



President Lee embarks on trip to US, Mexico

P13

P12

India's core sector output grows 4.8% in August



P14

India's Table Tennis Teams Reach Asian Games Round Of 16



Kasturirangan report dominates Karnataka Assembly session

Karnataka legislators called for scientific assessment, public consultation and safeguards for livelihoods while addressing ecological concerns in the sensitive region.

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Assembly witnessed sharp exchanges over the Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats, with both ruling and opposition sides seeking safeguards for farmers and local communities.

The special discussion on the report began amid a brief dispute over the description of the proceedings as a "special session". Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the reference in the list of business was an error and would be withdrawn.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar urged legislators to keep politics aside and jointly decide the state's position before communicating it to the Centre by September 27. He said farmers' interests must be protected and called for a high-level technical committee and a Kerala-like approach.

Shivakumar said people in the Western Ghats had expressed apprehension over the report and that thousands of petitions and suggestions had been received. He also proposed taking an all-party delegation to the Centre.

Ashoka backs all-party delegation plan

Opposition Leader R Ashoka supported an all-party delegation but sought a physical survey and legal action before the Supreme Court. He said better coordination between the Revenue and Forest departments was necessary.

A separate exchange occurred when Rural Development Minister Eshwar Khandre sought to offer suggestions. BJP members questioned whether ministers could participate in the discussion. Speaker GS Patil said ministers could offer suggestions during the special discussion.



Western Ghats debate

Sept 27: Deadline to convey state's views to Centre

10 districts: Western Ghats areas discussed

124 taluks: Declared drought-hit

All-party delegation: Proposed to meet Centre

Physical survey: Sought by Opposition

Let us keep politics aside and discuss the Kasturirangan report in the interests of farmers.

DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Focus on ground realities

The Assembly discussion focused on balancing environmental conservation with the concerns of people living in the Western Ghats. The Chief Minister sought a united position, while the Forest Minister ruled out displacement of local communities. The Opposition called for physical surveys, legal preparedness and better departmental coordination. Members also discussed safeguards for farms, homes, roads, schools, hospitals and other essential infrastructure in the region.

VANDE MATARAM ROW

Cong cuts stanzas as BJP sings full song

Bengaluru: The BJP legislators recited the full version of Vande Mataram at the beginning of the Legislative Assembly and Council proceedings on Monday, when the recording that was officially played in the House ended after two stanzas.

The Karnataka government convened a three-day special legislative session to discuss severe drought prevailing in the state as well as the implications of Dr Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats.

The session at the Legislative Assembly started with Vande Mataram but it ended after rendering two paragraphs.

Soon after that, Speaker G S Patil allowed condolences to the prominent people. Subsequently, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar started paying tribute to former MLA R B Shiriyannavar who died on August 27.

Agitated over the issue, the BJP MLAs raised slogans and started reciting the full version of Vande Mataram.

BKH calls for state-level expert assessment

Bengaluru: Legislative Council member BK Hariprasad on Monday questioned the satellite-based mapping used for the Kasturirangan report and called for a state-level expert assessment.

Speaking during the special session on the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) draft notification, he said satellite imagery showing green cover did not necessarily mean an area was forest. He suggested that Karnataka constitute its own expert committee, prepare a report and submit it to the Centre.

The Western Ghats issue concerns six states, from Gujarat to Kerala, and that the implications of the report should be examined across Karnataka's affected districts, he said, adding that 1,576 villages covering about 20,668 sq km have been proposed under the ESA.

He said concerns included the lack of survey-number-based boundaries and the possibility of residential, agricultural and forest areas being placed in the same category. He also cited possible implications for land values, bank loans, roads, public facilities, livelihoods and homestays.

Hariprasad said agriculture and horticulture were not proposed to be banned under the Kasturirangan report, while restrictions had been recommended on quarrying and industries harmful to the environment.

He called for an expert committee on the Kerala model to prepare Karnataka's own recommendations. Environmental protection, he said, should be balanced with the interests of farmers and forest dwellers.



SC orders reprobe into Soujanya rape-murder case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a thorough reinvestigation by the Karnataka police into the 2012 rape and murder case of 17-year-old Soujanya in Dharmasthala, bringing the focus back on the demand for justice in what remains one of the state's most disturbing unsolved crimes.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva passed the order, also seeking compliance report within three months.

After the acquittal of the accused despite the case being handed over to the CBI, the court had previously come down heavily on the agency for its "poor" and "non-independent" handling of the case. The court had on July 22, 2026 reserved its judgment on a plea seeking a de novo probe.

The court had expressed strong displeasure over the CBI officers' failure to even visit the crime scene or record the statement of the victim's mother.

Senior advocates Shobha Gupta, Anand Sanjay M Nuli, and Shekhar G Devasa, appearing for the petitioner, the victim's mother Kusumavathi strongly pushed for a fresh investigation by an independent SIT, preferably headed by a former Supreme Court judge. They highlighted serious lapses by the state police, CID, and CBI, which respectively handled the probe.

Karnataka Additional Advocate General Avishkar Singhvi had agreed to carry out the reinvestigation by constituting a SIT on the court's suggestion. The CBI counsel, opposing it, had argued that the agency took over the case in 2013, filed a chargesheet in 2015, and that a fresh probe after the completion of the trial would unsettle criminal jurisprudence.



I have been waiting for justice for the past 14 years. The Supreme Court's order has given me renewed hope that I will finally get justice in the case.

- Kusumavathi, victim's mother

CASE BACKGROUND

Crime (Oct 2012): Soujanya, a 17-year-old student at SDM College in Ujire, went missing while returning from college. Her body was found the next day with signs of severe sexual assault and murder.

Probe: The case was handled first by local police, then transferred to the Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and finally handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2013.

Acquittal (June 2023): A special CBI court acquitted the lone accused, Santhosh Rao, holding that the prosecution failed to prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt. The trial court also criticized the initial handling of evidence by investigators.

SC directive (Sept 2026)

Order: Acting on a plea by Soujanya's mother, the Supreme Court criticized the earlier CBI investigation for being weak and non-independent.

New SIT probe: The apex court directed the state to constitute a fresh Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a thorough reinvestigation.

Exclusion of old officers: The court ordered that police or investigation officers involved in the flawed original probes must not be part of the new team.

Timeline: The authorities must file a compliance report on the steps taken within three months.

The case has gained renewed attention amid the broader Dharmasthala controversies, though the SIT probing alleged mass burials has largely found those claims to be fabricated.

'Hope renewed': Soujanya's mother welcomes SC order

Mangaluru: Welcoming the Supreme Court's order directing a reinvestigation into the 2012 rape and murder of 17-year-old Soujanya in Ujire, the victim's mother, Kusumavathi, on Monday said the decision had rekindled her hope of securing justice after 14 years of wait. "I have been waiting for justice for the past 14 years. The Supreme Court's order has given me renewed hope that I will finally get justice in the case," she said. Thanking activists who had supported her family throughout their fight, she said she wanted justice for her daughter's brutal rape and murder and demanded that the culprits, whoever they may be, be identified and punished.

Retd Air Marshal Mishra takes charge as Ram temple trust CEO

AYODHYA

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (retired) on Monday formally took charge as the first chief executive officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ram temple here.

Mishra, who arrived in Ayodhya on Sunday, offered prayers at the Ram temple on Monday morning before reaching his newly constructed office on the temple premises to assume charge.

He had stayed overnight at the Trust's Teerth Kshetra Bhawan in the Ramkot area after arriving in the city. Mishra (62) was appointed the Trust's first CEO on September 2 as part of an administrative restructuring aimed at strengthening its functioning amid allegations of theft of donations.

The Trust had selected Mishra following a multi-



stage process for which 5,585 applications were received.

Sixteen candidates were shortlisted for face-to-face interactions in Ayodhya on August 11 and 12.

The Trust had also clarified last week that Mishra had personally appeared for the interview on August 11, following remarks by former IPS officer Rajesh Pandey that had raised questions over the selection process.

The Trust said Mishra participated in the first session of interviews on August 11 and

Core responsibilities

Background: 62-year-old former fighter pilot and former chief of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command.

Administrative overhaul: Streamlining daily operations and crowd management for large pilgrim footfalls.

Financial transparency: Strengthening financial systems and accountability regarding devotees' donations and offerings.

Trust restoration: Improving oversight and management to address previous administrative gaps and public trust concerns

was among the top three candidates recommended by the search committee.

Pandey later clarified that he had not claimed Mishra did not appear for the interview, saying he had only stated that he did not see him at the venue during the time slot allotted for his own interview.

Italy plans burqa, niqab ban in schools

Rome: Italy is preparing to ban face coverings in schools and to cap the number of foreign students per class, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said as she played up her right-wing credentials at a youth event organised by her party.

Italy is among the European countries most exposed to migrant arrivals because of its central Mediterranean location, making migration a hot-button issue and a major challenge for successive governments. "A measure will soon be presented to a Cabinet meeting to legally establish a maximum number of foreign students per class. It also requires parents of foreign students facing serious difficulties integrating into the school system to learn Italian and bans burqas and niqabs in schools," Meloni said.

➤ *More on World page*

2 Indian students killed during flight training in Canada

OTTAWA

Two Indian students have died in a tragic aviation accident while undergoing flight training in Canada, according to the Consulate General of India in Vancouver.

The deceased students have been identified as Manoj Sivakumar, who hailed from Tamil Nadu, and Srisaran Thiruganasambantham, from Puducherry.

The Consulate General of India in Vancouver confirmed their demise on the social media platform X on Sunday (September 20). The exact cause of the accident is still emerging, while local reports and aviation officials indicate the incident took place during a routine training exercise. Canadian search and rescue services, along with local law

enforcement, have opened a probe into the accident to figure out the exact sequence of events that lead to the tragedy.

In a post on X, the Consulate General of India said, "The Consulate General of India, Vancouver, expresses its deepest condolences on the tragic demise of Shri Manoj Sivakumar and Shri Srisaran Thiruganasambantham, two Indian students from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, who lost their lives in a tragic air accident in Canada during their flight training."

As per the CBC, citing Harv's Air president Adam Penner, the two pilots had rented the aircraft to log flight hours toward their commercial pilot licences. The plane was reported to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada after it failed to reach its intended destination.

ISRO-ESA widen space collab

New Delhi: Reaffirming Europe's and India's commitment to expanding cooperation in space, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an exchange of letters extending their long-standing Cooperative Agreement for five more years, until January 2032.

The exchange between ISRO chief Dr V Narayanan and ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher took place in Paris on the margins of the International Space Summit earlier this month. The renewed agreement reflects the evolving priorities of both sides in the space sector: space weather, human and robotic exploration of space, while also recognising the growing importance of sustainable outer space activities. This comes as India is expanding homegrown spacecraft tech as part of its Gaganyaan Mission.

PUTIN SWEEPS DUMA POLLS!

MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin's United Russia party won a record supermajority in the Duma, authorities announced on Monday after a tightly controlled three-day election without parties critical of the Kremlin or the war in Ukraine.

Electoral chief Ella Pamfilova said preliminary results showed United Russia - which has dominated Russian politics for 25 years - won 355 of the Duma's 450 seats.

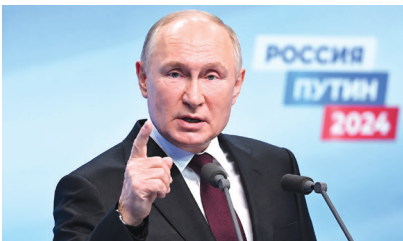
The result handed Putin's party an increased supermajority and beat its previous record of 343 seats. The supermajor-

Poll in a nutshell

Context: First parliamentary vote since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Turnout: Reported at over 59%, noted as a record high by election officials.

Annexed regions: Voting was conducted in occupied Ukrainian territories (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia) and Crimea.



Chechnya: Ally Ramzan Kadyrov was re-elected with 99.85% of the vote.

Opposition: Anti-war and independent parties were barred or restricted from the ballot.

ity means it can change the constitution, if it needs to.

Despite the lack of alternatives to United Russia, the Kremlin had positioned the vote as a chance for residents

to have their say since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and amid economic hardship.

The Kremlin said the result of the first parliamentary election since Moscow sent troops

to Ukraine in 2022 showed Russians were united around Putin, who has been in power since New Year's Eve 1999.

The conflict has killed hundreds of thousands, displaced millions and hit ordinary lives in Russia more than ever this year. Moscow has banned criticism of its military campaign and the only party that called for an end to the war was removed from the election.

"These indicators, of course, point to the highest level of consolidation within Russian society around the head of state," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told mediapersons.

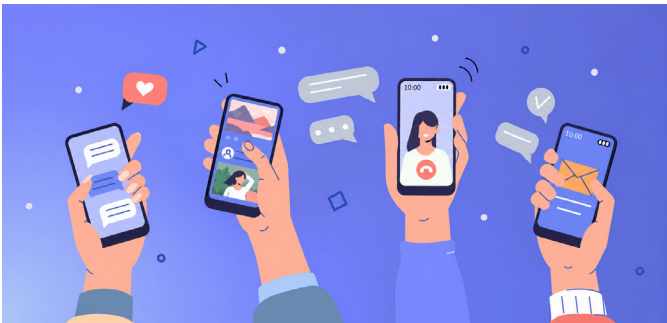
Quick Read

STRR takes shape in phases, boosts peripheral connectivity

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru's 280-plus-km Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) is taking shape in phases, with several stretches already operational. The peripheral corridor is designed to connect key growth areas without forcing traffic through central Bengaluru. Operational sections are improving movement between locations while other stretches remain under construction. The network links Hoskote, Anekal, Sarjapur, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli and Nelamangala, creating direct connections between major peripheral corridors. The Hoskote section is in an advanced stage and is expected to strengthen access to surrounding employment and residential hubs. Several completed stretches are progressively being opened, with further operationalisation planned through 2026-27. The expanding network is expected to support faster peripheral travel and improve connectivity between Bengaluru's emerging growth corridors.

Remove one toll plaza, say commuters

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Residents and commuters want one of two toll plazas removed, citing duplicate charges on a short stretch. The Electronic City and Attibele toll plazas are just 14 km apart, prompting motorists to question toll collection at both points. The demand gained momentum after the Electronic City elevated road's 20-year concession ended on September 10 and the facility was transferred to NHAI. Residents said continuing toll collection at Electronic City amounts to double charging. TP Lokesh, a regular commuter, said one plaza should be removed. Citizens for Citizens convenor Rajkumar Dugar said NHAI should ensure a transparent post-concession arrangement. NHAI officials said toll arrangements are under review.



Under-16 social media ban faces reality check

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's proposed under-16 social media restriction has renewed calls for digital literacy, parental guidance and school-based awareness. The State announced plans to prohibit social media use among children below 16 in its 2026-27 Budget, but the measure is yet to be fully implemented. Child Online Protection (COP), which conducts digital-parenting programmes, has so far covered 10 schools and signed agreements with two institutions to introduce its school model from the next academic year. ASER data shows 82.2% of children aged 14-16 know how to use smartphones, with 76% using them for social media and 57% for education. Experts caution that restrictions alone may not work. Dr Manoj Sharma, consultant psychiatrist at SHUT Clinic,

FSDA cancels 16 pharmacy licences, suspends 8

K'taka drug authorities have acted against pharmacies after uncovering an alleged spurious medicine racket involving unlicensed repacking & relabelling.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FSDA) has cancelled the licences of 16 pharmaceutical retailers and wholesalers and suspended those of eight others, including Pfizer's depot in Nelamangala, in connection with its investigation into the alleged distribution and sale of spurious drugs. The action follows the discovery of an alleged large-scale unlicensed drug repacking and relabelling operation at a farmhouse in Bidadi on August 18. The FSDA seized spurious drugs, machinery and printing material worth ₹5.05 crore from the premises. Following preliminary findings indicating the possible involvement of a wider network, the State government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by IPS officer C. Vamsi Krishna. Health Minister U.T. Khader said the licences of suspicious firms and pharmacies had been cancelled, while some were suspended for allegedly failing to cooperate with the SIT. The cancelled licences include those of Avesco Healthcare, Bengaluru Speciality Pharma, Patel Medi Trade, N.S. Pharma and Sagar Pharma. The suspended firms include Sagar Pharma in Tilak Nagar, Surya Speciality Hospital in Bommasandra Industrial Area and Vivanta Pharmaceuticals in Jayanagar.



er said the licences of suspicious firms and pharmacies had been cancelled, while some were suspended for allegedly failing to cooperate with the SIT. The cancelled licences include those of Avesco Healthcare, Bengaluru Speciality Pharma, Patel Medi Trade, N.S. Pharma and Sagar Pharma. The suspended firms include Sagar Pharma in Tilak Nagar, Surya Speciality Hospital in Bommasandra Industrial Area and Vivanta Pharmaceuticals in Jayanagar.

Drug Licence Action

16

licences cancelled

8

licences suspended

₹5.05 crore: value of seized material

August 18: Bidadi racket uncovered

30 boxes: expired drugs seized

SIT: headed by IPS officer C. Vamsi Krishna

“We have stopped Pfizer's sale in the State because they did not cooperate with the investigation.”
-UT Khader, Health Minister

FSDA advisory
Citizens have been urged to purchase medicines only from licensed pharmacies and insist on valid tax invoices. Consumers should report suspicious packaging and non-functional QR codes on medicine labels. The FSDA said the batch numbers and entries of seized drugs had been blocked on its portal to prevent further sale or distribution. Samples have been sent for laboratory testing to assess their chemical composition, sterility and potency.

