



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



KARAVALI

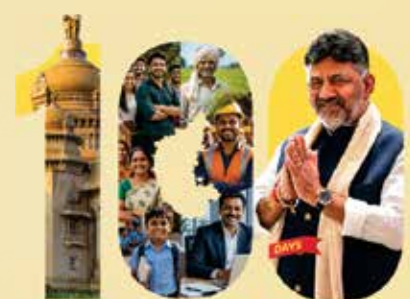
**A new wave of development
to the coastal Karnataka region**

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.

Quick Read

Engineering students' mentoring programme on September 20

CH NEWS, UDUPI
A mentoring programme for first-year engineering students of the year 2026-27 at Madhva Vadiraja Technical College, Bantakal will be held on September 20 at 10 am. Prasad B Rampure, Registrar of Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum, and S Purushottam, Head of TCS Global Technologies, Bengaluru, will participate as guests. P Srinivasa Tantri, Vice President of Sode Vadiraja Math Education Trust, will preside over the function. Ratnakumar, Secretary of Sode Education Group of Institutions, Chief Executive Officer Radhakrishna S Aital and Nagaraj Bhat, Principal of the institution, will participate, the release said.

Strengthen to be inaugurated on Sept 20 at Eikya Stadium

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
The inaugural edition of the Strengthen, a combined competition involving running, strength training and functional fitness, will be held on September 20 at the city's Eikya Stadium, said Nitin Sriyan, founder of the Strengthen India Foundation. Speaking at a press conference, he explained that the competitions will begin at 8 am and there will be prizes such as trophies, T-shirts, etc. The top 10 will be selected through wild cards for the Pro Strengthen to be held in November. They will also get a 15 percent discount on the fees. Rather than focusing on a single sport, the aim of the Strongon is to showcase different physical abilities. It will measure speed, strength and endurance, he said.

Mangaluru woman loses Rs 13.74 lakh in scam

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
A cybercrime case has been reported in which a 60-year-old woman from the city was duped of Rs 13,74,319 by being told that she could double her profits by investing money in the online stock market, according to a statement from the Mangaluru City Police.
A 60-year-old woman, a resident of the city, is the victim of the loss of money. A case has been registered against unknown cyber fraudsters at the CEN Crime Police Station.
According to the complaint, on May 28, while the victim was checking WhatsApp on her mobile, she received messages from a WhatsApp group named 'wsfx Global Pay / Quantam AI' suggesting that she could earn high profits by investing in stock trading.
After this, an unknown person in the name of 'Joshua B. Saji' called the victim on WhatsApp from the number +447824915764. He strongly assured that if she registered with the company he mentioned and invested in trad-

Cabinet meeting prompts traffic route changes

With a special state cabinet meeting, there is a possibility of traffic congestion on many major roads from Friday to Saturday, and an appeal has been made to use alternative routes.

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

There is a possibility of temporary disruption to the traffic system in the city as the Karnataka State Government's Cabinet meeting will be held on September 18 at the Deputy Commissioner's Office (Praja Soudha) in Padil.

The City Police Department has issued traffic advisories to the public in view of the arrival of cabinet-level ministers, including the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, in the city to attend the meeting.

The state Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Ministers will arrive in city on the evening of September 17 and will proceed to Praja Soudha in Padil through the main roads of the city on the morning of September 18. After the meeting, they will leave for Udupi via the helipad at Mary Hill in the afternoon and then return to city for their stay. They will leave the city on the morning of September 19.

In this context, the public is requested to follow the in-



The City Police Commissioner has appealed to the public to avoid unnecessary travel on major routes and to cooperate in smoothing the traffic system by using alternative routes as much as possible. The police department has requested the public's cooperation with the message "Follow Traffic Rules, Save Lives" and "Follow Traffic Rules, Save Lives".

structions of the police department and use alternative routes in order to ensure the security of the dignitaries and smooth traffic flow.

There will be a procession of dignitaries from Baipe Airport via Kavoor-Bondel-Maryhill-K.P.T.-Kadri Kambala-Bant's Hostel-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Junction-Hampanakatte-Clock Tower-Hamilton Junction.

Traffic will be carried out on the route Hamilton Junction-Clock Tower-Ham-

panakatte-Dr BR Ambedkar Junction-KPT Junction-Nanturu Circle-Pampuvél-Naguri-Bazal Cross (Praja Soudha)-Padil Junction.

Vehicles heading towards Hamilton Junction from Badria Junction via Hotel Taj Vivant are advised to take Badria Junction-Nileshwar Road-Rosario Road.

Vehicles heading towards Badria Junction from Hamilton Junction via Taj Vivant front should take an alternative route via Hamilton Junction - Nellikai Road.

Vehicles travelling from Pumpuvél Junction towards Padil via Naguri or from Padil via Naguri towards Pumpuvél can use the Nanthur Circle - Kaikamba - Maroli route. Alternatively, they can also travel via Thokkottu - Deralakatte - Mudipu - Boliyar - Melkar route.

Vehicles going to and from Bajal Cross (Praja Soudha) towards Bajal or Kankanadi Junction Railway Station are advised to continue on National Highway 66 and travel via Jappinamogaru Dwara-Bajal instead of the Padil-Bajal Cross route.

