

Quick Read

Nationwide counterfeit medicine racket uncovered by SIT

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A massive counterfeit medicine ring based in Bengaluru has grown into a nationwide scandal, prompting raids across multiple states by the SIT and Health Department. Investigators discovered that the syndicate supplied fake life-saving drugs and expired treatments to various hospitals by faking batch numbers and packaging. Cheap pills were marked up from 150 rupees to thousands, fooling medical staff completely. The suspected mastermind, Prashanth, remains stranded in Azerbaijan due to an expired visa. Because of the vast interstate network, Karnataka is considering transferring the probe to the CBI.

Reckless bike stunts cause fatal van crash

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A late-night joyride turned tragic on the Outer Ring Road when a van flipped over while trying to dodge reckless bikers performing stunts. Driver Ravi swerved sharply to avoid oncoming bikers riding on one wheel near Mahadeshwara Temple. The vehicle lost control, smashed into an electric pole, and flipped completely. Passenger Manoj died instantly, while five others sustained severe injuries and were hospitalized. Furious locals protested the delayed ambulance response and blamed police for ignoring dangerous late-night bike stunts. Jnana Bharathi traffic police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Police investigate mysterious death in luxury car

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Panic struck Koramangala when hotel staff discovered a dead man inside a luxury vehicle parked directly opposite the local police station. The victim has been identified as 46-year-old Salim Akbar from Virajpet. Police report that the luxury car arrived and parked outside the hotel around midnight. By morning, staff noticed the unresponsive man inside and alerted authorities. Scene of crime experts and Koramangala police rushed to inspect the vehicle. Early investigations indicate he likely suffered a sudden heart attack.

Prisons department seizes 400 mobile phones

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Prisons across Karnataka are facing a major security review after authorities uncovered a massive network of illegal gadgets behind bars. Over the past nine months, a staggering 410 mobile phones have been seized from inmates in various correctional facilities throughout the state, highlighting deep-rooted loopholes in prison management. The startling figures came to light following aggressive surprise checks and intensified security sweeps ordered by the Prisons Director General of Police, Alok Kumar. His strict leadership and zero-tolerance approach have driven a massive crackdown, leading to the massive haul of contraband devices that inmates managed to smuggle inside. Among all the facilities inspected, Bengaluru's notorious Parappana Agrahara Central Prison emerged as the primary hub for these illegal operations. Out of the 410 total phones confiscated statewide, a whopping 334 devices were recovered from this single prison alone. The high concen-

Merchants fear cash return over new UPI fees

New UPI transaction fees spark anxiety among Bengaluru businesses, raising concerns over operational costs and cash regression.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Central Government's recent policy framework announcing a standard Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.4% on specific person-to-merchant (P2M) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions exceeding ₹2,000—effective October 15, 2026—has triggered widespread anxiety among industrialists, trade associations, and local merchants across Bengaluru.

While policymakers and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) emphasize that the structural fee is designed to safeguard cybersecurity, fortify real-time network infrastructure, and ensure long-term ecosystem sustainability, the local business community warns of unintended economic repercussions.

Prominent concerns center on compressed profit margins, rising operational overheads, and the distinct possibility of commercial trade regressing toward cash-based settlements.

Industrialists and commercial leaders argue that any friction introduced into the digital payment pipeline risks undoing years of progress toward a transparent, digital-first economy. Ravikiran Kulkarni, a prominent Bengaluru industrialist, noted that introducing transaction charges could inadvertently drive both consumers and businesses back to physical currency. According to Kulkarni, a retreat to cash ultimately inflates the macro-economic costs borne by the state apparatus for printing, managing, and circulating physical banknotes.

Echoing these sentiments, Balakrishna M.G., Immediate Past President of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), acknowledged that

Sector-Specific Pressures:



Supply Chain Friction: Because fuel stations handle high-ticket daily volumes, absorbing these fees locally is economically unviable, raising fears that some outlets might restrict digital modes for larger ticket sizes.

Consumer Impact: Retailers argue that although direct surcharges on end-consumers are officially barred under the new guidelines, the cumulative financial leakage forces businesses to rethink their pricing models or payment acceptance thresholds.

Profit Margin Erosion: Ashraf pointed out that fuel margins are tightly regulated, leaving retailers with very little buffer to absorb processing costs generated by digital sales.

while maintaining the massive digital public infrastructure entails heavy recurring operational expenses, passing those costs down through transaction fees threatens small enterprises. Balakrishna stressed that UPI has fundamentally streamlined trade

Small traders and wholesaler dynamics

While the framework attempts to shield micro-vendors by exempting small merchants receiving up to ₹1 lakh per month through QR codes and protecting transactions below ₹2,000 (which account for roughly 96% of retail payment volume), mid-tier retailers face a distinct structural dilemma: the asymmetry between retail sales and wholesale procurement.

Regulatory framework and exemptions

A 0.4% MDR applies to merchant payments exceeding ₹2,000, capped strictly at ₹300 per transaction for values reaching ₹75,000 and above. Person-to-person (P2P) transfers remain entirely free regardless of amount. Furthermore, essential sectors such as fuel, insurance, and telecommunications benefit from a capped flat fee of ₹5 on qualifying transactions.

Strict security enforced as KSRP Constable Exams begin

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) implemented foolproof security measures and live webcasting surveillance across the state on Sunday to oversee the competitive written examination for filling 2,314 vacant constable posts within the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) and allied wings. The statewide recruitment drive was split into distinct shifts to accommodate thousands of aspirants. For candidates belonging to the Residual Cadre (non-Hyderabad-Karnataka regions), the morning shift examination commenced at 10:30 AM. This session was held across 333 designated centers spanning eight districts, including Bengaluru, drawing a massive turnout of 142,912 registered candidates aiming to secure positions in law enforcement. Meanwhile, the afternoon examination session for candidates applying under the Kalyana-Karnataka region started at 3:00 PM. Conducted across 85 centers located within four regional districts, this common test registered an attendance pool of 38,332 aspirants vying for special-



Comprehensive measures, including live webcasting and close CCTV monitoring, were enforced to maintain absolute transparency. -KEA officials stated

ized local cadre openings. In total, over 181,000 applicants appeared for the drive, making it one of the largest administrative security exercises managed by the board this year. To eliminate any scope of malpractice, cheating, or paper leaks, authorities placed every examination hall under comprehensive closed-circuit television (CCTV) coverage. A centralized monitoring system streamed live webcasting feeds directly to KEA headquarters. Executive Director H. Prasanna closely monitored operations, instructing candidates to comply strictly

Ensuring fair examination standards

Authorities maintained strict protocols, including mandatory adherence to prescribed dress codes and rigorous identity checks, to preserve complete transparency throughout the recruitment drive. Candidates were advised to follow all exam guidelines closely while navigating security checkpoints. Qualified candidates from today's written test will advance to subsequent physical standard tests and endurance evaluations.

with the standardized dress codes and verify instructions carefully before attempting the test. Police forces and administrative squads were deployed extensively outside sensitive exam zones to manage traffic and disperse large gatherings of accompanying relatives.

Heavy rain batter B'luru, disrupting traffic

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Life in the garden city came to a grinding halt early this morning as a fierce overnight downpour battered several neighborhoods. Triggered by a shifting low-pressure system lingering over the Bay of Bengal, heavy thunderstorms rolled across the region late last night. The relentless showers continued well into the morning hours, catching commuters off guard and turning major roadways into waterlogged obstacle courses. The storm spared few parts of the city. Widespread heavy rainfall was officially recorded across numerous bustling localities, including Majestic, Koramangala, Shantinagar, Vasanthnagar, and the Corporation area. Other key neighborhoods like Malleshwaram, Yeshwantpur, Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, J.P. Nagar, Rajajinagar, Chandra Layout, Nagarbhavi, Sunkadakatte, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, and Hebbal also experienced severe water accumulation. As morning broke, thousands of office workers and school children stepped out only to find flooded streets and choked traffic intersections.

B'luru expects 5 days rain, Yellow alert for 15 districts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
State weather authorities have issued a widespread meteorological warning, forecasting continuous light to moderate rainfall accompanied by intense thunderstorms, frequent lightning, and gusty winds across multiple geographic subdivisions through September 24th.

According to official bulletins released by the State Meteorological Department, a newly developing low-pressure system over the neighboring Bay of Bengal is driving a surge in moisture-laden winds across the southern peninsula. Senior meteorological expert C.S. Patil confirmed that active weather conditions will persist across the coastal belt, North Interior Karnataka, and South Interior Karnataka over the next 5 days.

In response to the developing weather patterns, authorities have issued a precautionary 'Yellow Alert' spanning 15 districts. The targeted zones include coastal powerhouses Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi, northern interior agricultural hubs Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Bidar, and Kalaburagi, malnad regions Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, and Kodagu, as well as the metropolitan expanse of Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural. For the capital city, meteorologists predict intermittent light to moderate showers, accompanied by surface winds reaching speeds between thirty and forty kilometers per hour, which may cause localized evening traffic disruptions and temporary waterlogging on low-lying thoroughfares.

While isolated pockets received only scattered drizzle initially, widespread precipitation is expected to intensify progressively over the coming

Karnataka weather authorities issued a yellow alert across 15 districts for heavy rains and thunderstorms, offering mixed relief amid widespread agricultural drought conditions.



days. This impending spell brings a complex mix of relief and concern against the backdrop of a broader seasonal deficit. Persistent rainfall shortages earlier in the monsoon cycle have triggered severe agricultural stress, leading to emerging drought-like conditions across approximately two hundred taluks statewide.

To manage agrarian distress systematically, the state government has officially declared 124 taluks as drought-affected. Under standard administrative disaster guidelines, a taluk qualifies for official drought notification if ground verification surveys confirm agricultural crop loss equal to or exceeding 33 percent.

Furthermore, damage assessments surpassing 50 percent are officially classified as severe drought. If extensive surveys reveal severe damage across more than eighty percent of inspected village clusters, administrative categories are promptly upgraded to ensure targeted financial relief and emergency input subsidies reach distressed farming communities.

Pink Line inauguration pushed amid regulatory delays

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The much-anticipated inauguration of Bengaluru's Namma Metro Pink Line has encountered yet another administrative setback, extinguishing hopes for a commercial rollout ahead of the upcoming Dasara festivities. While the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) had initially floated optimistic timelines targeting a late-September launch for the initial elevated corridor, lingering regulatory hurdles and bureaucratic delays have pushed the operational timeline further into uncertainty. At the heart of the current stalemate is the pending safety clearance loop involving central oversight bodies. Although the initial 7.5-kilometer elevated stretch spanning from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere completed its physical infrastructure benchmarks and initial oscillation trials,

final authorization cannot proceed without formal green lights. BMRL submitted applications to the Railway Board seeking crucial rolling stock sanctions, but clearances have faced prolonged processing times. Because statutory protocol dictates that the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) must withhold final safety inspections until rolling stock approvals are formally secured, the mandatory safety audits remain stalled. Furthermore, authorities must subsequently acquire an Independent Safety Assessor (ISA) signaling report, adding layers of procedural verification before passenger services can legally commence. Compounding these technical delays are administrative bottlenecks, including the recent high-profile transfer of the CMRS Commissioner and local debates surrounding station nomenclature.

POISON ON PRESCRIPTION

FDA on fake drug racket: Notices to 15 hospital pharmacies

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The ongoing investigation into a massive counterfeit drug racket has taken a dramatic turn as the Food and Drug Administration launched a sweeping enforcement crackdown across the state. Authorities have officially issued strict notices and cancelled the operating licenses of pharmacies belonging to over 15 major hospitals, including prominent medical institutions in Bengaluru, for allegedly stocking and distributing fake or substandard pharmaceutical products. Special Investigation Team officials, who recently exposed the sprawling illegal network, identified multiple medical facilities that received shipments of counterfeit medications. The compromised inventory in-

cluded critical healthcare supplies such as life-saving drugs, intensive care unit injections, and essential cancer medications. In response to these alarming findings, regulatory authorities escalated their punitive measures beyond hospital counters, targeting the entire supply chain. Investigators are currently interrogating medical representatives and wholesale distributors tied to the illegal shipments. Officials are meticulously auditing supply records to uncover regulatory breaches and negligence. Consequently, the FDA has initiated formal procedures to strip negligent distributors of their trade licenses permanently, sending shockwaves through illicit pharmaceutical supply rings that recklessly

Regulatory warning on e-commerce

With digital platforms increasingly offering steep discounts and alternative brand substitutions, the drug administration is moving to enforce stricter oversight on virtual medical sales. State agencies continue auditing distribution pipelines to weed out illicit repackaging hubs and safeguard legitimate healthcare supply chains.



Developments in the crackdown

- License Cancellations:** Following disclosures on hospitals linked to the supply chain of fake cancer drugs, life-saving medications, and ICU injections, authorities have moved to strip both hospital pharmacies and involved distributors of their operational licenses.
- Distributor Interrogations:** Medical representatives and distributors accused of channeling substandard products into clinical establishments are being extensively grilled to uncover further network layers.
- Online Sales Scrutiny:** The FDA has simultaneously stepped up quality checks and random sampling on e-pharmacies and discount-driven digital platforms, citing risks of altered prescriptions and compromised patient safety.



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Dr G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



DRIVING KARNATAKA'S SUCCESS DRUDHA KARNATAKADA SANKALPA

TULU HAS BEEN DECLARED AS THE SECOND ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE LANGUAGE OF THE STATE OF KARNATAKA



The declaration would be applicable to **Udupi and Dakshina Kannada** districts.



The **district administrations** will be designated as the **nodal agencies** for implementation.



An amount of **Rs. 82 lakh per year** will be provided for activities related to translation, training and the use of the language.



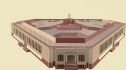
Shakthi

Anna Bhagya

Gruha Jyothi

Gruha Lakshmi

Yuva Nidhi



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



**DRUDHA
KARNATAKADA
SANKALPA**
SHATHAKADA PATHA
PRAGATHIYA RATHA

Quick Read

Cyber fraud ring busted, 3 arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cyber crime police have busted an international fraud ring and arrested three men for cheating a citizen out of nearly 94 lakh rupees through fake online investments. The suspects—Amit Mishra, Tausif Ahmed, and Parashuram Sadanand—lured the victim via a WhatsApp group, promising massive profits. Police seized six phones, uncovering over 507 mule accounts linked to cybercrimes nationwide. The gang used fake donation promises and malicious mobile apps to steal banking OTPs. Authorities discovered financial links leading to Hong Kong and California, while a manhunt is underway for another key suspect named Anoop.

High Court denies bail to death row convict

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has refused to suspend the death sentence or grant bail to Mahesh, who brutally hacked his wife Shilpa to death with a machete. The tragic murder occurred after Shilpa refused to sign property sale documents to pay off her husband's gambling debts. A division bench rejected the bail plea, citing strong evidence like CCTV footage, while scheduling the main appeal for October. The court also ordered a background report on the convict's prison conduct. Mahesh had attacked her 21 times in 2024 after she refused to yield.

CID files 'B-Report' in Suraj Revanna case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department has submitted a final B-report to the special court in the unnatural sexual assault case against MLC Suraj Revanna. Investigators filed the report after finding no corroborative, circumstantial, or supporting evidence for the allegations. A local native had previously filed a complaint accusing Suraj of assault, which led to a legal battle and an earlier challenged report. Following a second detailed probe, authorities found insufficient proof to proceed. Meanwhile, a counter-complaint regarding an alleged five-crore extortion attempt by the complainant had also surfaced during the earlier investigations.

Mandatory e-KYC introduced for LPG bookings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cooking gas consumers across India face a critical upcoming deadline as the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas enforces strict guidelines. Starting October 1, completing biometric identity verification is mandatory for households wishing to book domestic cooking gas cylinders at regulated, subsidized prices.

The policy aims to streamline distribution transparency, eliminate duplicate or inactive accounts, and prevent the unauthorized diversion of subsidized domestic cooking fuel toward commercial or industrial operations. Official numbers indicate that out of the total active consumer base nationwide, approximately 27.43 crore individuals have already finished the verification procedure. Households that completed this requirement previously do not need to take any further steps. However, millions of users must still finish the process to avoid disruptions in receiving financial benefits.

To help citizens meet the requirement without hassle, oil marketing companies have rolled out multiple accessible verification channels. Consumers can complete the biometric check directly at their doorstep when delivery personnel arrive, utilizing specialized mobile tools. Alternatively, individuals can visit their nearest authorized local distributor showroom.

