



‘No place for me’: Cong MLA quits for 2nd time in 2 months

Unhappy over being excluded during the expansion of DKS-led Cabinet, Patil had earlier resigned from his legislative post on Aug 3, which he withdrew subsequently.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress MLA representing Indi constituency, Yashwantharayagouda Patil, resigned from the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, in protest over denying his constituency a drought-hit status.

Out of the 13 taluks in Vijayapura district, Indi and Chadchan taluks, have been excluded from the state's list of drought-hit areas.

Patil submitted his resignation to Assembly Speaker Gurupadagouda Patil in Bengaluru. "I'm resigning on my own volition as I haven't been able to meet the expectations of the people of my constituency," he stated in his letter dated September 22.

"Indi taluk in Vijayapura district, which I represent, has been severely affected by drought during the 2026-27 kharif season. As there was some rainfall at the beginning of the season, farmers borrowed money and purchased seeds and fertilisers and sowed their crops. However, due to the failure of timely rains, the crops have withered, and there is also a shortage of drinking water for people and livestock," Patil stated. The Speaker, however, told the Assembly that he rejected the resignation as it was not as per rules.

Speaking to reporters, Patil said he was upset with the Karnataka government for failing to declare Indi and Chadchan drought-hit despite repeated appeals.

In a letter to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on August 28, Patil had sought drought-hit status for the two taluks. He had pointed out that 11 of Vijayapura district's 13 taluks



I'm resigning on my own volition as I haven't been able to meet the expectations of the people of my constituency.

—Yashwantharayagouda Patil, Congress MLA from Indi

had been declared drought-affected, while Indi and Chadchan were excluded.

"I am a ruling party MLA and have made several requests to our government in a sensitive manner so that it does not cause embarrassment. But our words and feelings are not being valued," Patil wrote.

He also alleged that political pressure was influencing whose demands received attention. "In today's political situation, those who are strong and exert pressure are getting recognition, while people like us, who are mild-natured, are not getting recognition for any work," he said.

Patil said he was unable to do justice to the voters who elected him and was therefore voluntarily resigning as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

This is the second time Patil has resigned from the Assembly this year. Earlier, he had resigned after being left out of the state Cabinet. He later withdrew his resignation, saying he would continue serving his constituency as an MLA.

No discrimination against constituencies on party lines: CM

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said his government is not discriminating against constituencies on party lines. Responding to Patil's resignation, he said, "I can't decide on declaring drought taluks. There are parameters. Many MLAs are asking us to declare their constituencies drought-hit." "The Indi MLA was emotional. I've pacified him," he said. He made these remarks in response to intense political heat after Patil tendered his resignation to protest his region not being declared drought-hit

Centre should relax drought declaration norms: GP

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday urged the Centre to relax the norms for declaring drought and provide Karnataka with adequate financial assistance to tackle the prevailing drought situation.

He said the state government had already written to the Centre seeking relaxation of the National Disaster Response Fund norms. The government had apprised the Centre of the ground realities and sought greater assistance for farmers facing distress.

Parameshwara said Karnataka had faced a severe drought in 2023, when then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had written several letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking drought relief and relaxation of existing norms. The state had pointed out that the Centre's criteria did not fully re-

flect the actual drought situation. CM DK Shivakumar and other state government representatives had also written to the Centre on the issue. As Revenue Minister, he had made a representation, while the Chief Secretary had separately written to the Centre.

The state's demand was that drought should not be assessed merely on the basis of rainfall deficiency. The amount and timing of rainfall, its impact on crops and soil moisture should also be considered while assessing the situation, he said.

He urged the Centre to reconsider its criteria in view of the drought situation in Karnataka in 2026 and extend necessary financial assistance.

The government was taking measures to address the difficulties faced by farmers and the public, he said, adding that the Centre should take Karnataka's ground realities into account while providing relief.



Oppn protest empty treasury benches

BENGALURU: A heated exchange between the treasury and opposition over party ideologies, absence of ministers and officials led to uproar in Karnataka Legislative Council on Wednesday, following which Chairman Saleem Ahmed adjourned the proceedings for a brief period.

JD(S) MLC Bhoje Gowda questioned how discussions could take place as nine ministers and senior officials are not present in the House.

Ahmed asked the Leader of the House, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, to ensure that the ministers and officials concerned attended the proceedings, and warned that action could be taken against officials who failed to report to the House.

Minister Yathindra said all ministers were on their way to the House, barring one or two who had indicated that they would not be able to attend.

Earlier, Congress MLC K Shivakumar raised the issue of farmers' plight, increase in fertiliser prices and remunerative prices for agricultural produce based on the cost of production. "Let all of us together pass a resolution in this House, without any discrimination, on what Karnataka should get," he said.

Highlights of the disruptions

Empty treasury benches: When the session commenced, only a couple of ministers were present, leaving most of the ruling party's seats entirely vacant.

Demands of the Opposition: Opposition leaders urged the Chair to briefly adjourn the proceedings to send a "strong message" to the ruling government regarding their accountability.

Chair's response: Acknowledging the empty benches, the House leadership briefly adjourned the session to allow ministers time to arrive and ensure proper legislative function.

Differing views part of deliberation: ECI amid row

The ECI remains fully committed to executing its constitutional duties with complete integrity, recognizing its vital role in advancing our democracy.



EC's statement in a nutshell

The EC stated that differing views among its Commissioners are a normal part of institutional deliberation and decision-making.

All official orders and decisions issued by the EC carry full legal sanctions and adhere to established statutory procedures.

Reports indicated that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised concerns over issues, including name deletions, during the pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' lists.

The EC clarified that operational queries or inputs raised during draft stages are standard administrative practice to safeguard voter rights.

The Commission maintains that all recent major decisions and electoral reforms, including the SIR, have been the outcome of unanimous decisions by the full Commission.

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday refused a news report that decisions taken on the contentious Special Intensive Regulation (SIR) process were objected to by two of the three poll commissioners, saying "internal checks-and-balances are standard" practice in a multi-member constitutional body.

The remarks came amid a massive political row, as the Opposition accused the ECI of attempting to hijack the electoral process and putting democracy under threat.

"All actions of ECI have been in accordance with laws and instructions of the Commission," the poll body said in a statement.

The poll body said its three members may have individual views, observations or suggestions during deliberations, but all final decisions of the poll body are taken unanimously.

It added that operational queries or inputs raised by Commissioners at the draft stage should not be construed as final decisions.

"Differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberation in any institution. They are a part of the decision-making process before a final decision is taken. Not only the three Commissioners, but every officer of the Commission is fully authorised to give his suggestions to the Commission for improving the electoral system," the statement said.

As per reports, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had formally objected at least 14 times over the past 10 months to decisions and orders of the Election Commission, including on additions, deletion and restoration of voters and changes to the voter registration process.

The report said the two commissioners had raised questions over decisions allegedly taken without their knowledge and, in one instance, described a change concerning Form 6 for new voters as "unauthorised and illegal". They also separately approached the cabinet secretary over changes in the oversight of the IT systems underpinning electoral rolls.

Oppn: Impeach CEC Gyanesh Kumar to save democracy

New Delhi: Revelations about differences in the Election Commission with claims that decisions were taken without concurrence of two Election Commissioners on Wednesday led to calls by the Opposition for impeachment of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and cancellation of the contentious Special Intensive Revision.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said, "vote chori is a crime against the Indian people and a direct attack on our constitution. The BJP, RSS and EC who organised it have committed an act of treason. Justice will be served." In a video posted on 'X', he said, "I want to make it clear. Whatever you (EC) are doing is wrong. This is treason, this is against the country. Don't forget, time will come when we catch you." Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said, "how the hell can one man, acting on His Master's orders, strike off names at whim? How can he sideline fellow Constitutional officers to only take blatantly illegal steps that put our democracy in danger?"

Govt may approach SC against HC order on SIT probe into KPSC scam

BENGALURU

The state government has planned to approach the Supreme Court questioning the Karnataka High Court order in the KPSC recruitment scam case wherein it ordered the constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) under IPS officer Alok Kumar.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had on Tuesday questioned the high court order on the SIT investigation saying that the court can order for formation of an SIT, and added that the court instructing officers is not right.

"There is no objection, our police have already investigated and are doing a very good job. In the meantime, the ED has also come in. Let them do it, there is no objection. But one thing is that our people were doing it very competent-

ly. They can form an SIT, but I don't know how the high court can interfere in it. There have been several directions in the past as well. We will legally examine who should be appointed and who should be left out. The decision should be left to the government. If the CID does not do their work properly, they can do whatever they want. Otherwise, the High Court can monitor the ongoing investigation report", CM Shivakumar had said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has completely concluded its investigation, so there is no necessity of SIT investigation. Thus, the government is planning to approach the Supreme Court against the high court decision. Also, the government is not keen on the formation of an SIT under leadership of Alok Kumar, sources said.

Exploring used edible oil for biodiesel production: Khader

BENGALURU

Health and Family Welfare Minister UT Khader on Wednesday said the state government was exploring a collaboration with biodiesel companies which can procure used edible oil from hotels and other food establishments and use it as a raw material for biodiesel production.

The initiative could address repeated reuse of edible oil by food establishments, he added. "Such a mechanism could give establishments an alternative channel for disposal while discouraging unsafe reuse," the Minister said at an interactive session on 'Food Safety' organised by members of Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) here.

State to expand food safety drive Khader said Karnataka has intensified food-safety inspections across the state in recent weeks, with the state Government stating that its objective is to protect public health and improve compliance rather than disrupt legitimate businesses.

He stressed that strengthening food safety requires coordinated action from government agencies, businesses,

street vendors and consumers and felt the need for sustained education to build a stronger food-safety culture across Karnataka alongside enforcement of law.

He announced plans to host a national-level conclave of Food Safety Officers and Commissioners in October to bring together officials from different States to deliberate on strengthening the country's food safety framework.

The conclave will facilitate the exchange of best practices followed by different states and identify gaps in existing food-safety systems, he added.



COLLUSION BY CLAIMANT AND COMPLAINANT

K'taka forms SIT to probe fraudulent insurance claims

BENGALURU

The state government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe fraudulent insurance claims across the state, particularly cases involving the alleged fabrication of road accidents and attempts to obtain compensation from insurance companies through false claims.

The Home Department issued an order in this regard on September 22, following a Supreme Court direction to all states to constitute dedicated teams to investigate fraudulent insurance claims.

The SIT will be headed by an officer of the rank of In-

spector General of Police (IGP). A Superintendent of Police nominated from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a Deputy Superintendent of Police and three police inspectors nominated by the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) will also be part of the team.

The team will have jurisdiction across Karnataka and has been declared a police station under Section 2(1)(u) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. Its officers have also been authorised to submit final reports before the jurisdictional courts under Section 193 of the BNSS.

The SIT will function under

DETAILS OF THE SIT

• **Jurisdiction & operations:** The SIT holds statewide police station status under the BNSS, 2023, allowing direct filing of reports to jurisdictional courts, targeting fabricated accident and false compensation claims against insurers.

• **Leadership & case transfer:** Supervised by the ADGP for Law and Order with dedicated CID and police personnel, the unit will receive all transferred insurance-fraud complaints directly from the DG&IGP.

SC DIRECTIVE BACKGROUND

• **Nationwide mandate:** Following a 2026 ruling uncovering systematic multi-accident vehicle fraud across India, states were ordered to form specialized SITs.

• **Insurer accountability:** The court mandated that insurance companies forward all suspicious claims, holding top management accountable to prevent selective reporting.

the supervision of the Additional Director General of Po-

lice (Law and Order), Police Headquarters, Bengaluru.

According to the order, the move is aimed at tackling organised insurance fraud in which false claims are allegedly generated by fabricating or staging incidents. Such cases may involve the alleged collusion of claimants with medical professionals, legal representatives, local agents and other intermediaries to create documents and circumstances supporting fraudulent claims.

The DG&IGP will transfer all complaints relating to fraudulent claims received from insurance companies to the SIT. The government will provide the required officers and staff to facilitate the investigation.

BJP appoints state in-charges, Harish Dwivedi gets Karnataka

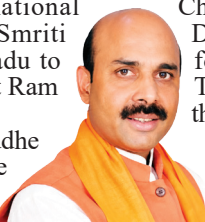
NEW DELHI

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Wednesday appointed in-charges and co-in-charges for 28 states and 8 Union Territories with Haryana and Chhattisgarh going to national general secretary Smriti Irani and Tamil Nadu to party vice-president Ram Madhav.

Vinay Sahasrabudhe was made in-charge of BJP's Delhi

unit, Jamyang Namgyal & Darshana Jardosh appointed co-in-charges. Vinod Tawde was named BJP's Uttar Pradesh in-charge. Smriti Irani was the named the party in-charge for Haryana and Chhattisgarh while Harish Dwivedi was appointed for Bihar & Karnataka. Tarun Chugh was named the in-charge for Gujarat.

