS, ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNICATION GAPS AND LEADERSHIP LAPSES. WHILE OPTING TO CENSURE STATE SECRETARY M V GOVINDAN INSTEAD OF REPLACING HIM, THE PARTY INDUCTED NEW YOUNG AND WOMEN LEADERS INTO THE SECRETARIAT.

sured over lapses linked to the election campaign, particularly developments in Kannur. There were demands within the party for changes, but the leadership opted for censure rather than replacing him immediately. The discussions also exposed differences within the organisation over how responsibility for the electoral defeat should be assessed. Representatives from Kannur questioned whether the draft review placed too much responsibility on lower-level committees while avoiding sufficient criticism of the state leadership. They also raised concerns about declining engagement with party workers and the erosion of support in traditional strongholds. The CPI(M) has announced plans to intensify its campaigns against communalism, build stronger people's movements and expand cultural interventions.

CCTV surveillance proposed at medical stores

NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has proposed changes to the Drugs Rules that could require medical stores to install CCTV cameras to monitor the sale of prescription medicines. The move is aimed at preventing unauthorised access to medicines and improving transparency in the drug supply chain. Under the proposed amendment, CCTV surveillance would help authorities track the dispensing and sale of medicines that require a valid prescription. The system could provide records that may be reviewed during inspections or investigations into suspected violations.

ED raids four states in Ranchi RSS attack case

NEW DELHI

Highlights
ED examines suspect financial network.
NIA investigates broader attack case.
Three suspects arrested by authorities.
Home Ministry bans Shahzad network.
Group linked to cross-border smuggling.
ED focuses on money trails.

suspected financial network connected to the case, including possible links to the Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN). Officials said the agency is attempting to trace the money trail and determine whether funds were used to facilitate the attack. The NIA had earlier taken over the investigation from the Jharkhand Police. Three suspects have been

arrested in connection with the attack. Investigators are examining their alleged contacts and movements, including information about one accused who reportedly stayed in Dubai and allegedly came into contact with a person identified as a handler linked to the Shahzad Bhatti Network. These links remain part of the ongoing investigation. The searches came a day after the Union Home Ministry designated the Shahzad Bhatti Network as a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The ministry has alleged that the network was involved in activities including cross-border smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics and recruitment for terrorist activities. The ED's searches are focused on the financial aspects of the case, while the NIA continues its broader investigation.

Govt needed to bend': Maratha leader ends hunger stir

MUMBAI

Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Thursday ended his 20-day hunger strike in Beed district after a delegation from the Maharashtra government met him and gave assurances on several of his demands. He has now given the state government three months to act on the commitments before deciding on the next course of his agitation. Jarange-Patil ended the fast at Patoda after discussions with a delegation led by Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil. The development came amid concerns over his health and after his proposed march to Mumbai was put on hold.

SC SEEKS REPORT ON MANIPUR CAMP DEATHS

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed shock over deaths of internally displaced people in relief camps in Manipur and directed the state's Chief Secretary to submit an affidavit detailing the action taken in cases, particularly those involving alleged unnatural deaths. The court also directed authorities to ensure proper investigation of such cases. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana questioned the state government over the steps taken following reports placed before it by a committee headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal. The court asked why

post-mortems had reportedly been conducted in only 20 of 34 reported death cases. The Bench directed the Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) to file a separate status report. Chief Justice Surya Kant also asked the authority to ensure that FIRs are registered in all cases involving unnatural deaths and that investigations are conducted without unnecessary delay. The MSLSA was further asked to monitor whether the safety and dignity of people living in relief camps were being protected. The court also sought an explanation from the state government regarding reports that compensation of only ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 had been paid in some cases involving alleged unnatural deaths in relief

camps. The directions followed the examination of reports indicating that more than 30 deaths had occurred among displaced people staying in the camps. One reported case also involved an allegation of sexual assault preceding the death. The Supreme Court also reviewed investigations into cases arising from the ethnic violence that began in Manipur in May 2023. The court was informed that the CBI had investigated 31 cases and filed final reports in 28, while three remained under investigation. State Special Investigation Teams have registered 3,020 cases, with chargesheets filed in 302 cases, closure reports in 1,583 cases and investigations continuing in 1,135 cases. Trials have begun in 33 cases handled by the SITs.

SC to hear Delhi voter deletion plea



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on September 21 a petition challenging the deletion of 47 lakh names from Delhi's electoral roll during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana agreed to hear the matter after it was mentioned before the court on Thursday. The petition raises questions about the transparency of the process used to identify voters for deletion or verification. Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the petitioners, told the court that the Election Commission had issued notices to around 33 lakh voters but had not disclosed their names or the specific reasons for the notices. According to the petition, voters have been placed in categories such as "logical discrepancies" and "no mapping". The petitioners have sought disclosure of the criteria, definitions, algorithmic parameters and operational guidelines used to classify voters under these categories. They have also sought a searchable list containing the

names of voters who received notices and the reasons cited in each case. The Election Commission published a draft electoral roll on August 31 after the SIR exercise. The draft showed that about 47 lakh names had been removed from an earlier electorate of around 1.45 crore voters. The poll panel has said more than 43.32 lakh voters were found to have shifted or were absent, while around 2.82 lakh were identified as deceased and more than 1.41 lakh were found enrolled at multiple places. The petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution and alleges violations of fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21, besides constitutional provisions concerning electoral rolls. The petitioners have sought greater public disclosure to enable affected voters to understand the basis for notices and participate in the verification process. The Supreme Court's September 21 hearing will consider the issues raised in the petition and the transparency of the ongoing electoral-roll revision process. The claims made by the petitioners remain subject to the court's consideration.

CAMPUS POLITICS



CLASHES MAR DUSU ELECTION CAMPAIGN
Clashes erupted across Delhi University campuses during the final day of DUSU campaign, leaving a student hospitalized. ABVP and NSUI traded accusations of violence, prompting heavy police deployment ahead of voting on September 18.

at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College in South Campus was also reportedly assaulted and hospitalised with serious injuries. Police conducted a flag

Quick Read

OpenAI to publish reports on AI misalignment

NEW DELHI
OpenAI will publish ongoing reports on unexpected or unauthorised behaviour by its AI models, after identifying cases involving hidden mistakes, fabricated data and unauthorised actions. The company launched a framework to track, investigate and disclose model misalignment and released six initial reports from training and evaluation. Reported cases include models concealing errors, fabricating information, searching public repositories for exposed API keys and uploading files to public websites without permission. OpenAI said the reports are not comprehensive and individual incidents should not indicate how frequently such behaviour occurs. In one exercise, GPT-5.6 Sol reportedly instructed future models to hide errors or invent missing information.

CSR spending rises 17.5% to Rs 22,563 crore

MUMBAI
CSR spending by listed companies rose 17.5 per cent to Rs 22,563 crore in FY25 from Rs 19,208 crore in FY24, Crisil said in a report. The number of companies reporting CSR expenditure increased 20 per cent to 2,013 from 1,678, marking the fastest growth in a decade. Education and skill development remained the largest spending area at Rs 9,182 crore, followed by healthcare and sanitation at Rs 5,386 crore. Environmental spending nearly quadrupled to Rs 2,371 crore, while rural development rose to Rs 1,632 crore and sports spending nearly tripled to Rs 753 crore. BFSI led sectoral contributions with Rs 5,066 crore, followed by manufacturing and energy.