For tech-savvy users preferring remote completion, official mobile applications provide direct self-service options. Customers using Indane can utilize the Indian Oil ONE application, Bharat Gas users can access Hello BPCL, and HP Gas consumers can manage verification through the HP Pay platform.

Government guidelines clarify that refusing or failing to complete the biometric validation will not completely block individuals from purchasing cooking fuel. Consumers who choose to opt out or skip the verification can still acquire cylinders, but they must buy them at full market rates without government price support. Opting

Pfizer sales halted in K'taka over fake drugs probe

K'taka health authorities banned Pfizer product sales after the pharmaceutical giant repeatedly refused to cooperate with counterfeit investigations.

THE REGULATORY CRACKDOWN



- Non-Cooperation with Probe:** State investigators probing a multi-crore counterfeit racket—which utilized forged Pfizer labels to hawk fake high-cost antibiotics and critical care injections—had formally requested operational details, supply chain metrics, and distributor records from the company.
- Lack of Response:** Due to the absence of any satisfactory response or administrative cooperation from Pfizer, regulators enforced the temporary prohibition to safeguard public health and plug intelligence gaps.
- Securing the Supply Chain:** Officials emphasized that complete visibility into manufacturing details and authorized distributor networks is vital to track down remaining elements of the counterfeit syndicate.

asking for urgent information, Pfizer officials allegedly chose to remain unresponsive and uncooperative. Frustrated by this lack of corporate responsibility and public safety commitment, state regulators decided that a strong message had to be sent. The immediate sales halt serves as a direct consequence of the company's corporate silence during a critical public health investigation.

Local health advocates have strongly praised the move, pointing out that pharmaceutical companies cannot simply turn a blind eye when their own life-saving medications are being illegally faked and sold to vulnerable citizens. Without the cooperation of the original brand, tracking down the exact supply chains used by the counterfeiters becomes an uphill battle for law enforcement agencies.

As the temporary ban takes immediate effect across Karnataka, pharmacies and medical distributors are scrambling to comply with the new orders, pulling affected stock from their shelves. Meanwhile, state drug inspectors have intensified their crackdown on local black markets, determined to root out every single fake pill linked to the

Uncompromising regulatory compliance is mandatory; companies failing to assist authorities in counterfeit investigations will face immediate commercial freezes.

- Health officials

Expanding counterfeit investigation

The state's widening crackdown on spurious drug operations—currently under active review by a Special Investigation Team (SIT)—has exposed sophisticated rings repackaging low-cost components under premium brand labels. State health authorities maintain that supply chain accountability will be rigorously enforced against any entity failing to assist official investigations into dangerous medical fraud.

syndicate.

Industry experts note that this rare regulatory clash sets a major precedent for accountability. Regulators hope that this severe disruption to its business operations will finally force Pfizer to wake up, step forward, and provide the vital data needed to protect public health and bring the counterfeiters behind bars.

CID conducts searches in KPSC recruitment scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The investigation into the massive Karnataka Public Service Commission recruitment scandal has taken a dramatic turn as federal and state agencies tighten their grip on key suspects. The Enforcement Directorate has officially arrested senior IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar and a close associate, middleman Basavaraju Kannale, in a major KPSC recruitment scam investigation involving massive bribes.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested senior IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar and middleman Basavaraju Kannale in a major KPSC recruitment scam investigation involving massive bribes.

days, Enforcement Directorate officials subjected them to continuous questioning inside the prison facility. However, sources revealed that the accused individuals chose to remain uncooperative, withholding critical details about the illegal recruitment ring and financial payoffs.

Because of this stubborn refusal to cooperate, Enforcement Directorate teams formally arrested both men. Late last night, they were produced before a special court, where financial investigators successfully secured their custody for detailed interrogation starting today.

Shocking findings are already emerging from the ongoing probe. Investigators discovered that the senior bureaucrat allegedly spent massive sums of looted money to buy luxury gold jewelry worth lakhs of rupees for a female friend.



Auto procession marks Hebbal hospital event

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has officially laid the foundation stone for a modern multi-specialty hospital in Hebbal. The new healthcare facility will be built inside the campus of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University located in Bhoopasandra.

Several senior ministers, local leaders, and party supporters attended the ground-breaking ceremony. Transport Minister and local MLA Byrathi Suresh joined the Chief Minister alongside other prominent figures. A lively procession added to the gathering, with over six hundred citizens arriving at the venue in nearly one hundred and fifty auto-rickshaws, led by local social worker and Congress leader Nandish Kumar.

State leaders emphasized that the upcoming hospital will dramatically improve public health infrastructure for residents living across the Hebbal constituency. Once completed, the facility will deliver diverse and advanced medical services directly to the neighborhood. Officials highlighted that bringing vital treatments, including emergency care, closer to local communities will save precious time during medical crises and ensure that quality healthcare remains accessible to everyone in the area.

Karnataka plans global quantum platform with 2027 summit

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka plans to expand its 2027 Quantum India Bengaluru Summit into a global platform for quantum research, innovation and investment.

Karnataka is preparing to scale up the second Quantum India Bengaluru Summit in 2027, with a focus on bringing together global researchers, technology companies, startups, investors and policymakers. Minister for Science and Technology Ajay Dharam Singh said the summit would promote research, industry collaboration, investment and international partnerships.

"The 2027 summit should go beyond being just a conference. It should emerge as a global quantum platform that brings together research, industry, startups, investment and international collaboration," Singh said while speaking at the 10th anniversary celebration of deep-tech cybersecurity company QNu Labs in Bengaluru. He said Karnataka had set a target of building a USD 20-billion quantum economy by 2035 and was expanding its ecosystem through the ₹1,000-crore Karnataka Quantum Mission.

K'taka, Japan discuss bioenergy cooperation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka and Japan discussed technology exchange, investment and research to strengthen cooperation in the bioenergy sector.

S.E. Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, held discussions with senior Japanese representatives in Bengaluru on Sunday regarding cooperation and potential future partnerships in the bioenergy sector.

The meeting focused on the Board's bioenergy action plans and recent developments in Japan's bioenergy sector. Sudheendra held detailed discussions with Tara Kono, Deputy Director-General, International Bureau; Karen Naki Shima, Deputy Director-General, International Bureau, LDP; and Kenji Nakanishi, Chair of the LDP Policy Research Council.

The discussions covered opportunities for developing the bioenergy sector, strengthening intergovernmental cooperation and initiatives undertaken by the Board to attract investments and promote comprehensive growth.

Particular emphasis was placed on technology exchange, investment promotion, commercialisation, research and innovation, and sustainable development of the bioenergy sector.

The meeting also explored ways to coordinate existing capabilities and opportunities to create new avenues for investment, technological advancement and industrial cooperation. The participants observed that such collaboration could contribute to clean-energy transition, sustainability and energy security while generating tangible benefits for people.

The Board highlighted its efforts to attract fresh investments and advance Karnataka's bioenergy ecosystem through stronger partnerships with international stakeholders.

The meeting also discussed the potential for collaborative governance initiatives to serve as a model for intergovernmental cooperation and sustainable development.

A notable outcome was the positive response from the Japanese representatives to various cooperation proposals put forward by the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation has initiated comprehensive vehicle inspections to evaluate various 7-metre midi and mini bus models. This strategic review supports ongoing transport planning to integrate 200 smaller electric buses into the municipal fleet, specifically designed to navigate congested inner-city corridors and residential neighborhoods.

The initiative follows recent directives issued by Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh, mandating the deployment of 200 mini air-conditioned electric buses within a 5-kilometre radius of Namma Metro stations. These vehicles form part of a larger allocation of 4,500 electric buses assigned to the corporation under the central government's PM E-DRIVE scheme. Transport planners intend for these compact vehicles to serve as crucial first- and last-mile feeder links, bridging the

gap between residential layouts and transit hubs where standard 12-metre buses cannot easily operate.

However, the corporation's renewed interest in smaller vehicles revives past operational challenges. BMTC previously procured a fleet of 186 midi buses measuring approximately 9 metres in 2014. That rollout faced serious safety challenges when two vehicles caught fire in early 2022. Subsequent investigations traced the root causes to engine area short circuits triggered by loose components in the starter assemblies, prompting mandatory safety overhauls before normal operations could resume.

Beyond mechanical safety, operational economics remain a primary concern for transit administrators. BMTC routinely evaluates transport efficiency by comparing cost

per kilometre against earnings per kilometre. Because smaller buses offer reduced passenger capacities while still requiring standard crew deployments of a driver and conductor, their revenue generation potential is often constrained compared to larger high-capacity coaches.

This financial dynamic carries additional weight under the Gross Cost Contract framework utilized for electric bus operations. Under a GCC arrangement, private operators maintain the vehicles while the municipal corporation pays a fixed per-kilometre rate, regardless of actual passenger ridership fluctuations. During off-peak hours on feeder routes, lower passenger counts can heighten the financial burden on the transport authority.

Despite historical financial

Balancing feeder demands and financial viability

Operating smaller vehicles under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model introduces financial burdens, as BMTC must pay contracted operators per kilometre regardless of passenger load during off-peak hours. BMTC continues to evaluate suitable compact models that can safely navigate congested lanes while supporting integrated public transit networks.

and safety hurdles, urban expansion and the rapid growth of the Namma Metro network have made robust feeder services an operational necessity. Transport officials emphasize that deploying compact, maneuverable electric buses is vital to meeting commuter demands across Bengaluru's narrower streets.



Quick Read

Miscreants deface Muneshwara Swamy idol

Mandya
An incident of vandalism at the Muneshwara Swamy Temple in Belagola village of Srirangapatna taluk has sparked outrage among local residents. Miscreants allegedly defaced the face of the Muneshwara Swamy idol late at night at the temple located on Majjigepura Road. The incident came to light after villagers noticed the damage and informed the authorities. Residents condemned the act and demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for damaging the idol at the sacred site. Police from the KRS station visited the temple, inspected the spot and began an investigation. Officials are examining the circumstances surrounding the incident and efforts are underway to identify the accused.

Teacher dies after fall from SP office

Ramanagara
A 49-year-old physical education teacher, Shashidhar, died after allegedly falling from the third floor of the Bengaluru South District SP office on Sunday. He had been arrested in connection with a POCSO case involving allegations of sexual abuse of schoolchildren. Police had registered an FIR at the Ramanagara Women's Police Station. After questioning and a medical examination, Shashidhar was taken to the SP office for fingerprint registration. He reportedly fell while police personnel were preparing to collect his fingerprints and died while being taken to hospital. His family alleged he was under severe pressure and claimed the accusations were false. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.

Mandya prison undertrial case filed against ten

Mandya
Upa-Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa has registered a suo motu case against 10 government employees over allegations that an undertrial prisoner received preferential treatment at MIMS Hospital. The case concerns Srirangapatna ADLR and undertrial prisoner Mohammad Hussain, who was allegedly given special facilities at the hospital. Those named include MIMS Medical Superintendent Dr. Shivakumar G, Medical Officer Dr. Amar Deep, former District Prison Superintendent M. Shanthamma, jail wardens and several DAR police personnel. The matter came to light during a surprise inspection of the hospital prison ward, where a woman was reportedly found with Hussain. Following the allegations, Shanthamma was transferred to Ballari Central Prison. Police have also been directed to submit a detailed report.

Modi's Projects Improving People's Lives: Bommai

Haveri
Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious projects are significantly improving people's lives. Inaugurating a new Ayushman Health Centre at Chikkalingadahalli village, he said Ayushman Bharat has strengthened healthcare access, particularly in rural areas, and helped address major healthcare challenges across the country.

17.5 TMC Tunga water lift planned by November

Cheluvarayaswamy stated that hurdles like Forest Department clearances and electricity issues, which delayed lifting water from the Tunga, have been resolved.

CHITRADURGA

Water Resources Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy said the government has resolved to lift 17.5 TMC of water from the Tunga River by the end of November, which he said would provide a permanent solution to the Bhadra Upper Bank Project.

The minister inspected tanks receiving water on a trial basis through the Chitradurga branch canal of the Bhadra Upper Bank Project in Adiralu and Koverahatti areas of Hiriyr taluk on Sunday. After performing Ganga Puja and offering Bagina to Bhadra water near a tank in Adiralu village, he spoke to the media and the public.

Cheluvarayaswamy said hurdles, including Forest Department clearances and electricity-related issues, which had delayed the lifting of water from the Tunga, had been addressed.

He said the state government remained committed to completing the project despite financial and other challenges. Pending payments to contractors had been cleared, helping accelerate the work. He said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had personally intervened to resolve issues



affecting the project.

The minister said receiving 17.5 TMC of water from the Tunga would facilitate water supply to Chitradurga, Chik-kamagaluru, Tumakuru and Davanagere districts. He also said the government planned to complete the Mekedatu, Yettinahole and Bhadra Upper Bank projects during its tenure. Water from the Bhadra project would be supplied to Pavagada, Sira and Chik-kanayakanahalli taluks, while Yettinahole water would be supplied to Kolar, he said.

Cheluvarayaswamy appealed to farmers and the public to cooperate with the project. He said the Chief Minister had ordered the release of 3 TMC of Bhadra water into the Chitradurga branch canal on a trial basis despite opposition from farmers in other districts. He urged people not to engage in clashes or damage government property and to allow the

district administration and police to manage the situation.

The minister also said the Chief Minister had agreed to provide Rs. 500 crore for development works in Hiriyr taluk. A major public programme would be held in Hiriyr on September 24 to launch development projects. The first phase of tanks receiving water through gravity flow is currently being filled, while plans would be prepared to supply water to other tanks through canals.

Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and District In-charge Minister T. Raghunurthy said that 0.6 TMC of water had reached the area in 13 days since the trial release began, with another 2.4 TMC expected. He assured farmers that 32 tanks in Hiriyr taluk would receive water. He said the project required another Rs. 4,600 crore, while work worth Rs. 12,500 crore had

At a glance

- Bhadra water supplies multiple districts.
- Government plans major irrigation projects completion.
- Bhadra trial release sparks farmer opposition.
- Public urged to avoid property damage.
- Hiriyr receives funds for development works.
- First phase tank filling underway.

been completed out of the estimated Rs. 21,500 crore cost.

Raghunurthy condemned incidents of canal damage and warned that strict legal action would be taken against those who vandalise government property.

Visvesvaraya Water Corporation Managing Director H.C. Ramendra, District Guarantee Schemes Authority Chairman R. Sivanna Gan-jigatte, Deputy Chairman D.N. Mailarappa, Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya, Superintendent of Police Ran-jath Kumar Bandaru and other officials and public representatives were present.

MLA Harish Gowda calls for health, cleanliness drives

HUNSUR

Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda has directed officials to conduct special awareness campaigns on health and cleanliness across all villages in the taluk and integrate such activities with National Service Scheme (NSS) camps conducted by colleges.

Speaking at the Hunsur Taluk Health Committee meeting, Gowda said teams comprising Health Department officials, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, teachers and college NSS students should be formed to conduct cleanliness drives and create awareness among villagers.

He directed officials to prepare a list of colleges organising NSS camps and co-ordinate with the Block Education Officer, college principals and Health Department officials. He also stressed that at least one doctor should visit every NSS camp to educate students and villagers about common health problems. Doctors should explain the causes of diseases and preventive measures in simple language so that people can understand and follow them.

Gowda also instructed officials to organise a special cleanliness campaign across Hunsur taluk on Gandhi Jayanti. He said the pro-

gramme should be conducted simultaneously in all villages instead of restricting it to one or two locations.

People should be encouraged to hand over household waste at designated collection points rather than dumping it in public places. Patients and their attendants visiting government hospitals should also be educated about cleanliness.

He called upon PDOs, Village Administrative Officers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and other government employees to actively participate in the campaign. He said collective participation was necessary to create lasting awareness about sanitation and public health.

The MLA further instructed officials to personally inspect hospitals across the taluk and assess their infrastructure, repair and other requirements. A priority list should be prepared based on field inspections, with essential development works taken up in phases.

Taluk Health Officer Dr. Giridas, Executive Officer K. Hongayya, City Municipal Commissioner Manasa, Public Hospital Administrator Dr. Shivashankar, Health Department AEE Nagaraj, Taluk Health Education Officer Rajeshwari, Chandregowda and other officials attended the meeting.

‘Women’s empowerment key to prosperous society’

MAGADI

Former Municipal Council President Shivarudramma Vijay Kumar said that building a prosperous and progressive society is possible only through the empowerment of women. She was speaking after inaugurating a women’s interaction programme organised by the taluk unit of the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project at the Siddarooda Ashram community hall.