Minister UT Khader appeals for unity ahead of Cabinet meet

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

State health and family welfare minister UT Khader on Thursday appealed to the people, organisations, and political parties across the coastal region to unite and accord a grand welcome to the Karnataka Cabinet, which is scheduled to hold its meeting in Mangaluru.

Addressing a press conference at Praja Soudha in Padil, Khader said the Cabinet meeting fulfils a long-standing demand of the people of Dakshina Kannada and would focus on development issues concerning Karnataka, Mangaluru, and the Tulunadu region.

The government is also expected to consider various representations submitted by the public and local representatives.

Khader said Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had recently held a detailed meeting with MLAs from Mangaluru, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada, during which department-wise requirements and development issues were discussed.

Appealing against proposed protests during the Cabinet's visit, Khader said Tulunadu is known for its culture of harmony and hospitality.

Referring to concerns over prison jammers, he said the



Several proposals relating to tourism, healthcare, education, transport, connectivity, and other sectors would be placed before the Cabinet.

issue was not new and that shifting the existing jail to Mudipu would provide a permanent solution to both the jammer-related concerns and space constraints.

He also urged those planning demonstrations to withdraw them and cooperate with the celebrations welcoming the Cabinet.

Defends private hospitals' role in government healthcare

Speaking on private medical colleges and hospitals supporting government healthcare facilities, Khader said poor patients were not being charged for treatment.

He stated that private institutions provide doctors

Khader said almost all ministers are expected to attend the Mangaluru Cabinet meeting, with only one or two likely to be absent due to prior international commitments or Rajya Sabha-related responsibilities.

and staff through their own resources and CSR initiatives. He pointed out that the model, first implemented in Ullal, had increased daily patient attendance from around 60 to nearly 600.

Shouldn't the poor receive quality healthcare in government hospitals, he asked while defending the initiative.

Khader said the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers are expected to participate in programmes beginning from a religious site, with Kadri temple likely to be the starting point.

Stone Crusher, Quarry Owners Announce Indefinite Strike from Sep 18

MANGALURU

The Stone Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Associations of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts have announced an indefinite strike from September 18, demanding an end to the dual system of royalty collection and implementation of a clear, uniform single-point royalty policy.

The associations said royal-

ty is currently collected from quarry and lease owners for extraction of minor minerals. At the same time, royalty is also deducted when the same mineral material is utilised in works undertaken by government departments, including the Public Works Department (PWD), Water Resources Department and other agencies. They said this amounts to royalty being collected at two stages for the same material.

The associations demanded that royalty should be collected only once, either from the mine or quarry lease owner or at the end-user or concerned government department stage. They urged the government to discontinue dual collection and introduce a transparent and uniform mechanism applicable across all departments.

According to the associations, the existing system has

increased operational costs and placed additional financial pressure on the quarry and crusher industry, particularly small and medium-sized operators. They also pointed to differences in royalty deductions among government departments, which they said have created uncertainty and operational difficulties.

The associations said they had made repeated representations to the government

seeking a permanent resolution, but the issue remains unresolved. Consequently, quarrying, crushing and related supply activities in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts will remain suspended indefinitely from September 18.

They clarified that the agitation is not directed against any individual, department or authority, but is aimed at securing a fair, lawful and uni-

form royalty collection mechanism.

The associations appealed to the government to stop dual royalty collection, standardise rules across departments, review the existing mechanism and convene an urgent meeting with industry representatives to find a permanent solution.

"One Mineral - One Royalty - One Collection Policy," they said.

4 key demands for coastal rail connectivity presented to Somanna

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

MLC Kishore Kumar Puttur has submitted four important requests to Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna to further strengthen the rail connectivity between Dakshina Kannada and Coastal Karnataka.

The first petition has sought to run additional special trains between Bengaluru and Mangaluru during the Dussehra and Diwali festivals. The petition states that the additional train service is required due to the increase in the number of passengers during the festive

period.

Another important demand has been made for a permanent halt at Kabaka-Puttur station for the Bengaluru-Mangalore Vande Bharat Express. The petition explains that this will facilitate connectivity between Bengaluru and Mangalore

for passengers from Puttur and surrounding areas.

A proposal to extend the Mangalore-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express to Bangalore via Londa-Hubli and to restructure the train traffic system has also been put before the minister.

In addition, a request has been made to run a weekend special train between Yeshwantpur-Mangalore Junction. It has been stated that this service needs to be started considering the increasing demand of passengers travelling between Bengaluru and Karavali on weekends.

Rapid revolution in the railway sector within a short span: MP BY Raghavendra

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

MP BY Raghavendra stated that revolutionary changes have taken place in the district's railway sector within a very short period, with the establishment of numerous new rail connectivity systems.

He was speaking after performing the groundbreaking ceremony for a project worth Rs 1.88 crore to expand and develop the railway station platform at Haranahalli village, near Shivamogga. He noted that the existing platform, which is 250 meters long, is slated to be raised by one meter and widened by one meter. Once the work is

completed, it will facilitate the stopping and operation of trains in this area.