Ram Madhav was named BJP in-charge for Tamil Nadu.



Quick Read

Karnataka targets 30% salt reduction by 2030

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka has launched a multisectoral action plan to reduce salt intake by 30% by 2030 and promote healthier dietary habits. Health and Family Welfare Minister U T Khader launched the Karnataka State Multisectoral Action Plan for Salt Reduction and Promotion of Healthy Dietary Habits at a Technical Advisory Group meeting. The plan targets salt consumption at home, in food eaten outside and in processed and packaged foods. Measures include reducing discretionary salt use, promoting healthier choices, dietary counselling and encouraging salt reduction in packaged foods. The state will also support research on potassium-enriched low-sodium salt. India's daily salt intake is estimated at 8-11 grams, against the WHO recommendation of less than 5 grams.

Sensitise children to protect environment: Boralingaiah

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Children must be sensitised to environmental protection as safeguarding nature is everyone's responsibility, said folk scholar Dr H.C. Boralingaiah. Speaking at the release of Dr H. Tukaram's short story collection Aa Manju Modagala Naduve at writer Prof. Narayan Ghatta's residence in Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout, he said forests and hill ranges were being destroyed in the name of development. Kannada Book Publishers' Association president Nidasale Puttaswamaiah said libraries should purchase newly published books and ensure they reach readers, thereby supporting authors. Prof.

Petition seeks end to Electronics City flyover toll

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Citizens have urged authorities to end toll collection on the Electronics City Flyover after its reported 20-year concession period expired. An online petition filed by Rajkumar Dugar, founder and convenor of Citizens for Citizens, has urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to stop toll collection on the nearly 10-km elevated corridor. The flyover, connecting Bommanahalli near the Cen-

tral Silk Board with Electronics City along Hosur Road, was initiated in 2006 and inaugurated on January 22, 2010. It was constructed by Bengaluru Elevated Tollway Limited (BETL) under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model at an estimated cost of around Rs 1,000 crore. According to the petition, the 20-year concession period began in 2006 and ended on September 10, 2026. It argues that toll collection should have stopped from September 11, with the flyover subsequently taken over by NHAI for maintenance.

"The toll covers the total costs incurred by the concessionaire to build, operate and maintain the infrastructure, along with a reasonable return on their investment," Dugar said. The petition also highlighted the Attibele Toll Plaza, located about 14 km farther along the highway. It referred to an NHAI rule prescribing a standard minimum distance of 60 km between adjacent toll plazas on the same section of a National Highway in the same direction. The Electronics City toll plaza currently charges Rs 65 for cars, jeeps and vans for a

single journey, while rates for other vehicle categories range from Rs 25 to Rs 365. Petitioners have also sought clarity on future maintenance arrangements, particularly concerning waterlogging and flooding in the flyover's dip or valley section. They urged NHAI and MoRTH to take an early decision on toll collection and future maintenance. Petitioners said continued toll collection after the concession period could set a precedent for other toll plazas. NHAI officials were unavailable for comment.

BESCOM returns to profit with Rs 293.62 crore

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
BESCOM has returned to profit after years of losses, posting a Rs 293.62-crore surplus in 2025-26, its first positive result since 2017-18. The turnaround has been attributed to lower power procurement costs, improved revenue

collection and reduced distribution losses. Electricity purchases account for nearly 80% of BESCOM's expenditure, prompting the utility to reduce dependence on costly thermal power and increase hydropower, renewable energy and long-term power purchase agreements. An official said dis-

tribution losses were brought down from over 11% to 9.13% through technical improvements and better billing systems. Refinancing old loans reduced interest costs by 1.5% to 2%, while prompt payment to suppliers helped save around Rs 100 crore through discounts. Tariff revisions approved by the

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission and recovery of pending dues also strengthened revenues. However, BESCOM continues to face accumulated losses of around Rs 13,000 crore. Experts estimate that even with an annual profit of about Rs 1,000 crore, clearing the deficit could take more than a decade.

FISCAL SPACE CONCERNS

BJP protests over Karnataka's fiscal position

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
BJP leaders staged a protest on Wednesday, alleging financial mismanagement after the Finance Department flagged limited fiscal space. The demonstration was held near the Kengal Hanumanthaiah statue at Vidhana Soudha and was led by BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy. Several MLAs and MLCs participated. The BJP accused the Congress government of failing to deliver development and making assurances despite financial constraints. The party demanded proper governance and said



the Finance Department's observations had highlighted concerns over the state's finances. The protest came a day after the Finance Department advised against taking up major expenditure projects without

adequate budgetary allocation, calling for a "realistic and prudent" approach to funding. The department made the observation while examining the proposed Chief Minister's Rural Road Connectivity Scheme,

Fiscal deficit ceiling
■ Proposed road scheme: Rs 10,000 crore
■ Fiscal deficit projection: 2.95%
■ FRBM limit: 3%
■ Ongoing works balance: Over Rs 2 lakh crore
■ Pending bills: Rs 36,136 crore

estimated to cost Rs 10,000 crore. The project is proposed for implementation during 2026-27 and 2027-28. According to the Finance Department, launching a major project without funds being budgeted or earmarked could create cash-flow and fiscal-management challenges.

the court intervened. He also questioned BJP leaders over drought relief, saying declarations of drought-hit areas were made according to norms prescribed by the Centre. He asked why BJP MPs and MLAs were not raising the issue with the Union government. On farmers' demands for loan waivers, Kharge questioned why relief was not extended to them while alleging that large corporate loans had been waived. Kharge also commented on the Karnataka High Court's di-

FUNDING ROW
The BJP staged protests in Bengaluru alleging financial mismanagement and diversion of funds. Priyank Kharge rejected the allegations and blamed the Centre for withholding statutory grants. He said Karnataka had approached the Supreme Court over NDRF assistance and questioned BJP leaders over drought relief and farmer loan waivers. The Centre's funding and the state govt's fiscal management remain key points of the political dispute.

rection to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the KPSC recruitment case. He said the government was examining the order legally as a CID inquiry was already underway.

Shivananda Tagaduru receives State Nataka Akademi Award

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka Working Journalists Association state president, senior journalist and theatre personality Shivananda Tagaduru was presented the Karnataka State Nataka Akademi's annual award by Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Umashree at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Presenting the award, Umashree said theatre continued to remain a vibrant art form despite changing times. She recalled her own journey as a theatre artist before entering public life and said the stage had played an important role in shaping several artists.