Three held for investment fraud using mule bank accounts

MULE ACCOUNT RACKET

3 accused arrested

507+ mule accounts allegedly procured

51+ accounts allegedly used for transfers

₹93.58 lakh complainant's alleged investment

6 mobile phones seized

₹38 lakh+ transferred through one account

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police have arrested three men accused of supplying mule accounts and routing cyber-fraud proceeds through digital platforms. The accused have been identified as Amit Mishra of Jharkhand and Bengaluru residents Tausif Ahmed and Parashuram Sadanand Kannannavar alias Pavan Kumar. The arrests followed a complaint filed by a Bengaluru resident on April 29, who alleged that he was lured into an investment scheme through a WhatsApp link. He was subsequently added to a group called “EL Investment Strategies Discussion”, where messages promoting trading investments were posted daily. The complainant was allegedly asked to open a demat account and initially invested ₹50,000. The accused allegedly provided bank account details and induced him to invest ₹93.58 lakh in instalments. However, neither returns nor the invested amount were provided, police said. A case was registered under relevant provisions of the IT Act and Section 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said the accused were arrested at a hotel in Kasavanahalli based on technical information. Investigation allegedly revealed that they procured current, corporate and trust bank accounts, net-banking credentials and linked SIM cards from individuals by promising commissions. According to police, account holders were accommodated in hotels, where an application called ZNPAY and SMS-forwarding malicious files were installed.



es promoting trading investments were posted daily. The complainant was allegedly asked to open a demat account and initially invested ₹50,000. The accused allegedly provided bank account details and induced him to invest ₹93.58 lakh in instalments. However, neither returns nor the invested amount were provided, police said. A case was registered under relevant provisions of the IT Act and Section 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said the accused were arrested at a hotel in Kasavanahalli based on technical information. Investigation allegedly revealed that they procured current, corporate and trust bank accounts, net-banking credentials and linked SIM cards from individuals by promising commissions. According to police, account holders were accommodated in hotels, where an application called ZNPAY and SMS-forwarding malicious files were installed.

Treated water project nears finish, four pipe links pending

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An ₹75-crore project to replenish 18 lakes with treated wastewater is nearing completion, but four pipe connections are holding up the final work. The Minor Irrigation Department launched the project two years ago to supply treated wastewater to lakes in and around Bengaluru. Officials said most of the work has been completed, with pipe connections at four locations, including Byappanahalli and Mandur near Kithaganur, yet to be completed. Minor Irrigation Department Executive Engineer Manunath said the pending works could be completed within a few days if residents cooperate with the pipe-laying work. Lake activists welcomed the project, saying the supply of treated wastewater could help revive depleted water bodies, support aquatic life and improve groundwater recharge.

K'taka CM recalls Shiriyannavar as a gracious politician

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday remembered former MLA Dr R.B. Shiriyannavar as a simple, gracious and rare politician, and paid tribute to his contributions to public life. Speaking during a condolence resolution in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of the special session, Shivakumar recalled Shiriyannavar's political journey and his connect with people in his constituency. “Dr R.B. Shiriyannavar's death is an irreparable loss. He was a simple person, a gracious individual and a rare politician,” the Chief Minister said. Shiriyannavar was born in Bagalkot district and entered the Legislative Assembly after being elected from the Navalgund constituency in 2004. Shivakumar said the former legislator had earned considerable goodwill among people through his people-oriented work and service to the constituency. The Chief Minister said Shiriyannavar's approach to politics and his simplicity had earned him respect among people and colleagues. “Our political parties may have been different. I was a member of the Legislative Assembly along with him,” Shivakumar said while recalling his association with the



“May the departed soul rest in peace, and may God give his followers, relatives and friends the strength to bear the loss.”
-DK Shivakumar, CM

former MLA. He said the death of Shiriyannavar had caused an irreparable loss to his family, friends, followers and those associated with his public life. The Chief Minister expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength for Shiriyannavar's relatives, friends and followers to overcome their grief. Members of the Assembly also observed the condolence proceedings and paid their respects to the former legislator. Shivakumar said Shiriyannavar's contribution to public service would be remembered by those who had worked with him and benefited from his efforts.

Ganeshotsava celebrated at Kengeri BESCOM office



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Ganeshotsava was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at the BESCOM office in Kengeri division, with officials, employees and contractors participating in the festivities. Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency MLA S.T. Somashekar offered prayers to the idol of Lord Ganesha and appreciated BESCOM employees for their efforts during the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Somashekar said BESCOM staff had been working to provide electricity connections to residents and organisers installing public Ganesh idols in residential areas across BBMP wards during the festival. He said employees and contractors later installed and worshipped Lord Ganesha at the BESCOM office after the public idols were immersed. He described the celebration as a positive development, saying it reflected devotion, harmony and a sense of community among BESCOM personnel. Kengeri BESCOM Executive Engineer Shivakumar said the festival was being observed with the belief that Lord Ganesha, known as the remover of obstacles, would ensure that people across the State and BESCOM employees faced no hurdles in their personal and professional lives. He said installing the idol at the office also reflected Karnataka's cultural traditions and faith. He expressed hope that the prayers would bring good health, prosperity and success to employees and their families. The event was attended by Kengeri BESCOM EE Shivakumar, Kengeri Kote Ward president T. Prabhakar, Kodipalya Mahesh, BESCOM AO Ningaraju and AEE officials Prakash, Shilpa and Jitendra Kumar, besides other staff members. The celebrations concluded with prayers and rituals conducted in a spirit of devotion and camaraderie among the BESCOM employees and officials.

Masked men attack four with machetes in Uttarahalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Four people were injured after a group of masked men allegedly attacked people at two places in Uttarahalli on Sunday night, triggering panic in the area. The incident occurred around 9.30 pm near Arehalli Gate on Uttarahalli Main Road, within the limits of Subramanyapura police station. According to police, six men arrived on motorcycles and allegedly attacked people standing by the roadside before fleeing the area. The assailants reportedly attacked the victims without any apparent provocation. The attackers first targeted two men, both identified as Kiran, who were standing by the roadside. They then moved towards a fish shop near Arehalli and allegedly attacked people there. Fish shop owner Balasubrahmanyam and two others, identified as Ravi and Raju,

were among those injured in the incident. A senior police officer said four people were injured in the attacks. Three of them were discharged after receiving treatment, while another injured person was recovering at a hospital. Police have launched an investigation to determine the motive behind the attack and identify the assailants. Efforts are also underway to trace the six men who fled the spot on motorcycles.

RAIN ALERT ISSUED

Yellow alert for 15 districts as heavy rain forecast

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A depression over the Bay of Bengal is expected to trigger widespread rainfall across Karnataka over the next five days. The Meteorological Department has forecast continuous rainfall across several parts of Karnataka until September 25, with a depression forming over the Bay of Bengal influencing weather conditions in the State. Light to moderate rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is expected in most districts of North Interior Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and the coastal regions during the period, the department said. Heavy rainfall is likely at



isolated places in 15 districts, prompting the department to issue a Yellow alert. The districts under the alert are Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural. The department has advised residents in the affected areas to remain cautious as rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is expected in several places. Coastal Karnataka is likely to receive continued rainfall during the forecast period,

Yellow alert districts

Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural are under alert. Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in these districts. The department has forecast thunderstorms and lightning along with light to moderate rain across most parts of Karnataka, with the wet spell expected to continue until September 25.

while parts of North and South Interior Karnataka may also experience intermittent showers. The weather system developing over the Bay of Bengal is expected to maintain moist conditions over the State, resulting in widespread rainfall over the coming days. The Meteorological Department said the rainfall activity could continue across different parts of Karnataka through September 25. People in the districts under the Yellow alert have been advised to monitor weather updates and exercise caution during thunderstorms and lightning. Authorities are also expected to keep a watch on areas vulnerable to waterlogging and other rain-related disruptions as the wet spell continues. The department's forecast comes amid ongoing monsoon activity in the State, with several regions likely to receive light to moderate showers over the next few days.



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



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Deputy Chief Minister
Govt of Karnataka

Connecting Karnataka

A New Wave of Progress for Karavali

₹10,000 Crore

Development of 15,000 km of rural roads under the Chief Minister's Rural Road Connectivity Scheme

₹700 crore allocated for Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts

The scheme aims to ensure seamless road connectivity between villages, Gram Panchayats and taluk centres



₹6,000 Crore

Under the Chief Minister's Rural Development Scheme CC roads and drainage systems in villages will be developed

₹606 crore allocated for road development across 606 Gram Panchayats in Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts

The scheme aims to improve the quality of rural roads across the state



₹400 Crore

Special grant for the development of roads within Mangaluru City Corporation limits



₹20 Crore

₹20 crore for the maintenance of fisheries connectivity roads across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada



DRUDHA KARNATAKADA SANKALPA
SHATHAKADA PATHA
PRAGATHIYA RATHA



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

Driving Karnataka's Success



Shakthi

Anna Bhagya

Gruha Jyothi

Gruha Lakshmi

Yuva Nidhi

CMofKarnataka

<https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/>

Karnatakavarthe

karnataka information

Quick Read

Indira food kit scheme to be reworked

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The State government is reworking the proposed Indira Food Kit scheme after cancelling its earlier tender process under Anna Bhagya. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad said the revised programme is expected to be implemented within about 45 days. The department's assessment, including a survey among women beneficiaries, indicated a preference for better-quality and varied food items rather than relying mainly on rice. The government is examining the kit's contents and supply chain and may procure commodities through district-level tenders instead of a single State-level process. The proposed kit is expected to contain tur dal, sugar, salt and cooking oil. Until the revised scheme is implemented, eligible BPL beneficiaries are expected to continue receiving an additional 5 kg of rice under Anna Bhagya.

SIR: Form-6 applications trail 80.62 lakh deletions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Only a fraction of voters deleted from Karnataka's draft electoral rolls have applied for inclusion before the September 23 deadline. More than 80.62 lakh names were classified as absent or shifted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). So far, 6.66 lakh Form-6 applications have been received, including those from new voters. Between June 16 and September 17, the Election Commission received 6,42,670 applications. Another 24,328 were filed during the September 19 campaign, when Booth Level Officers assisted voters. Several voters said they were unaware of the deadline, faced online glitches or did not know their names figured in the ASDDO list. More than 1.07 crore names were deleted during SIR, including over 15 lakh marked absent during enumeration.

BJP MLAs don't know Vande Mataram fully: Priyank Kharge

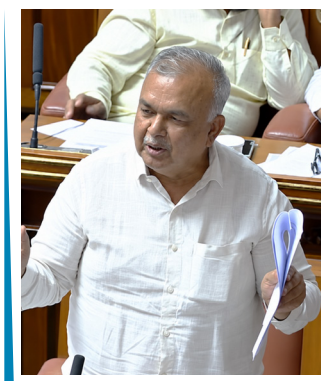
CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said BJP legislators struggled to correctly recite the last two stanzas of Vande Mataram during Monday's Assembly and Council proceedings. He recalled his earlier challenge to BJP leaders, including Opposition Leader R. Ashoka and State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, to recite the full song without referring to paper, phones or a teleprompter. He had said he would resign if they accepted and completed the challenge. Kharge also referred to the historical significance of the first two stanzas and said freedom fighters had drawn inspiration from them during the freedom struggle. The controversy follows the Karnataka government's September order restricting Vande Mataram to the first two stanzas at routine State government programmes, with exceptions for events attended by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or Governor. A PIL challenging the order has also been filed before the Karnataka High Court. Kharge also questioned



'Protect Western Ghats, safeguard local interests'

The Forest Minister called for precise mapping and public consultation before finalising ecological restrictions across proposed Western Ghats areas.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy said protecting the Western Ghats must go hand in hand with safeguarding the rights and interests of farmers, horticulturists, tribals and local residents. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the Centre's July 27, 2026 draft notification based on the Kasturirangan committee report, he said the proposal should not create unnecessary hurdles for agriculture, horticulture or infrastructure development. There was no question of relocating people, he said. However, illegal mining, sand mining, excessive hill cutting, encroachments and unsafe, highly polluting commercial activities would not be protected and would face legal action, Reddy said. Around 20,668 sq km in Karnataka has been proposed as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), covering 1,449 villages across 10 districts. The final boundaries will de-



"The Western Ghats must be protected while safeguarding the rights and interests of farmers, tribals and local residents."
-Ramalinga Reddy, Forest Minister

pend on State recommendations, stakeholder views and expert committee scrutiny. Reddy said the State's primary demand was scientific and ground-level verification. Instead of imposing uniform restrictions on entire villages, areas should be mapped at the survey-number level, identifying forests, farms,

Western Ghats Safeguards

- **20,668 sq km** — Proposed Karnataka ESA
- **1,449 villages** — Covered across 10 districts
- **July 27, 2026** — Date of Centre's draft notification
- **Sept 3, 2026** — Cabinet rejected draft in present form
- **Survey-number level** — Ground-truthing sought

plantations, settlements, water bodies and ecologically sensitive areas separately. He urged the Centre to make proposed village lists and maps public and allow objections through gram panchayats. Clear protection should be provided for homes, agricultural land, schools, hospitals, roads and drinking-water facilities. The State Cabinet had rejected the 2024 draft notification and, on September 3, 2026, decided to reject the latest draft in its present form.

GROUND-TRUTHING SOUGHT

Karnataka wants scientific and ground-level verification before the Western Ghats ESA boundaries are finalised. The State has sought survey-number-level mapping to distinguish forests, agricultural land, plantations, settlements, water bodies and sensitive areas. It has also urged public disclosure of village lists and maps, with objections accepted through gram panchayats. The government wants clear safeguards for homes, farms and essential infrastructure while ensuring environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

PC Act amendments cannot apply retrospectively to retired officials: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court has allowed prosecution proceedings to continue against a retired engineer without fresh government sanction. The Karnataka High Court has clarified that the 2018 amendment to the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act does not apply retrospectively to cases in which a trial court had already taken cognisance. A Bench headed by Justice H.P. Sandesh also held that separate sanction from the government is not required to prosecute a retired official when cognisance was taken before the amendment came into force. The court passed the order while dismissing criminal revision petitions filed by B.G. Prakash Kumar, a retired ex-

ecutive engineer of the BBMP's Malleswaram division. The Bench noted that the amendment to Section 19(1) of the PC Act came into force on July 26, 2018, and applies to future cases. In Prakash Kumar's case, the trial court had taken cognisance in May 2018, before the amendment. Therefore, his subsequent retirement did not require fresh sanction from the government to continue prosecution under the PC Act, the court held. The High Court also found no illegality in the trial court's order and permitted proceedings against Prakash Kumar under the anti-corruption law to continue. The case relates to alleged irregularities in road development and asphaltting works in the Malleswaram

division. A report by the BBMP Technical Inspection Cell had led to cases being registered by the CID and Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force. Prakash Kumar, the first accused, retired on July 30, 2017. Investigating agencies filed the chargesheet in early 2018, following which the trial court took cognisance in May 2018. The trial court had earlier discharged him from offences under the IPC but ordered continuation of proceedings under the PC Act in its February 24, 2026 order. His counsel argued that the 2018 amendment required prior sanction even to prosecute retired government employees and sought quashing of the proceedings. The government opposed the plea.

Court clarifies sanction rule

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the 2018 amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act cannot be applied retrospectively to a case where cognisance was taken before the amendment. It held that a retired official does not require fresh government sanction in such circumstances. The ruling came in petitions filed by retired BBMP executive engineer B.G. Prakash Kumar, accused in alleged irregularities involving road development and asphaltting works.

HC orders SIT probe into veterinary recruitment case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has ordered a time-bound SIT probe into alleged irregularities in recruitment of veterinary officers. The Karnataka High Court has directed the State government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by senior IPS officer Alok Kumar to investigate alleged irregularities in the recruitment of veterinary officers. The court directed the SIT to complete the investigation within 100 days and submit a report. It also issued 17 directions, including submission of a progress report to the court every 30 days. The order was passed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna while hearing separate petitions filed by BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Channarayana-based veterinary doctor Dr Manjunath. They had sought a CBI probe into the FIR registered at Vidhana Soudha police station against Suma S. Sahukar, daughter of former KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar, and candidates allegedly involved in the recruitment irregularities. The court directed that the SIT comprise IPS officers Divya Gopinath, Anoop Shetty, Kushal Choukse and Shramma Mishra. The team has also been asked to extend necessary assistance to the

Recruitment Irregularities Probe

- **100 days** — Deadline for SIT investigation
- **30 days** — Interval for progress reports
- **17** — Directions issued by the High Court
- **Rs 80 lakh** — Amount alleged to have been demanded
- **4 IPS officers** — Members named for SIT



Enforcement Directorate, which is conducting a separate probe. The CID has been directed to hand over all documents required for the SIT investigation. The State government must also accord police-station status to the SIT and issue a notification at the earliest.

During an earlier hearing, Yatnal's counsel alleged that a relative of the former KPSC chairman was allowed to manipulate OMR sheets. The counsel further alleged that candidates were taken outside Karnataka, provided questions and answers and trained before returning. The court was also told of allegations that candidates were asked to pay Rs 80 lakh for veterinary officer posts, with Rs 40 lakh allegedly paid outside the State.

SIT probe ordered

The Karnataka High Court has ordered a Special Investigation Team headed by senior IPS officer Alok Kumar to probe alleged irregularities in veterinary officer recruitment. The team includes four IPS officers and must complete the investigation within 100 days. The court has directed progress reports every 30 days, while the CID must provide relevant records. The State government must also grant police-station status to the SIT and issue a notification promptly.

Pavithra Gowda shifted to new barrack in Parappana Agrahara jail

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Renukaswamy murder case accused Pavithra Gowda has been moved to a barrack housing five other inmates at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison following a court direction. Gowda, the A1 accused in the case, had approached the Bengaluru Sessions Court seeking a change of barrack, citing concerns over facilities, cleanliness and overcrowding in her earlier accommodation. The court directed prison authorities to consider her request and take appropriate action. Following the direction, jail officials shifted her to a comparatively less crowded barrack, where five other convicts are currently lodged. Gowda was earlier staying in a barrack that housed several prisoners. Reports said inmates had to share toilet facilities, while concerns had also been raised over the overall conditions and cleanliness of the barrack. The barrack change comes amid increased scrutiny of se-

Barrack change

Pavithra Gowda sought a change of accommodation citing concerns over facilities, cleanliness and overcrowding. Following the Sessions Court's direction, prison authorities shifted her to a barrack housing five other inmates. The move comes as Parappana Agrahara Central Prison faces heightened scrutiny over security and alleged mobile phone use involving inmates and prison personnel.

curity and prison management at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. The jail has recently been under the spotlight following the recovery of a mobile phone from former MP Prajwal Revanna, who is serving a life sentence there. A Bengaluru court subsequently remanded Revanna and his prison mate Prathap Rai to two days of police custody in connection with the alleged use of a mobile phone inside the prison. The probe into mobile phone use also reportedly led to the arrest of prison staff and inmates.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar hints at milk price hike, says decision soon

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government is set to discuss a proposal from milk producers' unions seeking a revision in milk prices, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said. Shivakumar indicated that a decision would be taken soon after discussions with stakeholders. Milk producers have been seeking a price revision, citing rising costs of cattle feed, fodder, processing and other inputs. The demand comes at a time when consumers are already facing higher household expenses. Any increase in milk prices could add to the

monthly burden on families, particularly those dependent on milk and curd as daily essentials. Milk producers, however, have maintained that higher input costs and declining procurement are affecting their earnings. Karnataka Milk Producers Association representatives recently sought an ₹8-per-litre increase, saying drought and fodder shortages had reduced milk availability. The issue has also gained urgency following reports that milk unions are pressing the government for a revision in both retail prices and incentives to producers. Representatives of the



State's milk unions have sought an ₹8 increase in the consumer price and a higher incentive for farmers. Shivakumar had earlier said farmers were facing higher fodder and feed costs and that the government would hold discussions before taking a decision. The government's final decision is expected after consultations with milk unions and officials.