Hardware fair to bring industry together in Delhi

NEW DELHI
International Hardware Fair India 2026 will be held from October 23 to 25 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, bringing together the tools and hardware industry. Organised by Koelnmesse with FIEO, the fourth edition is expected to feature 170+ exhibitors, 10,000+ trade visitors and participants from 30+ countries. The event will showcase hand tools, power tools, industrial hardware, safety equipment, fasteners, fittings and building materials. A Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet will connect 120 hosted international buyers with Indian manufacturers and suppliers. A 2025 NITI Aayog report said India could generate over \$25 billion in additional tool exports over the next decade.

UPI MDR changes raise security, cost concerns: CII chief

NEW DELHI
Recent changes to the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions need to balance payment security with the rising capital expenditure required to support India's digital payments system, CII President R Mukundan said on Thursday.
Speaking to IANS, Mukundan said UPI had significantly improved the ease of financial transactions but stressed that security must remain protected as digital payments continue to expand. Mukundan declined to comment in detail on the MDR issue, saying finance experts were better placed to determine the appropriate way forward. He expressed confidence that a meaningful solution would emerge, with the key challenge being to maintain transaction security while addressing additional capital spending.
On the BRICS Summit, Mukundan said the meeting brought member countries together and created greater warmth and alignment in discussions. He noted that BRICS has expanded significantly beyond its original membership.
He said the BRICS Business Forum saw positive engagement across four tracks, covering areas ranging from agriculture to high technology. According to Mukundan, the key message was the need to move from "intent to outcomes", particularly in trade and investment.

Modi pushes long-term vision for India's chip mission

India's Semicon 2.0 will target at least 200 semiconductor chip design startups and companies, building on progress under its earlier mission.

NEW DELHI

India will target at least 200 startups and companies engaged in semiconductor chip design under the next phase of its semiconductor mission, Semicon 2.0, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.
Speaking at the inaugural session of SEMICON India 2026, Vaishnaw said chip design would be the first of six pillars under the upgraded programme. During Semicon 1.0, more than 105 startups attempted chip design, with around 20 securing venture capital funding of about Rs 800 crore.
"That was just the beginning. This time our ambition is much bigger," Vaishnaw said, adding that the govern-



ment would support design activity across the full range of semiconductor requirements.
Semicon 2.0 will focus on six areas: chip design; machines and materials; additional fabrication units; advanced packaging; industry-driven research and development with academia; and talent development. The fabrication focus will cover display, memory, silicon, compound and logic chips.
Vaishnaw highlighted

progress in advanced packaging, including a 3D facility being developed in Odisha, while stressing the need for further scale-up.
On talent, he said 70,000 design engineers had already been trained in four years against a 10-year target of 85,000 under the earlier phase. More than 400 universities now have access to leading electronic design automation tools.
Under Semicon 2.0, the government also aims to de-

"That was just the beginning. This time our ambition is much bigger."
—Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Electronics and IT Minister

velop one lakh skilled technicians and factory-floor personnel for upcoming semiconductor plants.
Vaishnaw said the mission would build on the ecosystem created under Semicon 1.0 and support India's long-term semiconductor ambitions.
The minister also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance to focus on developing a long-term semiconductor ecosystem rather than concentrating only on short-term fabrication targets.

Africa faces value-addition test as China expands trade

NEW DELHI

China's decision to provide zero-tariff access to exports from more than 50 African countries is expected to increase trade flows, but the move may not address structural imbalances in Africa-China trade, according to a report by The Diplomat.
The issue was discussed at a seminar in Abuja on August 14, attended by nearly 500 government officials, diplomats, academics and business leaders. A Nigerian minister cautioned against treating tariff relief as a complete solution for African economies, stressing that countries need to improve the value

of their exports.
"Zero tariffs alone do not guarantee success," the minister said, highlighting the need for greater value addition rather than simply increasing export volumes.
China implemented the zero-tariff policy on May 1, granting duty-free access across 100 per cent of tariff lines to African countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Beijing. Early trade figures suggest the policy is already having an impact.
Chinese imports from Africa increased 23.5 per cent year-on-year to \$28.7 billion during May and June, while imports from Nigeria reportedly rose

by more than 40 per cent during the same period.
Africa-China merchandise trade reached a record \$348 billion in 2025. However, China exported goods worth \$225 billion to Africa, while African exports to China stood at \$123 billion, leaving Africa with a trade deficit of \$102 billion.
The report said the imbalance is linked more to the composition of trade than to market access. Between 2000 and 2022, nearly 89 per cent of African exports to China came from extractive industries, including oil, copper and iron ore. In contrast, manufactured products made up most of Africa's imports from China.

NSE cannot trade own shares on exchange, says SEBI chief

MUMBAI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the National Stock Exchange (NSE) cannot currently trade its own shares on its platform, amid speculation over the exchange's proposed initial public offering.
Speaking on the sidelines of the NaBFID Infrastructure Conclave 2026, Pandey said SEBI had not received any formal request or application from NSE seeking permission for self-trading.
"Currently, NSE cannot be

"Currently, NSE cannot be permitted to trade (PTT) on its own platform."
—Tuhin Kanta Pandey, SEBI Chairman

permitted to trade (PTT) on its own platform," Pandey said, according to NDTV Profit.
Pandey also said it was too early to assess any proposal related to the matter. The clarification comes amid discussions over whether NSE could eventually allow trading of its shares on its own platform after its listing.
The issue has gained atten-

tion ahead of NSE's proposed IPO and follows comments earlier this month by BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sundararaman Ramamurthy. He had said NSE would not be able to self-list under the existing regulatory framework.
Ramamurthy said BSE's compliance team had sought clarification from NSE following reports that the exchange could seek permission for self-trading and issue an addendum to its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).
"NSE has confirmed no addendum will be issued for

Soil carbon payments reach 2,550 farmers

NEW DELHI

More than Rs 2.9 crore will be distributed to 2,550 small farmers in Punjab and Haryana through digital soil carbon payments for adopting regenerative farming practices, the Agriculture Ministry said.
The first payments were released at an event at Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana. Dr ML Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, ICAR, initiated the Direct Benefit Transfer to farmers.
The first issuance covered around 30,000 acres and more than 50,000 carbon credits, with farmers receiving approximately Rs 3,000 to Rs 15,000 each. The payments are part of the 'Aadi' farmer carbon programme launched by Grow Indigo in 2019 with technical guidance from ICAR.
Under the programme, farmers adopted practices including Direct Seeded Rice, reduced tillage and crop residue management between 2019 and 2022. Greenhouse gas reductions and increases



More than Rs 2.9 crore will reach 2,550 small farmers in Punjab and Haryana through digital soil carbon payments for regenerative farming practices.

in soil carbon were measured and independently verified before carbon credits were issued.
The programme covers more than two million acres and over 100,000 farmers across seven states. It has issued agricultural carbon credits using the Verra VM0042 methodology.
ICAR institutions supported the programme through greenhouse-gas accounting, crop-simulation modelling, soil sampling, device validation, field-team training and satellite and remote-sensing methods.
Dr Jat said climate-smart farming backed by scientific assessment and verification could create additional income opportunities for small farmers while supporting water conservation and improved air quality.
The programme estimates that enrolled fields saved 45 billion litres of water and kept more than two lakh tonnes of crop residue out of fires, avoiding an estimated 1,000 tonnes of PM2.5 emissions.
Farmers receive payments based on their share of carbon credits generated from their fields, with Grow Indigo releasing payments digitally from its own funds before the credits were fully sold.