She said women are making significant contributions in educational, economic and social fields. When women move forward in all these areas, genuine development of the country and society becomes possible. Women today are not limited to household responsibilities and are making their mark in administration, politics, education, entrepreneurship and science. Successful women have shown that with proper education, opportunities and freedom, women can over-

come major challenges and achieve their goals.

She noted that the government has introduced several schemes aimed at women’s welfare and self-reliance. Women should remain aware of their legal rights, financial assistance and government benefits. Self-help groups and Stree Shakti groups have played an important role in strengthening women’s economic independence.

Parents should give priority to the education of girls and encourage them to pursue their ambitions. Gender discrimination and exploitation of women must be eliminated, she said, adding that the culture of supporting women should begin within every household. She also urged women to develop leadership qualities and face challenges with confidence and courage.

Dharmasthala Project District Director Jayakar Shetty said women play a crucial role in the development of families and society. He said

that under the guidance of Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade and the leadership of Matrushree Hemavathi V. Heggade, the Jnana Vikasa programme is creating awareness among women on nutrition, education, self-employment, legal rights and government schemes.

Magadi Police Inspector Srinivas said the Dharmasthala organisation has created a valuable platform for women’s economic and social empowerment. He cautioned women against cybercrime and advised them not to fall for attractive offers or requests from unknown persons. In emergencies, women should immediately call the police helpline number 112 for assistance and protection.

Taluk Planning Officer Annapa S.N., Jnana Vikasa Coordinator Neelamma, Muni Krishna, taluk service representatives and hundreds of women members of Dharmasthala self-help groups attended the programme.

Kothur Manjunath alleges irregularities in Mines Department

KOLAR

MLA Kothur Manjunath alleged irregularities in the Mines Department and accused officials of favouritism in the allocation of crusher licences. He made the allegations while speaking at a hobli-level Praja Seva Abhiyana held at Vakkaleri village in Kolar taluk on Saturday.

Manjunath alleged that crusher licences were being allotted to relatives of officials and other influential persons on the basis of caste. He said the department should be made accountable and warned that negligence in providing government services would not be tolerated.

He also cautioned PDOs, Revenue Inspectors, Panchayat Secretaries and other officials that they would be held responsible if eligible people were denied benefits or faced unnecessary difficulties.

The MLA directed officials to report shortages of infrastructure and food facilities in government schools, hospitals and hostels to the government instead of concealing such problems. Regarding farmers seeking assistance for borewells, he said the government had sanctioned Rs. 5 lakh and instructed officials to submit a report if the amount was insufficient, so that additional assistance could be considered.

Manjunath also issued di-

rections on healthcare services. If required treatment was unavailable at Vakkaleri Hospital, patients should be referred to SNR District Hospital in Kolar. If necessary facilities were unavailable there, hospital authorities should arrange an ambulance and shift patients to Bengaluru, he said.

He urged people to use the Praja Seva platform to resolve issues concerning ration cards, Aadhaar, voter identity cards, land records, roads and burial grounds instead of repeatedly visiting government offices. He announced that the next Praja Seva Andolana would be held at Narasapura following programmes at Vemagal and Vakkaleri.

MLC M.L. Anil Kumar said the Praja Seva Department was established to take administration closer to people. Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravikumar said pension benefits had been restored for 904 beneficiaries through the campaign. Dedicated counters were also arranged to address revenue-related issues, including government land encroachments, land subdivision and corrections in land records.

District Guarantee Committee Chairman Y. Shivakumar, Assistant Commissioner Jambagi Renukprasad Dilip, Tahsildar Srinivas and other district and taluk-level officials attended the programme.

Nudi Bharati cooperative society holds annual meeting

MANDYA

The sixth annual general meeting of the Nudi Bharati Souharda Cooperative Society was held at the Nudi Bharati auditorium in the city.

Inaugurating the meeting, B.T. Gururaj, president of the District Souharda Cooperative Societies Federation, said the cooperation of all members was essential for the growth and development of the society. He advised members who borrow loans to make repayments on time, noting that timely repayment would help them access fresh loans when required in the future.

A.L. Basavegowda, president of the Nudi Bharati Souharda Cooperative Society, said members should remember that the society exists because of their participation and support. He observed that office-bearers may hold positions, but the continued functioning and progress of the society ultimately depend on its members. He urged members to make use of the various facilities and benefits offered by the society and work towards improving their financial well-being.

During the meeting, members who had availed themselves of loans and repaid them within the stipulated period were felicitated for their timely repayment. Children of society members who secured high marks in the SSLC and PUC examinations were also honoured with merit awards.

The programme highlighted the importance of responsible borrowing, timely loan repayment and active participation by members in strengthening cooperative institutions. Speakers also encouraged members to make effective use of the services available through the society.

Congress District Unit President Kumara Koppa, District Souharda Cooperative Societies Federation Vice-President Siddalingaiah, Chief Guest and Cooperative Development Officer Balaramu, Society CEO Ranjith Kumar, Pigmy agents U.S. Sudhir and Shivaraju, and Bhairava Souharda Cooperative Society President Venkatesh attended the meeting.

Former MLA urges swift action to capture tiger

HUNSUR

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath visited Koodluru village near Thattekere on Friday and met farmers and dairy owners who have been protesting since Thursday, demanding the immediate capture of a tiger that allegedly killed a cow.

The protest began after a tiger attacked and killed a

cow belonging to farmer Revanna of Koodluru. Angry villagers reportedly confined Forest Department officials, including ACF Kiran Kumar and RFO Santhosh Hoogar. The protesters continued their agitation overnight, preparing and eating meals at the protest site while demanding action against the tiger.

Manjunath visited the site on Friday afternoon and in-

spected the location where the cow was killed.

He spoke to Forest Department officials and gathered information about the ongoing efforts to trace and capture the tiger.

He later spoke over the phone with Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy and senior department officials, drawing their attention to repeated livestock attacks in the area.

STRESSED EQUAL ENTHUSIASM

Members should repay loans with same enthusiasm: Swamiji

GUMMASANDRA

Dr. Chandrashekhara Swamiji, head of Sri Rudramuneshwara Matha, said members should show the same enthusiasm while repaying loans as they do when borrowing them.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Veerashai-va Credit Co-operative Society for 2025-26, held at the SBS School premises in NJS Layout. He said cooperative societies, banks and other financial institutions provide valuable support to people during difficult times.

However, mistakes by a single member can create difficulties for the entire institution. General meetings provide an important opportunity for members to participate in discussions, identify shortcomings and find solutions. He appreciated S.C.B. Shivarudraiah for successfully managing the society and the Veerashaiva Mahasabha for 21 years.

Society president S.C.B. Shivarudraiah said the institution recorded a profit of Rs. 8.24 lakh during the year. He said members could avail themselves of gold loans, savings accounts, recurring de-

posits and vehicle loans and urged them to conduct more transactions through the society. He said increased participation could help the institution attain bank status and enable members to obtain voting rights.

Shivarudraiah said around 30,000 members of the Veerashaiva community live in the taluk and the society could become a model for the state if they actively used its services. He noted that several cooperative societies established in the past had closed due to mismanagement and corruption, while their institution had remained profitable



for 21 years. He assured members that their deposited money was being safeguarded and that the management would take full responsibility for members’ funds.

He also urged parents to teach children good values,

culture and traditions and ensure they receive quality education. He said better education could help students secure government medical seats and build successful careers, reducing the financial burden on families.

Quick Read

Driver, child rescued after car falls into river

Udupi
A car accidentally fell into a river near Kodavoor in Udupi district, creating panic among local residents and prompting a rescue operation. The driver and a child travelling in the vehicle were safely rescued following the incident. Local residents and others reportedly rushed to the spot after noticing the vehicle in the river and assisted in the rescue efforts. The circumstances that led to the car falling into the water are yet to be ascertained. The rescued driver and child were brought to safety, while further details regarding their condition were awaited. Authorities are expected to gather more information as the investigation into the incident continues.

Sringeri bandh called over Kasturirangan report concerns

Chikkamagaluru
Various organisations, including farmers' groups and the Sringeri Constituency Farmers' Union, have called for a bandh in Sringeri on Monday, September 21, over concerns regarding the implementation of the Kasturirangan Report in the Western Ghats. The shutdown comes ahead of the three-day special session of the Karnataka Legislature, which begins on September 21. The Central Government's draft notification on implementing recommendations related to the Western Ghats is expected to be discussed during the session. Residents of the Malnad region have expressed concerns over the possible impact of the report. Despite assurances from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, organisations have urged people to support the bandh. Sringeri is expected to remain shut from 6 am to 6 pm on Monday.

2 KMC Hospital staff suspended over extortion

Hubballi
The KIMS administration has suspended two Group-D employees, Manjula and Sunanda, following allegations of collecting money from visitors at the KMC Hospital maternity ward. The action comes after complaints that the employees were allegedly demanding money from members of the public to allow them entry into the maternity ward. Visitors reportedly alleged that a fixed amount was being collected for each entry, causing public dissatisfaction. On September 18 highlighted the allegations, following which KIMS officials conducted an inquiry into the matter. Based on the findings of the inquiry, the administration issued suspension orders against both employees. Further action is expected depending on the outcome of the investigation into the allegations.

Son Kills Father in Drunken Rage

Chikkamagaluru
A 29-year-old man allegedly hacked his father to death at Vaddaradibba village in Tarikere taluk. Police said Ganesh attacked his father, Thamamah, 59, on the neck with a machete while intoxicated. The accused reportedly feared being thrown out after his father planned to reunite with his estranged second wife.

H.K. Patil sets deadline for drought declaration

Patil stated that officials, led by the district in-charge minister, held discussions and assessed the situation's severity

GADAG

Gadag MLA H.K. Patil has warned that he will resign from his Assembly seat if Gadag taluk is not declared drought-hit by October 10, amid growing protests by farmers over the rainfall deficit and crop losses. Farmers recently blocked the state highway connecting Karwar-Kaiga and the Gadag-Ilkal route, demanding immediate drought-hit status for Gadag taluk. Patil visited the protest site and expressed concern over the delay in taking a decision despite assessments of drought conditions and the Chief Minister's visit to the affected areas. Patil said officials had held discussions under the leadership of the district in-charge



minister and had assessed the severity of the situation. He noted that the Chief Minister had also inspected crops from Kadampur to Kurtakoti. Despite these steps, he questioned why Gadag taluk had not been included in the drought-hit list. According to Patil, Gadag taluk has recorded a 49 per cent rainfall deficit, causing difficulties for farmers. He said the government should take immediate action instead

27 of the 73 taluks in North Karnataka had been left out of the drought list and demanded that all the affected taluks be considered. He urged the government not to politicise the issue and said he would continue to raise the concerns of farmers until appropriate drought-relief measures were taken.
-H.K. Patil, MLA

of delaying the declaration. Patil, who said he comes from a farming family, stated that he understood the difficulties being faced by farmers. Addressing the farmers, Patil said he would make efforts at the government level to secure the drought-hit declaration within three days, by October 2.

MLC IVAN D'SOUZA URGES BJP MPS OVER TULU

MANGALURU

MLC Ivan D'Souza has urged BJP Members of Parliament from Karnataka to take up the demand for inclusion of Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution with the Union government. D'Souza said the demand for constitutional recognition of Tulu has been raised at various levels and requires sustained efforts from elected representatives. He appealed to BJP MPs to use their position in Parliament to press the Centre to consider the long-standing demand for including the language in the Eighth Schedule. The MLC said he had previously raised the issue in the Karnataka Legislative Council through a starred question and a calling-attention motion addressed to the then Kannada and Culture Minister Umasri.

He said these interventions were intended to draw the government's attention to the demand for greater recognition and protection of Tulu. Tulu is widely spoken in Karnataka's coastal districts, particularly Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, as well as in parts of neighbouring Kerala. Supporters of the demand have been seeking its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule, which currently recognises 22 languages under the Constitution. D'Souza said political representatives should work collectively to advance the issue and ensure that the cultural and linguistic identity associated with Tulu receives due recognition. He also stressed the importance of continued public and political efforts to take the demand forward. The call comes amid renewed discussion in coastal Karnataka over the preserva-

Highlights

- Tulu spoken in coastal Karnataka, Kerala.
- Demand to include in Eighth Schedule.
- Constitution currently recognizes 22 languages.
- Politicians urged to advance recognition.
- Organizations seek official status for education.
- Renewed discussions on cultural preservation.

tion and promotion of Tulu language and culture. Various organisations and community groups have been seeking greater official recognition for Tulu and its use in education, administration and cultural activities.

Bagalkote indecent behaviour case sparks arrest controversy

BAGALKOTE

An incident involving alleged indecent behaviour toward a female student in Navanagar has triggered controversy after two youths who allegedly intervened in the incident were arrested by police following a complaint from the family of the man who was assaulted. The incident reportedly took place around 3 pm on September 17 in Sector 51 of Navanagar. According to the complaint and accounts cited in the report, a B.Com student was returning to her government hostel after college when Sudeep Nadagouda, 26, allegedly exposed himself and behaved indecently toward her. The student subsequently sought help from youths in the area.

Worn-out buses raise safety concerns in Gadag

Malingaraya Pujar CH NEWS,



Passengers travelling in buses operated by the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) Gadag division are facing serious difficulties as a large number of ageing vehicles continue to operate despite repeated breakdowns and technical problems. The Gadag division has eight bus depots, from which around 564 of the 600 scheduled buses are reportedly operated daily. However, more than half of the buses are said to have completed their service life. Many vehicles have travelled more than 15 lakh kilometres and are reportedly in poor mechanical condition, raising concerns over passenger safety. Local residents have also alleged that old buses that have been operating for several years in parts of South Karnataka and Bengaluru are being shifted to depots in North Karnataka. They have expressed dissatisfaction over the continued deployment of ageing and technically unreliable vehicles in the region, calling for equal treatment in the allocation of new buses. The increase in passenger numbers following the implementation of the government's free travel guarantee scheme has added to the pressure on the existing fleet. With buses frequently carrying heavy passenger loads, ageing vehicles are facing

additional strain. According to local reports, around 50 to 100 buses in the district are breaking down every month due to various technical issues, including brake failures, axle problems and other mechanical faults. Daily commuters, including school and college students, are reportedly affected by these breakdowns, often reaching their destinations late. Drivers and conductors are also facing difficulties while operating vehicles that frequently develop technical problems. Instances of brake failure while buses are in motion have raised particular concern, with drivers sometimes managing to avoid serious accidents through quick action. Passengers have urged NWKRTC officials and the state government to take immediate steps to improve the condition of the fleet. They have demanded that unsafe and excessively old buses be withdrawn from service and replaced with new vehicles. They also called for regular maintenance and safety inspections to ensure safer public transport in Gadag district.

Clean Ocean, Safe Ocean drive held at Karwar



KARWAR

A beach cleanliness drive was conducted at Rabindranath Tagore Beach in Karwar as part of the nationwide "Clean Ocean, Safe Ocean 2026" coastal cleanliness campaign. The campaign was organised by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. The programme was organised by the Post-Graduate Centre of Karnataka University, Karwar, under the coordination of Professor J.L. Rathod of the Marine Biology and Coastal Studies Department. Teaching and non-teaching staff and students of the university's postgraduate centre, personnel of the Indian Coast Guard's Karwar unit, staff of the Science Centre, Karwar, students and staff of Government Arts and Science College, Karwar, postal department employees and members of the Karwar Cycling Club actively participated in the drive. A total of 438.99 kg of beach

waste and other discarded materials was collected during the cleanliness activity. The waste was scientifically segregated and more than 3,495 individual items belonging to 45 different categories were recorded. The data collection was carried out to understand the nature and composition of marine debris found along the coast. Plastic waste accounted for a significant portion of the collected material. The waste included 72.76 kg of polypropylene woven bags, 50.75 kg of polythene and carry bags, 33.82 kg of plastic water bottles, 30.74 kg of food packaging materials, 19.47 kg of plastic fragments, 16.40 kg of fishing nets, 11.48 kg of plastic cups and 10.25 kg of plastic ropes. Other major waste items included 21.72 kg of glass liquor bottles, 33.82 kg of footwear and flip-flops, 17.22 kg of wood waste and 11.20 kg of foam and thermocol. The collected waste was properly sorted and handed over to the municipality for appropriate disposal.

