

Quick Read

High Court seeks docs in fake wedding invite APK scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has ordered the government to submit preliminary documents linking payment gateway Legal Pay Technology to an APK file cyber fraud case. Victims lost roughly 12.5 lakh rupees after downloading a malicious 'wedding invitation' app sent via WhatsApp. Legal Pay filed petitions to quash three FIRs at the Hulimavu police station, arguing it is an intermediary. The court stated it will dismiss the petitions if funds are found in Legal Pay's account, or grant protection otherwise. The government noted the probe may shift to the Cyber Crime station, with the next hearing set for October 5.

Minister warns of strict action in UKP site irregularities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has issued a stern directive to jail individuals involved in irregularities regarding site allotments to project-displaced persons under the Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Phases 1 and 2. Chairing a high-level meeting at Vikasa Soudha, the Minister ordered officials to expedite the CID investigation and register FIRs against wrongdoers, warning that corrupt officials and mid-dlemen will face unsparring legal action. The controversy centers on the Kolhar Rehabilitation Centre, established in 1995 for displaced families, where 1,117 out of 5,664 sites were allegedly allotted illegally via forged documents, alongside 123 double allotments.

Bengaluru records moderate air quality levels

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka's air quality remains stable and largely satisfactory, with Belagavi and Mysuru recording some of the cleanest air in the state. Bengaluru's Air Quality Index (AQI) averaged at 64, categorized as moderate. While residential areas like Jayanagar and Malleshwaram maintained "Good" air quality with an AQI of 40 to 50, busy traffic hubs like Silk Board and Peenya saw slightly higher levels between 70 and 80. Across the state, Belagavi recorded the cleanest air at an AQI of 20, followed closely by Hubballi-Dharwad at 23 and Mysuru at 31. Health experts advise asthmatic residents and children to wear masks near heavy traffic junctions.

Siddaramaiah warns DCP over protocol breach

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A high-voltage confrontation erupted outside the historic Vidhana Soudha when veteran political leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lashed out publicly at Deputy Commissioner of Police Yogesh over a security parking directive that left the senior legislator stranded near the West Gate. The unexpected altercation unfolded as the legislative assembly session adjourned for the day. Having wrapped up his official legislative duties inside the House, Siddaramaiah descended the grand stone steps of the Kengal Hanumanthaiah Gate intending to board his official vehicle for the short drive to his official residence, "Kaveri." To his profound irrita-

MLA Sunil Kumar slams Forest Department policies

MLA Sunil Kumar slammed the Forest Department during a Kasturirangan Report debate, warning that bureaucratic overreach fuels rural hardship.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

During a high-stakes legislative discussion on the Kasturirangan Report, Member of Legislative Assembly Sunil Kumar launched a scathing critique against the Forest Department, accusing bureaucratic agencies of inflicting systemic hardships on local residents under the guise of environmental conservation. Kumar argued that the continuous bureaucratic overreach and insensitivity toward indigenous populations historically fueled extreme discontent, serving as the root cause behind the emergence of Naxalism in their district. He emphasized that local communities rejected extremist paths and instead chose to protect residents living within forest boundaries, warning that administrative indifference could have spawned vastly different consequences. Directing his remarks toward state leaders, Kumar urged authorities to closely examine the rigid functioning of the department. Addressing the controversial Western Ghats ecology proposals, Kumar stated that the fragile mountain range is not merely a scenic vacation backdrop or a "selfie point"



The Forest Department is known more for causing hardship to the public than for forest conservation. - Sunil Kumar, BJP MLA

for city dwellers, but an ancestral homeland where generations have built their lives in harmony with nature. "We coexist with various forms of wildlife and insects. We have faced many challenges due to the Kasturirangan Report," he remarked. Criticizing arm-chair environmentalists sitting comfortably in Bengaluru who advocate for strict Eco-Sensitive Zone restrictions, he challenged critics to try building and sustaining a home under such stifling regulatory constraints. The legislator highlighted profound administrative hurdles, noting that regional bureaucratic structures create

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ADDRESS

- Livelihood vs. Conservation**
Kumar asserted that the Western Ghats are a living home for locals who coexist with wildlife, criticizing urban-centric policies that ignore rural realities.
- Bureaucratic Hurdles**
Residents face extreme administrative roadblocks, such as traveling to Mysuru just to seek permissions for building a basic kitchen or laying drinking water pipelines.
- Historical Context**
He noted that bureaucratic overreach historically fueled Naxalism in the district, though locals ultimately chose community resilience over insurgency.

Rejection of eco sensitive classifications

The MLA argued that displacing human culture under the guise of environmentalism is counterproductive, pointing out that local communities have traditionally pioneered conservation efforts. Kumar criticized policies that divert water originating in the Ghats away from local residents while denying permissions for basic civic infrastructure and road construction. He warned that formally rejecting the Kasturirangan Report without detailing specific objections would amount to playing with people's lives, urging a structured, ground-up approach.

‘Police cannot investigate wildlife cases directly’

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has delivered a significant ruling on procedural jurisprudence under environmental and wildlife legislation, emphasizing that local police lack the statutory competence to directly investigate and file a charge sheet for wildlife offenses without adhering to the explicit mandates of the law. Presiding over a criminal petition filed by Ramesh N. and three other co-accused, Justice H.P. Sandesh evaluated the legality of criminal proceedings and a police-filed charge sheet originating from an August 2019 incident in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya

Highlights of the judicial ruling include

- Section 55 Compliance:** A bench presided over by Justice H.P. Sandesh noted that under Section 55 of the Act, courts can take cognizance of offenses only when a complaint is filed by designated authorities such as the Director of Wildlife Preservation or the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Quashing Proceedings:** The High Court formally quashed the police charge sheet and ensuing criminal proceedings initiated by the Magistrate's Court against four petitioners, including Ramesh N.
- Liberty to Re-initiate:** The ruling clarifies that competent state government officials retain the legal liberty to file a fresh complaint following proper statutory procedures.



district. Local police had conducted a raid following a tip-off regarding the alleged hunting of a wild boar using a firearm within the jurisdiction

of the Arakere Police Station, subsequently seizing wildlife meat, a sporting rifle, an air gun, and a transport vehicle. The authorities proceeded to

file a charge sheet invoking provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Arms Act, and the Motor Vehicles Act. Upon reviewing the statutory framework, the High Court underlined the strict applicability of Section 55 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The provision dictates that a court cannot take cognizance of any offense under the Act unless a formal complaint is instituted by designated statutory authorities—such as the Director of Wildlife Preservation, the Chief Wildlife Warden, or an officer authorized by the State Government.

HEAVY RAINS BATTER BENGALURU, DISRUPT TRAFFIC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Severe downpours battered Bengaluru, triggering widespread traffic congestion, severe waterlogging, and property damage across multiple neighborhoods as monsoon conditions intensified across Karnataka. The heavy precipitation began following an overcast Monday, catching evening commuters off guard as they attempted to navigate home through flooded streets. In the Manjunathanagar locality near Modi Hospital, a massive tree was uprooted by the fierce winds and driving rain,

crashing down directly onto commercial stalls set up for Ganeshotsava festive sales. The impact completely crushed several shops selling ceramic goods, steel utensils, and bangles, though authorities confirmed that no casualties occurred. The fallen timber also blocked local roads, bringing traffic to a temporary standstill. Other parts of the metropolis experienced severe infrastructure stress. The BGS Flyover at KR Market suffered from heavy waterlogging, prompting traffic police to manually clear blocked debris to drain the pooling water.

NIA Court sentences IS conspirator to 6 years

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency Special Court in Bengaluru has handed down a sentence of six years of rigorous imprisonment to Huzair Farhan Baig, a key operative linked to the Islamic State terror conspiracy network operating across Shivamogga and Bengaluru. The court also imposed a financial penalty of 58000 rupees following his conviction for deep involvement in radicalization, safe-house logistics, and financial laundering for extremist cells. The high-profile counter-terrorism investigation originated on September 19,

2022, when the Karnataka Police initially registered a criminal case concerning covert terror cells operating out of Thirihahalli taluk in the Shivamogga district. Recognizing the gravity of international terror linkages and the threat of coordinated urban attacks, federal authorities transferred the case to the National Investigation Agency to dismantle the clandestine network. Comprehensive forensic analyses and custodial interrogations uncovered that the local terror module functioned under the direct command of an elusive online handler who operated under the pseudonym "Colonel."

Federal investigators ultimately unmasked this digital recruiter as Mohammed Shahid Faisal, a notorious fugitive wanted by law enforcement agencies for extensive anti-national and radicalization activities. Faisal systematically identified, indoctrinated, and recruited vulnerable local youths into extremist ideologies to expand terror footprints within domestic territories. Judicial proceedings and investigative findings established that Huzair Farhan Baig was successfully radicalized and co-opted into the terrorist network by fellow co-accused operatives Maaz

Muneer Ahmed and Syed Yasin. Acting on direct instructions from Maaz Muneer, Huzair executed critical logistical operations by establishing and maintaining a secure safe-house in Bengaluru designed to harbor operatives and facilitate clandestine activities. To finance these operations covertly, the module relied on sophisticated digital financial channels. Funds dispatched by the online handler were funneled through cryptocurrency networks to Maaz Muneer. Huzair then systematically laundered these digital assets by transferring cryptocurrency funds into friendly bank accounts.

JIGANI LAND ALLOTMENT

CAG report: ₹31 cr KIADB concession to Toyota exposed

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An audit report released by the Comptroller and Auditor General has revealed that the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board granted an unauthorized financial benefit totaling ₹31.90 crore to automobile manufacturer Toyota Industries Engine India during a major land allotment project in Jigani. The performance audit document, formally tabled before the state Legislative Assembly, scrutinizes irregularities in public land management and industrial facilitation. According to state auditors, the financial discrepancy stems from two distinct administrative exemptions granted during land allocation proceedings in the Jigani and Bukkasagara village industrial zones. Specifically, the regulatory watchdog found that the industrial development board waived ₹27.07 crore that was originally due as mandatory compensation and service charges for land designated for internal road infrastructure. Furthermore, the audit uncovered an additional financial concession of ₹4.83 crore resulting from a unilateral decision to slash applicable service charges from 12% down to 6%.

The chronological roots of the transaction trace back to 2019, when Toyota Industries Engine India formally approached the state agency seeking the acquisition and allotment of an 11.3-acre parcel situated directly adjacent to its existing manufacturing facility. The industrial firm deposited ₹22.92 crore with the development board to cover land acquisition costs. By March 2020, authorities formally executed a lease-cum-sale agreement granting control of the property for a 15-year tenure under a designated 'Single Unit Complex' framework. However, operational shifts altered the trajectory of the industrial expansion. Rather than proceeding with the construction of a new production facility on the newly acquired acreage, corporate leadership elected to consolidate the intended project within their current manufacturing premises. Consequently, in 2021, the state government approved a modified utilization plan allowing the company to dedicate the newly acquired land toward mandatory green belt requirements and prospective future expansions. The core audit objection

centers on the lack of explicit legal authorization for the subsequent financial waivers. Investigators confirmed that while the state government sanctioned the updated land usage for environmental green zones, the official government order contained no provisions endorsing the waiver of road compensation fees or the steep reduction in service levies. The revelation has sparked intense scrutiny from opposition legislators regarding administrative oversight and financial accountability within state-run industrial boards.



Highlights from the audit observations
Waived Compensation and Charges: According to the report for the year ending March 2024, KIADB failed to levy or collect ₹24.17 crore as compensation for 9,761 square metres of land utilized for a road, alongside ₹2.90 crore in uncollected service charges on the land, totaling ₹27.07 crore.
Reduction of Service Charges: The board further reduced service charges from 12% to 6% upon the company's request—violating an existing government order—which granted an additional undue benefit of ₹4.83 crore.
Land Allotment Background: In 2020, 11.3 acres were allotted to the firm on a 15-year lease-cum-sale basis as a 'Single Unit Complex'. Although the state later permitted the company in 2021 to utilize the land for green zones and future expansion rather than constructing a new facility, the audit noted that the government order never approved any waiver of road compensation or service charge reductions.

CH Observer

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Residents across Bengaluru face mounting civic woes, from hazardous construction debris narrowing roads near Hutchins Road and a choked, vector-breeding drain on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road, to a chronic garbage hotspot plaguing commuters near Kumara Park's Chetty's Corner.

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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



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



Residents near Kumara Park's Chetty's Corner are alarmed by a chronic garbage hotspot. Although morning cleanups clear the area, daily afternoon dumping by commuters creates a severe public health hazard near local schools, playgrounds, and eateries. Locals are urging authorities for round-the-clock monitoring to stop the unlawful littering.



Pedestrians near Kadugondanahalli Police Station are struggling to cross the stretch safely due to the lack of proper footpaths. The area urgently needs the authorities' attention to ensure pedestrian safety.

Authorities crack down on setback violations in Domlur

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao ordered demolitions and notices against illegal constructions during a strict municipal inspection tour.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Highlights from the inspection

- Setback Violations & Demolition:** Officials were ordered to issue immediate notices and initiate clearance operations for a newly constructed building near Domlur that completely bypassed mandatory setback requirements on all four sides.
- Power Disconnection:** Taking a stern stance against commercial non-compliance, the Chief Commissioner ordered the immediate disconnection of electricity supply to a commercial building erected without setbacks in the same zone.
- Pedestrian & Footpath Upgrades:** Directives were issued to clear obstructing walls along Domlur Main Road, restore footpaths, and evaluate feasibility for dedicated vending and parking zones.

Main Road. Pointing out potential urban utility options, he instructed engineering departments to evaluate the commercial and logistical feasibility of converting sections of the wide sidewalk into organized hawking zones or designated public parking bays to reduce street congestion. He also ordered the immediate demolition of boundary walls and structural extensions that illegally encroach upon and obstruct public footpaths, ensuring unhindered pedestrian movement.

The civic chief's itinerary included reviewing major transportation bottlenecks. He reviewed progress on the long-delayed Wind Tunnel underpass project near Indiranagar, noting that eighty



percent of the structural engineering work is complete. With the critical 'box pushing' phase remaining, Rao issued strict instructions to project contractors and engineers to accelerate execution timelines, setting a firm deadline to complete and open the underpass by the end of November.

Furthermore, Rao addressed rampant road degradation caused by delayed utility restorations. Expressing deep dissatisfaction over unfinished civil works, he reprimanded officials regarding a local road where municipal water boards had completed underground sanitary pipeline installations months ago without restoring the asphalt surface. He ordered immediate

blacktopping and resurfacing of the deteriorated route, specifically highlighting the poor condition of the access road leading to the local Saibaba Temple. Engineers were also directed to overhaul stormwater drainage alignments to prevent seasonal waterlogging.

Concluding his inspection circuit at the Kodihalli Primary Health Centre, Rao issued directives to upgrade internal medical infrastructure. He ordered the establishment of a dedicated, isolated room for safe biomedical waste management and mandated the installation of high-definition closed-circuit television cameras across the healthcare facility to bolster security for patients and staff.

Senior civic officials, including City Corporation Commissioner G. Jagadeesh, Additional Commissioner Venkatachalapathi, Chief Engineer Hemalatha, and concerned executive engineers, accompanied the Chief Commissioner during the rigorous ground review.

BSWML re-tenders 7 garbage collection packages

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The long-delayed overhaul of Bengaluru's door-to-door waste collection framework has encountered a fresh setback, as Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) was forced to officially re-tender seven core garbage collection packages across major urban constituencies.

The latest administrative hurdle highlights deep-seated resistance from incumbent waste contractors against sweeping reforms.

BSWML's modernized contract framework mandates stringent compliance measures, including the mandatory induction of a completely new fleet of garbage-carrying vehicles, live GPS-based tracking systems to monitor collection routes, and rigorous penalty clauses for operational lapses.

