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KARNATAKA REJECTS KASTURIRANGAN REPORT

The Assembly unitedly passed a resolution, seeking changes to protect forests while ensuring that farming, settlements and livelihoods remain unaffected by restrictions.

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution rejecting the K Kasturirangan Committee report on the conservation of the Western Ghats in its present form.

The six-point resolution, passed at the end of a special discussion on the report, urged the Centre to rectify the “deficiencies” in it. It sought to incorporate changes to protect forests, farms, settlements and livelihoods.

The resolution proposes a high-level committee headed by a retired judge to examine the report and recommend modifications. The panel will include Revenue and Forest officials, farmer and industry representatives, and academic experts and scientists specialised in forests and the environment.

The government will also undertake a physical, survey-number-wise measurement of forest boundaries, habitations, agricultural land and other areas to establish precise boundaries.

Replying to the debate, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said environmental protection and farmers’ interests must go together. “If there are forests, there will be land and rainfall. At the same time, farmers must also be protected,” he said.

The CM said agriculture and horticulture activities should continue and existing roads and hospitals should be protected. Protecting such facilities was

Demands put forth in resolution

Resolution: Six-point resolution

Committee: Headed by retired judge

Extension sought: One year

Survey: Physical, survey-number-wise

ESA: Forest areas only

Delegation: Centre and Prime Minister

the responsibility of both the state and Central governments.

One-year extension

The resolution seeks one-year extension from the Centre to complete the physical survey. It urges the Centre not to finalise the notification until Karnataka submits its report and discussions are held with the state government. The state will appoint a senior advocate to represent it before the Supreme Court and send an all-party delegation to meet the Union Forest Minister and the Prime Minister.

The resolution proposes that the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) should cover only notified forest and other forest areas. Agricultural land, plantations, habitations and public activity areas should be excluded. It also seeks consideration of Bagair Hukum land, Forest Rights Act claims, deemed forests, land grants, appeals and pending court cases.

It noted that reliance on satellite data instead of precise survey number boundaries could create difficulties over house construction, property division and inheritance.



Why Karnataka up in arms against Kasturirangan report?

The Kasturirangan committee report proposes 37% of the total area of Western Ghats, which is roughly 60,000 square kilometres, to be declared as eco-sensitive area (ESA). Out of this, 20,668 sq km of the area falls in Karnataka covering 1,576 villages. The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects. It also stated that the impact of infrastructural projects on the forest and wildlife should be studied before permission is given for these activities. It also stated that the UNESCO Heritage tag is an opportunity to build global and domestic recognition of the enormous natural wealth that exists in the Western Ghats. The 39 sites are located across the Western Ghats and distributed across the states (Kerala 19), Karnataka (10), Tamil Nadu (6) and Maharashtra (4). The boundary of the sites, are in most cases, boundaries of the legally demarcated national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves and forest divisions and therefore, already accorded with high level of protection. The Eco-Sensitive Area mapping and demarcation done by the committee also indicates that all sites are within this area. The state governments should view this development and build a plan to protect, conserve and value the resources and opportunities of the region. The state of Karnataka has the highest percentage of the ESA- 46.50%.

UN chief calls for end to wars, AI curbs

New York: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres used his final address to the General Assembly on Tuesday to urge world leaders to regulate artificial intelligence, end wars, focus on climate change and overhaul UN institutions he warned are struggling to confront mounting global challenges.

The Portuguese PM, whose second five-year term ends on December 31, reiterated his calls for global oversight of AI risks, just as the UN's 15-member Security Council prepares to host AI leaders for a briefing on the powerful technology.

He also reflected on the gridlock within the organisation, as nearly 130 world leaders gathered in New York, and Chinese President Xi Jinping and others — including leaders from South Africa, India and Germany — skipped the meeting.

177 Taluks declared drought-hit

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said 177 Taluks had been declared drought-affected, with another 20-30 likely to be added after further assessment.

Speaking during a special session of the Legislative Council on drought, he said Karnataka had received only 642 mm of rainfall against the normal 852 mm. The deficit stood at 46% in South Interior Karnataka and 44% in North Interior Karnataka.

The government initially declared 101 taluks drought-hit, followed by 23 and another 53, taking the total to 177. Parameshwara said the process was based on ground verification and Central guidelines.

He said crop loss was estimated at around 82%, with many farmers losing two rounds of sowing. The government has released Rs 5 crore per district for drinking water

DROUGHT IN KARNATAKA

- **177:** Taluks declared drought-hit
- **20-30:** More taluks may be added
- **642 mm:** Rainfall received
- **852 mm:** Normal rainfall
- **82%:** Estimated crop loss
- **₹3,500 cr:** Relief sought from Centre



This is not a drought limited to four or 10 taluks; it has affected the entire state.

G Parameshwara, Deputy CM

DROUGHT CRISIS

Karnataka has so far declared 177 Taluks drought-affected, with the government expecting the number to rise after further ground assessments. The state received 642 mm of rainfall against the normal 852 mm. Crop loss is estimated at 82%. The government has released funds for drinking water and submitted a ₹3,500-crore relief memorandum to the Centre covering the first 101 drought-hit taluks.

agement was inadequate. The discussion led to sharp exchanges between the Treasury and Opposition, forcing Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed to briefly adjourn proceedings.

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Exploring legal ways to shut down KPSC: CM

‘Lots of crooks have entered that place, right from the chairperson to others’.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Tuesday that his government is considering shutting down the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) over widespread corruption in the recruitment body.

Shivakumar said this a day after the Karnataka High Court formed a special investigation team (SIT) on the recruitment scams at the KPSC.

“I want to shut down the KPSC. I’m talking to various people on the legal aspects. Lots of crooks have entered that place, right from the

said, adding that “We’re in power. We know how to run the government.”