The Koteganguru Railway Coaching Depot is set to be inaugurated soon. Following the official launch of the Koteganguru depot, many new routes connecting to the country's prominent cities will be introduced; notably, Vande Bharat train services will commence. Additionally, the station will gain rail connectivity to destinations such as Tirupati, Ernakulam (Kerala), Bihar, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, and Guwahati, effectively transforming it into a railway junction. He stated that this would facilitate travel



across the country for the people of the Malnad region; the launch of the Shivamogga-Shikaripura-Ranebennur rail service would establish connectivity to North Indian states, including Maharashtra. This will enable a large number of people to travel com-

fortably, easily, and at a very low cost.

The Kotegangur Railway Coaching Depot, set to be inaugurated in the next two months, is poised to become one of the state's four major depots. Maintenance operations currently conducted at Bengaluru's Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, involving trains serviced once or thrice weekly will be shifted to Kotegangur in the near future. Additionally, the goods shed in Shivamogga city will also be relocated to Kotegangur. He further announced that the railway stations at Talaguppa, Sagara, and Shivamogga would be upgraded at a cost

of Rs 100 crore. While only a few trains operated on these tracks decades ago, more than 28 trains now run daily; he urged the public to take advantage of these opportunities.

MLC Dr Dhananjaya Sarji noted that revolutionary developments have taken place in the district's railway sector. He observed that the new rail connectivity has made it convenient for the general public to travel across the state.

Former MLAs KB Ashok Naik and KG Kumaraswamy, along with Jagadish and numerous other dignitaries, leaders, and officials, were present on the occasion.

SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

National Lok Adalat in Dakshina Kannada on September 19

CH NEWS, MANGALURU



from 2 pm to 5:30 pm in the premises of Mangaluru, Bantwal, Belthangady, Puttur and Sullia courts. He said that due to the consecutive holidays, the proceedings have been held after noon this time so as not to cause any inconvenience to the public and the litigants.

A total of 56,727 cases are

pending in various courts in the district as on August 1. Out of these, 8,515 cases have been identified as suitable for conciliation, while 3,264 cases have been transferred to Lok Adalat.

Through preliminary mediation meetings, 232 cases have already been reconciled and prepared for reporting, and 12 cases have been completely settled. He informed that a total of 2,665 pending cases were successfully settled in the Lok Adalat held on July 11.

Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation (MACT) cas-

es, Cheque Bounce and Bank Loan Recovery Cases, Cases related to Illegal Sand Transport, Labor and Compensation Disputes, Marital Disputes and Maintenance Cases except Divorce Cases, Consumer Disputes, Land Acquisition and Compensation Disputes, Litigations related to Electricity and Water Bills,

Service Cases related to Salary, Allowance and Pension, Applications related to Birth and Death Certificates, All Civil and Compoundable Criminal Cases that are Compensable as per Law.

The judgment of the Lok Adalat in cases settled in a Lok Adalat will have finality like a decree of a civil court. There is no possibility of appeal against it in any court. Therefore, both time and money will be saved for the parties.

District Chief Judge Basavaraj called on the public, clients and lawyers to utilize this golden opportunity and resolve their long-standing disputes amicably. District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Zaibunnisa was present at the press conference.

Gadayikallu trekking reopens for tourists, 500 visitors allowed per day

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The popular Gadayikallu trekking destination in the taluk has reopened for tourists starting September 17.

Trekking at the site was temporarily suspended on July 8 as a precautionary safety measure due to the heavy monsoon rains. With the rainfall now subsiding and weather conditions becoming favourable, the wildlife division has decided to permit tourists to climb Gadayikallu once again.

To ensure safety and properly manage crowds, a maximum of 500 tourists will be allowed to undertake the trek per day. Beltangady wildlife range officer Sharmishta stated that trekkers must register and book their slots in advance through the official website. Upon arrival at the Gadayikallu entry point on their scheduled date, visitors can pay the prescribed fee and commence their trek.



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.

BIRTHDAY CHEERS RESOUND

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

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".

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

Ensure eligible voters are not left out: Jagadeesh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesh G. directed election officials to ensure no eligible voter is left out of the electoral roll. Addressing a meeting with recognised political parties, Jagadeesh instructed EROs, AEROs and BLOs to accept claims and objections on the draft electoral roll and expedite notices on mapping discrepancies. He directed officials to conduct a trial run of on-line processes before the special campaign on September 29 and 30. Citizens aged 18 and above can register using Form-6, either online or offline.

Karnataka declares 23 more taluks drought-hit

The latest notification follows continued dry conditions, with authorities ordering crop-loss assessments, relief measures across affected areas.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government on Thursday declared 23 more taluks drought-affected, taking the total number of notified drought-hit taluks to 124 for Kharif 2026. The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) issued the order based on ground-truthing and a comprehensive assessment by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). In the first phase, the government had declared 101 taluks drought-hit on August 27. Subsequently, the KSNDMC scientifically assessed the re-



“Additional taluks would be notified in phases based on their eligibility.”
- Government sources

maining 139 taluks following a continued dry spell in several parts of the State. Ground-truthing was conducted through a mobile application in 214 villages across 24 taluks, following directions from the Cabinet sub-commit-

tee on natural disasters headed by Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara. Of the 23 newly notified taluks, 21 have been classified as severely drought-affected and two as moderately drought-affected. The severely affected taluks include Tiptur, Karatagi,