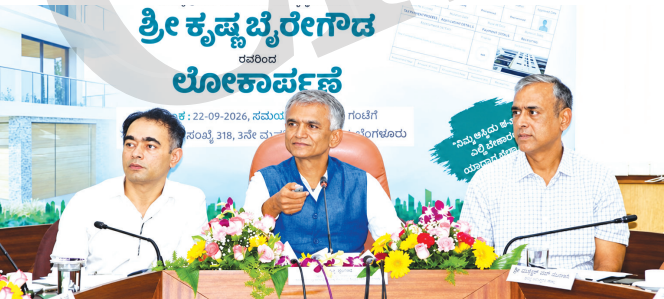
The renewed tendering process impacts key municipal zones, including BTM Layout (valued at Rs 17.70 crore annually), Malleswaram (Rs 17.97 crore), Gandhinagar (Rs 15.97 crore), Vijayanagar (Rs 25.97 crore), Padmanabhanagar (Rs 22.95 crore), Pulakeshinagar (Rs 16.71 crore), and Bommanahalli (Rs 25.97 crore).

Although BSWML had previously cleared competitive bidding processes and secured formal state cabinet approval for these constituencies, the lowest financial bidders ultimately declined to accept their Letters of Acceptance.

Officials reported that the reluctant contractors cited the expiration of bid validity as grounds for withdrawal, though industry insiders point to financial reluctance.

GBA unveils e-Aasthi 2.0 to streamline B'luru property records

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



In a major leap forward for municipal administration and digital governance, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda officially launched 'e-Aasthi 2.0', an advanced, in-house developed property-record and e-Khata management platform designed to overhaul property administration across the sprawling metropolitan region.

The comprehensive overhaul builds upon the foundational success of the first-generation e-Aasthi framework, which was originally deployed across the erstwhile municipal corporation in October 2024 and subsequently earned national acclaim, including the prestigious National e-Governance Gold Award 2025. While the initial iteration successfully scanned, digitised, and published approximately twenty-five million records online, administrators recognized that clunky document-upload interfaces and complex bureaucratic bottlenecks continued to frustrate everyday users. Addressing these pain points, e-Aasthi 2.0 introduces a modernized, scalable, and highly intuitive digital architecture aimed at eliminating intermediaries, curbing administrative delays, and making citizen-government transactions entirely seamless. Speaking at the launch event,

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda emphasized that technological intervention must prioritize public convenience over mere administrative computerization. "The purpose of technology is to make citizens' lives easier," the Minister stated, noting that the ultimate objective is to strip away friction from public services. "The objective is to use technology to make the citizen's interaction with government simpler, faster, and more transparent."

Statistical overviews shared during the launch highlighted the monumental scope of the initiative. Bengaluru currently encompasses upwards of 35 million individual properties. Of this vast inventory, approximately 23 to 24 million property records have already been successfully digitised, resulting in the issuance of draft e-Khatas. To date, roughly 11 million property owners have completed final verification workflows to se-

cure their official Final e-Khatas. Authorities have urged remaining property holders to submit necessary documentation to regularize their assets under the updated digital framework.

A cornerstone of e-Aasthi 2.0 is its advanced cross-departmental integration. Rather than forcing citizens to act as manual couriers carrying physical documents between disparate municipal and utility offices, the upgraded platform establishes automated data-sharing protocols with critical state infrastructure bodies, including the Kaveri land registration portal, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

This interoperability ensures that ownership transfers, encumbrances, utility status, and property tax metrics auto-update across linked platforms without redundant administrative red tape.

Hebbal tunnel felling plan sparks outrage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Environmental concerns and intense public pushback have erupted across the city following an official notification by the Greater Bengaluru Authority inviting objections regarding a massive tree-felling proposal for the upcoming Hebbal tunnel infrastructure project.

The controversial project, spearheaded by the Bangalore Development Authority, involves the construction of a 2.3-kilometer, three-lane bi-directional underground tunnel designed to decongest traffic between Hebbal Junction and the University of Agricultural Sciences staff quarters.

However, project blueprints indicate that executing the subterranean road—planned partly via cut-and-cover methods through Ballari Road, Hebbal Lake peripheries, and the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University campus—will require the removal of 1,128 mature trees, translating to roughly 490 trees axed for every single kilometer of transit.

The public notification issued by the GBA Tree Officer triggered immediate criticism from urban

conservation groups and local residents, who pointed out that the civic administration's online portals failed to provide transparent, itemized lists detailing the exact species, dimensions, and precise locations of the trees marked for destruction. Activists argue that submitting informed objections within the stipulated statutory window remains nearly impossible without complete structural disclosures.

Independent citizen-led audits and bio-mapping efforts conducted over recent months using platforms like iNaturalist have underscored the immense ecological value of the threatened zone.

Surveyors documented close to forty native tree species—including century-old heritage banyans, peepals, cluster figs, jamun, and Indian gooseberries—alongside numerous ornamental varieties. Naturalists emphasized that the leafy corridor connecting Hebbal Lake to the institutional veterinary campus serves as a vital ecological bridge, offering roosting habitats and canopy connectivity for local wildlife, small mammals, and hundreds of bird species recorded in regional databases like eBird.

Costly roads: CAG questions PWD over inflated costs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A scathing compliance audit report by the Comptroller and Auditor General has pulled up the Karnataka Public Works Department for systemic estimation errors and regulatory deviations that inflated project costs by nearly thirty-five crore rupees across hundreds of road development works executed between 2019 and 2024.

The official audit document, which was tabled in the state assembly on Monday, revealed that repeated violations of technical norms prescribed by the Indian

Roads Congress, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and state PWD codes severely compromised cost efficiency and construction quality.

The investigation found that incorrect item selection and flawed rate calculations across 186 separate road projects resulted in an estimated financial bloat of thirty-four point nine crore rupees.

The single largest driver of financial leakage originated from bituminous construction works. Investigators discovered that the public works administration utilized an incorrect road metal density

calculation of one point five tonnes per cubic meter instead of the authorized standard of one point eight tonnes recommended by the Department of Mines and Geology.

This technical discrepancy alone inflated rates across 239 individual projects utilizing over five hundred fifty-seven thousand cubic meters of bituminous layers, imposing an avoidable public burden of twenty-four point one crore rupees.

Additional financial irregularities were identified in pavement quality concrete works.



- Bituminous Deviations:** PWD used an incorrect road metal density calculation, causing an additional financial burden of Rs 24.1 crore across 239 works.
- Pricing Discrepancies:** Applying building work rates instead of road work rates for pavement quality concrete and relying on costlier borrowed soil added over Rs 7.4 crore in excess costs.
- Missed Recycling Opportunities:** Failing to reuse reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) in 13 works cost the state an estimated Rs 8.8 crore in potential savings.

Quick Read

Customs seizes ₹12.5 crores worth narcotics at airport

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport intercepted and seized 36 kg of 'hydro-ganja' (hydroponically grown cannabis) valued at approximately 12.57 crore from passengers arriving from Bangkok. Two individuals have been arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and are currently undergoing interrogation by Customs authorities. This bust follows previous related seizures in the ongoing crackdown against narcotics smuggling routes operating out of Bangkok.

Karnataka plans India's first state sponsored AI University

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government is actively considering establishing India's first government-sponsored Artificial Intelligence university in Bengaluru to transform the state into a global tech hub. Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy announced that the proposed institution will provide world-class skill training and advanced AI education. The initiative aims to integrate artificial intelligence across critical sectors, including early disease detection in healthcare, scientific support in agriculture, and streamlined public services.

Bengaluru police bust illicit gun racket, 7 arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a major breakthrough against organized crime, law enforcement authorities in Anekal have dismantled a dangerous clandestine syndicate involved in the illicit trafficking and sale of country-made firearms, arresting seven individuals and seizing a cache of deadly weapons. The police operation unmasked an extensive inter-state weapons pipeline operating between Madhya Pradesh and the technology capital of India. The crackdown began during a routine patrol on August 14, when vigilant police personnel intercepted a suspicious individual standing near the Haldenahalli railway gate carrying a heavy bag. A thorough physical search of the luggage uncovered three crude country-made pistols alongside ten live rounds of ammunition. Subsequent intensive interrogation of the detained suspect blew the lid off a sprawling criminal network. Investigators traced the origins of the firearms to Bhedaghat in

Council stormed over Hariprasad's remarks on PM

Karnataka Legislative Council faced chaos, heated confrontations, and an opposition walkout after a Congress leader criticized Modi.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

High drama, heated cross-party confrontations, and a dramatic opposition walkout paralyzed proceedings in the Karnataka Legislative Council on Tuesday, sparked by an incendiary remark directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi by senior Congress leader and KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad.

The explosive confrontation erupted during the second day of the ongoing legislative session amidst a heated debate concerning state-wide agricultural policies, farm loan waivers, and rural economic distress.

The parliamentary atmosphere deteriorated rapidly when Congress member Sunil interjected into the debate by aggressively questioning the opposition regarding historical electoral pledges involving direct financial deposits into citizen bank accounts. As cross-bench shouting matches intensified, B.K. Hariprasad took the floor and launched a blistering verbal attack against the central government, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi bore direct responsibility for "taking the lives of 800 farmers" during historic agricultural protests.

The remarks instantly ignited fury across the opposition benches. Enraged BJP legislators leaped to their feet, condemning the statement as completely undignified, malicious, and a gross breach of



House order restored amid heightened tensions

Following appeals for decorum from the Chair, the session eventually resumed, though political friction remains exceptionally high between the ruling Congress and opposition camps over policy debates and statements made within the legislature.

legislative decorum. Shouting matches broke out across the chamber, with opposition members demanding an immediate apology and the expunction of the provocative remarks. The verbal crossfire escalated further when BJP members lashed out, accusing ruling party representatives of possessing an "undisciplined tongue."

The escalating chaos forced Legislative Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed to rise from his seat in a bid to restore order. Visibly exasperated by

Is this a Legislative Council or a fish market?
- Saleem Ahmed, Legislative Council Chairman

the unmitigated pandemonium, the Chairman rebuked the assembled lawmakers, demanding to know whether the hallowed upper house of the legislature had transformed into a public "fish market." The remark drew an immediate, sharp retort from BJP member Keshava Prasad, who angrily blamed the Chair for permitting unverified accusations and sliding standards of discourse within the house. Order was only restored after sustained appeals from the presiding officer for parliamentary decorum and mutual respect.

However, calm was short-lived. Tensions boiled over once again during a subsequent discussion addressing severe drought conditions across rural Karnataka. Minister Santosh Lad aggressively interrupted Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, challenging

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Controversial Statement:** Hariprasad's remarks concerning farmers' issues drew fierce condemnation from BJP legislators, who labeled the comments undignified.
- Opposition Walkout:** Alleging that ruling party ministers repeatedly interrupted Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy during drought debates, BJP and JD(S) members staged a walkout.
- Session Adjournment:** Amid mutual accusations and a chaotic exchange involving members like C.T. Ravi & Minister Santosh Lad, the Chair temporarily adjourned proceedings to restore order.

his assertions that Direct Benefit Transfer payments to affected farmers were proceeding without administrative hurdles. Senior BJP leader C.T. Ravi rose to protest the relentless interruptions, questioning the fundamental utility of convening special legislative sessions if opposition voices were systematically stifled by the ruling dispensation.

Condemning what they termed an authoritarian attempt to muzzle democratic debate and silence legitimate criticism, members of both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) staged a coordinated walkout, marching out of the chamber in protest. Faced with an empty opposition bench and a deeply fractured house, Chairman Saleem Ahmed had no option but to temporarily adjourn the Legislative Council proceedings.

EC announces poll schedule for 4 K'taka Council seats

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The electoral landscape in Karnataka is poised for a high-stakes legislative battle following the official announcement by the Election Commission of India regarding upcoming biennial elections to four key seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council.

The upcoming polls form part of a broader nationwide notification encompassing 28 Legislative Council constituencies across four major states, namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Within the southern state, the electoral contest is strictly localized to crucial professional segments, covering two Graduates' constituencies and two Teachers' constituencies whose incumbent members are completing their statutory six-year terms.

The administrative vacancies arise as the tenure of four prominent sitting members is officially set to expire on November 11, 2026. The constituencies undergoing electoral renewal include the Karnataka South-East Graduates' seat, currently represented by Chidananda M. Gowda; the Karnataka West Graduates' seat, held by S.V. Sankanur; the Karnataka North-East Teachers' constituency, represented by Shashil G. Namoshi; and the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency, held by Puttanna. With the exception of the Bengaluru Teachers' seat—currently held by a ruling Congress representative—the remaining three positions have been traditionally anchored by the Bharatiya Janata

The Election Commission announced biennial polls for four Karnataka Legislative Council seats, setting up a high-stakes battle as terms expire November 11.

Party, which has already commenced internal strategies to retain its stronghold.

According to the comprehensive timeline released by the central election authority, the formal electoral process will kick off with the issuance of the official gazette notification on September 29. Prospective candidates will be permitted to file their nomination papers through October 6, followed by the mandatory scrutiny of credentials by returning officers on October 7. The final window for the voluntary withdrawal of candidates closes on October 9.

Polling for all four professional constituencies will be conducted simultaneously on October 23, operating across a standard voting window from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Following the conclusion of polling, ballot boxes will be secured, and the counting of votes is scheduled for October 27, when the final electoral fate of the contenders will be officially sealed.

In strict accordance with statutory protocols, the Model Code of Conduct has come into immediate legal effect across the respective districts falling under the jurisdiction of the four targeted Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies.

NCST chairman to visit Karnataka for 2-day review

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Chairperson Antar Singh Arya will visit Karnataka for a two-day review of tribal welfare and development programmes from September 23 to 24.

Arya, accompanied by NCST Member Jatothu Husain and senior officials, will hold review meetings with various departments of the Karnataka government during the visit.

The meetings will assess the implementation of constitutional safeguards, welfare schemes and development initiatives for Scheduled Tribes in the state. The delegation will review issues related to tribal rights, delivery of welfare benefits and measures taken by different departments for the socio-economic development of tribal communities.

The visit will also provide an opportunity for the Commission to interact with senior state officials and assess the progress of programmes being implemented for tribal



communities across Karnataka.

The NCST is a constitutional body mandated under Article 338A of the Constitution to monitor safeguards for Scheduled Tribes and review their implementation.

The two-day visit is expected to facilitate closer coordination between the Commission and the state government and enable focused discussions on issues affecting Scheduled Tribe communities.

The Commission will also assess the effectiveness of measures taken by departments to ensure that welfare benefits and constitutional safeguards reach eligible tribal communities.

Vijayendra slams Congress over empty promises, drought crisis

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party State President B.Y. Vijayendra launched a scathing attack on the state administration, accusing the ruling government of making grand, unfunded announcements while abandoning agricultural communities facing severe agrarian distress.

Speaking to reporters within the precincts of the Vidhana Soudha, Vijayendra took direct aim at recent high-profile declarations made during executive visits to the coastal region. He noted that the Chief Minister had promised infrastructure and development projects valued between 32000 and 35000 crore rupees, while pointedly questioning the financial viability of such sweeping proposals.

"Where will this money come from?" Vijayendra asked sharply. "Are these funds going to be sourced through real estate compa-

nies, or does the treasury actually possess the capital to deliver?"

The BJP chief dismissed claims that the ongoing special legislative session was convened without political motives, arguing that internal dissent within the ruling party has already exposed the administration's true intentions. He asserted that the special assembly was called solely as a reactive measure, maintaining that the government would have remained completely inactive in Mangaluru had the opposition not applied relentless political pressure through aggressive public marches. Highlighting widespread administrative friction, he pointed out that veteran legislators such as H.K. Patil, local MLAs like those from Muddebihal, and allied JD(S) leaders have openly voiced dissatisfaction with current governance.

Turning to the state's escalating agrarian crisis, Vijay-



endra fiercely criticized the selective classification of drought-stricken regions. He noted that only twenty-three taluks situated within opposition-held constituencies had been officially declared drought-hit, labeling the exclusion of other suffering zones as blatant political discrimination.

Demanding immediate administrative action, he insisted that more than one hundred and ninety taluks—including Shivamogga and Shikaripura—must be declared drought-hit without further delay to provide urgent relief to farmers grappling with acute water and electricity shortages.

Vijayendra contrasted current agricultural management with previous administrations, recalling how former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa proactively procured power from neighboring states during electricity deficits. By contrast, he claimed, the present government has left rural cultivators entirely in the lurch.

Ministers' absence sparks uproar as council debates drought

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Intense friction dominated the opening moments of the special legislative session in the Karnataka Legislative Council as opposition members launched a scathing critique of the treasury benches over the conspicuous absence of cabinet ministers during a critical debate on the state's escalating agrarian crisis.