Wrong parking cases hit record in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru Traffic Police have booked a record 10.99 lakh wrong parking cases in the first eight months of 2026, yet violations remain widespread. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) registered 10.99 lakh cases for wrong parking till August-end, nearly matching the 11.16 lakh cases booked during the whole of 2025. The figure is the highest recorded for the corresponding eight-month period in the last decade. Enforcement has also intensified against parking on footpaths, with 1.16 lakh cases booked till August this year. This is significantly higher

PARKING VIOLATIONS PERSIST

- **10.99 lakh** — Wrong parking cases till Aug 2026
- **11.16 lakh** — Cases booked in 2025
- **1.16 lakh** — Footpath parking cases in 2026
- **₹500** — Current fine for wrong parking
- **9.73 lakh** — Cases booked in 2024

during the number recorded during the corresponding period in any of the previous five years. Despite towing drives, paid parking facilities and dedicated traffic beats, haphazard parking continues to be a major problem. Traffic officials said violations contribute to micro-level congestion, which can spill

over onto major arterial roads. A senior traffic police officer attributed the limited impact of enforcement partly to the relatively low penalty. Motorists currently face a ₹500 fine for wrong parking. The officer said motorists sometimes continue violating rules, expecting to pay reduced fines when govern-

Parking violations remain high

Bengaluru Traffic Police booked 10.99 lakh wrong parking cases till August 2026, almost matching the full-year figure of 11.16 lakh in 2025. Footpath parking violations also reached a record 1.16 lakh during the first eight months. Despite towing drives, paid parking and dedicated beats, traffic officials said haphazard parking continues to fuel local congestion. A senior officer suggested higher penalties and graded fines for repeat violations to strengthen deterrence.

ment concession schemes are announced. The data shows 9.73 lakh wrong parking cases were

booked in 2024, while 10 lakh each were registered in 2023 and 2022. The number stood at 7.26 lakh in 2021. Officials noted that the growing number of vehicles in Bengaluru naturally contributes to an increase in parking violations. However, they acknowledged that enforcement alone has had limited impact on changing parking behaviour. Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has also flagged the issue of low penalties and written to the Transport Minister seeking higher fines for footpath driving. Similar concerns have been raised over haphazard parking.

CHObserver

chstatenews@gmail.com

From school gates and voting centers to theater backstreets and student-heavy corridors, persistent garbage blackspots and abandoned waste vehicles are turning local neighborhoods into open dumping grounds. Despite repeated cleanups, frustrated residents across Seshadripuram and Vasanth Nagar are left dealing with compounding health hazards and public apathy, urgently demanding a permanent fix from civic authorities to protect their communities.

+91 80730 57594



The incomplete road work near KG Halli (near Arabic College) is now being misused as a garbage dumping spot. Piles are spilling onto the main thoroughfare, causing foul odor, health risks, and traffic disruptions. Requesting local authorities to clear the waste immediately and expedite road completion.



Construction materials, stones, and heavy debris have spilled over onto the roadside near Hutchins Road, narrowing the path, generating severe dust nuisance, and risking vehicle/pedestrian safety. Requesting authorities to clear the debris and enforce site cleanup.



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



A persistent garbage dumping spot plagues the corner of Ganga Bakery near Vasanth Nagar 8th Main Road towards Millers Road. Residents question whether half-hearted cleanups or public apathy is to blame. Situated on a busy student route to Mount Carmel College, locals are urgently demanding a permanent solution.

Civic officials order round-the-clock pump operations

Inspecting buffer corridors for roadside pooling, engineers received orders for slope-tailored concrete channels providing permanent drainage fixes.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local authorities have stepped up field inspections across the eastern division to tackle severe waterlogging and ease commuting troubles after heavy spells of monsoon showers hit key neighborhoods.

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar led an on-site review across affected zones, urging engineers to secure uninterrupted drain connectivity. The visit focused on critical bottlenecks where clogged channels regularly submerge roads, disrupt vehicular traffic, and inconvenience residents.

At the Panathur railway underpass, the Commissioner examined areas vulnerable to deep flooding. Ward staff received direct orders to immediately scoop out thick silt and mud choking the passage.

Sudhakar emphasized that motorized pumps must stay operational around the clock, with backup plans ready if technical glitches arise. Officials were also instructed to



AT A GLANCE	
Authority	Bengaluru East City Corporation
Official	Addl. Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar
Date	21 September 2026
Core Focus	Monsoon flood mitigation & traffic continuity
Key Zones	Panathur, B-Smile Buffer Road, Munnekollal, Kroma Road

clear adjacent drainage manholes built by rail agencies to facilitate quick discharge.

The inspection team next assessed the buffer corridor, where missing connections trigger persistent roadside pooling. Engineers were told to design and construct suitable concrete channels tai-

lored to local slopes, delivering a permanent fix rather than temporary patches.

In Munnekollal, workers were directed to thoroughly clear garbage and debris clogging the main stormwater canal. Sudhakar stressed that routine surveillance is necessary to stop repeat dumping

Police track fake IAS caller after civic complaint

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority Corporations Officers and Employees Welfare Association lodged a formal police complaint on Monday, seeking strict legal action against an unidentified fraudster who impersonated a senior bureaucrat and invoked a minister's name to intimidate civic personnel.

According to the complaint submitted directly to the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, the caller contacted multiple officers and staff across civic bodies, falsely identifying himself as "Shivaprakash, IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR)." Using this fake bureaucratic persona, the caller claimed that serious departmental complaints had been received against them and declared that he had been officially instructed by a state minister to conduct a probe. The impersonator then directed the frightened employees to report immediately to the DPAR office on the second floor of Vidhana Soudha for an official inquiry.

Suspicious of the calls, representatives of the employees' welfare association reached out to several serving Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries within the administrative department to verify the caller's credentials. Following internal checks, department officials confirmed that

HIGHLIGHTS
• Lodge formal complaint with police commissioner
• Trace unidentified fraudster using call records
• Verify fake IAS bureaucrat Shivaprakash identity
• Prosecute impersonator for intimidation and cheating
• End coercion of municipal staff members
• Safeguard civic personnel against fake probes

no officer named Shivaprakash, IAS, was appointed or serving as Joint Secretary in DPAR. This revelation confirmed the suspicions of several civic workers who had expressed deep doubts regarding the legitimacy and tone of the calls.

The association stated that the conman systematically misused the authority of a senior IAS rank and the office of an elected minister to deceive, harass, and coerce municipal staff members. In its petition, the association urged the Police Commissioner to trace the suspect using call records and mobile tracking. Leaders demanded the immediate registration of a criminal case and thorough legal prosecution covering charges of criminal impersonation, cheating, and the fraudulent misuse of high-ranking government titles.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Critical emergency healthcare operations across Karnataka face imminent disruption as 108 Arogya Kavacha ambulance employees announced plans to shut down operations and resign en masse starting Tuesday night.

The drastic measure follows the expiration of a fifteen-day ultimatum issued to the Health Department and the state government to resolve longstanding service grievances. Union representatives expressed intense dismay over official inaction, noting that authorities failed to address core employee demands despite repeated warnings. The charter of demands includes annual wage increments, a standardized statewide pay scale, timely salary disbursements, and adequate accident compensation coverage for operational crews.

Staff confirmed that if the government does not address their concerns by Tuesday evening, all emergency vehicle operations will halt after 8:00 p.m. Over three thousand drivers and emergency medical technicians across all districts, including Bengaluru, are preparing to submit collective resignation letters.

The impending shutdown threatens to trigger an acute



Demands of 108 ambulance employees	
• Implement annual salary revisions along with yearly increments.	
• Provide adequate vehicle arrangements to facilitate three-shift duty operations.	
• Abolish the zonal-based wage system and implement a uniform pay scale for all employees.	
• Determine salaries based on seniority.	
• Ensure salary payment by the 7th of every month, in accordance with Labour Department regulations. Also Read: 108 Ambulance Employees' Protest: Minister Khader issues a stern warning	
• Compensation of ₹50 lakh must be provided to the families of staff members who die in accidents while on duty.	
• Adequate rest room facilities must be provided for the staff.	
• Duty shift timings must be revised.	

public health crisis, leaving critical trauma victims, pregnant women, and emergency patients without vital transport across rural and urban centers.

Urging senior ministers and administrative heads to intervene before the deadline expires, the association af-

Fake packaging firm dupes jobless youth of crores
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A massive employment scam operating under the guise of work-from-home packaging opportunities has surfaced in Bengaluru and its rural outskirts, cheating hundreds of job aspirants of crores of rupees.

Operating under the trade banner of 'Kalikamba Enterprises', the syndicate lured unemployed youth and homemakers with lucrative packaging contracts for incense sticks and disposable paper plates. The fraudsters induced victims into paying substantial upfront security deposits, promising higher monthly salaries pegged to the amount invested. Victims who deposited one lakh rupees were assured guaranteed monthly returns of twenty-seven thousand rupees. Police identified the prime conspirators behind the fraudulent venture as Bhumishetti, Kiran Kumar, and Aarathi, who systematically recruited individuals, gathered deposits, and subsequently defaulted on payments.

Following formal complaints from duped investors, police stations across Doddaballapura and Chikkajala registered criminal cases against the accused promoters. As specialized investigative teams probe the transaction trails to trace the siphoned funds, police issued an advisory cautioning the public against making advance deposits for unauthorized work-from-home offers.

Wage disputes spark mass 108 ambulance resignation

Cubbon Park entry fee proposal under deliberation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Horticulture Department is considering introducing an entry ticket for Bengaluru's historic Cubbon Park, exploring a revenue model similar to Lalbagh Botanical Garden to offset surging upkeep, landscaping, and security expenditures.

Spread across nearly 300 acres in the heart of the city, Cubbon Park serves as a premier urban lung space, drawing tens of thousands of visitors daily. The footfall multiplies drastically on weekends, resulting in heavy crowding that strains civic infrastructure. Maintaining expansive lawns, tree care, daily sanitation, walking tracks, and perimeter surveillance requires significant annual funding. Consequently, administrative officials are exploring whether an entry charge could generate reliable financial resources for ongoing upkeep and security.

Senior officials confirmed that discussions remain pre-



liminary. If adopted, ticketing could mirror arrangements at Lalbagh, where general visitors are charged a nominal entry fee while retaining regulated free windows for routine joggers. A major priority for administrators is ensuring that any newly introduced framework avoids penalizing daily morning walkers, fitness enthusiasts, families, and neighborhood residents who rely on the public green zone.

No final decision regarding ticket pricing or an im-

AT A GLANCE	
Location / Site	Cubbon Park, Bengaluru (~300 acres)
Authority	Karnataka Horticulture Department
Core Proposal	Introducing visitor entry fee (Lalbagh model)
Driving Factor	Rising maintenance, security, and weekend crowd pressure
Status	Under active discussion; no final decision/pricing announced

plementation timeline has been announced. Authorities plan to evaluate public sentiment, administrative viability, and regular recreational access before submitting a formal proposal to the state government.

Krishna Byre Gowda clarifies assembly sitting status

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government admitted on Monday that characterizing the three-day legislative sittings as a "special session" was an error, clarifying that the proceedings represent a special discussion under the extended Monsoon Session.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Krishna Byre Gowda clarified the technical position in the Legislative Assembly following objections raised by opposition Bharatiya Janata Party leaders regarding procedural rules. Gowda explained that the Assembly had not been summoned as a separate, distinct session, but rather as an adjourned meeting and continuation of the Monsoon Session, which had been abruptly adjourned sine die on August 24 amid opposition protests.

The clarification came during an intense debate over legislative rules and the controversial Kasturirangan committee recommendations concerning the Western Ghats. At the start of the session, Leader of

the Opposition R. Ashok and senior legislator V. Sunil Kumar questioned the statutory authority used to designate the sittings as a special session. Ashok sought permission to move an adjournment motion to deliberate on the Kasturirangan report. However, Gowda rejected the request, explaining that the subject was already included in the day's formal list of business and therefore required no separate motion.

Procedural sparring continued when opposition members objected to Rural Development Minister Eshwar Khandre speaking on the issue, contending that having a minister initiate the floor discussion would set a bad precedent. Upholding the objection, Speaker G.S. Patil directed ruling party MLA Gopalakrishna Belur to open the deliberations. The debate subsequently turned to balancing the ecological protection of the Western Ghats with the land rights, livelihoods, and rehabilitation concerns of local farming communities residing along forest fringes.

Quick Read

Petrol bunk owner opens fire, man injured

CH NEWS, Vijayapura
A petrol bunk owner allegedly opened fire on a man near the Krishna River in Matyala village of Kolhar taluk on Sunday, leaving him injured. Police said Sangappa Pujari, 48, fired two rounds at Sukhadev Chalavadi, 30, using his licensed revolver. The bullets hit Sukhadev in the abdomen and back. He was shifted to a hospital in Vijayapura for treatment. According to preliminary information, Sukhadev had visited the petrol bunk with his friend Raju Chalavadi. An argument reportedly broke out between Sukhadev and Sangappa over an unspecified issue, following which the firing took place. Kolhar police took Sangappa into custody and registered a case. Police suspect previous enmity may have led to the incident, while further investigation is underway.

District prohibits liquor sales during festive days

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
District Magistrate Dr. Suresh B. Itnal issued prohibitory orders on Monday banning liquor sales across Koppal on September 22, 24, 26, and 28 to maintain peace during Gauri-Ganesha celebrations. The ban has been enacted under Section 21 of the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965, based on precautionary proposals submitted by the District Superintendent of Police. Sales remain prohibited from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Coastal states prepare for major disaster drill



CH NEWS, KARWAR

Additional District Collector Sajid Mulla instructed administrative authorities on Monday to complete all necessary logistical preparations ahead of an interstate disaster management mock operation scheduled for October 1.

Presiding over a preparatory coordination meeting at the district collectorate, Mulla noted that the drill is organized under the guidelines of the National Disaster Management Authority and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The exercise aims to streamline unified emergency responses against severe coastal cyclones and potential related calamities across Karnataka’s Uttara Kannada, Goa, and Maharashtra’s Ratnagiri district. By bringing distinct state apparatuses under a unified command structure, the drill seeks to pool logistical resources and ensure rapid relief delivery during crises.

The mock operation will unfold across twenty-four strategic coastal locations across the three participating states.

Within Uttara Kannada, targeted operations are scheduled in Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar, Gokarna, and Bhatkal. Mulla emphasized that establishing proactive safety measures, timely public evacuations, efficient rehabilitation shelters, and emergency medical camps will substantially reduce potential casualties and property losses during actual severe storm situations.

Retired Commandant Aditya Kumar from the division joined virtually to outline standard operating protocols and procedural guidelines mandated by the central authority. Several senior officials attended the briefing, including Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Deputy Director of Public Instruction R.S. Buradi underscored the guiding mission of providing quality education alongside robust student safety. He urged school administrators to unite efforts, overcome academic

Officials warned over neglecting disabled citizens’ grievances

Prabhu mandated accessibility ramps/lifts in public buildings and ordered a monthly district job fair for differently abled candidates

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Collector G. Prabhu issued a stern warning to taluk-level officials on Monday, ordering show-cause notices and disciplinary action against officers who fail to conduct regular grievance redressal meetings for persons with disabilities.

Presiding over a district-level grievance review at Sir M. Visveswaraiah Hall, Prabhu asserted that persons with disabilities should not be forced to travel to district headquarters for routine administrative relief. He insisted that local problems must be resolved promptly at the taluk level itself, guaranteeing that eligible individuals receive sanctioned government welfare benefits and essential support services without de-

lay. Prabhu declared wheelchair ramps and lifts mandatory across all government offices and public hospitals. He directed welfare officers and field coordinators to identify buildings lacking accessibility infrastructure and instructed executive engineers to submit structural compliance confirmations. To foster economic independence, Prabhu directed employment officers to organize a dedicated district job fair within the next month, ensuring customized employment opportunities for differently abled candidates.

Addressing documentation hurdles, the Collector instructed food inspectors to issue alternative certificates whenever fingerprint authentication fails during national identity card enrolment or updates, ensuring no eligible



applicant is denied welfare access. He called for an awareness drive to enroll twenty-two thousand disabled students in official scholarship schemes, proposed regular mobile clinic health check-ups, and urged the introduction of accessible buses.

Furthermore, Prabhu mandated the utilization of five percent of local tax revenues to distribute assistive equipment to nearly two thousand beneficiaries. He directed officials to identify land for a modern rehabilitation center

At a glance

- Issue show-cause notices for missing grievance meetings
- Mandate wheelchair ramps and lifts everywhere
- Organize dedicated district job fair next month
- Issue alternative certificates for failed fingerprint authentication
- Enroll twenty-two thousand disabled students in scholarships
- Mandate five percent local tax for assistive devices

and scheduled a coordination meeting with local bank managers to resolve delays in disbursing subsidized loans. Prabhu warned that bureaucratic negligence will be escalated directly to the District In-charge Minister for strict governmental intervention.

Farmers protest in Raichur over power supply

CH NEWS, Raichur

Hundreds of farmers and BJP workers staged a protest outside the GESCOM office in Raichur on Monday, demanding adequate electricity and water supply to rural areas of the district. The agitation was led by former BJP MLA Tip-paraju Hawaldar.

The protesters blocked the main road outside the GESCOM office and raised slogans seeking uninterrupted power supply for households and agricultural activities. Bullock carts and tractors were brought to the protest site as part of the demonstration. Hawaldar also reportedly lay down on the road while pressing for action on the demands, resulting in disruption to traffic.