SOIL CARBON: STATISTICS
■ ₹2.9 crore+ — Farmer payments
■ 2,550 — Farmers covered
■ 50,000+ — Carbon credits
■ 2 million+ acres — Programme coverage
■ 45 billion litres — Water saved
■ 2 lakh+ tonnes — Crop residue avoided

Rupee settles 3 paise lower at 95.94 against dollar

MUMBAI

The rupee ended 3 paise lower at 95.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday after slipping below the 96-mark during intraday trade, with likely Reserve Bank of India intervention helping the currency recover from its lows.
The rupee opened at 95.88 and touched an intraday low of 96.10, breaching the 96 level for the first time since July 24. It later recovered to a high of 95.78 before settling at 95.94.
The currency remained under pressure from foreign fund outflows and global trade uncertainties. Analysts also cited concerns after the US House of Representatives cleared legislation authorising President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on India and other countries importing Russian oil.
HDFC Securities Senior Research Analyst Dilip Parmar said the rupee experienced a volatile session, initially weakening amid a hawkish US Federal Reserve and weaker Asian currencies. He said central bank intervention helped limit the losses.

India seeks technology edge in mining sector: Union Minister

NEW DELHI

India needs to shift from relying on its resource advantage to building technology-driven competitiveness in mining and metals, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.
Addressing a FICCI conference, Singh said technology should be integrated across the entire value chain, from geological exploration and mining to processing, logistics, recycling and down-

stream manufacturing.
He said the sector's competitiveness would depend not only on the scale of mineral extraction and production but also on how efficiently, safely, sustainably and intelligently India converts its geological resources into high-value and resilient material supply chains.
Singh called for a shift from isolated technology pilots to connected, scalable and trusted technology systems capable of transforming the sector at an industrial scale. He cited declining ore

grades, deeper deposits, rising energy and logistics costs, geopolitical concentration of critical-mineral supplies, decarbonisation requirements and changing customer expectations as reasons for a technology-led approach.
According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, digital technologies can integrate geological, operational, equipment, process, energy, logistics and market data. This can support faster decision-making through improved visibility, prediction,

coordination and automation.
Process technologies can improve extraction and recovery, help utilise low-grade ores and residues, reduce energy and water consumption, support lower-carbon metal production and strengthen separation, refining, advanced materials and recycling capabilities.
Singh said these technologies could lower extraction and refining costs and improve the competitiveness of Indian minerals and metals in domestic and international markets.

UPI FUEL MDR EXEMPTION

Petrol dealers seek UPI MDR exemption on fuel sales

NEW DELHI

Representatives of the All-India Petroleum Dealers Association (AIPDA) met senior Petroleum Ministry officials on Thursday to seek exemption from the merchant discount rate (MDR) on UPI transactions for fuel purchases.
The dealers' body said the additional MDR cost could put pressure on dealer margins because retail fuel sales are conducted on prescribed commissions.



Under the new UPI framework, petrol and diesel purchases above Rs 2,000 will attract a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction. Dealers said such transactions account for around 30-40 per cent of total purchases across retail outlets in India.

During the meeting, Petroleum Ministry officials explained that the MDR was required to support development of the next layer of India's UPI digital infrastructure.
"Petroleum dealers have been at the forefront of adopting digital payments and have worked closely with the government to promote their use across the country," AIPDA said in a statement.
The association said it would continue discussions

with the government and seek a solution that addresses concerns of consumers, dealers and other stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem.
Dealers have raised concerns over the new charge as digital payments have become an important payment method at petrol pumps, particularly for higher-value purchases. They are seeking a complete exemption for fuel retail transactions, citing the sector's prescribed commissions and narrow margins.

The Finance Ministry has clarified that MDR is neither a tax nor a charge collected by the government or NPCI. Instead, it is distributed among payment ecosystem participants, including banks and payment application providers, to support UPI operations and expansion.
The Rs 5 flat MDR will also apply to transactions above Rs 2,000 in other essential and thin-margin sectors, including railways, telecommunications, insurance and agricultural inputs.

INDIA BEAT AFGHANISTAN TO SEAL SERIES SWEEP

Abhishek Sharma unleashed absolute carnage against Afghanistan, obliterating bowling records with a blistering 34-ball 108 at a 317.65 strike-rate.

NEW DELHI

Left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma scripted cricket history at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday, smashing the fastest T20I century by a batter from a Test-playing nation and the quickest ever by an Indian men's cricketer, reaching the milestone in just 30 balls. His sensational blitz propelled India to a commanding total of 221/7 against Afghanistan in the third and final T20I.

Dominating the Afghan bowling attack on a true batting track, Abhishek delivered a masterclass in power-hitting, blazing his way to 108 off 34 deliveries at a staggering strike-rate of 317.65. His whirlwind knock featured nine boundaries and 11 towering sixes. The southpaw attacked relentlessly from the start, taking 17 runs off Azmatullah Omarzai's second over before hammering Fazal-haq Farooqi and Mohammad Nabi to reach his half-century



in just 16 balls. Taking on star spinner Rashid Khan, Abhishek steered India to an emphatic 100/0 inside the six-over powerplay.

Abhishek sealed his record-breaking century in the ninth over with a single off Abdullah Ahmadzai, celebrating the landmark with a serene meditation pose in front

of his proud father, Rajkumar Sharma. Opening partner Sanju Samson provided stellar support, crafting a fluent 35-ball 50—his second consecutive half-century of the series—during their 142-run opening stand.

Afghanistan clawed back into the contest during the second half through brilliant

fielding by Rashid Khan, who claimed Abhishek's wicket with a googly before inflicting a direct-hit run-out and taking two sensational catches. Ahmadzai and Omarzai chipped in with late wickets, but captain Shreyas Iyer's brisk 29 ensured India comfortably breached the 220-run threshold.

Messi hits 100th Inter Miami goal, wins Campeones Cup

BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi scored his 100th goal for Inter Miami as the club defeated Cruz Azul 2-0 to win the Campeones Cup on Wednesday night at Nu Stadium.

Messi reached the milestone in his 115th appearance for Inter Miami, making it the fastest he has scored 100 goals for any club or country. He previously reached the century mark in 188 games for Barcelona and 174 appearances for Argentina, according to sources.

Since joining Inter Miami in 2023, Messi has scored 76 goals in MLS, 14 in the Leagues Cup, eight in the Concacaf Champions Cup and one at the FIFA Club World Cup.