“The Congress government has rolled out five ‘guarantee’ schemes, which are estimated to cost Rs 51,286 crore in the current fiscal. These schemes were implemented to help people deal with price rise,” he said.

Karnataka is the most progressive state in India, he

said, adding that his government would stick to the legal limits for fiscal deficit.

“The state’s fiscal deficit -- the gap between the government’s total expenditure and its total revenue, excluding borrowings -- is estimated at Rs 97,449 crore, which is 2.95% of the GSDP. It should not exceed 3% as per law. We’ll stick to the limit,” the CM said.

CM making headline-hungry announcements with empty coffers: Ashoka

Bengaluru: During the day, the Opposition BJP and JD(S) slammed the government over the state’s finances. Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka accused Shivakumar of making “headline-hungry announcements” with “empty coffers”.

In a tweet, Ashoka

said: “Instead of responsible governance, Congress has reduced Karnataka to a state struggling to pay basic salaries and subsidies.”

Taunting the Congress, the JD(S) tweeted: “Announce projects first, find the money later...seems to be the new model

of governance in Karnataka by Congress.”

Shivakumar hit back at the BJP, reminding the saffron party that the union government owed funds to the state. “The Centre had announced Rs 5,300 crore (for the Upper Bhadra Project). I’m begging for it. Let them (BJP) give the money first.”

Lokayukta raids 8 officials

Bengaluru: Karnataka Lokayukta officials on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations linked to eight government officials in a disproportionate assets case.

The raids targeted Darshan Gowda, FDA at the Chikka-ballapur Deputy Commissioner’s office; retired BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Ranganath H M; Bengaluru District Registrar Sridevi; and Madikeri Municipal Commissioner HR Ramesh. The other officials are HESCOM AEE Kiran Kumar Baindur of Hubballi-Dharwad, GESCOM AEE Rajeshwari of Kalaburagi, Agriculture Department Assistant Director Manik Rao of Bidar, and Mandya Backward Classes Welfare Department Hostel Superintendent Shivaraju. Lokayukta officials said the searches were linked to allegations that the officials had accumulated assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

NO ACTION FOR OBJECTING TO VANDE MATARAM ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that while ‘Vande Mataram’ remains the national song, no one with genuine religious objections under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution can face penal consequences for not singing its contested stanzas.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a plea by Carnatic musician TM Krishna challenging a Centre’s circular mandating the full six stanzas and an amendment placing the song on a par with the national anthem under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act. Senior advocate S Mu-

ralidhar, appearing for Krishna, argued that four of the six stanzas expressly invoke devotion to Hindu deities and that compelling their singing violates the secular character of the Constitution. He contended that the amendment is arbitrary, invades personal liberty, and advances a “majoritarian religious message”.

“They have introduced the expression ‘national song’ but the Act does not define what a national song is. The Office Memorandum is not even gazetted. They don’t cite any provision,” Mu-

ralidhar submitted. He stressed that penal consequences cannot rest on vagueness and that

the government had acted in “such great hurry” without building public opinion.

“You can’t thrust and have penal consequences,” he said, noting that the original law made no mention of a national song and that the government was now insisting it was not limited to the two commonly sung stanzas.

Justice Bagchi observed that “national song has always been understood as Vande Mataram” and that courts cannot second-guess national aspirations. “It is for the state. Person can decide whether to sing one or four stanzas. There can’t be penal consequences.”

Referring to the landmark Bijoe Emmanuel judgment, Justice Bagchi added that the law of the land would govern and that “nobody who feels an infraction of Art. 25, 26 rights would be subjected to penal consequences.” On the secularism argument, Justice Bagchi noted that the American national anthem uses the word ‘God’, asking whether religious flavour would impact the secular character of the Constitution.

Seeking a response from the Centre, the bench made it clear it would examine the question of penal consequences while affirming that the declaration of Vande Mataram as the national song itself was not open to judicial second-guessing.

Supreme Court stance

No penal action: Reviewing a challenge to the amendment on National Honour, a bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant noted that conscientious objectors cannot face criminal punishment for opting out. **Precedent relied upon:** The court referenced the 1986 Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala ruling protecting those who respectfully stand without singing due to religious tenets. **Notice to Centre:** The Union Government was asked to respond on whether mandatory rendition violates Article 25 freedom of conscience.

Core contentions in the case

Religious objections: The petition highlights that the final four stanzas include references to Hindu deities, raising concerns over freedom of faith. **Legal amendment:** Recent legislative changes criminalized refusals during the national song, carrying up to three years in prison.

Guv asks DKS to review Vande Mataram order

BENGALURU: Governor Thawarchand Gehlot has objected to the state government’s decision to sing only two stanzas of ‘Vande Mataram’ at official programmes and asked Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to reconsider the order. In a four-page letter to the CM, Gehlot said the decision was contrary to guidelines issued by the Centre. He asked the state government to review its order in view of the constitutional provisions and directives of the Centre concerning the national song. The Governor said the Union Home Ministry had prescribed an official version of ‘Vande Mataram’ and issued specific directions on its rendition. States, he said, were also required to follow the Centre’s guidelines. He maintained that the official version should be sung during mass singing programmes and that there was no provision to prescribe a separate shortened or modified version for state government functions. He said the matter was not merely about administrative convenience but concerned compliance with rules relating to a national symbol. The Governor also referred to Section 3 of the 1971 Act, stating that the protection provided to the national anthem under the provision had been extended to ‘Vande Mataram’. The letter comes amid a controversy that erupted during the opening day of the three-day special legislature session on Monday. The session has been convened to discuss the Kasturirangan report and drought. The Opposition BJP had objected in the Legislative Council to the government’s decision to restrict ‘Vande Mataram’ to two stanzas. The issue led to heated exchanges between the Treasury and Opposition benches. Gehlot’s letter has now sought a reconsideration of the state’s order in light of the Centre’s guidelines and constitutional considerations.