Senior journalist and theatre personality Shivananda Tagaduru was honoured for his contribution to journalism and the performing arts at a ceremony.

"Rangabhoomi will never lose its vitality. I too grew as a theatre artist and reached this position."
- Umashree, Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson
Together prominent personalities from theatre, literature, journalism and the cultural sector, highlighting the continuing role of theatre in Karnataka's cultural landscape.

Ravindra Kalakshetra ceremony
■ Award: State Nataka Akademi annual award
■ Honouree: Shivananda Tagaduru
■ Presented by: Umashree
■ Venue: Ravindra Kalakshetra
■ Other awards: Endowment awards

THEATRE HONOUR
Shivananda Tagaduru, state president of the Karnataka Working Journalists Association, senior journalist and theatre personality, received the State Nataka Akademi's annual award at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Umashree presented the honour and praised theatre's enduring relevance. The ceremony also featured annual and endowment awards for several personalities associated with theatre. Senior figures from Karnataka's cultural, literary and performing arts sectors attended the programme.

Bengaluru triple murder: Police file 2,085-page chargesheet

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Police have filed a 2,085-page chargesheet against a woman and her live-in partner in a K R Puram triple murder case. The chargesheet was filed nearly three months after Shwetha, 25, and J Kenneth, 25, were arrested for the deaths of Shwetha's parents and younger sister. Somasundar, 54, his wife Muthulakshmi, 48, and their younger daughter Supriya, 20, were stabbed at their apartment in K R Puram on June 22. The case was registered at K R Puram police station. Police arrested Shwetha in Puducherry on June 24 and Kenneth two days later. During the initial investigation, Shwetha reportedly claimed responsibility for the killings and denied Kenneth's involvement. Police later alleged that

both were involved. The chargesheet includes allegations of murder, joint criminal liability, conspiracy and tampering with evidence. Investigators have said further inquiry is continuing and a supplementary chargesheet will be filed. According to police, Somasundar, who was critically injured, reached the apartment staircase and alerted neighbours. Before being taken to hospital, he reportedly told police that Shwetha and Kenneth had attacked him and that his wife and younger daughter were still inside. He later died of his injuries. Investigators alleged that Kenneth had planned the killings over several months and used an AI chatbot to seek information related to the crime, including methods of killing, removing bloodstains and disposing of bodies.

ITBP soldier dies in road accident

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
An ITBP soldier on leave died after his motorcycle collided with a parked tractor on Kanakapura Bypass Road. The deceased was identified as Channaveeragowda, 45, a resident of Shivanahalli in Kanakapura taluk. He was riding the motorcycle with his son when it hit a tractor parked on the roadside near Gadasalli. Channaveeragowda sustained critical injuries in the collision and was rushed to Kanakapura General Hospital. He later died. His family members alleged that the soldier died because of a lack of timely and proper medical treatment at the hospital. They accused hospital staff of negligence and expressed outrage over the alleged delay in providing care. The allegations have not been established and are expected to be examined through medical and police investigations. After receiving information about the accident, Kanakapura Traffic Police visited the spot and conducted an inspection. Police registered a case and are continuing their investigation into the circumstances leading to the collision. Further details are awaited.

CH Observer

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Unchecked civic neglect plagues local neighborhoods, from an open, hazardous pit threatening children at the Govindapura Government School to chronic, foul-smelling garbage black spots overwhelming residential streets in Seshadripuram, Kumara Park, and Chikkagowdana Palya.

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At Govindapura Government School, also serving as an SIR hearing center, an open pit on campus threatens playing children and nearby lunch services.



Residents on Seshadripuram 1st A Cross Road are frustrated by a persistent garbage black spot that repeatedly reappears despite cleanup efforts. Locals report that passersby dump waste there because uncooperative sanitation workers frequently fail to collect garbage from the site.



Residents near Kumara Park on Serpentine Road are frustrated by a persistent garbage spot right in front of Chetty's Corner, situated next to a park and a school. Despite frequent cleanups, waste continues to pile up as passersby dump trash there, leaving locals wondering if the area will ever be permanently cleared.



An uncleaned garbage dumping spot on Chikkagowdana Palya Main Road, located right at the corner of Srinivasa Theater, is causing severe distress to local residents. Open dumping and a lack of regular clearance have left the entire residential street overwhelmed by a foul stench.

BNCC launches 3 day cleaning drive in Byatarayanapura

COMMISSIONER POMMALA SUNIL KUMAR LAUNCHED A THREE-DAY CLEANING DRIVE IN WARD 15 UNDER THE FREEDOM FROM WASTE CAMPAIGN.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Stepping up grassroots sanitation efforts across northern municipal zones, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar formally launched a massive, three-day continuous cleaning operation in Ward No. 15 of the Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency under the state's flagship "Freedom from Waste Campaign."

The high-priority municipal mobilization directly implements rigorous administrative directives issued by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Shri Krishna Byre Gowda. The initiative is designed to root out chronic garbage accumulation sites, scrub major thoroughfares and arterial footpaths, and establish active community engagement channels with local Residents' Welfare Associations to secure long-term behavioral changes in waste disposal.

To ensure maximum operational footprint, municipal authorities mapped out 192 distinct waste-dumping black-spots across Ward No. 15. Ground execution has been heavily mechanized through the deployment of fourteen specialized tractors, a heavy-duty JCB excavator, and a dedicated waste-removal vehicle. Operations have been organized systematically, distributing approximately 15 vulnerable locations to each tractor unit to guarantee thorough, end-to-end clearing of accumulated refuse.

The three-day blitz brings together a collaborative workforce consisting of sanitation



Inter departmental infrastructure harmonization

BESCOM Utility Clearance: In active coordination with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company engineers, municipal crews are identifying and dismantling abandoned electricity poles and dangling overhead wires that obstruct narrow footpaths and vehicular pathways.

BWSSB Manhole Alignment: Partnering with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board teams, engineering squads are locating sunken or dangerously elevated manhole covers, restoring them flush to road grade levels to eliminate major hazards for motorists and two-wheeler riders.