Messi opened the scoring in the 24th minute after Luis Suárez delivered a pinpoint cross from the right. The Argentine forward rose above his marker and headed the ball home to give Miami a 1-0 lead.

Cruz Azul could not find an equaliser as Miami protected its advantage before Casemiro sealed the victory with a late header. The result also handed



new Inter Miami head coach Cristian "Kily" González a trophy in his first match in charge.

González credited Messi for helping deliver the title, saying, "Leo Messi told me I was going to become a champion, and he made it happen." He added that the victory would provide the team with a morale boost and said they must continue working after the achievement.

The Campeones Cup is an annual meeting between the MLS and Liga MX champions. Messi's latest milestone further adds to his growing record at Inter Miami, where he has continued to score across domestic and con-

tinental competitions since arriving in 2023.

His achievement marked another significant moment in his club career.



Indian Teqball pair exits Asian Games group stage

NAGOYA

India's men's doubles Teqball pairing of Declan Gonsalves and Mohamed Beg crashed out in the group stage of the Asian Games 2026 on Wednesday, ending their hopes of reaching the quarter-finals.

The Indian duo lost both their Group B matches. They were first defeated by South Korea's Junsuk Lee and Tae-been Le in straight games, losing 4-12 and 7-12.

Gonsalves and Beg then faced Vietnam's Truong Giang Ba and Anh Khoa Le. India lost the contest 10-12 and 8-12, despite being level with Vietnam at 10-10 during the first game.

The result left the Indian pair at the bottom of Group B and brought their men's doubles campaign to an end. Gonsalves has now completed his Asian Games participation, while Beg will continue to compete in the mixed doubles event.

The mixed doubles qualification rounds are scheduled to begin at 9 am IST on Thursday, giving Beg another opportunity to represent India at the tournament.

Teqball combines elements of football and table tennis and is played on a curved table. Players can use different parts of their body to return the ball, except their hands and arms. The sport features singles and doubles competitions.

Gonsalves and Beg entered the Asian Games with notable international experience. The pair won India's first-ever teqball World Championships medal, securing bronze in the men's doubles event at the 2024 World Championships in Vietnam.

India is competing at the Asian Games after a record medal haul in Hangzhou in 2023, where the country won 107 medals, including 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze. The Indian contingent will aim to build on that performance in Japan.

FULTON URGES INDIA TO FOCUS ON TEAM AHEAD OF ASIAN GAMES

NEW DELHI

Indian men's hockey head coach Craig Fulton said the team is focused on improving as a unit as it prepares to defend its Asian Games gold medal in Japan.

The Harmanpreet Singh-led side finished eighth at the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup and has since regrouped ahead of its Asian Games campaign. India will begin its tournament against Indonesia on Sunday.

Fulton said the team's bonding camp at Mount Fuji helped players move beyond individual goals and strengthen their focus on collective performance. "It just helps the guys really focus on the team and not just the individual pursuit," Fulton said.

Reflecting on the World Cup campaign, Fulton said the team had discussed the problems identified during the tournament and now needed to turn those lessons into action.



"We have discussed everything, gone through everything and highlighted areas needing improvement," he said.

The coach said India would respect every opponent and give its full effort regardless

of the stage or perceived difficulty of a match. He added that the immediate objective was to finish at the top of their pool.

India is placed in Pool A alongside hosts Japan, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The Asian Games title also carries importance as the winner earns direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Fulton acknowledged the different context of this Asian Games campaign, with India entering the tournament after a World Cup rather than the Asian Champions Trophy. However, he said the team would continue to focus on one match at a time and concentrate on its own performance.

NEW DELHI

India have been drawn in Group K alongside Bahrain, Cameroon, Grenada, Laos and Senegal for the inaugural FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival Azerbaijan 2026, scheduled to be held in Baku in October. The India U15 men's team, coached by Bibiano Fernandes, will play five qualification-stage matches over three days at the Hovsan Competition Complex. The tournament features 191 FIFA member associations divided into 32 groups, with 943 matches scheduled across 20 pitches.

India will begin their campaign against Laos on October 24 at 11:45 IST. On October 25, they will face Cameroon at 10:30 IST before taking on Grenada at 17:15 IST. The team will complete the qualification stage on October 26 against



INDIA'S GROUP K FIXTURES

Oct 24	Laos vs India	11:45 IST
Oct 25	India vs Cameroon	10:30 IST
Oct 25	Grenada vs India	17:15 IST
Oct 26	Bahrain vs India	14:15 IST
Oct 26	India vs Senegal	21:00 IST

Bahrain at 14:15 IST and Senegal at 21:00 IST.

The tournament will use an 8v8 format, with matches consisting of two 20-minute halves and a five-minute interval. Rolling substitutions will be allowed, while pitches will measure 68 metres by 50 metres.

India's Asian Games champions face title-defence challenge

NEW DELHI

India's defending champions will return to the Asian Games stage in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, aiming to build on the country's record-breaking performance at Hangzhou 2023.

India won 107 medals in 2023, including 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze. The tally surpassed the previous best of 70 medals achieved at the 2018 Jakarta Games.

Shooting emerged as India's most successful sport in Hangzhou, producing 22 medals, including seven gold. Athletics contributed 29 medals, including six gold, with Neeraj Chopra defending his men's javelin title. However, Chopra will miss the 2026 Games after suffering an ankle ligament tear during training.

Several other champions

will return to defend their titles. Avinash Sable will compete in the men's 3000m steeplechase, while Tajinderpal Singh Toor will seek another gold in the men's shot put. Parul Chaudhary, who won the women's 5000m gold in Hangzhou, will also feature.

In compound archery, Jyothi Surekha Vennam will be among India's leading contenders after the country swept all five gold medals in the discipline in 2023. Shooting will again feature prominent names, including Manu Bhaker and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

Badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will carry the title-defence challenge after becoming India's first men's doubles Asian Games champions. The men's hockey team and cricket sides will also return as defending champions.



Sonal Dinusha named ICC Player of Month

DUBAI

Sri Lanka's young left-handed batter Sonal Dinusha has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2026 after a prolific Test series against India.

Dinusha was the highest run-scorer from either side in Sri Lanka's two-match home Test series, scoring 420 runs at an average of 140. Sri Lanka lost the series 1-0.

He began with a century in the opening Test at Galle and followed it with an 84 in the second innings, despite Sri Lanka losing the match by 165 runs.

In the second Test at the SSC Ground in Colombo, Dinusha scored 103 in the first innings and remained unbeaten on 133 in the second, helping Sri Lanka secure a draw. He was also named Player of the Match.

Dinusha finished the series with three centuries and a half-century, earning his first ICC Player of the Month award. "This recognition means so much to me, especially so early in my career," Dinusha said.

He added that scoring three centuries in Galle and Colombo in front of home support-

ers was a dream come true. Dinusha also praised his teammates for their fightback in the second Test.

Dinusha made his Test debut against Bangladesh last year and has quickly become an important member of Sri Lanka's Test side. He said the award had given him further motivation to continue improving and contributing to the national team.