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

absurd bottlenecks for ordinary citizens. For instance, residents seeking permission to construct a basic kitchen or add an extra room to an existing dwelling must travel all the way to Mysuru to meet the Regional Commissioner, only to face rejections based on baseless assumptions that domestic spaces might be repurposed for commercial activities. Furthermore, local populations are routinely denied permission to lay drinking water pipelines or construct essential rural roads, effectively weaponizing conservation laws against human survival. While water resources originate directly within their hill regions, locals face severe supply restrictions while water gets diverted to distant urban centers.

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.

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,

NIA Court sentences IS conspirator to 6 years

2022, when the Karnataka Police initially registered a criminal case concerning covert terror cells operating out of Thirthahalli 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 ac-

quisition 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.

Quick Read

Gadag employment exchange to hold walk-in interview

Gadag
The District Employment Exchange, Gadag, will conduct a walk-in interview on September 25 at 10 am at Room No. 215, second floor, District Administrative Building, RNS Motors, Hubballi, will participate in the recruitment drive. Candidates with PUC, ITI, Diploma or degree qualifications can apply for Field Sales Executive, Technician, Supervisor and Work Manager positions. Applicants aged 18 to 35 are eligible. Job locations include Gadag, Hubballi, Dharwad and Haveri. Candidates must bring photocopies of educational mark sheets, two copies of their resume and an Aadhaar card copy. Registration is mandatory. Yuvanidhi beneficiaries have also been asked to attend. For details, candidates can contact 6363330688, 8861002275 or 9036453404.

Koppal invites applications for foster care programme

Koppal
Applications have been invited from prospective parents willing to provide family care and a better future to children deprived of parental love and support. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, children aged six to 18 who are legally free for adoption but could not be placed may be provided an alternative family environment. Foster care may initially be offered for one year and extended based on the child's adjustment.

AMRUTA DESAI CHALLENGES CONGRESS LEADER TO DEBATE

DHARWAD

Former MLA Amruta Desai has challenged Congress leader Arvind Egan Gowda to a public debate on the work carried out during the tenure of BJP and Congress MLAs in Dharwad. She said she was ready to discuss the allegations made against BJP leaders and present details of the work undertaken during their tenure. Speaking at a protest in front of the Dharwad Tahsildar's office, Desai said Congress leaders should come forward for a direct discussion instead of making allegations through press conferences. She said both sides could present their records and explain the development works carried out during their respective terms.



“Let the Congress leaders come for a discussion. We will tell them what allegations have been made against them and what work we have done. Let them also provide records of the allegations made against us,” Desai said. Desai said the BJP would not be pressured by repeated statements or press conferences by Congress leaders. She

maintained that the protest was being held over issues affecting people in Dharwad and said the agitation would continue until the demands were addressed. A major demand raised during the protest was the resumption of widow and old-age pensions. Desai said beneficiaries who depend on these social security schemes were facing difficulties because of the disruption in pension payments. She demanded that the government take steps to restore the benefits without further delay. Desai also demanded that Dharwad district be included in the drought list. She said farmers and residents facing the impact of inadequate rainfall needed government support and relief measures.

Poshan Maah highlights need for balanced diet

GAJENDRAGAD

Nutritious food is essential to prevent malnutrition, strengthen immunity and promote a healthy society, said Dr. Basanagouda Pavadigoudar, Administrative Medical Officer. He was speaking at the sector-level National Poshan Maah celebration and baby shower ceremony organised at an Anganwadi centre in Sarjapura village of Gajendragad taluk. The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Women and Child Development and the Health Department under the Shanthagari sector. Dr. Pavadigoudar said a nutritious diet plays an important role in the overall physical and mental development of people. He urged families to include healthy and locally available food items in their daily meals to help prevent nutritional deficiencies and improve immunity.

PEACE AND COEXISTENCE

Kuvempu play highlights horrors of war and peace

HULAKOTI

Kuvempu's play Smashana Kurukshetra remains relevant in the present-day context as it highlights the suffering, destruction and loss of human values caused by war, said Dr. Bhimesha Yaradoni. A special lecture titled “Kuvempu's Play Smashana Kurukshetra: Post-War Horrors and Contemporary Challenges” was organised at Sri K. H. Patil Government First Grade College, Hulakoti, by the Department of Kannada under the Internal Quality Assurance Cell



(IQAC). Resource person Dr. Bhimesha Yaradoni said the end of a war should not be viewed only in terms of victory or defeat. The real consequences are seen in the death, suffering, destruction, broken relationships and loss of human values that

follow. He said Kuvempu's work raises important questions about the human cost of conflict and conveys the importance of peace, coexistence and humanitarian values. He also discussed the relevance of the play in the context of conflicts, violence and social challenges

faced by the world. He urged students to examine literature critically and connect literary themes with contemporary social realities. Presiding over the programme, Principal Dr. Appanna Hanje said Smashana Kurukshetra effectively portrays the realities that emerge after war rather than concentrating only on its outcome. He said such academic programmes help develop critical thinking, sensitivity and social awareness among students. Kannada Department Head Ramesh Hulakunda explained the objectives of the programme

and highlighted the importance of humanity, anti-war values and social responsibility in Kuvempu's writings. Assistant Professor Bhimesha said literature is not merely a form of entertainment but an important medium for reflecting social issues and promoting human values. The programme gave students an opportunity to discuss the impact of war and the need for peace through the themes of the play. Kannada lecturer Dr. Sujatha Baradur compered the event, while Dr. Kiran-kumar Rayara proposed the vote of thanks.

Snakebite awareness programme held in Gudadahalli

Observed on September 19, International Snakebite Awareness Day aims to prevent snakebites and reduce fatalities, according to Dr. Kariyamma.