Horticultural Pruning: Forest and horticulture personnel are actively trimming low-hanging tree branches growing below a six-foot threshold along pedestrian corridors, eliminating head-level obstructions and ensuring safe passage for walkers.

labor forces, departmental field engineers, regional civic leaders, and enthusiastic neighborhood volunteers. City administrators have appealed directly to local residents and market establishments to exercise civic responsibility by segregating waste at source and avoiding indiscriminate roadside dumping.

Beyond basic refuse clearance, the intensive campaign utilizes a synchronized cross-departmental framework to rectify long-standing urban hazards that compro-

mise pedestrian and vehicular safety. In active coordination with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company engineers, municipal crews are identifying and dismantling abandoned electricity poles and dangling overhead wires that obstruct narrow footpaths. Partnering with water supply boards, engineering squads are locating sunken or dangerously elevated manhole covers, restoring them flush to road grade levels to eliminate major hazards for motorists and two-wheeler riders. Addi-



A clean and beautiful Byatarayanapura relies on the collective cooperation of every citizen, department, and grassroots leader working in unison.

- North City Corporation Administration

Civic appeal and public cooperation

With intensive cleaning activities underway, municipal authorities have urged residents and local traders to avoid indiscriminate waste dumping and actively support community sanitation efforts.

tionally, horticulture personnel are actively trimming low-hanging tree branches growing below a six-foot threshold along pedestrian corridors, eliminating head-level obstructions and ensuring safe passage for everyday walkers.

The intensive three-day municipal drive seeks to permanently transform the public landscape of Byatarayanapura, setting a replicable standard for community-driven cleanliness and structural maintenance across Bengaluru's expanding urban core.

BNCC launches weekly phone-in programme

Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar launched a weekly phone-in program, allowing Bengaluru North residents to directly report civic grievances and track them via Sahaaya 2.0.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Life across Bengaluru's northern neighborhoods is about to get a major civic boost. In a proactive move to bring local government closer to everyday people, North City Corporation Commissioner Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar has officially launched a brand-new weekly interactive phone program. This smart administrative step aims to completely bridge the frustrating communication gap between ordinary residents and busy municipal authorities. The very first live call session kicks off this week on Friday, September 25, 2026, running from 7:00 a.m. sharp to 9:00 a.m.

During this dedicated two-hour window, citizens living anywhere inside the North City Corporation limits can dial straight into municipal headquarters. This gives local families a direct chance to voice civic problems, log formal complaints, and talk face-to-face via phone with the Commissioner regarding urgent neighborhood infrastructure

ture issues.

The scope of this exciting initiative covers a wide variety of vital municipal services. Residents are warmly invited to report critical urban troubles, such as dangerous road potholes, streets needing fresh blacktopping, broken streetlights, or delayed garbage collection. Callers can also tackle serious public safety concerns, including risky tree branches that need urgent cutting, mosquito control efforts for disease prevention, stray dog management, public park upkeep, messy illegal banners, and blocked footpaths. Even complex property paperwork disputes, especially long delays with e-Khata processing and land revenue records, will get special administrative focus.

To guarantee complete accountability and transparent tracking, every single complaint registered during the Friday morning phone hours goes straight onto the advanced Sahaaya 2.0 digital portal. Officials instantly forward these notes to responsible zonal engineers. Furthermore, complainants receive helpful automated text messages featuring unique tracking numbers and officer contact details. People can connect by calling or messaging WhatsApp at 9480685705, or via landlines at 080-22975936 and 080-23636671. The Sahaaya app also remains open 24/7.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPUR

Stepping up efforts to modernize vital transportation networks and eliminate chronic urban bottlenecks, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched a massive, high-security demolition drive, deploying heavy excavation machinery to clear illegal commercial encroachments along National Highway 69 as it cuts through the urban heart of Chikkaballapur.

The sweeping enforcement action follows months of administrative patience that yielded little voluntary compliance. Over the past year, municipal and highway authorities issued multiple formal notices to commercial property owners whose business establishments, concrete extensions, and permanent retail structures had illegally crept over legal boundary lines, encroaching deep into public right-of-way land on both sides of the highway. Because owners persistently ignored final warnings and failed to clear the unauthorized structures themselves, NHAI engineering wings proceeded with direct legal execution. Under the direct supervision

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Encroachment Demolition:** Using heavy JCB and Hitachi machinery under the leadership of NHAI Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Raja Reddy, authorities began tearing down commercial structures that had illegally occupied land on both sides of the highway.
- Ignored Notices:** The crackdown follows months of non-compliance, as building owners failed to clear the encroachments voluntarily despite receiving official notices over the past year.
- Road Widening Objective:** According to NHAI officials, the highway requires a standardized total width of 80 feet—extending 40 feet on either side from the centerline—to facilitate essential road widening and improve public transit.
- Two-Month Target:** Administrative teams have set a strict timeline to complete the entire demolition and associated road-widening infrastructure work within the next two months.

The operation is essential to meet our 80-foot road width requirement, ensuring long-term traffic convenience and safety for all motorists.

- NHAI Officials

of NHAI Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Raja Reddy and backed by a heavy contingent of local police personnel deployed to maintain law and order, a fleet of industrial

JCB and Hitachi excavators tore down unauthorized concrete walls, pillars, and retail storefronts. The aggressive clearance operation drew crowds of onlookers as heavy machinery systematically dismantled concrete additions that had restricted public land

for years. Highway officials underscored that reclaiming the encroached land is an absolute engineering necessity to achieve the mandated eighty-foot total width for the national highway corridor. Under statutory guidelines, the highway requires a uniform forty-foot clearance extending outward in both directions from the central median. Unregulated commercial encroachment had severely narrowed these buffers, choking traffic flow and creating severe safety hazards for pedestrians and long-distance freight carriers alike.

Silk Board flyover space set for transformation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Busy commuters passing through the crowded Silk Board junction can finally expect some relief. Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K. N. Ramesh recently inspected the messy area beneath the flyover and ordered a complete cleanup.

Inspired by the success at Bellandur, authorities plan to turn this dusty zone into a safe, friendly public spot. The project relies on team-

work with the Walkaluru NGO. Artists will paint colorful murals on the big concrete pillars this weekend. Meanwhile, workers will level the ground, clear out trash, and safely cover open drains with heavy concrete slabs.

To help people walking, crews will build smooth, wide footpaths connecting the metro station directly to the bus stand. They are also adding

bright new lights so the area feels safe at night. Commuters will soon get shaded seating areas to rest while waiting for rides.

We must prepare a comprehensive development plan to provide proper seating and resting arrangements so that thousands of daily commuters waiting for transport can rest comfortably.