As the House convened to address mounting rural distress, opposition legislators, led by prominent voices including C.T. Ravi, Bhoje Gowda, and Ravikumar, pointedly drew attention to the empty ministerial seats across the assembly. Highlighting the stark discrepancy between the gravity of the emergency and the government's apparent indifference, opposition leaders remarked carefully that there was an administrative "drought of min-



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

- Ministerial "Drought":** Opposition legislators, including C.T. Ravi, Bhoje Gowda, and Ravikumar, fiercely criticized the government, pointing out that while 15 ministers should have been present, only three were in attendance, prompting the Chairman to summon them.
- Scope of Discussion:** The Chair and senior leaders—including Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and Ministers Yathindra Siddaramaiah and Santosh Lad—strictly restricted the debate to two core agendas: the drought situation and views on the Kasturirangan Report, rejecting opposition requests to bring up secondary matters like the 'third language' debate.
- Unprecedented Crisis Scale:** DCM Parameshwara warned that Karnataka is facing historic agricultural stress, recording a 36% rainfall deficit due to a 'Super El Niño' effect, comparing current conditions to the catastrophic drought of 1876.

isters" inside the chamber, noting that only three out of the expected fifteen cabinet members bothered to be present for the opening deliberations.

The protest forced the Chair into a defensive posture, prompting the Chairman to formally assure the House that absent ministers would be summoned back immediately to face accountability. However, tensions escalated further as individual members attempted to pivot the floor proceedings toward auxiliary political controversies, such as regional language debates. The Chair firmly deflected these attempts, ruling that the special three-day assembly format was strictly mandated for two core state emergencies: formulating a definitive legislative consensus on the controversial Kasturirangan Report and addressing the unprecedented drought.

Taking the floor to table the formal motion on the agricultural crisis, Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G. Parameshwara delivered a sobering assessment of Karnataka's environmental reality, characterizing the ongoing crisis as an exceptional catastrophe. Parameshwara informed the legislature that the state is currently enduring an intense weather anomaly driven by a devastating "Super El Niño" global climate phenomenon, which has critically disrupted regional monsoon patterns.

Detailed the statistical scale of the breakdown, the Deputy Chief Minister revealed that Karnataka typically records an aggregate annual rainfall benchmark of 852 millimeters, but has registered a mere 642 millimeters thus far, translating to an alarming cumulative state-wide deficit exceeding percent since June.

High Court denies relief to retired engineer in 2011 bogus bill scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major legal setback for a retired municipal engineer, the Karnataka High Court has dismissed revision petitions filed by 72 year-old B.G. Prakash Kumar, upholding a trial court order refusing to discharge him from three long-standing corruption cases.

The legal proceedings stem from a sweeping multi-crore bogus bill scam dating back to 2011, originally registered by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force.

Prakash Kumar, who served as an executive engineer in the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's Malleswaram division and retired from active service in 2017, is named as the primary accused in the ongoing anti-corruption prosecutions involving the processing of fraudulent infrastructure bills.

Earlier, the trial court had partially ruled in February, discharging the retired official from charges brought under the Indian Penal Code while declining to drop offenses framed under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Challenging that partial rejection, Kumar approached the High Court, arguing that an amendment to Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act mandates prior government sanction for prosecuting public servants.

He contended that because no valid prosecution sanction had been secured from the competent authority, the entire criminal proceeding against him was legally unsustainable and warranted immediate dismissal.

Presiding over the matter, Justice H.P. Sandesh rejected the petitioner's arguments after examining statutory applicability.

Quick Read

DaSaMSa petitions CHESCOM to electrify destitute homes

CH NEWS, HUNSUR
Activists from the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (DaSaMSa) submitted a formal representation on Tuesday to Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CHESCOM) Executive Engineer Kaleem Ahmed, urging prompt power connections for destitute families in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Nagar under Govindanahalli Gram Panchayat. Receiving the memorandum, Ahmed assured the delegation that following directions issued by ministers and local legislators during a recent public grievance meet, immediate administrative steps would be initiated. He stated he would coordinate directly with Hunsur Tahsildar Manjunath to secure clearances and provide domestic electricity connections to seven impoverished households. DaSaMSa State Organizing Convener Ningaraj Malladi and community activists were present during the submission.

Free sheep rearing training in Hoskote from October

CH NEWS, KARWAR
The Canara Bank Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI) will host a 13-day free residential sheep rearing training camp starting the second week of October at Sonnahallipura in Hoskote taluk, Bengaluru Rural district. The curriculum covers scientific rearing techniques for sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, and poultry, alongside modules on horticulture and organic manure production. Unemployed men and women aged 18 to 49 from across Karnataka seeking self-employment are eligible, with preference given to rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) candidates. Instruction, lodging, and meals are provided free of charge, and successful participants will receive a Ministry of Rural Development certificate.

Cooperative societies remain lifeline for farmers

CH NEWS, Yadagiri

Primary agricultural credit cooperative societies in rural areas are playing an important role in supporting farmers by providing loans at zero interest, said Sharanappagowda Mali Patil, president of the Hattikuni Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society. He was speaking after inaugurating the annual general meeting of the society for 2025-26 at its premises in Hattikuni village of Yadagiri taluk on Tuesday. He said the society had disbursed crop loans of Rs 2.28 crore to farmers during the financial year. Timely repayment of loans by farmers had helped the society earn a profit of Rs 7 lakh, he said. The society had also provided loans worth Rs 2.23 crore to small traders to help them expand their businesses. It had collected Rs 1.10 crore in fixed deposits from customers and renovated its administrative office. The society was also supplying food grains to eligible beneficiaries through its fair price shop, Mali Patil said. He said farmers were facing difficulties because of weak monsoon rainfall and many were seeking addi-

Illegal sand transport: 5 tractors seized

CH NEWS, Yedrami

Authorities in Yedrami taluk of Kalaburagi district have intensified action against the illegal transportation of sand, seizing five tractors involved in the activity within a week. Officials said the crackdown was launched following complaints about the unauthorised extraction and transportation of sand from local sources. The seized tractors were reportedly being used to transport sand without the required permits and documents.

SIR first-notice hearings to conclude by September-end: DC

Lakshmi Priya announced serving 64,749 mapping-error notices, with remaining hearings and 85 duplicate/deceased cases slated for monthly resolution

CH NEWS, KARWAR

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya announced on Tuesday that hearings regarding 'first notices' issued for unmapped voter entries and logical discrepancies under the Special Summary Revision (SIR) 2026 will be completed by the end of September.

Presiding over a consultative meeting with representatives of political parties at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Lakshmi Priya noted that out of 65,248 flagged cases involving mapping errors, 64,749 notices have already been served. Field inquiries have been finalized for 39,804 cases, while the re-

maining 24,945 pending hearings are scheduled for resolution within this month. Additionally, authorities identified 85 cases concerning duplicate entries or deceased individuals.

In accordance with Election Commission guidelines, September 23 marks the final deadline to submit claims and objections, with the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on October 27. During the special voter registration drive conducted on September 19 and 20, the district received 2,613 applications for fresh voter enrollment, 89 objections, and 1,395 correction requests.

Regarding the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency, 23 polling stations have



been designated across the district for 15,732 registered graduate voters. Unenrolled eligible graduates can submit Form 18 at Tahsildar or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer offices.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla, Election Tahsildar Pramod Naik, District BJP Vice President Sanjay Salunkhe, JDS President Suraj Naik Soni, and Congress leaders Babu

Across the assembly segments, inquiries completed so far include:

- Haliyal: 8,907 out of 14,012 notices
- Karwar: 5,881 out of 10,446 notices
- Kumta: 4,984 out of 8,344 notices
- Bhatkal: 6,889 out of 13,660 notices
- Sirsi: 5,428 out of 8,821 notices
- Yellapur: 7,715 out of 9,965 notices

Sheikh and Aravind Kalgutkar attended.

Govt notifies Gadag, Mundargi, and Rona as drought-Hit after stir

MALINGARAYA PUJAR CH NEWS

Following widespread farmer protests and political pressure, the state government has declared Gadag, Mundargi and Rona taluks drought-affected in its third supplementary notification.

The decision follows severe rainfall shortages caused by the southwest

monsoon failure and prevailing Super El Niño conditions. Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre data showed Gadag taluk recorded a 49% rainfall deficit, while standing crop losses across the district were estimated at 86%. Drying water bodies, including Shettikere in Lakshmeshwar taluk, worsened distress among farmers

and livestock owners. Farmers had staged road blockades on the Gadag-Lakshmeshwar state highway at Mulgund after Gadag district was excluded from the earlier drought notification. Senior MLA H.K. Patil later joined protesting farmers and warned that he would resign his Assembly seat by October 10 if Gadag taluk was not included. He

also sought drought status for 27 excluded taluks in North Karnataka. Farmer leader Ashwini Bidnal welcomed the decision. Farmers are now awaiting input subsidies, crop insurance settlements, tanker water supplies and additional MGNREGS person-days to address the continuing rural crisis.

Latha Mohan visits tribal settlements in Kalaburagi

CH NEWS, Kalaburagi

Latha Mohan visited several tribal settlements in Kalaburagi district and interacted with residents to understand the problems they face in their daily lives. The visit focused on basic facilities and the need to address long-pending issues affecting people living in the settlements.

Residents brought several concerns to her notice, including the lack of proper houses, roads, drinking water, education and healthcare facilities. They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to improve basic infrastruc-

ture and ensure that essential services reach the settlements. During the interaction, residents explained the difficulties caused by inadequate housing facilities and poor road connectivity. They also highlighted the need for reliable drinking water supply, better educational opportunities for children and improved access to healthcare services. The residents sought measures to provide suitable houses to eligible families and improve road infrastructure in the settlements. They also requested steps to ensure regular drinking water supply and better facilities for students.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development
Division,Hassan
IFT No.13/2026.27, Dated: 17.09.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one and two cover systems through KPPP portal of GOK (website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) for Hassan and Chikmagalur Districts works as per KW-1, 4 maximum tender amount is Rs.161.26 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.12.94 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 03-10-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ಪ್ರಾಸಂಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸು/ಹಾಸನ/532/ಕ್ರಿಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2026-27

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹುಣಸೂರನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562157 ದೂ: 080-23901864
Email:-itstaff.ulf.hmhalli@gmail.com Web- www.hunasamaranahallitown.mrc.gov.in
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಮ.ಪು/ತಾ.ಪಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 10.09.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹುಣಸೂರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು KPPE Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ವರ್ಗ
1	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62141	30.00	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT61506	30.00	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
3	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT62138	30.00	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 25.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 28.09.2026 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ. (3) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು KPPE Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (4) ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-29597110, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:- itstaff.ulf.hmhalli@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸಹಿ/- ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹುಣಸೂರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ/ಮ.ಪು/ತಾ.ಪಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/03/2026-27 ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಹುಣಸೂರನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಸೊಸೈಟಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581301
No: DHS/NHM/Man power/251/2026-27. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಸವ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟಿ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಾನಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅನ್ನು ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 3.74 ಕೋಟಿ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 5,61,706.00

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/439/26-27 ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
dt. 22.09.2026 ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, ಅಶೋಕಸುರಂ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570008.
ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂ.ಸಂ. : 0821-2483917
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : cfwpmys@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಎ2/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ ಸಿಆರ್-7/2026-27 ದಿ: 19.09.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-02/2026-27

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರಮರು 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧಕರೊಡನೆ ಮೊದಲಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಹದ್ದುಬಸ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರೇ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗದ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-1ಕ್ಕೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಆ ವರ್ಗದ ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2(ಎ)ಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಒಬ್ಬರೇ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆ ವರ್ಗದವರು ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ದಿ: 25.09.2026ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ:28.09.2026 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಪ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 30.09.2026 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಪ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ/ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜೆಯಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/747/KSMCA/465/2026-27

ಕನರಾ ಬೆಂಕ್ Canara Bank
ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
(A Government Of India Undertaking) Head Office: Bangalore Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 12.10.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs. 88,74,13,090.84 as on 01.09.2026 with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd) Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgh; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570 021, (2) Mr. (Prof) Riaz Ahmed, President & Trustee, (3) Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Secretary & Trustee, (4) Mr. K C Shoukath Pasha, Joint Secretary & Trustee, (5) Dr. Abdur Rahman, Trustee, (6) Dr. M Sayeed Ahmed, Trustee, (7) Mr. S P Ahmed Jan, Trustee, (8) Mr. (Prof.) Syed Akheel Ahmed, Trustee, (9) Mr. Ahmed Agha, Trustee, (10) Mr. Arif Mehkri, Trustee, (11) Dr. Muneer Ahmed, Trustee, (12) Mr. A S Sardar, Trustee, (13) Mr. Akbar Sayeed, Trustee (now reportedly died), Address of the above 2 to 13 M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgh; Tilaknagar, Mysore-570021. The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (<https://baanknet.com/>) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 09.10.2026 - 5.00 pm. (₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170*150/2 feet** and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property is 32,084 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude-12.3243566 Longitude-76.6749867	₹. 575.00	₹. 57.50	₹. 1.00	05.10.2026 10.00 A.M to 2.00 P.M. with P.R Appointment with Authorised Officer
2	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170*150/2 feet and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property presently valued is 47916.99 sq ft out of 80,000 Sq.ft. Latitude- 12.3243566 Longitude- 76.6749867	₹. 797.00	₹. 79.70	₹. 1.00	
3	All that piece and parcel of 4 Acres of land in Sy. No. 93/2-P-1, Belavatha Village @ Manti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District bounded by East By : Land of Sanjeev Nayak, West By : Land, Mohammed Saheb, North By: Purnihahana Nala, South By: Land of Chikkanna. Coordinates of the property Latitude-12.3537780 Longitude-76.6470830	₹. 278.00	₹. 27.80	₹. 1.00	
	TOTAL	₹. 1650.00			

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (<https://baanknet.com/>) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph.No.080-25310066, 9486092152, 9901642631 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 22.09.2026 Place : Bengaluru Sd/- Authorised Officer Canara Bank

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Quick Read

Free entrepreneurship training for Scheduled Tribe youth

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
A 10-day entrepreneurship development program for Scheduled Tribe candidates will be held from October 7 to 19 at the District Industries Centre.
Jointly organized by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development of Karnataka (CEDOK) and the District Industries Centre, the government-sponsored initiative aims to empower aspiring tribal entrepreneurs. The curriculum covers business planning, market surveys, accounting, sales management, bank credit facilities, and an industrial field exposure visit. Eligible candidates residing in Chitradurga district aged between 18 and 50 with an SSLC qualification can apply. Completed application forms must reach the CEDOK office by October 5.

Couple killed in fatal hit-and-run near Hubballi

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI
A married couple riding a motorcycle died on the spot on Tuesday after a speeding mini-goods vehicle rammed into their two-wheeler from behind near the ITC godown along Gadag Road.

The victims were identified as Sukumar Tikala, a painter, and his wife Rajina Tikala, a nurse at Shakuntala Hospital, both residing in Jayarajinagar, Hubballi. The fatal collision occurred while Sukumar was ferrying his wife back home following the conclusion of her hospital duty shift. East Traffic Police Inspector Manjunath Kusungod inspected the accident site and registered a case.

Dasara Taekwondo selection trials set for today

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
District-level selection trials to pick Chitradurga's contingent for the 2026–27 Bengaluru Rural divisional Dasara Taekwondo tournament will be held on September 23.
The divisional tournament is scheduled for September 29 at Bhagat Singh Stadium in Doddaballapura. To represent the district, aspiring martial artists must attend trials at the Chitradurga District Stadium volleyball court at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Online registration is compulsory for all participating athletes. Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports officials announced that interested players can contact Volleyball Coach Mohammed Muhibulla for further details.

Forest department launches emergency water drive in Kappatagudda

Malingaraya Pujar
CH NEWS

Severe monsoon failure has pushed the ecologically sensitive Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, historically known as the ‘North Sahyadri’, into an unprecedented drought, prompting the Forest Department to launch large-scale tanker operations to sustain local wildlife.
With seasonal rainfall drying up prematurely, natural streams, forest ponds, and rivulets across the hill range have turned into dry rubble. The acute water crisis threatens hundreds of wild animals

Lokayukta complaint filed against Minister over bribery remarks

Led by M.D. Gopalagowda, a legal petition urges corruption charges against a minister who framed bribery as a moral duty

CH NEWS, HASSAN

A major political controversy erupted on Tuesday after a delegation of advocates lodged a formal corruption complaint with the Hassan District Lokayukta against Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda over his public remarks suggesting that offering money to government officials who complete work is a citizen's duty.