KOPPAL

An International Snakebite Awareness Day programme was organised at the Government High School in Gudadahalli village to educate students and the public about preventing snakebites and ensuring timely treatment. The programme was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, District Surveillance Officer's Unit and Primary Health Centre, Kukanapalli. Medical Officer Dr. Kariyamma said International Snakebite Awareness Day is observed every year to create awareness about snakebite prevention and reduce deaths. Dr. Kariyamma said the Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper and Saw-scaled Viper are responsible for most



SNAKEBITE SAFETY AND CONSERVATION
Dr. Kariyamma urged farmers to wear footwear and use torches outdoors. Victims should reach hospitals within 40 minutes, keeping calm with immobilised limbs while avoiding tourniquets and traditional remedies.

fatal snakebites in India. She advised people, particularly farmers, to remain cautious while working in fields and agricultural areas. People should use torches while moving outdoors at night, keep their homes and surroundings free of rats and other

rodents, and clear bushes and undergrowth from frequently used areas. Wearing footwear while working in areas where snakes may be present was also advised. Dr. Kariyamma said a snakebite victim should be taken to the nearest govern-

ment hospital as quickly as possible, preferably within 40 minutes. The victim should be kept calm, the bitten limb immobilised and the person placed safely on their side. She warned against applying a tourniquet, cutting the wound or using traditional remedies and other unsafe treatments. Senior Health Inspector L.V. Sajjan told students that while venomous snakes can pose a serious threat, snakes also play an important role in nature and need to be conserved. He stressed the importance of creating awareness about snakes and responding safely to snakebite incidents. District Epidemiologist Dr. Madhavi, Data Coordinator Suvasini, teachers, students and health department staff participated in the programme.

Case filed against 15 BJP activists

DAVANAGERE

Police have registered a case against 15 BJP activists in connection with incidents of alleged obstruction of police duty and damage to government property during a bandh in Jagalur. The bandh was organised to demand the inclusion of Jagalur taluk in the drought-hit list. According to police, the protest initially remained peaceful but later turned tense after protesters blocked the Jagalur-Donnehalli road and set tyres on fire. BJP activists also raised slogans as police attempted to clear the road and detain the protesters. Police Inspector Siddaramaiah said a case was registered at Jagalur police station against 15 individuals following the incidents. During the process of taking protesters

Highlights
Activists blocked bus during bandh.
Protesters and police clashed.
FIRs filed against 15 activists.
Staff member suffered eye injury.

into custody, some activists allegedly damaged the window glass of a KSRTC bus. Police said some of the activists also lay down in front of the bus while detainees were being transported, preventing it from moving. This led to arguments and scuffles between the protesters and police personnel. An official said the FIRs

relate to allegations of obstructing official duty and damaging government property. A staff member reportedly suffered an eye injury after a windowpane of the bus was smashed. The bandh had been called by BJP leaders and farmers to demand drought-hit status for Jagalur taluk. Protesters said the taluk had been left out of the drought-hit list despite concerns over agricultural conditions. The road blockade and tyre burning led to increased police intervention as authorities attempted to restore movement on the road. The police subsequently detained several protesters. The case has been registered based on the incidents that occurred during the protest. Police are continuing their investigation into the allegations against the 15 activists.

Hulakoti college holds HIV awareness campaign

HULAKOTI

An AIDS awareness campaign was organised at Sri K. H. Patil Government First Grade College in Hulakoti under the theme “Know Your HIV Status” to educate students about HIV prevention and address misconceptions and stigma surrounding the disease. The “Mobilization for AIDS Safety Campaign – 2026” was jointly organised by the college's Youth Red Cross, Red Ribbon Unit and Internal Quality Assurance Cell, in collaboration with the Gadag district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department.

Poshan Maah highlights importance of nutritious food

GADAG

The 9th National Poshan Maah celebration was organised at the Taluk-level Stree Shakti Bhavan in Hombala to create awareness about nutrition, maternal health and child development. The programme was jointly organised by the Gadag district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Health and Family Welfare Department, AYUSH Department, Women and Child Development Department and the Child Development Project Office. Bala Vikas Samiti Chairperson Lalitha inaugurated the programme.

Matru Vandana scheme District Coordinator Netra Harthi explained the benefits available under the scheme, while Women's Development Corporation Development Inspector Drakshayini Patil provided information about schemes including Gruha Lakshmi and Udyogini. Officials from the Health and Family Welfare Department highlighted the importance of marriage at the appropriate age and maintaining good health during pregnancy and lactation. They also urged families to reduce junk food consumption and choose nutritious food. Several activities were organised as part of the celebration. These included a Seemantha ceremony for pregnant women, a demonstration of supplementary nutritious food based on the revised Anganwadi menu, an Annaprashana ceremony for children and programmes under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. Children's birthdays were also celebrated during the event. Presiding over the pro-

PROMOTING HEALTH AND NUTRITION
Health officials highlighted proper marriage age, maternal health, and nutritious diets during Poshan Maah events at Anganwadi centres. Activities included Seemantha, Annaprashana ceremonies, growth monitoring, and nutrition demonstrations.

gramme, District Nodal Officer of the Women and Child Development Department Mahantaswamy Pujara said Poshan Maah is being observed at all Anganwadi centres across the district. He said children's height and weight are regularly measured to monitor their growth, and those requiring medical attention are referred to appropriate health centres. He said this year's campaign slogan is “Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Zimmedari” (Our Anganwadi, Our Responsibility). Pujara also explained that the department has revised the schedule for distributing supplementary nutritious food and urged eligible beneficiaries to make full use of the services available through Anganwadi centres. CDPO H.S. Jogera attended as chief guest. AYUSH Medical Officer L.F. Narsi, Poshan Abhiyaan Assistant Pavana Katigar, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, students, pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children participated in the programme. Rudramma Tirapuram welcomed the gathering, Jannatabi Miranayaka compered the event and Megha Kariyallapanavara proposed the vote of thanks.