The protesters alleged that rural areas were receiving electricity for only around three hours a day and demanded 24-hour power supply for rural households. They also sought 12 hours of electricity supply for agricultural pump sets to help farmers operate irrigation systems. The protesters urged the state government and GESCOM authorities to address the power shortage. Hawaldar called upon Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take up the problems faced by farmers during the ongoing special session of the Karnataka Legislature. The protesters also demanded financial relief for farmers, seeking compensation of Rs 50,000 per acre in view of the drought conditions.

Water availability through the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (TLBC) was another major issue raised during the protest. The protesters said farmers in both the upper and lower reaches of the canal were facing water-related difficulties. They demanded proper management of canal gauges to ensure that water reaches up to the 104th mile.

According to the report, the road blockade caused a traffic jam and inconvenience to commuters in the area.

Farmers block highway over lake filling demand

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Hundreds of farmers, led by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene, staged a massive protest by blocking a state highway in Afzalpur, demanding that local lakes be filled before water is released into the Amarja Dam.

Addressing the protesters, Raitha Sangha district president Mahantesh Jamadar said water should not be released to the Amarja reservoir until the lakes in the

region are filled. Priority should be given to filling our local lakes and raising the groundwater table. If the farmers’ genuine demand is ignored, we will lay siege to the Afzalpur MLA’s residence in the coming days, he warned.

The road blockade disrupted vehicular movement on the highway for some time.

On receiving information, the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of the Bhima Lift Irrigation Project and

the tahsildar visited the spot and heard the farmers’ grievances.

The officials assured the protesters that necessary steps would be taken regarding the filling of the lakes and that the issue would be resolved at the earliest.

Following the assurance, the farmers temporarily withdrew their protest.

Taluk office-bearers and members of the Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene, along with a large number of farmers, were present.

District prepares grand World Senior Citizens Day

CH NEWS, UDUPI

District officials convened a high-level preparatory meeting on Monday at the Rajatadri Collectorate complex to plan grand celebrations for World Senior Citizens Day, observed under the State Action Plan.

Chairing the meeting, Premamurthy K, Deputy Director of the Women and Child Development Department, announced that the main district-level function will take place on October 1 at the Ban-nanje Narayana Guru Community Hall.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a free comprehensive health check-up camp for all elderly attendees, followed by the formal stage program.

In the run-up to the event, colorful sports and cultural competitions will be hosted on September 28 at the Ajjarkad District Stadium. Elders will participate in brisk walking, bucket toss, carrom, and rangoli contests, alongside solo acting and singing showcases. Officials instructed teams to arrange on-site emergency



first-aid kits and ensure high participation.

A unique intergenerational dialogue will follow the main event, bringing together elders, parents, and students on a single platform to discuss life values, cultural traditions, and dietary habits. Authorities will also felicitate local centenarians during the gathering. Premamurthy directed departments to ensure adequate seating, meals, clean drinking water, and wide publicity. Disabled Welfare Officer Ratna, Charitable Endowments official T.N. Manjula, Lead Bank Manager Harish, and Senior Citizens Union President Vishwanath Hegde attended the session, reaffirming their shared commitment to honoring the district’s elderly population with utmost care and dignity.

Officials launch doorstep verification for welfare schemes

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Chairman Reddy Srinivas directed departmental officials and committee members on Monday to jointly conduct door-to-door physical verifications of all Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries across the district.

Presiding over a progress evaluation meeting at the Zilla Panchayat’s J.H. Patel Hall, Srinivas explained that Anganwadi workers, child development officers, and taluk committee members have undergone specialized training for the reverification drive. Field teams will verify household data and upload confirmed information directly via the dedicated mobile application. Srinivas emphasized that this verification applies strictly to existing registered beneficiaries, clarifying that new applications will open only after completing this statewide review.

The review outlined strict eligibility and banking guidelines. Tax-paying households and commercial GST filers are excluded, while those wishing to opt out voluntarily may register their choice through the app. Beneficiaries must reside in Karnataka and

hold local, individual bank accounts; joint accounts, loan accounts, or interstate accounts will block financial disbursements. In such cases, women will receive assistance to open separate post office or bank accounts. Srinivas noted that while June funds have been deposited, July installments will arrive this week, with August and September disbursements currently being processed.

Addressing the food subsidy scheme, Srinivas noted that ration card holders must complete electronic verification by October 20.

Acknowledging that migrant laborers in Bengaluru and other states face travel hurdles, the district will formally petition the state government to permit remote digital options.

The meeting also reviewed welfare recoveries and program milestones. Over 1.84 crore rupees drawn from deceased recipients’ accounts is being recovered via challans. Across the division, over thirteen crore women passengers utilized free bus transit, nearly three lakh consumers received power utility subsidies, and over forty-five crore rupees reached unemployed youth under the Yuva Nidhi scheme.

Rain deficit raises concerns ahead of Cauvery Theerthodhbhava

CH NEWS, Madikeri

A significant decline in rainfall in Kodagu district this season has caused water levels in several water bodies to fall, raising concerns among locals and devotees ahead of the annual Cauvery Theerthodhbhava ceremony at Bhagamandala on October 17.

The water level at the sacred Triveni Sangam in Bhagamandala, where the Cauvery, Kannike and Sujyoti rivers meet, has receded considerably. The confluence normally has a steady flow of water during the monsoon, but the reduced rainfall this year has changed the situation, drawing the attention of residents and pilgrims.

The decline has caused anxiety as thousands of devotees from different parts of Karnataka are expected to visit Bhagamandala for the Cauvery Theerthodhbhava ceremony. Devotees traditionally take a holy dip at the confluence and perform Pinda Prad-

ana, a ritual offering made for ancestors. Questions have now been raised over whether adequate water will be available for these rituals during the event.

In previous years, Kodagu generally received at least some rainfall until the Sank-ramana period, helping maintain water flow at the Triveni Sangam. This year, however, the water level has fallen noticeably by September itself. Locals are watching the situation closely as the ceremony approaches.

Authorities have taken steps to regulate the water level near the confluence. The gates of the check-dam located in front of the Triveni Sangam have been closed, allowing water to accumulate in the area. The water level near the check-dam is currently reported to be around knee-deep.

However, officials and local residents say the water situation during the Cauvery Theerthodhbhava will largely depend on rainfall in the coming weeks.

OUTSMART COASTAL SCORES ‘Tracking pupil progress key to Gadag SSLC goal’

CH NEWS, GADAG

Over 320 high school head teachers attended a special one-day training workshop on Monday at the Prajapati Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya in Dambalanaka, aimed at improving SSLC qualitative exam performance across the district.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Deputy Director of Public Instruction R.S. Buradi underscored the guiding mission of providing quality education alongside robust student safety. He urged school administrators to unite efforts, overcome academic



shortfalls, and ensure district scores qualitatively surpass traditional frontrunners from coastal belts.

Officials prioritized core academic interventions, including operational guidelines for the upcoming Summative As-

essment-1, detailed learning progress tracking for every pupil, the targeted Mission 60+ program, and supplementary coaching for struggling learners. Headmasters were directed to prioritize home visits and encourage dedicated read-

ing environments outside the classroom. Buradi also emphasized skill-building, ethical training, drug-free campuses, child protection mechanisms, and strict compliance with legal frameworks against child marriage.

Through a visual presentation, District SSLC Nodal Officer H.B. Reddara outlined standardized examination protocols and performance-tracking systems to raise institutional preparedness. State education coordinator Shivakumar Kuri discussed enrollment retention and strategies for reintegrating drop-outs, while academic resource persons delivered sessions on

foundational numeracy, vocational guidance, and population awareness competitions.

Presiding over the conference, District Institute of Education and Training Principal K.D. Badigera stressed the importance of community outreach in boosting school attendance and sustaining literacy gains. Spiritual teacher Jayanthi Akka opened the session with reflections on universal human values. Concluding under the motivating motto of brighter futures through better learning, head teachers pledged to monitor each student closely to achieve academic excellence this year.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2026-27/4246 DATE: 19/09/2026
Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1
This Office E-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2026-27/4069 Dated 09/09/2026 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the works at **SI No. 1 to 5 & 33 is as below:** 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 03-10-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 06-10-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 08-10-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): “after approval of Technical bids”, 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.
All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-866/KSMCA/2026-27

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.
No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/TEND-14/2026-27 Date: 18.09.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through KPP Portal system)
The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works under Head of Account, Manchanayakanahalli G.P. Varga-01 and 2059-00-101-0-26(051). Minimum Estimated amount **Rs.10.25 lakh**. Maximum Estimated amount **Rs.100.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender Dated: **03.10.2026 by 4:00 PM**. Opening of the Tender Dated: **05.10.2026 at 4:30 PM**. Opening of the Financial Tender Dated: **12.10.2026 at 4:30 PM onwards (Only for KW-III)**. For details & further information visit the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office in office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayathraj Engineering Division
Ramanagara
DIPR/BS/D/328/SA/2026-27

Quick Read

Young students win big in drawing contest

CH NEWS, SRINIVASPUR
High school students in Addagal received exciting prizes following a lively drawing competition organized by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Held during Insurance Week, the creative contest encouraged young participants to showcase artistic imagination while discovering the vital importance of personal financial security. Branch manager Vijayakumari and development officer Ravindrayya Kulkarni presented awards to all the talented winners, praising their active participation and dedication. Local teachers thanked the organizers for supporting students beyond regular classroom lessons. Such vibrant extracurricular events help rural children build strong confidence, explore fresh skills, and work enthusiastically toward an inspiring and successful future.

Snapped power line kills farmer in field

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU
A sixty-year-old farmer died instantly after touching a snapped live electric wire at Honnenahalli village in Sira Taluk on Monday morning. The victim, identified as Rangashamanna, was walking toward his agricultural land for daily farm chores when he accidentally brushed against the severed cable lying hidden on the path. Grief-stricken villagers accused electricity supply authorities of severe negligence in maintaining overhead lines, demanding immediate preventive action. Rural police officers inspected the spot and began legal inquiries into the tragic death, as residents continue to demand stricter safety protocols across rural transmission zones.

Education must reveal hidden talents of children

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Education should bring out the innate talents hidden inside every student, stated Principal S. Nagabhushan on Monday. Speaking at a district-level role play and folk dance event organized under the National Population Education Scheme, he explained that true development goes beyond test scores. Such cultural platforms nurture artistic abilities and prepare young learners for future success. Lecturer Basavarajappa noted that performing arts help high school students understand population issues, adolescent growth, and health awareness. Several senior educators, subject supervisors, and competition judges attended the gathering. These initiatives ensure children build strong confidence alongside.

MCC BANK POSTS RECORD PROFIT AND DIVIDEND

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
MCC Bank Limited posted an impressive net profit of over ten crore rupees for the financial year, announcing a generous ten percent dividend during its historic 108th Annual General Meeting. Presiding over the gathering at Loyola Auditorium, Bank Chairman Anil Lobo presented the robust financial performance to shareholders. The cooperative institution witnessed remarkable expansion, with deposits climbing twenty-four percent to reach 872 crore

State Corporation unveils welfare schemes for community

Prasad announced ₹3 crore+ in direct student educational aid, rapid demand approvals, credit brochures, and upcoming administrative fixes

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The Karnataka Arya Vaishya Community Development Corporation has launched multiple initiatives to boost educational and financial progress among community members, Corporation President K.V. Ram Prasad announced on Monday. Speaking at the Kan-nikaparameshwara temple complex, Prasad urged eligible families to utilize active flagship programs, including direct self-employment credit, educational funding, and welfare assistance. He met with various community forums, women's councils, and youth wings to raise awareness about official welfare measures. Last year, the corporation secured twelve crore rupees, comprising its base allocation and loan recoveries. Follow-

ing appeals to the government, an additional five crore rupees was granted, enabling support for over 1,700 applicants. Prasad commended beneficiaries for maintaining an impressive eighty-five percent repayment rate, which ensures revolving funds for future applicants. He pointed out that the rise of multinational corporations has severely impacted traditional small merchants, causing financial distress for many households. Because self-reliance often prevents struggling families from seeking public aid, reliable poverty data remains scarce. To address this, the corporation is conducting statewide surveys alongside local councils to identify underprivileged households and extend timely support. Educational development remains a top priority, with



over three crore rupees distributed directly to eligible students via transparent bank transfers. Prasad noted that the state leadership had swiftly approved key community demands within two weeks, promising to resolve remaining administrative hurdles soon. Informational brochures detailing available credit facilities were also released during the press briefing. Senior community representatives, including district president Shashidhara Gupta, city president Srinivasa Babu, bank

At a Glance

Organization:Karnataka Arya Vaishya Community Development Corporation

Location:Chitradurga

Key Official:Corporation President K.V. Ram Prasad

Core Focus:Educational grants, self-employment credit, welfare surveys

Key Metrics:₹17Cr total funds (base + ₹5Cr extra), 85% repayment rate

officials, and regional corporation executives, attended the conference. Prasad affirmed that field visits will continue across the state to bridge gaps and ensure that government benefits directly empower disadvantaged families.

Unopposed win for Taggikuppe new vice-president

CH NEWS, MAGADI
Hosahalli C. Mohan Kumar was elected unopposed as the new vice president of Taggikuppe Gram Panchayat on Monday, following the formal resignation of previous incumbent Ramusing. Election returning officer Renukesh announced the uncontested result after no rival nomination papers were submitted. Enthusiastic supporters and local party workers celebrated the victory outside the office by bursting crackers and distributing sweets. Speaking after his declaration, Mohan Kumar pledged to work tirelessly for comprehensive village progress under the guidance of district leaders and Cooperation Minister H.C. Balakrishna. He emphasized that his foremost priority is securing government grants to fix drinking water scarcity, construct proper concrete drainage channels, and resolve persistent sanitation issues. He promised to deliver basic civic amenities to all residents without any bias. Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy noted that non-partisan cooperation made the unanimous choice possible. He explained that the presidency remains reserved for women, while the vice president position was earmarked for backward classes. Though three eligible candidates emerged, party leaders reached an amicable consensus to offer the crucial post to Mohan Kumar to accelerate pending infrastructure works across the rural jurisdiction. Krishnamurthy urged the newly appointed leadership to maintain complete unity among all members, obtain timely funds from state authorities, and speed up critical developmental initiatives. Addressing drinking water scarcity must receive absolute priority, he stressed, advising the council to coordinate systematically to ensure long-term public relief.

POCSO accused teacher dies after jumping from SP office

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
A teacher accused of sexually assaulting several children at a private school in Channapatna taluk died after jumping from the third floor of the Bengaluru South district Superintendent of Police's office complex, police said. The deceased was identified as Shashidhar, a native of Vijayanagara district. He was working as a physical education teacher at a private school in Channapatna taluk. Police said Shashidhar had been arrested on Saturday evening following a complaint alleging that he had sexually assaulted several children at the school. A case was registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. After his arrest, he underwent a medical examination at a government hospital and was brought to the SP office on Sunday for further proce-

“He sustained grievous injuries and was taken to the district hospital, where he died later.”

— Police

dures before being produced for judicial custody. According to police, the accused was taken to the Measurement Collection Unit on the third floor of the building to record his fingerprints. While he was being escorted back to the police vehicle, he allegedly pushed away a constable accompanying him and ran towards the railing. He then jumped from the third floor, police said. A CCTV camera at the premises reportedly captured the incident, showing the accused pushing the constable before running towards the railing and jumping. He sustained grievous injuries in the fall and was immediately taken to the district hospital. However, he died

Police probe
Shashidhar was arrested following a complaint alleging sexual assault of several children at a private school in Channapatna taluk. After a medical examination, he was taken to the Bengaluru South SP office for procedures before being handed over to judicial custody. Police said he allegedly pushed a constable while being escorted to the vehicle and jumped from the third floor. Further investigation is underway.

while undergoing treatment, police said. A senior police officer confirmed the incident and said further investigation was underway to establish the circumstances leading to the death.

Srinivasapur cooperative plans Kisan Credit Card rollout

CH NEWS, SRINIVASPUR
Local cultivators will soon receive Kisan Credit Card loans within the next three months, announced P.N. Manjunath Reddy, president of the Kasaba Silk Growers and Farmers' Service Cooperative Society. Addressing the annual general body meeting on Monday, Reddy highlighted new initiatives aimed at widening financial aid to shareholders, farmers, and women's self-help groups. He urged borrowers to avoid delaying their scheduled payments in the false hope of government loan waivers. Maintaining strict repayment discipline remains crucial, he noted, adding that prompt settlement ensures eligibility for

fresh credit in the future. He emphasized that cooperative bodies form the financial backbone of rural communities, and active member participation helps expand mutual benefits. Presenting the annual financial report, society secretary C.S. Shivareddy outlined ongoing revenue growth. The cooperative currently earns around seventy-five thousand rupees monthly from commercial shop rentals, alongside nine and a half lakh rupees collected as deposits. Addressing capital liabilities, Shivareddy stated that out of a fifty-eight lakh rupee construction loan taken from Apex Bank, twenty-six lakh rupees has been cleared. The management aims to pay off the re-

maining balance within three years to significantly reduce debt. Several leaders, including PLD Bank president Ashok, vice-president Shabbir Ahmed, and director M. Baire Reddy, attended the session alongside numerous shareholders. The assembly reviewed upcoming budgets, commercial assets, and operational strategies to safeguard the long-term interests of agricultural families. By expanding credit lines and managing fiscal resources prudently, the cooperative continues to strengthen its economic foundation for rural development. Efficient local administration guarantees that deserving farmers gain vital working capital without enduring unnecessary hardships or delays.

