


FSSAI files 3 cases against Nestle India over infant products

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Saudi-Houthi strikes raise oil supply fears

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Jos Buttler smashes historic 15,000 T20 runs


Cabinet recognises Tulu as K'taka's 2nd official language

The decision fulfils a long-standing demand from coastal Karnataka, with the status restricted to Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

MANGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet approved several coastal development initiatives, tourism measures and rural infrastructure projects during Friday's meeting.

The special Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Mangaluru, approved projects worth ₹32,611 crore, including recognition of Tulu as the State's second additional administrative language, the Coastal Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026 and a fisheries park on 150 acres.

Shivakumar said ₹16,000 crore of the approved amount would be spent on rural connectivity roads and infrastructure development, while the remaining funds would cover projects concerning coastal districts.

Tulu gets special status

The Chief Minister said the long-standing demand to recognise Tulu as an additional administrative language had been accepted, with the status limited to Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts.

"Our government has respected the sentiments of the people. We do politics on people's lives, not on their emotions. Tulu will be declared an additional administrative language, limited to Udupi and Dakshina Kannada," Shivakumar said.

He recalled that former minister Ramanath Rai had first raised the demand, while Minister U.T. Khader, MLA



"Our government has respected the sentiments of the people. We do politics on people's lives, not on their emotions."
- D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Ashok Kumar Rai and other representatives had also pressed for it.

Tourism policy approved

The Cabinet approved the Coastal Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026. Shivakumar said tourism projects in coastal and Malnad regions would be treated as infrastructure projects, with incentives for investors and more time for loan repayment.

The government also plans to establish a Fisheries and Blue Economy University and increase fisheries college admissions from 60 to 200 seats.

The Cabinet approved ₹549 crore for a medical college in Puttur. Shivakumar also said demands for Kidwai and Jayadeva hospitals had been received from the region.

COASTAL CABINET DECISIONS

Total projects: ₹32,611 crore
Rural development: ₹16,000 cr
Tulu status: Additional administrative language
Applicable districts: Udupi, Dakshina Kannada
Tourism policy: Coastal Malnad Karnataka 2026
Fisheries park: 150 acres
Puttur medical college: ₹549 cr
Future Cabinet meetings: 10-12 locations

Mangaluru renaming proposal

On the demand to rename Dakshina Kannada as Mangaluru, Shivakumar said a draft notification would be issued and public opinion sought for a month before taking a decision. He said Cabinet meetings would be held at 10-12 locations over the next 15 months, wherever there was a need and adequate capacity.

Ministers take open-top bus to Cabinet meeting in Mangaluru



Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and his ministerial colleagues took an open-top bus to the Cabinet meeting at Praja Soudha in Padil, Mangaluru, on September 18. The unusual procession drew thousands of people who gathered along the route to greet the ministers. Cabinet meetings were generally held in Bengaluru, but the venue was shifted to Mangaluru following Health Minister U.T. Khader's request to highlight regional issues. The administration made extensive preparations, including cleaning the route, sprucing up Praja Soudha and imposing traffic restrictions.

Mamata vows fight over TMC name, symbol freeze

Mamata Banerjee said the Election Commission's interim decision had triggered a dispute over her party's identity ahead of the October 6 bypolls.

KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC president Mamata Banerjee on Friday criticised the Election Commission's decision to freeze the Trinamool Congress' original name and symbol, calling it a "black day" in the country's democratic history. She said her faction would challenge the decision politically, democratically and legally.

The EC had barred both rival factions from using the "All India Trinamool Congress" name and its reserved "Flowers and Grass" symbol until it makes a substantive determination on the dispute. The poll panel subsequently allotted Banerjee's faction the name "Mamata All India Trinamool Congress" and the "Football Player" symbol.



"We will not surrender. We will not bow our heads before political pressure. We will fight this battle democratically and legally."

Mamata Banerjee, TMC president

The faction led by Arup Roy was allotted "Democratic Trinamool Congress" and the "Envelope" symbol. Both were recognised as political parties for the relevant bypolls.

Banerjee questioned the timing of the EC's decision, saying the by-election process was already underway and nominations had been completed. She said submitting alternative names and symbols was only necessary to ensure that the electoral process continued and did not

TMC identity row

Original name: All India Trinamool Congress
Original symbol: Flowers & Grass
Mamata faction: Mamata All India Trinamool Congress
Symbol: Football Player
Arup Roy faction: Democratic Trinamool Congress
Symbol: Envelope
Bypolls: October 6
Counting: October 9

mean accepting the EC's decision. "We will not surrender. We will not bow our heads before political pressure. We will fight this battle democratically and legally," Banerjee said.

She also alleged that the BJP was attempting to weaken opposition parties and referred to developments involving the Shiv Sena and NCP. These were political allegations made by Banerjee.

The Nandigram and Rejinagar Assembly bypolls are scheduled for October 6, with counting on October 9.

Rahul Gandhi attacks Election Commission

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday criticised the Election Commission's decision to bar rival Trinamool Congress factions from using the party's name and its 'Jora Ghash Phul' symbol in the West Bengal bypolls. Gandhi alleged that the poll panel was failing to pro-

tect the people's mandate and was instead helping forces seeking to overturn electoral verdicts. Referring to earlier dis-



putes involving Shiv Sena and NCP, he alleged that the BJP and EC had repeatedly joined forces to split political parties and take away their symbols. "Vote chori. Government chori. Now party chori — these have become symbols of our democratic decline," Gandhi said in a post on X.

KPSC scam: Ashoka claims more govt leaders under scanner

MAGADI

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka alleged that the personal assistants of two ministers have been in contact with accused persons in the KPSC recruitment case.

Ashoka made the allegation while speaking to reporters in Magadi, Ramanagara district, claiming that the investigation could expose the involvement of influential persons. He said he had information about phone calls allegedly made by the two ministers' PAs to accused persons in custody.

"I have collected solid documents regarding this and will release them before the media and the public at the appropriate time," Ashoka said.

He claimed that two more "wickets" in the government could fall as the investigation progresses. Ashoka also said the case was not confined to lower-level officials and alleged that "big fish" were involved.

The KPSC probe is currently examining alleged irregularities in recruitment, with CID investigating suspected question-paper leaks and other violations. IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar and alleged middleman Basavaraj Kannale have been arrested in the veterinary recruitment case, while a KPSC member recently appeared before CID investigators.



Ashoka also referred to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's recent statement that he would release documents related to alleged KPSC irregularities. He sought time to substantiate his own allegations with documents.

On allegations involving BJP leaders, Ashoka said the state government should order an investigation through agencies such as the SIT or CID if there was evidence of their involvement.

Ashoka targets govt over M'luru Cabinet meeting

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka criticised the Karnataka government's decision to hold a Cabinet meeting in Mangaluru, alleging that it would result only in announcements without implementation. He claimed the government was facing financial difficulties, citing borrowings, pending payments to transport corporations and delays in salaries and welfare measures. Ashoka also alleged that commissions were being demanded from M-sand crusher owners, leading to the suspension of operations and development works. He questioned the outcome of the earlier Cabinet meeting held in Kalaburagi and said the Mangaluru meeting too would remain largely symbolic, with no substantial benefits reaching the coastal region.

Rajnath Singh attends Tejas, HTT-40 handover in B'luru

BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has reached a towering benchmark in India's sovereign aerospace journey, hosting a prestigious dual-platform induction ceremony at its sprawling Bengaluru manufacturing facility to transition advanced home-grown aircraft directly into active service lines.

The high-profile national event brought together top-tier military leadership and civilian administrative heads to witness the simultaneous delivery of defense assets and commercial rotorcraft. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest, joined by Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammoohan Naidu, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, and senior executives from the Ministry of Defence. This landmark showcase united two entirely different operational dimensions of domestic aviation engineering onto a single platform.

Engineered from HAL's proven 5.5-tonne Advanced



Light Helicopter architecture, the newly minted Dhruv NG helicopters feature sophisticated glass cockpits, wheeled landing gear optimized for civilian runways, vibration-damped passenger cabins, and an extended operational range of approximately 630 kilometers. These next-generation rotorcraft are engineered to anchor critical civil utility missions across the nation, including offshore oil rig personnel transport for ONGC, vital regional connectivity projects under the UDAN scheme, high-altitude pilgrimage evacuations, and emergency search-and-rescue operations.

India rejects Pak claims over naval collision

New Delhi: India on Friday rejected Pakistan's allegations over the collision between INS Kolkata and PNS Hunain, with the MEA describing Islamabad's response as "usual prevarication".

The collision took place in the North Arabian Sea on September 15, following which both countries lodged diplomatic protests.

India had summoned Pakistan's chargé d'affaires and objected to what it described as the Pakistani vessel's "unacceptable and unprofessional" conduct.

Pakistan, however, alleged that the Indian warship carried out a "highly provocative and unacceptable action" in its Exclusive Economic Zone during the SEASPARK-26 naval exercise.

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that the high-powered panel headed by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani is likely to submit its first interim report on structural reforms in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) by the end of September.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe that the panel had held extensive consultations. It had also interacted with members of an earlier committee headed by former ISRO chairman K. Rad-



"Permanency of the entire system is key. There should be a permanent setup, permanent staff, permanent verticals."

- Supreme Court bench

hakrishnan.

The bench directed the Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training, who is assisting the Nilekani panel, to file an affidavit detailing the steps taken so far.

The court stressed the need to institutionalise the entire NEET process, emphasising that a permanent structure, staff and dedicated verticals were essential, with minimal deputation.

Justice Narasimha said the bench would like to visit the newly upgraded facility of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to examine its functioning.

NEET REFORM PUSH

The Supreme Court is monitoring efforts to institutionalise the NEET examination system following concerns over its functioning. The Nilekani panel has consulted members of the Radhakrishnan committee while examining structural reforms. The Centre said the NTA's upgraded system is ready, but human resources are only partially in place. The court has sought an affidavit detailing progress and plans to examine the upgraded NTA facility.

The government informed the court that a new upgraded system had been created, though human resources were only partially in place.

NEET REFORMS

Panel head: Nandan Nilekani

Interim report: By September-end

Earlier panel: K.R. Radhakrishnan-led committee

Agency: National Testing Agency

Key focus: Institutionalising NEET

Court: Supreme Court

Next step: Centre to file affidavit

The Supreme Court had on August 19 directed the Centre to report on steps taken to implement recommendations of the Radhakrishnan panel and the Nilekani committee.



PM Modi to distribute 51,000 appointment letters at Rozgar Mela

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hand over appointment letters to thousands of newly recruited government employees on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters during the 20th Rozgar Mela on

September 19, according to the Press Information Bureau (PIB). The programme will begin at 12.30 pm and will be conducted through video conferencing. Modi will also interact with selected candidates during the event.

The employment initiative will be organised simultaneously at 45 venues across the country.

TREE PRUNING AHEAD OF DASARA

MCC cranes remove dried, hazardous branches from city roads

MYSURU

With the world-famous Mysuru Dasara festival round the corner, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has stepped up its efforts to ensure safer roads for residents and the thousands of tourists expected to descend on the city.

As part of the safety drive, the civic body is using its special crane to prune and remove dried, dead and potentially dangerous branches from roadside trees across the city. The exercise is being given special attention along roads lined with old and aged trees, where weakened branches pose a potential risk to motorists and pedestrians.

The pruning drive is being carried out on important stretches including 100 Feet Road, Bannimantap Road,



Ashoka Road, B.N. Road, Old Exhibition Road and roads surrounding the majestic Mysuru Palace.

With Dasara attracting a large number of visitors, the MCC has prioritised roads witnessing heavy tourist and public movement. The work has already been completed

on most of the important stretches where the footfall is expected to be high, officials

said.

The special crane is proving particularly useful in reaching high branches and removing them in a controlled manner, helping civic workers carry out the work without disrupting traffic for long periods.

The initiative assumes significance in the wake of an unfortunate incident in which a two-wheeler rider lost his life after a dried tree branch

fell on him while he was travelling on a city road. Although no such incident has occurred recently, the MCC is taking no chances ahead of the festival.

With Dasara set to transform Mysuru into a bustling tourist hub, the civic authorities are keen to prevent avoidable accidents arising from neglected or weakened tree branches.

The pruning operation is therefore being undertaken not merely as a routine civic exercise, but as a preventive safety measure to protect pedestrians, motorists, residents and visiting tourists.

As the city gets ready to welcome Dasara crowds, the MCC's message is clear: better to remove a potential danger today than respond to a tragedy tomorrow.

Special Intensive Revision

ZP CEO Yukesh launches SWEEP awareness campaign

MYSURU

The district and taluk-level Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme organised an awareness campaign at Chamundi Hill on Friday to educate the public about the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the taluk.

The campaign was led by Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar.

As part of the SIR exercise, Kumar released a poster on the "Public Special Campaign" scheduled to be held on September 19 and 20, during which citizens can file objections and seek corrections relating to their voter identity cards. He also launched a signature campaign and an awareness rally.

Speaking on the occasion, Tahsildar Mahesh Kumar said the SIR process was being un-



dertaken to include the names of all eligible citizens and prepare an error-free electoral roll. Citizens could visit polling stations in their respective areas, verify their names in the electoral roll and get necessary corrections made.

He said prescribed forms could be obtained for registering new names in the electoral roll, deletion of names, correction of details in voter cards and change of address.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer C. Krishna said the spe-

cial intensive revision of electoral rolls was being carried out as per the directions of the Election Commission of India. As part of the exercise, a special campaign would be held on Saturday and Sunday.

During the campaign, Booth Level Officers would be available at all polling stations to assist citizens and receive applications for objections and corrections. Eligible young citizens who have attained the age of 18 can also apply for inclusion in the electoral roll, he added.

Mysuru Airport launches Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026

THE GRAND PASSENGER-CENTRIC CELEBRATIONS

MYSURU

Mysuru Airport, under the Airports Authority of India (AAI), successfully inaugurated the Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026, a nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation aimed at enhancing passenger experience and service quality across Indian airports.

The campaign was inaugurated by Leelavathi, a senior citizen passenger, through the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the airport's commitment to inclusivity, respect, and passenger welfare.

The inauguration ceremony was enlivened by vibrant cultural performances presented by the students of Birla Open Minds International School, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Mysuru and creating a warm and festive atmosphere for passengers and visitors.

As part of the passenger-centric activities organized at the airport, departing passengers were offered complimentary food by 'Hanumanthu Palav', while JSS Hospital conducted free health check-up services for travellers. Arriving passen-



gers received a traditional Mysuru welcome with Aarti and Tilak, reflecting the city's renowned hospitality.

Several local organizations and partners joined hands to make the event memorable by distributing gifts and souvenirs to passengers. Traditional Mysore sweets were offered by Mahalakshmi Sweets, drinking water bottles by Nishka Gifts, caps by BIT, and special discount coupons by Varalakshmi Silks, Mysuru.

Passengers expressed immense appreciation for the initiative and enthusiastically participated in the activities. Many travellers shared positive feedback and suggested that such passenger-focused programmes be organized regularly, recognizing their

contribution towards creating a welcoming, comfortable, and memorable travel experience.

Speaking on the occasion, P. V. Usha Kumari, Airport Director, Mysuru Airport, said: Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026 reflects our unwavering commitment to passenger comfort, convenience, and satisfaction. The overwhelming response received from passengers today demonstrates the importance of community participation in enhancing airport services.

They are grateful to all our partners, stakeholders, educational institutions, and organizations who supported this initiative. Mysuru Airport remains dedicated to delivering a seamless travel experience while showcasing the warmth, culture, and hospitality for which Mysuru is globally known.

The successful inauguration marks the beginning of a series of passenger engagement and service enhancement activities planned under Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026, reaffirming Mysuru Airport's commitment to excellence in passenger service and community collaboration.

Bharathi Vishnuvardhan wins Vishnu's fans' hearts with Annadana

MYSURU

Fans of legendary actor and Karnataka Ratna Dr. Vishnuvardhan celebrated his 76th birth anniversary with enthusiasm at his memorial near Udbur Gate in Mysuru.

Senior actress Bharathi Vishnuvardhan added a special touch to the celebrations by organising annadana (free food distribution) for hundreds of fans who visited the memorial. She interacted warmly with the fans, accepted their greetings and recalled the love and admiration they continue to have for Vishnuvardhan.



Environmental Awareness Forum president Bannur Mahendra Singh Kalappa, Nazarbadi Nataraj, Jeevadaa Girish, S.N. Rajesh, Mahadev and several other dignitaries, along with hundreds of fans, participated in

the annadana programme. As part of the birth anniversary celebrations, fans paid floral tributes, cut a cake and organised various service activities in honour of their beloved actor.

A NEW SPORTING GATEWAY FOR PARA ATHLETES

IPPA Academy launched to nurture champions in Para Pickle ball

MYSURU

A new chapter in inclusive sports has begun in Mysuru with the launch of the International Para Pickle Ball Association (IPPA) Academy, an initiative of the Para Pickle ball Association of Karnataka (PPAK) aimed at creating greater opportunities for persons with disabilities to take up competitive pickleball and excel at the state, national and international levels.

The Academy will provide structured coaching, athlete development and competition-oriented training for para athletes across various categories, including Wheelchair, Standing Disabilities and Amputees, Dwarfism/Short Stature, Intellectual Disabilities and Cerebral Palsy. Beyond regular training, the Academy will focus on talent identification, awareness, classification education and athlete preparation, helping emerging players understand the requirements of competitive para pickle ball and progress towards higher-level competitions.

The initiative is being supported by Raghu Kumar Raghavelu, Founder of IPPA, along with the leadership of the Wheelchair Pickle Ball Federation of India (WPF). G.M. Suresh, President, WPF; Manjunath Rachaiah, Secretary; Prathiba, Vice-President; and Devaraj, Vice-President, will support the development and promotion of wheelchair pickle ball and inclusive sports through the initiative.

Speaking about the new initiative, Raghu Kumar Raghavelu said the establishment of the IPPA Academy in Mysuru is aimed at building a strong grassroots pathway for para athletes and making competitive pickle ball accessible to a larger number of persons with disabilities.

The Academy is expected to become a platform for discovering new talent, providing regular professional training and preparing athletes for major competitions, thereby



strengthening the para pickle ball ecosystem in Karnataka and beyond.

With its focus on inclusion, training and competitive opportunities, the IPPA Academy seeks to encourage more persons with disabilities to discover their sporting potential and pursue their aspirations on the pickleball court.

For further information, contact Manjuna at Wheelchair Pickle ball Federation of India or Website: www.wheelchairpickleball.in or call 9880426071.

Applications invited for EDT

MYSURU

The Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods, Bengaluru, in association with the Karnataka Entrepreneurship Development Centre (CEDOK), Dharwad, and the District Industries Centre, Mysuru, has organised a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme for candidates interested in starting their own businesses in the district.

The training will cover motivation for starting a business, facilities and incentives available from the government and financial institutions, marketing strategies and various industrial-related topics. Candidates who have passed at least Class 10 and are aged 21 years or above can apply on or before September 25.

Yoga and Ayurveda complementary to physical and mental health: Dr Khan

MYSURU

Yoga and Ayurveda complement physical and mental health and are beneficial for both individual and community well-being, said Dr. Mudassar Aziz Khan, Dean and Director of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute.

Speaking after inaugurating a national seminar on "Manasa Yoga – Yoga for Healthy Ageing", organised by the Government Ayurveda Research Centre in association with the Department of Psychiatry, Mysore Medical College, at the Pathology Lecture Hall of K.R. Hospital here on Friday, he advised youngsters to open up freely, cultivate positive thoughts



and work towards achieving their goals. They must dream big and make sincere efforts to turn their dreams into reality.

Dr. J.M. Vanishree, Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Hi-Tech Panchakarma Hospital, advised the younger generation to practise yoga for a healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Harish Babu, retired Deputy Director of the AYUSH De-

partment, said lifestyle, dietary habits and exercise were important for maintaining good health, and noted that International Yoga Day has been observed since 2014, giving greater importance and recognition to yoga.

Dr. N.V. Krishnamurthy, Principal of Maharaja's Ayurveda College, said anything could be achieved through control of the mind.

Quick Read

Applications invited for Deeksha bhoomi yatra

Mysuru

The Department of Social Welfare has invited applications from pilgrims wishing to visit Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur, Maharashtra, during 2026-27. The department will make arrangements for buses for the pilgrims. Interested pilgrims can submit their applications online through the Social Welfare Department website, Social Welfare Department website, on or before October 9, 2026, according to a release issued by the Joint Director of the Department of Social Welfare.

Hearing aid distributed by philanthropists



MYSURU

Members of Care Trust, Bangalore and representatives of M/s. Dynatech Tools and Devices Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore visited Institute of Mother and Deaf Child run by Parents' Association of Deaf children and distributed hi-end hearing aid to Rohith, alumni of the Institute who has secured seat to pursue MBBS course in MMC, Mysore.

They also distributed the financial aid to Nisarga,

Kushal Gowda, Suchitra and Advika Ronad to meet hostel and training expenses.

B D Thimmaiah, B Damodar founder directors of Dynatech, Ashwini Kumar, Chaitra Hiremath, Gururaj, Anand, and vice president of PADC Girceesh, treasurer A Dinakara Shetty and Deepa Bhat were present.