The legal petition, submitted by a team of lawyers led by M.D. Gopalagowda, accused the minister of openly inciting and legitimizing the payment of bribes to public servants. The complainants argued that describing financial kickbacks as an act of respectful moral duty directly violates statutory anti-corruption provisions and undermines transparency across public administration. De-

manding strict punitive proceedings under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the petition asserted that an elected representative cannot endorse the illicit exchange of money in public offices.

The controversy stems from an official public grievance meeting held at the Sakaleshapura taluk administrative office.

In video footage that went viral across social media platforms, Shivalinge Gowda was heard telling attendees that while officials should not forcibly extort bribes, it is the duty of citizens to respectfully offer something to government employees who clear their files. The statement drew immediate objections from attendees, who questioned why salaried government servants should receive private payoffs.

Taking the matter further,



prominent social activist Dinesh Kallahalli submitted a formal representation to Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot, urging the immediate dismissal of the minister from the state cabinet and seeking prosecution under Sections 7, 8, and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Defending his remarks, Shivalinge Gowda issued a clarification stating that his comments were misinterpreted. The minister maintained that he never advocated bribery, claiming he merely asked the public to treat administra-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Advocates file formal Hassan Lokayukta corruption complaint.
- Viral video exposes controversial public meeting statement.
- Complainants demand prosecution under corruption prevention acts.
- Activist petitions Governor demanding cabinet minister dismissal.
- Minister claims public dignity remarks faced misinterpretation.
- Statutory action sought under Prevention Corruption Act.

tive personnel with dignity and respect during official interactions.

Balance academics with sports, students urged at Haveri meet

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Emphasizing that physical education is vital for overall student development, M.A. Maidur, Chairman of the Taluk-level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, urged students on Tuesday to participate actively in sports alongside their academic pursuits.

Maidur was speaking after inaugurating the district-level sports meet for the 2026–27 academic year, organized by the Department of School Education and Pre-University at the Haveri District Stadium. Highlighting the role of athletics in building physical fitness, mental resilience, discipline, and self-confidence, Maidur stated that structured competitions progressing from cluster and taluk levels to district stages provide crucial platforms for identifying grassroots talent.

He added that the state government offers significant incentives, including public employment reservations, for sportspersons excelling at state and national competitions.

In a message conveyed during the event, District In-charge Minister Rudrappa Lamani announced that following sustained administrative efforts, the government approved the construction of a modern synthetic athletic track at the district stadium with an outlay of approximately ₹10 crore.

Lamani stated that the competitive tendering process has concluded, with physical construction scheduled to begin shortly to provide local athletes with standard sports infrastructure.

He encouraged students to embrace sportsmanship, viewing losses as opportunities for future improvement.

H.K. Patil's resignation threat forces Gadag drought status

CH NEWS, GADAG

Following immense political pressure and a resignation threat from senior legislator H.K. Patil, the state government has officially declared Gadag taluk drought-hit, prompting local party leaders to demand immediate disbursement of financial compensation for distressed farmers.

Addressing reporters on Tuesday, Congress leader Krishna H. Hadapad expressed indignation over the initial exclusion of Gadag taluk on technical grounds, characterizing the move as an administrative betrayal of cultivators and agrarian workers. Hadapad questioned the state government's continuous neglect of Gadag district, particularly after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar conducted a ground assessment across the taluk earlier this month and directly witnessed the extent of severe crop failure.

Hadapad noted that Gadag's inclusion in the drought list was not an act of spontaneous administrative goodwill, but the direct outcome of veteran MLA H.K.

Patil's resolute agitation. Patil had warned the state leadership that he was prepared to forfeit his legislative seat if the administration failed to rectify the injustice facing local farmers. Expressing gratitude on behalf of the taluk, Hadapad hailed Patil's willingness to prioritize agrarian livelihoods over political office. Stressing that government declarations must not remain confined to official paperwork, Hadapad urged the administration to promptly submit a comprehensive ground-truthing survey to the Union government to mobilize central relief funds without procedural delay.

Furthermore, he highlighted that local cultivators, who have engaged in sustained agitations and submitted repeated petitions, are yet to receive compensation for previous crop losses. Joining hands with farmer organizations and civic representatives, Hadapad urged the government to club all pending backlogs with the newly declared drought package and immediately disburse relief funds directly to affected agricultural families across Gadag.

Early election fever grips Shirahatti constituency

Malingaraya Pujar
CH NEWS

Although assembly elections remain over a year away, political activity has surged across the high-voltage Shirahatti reserved constituency in Gadag district, with ticket aspirants aggressively campaigning during festival gatherings, public celebrations, and family functions.

Aspirants are plastering banners and hoardings across rural hubs to maximize visibility. Several candidates arriving from outside districts have adopted emotional outreach strategies, citing ancestral links, childhood memories, or distant relations to connect with local voters. Uninvited appearances at private weddings, naming ceremonies, funerals, and temple pujas to pose for photographs have sparked amusement and lively debates among villagers, who view these sudden visits as performative attempts to establish local relevance.

Within the Bharatiya Janata Party, the queue of ticket aspirants is swelling despite sitting MLA Dr. Chandru Lamani's incumbency. With the sitting legislator embroiled in legal scrutiny before the Lokayukta, speculation regarding an internal leadership shift has intensified. Prominent aspirants, including I.S. Pujara, Muthu Rathod, Bhimasinga Rathod, and Prakash Hosamani, are touring villages to stake their claims, sharp-

At a Glance

- Timeline & Tactics: Early festival campaigning and uninvited family event crashes dominate.
- Party Factionalism: BJP faces Lokayukta-driven leadership flux; Congress fights legacy rebel splits.
- Power Dynamics: Dominant community brokers SC seat while agrarian leader builds alternative.

ening the rivalry between veteran party workers and political migrants.

The opposition Congress camp faces equally intense ticket competition. The 2023 elections saw former MLA Ramakrishna Doddamani contest as an independent after being denied a ticket, finishing second ahead of the official Congress candidate, which split the vote and allowed the BJP to secure victory. Doddamani, alongside former MLA Ramanna Lamani, Sujatha Doddamani, and multiple local leaders, is actively maneuvering for high command sup-

port. Concurrently, influential dominant community leaders across Shirahatti, Lakshmeshwar, and Mundaragi are leveraging social equations to back favored contenders, while prominent farmer leader B.T. Chandrashekar is emerging as a strong competitor. This premature campaign blitz has set the stage for complex socio-political realignments ahead of the polls.

Bidar MLA seeks relief for 800 quota staff

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale submitted a formal memorandum to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday, urging the state government to safeguard the services of over 800 government employees and teachers appointed under Article 371(J) quota provisions across the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The personnel were recruited in accordance with a Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms circular issued on February 1, 2023, aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for local candidates across seven regional districts. Selected through merit and local reservation frameworks, these employees and educators have served diligently across government departments and public schools for nearly three years, with many already completing their mandatory probationary periods.

However, a recent High Court ruling delivered on September 17 has generated widespread distress, triggering acute employment uncertainty among the recruited workforce and their families. Beldale highlighted that the



employees face unexpected job insecurity despite undergoing rigorous competitive selection procedures and rendering uninterrupted public service.

In his representation, Beldale appealed to the Chief Minister to intervene immediately to ensure that hardworking youth from backward regions do not suffer administrative disadvantage. He emphasized that the government must explore necessary administrative and legal measures to protect past service records, secure livelihoods, and deliver a lasting resolution without disrupting public administration. Beldale stressed that safeguarding these appointments is essential to preserving public trust and upholding constitutional reservation mandates under Article 371(J).

Brother demands probe into brutal murder of NRI in Sharjah

CH NEWS, UDUPI

In a chilling development, a native of Kundapura was brutally murdered in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, prompting his family on Tuesday to petition the Udupi district police for a comprehensive investigation and legal action. The victim was identified as Alvin Prakash Kunder, who had been employed at Sharjah Airport for fourteen years. He resided there with his wife, Tina Kunder, a school teacher, and their tenth-grade son.

THIRST IN THE HILLS

"Due to severe lack of rain, there is a water problem in the Kappathagudda area, due to which water is being pumped into artificial wells. Also, a CCTV camera has been installed to track the movement of animals"

- Santoshkumar Kenchappa's, DCF Gadag

ral prey would drive leopards and wolf packs out of forest boundaries into nearby agrarian villages in search of water.

The prolonged dry spell has also dealt a severe blow to regional tourism. Following the typical monsoon season, Kappatagudda's rolling hills traditionally attracted thousands of weekend trekkers, environmentalists, and nature enthusiasts eager to witness misty green landscapes. Without rain, the hills have turned parched and brown, leading to a steep decline in visitors and leaving popular tourist viewpoints

tions compelled authorities to act months in advance.

The proactive supply aims to prevent dangerous human-wildlife conflict; forest officials feared that severe dehydration and lack of natu-

Forest department launches emergency water drive in Kappatagudda

and rare bird species inhabiting the reserve, including leopards, wolves, jackals, porcupines, and blackbucks. In response, forest officials have undertaken an emergency exercise to replenish artificial cement watering holes and

stone troughs spread across the hilly terrain using heavy water tankers.

Ordinarily, tanker-based water replenishment is reserved for the peak summer months of March and April. However, dry winter condi-

Quick Read

Haveri Jain Sangha hosts Dashalakshana discourses

CH NEWS, HAVERI
The Haveri District Digambar Jain Sangha, in coordination with taluk associations, has organized spiritual discourses across several villages from September 16 to 25 to mark the annual Dashalakshana Mahaparva. On September 23, a session on Uttama Tyaga Dharma (Supreme Renunciation) will take place at Karugudari village in Hangal taluk in the presence of Sri Bhattakalanka Bhattaraka Swamiji of Sonda Math. A discourse on Uttama Akinchanya Dharma (Non-attachment) will follow on September 24 at Kalasur's Mahavira Temple. The celebrations conclude on September 25 with a discourse on Brahmacharya (Celibacy) at Guttala. Community leaders and local devotees will participate across all taluk events.

Walk-in interview in Mandya on Sep 25

CH NEWS, MANDYA
A walk-in interview drive will be held on September 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Employment Exchange office, located opposite the RTO office in Mandya. The recruitment drive is organized jointly with M/s Achalendra Agro India Pvt. Ltd., Mysuru, and M/s GRH Life Care, Mandya, to fill openings for Store Managers, Marketing Managers, and Sales, Accounts, and Stores staff. Candidates aged between 18 and 35 holding any degree, DAESI, B.Sc. (Agri), or M.Sc. (Agri), and willing to work in Mandya or Mysuru, may attend with updated resumes. Interested applicants can contact the employment exchange helpdesk numbers for details.

Udupi to celebrate National Ayurveda Day

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and AYUSH Department will jointly host the 11th National Ayurveda Day to mark Dhanvantari Jayanti on September 23 at Bannanje Balabhavan. District In-charge Minister Rizwan Arshad will inaugurate the event at 10:00 a.m., with MLA Yashpal A. Suvarna presiding over the proceedings. Health Minister U.T. Khader, local parliamentarians Kota Srinivasa Poojary and B.Y. Raghavendra, coastal development board leaders, legislators, and senior administrative officials will participate. Alongside official addresses, experts will deliver dedicated lectures highlighting the therapeutic benefits of the AYUSH healthcare system. The District AYUSH Officer urged the public to attend in large numbers.

YADGIR ORDERS JOINT SURVEY FOR CROP INSURANCE RELIEF

CH NEWS, YADGIR
Deputy Commissioner officials have been directed to conduct a joint survey of cotton and tur crops in the district to facilitate interim compensation for farmers who insured their crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during the 2026-27 kharif season. The decision was taken at a meeting of the PMFBY Mid-Season Adversity Invoke-level Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner. According to the guidelines of the crop insurance scheme, officials of the Agriculture

Mandya DC orders sugar mills to clear arrears

Prohibiting unilateral transport fee transfers, Dr. Kumar ordered authorities to scientifically compute lawful cane-hauling tariffs for cultivators

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Sugar factory managements must prioritize cultivators' interests, clear pending financial arrears, and build transparency across harvesting, weighing, and transportation systems, stated Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar on Tuesday.

Presiding over a multi-stakeholder conciliation meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office attended by sugarcane growers' unions, mill managements, and lorry operators Dr. Kumar reviewed operational protocols ahead of the 2026-27 crushing season. He noted that the Central Government has determined the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) at ₹365 per quintal (₹3,650 per tonne). Addressing key objections raised by grower associations regarding excessive deductions, Dr. Kumar stressed that the financial overhead of transporting harvested cane from field to factory must not be unilaterally transferred onto cultivators. He directed



administrative authorities to scientifically determine transit tariffs in strict compliance with statutory regulations. Underlining mutual interdependence, Dr. Kumar remarked that sugar factories generate substantial supplementary revenue from ethanol, molasses, bagasse, and co-generated power, which obligates them to protect the economic security of primary growers. He instructed mill operators to strictly prioritize cane procurement from farmers registered within their allocated 'reserve areas' based on crop maturity and registration seniority, eliminating artificial delays at factory gates. Highlighting the financial

distress caused by payment delays, the Deputy Commissioner issued clear instructions to all operational mills across Mandya district to expedite the settlement of outstanding dues within prescribed statutory timelines. To address persistent allegations of weighbridge manipulation, the district administration instructed the Department of Legal Metrology to conduct surprise inspections at factory weighbridges. Dr. Kumar stressed that verified, digital weight slips must be issued to eliminate discrepancies. Farmer leaders at the meeting reiterated demands for immediate clearance of arrears, scientific transport slab

HIGHLIGHTS

- Central FRP fixed at ₹365 per quintal.
- Pending cultivator financial arrears mandated for clearance.
- Field-to-factory transport costs barred from farmer pass-through.
- Reserve-area registration seniority priority mandated for crushing.
- Legal Metrology surprise weighbridge inspections ordered digitally.
- Supplementary ethanol/bagasse revenues tied to grower protection.

determinations, and strict enforcement of reserve-area quotas. Joint Director of Agriculture Jayaswamy and Deputy Director of Food and Civil Supplies Prateek Hegde attended the discussions alongside mill directors and transport representatives.

Patel backs Anwar Gadad's community leadership in Alavandi

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Holistic societal advancement requires unifying leadership that champions education, communal harmony, and public welfare, stated former Koppal City Municipal Council President Amjad Patel on Tuesday. Speaking after receiving a formal invitation at his residence for an upcoming community event scheduled on September 25 in Alavandi, Patel expressed confidence that under the proactive leadership of Anwar Hussain Gadad, the local minority community would achieve comprehensive development and integrate seamlessly into the social mainstream through inter-community cooperation.

Gadad, who serves as President of the Anjuman-e-Islam Committee in Alavandi village, has earned widespread recognition for transforming the organization into an active grassroots platform. Beyond routine administrative duties, his leadership focuses on building social unity, organizing welfare initiatives, and resolving public grievances through dialogue with regional stakeholders. Highlighting education as the foundation for rural progress, Patel praised Gadad's focus on assisting students from economically disadvantaged families. He emphasized that providing financial support, educational guidance, and essential resources to youth is vital

for breaking generational poverty. Furthermore, in culturally diverse rural settings like Alavandi, sustained initiatives that promote peaceful coexistence and mutual trust among communities remain paramount. Patel observed that leadership in community institutions carries a sacred public trust rather than symbolic authority. Commending the Anjuman-e-Islam Committee's constructive interventions, he expressed optimism that expanding youth empowerment programs, career counseling, and skill development under Gadad's guidance will build lasting social harmony and socioeconomic progress across Alavandi and neighboring rural belts.

Narayanpur villagers face drinking water shortage

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Residents of Narayanpur village in Hunasagi taluk have been facing a drinking water shortage for the past 20 days after several water pipelines were damaged during road and drainage works in the main market area. Villagers said the damaged pipelines have not been repaired due to the slow progress of the ongoing road and drainage works. As a result, regular drinking water supply to the village has been disrupted, leaving residents to depend on alternative sources. Many villagers are reportedly being forced to travel to distant areas to collect water for their daily needs. Residents said the prolonged shortage has caused considerable hardship, particularly for

women, elderly people and families with children. They urged the authorities to take immediate action to restore the water supply and avoid further inconvenience to the people. The villagers submitted a memorandum to the Executive Engineer of the Karnataka Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL), requesting officials to visit Narayanpur and inspect the affected areas. They urged the department to assess the extent of damage to the pipelines and arrange repairs at the earliest. The residents also called for better coordination among the departments involved in road, drainage and water supply works. They said proper coordination was necessary to prevent damage to existing water pipelines during infrastructure projects.

