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KASTURIRANGAN REPORT ON WESTERN GHATS

CM TAKES DIRECT FEEDBACK

'Cabinet meet in Bengaluru doesn't serve the purpose': DKS visits Malnad region, talks to farmers, greens and representatives of various forums on Kasturirangan Report, a blueprint for conservation of ecologically-fragile Western Ghats.

THIRTHAHALLI

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said Kerala has gone a step ahead than Karnataka with regard to Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats. "We need to study it," he said.

While interacting with people of Malnad region on Kasturirangan Panel report on Western Ghats, organised by the district administration, here, he said many elected representatives, experts, former ministers have given suggestions on the matter. Some people have suggested that a new survey of villages in Malnad districts must be conducted while others have asked me to reject the report.

"I came here to know voices of people of Malnad region. Let us discuss it in the assembly session. Later, we shall take a delegation comprising BJP MPs to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Referring to the 7th notification, he said the Centre has reissued a draft notification for the seventh time in July 2026 to declare 56,825.7 square km of the Western Ghats as an Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) based on the Kasturirangan



Committee report. It has sought opinions from the states.

"I could have held a Cabinet meeting in Bengaluru in this regard. But it does not serve the purpose. So I came here to know voices of people residing in Malnad region. The opinions of people of Malnad region will be submitted to the Centre. As many as 1,576 villages in 10 districts of Karnataka have been identified as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) on the basis of the report. We shall discuss what we could do within the legal framework."

He asked Forest Minister Ra-

malinga Reddy to instruct the officials not to issue new eviction notices to farmers.

He also made it clear that new encroachment of government land can't be accepted under any circumstance. Meanwhile, the officials of forest department should not evict those who have been living or cultivating forest land for many years. He also assured that the government will convene another meeting on section 94C of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 provides for the regularization of unauthorized construction of houses on government/revenue land in rural areas.

Key takeaways from CM's statement

Listening to Malnad voices

During his tour, Shivakumar noted that hearing the direct opinions of the people in the Western Ghats region is vital. He assured locals that their feedback and objections regarding the Kasturirangan report would be collected and formally submitted to the Central Government.

Learning from neighbours

The CM noted that neighboring Kerala has progressed further than K'taka in handling its approach to the Kasturirangan report, highlighting the need for Karnataka to deeply study their model.

Decentralizing governance

The CM emphasized that sitting in Bengaluru limits the government's ability to truly understand ground-level regional issues. To bridge this gap, he announced plans to take Cabinet meetings out of the capital and conduct 10 to 12 Cabinet meetings across various districts over the next 15 months.

CM announces 'Tegada Siri'
He also announced the 'Tegada Siri' scheme, aimed at improving the lives of farmers. Under the scheme, the government will provide teak wood plants to farmers, which would have to be planted along roads and nurseries for 25 years. The 70 % value from a tree will be given to farmers, while the government will take 30% share.

Meet on farmers' demand for milk procurement price hike soon: DKS

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said a meeting would be convened to discuss farmers' demand for an increase in the milk procurement price.

The CM told reporters at Balehonnur that farmers in Karnataka were seeking an increase of Rs 8 to Rs 9 per litre for milk supplied to societies, citing the recent hike in Tamil Nadu. "A meeting of the milk unions would be convened shortly," he said.

He said the rising cost of cattle feed and fodder had increased the financial burden on dairy farmers. "The prices of cattle feed have gone up, and fodder is becoming difficult to obtain. Milk producers are facing losses, while milk producers' cooperative societies are also incurring losses," he said.

What farmers say

Demand: A hike of ₹8 per litre in milk procurement prices.

Reason: Rising costs of cattle feed and fodder.

Impact: Daily procurement by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) dropped from 1.11 crore litres to 1.03 crore litres.

Supporters: Backed by major milk unions including BAMUL, CHAMUL, Mandya, and Tumakuru.

Carbon emission blame wrongly placed on India, others: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said developing countries are often unfairly blamed for carbon emissions while the fact is that developed nations have six times more per capita carbon emissions compared to India.

Inaugurating an international conference on environment and climate, he said whenever he takes forward work on nuclear energy generation, people who always talk about the environment will move court to stop it. "We all know that the responsibility for carbon emissions has often been wrongly placed on developing countries. While the historical truth is that even today, India's contribution to per capi-

Modi's speech snippet

Per capita emissions: India's per capita carbon emissions remain less than half the global average.

Climate blame: Developing nations are unjustly targeted for global emissions despite lower footprints.

G20 commitments: India stands as the only G20 nation to fulfill its Paris Agreement (COP 21) targets ahead of schedule.

Solar expansion: Solar capacity surged from 2 gigawatts to over 160 gigawatts over twelve years.

Nuclear obstacles: PM Modi noted that legal challenges from self-styled environmentalists frequently delay clean nuclear energy initiatives.



ta carbon emissions is less than half of the global average."

"Developed nations have six times more per capita carbon emissions compared to India and New Delhi strongly presents this fact on global platforms," he said.

Dubare elephant camp reopens

MADIKERI: The Dubare Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar will reopen to tourists from September 20. Visitors will be allowed only from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, with the number restricted to 150 for a 45-minute session. Groups of 25 visitors each will be formed and taken around the camp along with guides. Tourists will have to maintain a distance of around 10 metres from the elephants and they will not be allowed to touch, feed or bathe the jumbos. Baricades have been installed to ensure a safe distance between the elephants and visitors. The entry fee has been fixed at Rs 140 on regular days and Rs 160 on weekends and holidays. "Tourist entry has been permitted after implementing the Standard Operating Procedure formulated by the state government," DCF Abhishek said. On June 1, a woman tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed during a fight between two elephants. One of the injured elephants also died. The camp was closed to tourists after that.



Shri Thawarchand Gehlot
His Excellency
Governor of Karnataka

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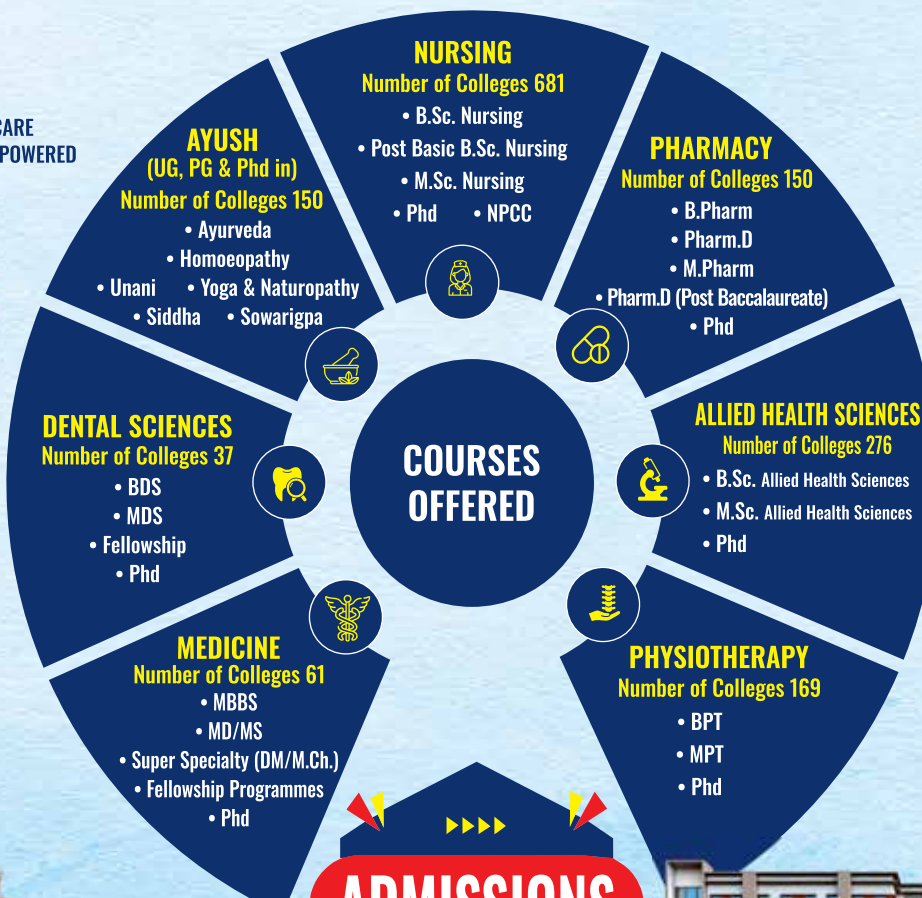
New Projects Underway

RGUHS CAMPUS AT RAMANAGARA

A state-of-the-art University Campus is being established in Ramanagara with the vision of creating a world-class center for medical education, academic excellence and institutional administration. It will include constituent colleges, a modern hospital and an administrative block.

Skill/Simulation Labs Across Karnataka

Skill/Simulation Labs are being developed at Gadag, Bheemanakuppe, Kalaburagi, Davanagere, Mysuru and Mangaluru to provide students with hands-on clinical training and practical skill development.



**ADMISSIONS
OPEN**



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



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



Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development **Dr. Sharanaprakash R. Patil**, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Shri U. T. Khader** and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor **Dr. Bhagavan B. C.** participated in a programme at RGUHS.

New Projects Underway

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TRANSFORMING SOCIETY BEYOND CLASSROOMS – KEY INITIATIVES

- Nasha Mukh Campus Abhiyan
- Organ Donation Pledge Abhiyan
- Palliative Care Curriculum Training for Faculty
- Divine Mother – Child Program
- Raktha Kosha
- BLS & Jeeva Raksha Training
- Disaster Management Network Across Karnataka
- Research, Innovation and Academic Collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- Smart Mentor Programme – Empowering Students through Digital Mentorship
- Institution-Wide Digital Transformation Program

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Quick Read

Late night bike ride turns fatal in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A late-night joyride ended in deep sorrow when two engineering students died in a horrific crash. The tragic incident took place on Rajanakunte Road around three in the morning. The victims, Vachan and Pradeep, hailed from Chik-kamagaluru. While riding their Royal Enfield bike, the driver suddenly lost control. The heavy vehicle smashed directly into a roadside shop wall. Both youths suffered severe injuries and passed away instantly at the scene. Local traffic police rushed to the site for inspection and sent the bodies for post-mortem. Officers have registered a case, and investigations are currently ongoing.

Conditional bail granted in Yogesh Gowda case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has granted conditional bail to seven men previously sentenced to life imprisonment for the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogesh Gowda. A division bench suspended the trial court's order pending appeal. The released convicts must each post a bond of five lakh rupees and provide two sureties. The court explicitly ordered that they cannot leave the country without prior permission and must attend all court hearings when summoned. This decision follows a similar previous ruling that granted relief to other accused individuals in the high-profile political murder case.

MLA Somashekhar inaugurates doorstep services program

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
State lawmakers have stepped up grassroots public outreach efforts, launching administrative campaigns designed to resolve citizen grievances directly at the local level.Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency legislator S.T. Somashekhar formally inaugurated the “Government Services at People’s Doorstep” (Praja Seva Andolana) program at the Government Primary Health Centre premises in Kumbalagodu. Jointly organized by local district administrations, taluk panchayats, and the Kumbalagodu Gram Panchayat, the periodic initiative aims to bring governance directly to neighborhood residents. Addressing attendees, the MLA highlighted that the state administration has successfully delivered key pro-people welfare commitments over the past three years, citing flagship guarantee schemes including Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, and Yuva Nidhi. Detailing the structure of the outreach effort, officials announced that the program is not restricted to a single day of activities.

KPCC President announces new State Committee

Karnataka Congress readies a major structural overhaul as leadership tackles regional heritage, economic critiques, and divisive politics.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The political landscape in Karnataka is gearing up for a major structural shakeup. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President B.K. Hariprasad has officially announced that a high-level Political Affairs Committee will be established in the state very soon. This crucial panel aims to bridge any communication gaps and create seamless coordination between the ruling party organization and the state government machinery.

Addressing media persons near the party headquarters, Hariprasad revealed that senior national leaders K.C. Venugopal and R.Surjewala recently visited the state and issued explicit directives to expedite this initiative. "We are already making active preparations. I have personally consulted various senior leaders to gather their valuable inputs and suggestions. A final decision will be finalized shortly," he stated.

“ We are gathering valuable suggestions from all senior leaders right now. The official committee will be announced shortly
- B.K. Hariprasad, KPCC President

Transitioning to cultural matters, Hariprasad warmly welcomed the recent state cabinet decision regarding regional languages. He lauded the move to elevate Tulu and Kodava, noting that Tulu carries a rich literary legacy deeply tied to Jnanpith laureates. He criticized those attempting to politicize linguistic identity without understanding historical contexts.

The KPCC chief also launched a fierce verbal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mocking recent political rhetoric, Hariprasad questioned the Prime Minister's focus on personal and social matters, asking why an unmarried leader frequently comments on issues like Triple Talaq. Furthermore, he accused the central administration of selling vital public sector undertakings estab-



lished by past Congress governments, ranging from the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru to P.V. Narasimha Rao. He contrasted this with his own administrative experience as Gujarat party in-charge, alleging that governance under the current leadership has disproportionately favored corporate giants while neglecting the daily struggles of ordinary laborers, workers, and common citizens.

Concluding his address, Hariprasad expressed deep concern over the growing intersection of religion and politics across the nation.

Main goals of the committee

- **Better Teamwork:** Build strong bridges between the ruling party and the state government.
- **Smart Planning:** Gather good ideas from all local leaders to make solid choices.
- **Quick Action:** Follow orders from national heads to start the committee fast.

Critiques on Policy and Politics

Public Assets: He claimed the Congress built many public firms over decades, while the current central administration sold off major national assets to big business groups.

Personal Attack: He questioned why the Prime Minister focuses on certain social laws instead of talking about everyday factory workers or local job growth in his radio broadcasts.

Faith and Society: He warned against using religion to stir up trouble. True worship happens at home and in quiet prayer, not by causing street fights that send young people to jail.



Minister Somanna honours Phalke awardee Anant Nag

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior political leaders continue to celebrate a massive milestone for regional cinema. Federal authorities recently traveled across the tech capital to personally honor a legendary performer who secured the highest national honor in Indian filmmaking. Union Minister for Railways and Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, made a special evening visit to the private residence of veteran actor Anant Nag. Located in the upscale Dollars Colony neighborhood of Bengaluru. The cabinet minister warmly felicitated the celebrated star alongside his wife, Gayatri, presenting warm wishes and capturing the momentous occasion on camera.

Official digital platforms quickly lit up with photographs and personal messages from the minister. Highlighting a remarkable career spanning five full decades, the leader emphasized that the recognition brings immense pride to the entire state. Comparisons were drawn to past cinematic legends, noting that this prestigious accolade has returned to a native son of the region following the historic win of iconic actor Dr. Rajkumar.

Industry timelines show the legendary performer began

Union Minister V. Somanna honors veteran actor Anant Nag in Bengaluru, celebrating a legendary five-decade cinematic legacy bringing immense pride to the region.

his cinematic journey back in 1973 with a critically acclaimed debut film. Over the subsequent decades, he expanded an incredible portfolio by starring in more than three hundred movies across multiple linguistic industries, with the vast majority enriching local language cinema. Unforgettable television and cinematic appearances—ranging from timeless classics directed by his late brother to contemporary family dramas—continue to capture the hearts of audiences across generations.

The official presentation ceremony is scheduled to take place at Ekta Nagar in Kevadia, Gujarat, during the upcoming national film celebrations. Tributes continue pouring in from across the political and artistic spectrum, ranging from the country's prime minister to local state leaders, film fraternities, and devoted admirers everywhere.

BMRCL urged to rename IIMB station

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tensions are rising across the tech capital as local communities demand structural revisions to official transit nomenclature ahead of a major transit corridor launch. Citizens living along the upcoming urban transit corridor have issued sharp ultimatums to transportation authorities, threatening widespread civil disobedience if local identity markers are ignored in upcoming station designations.

The focal point of the current controversy centers on the crucial Pink Line infrastructure project, which stretches seamlessly from Kalena Agrahara all the way to Nagawara. As transport officials prepare for the much-anticipated public rollout, neighborhood groups have intensified campaigns demanding that transit stops reflect traditional local geographic heritage rather than purely institutional landmarks.

The specific flashpoint involves the designated transit stop currently titled after a premier management institution. Residents and neighborhood associations gathered in massive numbers for a fiery demonstration directly outside the disputed transit structure. Protesters vocally demanded that the official designation be modified to incorporate the historical neighborhood



Main demands include

- **Official Renaming:** Change the current IIMB station name to Bilekahalli IIMB Metro Station.
- **Local Identity:** Ensure the historical identity of the neighborhood is properly represented on the transit map.
- **Strong Warning:** Local leaders warned of blocking Bannerghatta Road and storming the BMRCL office if authorities ignore their plea.

Developments in the naming dispute

- **Ministerial Letters:** Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy previously requested name updates for three separate metro stations along this route.
- **Official Action:** Following a request by local MLA B. Shivanna, Bengaluru Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda instructed the BMRCL Managing Director to examine the proposal carefully.
- **Growing Pressure:** KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad has also formally written to transit officials, throwing his weight behind the community's demand to rename the fourth station.