He was shortlisted alongside England seamer Ollie Robinson and Bangladesh fast bowler Hasan Mahmud. Robinson took 16 wickets in August, including two eight-wicket hauls against Pakistan, while Mahmud claimed nine wickets in Bangladesh's Test victory over Australia in Darwin.

However, Dinusha's outstanding batting performances against India secured him the monthly honour.

IN FOCUS

• 420 runs – Series total

• 140 – Batting average

• 3 centuries – In the series

• 1 half-century – In the series

• 103 & 133* – Scores in second Test

Isak aims for strong season to reward Indian fans

NEW DELHI

Liverpool forward Alexander Isak has praised the club's Indian supporters and said he hopes to deliver a strong season that makes their late-night viewing worthwhile.

After an injury-hit previous campaign at Anfield, Isak has made a positive start this season, scoring three goals in four Premier League appearances. He also provided an assist in Liverpool's Champions League victory over Atletico Madrid.

Ahead of Liverpool's upcoming Premier League match against Bournemouth, Isak thanked fans watching from India despite the difficult match timings. "Of course, we appreciate all the support from overseas, where we understand that the times are not always very suitable," he told JioHotstar. "Hopefully, we can do well and have a good season, which makes staying up late more worth it," Isak added, acknowledging the commitment of Indian supporters who follow Liverpool's matches.

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk recently named Isak among the players to watch this season. Responding to the praise, the Swedish forward said there were many players capable of making an impact. He also praised Van Dijk's composure and leader-



ship on and off the ball. Isak also reflected on his journey from Swedish club AIK to Liverpool, saying breaking through at a young age was among the toughest stages of his career. He described his journey as a long one filled with challenges.

The forward also compared the Premier League with other European competitions. "The Premier League is obviously more physical and higher tempo, whereas maybe Spain is a little bit more controlled and technical," he said.

Isak will now look to maintain his early-season form as Liverpool continue their domestic and European campaigns, while Indian supporters follow the club from afar.

Quick Read

Ukraine's Zelenskiy appoints acting prosecutor general

Kyiv
Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has appointed Anton Kovalskiy as acting prosecutor general, a presidential decree showed on Thursday. Zelenskiy removed former prosecutor general Ruslan Kravchenko by decree earlier this week, with lawmakers approving the decision in a vote on Tuesday. Kovalskiy, 42, has since July 2025 headed the regional prosecutor's office in the Khmelnytskyi region. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, or NABU, and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) had alleged that Kravchenko's subordinate organised a ring to cover up call centres that defrauded Ukrainians and foreigners.

Japan PM retains economy minister in cabinet reshuffle

TOKYO
Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi vowed to fast-track policies to boost growth after retaining her key ministers in a cabinet reshuffle, including reflationist ally Minoru Kiuchi as economy minister, signalling her determination to implement her big spending plans. Takaichi's policies have proven contentious given the enormity of Japan's public debt. Her decision to pursue a two-year tax cut on food items sparked a bond selloff as well as criticism from the US, putting her under pressure to heed market calls for fiscal discipline.

Australia considers banning the use of smart glasses

SYDNEY
Australia is considering barring the use of camera-equipped smart glasses in government workplaces due to privacy and security concerns, in what it said could be the first ban of its kind. The government will separately convene a roundtable of the country's biggest employers, including Microsoft, Commonwealth Bank, telecoms firm Telstra and energy company AGL as it consults on a set of guidelines for AI in the workplace. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it was important that Australia, which last year became the first place in the world to ban social media for teens, put the "right protections in place as technology evolves". "I am proud that Australia is setting the world standard for digital safety," he said in a statement on Thursday. While smart glasses have been lauded by some sections of the community such as the visually impaired, there have been growing concerns globally that the devices can be used to covertly record and photograph people without their consent. Norway's capital Oslo banned the glasses in schools last month, and the federal government is considering regulating their use. England and Wales have prohibited the use of Meta smart glasses in courts. Katy Gallagher, Australia's minister for public service, said she had asked the public service commission for advice on whether smart glasses capable of recording should be prohibited in government workplaces.

Carney Backs Deeper Canada-EU Ties

CANADA BACKS DEEPER EU TIES AS CARNEY WELCOMES ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, WHILE TRUMP THREATENS TARIFFS IF WASHINGTON CONSIDERS THE PROPOSAL HOSTILE OR STRATEGICALLY PROVOCATIVE.

TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Thursday backed a proposal for Canada to become the European Union's first associate member, presenting closer ties with Europe as a way to strengthen economic resilience and strategic cooperation. Speaking to European lawmakers in Strasbourg, Carney welcomed European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's proposal, made a day earlier during her State of the Union address. The proposal has not yet been fully defined and would require approval from EU mem-



ber states. Carney said Canada and Europe could cooperate more closely in critical minerals, defence, artificial intelligence,

computing, energy security, space, payments and digital trade. He framed the proposed relationship as an effort to build resilience rather than

Carry And EU discuss business plans
■ Carney backs Canada-EU associate membership proposal,
■ Von der Leyen proposed the partnership,
■ Trump calls proposal "laughable",
■ US president threatens heavy tariffs,
■ EU says move is not hostile,
■ Cooperation could cover defence, AI and minerals,
■ Associate membership terms remain undefined.

create a rival power bloc.

"Europe and Canada are each strong. Europe and Canada are even stronger together," Carney said. His remarks came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump criticised the proposal and warned that

Washington could impose heavy tariffs or restrict trade with Europe if he considered the move hostile. Trump described the idea as "laughable" and said the U.S. response would depend on its intentions. The European Commis-

sion has rejected the suggestion that the proposal is directed against the United States. Commission spokesperson Olof Gill said the proposed strengthening of ties with Canada was intended to build common strength, not target another country. Carney also said Canada would make its own decisions about international partnerships. His comments come as Ottawa seeks to broaden economic and security relationships amid trade tensions with Washington and competition from China. The proposed associate membership remains at an early stage, with its scope and legal framework still unclear.

Yemenis Flee By Sea as Fighting Spreads

DJIBOUTI

Yemenis are fleeing by sea as fighting between Iran-backed Houthi forces and Saudi-backed forces intensifies along the Red Sea coast, deepening a humanitarian crisis and raising risks for global energy supplies. More than 100,000 Yemenis have been displaced by the fighting, most within Yemen, according to the International Organization for Migration. Thousands more have crossed the Red Sea by boat, including people seeking safety in Djibouti. Ahmad Hassan, 70, told the IOM that the journey

DISPLACEMENT
More than 100,000 Yemenis displaced
Most remain displaced within Yemen
Thousands have fled by sea
Djibouti has received people crossing the Red Sea

was difficult, with rough seas and seasick children. He said he left his village after Houthi fighters arrived and the area came under air strikes.