The function was attended by members of Care Trust, representatives of Dynatech staff, mothers and children of the Institute.

annual family income limits — a maximum of ₹1.50 lakh for rural areas and ₹2 lakh for urban areas — as well as the scheme-specific age criteria, generally ranging from 21 to 60 years.No member of the applicant's family should be a government or semi-government employee, and applicants should not have previously availed themselves of any benefit from the Corporation.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR VALMIKI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SCHEMES

MYSURU

The Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation has invited applications from members of the Scheduled Tribes community seeking benefits under various welfare schemes for 2026-27.

The application process began on September 18 and the last date for submission is October 17,

2026. Benefits are available under various schemes, including self-employment (direct loan), dairy farming, entrepreneurship development, Swavalambi Sarathi (taxi/goods vehicle), fast-food truck, micro-credit (Prerana), Ganga Kalyana and Land Ownership schemes. Eligible applicants can apply online through the Seva Sindhu portal. Applicants must meet the prescribed

Quick Read

Weak monsoon yields to forecasts of moderate rains, gusty winds

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Despite a generally weak southwest monsoon across Karnataka, the Meteorological Department has issued forecasts indicating that moderate rainfall, accompanied by gusty winds, is expected to sweep across several districts in the coastal, north interior, and south interior regions over a 2-day period. According to weather updates, isolated areas in the coastal belt—specifically Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada—along with multiple interior districts, are projected to experience light to moderate thundershowers. Additionally, surface winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kilometers per hour are anticipated in various pockets, particularly on September 19.

Air quality remains safe with AQI in Good to moderate ranges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Recent rainfall across Karnataka has successfully kept particulate pollution under control, maintaining safe air quality levels throughout major cities and districts. According to monitoring data, air quality indices across the state range predominantly from 'Good' to 'Moderate'. In the capital city of Bengaluru, AQI readings fluctuate between 28 and 76 depending on the neighborhood. Other urban centers like Bagalkote and Belagavi report moderate AQI levels of 78 and 74 respectively, while Ballari and various coastal towns boast even cleaner air with readings staying well within safe and satisfactory limits.

HC directs personal appearance for Darshan in Renukaswamy trial

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a significant legal turn for the high-profile Renukaswamy murder case, the Karnataka High Court has issued an order permitting actor Darshan to appear in person during the cross-examination of key witnesses. Presided over by Justice V. Srishananda, the bench heard Darshan's petition challenging a lower court's prior decision to deny him physical presence. The High Court directed that following the examination-in-chief of seven primary witnesses, the Sessions Court must schedule dedicated dates for cross-examination.

B-SMILE CORRIDOR PROJECT28 km Yeshwanthpur-KR Puram ‘Elevated Corridor’ project unveiled

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's urban infrastructure landscape is undergoing a monumental shift with the official rollout of the Yeshwanthpur-KR Puram elevated corridor project. Spearheaded by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), this ambitious 28-kilometer stretch marks a critical turning point in how municipal authorities plan to address the metropolis's chronic traffic congestion, providing a high-speed arterial link designed to completely reshape east-west mobility. Stretching from Mathikere Cross in Yeshwanthpur to its eastern terminus near KR Puram via Old Madras Road, the massive four-lane highway is engineered to handle design speeds ranging from 60 to 80 km/h. The physical alignment cuts through some of the city's most congested residential and commercial zones, mapping a route past landmark locations including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Mekhri Circle, Jayamahal, St. John's Church Road,



and the vicinity of Ulsoor Lake. To ensure seamless ingress and egress without choking local arterial roads, the project design incorporates 20 strategically distributed ramps (10 up and 10 down). Furthermore, the layout features a complex split flyover at MEI Junction and addresses bottlenecks across more than a dozen critical junctions, including RT Nagar Main Road, Indiranagar, and Varthur Road. The superstructure itself forms the lion's share of the civil engineering works—accounting for over 62% of the estimated ₹2,710 crore core construction expenditure within the overall project outlay of ₹3,536 crore.

The project is being structured under a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) toll model backed by a strict 30-month construction execution deadline. In a departure from conventional public-private partnership contracts where the government arbitrarily fixes a long-term concession period, B-SMILE has introduced a unique competitive bidding parameter: the concession duration itself is the variable. Urban planners anticipate that the corridor will drastically alter commuting patterns by offering a direct, uninterrupted bypass around the congested Central Business District (CBD) and traditional bottlenecks around Majestic. Current public transit alternatives—such as metro linkages between Yeshwanthpur and Indiranagar—route travelers through the heart of the city center, adding considerable travel time. By contrast, the new elevated expressway is projected to slash point-to-point travel times from upwards of 90 minutes down to roughly 25 to 30 minutes.

CID uncovers more gold in KPSC scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The widening scope of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) joint probe into the high-profile Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam has uncovered extraordinary layers of financial corruption, elite indulgence, and systematic embezzlement allegedly orchestrated by suspended IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar. Investigators digging deep into the multi-crore irregularities surrounding the recruitment examinations for veterinary officers have tracked a sophisticated web of benami transactions, shell accounts, and lavish personal expenditures. According to financial audits and scrutiny of suspicious fund routes tied to the Om Lakshmi Co-operative Society and allied accounts managed via key inter-

mediaries like Basavaraj Kanne, Kumar systematically diverted bribes extracted from desperate candidates to fund an opulent lifestyle. Following earlier breakthroughs where enforcement sleuths traced and seized ₹26 lakh worth of luxury gold ornaments purchased from an elite jewelry boutique on Dickenson Road in Bengaluru, subsequent investigations exposed a secondary, even larger transaction. Financial tracking revealed an additional ₹30 lakh worth of high-end gold jewelry procured for the same female companion, a media professional based in New Delhi. Confronted with exhaustive billing ledgers, transaction receipts, and digital surveillance evidence, investigators confirmed that these luxury assets were entirely funded through proceeds of the KPSC examination rigging.

GST Superintendent trapped taking ₹8 lakh bribe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's anti-corruption machinery has struck another heavy blow against systemic administrative extortion as Lokayukta sleuths successfully trapped a senior Central Goods and Services Tax (GST) superintendent red-handed while accepting a massive illicit payoff inside a state divisional office. The high-profile entrapment operation unfolded during early morning hours at the GST South Division-4 office complex situated in Koramangala. A specialized tactical team operating under the direct supervision of Lokayukta Deputy Superintendents of Police, Bharat Reddy and Thippeswamy, moved swiftly to apprehend Mohit Pratap Singh, a Central GST Superintendent, alongside an intermediary identified as Salman Sheikh. Investigators confirmed that the duo was taken into immediate custody

while processing an initial cash installment of eight lakh rupees extracted from a distressed local trader. The crackdown originated from a formal corruption complaint lodged by Syed Zameer, an established iron and steel merchant operating within the metropolitan limits. According to detailed case files, federal revenue authorities had previously initiated a routine tax evasion audit and formal investigation against the trader's commercial enterprise. Capitalizing on the vulnerability and legal anxiety associated with tax scrutiny, Superintendent Singh allegedly demanded a staggering total bribe of twenty lakh rupees to suppress inquiry files, manipulate audit reports, and formally close the tax evasion case without punitive penalties. Faced with mounting extortion, the businessman approached the Karnataka Lokayukta with concrete evidence.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Movie enthusiasts across the state face an additional financial impact as the state government formally prepares to implement a new two percent welfare cess on all cinema tickets. Scheduled to officially take effect on September 30, 2026, this policy brings a prolonged legislative process to fruition while triggering fresh discussions among filmmakers, multiplex operators, and trade associations regarding the rising cost of entertainment. The additional levy originates from the 'Karnataka Cine and Cultural Workers

How the new cess works

The Extra Charge: An extra 2% added directly to ticket costs.

Example Impact: A standard ₹200 movie ticket will cost an extra ₹4.

Fund Purpose: Collected money goes exclusively toward welfare schemes for film industry workers.

(Welfare) Act,' a legislative framework originally introduced by the state administration. After securing official assent from the Governor of

Karnataka on September 23, 2024, the statute was subsequently published in an extraordinary state gazette. However, due to administra-

High Court reprimands government over water crisis

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has expressed profound judicial anguish and issued a sharp reprimand to the state government over the acute drinking water crisis and dangerously high fluoride contamination levels plaguing Sira Taluk within the Tumakuru district. A division bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice T.P. Vivekananda pulled up state authorities for administrative apathy while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by R. Jayaramayya, a retired engineer hailing from Chikkabangere village, alongside other local petitioners. During the court proceedings, Senior Advocate Prof. Ravivarma Kumar, representing the aggrieved petitioners, painted a grim picture of the humanitarian crisis unfolding across the region.

tive processing phases and procedural requirements governing its commencement clause, the enforcement of the act experienced a prolonged gap spanning nearly two years. Under the finalized implementation framework, patrons visiting single-screen theatres and modern multiplexes will pay the additional two percent surcharge calculated directly on the base admission price. For example, a standard movie ticket priced at two hundred rupees will incur an extra four-rupee welfare component, with higher charges applying dynamically to premium recliners, IMAX screen-

ings, and luxury seating tiers. State authorities have firmly defended the levy, clarifying that every rupee collected through the ticket cess will be channeled directly into a dedicated welfare fund. This pool is designated exclusively for supporting grassroots film industry workers, junior artists, technical crew members, and aging support staff by financing targeted security, medical insurance, housing initiatives, and educational scholarships. Despite the noble intent behind safeguarding vulnerable backstage and production personnel, the announcement has met with mixed reactions

from industry bodies. Representatives from multiplex associations have previously raised concerns regarding cumulative tax burdens—such as existing Goods and Services Tax slabs—warning that any incremental price hike could affect overall box office footfalls. As cinema operators update their ticketing software to integrate the mandatory surcharge ahead of the month-end deadline, local audiences prepare to absorb the extra cost while filmmakers hope the dedicated fund brings meaningful relief to the state's hard-working cultural community.

OVER 4000 VACANCIES HIT STATE VARSITY FUTURE

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Higher education standards across state-run institutions face a serious threat as systemic staff shortages leave thousands of teaching positions vacant. Academic bodies, student organizations, and educationists have raised deep concerns, warning that the lack of permanent professors directly jeopardizes the futures of countless students who rely on public universities for affordable higher learning. Data from the Department of Higher Education reveals that over 4,000 teaching posts are currently lying vacant across various government universities throughout Karnataka. Institutions such as Bengaluru University, Nrupathunga University, and Maharani Cluster University are among the hardest hit, with several departments forced to rely en-

tirely on temporary guest lecturers to manage academic schedules and conduct classes. Students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds, who enter postgraduate programs with high academic aspirations, find themselves facing significant learning gaps due to the absence of experienced, permanent faculty members. Academic bodies point out that while guest lecturers provide essential short-term relief, they cannot replace the long-term mentorship, research guidance, and structural stability that permanent professors offer to university ecosystems. Responding to mounting pressure from student unions and academic circles, Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy assured the public that the government is taking urgent steps to address the crisis.

Crisis overview

- Vacant Positions:** Over 4,000 teaching roles empty statewide.
- Impacted Students:** Rural and underprivileged youth relying on affordable state education.
- Current Arrangement:** Classes are managed primarily through guest faculty.

Government action plan

- Principal Appointments:** Moving to fill permanent principal roles in 320 out of 410 First Grade Colleges within a week.
- Mass Recruitment:** Plans underway to hire 1,000 professors for universities and 2,000 for colleges.
- Official Assurance:** Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy stated that Finance Department approval has been secured, and hiring will soon take place through the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India
Department of Skill Development
Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
National Livelihood Mission – Karnataka

Dr. G Parameshwar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Namma SARAS MELA 2026

Date: From Sept 19 to Sept 27, 2026
Place: Jayamahal Palace, Bengaluru

Exhibition- cum- Sale of a wide range of products like household appliances, apparel, traditional delicacies, crafted by Self-Help group women under one roof.

Showcasing the qualities of diligence, skills, and self-reliance of rural women!

Dr. Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil,
Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood participates in a Departmental Review meeting.

FREE ENTRY

Come with your family, buy products made by women and join your hand for women empowerment

All Are Welcome

"Protecting the natural environment is the fundamental constitutional duty of every citizen."

“Vishnuvardhan symbolised courage, simplicity and culture”

MYSURU

The 76th birth anniversary of Kannada film icon and Dr. Vishnuvardhan was commemorated by members of the Sahasasimha Dr. Vishnuvardhan Fans Federation at Vishnuvardhan Park in front of the Kote Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Mysuru on Friday.

The celebrations began with floral tributes being offered to the portrait of Dr. Vishnuvardhan, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, with the cake distributed among the fans.

Speaking on the occasion, Mysuru City and District Brahmin Association president D.T. Prakash described Dr. Vishnuvardhan as a great actor and a person of exemplary character. Dr. Vishnuvardhan was a kind-hearted person who was always ready



to extend a helping hand. Though he originally belonged to Mysuru, he earned a large fan following across the country and abroad. He always raised his voice whenever the Kannada land, water or language faced any threat.

Though Dr. Vishnuvardhan is no more physically present, he continues to live in the hearts of millions of fans and it was the responsibility of admirers to remember and

honour such a great personality.

Former president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat Dr. Y.D. Rajanna said Dr. Vishnuvardhan’s contribution to the Kannada film industry was immense.

Through his remarkable acting, simple personality and deep affection for Kannada, he won the hearts of millions. He continues to remain immortal in the minds of his

fans, and his achievements will always serve as an inspiration to the Kannada film industry.

Sahasasimha Dr. Vishnuvardhan Fans Federation president M.D. Parthasarathy said Dr. Rajkumar and Dr. Vishnuvardhan were like the two eyes of the Kannada film industry. While one illuminated the cultural heritage of Karnataka, the other enriched Kannada cinema through his outstanding acting and personality. The contribution of both stalwarts to the Kannada film industry is invaluable.

Among those present were KPCC member Nazarbad Nataraj, Jagadish, Karunamayi Vishnu Fans Association president S.N. Rajesh, Auto Mahesh, Aaradhya Mahasabha president T.S. Arun, Basavaraj, Mahadev, Naveen and Krishnamurthy.

Modi Birthday: Tea and biscuits distributed to citizens



MYSURU

BJP leaders and workers of the K.R. Assembly constituency celebrated Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 76th birthday in a simple yet meaningful manner by distributing tea and biscuits to the public near the 101 Ganapati Temple at Agrahara in Mysuru.

Prior to the programme, special prayers were offered at the 101 Ganapati Temple. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, during which the participants extended birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Party workers raised slogans and celebrated the occasion.

Later, tea and biscuits were distributed to the public. Several members of the public, along with Modi supporters, participated in the programme.

K.R. Assembly constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa, Mysuru District President of the Brahmin Mahasabha D.T. Prakash, BJP leaders Santosh Shambhu, Hemanth Kumar, Manu Shaiva, Nitish, Tabrez, Asrar and Likhith, besides several young party workers and supporters, were present.

Rajendra Swamiji turned Suttur mutt into a movement for social change

MYSURU

Jagadguru Sri Sivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji transformed the traditional role of the Suttur Mutt into a powerful movement for social change through education, healthcare and public service, said noted scholar Prof. D.S. Sadashiva Murthy.

Delivering the salutation at the 111th Jayanthi Mahotsava of the Jagadguru at the JSS Technical Institutions campus, he said the Seer’s contributions assumed greater significance considering the widespread poverty, hunger and illiteracy prevalent during the pre- and post-Independence periods. Recognising education and food security as vital tools to combat poverty, Rajendra Mahaswamiji established free hostels for talented students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds. These initiatives helped transform the lives of thousands of families.

Prof. Sadashiva Murthy said the seer extended educational and residential facilities to students irrespective of caste or religion, reflecting Basavanna’s ideals of equality and social justice. His efforts towards inclusive development and women’s empowerment preceded their emergence as major policy concerns, he added.

Presiding over the programme, JSS Science and Technology University



Vice-Chancellor Prof. A.N. Santosh Kumar said the Jagadguru’s legacy continued to inspire generations through education, healthcare and social service. Education was viewed by the Seer not as a privilege but as a fundamental necessity for freedom and democracy.

His philosophy of Trividha Dasoha—Anna Dasoha, Jnana Dasoha and Arogya Dasoha—provided a comprehensive approach to social transformation. Serving the hungry, educating the poor, healing the sick and empowering the disadvantaged was spirituality for him.

He said the Jagadguru’s vision led to the establishment of schools, colleges, hospitals and technical and medical institutions, turning the Suttur Mutt into a major centre of education and social welfare. He urged people to uphold the values of inclusivity, integrity, humility, service and social harmony.

As part of the Jayanthi celebrations, high-performing students from across the JSS

Technical Institutions were felicitated with endowment awards instituted through the generous contributions of donors.

The awards recognised academic excellence and encouraged students to continue their pursuit of knowledge and professional excellence.

In another significant gesture of service and inclusion, students from JSS PDA were provided with wheelchairs on the occasion, reaffirming the institution’s commitment to supporting students with special needs and ensuring that the ideals of compassion, dignity and inclusive education reach every section of society.

Sri Sharathchandra Swamiji of Sri Kunduru Math, who graced the occasion, said true sainthood was defined not by religious attire or rituals but by compassion and selfless service. Recalling an incident from Rajendra Mahaswamiji’s life, he said the Jagadguru once intervened after noticing a dog trapped inside a shed and personally ensured that it was freed.

Women can play a key role in preserving society: Sri Trinethra Mahanta Shivayogi seer

MYSURU

Any development or positive change in society is possible only through women, and such change should begin at home, said Sri Trinethra Mahanta Shivayogi Swami, Pontiff of Chandravana Ashram and Baby Mutt.

He was speaking after participating in a mass Sri Sathyanarayana Puja organised at the Bhugathagalli community hall in association with the Pragathi Bandhu Self-Help Groups and federations of the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) B.C. Trust, Kamanakerehundi in Mysuru on Friday.

Amid the rapid pace of modernisation, homes and relationships are increasingly getting divided. At such a time, collective programmes like this are necessary to bring people and minds together. Instead of blaming society for its shortcomings, women have an important role to play in imparting values, respect and culture to family members, beginning from their own homes, he said.

The seer said women today have made significant progress in every field. They should also take the lead in resolving problems within



their families. Many families are witnessing disputes in recent times, resulting in a decline in respect for family values. Therefore, women need to become increasingly aware and responsible.

SKDRDP B.C. Trust Director Vijayakumar Naganala said the Dharmasthala organisation, apart from promoting self-help groups, has now launched an association for progressive farmers. “The Dharmasthala organisation is not merely meant to provide loans to people. Dharmadhikari Dr D. Veerendra Hegade launched the project with the objective of creating awareness among people and encouraging rural and middle-class families to save a portion of their hard-earned income”.

The trust has completed 15 years of service and has around 40,000 members through 5,500 self-help groups. Across Karnataka, 55

lakh people are members of 5.5 lakh self-help groups. Members in the taluk had collectively saved around ₹40 crore over 14 years, demonstrating what could be achieved through self-help groups. The members had also undertaken financial transactions worth ₹3,500 crore through banks without security deposits and had utilised the funds to meet their needs. “Maintaining the trust and confidence of banks is a major achievement of women’s self-help groups,” he said.

Former Zilla Panchayat member Madegowda, BJP leader Kaveesh Gowda, Congress leader K.S. Sannaswamy, former Hanchya Gram Panchayat president H.C. Kumaraswamy, members Basavaraju and Chennayya, Hanchya Milk Producers’ Cooperative Society president Nagendra, Hanchya Agricultural Produce Cooperative Society president Jogisiddiah,

430 gm gold ornaments seized in BIS raid on Mysuru jeweller

MYSURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch Office, conducted a search and seizure operation at a jewellery establishment in Mysuru and seized around 430 grams of gold ornaments allegedly found without mandatory Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) markings.

The operation was carried out at M/s Pratibha Jewels, located at #1033/A, 8th Cross, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysuru. The action was conducted under the supervision of P. Jayachandra Babu, Scientist-E and Director, BIS.

The enforcement team comprised Manish Raj, Scientist-C and Deputy Director; Piyush Kumar Gupta, Scientist-B and Assistant Director; and other BIS officials.

According to the BIS, the operation was part of its regular enforcement activities against the misuse of the BIS Standard Mark and violations of hallmarking regulations. During the search, around 430 grams of gold ornaments were seized after they were found without the mandatory HUID markings.

The BIS stated that the findings constituted violations of provisions and regulations under the BIS Act, 2016.

Libraries are powerhouses of knowledge: KRP Asst Commandant

MYSURU

Libraries are powerhouses of knowledge, and aspirants should face competitive examinations with patience, discipline and hard work to achieve success, said B. Prakash, Assistant Commandant of the 5th Battalion, Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP).

He was speaking after inaugurating a mock examination organised jointly by the City Central Library and the Jnana Gangotri Competitive Examination Training Centre, Bengaluru, for more than 50 candidates preparing for the KSRP Constable written examination scheduled to be held on September 20.

Prakash recalled how, about 15 years ago, he used to visit the City Central Library on Sayyaji Rao Road in Mysuru every day and make full use of its facilities. He urged every job aspirant to similarly utilise libraries to the fullest and said that dedicated preparation would certainly help them succeed in competitive examinations.