K'taka Drought-Hit Taluks Rise To 177

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's drought situation has worsened, with the number of drought-affected taluks rising to 177. Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G Parameshwara said on Tuesday. The government has added 53 more taluks to the drought-hit list following an assessment of rainfall, crop conditions and other prescribed parameters. With the latest additions, nearly 73 per cent of the state is now covered under drought conditions. Parameshwara said the number of affected taluks could increase further as the government continues to monitor ground conditions, rainfall deficiency and crop damage. Karnataka had initially declared 101 taluks drought-hit in the first phase. Another 23



taluks were subsequently added, taking the total to 124. The latest addition of 53 taluks has pushed the figure to 177. The state has recorded a 36 per cent rainfall deficit, with several interior regions facing particularly severe shortages. Erratic rainfall has affected sowing operations and resulted in crop losses, leaving farmers facing distress after repeated attempts at cultivation. Parameshwara said the government was following

the drought declaration guidelines issued by the Union government in 2020. The guidelines consider several parameters, including rainfall deficiency and crop conditions, while determining whether an area qualifies for drought declaration. The government is continuing to assess the situation across Karnataka, with further additions to the drought-hit list possible depending on rainfall patterns and the extent of crop damage.

Lakshmeshwar villagers trade pomp for drought solidarity

CH NEWS, LAKSHMESHWAR

In a poignant departure from commercial pomp and high-decibel revelry, residents and youth groups of Bastiban in Lakshmeshwar have earned widespread acclaim across Gadag district by celebrating an austere 'Raittha Ganesha' (Farmer Ganesha) festival in solidarity with drought-hit cultivators.

With monsoon failure leaving agricultural lands parched and rural households in acute distress, the Gajanan Youth Group and village elders discarded expensive sound systems, dazzling electronic displays, and firecrackers. Instead, the community dedicated the festivities to raising awareness about agrarian hardship. Commencing in the presence of Sri Abhinava Basavannajja of Kundagol Kalyanpur Math, the ceremonial immersion procession featured traditional bullock carts, folk tableaux honoring Kittur Rani Chennamma, and youth dressed in traditional agrarian attire, with onlookers gently showering flower petals along the route. Local farmers expressed deep gratitude for the gesture. Senior cultivator Takappa Satapute noted that celebrating festivals with ostentation felt inappropriate while rural families were facing acute crop failure, commending the youth for acknowledging the agrarian community's grief. Farmer leader Basavaraj Odunavara emphasized that

Commending youth solidarity during crop failure, farmer leaders praised redirecting festival budgets into meaningful community support as a statewide model

channeling celebration expenses into constructive community causes provides a meaningful model for festival organizers statewide. Marked by daily spiritual observances rather than extravagance, the festival committee adopted the motto, "Let us wipe away even a single drop of the farmer's tears." On Sunday night, members of the Basaveshwara Bhajana Sangha of Basapura Oni joined the Ganesha Mandali to perform night-long devotional bhajans, offering collective prayers for rainfall to revive withered fields. Agrarian leaders, including Manjunath Magadi, Taluk President of the Federation of Comprehensive Farmers' Organizations, alongside Ashok Niralota and Mahadevappa Annigeri, participated in the event. Utilizing the gathering to voice urgent agrarian demands, farmer representatives collectively urged the state government to officially notify Lakshmeshwar taluk as drought-hit, expedite immediate relief packages, and release overdue crop insurance claim disbursements to affected farm families without administrative delay.

Dharwad school students attend classes under makeshift tent

CH NEWS, Dharwad

Students of Bharatiya Vidya Kendra Aided Girls' School in Dharwad are attending classes under a makeshift tent after a classroom on the school premises was reportedly demolished overnight. The incident has raised concerns among the school management and parents over the disruption to education. The school, established around 1966, provides education to girls from Classes 5 to

10. According to the school management, representatives of the new property owner used a JCB to demolish and clear the classroom despite requests from the management not to proceed with the work. Desks and other materials from the demolished classroom have been left outside the building. With the classroom no longer available, a temporary tent has been erected on the school playground so that students can continue their lessons.

WHITE GOLD AND GROWTH

Holalu Milk Cooperative records ₹15 lakh profit

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Holalu Village Milk Producers' Cooperative Society convened its Annual General Meeting for the 2025-26 fiscal year at the society's premises on Tuesday, celebrating a profitable year and honoring local milk suppliers and academic achievers.

Inaugurating the proceedings, former Vice-President of the State Vokkaliga Sangha H.L. Shivanna commended the society for securing second place in Mandya district after posting an annual net profit of ₹15 lakh. Emphasizing that dairy farming pro-



vides a reliable economic foundation for rural families, Shivanna urged members to maintain high hygiene standards, utilize institutional bank credit facilities, and supply unadulterated milk to strengthen the cooperative's

market reputation while retaining adequate milk at home for family nutrition. Honorary President and former MLA H.B. Ramu felicitated children of member-farmers who scored top marks in the SSLC examina-

tions, presenting them with merit certificates and cash incentives. Recalling the early cooperative movement spearheaded by pioneers such as Bommegowda, H.D. Chowdaiah, and G. Madegowda, Ramu noted that Holalu was among the few villages that built strong cooperative institutions early on. He highlighted that access to subsidized cattle feed, fertilizers, and agricultural credit through the society has empowered local livestock farmers. During the gathering, legal counsel H.M. Vijay Kumar briefed members on institu-

tional development strategies, following which top milk producers who delivered the highest volume during the year were recognized with awards. The meeting took place under the leadership of Society President H.P. Sachidananda and Vice-President B.M. Sudhamani, with prominent regional representatives including former APMC Director H.C. Sridhar, Mandya K.L. Shik Samaj Directors H.L. Shankar and H.D. Mohan Kumar, In-charge Secretary H.N. Borayya, executive committee members, and cooperative milk producers in attendance.



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

HAMPI DASARA: REVIVING A FORGOTTEN LEGACY

The grand Mysuru Dasara, today celebrated as one of Karnataka’s most iconic cultural festivals, has a historical debt that should not be forgotten. Its roots lie in the glorious Vijayanagar Empire and, in particular, in the Dasara tradition patronised by the illustrious ruler Sri Krishnadevaraya in the 15th century. The magnificent ruins of Hampi stand as a testimony to the wealth, architectural brilliance and cultural achievements of the Vijayanagar Empire. The tradition of celebrating Dasara, with its royal grandeur and cultural significance, was subsequently carried forward by the Wadiyars of Mysuru, who had links with the Vijayanagar tradition. Over the centuries, Mysuru transformed the festival into a magnificent annual spectacle that has earned international recognition.

The birthplace of glorious tradition?
A veteran politician and lover of literature and culture, the late M.P. Prakash, recognised the importance of reconnecting Hampi with its magnificent past. He took the initiative to revive the Dasara tradition at Hampi and sought to recreate the grandeur of the nine-day celebrations associated with the Vijayanagar era. His efforts gave a new identity to the Hampi festival. The initiative was welcomed by historians, cultural enthusiasts and people of Ballari region, who saw it as an attempt to restore the historical and cultural importance of Hampi. The festival was conceived not merely as an entertainment event, but as a tribute to the empire that had contributed immensely to Karnataka’s



cultural heritage. Unfortunately, after the demise of M.P. Prakash, the Hampi festival gradually lost its importance. Successive governments have continued to give considerable attention and financial support to Mysuru Dasara, while Hampi has often received only modest attention. The Hampi festival has, on several occasions, been reduced to a symbolic event or skipped altogether under one pretext or another. District in-charge ministers have often treated it as an obligatory annual programme rather than an opportunity to showcase the historical and cultural wealth of one of Karnataka’s greatest heritage sites.

The creation of Vijayanagar district should have provided a fresh opportunity to give Hampi festival a new direction. Instead, there have been concerns that the selection of artists and programmes has sometimes become influenced by political considerations. There appears to have been little sustained effort to develop the festival into a major cultural event drawing inspiration from the grandeur of the Vijayanagar period.

This is an unfortunate situation.
Karnataka cannot celebrate Mysuru Dasara while allowing Hampi’s own Dasara tradition to fade into the background. Mysuru has undoubtedly made the festival its own and taken it to unprecedented heights. But that success should not come at the expense of Hampi, whose historical association with the tradition is far older and deeper.

The government need not view Mysuru Dasara and Hampi Dasara as competing festivals. They can, in fact, complement each other. Mysuru can continue to showcase the living royal and cultural traditions of Karnataka, while Hampi can present the magnificence of the Vijayanagar era through history, classical arts, folk traditions, literature, music, dance, handicrafts and scholarly programmes.

Hampi has everything required to host a world-class cultural festival. What is needed is political will, proper planning and sustained financial and institutional support.

The government should therefore consider celebrating Hampi Dasara on a scale commensurate with its historical importance, alongside Mysuru Dasara. A dedicated annual calendar, adequate budget, professional curation of cultural programmes and participation of historians, artists and cultural institutions could transform the festival into a major national and international attraction.

It is equally surprising that elected representatives from the region have not mounted a sustained demand for restoring Hampi Dasara to its former glory. The responsibility of preserving this legacy cannot rest solely with the government. Public representatives, cultural organisations, historians and people of the region must also demand that Hampi receive the recognition it deserves.

The Vijayanagar Empire gave Karnataka an extraordinary cultural legacy. Dasara is one of its most enduring gifts.

Allowing the Hampi tradition to wither while celebrating only its later manifestation in Mysuru amounts to overlooking an important chapter of our own history.

It is high time the Karnataka government restored Hampi Dasara to its rightful place in the State’s cultural calendar.

Are you listening, Mr Chief Minister and Mr Kannada and Culture Minister?

Allan Augustine B.

AI BECOMES THE FIRST FRONTIER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

AI-based chatbots are increasingly becoming people’s first-line contact amid mental health concerns. In moments of loneliness, anxiety, stress, depression, relationship difficulties, or emotional distress, many people are choosing to interact with AI instead of first seeing a therapist. In a vast and diverse country like India, where access to mental health services remains unequal, AI technology offers a new possibility. However, it’s important to understand that AI can be a means to expand mental health services, not a substitute for them. The biggest challenges facing mental health services in India include the limited availability of trained specialists, the lack of services in rural and remote areas, the cost of treatment, and the social stigma associated with mental illness. In such an environment, the 24-hour availability of AI creates significant opportunities. Individuals can share their problems at any time and receive information, emotional support, and self-help tips at an early stage. AI-based digital mental health platforms can play a useful role in this direction.

Social taboos about mental health issues could also encourage the use of AI. Many people hesitate to express their feelings to family, friends, or therapists. Relatively anonymous digital conversations allow them to express their concerns, fears, and concerns. Chatbots can thus serve as a first step in mental health communication and encourage individuals to seek further professional help if needed.

An important benefit of AI is early screening. By analyzing a person’s communication, be-



- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

“The challenge of privacy, misinformation, and human empathy, with the potential to increase accessibility”.

havior, and certain digital signals, AI can help identify potential anxiety, depression, or other mental health risks. However, such screening should not be considered a final medical diagnosis. Its purpose should only be to identify potential risks and help direct the person to the appropriate specialist.

Multilingual AI technology is also of particular importance given India’s linguistic diversity. If mental health information and initial support are limited to English or a limited number of languages, large populations will be excluded. Language technology and digital systems developed for Indian languages can bridge this gap. In the future, such services could be integrated with government mental health initiatives like Tele-Manas to provide initial support to remote areas.

Personal assistance can also be a useful feature of AI. Reminding people to take medication, motivating them to stay focused on sleep and routines, suggesting stress-reduction exercises, or guiding them through structured self-help activities based on cognitive behavioral therapy are just some of the areas where AI can play a supportive role. For clinicians, AI can also help with regular patient monitoring, identifying and prioritizing high-risk cases. This can enable more effective use of limited human resources.

But along with the opportunities, there are also significant risks. A person in emotional distress is in a highly vulnerable state. If AI provides inaccurate, incomplete, or out-of-context information, it could exacerbate the person’s distress. If a chatbot inadvertently reinforces a negative or delusional belief

instead of challenging it, the consequences could be serious. This is why AI systems for mental health must clearly distinguish between chatbots that provide general information and tools proven to provide clinical assistance.

The greatest danger arises when a person begins to perceive AI as a substitute for a real doctor. Constant interaction can also lead to emotional dependence. The person may believe that the machine fully understands their feelings, while AI has limitations in understanding human experience, moral judgment, clinical discretion, and the actual social context.

This limitation becomes even more serious in critical situations like suicide or self-harm. Individuals don’t always express their situation directly. Their signals may be indirect, ambiguous, or hidden in cultural contexts. If AI fails to recognize such warnings or doesn’t connect with human assistance in a timely manner, the potential for harm increases. Therefore, in high-risk cases, chatbots should be able to immediately guide the person to a trained person, helpline, or emergency service rather than continuing the conversation.

Privacy is also a major concern. Mental health conversations are extremely personal. Individuals may share their emotions, family circumstances, relationships, fears, and personal experiences with digital systems. The collection, storage, use, and sharing of such sensitive data should be subject to clear regulations and robust data protection. Mental health data requires special care in the context of India’s digital personal data protection regime.

Additionally, algorithmic bias in AI is also a concern. India’s linguistic, cultural, gender, and social diversity is so vast that a single model cannot equally address the mental health needs of all communities. A system trained in one language, class, or cultural context may provide advice inappropriate for another community.

Therefore, the way forward is not to halt AI, but to develop it responsibly. Mental health AI systems should have independent clinical trials, regular safety audits, clear accountability, and mandatory protocols for accessing human experts in case of crisis. Human intervention should be mandatory, not optional, in high-risk cases. Furthermore, privacy, data minimization, and safe use should be prioritized at the design stage.

AI can expand the first threshold of mental health services in India. It can reach individuals who are unable to access a doctor due to distance, cost, language, or social stigma. But there is a difference between the first threshold and the final destination. Mental health is not just a matter of information or conversation, but of human empathy, clinical understanding, and ongoing care. Therefore, the right direction for the future should not be ‘AI versus doctors’, but ‘doctors with AI’. Technology should expand access, identify early signs, and facilitate access to help; trained human experts should be at the center of final decisions and care. This balance can form the foundation of a safe, accessible, and humane mental health system in India.

CIVIC SENSE BEYOND SURVEILLANCE

Who are you when no one’s watching?, a powerful question echoed in R.H. Sin’s ‘A Beautiful Composition of Broken’ which reflects the continuing civic struggle interfering with Bengaluru’s progress irresponsible waste disposal and poor public hygiene.

India is developing rapidly, and cities like Bengaluru are emerging as important global hubs of technological innovation, economic growth, and urban development. Yet, the “Silicon Valley of India” continues to face a far less sophisticated but fundamental civic issue; one that can be seen on its streets, roads, and public spaces. Even in areas with signs that clearly prohibit the disposal of waste materials, public spaces continue to be treated as dumping grounds. This leads to a provocative question that is less related to the cleanliness of the city and more to civic responsibility: what does development really mean if our public behaviour fails to develop alongside our country?

We often expect authorities to maintain cleaner streets and improve waste management. We are quick to blame the law and regulations for failing to keep the city clean. We demand proper road maintenance, better systems, and stricter rules.

These demands are valid. But do we ever question the role we, as citizens, play in shaping the nation? A clean city cannot be created solely through government action, just as an

unclean city cannot be blamed entirely on its citizens. It is a shared responsibility.

Yet, civic consciousness and responsibility is often reduced to the fear of consequences. A fine may discourage someone from littering when a police officer is present. A camera may encourage compliance when people know they are being observed, similar to the concept of a panopticon. But what happens when there is no fine, no camera and no one to enforce these rules? What happens when there is no fear of being caught?