“ We demand proper local representation in station names to honor our neighborhood's identity,
- Local protest leaders

name, creating a dual identifier that honors the surrounding community.

Pressure has also mounted significantly within political circles. State cabinet members and regional lawmakers have formally intervened by dispatching official correspondence to transit administration heads.

Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy previously submitted formal requests seeking modifications for multiple stops along the corridor. More recently, senior party leadership and local assembly represen-

tatives added their weight to the demands, prompting urban development overseers to direct transit corporation directors to review the petitions immediately.

Frustrated local leaders warned transit executives that public anger is reaching a boiling point. Organizers declared that if transport administrators fail to amend the station signage swiftly, thousands of local residents will stage an aggressive blockade across the critical Bannerghatta arterial corridor.

Furthermore, community representatives threatened to march directly on the central corporate headquarters of the transit network to halt administrative functions entirely.

Doctor’s post on US checkups sparks debate

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A social media post by a prominent local cardiologist has ignited a nationwide discussion regarding medical travel by high-profile public figures. Doctor Deepak Krishnamurthy drew widespread public attention after pointing out that senior parliamentarian Shashi Tharoor and veteran actor Anupam Kher recently underwent routine health examinations in the United States.

The online commentary immediately triggered intense digital debates across various platforms. Several commentators questioned why prominent national figures who frequently praise domestic infrastructure feel compelled to seek routine medical evaluations overseas. Conversely, numerous defenders argued that personal healthcare choices should remain private, noting that individuals with sufficient financial means naturally utilize the most convenient global medical services available to them.

Faced with mounting public curiosity, the senior Congress politician issued a detailed public clarification via digital channels. He explained that his journey to Los Angeles was primarily driven by scheduling convenience rather than a lack of domestic medical facilities.

ED takes IAS officer, middleman into custody

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate has intensified its probe into the widespread irregularities surrounding the Karnataka Public Service Commission veterinary officer recruitment examination by taking two key suspects into formal custody. IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar

Gangwar and an alleged middleman named Basavaraj Kanale were moved under federal investigative detention following four days of initial questioning. Both individuals had previously been lodged at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison after local criminal investigation department authorities carried out initial arrests.

Federal investigators stated that the formal custody was necessitated by a persistent lack of cooperation during the preliminary inquiry phases.

Law enforcement teams produced the accused before a special judicial magistrate on Friday evening, securing a remand order to facilitate intensive interrogation. Investiga-

tors are focusing heavily on uncovering financial trails, suspected hawala transactions, and illicit monetary exchanges linked to the examination irregularities.

The financial probe aims to trace how bribes were funneled and distributed among high-ranking public figures and administrative facilitators.

New guidelines issued for student educational tours

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State educational authorities have introduced comprehensive and rigorous guidelines to govern student educational excursions across the region. Amid growing concerns over avoidable accidents during academic trips, the Department of Collegiate Education has released an official circular mandating absolute safety protocols. Under these newly enforced regulations, participating students are completely prohibited from taking selfies, recording casual videos, or filming social media reels while traveling.

Administrative officials highlighted that the policy change comes in response to an alarming rise in hazardous stunts and fatal distractions. In recent years, young learners visiting scenic tourist destinations, rushing rivers, roaring waterfalls, and steep mountain cliffs have frequently compromised their physical security while attempting to capture dramatic online content. To eliminate these preventable risks, the department has outlawed all mobile photography and video content

creation during travel itineraries. College principals must now conduct mandatory pre-trip orientation sessions to brief students thoroughly on the new restrictions, while supervising faculty members are ordered to maintain strict, constant surveillance throughout the journey.

Furthermore, the updated framework tightens administrative oversight for organizing any collegiate excursion. Both government-funded and private institutions must now secure formal prior authorization directly from the Department of Education before finalizing travel plans. Organizers are legally required to collect signed consent letters and formal safety undertakings from the parents or guardians of every student joining the expedition. Additionally, comprehensive itineraries detailing exact travel routes and destination landmarks must be submitted in advance to local law enforcement authorities having territorial jurisdiction over the scheduled stops. Supervision requirements have also been significantly scaled up to protect student welfare on the road.

ACT BEFORE CUTOFF

ID re-inclusion rate: Only 2% apply to fix voter list errors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State election authorities are facing a massive public participation crisis as a massive voter list revision moves toward its final stages. Recent administrative data reveals that only a tiny fraction of citizens whose names were dropped from the electoral rolls have stepped forward to reclaim their voting rights. Out of an astounding 84 million eligible individuals removed during rigorous verification drives, merely 2 percent have submitted formal paperwork for reinstatement. Comprehensive administra-



tive audits show that a staggering 108 million entries were initially expunged from draft electoral rolls across the state. Authorities targeted individuals classified as non-residents, relocated citizens, deceased persons, fake

registrations, or those who declined to sign required verification documents. When discounting confirmed deceased entries and fraudulent registrations, approximately 84 million people fell strictly into the absent or permanently

relocated categories. Between the middle of June and mid-September, cumulative filings recorded over 640 thousand applications, though a significant portion of these arrived before official notices were even dispatched to affected households.

Chief Electoral Officer Anbu Kumar emphasized that while statutory provisions do not impose a strict final closure date for filing Form 6 applications, timing is critical for the upcoming publication cycle. Documents submitted and verified by September 23rd will guarantee inclusion in the official final electoral

roll, which is scheduled for public release on October 27th. Every qualified Indian citizen who has attained eighteen years of age holds a fundamental right to appear on the registry. However, field reports indicate that notice deliveries faced significant procedural hurdles and unusually low delivery rates within densely populated urban sectors, specifically targeting BBMP South, Central, and core metropolitan zones.

To combat this sluggish response rate, regional election offices are rapidly deploying emergency remedial measures. Authorities have orga-

nized intensive special registration camps throughout the current weekend, setting up mobile help desks and deployment booths across critical neighborhoods. Civil society organizations and local political parties have been urged to assist displaced residents in completing their paperwork immediately before the crucial cutoff date approaches. Officials warn that failing to act swiftly will leave millions disenfranchised for upcoming local and state democratic exercises, threatening overall civic engagement levels across the southern state.

Updates on electoral roll cleanup

• **Low Turnout:** Merely 1.69 lakh people have submitted applications using Form 6 and Form 6A to restore their voting rights.

• **Massive Removals:** Over 1.08 crore names were initially removed after checks found non-residents, shifted individuals, deceased entries, or fake registrations.

• **Active Window:** Out of those, roughly 84 lakh fell directly into the 'absent' or 'relocated' tracking categories.
Important deadlines & actions
State Chief Electoral Officer Anbu Kumar noted that special registration camps are being organized this weekend to help citizens navigate the process. Officials pointed out that notice delivery was notably low in core city areas like BBMP South and Central.

CHObserver

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Neglected garbage blackspots, overflowing drains choked with construction debris, and unaddressed public nuisances are plaguing residential neighborhoods across Bengaluru. From persistent waste dumps and rude sanitation demands near Seshadripuram to ignored inner lanes and health hazards outside local ashrams, frustrated citizens warn that civic authorities are letting neighborhood sanitation slip through the cracks.

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A chronic garbage pileup persists behind Blue Bliss Hospital on Seshadripuram 1st 'A' Cross Road, despite daily cleanups. Residents also report that local sanitation workers are very rude and demand money.



Residents of Seshadripuram 1st 'A' Cross Road are facing severe distress due to an expanding garbage blackspot that has increasingly become a public nuisance. Beyond the mounting pile of waste, locals report that individuals are now openly urinating at the site. Despite multiple complaints, municipal authorities have failed to act, leaving residents deeply concerned as the hazard sits directly across from a local prayer hall.



Residents on 9th Cross Road, between Serpentine Road and Railway Parallel Road, are frustrated by a persistent garbage dumping and spitting hot-spot in their residential neighborhood. This ongoing neglect has locals questioning whether the Greater Bengaluru Authority focuses solely on arterial roads while completely ignoring vital inner lanes.



A half-open drain choked with construction debris on 1st Cross Road, Seshadripuram 1st Main Road, has become a severe public health hazard. Situated right next to the Sri Rangam Srimadh Aandavana Ashram, the clogged drain serves as a dangerous breeding ground for disease-bearing vectors. Local residents warn that the unattended filth poses an imminent threat to the heavy footfall of devotees and families visiting the area daily, demanding urgent intervention from civic authorities.

Malleshwaram hosts voter awareness vehicle campaign

Bengaluru election authorities launched an auto-rickshaw awareness campaign to drive public participation in the weekend voter registration drive.

BENGALURU

Election authorities in the tech capital have stepped up efforts to encourage public participation in the ongoing electoral roll update. Senior administrative officials formally flagged off a specialized publicity vehicle campaign to promote the weekend registration drive.

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner and District Election Officer M. Maheshwar Rao, alongside Additional District Election Officer Pommala Sunil Kumar, launched the awareness initiative in front of the Water Board's Suvarna Bhavan located within the Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency. During the formal launch event, officials released informative pamphlets detailing the upcoming registration procedures.

Key municipal and election officials attended the rollout, including Additional Commissioner S.R. Pallavi, Electoral Registration Officer M. Srinivasa, and authorized representatives from major political parties. Following



the inauguration, a vibrant street procession marched through surrounding neighborhoods. The promotional event featured traditional Chende drum troupes and decorated auto-rickshaws, while volunteers distributed informational pamphlets to students, local residents, and passersby to spread awareness about the electoral revision.

The special registration drive is scheduled for September nineteenth and twentieth across the entire jurisdiction of the Bengaluru District Election Officer. During these two days, citizens can visit their designated local polling stations, revenue

ward offices, or the offices of Electoral Registration and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Voters can utilize these centers to verify their names and addresses, submit corrections, register new entries, and handle necessary administrative amendments on the electoral rolls.

To maximize public reach, authorities have deployed specialized auto-rickshaw campaigns equipped with public address systems and banners. Seven dedicated vehicles are conducting extensive publicity patrols throughout the Malleshwaram constituency to ensure maximum turnout before enrollment deadlines pass.

The campaign highlights

- **The Special Drive:** A two-day registration camp is underway on September 19 and 20 to support the ongoing electoral roll revision.
- **On-Ground Support:** Citizens can visit local polling stations, ward offices, and registration desks to verify data, fix errors, or add names.
- **Active Outreach:** Seven auto-rickshaws fitted with loudspeakers and a traditional Chende drum troupe rolled through Malleshwaram to distribute informational pamphlets.
- **Key Locations:** Verification facilities remain open across all designated revenue ward offices and Electoral Registration Officer centers.
- **Public Assistance:** Residents facing hurdles can seek guidance through official voter helplines to update information before final rolls roll out.

Officials urged all eligible residents who missed previous registration windows to take advantage of the special weekend drive and secure their democratic voting rights.

34 % streetlights found non-functional: Minister Gowda

BENGALURU

The intensive late-night field audit executed by Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda across the crucial southern artery from JP Nagar Metro Station to the Gottigere NICE Road Junction laid bare systemic operational deficiencies in municipal engineering, electrical contracting, and urban sanitation. Spanning from 9 PM to nearly midnight, the surprise assessment revealed profound administrative lapses that directly impact citizen safety, urban mobility, and environmental hygiene. By holding local engineering echelons, sanitation contractors, and utility partners directly accountable under nocturnal conditions, the executive leadership underscored a firm policy shift toward rigorous, data-driven municipal oversight across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) jurisdiction.

The most glaring vulnerability exposed during the nocturnal audit was the catastrophic failure rate of street lighting infrastructure along the JP Nagar-Gottigere corridor. Out of an assessed total of 1,540 individual illumination units, a staggering 530 lights—representing a failure rate of 34%—were found completely non-functional.

BECC Chief directs road repairs in East B'luru



BENGALURU

In response to escalating public frustration over chronic urban decay and crippling transportation bottlenecks, Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh executed an intensive on-site inspection across vulnerable zones in the eastern tech corridor. Accompanied by Chief Engineer Basavaraju M., municipal assistant executive engineers, zonal contractors, and local residents, the commissioner conducted a comprehensive audit of failing transport links, road craters, accumulated waste sites, and critical infrastructure projects on September 19, 2026. The high-level field review focused heavily on high-density arterial segments, including Gunjur Road, Varthur Junction, and surrounding residential transit networks that have long plagued daily commuters, school buses, and pedestrians.

During his detailed assessment near the Sri Rama Temple at Gunjur Junction, Commissioner Ramesh directly addressed mounting public complaints regarding hazardous road craters that have severely disrupted vehicular movement. Acknowledging that deep surface craters and damaged culvert slabs were major contributors to localized gridlocks, the commissioner issued strict directives to municipal engineers to prioritize immediate pothole patching and permanent surface restoration. Given the dense daily volume of commuters, working professionals, and particularly schoolchildren utilizing the corridor, officials were instructed to implement rapid-repair protocols.

To mitigate persistent traffic paralysis, the commissioner held direct consultations with accompanying Traffic Police officials. Discussions evaluated daily vehicular carrying capacities, potential heavy-vehicle movement restrictions during peak hours, and the viability of alternative transit routes to ensure the uninterrupted passage of school buses.

Lake buffer zone rehabilitation, infrastructure development

A critical component of the commissioner's field itinerary involved visiting the settlement near Sri Muneeswara Swamy Temple, where families reside adjacent to the buffer zone of Sheelavanta Lake. In strict compliance with directives issued by the High Court of Karnataka regarding urban encroachments and sustainable waterbody management, the commissioner reviewed ongoing administrative procedures to secure lawful housing rehabilitation for displaced residents.

Law enforcement personnel were instructed to enforce targeted regulatory adjustments and optimize traffic signal timings wherever necessary.

Expanding the inspection sweep, the commissioner proceeded to Varthur Junction and the adjoining Varthur Main Road stretch. Noting extensive surface degradation, he mandated that municipal contractors deploy immediate surfacing teams to eliminate road hazards.

Furthermore, during his inspection of Varthur Junction, the commissioner identified a prominent municipal black spot characterized by illegal waste dumping.

He ordered sanitation squads to clear the accumulated refuse immediately and directed local enforcement units to impose strict penalties on individuals and commercial entities caught dumping waste in unauthorized public spaces.

Emphasizing the necessity of inter-departmental collaboration, Commissioner Ramesh instructed municipal engineering divisions to coordinate closely with the Traffic Police Department.

Night repairs begin on Varthur Kodi road

BENGALURU

The eastern corridor of Bengaluru, particularly expanding technology and residential hubs such as Varthur, Gunjur, and Whitefield, has experienced unprecedented vehicular density over recent years. Arterial corridors like Varthur Kodi Road serve as critical lifelines connecting dense residential layouts to major commercial employment zones. However, rapid urban expansion has continuously outpaced basic infrastructural resilience. Heavy commuter volumes, continuous movement of commercial transport vehicles, and utility trenching have historically rendered these surfaces susceptible to accelerated wear and tear. The emergence of severe road craters and surface degradation not only disrupts daily commuters but poses serious safety hazards for motorists, two-wheeler riders, and pedestrians alike.

In direct response to growing public dissatisfaction and growing concerns over transit safety, municipal authorities have implemented accelerated administrative measures. Acting under the specific directives of the Commissioner, specialized engineering squads



Municipal authorities in Bengaluru launched accelerated night-time road repairs on Varthur Kodi Road to eliminate hazards and ease severe commuter traffic congestion.

have launched intensive, targeted intervention campaigns focused on Varthur Kodi Road.

Recognizing that daytime execution of civil repairs along high-density corridors inevitably triggers cascading traffic gridlocks, municipal planners formulated a streamlined execution schedule. Maintenance operations, material laying, and surface compacting are systematically shifted to nighttime hours. By conducting heavy infrastructural repairs after peak commuter hours subside, the administration



minimizes public inconvenience, circumvents traffic bottlenecks, and ensures an uninterrupted flow of essential services. Commissioner D S Ramesh emphasized that comprehensive protocols are being deployed to guarantee long-term driving safety and structural integrity across vulnerable city stretches.

Field engineering teams have been instructed to utilize durable bituminous mixes and rapid-setting compounds to prevent recurring damage during adverse weather conditions.

Digital Building Revolution

GBA launches 'Nambike Nakshe 2.0'

BENGALURU

Getting permission to build a house in the tech capital is about to become much faster and easier for ordinary families. The state government has officially launched an advanced digital platform named Nambike Nakshe 2.0 to eliminate months of frustrating bureaucratic delays and paperwork.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda unveiled the automated system following specific directives from Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The software is custom-built to handle residential plot approvals measuring up to fifty by eighty feet, successfully permitting the construction of up to four separate residential units on a single property.

Under the previous system, citizens frequently endured agonizing wait times lasting two to three months just to secure basic building permits. The newly updated digital frame-



work completely transforms this experience. Qualified architects

can now upload residential plans directly through an online portal. If the submitted blueprints strictly comply with all local town planning regulations, the automated system grants formal building approval in roughly thirty minutes.

To make the process even smoother, the government has removed the tedious requirement of manually uploading bulky property documents like Khata certificates.