DROUGHT-AT-A-GLANCE
■ 101: Taluks declared drought-hit on August 27
■ 23: Newly declared drought-affected taluks
■ 124: Total drought-hit taluks
■ 214: Villages covered by ground-truthing
■ 21: Severely affected taluks
■ 2: Moderately affected taluks
■ 6 months: Duration of the notification

Manvi, Sindhanur, Sirwar, Afzalpur, Aland, Chittapur, Kalaburagi, Yadrami, Shahabad, Bhalki, Basavana Bagewadi, Baballeshwar, Tikota, Rattihalli,

WEEKLY REVIEW

The KSNDMC will review Karnataka’s drought situation every week as forecasts indicate below-normal rainfall in September. Authorities may notify additional taluks in phases based on eligibility. District administrations have been empowered to implement relief measures, while agriculture and horticulture departments will assess crop losses. The government has directed officials to submit relief assessment reports at the earliest to facilitate necessary assistance to affected farmers.

Hubballi, Navalgund, Hubballi City, Annigeri and Kadur. Pon-nampet and Virajpet in Kodagu district have been classified as moderately drought-affected. The declaration is effective immediately and will remain in force for six months. Deputy commissioners have been au-

thorised to undertake relief and response measures under State Disaster Response Fund guidelines. Agriculture and horticulture officials, along with deputy commissioners, have been directed to conduct crop-loss surveys and submit relief assessment reports.

Karnataka studies elevated pod transport for tourism

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is exploring the use of elevated pod transport systems at tourism destinations and other space-constrained locations, following a study visit by a State delegation to Sharjah in the UAE. The delegation, led by Energy and Tourism Minister K J George, examined the system’s technical design, operational model, passenger capacity, safety features and connectivity potential. Unlike conventional road or rail infrastructure, the elevated system operates above ground and requires relatively little ground-level space. Officials discussed its possible use for internal mobility at tourism



A State delegation examined Sharjah’s elevated pod network to assess its potential for improving access and mobility at Karnataka tourism destinations.

POD TRANSPORT
■ Technology: Elevated pod system
■ Vehicles: Driverless electric pods
■ Operation: Dedicated elevated tracks
■ Possible use: Tourism and last-mile connectivity
■ Key advantage: Lower land footprint
■ Potential sites: Hampi, hill stations, urban-adjacent destinations

visit was aimed at studying emerging transport technologies being used globally and assessing their suitability for Karnataka. “We will examine the technical, financial, safety and operational feasibility of the system we saw in Sharjah,” George said, adding that its application at selected locations would be

explored. Tourism Department Secretary Ram Prasath Manohar said technologies offering connectivity with a lower land footprint could be useful at select tourism destinations. He said a comprehensive feasibility study would examine local geography, passenger volumes, cost, maintenance and safety before locations are identified. Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Chairman M Srinivas, Tourism Commissioner and KSTDC Managing Director Shivaprasad P R, and Tourism Minister’s Advisor Santrupt H V were among those present during the visit. An elevated pod transport system, also known as Personal Rapid Transit or a pod taxi network, typically uses small, driverless electric vehicles operating on dedicated elevated tracks for point-to-point travel.

Swayam Krishi theme park inaugurated near Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An agricultural theme park based on the ‘Swayam Krishi’ concept was inaugurated at Koloru village in Tavarekere Hobli on the outskirts of Bengaluru, aiming to create awareness about farming among the younger generation. The initiative, led by farmer and entrepreneur Ravi K.S., seeks to provide visitors, particularly youth, with practical exposure to agriculture and the realities of farming. The inauguration was attended by newspaper editors Ravindra Bhat, Channe Gowda and Jogi, along with Dr B.T. Rudresh and senior government official Hiremath. Before the inauguration, the dignitaries toured the farm in a bullock cart. They later participated in symbolic ploughing and seed-sowing ceremonies, marking the formal launch of the theme park. The guests welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of providing comprehensive knowledge about agriculture to future generations. They said such efforts



could help young people understand farming practices and the role of agriculture in society. Senior actor Suchendra Prasad, who has supported and guided the project since its inception, said ‘Swayam Krishi’ offers youth an opportunity to see and understand the realities of farming. “Swayam Krishi’ is like a mirror that reflects the reality of farming to today’s youth,” Prasad said. He also noted that the farm could serve as a location for film shoots and said Ravi K.S.’s interest in film production could create opportunities for collaboration between agriculture and the film industry. Prasad said he would take steps to invite artists to the venue in future and help spread awareness about the initiative.