Anjaneya alleges crores looted in Holalkere funds

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Former minister H. Anjaneya alleged massive financial misappropriation across Holalkere constituency on Monday, demanding a comprehensive probe into crores of rupees sanctioned for rural irrigation and community development since 2018. Addressing reporters at the local tourist hall, Anjaneya stated that funds released across diverse departments, including water resources, mineral foundations, and rural engineering units, were severely looted. He pointed out that mandatory public display boards specifying contract sums, vendor names, and project details were deliberately ignored at worksites to hide irregularities. Citing specific instances, the senior leader claimed that when a conscientious engineer refused to clear an incomplete thirty-crore irrigation bill, the administrative file was abruptly transferred to Hiriyur division for unauthorized approval. He cautioned government personnel that yielding to unlawful political pressure would ultimately invite severe criminal prosecution. He alleged that local administrators bypassed transparent procedures during lake

dredging, open well restorations, and check dam construction across the entire region. Furthermore, Anjaneya highlighted gross violations in allocating special welfare grants and housing schemes without statutory village assembly approvals. He announced plans to submit a formal memorandum to the deputy commissioner seeking complete documentary verification. Once concrete paperwork is obtained, he vowed to launch an anti-corruption awareness march and approach the Lokayukta, investigation agencies, and the Governor. Former district vice-president H.N. Tippeswamy criticized officials for falsely branding school transport purchased through foundation funds as personal legislative contributions. Several local party leaders, including Shivakumar, Krishnamurthy, Lohit Kumar, and Chetan Borenahalli, attended the press conference in support of the allegations. Demanding administrative accountability, Anjaneya affirmed that public funds meant to alleviate agricultural distress and rural hardship must never end up lining corrupt pockets. The district administration faces mounting pressure to initiate prompt legal scrutiny.

Inspiring teachers honored for shaping young minds

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
True educators leave lasting marks on human hearts, declared MLC Puttanna during a vibrant Teachers' Day celebration organized by the Negilayogi Samaj Seva Trust on Monday. Speaking at the Adichunchanagiri Branch Math School, Puttanna noted that while tradition equates teachers with the divine, the finest mentors earn deep personal respect from their pupils. Anyone can recite textbook lessons, but exceptional guides discover hidden talents, impart core values, and prepare young individuals for adult life. He emphasized that dedicated instructors make immense contributions to building a progressive nation. Adding spiritual insight, Sri Mallesh Gururji explained that genuine teachers dispel dark

ignorance with the brilliant light of wisdom. While mothers nurture children first, devoted teachers serve as essential secondary guides who shape character. Presiding over the gathering, Trust President Patel C. Raju compared teachers to master sculptors who transform raw stone into masterpieces. He insisted that true schooling teaches empathy and social responsibility rather than rote facts. The special divisional ceremony recognized several outstanding state educators with the prestigious Guru Award. Senior education officer Venkataramgowda, Shantiniketan Kumaraswamy, and Trust leaders including Thimmegowda, Ravi, and Mamata were present. Ultimately, the event reaffirmed that teachers remain the vital moral compass of society.

12,858 people appeared for Police Constable recruitment exam

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA
The Karnataka State Reserve Police Force (KSRP) written examination was held at 29 centres in the city and 5 in Bhadravati. The written examination for RPC Kalyana Karnataka Vrinda was organized at a total of 13 examination centres. Out of 11,712 people who applied for the exam, 9,380 appeared. Out of a total of 4,118 trainees from the RPC KK cadre, 3,478 appeared.

The police had taken security measures at all the examination centres to ensure a transparent examination. 9 DySPs, 34 police inspectors and 34 sub-inspectors, 4 ASIs and 135 staff were deployed for security. Jammers were installed to prevent the use of mobile phones in the examination centers. Clocks, ventilation and lighting systems, drinking water, furniture and other necessary basic amenities were arranged.

CLASSROOMS OVER CLERICAL-WORK

Free teachers from heavy clerical duties: Gunjekar

CH NEWS, GADAG
Government employees' union leader Dr. Ravi L. Gunjekar urged administrative authorities on Monday to immediately relieve school instructors from non-teaching burdens, stressing that clerical pressures cause severe mental strain. Speaking during the induction ceremony of the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association at Government Boys' Model School, Gunjekar emphasized that official organizations must prioritize educator wellbeing. He pointed out



that excessive non-academic duties divert valuable attention away from classroom teaching and student learning outcomes. Chief guest C.R. Mundaragi, Deputy Secretary of the Zilla Panchayat, commended

the association's constructive initiative in listening to genuine staff grievances and providing prompt redressal. National award-winning retired educator S.N. Bellary guided the incoming office-bearers on professional

responsibilities, while district president V.M. Hiremath praised the city unit for delivering dedicated services to primary educators. Presiding over the gathering, city taluk president S.K. Mangalagudda voiced concerns regarding exhausting administrative assignments and extracurricular tasks thrust upon faculty. He firmly insisted that teachers must be permitted to focus entirely on core academics. Responding to these concerns, Field Education Officer Ravi Shettappanavar assured that petitions submitted during the session would be ad-

dressed sincerely, with several urgent departmental issues being settled on the spot. Dignitaries including honorary president D.S. Talwar, coordinator Prabhayanamath, secretary Prashantha Kanaje, treasurer I.A. Gadagoli, and key committee delegates attended the meeting. Leaders concluded that safeguarding the professional peace of instructors is essential for strengthening foundational learning, urging swift government intervention to eliminate bureaucratic tasks from classroom daily routines.

The Price Of Freebies In Indian Democracy

Election season in India has become a festival of freebies. Free electricity, free laptops, Rs.1000 per month, free bus rides every party promises something more attractive than the last. While welfare is the duty of the state, converting it into competitive charity is damaging our democracy and economy.

There is a fundamental difference between welfare and freebie. Building a government school that provides quality education is welfare. Distributing free gadgets to students of a failing school is a freebie. One empowers, the other bribes.

The economic cost is staggering. The RBI itself has warned that several states are spending more than 15% of their revenue on subsidies and freebies. This money comes from cutting capital expenditure the money that should build roads, hospitals, cold storages, and irrigation canals. In the long run, we are sacrificing future growth for present votes. Punjab, with its free electricity for years, is now burdened with massive debt and a failing power infrastructure. It is a classic case of short-term populism leading to long-term pain.

More dangerously, it degrades the voter. It assumes the voter is not a citizen seeking development, but a beneficiary who can be bought. It shifts the debate from important



questions about jobs, inflation, education quality, air pollution to who gives more free.

The Supreme Court has asked the Election Commission to frame guidelines on this, but political will is missing. The solution is not to ban welfare. We need targeted, direct benefit transfers for the truly needy like free food grains for the poor, which is essential. But universal freebies for all to win an election must be accounted for. Every manifesto should have a budget page where will the money come from?

A developed India by 2047 will not be built on free power, but on empowered people who have the power to earn and grow.

- Ali Khan

Coaching Centres Are Killing Real Education

A 16-year-old girl in Kota jumped from her hostel building last week. Her note said: “Sorry, Papa, I cannot do IIT.” This is the 27th student suicide in Kota this year alone. We have built a Rs. 58,000 crore industry that thrives on the anxiety of parents and children, and we call it education.

The coaching centre model has completely distorted learning. School education, which should be about curiosity, understanding, and all-round development, has become irrelevant for many. Students enrol in dummy schools where they never attend, and spend 12-14 hours in coaching institutes mugging up formulas and tricks. They are trained to crack an exam, not to understand science.

This creates two problems. First, it kills innovation. An IIT-JEE or NEET topper may be excellent at solving multiple-choice questions under time pressure, but does he have the creativity to invent? Our education system is producing great test-takers but not great thinkers, researchers, or entrepreneurs. Second, it creates deep inequality. Only families who can afford Rs. 2-3 lakhs per year can send their children to Kota or Hyderabad. A brilliant child from a poor family in a village is out of the race before it even starts.

The government’s new guidelines to regulate coaching centres no enrolment below 16 years, no false promises are a welcome first step, but insufficient. We need to fix the root cause: the nature of our entrance exams. Why does a single three-hour exam decide a child’s entire future? Why can’t we have aptitude tests spread over time, and give weightage to school learning and projects? Parents must also introspect. Is your child’s dream to become an engineer, or is it your unfulfilled dream? A child who loves history and is forced into science will fail in both. Let schools be schools again, and let children be children.

- Thujan Linga

Bangalore Traffic: A City Choking Itself

It takes 90 minutes to travel 10 kilometres in Bangalore. This is not a joke anymore; it is the daily reality for millions. The city that was once called the Garden City and Pensioners’ Paradise is now the world’s second slowest city to drive in. Bangalore’s traffic is no longer a civic issue; it is an economic and mental health crisis.

The problem is simple to diagnose but hard to cure. In the last 10 years, Bangalore’s population has grown from 8.5 million to over 14 million, but its road length has grown by less than 10%. Over 2,000 new vehicles are registered every single day. Our public transport carries only 40% of commuters, while in a city like London or Mumbai, it carries over 70%.

What makes it worse is unplanned growth. Tech parks are built on the outskirts with no metro connectivity. Footpaths are encroached or non-existent, so even a



500-metre walk requires a two-wheeler. A 30-minute rain floods underpasses because lakes that should have absorbed water have been built over.

The cost is enormous. A recent study estimated that Bangalore loses Rs. 20,000 crores every year in productivity due to traffic. That is fuel wasted, business meetings missed, and family time lost. More

importantly, the stress of honking, pollution, and unpredictability is causing a rise in anxiety and road rage.

What is the way out? We cannot build more roads; we need to move more people in less space. The full completion of Namma Metro Phase 2 and 3 cannot be delayed any further. We need a unified metropolitan transport authority that integrates Metro,

BMTC buses, and suburban rail with a single ticket. We need to make footpaths walkable and introduce congestion pricing in central areas like in Singapore.

Bangalore gave India its IT future. If it cannot fix its traffic, that future will move to another city.

- Sonam Kulida

JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED AGAIN

A man in Uttar Pradesh spent 20 years in jail as an undertrial for a theft he did not commit. When he was finally acquitted, he was 58, his parents had died, and his children did not recognize him. His story is not an exception; it is the norm in India.

India has 5.1 crore cases pending in courts. If no new cases are filed today, it will still take our courts over 300 years to clear the backlog at the current pace. For a common Indian, going to court means entering a black hole where dates after dates are given, lawyers charge by appearance, and life goes on hold.

Who suffers most? The poor. A rich person can hire a top lawyer and get bail in days. A poor person cannot



even get a copy of the chargesheet and languishes in jail for years as an undertrial. Over 75% of our prison population are undertrials people who are legally innocent but are treated as convicts.

Why is this happening? We have only 21 judges per 10 lakh people, while the Law Commission recommends 50. Our courts still work with paper files and manual summons in the age of AI. Vacan-

cies for judges remain unfilled for years due to tussles between the government and collegium.

The reforms are well known but not implemented. We need to double the number of judges, create special fast-track courts for cases older than 5 years, and make e-filing and virtual hearings the norm. Most importantly, we need to decriminalize petty offences and promote mediation and Lok Adalats for civil disputes. Not every fight needs to go to the Supreme Court.

A nation where it takes 20 years to prove you are innocent cannot claim to give justice. Speedy justice is not a luxury; it is a fundamental right under Article 21 the right to life with dignity.

- Rohit Denzil T.

Why India Must Save Its Lakes

Bangalore once had 1,452 lakes. Today, less than 200 remain, and most of them are sewage tanks that occasionally catch fire. Hyderabad’s Hussain Sagar is choking. Delhi has lost 21 lakes in the last decade. We are witnessing the systematic murder of our lakes in the name of development, and we will pay for it with our water security.

Lakes are not just beautiful spots for evening walks. They are the kidneys of a city. They recharge groundwater, prevent floods, cool the city by 2-3 degrees, and support biodiversity. When we build an apartment complex on a lakebed, we are not just destroying a lake; we are inviting floods into our own homes, as we saw in Chennai in 2015 and in Bangalore in 2022.

Who is responsible? A nexus of encroachers, indifferent civic bodies, and us. The original lake maps are tampered with, buffer zones are violated, and untreated sewage from apartments and industries is let directly into the water. A lake needs 75 metres of buffer, but we build right up to its edge and then



complain about mosquitoes.

The revival is possible and has been proven. The Jakkur lake in Bangalore was revived through a community-government partnership that used constructed wetlands to treat sewage naturally. Today it is full of birds and clean

water. The same model can be replicated.

What we need is a strong Lake Protection Authority in every state with satellite mapping to stop encroachments in real-time. Every citizen living within 1 km of a lake should be its guardian. And most

importantly, we must stop treating lakes as real estate and start treating them as infrastructure as critical as a flyover or a metro line.

If our lakes die, our cities will die of thirst.

- Uynus Sasha

The Silent Epidemic Of Diabetes Among Youth

Ten years ago, diabetes was considered a disease of the 50-plus, slightly overweight uncle. Today, in clinics across India, 25-year-olds are walking in with blood sugar levels of 300. India has 101 million diabetics, and the most alarming trend is that it is getting younger, faster, and more aggressive.

We are the diabetes capital of the world, and we earned this title with our lifestyle. The culprit is a deadly combination of bad diet, no movement, and chronic stress.

Our diet has undergone a complete westernization. We have replaced traditional breakfasts like ragi mudde, millets, and poha with sugary cereals, white bread, and packaged juices that claim to be healthy but are loaded with sugar. A single bottle of cold drink has 9 spoons of sugar. Our lunch is often a biryani from Swiggy, and dinner is at 11 PM. Our bodies were not designed for this constant sugar overload.

Second, we have stopped moving. A young software engineer sits for

12 hours, commutes for 2 hours sitting, and then watches OTT for 3 hours sitting. His only exercise is walking from his desk to the coffee machine. Muscles that do not work become insulin resistant, which is the first step towards diabetes.

What makes youth-onset diabetes more dangerous is that it is more aggressive. It damages kidneys, eyes, and heart much faster. A person who gets diabetes at 25 is likely to need dialysis at 45, during his prime working years.

The solution is not in more medicines but in our kitchens and colonies. We must bring back millets and fibre into our diet and tax sugary drinks like Mexico and the UK have done. Schools and offices must mandate 30 minutes of physical activity daily. Most importantly, we need annual screening for everyone above 25, because diabetes has no symptoms for years.

Sugar may taste sweet, but its bill is very bitter.

- Dhanil Thappa

LETTER TO EDITOR

FIX OUR BROKEN POTHOLES

The terrible condition of our local roads has become a daily hazard for commuters. Potholes are damaging vehicles and causing unnecessary traffic jams across the neighborhood. Despite repeated complaints to the municipal corporation, no concrete repair work has been initiated. We urge the authorities to take immediate action and repave these neglected streets before a major accident occurs.

- ANTONY JOE

STOP EXCESSIVE PLASTIC WASTE

Plastic pollution continues to choke our environment, threatening both local wildlife and public health. Despite existing bans, single-use plastics remain widely available in neighborhood markets and grocery stores. Citizens must consciously shift to eco-friendly alternatives like cloth bags and reusable containers. At the same time, the local administration needs to strictly penalize violators to protect our natural surroundings.

- SUSAI RAJAN

ON GLOBAL TRADE VOLATILITY

The rapid restructuring of international trade agreements highlights a deeply unpredictable economic environment. Exporters cannot construct long-term strategies when duty structures fluctuate based on judicial rulings and shifting political levers. Treating trade policy as a continuous negotiation undermines supply chain stability. For sustained growth, governments must prioritize regulatory clarity and long-term economic certainty over brief diplomatic victories.

-Sunil Grover

ON AI AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

The rapid integration of autonomous AI systems into corporate workflows demands critical attention. As digital tools take over entry-level tasks, the transition from higher education to professional careers is breaking down. Simply adding certificates to traditional degrees will not fix this structural deficit.

-Keishing



The Irreplaceable Value of Human Empathy in Modern Education

As artificial intelligence rapidly transforms industries, debates have emerged regarding its role in the modern classroom. While AI-driven educational software can process vast datasets and adapt learning paths to individual student speeds, it fundamentally lacks the essential emotional intelligence required for true mentorship. Teaching extends far beyond the mechanical delivery of facts and automated grading; it is an inherently social endeavor rooted in empathy, encouragement, and real-time human connection. A computer algorithm cannot recognize the subtle emotional cues of a struggling student, such as a downturned gaze or hesitant sigh, nor can it provide the tailored psychological reassurance that builds lifelong confidence. Furthermore, human educators model ethical behavior, foster critical dialogue, and cultivate soft skills like collaboration and adaptability. Over-reliance on automated platforms risks reducing education to a transactional process, isolating learners behind screens. While AI serves effectively as a supplementary tool for administrative tasks and basic practice exercises, the core guidance, inspiration, and moral stewardship of education must remain firmly in human hands.

- Vinay

Investing In Space Operations Drives Unmatched Terrestrial Innovation

Public expenditure on space exploration frequently faces criticism from those who argue that resources should be directed exclusively toward resolving pressing problems on Earth. However, this view overlooks the reality that space research directly drives technological innovations that benefit terrestrial life. The stringent constraints of space travel force engineers and scientists to develop groundbreaking solutions in resource conservation, clean energy generation, advanced materials, and telecommunications. Technologies developed for space missions such as advanced water purification systems, high-efficiency solar panels, satellite-based climate monitoring, and telemetry tools have become fundamental to modern agriculture, disaster response, and environmental protection. Satellite constellations provide precise global data necessary to monitor deforestation, track melting ice caps, and manage agricultural resources amid changing climate patterns. Funding space exploration is not an arbitrary choice between Earth and the cosmos; it is an investment in human ingenuity that yields critical tools for addressing Earth's most complex challenges.