Prakash advised aspirants



not to prepare with the sole aim of clearing one particular examination, but to develop the habit of appearing for various competitive examinations.

The candidates should remain focused on their goal and avoid distractions while preparing for examinations, as such dedication would help them achieve success.

Additional Deputy Commissioner R. Aishwarya said that public servants should work towards providing people-oriented service in keeping with Mahatma Gandhi’s vision. As Gandhi had advocated, efforts should be made to fulfil the aspirations of the last person in society and bring a smile to his or her face through public service. The students appearing for

competitive examinations not to lose heart under any circumstances or be overcome by fear. Whether they succeed or not, they should never give up making sincere efforts.

City Central Library Deputy Director B. Manjunath said that 10 mock examinations had so far been conducted for candidates preparing for Civil CAR/DAR and KSRP examinations. Several candidates had succeeded after appearing for these examinations. Arrangements had also been made to provide guidance for the upcoming physical tests.

Mysuru City Library Authority member Ramesh Narasaiah, People’s Park Library Assistant Librarian Sowmya S. and library staff were present.

Special SIR Campaign on Sept. 19 and 20

MYSURU

Public awareness was created through a motorcycle rally in H.D. Kote town on Friday ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls scheduled for September 19 (Saturday) and 20 (Sunday).

The rally was organised by the Taluk SVEEP Committee as part of its awareness activities to promote the special campaign. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer and Taluk SVEEP Committee Nodal Officer Ravichandra S. flagged off the rally at the Taluk Panchayat premises.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the Special Intensive Revision-2026 was being conducted with the objective of ensuring that “no eligible voter is left out of the electoral process.” He appealed to voters in the H.D. Kote Assembly constituency to participate in the special campaign on September 19 and 20 and verify that their names are included in the electoral rolls.

He said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would be available at polling stations during the special campaign days. They would provide information to the public regarding the draft electoral rolls and receive claims and objections from eligible voters.

The BLOs would also assist voters in searching for their names in the draft electoral rolls and receive applications for inclusion of new voters, deletion of names, change of address, and correction of names or other details in the electoral rolls. Motorcycle Rally Creates AwarenessThe motorcycle rally began at the Taluk Panchayat premises and proceeded through the main road of H.D. Kote towards the bus stand. Participants displayed placards, raised slogans related to the SIR campaign and played awareness songs to educate the public.

The rally reached the bus stand and returned along the same route before concluding at the Taluk Panchayat office premises.

MLA G.T. Devegowda feted as becoming Prez of State Cooperative Federation



MYSURU

Former Minister and Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda, who assumed office as President of the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation for the seventh time, was felicitated by the Mysuru Cooperative Bank.

The felicitation was held in the presence of the bank’s President J. Yogesh, Vice-President T. Ravi, Directors N. Yoganand, H. Harish Kumar, Rajakiya Ravikumar, R. Somanna, K. Girish, Paduvarahalli M. Ramakrishna, P. Rajeshwari and Pramila, along with Secretary K. Harshith Gowda.

Integrated oilseed processing unit opened at CSIR-CFTRI

MYSURU

The Integrated Oilseed Processing Unit at CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysuru, was inaugurated by Dr. Giridhar Parvatam, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. V. Subramanian, Founder Director of CSIR-CFTRI.

The facility marks an important step towards the efficient utilization and processing of oilseeds, technology development, and value addition, supporting India’s goal of greater self-sufficiency in edible oil production while promoting sustainable processing, enhancing farmer income, and fostering entrepreneurship.

The facility currently provides a platform for pilot-scale and pre-commercial oilseed processing, with capabilities in oil extraction, filtration, refining, product development, and quality evaluation. The existing infrastructure includes an oil extraction unit (50 kg/hour), short-path molecular distillation unit (up to 5 L/hour), equipment for oilseed-based paste and spread making, energy bar production, and other essential instruments for edible oil quality analysis. The facility has been developed through various Government- and industry-sponsored R&D proj-



ects, including CSIR Mission projects, reflecting CSIR-CFTRI’s continued efforts to translate research into practical technologies.

The facility is also being further expanded under the CSIR-ULIP project, which will strengthen its capabilities across the oilseed processing chain, from pre-processing to packaging, including adulteration detection, process optimization, and product development. The expanded facility will further support technology demonstration, scale-up, pre-commercial assessment, and technology transfer, enabling promising technologies to move closer to wider adoption and commercial application.

The Integrated Oilseed Processing Unit is envisaged as a common platform connecting researchers with farmers, industry, MSMEs, start-ups, and entrepreneurs, with particular opportunities for novel and underutilized oilseeds. By providing access to process-

ing and product-development infrastructure, the facility can help farmers and entrepreneurs add greater value to oilseeds, develop new products and create new livelihood opportunities, including for women entrepreneurs and rural enterprises.

The facility aligns with national priorities of self-sufficiency in edible oil production, sustainable food processing, agricultural value addition, enhanced farmer income and technology-driven entrepreneurship. It can contribute to a more resilient oilseed ecosystem by encouraging the local processing and value addition of oilseeds, creating opportunities closer to the source of production and strengthening linkages between farmers, researchers and industry.

The facility is intended to ensure that the value of oilseed research reaches beyond the laboratory to farmers, entrepreneurs, industry and society.

Quick Read

Devappa elected President of Gadag newspaper body

CH NEWS, GADAG
Devappa N. Lingadala, editor of Very Good Morning, was unanimously elected President of the Gadag district unit of the Karnataka Small and District Newspapers Association. The elections, overseen by State Secretary Raju M. Hebballi under State President Sha. Manjunatha's direction, also saw Chakravarti editor N.R. Bhandage elected as Treasurer and Gadag Sanje editor Ramesh Bhajantri as Vice-President. Hebballi highlighted that the body remains the country's only gazette-recognized press association since 1980. Lingadala pledged to actively safeguard newspaper interests and welcome all regional journalists, supported by editor Santhosh Kuri and fellow media fraternity members.

Health secretary Ranjanam Pandey inspects Wenlock Hospital

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Health Department Secretary Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey conducted a comprehensive inspection of Wenlock District Hospital on Friday, reviewing departmental operations and ongoing infrastructure upgrades. During his visit, Pandey inspected the designated site for the upcoming Outpatient Department (OPD) building and evaluated construction progress on the Critical Care Block (CCB), directing officials to maintain strict quality standards and accelerate project completion. He also toured the Cath Lab, expressing satisfaction after learning that over 1,200 angiogram and angioplasty procedures have been successfully.

Weekend voter registration drive hits Kolar district

CH NEWS, KOLAR
A special two-day voter registration drive will be conducted across Kolar district on September 19 and 20 to ensure complete enrollment of eligible youth and first-time voters, announced Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer M.R. Ravikumar on Friday. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be stationed across all 1,578 polling stations throughout the weekend to assist residents. Addressing recognized political party representatives at his office, Ravikumar urged party agents and citizens to cooperate in finalizing an error-free voter roll under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls-2026, set to the qualifying date of October 1, 2026. Eligible voters can submit Form 6 for fresh additions, Form 7 for deletions, and Form 8 for corrections or residence updates until September 23 through booth officers or official online portals. The draft electoral roll published on August 24 recorded 11,24,231 registered voters across six Assembly segments, comprising

CLEANLINESS BEYOND DUTY

‘Swachhata Hi Seva-2026’ campaign launched

CH NEWS, MANDYA
Cleanliness must transcend routine government obligations to become an everyday personal habit for every citizen, stated Fauzia Tarannum B., Commissioner of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Bengaluru. She inaugurated the fortnight-long ‘Swachhata Hi Seva-2026’ special campaign at K. Shettahalli Gram Panchayat in Srirangapatna taluk.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner stressed that the initiative—running from September 17 to October 2 across Mandya district—must cultivate a sustainable culture of environmental hygiene throughout rural Karnataka. She urged households to practice source segregation by composting wet waste locally and transferring dry recyclables such as plastic, metal, and glass—to panchayat collection vehicles. She noted that solid and plastic waste units, fecal sludge

treatment plants, and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are converting waste into valuable resources at the grassroots level. Calling for dignity and respect toward sanitation workers, the Commissioner reminded residents that individuals bear prime accountability for the waste they produce. Emphasizing the link between environmental cleanliness, public wellness, and children's physical growth, she urged school students, youth groups, teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi

workers, and women's self-help groups (SHGs) to lead the sanitation movement. During the program, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini administered the official cleanliness pledge, rallying the community toward resource conservation and public health. Organizers highlighted menstrual hygiene awareness drives that promote reusable menstrual cups among rural women through trained grassroots health workers and SHGs.

Vijayendra slams state govt in Shikaripura rally

Vijayendra challenged DK Shivakumar on stalled welfare, power crises, drought, and Western Ghats fears under Kasturirangan report

CH NEWS, SHIKARIPURA
Launching a scathing attack on the state administration, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra characterized the current regime as hostile toward farmers, the poor, youth, and women. Addressing a rally in front of the Taluk Office following a protest march demanding an adequate agricultural electricity supply, Vijayendra warned that rural resentment could soon boil over. Targeting District In-charge Minister Madhu Bangarappa, Vijayendra challenged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on his maiden district tour to examine whether the ruling party had delivered on even a single key election promise. He alleged that severe power shortages have left lakes dry

and crippled rural livelihoods, noting that schemes such as Ganga Kalyana, housing allocations, and disability pensions have stalled across the state over the past three years. He also pointed out that communities along the Western Ghats continue to live under apprehension due to the Kasturirangan report. Echoing these criticisms, Shivamogga MP B.Y. Raghavendra termed the administration an "empty vessel," pointing out that while the government pledged six hours of agricultural three-phase power, farmers barely receive two hours daily. Raghavendra challenged Bangarappa to compare developmental records between Shikaripura and Soraba, highlighting major irrigation works and title deed distribu-



tions undertaken during former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's tenure while questioning why milk procurement rates have not been increased to support distressed farmers. Adding to the offensive, State BJP Vice President Halappa Harathalu accused the leadership of being disconnected from rural realities. He alleged that government focus remains restricted to revenue-generating corridors

At a Glance

- Core Issue: BJP protest in Shikaripura demanding adequate 3-phase agricultural electricity
- Key Criticisms: State administration labeled "empty vessel"; stalled schemes (Ganga Kalyana, housing, disability pensions)
- Political Challenges: Vijayendra targets DK Shivakumar/Bangarappa; Raghavendra contrasts Shikaripura with Soraba

surrounding Bengaluru, while local ministers shirk administrative responsibility instead of securing vital irrigation power for Malnad and central Karnataka districts.

Farmers stage protest demanding completion of road work

CH NEWS, SURAPURA
Activists from the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasisu Sene staged a demonstration in front of the local Tahsildar's office on Friday, demanding the immediate completion of the pending Rukmapura-Bavinahalli road construction. Addressing the gathering, Taluk President Hanamantaraya Chandalapura expressed outrage that the vital road work remains unfinished despite two years having elapsed since its inception. He explained that after laying the initial layers of kankar and murrum gravel mix, authorities abruptly halted further construction. This prolonged delay has rendered vehicular travel hazardous and caused severe hardships for local residents. The heavy clouds of dust kicked up by daily traffic have coated residences, ruined household items, contaminated food, and triggered respiratory and other health issues among villagers living alongside the corridor.

The association warned the administration that if the Public Works Department fails to finish the asphalt work immediately, an intensified agitation will be launched outside the department's offices. Following the demonstration, leaders submitted a formal memorandum addressed to the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department through the Tahsildar's office staff. Prominent leaders participating in the protest included Hunasagi Taluk Honorary President Saheb Gowda Madalinganal, District Vice President Tippanna Jampa, Hunasagi Taluk President Hanuma Gowda Narayanapur, Surapura Taluk Honorary President Mallanna Halabavi.

DC directs multi-agency push for TB-free Gram Panchayats

CH NEWS, MANDYA
Concrete measures must be initiated to transform every village local body in the district into a tuberculosis-free Gram Panchayat in a phased manner, instructed Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar on Friday. Presiding over the district-level TB Forum review meeting held at his office, Dr. Kumar directed health authorities and civic bodies to prioritize the early detection of suspected tuberculosis cases and ensure immediate medical intervention. He underscored that early diagnosis remains pivotal to curbing transmission and securing successful clinical outcomes across rural belts. Addressing treatment protocols, Dr. Kumar stressed that care must extend beyond clinical prescriptions to encompass compassionate psycho-social support. Healthcare teams must provide dedicated counseling to patients and their households, debunking persistent social stigmas while emphasizing rigorous adherence to prescribed drug regimens without interruption. Field workers were told to conduct close, continuous monitoring so that no patient defaults midway through their course.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed health workers and panchayat functionaries to coordinate door-to-door screenings to identify symptomatic individuals for prompt sputum and diagnostic testing. Furthermore, he mandated the uninterrupted distribution of government nutritional assistance alongside primary medications to help patients rebuild physical immunity during recovery. Dr. Kumar emphasized that eliminating tuberculosis remains a top government priority requiring cohesive

‘Land conversion mandatory for commercial use’

Authorities cannot grant licenses for commercial activities in unauthorized buildings lacking mandatory planning permits, clarified Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara on Friday. Presiding over a review on registering new homestay applications with the Tourism Department, he asserted that statutory land conversion remains compulsory before running commercial ventures on agricultural plots. Dr. Kumara warned that farmhouses permitted strictly for agricultural operations must not be misused for commercial hospitality, residential layouts, or real estate developments under the guise of farming. Directing interdepartmental coordination to curb illegal developments, he ordered immediate legal proceedings against non-compliant properties. Sub-Divisional Officer Shivamurthy and Tourism Deputy Director Raghavendra attended the session alongside local homestay applicants.

teamwork across healthcare divisions, civic bodies, and community volunteers. District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Bettaswamy, Mandya Red Cross Society District President Dr. Meera Shivalingaiah, and other key administrative officials attended the coordination meeting.

Mandya Court sentences POC SO convict to 20 years in jail

CH NEWS, MANDYA
The Second Fast Track Special Court in Mandya has sentenced 50-year-old Nagesh to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1,10,000 for sexually assaulting a minor girl. According to the prosecution, the convict, a resident of Modajakanaahalli in Mandya taluk, subjected the minor victim to sustained intimidation, blackmailed her with false rumors to silence her, and repeatedly assaulted her, which resulted in her pregnancy prior to December 29, 2025. Following a complaint, Shivalli police registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Investigating Officer Manjunatha A., Circle Inspector of Keragodu, completed the probe and submitted the charge sheet. Delivering the verdict on September 17, Special Judge B. Dileep Kumar found the accused guilty. Special Public Prosecutor Hebbakavadi Nagaraju represented the state.

Desi Farms India Limited
(formerly known as SER Industries Limited)
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CORRIGENDUM TO THE NOTICE OF 63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Corrigendum to the Notice of Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is issued by Desi Farms India Limited (Formerly known as "SER Industries Limited") ("Company") for convening an Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Company on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"). The Corrigendum is to be read in conjunction with the AGM Notice dated Saturday, September 05, 2026, as available on the website of the Company at https://www.desifarmsindia.org/and BSE Limited, where the equity shares of the Company are listed. The Notice of the AGM was dispatched to all the Members of the Company on Saturday, September 05, 2026 in due compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules read thereunder, read with circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The Corrigendum shall form an integral part of the Integrated Annual Report containing the AGM Notice and has been sent through email on Saturday, September 05, 2026 to all the members of the Company to whom the AGM Notice was dispatched. Accordingly, all the concerned shareholders, Stock Exchanges, Depositories, Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, agencies appointed for e-voting, other Authorities, Regulators, and all other concerned persons are requested to take notes of the following changes:
1. Item No. 3 to Item No 10—Approval of Related Party Transactions to be entered by Company and its Subsidiaries.
To incorporate the requisite additional information under Point No. 3 of Table A1 of Annexures 1 to 8 forming part of the respective Explanatory Statements to Item Nos. 3 to 10 of the Notice, specifically relating to the nature of business of the respective Related Parties, in accordance with the SEBI Circular dated October 13, 2025 and the SEBI Master Circular dated January 30, 2026 on the Industry Standards on 'Minimum information to be provided to the Audit Committee and Shareholders for approval of Related Party Transactions' ("RPT Industry Standards"). This corrigendum is also available on the website of the Company at https://www.desifarmsindia.org/.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR, DESI FARMS INDIA LIMITED
(Formerly known as "SER Industries Limited")
SD/-
Garima Priyani
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Membership No. F14064
Place: Pune
Date: September 18, 2026

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
No : EE/PRED/KLB/TENDER/TS/2026-27/2925 Date : 18/09/2026
:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::
(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)
1) Name of work: 1. Construction of C.C. Road from Wadahalli Tanda to Wadahalli village in Afzalpur Taluka Indent No.24278/Call-2, 2. Construction of 4 class room and others to Govt. Higher Primary T.R.T. School at Bhankur village Chittapur Taluka Ind.No.24239/Call-2, 3. Development Of Overall CC Roads And Drains In General Oni At Jeevan Maradagi Village In Chittapur Taluka Indent No.17268/Call-2, 4. Improvements to Hanadi Road from Honagunta village to Madari village in chittapur taluka Indent No.20211/Call-2, 5. Const of 6 Class room and others to Govt. KPS campus School at Madbool village in Chittapur Taluka I.No.24240/Call-2, 6. Construction of RCC Drain from Chidandeswar temple to Bhosga B internal road, drainage and CD work at Itaga village in Jewargi Taluka Indent No.26736/Call-2, 7. Construction of road from Honnal railway bridge to Biral Road in Jewargi Taluka indent No.26370/Call-2, 2) Head of account : **MP LAD / CMIDP / 5054**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Minimum Rs. 55,90,888.95, Maximum Rs. 83,02,088.11**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class-III and Above
5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **17-09-2026 to 30-09-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee : As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 1,12,000.00, Maximum Rs. 1,66,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **17-09-2026 to 30-09-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **01-10-2026 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **05-10-2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/553/KSMC&A/2026-27 Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

Quick Read

Swachhata

Hi Seva drive held in

Hiriyur

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
A healthy society depends entirely on clean surroundings, stated Zilla Panchayat Planning Director K. Jayalakshmamma on Friday. She addressed participants after launching a voluntary cleanliness drive under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign near Ganesha Temple on National Highway 4, in Burujinaroppa village. Participating officials, village development staff, and local residents joined hands to clear plastic litter and highway roadside garbage before taking a formal cleanliness pledge. Rural Swachh Bharat Mission representatives, along with technical consultants and villagers, actively supported the sanitation drive. Jayalakshmamma urged community members to maintain daily environmental hygiene, eliminate plastic waste, and safeguard public health through collective responsibility.

Legal awareness

program conducted for

senior citizens

CH NEWS, HANGAL
A legal awareness and assistance initiative for senior citizens took place at the Hangal Taluk Panchayat under the Central Government's Senior Citizen Action Plan. Inaugurating the workshop, Assistant Director Channaveerasha Rudagi underscored elder care priorities. Police Sub-Inspector Manjunatha Chavadi highlighted critical safety precautions against rampant digital arrest scams. Advocate Veerangowda Patil briefed attendees on their statutory rights under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, urging elders to claim protections confidently. District Welfare Officer Smt. Ashu Nadaf presided over the successful.

High Court Judge to

tour Chikkaballapura

District

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA
High Court Judge Justice Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar begins an official two day tour of the district on Saturday. Arriving from Bengaluru, he will stay overnight before inaugurating the newly built Civil Judge court complex at Chelur on Sunday morning. Later, Justice Kumar will lead a special legal awareness session on constitutional village development across local rural settlements in Gudibande. The legal program brings judicial officers, rural advocates, and law scholars together to help villagers understand their basic rights. He will also visit the Isha Foundation to support green campus initiatives before returning to Bengaluru, concluding an impactful public legal outreach.

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Celebrating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday through service-oriented initiatives, local Bharatiya Janata Party leaders launched the month-long 'Seva Sankalpa' campaign on Friday by performing Pada Puja for female sanitation workers near the city's Water Tank Circle. The dignitaries washed the feet of the sanitation staff and offered traditional Bagina to honor their dedication. Speaking at the gathering, former KSIC Chairman M. Gautam Gowda lauded the invaluable contributions of municipal civic workers in safeguarding public health and maintaining environmental hygiene. He stressed that acknowledging their relentless toil represents the most meaningful tribute to Prime Minister Modi's quarter-century of dedicated public governance, spanning his tenures as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Gowda announced that the district unit, under BJP District President Anand Swamy, will conduct continuous welfare

Chikkaballapura receives massive

funding for welfare guarantees

Anna Bhagya aids 1M+ with food/DBT, Shakti drives 12.16 crore free travel trips, and Yuva Nidhi boosts youth employment aid

CH NEWS, CHIKKA-BALLAPURA

The Karnataka government has spent ₹3,232.17 crore to implement its flagship guarantee schemes across Chikkaballapura district, announced Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Vice-Chairman Dinesh Gooligowda.

Reviewing progress at the Zilla Panchayat hall on Friday, he commended local authorities for achieving a remarkable ninety-seven percent execution rate across the five priority welfare guarantees.