Praja Seva Andolana brings government services closer

KARATAGI

Karatagi Tahsildar M. Kumaraswamy said the Praja Seva Andolana has emerged as an effective platform for citizens to access government services quickly and resolve their grievances without making repeated visits to government offices. He was speaking while presiding over a hobli-level Praja Seva Andolana meeting held at Amma Maheshwari Kalyana Mantapa in Karatagi town on Saturday. The programme was organised jointly by the Citizen Services Department, Karatagi Taluk Administration and the Town Municipal Council. Kumaraswamy said the initiative launched by the Karnataka government aims to bring administration and public services closer to people's doorsteps. He directed officials from various depart-



ments to examine the applications and grievances submitted by citizens and take appropriate action in accordance with government rules. He also stressed the need for timely responses to public complaints. He said the Taluk Administration was committed to implementing the Praja Seva Andolana effectively and ensuring that the objectives of the programme reach people at the grassroots level. Officials were instructed to give priority to genuine public grievances and take necessary steps to resolve them

within the prescribed procedures. To make it easier for citizens to access government departments, separate counters were established at the entrance of the Kalyana Mantapa. People submitted applications and sought assistance regarding various government services and departmental issues. Officials concerned were available to receive the applications and guide citizens on the required procedures. Karatagi Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Lakshmedevi Yadav, Town Municipal Council Chief Officer Sabanna Kattekar, Deputy Superintendent of Excise Anjaneya, Excise Inspector Vithala Piragannana and Taluk Government Employees' Association President Hanumanthappa Nayaka attended the programme.

VIDEO WENT VIRAL

Raichur DJ noise row triggers Ganeshotsav controversy

RAICHUR

A controversy has erupted in Raichur after a father staged a protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) residence, alleging that his three-year-old daughter fell ill due to excessive DJ noise. The incident has led to a war of words between the district administration, police personnel and Shiv Sena leaders over the enforcement of noise restrictions during Ganeshotsav. Jaibhim Vallabha, a resident of Gol Market and Raichur district BSP president, reportedly staged a sit-in out-

side the DC's residence while carrying his daughter. He alleged that loud DJ music being played at night had affected the child's health and accused the police of failing to prevent violations of prescribed noise limits. A heated exchange reportedly took place between Vallabha and police personnel who reached the spot. A video of the incident later went viral. Following the incident, Raichur Deputy Commissioner N.M. Poovitha wrote to the Superintendent of Police, expressing concern over the alleged failure of local police to prevent unauthorised use



of DJ systems. The DC reportedly directed that immediate action be taken against violations and stated that station house officers and other responsible police personnel could be held accountable if untoward incidents occur be-

cause of DJ sound systems. The letter has reportedly caused resentment among sections of the police department, with personnel questioning whether clear instructions and guidelines should have been issued earlier. They have argued that enforcement responsibilities need to be clearly defined to avoid confusion and ensure uniform implementation of noise regulations. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena State General Secretary Ganganadhar Kulkarni criticised the district administration, alleging that noise pollution occurs throughout the year but

restrictions are being enforced particularly during Ganeshotsav. He questioned why police officers were being held responsible and demanded that authorities identify areas where prescribed decibel limits are being violated. Kulkarni said Ganeshotsav is a festival involving the wider community and alleged that singling it out for action was unfair. He said the Shiv Sena would support strict enforcement of noise regulations throughout the year but warned that selective enforcement during the festival could lead to agitation.

Quick Read

JSP announces 5 candidates for Legislative Council polls

CH NEWS, Patna With political activity intensifying ahead of the upcoming Bihar Legislative Council elections, the Jan Suraj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor announced candidates for five Bihar Legislative Council constituencies on Sunday. The JSP founder and MLA from Ban kipur, Prashant Kishor, de clared the names of five JSP candidates who will challen ge the incumbent MLCs from the BJP and RJD in their respective constituencies during a press conference.

DMDK leader seeks action on key issues

Premalatha Vijayakant urged Tamil Nadu govt to act on law and order, dengue prevention, farmers’ loans, power outages, Cauvery water and paddy procurement

CHENNAI

DMDK general secretary and Vriddhachalam MLA Premalatha Vijayakant on Sunday urged the Tamil Nadu government to take urgent action on a range of issues, including law and order, dengue prevention, farmers’ welfare, electricity supply and paddy procurement. Expressing concern over the state’s law-and-order situation, Premalatha referred to the double murder in Sivaganga and killings reported in Madurai and Krishnagiri. She called for swift investigations, the arrest of those responsible



and stringent punishment through legal proceedings. She also urged the government to introduce preventive measures to curb similar incidents. Premalatha also sought stronger measures against dengue and other mosqui-

DMDK general secretary seeks Justice

- Premalatha seeks action over recent killings,
- Urges stronger dengue prevention measures,
- Demands complete agricultural loan waiver,
- Raises concerns over fishermen's security,
- Seeks Tamil Nadu's Cauvery water share,
- Calls for action on power outages,
- Wants faster procurement of rain-exposed paddy.

to-borne diseases. She called on local bodies to intensify mosquito-control operations and asked government hospitals to ensure adequate beds, medicines and diagnostic facilities. Referring to reports of dengue infections among Anna University students, she sought immediate preventive measures on the campus. On farmers’ issues, Premalatha highlighted the protest at Samayapuram and demanded a complete waiver of agricultural loans. Referring to the reported waiver of Rs 247.15 crore in crop loans for 50,779 farmers

in Tiruchy district, she sought similar relief for eligible farmers across Tamil Nadu. She also raised concerns involving fishermen in Pattinapakkam, security during Vinayaka Chaturthi processions and Tamil Nadu’s share of Cauvery water. She urged the government to press Karnataka on the water issue. On electricity, she demanded immediate action against unannounced power outages. She further sought faster procurement of rain-exposed paddy in Tirunelveli and Vriddhachalam to protect farmers from financial losses.

BJP chief Nitin Nabin to begin two-day poll strategy visit LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party’s National President Nitin Nabin will lead organisational meetings, public programmes and conferences related to election preparations in Uttar Pradesh during his two-day visit starting on Monday. During his visit, Nabin will also visit historical sites and prominent temples to seek blessings, reflecting the BJP’s continued commitment to the values of service, dedication and faith. On the first day of his visit on Monday, the BJP National President will arrive in Krantidhara, Meerut and pay floral tributes to the immortal martyrs at the Indian National Army Martyrs Memorial and Park, a party statement.

Elangovan targets BJP, questions TVK

CHENNAI

DMK leader T.K.S. Elangovan on Sunday accused the BJP of using investigative agencies to pressure regional political parties, arguing that such parties had increasingly emerged as important opponents of the ruling party as the Congress remained weakened nationally. Referring to the summons issued to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in connection with a land case and notices reportedly sent to family members of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi, Elangovan alleged that central agencies were being used against regional political forces. These allegations reflect the DMK’s broader criticism of the BJP and central institutions. Elangovan said regional parties were strengthening co-operation and preparing to present their political and ideological differences with

the BJP before voters. Supporting the CPI(M)’s call for broad opposition unity rather than a separate third front, he said parties opposed to the BJP should work together and place their criticisms before the electorate. He also accused the BJP of weakening democratic values and alleged that it was moving towards a monopolistic political system. These were political claims made by Elangovan and were not independently established in the statement. Turning to Tamil Nadu, Elangovan criticised the TVK government over law-and-order issues during its first 100 days in office. He cited eight reported murders within a day and accused the government of raising allegations from decades ago against the DMK to divert

- Key points
- Elangovan alleged misuse of investigative agencies against regional parties.
 - He cited cases involving Hemant Soren and Arvind Kejriwal's family.
 - Called for broader opposition unity against the BJP.
 - Criticised the TVK government over reported killings.
 - Referred to the Justice Ismail Commission on Stalin's Emergency detention.
 - Backed the right to peaceful protest.

vert attention from current issues. On questions concerning DMK president M.K. Stalin’s arrest during the Emergency, Elangovan referred to the Justice Ismail Commission and said its findings had established the detention. He also supported Rahul Gandhi’s contention regarding students and stressed the right to peaceful protest.

Meghwal calls Punjab Yatra social reform

FAZILKA

Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal on Sunday described the Bharatiya Janata Party’s Nasha Mukti Punjab Yatra as an initiative for social reform, saying its objective was to protect future generations from drug abuse and help Punjab move towards becoming a developed state. Meghwal was speaking at a public gathering in Fazilka before flagging off the third phase of the Nasha Mukti Punjab Yatra. The campaign is part of a series of BJP-led yatras being held across Punjab against drug abuse. Before addressing the gathering, Meghwal visited the Asafwala Shaheed Memorial and paid floral tributes to soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. He was accompanied by Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon, party national general secretary and state in-charge



YATRA FOCUS

- Third phase launched from Fazilka,
- Meghwal described it as social reform,
- Campaign targets awareness against drug abuse,
- Religious teachings cited in the campaign,
- Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon also addressed the gathering,
- Yatras are being conducted across the state.

Satish Poonia, former state president Sunil Jakhar and former minister Surjit Kumar Jiani. Meghwal said some people were viewing the yatra through

The Union Minister said Punjab’s anti-drug campaign should focus on social reform, awareness and protecting future generations from addiction.

as examples of social initiatives associated with the Modi government. Referring to Sikh religious teachings, Meghwal said awareness against intoxicants could also be linked to the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and other spiritual figures. He referred to the Bani of Guru Amar Das, Guru Nanak Dev, Bhagat Kabir Das and Guru Ravidas. During his address, Meghwal also sang a Shabad of Guru Nanak Dev. He said social and spiritual awareness could help strengthen efforts to address the harmful effects of drugs.

Sikh clergy excommunicates SGPC member Chawla over rape case

CHANDIGARH

The five Sikh high priests on Sunday excommunicated Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) member and senior Shiromani Akali Dal-Badal leader Amarjit Singh Chawla, who has been facing a rape case. A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting held in the Akal Takht Secretariat here, and the announcement was made by the Akal Takht’s Acting Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaj. The action against Chawla was taken in connection with a rape case registered against him at Anandpur Sahib. A woman had alleged that Chawla had raped her during her stay in Anandpur Sahib. The Akal Takht also excommunicated its Additional Head Granthi Malkit Singh, who was accused of sending her obscene messages. According to the Akal Takht, Chawla was expelled from the Sikh Panth following the passing of a ‘Gurmata’ over alleged serious violations of Sikh conduct and Panthic rules. The Sikh community has



also been directed not to maintain religious, social or political association with him. Giani Malkit Singh, Additional Head Granthi of Akal Takht Sahib, was expelled from the Panth over alleged actions contrary to Panthic discipline. The decision has barred both Chawla and Malkit Singh from serving in any Sikh institution, gurdwara management committee, or religious platform throughout life. A first information report (FIR) was registered against Chawla on the complaint of a

woman who alleged that she was held captive and raped at a serai in Anandpur Sahib. The FIR was registered under Sections 64, 127 (2) and 351 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on August 21. The names of Malkit Singh and Mohan Singh, a driver at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, have also figured in the complaint, with the woman alleging that they sent her vulgar messages. However, Chawla termed the allegations a part of a political conspiracy. He has already resigned from the SGPC membership and all party posts.

BHUBANESWAR

In an unfortunate incident, a man allegedly beat his wife to death following a family dispute and later died by suicide at their residence in Odisha’s Dhenkanal district on Sunday. The incident took place at Akhuapal panchayat under the Dadara Ghati outpost of Parjang police station in Dhenkanal district. According to the report, the man was identified as Ratnakar alias Mithun Naik,35, while his deceased wife was identified as Rasmita Naik,30. “The couple engaged in a heated argument over some issues late Saturday night. In a fit of rage, the enraged husband assaulted the wife with a heavy wooden stick, resulting in her death. Following the death of his wife, a remorseful husband later committed suicide,” said Chittaranjan Behera, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Kamakhyanager, Dhenkanal, on Sunday. Locals claimed that the couple reportedly had three daughters from their marriage. Ratnakar, who used to

work as a daily wage labourer, often engaged in quarrels with his wife under the influence of alcohol. Late on Saturday night, he again quarrelled with Rasmita over some past issues and later allegedly assaulted her with a wooden plank in a sudden fit of rage. After the death of Rasmita, Ratnakar took his three daughters to the house of his younger brother, who, along with his family, was away at the time. The deceased Ratnakar later left the daughters inside his brother’s house and locked the door from outside. He subsequently died by suicide by hanging himself from a tree in front of his house, reportedly out of remorse. Upon being informed, the local police, along with the scientific team, reached the spot and launched an investigation. The bodies of the couple were later sent to Parjang Community Health Centre for postmortem. A case (491/26) has also been registered in this regard at the Parjang police station on the basis of a report by the deceased Ratnakar’s sister.

Under-construction warehouse collapses in Delhi, 2 hurt

NEW DELHI

A portion of an under-construction warehouse collapsed in the Narela area of north Delhi on Sunday, injuring two labourers, officials said. The incident took place at around 11 am, at Plot No. 248, on Farm House Road, Jain Mandir, in Narela’s Budhpur. Two labourers were reportedly trapped under the debris. However, they were pulled out and rushed to the hospital before the arrival of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) unit. Upon receiving information, the fire services immediately sent two Water Tenders (WTs), a Bowser Fire Tender (BFT), and a Water Bowser (WB), along with Station Officer Naveen Thakran and Sub Officer Pardeep. The injured labourers have been identified as Sunil, 20, and Naresh Pajwan, 28. A similar incident of building collapse was reported from the Alipur area of north Delhi earlier on Sunday. No casualties were reported in the incident. The Alipur police station received a call regarding the collapse at around

11 a.m., following which police teams were immediately dispatched to the site. Four ambulances, a fire tender, and a disaster management vehicle were also sent to the location, officials said. According to the preliminary inquiry, lintel work was underway at the under-construction building when the supporting shuttering, locally referred to as ‘balli’, apparently gave way. The failure of the temporary support caused the structure to collapse, officials said. Several labourers were present and working at the construction site when the incident occurred, officials said. Police said that all the workers were accounted for and were found to be safe. No person was trapped beneath the debris, they added. Police teams and other emergency personnel carried out checks at the site to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the collapse and ensure that no one was missing or trapped. Further verification regarding the incident and the safety of the workers is currently underway, police said.

Alliance with NC won’t stop Cong from raising public issues: Karra

SRINAGAR

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president and legislator Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday said the Congress will continue to raise people’s genuine concerns in the Assembly, despite its alliance with the ruling National Conference (NC). Speaking to reporters after a meeting of Congress MLAs ahead of tomorrow’s legislative Assembly session, Karra clarified that while the party is in alliance with the NC, it will not refrain from raising public issues. “We will take up genuine concerns and ensure they are expedited,” he said. Karra emphasised that the Assembly’s purpose is to raise ques-

tions and ensure issues concerning people are addressed at the earliest, whether raised by ruling party members or the opposition. He added that the Congress legislature party meeting was held to discuss the upcoming session. Asked about recent differences with the NC over issues including Vande Mataram and UPI, Karra said the party’s position should be viewed in the broader context of its alliance. He argued that the media was seeing the issue from a narrow perspective. “We took that alliance as a principled stand, keeping in mind the larger picture,” he said, stressing that the alliance would not prevent the Congress from raising public concerns.

WATER TALKS

Mahanadi water dispute may see resolution

BHUBANESWAR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday said the long-standing Mahanadi River water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha is likely to be resolved soon through dialogue between the two states. Sai, who is on a two-day visit to Odisha, met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at his residence in Bhubaneswar. The two leaders discussed several issues concerning co-operation and development between the neighbouring states.



Speaking to reporters after arriving in Odisha, Sai said there was no reason for the dispute to continue and pointed to the BJP governments in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and at the Centre as an opportunity to settle the matter.

He said the chief ministers and senior officials of both states had recently met in New Delhi and agreed that the Central Water Commission should facilitate a resolution through mutual dialogue. The Mahanadi dispute has remained unre-

We had a fruitful interaction on strengthening cooperation between Odisha and Chhattisgarh and advancing our shared commitment towards the development and welfare of our people.

- Mohan Charan Majhi, Odisha CM

There is no dispute over Mahanadi water... this is going to be resolved very soon.

- Vishnu Deo Sai, Chhattisgarh CM

solved since 2016. Odisha has alleged that construction of multiple barrages by Chhattisgarh reduced downstream water flow, affecting agriculture, fisheries and power generation. Odisha regards the Mahanadi as crucial to its economy and live-



Shyam Sundar Vattam

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister's proposal to strengthen the KEA deserves particular attention. The KEA already has experience in conducting



examinations and recruitment for several government posts. Khandre argued that if safeguards were put in place to prevent question-paper leaks and ensure transparency in examinations, evaluation and even oral interviews, a lasting solution could be found.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONEY LAUNDERING, THE GAME OF LAUNDERING THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME



— DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

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

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

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

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

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

The biggest concern about

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BIOLOGY OF BONE AGING, DEGENERATION, MECHANISMS AND REJUVENATION

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

How bones age

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

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

mation rather than bone-forming lineages.

Oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction

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

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

Cellular senescence: when aging cells become harmful

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

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

cellular senescence as a potential therapeutic target.

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

Inflammation, hormones and the bone environment

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

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

Can aging bone be rejuvenated?

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

Current approaches include



- DR. VIJAY GARG

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

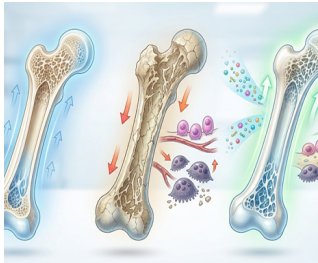
established antiresorptive medicines that reduce excessive bone breakdown and anabolic treatments that stimulate bone formation. Lifestyle measures including adequate nutrition, appropriate physical activity and avoidance of tobacco and excessive alcohol also remain important components of skeletal health.

Research is now exploring more targeted strategies. These include senolytic therapies aimed at senescent cells, approaches targeting mitochondrial dysfunction and defective autophagy, regenerative medicine, tissue engineering and gene-based interventions. Researchers are also investigating how mechanical stimulation and cellular mechanosensing might reju-

venate aged skeletal stem cells. A 2026 study reported experimental evidence that mechanical stimulation can influence chromatin remodeling and the behavior of senescent stem cells in aged bone.

The road ahead

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



skeleton.

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

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

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Time to Fix KPSC

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

- Vipin

Unlocking Bone Rejuvenation

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

- Anna

Protect Public Healthcare Services

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

- Ummi



RETHINKING SUCCESS IN AN OVERWORKED CULTURE



For decades, modern society has glorified hustle culture. We wear our exhaustion like a badge of honor, measure our personal self-worth by our productivity, and treat relentless work as the ultimate sign of ambition. Society encourages us to sacrifice sleep, hobbies, and personal relationships on the altar of professional achievement. However, this relentless drive for constant productivity has created a widespread mental health crisis, leading to burnout and a profound sense of disillusionment across the workforce.

The root of this problem lies in how society narrowly defines success. We are taught to measure achievement through external markers: job titles, salary increments, corporate ladder mobility, and material possessions. This narrow focus creates a perpetual treadmill where no milestone feels like enough. As soon as one goal is achieved, the goalposts immediately move forward, leaving us trapped in a cycle of striving without fulfillment. In this environment, rest is viewed not as a human necessity, but as an unproductive indulgence or a temporary tactic to reboot for more work.

This toxic relationship with labor carries severe physical and emotional consequences. Chronic workplace stress, anxiety, and physical exhaustion are increasingly common across industries. Burnout is no longer an isolated experience; it has become an endemic feature of corporate life. When work dominates our energy, we lose touch with the non-professional dimensions of human existence art, nature, leisure, deep relationships, and self-discovery. We risk becoming economically efficient workers who are emotionally and spiritually depleted.

Furthermore, the modern shift toward remote and hybrid work environments has blurred the boundary between professional obligations and personal life. Work now follows us directly into our living rooms via smartphones and laptops, making it nearly impossible to truly disconnect. The constant pressure to be available creates a subtle background state of stress that prevents genuine rest.

It is time for a cultural shift in how we approach work and personal well-being. Redefining success means valuing balance, mental clarity, physical health, and strong personal relationships alongside career accomplishments. Companies must foster healthier workplace cultures by respecting boundaries, encouraging meaningful time off, and discouraging overtime. On an individual level, we must decouple our self-worth from our productivity. True success is not about working until exhaustion; it is about building a sustainable, meaningful, and well-rounded life.

- ALLY GATOR

THE LOST ART OF MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

In an era dominated by instant messaging, brief text exchanges, and social media comments, the practice of deep, face-to-face conversation is steadily declining. We exchange hundreds of messages daily, broadcast our opinions in short posts, and send quick emojis to express complex emotions. Yet, despite this high volume of communication, our conversations are becoming increasingly shallow and transactional. We are exchanging information at incredible speeds, but we are losing the art of genuine dialogue.

A meaningful conversation requires patience, vulnerability, and active listening qualities that are increasingly rare in our fast-paced digital environment. Real dialogue demands that we set aside distractions, pay attention to tone and body language, and sit comfortably with moments of pause. In digital exchanges, communication is edited, curated, and optimized for speed. We respond to messages between tasks, react to headline snippets without reading full contexts, and prioritize quick replies over thoughtful engagement.

This shift has profoundly impacted our capacity for empathy. True empathy is nurtured through deep human interaction, where we encounter perspectives different from our own and sit with complex, sometimes uncomfortable ideas. When communication is reduced to short text blurbs or contentious online debates, people easily become caricatures rather than individuals. It becomes far easier to dismiss, judge, or attack others when we communicate through screens rather than eye-to-eye.

Furthermore, the loss of deep conversation contributes to a subtle sense of loneliness. Text messages and social media interactions can keep us informed about people's activities, but they rarely satisfy our deeper need for emotional connection. Many people feel isolated despite being in constant digital contact, precisely because quick text updates cannot replace the warmth and presence of an uninterrupted face-to-face talk.

Reclaiming the art of conversation requires deliberate effort in our daily lives. We can start by creating tech-free moments during meals, prioritizing in-person catch-ups over endless text threads, and practicing active listening without interrupting. Engaging in slow, open-ended dialogue allows us to build richer relationships, deepen our empathy, and reconnect with the shared human experience.

-ANITHA BABU

Walk through almost any modern city today, and you will notice a subtle but profound transformation occurring in urban life: the steady erosion of non-commercial public spaces. Parks, community centers, public libraries, and open town squares are increasingly being privatized, neglected, or redeveloped into commercial hubs. In our contemporary cities, almost every square foot of land is expected to generate revenue. This decline of free, accessible community space is not merely an architectural issue; it represents a serious threat to social cohesion and civic health.

Sociologists often refer to public spaces as “third places”, environments separate from home (the first place) and work (the second place) where people gather to socialize, rest, and engage with their local community. Historically, these areas served as democratic equalizers. In a public park or library, citizens interact as equals regardless of income, status, or background. When these spaces are replaced by private shopping centers, paid cafes, or gated developments, public life becomes paywalled. Access to civic space increasingly depends on one's ability to pay.

This decline severely damages the social fabric of our neighborhoods. When people lose shared physical spaces, opportunities for informal, spontaneous interactions across social and economic lines vanish. We become increasingly isolated within our economic silos, interacting only with people who share our socio-economic status. This separation fosters distrust, weakens community bonds, and deepens social divides. A healthy democracy relies on a shared civic reality, and that reality requires physical spaces where citizens can coexist and encounter one another.

Privatized public spaces also enforce strict control over human behavior. Unlike public

THE PRICE OF ENDLESS DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY



In our hyper-connected world, hyper-connectivity is constantly celebrated as humanity's greatest triumph. We carry powerful supercomputers in our pockets, granting us instant access to the entire sum of human knowledge and allowing us to communicate across oceans in milliseconds. Yet, paradoxically, as our digital networks expand, our genuine sense of human connection, inner calm, and mental clarity seems to be rapidly diminishing. The price of being constantly reachable is a state of perpetual distraction, shallow engagement, and a quiet, ambient anxiety that permeates modern existence.

The core issue lies in the design of modern digital platforms. Tech companies engineer social media, messaging apps, and notification systems to exploit basic human psychology. Dopamine feedback loops triggered by likes, comments, and push notifications keep us continuously checking our screens. This ongoing fragmentation of human attention destroys our ability to enter states of deep focus. Deep work, meaningful conversation, and sustained contemplation require unbroken time and mental quiet. Today, our attention spans are routinely shattered into tiny fragments, leaving us feeling perpetually overwhelmed and intellectually exhausted.

Furthermore, constant connectivity has effectively erased the vital boundary between public activity and private rest. Work emails follow us home, group chats demand instant replies, and social media creates a relentless pressure to curate and broadcast our lives. Solitude, once valued as a sanctuary for reflection and emotional regulation is now treated as an uncomfortable void to be filled immediately with digital noise. We have traded the quiet richness of solitude for the shallow stimulation of constant feedback.

Reclaiming our well-being requires establishing deliberate boundaries around technology. We need to cultivate digital minimalism using technology with clear intention rather than mindless habit. Creating tech-free zones, turning off non-essential notifications, and protecting moments of daily quiet are necessary acts of self-care. Technology should serve our lives, not consume our humanity.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J.

WHY PUBLIC SPACES ARE RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING



parks, privately owned plazas often ban lingering, public gatherings, or spontaneous artistic expressions. Infrastructure is increasingly designed using “defensive architecture” such as benches with middle dividers or anti-homeless spikes to deter specific groups from occupying space. This commercial approach prioritizes corporate interests over community life, transforming citizens into mere consumers.

To build livable cities, urban planners and pol-

icymakers must prioritize public investment in accessible civic infrastructure. Protecting public parks, supporting local libraries, and designing pedestrian-friendly streetscapes are essential investments in the social well-being of our communities. Reclaiming public space means asserting that urban life should be organized around community, human connection, and civic life not profit alone.

- ALLAN AUGUSTINE

THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE, AI'S QUIET COUP

We are currently witnessing a profoundly quiet revolution unfolding right inside our everyday lives. Artificial intelligence is no longer just a futuristic concept confined to sci-fi novels or academic research labs; it has quietly woven itself into the fundamental fabric of human daily life. From the algorithms curating our news feeds and recommending music to software writing code, generating art, and diagnosing medical conditions, machine learning tools are performing tasks once thought uniquely reserved for human intellect. While this rapid technological surge offers undeniable convenience and incredible efficiency, it also quietly poses a deeply existential question: what happens to human agency when we delegate our critical thinking, creativity, and judgment to lines of code?

The convenience offered by artificial intelligence is undeniably intoxicating. With a few key-strokes, an AI assistant can summarize complex legal documents, compose a formal email, or craft an essay. Yet, this seamless efficiency comes with an invisible, steep cost. As we lean more heavily on automated systems to navigate decisions ranging from what news to read to which job candidates to interview we risk slowly atrophying our own critical thinking abilities. Cognitive convenience can easily turn into intellectual passivity. When algorithms pre-determine our preferences, predict our choices, and shape our worldview, our capacity for serendipitous discovery, independent analysis, and nuanced disagreement naturally shrinks.

Moreover, the belief that algorithms are inherently objective neutral observers is a dangerous illusion. Machine learning models are trained on historical human data, which means they inherently absorb, amplify, and perpetuate our existing social biases, economic inequalities, and cultural prejudices. When automated systems make life-altering decisions about mortgage approvals, criminal justice sentencing, or hiring recommendations, they can subtly freeze historical injustices into systemic rules. Because these decision-making processes happen inside complex black-box code, holding them accountable becomes extraordinarily difficult.

Perhaps most unsettling is the gradual erosion of genuine human connection. As social interactions are increasingly mediated, optimized, and filtered by engagement algorithms designed to maximize screen time, our public discourse has grown increasingly polarized and fragmented. We find ourselves trapped in digital echo chambers where nuance is stripped away in favor of outrage.

We do not need to reject technological progress or become modern-day Luddites, but we must urgently transition from passive consumers to active, critical stewards of technology. Governments must implement robust regulatory frameworks to demand transparency in algorithmic decision-making.

- YASH RAJ



FAST FASHION IS DESTROYING OUR PLANET

The global fashion industry has undergone a radical transformation over the past three decades. What was once a seasonal market centered on quality and durability has morphed into a high-speed, high-volume industry driven by fast fashion. Clothing brands now launch micro-seasons weekly, offering hyper-cheap garments designed to be worn a few times and discarded. While this model democratizes access to current trends, it hides a massive environmental and human cost that our planet can no longer sustain.

The environmental footprint of fast fashion is staggering. The textile industry is one of the world's largest polluters, responsible for massive water consumption, toxic chemical runoff, and significant global carbon emissions. Producing a single cotton shirt requires thousands of liters of water, often in regions facing severe water scarcity. Furthermore, the synthetic materials dominant in cheap clothing, such as polyester, are derived from fossil fuels and shed micro-



plastics into our oceans with every wash, entering the global marine food chain.

Compounding this environmental crisis is the sheer volume of textile waste generated every year. Because fast fashion garments are cheaply constructed from low-quality materials, they are difficult to recycle and deteriorate quickly. Millions of tons of discarded clothing end up in landfills or are shipped to developing nations, over-

whelming local waste systems and creating environmental hazards. We have created a disposable clothing culture where garments are treated as single-use items.

Behind this environmental damage lies a human rights concern. To maintain extremely low prices and fast turnaround times, brands frequently exploit cheap labor in developing nations. Workers predominantly women often work long hours in unsafe conditions for wages below the living standard, lacking basic labor protections. The true cost of cheap clothing is passed down to vulnerable workers and ecosystems far removed from retail storefronts. Addressing this crisis requires systemic reform and a shift in consumer habits. Governments must enforce strict environmental regulations on textile manufacturing and hold brands accountable for supply chain labor standards.

- KEVIN MARIA RAJ

Quick Read

2 dead as rain-triggered landslide hits Idukki village

CH NEWS, Idukki
Two people were killed after a landslide buried a shed at Kottakamboor in Vattavada, Idukki district, on Sunday evening following three hours of heavy rain. The deceased were identified as Kottakamboor resident Balakrishnan and his sister, Chinnu. Balakrishnan's wife, Mariamma, who was also inside the shed, was rescued with critical injuries. Residents rush ed to the site and began removing soil and debris before emergency teams arrived. Mariamma was taken for emergency medical treatment, while rescuers continued searching the affected area to see whether anyone else was trapped.

2 die, 4 hurt after electrocution near Mumbai Ganesha pandal

MUMBAI
Two people, including an eight-year-old girl, died and four others were seriously injured after an electric shock near a Ganesha festival pandal in Mumbai's Lalbaug area early Sunday. The incident occurred around 2 a.m. near a Pepsi-Cola stall close to Aastha Hospital on Dattaram Lad Marg in Kalachowki, while devotees were present near the festival pandal. According to the fire brigade, five people, including two boys and three girls aged between eight and 20, came into contact with a loose electrical wire and suffered burn injuries. All five victims were initially rushed to Masina Hospital in Byculla. Doctors declared eight-year-old Raghni Ghanashyam Yadav dead upon arrival. A second victim, a woman who was admitted to Global

Rural sanitation push enters new phase

India's rural sanitation drive has moved beyond toilet construction, with villages increasingly focusing on waste management, cleanliness, hygiene practices and sustained behaviour change across communities under the ODF Plus framework.

NEW DELHI

More than 12.22 crore individual household toilets have been built in rural India, while 98,273 biogas plants have been constructed as of September 17, 2026, according to a government factsheet released Sunday. The figures mark the expansion of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin, with 5.69 lakh villages now brought into the Open Defecation Free Plus, or ODF Plus, category. Unlike the original ODF benchmark, which focused on ending open defecation, ODF Plus places greater emphasis on sustaining sanitation outcomes, managing waste and maintaining village



cleanliness. The government said ODF Plus villages are classified into three progressive stages: Aspiring, Rising and Model. Aspiring villages manage either solid or liquid

waste, while Rising villages manage both. Model villages go further by managing both waste streams, maintaining visual cleanliness and displaying ODF Plus messaging.

New achievements in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- 12.22 crore: Individual household toilets built in rural India
- 98,273: Biogas plants constructed as of September 17
- 5.69 lakh: Villages brought into ODF Plus category
- 2019: Rural India declared Open Defecation Free
- Three stages: Aspiring, Rising and Model villages
- GOBARdhan: Converts organic waste into biogas and manure

More than 10.28 crore toilets were constructed across 36 states and Union Territories between 2014 and 2019, after which rural India was declared ODF in 2019. The second

phase of the rural sanitation mission subsequently shifted attention towards sustaining toilet use and strengthening solid and liquid waste management. The GOBARdhan initiative is a component of this phase. It seeks to convert cattle dung, crop residue and other organic waste into biogas, compressed biogas and organic manure. The government also stressed that sanitation depends on behaviour as much as infrastructure. Households are encouraged to use and maintain toilets, manage wet waste through compost pits or biogas plants, practise handwashing and safe water storage, and avoid littering and spitting in public spaces.