Bangalore Development Authority
T.Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/D.S-1/1022/2026-27

Date: 18.09.2026

Notification

Any person having any objection/dispute regarding the allotment of sites to the landowners of Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth Layout as compensation under the 40:60 ratio shall submit the same to the Bangalore Development Authority, along with the relevant supporting documents, on or before 30.09.2026. Any objections/claims submitted after the expiry of the above period will not be considered by the Authority. It is further informed through this public notice that the process of allotment of sites to the landowners of the said layout will be undertaken by the Authority in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Helpline /Whatsapp:94831 66622 (24x7).

 @BDAOfficialGoK

Sd/- Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru

Quick Read

No withholding promotions without charge sheet: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has ruled that the government cannot withhold employee promotions based merely on preliminary complaints or pending police correspondence if no formal charge sheet has been issued. The Dharwad bench heard a petition filed by Senior Health Inspector Khaza Hussain, who was denied a promotion given to his juniors. The court noted that denying advancement without an official inquiry or charge sheet violates service rules. The bench directed authorities to promote Hussain from the date his juniors received theirs and grant all due benefits within eight weeks.

Weather department issues yellow alert for Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Meteorological Department has forecasted heavy rainfall across Karnataka over the coming week, driven by a likely low-pressure system forming over the Bay of Bengal. A yellow alert has been issued from today until September 24 for Bengaluru, along with coastal regions and parts of North and South Interior Karnataka. Districts under the alert include Belagavi, Gadag, Dharwad, Haveri, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, and Kodagu. Residents in these areas are advised to stay cautious as continuous wet weather is expected to persist throughout the week.

High Court dismisses 45-year-old land petition

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court division bench has dismissed appeals challenging a 45-year-old Land Tribunal order that granted rights over eleven acres of land in Pattandur Agrahara to private individuals. The court ruled that challenging the 1980 order decades later is unacceptable due to severe delay and negligence. Additionally, judges noted that the legal principle of prior judgment applies, as courts had already resolved the dispute through multiple rounds of litigation. This verdict upholds an earlier single-judge ruling, finally bringing closure to a long-standing legal battle involving the state government and residents.

2.5 hrs for 4km: Potholes, dust paralyse Varthur traffic

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
East Bengaluru has descended into severe daily gridlock, turning routine morning travel into an exhausting ordeal for thousands of residents. Commuters navigating the critical Varthur-Gunjur corridor now face unprecedented delays, with motorists reporting an astonishing 2.5 hours to cover a mere 4-kilometer stretch. The unprecedented traffic paralysis has triggered widespread public outrage, severely impacting young learners, academic schedules, and working professionals across the tech corridor. The crisis hit a breaking point when multiple school buses carrying children to mid-term examinations became hopelessly trapped in the massive congestion. Young students suffered in-

HDK urges CM to waive farmers crop loans

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy challenges the state govt over agricultural debt relief and escalating rural agrarian distress.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has launched a fierce political broadside against the state's ruling administration, directing provocative remarks toward high-ranking cabinet ministers regarding agricultural debt relief and state governance. Interacting with the media in the capital, the senior political figure asserted that top ministerial leadership possesses more than enough personal financial resources to wipe out agricultural debt entirely on their own. He remarked that if key leaders truly set their minds to the task, loans could be settled out of pocket without requiring complicated bureaucratic procedures or reliance on the state finance department. Pointing to growing agrarian distress across rural districts, he emphasized that mounting demands for systemic debt relief require immediate, tangible action rather than ad-

Questions over drought and policy



Drought Relief: He questioned the agenda of the upcoming special legislative session, noting that distressed growers have lost their investments after sowing crops multiple times with no support in sight.



Kasturirangan Report: Welcoming a unified cross-party consensus to oppose the contentious Kasturirangan report, he stressed that local communities across Malnad regions have protested the guidelines for years.

ministrative hesitation. The political leader challenged assertions made by executive leaders regarding the necessity of central government backing or prime ministerial assistance for implementing major financial packages. Reflecting on his own administrative tenure, he pointedly asked whether central leaders were ever approached for fiscal

bailouts during past debt forgiveness programs. He maintained that past relief initiatives were successfully executed entirely through disciplined local tax revenue management rather than external subventions, urging current administrators to halt empty declarations and curb excessive public borrowing. Furthermore, commentary

Kumaraswamy mocks govt with folk song

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy has fiercely criticized the state administration, comparing its current chaotic condition to the famous folk song, "Ello Jogappa Ninna Aramane." Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy mocked comments regarding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's dwindling influence. He claimed the ruling government lacks proper direction, functioning aimlessly like an old-time crier beating a gong in the streets. Additionally, reacting to former minister Rajanna's remarks, Kumaraswamy acknowledged that the Vokkaliga community has faithfully supported Deve Gowda's leadership and political struggles for decades, proving that regional loyalty remains exceptionally strong across the state.

“ If he uses his amassed wealth for the public, he could even become CM in 2028. - H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

extended toward long-term political ambitions and regional asset management. Observers were told that redistributing accumulated resources toward public welfare could dramatically reshape political trajectories ahead of upcoming electoral cycles.

Attention also shifted to broader structural controversies, with sharp criticisms leveled against massive corporate land agreements and infrastructural conglomerates operating around the metropolitan periphery. Discussions soon transitioned to urgent legislative matters, highlighting an upcoming special session called to address critical ecological recommendations. The administration's focus on the

contentious Kasturirangan report drew a rare note of cross-party alignment. Representatives from across the political spectrum welcomed the parliamentary debate, noting that farming communities and rural residents residing across high-altitude Malnad and hill districts have fiercely opposed the environmental classification guidelines for years. A unified, bipartisan front was demanded to safeguard local livelihoods against restrictive ecological mandates. The dialogue ultimately pivoted back to the severe agrarian crisis gripping rural regions. Severe rainfall deficits and withered crop yields have left cultivators devastated after multiple rounds of failed sowings. Critics questioned the tangible outcomes of upcoming legislative debates, pointing out that rural households face acute drinking water shortages, unpaid debts, and total investment losses despite official advisories warning against seasonal cultivation.

Hariprasad attacks Reddy over mining

Karnataka Congress chief B.K. Hariprasad fires back at Gali Janardhana Reddy, questioning his legal history and patriotism while announcing a new internal coordination committee.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior political tensions escalated sharply in the state capital as key leaders engaged in a fierce war of words regarding patriotism, past legal controversies, and organizational restructuring within the ruling political apparatus. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President B.K. Hariprasad issued a scathing retort directed at former minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, dismissing recent personal attacks with biting sarcasm. Addressing reporters directly outside the state party headquarters, the veteran leader reacted sharply to re-



marks labeling him as mentally unstable. In a forceful counter-offensive, Hariprasad declared that he refuses to dignify every erratic public statement with a formal response, warning that descending into petty verbal altercations would only cause observers to lose their own composure. The exchange quickly intensified into a debate over integrity, legal history, and national devotion. Drawing a sharp line between their respective public records, Hariprasad contrasted his decades-long career as a dedicated political fighter with the

severe criminal allegations tied to the mining sector. He fiercely criticized his opponent's historical legal troubles, pointing out that unlike individuals who faced prolonged judicial custody and imprisonment over massive illegal resource extraction and public asset looting, his own public service record remains untainted by grand corruption. Challenging the nationalist credentials of his critics, the KPCC chief launched a provocative counter-challenge regarding patriotic displays. He demanded that self-proclaimed nationalists demonstrate their allegiance by reciting the national song completely, specifically challenging his political rivals to accurately sing at least two full paragraphs of Vande Mataram on demand. Furthermore, in a pointed reference to right-wing ideological training camps, he remarked sarcastically that those questioning his loyalty should put on traditional organizational uniforms—specifically mentioning khaki shorts and caps—

and demonstrate their discipline by singing national anthems correctly at local shakha gatherings rather than hurling baseless political insults. Beyond the fiery political sparring, the state party chief provided concrete updates regarding crucial internal administrative reforms designed to bridge communication gaps between the organizational wing and the executive government. Reaffirming earlier announcements, Hariprasad confirmed that a dedicated Political Affairs Committee is currently being finalized for Karnataka. He noted that such high-level coordination committees are standard operational frameworks across all state units nationwide. Senior national leadership figures, including central party tacticians K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, issued strict directives during their recent regional visits instructing local leadership to constitute the panel immediately.

PC Mohan advises state on drought relief

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior political leaders have intensified their critique of the ruling administration, accusing the state government of imposing heavy financial burdens on ordinary citizens through widespread price hikes and tax adjustments while failing to deliver essential public welfare initiatives. Speaking to journalists during a special blood donation and health camp organized under the Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan at the Vishwakarma Community Hall in Binnypet Ward within the Gandhinagar constituency, parliamentarian P.C. Mohan lambasted the executive branch. The health and community service event was held to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday alongside his quarter-century milestone of continuous public service across various administrative offices. During his address, the prominent parliamentarian turned his focus to the severe drought conditions gripping various rural districts across the southern state. He asserted that the state government must first step forward to disburse immediate relief using its own financial mechanisms before considering any formal diplomatic delegations to the national capital. Insisting that disaster management should remain entirely free from partisan politics, the leader argued that administrative accountability begins at the state level. Severe criticism was directed at the administration's revenue strategies, which the MP

“ Politics should not be mixed with essential drought relief measures when citizens are struggling with heavy commodity price hikes. - P.C. Mohan, Gandhinagar constituency parliamentarian

claimed rely heavily on squeezing household budgets to finance flagship populist welfare guarantees. According to his statements, the government has systematically driven up the cost of living by inflating prices on vital daily commodities and public utilities. Specifically, he highlighted hikes affecting retail milk prices, electricity tariffs, municipal water charges, and essential hospital medical services. Furthermore, financial burdens have multiplied due to substantial increases in property guidance values at Sub-Registrar offices, alongside elevated registration fees and cost spikes spanning over a hundred everyday consumer goods. Addressing public transit policies, the parliamentarian challenged claims regarding free travel arrangements, arguing that while specific demographics receive complimentary transit, male passengers face steep fare hikes that offset the benefits. He further claimed that overall public transport frequency has dropped significantly, with nearly half of regular bus services curtailed across various routes. Criticizing attempts to shift administrative responsibility onto central authorities, he urged the state leadership to correct internal systemic failures rather than engage in political blame games.



Purple line commuters face long security delays

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Daily commuters relying on the tech capital's rapid transit network are facing severe frustration during their morning and evening travels. Regular passengers using the high-traffic Purple Line corridor connecting Whitefield to Challaghatta have expressed deep anger toward the transit administration over agonizingly long security delays. Travelers report spending twenty to thirty exhausting minutes trapped in massive security queues just to get their personal bags screened at station entrances. While the

urban rail network serves as the fastest and most dependable travel option to escape chaotic street traffic, these bottlenecks are leaving riders exhausted before they even step onto a train platform. Investigation into the congestion points to severe operational shortages at major transport terminals. High-volume stops such as Baiyappanahalli, Banniganahalli, and Whitefield suffer from a distinct lack of proper security infrastructure. Commuters note that a shortage of dedicated screening personnel and an inadequate number of electronic security scanners are

failing to handle the massive daily crowds. The situation turns critical during morning and evening rush hours, specifically from seven to ten in the morning and four to seven in the evening. Queues snake completely out of station entry gates, stretching all the way onto public skywalks. Frustrated professionals and college students report missing important morning schedules as they wait endlessly in the crush, prompting widespread calls for urgent administrative upgrades and extra staff deployment. In response to the mounting

public backlash, transit corporation officials have acknowledged the widespread complaints. Senior Public Relations Officer Yashwant Chavan stated that management has formally intervened to address the situation. Station controllers have been ordered to conduct immediate operational assessments and submit formal status reports. Authorities promised that once these internal evaluations arrive, swift remedial actions—including deploying additional security guards and installing supplementary screening machinery—will be implemented to ease commuter woes.

MANGALURU CABINET FALLOUT

BJP uneasy over coastal development: Priyank Kharge

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge launched a blistering attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), asserting that opposition leaders have been gripped by deep political anxiety following the historic state cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru. Addressing dismissive remarks from saffron party leaders who labeled the high-profile regional outreach an "eyewash", Kharge argued that the opposition is fundamentally unsettled by the administration's aggressive, forward-looking developmental paradigm. Kharge did not mince words regarding the historical political footprint of the opposition in coastal Karnataka, accusing past leadership of transforming a culturally rich and economically vibrant belt into a volatile laboratory for

communal polarization and sectarian strife. In sharp contrast, he emphasized that the current government is systematically converting the region into an incubator for modern industrial, digital, and infrastructural progress. While previous regimes allegedly exploited the coastal population purely as a reliable vote bank through rhetoric and social friction, the present governance model focuses on restoring civic dignity, economic self-reliance, and material prosperity. Highlighting the tangible outcomes of the landmark outreach, the cabinet cleared a massive infrastructural and developmental package worth ₹32,611 crore tailored specifically for the coastal and Malnad districts. Unlike past administrations whose contributions were criticized as being synonymous with social un-



rest, the current government has pioneered futuristic avenues—ranging from the formulation of the Karnataka Sustainable Data Centre Policy-2026 and advanced marine biotechnology initiatives to next-generation tourism circuits, water metro expansions, and information technology hubs. Furthermore, fulfilling a long-pending cultural aspiration of the local populace, the cabinet officially granted

Tulu additional administrative language status, underscoring a deep commitment to regional heritage. Kharge concluded that the opposition's harsh criticism stems from a profound existential dread. As the general public increasingly looks past polarizing identity politics in favor of measurable governance, technological growth, and inclusive prosperity, political entities reliant on division find their traditional narratives collapsing under the weight of comprehensive structural development.

Minister's remarks
Shifting Focus: He accused the rival party of turning the coastal area into a communal laboratory, while stating that the current administration is transforming it into a hub for progress.
Historic Outlay: Highlighting regional growth, the government announced major development works worth over thirty-two thousand crore rupees for three coastal districts.
New Priorities: Discussions during the cabinet session focused heavily on advanced tech sectors like data centers, marine biotechnology, and modern tourism instead of division.

Rejecting opposition criticism

Kharge further argued that past leadership contributed nothing to the coast besides controversy, whereas current initiatives include declaring Tulu as a second official language. Political friction remains high as both sides exchange heavy words over regional governance, future infrastructure growth, and the true intent behind taking state administration directly to coastal Karnataka.

The meetings also reviewed incentives under natural farming, the progress of Raitha Samruddhi Yojana, farm pond subsidies under Krishi Bhagya and ATMA training activities. Nandini said the top 10 farmers selected at the taluk level for the Atma Shreshtha Krushika award would be visited and evaluated.

Quick Read

Woman allegedly stabbed to death by lover in Davanagere

Davanagere

A 45-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her lover in Shekarappa Nagar, Davanagere, on Saturday. The victim, Nagarathna, was reportedly living separately from her husband in a rented house with her three children. She had met the accused, Nagaraj, 36, while working at a wedding hall, and the two were allegedly in a relationship for several years. Police said the duo had frequently quarrelled in recent days. Nagaraj allegedly took Nagarathna to the terrace and attacked her with a knife. Locals heard her screams, caught Nagaraj while he tried to flee and handed him over to police. RMC Yard police are investigating.

3 arrested for former soldier, daughter's murder

Belagavi

Police have arrested three men accused of brutally murdering a former soldier and his daughter after entering the Avaradi Gram Panchayat office in Kittur taluk, Belagavi district. The accused have been identified as Basappa Kundaragi, brother of deceased former soldier Rudrappa Kundaragi, his relative Sangappa Kundaragi and son Madivalappa Kundaragi. Police have also seized the weapons allegedly used in the crime. The victims, Rudrappa Kundaragi, 67, and his daughter Shashikala Kundaragi, 26, were reportedly attacked over a property dispute. Rudrappa's car driver also suffered serious injuries and was admitted to hospital. Police said the dispute involved 38 guntas of property, which had been ordered to be divided among three people. Further investigation is underway.

Youths aiding student arrested, accused untreated

Bagalkot

Two youths who allegedly came to the aid of a hostel student after a man behaved indecently with her have been arrested by Navanagar police, triggering outrage among the student's family and local residents. The incident reportedly occurred on September 17 in Sector 51 of Navanagar. A man identified as Sudeepa Nadagouda is accused of exposing himself to the student. After she cried for help, Chetan Kodabagi and Rohan Hadimani reportedly intervened. Locals also confronted the accused. However, the two youths were later arrested and sent to jail. The student and her family questioned the police action and demanded their release and the immediate arrest of Sudeepa. Police said the accused has not yet been arrested.

More veterinary hospitals to be established: Puttaranga

MANGALURU

The state government is taking steps to strengthen veterinary services and establish more veterinary institutions, Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister C. Puttaranga Shetty said on Saturday. He said mobile veterinary units were providing services at farmers' doorsteps across the state. Speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Pashupalana Bhavana at Jail Road, Kodialbail, in Mangaluru, the minister said the government was supporting milk producers by providing an incentive

Satish Jarkiholi says strong leaders strengthen Cong party

Jarkiholi stated that nine district taluks are already declared drought-hit, with most of the remaining six likely to follow.