other support schemes. Officials should also regularly monitor whether children who leave care institutions continue their education and remain connected with the mainstream education system. He said abandoned and surrendered children, as well as children certified by the Child Welfare Committee as being unable to receive parental care, should be provided permanent families through the legal adoption process. Under the Mission Vatsalya scheme, every child should have access to protection and education. Maheshbabu also instructed officials to conduct regular surprise inspections and joint raids with concerned departments to identify children living in vulnerable conditions, including those on the streets, begging or en-

gaged in child labour. Such children should be rescued and produced before the Child Welfare Committee for appropriate rehabilitation and protection measures. Deputy Director of the Women and Child Development Department Amresha, District Nodal Officer Nataraja, Women and Child Development Officer Annapurna Hubakatti, District Child Protection Officer Sindhu Anigadi and Child Development Project Officers were present. Rohini Kotagara, Government Boys' Home Superintendent Krishnasa Bakale, Development Inspector Poornima Yelbavi, District Differently-abled Welfare Officer Venkatesh Deshpande and staff of the District Child Protection Unit and Boys' Home also attended.

Pugadiyata keeps Ganesh Chaturthi traditions alive

KARWAR

Even as modern entertainment changes the way festivals are celebrated, the traditional folk dance Pugadiyata continues to bring families together in some villages of Uttara Kannada. In places such as Baitakol in Karwar, families gather during Ganesh Chaturthi to sing, clap and dance in a circle, keeping the old tradition alive. Pugadiyata was once a familiar part of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in many households. After worshipping Lord Ganesha, family members would come together in

the courtyard and perform the dance to traditional songs. Today, the practice has become less common, but it continues in pockets of Karwar, Joida, the Belagavi border areas and parts of the coastal region. The simplicity of Pugadiyata is one of its main attractions. It requires neither a stage nor musical instruments or elaborate arrangements. Participants gather in the courtyard, clap their hands and move in rhythm with the song. Elders teach the steps to younger members, helping pass the tradition from one generation to the next.

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.
ಪ್ರಾಸಾರಣ/ಇ/ಹಿ/ಸಿ/ಹಿ/ಹಾಸನ/532/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂ‌ಇಎ/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.ಪು/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 ಹುಣಸೂರನಹಳ್ಳಿ, 23/09/2026 ಇಯ 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 ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ 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, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ
dt. 22.09.2026

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 ಮೊದಲನೆಯ 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 ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ 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-UI-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd) Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; 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-UI-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; 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
CHCLASSIFIEDS
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 Kusung 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 Thaaawarchand 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.



"Due to severe lack of rain, there is a water problem in the Kappatagudda 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

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-

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-

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

deserted.

Beyond wildlife and tourism, conservationists are deeply concerned about Kappatagudda's rich botanical heritage, which hosts over 400 species of rare medicinal plants.

The loss of ambient soil humidity has begun withering delicate native herbs. Despite difficult terrain and steep unpaved routes, forest teams continue daily tanker runs. Recent camera-trap footage confirmed the initiative's success, capturing leopards, wolves, and nocturnal animals regularly visiting the replenished watering holes.

Quick Read

Haveri Jain Sangha hosts Dshalakshana 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 Dshalakshana 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.

Quick Read

Stock markets rise as global cues, crude aid

MUMBAI
Indian stock markets opened higher on Tuesday, tracking gains across global markets and easing crude oil prices. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 42.51 points to 74,901.50 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty gained 39.75 points to 23,454.05. Later, the Sensex was trading 115.62 points higher at 74,974.61, while the Nifty rose 40.50 points to 23,455.60. The positive movement followed a rally in global markets and a decline in crude oil prices, supporting sentiment among investors. The benchmarks maintained their gains during early trading as market participants responded to favourable global cues and lower oil prices. The Sensex and Nifty remained in positive territory, with investors tracking international market trends and movements in crude prices for further direction during the session.

Gold falls Rs 1,500 in Delhi, silver steady

NEW DELHI
Gold prices fell Rs 1,500 for the second consecutive session to Rs 1,54,900 per 10 grams in Delhi on Tuesday, amid weak global trends and a stronger US dollar. Silver prices remained unchanged at Rs 2.42 lakh per kilogram. Traders attributed the decline in gold to hawkish remarks from US Federal Reserve officials and expectations that interest rates could remain elevated for an extended period. In global markets, spot gold and silver prices traded nearly 1 per cent lower at USD 4,315.09 and USD 65.50 per ounce, respectively. Falling oil prices provided some support to gold by easing inflation concerns, while investors awaited key US economic data for further clues on the Federal Reserve's monetary policy.

Sensex, Nifty rise amid global market rally

MUMBAI
Indian benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty traded higher in early trade on Tuesday, supported by gains in global markets and easing crude oil prices. The Sensex rose 42.51 points to 74,901.50, while the Nifty gained 39.75 points to 23,454.05. Later, the Sensex was up 115.62 points at 74,974.61 and the Nifty advanced 40.50 points to 23,455.60. HDFC Bank, Adani Ports, Eternal, InterGlobe Aviation, Maruti and Asian Paints were among the gainers, while HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, TCS and Sun Pharma declined. Asian markets also traded higher, while US markets ended significantly stronger on Monday. Brent crude was trading 0.80 per cent higher at USD 101.10 per barrel.

India, OPEC deepen dialogue on energy stability

NEW DELHI
India and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held their seventh High-Level Energy Dialogue on Tuesday, focusing on oil market stability, energy security and the need for timely investment across the petroleum industry. The meeting was co-chaired by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Harddeep Singh Puri and OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais. The two sides re-



India set for major data centre expansion

More than 70 per cent of India's data centre capacity is expected to be built within five years, driven by AI, storage and enterprise demand.