- Cim Siro

TOXIC AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF POISONS VITAL GLOBAL RIVERS

Freshwater rivers are the lifelines of global ecosystems, supplying drinking water, supporting diverse aquatic species, and nourishing agricultural lands. Yet across the globe, a quiet chemical crisis is destroying these vital arteries. Every year, massive quantities of toxic agricultural runoff enter major river systems, turning healthy waterways into degraded, oxygen-starved channels. Driven by high-intensity farming reliant on synthetic chemical inputs, industrial agricultural pollution has become one of the most severe threats to global freshwater security. At the heart of this environmental degradation is the excessive application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and industrial manure. Modern farming practices frequently apply nitrogen and phosphorus in quantities far exceeding what crops can absorb. When seasonal rains sweep across agricultural fields, these unabsorbed chemicals wash into nearby streams, tributaries, and rivers. This steady influx of nutrients triggers an artificial process known as eutrophication, causing massive algal blooms that choke river ecosystems and block sunlight essential for aquatic plant survival. The ecological consequences of eutrophication are catastrophic. As dense algal mats die and decompose, bacteria consume vast amounts of dissolved oxygen in the water. This rapid oxygen depletion creates expansive "dead zones"—hypoxic areas where fish, crustaceans, and other aquatic life cannot survive. Species unable to flee the affected zones suffocate, leading to mass die-offs that collapse local aquatic food webs. Over time, these toxic plumes flow downstream into estuaries and coastal ocean waters, expanding the footprint of ecological destruction into marine environments. Beyond the devastation of aquatic life, contaminated rivers pose severe risks to human communities. Synthetic nitrate runoff leaches into municipal water supplies, creating serious public health hazards such as blue baby syndrome in infants and elevated cancer risks over long-term exposure. Rural and indigenous communities that rely directly on river water for drinking, cooking, and local fishing bear



the brunt of this contamination. Furthermore, treating heavily polluted river water for municipal consumption requires complex, expensive purification infrastructure, driving up utility costs for local residents. Addressing this widespread chemical crisis requires a fundamental shift toward sustainable agricultural practices and strict environmental governance. Farmers must transition away from heavy synthetic fertilizer dependence by adopting precision agriculture techniques that optimize nutrient application rates and timing. Implementing regenerative farming practices—such as planting off-season cover crops, reducing soil tillage, and practicing crop rotation—significantly improves soil health and naturally retains nutrients within the fields. Additionally, establishing natural riparian buffer zones along riverbanks is a crucial defensive strategy. Restoring native trees, shrubs, and wetland vegetation between agricultural fields and waterways creates natural bio-filters that capture, absorb, and neutralize chemical runoff before it reaches the river. Governments must enforce strict regulatory limits on agricultural discharge, incentivize eco-friendly farming methods, and hold commercial agribusinesses accountable for environmental degradation. Preserving our freshwater rivers demands immediate agricultural reform to ensure clean water for future generations.

- ALLAN

Redesigning Urban Spaces to Favor People Rather Than Cars

For nearly a century, urban planning has prioritized automobile convenience above all else, resulting in sprawling highways, dangerous intersections, and pervasive air pollution. Modern municipalities must urgently reverse this paradigm by restructuring metropolitan areas to favor pedestrians, micro-mobility, and reliable public transit. Designing cities around vehicles has severed community cohesion and forced residents into sedentary lifestyles dependent on fossil-fuel transportation. Reallocating street space to expanded sidewalks, protected bicycle lanes, and dedicated bus routes reclaims public land for civic life while drastically lowering

carbon emissions. Pedestrian-first design improves air quality, reduces traffic fatalities, and stimulates local economies, as foot traffic consistently yields higher retail engagement than drive-by congestion. Opponents often express concern regarding reduced parking or increased transit times, yet global examples demonstrate that reduced road capacity encourages alternative transit options without causing gridlock. Urban center infrastructure must evolve from simple vehicular conduits into vibrant, accessible public environments where human activity, community safety, and environmental health are prioritized over private automobile access.

- Bipin



Flexible Employment Structures Boost Economic Productivity and Well-Being

The widespread transition toward remote and hybrid work models has redefined contemporary professional life, yet numerous organizations continue pushing for mandatory office returns. Resisting flexible work environments ignores significant gains in employee well-being, talent retention, and operational efficiency. Decoupling productivity from physical presence allows companies to evaluate performance based on actual output rather than spent desk hours. Beyond corporate metrics, remote work offers profound socioeconomic benefits. Eliminating daily commutes reduces transportation costs, cuts regional carbon emis-

- Somashekar

Holding Cheap Clothing Manufacturers Accountable for Ecological Damage

The modern apparel industry operates on a model of continuous consumption, churning out low-cost clothing designed for rapid replacement. This fast fashion framework inflicts severe environmental degradation, relying on resource-intensive synthetic textiles, toxic chemical dyes, and low-wage overseas manufacturing. Billions of garments end up in landfills or incineration facilities annually, making textile production one of the world's most polluting sectors. Addressing this crisis requires structural accountability rather than relying solely on individual consumer choices. Regulators must enforce extended producer responsibility laws, obligating fashion corporations to collect, recycle, or safely dispose of post-consumer waste. Additionally, regulations should mandate clear supply chain transparency and restrict the use of non-recyclable synthetic fibers. While consumers should be encouraged to buy fewer, higher-quality garments, real progress depends on holding multi-national apparel brands financially and legally responsible for their environmental footprints. The planet can no longer sustain business models built on artificial trend cycles and disposable manufacturing.

- Sunita

Guaranteed Financial Baselines Protect Citizens Against Automation Disruptions

As technological advancement and economic volatility continue to reshape global labor markets, traditional social safety nets are proving increasingly inadequate. Implementing a Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an unconditional, regular cash grant provided to every citizen offers a direct, efficient mechanism to eliminate poverty and stabilize household finances. By providing an unconditional financial baseline, UBI ensures that every individual can secure basic necessities regardless of economic shifts or employment status. Critics frequently argue that guaranteed payments disincentivize labor, but empirical trials consistently demonstrate



otherwise. Recipients overwhelmingly utilize funds for food, housing, education, and healthcare, often leveraging

the financial security to pursue higher education, start small businesses, or care for family members. Moreover, streamlining existing welfare programs into a direct cash delivery system reduces administrative overhead and eliminates the bureaucratic hurdles often associated with conditional aid. Establishing a universal basic income provides a foundational economic buffer, ensuring societal stability and personal dignity in an era defined by rapid economic transformation.

- Thaizo

RISING SEAS IMPERIL GLOBAL COASTAL CITIES

The world's oceans are mounting a silent, relentless invasion of human civilization. Driven by warming ocean temperatures and the unprecedented melting of polar ice sheets, rising sea levels are transitioning from long-term environmental projections into an active, destructive reality. Millions of people living in low-lying coastal regions, low-lying river deltas, and island nations face an existential challenge that threatens to redraw the political and human geography of the planet. At the core of this accelerating crisis is the thermal expansion of warming seawater and the rapid degradation of Earth's great polar reservoirs. Satellite records reveal that ice loss from Greenland and Antarctica has reached alarming rates, pouring hundreds of billions of tons of meltwater into the global ocean annually. What once manifested as incremental water level changes now amplifies daily high tides and magnifies the destruction wrought by violent storm surges. Coastal lowlands that previously experienced severe flooding once a century now face routine, destructive inundations during seasonal high tides. The consequences for coastal communities are profound and multifaceted. Infrastructure built to withstand historical sea levels is failing under the weight of saltwater intrusion. Underground freshwater aquifers the primary source of drinking water for millions of coastal

residents are being contaminated by encroaching ocean water, threatening agricultural productivity and municipal public health. Critical transport links, power grids, port facilities, and residential neighborhoods are increasingly exposed to structural corrosion and frequent operational shutdowns, inflicting severe long-term economic damage. Beyond immediate physical destruction lies the human cost of forced displacement. When low-lying coastal areas become permanently uninhabitable, populations are uprooted, creating waves of climate refugees. Small island developing states face total submersion, threatening to erase sovereign nations from the map and displace entire cultural heritages. In heavily populated delta regions across Asia, Africa, and the Americas, agricultural collapse and land loss force millions to migrate into already overcrowded inland cities, placing immense strain on urban social systems. Addressing this existential threat requires regional governments and international bodies to shift from reactive disaster response to aggressive, preventive adaptation. First, municipalities must rapidly modernize sea defenses. Building hard defenses such as surge barriers and reinforced seawalls can protect high-density urban centers, while restoring natural coastal buffers such as mangroves, salt marshes, and barrier reefs provides flexible, cost-effective defense against wave



energy and shoreline erosion. Second, urban planning and zoning frameworks must undergo a radical overhaul. Regional authorities must ban new construction in high-risk flood zones and implement managed retreat policies, systematically relocating critical infrastructure and residential communities to higher ground. Retrofitting existing urban spaces with elevated roadways, permeable surfaces, and advanced storm drainage systems can bolster immediate resilience. The rising tide is not a crisis of the distant future; it is a present reality demanding decisive structural reform. Protecting coastal populations requires massive investment, bold policy shifts, and an enduring global commitment to stabilizing global temperatures. Failure to adapt will surrender our world's great coastal heritage to the rising sea.

- SUNIL

Quick Read

Woman dies by suicide after pension dispute

MEERUT
A 65-year-old woman allegedly poured a flammable substance on her son and grandson following an argument over her pension and buying a mobile phone, before dying by suicide, police said.
The incident occurred on Saturday night in Dadupur village. Police identified the woman as Sumitra Devi. Her son Paramveer, 45, and grandson Uday, 14, suffered severe burns and were admitted to a hospital. Police said Devi later hanged herself from a tree in the village. An FSL team inspected the scene and collected evidence. Her body was sent for post-mortem examination. Police are questioning family members and residents.

Auto driver beaten to death over Rs 10 change

HYDERABAD
An auto Rickshaw driver was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people following an argument over Rs 10 change in Hyderabad's Old City, police said. The incident occurred on Sunday evening in Vattapally under the Falaknuma police station limits. The victim was identified as 42-year-old Mohammed Mukarram. According to his brother Mohammed Afroz, a passenger gave Mukarram a Rs 200 note for a Rs 10 fare and an argument broke out when he asked for change. The passenger allegedly called others, who assaulted Mukarram. He suffered grievous injuries and died before he could be taken to hospital. Afroz alleged that Azeem, a local news channel reporter, Shoaib and six to eight others were involved. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation. AIMIM MLA Mohammed Mubeen visited the family and demanded immediate arrests. He also urged police to increase patrolling in Vattapally. The incident comes amid reports of several murders in Hyderabad in recent weeks.

RTO inspector found dead in Bhopal; acquaintance dies

BHOPAL
A 36-year-old RTO inspector, Meenakshi Gokhale, was allegedly beaten to death with a hammer at a house in Lake Pearl Colony, Khajuri, police said. Gokhale, posted in Datia, had arrived at the house on Sunday with her three-year-old daughter and a female friend. Her body was found Monday morning with severe head injuries and a bloodstained hammer nearby.
Her acquaintance, Pawan Kumar Dwivedi, was later found hanging from a tree near the house.

Rahul Gandhi seeks POCSO action in Jamui harassment case

Rahul Gandhi demanded swift POCSO action after a teenage girl was allegedly harassed and molested by men in Bihar's Jamui.

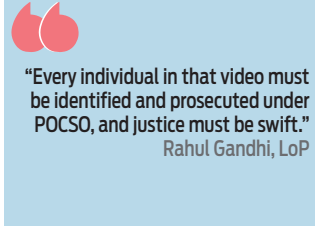
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday demanded swift action under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against those allegedly involved in the reported harassment and molestation of a teenage girl in Bihar's Jamui.
The remarks came after a video purportedly showing the incident surfaced online. According to media reports, a Class 10 boy and girl returning from coaching classes in Jamui on Saturday evening were allegedly stopped by a group of men, surrounded and questioned. The teenagers were also allegedly assaulted and the girl was allegedly molested during the incident.
In a post on X, Gandhi described the reported incident



as disturbing and questioned who had given the men the authority to stop and harass the students. He said the incident should not be described as culture and alleged that it reflected patriarchal attitudes towards women and girls.
Gandhi demanded that every person allegedly involved in the incident be identified and prosecuted under the POCSO Act. He also questioned why the alleged perpetrators had not been arrested if the incident took place on

September 19.
“Every individual in that video must be identified and prosecuted under POCSO, and justice must be swift,” Gandhi said.
He also questioned the Bihar government over the safety of girls travelling on public roads in the evening.
“Why is a girl not safe on a public road at 7 PM?” he asked.
According to the report cited by Deccan Herald, Bihar Police have identified seven



alleged perpetrators in connection with the incident.
The video has triggered attention and calls for action, while police continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the reported incident.
The case has also brought renewed attention to allegations of vigilante-style moral policing and the safety of minors in public spaces.
Further legal action will depend on the ongoing police investigation and evidence collected in the case.

Supreme court agrees to clarify stray animal directions

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a plea by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) seeking clarification on directions issued in its May 19 judgment concerning stray animals on national highways and expressways.
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta mentioned the application before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, seeking urgent listing. The Chief Justice agreed to place the matter before the special bench that had passed the original directions.
The NHAI has sought clarity on whether the primary statutory responsibility for removing, impounding and sheltering stray animals rests with state authorities, local bodies and designated Highway Administrations rather than independently

with the highway authority.
The plea relates to the Supreme Court's May 19 direction requiring NHAI to coordinate with states and Union Territories and establish measures to deal with stray cattle and other animals on highways. These measures included specialised vehicles, holding facilities, shelters and arrangements with animal welfare organisations and gaushalas.
NHAI has argued that its statutory responsibilities under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, and the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002, primarily involve the development, maintenance and

management of highways.
The authority also referred to Section 37 of the 2002 Act, which provides for the removal and detention of animals causing obstruction on highways. It said District Magistrates were notified as Highway Administrations for relevant stretches in October 2025 and are therefore the primary field authorities under the statutory framework. NHAI said it is willing to coordinate with states, local bodies and gaushalas to facilitate the removal and transportation of stray animals. However, it argued that it should not be required to independently establish or operate shelters, gaushalas or transport fleets across the national highway network.



9 foreign nationals held over visa violations

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police detained nine foreign nationals for allegedly overstaying in India or lacking valid travel documents during a verification drive in North Delhi, officials said on Monday.
The operation followed intelligence inputs and involved teams from the Special Staff, Foreign Cell and Anti-Narcotics Cell. Police conducted searches in areas including Baba Colony, Chandan Vihar, Pragati Enclave and Maurya Enclave. Officials said several individuals were found with expired visas, while others allegedly failed to produce valid passports or immigration documents. They were produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and transferred to restriction centres for deportation proceedings.

Delhi govt to install solar panels free for 2.25 lakh homes

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday announced a dedicated portal for residents to register under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, with the Delhi government set to bear the full cost of installing rooftop solar panels up to 3 kW. The initiative will cover 2.25 lakh homes across the national capital for eligible households across the national capital at zero cost to selected Delhi residents.
Gupta said installations will be carried out on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible residents can register online through the newly launched portal to avail themselves of the scheme. The government said consumers will not have to pay anything for solar panels installed up to the specified capacity.
Describing the programme as a major step towards promoting green energy in Delhi, Gupta said it would directly benefit residents. She also criticised previous governments, saying they had followed the “politics of freebies”, while the current administration was pursuing the “politics of development”. She said the solar initiative would contribute significantly to green energy generation in the capital.
The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a central government scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra

SOLAR SCHEME IN FOCUS

Homes: 2.25 lakh
Capacity: Up to 3 kW
Cost: Free for eligible residents
Registration: Online portal

Modi in February 2024. Its primary objective is to promote rooftop solar installations and provide free electricity of up to 300 units per month to one crore households across India.
With the dedicated portal now open, eligible Delhi residents can submit their applications online. The Delhi government plans to install free solar panels in 2.25 lakh homes under the programme, with allotments continuing according to the first-come, first-served system. The initiative is intended to expand rooftop solar use and support green energy adoption in the national capital.

CISF takes over security of three ED offices in Mumbai

MUMBAI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Monday took over security duties at three Enforcement Directorate (ED) offices in Mumbai. A total of 45 CISF personnel, with 15 deployed at each location, will provide round-the-clock security.
The offices covered are the ED Western Region and MBZO-II at Ceejay House in Worli, and MBZO-I at Nirman Bhavan in Mazgaon. The deployment is being supervised by Senior Commandant Dhiraj Kumar Singh. With the latest deployment, CISF is now providing security to 20 ED offices across India, including 17 establishments already under its protection. Personnel have been instructed to maintain high standards of alertness, discipline and professional conduct, focusing on access control, protection of premises and prompt response to security requirements.

Tamil Nadu CM reviews free bus scheme ahead launch

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday chaired a review meeting on preparations for the “Vetri Payanam” free bus travel scheme for women, which is scheduled to be launched on October 2. The scheme was announced in the Assembly on August 24 and will expand the existing free travel facility for women to additional categories of buses operated by the state's seven transport corporations. Currently, women can travel free in ordinary city buses and ordinary hill-area buses for journeys up to 40 km. Under Vettri Payanam, the facility will cover Express, LSS and Deluxe buses in metropolitan and urban areas, as well as Mofussil Ordinary and Ghat Ordinary buses operating beyond 40 km in

hill areas. A total of 12,692 buses, or 69 per cent of the 18,413 scheduled buses operated by the seven transport corporations, will be covered under the scheme. Of the 1,65,312 scheduled single services, 1,65,312 singles, or 85 per cent, will operate under the programme. Around 84.32 lakh women are expected to benefit from the scheme every day, according to the government.
The linking of Electronic Ticketing Machines with buses covered under Vettri Payanam has been completed. Testing and verification are scheduled to be completed by September 25, followed by a trial run on September 27.
The government said the scheme is intended to improve access to public transport for women across the state.

Orange alert issued in Kerala as flash floods kill 5

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday issued an orange alert for six districts in Kerala, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, even as five people were killed in flash floods in Malappuram's Nilambur area.
The orange alert covers Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam and Thrissur. The IMD forecast rainfall between 115.6 mm and 204.4 mm over 24 hours in these districts, with thunderstorms and surface winds of up to 40 kmph likely at isolated places. The remaining eight districts are under a yellow alert.
The weather warning comes a day after a sudden flash flood swept through the Kottapuzha River near the TK Colony eco-tourism centre in Nilambur.

YSRCP seeks CBI probe into Mega DSC sports quota recruitment

VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP leaders and workers staged a protest near the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh office in Vijayawada demanding a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025, particularly recruitment under the sports quota.
The protesters also sought the resignation of Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Police erected barricades to prevent the demonstrators from reaching the SAAP office, leading to tense scenes in the Labbipet area. Police used a lathi-charge while dispersing the protesters and detained several leaders and activists.
According to a statement issued by the YSRCP, its leaders questioned the use of

police force during what they described as a peaceful protest and demanded an independent investigation into the recruitment process. Party PAC member and former Vinukonda MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu called for a comprehensive CBI probe to establish the facts and ensure justice for deserving candidates.
The party also alleged that people linked to the Telugu Desam Party entered the SAAP premises posing as teachers and attacked YSRCP activists and student-wing leaders with sticks. The allegations could not be independently verified from the report.
YSRCP leaders further alleged that police failed to prevent the clashes and instead used force against their workers. Police also stopped sever-

al party leaders travelling to Vijayawada from different districts.
Former minister Ambati Rambabu and other leaders were intercepted near Kaza Toll Plaza and taken to Pedakakani Police Station, while Jakkampudi Raja, Perni Krishna Murthy and others were detained at Krishnalanka Police Station, according to the party.
YSRCP reiterated its demand for a CBI investigation into the sports quota selections and called for the recruitment process to be examined to ensure qualified candidates receive justice.
The controversy has involved allegations of irregularities, bribery, nepotism, paper leaks and opaque evaluation, which remain subject to investigation.