BELAGAVI

Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Saturday said a political party becomes weak only when all its leaders are weak, in an apparent response to former minister K.N. Rajanna's recent remarks about Congress and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Jarkiholi said D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah were key leaders of the Congress. He said the party's strength depended on all its leaders and that it would become stronger when its leaders remained strong. He was responding to Rajanna's statement that the Congress would weaken if Siddaramaiah became weak. On the drought situation, Jarkiholi said nine taluks in the district had already been

Declined to comment on Rajanna's remarks about voting patterns among Vokkaligas. On the proposed UPI transaction tax, he said the BJP should be questioned about the issue and observed that such a move could place an additional burden on people.

-Satish Jarkiholi, Minister

declared drought-affected, while most of the remaining six could also be included. He said the criteria for declaring drought were determined by the Central Government and that neither the Chief Minister nor the Deputy Commissioner could change them. He appealed to farmers to wait for the process instead of resorting to protests. Jarkiholi also said two Cabinet berths were vacant and

Praja Seve grievance drive

Minister Jarkiholi announced that the 'Prajaseve' grievance programme will expand across all taluks in three months to deliver on-the-spot solutions for citizens. He also expressed confidence that two vacant Cabinet berths will be filled soon.

education, irrigation, transport, agriculture and other issues. Jarkiholi said a dedicated department would be created for the programme and officials had been directed to provide on-the-spot solutions wherever legally possible.

Selfless service gives meaning to life: Venkannachar

RAMANAGARA

Selfless service helps people lead a happy and meaningful life, said Venkannachar, senior manager of Sri Guru Raghavendra Matha. He urged people to develop a spirit of service in society and work for the welfare of others without expecting anything in return. He was speaking at a felicitation programme organised to honour volunteers who rendered service during the recently concluded Sri Guru Raghavendra Aradhana Mahotsava. He said the contribution of volunteers is essential for successfully conducting religious programmes and festivals. Venkannachar said spiritual values and religious activities can provide a strong foundation for a peaceful and meaningful life. The three-day Aradhana Mahotsava concluded successfully with the participation of devotees and volunteers.

Serving people is govt's primary responsibility: Lamani

HAVERI

Serving the people is the primary responsibility of the government, Textiles and Sugar Minister and Haveri District In-charge Minister Rudrappa Manappa Lamani said on Saturday. He stressed the need for people-oriented governance and effective implementation of welfare schemes for poor and vulnerable sections, minorities, Dalits and farmers. Lamani was speaking after inaugurating the 'Prajaseva Sabha' programme, held under the theme "Government at Your Doorstep: Cooperation for Service" at the Workers' Hall in Hirekerur. He said the 'Prajaseva Andolana' would help ensure that government benefits reach eligible people while also identifying problems faced by those who have been left out of welfare

schemes. He instructed officials to examine petitions submitted by the public and resolve them without delay. Issues that can be settled at the taluk level should be addressed locally, while matters concerning the district administration should be taken up by Deputy Commissioners. Problems requiring state-level intervention should be forwarded to the government for necessary action. Officials were asked to provide relief immediately wherever possible. Lamani said farmers' organisations had submitted a memorandum seeking drought declaration in view of inadequate rainfall. The issue was discussed with the Revenue Minister during a Cabinet meeting. He said seven taluks had already been declared drought-affected, while assessment of another taluk was

underway according to Central Government criteria. He added that farmers' and public issues would also be discussed during the Assembly session scheduled for September 21 to 23. Hirekerur MLA U.B. Bankar said the 'Prajaseva Andolana' was being conducted across Karnataka in phases. He said a dedicated 'Prajaseva' department had been established to systematically record public grievances and forward them to concerned departments. The programme also featured information and exhibition stalls, including organic fruit displays, a vermicompost model, Banjara handicrafts and an animal husbandry vaccination display. Lamani said officials and elected representatives must work together to ensure timely solutions to people's problems.

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Minister distributes pumps to Ganga Kalyana beneficiaries

CHITRADURGA

Motor pumps and accessories were distributed to 13 beneficiaries under the Ganga Kalyana scheme for 2025-26 in Chitradurga district on Saturday. The beneficiaries were selected under the MLA and institutional quotas from the Hiriyur and Challakere Assembly constituencies. The programme was organised by the Karnataka Adi Jambava Development Corporation. The materials were distributed by T. Raghuramurthy, Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Chitradurga District In-charge Minister, at Sri Rama Kalyana Mantapa on Challakere Road. Speaking on the occasion, Raghuramurthy said borewells had already been drilled for eight beneficiaries in Hiriyur taluk and five in Challakere taluk. Water availability had been confirmed at all the sites. The minister said electricity connections had also been provided to the beneficiaries. The motor pumps and accessories were distributed to enable them to use the available groundwater for agricultural activities. He said the scheme would help eligible beneficiaries improve their farming activities and strengthen their livelihoods. The Adi Jambava Development Corporation, functioning under the Social Welfare Department, has set a target

Motor pumps and accessories were distributed to help them utilize available groundwater for farming.

of providing Ganga Kalyana benefits to 122 beneficiaries in Chitradurga district during 2025-26. Of these, 36 beneficiaries have been selected under the MLA quota, 34 under the institutional quota and 52 under the quota allocated to the corporation's chairman and directors. Raghuramurthy also said various other welfare schemes were being implemented for eligible members of the community. Benefits are being extended to 434 individuals under the direct loan scheme, 41 under the entrepreneurship development scheme and 111 beneficiaries under the Swavalambi Sarathi scheme. G.S. Manjunath, chairman of the Karnataka Adi Jambava Development Corporation, said the corporation was working to ensure that its schemes reached eligible beneficiaries across all six taluks of Chitradurga district. He urged beneficiaries to make effective use of the assistance provided by the government and work towards achieving economic self-reliance. District Manager Ravikumar, beneficiaries and other officials were present during the programme.

Bidadi farmers announce indefinite hunger strike

RAMANAGARA

Farmers opposing the proposed Bidadi Township have announced an indefinite hunger strike from September 21, alleging that the government-appointed study committee has not yet visited the affected villages or heard their grievances. Speaking at a press conference at Bairamangala Circle in Bidadi Hobli on Saturday, Karnataka Pranthra Raitha Sangha State General Secretary T. Yashwant said farmers had been protesting against the township project for more than 560 days. He alleged that despite the constitution of a committee to review the project, no member had so far visited the Bairamangala-Kanchugaranahalli area to understand the farmers' concerns. The Karnataka government constituted a high-level committee in August, headed by retired High Court judge Guhanathan Narendar, to review the proposed township amid opposition from farmers and villagers. The committee was asked to examine the project and consider concerns of affected residents. Yashwant said the indefinite hunger strike would begin on Monday and continue until the farmers' concerns were addressed. He said thousands of farmers and their livestock were expected to gather at Bairamangala Circle for a road blockade and sit-in protest. He also said farmer leaders from different parts of the country would participate in the agitation. Samyukt Kisan Morcha National Secretariat member P. Krishna Prasad and Madhya Pradesh farmer leader Dr. Sunilan were among those expected to attend, he said. The farmers also raised allegations of forged documents being used in connection with agricultural land. Yashwant said complaints had been filed at Bidadi police station and demanded a probe by the Criminal Investigation Department and Economic Offences Wing into the matter. The allegations could not be independently verified from the material provided. Farmer leaders Ramanna, Srinivas Reddy and Mandalahalli Nagaraju of the Bairamangala-Kanchugaranahalli Land Rights Protection Committee, along with Prakash, Ashwath, Veeresh, Ramachandra and Bairappa, attended the press conference. The farmers said their agitation would continue until their concerns were formally addressed.

Gadag-Yalavigi railway line awaits land acquisition

Malingaraya Pujar CH NEWS,

The proposed 58-km Gadag-Yalavigi railway line, planned to connect Gadag in North Karnataka with Yalavigi in Haveri district, has remained incomplete for nearly three decades, leaving residents frustrated over repeated delays. The railway project is considered important for improving connectivity between Kittur and the Kalyan Karnataka region. During the tenure of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, more than ₹640 cr was allocated for the project in the state budget. The project was planned under a 50:50 cost-sharing arrangement between the Centre and the state. However, land acquisition by the state government has emerged as a major hurdle. Although the Centre is expected to provide its share of the funding, the state has yet to

"This railway scheme remains a mere vote-getting tool of endless surveys and empty promises. While funds sit ready at the center, political delays stall land acquisition. We must provide scientific compensation to local farmers and immediately hand over the land"

-Sharanabasappa Gudimani, President, Chamber of Commerce

complete the acquisition process and hand over the required land to South Western Railway. Farmers have reportedly been awaiting adequate compensation, while the delay in handing over land has prevented construction of the railway track from progressing as expected. Recent developments have revived hopes among residents. A meeting on the final alignment and sectional drawings was held at the Gadag Deputy Commissioner's office on April 1, 2026. Officials have completed the final site survey and are currently carrying out financial verification. Once the process is completed, the detailed project report is expected to be sent to the Railway Board for final approval. Residents of Kanavi village, however, have sought a review of the survey. With Basavaraj Bommai now representing the Haveri-

"This railway scheme remains a mere vote-getting tool of endless surveys and empty promises. While funds sit ready at the center, political delays stall land acquisition. We must provide scientific compensation to local farmers and immediately hand over the land"

-Sharanabasappa Gudimani, President, Chamber of Commerce

Gadag Lok Sabha constituency, residents are looking towards him for faster progress. He has reportedly met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and sought early approval of the DPR. Members of the local Railway Struggle Committee have urged elected representatives to work across party lines to complete land acquisition and ensure the long-pending project moves from paper to the ground.

PRIORITISING PUBLIC ISSUES

MLA urges officials to resolve grievances promptly

KOPPAL

MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal directed officials to take public grievances seriously and resolve issues that can be addressed locally on the spot. He was speaking at the Hobli-level Prajaseva Andolana meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential Hostel in Hitnal village on Saturday. The meeting was organised jointly by the Public Service Department, Koppal district administration and taluk administration. Hitnal said the problems faced by people are matters of public interest and resolving them on prior-

"The Prajaseva platform provides an opportunity for people to directly interact with the administration and present their concerns"

-K. Raghavendra Hitnal, MLA

ity should be a key responsibility of government officials. He encouraged residents of Hitnal and surrounding villages to openly bring forward their personal and public grievances during such meetings. The MLA assured the people that issues that can be settled at the local level

"The Prajaseva platform provides an opportunity for people to directly interact with the administration and present their concerns"

-K. Raghavendra Hitnal, MLA

would be addressed immediately. For long-pending matters requiring action at the taluk or district level, he said the concerns would be brought to the notice of the concerned officials and the Deputy Commissioner so that necessary steps could be taken at the earliest. Residents from Hitnal and

nearby villages submitted various complaints and requests during the meeting. Officials heard the grievances and discussed the steps required to address them. Chairman of the Koppal Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Balachandran, Tahsildar Basavaraja Tannalli and Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Gundappa Turadi attended the meeting. Elected representatives, officials from different taluk-level departments, Panchayat Development Officers, Gram Panchayat staff and villagers were also present.

Quick Read

In a first, Technopark engg lab gets NABL accreditation

Thiruvananthapuram State-owned Technopark's engineering laboratory has received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), making it the first engineering laboratory in an IT park in the country to receive the recognition, according to Technopark officials. The laboratory has been accredited under ISO/IEC 17025:2017, the international standard that specifies requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The accreditation gives Technopark an in-house facility for scientifically testing and verifying the quality of construction and electrical materials used in its infrastructure projects.

India shifts counter-terror strategy

New Delhi India's counter-terrorism operations have undergone a strategic shift, transitioning from a reactive security apparatus to a pre-emptive, intelligence-driven doctrine aimed at dismantling terror modules before execution, according to senior security officials. Since coming to power, the Narendra Modi government at the Centre has maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. A significant shift has been the move by the security establishment handling terror-related cases towards a more pre-emptive approach, aimed at identifying and neutralising threats before they can materialise.

Guj forms women-led Anganwadi panels to boost Mission Saksham

The move aims to strengthen monitoring of nutrition, boosting community participation to ensure high-quality healthcare and early education.

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat will constitute women-led Anganwadi Management Committees (AMCs) at every Anganwadi Centre to strengthen community participation in nutrition, healthcare and early childhood education. The initiative follows a September 10 government resolution under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. The committees are intended to improve monitoring of services for children and mothers while strengthening coordination among Anganwadi, health, education and local institutions. Each committee will have seven women members. The woman supervisor will serve as Chairperson and the Anganwadi worker as Member-Secretary. Other members will include an ASHA worker, two mothers of children aged three to six years enrolled at the centre, a woman member



of a Self-Help Group or NGO/CSO, and a woman teacher from the nearest government primary school. The committees will meet once every two months at the Anganwadi Centre to review its functioning and the timely delivery and quality of services. Their responsibilities will include examining infrastructure such as drinking water, toilets, kitchens, storage facilities, furniture, equipment and teaching-learning material. They will also monitor food quality, hygiene, Take Home Ration and Hot Cooked Meals. Child growth, developmental milestones, health check-ups, identification of malnutrition, referrals and follow-up will form another key area of review. The committees will also monitor Early Childhood Care and Education activities, including daily pre-primary activities under 'Aadharshila', curriculum-based programmes and theme-based activities.

- Who will be on the AMC?**
- 7 women members in every committee
 - Woman supervisor — Chairperson
 - Anganwadi worker — Member-Secretary
 - One ASHA worker
 - Two mothers of enrolled children
 - One SHG/NGO/CSO woman member
 - One woman teacher from the nearest government primary school

The initiative also aims to identify eligible beneficiaries through household surveys and community mapping, including pregnant women, lactating mothers and children aged zero to six years. Gujarat's WCD department lists improving nutrition and health among children aged 0-6 as a core departmental goal.

Gujarat DyCM Sanghavi joins youth in sports

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Saturday joined students in playing football, handball and tug of war at KJ Institute of Technology (KJIT) College in Savli as part of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. Sanghavi participated in the sporting activities alongside students and youth at the college campus, encouraging them to take part in sports and highlighting their role in developing physical fitness, teamwork and leadership skills. The programme was organised as the Seva Yatra, being undertaken to mark 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service journey,

passed through the area. Speaking during the event, Sanghavi said sports help young people remain physically fit while also teaching them how to work as a team, face challenges and develop leadership qualities. He said the sporting spirit being promoted among Gujarat's youth through initiatives such as Fit India and Khel Mahakumbh was contributing to nation-building. Following the sporting activities, Sanghavi flagged off a bike rally involving more than 500 youth from the KJIT College campus. The rally proceeded towards Dahod as part of the ongoing Seva Yatra. The motorcycle yatra forms part of a twin-route journey



between Vadnagar and Varanasi, launched on September 17 to mark Modi's 25 years in public life. Around 1,000 volunteers are participating across the two routes, involving nearly 500 motorcycles and passing through 10 states, 193 districts and 1,159 villages. The

Mundhe warns FDA staff against negligence

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has issued a stern warning to department officials and staff, saying negligence, dereliction of duty and compromises during enforcement operations will not be tolerated. Since assuming charge as FDA Commissioner, Mundhe has led statewide enforcement drives against food adulteration and illegal sales. The department has conducted raids targeting adulterated paneer, milk and sweets, sub-standard food served at hotels and restaurants, and the illegal sale of gutkha. Speaking to a Marathi television channel, Mundhe said disciplinary action against non-performing or corrupt personnel would be taken without delay. He stressed that officials could face action not only for wrongdoing but also for failing to perform their duties properly. "There is no reason to show sympathy to anyone indulging in negligence or compromise," Mundhe said. Referring to a recent early-morning raid coordinated directly from the Commissioner's office, Mundhe questioned why local officers had failed to detect illegal activities within their jurisdictions. He said the enforcement team reached the location at 4 am, while local officials would also be held accountable. Mundhe further said transport operators and dealers would share responsibility with Food Business Operators for violations. The Commissioner also confirmed receiving complaints against FDA personnel allegedly attempting compromises during raids. Vigilance inquiries have been initiated, with proposals for action submitted against some officers for dereliction of duty. He said Maharashtra's intelligence and vigilance agencies had been asked, both verbally and in writing, to increase surveillance on FDA personnel during the ongoing enforcement campaign.

Food Safety Minister Warns Staff
Mundhe warns FDA staff against negligence and compromise
Statewide raids target adulterated food and illegal gutkha sales
Local officers to face accountability for violations
Vigilance inquiries initiated against certain FDA personnel

Bittu detained after stir near CM Mann's cavalcade

LUDHIANA

Former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu was detained by Punjab Police on Saturday after he protested near the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) gate when Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's cavalcade was passing through the area. Bittu held up a bottle towards the Chief Minister's convoy, saying that he was "returning the bottle" to the Chief Minister and asking him to enjoy "his liquor" while allowing Arvind Kejriwal to "loot Punjab from Delhi". The incident took place as CM Mann arrived at PAU for the Kisan Mela. Bittu also returned the eggs and tomatoes that were allegedly thrown at his cavalcade near Batala town while he was travelling for the BJP's Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra.