NEW DELHI

More than 70 per cent of India's data centre infrastructure capacity is expected to be built over the next five to six years, driven by demand for local data storage, artificial intelligence workloads and enterprise applications, Microsoft India & South Asia President Puneet Chandok said. Chandok said the expansion will be supported by growing requirements for AI inferencing and infrastructure needed to run tools built on frontier artificial intelligence reasoning and language models. Rising demand for local data storage is also expected to contribute to the country's data centre growth over the coming years. Speaking on the sidelines of the Microsoft AI Infrastructure Summit in New



"More than 70 per cent of India's data centre infrastructure capacity will be built over the next five to six years."
—Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India

Delhi on Monday, Chandok said upcoming data centres in India would need to establish high environmental standards. He said the facilities should focus on developing green infrastructure with net-zero water consumption. According to Chandok, companies operating across the data centre ecosystem will need to address water use as capacity expands. He said the industry should find

ways to replenish and return significantly more water to the ecosystem than it consumes each year. This approach, he indicated, would be important as India develops a large amount of new data centre infrastructure. The projected expansion comes as India's technology ecosystem faces increasing requirements for computing infrastructure and locally stored data. The next five to six years are therefore expected to see a substantial build-out of capacity, with AI workloads and data localisation among the key factors shaping investment and infrastructure development. Chandok said the new facilities should combine technological capability with environmental responsibility as India strengthens its position in the global data centre landscape.

IGL launches automated CNG cylinder safety checks

NEW DELHI

Indraprastha Gas Limited has introduced an Automated Vehicle Verification System at 10 CNG retail outlets to strengthen safety compliance and identify vehicles carrying cylinders with invalid or expired hydro-test certifications. The system uses high-resolution cameras to read vehicle registration plates as vehicles enter the forecourt. An artificial intelligence application then matches registration details with CNG cylinder records and checks certification information available through the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation online portal. Alerts are generated in real time through handheld terminals, LED boards and public address systems when vehicles fail compliance checks. The automated process is being used alongside manual inspections at IGL stations. Staff check paper certificates before fuelling, while



Initiative in focus
10 outlets: Automated checks introduced across Delhi.
AI verification: Matches vehicles with cylinder records.
Instant alerts: Flags invalid or expired certificates.
Safety first: Non-compliant vehicles may be denied CNG.
Future expansion: System to reach more stations.

company officers conduct field inspections to ensure attendants dispense CNG only after valid documentation has been established. IGL said the system reduces dependence on manual monitoring and creates centralised, traceable compliance checks across stations. Under Rule 35, Sub-rule

(1) of the Gas Cylinders (Amended) Rules, 2025, vehicular CNG cylinders must undergo hydrostatic testing every three years at testing centres certified by PESO. Vehicles that do not meet the requirement can be denied fuel until owners provide updated testing certificates. IGL said the initiative forms part of a wider digital safety framework and that certification information could eventually be integrated with vehicle-related databases, subject to the applicable regulatory framework. The company also said the automated system will be expanded to its wider regional station network, while continuing efforts to strengthen safety standards for customers and personnel at CNG stations. The deployment is designed to make checks more systematic and technology-enabled, while providing faster identification of certification issues before vehicles are allowed to receive CNG at participating outlets in Delhi.

Rupee rises 20 paise, closes at 95.58

MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened by 20 paise to close at 95.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by a sharp decline in crude oil prices and improved global risk sentiment. Forex traders said the domestic currency gained as Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell amid hopes of diplomatic efforts to resolve the US-Iran conflict. Lower crude prices eased concerns over India's import costs and supported sentiment in the currency market. Brent crude was trading 1.14 per cent lower at \$99.20 per barrel in futures trade. The decline followed reports that Iran could reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days if the United States lifts its port blockade and reduces military pressure around the strategic waterway. The rupee's appreciation came as traders responded to developments surrounding the conflict and expectations of possible diplomatic talks. The movement in crude prices remained a key factor behind the currency's stronger close, while broader global risk sentiment also improved during the session. The rupee ended at 95.58 against the US dollar, compared with its previous close, gaining 20 paise. Traders continued to monitor developments around the Strait of Hormuz, where any easing of tensions could influence oil supplies and global markets. Market participants are expected to closely track crude prices and developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict for further direction in the currency market. Changes around the strategic waterway could affect global crude supplies and currency sentiment in coming sessions.

viewed short-, medium- and long-term energy outlooks, with discussions centred on India's expanding role in global economic growth and rising energy demand. Puri described India's relationship with OPEC as complementary and mutually beneficial, while stressing the importance of continued cooperation between producers and consumers. He said sustained dialogue was needed to support investment, strengthen energy resilience and ensure reliable



energy supplies for global growth and development. The minister also appreciated OPEC's efforts to promote stability and transparency amid geopolitical uncertainty and market volatility. Al Ghais said engagement with India was a priority for OPEC because of the country's growing importance in the global energy landscape. He noted that the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue, launched in New Delhi in 2015, had now completed 11 years.



Microsoft Xbox to cut hundreds of jobs amid restructuring

SEATTLE

Microsoft's Xbox is preparing to cut hundreds of jobs this week as the gaming division moves ahead with a major restructuring aimed at streamlining operations and returning to growth, according to a report by The Information citing an unnamed source. The company is also planning changes across some of its gaming studios as part of the restructuring. Xbox has not formally confirmed or denied the reported job cuts. The developments come after new CEO Asha Sharma announced plans to reorganise the business and reduce its workforce. Sharma, who took over as Xbox CEO, has been pushing the division to improve its performance and return to growth by the end of Microsoft's 2027 financial year. On



Xbox is preparing to cut hundreds of jobs amid a major restructuring aimed at streamlining operations and returning the gaming division to growth.