Protesters demand water for Ganesh idol immersion

KARIMNAGAR

Tensions surfaced at the Chintakunta canal in Telangana's Karimnagar on Monday after BJP workers and members of Hindu organisations staged a protest demanding the release of water for Ganesh idol immersion.
The protesters raised slogans against the state government over the shortage of water at the designated immersion point. The situation escalated after police intervened to disperse the demonstrators. Police detained several protesters

and shifted them to nearby police stations. Visuals from the spot purportedly showed police personnel using force against some protesters. Further details on whether anyone was injured were awaited.
The protest came amid concerns over water availability at the Chintakunta canal ahead of Ganesh idol immersion. The issue has already prompted political leaders and local representatives to call for the release of water into the canal to ensure adequate levels for the immersion of a large number of idols.

Earlier on September 15, Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara inspected the Chintakunta immersion point and urged authorities to release water from the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP). He said around 700 to 800 idols were expected to be immersed at the location and suggested that water be released in advance.
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar had also inspected immersion arrangements earlier this month. He directed officials to ensure

sufficient water availability and urged them to release water several days before the immersion.
The Chintakunta SRSP canal has been among Karimnagar's designated immersion points for several years, along with Manakondur and Kothapalli water bodies. Authorities have previously installed cranes, barricades and lighting and arranged sanitation facilities, police personnel and swimmers at the immersion locations.
The issue has gained urgency this year amid reports of low water levels in

canals and water bodies in Karimnagar and neighbouring areas. The shortage has raised concerns about the safe immersion of hundreds of Ganesh idols.
Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam also inspected immersion points earlier this week and directed municipal, revenue and electricity officials to coordinate preparations and prevent untoward incidents.
Police action during Monday's protest and the water arrangements for the immersion are now being monitored as authorities prepare for the festival.

DMK MLA Markandeyan alleges neglect of public welfare

THOOTHUKUDU

DMK MLA from Vilathikulam GV Markandeyan on Sunday accused the Tamil Nadu government of neglecting public welfare works and alleged that greater priority was being given to entertainment, tours and leisure activities.
Speaking to reporters in Vilathikulam, Markandeyan said adequate precautionary measures had not been taken despite a recent review meeting on preparations for the northeast monsoon. He alleged that sluice gates of irrigation tanks and breaches in

village water bodies remained unrepaired, potentially affecting livelihoods during the monsoon.
The MLA also claimed that only 10 to 20 per cent of the required water was being supplied under the combined drinking water scheme, resulting in shortages in several areas. He further alleged that frequent power cuts and low voltage were damaging electrical appliances in households. Markandeyan said the government was not paying adequate attention to electricity, roads, highways, irrigation, rural development and drinking water supply.

Quick Read

1 dead, 15 injured in Srisaillam ghat road collision

NAGARKURNOOL
One person was killed and 15 others injured after a passenger-carrying Toofan vehicle collided with a Bullet motorcycle on the Srisaillam Ghat Road in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district on Monday morning, police said. The accident occurred near the Domal-apenta viewpoint under the jurisdiction of Egalapenta police station between 9 am and 10 am. According to police, the Toofan vehicle was carrying passengers when it collided with the motorcycle. Fifteen people travelling in the vehicle sustained injuries in the accident. One person later died while undergoing treatment. Following the collision, police personnel reached the spot and shifted the injured to Achampet Government Hospital for medical attention. An official from Egalapenta Police Station said the deceased's body had been sent for post-mortem examination. The injured are currently receiving treatment at the government hospital. Police have launched an investigation to determine the exact circumstances that led to the collision. Officials have not yet disclosed further details about the identity of the deceased or the injured.

Railway recovers Rs 140.8 cr from ticketless travellers

MUMBAI
Central Railway recovered Rs 140.8 crore in penalties from unauthorised travellers between April and August, recording a 40 per cent rise compared with the same period last year. Ticket-checking squads detected 18 lakh offenders during the five-month period, collecting an average of Rs 92 lakh daily. The minimum penalty for ticketless travel was doubled from Rs 250 to Rs 500. The Mumbai division led the recovery with Rs 58.5 crore from 8.8 lakh cases, followed by Bhusaval with Rs 35.5 crore from 3.4 lakh cases. Pune and Nagpur recovered Rs 16.3 crore and Rs 15.8 crore respectively, while Solapur and headquarters contributed Rs 6.1 crore and Rs 8.6 crore. In August alone, Central Railway collected Rs 19.5 crore, a 41 per cent increase from August 2025. Authorities conducted fortress checks, ambush inspections, station sweeps and mega drives to curb fare evasion across various trains.



NEW DELHI
The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) released comprehensive guidelines for planning and designing high-speed, access-controlled National Highways, excluding expressways, to bring greater uniformity and consistency across the network. The guidelines aim to standardise the preparation of Detailed Project Reports for high-speed National Highway corridors while strengthening road safety and improving operational efficiency. They will apply to all upcoming four-

India ranks 8th in WHO patient safety database

India has risen from 123rd to eighth globally in contributions to the WHO's patient safety database, Union Minister Anupriya Patel said.

NEW DELHI
India has moved from 123rd position during 2009–2014 to eighth globally in contributions to the World Health Organization's patient safety database, Union Minister Anupriya Patel said on Monday. Patel made the remarks while launching the seventh Edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI), a guidance document on medical device-related adverse events, and the ADR-PvPI 2.0 mobile application for iOS users. The launches were held during the sixth National Pharmacovigilance Week programme organised by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission.

National Pharmacovigilance Week is being observed from September 17 to 23 with the theme, "Promoting Rational Use of Medicines through Pharmacovigilance: A Step Towards Safer Healthcare." Patel said rational medicine use and continuous safety monitoring are essential to public health, stressing that patients should receive the right medicine, of assured quality, in the right manner and with a highest possible safety. The minister highlighted India's pharmacovigilance system, which collects, processes and analyses medicine-safety data from across the country. She said India's



progress reflects a shift from relying on safety information generated elsewhere to producing and contributing its own evidence. Patel also announced that the Biovigilance Programme

of India has received government approval. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission will lead monitoring of adverse events linked to medicines and biological products used in organ and tissue trans-

KTR calls congress dangerous over Telangana water crisis

HYDERABAD
Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Monday demanded that the Telangana government announce a clear schedule for releasing irrigation water from the Jurla project, alleging that farmers were facing distress despite water availability. Rao accused the Congress government of mishandling water resources and claimed that Telangana received 250 TMC of Krishna water this year but used only 28 TMC. He alleged that more than 100

KTR accused the Telangana government of water mismanagement, demanding irrigation water release and additional supplies to protect farmers' crops.
TMC flowed downstream to Andhra Pradesh, while farmers in the Jurla command area struggled to protect their crops. Rao also said water was available upstream at Almati and Narayanpur in Karnataka and urged Telangana to seek additional supplies. He

claimed that around 150 TMC was stored there and said securing 5 to 10 TMC could help protect farmers' October crops. He also demanded efforts to obtain water from Karnataka. The BRS leader further alleged that several party leaders were arrested or placed under house detention after seeking water release from Jurla. He claimed farmers attempting to open project gates were booked in cases and that barricades and police personnel were deployed around the project. Rao said around 9 TMC of water was available in the Jurla project and questioned why it was not being released for the ayacut. He argued that about 2 TMC was needed for drinking-water requirements and said the remaining water could support irrigation needs and help protect crops in the region during the current crop season directly there. The Telangana government's position on the allegations was not included in the material provided. Rao urged the administration to address the issue and focus on protecting standing crops.

Govt launches NFI 7th edition, biovigilance programme

NEW DELHI
The Central government on Monday launched the seventh edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI), the ADR-PvPI 2.0 Mobile App for iOS users and new initiatives aimed at strengthening medicine safety and pharmacovigilance. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilisers Anupriya Patel unveiled the initiatives during the sixth National Pharmacovigilance Week programme organised by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission. She also released guidance for hospitals on safety monitoring and reporting of medical device-related adverse events. The sixth National Pharmacovigilance Week is being observed from September 17 to 23 and has brought together government officials, regulators, healthcare professionals, academicians, researchers and other stakeholders involved in medicine safety and patient care. The seventh edition of the NFI has also been made available digitally through NFI Online. Patel announced the approval of the Biovigilance Programme of India, under which the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission will strengthen the reporting, assessment, monitoring and prevention of adverse events linked to medicines and biological products used in organ and tissue transplantation. The programme will cover products administered to both donors and recipients. The minister said India has



developed an indigenous system capable of generating, collecting, processing and analysing medicine-safety data.

PROJECT IN FOCUS

NFI 7th Edition: Medicine guidance

ADR-PvPI 2.0: Adverse-event reporting

Biovigilance Programme: Transplant safety

NFI Online: Digital medicine information

105 Ram Mandir donation thefts caught on CCTV

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court was informed that 105 instances of alleged donation theft at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya were captured on CCTV cameras and that a chargesheet in the case would be filed before September 25. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a batch of petitions seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged fund theft. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta presented details from the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) status report, which was submitted to the court in a sealed cover. He told the bench that the statutory 90-day period from the first arrest would expire on September 25.

BJP seeks Mann's resignation over Sangrur incident

NEW DELHI
The BJP demanded Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's resignation after a man allegedly attempted suicide by consuming a poisonous substance outside the Sangrur district administrative complex.

The party also sought a CBI probe into the incident. The man, identified as Jagseer Singh alias Jagga from Namol village in Sangrur, allegedly attempted suicide on Sunday. According to the report, he claimed that a local sarpanch had threatened him after he

shared a video purportedly showing drug supply in his village. Singh also claimed that he had approached the police but no action was taken. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia criticised the Punjab government over the incident and alleged that the state had become

"drugs wala Punjab". He also alleged that people raising concerns about drug abuse were being targeted. The BJP demanded that Mann step down as chief minister and called for a CBI investigation. Singh is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Patiala.

NHAI sets new guidelines for high-speed highways



six-lane Greenfield and Brownfield high-speed access-controlled National Highways. A key focus of the new framework is the inclusion of additional safety measures suited to high-speed

traffic conditions. The guidelines seek to ensure that road design and planning are consistent with the requirements of vehicles travelling at higher speeds on such corridors. The NHAI has also pre-

scribed special provisions for advance notification of exits and entries. The measures are intended to help National Highway users anticipate upcoming access and egress points and navigate them safely. The guidelines are expected to bring greater consistency to the design and planning of future high-speed corridors. Lane configuration on high-speed National Highways will also be standardised based on detailed traffic assessments. The move is aimed at ensuring that the number and arrangement of lanes are determined according to traffic requirements while main-

taining uniformity in highway planning. The guidelines cover both Greenfield and Brownfield projects, with the framework applying to upcoming four- to six-lane access-controlled National Highways other than expressways. Through common technical standards, additional safety provisions and traffic-based lane planning, the NHAI aims to improve road safety and operational efficiency across the National Highway network. The guidelines will also provide a common framework for preparing project reports and planning future high-speed corridors.

IN FOCUS
■ Global rank: 8th in WHO patient safety database
■ Earlier rank: 123rd during 2009–2014
■ NFI 2026: 653 drugs
■ Reporting centres: Around 1,150
■ Countries accepting Indian Pharmacopoeia: 25

plantation. The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India and Materiovigilance Programme of India will work alongside the new initiative to strengthen safety monitoring of medicines, medical devices and transplant procedures. Around 1,150 adverse drug reaction reporting centres operate across hospitals. The NFI 2026 contains 34

chapters, 20 appendices and 653 drugs, including 42 fixed-dose combinations and 30 immunologicals. 25 countries recognise and accept the Indian Pharmacopoeia, while the commission joined the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group in 2023. The NFI is also available digitally through NFI Online for healthcare professionals.



Allahabad HC orders probe into NLU allegations

PRAYAGRAJ
The Allahabad High Court has ordered an independent inquiry into allegations of caste-based humiliation and discrimination against students at Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, and directed the re-evaluation of certain answer sheets. A single-judge Bench of Justice Vinod Diwakar issued the directions while hearing a writ petition filed by a PhD research scholar and a fifth-semester B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student. The petitioners alleged that academic and administrative authority had been used by the Head of the Department of Law and the Warden of the Boys' Hostel for caste-based humiliation and retaliation. The court directed the university Vice-Chancellor to constitute an independent committee to re-evaluate the answer sheets of the fifth-semester student in subjects taught and evaluated by Dr Deepak Sharma, along with any other subjects identified by the student. The identities of the student and original evaluator must be masked, while the original marks will not be disclosed to the committee.

The committee has been directed to complete the re-evaluation and submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within one week. The Vice-Chancellor must then place the report before the High Court at the next hearing. For examining the allegations, the court appointed Archana Singh-I, Judge, Small Cause Court, District Court, Prayagraj, and Arun Kumar Yadava, Special Chief Judicial Magistrate, Prayagraj, to conduct an inquiry. They will examine whether Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students faced caste-based humiliation or discrimination and whether their complaints were handled according to applicable regulations. The inquiry officers can record statements from the petitioners and other persons, including Dr Sharma, and seek university records. The Registrar was directed to provide full cooperation. Before making any adverse finding, the officers must give the concerned person an opportunity to explain. The court also ordered protection of the identities of students giving evidence amid concerns about possible retaliation.

Delhi court revives complaint against Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Monday set aside a magistrate's order dismissing a complaint against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi over allegations concerning her inclusion in an electoral roll in 1980, three years before she acquired Indian citizenship. Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court directed the matter to be heard afresh by the magistrate and ordered that a police status report be called for. The next hearing has been scheduled for September 29. The complaint, filed by Vikas Tripathi, alleges that Gandhi's name was included in the electoral roll in 1980 and subsequently deleted in 1982 before being re-entered in 1983. Tripathi has alleged that forged documents were used in connection with the voter registration. Gandhi acquired Indian citizenship on April 30, 1983, according to the complainant's submission. The allegations have not been established in court. The magistrate had dismissed the complaint earlier this month, citing a lack of cogent evidence to establish

that Gandhi had forged documents to enrol herself as a voter. The magistrate had also questioned the legal basis of the complaint. Judge Gogne, however, found shortcomings in the earlier order, describing it as "non-speaking" on whether the allegations disclosed a cognisable offence. The court said the magistrate had not adequately considered the documents presented by the complainant or obtained a status report from the investigating officer. The court also held that the Election Commission's role in preparing electoral rolls does not automatically prevent police from investigating allegations involving possible fraudulent inclusion or forged documents. Gandhi's lawyers rejected the allegations, describing the complaint as politically motivated and lacking documentary evidence of manipulation or forgery. They argued that electoral-roll matters fall within the Election Commission's statutory functions. The court's order does not determine whether the allegations against Gandhi are true. The matter will now return to the magistrate for fresh consideration.

Quick Read



India-NZ trade pact to come into force on October 20

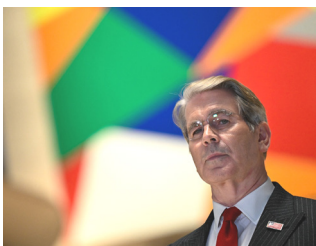
NEW DELHI
The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement will come into force on October 20, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. The two countries had on April 27 signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to boost two-way commerce in goods and services and promote investments. The agreement will come into force on Dussehra, which is on Oct 20, Goyal said. The FTA provides duty-free access for 100 per cent of India's exports to New Zealand. Currently, New Zealand maintains peak tariffs of up to 10 per cent on key Indian goods, including ceramics, carpets, automobiles, and auto components.

Rupee rises 24 paise to 95.72 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI
The rupee gained 24 paise to 95.72 against US dollar in early trade on Monday, supported by a slight moderation in crude oil prices and a positive trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said initial gains in domestic equities and improved foreign fund sentiment boosted investor sentiment, but sustained importer demand for greenbacks from oil companies and broader strength in the US dollar Index weighed on the local unit.

Bessent proposes US-China AI safety notifications

NEW YORK
US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng concluded talks in New York with the US side proposing a new AI safety notification mechanism for US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to consider at their summit this week. Bessent told reporters that the two sides discussed setting up a new US-China AI dialogue, with a particular emphasis on national security concerns with a notification system for common goals and common threats that would cover AI-related incidents that rise to a national security level. "We think that, just like with any cross-border activity, that moving from opaque to more transparency between the number one and the number two AI powers



in the world is very important," Bessent said at the conclusion of the talks. Trump and Xi first discussed potential consultations on AI development in May in Beijing, but that forum was never formalized. The Chinese response to the US proposal was unclear with a state readout only briefly acknowledging that both sides spoke about AI. Characterized the officials as having had "frank, in-depth and constructive exchanges on key economic and trade issues", including implementing agreements

Starbucks to set up first India GCC in Chennai, plans to hire 800

CHENNAI
US-headquartered coffee giant Starbucks Coffee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai, creating high-paying employment opportunities for 800 technology professionals. The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay between Starbucks Coffee and Guidance, the state government's nodal agency, under the Industries Department at the Secretariat on Monday. The Chennai GCC will be Starbucks' first such centre in India and will create high-paying jobs for 800 technology professionals. The centre will operate inde-



pendently of Starbucks' retail business joint venture in India with Tata Consumer Products. The agreement is expected to further strengthen Tamil Nadu's efforts to attract GCC investments and create high-paying jobs in the sector. Starbucks' entry into the state's GCC ecosystem also adds to Tamil Nadu's emergence as a global technology and business services hub, said an official statement. During the MoU signing, Anand Varadarajan, Chief Technology Officer, Starbucks Coffee, said India was an important market for the



crude oil and fertilisers recorded negative growth during August. The cumulative growth of the core industries during April-August stood at 4.3%, based on provisional estimates. This was significantly higher than the 2.4% growth recorded during the corresponding period of the previous year. The government also revised July's core sector index to 120.8 from the earlier provisional estimate of 121.2. Consequently, July's annual growth rate was revised downward to 5.0% from 5.4%. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector continued to expand in August, with the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI standing at 52.8. However,

INDIA'S CORE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY GROWS
■ Core sector growth stood at 4.8% in August.
■ Cement output rose 12.5%.
■ Electricity production increased 11.6%.
■ Iron ore output grew 5.5%.
■ Steel and refinery products also recorded growth.
■ Coal, natural gas, crude oil and fertilisers contracted.
■ April-August cumulative growth reached 4.3%.
■ July growth was revised to 5.0%.

er, softer demand affected buying activity and inventory levels, even as business confidence improved.