BJP expresses grief over IIT Bombay student's death

MUMBAI

The BJP on Saturday expressed grief over the death of an IIT Bombay student, calling it a 'heart-wrenching' incident and stressing that the circumstances leading to his death would become clear after an investigation. The student was found dead on the IIT Bombay campus in Powai evening. According to reports, the incident occurred after he was allegedly caught using a mobile phone during an examination by the authorities. The deceased student was identified as Sahil Wakode, a resident of Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. He was pursuing his second year in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering at IIT Bombay. Speaking to IANS, BJP MLA Ram Kadam said, "It is a heart-wrenching incident for an intelligent student to end his life in this manner. The news coming out about the suicide, what the reason behind it was

and what situation arose that led the student to end his life — all these details will come to light after the investigation. However, students are the future of this country, and the youth are the future of this nation." Kadam also reacted to the ongoing developments in the death case of Disha Salian, the former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. "It is very unfortunate that a father lost his daughter, and even after that, it took six and a half years for the CBI to register a case. Now, the father has directly accused Aaditya Thackeray. What did their government do? Their government had declared that it was a suicide," Kadam said. "When a father gives birth to a child, raises her, teaches her to walk while holding her tiny fingers, and then sees her on the funeral pyre, what must that father's heart feel? And when such a father pleads for justice, whether it is Aaditya Thackeray or other leaders, they call it politically motivated," he added.

Jodhpur mayoral poll: BJP names Mehta; Cong fields Solanki

JODHPUR

The BJP has named Prasan Chand Mehta as its candidate for the Jodhpur Municipal Corporation mayoral election while the Congress has named Rajendra Solanki as its mayoral candidate. Mehta arrived at the Municipal Corporation around 1:30 p.m. on Saturday to file his nomination papers. City MLA Atul Bhansali, Sursagar MLA Devendra Joshi and several other party office-bearers accompanied him during the nomination process. Mehta comes from an RSS background and has held several organisational positions in the BJP, including district president and state vice-president. He is also considered close to Assam Governor Gulabchand Kataria. Mehta won the municipal election from Ward 82, defeating

Congress candidate Arvind Parihar. His candidature was finalised after consultations within the BJP. After Mehta's name was announced, BJP Divisional In-charge Bhupendra Saini performed a tilak ceremony. Mehta had left Balotra at around 10:15 a.m. before travelling to Jodhpur for the nomination. Sursagar MLA Devendra Joshi said Mehta had served the organisation for several years and expressed confidence in the BJP's ability to secure the mayoral post. Mehta said his focus would be on addressing key civic issues, including sanitation, street lighting, roads and water supply. The Congress' mayoral candidate Rajendra Solanki is a close associate of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and, notably, did not contest the recent municipal election as a councillor. Before finalising its candidate, the Congress had collected nomination forms for multiple candidates. Rajendra Solanki had said at that time that the party would support the candidate who emerges through consensus. Congress councillor and mayoral aspirant Naresh Joshi also reached the Municipal Corporation during the nomination process. In a notable moment, Joshi touched the feet of BJP MLA Devendra Joshi after seeing him at the venue. Meanwhile, Congress rebel leader Liyaqat Ali Rangrez rejoined the party ahead of the nomination process. Jodhpur City District Congress President Omkar Verma and former MLA Manisha Panwar were present when Rangrez returned to the party fold.

Giriraj Singh hits out at Rahul over TMC symbol row

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP), Rahul Gandhi, over his criticism of the Election Commission's interim decision concerning rival Trinamool Congress factions in the upcoming West Bengal Assembly by-polls. Singh claimed that LoP Rahul Gandhi merely repeated what was given to him and compared him to a robot, while also questioning his understanding of the Congress party's own history. "Whatever is written and given to Rahul Gandhi, he speaks it out, just like a robot speaks out whatever is fed into it. Rahul Gandhi should now be called 'Rahul Robot', because so much has been fed to him. Does he have any knowledge? During the Congress era, how many times did the party split? Congress split five or six times, the Congress (O), Congress (I), Congress Jagjivan, Congress Murarji... How many versions of Congress have there been?..." Singh told IANS. His remarks came after LoP Rahul Gandhi criticised

the Election Commission's interim decision to bar rival Trinamool factions from using the party's name and its twin-flowers-on-grass symbol in the Bengal Assembly bypolls. LoP Gandhi said that the same pattern had been followed in previous cases involving other political parties, referring to the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party. "First Shiv Sena, then NCP, and now Trinamool Congress. Every time, the same pattern—BJP and the Election Commission join forces to split a party. Then its election symbol is snatched away", LoP Gandhi said in a post on X. The Congress leader's remarks drew further criticism from Bihar Minister Ram Kripal Yadav, who alleged that the Congress did not only break political parties but also joined hands with forces that, according to him, seek to divide the country. "The Congress party not only breaks parties but also joins hands with forces that seek to divide the country. It works by taking support from people who act against the interests of the country," he alleged.

Cashew-almond row erupts at Maha drought meet

NAGPUR

A viral video showing ministers, leaders and senior officials consuming cashews and almonds during an official drought review meeting in Maharashtra's Nanded has triggered a political controversy, with the episode drawing criticism amid the severe agricultural crisis in Marathwada. The incident took place at the District Planning Hall, where officials had gathered to assess crop losses and the impact of drought conditions across the region. The visuals showing dry fruits being



served during the meeting quickly circulated on social media, prompting questions over administrative sensitivity while farmers face crop fail-

ures, water shortages and financial distress. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis acknowledged that serving dry fruits during official meetings is a customary administrative practice but said such arrangements should be reconsidered during a crisis. Fadnavis said no one intentionally consumes dry fruits to mock drought conditions, but stressed that officials must remain sensitive to ground realities and avoid practices that could appear inappropriate. Shiv Sena minister Sanjay Shirsat, who did not attend the meeting, said such arrangements are generally made by officials. He said elected representatives often face criticism for arrangements handled by the administration and promised to issue directions to the divisional commissioner. NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) MLA Rohit Pawar criticised the government over the incident and demanded a special legislative assembly session to discuss drought relief and farmer support. Meanwhile, Fadnavis outlined several measures being taken by the state, including district-level reviews by cabinet ministers, completion of crop-loss assessments within a week and progress on loan-waiver beneficiary lists. The government is also arranging fodder and drinking water in severely affected areas, while additional electricity is being provided to farmers to protect standing crops where groundwater remains available. Major reservoir reserves are being prioritised for drinking water.

Administration must keep ground realities in mind and act with greater sensitivity. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister

Kolkata braces for more rain ahead of Durga puja

KOLKATA

Light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms is likely to lash several districts of south Bengal, including Kolkata, over the next three to four days, the Met office forecast on Saturday. The weather department said all districts in south Bengal could receive rain and thunderstorms on Saturday, with scattered showers expected to continue over the next few days. "There is a yellow alert for light to moderate rain with thunderstorms in all districts of south Bengal today (Saturday). Squally winds may blow at 30 to 40 km per hour along with the rain."

Quick Read

‘5 Pandavas of NDA united, let RJD-Cong continue dreaming’

Patna
Bihar BJP President, Sanjay Saraogi, on Saturday dismissed the offer made by the RJD and Congress to former Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, to join their alliance, saying the Opposition parties could continue to ‘dream’ as the NDA government remained united and was working together. Speaking to IANS, Sanjay Saraogi said, “Congress and RJD have been completely wiped out in Bihar. The Congress MLAs can fit in one Scorpio, and even then, the Scorpio would remain empty. And if RJD wins one fewer seat, they will not even have the Leader of Opposition. The NDA government has a massive three-fourths majority. Under the leadership of Samrat Choudhary ji, the government is working in the public interest and has the support of the people.”

Not afraid of any Shiv Sainik: Disha Salian’s father

Mumbai
Disha Salian’s father, Satish Salian, on Saturday said he was not afraid of anyone ahead of his planned visit to Matoshree to serve a defamation notice on Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, Aaditya Thackeray. Satish Salian said, “I am not afraid of any Shiv Sainik. They are human beings and I am human too. I am from Mumbai, so I have no reason to fear anyone.” Asked about the ongoing CBI investigation into the Disha Salian case, he said, “Yes, it is proceeding in the right direction.”

Odisha CM condoles death of 7 Odia tourists in MP accident

Bhubaneswar
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has expressed deep grief over the tragic death of seven Odia tourists in a road accident in Madhya Pradesh and offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The CM has instructed government officials to work with the Madhya Pradesh government and local authorities so that all formalities are completed quickly. He has specifically directed that the bodies of the deceased be brought back to Odisha with full dignity and respect. He also assured the bereaved families that the Odisha government stands with them in this difficult time. “Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Odia tourists in an accident in Madhya Pradesh. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. May the departed souls rest in peace.”

Rozgar mela crosses 12.75 lakh appointments

Beyond government recruitment, the initiative also links employment with skill development, career counselling and entrepreneurship support.

NEW DELHI

About 12.75 lakh appointment letters have been issued through 20 editions of the National Rozgar Mela, marking a major expansion of the government’s mission-mode recruitment drive since its launch in October 2022.

The initiative was initially launched with a target of providing 10 lakh government jobs. According to a government factsheet released Saturday, recruitment has since expanded across ministries and departments, with new employees joining organisations including the Ministries of Railways, Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Labour



and Employment, and the Department of Posts and Financial Services.

The recruitment process is being carried out against sanctioned vacancies through established agencies, including the

Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and Railway Recruitment Boards.

The latest, 20th edition of the Rozgar Mela was held Saturday, with Prime Minister Nar-

Rozgar Mela helps millions	
■	12.75 lakh: Appointment letters issued across 20 editions,
■	October 2022: Rozgar Mela launched with 10 lakh job target,
■	51,000+: Appointment letters distributed in 20th edition,
■	75,000+: Letters distributed during first edition,
■	Key recruiters: UPSC, SSC and Railway Recruitment Boards,
■	Departments: Railways, Home Affairs, Posts, Health and Labour,
■	NSDC: Organises melas with Sector Skill Councils and PMKKs,
■	Focus: Recruitment, skill development, counselling and entrepreneurship.

endra Modi addressing the event through video conferencing. More than 51,000 appointment letters were distributed to newly inducted employees in government departments and

organisations.

The first Rozgar Mela, held in October 2022, distributed more than 75,000 appointment letters across 50 locations. Beyond government recruit-

ment, the initiative also links employment with skill development, career counselling and entrepreneurship support. The National Skill Development Corporation organises Rozgar Melas in collaboration with Sector Skill Councils and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras.

Private sector employers are also mobilised to participate and offer opportunities to eligible candidates.

The government said the initiative is intended to accelerate recruitment, strengthen skill-to-job linkages and provide young people with pathways into public service, employment and entrepreneurship, enabling youth to contribute to national development.

‘Jhooth Ki Goonj’ posters surface in Indore ahead of Rahul’s visit

INDORE

Political tensions intensified in Indore on Saturday ahead of Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi’s ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ programme, after posters carrying the slogan ‘Jhooth Ki Goonj’ appeared at several locations across the city.

The posters, which questioned claims attributed to Gandhi from earlier programmes, were reportedly put up overnight near areas including Kila Maidan and Mahesh Garden. Congress workers later removed them. Reports said the identity of those behind the campaign was not independently established, while competing political claims emerged over its origin.

Congress’s Indore city president Chintu Chouksey alleged that opponents were attempting to create obstacles for the programme. BJP representatives, however, disputed the allegation and said the campaign reflected students’ objections to the event.

The poster controversy came after a separate dispute over the venue and security arrangements for Gandhi’s

interaction with students. The programme was initially proposed at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium but was later shifted to land opposite Regional Park after permission for the stadium was denied. Congress subsequently secured the alternative venue from the Indore Development Authority.

The IDA allotted 12,000 square metres for three days for Rs 10.08 lakh, with additional requirements covering permissions, security, parking and sound systems. Congress also paid an additional amount for early use of part of the allotted area.

Indore Police issued 31 conditions covering crowd management, participant details, vehicle movement, parking, emergency corridors, volunteers, surveillance and medical arrangements. The security document also referred to findings of the Justice J.S. Verma Commission concerning security lapses surrounding former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s 1991 assassination.

The reference triggered objections from Congress, while police said the measures were intended to strengthen security for the programme.

2 Ganesha idols decked up in Rs 2.9 cr in cash in Telangana

BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Telangana’s Palvan-cha drew huge attention this year after two Lord Ganesha idols were decorated with Indian currency notes with a combined face value of Rs 2.9 crore.

One of the displays was organised by members of the Kapu community, who decorated their Ganesha idol with currency notes worth Rs 1.4 crore. Meanwhile, the Team Ekdanta organisation decorated its Ganesha idol with currency notes worth Rs 1.5 crore at another location in Palvan-cha.

The idols and their surroundings were decorated with Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 100, Rs 200 and Rs 500 denominations, drawing huge

crowds at the locations. One of the idols even had its garland and crown made of the currency notes. The two installations attracted large numbers of devotees, turning the currency-note decorations into prominent attractions during the festival.

According to the organisers, the decorations were arranged with contributions from local traders. Bankers also supplied fresh currency notes for the elaborate displays at the pandal with a “Gajapathi” idol. This is not the first time the industrial town has seen such a unique decoration of its Ganesha pandals and idols.

In 2024, the Kapu Sangham Ganesh Utsav Committee at the Ambedkar Centre decorated a Ganesh idol and its stage with new currency notes valued at Rs 1.1 crore.

Railways approves 2 major infra projects

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has approved two major infrastructure projects worth a combined Rs 275.23 crore, aimed at strengthening electric traction capacity and improving road-rail connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

The first project involves upgrading the electric traction system on the 73 Route Kilometre Savalyapuram-Guntur section of South Coast Railway at a cost of Rs 142 crore. The work will cover 146 Track Kilometres and is intended to strengthen the electric traction infra-

projects
Rs 142 crore: Savalyapuram-Guntur traction upgrade
Rs 133.23 crore: Four-lane Udhna-Ukai Songadh ROB
146 Track Km: Traction infrastructure covered
311.58 metres: ROB viaduct length

structure supporting railway operations along the route.

According to an official statement, the upgraded system will improve power supply infrastructure for electric

train operations and help Indian Railways handle growing traffic requirements more efficiently. The intervention is also expected to reinforce the capacity and reliability of the important HUN route, supporting smoother train movement and strengthening the regional rail network.

Separately, the Railways has approved construction of a four-lane Road Over Bridge on the Udhna-Ukai Songadh section of Western Railway for Rs 133.2295 crore. The project will be implemented on a cost-sharing basis with the state gov-

ernment. The Railways will contribute Rs 66.6147 crore, while the state government will contribute Rs 66.6148 crore.

The proposed grade-separated structure is expected to reduce interference between road and railway traffic, allowing smoother movement and improving operational safety. The project presents significant engineering challenges because the crossing has a 62 per cent skew. The viaduct will measure 311.58 metres and cost an estimated Rs 19.98 crore, while the Railway Approach portion will extend 524.32 metres at an estimated cost of Rs 10.25 crore.

Ramesh attacks MP gov over education crisis

INDORE

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh slammed the Madhya Pradesh government. He claimed the state is the birthplace of the BJP’s paper leak mafia. Ramesh said Rahul Gandhi’s special programme, ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj,’ brings student struggles to light. Ramesh stated the nation’s education system is failing millions of students, parents, and teachers. He highlighted that over eighty percent of jobs in government universities and thousands of school teacher posts remain empty in Madhya Pradesh.

Despite local government attempts to block the Indore event, young people gathered bravely. Earlier, Gandhi raised issues like coaching costs in Kota and paper leaks in Dehradun.

ISI adopts doxxing tactic to fuel panic across India

NEW DELHI

Intelligence officials have sounded a serious warning over a low-cost psychological warfare campaign allegedly launched by Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), targeting Indian citizens, public officials and security personnel through doxxing, harassment and on-line intimidation.

The ISI allegedly designed the strategy to exploit social media to create fear, spread panic, and undermine confidence among those targeted.

Pakistan’s intelligence agency is actively recruiting youth and deploying hackers to extract personal data, including phone numbers, physical locations, photographs, and bank details of random individuals across the country.

“Doxxing is the new weapon of the ISI, and the agency is spending a good amount of time and money recruiting youth to gather personal information about random people,” a senior official stated.

Such information would be posted online with threat messages, and the ISI intends to do the same on a big way in many parts of the country, the official added.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that this is part of the propaganda warfare that the ISI has undertaken in India.

While propaganda against the state is one part of the plan, the other is to put out threat messages to random people by uploading their personal information and photograph online, the official said.

“What looks like mischief

is actually part of a larger psychological warfare intended to scare the people of India,” the Intelligence Bureau official said.

“The very fact that a person’s personal details and phone numbers are uploaded online with a message is enough to drive panic,” the official added. Another official said that the ISI plans to gather information on Indians using various methods, adding that it has been recruiting persons to gather personal information and photographs. The other method it has been using is through hacking into personal data. The hacking method is used to go a step further and gather information relating to bank accounts. This information is also intended to be put out in public view, the official added.