Statewide, the government has allocated ₹1,48,454 crore over three years to empower vulnerable populations. In Chikkaballapura, the Gruha Lakshmi program has transferred ₹1,758.35 crore across thirty-two rounds to 285,415 registered women, providing ₹64,000 each. The upcoming thirty-third installment of ₹2,000 will raise cumulative benefits to ₹66,000 per woman. Under Gruha Jyothi, the state disbursed ₹454.97 crore to subsidize free domestic power for 327,756 local households.

Other programs have delivered extensive community support throughout the region. The Anna Bhagya initiative



Voter verification drive progresses across district

Electoral authorities have verified 21,577 voters flagged under anomaly and unmapped categories across five local constituencies, stated Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu on Friday. Out of 54,840 issued notices, only one ineligible name was deleted following thorough inquiries. Officials will visit over 500 bedridden, elderly, and disabled citizens directly at home to complete doorstep document verification. Furthermore, eligible youths and overseas citizens must submit Form 6 and Form 6A online or via booth officers before September 23. Prabhu urged all residents to rectify draft errors promptly, ensuring complete inclusion before the final electoral list release on October 27.

channeled ₹265.29 crore through direct benefit transfers and provided free food grains worth ₹254.83 crore to 1,011,952 beneficiaries. For rural commuters, the Shakti scheme recorded 12.16 crore free trips costing ₹481.57 crore, alongside issuing student bus passes to 17,430 youths. Additionally, 6,026 beneficiaries secured ₹17.16 crore through the Yuva Nidhi

employment assistance fund. To eliminate systemic leakages, rigorous re-verification audits remain underway. Investigators discovered ₹3.02 crore erroneously disbursed to 2,845 deceased recipients under Gruha Lakshmi, successfully retrieving ₹2.24 crore thus far. Meanwhile, Gruha Jyothi field inspections stand 97.45 percent complete. To address local transport de-

At a Glance

- Financial Outlay: ₹3,232.17 crore spent in Chikkaballapura with a 97% execution rate
- Top Scheme Reach: Gruha Lakshmi disbursed ₹1,758.35 crore; Shakti recorded 12.16 crore free trips
- Governance & Recovery: Recovered ₹2.24 crore of ₹3.02 crore erroneous Gruha Lakshmi disbursements; setting up 194 ward committees

mands, Gooligowda promised to petition the Transport Minister for one hundred additional buses, backed by a ₹7,000-crore state fleet procurement fund.

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Naveen Bhat, and district chairman Yalavalli Ramesh attended the session. Authorities confirmed that 1,164 members will soon be appointed across 194 ward-level committees, guaranteeing representation from backward classes, minorities, scheduled communities, and women. This collaborative infrastructure ensures transparent delivery, targeted oversight, and equitable public welfare distribution statewide.

Stay alert and avoid panic

during snakebites: DHO

CH NEWS, CHIKKA-BALLAPURA

Snakebites demand immediate alertness rather than sheer panic, stated District Health Officer Dr. Chetan in a public advisory released on Friday.

While non-venomous bites cause localized swelling and minor bleeding, venomous bites produce puncture marks, severe pain, sweating, dizziness, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, and critical respiratory distress.

Authorities emphasized that victims must be kept calm and still, as sudden panic accelerates venom circulation through the bloodstream.

First-aiders should remove tight clothing, footwear, rings, and watches from the bitten limb, position the patient safely on their left side, and arrange rapid ambulance transport to the nearest hospital. Dr. Chetan strictly warned against hazardous traditional practices, such as tying tight tourniquets, slicing the wound, attempting oral venom extraction, or wasting vital time chasing the reptile. Modern antivenom therapy remains the only reliable treatment to save lives.

Preventive caution is equally vital in curbing encounters across rural and semi-urban belts. Citizens are advised to

keep residential surroundings free of dense weed growth, clear waste piles promptly, use torches during nighttime walks, wear protective rubber boots outdoors, and sleep under mosquito nets. Handling stored firewood bundles or walking barefoot through unkempt farmland without illumination substantially increases exposure to hidden reptiles.

Dr. Chetan urged residents to avoid superstitious rituals and seek prompt medical attention at local public healthcare centers. Citizens seeking emergency assistance or guidance can also contact the free state health helpline at 104.

Youth urged to excel in Dasara Sports

CH NEWS, GADAG

Youth must actively engage in athletic pursuits and participate enthusiastically in the Dasara sports meet to cultivate a vibrant sporting culture, stated B.B. Asuti, District President of the Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority.

He inaugurated the two-day Gadag Taluk-level Dasara sports competitions at the K.H. Patil District Stadium on Friday.

The athletic meet was organized jointly by the Gadag Taluk Administration, Taluk Panchayat, and the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports. Addressing the gathering, Asuti emphasized that regular physical games

State takes over

Lakshmeshwar

municipal college

Malingaraya Pujar

CH NEWS

Fulfilling a decades-long public aspiration in this historical town, the state government has officially taken over the renowned Municipal Graduate Arts College and declared it a full-fledged government institution.

The landmark transition has triggered widespread celebrations across Lakshmeshwar, providing fresh momentum to higher education access for underprivileged rural students across Gadag district.

Established in 1967, the college was founded to offer affordable degree education to economically disadvantaged and middle-class youth from Lakshmeshwar and surrounding rural hamlets. Over nearly six decades, the institution shaped the careers of thousands of graduates. However, in recent years, mounting financial deficits, lagging infrastructural modernization, and severe bureaucratic bottlenecks in hiring regular teaching faculty intensified public demands for a complete state takeover.

The government order marks the culmination of sustained community protests, alumni advocacy, and civil delegations. Recently, former MLA G.S. Gaddadevaramath led a high-level delegation comprising college adminis-



"This college is beneficial for the poor, backward classes, and daily wage earners. Various higher courses are also available in this college. As a result of a decade of struggle, our town has become a government college"

-G.S. Gaddadevaramat, former MLA

trators, community elders, and activist groups to Bengaluru. Carrying crucial documentation, the team met senior ministers and higher education bureaucrats, pursuing official approvals persistently until the state cabinet approved the acquisition.

Following the arrival of the formal government notification, festive joy swept across Lakshmeshwar.

Leading community representatives, teaching staff, and former students gathered at the historic Sri Someshwara Temple to offer special thanksgiving prayers, reverently placing the official decree before the deity to honor the success of their sustained struggle.

Drive against child

labour held in Haveri

CH NEWS, HAVERI

An extensive public awareness rally against child and adolescent labour was conducted across the busy commercial lanes of the Haveri Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yard on Friday. Officials, enforcement teams, and child rights advocates marched through the marketplace, distributing informative leaflets, pasting awareness posters on shops, and chanting slogans against child exploitation. Speaking to traders and workers, Labour Officer Smt. Tarannum Bengali explained key statutory provisions under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and its 2016 Amendment.

Special voter registration drive in Gadag

CH NEWS, GADAG

A special two-day campaign for voter registration, claims, and objections under the Special Summary Revision (SIR) framework will be conducted across Gadag district on September 19 and 20.

In preparation for the weekend initiative, Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar chaired a consultative meeting with representatives of recognized political parties at the District Administration Complex on Friday.

Presiding over the deliberations, Sridhar instructed administrative and election personnel to execute the enrollment drive with absolute

transparency and efficiency. He directed staff to accept new voter enrollment applications, claims, and objections strictly in adherence to Election Commission guidelines, while ensuring that visiting citizens experience no procedural bottlenecks.

The administration provided political party delegates with detailed briefing materials on the drive's operational protocols. Appealing for collective participation, the Deputy Commissioner urged political representatives to actively guide local residents so that every eligible individual is successfully registered without inadvertent omissions. He also mandated widespread public

awareness initiatives to inform citizens about the schedules and documentation requirements, ensuring widespread rural and urban participation.

Senior administrative officials participated in the coordination session, including Assistant Commissioner Gangappa M., Deputy Director of Social Welfare Dr. Nanda Hannabaratthi, and election official Duragesh K.R., alongside the Additional Deputy Commissioner. Party functionaries assured their full cooperation with election authorities to verify voter credentials and ensure an accurate, error-free final electoral roll for the district.

‘Udyoga Sethu bridges

private gap for youth’

CH NEWS, HANGAL

Karnataka can lead the creation of a progressive New India through the potential of its empowered youth, stated Hangal MLA and Karnataka Housing Board Chairman Srinivas Mane.

He was addressing a career guidance and employment awareness convention held at the C.G. Bellad Government First Grade College in Akki-Alur. The program was jointly organized by the District Employment Exchange, the college placement cell, the IQAC, and the Guarantee Implementation Authority.

Mane commended Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for initiating student-centric reforms, noting the launch of free student bus passes and the recruitment drive for over 72,000 vacant government posts.

He highlighted the state's 'Udyoga Sethu' initiative for expanding private sector avenues alongside the establishment of 10,000 'Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas' across gram panchayats to preserve culture and promote unity. Emphasizing market demands, Mane advised students not to remain satisfied with mere academic degrees. He urged young graduates to acquire modern practical skills and actively explore emerging private sector vocations



rather than waiting solely for public sector employment.

College Principal Dr. Veerasha Kummura presided over the session. Key dignitaries in attendance included Guarantee Implementation Committee District President Hanumanthappa Maragadi, Taluk President Veerappa Bailavala, KMF Director Chandrappa Jalagara, and District Employment Officer Chaitanyakumar Mohite.

Local leaders L.K. Sheshagiri, Mehaboobali Byadagi, Sattarasab Araleshwara, Geetha Pujara, Khwajamohiddin Annigeri, Fakkiragouda Patil, Indudhara Salimath, Gutteppa Saidananavara, A.B. Shekhabai, Altahir Kachavi, Ajjanagouda Patil, and Uduchappa Karabannanavara were present alongside faculty coordinator Praveen S. and numerous attending students.

BAGINA CIVIC HONOR

Seva Sankalpa campaign launched in Ramanagara



nicipal civic workers in safeguarding public health and maintaining environmental hygiene. He stressed that acknowledging their relentless toil represents the most meaningful tribute to Prime Minister Modi's quarter-century of ded-

icated public governance, spanning his tenures as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Gowda announced that the district unit, under BJP District President Anand Swamy, will conduct continuous welfare

initiatives from September 17 to October 17. The scheduled outreach covers Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks, featuring comprehensive health check-ups, voluntary blood donation camps, and the distribution of essential medical equipment to local primary health centers.

District President Anand Swamy praised the Prime Minister's corruption-free leadership, praying for his long life, good health, and continued strength in advancing national progress. Prominent leaders attending the ceremony included former Ramanagara Authority Chairman S.R. Nagaraju, SC Morcha President Kalayya,

Vice-President Pichanakere P.S. Jagadish, General Secretaries Chandrashekhar and Nagamma, City President Chandan More, and Women's Wing chief Hema Shivaram. Key party functionaries R.V. Suresh, Googaredoddi Nagaraju, Mahadevayya, Devika, Hemalatha, Varun, Manju, Padma, Puttamma, Kishan, V. Teju, Lakshmi, Channappa, Mohan, Mahesh, Siddaraju, Bhanuprakash, Rangaswami, and Hemavathi also joined the heartfelt felicitation. The event highlighted deep collective appreciation for sanitation laborers striving daily to keep public spaces clean

Quick Read

Chitradurga to host annual Dasara Sports Meet

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The Chitradurga District-Level Dasara Sports Meet begins on September 25 at the Veeravanithe Onake Obavva District Stadium. Qualifying taluk champions and direct district-level competitors will contest diverse events across two full days. While most games occur on Friday, men's throwball, hockey, and kho-kho take place on September 26. Athletes must complete online registration via the official portal, wear non-marking shoes for badminton, and present identification, photos, and bank passbooks for direct allowance transfers. Meals and refreshments are provided on site. Officials invite local sports enthusiasts to celebrate community athletic talent with great enthusiasm.

Chitradurga Courts to host National Lok Adalat today

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The District Legal Services Authority will conduct the third National Lok Adalat across all district courts on September 19, from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. This forum provides citizens a chance to resolve pending cases and pre-litigation disputes through mutual compromise. Eligible matters include civil suits, cheque bounce issues, labor conflicts, utility bills, bank recoveries, and accident claims. Cases settled here receive a full refund of deposited court fees, and decisions remain final with no further appeal. Senior Civil Judge Sameer P. Nandyal urged residents to participate actively and settle their lingering legal battles peacefully without paying heavy litigation expenses.

Good habits shape noble character in students: Prabhakar

CH NEWS, HAVERI
Cultivating positive daily habits shapes individual character and guides youth toward meaningful lives, stated Prabhakar Mangaluru, senior member of Janajagruti Vedike and District President of the Eye Donation Motivation Association. He addressed students after inaugurating the Swasthya Sankalpa wellness program, organized by the Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project at Mahatma Gandhi High School in Devagiri village. Prabhakar emphasized that virtuous routines provide the foundation for personal success, whereas negative vices invite debilitating disease and social decline. Warning students against unhealthy bakery snacks, he reminded the gathering that true health remains life's greatest wealth. Resource person and noted writer Hanumanthagouda Gollar expressed deep concern over widespread mobile phone addiction and diminishing self-discipline among young learners. He noted that excessive screen usage distracts students from reading books, urging parents to shed misconceptions regarding adolescent innocence. Gollar emphasized that voluntary moral transformation works better than rigid regulations in eliminating destructive habits.

Notices issued to thousands across Chitradurga district

CHITRADURGA LISTS 1,297,789 VOTERS ACROSS 1,764 BOOTHS; NOTIFIED CITIZENS MUST VERIFY IDS WITH REGISTRATION OFFICERS

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Authorities have issued notices to 64,611 voters across the district under the Special Summary Revision-2026 exercise to build an accurate and clean electoral roll, stated Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer S. Ramya. She presided over an official review meeting regarding voter claims and objections alongside representatives from recognized political parties at the district office hall on Thursday. Ramya explained that field enumerators conducted a comprehensive door-to-door verification drive following guidelines from the Election Commission of India. Staff identified individuals with mapping errors or incorrect personal entries, leading to the creation of 68,752 notices across six local assembly segments. Field teams have already served 64,611 notices



directly, while 4,139 notices remain pending delivery. The Chitradurga Assembly constituency recorded the largest concentration, receiving 30,021 notices. Voters issued notices must appear before their respective Electoral Registration Officers or Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, present prescribed identity documents, and formalize their names on the registry. The preliminary draft roll published on August 24 recorded 1,297,789 registered voters across Chitradurga, including 646,568 male voters, 651,154

female voters, and 67 third-gender citizens. The administration also completed the official rationalization of voting booths, establishing 1,764 active polling stations districtwide. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that registering on the voter roll represents a fundamental civic right that every eligible resident should safeguard. Citizens seeking help or clarification regarding their entries can dial the district toll-free helpline at 1950. Senior administrators B.T. Kumaraswamy, Bibi Fathima, and Mallikarjuna Nayaka at-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Served notices to sixty-four thousand voters.
- Generated sixty-eight thousand seven hundred total notices.
- Highest notices thirty thousand twenty-one Chitradurga.
- Registered total base twelve ninety-seven thousand voters.
- Finalized seventeen sixty-four rationalized polling stations.
- Contact toll-free helpline nineteen fifty queries.

tended alongside party delegates M. Ramappa, Gopalaswamy Nayaka, C.K. Gauspeer, and Sampath Kumar. This collaborative revision aims to guarantee transparent democratic participation before upcoming elections.

Solur Hobli joins Nelamangala for rapid growth

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

Nelamangala MLA Srinivas announced that the long demand to merge Solur Hobli into Nelamangala Taluk has finally succeeded. He stated that comprehensive plans are now underway to drive swift regional progress. Srinivas addressed a large gathering while presiding over the taluk level Praja Seva Andolana grievance session held at KNS Convention Hall in Solur. Explaining the background, the legislator noted that Solur Hobli previously fell under Nelamangala Assembly constituency, yet administrative power remained tied to Magadi Taluk. This split created heavy administrative confusion and blocked local citizens from resolving basic problems easily. With the official boundary merger completed, technical records across seventeen key departments have been upgraded, while remaining office systems will finish integration soon. Srinivas emphasized that direct public outreach drives



will continue across the taluk office, Kasaba Hobli, and Solur Gram Panchayat. Government staff must address every valid grievance quickly within legal bounds. Furthermore, authorities set a major target to distribute ten thousand free housing plots to landless poor families within six months. About one hundred acres in Solur will be developed into residential sites. Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.N. Anuradha explained that the flagship welfare initiative, introduced by the state government, runs every Saturday across hoblis and taluks. Top officials visit rural areas directly to examine public petitions and deliver immediate relief. She stated that legal applications must receive formal resolution within twenty one days, while remaining

At a Glance

- Jurisdiction Transfer: Solur Hobli (68 villages, 6 GPs) moved from Magadi to Nelamangala Taluk after 47 years
- Key Initiative: 'Praja Seva Andolana' public service meetings every Saturday
- Infrastructure Target: 10,000 housing sites statewide in 6 months (100 acres in Solur)

petitions will be tracked online through the official grievance portal. The historic administrative unification brings sixty eight revenue villages from six local panchayats straight into Nelamangala jurisdiction. Senior leaders including Dr. Vasanthi Amar, Manjunath, Shivakumar, Tahsildar Mallesh, and Bindu attended the interactive public forum. This landmark initiative ensures that every deserving resident receives prompt government benefits, transparent public services, and progress.

Cooperative society offers financial relief to reporters

CH NEWS, KOLAR

A dedicated cooperative society has become an essential pillar of support for media professionals across Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts. Founded to tackle severe financial hardships, the Working Journalists' Multipurpose Cooperative Society provides timely credit, critical medical aid, and broad welfare services. Society President K.S. Ganesh led the early effort alongside devoted colleagues. The founders traveled through rural taluks to recruit working reporters and build collective trust. That steady outreach transformed a small local ini-

tiative into a strong safety net for hundreds of regional reporters and their families. Financial security remains a cornerstone of the society's mission. Eligible members can secure swift emergency loans ranging between ten thousand and fifty thousand rupees. This readily available assistance offers immediate relief during personal crises and frees reporters from predatory private debt. Healthcare backing is another major priority, given the intense physical strain of modern journalism. The society actively helps registered members obtain medical coverage through the government Yeshasvini healthcare program. With vital assistance

from local donors, the group regularly hosts comprehensive health screening camps to encourage preventive checkups. Ganesh and his management team earn broad praise from colleagues for making member welfare their highest concern. As field reporters brave tough conditions to highlight everyday civic troubles, reliable institutional backing remains vital. Looking forward, the organization plans to introduce flexible insurance schemes and expand welfare coverage, ensuring that every working journalist across both districts enjoys lasting dignity, strong medical protection, and reliable financial peace.

Female students must unlock inherent potential: Naveen

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Rural women are achieving commendable educational milestones, and young female students should harness their inner strengths to attain lifelong success, stated MLC K.S. Naveen. He was addressing a gathering while inaugurating co-curricular activities for the 2026-27 academic year at the Valmiki Community Hall. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Davanagere University, and the Government First Grade College for Women. Naveen urged students to seek wisdom beyond printed textbooks, emphasizing that social experiences and practical understanding shape strong futures. Speaking as the guest speaker, retired professor Dr. J. Kariyappa Malige asserted that female security and social advancement

remain collective societal responsibilities. He urged young women to challenge outdated restrictions, build an inquisitive mindset, and assert their constitutional rights, noting that gender differences are biological rather than intellectual. Malige observed that while female enrollment in higher education is growing rapidly alongside global achievements in technology, governance, and literature, rural and marginalized women continue to encounter systemic barriers, safety threats, and digital harassment. Overcoming these modern obstacles requires vigilant legal awareness, relentless dedication, and genuine economic independence. The event witnessed active participation from college principal Dr. Shivanna, Dr. Channakeshava, Dr. K. Jayalakshamma, Dr. P.N. Madhusudana, Dr. R. Vijayalakshmi, and Halasandi Satish.

Nutritious Food Week celebrations held in Hubballi

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Nutritious food forms the bedrock of human well-being, said District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Parashuram F.K. during the Nutritious Food Week celebrations. The health awareness gathering was organized at the local Eshwara Temple premises in Hubballi, commencing with the symbolic watering of a sapling following an opening prayer by Santhosh and Shweta. Addressing the audience, Dr. Geetha Naykar from the Navanagar Urban Primary Health Centre underscored essential dietary care. Dr. Parashuram urged attendees to abandon ultra-processed fast foods like burgers and pizzas, recommending instead traditional staples such as sorghum, ragi, wheat, rice, fresh vegetables, and sprouted pulses. Citing an ancient proverb, he reminded listeners that mindful eating prevents illness just as measured speech prevents conflict, especially during early child development. Navanagar village elder Huseensab highlighted a mother's sacred role as provider and mentor, encouraging spiritual guidance and meditation. Revered spiritual leader Sri Shambhulinga Hiremath called upon the community to pursue inner growth alongside clean nutrition. Program proceedings were coordinated smoothly by taluk officials M.N. Agadi, S.S. Tiwari, and Rekha Badagi.