BANKS PREPARE FOR 3-DAY STRIKE

NEW DELHI
The Finance Ministry has called a meeting with chief executives of public sector banks, regional rural banks, the Indian Banks' Association and NABARD to review contingency plans ahead of a proposed three-day nationwide bank strike beginning September 28. The meeting, chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, will focus on ensuring continuity of banking operations and essential customer services during the proposed strike. Officials are expected to

KEY DEMANDS
Five-day banking week
Improved pension benefits
Uniform dearness allowance formula for pensioners
Option to switch from NPS to the old pension scheme
UFBU claims representation of nearly 90% of banking workforce

The previous industrial action affected over-the-counter services, cash transactions and cheque clearances in several regions. While operations remained largely normal in Mumbai, disruptions were re-

BEIJING

China's economy is facing persistent pressure from weak domestic demand, a prolonged property downturn and high debt, even as industrial output continues to expand. A recent report published by Kathmandu-based Hamrakura.com has questioned the strength of China's official economic growth figures and highlighted concerns over property, consumption, debt and employment. The report argues that the country's headline growth figures do not fully reflect economic conditions on the ground. Those claims, however, differ from assessments by international institutions. The International Monetary Fund projected in February that China's economy would grow 4.5 per cent in 2026, while warning that risks included a deeper property-sector contraction, high debt, weak domestic demand and continued reliance on exports. The IMF also said China's growth model faces longer-term challenges from an ageing workforce and slower productivity growth. Recent data show a mixed picture. China's industrial



Key indicators
- August industrial output: 5.2% growth
- August retail sales: 0.4% growth
- Jan-Aug fixed-asset investment: 7.2% decline
- IMF 2026 growth projection: 4.5%

China's economy shows mixed signals as industrial output rises while weak consumption, property stress and debt weigh on domestic demand.

of 2026, while around four million homes remained unsold. Beijing has introduced reforms aimed at stabilising the sector, although the measures could put further pressure on local government finances in the short term. China's central bank has also acknowledged the challenge of weak demand. A policy adviser recently warned that strong supply alongside subdued consumption could deepen economic imbalances and called for measures to strengthen household income and domestic spending.

output grew 5.2 per cent year-on-year in August, accelerating from 4.5 per cent in July. However, retail sales growth slowed to 0.4 per cent, while fixed-asset investment declined 7.2 per cent during the first eight months of the year. The property market remains a major concern. It was reported that residential sales by floor area fell 12.1 per cent during the first eight months

Wall St futures rise as AI stocks rally, crude prices fall

NEW YORK
US stock futures were higher on Monday, driven by gains in AI shares as Treasury yields took a beating and oil slid 2% to hit an 11-day low on signs of progress in Middle East talks. While Washington and Tehran continued to exchange new threats through the weekend, US President Donald Trump said he would be Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is expected in New York this week for the UN General Assembly. Doomsday calls from bosses at top AI companies a week ago had sparked a rout, but those concerns seemed to dissipate on Monday as investors focused on indications spending on developing the technology was still expanding. Chip companies such as Intel rose 5.3%. Marvell added 2.2%, Meta climbed 2.6% and Dell advanced 2.3%. Accenture also gained and was up 6.1% after parting with Anthropic to invest \$2 billion in AI evaluation. "We are past the local peak in (Middle East) tensions, and we should see some move towards normalization in the coming weeks. Our theory remains that the first couple of weeks of October could be a sweet spot for some sort of fudge between (the) US and Iran," said Mohit Kumar, an economist at Jefferies. A fall in oil prices eased the pressure on equities as the 10-year US bond yield slipped below the keenly watched 5% mark. Energy-price-sensitive airlines such as Delta and American gained more than 1.5% each.

Tesla faces major trial for 'bias' against black workers

CALIFORNIA
A California agency's lawsuit accusing Tesla of allowing rampant race discrimination at its flagship assembly plant is set to go to trial on Monday, one of a series of similar lawsuits being faced by the electric vehicle maker. Lawyers for Tesla and the California Civil Rights Department will square off in Oakland before state Superior Court Judge Peter Borkon, who has scheduled the trial to run until October 30. In the lawsuit filed in 2022, the California Civil Rights Department claims Black workers at Tesla's Fremont, California plant were subjected to pervasive harassment by other employees, including racial slurs and graffiti, and Tesla failed to prevent or stop it. Tesla is

also accused of paying Black workers less than others and depriving them of opportunities for promotions. Tesla and its lawyers did not respond to requests for comment. The company has denied wrongdoing and said that it does not tolerate discrimination and has fired workers found to have engaged in misconduct. The California Civil Rights Department's director, Kevin Kish, in a statement said the agency looked forward to holding Tesla accountable. Tesla's high profile and the thousands of workers involved in the case make it among the most significant involving employment discrimination claims against a major US company to go to trial in recent years.

No cap on damages

Borkon has scheduled a bench trial, meaning that he and not a jury will decide whether Tesla is liable for violations of California civil rights laws. Unlike federal law, the California law barring workplace discrimination does not cap the damages a court can award to affected workers, and Tesla could be on the hook for many millions of dollars if it loses the case. Tesla has for the last decade been dogged by claims that it fostered a climate at the Fremont plant and other facilities that was extremely hostile to Black workers. The company is also facing a lawsuit from the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging racial harassment, and dozens of lawsuits by individual workers making similar claims.

CHIP DEMAND

AI boom drives semiconductor market surge

SEOUL
The global semiconductor market is projected to exceed \$1.6 trillion in 2026, driven by rapidly rising investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure and growing demand for advanced memory chips, according to a report by the Korea Eximbank research centre. The latest projection represents a sharp upward revision from forecasts made earlier this year. Until 2025, the global semiconductor industry had been expected to cross the \$1 trillion mark only around 2030. However, major US and Chinese hyper-scalers have significantly increased spending on AI infra-



structure, accelerating demand for chips used in data centres. Memory chips manufactured by Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are expected to account for more than half of the global semiconductor market as AI systems process increasingly large volumes of data. Prices have also surged. By the end of August, DRAM prices had risen 4.4 times from a year earlier to \$25,

while NAND flash memory prices increased ninefold to \$30.50. Although memory prices are expected to stabilise from next year, the broader semiconductor market is forecast to continue expanding and could reach around \$2 trillion by 2030. The report said long-term supply agreements between major technology companies and memory manufacturers could provide greater stability to the industry. Employment in South Korea's chip industry has also increased. The sector employed 174,000 workers during the first quarter, up 15 per cent from 2018. Average monthly wages reached 4.32 million won during the first half of this year, rising 3.1

per cent annually. The expansion comes even as parts of the AI industry debate whether development should slow because of concerns surrounding the technology's risks and control. "Big tech companies are pursuing long-term supply agreements with memory chipmakers such as Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, which will help stabilise the semiconductor industry compared with the past," the Korea Eximbank research report said. Industry sources said continued investment by major technology companies in AI infrastructure and the wider adoption of AI services could keep memory-chip demand strong in the near term.



Quick Read

Imran Khan undergoes medical checkup at Adiala

Rawalpindi
Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan underwent a medical checkup at Adiala jail. Khan, 73, has been incarcerated since 2023 after his arrest following conviction in a corruption case. The reported medical examination comes as Khan continues to remain in custody at the prison in Rawalpindi. Details about the nature of the checkup or his current health condition were not immediately available. Khan, who served as Pakistan's prime minister from 2018 to 2022, has faced several legal cases since his removal from office. His continued imprisonment has remained a major issue in Pakistan's political landscape. Further details about the medical examination and any findings from doctors are awaited.

Xi Jinping to visit US for summit talks with Trump

Washington
Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit the United States from September 23 to 25 for summit talks with US President Donald Trump, China's Foreign Ministry said. The visit is being held at Trump's invitation. The meeting comes as Washington and Beijing continue discussions on trade, technology and other bilateral issues. Ahead of Xi's visit, senior officials from both countries held talks in New York on economic and trade matters, including artificial intelligence. Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer participated in the talks. Chinese state media described the discussions as "candid, in-depth and constructive". The upcoming summit is expected to address trade relations, AI and broader China-US ties. The two sides are also discussing the implementation of understandings reached during earlier negotiations.

Nepal's Gen Z demands climate accountability

KATHMANDU
Nepal's young generation is increasingly raising its voice against countries and companies it believes have contributed heavily to global climate change, as the Himalayan nation faces growing disasters linked to a warming planet. Gen Z activists are demanding greater responsibility from industrialised nations and calling for climate reparations to help vulnerable countries deal with mounting losses.Nepal is highly exposed to the effects of climate change despite contributing only a small share of global greenhouse gas emissions. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, floods, landslides, glacial lake outbursts and other climate-related events are placing pressure on communities, infrastructure and livelihoods across the country. Young activists argue that countries with long histories of high emissions should provide financial assistance to nations suffering the consequences of climate change. Their campaign reflects a wider global debate over climate justice, in which developing countries seek support for both adaptation and recovery from climate-related losses.However, persuading industrialised powers to accept climate reparations remains difficult. There is no international consensus on which countries should be responsible for payments, how contributions should be calculated or which climate-related losses should qualify for compensation. Wealthier countries have also faced questions about the legal and financial implications of establishing such a system.Nepal's Gen Z movement is therefore seeking to bring greater public attention to the issue, using youth activism to connect local climate disasters with the wider global emissions debate.

President Lee embarks on trip to US, Mexico

Lee will meet UN chief Antonio Guterres to seek international cooperation for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is set to begin a two-nation trip on Monday, travelling first to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly before making a state visit to Mexico. During the UN High-Level Week, Lee is expected to seek contact with US President Donald Trump and hold meetings with leaders of the United States, Australia and other major countries, National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac said.



Lee will address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, US time. In his speech, he is expected to propose reforms to help the world body

Highlights
■ Lee meets UN Secretary-General in New York.
■ He attends US-South Korea business investment event.
■ Lee visits Mexico on Wednesday for summit.
■ Trade, supply-chain, and energy cooperation prioritized.
■ AI, digital technology, aerospace, and defense discussed.

respond more effectively to global challenges and outline South Korea's contributions to international efforts. He will also present his administration's vision of peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula. In New York, Lee is sched-

uled to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and seek greater international cooperation for maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula. He will also attend an investment event bringing together business and financial leaders

from South Korea and the United States. After completing his US engagements, Lee will travel to Mexico on Wednesday for a state visit at the invitation of Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum. The 2 leaders are scheduled to hold summit talks on Thursday, followed by a luncheon and joint press announcement.Trade, investment and supply-chain cooperation are expected to feature prominently in the talks. Seoul also plans to seek stronger cooperation with Mexico in energy and critical minerals, while supporting

South Korean companies operating in the country. The two sides are also expected to discuss industrial cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital technology, aerospace and defence manufacturing. Wi said Mexico is South Korea's largest trading partner in Central and South America, with around 560 South Korean companies operating there.During his Mexico visit, Lee will meet members of the Korean community and attend a business forum. He is scheduled to leave Mexico on Saturday and return to South Korea.

Meloni plans burqa ban in Italian schools

ROME

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has announced plans to introduce measures that would restrict the wearing of burqas in schools and limit the number of foreign students in individual classrooms. Speaking at the annual gathering of the youth wing of her Brothers of Italy party, Meloni said her government would soon present the proposed measures to the Cabinet. The announcement comes as her administration continues to focus on immigration, integration and national identity.

Meloni administration's ongoing focus centers heavily on immigration, social integration, and strengthening national identity.

The proposed restriction on burqas would affect face-covering garments worn by some Muslim women. Details of the planned measure, including how it would be enforced and whether it would apply to all educational institutions, are expected to emerge when the government formally presents the proposal. Meloni also announced plans to introduce limits on the number of foreign stu-

dents who can be placed in a single class. The government has argued that managing the concentration of pupils from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds is important for schools and educational outcomes. The proposals are likely to generate debate in Italy over immigration, religious freedom, integration and the role of schools. Supporters of restrictions on face-covering garments have previously cited security and communication concerns, while critics have raised questions about religious rights and discrimination.Italy has experienced continuing debate over immi-

gration as the country remains an important entry point for migrants arriving in Europe. Meloni's government has pursued policies aimed at tightening migration controls while also addressing integration and demographic challenges.The latest proposals underline the government's broader approach to immigration and cultural integration. However, the measures will need to go through the Cabinet and any required legislative or administrative procedures before becoming effective. Further details on their scope and implementation are expected after the government formally considers them.

Typhoon Dujuan brings heavy rain across Japan

TOKYO

Heavy rain and strong winds battered parts of Japan on Monday as Typhoon Dujuan moved toward the country's eastern Pacific coast, prompting warnings of flooding, landslides and dangerous weather conditions. Japan's Meteorological Agency said Dujuan was located about 100 km west-southwest of Hachijo Island in the Izu Island chain near Tokyo at 10 a.m. local time. The typhoon was moving north at 25 km per hour, with a central atmospheric pressure of 960 hectopascals and maximum gusts of up to 198 km per hour.

The year's 25th typhoon was forecast to pass near the Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, from Monday evening into late night. Heavy downpours had already affected the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan and the Tokai region in central Japan. Several cities in Chiba reported road inundation, while the weather agency issued a level 4 landslide alert for parts of the prefecture. The agency forecast up to 350 mm of rainfall in the Tokai region and 300 mm in the Kanto region and Izu Island chain during the 24 hours through 6 a.m. Tuesday. Up to 200 mm of rain was expected

in the Tohoku region in north-eastern Japan. The typhoon also disrupted transportation across affected areas. Some highways were closed, while bullet train services between Tokyo and western Japan faced possible delays and cancellations. Authorities urged residents to monitor weather updates and take precautions, particularly in areas vulnerable to flooding and landslides. The storm's arrival coincided with a five-day holiday period in Japan, raising concerns over travel disruptions. Authorities advised people to consider postponing travel plans in areas facing severe weather.

Karzai condemns Pak air strikes on Afghan

KABUL

Former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai on Monday condemned reported Pakistani airstrikes in Kunar and Paktika provinces, describing them as a breach of Afghanistan's sovereignty and expressing condolences to families of those killed.Karzai also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the attacks. His comments came after Taliban authorities said Pakistani aircraft had carried out strikes in the two provinces, killing three civilians and injuring four others.

Trump issues Iran ultimatum as Tehran warns of decisive war

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has warned Iran of serious consequences if Tehran refuses to change its position, as tensions between Washington and Tehran remain high. Trump said the United States was approaching a critical decision point and indicated that military action, economic pressure or diplomacy remained possible options. Trump used strong language while discussing the situa-

tion, asking when he should "blow the entire nation up" and saying Iran should "behave". He also said that "very big things" could happen in the near future. His remarks came amid continued tensions and reports of preparations for possible renewed military operations against Iran.Iranian officials, meanwhile, have maintained that their diplomatic position is clear and that they are prepared for both negotiations and military confrontation.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHA HUSSAIN PARVEEZ, S/o Shah Abdul Rehman, resident of No: 1439, 1ST Main Road, 10TH Cross, Nayandahalli Post, Chandra Layout, Bangalore – 560039. have changed my name to **SHAH HUSSAIN PARVEEZ**, vide affidavit dated: 21.09.2026, before Notary G HEAMALATH, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, FAMEEDA BANU, W/o Shah Hussain Parveez, resident of No:1439, 1ST Main Road, 10TH Cross, Nayan-dahalli Post, Chandra Layout, Bangalore – 560039. have changed my name to **FAH-MIDA BANU**, vide affidavit dated: 21.09.2026, before Notary G HEMALATHA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YASHASWINI D W/o B R SUDEEP KUMARA R/o 02, School road, Chikka Honnenahalli, Vidyanagar (Hassan), Hassan, Karnataka-573202, have changed the name of my minor son **EKADANTHA HASSAN** alias **ABHIMANYU SUDEEP** aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as **EKADANTHA HASSAN**.

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from one state to another
Before the Central Government
South-Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **ONO LABS PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U72900KA2019PTC129510) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, Karnataka, India within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.
For and on behalf of
Ono Labs Private Limited
Sd/-
Mukesh Mundra
Additional Director (DIN: 10939877)
Date: 22/09/2026
Place: Bangalore

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from One State to Another State
Before the Central Government
South - Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **INCASSABLE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U80220KA2019PTC176282) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, Karnataka within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.
For and on behalf of
INCASSABLE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Mukesh Mundra
Additional Director (DIN: 10939877)
Date: 22/09/2026
Place: Bangalore

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from one state to another
Before the Central Government
South-Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **PILANI EXPERTS TECHNOLOGY LABS PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U72400KA2016PTC085818) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, Karnataka, India within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.
For and on behalf of
Pilani Experts Technology Labs Private Limited
Sd/-
Mukesh Mundra
Additional Director (DIN: 10939877)
Date: 22/09/2026
Place: Bangalore

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from one state to another state
Before the Central Government
South-Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **FJS TECH PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U74999KA2018PTC175892) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to shift its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, Karnataka, India within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.
For and on behalf of
FJS TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Mukesh Mundra
Additional Director (DIN: 10939877)
Date: 22/09/2026
Place: Bangalore

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Shifting of Registered Office from One State to Another State
Before the Central Government
South - Western Region Directorate, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **GRAPHY LABS PRIVATE LIMITED** (CIN: U74999KA2014PTC166340) having its registered office at No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th September, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Bangalore) to the State of Maharashtra (within the jurisdiction of ROC-Mumbai I).
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, Karnataka within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: No 11/1, 12/1 2nd Floor, Block B, Maruti Infotech Centre, Amariyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560071.
For and on behalf of
GRAPHY LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Mukesh Mundra
Additional Director (DIN: 10939877)
Date: 22/09/2026
Place: Bangalore