Fans pay tributes to Garg on first death anniversary

GUWAHATI

Hundreds of fans, family members and artistes gathered at Zubeen Khetra in Sonapur on Saturday to commemorate the first death anniversary of Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg, as tributes continued to pour in for the singer whose work left a lasting mark on Assam’s cultural landscape.

The temporary memorial site known as Zubeen Khetra — the place where the last

rites of the singer were performed on the outskirts of Guwahati — witnessed fans singing Garg’s songs and paying homage to the artiste.

A three-day commemorative programme, organised by the Assam government’s Cultural Affairs Department, began on Thursday and concluded on Saturday. Garg died on September 19 last year during a sea outing in Singapore, a day before he was scheduled to perform at the North East

Festival. His death triggered widespread mourning across Assam, alongside demands for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. Singer Angaraag ‘Papon’ Mahanta visited Zubeen Khetra and met Garg’s wife, Garima Saikia Garg.

Addressing the gathering, Papon urged people to encourage younger singers performing Garg’s compositions rather than focusing on their mistakes. “It is a beautiful

sight that so many young people are singing their hearts out to Zubeen’s songs,” Papon said, stressing that errors could be corrected later.

Veteran actor Arun Hazarika, who also visited the memorial, reiterated the demand for justice in Garg’s death while cautioning against injustice to others. “We want justice for Zubeen, but this should not be at the cost of injustice to someone else,” Hazarika said.

JUDICIAL POSTS

Centre notifies 14 HC appointments

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday notified the appointment of 14 judicial officers as judges and additional judges across four High Courts, following recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium.

The appointments cover the Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jharkhand and Karnataka High Courts.

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, had made the recommendations at its meeting



The appointments were notified after the President exercised constitutional powers following consultation with the Chief Justice of India. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Law and Justice

the Chief Justice of India. For the Delhi High Court, Nivedita Anil Sharma and Nisha Sahay Saxena have been appointed judges. Sanjay Sharma, Bharat Parashar, Dr Aditi Choudhary, Dinesh Bhatt and Arun Bhardwaj have been appointed additional

judges.

Yash Paul Bourney has been appointed a judge of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

In Jharkhand, Manoj Prasad, Akhil Kumar and Ram Sharma have been appointed judges. The Karnataka High Court will receive three additional judges — Usharani, K.S. Bharath Kumar and Nerale V. Bhavani.

The appointments come amid vacancies across several High Courts. Government data placed Delhi’s sanctioned strength at 60 judges, with 44 working

judges and 16 vacancies as of March 6, 2026. Jharkhand had 14 working judges against a sanctioned strength of 25, while Karnataka had 46 against 62.

The Collegium had originally recommended 15 judicial officers across the four High Courts, including Gurvinder Pal Singh for Delhi. The final notification covers 14 appointments, with Gurvinder Pal Singh not included.

Supreme Court collegium The recommendations were approved at its September 10, 2026 meeting under CJI Surya Kant.

Uttarakhand glaciers melting rapidly: Study flags threats

DEHRADUN

Glaciers in Uttarakhand are now under threat as rising temperatures worldwide are directly affecting the Himalayan region. A recent study has found that 23 major glaciers in Uttarakhand are melting rapidly. While the pace of the melting is driven by rising temperatures due to climate change and global warming, a second factor is each glacier’s shape, slope, and debris load; in other words, its geographical setting. The study happens to have been published just days after Nepal’s deadly flood, which killed over 1,400

people, was linked to a glacier’s melting. Over the past few years, chunks of ice are breaking off big glaciers and sweeping down the valleys, causing destruction in populated areas. This is why scientists, environmentalists and governments are now focusing on the Himalayan glaciers at risk, since they supply water for irrigation, drinking and hydropower projects not only in India but in neighbouring countries. Major rivers such as the Ganga, Bhagirathi, Sutlej, Ravi, Indus, Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Alaknanda and Mahakali originate in the Himalayas.

Trump signs Russia sanctions bill, India faces tariff risk

US President Donald Trump has signed a new Russia-Iran sanctions law, giving Washington expanded powers to impose tariffs on buyers.

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has signed into law the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, giving his administration expanded powers to impose sanctions and tariffs on Russia and countries that continue significant purchases of Russian oil and gas.

The law is significant for India because New Delhi remains one of the world's biggest buyers of Russian crude. However, the legislation does not automatically impose a 100 per cent tariff on Indian goods. Instead, it creates a legal pathway for the Trump administration to impose tar-

iffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from the five largest importers of Russian petroleum or natural gas, subject to specified conditions.

The legislation targets Russian officials, financial institutions, defence-related networks and the country's "shadow fleet" of vessels used to transport energy while circumventing Western restrictions. It targets countries facilitating sanctions evasion and extends existing sanctions on Iran for another five years.

The US Senate passed the bill 86-11 on August 7, while the House approved it 262-159 on Wednesday before sending it to Trump.

India's exposure depends



on whether and how the administration uses its tariff powers, including the rate imposed, products covered and implementation timeline. The law also provides the President with waiver authority under conditions.

India has defended its purchases of Russian oil, saying its energy policy is driven by the need to secure affordable and reliable supplies. Russian crude has become part of India's oil import basket since 2022, although Indian refiners have also sourced crude from countries including the US, Brazil, Canada, Venezuela and African producers.

If Washington eventually imposes steep tariffs on Indian goods, exporters could face higher costs and reduced competitiveness in the US market. The impact would depend on the tariff rate and products covered, increasing uncertainty to India-US trade ties.

Pakistan ranks third-last in Global Gender Gap Report

NEW DELHI

Pakistan ranked third-last globally in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2026, recording overall gender parity of 59.5 per cent, according to the report.

Pakistan improved its gender parity by three percentage points year-on-year and has narrowed its gender gap by 5.2 per cent since 2006. The report said the 2026 edition marked the country's strongest year-on-year improvement in a decade, driven mainly by gains in educational attainment. However, Pakistan recorded the lowest score among the 38 lower-middle-income economies and seven South Asian countries covered by the report.

Pakistan ranked 130th in educational attainment, 144th in economic participation and op-

Pakistan ranks third-last globally in gender parity, despite modest gains, with persistent gaps in education, employment, wages and political representation.

portunity, 127th in health and survival, and 107th in political empowerment. Its economic participation ranking improved three places from 147th in 2025.

The report highlighted a wide gap in labour force participation, with 81.46 per cent of men participating compared with 28.21 per cent of women. Women held only 6.13 per cent of positions among legislators, senior officials and managers, while they accounted for 30.96 per cent of professional and technical workers.

Pakistan ranked 115th for wage equality for similar work and 140th for estimated earned income. Only 4.9 per cent of firms had female-majority ownership, while women accounted for just 3.4 per cent of top managers.

Education indicators also showed a gender gap. Male literacy stood at 69.14 per cent, compared with 48.52 per cent for women. Primary school enrolment was 83.01 per cent for boys and 81.08 per cent for girls.

At the secondary level, male enrolment stood at 49.99 per cent, while female enrolment was 46.48 per cent. The figures indicate that despite recent improvement in overall gender parity, significant differences remain across economic participation, education, political representation and other areas measured by the index.

Quick Read

Direct tax collections rise 15.2%
New Delhi

India's direct tax collections rose 15.2 per cent to Rs 14.3 lakh crore in the current financial year through September 17, driven by faster growth in corporation tax payments. Advance tax collections increased 16.2 per cent to Rs 5.2 lakh crore, with corporate payments rising 18.1 per cent to nearly Rs 4.2 lakh crore. Personal income tax growth, however, slowed to 9.2 per cent. Refunds increased 29.2 per cent to Rs 2.2 lakh crore, while personal income tax refunds more than doubled to Rs 81,439 crore. Net direct tax collections rose 13 per cent to Rs 12.1 lakh crore.

Bank credit growth hits eight-quarter high

New Delhi

Bank credit growth rose to an eight-quarter high of 16.5 per cent in the first quarter of FY27, while deposits grew 11.3 per cent, widening the funding gap, CareEdge Ratings said. Credit outstanding reached Rs 213.6 lakh crore by June 30, while deposits stood at Rs 256.5 lakh crore. The gap pushed banks' loan-to-deposit ratio to a record 83.3 per cent. Finance-sector lending led growth, with bank funding to NBFCs rising 22.4 per cent to Rs 25.3 lakh crore. Public sector banks recorded 17.3 per cent credit growth against 14.8 per cent for private banks. CareEdge said deposit mobilisation remains key as competition for household savings persists.

Saudi Aramco to halt crude supplies to Europe

Riyadh

Saudi Aramco has informed European refining customers that crude oil deliveries will be halted next month following an attack on a key pipeline to the Red Sea, Bloomberg News reported. The East-West Pipeline, stretching 1,200 km across Saudi Arabia, suffered damage to three pumping stations in last week's attack. Saudi authorities subsequently shut the pipeline and blamed drones launched by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. The disruption has prompted European refiners to seek alternative supplies. Poland's Orlen SA has issued more than 10 tenders for replacement crude. European OECD countries imported 577,000 barrels per day from Saudi Arabia in June.



RBI, Sebi may tighten rules for digital gold

NEW DELHI

The government is considering tighter regulations for digital gold investments, including possible oversight by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), as the investment option gains popularity.

The proposed framework could require every unit of digital gold sold to investors to be backed by an equivalent quantity of physical gold. The move is aimed at providing greater regulatory oversight and ensuring that digital gold holdings are adequately supported by physical assets.

The Finance Ministry has sought views from regulators, banks and other stakeholders on how the digital gold segment should be regulated. Discussions are underway on the appropriate regulatory framework for the growing investment category.

Digital gold allows investors to purchase small quantities of gold digitally without having to physically store the metal. Its accessibility has contributed to its growing popularity among retail investors.

However, the segment currently operates outside the direct regulatory framework that governs traditional securities and regulated investment products. The proposed changes could bring digital gold under a more formal regulatory structure.

People familiar with the discussions said there is broad consensus among stakeholders that digital gold

AT A GLANCE	
RBI + Sebi	Possible joint oversight
1956	Act under which digital gold may be recognised
100% backing	Each digital unit may require physical gold
Finance Ministry	Seeking views from regulators and stakeholders
Status	Rules are still under consideration

should be recognised as a security under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. Such recognition could bring the segment under greater regulatory scrutiny and establish clearer rules for companies offering digital gold products.

The possible involvement of both RBI and Sebi could also create a framework covering different aspects of digital gold transactions, including investor protection and the backing of digital holdings with physical gold.

The government's consultations are still underway, and the final regulatory structure has not yet been announced. Further decisions are expected after feedback from regulators, financial institutions and other stakeholders.

The proposed rules could significantly change how digital gold is sold, held and regulated in India if implemented.

India has nearly 20% of global semiconductor design workforce

NEW DELHI

India accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the world's semiconductor design workforce, with the government focusing on expanding design talent and training around 85,000 engineers, IT Secretary S. Krishnan said on Saturday.

Speaking to Media on the sidelines of SEMICON India 2026, Krishnan said skill development would remain a priority across the semiconductor sector, with particular emphasis on manufacturing. He said India already has a large pool of skilled professionals in chip design.

Krishnan said the government would carefully evaluate investment proposals and commitments made during SEMICON India because substantial public incentives were involved. He said several major domestic and multi-

“Since public money is involved, we can commit incentives only after properly evaluating every proposal.”

— S. Krishnan, IT Secretary

national companies were interested in investing in India, driven by confidence in the country's talent pool and stable policy support.

“Since public money is involved, we can commit incentives only after properly evaluating every proposal,” Krishnan said. He added that the government would encourage companies to enter the sector and work closely with investors.

Ashok Chandak, President of SEMI India-IESA, said SEMICON India had attracted 12,000 visitors on its first day and 16,000 on the second, with strong participation continuing.

Chandak said students and

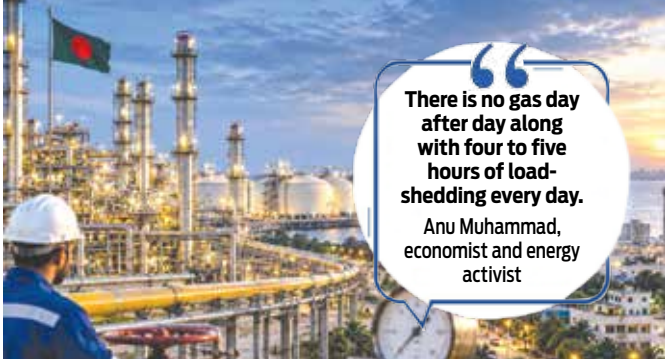
Policy choices linked to Bangladesh gas, power shortages

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh is facing recurring shortages of gas and electricity despite decades of investment, with experts attributing the crisis to policy decisions that prioritised foreign investment over developing national energy capacity.

Economist and energy activist Anu Muhammad told Bangladesh-based The Daily Star that weak policies and vested interests have left the country dependent on costly imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). The dependence has exposed Bangladesh to global price fluctuations and technical problems at LNG terminals. “There is no gas day after day along with four to five hours of load-shedding every day,” Muhammad said, adding that he had never seen gas and electricity become so scarce simultaneously.

According to Muhammad, the roots of the crisis can be traced to policy changes in the 1990s, when Bangladesh



“There is no gas day after day along with four to five hours of load-shedding every day.”

Anu Muhammad, economist and energy activist

opened its energy sector to private companies through production-sharing contracts. He said the approach weakened national institutions and focused investment decisions largely on profit potential. He also said the World Bank, IMF, ADB and JICA influenced the policies.

Muhammad criticised a 2009 deal between the Sheikh Hasina government and ConocoPhillips, saying promised offshore gas production did not materialise after parts of the work were subcontracted to a Chinese company. He

also criticised JICA's 2010 Power Sector Master Plan, claiming it lacked Bangladeshi experts and encouraged LNG imports, coal-fired plants and nuclear power while renewable energy remained marginal.

The report quoted Muhammad as saying Bangladesh's imported LNG costs nearly 60 times more than gas produced through domestic exploration. He also warned that LNG infrastructure creates environmental concerns and leaves the country vulnerable to global energy price changes.



India poised for unparalleled growth amid AI changes

CHENNAI

India is entering a period of economic growth that could be “unparalleled” in its history and across the world, even as artificial intelligence, technology and regulatory changes reshape the global economy, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said.

Addressing the convocation of Sai University as chief guest, Chandrasekaran said graduates were entering a rapidly changing world but also one filled with expanding opportunities. He said AI could create new industries and possibilities that are difficult to predict today. “The world is full to the brim with possibilities,” Chandrasekaran said, adding that industries that do not exist today could emerge within five years.

He said India was in a “very strong position” and could witness economic growth that would remain “unparalleled” for several decades. Chandrasekaran also urged graduates to pursue long-term ambitions while achieving shorter-term goals, describing it as “running dual races”. He advised students to continuously prepare for their careers and not be discouraged by setbacks. Drawing an analogy with marathon running, he said individuals should focus on their own progress instead of comparing themselves with others.

Chandrasekaran outlined six qualities for graduates navigating a changing economy: continuous learning, curiosity, collective work, creativity, self-reflection and setting ambitious goals. He stressed that professionals must continue learning to avoid becoming outdated as technology and industries evolve.

RAILWAY INFRA UPGRADE

RAILWAY APPROVES ₹275 CRORE CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has approved two infrastructure projects worth nearly Rs 275 crore to strengthen electric traction capacity and improve road-rail connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, the government said on Saturday.

The Railways approved an upgrade of the electric traction system on the 73 Route Kilometre Savalyapuram-Guntur section of South Coast Railway at a cost of Rs 142 crore. The project will cover 146 Track Kilometres and strengthen the power supply infrastructure supporting

electric train operations.

According to an official statement, the upgraded traction system will help Indian Railways handle growing traffic requirements more efficiently. It is also expected to improve the capacity and reliability of the important HUN route, support smoother train operations and strengthen the overall rail network in the region.

Separately, the Railways approved construction of a four-lane Road Over Bridge on the Udhna-Ukai Songadh section of Western Railway for Rs 133.2295 crore. The project will be implemented on a cost-sharing basis with

the state government, with both sides contributing nearly Rs 66.61 crore each.

The proposed grade-separated bridge is expected to facilitate smoother road traffic and reduce interference with railway operations. The infrastructure will also support safer and more efficient train movement, while improving operational reliability for passengers using the section.

The Railways said the crossing has a 62 per cent skew, making its design and construction significantly more complex. The viaduct will have a total length of 311.58 metres and an estimat-



ed cost of Rs 19.98 crore. The Railway Approach portion will extend for 524.32 metres and is estimated to cost Rs 10.25 crore. Together, the projects are aimed at strength-

ening railway infrastructure, improving operational efficiency and supporting increasing transport requirements. The traction upgrade will enhance electric railway

IN FOCUS

- **₹275 crore:** Total project cost
- **₹142 crore:** Savalyapuram-Guntur traction upgrade
- **₹133.23 crore:** Four-lane ROB project
- **146 Track Km:** Traction upgrade coverage
- **62%:** Skew at ROB crossing

capacity, while the four-lane overbridge will separate road and rail traffic at a challenging crossing, helping improve movement and safety along the affected routes.