Fair pricing key to retail trust: MLA Hitnal

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A brand new branch of San-ya Bedding Works and Furniture opened on Kinnal Road on Friday morning. Koppal MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal and esteemed religious leader Maulana Mufti Mohammed Nazir Ahmed Qadri Taskini jointly cut the ribbon at the Hamjavi Commercial Complex, situated near the railway bridge. Following an official felicitation by the showroom proprietors, Hitnal urged the entrepreneurs to offer quality home furnishing products

at fair, affordable prices. He emphasized that establishing mutual trust, lasting friendships, and courteous engagement with everyday shoppers remains fundamental to commercial success. Wishing the enterprise long-term growth and success, the legislator prayed for divine blessings upon the venture, while Maulana Taskini led a special prayer for prosperity. The inaugural gathering brought together influential leaders and community figures. Key attendees included former municipal council president Amjad Patel, City

Congress chief M. Pasha Cotton, and Shabuddin Saab Noor Basha, treasurer of the Nadaf-Pinjar Association. Prominent office-bearers MD Jilan Killedar Mailike, MD Asif Karkihalli, Fakru Saab Nadaf, Asman Saab Karkihalli, Manvi Pasha, Salim Alavandi, Hussain Peera Mujawar, Rafi Dharwad, and senior journalist Sadiq Ali joined the celebration alongside numerous community representatives. Showroom partners Chand Pasha Kammam, Nasir Killedar, Mujeeb Kataraki, Hussain Basha Revadi, Mustafa Hire Masuthi, Ibrahim, Is-



mail, and Rafi Dambrahalli welcomed the dignitaries with their families. Other partners Mohammad Kaif, MD Nabi, Nitesh Madivalar, Sameer, Chand Pasha Chikki, Yamanur Dambrahalli, Noor Mundaragi,

Sharif Mundaragi, Babusaab Ladaf, and Ashfaq also participated warmly. The ceremony concluded with festive optimism as local patrons explored the diverse collection of home furniture and bedding.



Shyam Sundar Vattam

Courting Controversy: A costly habit for Karnataka Congress

Inviting controversy appears to have become a recurring feature of political discourse within the ruling Congress in Karnataka. While several ministers and senior leaders prefer to concentrate on governance, a few appear willing to enter contentious debates through statements that can quickly overshadow the government’s work.

The latest controversy involving KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad is a case in point. Amid the dispute over a proposed screening of a documentary on Umar Khalid at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Hariprasad described Khalid as a “nationalist” while attacking the ABVP and the RSS. Khalid has been in custody since 2020 in connection with the Delhi riots case under the UAPA, but he has not been convicted. Hariprasad has subsequently defended his remark, arguing that an accused person cannot be treated as guilty without a court conviction.

The legal argument is one issue; political messaging is another. In a politically polarised environment, a statement on a highly contentious national-security issue can easily become the headline, pushing the government’s development and administrative agenda into the background. The BJP and its affiliated



organisations have already used the remark to question the Congress's position on nationalism and minority politics.

This controversy has come at a particularly sensitive moment in Karnataka, with tensions surrounding Ganesh processions also generating political confrontation. The dispute in T. Narasipura over the route of a Ganesh immersion procession has escalated into protests and demands for action against the police inspector concerned. The government has had to ask police to remain on high alert amid the political confrontation.

Religious processions inevitably require a balance between the right to celebrate, public safety and the maintenance of communal peace. Police restrictions may sometimes be necessary for law and order, but the manner in which such restrictions are communicated can have consequences. When a local administrative or police statement is perceived as disrespectful to religious sentiments, a law-and-order issue can rapidly become a political issue.

The T. Narasipura episode demonstrates how quickly such disputes can acquire a life of their own. What began as a question concerning a procession route has resulted in political protests, competing claims and continuing public debate.

For the Congress government, the larger challenge is therefore not merely to counter the BJP politically but to ensure that its own leaders and functionaries do not unnecessarily create additional fronts of confrontation.

Statements on sensitive subjects such as nationalism, religion and communal relations demand particular restraint from those holding senior positions. Political leaders are entitled to defend their ideological positions, but they must also recognise that every provocative formulation carries consequences beyond the immediate political exchange.

The Congress government has a full plate of governance issues—from urban infrastructure and employment to welfare delivery, drought management and development. These are matters on which its performance will ultimately be judged.

The lesson from the recent controversies is straightforward: political leaders need not respond to every provocation, and not every argument requires a headline. Governance requires communication, but it also requires discretion.

For a government in power, silence on a needless controversy can sometimes be more productive than winning an argument that it never needed to enter.

NEET SET TO ENTER THE COMPUTER-BASED TESTING ERA

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) may soon undergo a major technological transformation. According to National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Abhishek Singh, the medical entrance examination is expected to shift from the traditional pen-and-paper format to a Computer-Based Test (CBT) “very soon.”

Calling computer-based testing “the future,” Singh said that most major examinations conducted by the NTA including JEE, UGC-NET, CUET and NIFT already use the digital mode. NEET remains one of the major exceptions.

The proposed transition, however, will require much more than simply replacing answer sheets with computers. Singh emphasized the need to expand testing infrastructure and establish strong safeguards to ensure that the examination remains secure, reliable and transparent.

The move is also being examined by a high-powered task force headed by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani. The task force was established following widespread concerns and protests over alleged irregularities in NEET and calls for reforms in the examination system.

Beyond India: A Global Examination Vision

The NTA is also looking be-



- DR. VIJAY GARG

“For millions of NEET aspirants, the move from paper to computer could therefore represent not merely a change in examination format, but the beginning of a new digital era in India’s entrance examinations”.

yond conducting examinations within India. Singh described cross-border examinations as the next step, indicating that the agency could eventually explore conducting examinations for international organizations and global bodies.

The immediate priority, however, is to strengthen India's own examination system so that tests can be conducted

detecting possible fraud.

Data analysis, examination logs and advanced analytics could help identify unusual patterns and strengthen monitoring systems. Such technologies may assist authorities in preventing malpractice before it affects the credibility of an examination.

China's Gaokao examination was cited as an example of the enormous scale at which modern examinations can be organized.

A New Era for Competitive Examinations

The proposed transition of NEET to CBT could mark an important turning point in India's competitive examination



fairly, transparently and without malpractice, errors or unnecessary disputes.

AI May Strengthen Examination Security

Artificial intelligence could become another important component of future examination management. The NTA is exploring AI not only for conducting and evaluating tests but also for

Cooperation Among BRICS Nations

Singh also pointed towards possible cooperation among BRICS countries in areas such as question-paper security and examination technology. Since every country faces challenges related to examination integrity, sharing technological knowledge and best practices could help build stronger systems.

system. Digital testing, artificial intelligence, data analytics and stronger security mechanisms have the potential to make examinations more efficient and transparent.

However, technology alone cannot guarantee fairness. Adequate infrastructure, equal access, rigorous security, trained personnel and strong accountability will be equally important.

WHY IS THE HINDI CAMPAIGN CONFINED TO ONE DAY?

Language is far more than a tool for communication; it is the cornerstone of cultural identity, heritage, and collective self-respect. While Hindi Diwas is commemorated across India on September 14th with speeches, competitions, and formal events, the true purpose of the occasion is often lost once the date passes. Relegating Hindi to an annual celebration fails to address the reality of its place in modern society. For Hindi to thrive, it must transcend symbolic honor and become an active, daily component of our consciousness, behavior, and professional lives.

A primary challenge facing Hindi today is the persistent societal bias that equates English proficiency with intelligence, success, and modernity, while viewing fluency in native languages as a sign of backwardness. While learning English and other international languages is undeniably beneficial in an interconnected global economy, harboring an inferiority complex toward one’s mother tongue is detrimental. A person’s true worth is defined by their knowledge,

character, and skills—not by the language in which they express them. Developed nations like Japan, Germany, South Korea, and China have demonstrated that scientific progress and economic growth are fully achievable through national languages.

Furthermore, the promotion of Hindi must never come at the expense of India’s rich linguistic tapestry. India’s strength lies in its diversity, and regional languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, and others are equal pillars of the nation’s heritage. The growth of Hindi should be unifying rather than imposing, fostering mutual respect among all Indian languages.

To secure a vibrant future, Hindi must evolve beyond being viewed solely as a medium for literature and emotion. It must be established as a primary language of science, technology, law, medicine, economics, and governance. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 takes a significant step in this direction by emphasizing foundational learning in the mother tongue,



- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

“Why should the Hindi campaign be confined to one day? Hindi Hindustan should remain present every moment”.

enabling children to grasp complex concepts more naturally. However, policy alone is insufficient; practical execution requires creating high-quality textbooks, research materials, and digital resources in Hindi.

The digital age offers unprecedented possibilities to bridge this gap. With the expansion of artificial intelligence, online learning, podcasts, and digital journalism, Hindi can reach younger generations more effectively than ever. Developing robust digital corpuses, accurate translation tools, and modern content will ensure Hindi be-

comes a language of economic opportunity and innovation.

Ultimately, preserving and advancing Hindi is a collective responsibility that begins in homes, classrooms, and workplaces. When parents speak Hindi with their children, teachers encourage its natural use, and institutions integrate it into daily administrative tasks, the language remains vital and dynamic. Honoring Hindi requires more than a single day of speeches on September 14th; it demands a commitment to living the language every single day.



THE SCORE THAT FOLLOWS THEM HOME

Every year around results season, the same grim ritual repeats: a clutch of stories about students who could not face what a single exam seemed to say about their worth. Editorials get written, counsellors get quoted, and then the system resets itself for the next cohort, largely unchanged. The problem is not that anyone disagrees exam stress is real. The problem is that almost nothing structural moves.

Consider what a single high-stakes exam is actually asking a seventeen-year-old to believe: that a few hours on a few mornings can stand in for years of effort, curiosity, and character, and that the number produced at the end deserves to shape which door in life opens and which stays shut. Put that plainly, it sounds absurd. Put it in the familiar language of "board exams" and "cutoffs," and it becomes something families simply accept, however much it costs them. Reform does not require abandoning standards. It requires spreading the weight of judgment across more than one afternoon.

Continuous assessment, portfolios, projects tracked over a term, second-chance testing these are not radical ideas; several education systems already use them, with no collapse in



rigor. What tends to block adoption in places clinging to a single exam is not evidence but inertia: an entire coaching economy, a generation of parents who see their own path validated, and an admissions apparatus that prefers one clean number to a messier, truer picture of a student. None of that is a reason for young people to keep ab-

sorbing the cost. A school system's first obligation is to the children moving through it, not to the convenience of the institutions sorting them.

Every district that keeps treating one test as destiny is making a choice, and it is worth asking, loudly and often, why that choice keeps winning over the wellbeing of the students it is sup-

posedly preparing for the future. Parents are not bystanders in this either, however much they may wish the fault lay only with the system. A child who senses that a single mark will decide whether they are loved or merely tolerated at home has already lost something more important than a rank. Families who talk about exams as one data point among many, rather than a verdict, give their children room to fail without feeling destroyed by it. That shift costs nothing and requires no policy change, only a willingness to say, out loud and often, that a number on a mark sheet was never a measure of a person's worth. What would it look like for a school, or a state, to actually act on this rather than simply lament it every results season? It would mean funding counsellors as a permanent line item rather than a crisis response, publishing assessment reforms with timelines instead of committees, and inviting the students most affected into the rooms where these decisions get made. None of that guarantees an easier exam. It guarantees, at least, that the people setting the terms have to look the cost of their choices in the eye.

- DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Hidden Burden of Board Exams

Every results season brings heartrending stories of young lives weighed down by a single mark sheet. High-stakes exams compress years of effort into hours, defining a student's entire future. We must urgently embrace continuous assessments and portfolios. A child's worth should never be decided by a single exam number.

- Akshay Kumar

Beyond a One-Day Hindi Celebration

Confining language campaigns like Hindi Diwas to a single day turns genuine cultural preservation into mere tokenism. A language thrives through daily usage, inclusive policy, and sustained engagement not annual rituals. If we genuinely value linguistic heritage, our institutions must celebrate and integrate it year-round rather than packing intent into twenty-four hours.

- Santosh

Urgent Action for Cleaner Roads

Our town's streets are increasingly covered in uncollected litter, damaging local pride and posing health risks. Local authorities must step up waste management and increase public trash bins immediately. Clean, well-maintained roads reflect civic responsibility, and our community deserves a safer, healthier environment. Let us prioritize clean neighborhoods today.

-Anitha Sampath

THE SILENT SIGNAL, RETHINKING WIRELESS SAFETY

Every second of every day, our homes, offices, and cities are saturated with unseen energy. Wi-Fi routers have transformed from high-tech novelties into essential household appliances, constantly transmitting low-frequency radiofrequency radiation through the air to power our smartphones, laptops, and smart devices. While this digital invisible web has brought unprecedented convenience to human life, it has also sparked a growing and vital conversation about the subtle, long-term biological consequences of living inside an endless cloud of electromagnetic fields.

The primary argument for the total safety of Wi-Fi relies on the distinction between ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. Unlike high-frequency X-rays or gamma rays, which possess enough energy to instantly tear electrons from atoms and damage DNA, Wi-Fi operates on low-energy, non-ionizing frequencies typically 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz. Because this radiation lacks the energy to heat biological tissue rapidly or rupture chemical bonds, regulatory standards set by health authorities like the World Health Organization state that



current exposure levels are within safe operational parameters.

However, reducing biological interaction down to thermal heating overlooks the nuanced ways human cells operate. Emerging independent research suggests that chronic, long-term exposure to non-ionizing radiation may exert non-thermal stress on human physiology. Critics and independent researchers point toward potential biological disruptions, including oxidative stress, cellular damage, and altered calcium channel signaling in cell membranes. Oxidative stress occurs when an imbalance between free radicals and antioxidants leads to systemic cellular degradation, which has been linked in preliminary animal models to inflammation, accelerated aging, and neurodevelopmental concerns.

Furthermore, a significant portion of the population reports subtle, subjective health ailments often categorized under electromagnetic hypersensitivity. Individuals frequently cite persistent headaches, unexplained fatigue, sleep disturbances, brain fog, and heightened anxiety when residing in heavy Wi-Fi environments. While mainstream clinical medicine often struggles to establish a direct causal link between these symptoms and wireless signals due to high variables in testing, the sheer volume of personal reports warrants serious, unbiased clinical investigation rather than casual dismissal.

There is also the critical issue of constant, cumulative

duration. Unlike previous generations who were exposed to artificial frequencies intermittently, modern populations are swimming in electromagnetic fields from infancy through old age, 24 hours a day. Children are particularly vulnerable because their thinner skulls and developing neural pathways absorb higher relative amounts of radiation compared to adults.

Advocating for digital safety does not mean abandoning technology or reverting to the Stone Age. Instead, it calls for adopting a common-sense "precautionary principle." Simple habits such as turning off Wi-Fi routers at night, keeping transmitters out of bedrooms, utilizing wired Ethernet connections where practical, and avoiding holding laptops directly on our laps can drastically minimize unnecessary radiofrequency exposure.

Technology should serve human life without compromising biological well-being. Until long-term, multi-generational studies provide absolute clarity, taking proactive, thoughtful steps to reduce our daily exposure remains a prudent choice for a healthy balance in a connected world.

- MARY VANAJA R.

THE CONVENIENCE TRAP, RETHINKING ONLINE SHOPPING GROWTH

Every day, millions of items make their way from warehouses to doorsteps around the globe. Online shopping has evolved from a novel technological convenience into the dominant pillar of modern commerce. Driven by high-speed mobile connectivity, one-click checkout options, and hyper-personalized artificial intelligence recommendations, e-commerce has reshaped retail expectations entirely. However, as digital storefronts continue to eclipse traditional brick-and-mortar stores, this meteoric expansion demands a closer look at what we gain and what we quietly surrender for the sake of sheer convenience.

There is no denying the profound advantages of digital retail. For busy households, rural communities, and consumers with limited mobility, online marketplaces offer unprecedented accessibility and variety. Small independent brands can reach global audiences without the overhead costs of physical storefronts, while competitive pricing algorithms keep consumer choices transparent. The frictionless ease of purchasing groceries, wardrobe updates, or household supplies with a simple swipe has given modern life a seamless cadence.

Yet, this relentless growth carries significant unintended consequences. First and foremost is the erosion of local physical communities. As consumer spending shifts online, traditional high streets and local storefronts struggle to survive, taking with them physical gathering spaces and local employment opportunities. Main streets once defined by distinct neighborhood culture risk being replaced by silent fulfillment centers and an endless parade of delivery trucks.

Beyond local economic impacts lies a growing



environmental and psychological burden. The culture of instant gratification fuels overconsumption, encouraged by targeted advertisements and subscription services designed to prompt impulsive buying. Product returns, often incentivized by free shipping policies, create massive logistic footprints, generating tons of packaging waste and carbon emissions. Meanwhile, the tactile joy of shopping the real-world social interactions, tactile evaluation of products, and spontaneous discovery is increasingly replaced by glowing screens and algorithmic feeds.

Embracing online commerce does not mean ignoring its downsides. Rather, it calls for a more conscious approach to modern consumption. Supporting local brick-and-mortar stores alongside digital ones, choosing sustainable delivery options, and curbing impulse purchases are essential steps toward a balanced commercial ecosystem. E-commerce is an extraordinary tool, but as it continues to expand, maintaining a thoughtful balance between digital efficiency and real-world connection remains crucial.

- A. JAIKUMAR

A CAGE OF RULES OR A GARDEN OF FREEDOM

Every morning, millions of children line up at school gates, ushered into a structured routine that will define their formative years. For decades, education systems have promised to nurture young minds, offering a space where curiosity can bloom and potential can flourish. Yet, a growing debate questions whether modern schools truly function as fertile soil for self-discovery or if they have slowly morphed into rigid holding pens designed for conformity. Whether school acts as a cage or a garden of freedom depends on how deeply we value obedience over authentic human growth.

The argument for the school as a restrictive cage is compelling. Modern educational architecture often mirrors factory lines: bells signal shifts in thought, standardized tests measure uniform intelligence, and rigid schedules dictate when a child may speak, move, or rest. In many classrooms, natural curiosity is replaced by memorization, and individual expression is constrained by strict rules. When

success is defined by a narrow set of grades, students who think differently are frequently marginalized or forced to suppress their unique traits. Rather than fostering independence, this industrial approach can trap children in an environment that prioritizes compliance, turning learning into a chore rather than a lifelong joy.

Conversely, the vision of school as a garden of freedom represents what education can and should be. In an ideal learning environment, schools provide the vital nutrients for personal development: diverse ideas, caring mentorship, and a safe space to experiment and fail. Education offers children the tools to break free from ignorance, providing a window into history, science, art, and varied cultures. Furthermore, the schoolyard serves as an irreplaceable social ecosystem. It is where young people learn empathy, practice conflict resolution, build lifelong friendships, and discover who they are in relation to others. Far from confining them, a well-balanced school expands a child's horizon, giving them the roots of discipline along-

side the wings of critical thinking.

The reality, however, lies in how an institution balances structure with autonomy. A garden is not a wild, unkempt jungle; it requires gentle fencing, rich soil, and thoughtful care to thrive. But when the fence becomes a cage and the care becomes overbearing control, the plant stops growing upward and merely survives. School should provide enough structure to keep children safe and focused, but enough space for them to stretch their imagination, ask difficult questions, and explore their passions without fear of judgment.

To ensure our educational spaces remain gardens rather than cages, society must rethink the metrics of achievement. Moving away from rigid standardization and toward personalized, inquiry-based learning allows every student to blossom at their own pace. When schools focus on cultivating creativity, emotional resilience, and independent thought, they cease to be restrictive boxes.

- STEPHEN JOSHUA J.

RECOGNIZING THE QUIET HARM OF TOXIC FRIENDSHIPS

Friendship is widely regarded as one of human life's greatest sanctuaries. Unlike biological family ties or professional relationships, true friendships are chosen voluntarily, built on mutual respect, emotional safety, and shared joy. Yet, not all connections nourish the soul. Beneath the surface of long-standing social bonds, toxic friendships can quietly take root draining our emotional reserves, undermining our self-worth, and turning what should be a safe haven into a source of chronic anxiety and self-doubt.

Defining a toxic friendship can be surprisingly complex. Unlike overt conflicts or hostile rivalries, toxicity often operates in subtle, insidious ways. It manifests as one-sided conversations where one person's needs always overshadow the other's, passive-aggressive critiques disguised as playful banter, or conditional support that evaporates the moment you succeed. In these dynamics, you may find yourself constantly walking on eggshells, tailoring your speech and actions to avoid triggering resentment, jealousy, or dramatic outbursts. Over time, the relationship shifts from a source of comfort to a heavy obligation, leaving you emotionally exhausted after every interaction.

The difficulty in severing or addressing these unhealthy connections often lies in misplaced loyalty and shared history. Many people remain tethered to toxic friends out of guilt, nostalgia, or fear of social isolation. We tell ourselves that no relationship is perfect, convincing ourselves to overlook continuous disrespect

simply because we have known someone for years. However, longevity should never serve as a hall pass for repeated emotional harm. When a friendship requires you to shrink your identity, hide your achievements, or tolerate persistent negativity, its duration becomes irrelevant it is actively harming your well-being.