The absence of surveillance should not become a discreet invitation to disregard our basic civic responsibility as citizens of a nation. Public spaces belong to the public. The garbage people leave behind creates an inevitable loop; it affects other people who walk on those roads, the traffic, the cleaners and sanitation workers, communities, the public infrastructure, the city, and ultimately, even those who contribute to the problem.

Bengaluru’s progress demands more than economic growth and technological advancement. It demands a corresponding growth in civic consciousness. It requires authorities to develop effective systems and measures and citizens to respect public spaces and these rules and systems, “even when no one is watching”.

- ANAGHA SAAGAR



- DR. VIJAY GARG

UPI CHARGES: WHAT COULD BE THE IMPACT ON THE COMMON MAN?

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has transformed digital payments in India by making money transfers quick, convenient and widely accessible. From small roadside purchases to large transactions, millions of people use UPI every day without paying a direct transaction fee.

The possibility of introducing charges on some UPI transactions has therefore raised questions about its future impact on ordinary users. Any change in the present cost structure could influence consumers, small businesses and digital-payment habits.

For the common man, even a small fee may matter when payments are frequent. People making numerous low-value transactions could become more conscious of transaction costs. Small shopkeepers, street vendors and service providers may also worry about whether additional charges would increase their operating costs or affect customer behaviour.

At the same time, the impact would depend greatly on who pays the charge, how much it is, and which types of transactions are covered. A carefully designed system



could limit the burden on ordinary consumers, while poorly structured charges could discourage some users from choosing digital payments.

UPI has also played an important role in reducing dependence on cash and expanding financial inclusion. Any policy change should therefore consider the needs of consumers, small businesses and the wider digital economy.

The debate is not simply about introducing a fee; it is about maintaining the balance between the sustainability of the digital-payment ecosystem and the affordability of everyday transactions.

UPI has become an important part of modern Indian life. If charges are introduced in the future, transparency, affordability and protection of small-value transactions will be crucial to ensuring that digital payments remain accessible to everyone.

- Flacco

AI Revolution in Mental Healthcare

The integration of artificial intelligence into mental healthcare marks a transformative leap in public wellness. For decades, the stigma surrounding mental health, combined with a severe shortage of professionals, has left millions without support. AI-driven platforms provide a discreet, accessible, and immediate first step for individuals seeking guidance. While algorithm-based care can never replace the empathy and expertise of human therapists, it acts as a crucial bridge for early intervention. As technology advances, regulators and healthcare providers must work together to maintain privacy and ethical standards, ensuring this digital frontier remains a safe, empowering resource for all.

Reviving Heritage Before It Fades

The grand celebration of festivals at historical monuments like Hampi serves as a vital reminder of our rich cultural roots. However, true heritage preservation requires consistent effort beyond annual events. Many magnificent ruins across our country suffer from neglect, encroachment, and environmental degradation throughout the year. Reviving forgotten legacies should not merely be a seasonal spectacle but a continuous national priority. By combining sustainable tourism with community-led conservation programs, we can ensure that future generations experience these historical treasures in their full glory. Let us honor our history by protecting these monumental landscapes every day, not just during celebrations.

Civic Duty Begins Without Surveillance

Urban development is often measured by modern infrastructure and smart technology, yet true progress lies in civic responsibility. Cities continue to struggle with reckless littering and poor sanitation despite installing surveillance cameras and issuing fines. A clean environment cannot depend solely on municipal authorities or fear of punishment; it requires voluntary discipline from citizens. Respecting public spaces must become an intrinsic habit rather than a forced behavior under observation. If we desire cleaner, world-class cities, we must cultivate a culture of individual accountability. Real growth happens when we care for our shared surroundings even when no one is watching.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE MUST EVOLVE BEYOND COLD WAR



The global order designed in the aftermath of the Second World War is currently experiencing unprecedented institutional strain. Multilateral bodies created to guarantee stability, facilitate trade, and prevent global conflict are finding themselves increasingly paralyzed by rigid geopolitical divides and outdated voting structures. As emerging economies demand an equitable voice in global decision-making, the reluctance of traditional powers to reform governance mechanisms threatens to dismantle multilateralism entirely. To prevent further fragmentation into competing economic blocs, international institutions must undergo immediate structural modernization that reflects today's multipolar reality.

At the center of this structural crisis is the United Nations Security Council, where permanent members frequently exercise veto power to block resolutions addressing urgent humanitarian and security emergencies. This paralysis erodes public faith in international law and creates an atmosphere where unilateral action bypasses established diplomatic channels. Furthermore, global financial bodies like the International Monetary

Fund and the World Bank continue to operate on governance frameworks that disproportionately favor Western nations, despite developing countries driving the majority of worldwide economic growth. This imbalance leads to developing nations to construct alternative institutions, risking a fractured global economy.

Reforming global governance does not mean discarding established principles of international law; rather, it requires expanding representation to foster true accountability. Expanding permanent and non-permanent seats on the Security Council to include underrepresented regions such as Africa, Latin America, and South Asia is an imperative first step. Simultaneously, financial institutions must restructure voting shares to provide emerging markets with a proportionate role in shaping global fiscal policy. Climate change, cross-border pandemics, and artificial intelligence regulation represent global challenges that no single nation can navigate independently. Without representative, functioning multilateral institutions, global cooperation will continue to flounder.

Critics often argue that expanding institutional leader-

ship leads to bureaucratic inertia and indecision. However, the alternative—a fragmented world governed by ad-hoc coalitions and unchecked regional powers is far more dangerous. When global rules are perceived as equitable and uniformly enforced, compliance increases, and diplomatic solutions gain traction over military escalation. Modernizing international agreements requires diplomatic courage, particularly from established powers accustomed to dominant influence. Yet, sharing governance responsibility is a small price to pay for global security and economic predictability.

The international community stands at a defining crossroads. We can either cling to decaying mid-century frameworks until systemic failure forces collapse, or proactively construct a resilient, inclusive diplomatic architecture. True global leadership is defined not by the capacity to dictate terms, but by the willingness to build consensus among diverse nations. Reforming global governance is no longer a idealistic pursuit; it is a practical necessity for peace, economic stability, and shared progress in an interconnected world.

- YASH RAJ MUTHA

STATE WATER POLICIES NEED URGENT CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Water insecurity has evolved into one of the most severe challenges threatening our state's agricultural productivity, urban stability, and ecological health. Shifting climate patterns, irregular monsoon cycles, and rising global temperatures have exposed the vulnerabilities of our traditional water management systems. Dams, reservoirs, and canal systems built decades ago are no longer sufficient to handle alternating periods of severe drought and sudden cloudbursts. To prevent widespread water scarcity and agricultural collapse, the state government must enact comprehensive water management reforms centered on climate resilience and conservation.

A core factor driving state water stress is the widespread depletion of underground aquifers. Decades of unmettered groundwater extraction, combined with flood irrigation for water-intensive crops, have lowered water tables across multiple agricultural districts. To address this crisis, state policy must incentivize sus-

tainable agricultural practices, such as drip irrigation, crop diversification, and precision farming. Shifting financial subsidies toward drought-resistant crops reduces agricultural water demand while improving farmers' climate resilience. Agriculture policy and water conservation must operate in close alignment.

In urban and industrial areas, state policy must strictly mandate rainwater harvesting, graywater recycling, and the ecological restoration of natural water bodies. Lakes, wetlands, and river beds across the state have been polluted, drained, or encroached upon by urban expansion, destroying natural groundwater recharge zones. Restoring state wetlands and clearing natural drainage channels provides natural protection against urban flooding during heavy rainfall while simultaneously building subsurface water storage. Protecting natural ecological buffers is far more cost-effective than constructing artificial runoff reservoirs.

Implementing stringent water management regulations frequently meets resistance

from industrial sectors and agricultural lobbies accustomed to unrestricted resource access. However, short-term economic consumption at the expense of long-term water sustainability guarantees severe crisis. Water rationing, crop failures, and industrial shutdowns are far more damaging than adopting proactive conservation measures. State leadership must communicate that water security is foundational to long-term economic prosperity and public health.

Achieving water security demands unified governance, innovative technology, and community participation. The state must establish decentralized water monitoring bodies that empower local village councils and urban resident associations to manage local water budgets transparently. Clean, reliable water access is a basic human right and a vital prerequisite for state stability. By prioritizing climate-resilient water policies today, our state can safeguard its vital resources for future generations.

- CHAWI D'COSTA



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEMANDS UNIVERSAL GLOBAL ETHICS PROTOCOLS

The swift advance of artificial intelligence technologies has transitioned from a localized tech sector phenomenon into a central pillar of global economic policy and geopolitical competition. Autonomous algorithms now influence financial markets, healthcare diagnoses, national defense strategies, and information ecosystems. However, the speed of algorithmic development has drastically outpaced the creation of regulatory governance. Without a unified, international ethical framework, the uncontrolled deployment of artificial intelligence threatens to worsen global inequality, compromise individual privacy, and trigger dangerous automated arms races.

Currently, the regulatory landscape for artificial intelligence remains dangerously fractured. Different sovereign jurisdictions are adopting conflicting regulatory strategies: some prioritize strict consumer privacy protections, others push aggressive national development without safety protocols, and many developing nations lack the technological infrastructure to im-

plement oversight altogether. This patchwork environment creates regulatory arbitrage, allowing companies to deploy risky AI models in jurisdictions with weak protections. Just as global aviation and maritime sectors rely on standardized safety rules to operate securely across borders, artificial intelligence requires universally accepted baseline ethics and safety standards.

Establishing effective global AI standards requires distinguishing between innovative deployment and high-risk applications. Autonomous weapons systems, invasive mass surveillance platforms, and algorithms that manipulate public democratic processes present existential risks to global stability and should be subject to international treaties. Concurrently, international organizations must ensure that developing countries gain access to beneficial AI tools for agriculture, education, and medicine, preventing a deepening digital divide between technological powers and the rest of the world. Global ethics must balance safety with equitable access.

Skeptics suggest that inter-



national treaties are too slow to keep pace with rapid technological iteration. While technological tools evolve weekly, underlying human rights and ethical imperatives—such as transparency, accountability, bias mitigation, and human oversight—remain constant. International bodies can establish dynamic regulatory frameworks that outline clear boundaries while adapting technical specifications over time. Collaborations between technology engineers, ethicists, civil society organizations, and international policymakers can bridge the gap between technical capability and public accountability.

Artificial intelligence holds immense promise for solving complex global problems, from climate modeling to medical breakthroughs. However, unguided innovation risks compounding existing societal harms and creating systemic vulnerabilities. Nation-states must move past competitive isolationism and come together to establish enforceable global AI guardrails. Ensuring that technology serves humanity's collective welfare requires global foresight, shared responsibility, and immediate diplomatic action before uncontrolled deployment creates irreversible consequences.

- VINU THOMAS

RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH REQUIRES DECENTRALIZED INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

For decades, state economic policy has prioritized capital investments in tier-one metropolitan zones, driving urban migration and leaving rural districts economically stagnant. While big cities generate significant tax revenue, concentrating infrastructure funding within urban corridors creates unsustainable regional imbalances. Rural populations suffer from limited employment opportunities, deteriorating healthcare access, and underfunded schools, which forces young workers to abandon agrarian communities. Rebalancing state priorities requires a deliberate strategy of decentralized infrastructure investment that empowers rural economies to thrive independently.

A resilient state economy depends on diversifying growth rather than over-relying on a few urban technology or industrial hubs. Investing in rural infrastructure extends far beyond repairing regional highways; it requires constructing modern cold-storage facilities, expanding high-speed digital



connectivity, and establishing specialized agro-processing centers. When farmers gain access to reliable digital markets and efficient supply chains, agricultural waste drops and income stability increases. Upgrading rural transport and processing capabilities transforms raw agricultural output into high-value processed goods directly within local communities, creating non-farm employment for rural youth.

Furthermore, state healthcare and educational infrastructure in rural areas require systemic overhaul. Rural clinics often face severe staffing shortages and lack diagnostic

facilities, forcing patients to undertake long, costly journeys to metropolitan centers for basic care. By constructing well-equipped regional healthcare hubs and leveraging telemedicine technologies, the state can deliver quality care directly to rural citizens. Similarly, establishing vocational training institutes aligned with regional industries such as renewable energy, food processing, and sustainable forestry equips rural students with practical, marketable skills without compelling them to relocate.

Critics may argue that investing heavily in sparsely populated areas yields lower

immediate returns on investment compared to urban projects. This view ignores the immense economic and social costs of urban overcrowding, pollution, and infrastructure strain caused by rural-to-urban migration. Decoupling state economic growth from urban concentration relieves pressure on metropolitan services while unlocking latent economic potential in smaller towns. Strategic rural investments build regional self-reliance and protect local economies against macro-economic shocks.

State leadership must shift away from centralized economic models toward inclusive, region-specific development policies. Allocating infrastructure funds transparently to secondary towns and rural districts is both an economic necessity and a moral duty. By fostering vibrant rural economies, the state can achieve balanced growth, reduce poverty, and ensure that progress reaches every community, regardless of geographic location.

- SHANTHAMMA

PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREETS TRANSFORM URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD DYNAMICS

Modern urban planning in rapidly growing cities has long prioritized motor vehicle traffic over human mobility. Massive road-widening schemes, flyovers, and arterial corridors are continuously built to accommodate expanding automobile ownership, yet traffic congestion steadily worsens. In this auto-centric pursuit, city sidewalks have been reduced, fragmented, or eliminated entirely, leaving pedestrians to navigate hazardous, polluted streetscapes. Reclaiming city streets for pedestrians is not merely an aesthetic choice; it is a vital strategy for reviving local commerce, improving public health, and rebuilding vibrant urban communities.

When city infrastructure prioritizes walkability, neighborhoods experience an immediate socio-economic transformation. Walkable corridors encourage foot traffic, directly benefiting local small businesses, street vendors, and neighborhood markets that rely on casual drop-in customers. Furthermore, well-lit, continuous sidewalks accompanied by protected bike lanes reduce reliance on personal vehicles for short trips, cutting neighborhood carbon emissions and easing arterial road congestion. Designing streets for people rather than cars creates accessible, human-scale urban centers that foster social interaction and community cohesion.

Pedestrian safety remains a severe urban equity issue that city planners can no longer overlook. Senior citizens, children, and individuals with mobility impairments are disproportionately isolated when city walkways are broken, blocked by parked vehicles, or lacking safe crossings. Implementing traffic-calming measures, raised pedestrian crossings, wide curb extensions, and dedicated green corridors protects vulnerable road users. A city that safe-guards its most vulnerable pedestrians naturally creates a safer, more welcoming environment for all residents.

Skeptics often contend that reallocating road space from private cars to wider sidewalks and bike lanes increases vehicular gridlock.

- ROYANIA MOSES

DECENTRALIZED WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLVES URBAN GARBAGE CRISES

As urban populations swell, public waste management has escalated into a critical civic crisis. Everyday city operations produce thousands of tons of municipal solid waste, much of which ends up unsegregated in massive peripheral landfills. These overflowing dumping grounds foul the air, contaminate local groundwater, and pose serious health hazards to neighboring suburban communities. The traditional centralized model collecting mixed garbage and hauling it to distant outskirts is environmentally unsustainable and fiscally wasteful. Cities must transition immediately toward neighborhood-level, decentralized waste management systems.

The foundation of any successful municipal waste system is strict source segregation. When households and commercial establishments separate wet organic waste, dry recyclables, and hazardous materials at the point of generation, waste management efficiency increases dramatically. Wet organic waste, which accounts for over half of total urban refuse, can be processed locally within ward boundaries using small-scale composting facilities or bio-methanation plants. Converting organic waste into nutrient-rich compost or clean biogas dramatically reduces the volume of garbage hauled across the city, cutting municipal transport fuel costs and carbon emissions.

A decentralized approach also empowers local communities and elevates the dignified integration of informal waste pickers into the formal civic workforce. Informal recycling networks currently handle the vast majority of urban plastic and dry waste recovery, yet workers labor in unsafe conditions for minimal pay. By establishing neighborhood micro-recycling hubs, municipal corporations can provide waste workers with safe processing facilities, fair wages, protective equipment, and healthcare benefits. Integrating informal workers transforms waste management into a social empowerment initiative.