Pawan & Bhaker lead India at Asian Games opening Cermony

NAGOYA

Kabaddi star Pawan Sehrawat and Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker led India's 503-athlete contingent at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya on Saturday. The ceremony at Paloma Mizuho Stadium formally opened the 20th edition of the continental sporting event, with Indian athletes set to compete across 36 sports.

Sehrawat, part of India's gold-winning men's kabaddi team at the previous Asian Games, carried the Tricolour alongside Bhaker. The shooter won two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics and became the first athlete from independent India to win two medals in a single edition of the Games. At Aichi-Nagoya, she will compete in the women's 10m air pistol, women's 25m pistol and 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team events. Bhaker said being selected as a flag-bearer was a



Kabaddi star Pawan Sehrawat and shooter Manu Bhaker led India's 503-member contingent at the Asian Games opening ceremony in Nagoya.

proud and emotional moment. "Honestly, when I found out yesterday, I had all these flashback memories of my earlier days," she said, reflecting on her journey in the sport and thanking God and everyone for their support.

Pawan replaced shot put star Tajinderpal Singh Toor as the male flag-bearer because of techni-

cal issues. He will also target another gold medal in men's kabaddi. India have won gold in eight of the nine Asian Games editions featuring men's team kabaddi since 1990, with a bronze in 2018. At Hangzhou in 2022, India defeated Iran 33-29 for gold.

India are aiming to improve on their record 107-medal haul from Hangzhou, which included 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze medals. The Indian contingent will look to build on that performance as athletes across disciplines begin their campaigns, with the country seeking another strong medal tally at the continental multi-sport event this year.

F4 Indian Championship returns to KMS for Round 2

COIMBATOR

The F4 Indian Championship returns to Kari Motor Speedway (KMS) this weekend for Round 2 of the Indian Racing Festival 2026, with three races scheduled on September 19 and 20. Drivers will return to the same circuit just a week after the season-opening round, with valuable championship points at stake.

Aris Kyriakou leads the standings with 51 points after three podium finishes in Round 1. Luviwe Sambudla is second on 38 points following his Race 1 victory, while Aaron Mehta is third with 32 points. Kyriakou also completed the first Grand Slam of Indian F4 Season 5 by taking pole, winning Race 3, setting the fastest lap and leading every lap.

Sambudla and Aaryan Narola will return after securing race victories in the opening round. Mehta will aim to build on his qualifying performance after becoming the youngest front-row starter, podium finisher and lap leader in Indian F4 history. Narola also became the championship's second-youngest race winner and one of only 12 drivers to lead every lap of an Indian F4



race.

With drivers familiar with KMS after last weekend, teams will have an opportunity to refine their setups and racecraft. The repeated visit could produce closer competition as the six-round championship progresses and early points gaps become increasingly important.

The Round 2 grid includes drivers representing teams such as Kolkata Royal Tigers, Chennai Turbo Riders, Hyderabad Blackbirds, Speed Demons Delhi, Goa Aces JA Racing and Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru.

The Indian Racing Festival, powered by JK Tyre, will continue its 2026 season with the Coimbatore round marking another step in the development of India's young racing talent.

Three races offer drivers another chance to reshape the standings this weekend.

India sweep Italy, Greece in Chess Olympiad

SAMARKAND

India's men's and women's teams extended their winning runs at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, with the men defeating Italy 3-1 and the women beating Greece 3.5-0.5 in the third round. World champion D Gukesh and Nihal Sarin secured key wins for the men, while Koneru Humpy led the women's victory.

Gukesh returned to top form by defeating Sabino Brunello with the black pieces, while Nihal overcame Francesco Sonis. R Praggnanandhaa drew with Lorenzo Lodici for the second day in succession, and Arjun Erigaisi shared the point with Luca Moroni Jr. as India completed the 3-1 result against Italy's All-Grandmaster lineup. In the women's section, Humpy defeated Stavroula Tsolakidou in a one-sided encounter. Vantika Agrawal beat Ekaterini Pavlidou, while Divya Deshmukh drew with Anastasia Avramidou. B Savitha Shri defeated Antonia Christodoulaki to register her third consecutive victory and complete India's 3.5-0.5 win over Greece.

India have eight rounds remaining in the 11-round tournament, with the next three rounds expected to be important as the leading teams begin facing each other.



World Cup selection puts Jaiswal, Gaikwad under spotlight

MUMBAI

Former India batter Aakash Chopra expects a close contest between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad for a reserve spot in India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup. Both batters are part of the squad for the three-match home ODI series against West Indies, beginning September 27.

Jaiswal has scored 285 runs in six ODIs at an average of 71.25, including two centuries and a highest score of 116 not out. Gaikwad, meanwhile, has 228 runs from nine ODIs at 28.50, with one century and one fifty. His List-A record is stronger, with 5,334 runs in 104 matches, including 21 centuries and 20 fifties.

Chopra also discussed Rishabh Pant's white-ball future after the wicketkeeper-batter was left out of the West Indies series. Pant has played only one ODI since returning from his 2024 road accident.

He has 871 runs in 31 ODIs at an average of 33.50, with a strike rate of 106.21, one century and five fifties. KL Rahul has retained the wicketkeeping role after strong performances. Chopra said India must also decide between Ravindra Jade-

Aakash Chopra sees a close contest between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad for India's 2027 World Cup reserve spot.

ja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar for the World Cup. Jadeja has scored 149 runs and taken 12 wickets in 13 ODIs since 2025.

Chopra added that every opportunity will be important for Jadeja as India assess its World Cup combination. He also highlighted Nitish Kumar Reddy's inclusion as a pace-bowling all-round option if Hardik Pandya is unavailable.

The series will also mark the return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to ODI cricket. Kohli has made 384 runs in six innings this year at 64, while Rohit has 379 in nine innings at 42.11. Both have scored a century and a fifty.

Harry Kane reaches 100 Bundesliga goals fastest ever

MUNICH

Harry Kane became the fastest player to score 100 Bundesliga goals as Bayern Munich swept aside Union Berlin 7-0, reaching the landmark in just 31 matches. The England striker scored twice, converting a penalty in the 39th minute before finding the net again in the 54th.

Michael Olise was the standout performer, scoring a hat-trick, providing two assists and collecting the Player of the Match award. Kane's Bundesliga tally now stands at 101 goals, surpassing former Germany striker Dieter Muller, who needed 129 matches to reach 100 for FC Köln. Kane's latest double also played a major role in Bayern's commanding home victory.

Kane said he was proud to reach the milestone in a second league after previously achieving 100 Premier League goals. Since joining Bayern from Tottenham Hotspur in 2023, he has won two Bundesliga titles, two German Su-



GOAL STATS

- Kane: 101 Bundesliga goals in 31 matches
- Bayern: 7-0 win over Union Berlin
- Michael Olise: 3 goals, 2 assists
- Kane: 152 goals in 154 Bayern appearances
- 2025-26 season: 73 goals, 8 assists in 65 matches

per Cups and a German Cup. Across all competitions, he has scored 152 goals in 154 appearances for the club.

The striker could reach 200 Bayern goals by the end of the season and is among the 30 players shortlisted for the 2026 Ballon d'Or. Kane enjoyed a highly productive 2025-26 campaign, scoring 73 goals and providing eight assists in 65 matches, while receiving only three yellow cards. His form has kept him among football's leading individual performers.

He also helped England reach the FIFA World Cup semifinals, scoring six goals during the tournament.

His latest Bundesliga achievement adds another milestone to an already remarkable spell in Germany, while Bayern's emphatic victory further underlined the attacking strength of the reigning champions and Kane's continued importance to the side and extended their strong start to the campaign with a convincing performance.

India trail Korea 0-2 after singles defeats

SEOUL

India trails the Republic of Korea 0-2 after losing both singles matches on the opening day of their Davis Cup 2026 Qualifiers second-round tie in Seoul on Friday. Dhakshinewar Suresh and Sumit Nagal fought hard but could not prevent Korea from taking control of the tie.

World No. 367 Suresh lost 6-3, 3-6, 4-6 to Korea's world No. 157 Kwon Soon-woo in a match lasting two hours and five minutes.

Nagal, India's top-ranked singles player at world No. 247, then suffered a 6-2, 4-6, 5-7 defeat against former Australian Open semifinalist Chung Hyeon. Nagal raced to a 4-0 lead and won the opening set, but Chung levelled after breaking him in the ninth game of the second set. In the decider, Chung led 4-1 before Nagal fought back to 4-4 and stayed level at 5-5. Chung then held serve and broke Nagal in the final game.

India must now win all three matches on Saturday to reach the Davis Cup Final 8 in Bologna, Italy. N Sriram Balaji and Niki Kalyanda Poonacha will face Nam Ji-sung and Park Uisung in the opening doubles rubber.

If India win the doubles, Nagal is scheduled to face Kwon in the first reverse singles, while Suresh could meet Chung in the fifth rubber. The losing team will enter the first round of the 2027 Qualifiers. India have been Davis Cup runners-up three times, in 1966, 1974 and 1987.



If India has chosen me, I will have to win gold: Devank Dalal

NEW DELHI

Young raider Devank Dalal is embracing the responsibility of representing India at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, with the 23-year-old targeting gold on his major international debut. India's men's kabaddi team will begin its campaign against hosts Japan on September 21.

Dalal finished as the second-highest-scoring raider in Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 with 271 raid points. He said his selection had increased his responsibility but insisted that he

would not allow expectations to become pressure. "If India has chosen me, I will have to do it," Dalal said.

India are placed in Group A alongside the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh and Chinese Taipei. After facing Japan on September 21, India will meet Korea on September 22, Bangladesh on September 23 and Chinese Taipei on September 24. The semifinals are scheduled for September 25, followed by the gold medal match on September 26.

Experienced all-rounder Aslam Inamdar, who was part of India's gold-medal-winning team at the 2022 Asian Games, backed the current squad. He highlighted the strong understanding among the players, developed through their

Pro Kabaddi League and national-level experience. Inamdar also stressed the need for younger players to adjust to international competition.

India will be led by Sunil Kumar and feature Pawan Sehrawat, Ankit Jaglan, Aslam Inamdar, Ashu Malik, Ayan Lohchab, Devank Dalal, Arjun Deshwal, Jaideep Dahiya, Rahul Sethpal, Gaurav Khatri and Sumit Sangwan. Dalal said players should view representing India as a responsibility rather than pressure.

He believes playing freely will be important as India seek another Asian Games gold medal in men's kabaddi. The team's blend of established PKL performers and younger players will now face its first major test in Nagoya as the tournament begins.

India's shooters target podium at Asian Games

NEW DELHI

India will field a 30-member shooting contingent across Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun events at the 20th Asian Games in Nagoya, with experienced international performers and emerging shooters forming the squad. The shooting programme will run from September 20 to October 1.

World No. 7 Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar will compete in 50m Rifle 3 Positions after winning silver at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian

Games. Former World Champion Rudranksh B Patil will contest 10m Air Rifle and 50m 3P. Elavenil Valarivan, Parth Rajesh Mane, Himanshu Dhillon, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa K Vinod will also compete in rifle events.

Double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker will contest 10m Air Pistol and 25m Pistol, while 2023 World Champion and Asian champion Esha Singh will compete in the same two events. World No. 8 Anish will take part in men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol. Suruchi Kamaljeet, Kedarling B Uchaganve, Aakash Bhardwaj and Rahi are also included in the pistol squad.

"India's shooting contingent for the Asian Games represents a strong combination of experience, international exposure and young talent."
— Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, NRAI President

The Shotgun team features Asian Games medallists and international performers. Kynan Chenai, a 2023 Asian Games gold medallist in men's Trap team and bronze medallist in individual Trap, will compete in Trap and Mixed Team. World No. 13 Neeru enters after winning the 2025 Asian Championships and 2026 World Cup in Lonato. Anantjeet Singh Naruka, a Hangzhou silver medallist, will compete in Skeet and Mixed Team.

NRAI president Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo said the squad combines experience, international exposure and young talent. The campaign will test India's depth across disciplines, with athletes carrying experience from Olympic, World Cup, World Championship and Asian-level competitions into Nagoya this year.

Quick Read

Iran executes man convicted of spying for Israel's Mossad

Tehran

Iran executed a man convicted of passing missile site intelligence to Israel during the 12-day war, according to the judiciary. Iran's judiciary-run Mizan news agency said Hossein Pedaran was hanged after the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence on charges of espionage and intelligence cooperation with Israel. It said Pedaran had provided Israel's Mossad intelligence service with information on sensitive military sites in the central province of Isfahan, and had carried out the espionage for financial gain.

AfD surge in Germany makes immigrants question

ROSTOCK

Shahd Najeeb still remembers the trauma of fleeing Islamic State fighters during Syria's civil war. More than a decade after finding refuge in Germany, she now fears she may no longer be welcome there. "When I think about the time we left Syria, I still don't know how we managed to get through it," she told Reuters in her home in Rostock, on Germany's Baltic coast. "It was like a nightmare." Najeeb and her husband, Mahmoud Hmouech, fled their home in Deir al-Zor in eastern Syria and rebuilt their lives in Germany, where he works in a barber shop and she serves meals in local schools. They have two young children.

Saudis-Houthis exchange strikes, Yemenis flee by boats

CAIRO

Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis exchanged fresh strikes across their border on Thursday and Yemenis took to boats in the Red Sea to escape fighting, as the spreading Middle East war created new threats to global oil supplies.

Houthi-controlled television reported Saudi air strikes in Hajjah province close to the Saudi border near the Red Sea coast, and the vicinity of Taiz further inland to the south. Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Saudi Arabia's civil defence said a Yemeni living in Saudi Arabia had been killed by debris from a drone intercepted over the western city of Taif, the first death Riyadh has announced in repeated Houthi attacks since fighting escalated last week. It has previously said more than 80 people were wounded.

Greenland deal keeps sovereignty intact

DENMARK AND GREENLAND SAY A NEW US SECURITY DEAL PRESERVES SOVEREIGNTY, WHILE TRUMP DESCRIBES PERMANENT AMERICAN CONTROL OVER GREENLAND'S SECURITY.

COPENHAGEN

Denmark and Greenland said on Saturday that a new security agreement with the United States would not compromise Greenland's sovereignty, after US President Donald Trump described the arrangement as giving Washington "permanent control" over the Arctic island's security.

The United States, Denmark and Greenland announced the agreement, saying it would allow Washington to develop a significant military presence on Greenland while preventing US adversaries from establishing bases or making sensitive investments on the strategically important island. However, the full terms of the agreement have not been made public.

That has left uncertainty



over the size of any expanded US military presence and whether Washington would receive additional influence over Greenland's foreign policy or natural resources. The

agreement is expected to be signed during the United Nations General Assembly next week and would then require the necessary parliamentary procedures. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said the agreement could

3 countries came to an agreement
■ US, Denmark and Greenland reach security agreeent,
■ Washington to expand military presence,
■ Denmark and Greenland reject sovereignty concerns,
■ Trump claims permanent US security control,
■ Deal expected to be signed at UN General Assembly,
■ Key military and political terms remain undisclosed,
■ NATO welcomes Arctic security agreement.

end months of uncertainty and strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic while respecting Denmark's stated red lines. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said the agreement recognised the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of the Danish Kingdom and the Greenlandic people's right to self-determination. Trump, however, said the United States would have permanent control over security and other needs in Greenland. He also said US adversaries would not be allowed to establish military or make sensitive investments without Washington's approval.

The agreement follows months of diplomatic tension after Trump repeatedly threatened to seek control of Greenland. NATO has welcomed the deal as a step toward greater security and cooperation in the Arctic.

Russia-Moldova clash over Transdnistria vote

CHISINAU

Russia's parliamentary election has triggered a fresh diplomatic dispute with Moldova over Moscow's decision to establish polling stations in the separatist Transdnistria region, highlighting tensions between the two countries over the breakaway territory and Russia's influence there.

Moscow plans to open 15 polling stations in Transdnistria for Russian citizens participating in Sunday's State Duma election.

Russian authorities say around 220,000 residents of the region hold Russian passports and should therefore be allowed to vote.

Moldova disputes that figure and has rejected any Russian polling stations in Transdnistria, arguing that its government has no control over voting procedures in the separatist territory. Chisinau has instead said Russian nationals should vote at a single polling station located at the Russian embassy in the Moldovan capital.

Moldovan authorities described Russia's plan as unacceptable and hostile and summoned Russian Ambassador

Oleg Ozerov to the Foreign Ministry. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova responded by calling on Moldova to withdraw its objections, saying the restrictions ran against democracy and international law.

Moldovan Foreign Minister Mihail Popsoi urged Moscow not to interfere in Moldova's efforts toward the peaceful reintegration of the breakaway territory.

The dispute comes as Moldova pursues closer ties with the European Union and seeks membership by 2030, while its government has strongly criticised Russia's war in Ukraine.

Transdnistria declared independence from Moldova in 1990 as the Soviet Union collapsed. The territory remains internationally unrecognised, including by Russia, but Moscow maintains a military contingent of about 1,500 personnel there. In Russia's 2021 parliamentary election, Moscow opened 27 polling stations in Transdnistria, where more than 59,000 people voted. United Russia, the party supporting President Vladimir Putin, received 76.2% of those votes.