Psychologically, the impact of maintaining toxic social ties is profound. Continuous exposure to unsupportive or manipulative peers increases stress, lowers self-esteem, and can lead to heightened social anxiety. When the people closest to us repeatedly invalidate our feelings or compete with our happiness, our ability to trust others and ourselves erodes. Recognizing these red flags is not an act of cruelty or selfishness; it is a vital act of self-preservation and mental self-care.

Ending or distancing oneself from a toxic friendship requires courage and clear boundaries. It begins with accepting that you cannot force someone to respect your boundaries or value your emotional health if they choose not to. Whether through an honest, direct conversation or a gradual, quiet step back, removing yourself from destructive dynamics makes room for authentic, uplifting connections. True friends celebrate your victories, offer grounded support during hardships, and allow you to show up as your authentic self. Life is too short to spend it preserving bonds that break your spirit pruning toxic relationships is ultimately how we allow genuine, healthy friendships to grow.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J.



HOW GENERATION Z IS RESHAPING NATIONAL POLITICS

A seismic political shift is underway, driven by a generation that refuses to accept the status quo. As Generation Z comes of age, their entrance into the political arena is no longer a distant demographic forecast; it is an active, transformative force. Raised amidst hyper-connectivity, economic instability, climate anxiety, and shifting social norms, Gen Z is redefining what political engagement looks like. Far from being a politically disengaged cohort, this generation is bringing a distinct set of priorities, unprecedented digital mobilization, and a demand for radical transparency that promises to reshape the nation's political landscape for decades to come.

What sets Gen Z apart from previous generations is their unique worldview, forged in the crucible of perpetual crisis. They are the first true digital natives, possessing the ability to organize, educate, and mobilize millions in a matter of



hours. Social media platforms are no longer just places for entertainment; they have become decentralized hubs for grassroots activism,

fact-checking, and political debate. This digital fluency allows young voters to bypass traditional media gatekeepers, exposing systemic is-

suues and demanding immediate accountability from elected leaders. Their activism extends beyond election cycles, blurring the line

between digital awareness and real-world protest.

Beyond their methods, Gen Z's policy priorities reflect a pragmatic yet urgent desire for fundamental change. Climate change, economic inequality, mental health, reproductive rights, and systemic justice are not abstract debate topics for them; they are existential concerns. Gen Z approaches politics with a acute sense of urgency, viewing delayed policy action as an unacceptable threat to their future. Moreover, they are increasingly weary of rigid partisan loyalties. Instead of aligning blindly with traditional political parties, Gen Z voters tend to be issue-driven, expecting candidates to earn their support through genuine action rather than empty campaign promises.

This changing demographic brings a crucial layer of accountability to our democracy. For too long, political systems have catered primarily to older, established demographics, resulting in policies that often neglect long-term stabil-

ity in favor of short-term gains. By showing up at the voting booth and running for office in record numbers, Gen Z forces lawmakers to address long-neglected crises. Their insistence on inclusivity, mental health awareness, and ethical governance challenges entrenched power structures and revitalizes civic discourse.

The importance of Gen Z in our politics cannot be overstated. Dismissing them as inexperienced or idealist ignores the reality of their growing influence and electoral power. Democracy thrives when every generation actively participates in shaping its direction. As Gen Z continues to claim their seat at the decision-making table, they bring a bold vision that prioritizes sustainability, equity, and progress. Welcoming their voice is not just a gesture of inclusion it is an essential step toward building a resilient, forward-thinking nation.

- ANNA BENEDICT

Quick Read

Man arrested, Rs 60 lakh worth jewellery and cash seized

CH NEWS, New Delhi
A 24-year-old man has been arrested by the staff of Safdarjung Enclave Police Station in the national capital in connection with a cheating case involving jewellery and cash worth around Rs 60 lakh. The accused, identified as Yash Kailash Bulchandani, a resident of Kheda in Gujarat, was arrested during a police operation in Mehmeta. Police said around 96 grams of melted gold, two gold coins, a gold chain, a diamond set and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession. According to the police, an FIR was registered at the Safdarjung Enclave Police Station on July 17 under Sections 318(4) and 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the case.

Foreigners tribunal member arrested for ‘extortion’

GUWAHATI

A member of a Foreigners Tribunal in Assam’s Udalguri district has been arrested for allegedly demanding Rs 15,000 from a person in connection with granting bail in a case, police said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Bhupen Chandra Pegu, was arrested following an investigation into a complaint lodged at Mazbat Police Station in the district. According to a police statement, an FIR was registered on August 29 after a complaint alleged that Pegu had sought Rs 15,000 in connection with bail proceedings before the Foreigners



Tribunal. Police have booked the accused under Section 308(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with extortion. Authorities have not disclosed the identity of the complainant or provided details about the tribunal case in which the alleged demand was made.

The arrest follows an investigation into allegations of financial misconduct involving

Delhi HC bars victory processions, issues notice to 140 candidates



NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday barred candidates, students, supporters and others from taking out victory processions after the declaration of results in the Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) elections, warning that any violation would invite criminal and administrative action and may also amount to contempt of court.

A Bench of Chief Justice Dvendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia also issued notices to all 140 candidates contesting the DUSU elections and student organisations, asking them to explain why they should not be saddled with exemplary electoral damages for alleged violations of the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations and judicial orders.

The High Court directed that no victory procession will be taken out after the results are

declared, either on the roads of Delhi or inside college campuses and hostels. “It will be the responsibility of the Delhi Police to ensure that any such victory procession does not take place. Any violation shall not only attract criminal and administrative action against the students but shall also amount to contempt of court,” the CJ Upadhyaya-led Bench ordered.

The Delhi High Court said the direction was being passed in view of its past experience and the alleged repeated violations of the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations and its earlier orders during the DUSU election process. The High Court further said that it proposed to impose collective electoral damages not only on individual students found violating the norms but also on student organisations. “Let notice to student organisations be issued.

BJP Launches 4,000-Km Drug-Free Punjab Yatra

BJP’s statewide anti-drug campaign will traverse all 117 Punjab constituencies before culminating in Jalandhar on September 30

PATHANKOT

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Friday launched the party’s 13-day ‘Nasha Mukta Punjab Yatra’ from Pathankot, with the campaign planned to cover around 4,000 kilometres and all 117 Assembly constituencies in Punjab. The initiative comes ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections and places drug abuse at the centre of the BJP’s statewide outreach.

Addressing the launch event at Ekta Sthal in Madhopur, Nabin said the campaign would seek to involve people and families affected by addiction. He described drug addiction as an “enemy” that, in his words, enters villages and homes without wearing a uniform.



“I have come with a call to make Punjab completely drug-free.”

- Nitin Nabin

Nabin said he had travelled from Patna, associated with Guru Gobind Singh, with a message to take the anti-drug campaign to every part of Punjab. He also linked the launch to the BJP’s broader political messaging on its organisational

commitments.

The campaign comprises four yatras beginning from different parts of the state between September 18 and 21. They are scheduled to pass through all 117 constituencies before a joint culmination in Jalandhar on September 30. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address the concluding programme. The launch was preceded by an incident involving BJP leader

YATRA PLAN:
■ 13 days: September 18–30
■ 4,000 km: Approximate total distance
■ 117: Assembly constituencies covered
■ Four: Separate yatras across Punjab
■ September 30: Joint culmination in Jalandhar

Ravneet Singh Bittu’s convoy near Batala. Bittu alleged that people threw eggs and other objects at his vehicles and claimed links to AAP workers. AAP’s alleged involvement has been disputed, and reports said police intervened at the site.

Jharkhand HC extends stay on cancellations of JPSC, JSSC appointments

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday extended its stay on the state government’s decision to cancel appointments made through the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) examination and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) Combined Graduate Level (CGL) recruitment process.

The court also appointed a retired High Court judge to oversee the investigation into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment exercises. A bench of Justice Deepak Roshan heard a batch of petitions challenging the government’s decision to annul appointments made through various recruitment examinations, including the JPSC CDPO and JSSC-CGL exams.

During the hearing, the court orally observed that while the material available so far sug-

gests that not all appointments were made in a fair manner, it is equally true that not every appointment was tainted.

The court expressed concern over the lengthy recruitment process followed by the JPSC, noting that it often takes two to three years to conduct examinations and complete appointments. In such circumstances, the bench observed, a blanket cancellation of appointments could adversely affect many officials against whom no individual wrongdoing has been established.

To ensure impartial scrutiny of the allegations, the court appointed retired High Court judge Gautam Kumar Choudhary to monitor the investigation, while retired IPS officer R.K. Malik was designated as the nodal officer for the probe.

During the proceedings, both the Jharkhand government and the JPSC submitted their responses before the court.

Poonawalla Targets Rahul Over PM Ambitions

NEW DELHI

Former BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on Friday launched a sharp attack on Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, making remarks about the Congress leader’s political future and his foreign

visits.

Speaking to IANS, Poonawalla said Gandhi could become the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Italy or another country he claimed the Congress leader frequently visits. He contrasted this with his assertion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would continue to lead the country in future elections.

These statements were made by Poonawalla as political claims and projections, rather than established outcomes.

Poonawalla also spoke about his own decision to leave the BJP. He said that after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he had been considering a return to the pri-

Shehzad Poonawalla attacked Rahul Gandhi while explaining his own decision to leave the BJP and return to private-sector work.



ivate sector, having previously worked in the media and drawn a regular salary before entering politics.

He said he joined politics in 2021 and subsequently became a national spokesperson for the BJP.

Although he had initially planned to transition back to the private sector after the 2024 election, he decided to remain with the party for some additional time because of the political circumstances following the polls. Poonawalla also expressed confidence in the BJP’s prospects in several states and in the 2029 Lok Sabha election, while referring to the leadership of BJP president Nitin Nabin. His comments come

POONAWALLA ON HIS EXIT

Poonawalla said returning to the private sector had been on his mind after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He explained that before entering politics in 2021, he had worked in the media and earned a regular salary. He said he initially intended to make the transition after the election but continued with the BJP for some time because of the political situation.

amid continuing political exchanges between BJP leaders and Rahul Gandhi on a range of issues, including elections, governance and the Opposition’s criticism of the government.

The remarks also highlighted Poonawalla’s transition from a political role towards the private sector, which he said had been under consideration for some time.

UAE President congratulates Modi on BRICS success

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday received a phone call from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during which the latter congratulated the Prime Minister on India’s successful BRICS Presidency. According to a statement by the Prime Minister’s Office, PM Modi appreciated the participation of Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in the BRICS Summit and the UAE’s cooperation and partnership in achieving substantive outcomes under India’s Presidency. The UAE President also conveyed warm greetings on PM Modi’s birthday.

Ties with India expanding very rapidly: South Korean envoy Lee Seong-ho

NEW DELHI

South Korea’s Ambassador to India, Lee Seong-ho, said on Friday that ties between the two nations are expanding “very rapidly” and termed the relationship between Seoul and New Delhi as one of the most promising partnerships in the 21st century.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Korea Education Fair in New Delhi on Friday, Lee Seong-ho said that the two nations are cooperating in various sectors, including education.

On how he sees India-South Korea ties, the Ambassador said, “We are building and expanding very rapidly.

This is one of the most promising relationships in the 21st century, I believe. Politically, economically, industrially, culturally, education — in everything — we are becoming much, much closer. I am very excited about this relationship.”

Lee Seong-ho described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a “great leader” and facilitator of bringing India and South Korea closer.

On PM Modi completing 25 years in public service in the coming days, he said,



“He is a great leader, respected by the whole world, I believe. And, he is the facilitator who is bringing our relationship very closer. We rely upon his wonderful leadership.”

PM Modi will complete 25 years in public service in October.

He has served as the Prime Minister since May 26, 2014, being currently in his third term, making him the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India. He was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014.

Lee Seong-ho said that India and South Korea will continue to build and expand educational bridge and described Korea Education Fair as the beginning of it.

“This is a historical milestone in terms of our bilateral relationship. We are actually building strong bridges connecting Korea and India, and students are the people who will continue to build our partnership and friendship. This is the very beginning of the Korean Education Fair in India.

I believe this is the first, but not the last of course. We will continue to build and expand our educational bridge between Korea and India.”

DEFENCE GROWTH PUSH

Rajnath Links Defence Growth To Viksit Bharat

KOCHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India’s development journey towards Viksit Bharat@2047 is being shaped by resilience, innovation, national identity and growing indigenous capabilities. Speaking at an event in Kochi, Singh highlighted the government’s focus on strengthening India’s defence sector while encouraging young people to contribute to



“Our youth are building start-ups, creating unicorns, developing drones, building hydrogen trains, and making rockets and satellites.”

- Rajnath Singh:

the country’s technological and economic development.

Singh said India had faced challenges including corruption and misgovernance before 2014, and argued that the country’s progress over the past 12 years reflected its ability to turn challenges into opportunities. He also pointed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and global conflicts on the international economy.

A major part of his address focused on defence manufac-

turing. Singh said indigenous defence production had increased from around Rs 40,000 crore in 2014 to nearly Rs 1.80 lakh crore. Official figures show annual defence production reached a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26, while defence exports touched Rs 38,424 crore.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Singh said it demonstrated India’s willingness to respond across the border against threats to the country’s sover-

eignty and integrity. He also said Maoism had been brought to an end. These were presented by the minister as part of India’s broader security approach.

Singh described India’s youth as its “greatest strength”, citing their work in startups, drones, hydrogen technology, rockets and satellites. He also stressed the importance of connecting younger generations with India’s history, culture and heritage.

Quick Read



Kerala govt to roll out Knowledge Valley, Research Park

CH NEWS, Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala will roll out a Knowledge Valley and Research Park to turn the state into a global knowledge hub, Higher Education Minister Roji M. John said here on Friday. The project will build on Kerala's existing higher education and research base, seek greater participation from the private sector and explore partnerships with international universities. The proposal was discussed at a roundtable on the concluding day of the three-day Reimagining Keralam event. John and Higher Education Principal Secretary B. Ashok led the discussions.

Children's passports valid for five years or until 18

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has notified the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Passports Rules, 1980. Under the new provision, an ordinary 36-page passport issued to a child below 15 years will remain valid for five years from the date of issue or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier.

The amended Rule 12 states that an ordinary passport for a child below 15 years, containing 36 pages, will be valid for 5 years or until the child attains 18 years, whichever is earlier.

The MEA has also amended Rule 8 concerning fees payable for different passport applications. The revised provisions link the applicable fees to the corresponding entries in Schedule IV of the rules.

For children below 18 years, the fee for a fresh or reissued 36-page passport is ₹1,750. Such passports will have a validity of five years or until the holder turns 18, whichever is earlier.



The Ministry of External Affairs has amended passport rules, changing validity provisions for children below 15 years.

Passport fees

The government had earlier revised passport fees with effect from July 1. The fee for an ordinary fresh 36-page passport for adults was increased from ₹1,500 to ₹2,500. The same ₹2,500 fee applies to reissue of a 36-page passport.

For Tatkal applications, the fee for a fresh or reissued 36-page passport is ₹5,000.

The fee for an ordinary fresh or reissued 60-page

Child passport rules
■ Age covered: Below 15 years
■ Passport: 36 pages
■ Validity: Five years or until 18
■ Earlier expiry: Whichever is earlier
■ Child passport fee: ₹1,750
■ Rules notified: September 15, 2026
■ Rules effective: Gazette publication
■ Adult 36-page fee: ₹2,500
■ Adult 60-page fee: ₹3,500

The MEA's amended passport rules specify that ordinary 36-page passports issued to children below 15 years will be valid for five years or until they turn 18, whichever comes earlier. The amendment to the Passports Rules, 1980, was notified on September 15. For children below 18, the fresh or reissue fee for a 36-page passport remains ₹1,750. The revised rules came into force upon publication in the official gazette.

passport was increased from ₹2,000 to ₹3,500. The revised Tatkal fee for a 60-page passport is ₹6,000, compared with ₹4,000 earlier. The amend-

ment clarifies the validity applicable to younger passport holders while retaining the existing fee structure for children below 18 years.

Nitin Nabin Donates Three Months' Salary

PATNA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin on Friday expressed concern over the severe flood situation in Bihar, highlighting relief measures being undertaken by the state government, assistance from the Centre and his personal contribution towards relief efforts.

Nabin said the government was assisting flood-affected families through financial aid, relief camps and crop-damage assessment. He added that the entire government machinery was working to ensure timely relief and necessary assistance reached those affected.

As part of his contribution, Nabin donated Rs 6.35 lakh, equivalent to three months of his salary as a Rajya Sabha MP, to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. He said the state government had already provided more than Rs 550 crore in financial assistance to flood-affected families, at the rate of Rs 7,000 per family.

According to Nabin, arrangements have been made in affected areas for relief camps, community kitchens, medical facilities and fodder for livestock. He said teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) had been deployed and were prepared for rescue operations. Crop damage assessment is also underway to determine assistance required by affected farmers.



Nabin said the flood situation was being continuously monitored and that the government was working to ensure relief reached affected people without delay. Referring to the Centre's assistance, he noted that Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had visited flood-affected areas, met victims and reviewed relief and rescue operations. He assured flood-affected families of his commitment to supporting them during the crisis and said all possible assistance would continue to be provided.

India, Canada Push CEPA Talks Forward

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India and Canada are working to accelerate negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with both sides reaffirming their commitment to conclude the pact at the earliest.

Goyal said he had a productive meeting with Maninder Sidhu, Canada's Minister of International Trade, to discuss progress on the trade agreement. He said both countries had reaffirmed their leadership's commitment to expedite negotiations and unlock new opportunities in goods, services and investment.

The fourth round of India-Canada CEPA negotiations began in New Delhi this week. The five-day discussions are covering areas including trade in goods and services, rules of origin and technical trade barriers. The



Key Trade Figures:

- \$8.66 billion: India-Canada bilateral goods trade in 2024-25
- \$4.22 billion: India's exports to Canada
- Fourth round: Current CEPA negotiations in New Delhi
- Year-end target: Deadline set by both prime ministers
- Key sectors: Goods, services, investment, energy and critical minerals

round follows the third round of talks held in Ottawa in July. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney had set

a year-end target for concluding the CEPA negotiations during their meeting in New Delhi in March. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the energy and critical minerals sectors.

Bilateral trade in goods between India and Canada stood at \$8.66 billion in 2024-25. India's exports to Canada were valued at \$4.22 billion during the period.

India's major exports include pharmaceuticals, machinery parts, electronic goods, chemicals, jewellery, textiles, seafood, engineering products and auto parts. Canada's key exports to India include pulses, fertilisers, mineral fuels, wood pulp, aircraft parts, machinery components and metal scrap.

India's IT sector remains a major contributor to services exports to Canada. Goyal said an early CEPA conclusion could support greater bilateral trade and deeper economic cooperation.

MP Plans Textbook Push For Tribal Heroes

JABALPUR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday said the state government was taking steps to bring the history and sacrifices of tribal heroes into the mainstream through school education, films and other initiatives. He was speaking in Jabalpur at a programme marking the martyrdom day of Raja Shankar Shah and his son, Kunwar Raghunath Shah.

Yadav said the state had a responsibility to preserve the legacy of tribal figures and ensure younger generations learn about their contribution to India's freedom struggle. He said episodes from the lives of Raja Bhabhut Singh, Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath



Madhya Pradesh plans to expand tribal history education through textbooks, films and institutions highlighting freedom fighters and community leaders.

Shah had been incorporated into the educational curriculum.

According to the account presented at the event, Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah belonged to the Gondwana tradi-

Key initiatives:
■ Tribal heroes included in educational curriculum,
■ Government support for films on tribal icons,
■ Tantaia Bhil university in Khargone,
■ Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi university in Sagar,
■ 'Namo Prerana' launched for cancer prevention and de-addiction awareness

tion associated with Rani Durgavati. During the 1857 uprising, the father-son duo opposed British rule through writings and poetry. They were captured and executed in Jabalpur on September 18, 1857.

Yadav also said the government was encouraging films based on tribal icons and cited institutions named after prominent personalities.

These include a university in Khargone named after Tantaia Bhil and a university in Sagar named after Rani Avanti Bai Lodhi.

During the programme, Yadav also launched the 'Namo Prerana' initiative aimed at spreading awareness about cancer prevention and de-addiction among school and college students.

He later visited a blood donation camp organised under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan-2026' at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural and Information Centre and interacted with donors.

India-Born Cheetah Gives Birth To Four Cubs At MP's Kuno

SHEOPUR

In a major boost to the ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme in the country, an India-born female cheetah has given birth to four cubs at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, taking the country's cheetah population to 56 and adding a new generation to the population established after the species was brought back to India.



the birth on Friday and congratulated the teams involved in Project Cheetah and Kuno National Park.

"Four years, four new lives — a beautiful symbol of hope, resilience and the growing success of cheetah conservation in India," Yadav said in a post on X. KGP12 was born in India and is among the cheetahs that have successfully adapted to the country's conditions following the reintroduction programme.

Her four cubs represent another addition to the India-born population and are significant for the programme's long-term

objective of achieving natural breeding and population growth. With the latest births, the total number of cheetahs in India has risen from 52 to 56. Kuno remains the principal cheetah habitat, with 49 animals, while three cheetahs are currently housed at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. Before the latest births, 32 cheetahs had been born in India since the reintroduction programme began, underlining the importance of captive management, breeding and subsequent adaptation in the country's landscape.