- LATHA MOANNA

Quick Read

Maharashtra UCC panel member quits, flags work ethic

Mumbai

Former Bombay High Court judge RC Chavan has resigned from the Maharashtra government-appointed committee tasked with preparing a draft for implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state, citing differences over the panel's functioning and the approach taken to its work. Justice Chavan, who retired as a Bombay High Court judge in 2013, emailed his resignation to committee chairperson and retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai on September 19.

Mahua Moitra goes to Calcutta High Court over egg attack

Kolkata

Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra has moved the Calcutta High Court, alleging police inaction after eggs were thrown at her during a visit to her Krishnanagar constituency in West Bengal earlier this month. In her plea, Moitra said the September 16 incident happened despite an earlier interim order of the high court directing police to provide her security whenever she visited the constituency till the end of September. The court said the matter will be heard as per the serial list.

AAP asks how 58 firms got registered at its Delhi headquarters

NEW DELHI

AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj has alleged that 58 companies were registered at the party's national headquarters address in New Delhi between July and September 2026, questioning how the firms obtained government approvals despite the premises being allotted to the party.

Bharadwaj alleged that the registrations were part of a conspiracy to create a narrative that the Aam Aadmi Party was receiving hawala funds and to damage its image ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls.

Bharadwaj said all 58 companies had obtained GST registrations, questioning how the firms were allowed to use 1 Canning Lane, the address of AAP's national headquarters.

"How were 58 companies allowed to get registered at the address which the government allotted as a bungalow?" Bharadwaj asked. He said the companies were registered between July and September 2026 and shared the names of all 58 firms that, according to him, used the AAP headquarters address for registration.

Bharadwaj also questioned the process through which the companies obtained GST licences, pointing out that GST registration involves Aadhaar authentication and, in certain cases, physical verification.

The AAP leader questioned how physical verification could have been completed at the party's national headquarters without officials noticing that the premises belonged to AAP. For GST registration, physical verification is required, and Aadhaar verification is carried out. How was this done at the national headquarters of AAP?" he asked.

He further questioned whether the officials conducting the verification had not noticed that there were no business establishments or boards of the 58 companies at the address. Bharadwaj said the Centre must explain how the companies were registered at the address and what the purpose behind the registrations was.

Bharadwaj alleged that the registrations were intended to create a false trail that could later be used to accuse AAP of receiving hawala money. He claimed that the BJP could have used the registrations to build a narrative around alleged hawala funding, triggering an investigation and defaming AAP ahead of the Punjab polls.

Months before signing a deal to supply drones to Pakistan, US-based company Powerus, which has close ties to the sons of President Donald Trump, had signed an agreement with an Indian firm to manufacture anti-drone systems. The development marks a rare instance of India and Pakistan having the same supplier for military hardware.

In June, Powerus signed an agreement with Mumbai-based Paras Defence and Space Technologies to manufacture and sell its 'Guardian-1' interceptor drones in India. As per regulatory filings by Paras, it entered into an exclusive intellectual property (IP) licensing agreement with Tandem Defence LLC - a wholly owned subsidiary of Powerus's parent company, Autonomous

Months before Pak deal, Trump family-linked US drone firm inked pact with India

NEW DELHI

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Power Corporation.

Simply put, the deal gives Paras exclusive rights to manufacture and sell the Guardian-1 anti-drone system in the domestic market. In return, Paras has to pay an upfront licence fee and share a portion of the net profits from sales in India with Powerus. The Guardian-1 is a high-speed, battery-powered counter-drone system that can detect, track and neutralise aerial threats. It was designed to counter one-way attack drones, loitering munitions and drone swarms. On its website, Powerus specifically mentions that its Guardian-1 interceptor is designed to counter Iranian Shahed and Geran drones. Both these low-cost drones have been used to great effect by Iran and Russia in their conflicts against the US and Ukraine, respectively.

Survivor recounts abuse by Tamil Nadu granite baron Veeramani

CHENNAI

A POSCO case against 84-year-old granite baron R Veeramani has widened into one of Tamil Nadu's biggest sexual abuse investigations, with multiple women who were allegedly abused when they were minors being identified and questions being raised over the handling of the original police probe.

Veeramani, chairman of GEM Group of Companies, who has been described as "Tamil Nadu's Epstein", was arrested in late August and investigators are tracing a rented house in Chennai that was allegedly used to sexually abuse minor girls. One of the survivors, Shanthi, who later became an aide to the accused,

alleged in a statement accessed by India Today TV that Veeramani began making sexual advances towards her when she was around 13 years old. She alleged that Veeramani, whom she knew as a close family friend, would visit her home under the pretext of helping her family and gradually gained her trust by presenting himself as a "godfather".

"I have know Veeramani since my childhood as a close family friend. He used to visit my house on the pretext of helping us on business fronts," Shanthi said. "Since I was too young, around 13 years old, I was not mature enough to foresee his bad intentions. I was unknowingly becoming a victim of his vicious sexual

advances," she alleged. Shanthi said Veeramani "started acting like a godfather" to her and allegedly exploited her trust for his personal benefit while making promises about her future. "I used to trust him 100 per cent and do everything that he had asked me to do for him, including arranging funds through my known sources for his financial needs," she said.

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Radhakrishnan Calls for Coordinated Water Management

NEW DELHI

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday inaugurated the ninth India International Water Week 2026 in New Delhi, calling for coordinated and sustainable management of the country's water resources. Addressing the event, Radhakrishnan stressed the need for precise use and conservation of water, saying the challenges surrounding water management cannot be addressed by any single institution, sector or state working in isolation. He described the India International Water Week as an important platform for bringing stakeholders together to deliberate on emerging challenges in water management. He called for greater cooperation and a coordinated approach involving governments, experts, communities and other stakeholders. Radhakrishnan emphasised the importance of a multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional framework that combines technological innovation, sound policy, scientific knowledge, local experience and community participation. He said cooperation must also extend across administrative and geographical boundaries to ensure water resources are managed sustainably, equitably and effectively. The Vice President pointed to the growing impact of climate change on rainfall patterns, saying increasing uncertainty requires systems capable of dealing with both excessive rainfall and prolonged dry spells. He said river-basin management, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation should function together as components of an integrated water-management strategy. Jal



Shakti Minister C R Patil also highlighted the importance of water conservation and said the government remains committed to providing safe and sufficient drinking water to every citizen. Patil described water as a shared resource and said water security is therefore a shared responsibility.

The five-day international event is being held under the theme "Climate Resilient Water Management" and brings together policymakers, global water leaders, researchers, practitioners, industry representatives, civil society organisations and young professionals.

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Supreme Court rejects plea challenging provisions of SC/ST Act

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea challenging the constitutional validity of provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, including those strengthened through the 2018 amendment. The court held that sufficient safeguards already exist against possible misuse of the law and declined to reconsider its earlier judgment upholding the amendment.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kan, Justice Joymala Bagchi and Justice V Mohana was hearing a petition filed by Brijbhushan Saini. The plea alleged that provisions of the SC/ST Act violate fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 21 and 22 of the Constitution and sought safeguards against arbitrary arrests and alleged misuse of the statute.

Articles 14, 21 and 22 collectively safeguard equality before law, life and personal liberty, and protections against arbitrary arrest and detention. Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Hari Shankar Jain argued that the stringent provisions of

the SC/ST Act have resulted in arrests and alleged malicious prosecution.

He questioned the statutory restrictions on anticipatory bail and contended that the provisions could encourage the filing of false FIRs. Jain also referred to the alleged distribution of Rs 493 crore in compensation under the SC/ST Act and questioned the legal basis for such payments. He argued that such provisions amounted to "reverse discrimination" and were "further creating a divide in society".

The 2018 amendment was enacted after the court's 2018 judgment in Dr Subhash Kashinath Mahajan v State of Maharashtra, which had introduced safeguards including preliminary inquiry and approval before arrest in certain circumstances and held that anticipatory bail could be granted in appropriate cases.

Parliament subsequently introduced Section 18A through the 2018 amendment, removing the requirement of a preliminary inquiry before registration of an FIR, dispensing with prior approval for arrest and restoring the statutory bar on anticipatory bail.

Moral policing can be done in decent, elegant fashion: Bihar Minister's shocker

PATNA

Bihar Minister and Jamui MLA Shreyasi Singh raised eyebrows while commenting on the molestation and assault of a boy and a girl in her constituency. "Moral policing can be done in a more decent and elegant fashion," Singh said while speaking to India Today TV as she condemned the incident that has made national headlines.

"Moral policing can be done in a more decent and elegant fashion. But the way they mishandled and mistreated the boy and girl together is absolutely not tolerable," the 35-year-old BJP leader and former sports shooter said.

Her remarks came after a viral video surfaced showing the boy and the Class 10 girl being confronted and harassed by a group of people on a roadside in Jamui a few days ago, triggering nationwide outrage. Asked to clarify her remarks, Singh said people could have an opinion about how others chose to live their lives, but there were

better ways to express such views. "You can have an opinion about how someone chooses to live their life and what they want to do with it. Maybe there is a better way to do it. But the way they have treated them is absolutely not tolerable. The videos that have come are shocking," she said.

Singh said she could not understand how members of the local community could treat the minors in such a manner. How can you treat a boy and a girl of the society that you are living in? They must have known that this boy and girl are kids from Jammu. I can't fathom the fact that they were treated this badly by the people of the community living there," she said. The minister also said she would ensure that those responsible could not escape accountability. "To help curb this (incident), I am going to ensure from my side that there is absolutely no loophole for them to get out. This incident needs to set a precedent for the future," she said.



Quick Read

Sharjeel Imam Granted Interim Bail to Attend Cousin's Wedding

New Delhi
A Delhi court has granted interim bail to jailed student activist Sharjeel Imam to attend his cousin's wedding, allowing him temporary release from October 4 to 10. The Karkardooma Court granted the relief to Imam, who is facing prosecution in connection with the 2020 North-East Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other penal provisions. The interim bail was granted to enable him to attend the wedding ceremonies of his cousin during the specified period.

JSP Questions Bihar Govt's Crackdown on Jamui Horror

Patna
Jan Suraa Party (JSP) founder and Bankipur MLA Prashant Kishor on Tuesday condemned the Jamui molestation incident that has sent shockwaves across Bihar and beyond, and questioned why the government was focusing more on taking action against social media handles that circulated the video of the incident, instead of cracking down on the main culprits.

India-US Trade Talks Move Ahead

NEW DELHI
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said negotiations between India and the United States on a bilateral trade agreement were "moving fast" and in a "good direction", while declining to disclose details of the discussions.
The talks are taking place as India assesses the implications of a new US law giving President Donald Trump authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian oil and gas. The legislation includes major buyers such as India and China.
The tariffs are not automatic and would depend on decisions taken under the law.
Goyal said that India would first study the details and potential implications of the legislation before discussing the issue at an appropriate time.
India and the US have continued negotiations on their proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement, with officials from both sides remaining engaged.
Earlier discussions have covered areas in-

India, Japan Deepen Defence Cooperation

INDIA AND JAPAN DISCUSSED DEEPER DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION, JOINT EXERCISES AND ECONOMIC-SECURITY TIES DURING A JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI.

NEW DELHI

India and Japan on Tuesday discussed ways to strengthen bilateral defence technology cooperation, joint military exercises and regional security collaboration, with both sides stressing the importance of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.
The discussions took place during a meeting between Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and a visiting delegation of Japanese parliamentarians from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), led by Taro Kono, in New Delhi.
According to the Ministry of Defence, the two sides



held a productive exchange of views on expanding defence technology collaboration, conducting joint exercises and enhancing regional security cooperation.
The Japanese delegation's

India-Japan Ties In Defence
■ Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met Japanese LDP delegation leader Taro Kono.
■ Talks focused on defence technology, joint exercises and Indo-Pacific security
■ Delegation highlighted India's manufacturing and deep-tech growth.
■ Both sides discussed supply-chain resilience and economic security.
■ India-Japan partnership seen as important for Indo-Pacific stability.

search Council; Karen Makishima, Acting Director of the LDP International Bureau; and Sakon Yamamoto.
On Monday, the delegation met Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and discussed

the broader trajectory of bilateral relations. Areas included defence, economic security, supply-chain resilience, trade and investment, technology, innovation and people-to-people ties.

The Japanese parliamentarians also noted developments in India's deep-tech, entrepreneurship, research and innovation ecosystem, while recognising the country's expanding manufacturing capabilities and economic growth.
Both sides also discussed the need for a stronger economic-security partnership to support supply-chain resilience and de-risking efforts.
The Ministry of External Affairs said India and Japan reaffirmed the importance of their Special Strategic and Global Partnership as a foundation for political trust, mutual goodwill and a shared strategic outlook in the Indo-Pacific.

21 States Sign UDAN MoUs

NEW DELHI

As many as 21 states and Union Territories have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Civil Aviation Ministry under the next phase of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday.
Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Naidu described UDAN as one of the country's most transformative aviation initiatives, aimed at expanding regional air connectivity and making air travel more accessible across India.
The minister said the gov-

Twenty-one states and Union Territories have signed MoUs as India expands regional connectivity under the next decade of UDAN.

ernment has extended the UDAN scheme for another 10 years and plans to construct 100 new airports and 200 modern helipads nationwide. The next phase is expected to facilitate travel for four crore UDAN passengers.
Naidu said more than 80 airports have been developed over the past decade under the modified UDAN programme, providing affordable air travel opportunities to nearly 1.54 crore passen-

UDAN Next Phase
100 new airports planned
200 modern helipads targeted
Four crore UDAN passengers targeted
Airport construction timeline targeted at 18 months

gers. The event also saw the launch of the Challenge Mode under the next phase, along with the release of bidding documents. Under this model, airport projects will be prioritised and fast-

tracked, with the government targeting an 18-month construction timeline compared with the earlier average of two to three years. Naidu said India's aviation sector currently supports more than seven million jobs, a figure expected to exceed 20 million by 2040. The minister also announced that Viability Gap Funding support would be provided on a tapered basis, with assistance extended from three years to five years. He urged states to work closely with smaller airlines and explore partnerships and regional models to expand connectivity and encourage the growth of new airlines.

Salim Dola's Arrest Forces Haji Salim Cartel To Go Low-Key, Shift Routes

NEW DELHI

The arrest and subsequent extradition of Salim Dola is among the biggest blows dealt by Indian agencies to the Dawood Ibrahim-Haji Salim narcotics cartel.
The Narendra Modi government at the Centre has embarked on a mission to make India drug-free, and even as new challenges crop up, the agencies have mostly got the better of these cartels.
Dola's arrest led to a massive disruption in the global supply chain.
While this affected the Dawood Syndicate, it also dealt a blow to Haji Salim, who is in charge of operations relating to South India.
An official said that following Dole's arrest, Haji Salim has been re-strategising his South India operations.
"He and his men are no longer operating with the audacity that they used to. They are aware that the agencies are on their trail and hence they have deliberately kept the operations low-key," the official said.
An Intelligence Bureau



official said that the biggest shift that one is witnessing is the change in the landing points for the narcotics.
Even the quantities have declined significantly, with narcotics now being brought in smaller consignments.
"At their peak, the Haji Salim-led networks would smuggle in consignments which would be to the tune of 2,000 to 5,000 kg. Now the quantities have deliberately been reduced to avoid scrutiny," the official said.
Another official said that the Haji Salim network is relying on the older styles of smuggling that can help evade the security agencies.
They have chosen coastal areas, which feature complex terrain, to smuggle drugs.
For instance, there is a lot of reliance on the coastal areas in Vedaranyam and Nagapattinam owing to the complex terrain.
Here, the Haji Salim gang has managed to use the small boats to smuggle the contraband.
These boats can mix with the local maritime traffic and are able to avoid detection to a large extent, the official said. However, the consignments are of smaller quantity here, the official also added.