'PDA a sham, Akhilesh Yadav hostile to Dalits'

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Minister and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) President O.P. Rajbhar launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, describing the latter's 'PDA' formula a "sham" and accusing him of having a hostile attitude towards Dalits and icons associated with the community. "Akhilesh Yadav's definition of PDA keeps changing sometimes he defines it as Backward-Dalit-Minority, while at other times he interprets 'P' as Pandit, 'D' as Dalit, and 'A' as Ahir; he also variously defines 'A' as Minority, 'Aadhi Aa badi' (women), or 'Agrad' (forward castes)," Rajbhar said.

BJP targets Rahul over Indore event

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday intensified its criticism of Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi following a stand-up performance involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mimicry at Gandhi's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" programme in Indore on September 19. Comedian Pulkrit Mani appeared on stage with Gandhi and mimicked Modi's mannerisms and speaking style, including references to his interactions with foreign leaders. Gandhi also joined the exchange, responding to the comedian while using the act to make a point about the Prime Minister's foreign-pol-



ity responsibilities. The episode triggered criticism from several BJP leaders, who alleged that the performance crossed the limits of political discourse. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal accused Gandhi of misleading students and insulting Indian culture, while urging him to speak responsibly. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also took a jibe at Gandhi, suggesting

A comedian's mimicry of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rahul Gandhi's Indore event has triggered a fresh BJP-Congress political controversy.

that he should consider becoming a stand-up comedian. BJP leaders Prakash Javadekar, Nishikant Dubey and Virendra Sachdeva separately criticised the Congress leader and questioned his approach to student outreach. BJP spokesperson CR Kesavan accused Gandhi of endorsing what he described as offensive remarks during the performance. Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi

also criticised the episode, alleging that references to Modi's late mother were inappropriate. The controversy comes as Gandhi's student-focused programme seeks to highlight concerns surrounding education, recruitment, unemployment and examination-related issues. The Indore event was originally planned for September 12 but was postponed after permission to use the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was denied. The BJP-Congress dispute over the stage performance has now become a fresh political flashpoint, alongside the wider debate over the tone and focus of political outreach to young voters.

Journalist Payal Mehta passes away, PM expresses grief

MUMBAI

Journalist Payal Mehta passed away in Mumbai early on Sunday. She was 46. Mehta developed uneasiness and was rushed to the hospital at around 2 a.m., according to colleagues. However, before any treatment could be administered, the doctors did not find any pulse. Payal Mehta was working as an Assistant Editor with CNN-News 18. Condolences poured in following her demise. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to express grief over the passing of the journalist. "Payal Mehta Ji was a hardworking journalist who remained firmly connected to the ground, bringing a deep understanding of national issues to her reporting," PM



Modi posted on X. "Beyond her work, she will be remembered for the kindness and warmth with which she touched so many lives. Her sudden and untimely passing is extremely saddening. My condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. May they find strength in this difficult hour. Om Shanti," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed shock and sadness over the passing of Mehta. Taking to X, Singh said, "Deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the untimely passing of journalist Payal Mehta. She has left us far too soon." "Payal was an extremely hardworking and

dedicated journalist who covered the Parliament beat with great commitment and professionalism. During Parliament sessions, she would be present from early morning till late at night, tirelessly following the proceedings and doing her work with remarkable dedication," Singh said, offering heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also offered condolences, remembering Mehta as a "hardworking and diligent journalist". "Deeply saddened by the passing of Payal Mehtaji. A hardworking and diligent journalist, she covered Parliament and had a keen understanding of public affairs. Her untimely passing is deeply distressing," Kharge said in a post on X.

Jharkhand Maoist carrying Rs 30 lakh bounty killed

VARANASI

Jharkhand-based banned Maoist outfit Tritiya Prastuti Committee's (TPC) chief Brijesh Ganju alias Gopal Singh Bhokta was killed in an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Varanasi on Sunday morning, officials said. Ganju carried a cumulative bounty of Rs 30 lakh announced by the Jharkhand government and the National Investigation Agency (NIA). According to information shared by security agencies, the encounter took place at around 5 a.m. near Tengra Mod in the Ramnagar police station area of

Varanasi. The UP ATS had received intelligence that Ganju was travelling on a motorcycle via Ramnagar towards Mughalsarai, following which a team laid a trap in the area. Police said that when ATS personnel signalled him to stop, Ganju opened fire on the team. ATS officers retaliated, and Ganju sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire. He was taken to a district hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead. ATS Deputy Superintendent of Police Vipin Rai said that bullets fired by Ganju struck the bulletproof jackets of both him and Head Constable Nitendra Krishna

during the encounter. One of Ganju's associates managed to flee the spot. The ATS recovered two pistols, live cartridges and spent shells from the scene. The body has been kept at the post-mortem facility of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital in Varanasi. A resident of Lawalong in Jharkhand's Chatra district, Ganju had long figured on the wanted lists of security and investigative agencies. The Jharkhand government had announced a reward of Rs 2.5 million for information leading to his arrest, while the NIA had separately declared a reward of Rs 500,000.

Delhi cops trace minor girl after 8 years

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have solved a long-pending missing-person case after the minor was found in Bihar after eight years of sustained efforts, officials said on Sunday. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Delhi Police's Central District successfully traced and recovered the minor girl from Bihar, bringing an end to a long-pending case registered at Anand Parbat police station. The case dates back to Octo-



ber 14, 2018, when an FIR was registered at PS Anand Parbat in connection with the alleged missing and kidnapping of a minor girl, who was then 14 years old and a resident of the national capital's Anand Parbat area.

Following the registration of the case, sustained efforts were made by the police to trace the missing girl and ascertain her whereabouts. During the course of the investigation and search operations, the AHTU team examined footage from multiple CCTV cameras and conducted extensive searches at around 90 shelter homes for girls, 52 orphanages, religious places, and red-light areas across Delhi-NCR. Despite the extensive searches and multiple efforts undertaken over the years, the

whereabouts of the missing girl could not initially be established. The AHTU team, however, continued to pursue available leads and kept working on the long-pending case. A few months ago, the team received a crucial secret input indicating that the missing girl might be present in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur. Acting promptly on the information, a dedicated team was constituted to trace and recover her. The team comprised Sub-Inspector Raj Bahadur Singh,

Head Constable Surender and Woman Constable Manisha. The team worked under the supervision of Inspector Anil Yadav, In-charge of AHTU, with overall supervision by the ACP, DIU. Following the development of the lead, the police team immediately travelled to Kanpur and conducted searches at the location indicated by the source. However, upon reaching the spot, the team learnt that the missing girl had been moved from the location shortly before their arrival.

EC serves SIR notices to Kejriwal, family

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Election Commission has served notices to former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal and four members of his family under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The notices have been issued under the "Unmapped with Last SIR" category. Those who received the notices include Kejriwal, his wife Sunita Kejriwal, son Pulkit Kejriwal (25), father Gobind Ram Kejriwal and mother Gita Devi. The five family members are among 110 electors flagged in Part-51 (KG Marg) of Assembly Constituency 40 (New Delhi).



Under the SIR exercise, an unmapped voter is a person whose current electoral-roll details cannot be matched with the corresponding records of the previous SIR. Such electors are required to submit documents to establish eligibility and verify their entries. The Commission has also identified mapped voters with discrepancies in details such as name or date of birth and is issuing notices in both categories as part of the claims and objections process. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was also flagged during the same exercise. Her name appeared in the list of discrepancies for Assembly Constituency 14 (Shalimar Bagh). The Commission later said that her details and documents were verified and her electoral entry validated. Her name will be included in the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on November 4, 2026. The Aam Aadmi Party reacted sharply to the notices served on the Kejriwal family. In a post on X, the party questioned how the names of a three-time Delhi Chief Minister and his family members could be missing from the voter list and suggested the action was politically motivated. Officials clarified that the notices form part of a larger verification drive. Around 33 lakh electors in Delhi have been flagged either for lack of mapping with the previous SIR or for logical discrepancies. Hearings and document verification are underway, and the final electoral roll is due on November 4.

Bengal weighs PPP model for empty schools

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government is considering a public-private partnership model for the future use of schools reporting zero student enrolment, with district administrations asked to assess the institutions and their infrastructure. The latest UDISE+ data shows that 4,133 of India's 5,663 zero-enrolment schools are located in West Bengal. However, state officials have indicated that the figures require physical verification, as discrepancies in data uploaded



by some schools may have contributed to the reported numbers. The state education department has directed district-level committees, headed by District Magistrates, to inspect the schools, examine their buildings, land, infrastructure and

available facilities, and determine whether the properties can be revived or put to alternative public use. Possible uses include training centres, health centres and other community or administrative facilities. A PPP arrangement is also being con-

The government has directed district administrations to physically verify zero-enrolment schools and assess their land, buildings and infrastructure for suitable public use. - Dipak Barman, West Bengal School Education Minister

sidered for suitable properties, although officials have indicated that such a model may not be applicable to every school. The issue also highlights an uneven distribution of teachers across the state. According to UDISE+ data cited by offi-

cials, 19,502 teachers are listed against the zero-enrolment schools, while 6,769 schools have only one teacher serving a combined 2,29,569 students. The government has also been working on teacher rationalisation, including shifting teachers from zero- or low-enrolment schools to institutions facing shortages. The state has stressed that the exercise does not automatically mean all zero-enrolment schools will be closed or converted, with revival remaining an option where feasible.

Quick Read



Ship capsizes: Indonesia rescue team recovers another victim

JAKARTA Indonesia's search and rescue agency said on Sunday it had recovered one more victim from the wreck of a passenger ship that capsized and sank in the Java Sea last weekend. The passenger ship, Virgo Transport 8, was carrying 243 people, including 30 crew members, when it capsized in bad weather early on September 13 during a voyage from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan. "The victim was found by divers during a search inside the ship's hull," the agency said, adding that the victim will be airlifted out for identification.

Iraqi court opens trial of six French IS suspects

BAGHDAD An Iraqi court on Sunday opened the trial of six French nationals accused of belonging to Islamic State, with a member of the Supreme Judicial Council telling the court that the suspects could face the death penalty if convicted of crimes committed against Iraq and the Iraqi people. Two court legal sources said the defendants were among 47 French Islamic State detainees transferred from prisons in northeast Syria last year as part of a broader relocation process overseen by US forces and Iraqi authorities. The French embassy in Baghdad did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Spencer compares media treatment of Harry, Meghan to Diana's ordeal

LONDON

The media's treatment of Prince Harry and his wife Meghan is on a par with that faced by his mother Diana, the late princess' brother said in an interview published on Sunday, warning that lessons needed to be learned from that period.

Diana died aged 36 in a 1997 Paris car crash as photographers pursued her on motorbikes, sparking an outpouring of grief and a reckoning over whether the media bore some responsibility for her death after splashing details of her life across front pages for years.

"If you look at an article in a tabloid about Diana or the couple that you were mentioning, Harry and Meghan, you know, they can be really, really un-

UN Week: World leaders gather amid global turmoil

Major international crises are expected to dominate the agenda, with particular focus on Iran and the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, the Palestinian issue and Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

World leaders are gathering in New York for the United Nations General Assembly as wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, artificial intelligence and the future of global cooperation dominate the agenda.

Nearly 130 heads of state are expected to attend the diplomatic gathering, which begins amid growing pressure on the United Nations and uncertainty over its ability to respond to major international crises. US President Donald Trump is returning to the UN rostrum for a second year, while Washington's reduced contributions and withdrawals from several UN bodies have added to concerns about the organization's finances and influence.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will not attend the assembly,



instead planning talks with Trump in Washington. His absence has added to questions about the UN's role as major powers increasingly pursue direct bilateral diplomacy.

The UN Security Council could hold high-level discussions on Ukraine, artificial intelligence and the Middle East. The US has paid \$725 million toward its regular UN budget this week, helping preserve its voting rights, but still owes more than \$1.3 billion.

AI governance is another major issue. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for common safeguards to prevent uncontrolled technological competition, while Trump has publicly played down concerns about AI risks.

The Middle East is expected to receive particular attention as the conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran continues, while Houthi attacks threaten shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Meet at a glance

- Nearly 130 heads of state expected at UN General Assembly.
- Trump returns to UN rostrum for second consecutive year.
- Ukraine, Middle East conflicts and AI dominate discussions.
- US paid \$725 million toward regular UN budget.
- Xi Jinping to meet Trump in Washington instead.
- Guterres' UN leadership term ends in 2026.

Guterres' term ends in 2026, adding a leadership transition to the assembly's agenda as member states debate the organization's future.

Ukrainian drone barrage hits Moscow amid poll

MOSCOW

Ukraine launched what Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin described as the biggest drone attack yet on the Russian capital on Sunday, as Russians voted on the final day of a parliamentary election being closely watched for signs of support for President Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine.

Russian authorities said more than 1,600 drones had been intercepted, including about 450 heading toward Moscow. Two people were killed in the Moscow region, while a facility at the capital's oil refinery was damaged. Another two people were reportedly killed in the Russian-held part of Ukraine's Kherson region, including an election official.

Sobyanin said the attack had been planned to disrupt the election but failed to do so. Ukraine did not immediately

The capital's Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that more than 1,600 drones had been intercepted and shot down, 450 of which were aimed at Moscow.

comment on the Russian allegations.

The State Duma election, the first since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, was expected to preserve the dominance of the ruling United Russia party. Putin has presented the vote as a measure of public support for Russia's military campaign.

Voting took place over three days, with turnout exceeding 50% by Sunday afternoon, according to Russian election authorities cited by Interfax. Authorities also reported cyberattacks against voting systems and communication infrastructure during the election.

MACRON VISITS SAINT PIERRE, MEETS CARNEY

UNITED NATIONS

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Saint Pierre and Miquelon on Sunday for talks with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, highlighting French sovereignty over the small Atlantic territory and closer cooperation between France and Canada.

Macron's visit is the first by a French president to the archipelago since 2014 and comes weeks after US President Donald Trump shared an image depicting the islands under the US flag. The territory, home to about 5,800 people, is France's only remaining territory in North America.

Macron said there was no doubt that Saint Pierre and Miquelon was French, while avoiding an extended response to Trump's post. French officials described the visit as symbolically significant because of the territory's

strategic location near North America and the Arctic.

The meeting with Carney is also taking place as Canada seeks stronger economic and strategic links with the European Union amid worsening trade tensions with Washington. Macron and Carney were expected to discuss energy cooperation, including Canadian liquefied natural gas exports to Europe. Macron has said Canada should broaden its LNG exports toward European markets rather than concentrating primarily on Asia.

The leaders are also expected to discuss Canada's proposed closer relationship with the European Union. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has suggested creating an "associate member" status for Canada, although the concept has no existing legal definition and faces questions among EU member states.

Canada and the EU already

A snapshot

- France's only remaining territory in North America,
- Population of about 5,800,
- Located off Canada's Atlantic coast,
- First French presidential visit since 2014
- Macron and Carney discussed energy cooperation,
- Canada seeking deeper EU ties,
- EU associate-member proposal remains undefined,
- CETA still awaits ratification in several EU states.

have a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, but several EU countries, including France, have yet to fully ratify it. The discussions therefore combine territorial sovereignty, energy security and evolving transatlantic partnerships.

Taiwan minister makes rare trip to China for APEC event

TAIPEI

Taiwan's labour minister left on Sunday for China to attend an APEC event, the first ministerial-level visit of President Lai Ching-te's administration at a time when Beijing has ramped up military and political pressure against Taipei.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group is one of the few international bodies that Chinese-claimed Taiwan belongs to, and China is the host nation this year, with a leaders summit scheduled for November in Shenzhen.

China has rejected repeated offers of talks by Lai, saying he is a "separatist", and its military operates around Taiwan on an almost daily basis.

Imran Khan's sister arrested in Lahore

LAHORE

Police arrested Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistan's jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan at her house in Lahore, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Punjab spokesman said on Sunday, ahead of a planned protest march by the party on September 27.

A notification issued by

Lahore's district administration said she has been arrested and sent to jail for 30 days. "According to intelligence reports, her presence at any public place will pose a grave threat to public safety," the district administration said.

Imran Khan's party has organised a march to Islamabad next week demanding his re-

lease. Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the government would do everything it could to stop the protest march.

A close aide to Khan, Zulfi Bukhari, described the arrest of Khan's sister as "absolutely despicable". "The fear of the 27th protest is clearly taking its toll," Bukhari added.

North Korea fires two ballistic missiles off east coast

SEOUL

North Korea launched two missiles off its eastern coast on Sunday, its second set of tests in roughly a week and days after Pyongyang accused the US of driving tensions on the Korean Peninsula through a series of military drills.