Union Minister Yadav also hailed the field teams for their continued efforts in implementing the programme, saying the latest development was a "truly historic and joyous moment" for India's cheetah conservation efforts.

Andhra Investment Promotion Board approves projects worth Rs 526 crores

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on Friday cleared 10 major IT and futuristic technology projects worth over Rs 526 crore.

At its meeting presided over by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the SIPB approved projects entailing a total investment of Rs 526.25 crore, projected to create 8,896 high-quality jobs across the state.

The decision marks a significant step in establishing Andhra Pradesh as a premier global hub for Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing, with strategic developments centred in Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Kadapa.

Iconic Howrah Bridge Illuminated With Dynamic Architectural Lighting

KOLKATA

The iconic Rabindra Setu (Howrah Bridge) has been illuminated with state-of-the-art dynamic architectural lighting by its custodian, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata. The development came after clearance from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, officials said.

The dynamic architectural illumination features 3,825 luminaires with a total installed capacity of 385 KW, bringing its structural profile, skeletal surfaces, crowns and main pylons to life through dynamic lighting and synchronised sound.

"The lighting will be showcased on important national occasions and festivals including Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Durga Puja, Diwali and Holi, creating a renewed visual identity for one of Kolkata's most recognisable landmarks," an SMP Kolkata official said.



The project, valued at Rs 22.35 crore, has been executed by M/s M M Brothers with lighting support from M/s Havells Lighting. Jadavpur University served as the Technical Consultant.

"The dynamic light shows with synchronised sound will be live broadcast for the general public through a dedicated mobile application, offering citizens and tourists a mesmerising experience of this engineering marvel," the official added.

SMP Kolkata Chairman Rathendra Raman congratulated the entire team and said: "The illumination of Rabindra Setu

is not just lighting of a bridge; it is lighting up the legacy of Kolkata. Howrah Bridge is an emotion for the people of this city and the nation. This dynamic architectural lighting will enhance its heritage grandeur and offer a world-class visual spectacle to citizens and tourists alike, while reaffirming SMP Kolkata's commitment to preserving and celebrating our iconic heritage."

The illumination is expected to enhance Kolkata's heritage tourism appeal and reaffirm the historic bridge as a beacon of the City of Joy, port officials said.

The 705-metre-long steel suspension bridge, connecting the cities of Kolkata and Howrah, was commissioned on February 3, 1943. It was named Rabindra Setu after Rabindranath Tagore in 1965. It continues to remain one of the busiest bridges in the country even after 77 years, with nearly 100,000 vehicles and over 150,000 pedestrians crossing it daily.

JAPAN EYES INDIA CHIPS

68 Japanese Firms Eye India Plans

MUMBAI

Sixty-eight Japanese companies participating in SEMICON India 2026 are in the process of finalising manufacturing, research and partnership plans in India, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

Speaking during his visit to the Japanese pavilion at the event, Vaishnaw said the participation reflected growing international engagement with India's semiconductor ecosystem. SEMICON India 2026 is being held from September 17



to 19 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, bringing together companies, investors, researchers, startups and policymakers from across the semiconductor value chain.

The event features more than 600 participating compa-

nies and representatives from 52 countries, according to the Prime Minister's Office. Japan is among the countries with dedicated participation at the exhibition.

Vaishnaw also highlighted the participation of young people and said the semiconductor push was creating opportunities for high-skilled employment while supporting development of a specialised talent pool.

A student-developed semiconductor chip from the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, was also showcased during the minister's interac-

tion with the media. The chip was developed under the talent development programme of the India Semiconductor Mission, with the students having earlier presented their work to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The focus on talent development comes alongside expanding investment interest. Vaishnaw said the government had received proposals worth \$11-12 billion under the second phase of its semiconductor programme, covering areas including equipment, materials and other parts of the supply chain.

The developments come as India seeks to build a semiconductor ecosystem spanning design, manufacturing, packaging, materials, equipment, research and talent development.

Ashwini Vaishnaw: "There are 68 Japanese companies. They are finalising their plans for manufacturing, research and partnerships in India."

On talent: Vaishnaw also highlighted the enthusiasm of young people at SEMICON India and the opportunities emerging for high-skilled employment and semiconductor-sector talent development.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Explains Dharma Versus Religion

UJJAIN

Dharma does not bind a person but liberates them, RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat told young participants on the second day of the three-day 'Yuva Dharma Sansad' (Youth Religious Parliament) held at Gita Bhawan in Ujjain on Friday.

Clarifying the difference between 'Dharma' and 'religion', he said the English word 'religion', derived from 'religio' meaning to bind or tie, is not synonymous with Dharma. Bhagwat inaugurated the day's proceedings by lighting a cere-

monial lamp and leading the singing of 'Vande Mataram'.

He noted that the English dictionary has no precise equivalent for the word Dharma, adding that Western culture often strips away the ritualistic aspects of Dharma and therefore labels it merely as religion.

Recalling the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, the RSS chief described India as a nation deeply rooted in Dharma. He advised the youth that to absorb new ideas, one must first still and empty the mind, as learning becomes impossible until old notions are cleared away.

Quick Read

Markets end mixed as nifty gains 76 points

MUMBAI
Benchmark equity indices ended mixed on Friday, with the Sensex slipping 19.63 points, or 0.03 per cent, to 74,294.96, while the Nifty gained 75.80 points, or 0.33 per cent, to 23,346.40, extending its winning streak to three sessions. The Sensex had risen 413.85 points intra-day before losing momentum during the closing auction. Falling crude prices supported sentiment, with Brent down 1.35 per cent at \$103.4 a barrel. However, weakness in IT and Tata Group stocks limited gains. TCS fell 4.33 per cent, while Tata Chemicals dropped 11.71 per cent. Adani Ports, Power Grid, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel gained.

RBI absorbs Rs 2.23 lakh crore via VRRR auction

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday absorbed Rs 2.23 lakh crore from the banking system through a Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction to manage surplus liquidity. The RBI received bids worth Rs 2,22,629 crore against the notified Rs 2.25 lakh crore and accepted all bids at a weighted average rate of 5.24 per cent. Banking system liquidity was estimated at a surplus of Rs 6.94 lakh crore as of September 17. The operation followed a Rs 50,000-crore government securities sale through an Open Market Operation auction. The RBI has also scheduled two more OMO sales worth Rs 25,000 crore each on September 21 and 28.

India Semiconductor Demand May Double to \$90 Billion

IND
India's semiconductor demand could nearly double to \$90 billion by 2029-30, from \$44 billion in 2025-26, driven by policy support, domestic demand and engineering talent. Mobile phones and wearables are expected to remain the largest demand segment, reaching \$42.13 billion. The report recorded 78,000 patent applications and 28,000 grants over the decade to June 2026. Semiconductor accelerators accounted for nearly 92% of filings, while advanced packaging, high-bandwidth memory and chiplets saw limited activity. The report highlighted opportunities in packaging and stressed the need to build capabilities across design, manufacturing, research, talent and supply chains.

Nobel Prize payout raised to \$1.27 million for 2026

STOCKHOLM
Nobel Prize winners in 2026 will receive 12 million Swedish kronor, or \$1.27 million, in each category, the Nobel Foundation said on Friday. The amount is up from 11 million kronor in 2025. The increase comes as the Nobel Prize marks its 125th anniversary. Nobel Foundation director Hanna Stjarne said the higher payout would help preserve the prize's long-term significance and financial value. The amount will be shared if multiple laureates receive a prize. Nobel announcements will run from October 5 to 12, beginning with medicine and followed by physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics.

FSSAI files 3 cases against Nestle India over infant products

FSSAI has initiated three adjudication cases against Nestlé India over alleged regulatory non-compliance involving claims on infant nutrition products.

NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has initiated three separate adjudication cases against Nestlé India over alleged regulatory non-compliance involving its infant nutrition products, including NAN Excella Pro Stage 1 and Lactogen Pro 1. According to a notice shared by FSSAI, the regulator examined the products and promotional material listed on e-commerce platforms and raised concerns over certain claims. For NAN Excella Pro Stage 1, the regulator flagged

claims related to “5 HMOS” and “Whey Protein”. For Lactogen Pro 1, FSSAI raised concerns over a claim describing whey protein as easy to digest. The regulator said it had sought clarifications from Nestlé India and subsequently found the products to be in contravention of Regulation 4(2) of the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020. FSSAI also said a sample of a follow-up formula manufactured by Nestlé India was found to be sub-standard for its biotin content during labo-

ratory analysis. A re-analysis by a Referral Laboratory also found the product did not conform to the prescribed biotin requirement. The regulator said the three adjudication cases relate to the alleged promotional violations and the laboratory finding. Its notice does not



indicate that any final penalty has been imposed on Nestlé India. Nestlé India, responding to the development, said its products are compliant with applicable regulations. The company said NAN Excella Pro and Lactogen Pro and their labels were approved by an FSSAI expert committee. The company added that it had submitted a detailed response regarding the label statements, which it said were factual and supported by scientific literature. Nestlé India also said it would continue cooperating with FSSAI on consumer awareness efforts.

Pakistan’s rising fuel, power costs raise concerns

NEW DELHI

Rising fuel, electricity and gas prices in Pakistan are increasing pressure on households, while large-scale public protests against the hikes have remained limited, according to a report. A report by The Friday Times said repeated increases in petroleum product prices and utility tariffs are adding to the cost-of-living burden for

families already dealing with inflation and weak purchasing power. Nearly half of Pakistan's population now lives below the poverty line, the report said. The report noted that higher fuel prices have a wider impact because they increase transportation costs and push up prices of food and other essential commodities. This has placed additional pressure on lower- and middle-income

groups, worsening financial insecurity across the country. Despite the economic hardship, public resistance has remained relatively limited. According to the report, political fragmentation, weak opposition mobilisation, a lack of unified leadership and declining confidence in the ability to influence policymaking have contributed to the absence of major protests. The report also compared

the current situation with earlier periods in Pakistan's history, when relatively modest increases in essential commodity prices triggered widespread public movements. It said the present situation reflects broader social and political changes, including stronger status quo tendencies and reduced space for collective mobilisation. Pakistan's large youth population has also become part of the debate.

68 Japanese firms finalising India manufacturing, research plans

MUMBAI

Sixty-eight Japanese companies participating in Semicon India 2026 are finalising plans for manufacturing, research and partnerships in India, Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday. Speaking to Media during his visit to the Japanese pavilion at the event, Vaishnaw said more than 30 countries are participating in Semicon India 2026, reflecting growing international interest in India's semiconductor ecosystem. “There are 68 Japanese companies. They are finalising their plans for manufacturing, research and partnerships in India,” Vaishnaw said, highlighting the growing engagement between Japanese firms and India's semiconductor sector. The minister also highlighted the enthusiasm among young people attending the semiconductor event. He said India's semiconductor push is



creating opportunities for high-skilled employment and helping build a talent pool for the industry. During his interaction with the media, Vaishnaw showcased a semiconductor chip developed by students of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela in Odisha. He said the chip was developed under the talent development programme of India's Semiconductor Mission. The students had earlier presented their work to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The student-developed chip was displayed to the media at the Japanese pavilion. Odisha Chief Minister Mo-

INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

- 68 Japanese companies finalising India plans
- 30+ countries participating in Semicon India 2026
- NIT Rourkela students developed a semiconductor chip
- High-skilled jobs expected from India's semiconductor push
- Manufacturing, research & partnerships are key areas of Japanese investment
- Semiconductor Mission supports student talent development

han Charan Majhi had earlier expressed pride over the indigenous chip designs developed by NIT Rourkela being showcased alongside Made-in-India semiconductor chips at the event.

Odisha govt, SBI sign MoU to strengthen digital payments

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Housing and Urban Development Department on Friday signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) to strengthen digital payment infrastructure across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through the SUJOG platform. Under the partnership, citizens will be able to make online payments for municipal services, taxes, fees and utility charges using multiple digital payment options. These include RuPay, Visa, MasterCard, Maestro and AMEX cards, internet

banking, mobile banking, IMPS, UPI, UPI-RCC, UPI-CL and digital wallets. The department said the initiative will make public payments more convenient and accessible while reducing the need for citizens to visit municipal offices for routine transactions. The integration is also expected to improve transparency and efficiency in urban governance. A key feature of the framework is the direct settlement of collections into the designated bank accounts of respective ULBs on a T+1 business-day basis. Unique transaction iden-

tifiers will support transparent accounting, reconciliation and tracking of collections. The system will also include mechanisms for exception handling, MIS-based reconciliation, refunds and chargeback management. These processes will have a turnaround time of seven calendar days, the department said. Additional Chief Secretary Usha Padhee thanked SBI for its support in strengthening the SUJOG platform and said the collaboration would enhance the efficiency, convenience and accessibility of citizen services through digital means.

RBI: UPI MDR unlikely to boost cash usage

From October 15, a 0.4% MDR will apply to select UPI merchant payments above ₹2,000, while most transactions remain free.

MUMBAI

RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu said concerns that introducing Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on certain UPI payments would lead to higher cash usage are unlikely to materialise. From October 15, a 0.4 per cent MDR will apply to person-to-merchant UPI payments above Rs 2,000. The charge will be paid by merchants and capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 or more. Payments between individuals and most everyday merchant transactions will remain free. Murmu said the expected shift towards cash was only an initial apprehension. He also addressed the apparent paradox of rising digital transactions alongside increasing cash in circulation, saying there was no contradiction. Cash serves both as a means of payment and a store of value. On recent regulatory chang-



The apprehension over higher cash usage due to MDR “will be just initial apprehension.” —Droupadi Murmu, President of India

es, Murmu said the RBI had issued more than 600 draft and final amendment circulars over the last year. However, he said the number should not be seen as a direct measure of regulatory burden, as regulations had been reorganised across 11 categories. Murmu said the RBI is moving towards principle-based regulation while retaining a balance with rule-based regulation. He said the approach aims to simplify compliance without removing necessary regulatory requirements. On artificial intelligence in banking, Murmu said boards would remain accountable even when machines replace or supplement human decision-making. He added that boards must educate themselves as financial institutions increasingly adopt machine intelligence.

MCMASTER BACKS TARIFFS ON RUSSIAN ENERGY BUYERS

NEW DELHI

Former US National Security Advisor Lt Gen HR McMaster (Retd.) has backed proposed US tariffs on countries buying Russian energy while urging Washington to consider India's security concerns. Speaking to Madia after the US House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 by 262-159 votes, McMaster supported the proposed measures. The legislation gives US President Donald Trump discretionary authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries continuing to import Russian oil and gas. McMaster said stronger economic measures were needed to raise the cost of Russia's actions. He also acknowledged inconsistencies in Western energy policies, pointing to continued US im-

IN FOCUS	
262-159	US House vote
100%	Maximum proposed tariff
2026	Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act
India	Key country discussed by McMaster

ports of Russian uranium. “It is crazy that we're buying uranium from Russia. I think it's nuts,” he said, citing concerns over dependence on a hostile state. He said supply-chain constraints could result in waivers for certain critical dependencies even as broader sanctions are introduced. On India, McMaster said Washington should consider the country's security environment and its historical reliance on Russian defence equipment and energy. “Do you really want to

alienate Russia? Probably not at the moment,” he said, adding that he had sympathy for India's position. He also argued that concerns over Pakistan and China should encourage closer India-US ties. McMaster said Washington should not pressure India to take sides against Russia or make decisions regarding BRICS. He expressed confidence in the long-term India-US relationship and encouraged both countries to focus on representative government and economic cooperation. The comments come as India's Ministry of External Affairs monitors the US tariff legislation while maintaining its position on diversified energy sourcing. Trade negotiations between India and the US are also expected to continue at the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting in Wisconsin on September 30 and October 1.

Inox India receives ₹50 cr industry orders

NEW DELHI

Inox India has received cumulative orders worth more than Rs 50 crore for semiconductor-related projects from Tata Electronics, Micron and Inox Air Products, as India expands its domestic chip manufacturing ecosystem. The orders include supplies for Tata Electronics' semiconductor facility in Dholera, Tata's semiconductor project in Assam, Micron's facility in the United States and Inox Air Products' upcoming dry-pure gases plant at Dholera, Inox India chief executive Deepak Acharya told The Economic Times. The company is a leading manufacturer of cryogenic equipment and is expanding its presence in the growing semiconductor supply chain. The orders cover equipment and



projects linked to semiconductor manufacturing and supporting infrastructure, increasing the company's exposure to the sector. Inox India expects its semiconductor-related business to contribute between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of its revenue over the next three to four years. The company's outlook comes as India works to expand domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities and

develop a broader ecosystem around chip production. The semiconductor industry requires specialised equipment and supporting facilities, including systems for handling gases and other critical materials used during manufacturing. Projects such as those being developed by Tata Electronics and Micron are expected to create demand for companies supplying equipment and infrastructure to the sector.

SUGAR STOCK LIMIT DOUBLED

Govt doubles sugar stockholding limit for bulk consumers

NEW DELHI

The government on Friday doubled the sugar stockholding limit for bulk consumers to 30 days, but said stocks held beyond the existing 15-day limit must be sourced exclusively from sugar imported under the advance authorisation scheme and tariff rate quota. The stockholding limit for

sugar purchased from the open market will remain unchanged at 15 days' consumption. Bulk consumers using more than 10 metric tonnes of sugar a month as a raw material had sought an increase ahead of the festival season. The government requires bulk consumers to declare and disclose sugar stocks every Friday through the Department of Food and Public Dis-

tribution's online portal. The move follows consultations with major bulk consumers and aims to maintain stability in the domestic sugar market. Retail sugar prices have fallen around 10 per cent to Rs 58.50 from a peak of Rs 65 in August, while ex-mill prices have declined nearly 25 per cent. The government said the slower fall in retail prices shows that lower mill-level



prices have not been fully passed on to consumers. It appealed to sugar traders,

wholesalers and retailers to immediately pass on the benefit of reduced ex-mill prices, saying retail prices should reflect the correction at the mill level. The measure balances bulk consumers' interests with domestic market stability. It will provide greater flexibility to industrial consumers during the festival season while ensuring additional stocks come

from imports rather than pressuring domestic supplies. At a joint meeting with industry and trade representatives, the Department of Food and Public Distribution Secretary said farmers and consumers remain central to India's sugar policy, with efforts focused on balancing sugarcane farmers' interests with stable and reasonable consumer prices.

Quick Read

Egyptian deported by
US to Equatorial
Guinea

Washington

An Egyptian man deported from the US to Equatorial Guinea who criticized the conduct of security forces there has been held for a week at a gendarmerie station, one of his lawyers said. Ahmed Soliman was arrested on Friday last week and has not been able to see his attorneys, the lawyer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The spokesman for the central African nation's government and its embassy in Washington did not respond to requests for comment.

US gives UN more time
to end support for
Somalia peacekeepers

Mogadishu

The United States has agreed to give the UN another year to wind down its support for African peacekeepers in Somalia, a document showed - a move that gives some breathing space to a force that was fearing quicker cuts, but still leaves its future in peril. Reuters reported in July that Washington - increasingly frustrated with the fragile administration in Mogadishu - said it would block the UN from supporting the African Union force which props up the government and helps it fight al Qaeda-linked militants. Analysts have warned that any weakening of the African Union peacekeepers would severely undermine the government there and could exacerbate the political turmoil in a combustible region bordering the Red Sea. The peacekeepers, known as the AU Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia, rely heavily on UN support for essential logistics such as food, water, fuel, medical services and transportation of troops.

As Iran war grinds on, Trump
to face skeptical world leaders at UN

WASHINGTON

When President Donald Trump addressed the United Nations a year ago, he touted the US bombing of Iran's nuclear sites just months earlier as "totally obliterating everything" and said he had brought peace between Israel and Iran. Returning to the world body on Tuesday, Trump will face a deeply skeptical audience increasing-

Saudi-Houthi strikes raise oil supply fears

FRESH SAUDI-HOUSHI STRIKES AND TANKER INCIDENTS ARE DEEPENING CONCERNS OVER RED SEA SHIPPING, STRAIT OF HORMUZ DISRUPTIONS AND ALREADY ELEVATED GLOBAL OIL PRICES

CAIRO

Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement exchanged fresh strikes across their border, intensifying concerns that the widening Middle East war could further disrupt global energy supplies.

Houthi-controlled television reported Saudi airstrikes in Yemen's Hajjah province, near the Saudi border and Red Sea coast, as well as areas around Taiz farther south. The attacks came amid escalating fighting involving the Houthis and Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces.

Saudi Arabia's civil defence said a Yemeni resident was killed by debris from a drone intercepted over the western city of Taif. It was the first death publicly announced by Riyadh from the repeated Houthi attacks since fighting escalated last week. Saudi authorities have previously reported more than 80 people wounded.

The conflict is also driving fresh displacement. Yemenis fleeing clashes have taken boats across the Red Sea, seeking safety in Djibouti, according to humanitarian officials.

The developments have heightened concerns for Gulf



oil exports because the conflict threatens the Red Sea, a key alternative route if shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains constrained.