- K. N. Ramesh, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner





HC refuses to quash ED case against developer

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash an ED case against Ozone Urbana Infra Developers over alleged cheating of homebuyers. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition by company MD Vasudevan Sathyamurthy. The court, however, quashed proceedings against the company under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004. The court said homebuyers often invest their lifetime savings in properties and allegations of fund diversion could affect public trust. It rejected arguments citing RERA, IBC and other legal remedies. The ED has provisionally attached company properties worth Rs 423.38 crore. The court said allegations of cheating or criminal breach of trust warranted investigation and stopping it at this stage would be premature.

Court to pronounce order on Pavithra Gowda’s plea on Sep 26

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru court will pronounce its order on September 26 on Pavithra Gowda’s plea in the Renukaswamy murder case, amid prison-related concerns.

The City Civil and Sessions Court is hearing the application filed by Gowda, the first accused in the case. The court has also directed Parappana Agrahara Central Prison authorities to submit a compliance report on September 26 regarding its September 7 directions.

The directions included providing Gowda a cell with fewer inmates and ensuring basic facilities such as a toilet, bathroom and drinking water. During the hearing, Gowda’s counsel said she was facing difficulties in prison because of her celebrity status and sought permission for her to submit a letter to the court detailing her concerns. Counsel for actor Darshan informed the court that the September 16 order treating Pradosh Rao as an approver had been challenged before the High Court. The mat-

Partial restriction on heavy vehicles on Varthur-Gunjur Road

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru traffic police have extended restrictions on the movement of heavy goods vehicles on the Varthur-Gunjur Road to ease congestion and ensure smoother travel for schoolchildren and motorists.

The restrictions have been extended on the busy Varthur-Gunjur stretch of State Highway 35 during peak school and traffic hours.

Earlier, heavy vehicles were prohibited from using the road only between 7 am and 11 am.

Following complaints from

FLIGHT TEST MILESTONE

Kaal Bhairava Lite completes 100-hour flight test

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru defence firm Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace has completed 100 cumulative flight-testing hours for its AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft.

Bengaluru-based Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace (FWDA) has completed 100 cumulative hours of flight testing for Kaal Bhairava Lite, described by the company as India’s first indigenous, AI-powered Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) autonomous combat aircraft.

The company, based in Electronic City, focuses on AI-driven warfare systems and next-generation combat aviation technologies. FWDA has also secured Directorate General of Civil Aviation-type certification for an indigenous unmanned

aerial vehicle (UAV), according to the company.

Kaal Bhairava Lite has been developed around a dual-role concept.

The same platform can reportedly be deployed for long-endurance intelligence,

100-hour flight testing

- **Aircraft:** Kaal Bhairava Lite
- **Developer:** Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace
- **Milestone:** 100 flight-testing hours
- **Technology:** AI-powered autonomous aircraft
- **Reach:** More than 1,000 km
- **Endurance:** 8–10 hours
- **Location:** Electronic City, Bengaluru

surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions or con-

Key aircraft features

Kaal Bhairava Lite is an AI-powered Medium Altitude Long Endurance autonomous combat aircraft developed by Bengaluru-based Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace. The company says it can undertake intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions or be configured for precision strike. The platform has a targeted reach of more than 1,000 km and an endurance of eight to 10 hours, with potential applications in maritime surveillance and combat operations.

figured as a long-range precision-strike loitering munition. The company said the aircraft is being positioned as a

common ship-deployable platform for maritime surveillance and strike missions. It has a targeted operational reach of

more than 1,000 km and an endurance of eight to 10 hours.

FWDA said the completion of 100 flight-testing hours marks a significant stage in the aircraft’s development and testing programme. The platform is being positioned for potential requirements of the Indian Navy as well as international export markets.

The milestone comes as Indian defence companies increasingly develop indigenous unmanned systems aimed at meeting military requirements and reducing dependence on imported technologies.

KPSC closure remark reflects ignorance, irresponsibility: Kumaraswamy

Kumaraswamy questioned the rationale behind the proposed move, saying institutional shortcomings should be addressed without dismantling the commission.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday criticised Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over his reported statement that the government was consulting legal experts on closing the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

Kumaraswamy said the Chief Minister’s statement about legally shutting down the KPSC was not merely an expression of frustration but reflected what he described as “the height of foolishness, irresponsibility and ignorance”.

In a media statement, Kumaraswamy questioned the rationale behind closing an institution over alleged irregularities involving individuals associated with it. He said the KPSC as an institution was functioning well but claimed that “wrong people” had occupied key positions.

He questioned who had appointed such people and who had allegedly allowed the commission to become a centre for

“If weeds grow in a field, they should be removed. The field itself should not be poisoned.”

- HD Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

Closure proposal criticised

- **KPSC:** Karnataka Public Service Commission
- **Issue:** Proposed legal closure
- **Criticism:** Kumaraswamy targets CM
- **Key concern:** Recruitment-related functioning
- **Analogy:** Remove the weeds, not the field

Kumaraswamy’s argument

Kumaraswamy said the KPSC should not be blamed for alleged wrongdoing by individuals associated with it. He questioned who appointed such persons and who allowed alleged irregularities.

He urged the Chief Minister to understand the commission’s statutory framework, structure and history before considering closure. Kumaraswamy argued that corrective action should target those responsible for violations instead of dismantling the institution itself.

He said any wrongdoing should be addressed by removing those responsible rather than dismantling the institution itself.

cold, cutting off the nose is not the answer,” he said sarcastically. Kumaraswamy urged Shivakumar to understand the KPSC’s role and structure before making statements about its closure. He said the Chief Minister should be aware of the commission’s statutory framework, safeguards, history and contribution.

He said any wrongdoing should be addressed by removing those responsible rather than dismantling the institution itself.

Add Jagalur to drought-hit list, urges Abdul Jabbar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Congress MLC Abdul Jabbar has urged the government to include drought-hit Jagalur in Davangere’s third relief list, citing severe rainfall deficiency.

Speaking during a special discussion on drought, Jabbar said Nyamathi, Honnali and Channagiri had been included among the 177 drought-affected taluks announced by the government, while Jagalur was left out despite facing severe conditions.

Jabbar said the region had received only about 33 per cent of its average rainfall this year, affecting agricultural activities and causing distress among farmers. He said around 42,000 farmers lived in Jagalur, with 21,000 having insured their maize crop.