Tenthpin expands India footprint with Bengaluru innovation hub

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Switzerland-based Tenthpin Management Consultants has launched an Innovation Hub in Bengaluru, establishing a global centre of excellence focused on advanced therapies and digital solutions for the Life Sciences sector. The state-of-the-art facility at Global Tech Park, Koramangala, was inaugurated by Juergen Bauer, Founder and Chairman of the Executive Board of Tenthpin, in the presence of Michael Schmidt, Founder and Executive Board Member, and Sachin Bhure, Partner and Managing Director, Tenthpin India. The Bengaluru hub will develop AI- and cloud-driven solutions aimed at helping pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies accelerate complex gene, cell and tissue therapies from research and process optimisation to manufacturing and regulatory readiness. The centre will focus on emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) and intelligent clin-



ical supply chains. It will also work with research institutions, universities and industry partners in India. “Our new office in Bengaluru is more than an expansion — it’s an investment in the future of Life Sciences innovation,” Bauer said, highlighting India’s talent, technical expertise and role in Tenthpin’s global delivery model. Schmidt said Bengaluru would serve as the company’s delivery headquarters in India and strengthen its global capabilities in SAP and Life Sciences cloud solutions. Bhure said the company plans to expand its Bengaluru footprint and double its current team over the next two years. Tenthpin, a global consulting and technology specialist for Life Sciences, has delivery centres in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Pune.

Bidadi farmers announce road blockade, hunger strike

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Farmers from Bidadi and surrounding villages have announced a road blockade and an indefinite hunger strike at the Byramangala protest site from September 21, demanding a written government order protecting their land from acquisition. The protesters said they would block the Harohalli and Bidadi roads and continue their agitation until they receive an official order on government letterhead, issued either by the deputy commissioner or the Chief Minister’s Office. Shwetha, a farmer from Hosahalli, said the protesters were no longer seeking further discussions and wanted a written assurance from the government. “Until the written order copy reaches us, we will not stop the protest,” she said.

The farmers alleged that landowners were being pressured to surrender their properties through family disputes, threats of legal action and rumours about compensation. They claimed that, in some families, individuals were allegedly approached and asked to persuade relatives to give up their land or face complaints. The protesters also alleged that farmers were being told they could receive Rs 2.25 crore if they surrendered their land immediately, while those resisting would receive only Rs 1.5 crore. They attributed the alleged tactics to people linked to officials of the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA). The farmers said the govern-



Farmers opposing land acquisition in Bidadi and nearby villages have intensified protests, demanding formal government protection for their properties.

PROTEST PLAN

■ **Sept 21:** Agitation begins

■ **Venue:** Byramangala protest site

■ **Road blockade:** Harohalli and Bidadi roads

■ **Protest:** Indefinite hunger strike

■ **Expected turnout:** 1,000+

■ **Women expected:** Around 500

FARMERS’ DEMANDS

The protesters are seeking a written government order stating that their land will not be acquired. They said oral assurances were insufficient and wanted the order issued on official letterhead by the deputy commissioner or Chief Minister’s Office. Farmers have also alleged pressure tactics, including threats of legal action, family disputes and compensation-related claims, while seeking protection for agricultural land and houses covered by acquisition notifications.

Traffic curbs announced for Ganesha processions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police has announced traffic restrictions and diversions in parts of the city ahead of Ganesha idol immersion processions scheduled for September 18. The procession will pass through the KG Halli and Pulakeshinagar traffic police limits from 11 am on September 18 until 4 am on September 19. Another procession will be held in Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi areas from 11 am to 10 pm on Friday and will conclude at Halasuru Lake. Traffic restrictions will affect

Nagawara Main Road, Tannery Road and Davis Road, besides routes connecting Netaji Junction, Pottery Circle, Clark Road, Rogers Road, Armstrong Road and Hall Road towards Pottery Road. Movement from Mosque Junction through Clarence Bridge towards Pottery Road will also be restricted. Vehicles from Lazar Road and Pottery Road Junction towards Sindhi Colony Junction will be diverted via Buddhavihara Road. Two-way traffic on Assaye Road will be changed to one-way movement from War Memorial Junction towards Sindhi

Colony Junction. Vehicle movement between Nagawara Junction and Pottery Circle Road will also be blocked. In Banaswadi, restrictions will be imposed on routes from Chandrika Junction and Lingarajapuram towards the city via Hennur Bridge. Traffic from Chandrika Junction towards Nehru Road, Ullasappa Junction and Kuvempu Circle, and from Kalyan Nagar 80 Feet Road towards Uttam Sagar Junction, will also be affected. Vehicles from Banaswadi Main Road towards the city will be diverted via IOC Bridge.

MLP WASTE RULES

Bengaluru to get new system for multilayered plastic waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The CPCB has proposed new guidelines to strengthen Bengaluru’s handling of difficult-to-recycle multilayered plastic packaging. The draft guidelines cover collection, segregation, sorting, recycling and disposal of multilayered plastic packaging (MLP), with responsibilities assigned to urban local bodies, producers and pollution-control authorities. Category III MLP contains at least one plastic layer combined with a non-plastic layer such as aluminium, paper or

paperboard. Such packaging is widely used for food, dairy products, confectionery and personal-care items. In Bengaluru, experts said mandatory segregation at source could help ensure MLP is collected separately as dry waste and

sent through established collection systems to material recovery facilities (MRFs) and aggregation centres. The CPCB has proposed that registered recyclers and authorised end-of-life facilities handle the material under the Ex-