Iran's Revolutionary

Guards Navy separately said a Togo-flagged oil tanker caught fire after being hit while attempting what it described as an "illegal passage" through the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel later

HOUTHIS AND SOUTH ARABIA GOES HEAD TO HEAD
• Saudi Arabia and Houthis exchange fresh cross-border strikes.
• Drone debris kills one person in Taif.
• More than 80 people previously reported wounded.
• Yemenis flee clashes by boats across Red Sea.
• Oil prices remain above \$100 a barrel.
• Tanker catches fire near Strait of Hormuz.
• Trump weighs further military action against Iran.

stopped after the fire, Iranian state media reported.

Oil prices eased slightly on Thursday but remained above \$100 a barrel after reaching their highest levels since May. US retail diesel

prices also reached a record high, approaching \$6.40 per gallon. The worsening crisis comes as US President Donald Trump considers whether to launch further major attacks on Iran.

Canada Moves Closer To
EU Partnership

Canada's proposed EU associate membership marks a symbolic push by Ottawa to diversify strategic and economic partnerships beyond Washington.

TORONTO

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has secured an offer for Canada to become the European Union's first associate member, marking a largely symbolic step in his effort to show that Ottawa can strengthen ties beyond the United States.

The proposal was put forward by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as Canada and the EU seek closer cooperation in defence, energy, critical minerals and artificial intelligence. The initiative comes as Canada faces a trade war with the United States and repeated threats from US President Donald Trump to make Canada the 51st state.

However, the proposed status remains undefined. There is currently no legal definition or precedent for an EU "associate member", and some EU governments have already expressed reservations. Germany has said the terminology should be reconsidered while supporting a deeper relationship with Canada.

Carney, speaking to the European Parliament on Thursday, avoided using the term "associate member" but welcomed von der Leyen's ambition. Three European diplomats said they were surprised by the announcement.

The proposal also faces questions within Canada. International trade lawyer Barry Appleton said the EU had offered Canada a status that does not currently exist and suggested constitutional divisions between federal and provincial governments could complicate

KEY DEVELOPMENTS
• EU offers Canada first associate-member status.
• No legal definition or precedent exists.
• Germany questions the proposed terminology.
• Defence, energy, minerals and AI cooperation planned.
• Montreal summit will discuss details in October.
• Trump calls the proposal "laughable."

We have new relationships we're building as we deal with an incredibly unpredictable US administration.

— Greg MacEachern, Sussex Strategy Group

what Ottawa can deliver. Trump dismissed the proposal as "laughable" and separately threatened to halt trade with Europe "on many things".

Carney's advisers see the EU initiative as additional leverage in negotiations with Washington. Canadian and European officials are expected to discuss the details at a summit in Montreal in late October.

Russia Votes amid War
and Political Controls

MOSCOW

Russians began voting Friday in a three-day parliamentary election that President Vladimir Putin has presented as a demonstration of public backing for the country's military campaign in Ukraine. The election is the first for the State Duma since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The 450-seat lower house is being elected across Russia's 11 time zones, with voting continuing through September 20. The ruling United Russia party, which supports Putin, is widely expected to retain its dominant position in the tightly controlled political system.

Putin has urged citizens to vote, saying their participation would demonstrate unity and support for Russian soldiers. State television has also used patriotic and military imagery in advertisements encouraging turnout.

The election is taking place with most anti-war candidates excluded from the ballot. Russia's Supreme Court ruled in

Your choice, and your will, will once again demonstrate that millions of people stand behind our soldiers.

- Vladimir Putin

August that the liberal Yabloko party had breached electoral rules. Yabloko denied the allegation and sought to maintain a presence through candidates in individual constituencies.

Two senior Yabloko figures, Lev Shlosberg and Maxim Kruglov, have also received lengthy prison sentences over comments concerning the war. Russian law provides severe penalties for what authorities classify as discrediting the military or spreading false information.

The vote comes amid growing public concern about the war's economic and social consequences. Reuters reported that some polling indicates support for peace talks has risen above 60%, although the Kremlin continues to reject a simple ceasefire and says any settlement must meet its conditions.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis. No. 576/2026

Between: 1. Sri. Manohar V S/o R.G. Venkataramiah Aged about 29 years 2. Smt. Annapurna W/o Late R.B. Gangiah Aged about 75 years 3. Sri R.G. Venkataramiah S/o Late R.B. Gangiah Aged about 83 years 4. Smt. Pushpalatha W/o R.G. Venkataramiah Aged about 51 years 5. Smt. Madhushree D/O R.G. Venkataramiah Aged about 31 years Petitioner No 1 to 5 Are Riat: Rameshwara Village Doddaballapur Hobali Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural District ... Petitioner And: The Tahasildar Doddaballapur Doddaballapura Taluk ... Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner have filed the above petition US 113/31 and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the Death Certificate of the deceased, who is our R.B.Gangiah S/o Late Byranna who is grandfather of petitioner no 1, husband of petitioner No. 2 Father of petitioner no 3 and grandfather of petitioner 4 and 5, was expired on dated: 05-09-1973 at our Residence i.e., wherein petitioners address: Rameshwara Village, Doddaballavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore rural district. In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on: 26-10-2026, at about 11.00 AM. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off as ex-parte order. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on: 18th September, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Chief Ministerial Officer, PRL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate for petitioners: R.Paramashiviah & Giriraju, Opp. Court Complex, Rojipura, Doddaballapura Town Bangalore Rural District-561203.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Mis. No. 602/2026

Petitioners: Smt. Venkataasamma D/o Late Narasimhaiah Aged about 86 years, Riat Kadathipura Village, Doddaballavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and others. V/s Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahsildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grand father of petitioner No.1 to 4 and Great Grandfather of petitioner No.5 by name LATE RAMAIAH S/O LATE CHIKKARAJAIAH who died on 20.04.1962 at Kadathipura Village, Doddaballavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 24-10-26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 17th day of September 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, PRL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate: Pranav Samrud, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

NAME CHANGE

I, IRFAN S K, S/o. Shaik Mohammed, Resident of No.35, 2nd Cross, Chamundi Nagar, Akbari Mosque Road, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name to **SHAIK IRFAN**, vide affidavit dated: 18.09.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, IMTIAZ SHARIF AMMAN ULLAH, Resident of No.575, Basava Nagar Main Road, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **IMTIAZ SHARIF**, vide affidavit dated: 18.09.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, V MALANI, W/o. Narayana Swamy S, Resident of No.83, 7th Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Near Renukamba Temple, Maragondanahalli, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560036, have changed my name to **MALINI V**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 18.09.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Najib Granted House Arrest in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim has granted former Prime Minister Najib Razak a conditional pardon allowing him to serve the remainder of his prison sentence under house arrest until August 23, 2028, the prime minister's legal department said Friday. Najib, 73, was convicted over corruption linked to the multibillion-dollar 1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB, scandal. He has consistently denied wrongdoing and has argued that he was made a scapegoat for a complex international scheme.

The latest decision marks Najib's second royal pardon. In 2024, his original 12-year prison sentence was reduced by half, while his fine was also cut. He has remained an influential figure within the United Malays National Organisation, or UMNO, despite being imprisoned. Najib was separately convicted in December 2025 in another 1MDB-related case and sentenced to 15 years in prison, along with a fine of 11.4 billion ringgit, or about \$2.8 billion. He has appealed that conviction.

The latest clemency decision could deepen tensions within Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's coalition government. Anwar's Pakatan Harapan alliance has opposed leniency for Najib, while UMNO remains part of the governing coalition. Anwar called on Malaysians to accept the king's decision and said his government remained committed to fighting corruption and abuse of power. He stressed that the decision did not change the administration's position on graft. The house-arrest decision comes ahead of Malaysia's next general election, due by early 2028, although Anwar has previously indicated that a snap election could be considered if coalition tensions intensify.

Document Lost

Herein I Sri S K Kurubar @ Kampli, Advocate, Haveri. My client Mr.Santosh S/o Maruteppa Nekar At/p : Near Minority Office, Sharada Layout, Shivaji Nagar 3rd Cross Haveri is the sole and absolute owner of the property described below.

Property Details

The Property of R.S.No 185, Plot. No 35, 01 Gunta 03 Annas (Total Area 1293 Sq.Ft), Located in Sharada Colony, Shivaji Nagar, Haveri City, which falls under the limits of the Haveri Taluk Sub-Registrar and Municipal Council. This Property boundaries as below.

East : Plot No.86
West : R.S.No.186
North : Road
South : Plot No. 60

The original sale Deeds relating to the above property bearing documents No. HVR-1-00105-2009-10 and HVR-1-00351-2010-11, registered at the concerned Sub-Registrar Office Haveri, has been lost/misplaced. A Police complaint has been lodged in this regard vide Complaint No. 2429119/2026. Any person who finds the said Original Documents is requested to return the same to the under signed. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above property or the said document is requested to notify the undersigned in writing.

Sd/-
S K Kurubar @ Kampli
Advocate, Haveri

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SALIM BAIG alias S SALIM BAIG S/o SARDAR BAIG, R/o 1064-E, 7th Main, H B R Layout, Kalyananagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARDAR SALIM BAIG.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sreejith K S/o Velayudhan R/o C 421 Brigade Meadows Plumeria Lifestyle, 122, Saalu Hunase Village, Kanakapura Road, Udayapura Post, Kaggalipura, Udayapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560082, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Agneyi Sreejith to Agnimitra Sreejith aged 6 years

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJAVVA KURI D/o BHIMAPPA, W/O MAHANTESH, R/o Hulgera, Hoolgera, Kushtagi, Koppal, Karnataka-583281, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJULA MAHANTESH TILAGAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, NYERA KHANNUM, W/o. Syed Fayaz, Resident of No. 15/1, 1st Main Road, Kogilu, Bellahalli, Yelahanka Post, Bengaluru -560064, Karnataka, have changed my name to **NAYERA KHANUM**, vide affidavit dated: 18.09.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, FYROZE, S/o. Shaik Mahboob, Resident of No. 269, 7th Cross, Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560064, Karnataka, have changed my name to **FIROZE AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 18.09.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Yogesh Motilal Sharma S/o Motilal Magraj Sharma R/o 153 Ground Floor, 5th Cross, Behind Amba Bajaj Showroom, Narasimha Reddy Layout Garvebhavi Palya, VTC: Bommanahalli, PO: Bommanahalli, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka- 560068, I have changed the name of my minor Son Hitarth to Hitarth Sharma aged 5 years



data seen by Reuters shows. RM48Us made up more than half of the 228 ballistic and

hypersonic missiles fired at Ukraine in July and early August, according to the figures compiled by military analysts at the General Prosecutor's Office.

The scale of the RM48U deployment, which hasn't been previously reported, helps show how Russia has been able to expand its attacks over the summer without running down its stocks of Iskanders and other primary strike missiles.



NISSIN

India Women stormed into the semifinals of the Asian Games women's cricket competition with an eight-wicket victory over Japan in their quarterfinal on Friday. After choosing to bowl first, India dismissed Japan for 57 in 19.5 overs before chasing down the target in only five overs.

Sree Charani led India's bowling attack with four

wickets, while Shafali Verma claimed two. Shreyanka Patil and Deepti Sharma picked up one wicket each. Japan's batting struggled against the Indian attack, with Ayaka Kato-Stafford top-scoring with 25 from 47 deliveries.

India began their chase of 58 aggressively, reaching 59/2 in five overs. Shafali Verma produced a spectacular unbeaten 40 from just 15 balls, striking four boundaries. Gu-

nanan Kamalini was dismissed for a duck, while Bharti Fulmali scored six before being dismissed.

Richa Ghosh joined Verma at the crease and remained unbeaten on 12 from six deliveries. With India needing just one run to win, Verma finished the contest in emphatic fashion by hitting Shimako Kato over long-on for a six. India completed the chase with 90 balls remaining.

India dominate Japan, reach Asian games semifinals

India Women stormed into the Asian Games semifinals, defeating Japan by eight wickets after a dominant bowling and batting performance.

The victory confirmed India's place in the last four, with the semifinal line-up now decided. India will face Bangladesh on Sunday, while Pakistan will meet Sri Lanka in the other semifinal. The defending champions will now look to continue their campaign after a convincing quarterfinal performance.

Their disciplined bowling restricted Japan to a low total, while Verma's explosive

innings ensured India completed the chase quickly. Japan could not capitalise on India's two early batting dismissals, allowing the Indian side to progress comfortably into the semifinals of the women's cricket competition.

Jos Buttler smashes historic 15,000 T20 runs

CARDIFF

Jos Buttler became the first batter in T20 cricket to score 15,000 runs, reaching the landmark during England's second T20I against Sri Lanka at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff on Thursday.

The England wicketkeeper-batter reached the milestone with a single off Eshan Malunga in the fifth over of England's chase. Buttler achieved the record in his 528th match, with an average of 35.46 and a strike rate of 147.46. His tally includes nine centuries and 107 fifties.

107 fifties.

Buttler also moved past West Indies legend Kieron Pollard to become the highest run-scorer in T20 cricket. Pollard has 14,999 runs from 754 matches at an average of 31.71. Buttler has accumulated his runs while representing several teams and competitions, including England, Lancashire, Manchester Originals, Gujarat Titans, Somerset, Paarl Royals, Mumbai Indians and Sydney Thunder.

The milestone came during a strong England performance in the second T20I. England restricted Sri Lanka to 145/9 in 20 overs before reaching 146/4 in only 12.1 overs, winning by six wickets. The result gave England an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series and extended their winning streak against Sri Lanka in T20Is to 14 matches.

Dawson was named Player of the Match after taking three wickets. England will face Sri Lanka in the third and final T20I at Old Trafford in Manchester on Saturday, with the series already secured. Buttler's record adds another significant milestone to his T20 career as England complete their campaign. The achievement highlights Buttler's consistency and longevity in the shortest format, where he has featured for domestic, franchise and international sides. His latest landmark came as England produced another convincing display and completed a series victory with one match still remaining in Manchester.



T20'S NEW RECORD IN FOCUS	
• 15,000 runs – first batter to reach mark	
• 528 matches	
• 35.46 average	
• 147.46 strike rate	
• 9 centuries 107 fifties	
• Pollard: 14,999 runs	

Bengaluru FC star Williams set for Kanteerava homecoming

NEW DELHI

Ryan Williams is set for a special homecoming at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium when India begins their international window against Panama on September 25. The 32-year-old Bengaluru FC player will wear India's colours at the venue where he began his Indian football journey three years ago.

Williams made his India debut in March this year and has already earned two international caps, scoring once. He said returning to Kanteerava in an India jersey would be a memorable occasion, describing it as a full-circle moment after spending much of his time in India playing for Bengaluru FC.

India will play three high-profile matches during the international window. After facing Panama, the Blue Tigers will travel to Kolkata to meet Brazil on October 3 before taking on Uruguay



“It'll be special. I started my Indian football career here three years ago, and now I'm wearing India's jersey. It's a full-circle moment.”
— Ryan Williams, Indian footballer

Williams said the additional time would help players connect, understand the coach's ideas and experiment with different approaches during training. He added that the team is excited about the challenge and wants to learn from the matches.

Williams is particularly looking forward to the Panama fixture because of his connection with Kanteerava Stadium. He expects strong support from Bengaluru FC and India fans and said wearing the national team's blue at a ground closely associated with his club career would make the occasion especially meaningful.

three days later. All three opponents featured at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, providing India with opportunities to test themselves against top-level opposition.

The squad will spend three weeks together under head coach Khalid Jamil, longer than the usual 10-day international period. That extended camp is expected to give the players more time to prepare collectively ahead of the demanding schedule and develop understanding on the field.

LUNGI NGIDI RULED OUT OF AUSTRALIA ODI SERIES

NEW DELHI

South Africa fast bowler Lungi Ngidi has been ruled out of the three-match ODI series against Australia after suffering a right hamstring injury, Cricket South Africa confirmed on Friday. The series begins on September 24, with Ngidi now set for a period of rehabilitation following scans that confirmed the injury.

Ngidi sustained the injury while playing for Titans against Dolphins in a first-class match. His availability for the subsequent three-Test series against Australia will be assessed closer to the contests. South Africa have called up 20-year-old fast bowler Nqobani

Mokoena as his replacement. Mokoena previously made his ODI debut during South Africa's away series against Namibia.

The Proteas have now suffered three injury setbacks in their bowling attack ahead of the Australia ODIs. Ottneil Baartman was earlier ruled out after suffering a left hamstring injury in the same Titans-Dolphins game and was replaced by Duan Jansen. Baartman is also targeting a return for the Test series.

Kagiso Rabada was previously ruled out of the ODI series with a hamstring injury and is racing to recover for the Tests. Rabada suffered the injury during winter training and has not played since May, when he featured in IPL 2026. With Ngidi, Baartman and Rabada unavailable, Marco Jansen will lead South Africa's pace attack.

Jansen will be supported by Gerald Coetzee, Corbin Bosch, Kwena Maphaka, Duan Jansen and newly added Mokoena. The latest injury setback leaves South Africa with a reshaped pace unit for the three-match ODI series, while the fitness of the injured bowlers will remain important ahead of the Test contests. The Proteas will hope replacements provide depth as the team prepares for the home series against Australia next week closely.



Trump criticises NIL system, warns college sports

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has criticised the current name, image and likeness (NIL) system in college sports, calling it “out of control” and warning that it could create serious financial problems for colleges if reforms are not introduced.

Trump said the situation could particularly affect women's sports, Olympic sports and college programmes outside football, while also creating financial pressure within football. He also objected to professional athletes returning to college for large NIL payments and competing against much younger players, calling the prospect “dangerous and unfair.”

The NIL system changed college sports in 2021, when NCAA rules began allowing student-athletes to benefit financially from the commercial use of their name, image and likeness. Trump welcomed what he described as a biparti-

san Senate vote on the issue and thanked senators from both parties for recognising its importance. “Great news on NIL, in other words, straightening out the horrible situation taking place with respect to College Sports. It is out of control and will lead to bankruptcies and disaster for many Colleges,” Trump said on Truth Social. He argued that limits were needed to prevent colleges from being financially consumed by NIL spending. Trump said Republicans and Democrats understood the importance of addressing the issue and described the vote as vital to the future of sports in America.

Paes backs India ahead of Korea Davis Cup clash

NEW DELHI

Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has rallied behind the Indian team ahead of their Davis Cup Qualifiers second-round clash against Korea in Seoul on Friday. Paes urged the players to stay strong, support one another and play for the Tiranga as India seek a place in the Final 8.

India and Korea will meet at the Seoul Olympic Park Tennis Center, with the winner becoming the first Asian team to reach the Final 8 since the format was introduced in 2022. Both sides advanced from the previous round with 3-2 victories. India defeated the Netherlands in Bengaluru, while Korea



edged Argentina in Busan.

Paes acknowledged the challenge of playing in Seoul while expressing confidence in the Indian side. “Wishing all of you good luck against South Korea in the Davis Cup. Playing in Seoul is always a

tough task, but we've always done well. I'm so proud of all of you, and we're all behind you, supporting you. Play strong, play for each other, and play for the Tiranga. God bless, guys,” he said in a video shared by the All India

Tennis Association.

Korea holds a 6-5 head-to-head advantage, but India won their previous two meetings, securing 3-1 and 4-1 victories in 2014 and 2016 respectively. Korea's squad includes Hyeon Chung, Uisung Park, Jisung Nam and Seongchan Hong under captain Jong-Sam Chung. India, led by Rohit Rajpal, features Sumit Nagal, Manas Dhame, N Sriram Balaji and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha, who replaced injured Yuki Bhambri.

Dhame, 18, is receiving his maiden Davis Cup call-up. The Maharashtra player, India's No. 3 in singles, has risen from outside the ATP Top 500 to World No. 369 this year.

Bhaker, Toor to lead India at Asian Games opening

NEW DELHI

Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker and shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor will carry the Indian flag at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on Saturday, as Team India prepares for the continental multi-sport event.

Bhaker won two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics and became the first athlete from independent India to win two medals at a single Olympic Games

edition. At the Asian Games, she will compete in the women's 10m air pistol, women's 25m pistol and 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team events.

Toor will target a third consecutive Asian Games gold in men's shot put. He won the title at Jakarta 2018 and Hangzhou 2023, where he recorded a throw of 20.36 metres. The Athletics Federation of India confirmed him as the second flagbearer after Chef de Mission Sahdev Yadav announced Bhaker's appointment.

The 20th Asian Games will run from September 19 to October 4, featuring athletes from 45 countries and regions across 43 sports and 469 medal events. More than 500 Indian athletes are set to compete in 37 sports. India finished fourth in the Hangzhou standings with 107 medals, including 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronzes.

India's contingent includes five individual Olympic medallists despite Neeraj Chopra's withdrawal due to an ankle injury. PV Sindhu, Mirabai Cha-

nu, Lovlina Borgohain and Aman Sehrawat are among the other prominent names. India will also defend titles in cricket, kabaddi and men's hockey, while hockey will provide qualification opportunities for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The hockey winners will secure direct Olympic qualification, while India can also pursue LA 2028 quota places through archery, sailing, squash, surfing and tennis, in addition to hockey events.