Just three hours after launching a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) toward the East Sea on Sunday afternoon, North Korea fired another short-range ballistic missile, according to South Korea's defence ministry. If the subsequent launch is confirmed to be a ballistic missile, it will mark two consecutive ballistic missile tests by North Korea within a three-hour window.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the first test firing from the Wonsan area around 3 p.m. (0600 GMT), identifying the weapon as a ballistic missile. Japan's defence ministry also said it appeared to be a ballistic missile. Japanese public broadcaster NHK said the projectile had come down outside Japan's exclusive eco-

nomie zone.

The first projectile flew approximately 450 km (280 miles) and is presumed to belong to the Hwasong-11 series, according to South Korea's military.

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHANNAMMA SUBHASAPPA BISALALLI alias CHANNAMMA BISALALLI D/o SUBHASAPPA BISALALLI, W/o AKASH YOGESH DHOTARE, R/o Janata Plot, Halageri, Haligeri, Haveri, Karnataka-581208, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAVITHA SUBHASAPPA BISALALLI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROHINI S BISANALLI D/o ANNPAPPA, W/o SOMARADDI, R/o Badiger Oni, Near Dyamavva Tempel, Mukkal, Kalghatgi, Dharwad, Karnataka-581204, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TIMMAVVA .B PATIL.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATHISHA N P S/o PEERYANAIAK R/o 152, Nagenahalli, Amruthapura, Chickmagalur, Karnataka-577228, have changed the name of my minor son UDAY N S aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as INDRAJITH S NAIK.

Greenland sovereignty safe under Trump's deal: Denmark

COPENHAGEN

Denmark said that its sovereignty over Greenland would not be compromised by a deal taking shape with the Trump administration that would allow a significant expansion of the US military presence on the Arctic island. The United States, Denmark and Greenland said on Friday they had reached an agreement for the US to expand its military footprint in the self-governed Danish territory, while preventing US adversaries from establishing bases there.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALLAMMA D/o LINGANA GOUD PATIL, W/o VISHWANATH REDDY, R/o Ameengad, Amingad, Manvi, Raichur, Karnataka-584120, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VISHALAKSHI.

Document Lost

Smt. Leelavathi W/o. Late. H Shreedhar, has lost her documents such as Letter of Allotment, Possession Certificate and Deed of Lease Cum Sale, duly issued by the MUDA bearing Site No. 633, HUDCO, 2nd Stage, Jayanagar, Chamarajamohalla, Mysuru. Present address of property: No. 633, 2nd Stage, CITB, HUDCO, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-570023. Document no 5577 dated 11/03/1987 sub registrar Mysore. If anyone finds the above documents, they can kindly call at No. 9148896905.

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To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF LABOR COURT AT SALEM

I.A. No.92 of 2025 IN

EC No. Unnumbered case

1. Maheswari
2. Deepa
3. Keerthana
4. Ragul vs ...Petitioners

1.Baba
2.IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance company limited ...Respondent

Whereas the above case is pending before this Hon'ble Court, and despite all reasonable efforts, the Respondent, Mr./Mrs. Baba S/o Babu, residing at 48, 7th cross, Sampangirama nagar, Bangalore. 560030. Karnataka, could not be served with Court summons.

Therefore, by order of this Hon'ble Court, the Respondent is hereby called upon to appear in person or through a duly authorised Advocate before this Hon'ble Court on 23.09.2026 at 3.00 P.M., failing which the matter will be heard and decided ex parte in accordance with law.

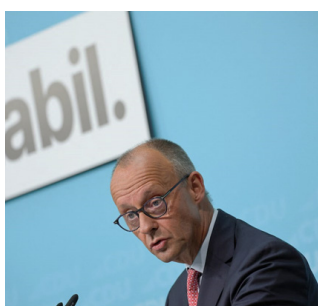
Place: Salem
Date: 20.09.2026

SD/-
Counsel for the Petitioner
B. MANIMEKALAI, B.Com., B.L., Advocate,
OPP. SP Office,
NAMAKKAL - 637 003.
Endri No: 1216/92.

SCHWERIN

German voters went to the polls on Sunday in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, with the elections taking place amid growing pressure on Chancellor Friedrich Merz and rising support for the far-right Alternative for Germany.

The votes follow the September 6 election in Saxony-Anhalt, where the AfD came close to securing an absolute majority. The result intensified debate over the party's growing influence and the policy of Germany's mainstream parties refusing to form coalitions with it.



We cannot decouple foreign security policy from what we are debating at home.

-Friedrich Merz

while Merz's Christian Democratic Union stood at 6%, close to the five-percent threshold required to enter the state parliament.

Berlin presented a different political picture. Housing and rents were among the leading concerns, with advertised rents having nearly doubled since 2014 and the city expected to need 211,000 additional homes by 2040.

For Merz, the elections come after months of criticism over Germany's economy, living costs and government reforms. His approval rating has fallen sharply, while senior CDU figures have publicly backed his leadership. Eight CDU state premiers issued a joint statement supporting him earlier this week.

The elections therefore carry significance beyond the two states, as their results could influence debates within the CDU over its leadership, coalition strategy and response to the AfD's continued electoral gains.

Quick Read

Centre, Bengal govt plan fisheries sector boost

NEW DELHI

The Centre's Department of Fisheries is organising a re-view meeting in Kolkata on September 21 to chart a roadmap for the state's huge untapped fisheries potential, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. Union Minister for Fisheries Rajiv Ranjan Singh and West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari will co-chair the meeting. The deliberations are expected to identify priority interventions and strengthen Centre-State collaboration to accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth in West Bengal's fisheries sector. The meeting will provide a comprehensive platform to review the progress of various schemes and programmes in West Bengal and deliberate on key focus areas for future development.

Village household toilets cross 12.22 crore under Swachh Bharat drive

NEW DELHI

Over 12.22 crore individual toilets have been built in rural households across India, and 98,273 biogas plants have been constructed as of September 17, 2026, bringing 5.69 lakh villages nationwide into the ODF (open defecation free) Plus category under the Swachh Bharat campaign, according to a government factsheet released on Sunday. An ODF Plus village not only sustains ODF status but also effectively manages solid and liquid waste, while maintaining visual cleanliness. Along with sustaining ODF Plus village status, these villages are classified into three progressive stages: Aspiring, Rising and Model. Aspiring villages manage either solid or liquid waste.

Adilabad Airport Project Gets Nodal Officers

The Defence Ministry and AAI have appointed nodal officers to coordinate with Telangana on developing Adilabad's proposed 1,500-acre joint-user airport.

HYDERABAD

The Defence Ministry and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have appointed nodal officers to coordinate with the Telangana government on the proposed joint-user airport at Adilabad, marking a step forward for a project planned for both civilian and defence purposes.

The Defence Ministry has appointed Air Force Station Begumpet commandant Air Commodore Rahul Shukla and Headquarters Training Command, Bengaluru, CATCO Group Captain Jyoti Prakash Sabharwal as its nodal officers. The AAI has appointed Executive Director Arch Sujoy Dey to coordinate with the Telangana government.

The appointments were communicated separately to Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan

Defence Ministry appoints two Officers

- Defence Ministry appoints two nodal officers

- AAI names Executive Director Sujoy Dey

- Project planned across 1,500 acres

- Facility will serve civilian and defence needs

- Air force training centre proposed

- Civil terminal and MRO facility planned

- Telangana urged to appoint nodal officer

Reddy said the appointments followed his discussions with the Defence and Civil Aviation ministries.

The proposed facility is planned across 1,500 acres and will include an air force training centre and a joint-use air-

field for civilian and defence operations. Defence infrastructure is expected to include facilities for trainer aircraft, visiting aircraft parking, dispersals, weather shelters, aircraft hangars, an operational complex, training facilities and maintenance infrastructure.

On the civilian side, the AAI is expected to establish a civil terminal and a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility. Supporting infrastructure for defence personnel would include single and married accommodation, sports and recreational facilities and essential amenities.

Engineering utilities such as water supply and sanitation will also have to be developed. Kishan Reddy has urged the Telangana government to appoint its own nodal officer, saying this would help coordinate all stakeholders and further speed up work on the project.

'Assam Could Become India's Energy Battery'

GUWAHATI

Assam has the potential to emerge as a major energy hub and could become the "Battery of India" in the coming years, Adani Group Director Jeet Adani said on Sunday at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a 3,200 MW thermal power project in Chapar, Dhubri district.

The Rs 48,000-crore project, being developed by Adani Power, is expected to become the largest power generation asset in the Northeast. Jeet Adani said Assam had undergone a significant transformation in recent years and was increasingly emerging as an attractive destination for investment, industry and large-scale development.

He said the state's energy potential could extend beyond meeting its own requirements and contribute to the country's wider energy security. Jeet Adani also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with creating



Adani Group Director Jeet Adani said Assam could become a major national energy hub while unveiling a major power project.

conditions that had accelerated economic growth, infrastructure development and business opportunities.

Recalling the Adani Group's growing presence in the state, he said the company initially entered Assam to contribute to its development but later identified opportunities across several sectors.

He said the group had announced plans to invest up to Rs 1 lakh crore in the Northeast over the next decade. According to him, nearly Rs 80,000 crore of that investment is already

KEY NUMBERS
3,200 MW: Planned thermal power capacity
Rs 48,000 crore: Project investment
Rs 80,000 crore: Adani investments underway in Assam
4,500: Local youth already hired
40,000: Expected direct and indirect jobs

underway in Assam.

Jeet Adani also highlighted employment generation and local participation. He said the group had conducted four to five recruitment drives in the state, resulting in the hiring of around 4,500 local youth.

The group's businesses in Assam are expected to generate around 40,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, he said.

"I truly believe that in the coming years, Assam won't just generate energy for its own needs — it will become a major energy hub, powering the security of the entire nation."

'Engineers Must Embrace Interdisciplinary Thinking'

NEW DELHI

Mizoram Governor General Vijay Kumar Singh has called on the next generation of engineers to move beyond traditional academic boundaries and embrace interdisciplinary thinking to help shape India's technological future.

Addressing the 18th IEI Industry Excellence Summit & Awards 2026, organised by the Institution of Engineers (India), Singh highlighted the contribution of engineering to India's development and urged young professionals to build on that legacy. The

summit was held under the theme, "Engineering India's Global Footprint: Technology, Talent and Trust."

Singh said India's engineering achievements span major infrastructure and technology sectors, including dams, steel plants, highways, metro networks, renewable energy, telecommunications, space technology, indigenous defence manufacturing and digital public infrastructure.

He said the boundaries between engineering disciplines are increasingly disappearing as technology becomes more integrated. Civil engineers,



he noted, increasingly require knowledge of geographic information systems, sensors, artificial intelligence and climate modelling. Mechanical engineers are becoming involved in robotics and advanced manufacturing, while electrical engineers are working on energy storage and smart-grid technologies.

Software engineers, mean-

ENGINEERING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

■ Civil engineering: GIS, sensors, AI and climate modelling

■ Mechanical engineering: Robotics and advanced manufacturing

■ Electrical engineering: Energy storage and smart grids

■ Software engineering: Hardware, cybersecurity and infrastructure

■ Education focus: Design thinking, field exposure and prototyping

while, are increasingly contributing to hardware systems, cybersecurity and physical infrastructure.

The Governor urged engi-

neering graduates to develop the ability to collaborate across disciplines, experiment with new ideas and create practical solutions to re-

al-world challenges. He also called for greater emphasis on design thinking, field exposure, interdisciplinary projects and prototyping in engineering education.

Singh further stressed that India's ability to build infrastructure at scale must be matched by stronger efforts to maintain existing assets.

He cited the Unified Payments Interface as an example of engineering excellence, noting that its success depends on interoperability, distributed systems, cybersecurity, real-time processing and large-scale digital infrastructure.

Nifty's 23,000-23,100 zone critical support, Sensex may face resistance at 74,600: Analysts

MUMBAI

Indian equity benchmarks ended the truncated trading week on a subdued note, with investors closely watching key technical levels amid concerns over elevated crude oil prices and rising global bond yields.

Market experts believe the Sensex needs a sustained move above 74,600 to regain upward momentum, while the Nifty's 23,000-23,100 zone remains a critical support area that could determine the market's near-term direction.

Market analysts said investors continue to assess the impact of elevated energy prices on inflation and corporate profitability. Higher crude oil costs are seen as a double-edged risk, potentially increasing input costs for businesses while also putting pressure on consumer spending and economic growth.

From a technical perspective, analysts expect the Sensex to remain range-bound in the near term. "The broader support zone for the index is seen between 73,500 and 73,700," analysts stated.

"A sustained move above

74,600 could pave the way for a recovery towards the 74,800-75,000 range. However, a fall below the 74,000 mark may trigger fresh selling pressure and increase downside risks," market watchers noted.

For the Nifty, market participants are closely monitoring the 23,000-23,100 zone, which has emerged as a crucial support area after the index endured six consecutive weeks of decline.

Analysts warned that a decisive break below this range could lead to a deeper correction towards the 22,400-

22,600 levels. "On the upside, immediate resistance is placed at 23,500-23,800, while support is seen around 23,100-22,950," experts stated.

"Holding the support zone could keep the index within a broader consolidation range, whereas a decisive break below 22,950 may increase downside pressure," market watchers mentioned. Meanwhile, for the last week, the Sensex declined 0.65 per cent to settle at 74,294.46, while the Nifty slipped 0.22 per cent to close at 23,346.40.

SBI asks customers to plan transactions early

NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) has issued an advisory urging customers to complete important banking transactions in advance of a proposed three-day nationwide bank strike called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) from September 28 to 30, 2026.

The advisory comes after the UFBU's nationwide strike on September 11 and ahead of another planned phase of protest action later this month. The union forum has also announced a continuous strike beginning October 26 as part of its ongoing agitation.

SBI said customers should plan branch-related transac-

tions before the strike period to avoid potential disruptions. Services that require physical visits to bank branches, staff assistance, document verification or other in-person processes may be affected if a significant number of employees participate in the strike.

The bank noted that it is taking steps to ensure the availability of essential banking services during the proposed strike. However, it cautioned that branch operations could face limitations depending on the level of employee participation across locations.

To help customers manage their banking needs during the strike period, SBI advised

them to rely on alternative service channels. Customers requiring cash have been encouraged to use Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and Automated Deposit and Withdrawal Machines (ADWMs). The bank also highlighted the availability of Customer Service Points (CSPs) for select banking services.

In addition, SBI said its digital banking platforms would remain available for routine transactions. Customers can use internet banking, mobile banking, YONO and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services to transfer funds, make payments and carry out other day-to-day banking activities without visiting a branch.

India's exports pick up pace as FTAs kick in

NEW DELHI

India's exports to free trade agreement (FTA) partners have shot up during the first quarter of 2026-27, with shipments to Singapore and Sri Lanka more than doubling and exports to ASEAN rising by more than 60 per cent, which shows that the trade pacts are actually bearing fruit, according to reports.

The figures suggest that India's expanding network of trade agreements is increasingly translating negotiated market access into actual export momentum, according to an article in Tanzania's The Guardian newspaper.

The development comes at a significant point for India's external trade strategy. The country recorded its highest-ever combined exports of \$863.1 billion in FY 2025-26, comprising merchandise exports of \$441.8 billion and services exports of \$421.3 billion.

The latest data with FTA partners shows that India is not merely expanding its export volumes, but increasingly using preferential trade



arrangements to widen its market presence, the article stated.

Commerce Ministry data show that India's exports to Singapore rose 101.2 per cent year-on-year during April-June 2026, reaching \$6.52 billion, up from \$3.24 billion in the same period last year. Exports to Sri Lanka performed even more strongly, climbing 123.8 per cent to \$2.35 billion from \$1.05 billion.

The ASEAN region also registered a substantial increase. Indian shipments rose 61.6 per cent to \$14.61 billion in the first quarter of FY 2026-27, compared with \$9.04 billion during April-June 2025.

Exports to Malaysia in-

creased 75.2 per cent to \$2.54 billion, while shipments to Australia rose 25.2 per cent to \$2.68 billion. South Korea recorded 22.6 per cent growth to \$1.95 billion and Japan 22.4 per cent to \$1.75 billion.

Similarly, shipments to Oman increased 26.4 per cent to \$1.39 billion, while exports to Nepal rose 18.1 per cent to \$2.28 billion. Bhutan and Thailand also registered growth of 16.1 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. Recent trade agreements signed by New Delhi include the India-UAE CEPA, India-Australia ECTA, India-EFTA TEPA, India-Oman CEPA and the India-UK CETA.