"The longer we stayed, the worse things got," Hassan said, adding that shops had closed and food was no longer available. The crisis is unfolding as Houthis expand control along Yemen's Red Sea coastline. The group has captured territory and islands around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key passage for global shipping and energy supplies. Houthi-controlled television reported Saudi air strikes on Thursday in Hajjah province, near the Saudi border and around Taiz farther south. The Houthis say Saudi aircraft carried out hundreds of

strikes. The group has responded with missile and drone attacks against targets across the border. The Houthis said they had shot down a Saudi F-15 fighter jet and released footage from the crash site. The conflict is threatening maritime trade and oil flows. Vessel traffic through the Bab el-Mandeb has fallen as fighting intensifies, while disruptions elsewhere have increased pressure on energy markets. "The sea was wavy. The children were getting seasick; everyone is not used to the sea." — Ahmad Hassan, 70, describing his escape by boat to Africa

Milei submits bill to strengthen sanctions against Falklands activities

ARGENTINA

Argentina's government has presented a bill to crack down on companies operating in the Falkland Islands, potentially escalating tensions with the United Kingdom over the territory that is controlled by Britain but claimed by Argentina. This law seeks to "punish those who exploit our natural resources illegally, create incentives for them to cease such conduct, and provide the national government with tools to protect itself against external threats," the president's office said in a statement on Thursday. The Argentinian government said last week it had opened sanctions proceedings against at least 60 companies and individuals linked to offshore oil exploration around the islands, which Argentina calls the Malvinas.

UN Flags War Crimes in Iran Strikes

GENEVA

A United Nations fact-finding mission has said there are reasonable grounds to believe US forces were responsible for two military strikes in Iran in February that constituted war crimes, while also accusing Iranian authorities of crimes against humanity during a crackdown on anti-government protests. The findings were contained in a report by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, which is due to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The investigation examined US military conduct during the Iran war that began in February

and the Iranian government's response to nationwide protests that erupted in late December. The UN experts said they had reasonable grounds to believe US forces were responsible for a strike on the Shajarah Tayyebah Primary School in Minab. Iranian officials said more than 150 people were killed, including about 120 schoolchildren. The mission described the attack as indiscriminate and said the school was a clearly identifiable civilian object, with no evidence it was being used for military purposes. The report said US forces failed to adequately update targeting information and confirm that the building was

a military objective. Investigators concluded that the circumstances went beyond simple negligence. The mission also examined a strike on a sports centre in Lamerd that damaged nearby homes and a school and killed or injured 22 civilians. It concluded the attack was indiscriminate. US Central Command has previously said American forces did not conduct strikes in Lamerd that day. Separately, the mission said Iranian authorities carried out a widespread and systematic attack against civilians during the protests, involving unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and restrictions on freedom of expression.

Romanian shelter offers an alternative to stray dog culls

CATEASCA

Every day at dawn, eight veterinary vans pull out of the Smeura animal shelter, deep in a forest in central Romania, and fan out to villages where they sterilize dogs for free. The pilot programme run by German animal welfare association Tierhilfe Hoffnung has one main aim to show there is a better alternative to the country's policy of culling unwanted animals. Romania authorised the capture and euthanasia of strays in 2013 after a child was killed in an attack. Thirteen years on, animal groups say the country still has one of Europe's largest populations of roaming dogs, estimated at 500,000. The shelter itself has been taking in strays, and sent more than 2,200 of them out for adoption last year alone. But as each one leaves, another arrives. "The dogs keep coming," Tierhilfe Hoffnung manager Matthias Schmidt said. "If we want to solve the problem, we have to sterilize intensively and en masse in order to achieve this result." Calls to end euthanasia have increased since an investigation by international animal welfare organization Four Paws earlier this year found evidence of systemic neglect, overcrowding and abuse in publicly funded animal shelters.

KARNATAKA MINISTER K.J. GEORGE VISITS THUMBAY MEDICITY

AJMAN

Karnataka Energy and Tourism Minister Shri K.J. George visited Thumbay Medicity in Ajman, highlighting the growing links between Karnataka and the UAE in healthcare, medical education and tourism. The Minister was welcomed by Dr. Thumbay Moideen and senior members of the Thumbay Group at the healthcare and academic campus. During the visit, Shri George toured Gulf Medical University, Thumbay University Hospital and Thumbay



Rehabilitation Hospital. He reviewed the facilities and interacted with faculty

members, students and healthcare professionals. The visit provided an opportunity to understand the institution's medical education, clinical services and research infrastructure developed by the Thumbay Group over more than two decades. Gulf Medical University, a key institution within the Thumbay Group, attracts students from more than 111 nationalities. A significant number of students and healthcare professionals associated with the university are from Karnataka and other parts of India.

As Canadian tariffs bite, Republicans search for a winning message

NEW YORK

High gas prices and the rising cost of living had already made affordability a defining issue in this year's midterm elections. Then President Donald Trump escalated his trade war with Canada. Now, Republican candidates in northern border states most affected by the tariffs are trying to strike a balance between appealing to Trump's loyal base and reaching independent voters that polls show have soured on his han-

dling of the economy and his fight with Canada. The economies of Michigan and Maine have long been intertwined with Canada's, covering everything from auto parts to lumber to fruit-picking equipment. That has raised the stakes in two states that Republicans will likely need to win in the November 3 elections if they are to hold the US Senate - and their respective candidates have taken notably different approaches with voters, each with its own

political risks. The Senate races in both Michigan and Maine are considered toss-ups by the Cook Political Report. U.S. Senator Susan Collins of Maine is breaking with Trump, criticizing the tit-for-tat exchange of tariffs and seeking carveouts for affected industries. Michigan Senate candidate Mike Rogers, by contrast, has criticized Canada and made the case that his close relationship with the president will help blunt the impact of the trade war.

In The Court Of The Hon'ble TWELTH Additional Civil Judge And JMFC At Mysuru [Miscellaneous Jurisdiction] In The Matter Of Criminal Miscellaneous Petition In Cri. Mis. No, 1219/ of 2026

Between 1.Smt. Savitramma2. Sri. Kari Puttaiah3.Smt. Shivamma. R 4. Sri. Kumar.R ----- Petitioners And The Tahasildar. The Registrar of Births and Deaths, Mysuru Taluk and District ----- Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE
for The Petitioners has filed the above petition against the Respondents by seeking the relief of declaration of death of petitioners Father Sri. Rachaiah on **03-05-1997** and the said case is posted on 3.11.2026.FOR hearing of the parties. Hence, any general public interested to file objection to above said matter, Interested person shall hereby informed to appear before the Hon'ble court at 11.00 AM on the above said date of hearing either personally or through your counsel without fail and to file objections if any. Otherwise, the case will be heard and disposed off in your absence.Given under my hand and seal of the court on this , the 7th day of sep, 2026
BY order of the court
Advocate Shiraasthedar
Chandru,B Hon'ble 12th Additional civil Judge, &JMFC ,Mysuru
DATE:17.09.2026
PLACE: MYSURU