Civil society groups sue Prabowo over forest fire

JAKARTA

Indigenous and civil-society organisations in Indonesia's West Kalimantan have filed a class-action lawsuit against President Prabowo Subianto and other authorities over their handling of recurring forest and land fires, according to the plaintiffs' lawyer.

The lawsuit was registered at the Pontianak court in West Kalimantan, with the first hearing scheduled for October 7, court documents showed. The plaintiffs accuse authorities of failing to adequately prevent and tackle forest and land fires that return to the region each year.

Glorio Sanen, the lawyer representing the plaintiffs, said the legal action was prompted by concerns among West Kalimantan residents about what they regard as government negligence in addressing the recurring

fires. The presidential office did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The plaintiffs include the West Kalimantan chapter of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago, the West Kalimantan branch of Catholic Youth, Perkumpulan Laman Punyung Indonesia and an individual, Sisilius Rami.

The lawsuit comes as Indonesia faces one of its most severe wildfire seasons in more than a decade. Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni has warned that fires could continue until early November, with the rainy season expected to arrive later than previously forecast.

The fires have been particularly severe in parts of Borneo and Sumatra, with prolonged drought and strong El Niño conditions worsening fire risks.

MOSCOW

Russian authorities reported attacks targeting voting infrastructure and communication networks on Saturday, as the country entered the second day of a three-day parliamentary election being held from September 18 to 20.

The Moscow online voting system was subjected to what Central Election Commission chief Ella Pamfilova described as a powerful and sustained cyberattack overnight. According to Interfax, Pamfilova said the attack continued but that Russia's technical teams were successfully repelling attempts to disrupt the system.

She said Moscow's remote electronic voting platform continued operating normally despite the intensity of the attack. Russian election officials have repeatedly said their systems were pre-



pared to withstand cyber threats during the election period.

Separately, Russia's digital ministry reported a sabotage attempt targeting communication lines in the country's Far East. State media said the attempt was thwarted and communications were subsequently restored.

The reports came as millions of Russians voted in the parliamentary election, which is also being held

alongside regional and local elections across the country. The 450-seat State Duma is being elected during the three-day voting period.

President Vladimir Putin has accused Ukraine of attempting to interfere in the election, although Russian authorities have not publicly provided evidence linking Kyiv to the reported attacks.

The election is closely watched because it is the first parliamentary vote since Russia launched its

Election security
Moscow's online voting system faced a sustained overnight attack.
-Officials said the attacks were successfully repelled.
A communication-line sabotage attempt was reported in Russia's Far East.
Putin accused Ukraine of election interference without providing evidence.

full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Reuters reported that the political environment remains tightly controlled, with many anti-war candidates excluded from participating.

Authorities have presented the election as a demonstration of political stability and public support for the Kremlin's policies, while the cyber incidents have added another security concern to the voting process.

Ukraine interfering in Russian parliamentary poll: Putin

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Ukraine was deliberately hindering talks aimed at ending the 4 1/2-year-old war and accused Kyiv of interfering in Russia's parliamentary election.

Putin, in comments to Russia's Military-Industrial commission, also reasserted Moscow's main defence aim of relying on its "nuclear triad" of weapons and said Moscow also had to move towards improving its anti-missile defences.

In comments reported by Russian news agencies, Putin said Ukraine had "long degenerated into a dictatorship," referring to the country not holding a new presidential election despite the expiry of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's mandate.

"The Ukrainian leadership is in no hurry to hold elections, as you know, but they are also trying to interfere with us," Putin was quoted as saying, without providing evidence.

Zelenskyy and other Ukrainian officials say no election can be held in their country while a state of emergency, in place since Russia's February 2022 invasion,

remains in effect. Kyiv derides the Russian vote as a "pseudo election" with the result never in doubt.

Russians began voting in a three-day parliamentary election that Putin has said will show that millions of people back his army fighting in Ukraine, even though most anti-war candidates were not allowed to run.

The result is likely to be held up by the Kremlin as evidence of widespread public support for Putin's policies and, in particular, for his prosecution of Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two, now in its fifth year.

Putin said Ukrainian strikes on Russian targets meant Kyiv's offers to hold negotiations to end the war were disingenuous.

He said one recent Ukrainian strike had hit a home in a village in a Russian-occupied part of Zaporizhzhia, killing the head of a local election commission, who had been presented posthumously with a Russian state honour.

NAME CHANGE

I, Prakash Karantha K S/o Shivaram Karanth, aged about 62 years, residing at: # 30/1/267, 30th Ward, Malleswara badavane, Near Netaji Papoular School, Ramanagara-562159, do hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as KARANTHA PRAKASHA KOTA in certain records and documents. My correct and actual name is PRAKASHA KARANTHA K only. Hence forth, I shall be known and recognized by the name PRAKASHA KARANTHA K for all legal, official, personal and all other purposes. Sworn before T.V. Indira, Notary Ramanagara, Date: 18-09-2026

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Cd.Misc. No: 555 / 2026

PETITIONERS : 1. Sri .Anil kumar . C S/o Late Chikkappaiah, Aged about 31 years, 2. Smt. Lakshamma W/o Late Chikkappaiah, Aged about 52 years, 3. Sri Vijay kumar . C S/o Late Chikkappaiah, Aged about 28 years, All R/AT Hiranuddannahalli village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural district. Vs **RESPONDENT :** The Tahshildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner No. 1, & 3 Grand Father and also Petitioner No 2 Father in law. S. Late Chinappa @ Maddurappa @ Chikkappaiah S/o Late Doddagullappa, died on 21.12.2004 at Hiranuddannahalli village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1989. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear before the above court on 24-10-26 at 11 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence. The publication is dated 17-09-2026 with the signature and seal of the court. By order of the court Shirestar, Addl civil judge, Doddaballapur. Advocate for petitioners: Ambareesha C

NAME CHANGE

I JABEER AHMED SYED AHMED S/o, Syed Ahmed Shahin, resident of No 116, 6th Cross Near Malacca Masjid Gangondanahalli Bengaluru Dist, 560039, Have Changed My Name From JABEER AHMES SYED AHMED TO JABEER AHMED SYED AHMED , vide affidavit Sworn before Notary H.S. SAKALESH ARADHAYA, Bengaluru Dated: 19.09.2026.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF HOSUR

I.A.No.3/2025 In O.S.No.85/2025

Gokul Hills Rep. By its Partners

1. Vijayakumar, s/o Subramaniam, No.11/9, First Cross Street, Prakash Nagar, Hosur-635109. 2. Kannan, s/o Muthusamy,

No.3/463, Bharathi Nagar, Arasanatty, Mookondapalli, Hosur-635126.

..Petitioners/Plaintiffs

Vs

1. Mallamma, w/o Siddabasappa, 2. Sandeep, s/o Siddabasappa, Both are residing at No.127/34, 7th Cross Street, 3rd Main Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027.

Respondents/Defendants 5 and 6

NOTICE

The above named petitioners/plaintiffs have filed the above suit against the respondents/defendants 5 and 6 for the reliefs of declaration and injunction and the same is posted on 14-10-2026 for your appearance and filing objection if any. If you fail-ure, it is hereby informed that the above suit will be decided unilaterally exparte against you both.

DEFENCE DEALS

Taiwan arms delay hits Anduril biz

TAIPEI

The delay in approving a proposed \$14 billion US arms package for Taiwan is affecting defence technology company Anduril's business, its founder Palmer Luckey said on Saturday, adding another commercial dimension to a decision with wider implications for Washington-Beijing relations.

Luckey made the comments in Taipei, where he attended a defence forum alongside Taiwan President Lai Ching-te. He said he did not know the current status of the package but acknowledged that Anduril's business with Taiwan would be different if the proposed sales were moving forward. Anduril already supplies Taiwan with its Altius drone and has become a prominent US defence technology company as autonomous systems and drones gain importance in modern warfare. Taiwan also unveiled the Barracuda-500 autonomous cruise missile last year, developed jointly with Anduril. The proposed

arms package has been awaiting President Donald Trump's approval for months. Trump put the sale on hold following his May meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and described the package as a "very good negotiating chip". Luckey said the impact of the delay extends beyond individual contracts because stalled approvals prevent continued progress in other areas of business. He said he had discussed Taiwan arms sales with Trump, Vice President JD Vance

and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The issue is particularly sensitive because Beijing opposes US weapons sales to Taiwan and has sanctioned American companies involved in supplying the island. Luckey himself was sanctioned by China last year. Luckey said the Trump administration was also considering possible economic consequences of additional arms sales, including China's potential use of its leverage over rare earth materials important to technology companies.

NAME CHANGE

I MUDDASSIRA SHARIFF D/o, Zafrulla Shariff, resident of No 66, Andrahalli Main Road Near Masjid UL Khair Peenya 2nd Stage Hegganahalli Bengaluru Dist, 560091, Have Changed My Name From MUDDASIRA SHARIFF To MUDDASSIRA SHARIFF , vide affidavit Sworn before Notary H.S.SAKALESH ARADHYA Bengaluru Dated: 19.09.2026.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I Sri. Nadeem Pasha.M.P S/o S. Mahaboob Pasha R/at B.S. Auto Mobile Building, B.M. Sree Road, D.Cross, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Rural District-561203 Do he hereby declare that I have Correction of my father name from MAHBOOB PASHA.S to S.MAHABOOB PASHA Vied affidavit Dated 18th Sep.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary S.CHANDRASHEKAR at Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client (1) MR. Akshay Kumar Vinubhai Vasoya, (2) Mr. Aryanam Hasmu kh Bhai Sojithra (3) MS. Namrata Pravin Bhai Patel (4) Mrs. Amisha Pravin Bhai Patel (5) Mr. Patel Suresh Bhai is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from Mr. Nagappa s/o Late. Pillappa and Mr. Rangaiah Aliyas Rangaswamy s/o Late. Pillappa land bearing Sy.No.23/3 measuring 2 Acres 07 Guntas of land Situated at Chikkasane Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right title interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objection/claims what so ever along with Documentary proof on or before 7 days from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person B.Ramakrishna BA.LLB, Advocate Office at Taluk office Road, Devanahalli-562110

B. RAMAKRISHNA Advocate Roll No:12/1985 Taluk Office Road, Devanahalli contact no. 9979691981.

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Trailer launched for Kannada experimental thriller Roushabhi

In a pioneering conceptual experiment for the Kannada film industry, director S.R. Pramod's upcoming feature Roushabhi incorporates the Navarasas (nine primary human emotions) within a single unified narrative leading toward one central climax. Produced by Haveri-based entrepreneur Sharanappa Angadi under the Spoorthi Cinemas banner, the film marks Pramod's sixth directorial outing.

The production team wrapped up promotional activities with a formal trailer launch at Sri Renukamba Studio, where Karnataka Directors' Association President NRK Vishwanath inaugurated the event. Multi-hyphenate artist Ayuru a disciple of celebrated Telugu writer Yandamoori Veerendranath penned



the story, screenplay, dialogues, and handled editing alongside starring as the male protagonist. The ensemble features female leads Manju Preethi and Rekha Ramesh, with director Pramod also making an on-screen appearance. The technical crew includes cinematographer My-

suru Somu, composer Kevin, colorist Kishore Kumar Akkana, and studio lead Anil C.R. Speaking at the launch, director Pramod clarified that the title derives from the opening syllables of the three central characters: 'Rowdra' for the rowdy antagonist, 'Shantha' for Shalini, and

'Bheebhatsa' for Bindu, rather than holding any distinct linguistic definition. Shot across a single 20-day schedule at resorts in Mysuru and Nela-mangala, the production is scheduled for theatrical release this month.

Addressing the gathering, NRK Vishwanath praised Pramod's creative evolution while voicing strong concern regarding industry distress. He pointed out that state film subsidies remain stalled since 2022 without an active governing committee, lamenting that while producers diligently pay GST, state incentives are withheld amid mounting regulatory burdens. Vishwanath confirmed that the Association has formally petitioned the Union Information Ministry seeking urgent intervention.

Atlee's Raaka teaser ignites global fan frenzy

Production powerhouse Sun Pictures has heightened global anticipation around director Atlee's upcoming sci-fi fantasy spectacle, Raaka, by releasing a cryptic sixteen-second promotional teaser.

Shrouded in dramatic smoke and fiery visuals, the video introduces a bold proclamation: "Beyond what seemed possible. We dared to imagine. We dared to achieve. Raaka: A global triumph".

The short clip deliberately conceals narrative details, instead building intrigue hot on the heels of another enigmatic teaser featuring only the number "37". The high-concept production marks the maiden



collaboration between Pushpa superstar Allu Arjun and hit-maker Atlee following the director's record-breaking

success with Jawan. Mounted on an unprecedented budget, Raaka reportedly explores parallel dimensions spanning dual timelines, interweaving futuristic sci-fi action, ancient fantasy, complex creature transformations, and cutting-edge visual effects.

The film boasts a formidable ensemble, featuring Deepika Padukone, Rashmika Mandanna, Janhvi Kapoor, and Mrunal Thakur in closely guarded roles. While traditional plot details remain strictly under wraps, the promotional strategy continues to fuel extensive fan theories rather than conventional reveals.

Slated for a worldwide the-

atrical release in 2027, Raaka is being positioned by Sun Pictures not merely as a domestic blockbuster, but as a major cinematic landmark aimed at commanding the global box office. The ambitious production team aims to translate bold promises into a landmark cinematic experience that exceeds previous industry benchmarks and captivates filmgoers across global markets with its storytelling.

SOBHITA EMBRACES GRUELING STUNTS FOR PA. RANJITH'S VETTUVAM



Actress Sobhita Dhulipala has opened up about the intensive physical preparation required for her upcoming role in director Pa. Ranjith's action drama Vettuvam, revealing that she performed all her own stunts rather than relying on doubles during filming. The film's high-octane narrative demanded extensive conditioning in traditional Indian martial arts and combat disciplines. Dhulipala undertook rigorous training in ancient forms including Adi

lakshamba, and the intricate handling of Surul (curling whip blades). Reflecting on the process, the actress noted that the experience expanded her physical and mental awareness, explaining that although stunt doubles assisted during choreography rehearsals, the cast embraced the challenge of executing the complex sequences themselves on set. She praised the camaraderie among her co-actors, highlighting how the physically demanding set allowed her to thrive creatively.

Vettuvam centers on a rural gangster revered as a modern-day Robin Hood who surren-

ders to the police to evade bitter rivals, only to confront far more perilous corruption and brutality inside the prison system.

Dhulipala first earned critical acclaim with Anurag Kashyap's Raman Raghav 2.0 and the hit drama series Made in Heaven. Her career spans diverse multilingual blockbusters, including Goodachari, Major, Moothon, Kurup, Mani Ratnam's two-part historical epic Ponniyin Selvan, and the espionage thriller The Night Manager. She recently transitioned to global Hollywood cinema with the Dev Patel-directed action feature Monkey Man.

Grammy-winning pop star Miley Cyrus has highlighted the track "Redlights" as one of her absolute favorite releases to date, describing the cut as an artistic blend of heartbreak and euphoria. Taking to Instagram with behind-the-scenes photographs following the launch of her tenth studio album, Bass Persuades, Cyrus shared her personal connection to the song. She noted that "Redlights" combines her most cherished musical elements balancing deep melancholy with high-energy emotional release stating that she thrives on exploring contradictory feelings of tension and vulnerability in her songwriting. Reflecting on the overarching project, Cyrus revealed that Bass Persuades encapsulates both the frantic whirlwind of her twenty-year career and the inner calm she unlocked after consciously choosing a slower lifestyle. While acknowledging that the record came together unusually fast, she emphasized that nonstop motion had defined her world ever since her breakthrough role in Los Angeles. Thanking fans worldwide for celebrating the album's official arrival, Cyrus celebrated the release alongside the drop of the official music video for "Let's Get Married". Looking back across a discography that took flight with pop-rock chart-toppers like Meet Miley Cyrus and Breakout, the singer expressed profound gratitude that her music continues to evolve in direct parallel with her personal life journey.

Miley reflects on "Redlights" and her new album Bass Persuades

Shruti Haasan replaces Samantha in Indo-UK feature Chennai Story

Actress Shruti Haasan has stepped in to headline the upcoming Indo-UK production Chennai Story, replacing Samantha who previously stepped back from the project. Directed by BAFTA-winning Welsh filmmaker Philip John (Downton Abbey), the film is an international adaptation of Timeri N. Murari's bestselling 2004 novel The Arrangements of Love. The screenplay is co-written by John alongside British-Sri Lankan actor-writer Nimmi Harasgama.

Set across the United Kingdom and India, the narrative centers on Nikhil, a working-class South Asian Welshman who journeys to his ancestral roots in Chennai following the death of his mother to track down his estranged father. Upon arriving, he enlists the help of Anu, a spirited and street-smart private detective who guides him through the city's vibrant cultural terrain.

While Samantha was originally slated to lead the English-language coming-of-age comedy-drama, her hiatus from acting prompted the casting change. Haasan's addition brings renewed attention to the cross-cultural romantic feature, which explores identity, self-discovery, and complex familial bonds.



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