BENGALURU MLP WASTE
■ Category: Plastic + non-plastic layers
■ Common use: Food, dairy, confectionery and personal care
■ First step: Segregation at source
■ Processing: MRFs and aggregation centres
■ Preferred option: Material recycling
■ Alternative use: Boards and road construction
■ Not allowed: Landfilling and open burning

tended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. “Paan sachets are among the biggest culprits as they are dif-

ficult to sweep and remain as non-recoverable litter,” said Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bharat. She said such

WHY MLP IS A PROBLEM

Multilayered plastic packaging is difficult to recycle because it combines different materials. In Bengaluru, poor segregation and collection can result in such waste entering landfills, drains or open spaces. Paan sachets and similar small packets are particularly difficult to re cover. The CPCB’s proposed framework seeks stronger segregation, collection, recycling and producer responsibility, while encouraging alter natives for MLP that cannot be technically recycled.

waste can eventually break down into microplastics that may leach into soil and the water table, calling for stronger

penalties targeting manufacturers. Under the 2018 guidelines, manufacturers were given two years to phase out MLP that was non-recyclable, non-energy-recoverable and had no alternative use. However, experts said MLP use continues and consumer awareness remains low. The CPCB has proposed material recycling as the preferred option wherever technically feasible. Non-recyclable MLP could instead be converted into boards or used in road construction. The guidelines state that such waste should not be sent to landfills or openly burned.

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Joshilaunches 'Arogya Vahini' mobile clinics in Dharwad

ON MODI'S BIRTHDAY, JOSHI DISTRIBUTED SEWING MACHINES TO TRAINED WOMEN, NOTING 14,838 TRAINED AND 959 SUPPORTED IN DHARWAD

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

The Union government's core priority is not merely to assist women but to transform them into job creators and self-reliant entrepreneurs in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Nari Shakti', stated Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, New and Renewable Energy, and Education, Pralhad Joshi.

Speaking at a distribution event organized in collaboration with the Grama Vikas Society at his office on the Chitaguppi Hospital campus to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, Joshi distributed sewing machines to trained women beneficiaries. He noted that across the Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency, 14,838 women have completed free tailoring courses so far, with 959 eligible candidates receiving free sewing machines to kickstart independent ventures.



Presenting developmental metrics, the Union Minister highlighted the grassroots impact of Central welfare programs in the constituency. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, women hold 5.74 lakh accounts out of the total 10.35 lakh accounts registered in Dharwad, accounting for 55% of total beneficiaries. Furthermore, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has provided 1,06,057 LPG gas connections alongside 2,000 cooking stoves in the region. He detailed ongoing expansions under the Lakhpati Didi and Namodrone Didi

initiatives, the latter offering up to 80% subsidies and flight training to women's Self Help Groups for mechanized agricultural spraying.

Announcing a major healthcare initiative, Joshi revealed that the 'Arogya Vahini' mobile clinic scheme will soon launch across Dharwad constituency. Under this program, fully equipped medical screening vehicles will be deployed to each taluk to conduct specialized diagnostics and treatment for breast cancer and gynecological conditions.

Sri Gurusiddha Rajayogin-

AT A GLANCE

- Joshi distributed free sewing machines to beneficiaries.
- Fourteen thousand eight thirty-eight women trained tailoring.
- Nine fifty-nine women received free sewing machines.
- Jan Dhan accounts feature five seventy-four lakh women.
- Ujjwala scheme delivered one lakh six thousand LPG.
- Arogya Vahini mobile clinics announced for taluks.

dra Mahaswamiji of Moorusavirmath presided over the event and blessed the gathering. Grama Vikas Society President Jagadish Nayak emphasized that comprehensive rural infrastructure and economic self-sufficiency remain pivotal for national progress.

Karnataka tackles water scarcity with aquatic fodder

To combat fodder scarcity caused by low rainfall, Karnataka is promoting Azolla cultivation as a rapid, protein-rich livestock feed alternative. The state has allocated ₹3.78 crore to establish 12,000 cultivation units and ₹25 crore under MGNREGS for fodder seed kits, creating a resilient, village-level pastoral support network.



grams for goats, and 10–15 grams for poultry, substituting roughly 10% to 15% of conventional concentrated feed. Cultivation requires minimal space and can be established near cattle sheds. Farmers can excavate a pit measuring 2.6 m by 1.6 m with a depth of 1 meter in a shaded location, lining it with a 450 GSM UV-stabilized HDPE sheet. The bed is prepared using rotten soil, manure, superphosphate, a mineral mixture, and water maintaining a pH between 5.5 and 7. After introducing 0.5–1 kg of starter culture, the system yields approximately 1 kg of fresh biomass daily from day 10–15 onwards. Azolla must be washed thoroughly to eliminate dung traces before feeding to livestock.

Setting up a single cultivation unit costs ₹3,150 comprising ₹2,450 for materials and ₹700 for labor. For the 2026–27 financial year, the state government has allocated ₹3.78 crore to establish 12,000 units across 240 taluks in all 31 districts. Starter culture is accessible through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural universities, and veterinary institutions at ap-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Azolla provides nutrient-rich low-water livestock feed.
- Units yield one kilogram fresh biomass daily.
- Unit setup cost totals three thousand one fifty.
- Government allocates three seventy-eight crore units expansion.
- Fodder fund earmarks twenty-five crore via MGNREGS.
- State distributes four seventy-two thousand mini-kits.

proximately ₹50 per kg. To institutionalize village-level fodder security, the administration has earmarked ₹25 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). This program will distribute 4,72,114 fodder seed mini-kits to farmers equipped with irrigation. Through formal memorandums of understanding, the government plans to procure surplus fodder from these producers and redistribute it to livestock owners facing critical shortages, establishing an equitable, community-driven pastoral support network across drought-prone areas.