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಮಾಗಡಿ ಟೌನ್, ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ನಂ. 15ರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ಸ್ಥಳ ನಂ. 19-515-18 (ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ನಂ. 179/141, ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ: 185.80 ಚ.ಮೀ) ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಜಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಎಂ.ಎಂ. ಪರಲಕ್ಷ ಎಂ.ಎಂ. ಪಾಲಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪಾಲಯಾ ಎಂ.ಎಂ. ರವರವರು ಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯ ವಾಸಾಧಾರಿ (ಗೃಹ: ದಿವ್ಯಾಕ್ಷ ಎಂ.ಕೆ. ಪಂಚಾಂಗಾಕ್ಷರವು) ರವರು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಮ ಸ್ಥಳದ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಗೃಹಾಧಾರಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು, ಈ ಸ್ಥಳದ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕೈಮುಚ್ಚಿರುವ ಹೊಂದಿವು, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಬಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂಗ ಸಹ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ವಿವರ/ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಪ್ರಕಟವು, ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಕ್ರಿಯಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಂದುವರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪ್ರಿಯಂವಾಸಾ, ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಮಂದರ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ, ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ನಂ. 15, ಮಾಗಡಿ ಟೌನ್, ಬೋರ್ಡ್: 9164511990. 9901706567

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
Notice is hereby given to the general public and all concerned that my clients 1) Sri.Hanumaiah, S/o Late Dasappa, aged about 69 years, 2) Smt. Rajamma, W/o Hanumaiah, aged about 62 years; 3) Sri.Murthy, S/o Hanumaiah, aged about 42 years; and 4) Smt.Varalakshmi, D/o Hanumaiah, aged about 40 years, have decided to cancel the General Power of Attorney dated 14.12.2007 executed in favour of Sri.Hanumanthegowda, S/o Late Nanjappa, registered before the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura, as Document No.DBP-4-00954-2007-08, stored in C.O.No.DNP135. My clients have already issued a legal notice dated 25.08.2026 calling upon the said GPA Holder to cancel the aforesaid registered General Power of Attorney. The GPA Holder, Sri. Hanumanthegowda, is hereby called upon to appear before the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura and execute the necessary Cancellation of GPA and to return the original documents which obtained by my clients within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. He is further called upon not to act upon the said GPA or to sell, transfer, alienate, encumber or create any third-party rights in respect of the properties covered under the said GPA. Any person dealing with the GPA Holder on the strength of the said GPA shall do so entirely at his/her own risk and responsibility. In the event of failure to comply with this notice, my clients shall be at liberty to take appropriate legal action without any further notice. Sd/- Advocate for the Clients ANANTA KUMAR R.S.B.A.,LL.B., ADVOCATE 524, 6th Main Road, 4th Ward, Dgg. Court Complex, Rojupura, Doddaballapura-561003 MOB-8217519276 Place: Doddaballapura, Date:16-09-2026

CORRIGENDUM
In the public notice published in CITY HIGHLIGHTS Paper on page number - 13 on 01/09/2026, the document number **BLN-1-49816-06-07** is incorrectly printed as - 49092 instead of the missing document number **BLN-1-49816-06-07**, henceforth the document number **BLN-1-49816-06-07** should be read.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**
IN THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL – NAMAKKAL M.C.O.P. No: 24 of 2026
Kalaivani Petitioner
1. R. Manoj
2. The Branch Manager, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited
..Respondents
Whereas the above case is pending before this Hon'ble Court, and despite all reasonable efforts, the Respondent, Mr./Mrs. R. Manoj, having residence at No.17, Ground floor, 7th cross, Ganesh Temple Road, Cholurpalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru North, Bangalore. 560023. Karnataka, could not be served with Court summons. Therefore, by order of this Hon'ble Court, the Respondent is hereby called upon to appear in person or through a duly authorised Advocate before this Hon'ble Court on 21.09.2026 at 10.30 A.M., failing which the matter will be heard and decided ex parte in accordance with law.
Place: Namakkal
Date: 16.09.2026
Counsel for the Petitioner **B. MANIMEKALAI, B.Com., B.L. Advocate,** Opp. S.P. Office, NAMAKKAL - 637 003 Endrl No: 1216/92. Ph: 99441 33099.

IN THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL – NAMAKKAL M.C.O.P. No: 13 of 2026
Jayaraman Petitioner
1. R. Manoj
2. The Branch Manager, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited
..Respondents
Whereas the above case is pending before this Hon'ble Court, and despite all reasonable efforts, the Respondent, Mr./Mrs. R. Manoj, having residence at No.17, Ground floor, 7th cross, Ganesh Temple Road, Cholurpalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru North, Bangalore. 560023. Karnataka, could not be served with Court summons. Therefore, by order of this Hon'ble Court, the Respondent is hereby called upon to appear in person or through a duly authorised Advocate before this Hon'ble Court on 21.09.2026 at 10.30 A.M., failing which the matter will be heard and decided ex parte in accordance with law.
Place: Namakkal
Date: 16.09.2026
Counsel for the Petitioner **B. MANIMEKALAI, B.Com., B.L. Advocate,** Opp. S.P. Office, NAMAKKAL - 637 003 Endrl No: 1216/92. Ph: 99441 33099.

Kaandhari Trailer Launched by Veteran Actor Doddanna



Veteran Kannada actor Doddanna recently showered praise on the upcoming film Kaandhari, calling Uttara Kannada district truly wonderful. Speaking at the trailer launch, Doddanna recalled his past visits to the region, noting its breathtaking natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. He expressed a strong desire to revisit the scenic district soon.

Produced by Supreeth Hegde Somanamane under Aakhyana Productions and directed by Vinayaka Hegde Bommanalli, the movie spans three distinct eras from 1801 to 2026. Tagged as "A Poem of Karnataka," the film highlights the region's glorious history, including Vanavasi serving as an ancient capital and local heroes fighting colonial rule. Director Vinayaka explained that the project represents a two-year labor of love designed to preserve local history for younger generations. Prominent industry figures, including veteran producer Rockline Venkatesh and senior IAS officer Sanjay Shettannavar, attended the event to show their support. Featuring music by Harshavardhan Raj, cinematography by Satish, and editing by K.M. Prakash, the movie hits theatres statewide this month, promising audiences an unforgettable visual and historical journey.

Allu Arjun's Raaka first look in December

Film enthusiasts have substantial reason to celebrate as the creative forces behind the upcoming science-fiction epic Raaka have officially announced a major promotional update.

Icon star Allu Arjun and acclaimed director Atlee are collaborating on this massive multi-starrer project, and the production team has confirmed that the first official glimpse will launch in December this year.

Production houses and official social media handles released a striking new promotional poster recently, accompanying it with a compelling tagline that urges audiences to prepare for an entirely new cinematic journey.

The teaser text commanded fans to brace themselves to enter his world, instantly driving intense digital engagement and trending topics across multiple social media platforms worldwide.

While studio representatives have kept precise rollout details under wraps, industry insiders anticipate that the December release will showcase a high-concept teaser trailer, a motion poster, or a detailed visual introduction.

This upcoming unveiling marks a critical milestone for the ambitious project, which aims to redefine visual effects and futuristic storytelling in Indian cinema.

The project has maintained steady momentum since its initial announcement, driven further by an earlier promotional reveal that showcased Allu Arjun in an unconventional avatar.

That initial teaser poster featured the actor with most of his facial features concealed under heavy shadows and thick fur, leaving only a single intense eye visible to the audience.