CHINA'S AI PUSH RAISES FEARS OF JOB LOSSES

NEW DELHI

China's rapid adoption of artificial intelligence is reshaping workplaces, boosting productivity while raising concerns over job losses, particularly among young workers, a Quartz report

said.

Beijing-based programmer Fei Zhaojun lost his job after his employer explored using AI for coding tasks. He was among about 160 employees laid off and said many mid-level programming roles are becoming replace-

able as AI advances.

According to IDC, fewer than 10 per cent of Chinese industrial firms used AI models and agents in 2024, but the figure rose to nearly half last year. Humanoid robots are being deployed in logistics, while autonomous

machines are taking on tasks such as traffic management and food delivery.

The shift comes amid high youth unemployment, with joblessness among 16-to-24-year-olds outside education nearly three times the national average.

CIL'S ENERGY TRANSITION

Coal India Expands Beyond Traditional Mining

NEW DELHI

Coal India Limited (CIL) is expanding beyond conventional coal mining to build a diversified energy and materials portfolio, with investments spanning coal gasification, thermal power, renewable energy, battery storage, critical minerals and advanced materials, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

The company's business development strategy is organised around five platforms: coal gasification and coal-to-chemicals, thermal power, renewable energy and storage, critical minerals and advanced materials, and diversified minerals including iron ore.



CIL's portfolio includes around Rs 69,346 crore across four coal-to-chemicals projects, a 2x800 MW ultra-supercritical expansion at Chandrapura, around 550 MW of commissioned solar capacity and multiple Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) initiatives.

Its coal-to-chemicals programme includes Talcher Fertilisers Ltd., Bharat Coal Gasification & Chemicals Ltd., Coal Gas India Ltd. and the CIL-BPCL Chandrapur coal-

to-SNG initiative. The projects will focus on adapting technology to high-ash Indian coal, improving process efficiency, localising equipment and strengthening digital monitoring.

CIL is also pursuing underground coal gasification through a phased pilot at the Kasta West Block of Eastern Coalfields Limited, as the technology has not yet achieved global commercial-scale deployment.

In power generation, CIL and Damodar Valley Corporation are implementing a proposed 50:50 joint venture for a 2x800 MW ultra-supercritical brownfield expansion at Chandrapur in Jharkhand.

On renewables, approxi-

mately 550 MW of solar capacity has already been commissioned, while additional projects are under development. CIL is also developing a 20 MW floating solar project at Chilwa Taal in Gorakhpur and BESS projects, including an 80 MW/320 MWh portfolio across four Odisha locations.

"Coal India Limited is steadily evolving from a conventional coal-mining enterprise into a diversified energy, minerals, materials and technology-driven organisation," — CEO, COAL India

"Replication of coal-to-chemicals projects will be pursued only after operating data and commercial performance have been verified." — Manager, Coal India

Red Bull addresses Max's car performance issues

Red Bull principal Laurent Mekies addressed Max Verstappen's Italian Grand Prix radio outburst, clarifying recurring aerodynamic performance struggles.

MILAN

Red Bull team principal Laurent Mekies has addressed the sharp radio comments made by Max Verstappen during the Italian Grand Prix, where the reigning world champion exasperatedly claimed that the rear axle on his RB22 machine was "broken again".

Clarifying the dramatic radio outburst, senior team management confirmed that the remark did not point to a sudden structural failure or mechanical breakage. Instead, it served as a figurative and pointed description of a deeply frustrating aerodynamic and mechanical phenomenon that has consistently plagued the team's ride performance. According to engineers, the core issue centers on how specific vehicle parameters evolve negatively as a practice session or a Grand Prix race distance progresses.

Speaking to media representatives after the race weekend, Mekies openly validated



Verstappen jokes about moving aside for Raikkonen

Formula One champion Max Verstappen recently cracked a lighthearted joke about eventually stepping down to make room for a rising new star. Red Bull recently announced that young karting talent Robin Raikkonen, son of 2007 world champion Kimi Raikkonen, will join their junior team in 2027. Speaking with reporters, Verstappen joked that by the time the teenager reaches Formula One, he might need to move aside to secure a seat for him. Verstappen reflected on meeting the father and son duo recently, praising the young driver's promising new partnership with Red Bull.

ed his driver's technical feedback. The team principal admitted that Red Bull is grappling with an intricate performance degradation loop that diminishes the car's efficiency over time. Rather than standard tire wear, the car itself appears to lose optimal operating windows and stability as temperatures and track conditions shift.

Mekies acknowledged that this hurdle is far from a brand-new dilemma, noting that it has hindered their consistency under the current technical regulations. Because the underlying mechanical and aerodynamic interactions are deeply com-

plicated, finding a definitive, instant remedy has proven elusive for the Milton Keynes-based outfit. While the engineering department continues to test incremental updates and gather vital telemetry data to combat the flaw, team insiders suggest that a comprehensive solution may require extensive development stretching well into future championship campaigns. For now, Red Bull faces the ongoing challenge of optimizing setup configurations to mitigate performance drop-off and support their star driver's push at the front of the grid.

Hamilton recalls pivotal moment in F3 career

LONDON

Seven-formula-one world champion Lewis Hamilton has opened up about one of the most psychologically and professionally daunting chapters of his early racing career, recalling the tense period when he temporarily lost his crucial backing and contractual association with the McLaren Formula 1 team.

Long before breaking records and securing his legendary status at the pinnacle of motorsport, a teenage Hamilton was hand-picked by then-McLaren boss Ron Dennis to join the Woking-based outfit's prestigious young driver support programme. Eager to accelerate his progression through the junior formulae, the young British driver constantly pushed team management for promotion. During his climb up the motorsport ladder in 2005, Hamilton competed in the Formula 3 European championship under the guidance of Frédéric Vasseur, who currently serves as his Team Principal at Ferrari.

Reflecting on those high-pressure formative years, Hamilton admitted that his youthful impatience frequently led him to place immense pressure on team executives. He frequently contacted senior McLaren figures like Martin Whitmarsh on a weekly basis, pressing for cockpit opportunities and pushing to graduate into the newly established GP2 Series for the 2005 season.

This relentless push for advancement inadvertently triggered a major crisis. McLaren briefly severed ties with the junior prodigy, terminating his contract amidst disagreements over his career trajectory and impatience.

Hamilton has since described losing that vital corporate backing as one of the most



Lewis Hamilton reflected on how losing McLaren's backing during his junior racing days nearly shattered his F1 dreams before a resilient comeback revived his career.

terrifying and challenging phases of his entire life, threatening to derail his Formula 1 dreams before they could materialize.

Demonstrating extraordinary resilience, Hamilton channeled the setback into his racing performances. He secured rides for upcoming Formula 3 fixtures, dominated the field, and delivered victories that immediately convinced McLaren leadership to reinstate his contract.

That pivotal recovery paved the way for his dominant 2006 GP2 campaign, where he claimed the championship title under Vasseur's stewardship. A decisive test session in Jerez followed, culminating in a memorable conversation on the starting grid at Monza alongside Ron Dennis—a moment Hamilton credits as the exact turning point that forever altered the trajectory of his life and set the stage for his historic 2007 F1 debut alongside Fernando Alonso.

Leclerc hints at future driver management ambitions

MARANELLO

Ferrari star Charles Leclerc has provided a fascinating glimpse into his long-term professional future, revealing that he plans to transition into driver management once his illustrious Formula 1 driving career eventually comes to a close.

The Monegasque driver, who recently secured his long-term future with the Scuderia through a multi-year contract extension, remains firmly anchored in the present. Having joined the esteemed Ferrari Driver Academy in 2016 before graduating to a full-time race seat with the Italian outfit in 2019, the 28-year-old is operating at the absolute peak of his physical and competitive powers. With a burning ambition to capture a world drivers' championship in red, Leclerc insists that his immediate focus remains entirely centered on extracting maximum performance on the track.

However, during a recent appearance on the Beyond The Grid podcast, the conversation naturally drifted toward post-retirement horizons. When explicitly questioned about whether he would consider mentoring and managing younger racing talent in the future, Leclerc expressed definitive enthusiasm for the prospect. "One day, 100 per cent," Leclerc shared during the podcast. "I spoke about it with my manager, Nicolas [Todt], who does this himself, whether it would be interesting to do that together once I'm done."

I don't see it right now. At the moment, I'm 200 per cent focused on racing, on my driving and trying to make Ferrari win. When I turn the page, I most likely will stay around to do just that."

While a management role with Nicolas Todt appeals to his long-term aspirations, Leclerc maintains a distinct aversion to the heavy political machinations that characterize elite motorsport. Emphasizing his commitment to authenticity, the Ferrari charger noted that he has zero interest in playing political games within the paddock.

Alonso maintains full trust in Honda's F1 project

SILVERSTONE

Veteran Formula 1 world champion Fernando Alonso has firmly reiterated his unwavering trust in Honda's long-term capabilities, despite what has proven to be a deeply challenging and painful start to Aston Martin's new high-profile works partnership under the sport's sweeping 2026 technical regulations.

The historic alliance brought Honda back to the pinnacle of motorsport as a dedicated power unit supplier following their official hiatus after capturing the 2021 world championship with Red Bull. However, the introduction of the 2026 regulations—featuring a near-even split between internal combustion and electric power alongside complex energy management demands—has triggered immediate performance and reliability hurdles for the Silverstone-based squad. With Aston Martin languishing near the rear of the grid and scoring only a handful of points during the opening phase of the campaign, questions have inevitably arisen regarding the trajectory of the project.

Despite the on-track difficulties, Alonso remains entirely confident in the manufacturer's technical infrastructure and institutional knowledge. Pointing to Honda's world-

class testing and manufacturing facilities in Japan, the Spanish driver emphasized that the marque possesses immense corporate commitment and has reinforced its management and engineering ranks with key personnel who orchestrated their previous championship-winning success.

"Yes, 100%. I think it's a huge commitment from Honda," Alonso shared with media outlets including RacingNews365. "The facilities we have in Japan are one of the best. The personnel and the management of the power unit now has



been reinforced as Honda said, and a lot of people that were in the previous project, they are in again on this one. So, I think I have no doubts, and I trust Honda 100%."

Acknowledging that the partnership began on the wrong foot under the stringent new rulebook, Alonso stressed the collective urgency to compress the traditional development cycle. While past engine supplier returns required half a decade or more to reach competitive parity, the 45-year-old double world champion insisted that the current alliance aims to accelerate progress dramatically.

"We just need to shortcut somehow that process," Alonso noted regarding their recovery timeline. "Unfortunately, we started on the wrong foot, and we started with these set of regulations not at the level that we wanted, but I have no doubts that they will get there. We don't want to wait five years like they did last time, or six years. We want to do it in two years or three years maximum."

Antonelli dismisses Mercedes "team leader" theories

BRACKLEY

Mercedes championship leader Kimi Antonelli has firmly rejected suggestions that he has assumed the role of the undisputed primary driver within the Brackley-based squad, despite building a commanding 81-point advantage at the summit of the standings.

The young Italian talent has enjoyed a stellar sophomore campaign under Formula 1's sweeping new 2026 technical regulations, establishing himself as the heavy favorite to claim his maiden world drivers' title. As Antonelli has consistently held the upper hand over teammate George Russell—who has faced ongoing struggles adapting to the new vehicle design—pundits have increasingly debated internal team dynamics. Speculation intensified earlier this month during the Italian Grand Prix when tactical strategy decisions under a virtual safety car saw Antonelli fitted with fresh tires while Russell remained on track, triggering widespread theories of preferential treatment.

Addressing the media, including RacingNews365, Antonelli dismissed any notion of a formalized hierarchy within the garage, emphasizing that equality remains a foundational prin-

ciple for the Silver Arrows.

"Within Mercedes, I feel like there's no number one driver in the team," Antonelli stated. "The team, rightly so, they want to give us both the same opportunities. Of course, George is an incredible driver and he's been on form in the past two races. So for sure, I don't feel like there's a number one driver."

Russell has similarly echoed these sentiments, maintaining that both competitors enjoy identical treatment and equipment as the championship battle intensifies. Antonelli's meteoric rise to the forefront of the grid in just his second season has caught many observers by surprise, yet the Italian insists he does not view himself as the definitive team leader.

"The team treat us the same way, they give us the same opportunities. So for sure, I don't feel like I'm the true leader," Antonelli added. "I feel like we're both on the same level and that's the way it is."

As the Formula 1 season enters its final stretch, Mercedes remains committed to maintaining a balanced approach, allowing both drivers equal opportunities to fight for race victories and secure maximum points for the constructors' championship.

Norris criticised over 'cool-down room' incident

MADRID

Former Formula 1 team boss Guenther Steiner has publicly criticized Lando Norris, describing the British driver's behavior as unprofessional after he brought a can of Coca-Cola into the cool-down room following the Spanish Grand Prix.

Norris secured a third-place finish at the Madrid circuit after previously fighting for race victory contention. As drivers congregated in the post-race holding area, circuit personnel instructed Norris regarding the beverage container in his hand, to which the reigning champion retorted that he had just completed a grueling race and was entitled to consume whatever he preferred.

The incident sparked widespread paddock commentary regarding official sponsorship exclusivity. Because rival beverage giant Pepsi maintains a lucrative, official sponsorship partnership with Formula 1,



displaying competitor branding or products during broadcasted official ceremonies violates commercial protocol. Addressing the situation on The Red Flags podcast, Steiner pulled no punches regarding driver etiquette.

"If you are a professional, you don't do that. End of story," Steiner stated. "You know what you can do and what you can-

not do. You're well trained. He shouldn't have done it.

Is it a bad thing that he did it? Will somebody get hurt? No. But as a pro, you shouldn't do it. But he has done it. And you know what? I couldn't give a shit!" Steiner noted that commercial obligations govern every square inch of modern grand prix hosting zones. "It's all going by categories. They sell it and obviously if you don't pay, you cannot have it. And he had a Coke. It was not the smartest thing to do."

Despite the regulatory breach, Steiner suggested that the unauthorized product placement ultimately delivered an accidental marketing windfall for the beverage manufacturer. "If they wouldn't have said anything, nobody would have even noticed, but because it was so bumped up now it's a thing, and now Coca-Cola is laughing," he concluded.

Bengaluru Cue Star Wins Big UK Chance

BENGALURU

Local snooker star Shaik Najeel Ahmed has made his city proud. The thirty-year-old player won India's very first official Snooker 900 India Qualifier after an intense four-day battle in Bengaluru. Ahmed triumphed over Aarav Sanche in a thrilling final match.

The exciting tournament brought together thirty-two talented players from across the country. Thanks to this big win, Ahmed has secured a fully sponsored trip to the United Kingdom. He will travel to Crucible Reading to compete on an international stage this November, with his games broadcast live on Pluto TV.

Heyball Academy is backing his journey every step of the way.

The fast-paced event was organized by Heyball Academy alongside Snooker 900 UK and Pluto TV. Famous UK promoter Jason Francis created this unique format, which features quick fifteen-minute frames and a tight twenty-second shot clock to keep fans on the edge of their seats.

Pranit Ramchandani, who founded the academy, hopes to open more doors for Indian players. This landmark event proves that local talent is ready to shine globally. Fans are now cheering for Ahmed as he prepares to represent India on the world stage.



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Shri U.T. Khader

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family
Welfare, Minority Affairs and Haj & Waqf, Govt
of Karnataka

Capt. Brijesh Chowta

Member of Parliament, Dakshina Kannada

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Canara Bank, Mangalore

Shri Ajay Kanwal, CEO, Jana Small Finance Bank

Dr. Shivasharan Shetty, Immediate Past

Syndicate & Senate Member, RGUHS, Bengaluru

Dr. Vaishali Sreejith, Senate Member,

RGUHS, Bengaluru

Shri Mustafa S.M., Managing Director,

Bharath Infratech Pvt. Ltd.

Shri Praveen Kumar, Managing Director,

Bimal Buildcon Pvt. Ltd.

Smt. Pankaja Shankar Nayak, Founder

President, Dr. Shankar Nayak Charitable Trust

Shri D. Rama Nayak, National Working

President, All India Banjara Seva Sangh, Bengaluru

Smt. Manjari Praveen Saldanha,

Saldanha & Associates

PROGRAM DETAILS

05.00 PM - 06.00 PM
REFRESHMENTS / HIGH TEA

06.00 PM - 07.30 PM
INAUGURATION

07.30 PM - 08.15 PM
CULTURAL PROGRAM

Note : The program will commence right on schedule

A Warm Welcome to You
DR. M. MOHAN ALVA
Chairman, Alva's Education Foundation (R.)
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