July 6, she described the changes as the "most significant restructure in XBOX history" in a post on X. The latest reported job cuts add to a series of changes at Microsoft's gaming business as it seeks to make its operations more efficient. The restructuring is expected to affect employees across parts of

the Xbox organisation, although the exact number and teams involved have not been officially disclosed. Microsoft has been working to reshape its gaming operations following significant investments in the sector. Xbox's leadership is now focusing on controlling costs, simplifying its structure and improving growth prospects. However, details of the latest workforce reduction remain limited until the company makes an official announcement. The reported cuts come as Xbox continues to review its studios and business operations under Sharma's leadership. Any further details regarding the number of affected employees, specific studios or the timing of the changes are expected to emerge after Microsoft formally communicates its plans.

State revenues seen rising 9-11% in fiscal 2027

MUMBAI

Revenue growth across 18 large Indian states is expected to accelerate to 9-11 per cent in fiscal 2027, supported by stronger Goods and Services Tax collections and higher tax devolution from the Centre, Crisil Ratings said on Tuesday. The states, accounting for more than 90 per cent of India's gross state domestic product, are projected to record combined revenue of more than Rs 44 lakh crore in fiscal 2027, compared with around 8 per cent growth estimated last fiscal. GST is expected to remain the driver, with state GST revenue projected to rise 12-13 per cent. State GST collections have increased 16 per cent year-on-year in the five months ended August 31, 2026. Integrated GST collections from imports rose nearly 30 per cent, helped by electronics, machinery, gold and fertilisers. Crisil expects the pace to moderate in the second half as commodity prices stabilise and currency volatility eases. Tax devolution from the Centre is expected to rise 11-12 per cent this fiscal, providing a boost to state revenues. Among own-tax sources, liquor revenue is projected to



"We expect states' GST revenue to rise 12-13%, supported by resilient domestic consumption and robust import-linked collections."
—Anuj Sethi, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings

grow 7-8 per cent, petroleum-tax revenue 4-5 per cent and other own-tax revenue, led by stamp duties, 6-7 per cent. Overall own-tax revenue is expected to grow 9-10 per cent. Crisil expects grants-in-aid to increase 6-7 per cent and non-tax revenue, driven largely by mining royalties, to grow 9-10 per cent. The projections assume nominal GDP growth of 13 per cent in fiscal 2027. Global uncertainty, inflationary pressures, changing consumption patterns and compliance with grant-related conditions remain risks. Crisil Senior Director Anuj Sethi said GST revenue would be supported by resilient domestic consumption and robust import-linked collections, while GST 2.0 should improve revenue buoyancy.

Gadkari urges futuristic technology to transform agriculture

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday called for futuristic technology and vision to make agriculture economically viable, urging sugar mills to diversify into bio-energy and other value-added products. Speaking at the National Efficiency Awards ceremony hosted by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, Gadkari said standalone sugar production was no longer economically viable amid global market conditions and higher domestic costs. He urged mills to expand into compressed bio-gas (CBG), ethanol, bio-manure and sustainable aviation fuel. India produces 300-350 lakh tonnes of sugar against



domestic consumption of 280-300 lakh tonnes, resulting in depressed prices. Gadkari said sugar production costs in India stood at Rs 33-34 per kg, compared with Rs 23 per kg in Brazil. He said diversification could eventually enable mills to pay farmers up to Rs 6,000 per tonne of sugarcane, against the current Rs 4,000. Gadkari highlighted the potential of agricultural waste for CBG production, noting that Punjab and Hary-

CBG PUSH: KEY NUMBERS AT A GLANCE
■ CBG plants: 1,908 registered; 132 operational
■ CBG potential: 50,000 tonnes/day
■ Procurement price: ₹106/kg
■ Rural boost: ₹2.5 lakh crore
■ Jobs: Up to 15 lakhs
■ Farmer payment: ₹6,000/tonne target

ana generate 220 lakh tonnes of paddy stubble. He said five tonnes of stubble can produce one tonne of CBG,

offering an alternative to stubble burning while creating rural economic opportunities. Of 1,908 CBG plants registered nationwide, 132 are already operational, while national potential stands at 50,000 tonnes per day. The minister said current CBG production was only about two per cent of potential and noted a fixed procurement price of Rs 106 per kg. He said the initiative could inject Rs 2.5 lakh crore into the rural economy and create up to 15 lakh jobs. Gadkari also urged the sector to adopt artificial intelligence, precision farming and agricultural drones to reduce input costs and improve crop yields and create a stronger rural economic base.

PHONEPE UAE EXPANSION

PhonePe secures UAE payment licences, plans Aani

MUMBAI

Fintech major PhonePe has received in-principal approval for two payment licences in the UAE and plans to support the country's domestic payment systems, Aani and Jaywan, ahead of its commercial launch. The Central Bank of the UAE has granted in-principal approval for Retail Payment Services and Card Schemes and Stored Value Facilities licences. PhonePe said it plans to explore opportunities



to support Aani and Jaywan through its full-stack technology platform. The Bengaluru-based company is awaiting final regulatory approvals before beginning commercial operations in the UAE. The licences would enable PhonePe to of-

fer consumer payment instruments such as wallets and gift cards, as well as electronic payment acceptance infrastructure for merchants. PhonePe is India's largest UPI app, with more than 700 million registered users and 50 million merchants. The UAE will mark the company's first international market. PhonePe currently enables Indian travellers in the UAE to scan local QR codes and make instant payments across NEOPAY and Network International terminals through its

partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited. The company said its UAE strategy will focus on deeper ecosystem integration and collaboration with regional banks, licensed payment service providers and local technology vendors. PhonePe said this would support the UAE's cashless economy. The company's UAE expansion comes after it temporarily paused its initial public offering plans in March amid regional conflict and heightened market volatility.