According to information from the Deputy Commissioner, compensation of Rs 7,865 per acre had been proposed for affected growers. He also pointed out that Harapanahalli taluk had not been officially

“If crop insurance provides compensation for crop losses, the government must also consider separate relief for farmers who could not sow their crops due to inadequate rainfall.”

- Abdul Jabbar, Congress MLC

Drought demand

- **Drought-hit taluks:** 177
- **Rainfall deficit:** 67%
- **Jagalur farmers:** 42,000
- **Maize crop insured:** 21,000 farmers
- **Proposed compensation:** Rs 7,865 per acre

Relief demands

Jabbar sought immediate drought-hit status for Jagalur and a village-wise reassessment of conditions. He also demanded transparent data on rainfall deficiency and the decline in sowing.

The Congress MLC urged authorities to expedite crop insurance compensation for maize growers and provide separate assistance to farmers who could not sow crops. He also sought severe drought status for neighbouring Harapanahalli taluk, which remains outside the official drought list.

Green shawl row triggers uproar in Council

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A green shawl worn by BJP MLC K.S. Naveen during a drought debate triggered heated exchanges between ruling Congress and Opposition members in the Legislative Council.

The controversy began when Naveen appeared in the House wearing a green shawl while preparing to speak during a discussion on the state’s drought situation. Congress member Ravi questioned the timing of the gesture, saying it would have been more appropriate before the speech and describing it as symbolic.

Naveen objected to the criticism and said nobody could dictate what he should wear. He said he had worn the green shawl as a symbolic gesture in support of farmers and accused Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of wearing a shawl worth Rs 12 lakh while the state was facing drought.

The exchange quickly escalated, with ruling party and Opposition members trading allegations. Congress members referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi while responding to the remarks. Opposition members raised slogans against the government, while Congress members accused Naveen of making objectionable remarks against the Chief Minister. The Chair intervened and adjourned the House for 10 minutes to restore order. After proceedings resumed, Congress members entered the well of the House and staged a protest over Naveen’s remarks about the Chief Minister. JD(S) member Bhoje Gowda appealed to them to withdraw the protest through a song.

Naveen later clarified that he had not intended to make personal remarks and said the green shawl was meant to highlight farmers’ concerns. Ravi also said his comments were

“If my words have hurt the Chief Minister or anyone else, I withdraw them.”

- K.S. Naveen, BJP MLC

Shawl row erupts

- **Issue:** Green shawl worn by K.S. Naveen
- **Context:** Debate on drought situation
- **Naveen’s claim:** Symbolic gesture for farmers
- **Congress objection:** Remarks against CM
- **Outcome:** Naveen withdrew his remarks

Farmers’ concerns

The green shawl worn by BJP MLC K.S. Naveen during the drought debate sparked a political dispute in the Legislative Council. Congress members objected to his remarks about Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and staged a protest in the well. The Chair briefly adjourned proceedings. Naveen later withdrew his remarks and said the shawl was a symbolic gesture highlighting farmers’ problems. Congress members subsequently ended their protest.

B.Tech dropout with fake passport held for Bengaluru burglary

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Wilson Garden police have arrested a 38-year-old interstate burglary accused who allegedly has more than 30 house-theft cases registered against him across several states.

The accused has been identified as Nenavath Vinod Kumar alias Mohammed Bashir Noor Mohammed, a native of Telangana. Police said he recently allegedly broke into the house of an elderly couple on 10th Cross, Wilson Garden, when they were away and fled with gold jewellery.

Following a complaint, a team led by Wilson Garden police inspector Prakash K. launched an investigation and arrested the accused. Police said they recovered 271 grams of gold jewellery worth around Rs 42 lakh and foreign currency from him. According to police, Vinod Kumar had been involved in more than 30 house-theft cases reported in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country.

Police said he was pursuing a B.Tech course when he was arrested in an earlier theft

case. He subsequently served a one-year prison sentence and dropped out of college.

After leaving college, he reportedly became acquainted with a Bangladeshi woman working at a salon in Hyderabad. The two allegedly fell in love and married, after which Vinod Kumar moved to Bangladesh and lived there for nine years. Police said he later obtained a fake passport and travelled to France, Germany and Italy, where he reportedly worked as a chef for some time.

He allegedly returned to India through the Nepal border using fake documents and resumed his alleged involvement in thefts. Police said Vinod Kumar travelled between cities by flight and had come to Karnataka for the first time to allegedly commit a burglary in Bengaluru. After the Wilson Garden incident, he reportedly travelled to Delhi. He later returned to Bengaluru to meet his wife and was arrested near Kempegowda International Airport. Police said further investigation is under way and details about the accused will be shared with police in other states.

Quick Read

Newlywed woman missing, canal search enters 4 day

Hassan
Search operations continued for the fourth consecutive day in the Hemavathi canal on Wednesday for Priyanka, 24, a newlywed woman from Kuruvanka village in Channarayapatna taluk, who went missing on September 19. She was reportedly seen falling into the canal near Chikanayakanahalli around 9 pm. Channarayapatna town police and rescue teams have been searching the canal but have not found any clue so far. Priyanka's family has accused her husband Rajashekhar of pushing her into the canal following alleged dowry harassment. His family denied the allegations and claimed she entered the canal herself. Police have registered a case and are investigating it as murder.

2 children drown while swimming in stream

Ramanagara
Two children drowned in a stream at Gunaganahalli village in Kanakapura taluk after they went to a farm to play. The deceased were Madhu, 14, son of Srinivas and Padmavati, and Srihari, 8, son of Narayan and Madhuri. The stream on the outskirts of the village had filled with water following recent rains. The children reportedly entered the stream to swim and drowned. The incident left their families and villagers in deep shock and grief. Kodihalli police visited the spot and conducted an inspection. Further details regarding the incident are awaited.