CM Yogi Distributes Appointment Letters to 3,567 Teachers, Principals in Lucknow

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday distributed appointment letters to 3,567 selected teachers and principals appointed through Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission for various posts in secondary schools.
The appointments include principals, headmasters, lecturers (PGT) and assistant teachers (TGT). The appointment letters were distributed at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow.
Addressing the gathering, Yogi Adityanath congratulated the newly appointed teachers and principals and their families on the occasion.
"I wholeheartedly congratulate all of you on becoming a part of the Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Department. I also congratulate your teachers, parents and all your family members on this occasion," he said.
The Chief Minister said that the newly appointed teachers would have a significant role in shaping the future of students through guidance and mentorship.
"As I told you, if each teacher among you interacts

with 100 students every year, then 3,567 teachers means you will interact with more than 3.5 lakh children in a year. This means you have the ability to guide them. Your guidance and mentorship will lay the foundation for a new India," he said.
Recalling India's historical educational legacy, Yogi Adityanath said the country was considered a "Vishwaguru" when it was home to prestigious centres of learning such as Takshashila and Nalanda.
"India has this heritage from a very long time. There is a need to identify it and understand it," he said.
He said the government could create an environment for setting up industries and facilitate their establishment, but innovation and employment would ultimately depend on the students trained by teachers.
"The government can build laboratories, but whether those laboratories conduct excellent research and prepare students for it will be decided by the students trained by you," he said. The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of specialised training for those entering the teaching profession.

Kolkata Police arrest four over Bhangar clashes



KOLKATA

Four persons were arrested in two separate cases registered by the Kolkata Police on Tuesday morning, in connection with the major violence that broke out recently, in two phases within a college campus at Bhangar in the southern outskirts of Kolkata.
The four arrested persons have been identified as Rabiul Zama Sheikh, Akhtar Ali Molla, Rabiul Mistry and Aslam Habib. Although originally, Bhangar, being under the administrative jurisdiction of the South 24 Parganas district, was under the jurisdiction of the West Bengal Police, towards the closing quarters of the previous Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress regime, it was brought under the law & order jurisdiction of Kolkata Police.
The root of the tension at Bhangar College, which is located at a thoroughly minority-dominated area in South 24 Parganas district, broke out after the state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesman, Sayantan Basu, who is the president of the managing committee of Bhangar Col-

lege, reached the college campus for administrative functioning.
The activists of the CPI(M)'s students' wing, Students' Federation of India (SFI), started protesting over Basu's visit to the campus. Soon the activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) also reached the spot, following which massive altercations broke out between the two students' groups, which ultimately led to two rounds of clashes between the two groups.
A huge contingent reached the spot and somehow brought the situation under control. Now, on Tuesday morning, the cops have arrested four individuals in connection with the clashes.
Its is learnt that that the police registered a suo motu case in the matter at Bhangar Police station in relation to which Rabiul Mistry and Rabiul Zaman Sheikh were arrested. There are multiple charges against them including illegal assembly, illegal entry into the college, and obstructing the president of the management committee, said a city police insider.

OPEC-INDIA ENERGY DIALOGUE

India, OPEC Deepen Energy Cooperation

NEW DELHI

India and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Tuesday agreed on the importance of strengthening energy cooperation, with discussions focusing on oil market stability, energy security and investment across the global petroleum industry. The high-level meeting was co-chaired by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais. According to an official statement, the two sides reviewed short-, medium- and long-term energy market outlooks and



discussed India's growing importance to global economic expansion and energy demand. Puri appreciated OPEC's efforts to promote stability and transparency in global energy markets amid geopolitical uncertainty and market volatility. He called for closer coopera-

tion between India and OPEC to support a balanced, stable and predictable global energy market. The minister described the relationship between India and OPEC as naturally complementary and mutually beneficial, while stressing the importance of India's longstanding

engagement with OPEC member countries. He said India, as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, would remain a major driver of global energy demand in the coming decades. He also underlined the need for sustained producer-consumer dialogue to support investment, strengthen energy resilience and ensure reliable supplies. Al Ghais said dialogue with India was a priority for OPEC, citing the country's growing importance in the global energy landscape. He also highlighted the 11-year history of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue, launched in New Delhi in 2015. The two sides agreed to

hold the eighth High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue in Vienna at a mutually convenient date.

Hardeep Singh Puri:
"A sustained dialogue between producers and consumers is essential to support investment, strengthen energy resilience and ensure reliable energy supplies for global growth and development."

Haitham Al Ghais:
"Dialogue with India is a priority for OPEC because we recognise India's importance within the current global energy landscape."

S. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary,
Doddaballapura, on this 22nd day of
September, 2026.



Indian women's cricket team wins first Asian Games gold

India won its first Asian Games 2026 gold after defeating Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the women's cricket final in Aichi-Nagoya on Tuesday.

AICHI-NAGOYA

India secured the first gold medal of its Asian Games 2026 campaign on Tuesday as the women's cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the final at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Chasing 217 after India posted 216/3, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 69 in 15.4 overs, giving India their second successive Asian Games gold in women's cricket.

Smriti Mandhana led India's batting effort with 79 from 45 balls, hitting five fours and seven sixes. Shafali Verma made a rapid 48 off 29 balls, while Richa Ghosh finished unbeaten on 49 from 22 balls, including six fours and three sixes. India reached 67 without loss in the powerplay and later posted the highest-ever total in women's cricket at the Asian Games.

Mandhana completed her 37th T20I half-century and became the first woman cricketer to reach 11,000 runs in international cricket. India's opening pair added 99 before Shafali was dismissed. Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 19 from 17 balls, while Mandhana and Richa helped maintain the scoring rate through the closing overs.

Sri Lanka's chase quickly collapsed under India's spin attack. Deepti Sharma took 3/6 from four overs, while Shree Charani claimed 2/13. Shafali returned 2/3 in two overs and Shreyanka Patil took 2/9 in 1.4 overs. Chamari Athapaththu top-scored for Sri Lanka with 29, but Deepti dismissed the captain after a 21-ball innings containing five fours. India had already collected four silver and two bronze medals at the Games before this victory, taking their overall tally to seven.

Sri Lanka lost wickets regularly after reaching 41/2 at

Roshibina Devi assures third successive Asian Games medal

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian wushu star Roshibina Devi assured herself of a third successive Asian Games medal after reaching the women's Sanda 60kg semifinals with a 5-0 victory over Macao, China's Chu Man Sin on Tuesday. The semifinal berth guarantees her at least a bronze medal.

Roshibina previously won bronze at the 2018 Jakarta Games and silver at Hangzhou in 2023. The Manipuri athlete, who received the Arjuna Award in 2023, has also won gold at the 2017 Asian Junior Championships, 2019 South Asian Games and 2023 Moscow Wushu Stars. She



Thakur had earlier defeated Mongolia's Bold-erdene Altangerel 4-0.

India also secured medals in other disciplines. The men's badminton team defeated Japan 3-0 to reach the semifinals, while the women's cricket team won India's first gold by beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs. In boxing, Sakshi Chaudhary advanced to the women's 51kg round of 16 with a 5-0 decision, while India's men's kabaddi team beat South Korea 63-31. In shooting, Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane finished fourth in the 10m air rifle mixed team final. Roshibina's medal adds to India's growing tally at the Games.

Pranati Nayak qualifies for Asian Games vault final

AICHI-NAGOYA

India's sole gymnast at the 2026 Asian Games, Pranati Nayak, qualified for the women's individual vault final after finishing seventh among 19 competitors in the qualification round with a combined score of 12.916. The eight-gymnast final will be held on September 24.

The 31-year-old recorded 13.000 in her first vault, earning 4.4 for difficulty and 8.600 for execution. She followed it with 12.433 in her second attempt, scoring 4.0 in difficulty and 8.433 in execution. Pranati is competing only in vault, India's strongest event in artistic gymnastics.

A Tokyo Olympian, Pranati is a three-time bronze medalist at the Asian Gymnastics Championships. She entered the Asian Games after winning silver in the women's vault at the FIG World Challenge Cup 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Her consistent performance across both attempts secured her place in the medal round.

Elsewhere, India's women's cricket team won its second successive Asian Games gold, defeating Sri Lanka by 147 runs after posting 216/3 and bowling them out for 69 in 15.4 overs. The men's badminton team secured a medal by beating Japan 3-0 in the quarterfinals, while the women's team lost 3-1 to Japan.

Roshibina Devi also assured India of a medal in wushu after defeating Macao's Chu Man Sin in the women's 60kg quarterfinal. India's men's kabaddi team beat South Korea 63-31, while Sakshi Chaudhary and Jadumani Singh advanced in boxing. India finished the day with seven medals: one gold, four silver and two bronze. Her final is scheduled for September 24 in Japan.



Smriti Mandhana becomes first woman to score 11,000 runs

AICHI-NAGOYA

Smriti Mandhana became the first woman cricketer to score 11,000 international runs during India's Asian Games 2026 final against Sri Lanka on Tuesday. She reached the milestone while smashing 79 off 45 balls, including five fours and seven sixes, at a strike rate of 175.56.

Mandhana is the highest run-scorer in

women's T20Is, with 4,867 runs in 179 matches. She has also scored 5,411 runs in 120 ODIs and 788 runs in nine Tests. Overall, she has 11,066 international runs and 18 centuries.

In the final, Mandhana shared a 99-run opening partnership with Shafali Verma, who scored 48 off 29 balls. Richa Ghosh added an unbeaten 49 as India reached 216/3.

GOLD SCORES

216/3
India's total

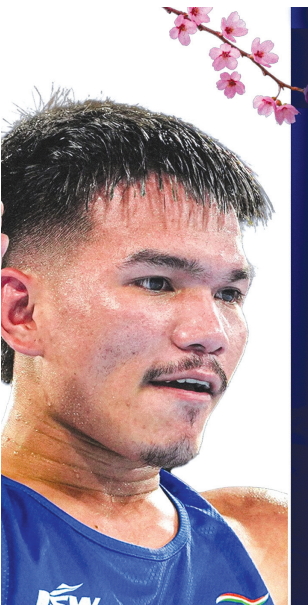
147 runs
Margin of victory

79 (45)
Smriti Mandhana

11,000
Mandhana's international runs

3/6
Deepti Sharma's figures





JADUMANI SINGH ADVANCES WITH UNANIMOUS BOXING WIN

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian boxer Jadumani Singh advanced to the pre-quarterfinal stage of the Asian Games 2026 after defeating Nepal's Chandra Bahadur Thapa 5-0 by unanimous decision on Tuesday. Jadumani controlled the contest through all three rounds and secured his place in the men's Round of 16. Jadumani made a measured start as Thapa attempted to attack with multiple punches. Although a solid left hook from the Nepalese boxer landed, four judges gave the opening round to Jadumani by a 4-1 margin. The Indian carefully picked his shots while remaining composed during the exchanges.

Jadumani increased the pressure in the second round and landed several clean punches. Thapa began showing signs of fatigue as the Indian boxer continued finding his target. Jadumani again took the round 4-1, building a comfortable advantage heading into the final round.

The Indian maintained his pressure in the third round and landed a strong left hook that resulted in a standing count against Thapa. He continued to avoid the Nepalese boxer's big punches and found another effective counter before securing the unanimous 5-0 victory.

Elsewhere, Sakshi Chaudhary defeated Philippines' Aira Villegas in the women's 51kg Round of 32. India's women's cricket team won the country's first gold medal of the Games after beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs. The men's kabaddi team defeated South Korea 63-31, while the women's table tennis team beat Thailand 3-2. In shooting, Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane finished fourth in the 10m air rifle mixed team final. India's men's 4x100m medley relay team also qualified for the swimming final.

Sakshi Chaudhary beats Villegas to reach pre-quarterfinals

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian boxer Sakshi Chaudhary advanced to the women's 51kg pre-quarterfinals at the Asian Games 2026 after defeating Paris Olympics bronze medalist Aira Villegas of the Philippines by a unanimous 5-0 decision on Tuesday. Sakshi produced a confident performance against the experienced opponent.

Fighting from the red corner, Sakshi started aggressively and landed several clean punches in the opening round. Her effective jabs earned her a 5-0 score from the judges. Villegas increased her aggression in the second round, but Sakshi responded with sharp counterattacks and continued finding her target, taking the round by another 5-0 margin.

Sakshi, who turned 23 on Tuesday, adopted a measured approach in the final round while protecting her advantage. Villegas landed a strong left hook, but the Indian remained composed and secured the unanimous decision victory. Sakshi will next face Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova in the round of 16 on Thursday.

The Indian boxer entered the Asian Games after winning gold at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and a World Boxing Cup gold. Elsewhere, India's men's kabaddi team defeated South Korea 63-31 in Group A. Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane finished fourth in the 10m air rifle mixed team final after qualifying for the gold medal match.



India assures badminton medal after Japan win

AICHI-NAGOYA

India secured a medal in the men's team badminton event at the Asian Games 2026 after defeating hosts Japan 3-0 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and Ayush Shetty won their respective matches as India advanced to the semifinals.

Lakshya recovered from losing the opening game 11-21 against Kodai Naraoka. He dominated the second game 21-5 before overcoming an 8-14 deficit in the decider to level the score at 19-19 and eventually win 21-19.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then extended India's lead by defeating Hoki and Kobayashi 21-18, 24-22. After taking the opening game, the Indian pair faced a tight second game, with the scores level at 19-19 and 20-20 before they sealed the contest 24-22.

Ayush Shetty completed the 3-0 victory with a composed 21-10, 21-19 win. He raced to a 7-2 lead in the opening game and extended it to 16-5 before closing it out. He maintained his momentum in the second game to send India into the semifinals.

Elsewhere, India's women's badminton team lost 3-1 to Japan in the quarterfinals. The women's cricket team won India's first gold medal of the Games after defeating Sri Lanka by 147 runs. India's men's kabaddi team beat South Korea 63-31, while the women's table tennis team defeated Thailand 3-2. In shooting, Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane finished fourth in the mixed team final. India's men's 4x100m medley relay team also qualified for the swimming final.



TIWARI BEATS PAKISTAN BUT MISSES ASIAN GAMES QUARTERFINAL

AICHI-NAGOYA

India's Aadhya Tiwari bowed out of the women's singles soft tennis competition at the Asian Games 2026 despite defeating Pakistan's Kainaath Shallwani 4-0 in her final Group D match on Tuesday. Tiwari won the four sets 4-2, 5-3, 4-1 and 5-3, but the victory was not enough to secure a quarterfinal place.

Only group winners advance to the next round, and Thailand's Alisha Ziegler had already secured the top position after defeating both Tiwari and Shallwani. Tiwari finished second in Group D, ending her campaign at the continental event. She was the only Indian woman soft tennis player in the country's squad.

Tiwari had also competed in the mixed doubles event with Jay Meena. The Indian pair exited in the round of 16 after losing 2-5 to the Philippines' Christy Sanosa and Sherwin Nuguit. They had opened their campaign with 5-0 wins over Cambodia and Mongolia before losing 1-5 to South Korea in their final group match.

Elsewhere, Aryan Thakur defeated Mongolia's Bold-erdene Altangerel 4-0 in men's singles Group C, while Jay Meena beat Pakistan's Hussain Arain 4-0 in Group D. In boxing, Sakshi Chaudhary advanced to the women's 51kg round of 16 with a 5-0 win over Philippines' Aira Villegas.

India's women's table tennis team defeated Thailand 3-2, while the men's team lost 0-3 to South Korea. The women's badminton team also lost 1-3 to Japan. India's men's kabaddi team beat South Korea 63-31, while the men's 4x100m medley relay team qualified for the swimming final.



India's Athletics stars ready for Asian Games

AICHI-NAGOYA

India's athletics campaign at the 2026 Asian Games begins September 23, with the country competing in 41 of 50 medal events. Avinash Sable, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Parul Chaudhary and Gulveer Singh are among the leading medal contenders. Sable will defend his men's 3000m steeplechase title after returning from knee surgery, while Toor targets a third successive Asian Games

shot put gold. Parul will defend her women's 5000m crown and also contest the 1500m and 3000m steeplechase.

Rohit Yadav and Yash Vir Singh will spearhead India's men's javelin challenge in Neeraj Chopra's absence. The squad also features Jyothi Yarraji, Murali Sreesankar, Tejaswin Shankar, Rajesh Ramesh, Ancy Sojan, Praveen Chithravel and Vithya Ramraj. Athletics events will continue until September 29.

Messi unveils farewell jersey

BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi has unveiled a special jersey for what is set to be his final international appearance for Argentina on home soil. The 39-year-old will feature in Argentina's October 6 friendly against Benin at River Plate Stadium, marking the end of his international career. Messi shared a picture of the shirt, featuring his name and iconic No. 10 in gold, with the message, "One last match... A jersey for a lifetime." Messi retires as Argentina's most-capped player and leading scorer, with 203 appearances and 203 goals. He guided Argentina to Copa America titles in 2021 and 2024 and World Cup glory in 2022.