This mysterious aesthetic heightened speculation regarding his character arc and the dystopian setting of the narrative. Production activities are currently operating at a rapid pace.

Iconstar Allu Arjun and director Atlee's sci-fi epic Raaka will release its first official promotional glimpse this December, building massive anticipation for late 2027.



Anant Nag wins Prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award



Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag has been honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024, marking a historic milestone for regional and national cinema. Announced by the Government of India, the recognition celebrates his extraordinary five-decade career spanning over 300 films across Kannada, Hindi, and other languages.

Beginning his cinematic journey in 1973 with Sankalpa, Nag seamlessly transitioned between pioneering parallel cinema projects with visionary directors like Shyam Benegal and immensely popular mainstream

commercial hits. His unforgettable roles in classics such as Ondanondu Kaladalli, Ganeshana Maduve, and Mungaru Male, alongside iconic television appearances in Malgudi Days, cemented his legendary status across generations of viewers.

This national honor is particularly momentous for Karnataka, making him only the second Kannada actor to receive the accolade, following Dr. Rajkumar in 1995. Following his recent Padma Bhushan recognition in 2025, Nag dedicated this latest achievement to the people of Karnataka, celebrating a lifetime of unmatched artistic brilliance.

Dulquer's 'Aakasamlo Oka Tara' release date locked



The highly anticipated multi-lingual romantic drama Aakasamlo Oka Tara (AOT), starring pan-Indian actor Dulquer Salmaan and Satvika Veeravalli, has officially locked its worldwide theatrical release date for November 20, 2026. Directed by Pavan Sadineni, the film has generated substantial buzz across the entertainment industry, bolstered by its striking teaser and a melodious initial single that established a deeply atmospheric tone.

The makers announced the release date alongside a captivating new promotional poster that introduces audiences to the world of "Krishna," the character portrayed by Dulquer Salmaan.

Reflecting on the creative journey, Dulquer shared his excitement

with fans on social media, writing, "This one has been a lovely journey so far. Can't wait to introduce you all to this world on November 20th. Yours, Krishna".

Positioned as a grand cinematic spectacle, Aakasamlo Oka Tara blends a poetic romance with an inspiring narrative arc that tracks a rural girl's extraordinary journey and cosmic aspirations to become an astronaut.

Adding heavy star power and depth to the narrative, versatile actress Shruti Haasan plays a pivotal and distinct role as a bold science teacher.

The technical and production standards are equally formidable.

The film features soul-stirring music composed by GV Prakash Kumar, whose recent updates have continuously elevated viewer expectations, alongside crisp cinematography by Sujith Sarang. Jointly backed by prominent banners including Lightbox Media, Swapna Cinema, Vyjayanthi Movies, and Geetha Arts, the project boasts high production values.

Designed to appeal to a wide demographic, the movie will hit silver screens simultaneously in Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi, ensuring a massive pan-Indian footprint.

With the release date now firmly secured, the core team is slated to roll out an aggressive multi-city promotional campaign in the coming weeks to build momentum ahead of its late-November premiere.

A NON-STOP ACTION JOURNEY FOR NANI



banner of Niharika Entertainment, the project has already generated significant pre-release hype, especially following an inventive, stylized announcement teaser that portrayed Nani in a slick, dark-humor-laced avatar as a deadly, culinary-themed underworld figure.

According to production circles, Bloody Romeo will lean heavily into stylish action tropes fused with dark-comedy elements, operating as an integral component of Sujeeth's expanding cinematic vision (Sujeeth Cinematic Universe - SCU). The film's sonic landscape is being crafted by composer Pravin Lakkaraju.

This rapid back-to-back transition highlights Nani's relentless work ethic. Having poured immense physical and mental energy into Srikanth Odela's raw, socially-rooted tribal action-thriller The Paradise—which cleared the CBFC with an 'A' certificate and a runtime of nearly three hours—the actor will transition straight from grueling promotional obligations into the action-packed sets of Sujeeth's directorial. Comprehensive announcements regarding the extended cast, leading ladies, and official floor dates for Bloody Romeo are expected to follow hot on the heels of The Paradise's theatrical rollout.

As Telugu cinema's versatile powerhouse Nani puts the final touches on his highly anticipated high-octane action drama The Paradise—slated for a worldwide theatrical release on September 24, 2026—industry insiders report that the actor will have virtually no downtime before diving into his next massive cinematic venture, Bloody Romeo.

Directed by Sujeeth—who recently helmed the Pawan Kalyan blockbuster OG—Bloody Romeo is anticipated to kick off its primary shooting schedules next month. The film marks an exciting collaboration between Nani and Sujeeth, bringing together two powerhouse talents known for redefining commercial cinema. Produced by Venkat Boyanapalli under the

Madonna returns to open 2026 MTV VMAs

Global pop icon Madonna is preparing for a historic comeback to the MTV Video Music Awards stage, marking her first live performance at the ceremony in over two decades. Network executives from MTV and CBS officially confirmed that the legendary artist will kick off the upcoming awards night with an opening act. Fans have waited more than twenty years for this moment. Madonna's last full performance at the VMAs took place back in 2003, when she shared the spotlight with Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, and Missy Elliott. That unforgettable opening featured a mashup of hits alongside her iconic onstage kisses, cementing its place in pop culture history. Her return coincides with a massive awards season for the singer, who currently leads all performers with eleven nominations this year. Her nods include major categories like Artist of the Year, Video of the Year for her film project, and Song of the Year. She already holds nineteen competitive trophies and a Video Vanguard Award. The pop superstar's history with the network stretches back to the very first ceremony in 1984.

Soulful track elevates upcoming Kannada film Common Man

The latest melody from the upcoming Kannada film Common Man, titled Yede Moole Mooleyolage, has struck an immediate chord with listeners ahead of its theatrical release on September 25.

The romantic ballad, rendered by noted playback singers Javed Ali and Shruthi Prahlad, captures subtle emotional nuances with balanced lyrical finesse and gentle orchestration. Penned by lyricist Sai Sarvesh and scored by music director Vinay Chandra, the composition pairs accessible prose with spacious arrangements, allowing both vocalists to enhance the track's romantic atmosphere.

The film features a diverse musical catalog with four contrasting tracks launched recently by prominent Sandalwood personalities, including Vinod Prabhakar, veteran actress and MLC Umashree, Ramesh Bhat, and Priyanka Upendra.

In sharp contrast to the soulful ballad, the album also presents Nanna Hesaru Saniya, an energetic, peppy number crooned by Chaitra J. Achar and Vinay Chandra designed specifically for younger audiences. The

soundtrack also features prominent vocalists such as Kailash Kher and Baba Sehgal.

Produced by social worker Dr. N. Narasimha Murthy under the Surabhi Films banner, the film features a story by Murthy, with screenplay and direction by veteran filmmaker Om Sai Prakash, marking his 106th directorial venture. Gowrishankar SRG portrays the central protagonist opposite female lead Sona Ladva, with veteran actor Ashok essaying the role of Governor, supported by Ganeshrao Kesarkar, Escort Srinivas, and Prakash Thumminad.