Bhadra reservoir water released to relieve command area

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

Authorities commenced the release of water from the Bhadra Reservoir at midnight on September 17 to mitigate drinking water scarcity and support command (achukattu) areas, Davanagere MP Dr.

Prabha Mallikarjun announced.

Following representations from local farmers and residents, District In-charge Minister S.S. Mallikarjun consulted with Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvaryaswamy to facilitate the

scheduled discharge. Water will be channeled continuously until October 2 through the Bhadra Right Bank, Left Bank, Gondi channel, and associated distributary networks.

The decision serves as a precautionary intervention

following deficient rainfall across August and September, which depleted regional water reserves. The discharge will replenish village tanks, bunds, and percolation ponds, thereby recharging sinking groundwater tables across the basin.

DJ culture bows to traditional sports in Lakshmeshwar

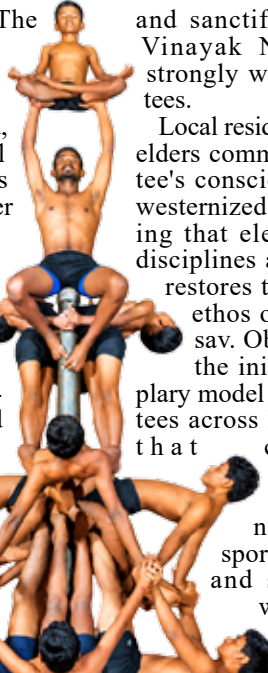
MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

At a time when contemporary Ganeshotsav celebrations are increasingly dominated by high-decibel DJ systems and boisterous street dancing, a local organizers' collective in Lakshmeshwar, Gadag district, has won widespread acclaim by replacing commercial trends with traditional athletics and spiritual devotion.

The Vinayak Nagar Development Committee organized a cultural and sports evening centered on preserving fading heritage, spotlighting the traditional Indian sport of Mallakhamba. Young performers trained by the Youth and Cultural Development Centre's Folk and Sports Kutir from Harlapur, Kundgol taluk, demonstrated intricate acrobatics, yogic postures, and strength exercises on the

vertical wooden pole. The display of physical agility, concentration, and rigorous discipline held the audience spellbound, serving as an educational showcase of rural sports traditions for the younger generation.

Complementing the athletic feats, the celebrations incorporated deep religious observance. Women members of the local 'Shaneshwar Balaga' gathered for a collective rendition of Rudra Parayana (sacred Vedic chanting). The synchronized devotional recitations lent a serene



and sanctified atmosphere to Vinayak Nagar, resonating strongly with attending devotees.

Local residents and community elders commended the committee's conscious departure from westernized entertainment, noting that elevating indigenous disciplines and Vedic practices restores the original cultural ethos of public Ganeshotsav. Observers highlighted the initiative as an exemplary model for festival committees across Karnataka, proving that community celebrations can successfully blend indigenous sports, cultural heritage, and spiritual devotion without relying on disruptive sound systems.

Rural workers urged to claim 125 work days

CH NEWS, SHIRAHATTI

Rural laborers across Shirahatti taluk have been urged to make optimal use of the enhanced 125-day statutory wage employment guarantee under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme to prevent financial hardship and migration.

Addressing an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) awareness campaign at a community worksite in Koganur village on Thursday, officials detailed the scheme's provisions for economic security and sustainable livelihoods. Workers were instructed to participate consistently in designated civic and individual works to qualify for the full 125 days of guaranteed employment. Officials emphasized that steady and systematic engage-

ment on project sites is essential for maintaining uninterrupted wage allocations.

In line with directives from the Karnataka State Government and the Gadag Zilla Panchayat, a taluk-wide Job Card Mela campaign has been rolled out. The initiative focuses on issuing new job cards, rectifying clerical errors, and completing mandatory e-KYC updates to ensure transparent wage disbursements.

The awareness session also familiarized women's self-help groups and rural households with available financial assistance, individual asset creation projects, and personal work entitlements aimed at strengthening household income. Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs), technical coordinators, technical assistants, grassroots staff, and village laborers attended the program in large numbers.



Mundaragi Ganeshotsav hosts vital blood drive

CH NEWS, MUNDARAGI

Blood donation contributes significantly to physical and cardiovascular health by helping regulate cholesterol levels while fostering mental well-being, observed Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary C.R. Mundaragi.