- 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.



- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

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-

“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.

Allan Augustine B.

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.

- Suman Kumar

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.

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.

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.

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



Sitharaman Calls for Quality-Led Growth

SITHARAMAN SAYS INDIA'S NEXT GROWTH PHASE MUST PRIORITISE QUALITY, RESILIENCE AND STRONGER DOMESTIC CAPACITY AMID SHIFTING GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said India's next phase of economic growth must be built around quality, reliability and higher standards across businesses and institutions. Addressing the 53rd National Management Convention of the All India Management Association in New Delhi, Sitharaman said quality consciousness should become a shared discipline among management professionals and corporate leaders.



She said every factory floor, boardroom, service centre and research and development team must work towards higher standards, fewer defects and greater reliability. The approach, she said, should be embedded not only in products but also in processes, services and institutions.

"Quality consciousness" should become a shared discipline across products, processes, services and institutions," —Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

Sitharaman also highlighted the changing global economic environment, saying the world economy is passing through an unpredictable period while global trade and supply-chain structures are

Key Points
Global growth is below 3%,
India's Q1 FY27 GDP growth stood at 7.8%,
JCR upgraded India to A- with stable outlook,
Country ceiling raised to A,

through an unpredictable period while global trade and supply-chain structures are

undergoing significant shifts. She said resilience in such circumstances should not mean economic isolationism. Instead, India needs deeper domestic capacity, fiscal strength and industrial scale so that external shocks can be absorbed without disrupting national development. The minister said global economic growth is slowing to below 3%, while India continues to expand at around 8%. Government data released in September showed India's GDP grew 7.8% in the first quarter of

2026-27. Sitharaman also pointed to the recent sovereign rating upgrade by Japan Credit Rating Agency. On September 2, the agency raised India's long-term foreign- and local-currency issuer ratings from BBB+ to A-, retaining a stable outlook, and raised the country ceiling to A. The minister said such developments reflect international attention towards India's economic fundamentals as the country navigates an uncertain global environment.

CJP Takes School Campaign to Odisha

BHUBANESHWAR

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has taken its School Thik Karo campaign to Odisha, with co-convenor Saurav Das joining the growing agitation over errors in state school textbooks. Das reached Bhubaneswar and backed students protesting against inaccuracies in textbooks prepared for Classes I to VIII. He demanded the resignation of Odisha School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond, arguing that responsibility should be fixed for the lapses. The controversy began after a review identified 1,678 errors across 55 newly introduced textbooks for the 2026-27 academic session. The mistakes included factual inaccuracies, spelling and grammatical errors, incorrect photographs and other contextual problems. Class VIII books



accounted for 705 of the identified errors. Among the reported mistakes were the identification of Sir Isaac Newton as a pilot, the use of a photograph of Kamataka's Legislative Assembly as the Odisha Assembly, and the placement of Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills in Jharkhand. The Odisha government responded by ordering an inquiry and subsequently taking disciplinary action against officials

involved in the textbook preparation process. Four officials were suspended, while disciplinary proceedings were initiated against six others, according to reports. The government has also moved towards correcting the affected textbooks. Earlier, officials said students would use correction sheets while revised editions were being prepared and distributed. The CJP's intervention comes

Odisha Textbook Row
1,678 errors were identified across 55 textbooks.
Classes I to VIII were affected.
Class VIII recorded 705 errors.
Government ordered an inquiry and disciplinary action.
Revised textbooks are being distributed after corrections.

as the Nabnirman Yuva Chhatra Sangathan (NYCS) continues its agitation and has announced plans to gherao the Odisha Assembly. The developments have kept the textbook controversy active, combining demands for corrections and accountability with student-led protests.

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.



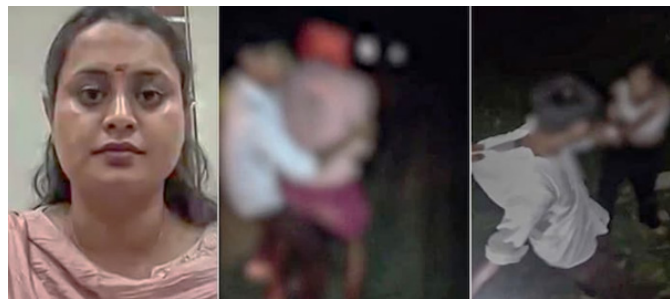
Moral policing can be done in decent, elegant fashion: Bihar Minister's shocker

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 somebody 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

visit is part of the India-Japan Distinguished Visitors Programme, which ran from September 18 to 22. The delegation also included Kenji Nakanishi, Deputy Chairperson of the LDP Policy Re-

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.

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.

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 securi-

ty 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.

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."



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

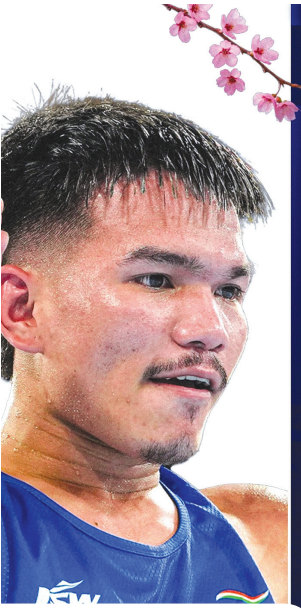
Smriti Mandhana became the first woman cricketer to score 11,000 international runs during India's Asian Games 2026 final against Sri Lanka on Tuesday. She reached the milestone while smashing 79 off 45 balls, including five fours and seven sixes, at a strike rate of 175.56. Mandhana is the highest run-scorer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