Speaking after inaugurating a comprehensive free health check-up and blood donation camp at the Taluk Panchayat premises on Thursday, he praised the local administration for integrating public healthcare initiatives into Ganeshotsav 2026. The initiative was jointly organized by the Mundaragi Taluk Panchayat, the Taluk General Hospital, and the Basaveshwar Blood Centre, Gadag. Highlighting that healthy young individuals can safely donate blood every three months without adverse health effects, he urged citizens to come forward voluntarily, noting that routine donation stimulates cellular rejuvenation. Taluk Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee President D.D. Moranala underscored the humanitarian necessity of voluntary blood drives, stating that timely donations serve as life-saving interventions for emergency patients and accident victims. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Vijayakumar Badiger noted that organizing annual medical check-ups and donation drives during Ganeshotsav has become a sustained tradition that generates meaningful health awareness across rural communities. Hundreds of rural residents availed themselves of specialized diagnostic screenings during the day-long camp, which featured non-communicable disease (NCD) screenings, electrocardiograms (ECG), ophthalmological exams, tuberculosis screenings, and diagnostic evaluations for diabetes and hypertension.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-4 STD ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯನ್ನು ಆಗಮ್ಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೇದಲನೆ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಪ್ಪಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Providing LED Median lights and Street Lights to NES Circle to Magadi Kote and LED Street Lights to Road connecting from SH-3 NES Circle to SH-85 Road via Sri Ranganathaswamy temple road at Magadi Taluk in Bengaluru South District. PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT42134	158.82 Lakhs

ಮೇಲಿನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 17, 2026 ರಿಂದ 24, 2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24, 2026 ರಿಂದ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21, 2026 ರಂದು 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/2786/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾವೇರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ
ಬಿ.ಎ.ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್, ರಿ.ಸಂ.85, ಬಿ. ಹಂಪನಾಳ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಹಾವೇರಿ-581110. ದೂ. ಸಂ.: 08375-297388
Email-id: huda.haveri@gmail.com
ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-09-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Haveri Urban Development Authority has invited for the following indent numbered work for the development of Akkamahadevi Lake in Haveri Tahar under Lake Development Charge under the provisions of Two Covers System KW-4 through KPPP.

Sl No	Indent Number	Package Amount (In Lakhs)	EMD amount (In Lakhs)
1	HAVUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENTS/Call-4	150.00	2.00

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders	24-09-2026, Time: 5-15 PM
Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid	25-09-2026, Time: 5-20 AM
Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid	28-09-2026, Time: 11-00 AM

Note: 1) The undersigned reserves the right to postpone the tender process/cancel the tender completely/reject the tender without assigning any reason. 2) Any changes in the said tenders will not be published in the newspapers, instead the changes will be published only on the KPPP portal.

Interested tenderers can download the tender documents and further information from the Karnataka Government e-Procurement Portal website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
(Prabhugouda S. Bistanagoudar)
Chairman,
Urban Development Authority, Haveri

Sd/-
(Saroja B. B.)
Commissioner
Urban Development Authority, Haveri

DIPR/HAVERI/356/2026-27/DESHAPANDEPUBLICITY

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumar Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/EE/NPKL/TEN/T-254/2026-27 Date: 17.09.2026

Section-I Invitation for Tender (IFT)
(Short-Term Tender Notification)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

On behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, The Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru invites Tenders in two cover system from eligible Tenderers for the works of (1) **Comprehensive Development Civil Infra Works of Park-1, Park-4 in 10th Block and Parks in 1 to 11th Block of Banashankari 6th Stage, BDA (Civil Infra Works)** (BDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT276). Project Cost Excluding GST: **Rs.14,82,93,918/-** EMD: **Rs. 14,85,000/-** (2) **Comprehensive Development Civil Infra Works of Park b/w Gottigerepalya & Nice Express Way in 6th Block, Park-1, Park-2, Park-4 and Park-5 of Banashankari 6th Stage, 3rd Block** (BDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT277). Project Cost Excluding GST: **Rs.14,37,47,985/-** EMD: **Rs. 14,40,000/-** Project Duration: **Sl.No. 1 & 2: 9 Months (Including Monsoon Period)**. Last date for submission of Tenders: **30.09.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** For further details kindly log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact e-procurement helpline 080-25501216 / 25501217. Helpline/Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru

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

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

self-trading along with the offer document," Ramamurthy said.
He added that BSE had sought permission to trade its own shares on its platform in 2017 but was not granted regulatory approval.
The latest clarification comes amid reports suggesting that NSE, after listing on BSE, could potentially seek permission to trade its shares on its own exchange under the "permitted to trade" category. For now, SEBI's position remains that such self-trading is not permitted under the current framework.

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.

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.

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.



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



— DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

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

“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”.

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.

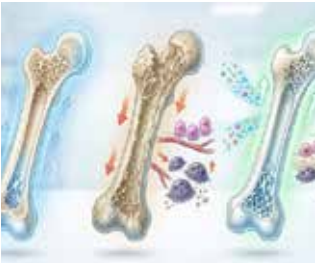
established antiresorptive medicines that reduce excessive bone breakdown and anabolic treatments that stimulate bone formation. Lifestyle measures including adequate nutrition, appropriate physical activity and avoidance of tobacco and excessive alcohol also remain important components of skeletal health.

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 reju-

venate 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.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

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

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,

CAMPUS POLITICS

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 censured 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 a 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.

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.

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 Aakhyaana 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 Ganesha Rao Kesarkar, Escort Srinivas, and Prakash Thumminad.