Online applications open for disability welfare schemes

Mandya
The District Department for the Empowerment of Differently-abled and Senior Citizens has invited online applications from eligible persons with disabilities in Mandya district for various welfare schemes for 2026-27. Applications can be submitted through the Seva Sindhu portal from September 22 to October 30. The schemes include self-employment assistance, sports incentives, medical relief, educational incentives, unemployment allowance, child-rearing support, assistive devices, talking laptops, Braille kits, motorized tricycles, sewing machines and battery-operated wheelchairs. Applicants may submit copies of their documents to the District Welfare Officer's office. For details, they can contact rehabilitation workers at local offices or call 08232-239234.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Trench work provides rural families employment

KARWAR
Trench work being carried out under a rural employment scheme is providing income opportunities to families in rural areas while also supporting the conservation of natural resources, officials said.
The work is being implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with the objective of providing employment to rural residents and creating useful assets in villages.
The initiative was reviewed during a visit to Mudlikoppa village in Siddapur taluk, where officials inspected the ongoing trench work.
Officials said the programme has been designed to provide employment to rural households while undertaking activities that can improve soil and water conservation. The

work is expected to help strengthen natural resources and support agricultural activities in the long term.
MGNREGS coordinator Prashanth Gowda said rural families can receive employment for between 100 and 125 days under the scheme, subject to applicable provisions. Workers are paid around ₹382 per day for the employment provided under the programme.
The wages are directly transferred to workers' bank accounts, ensuring transparency in the payment process.
Officials said the trench work being carried out in Mudlikoppa village would help create useful infrastructure for the village and contribute to soil and water conservation. Such works can also support groundwater recharge and improve the availability of water for agricultural purposes, depending on local conditions.

Legal awareness vital to prevent child crimes

Children should also be encouraged to report uncomfortable or harmful incidents to parents or teachers rather than keeping them secret.

MANDYA

Greater emphasis should be placed on preventing crimes and creating legal awareness among children instead of focusing only on registering cases after offences occur, Mandya District Superintendent of Police Dr. Shobharani V.J. said.
She was speaking after inaugurating a training workshop for government school and college teachers and lecturers at the Mandya University Syndicate Hall. The programme was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Directorate of Child Protection, District Legal Services Authority, District Child Protection Unit, Women and Child Development Department, Police Department and Mandya University.
The workshop focused on child marriage, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and procedures for handling complaints at police stations. Dr. Shobharani said children should be educated from an early age about sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, child marriage and cyber-



crime. They should also be encouraged to inform parents or teachers about uncomfortable or harmful incidents instead of keeping them secret.
She stressed the need for children to understand the risks associated with social media, including accepting requests from strangers, sharing personal information and communicating with unknown people online. Regular guidance should be provided on safe and responsible use of social media, she said.
Dr. Shobharani also highlighted the need to create continuous awareness about child marriage and its impact on education, health and the future of children. Schools, colleges, parents and police should work together to promote legal awareness and child protection.
She suggested educational visits to police stations, demonstrations of legal procedures and sessions explaining whom children can approach during emergencies. Teachers and parents should closely observe changes in children's behaviour and provide timely support.
Presiding over the programme, Mandya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. K. Shivachittappa said education should go beyond academic learning. He stressed the importance of ethics, discipline, humanity, social responsibility and values in shaping responsible citizens.
Venkatesh, a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said protecting children's rights required cooperation from parents, teachers,

Expert Urges early child protection training

A recent workshop focused on the POCSO Act, child marriage prevention, and police station complaint procedures. Experts stressed the importance of educating children early about online safety, appropriate boundaries, and reporting harmful incidents. Schools, parents, and law enforcement were urged to collaborate to ensure child welfare and ethical development.

educational institutions and society. He urged institutions to identify problems at an early stage and ensure that complaints are brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities.
Retired Additional Superintendent of Police Gangadhar Swamy and police personnel from the Bengaluru CID unit also attended the programme.

Seers call for united movement against alcohol

HOSADURGA

Religious leaders from different parts of Karnataka called for a united public movement against alcohol and drug abuse at a preparatory meeting held at the Taralabalu Branch Matha in Sanehalli, Hosadurga taluk.
Presiding over the meeting, Sri Panditaradhya Shivacharya Swamiji of the Taralabalu Jagadguru Branch Matha said earlier campaigns led by Taralabalu Jagadguru Sri Shivamurthy Shivacharya Swamiji through satyagrahas and foot marches had created awareness against alcohol consumption.
He said seers could work within their respective areas of influence to build a wider movement and urged religious heads to stand firmly against alcohol prohibition without being influenced by inducements.
The meeting was organised by the Karnataka State Alcohol Temperance Board to discuss awareness camps and preparations for a proposed round-table conference of seers.
Vishwa Vokkaliga Maha Samsthana's Nishchalananda Swamiji said Gram Sabha resolutions could play an important role in strengthening local efforts and called for people to work beyond caste and religious differences.
Tontada Siddharama Swamiji expressed concern over the impact of alcohol on health, families and social life and called for action against the sale of liquor sachets in villages and shops.



Gurumahanta Swamiji of Ilkal suggested conducting awareness programmes in schools and colleges and encouraging students to take a pledge against addictive substances. He also proposed exploring alternative revenue sources for the government and giving Gram Panchayats greater authority to regulate liquor and narcotics sales.
Madara Channayya Swamiji said a large public awareness campaign against alcohol and drug abuse was being planned.
Karnataka State Temperance Board Chairman Sharanappa Saladapura said the younger generation should be protected from addictive substances and called for joint efforts by rural and urban communities.
He said an action plan would be prepared for the proposed round-table conference.
Thinker Shivanakere Basavalingappa delivered the introductory address. Board Secretary Roopa welcomed the gathering and anchored the programme. Several seers, social activists, thinkers and members of the liquor prohibition movement were present.

Gadag-Betageri residents protest severe water shortage

Malingaraya Pujar CH NEWS,

Residents of the twin cities of Gadag-Betageri are facing a severe drinking water shortage, with women taking to the streets carrying empty pots to protest irregular water supply. Residents have blamed the municipal administration for failing to provide a reliable supply despite the Tungabhadra river being located nearby.
According to residents, the water shortage has worsened in recent months. Several wards are reportedly receiving drinking water only once or twice a month. In some areas, residents wait for 15 to 20 days before water reaches their taps. Even when supply is restored, it reportedly lasts for only about 30 minutes to an hour.
The shortage has forced families to make alternative arrangements for their daily water needs. Women and children are reportedly travelling to distant agricultural wells and private borewells using autos, bicycles and pushcarts. With drought conditions affecting groundwater levels, several borewells are also

drying up. Residents who depend on private water tankers are facing higher expenses.
Residents have questioned the effectiveness of several water supply projects implemented at a cost of crores of rupees. They alleged that old pipelines, repeated technical problems and delays in repair works have affected the system. Frequent pipeline bursts and water leakage have also added to their concerns.
Protesters have questioned why some villages in and around the district, including Hulakoti and Kurtakoti, receive more regular drinking water supply while the district headquarters continues to face shortages. They raised slogans against the municipal administration and local MLA H.K. Patil, demanding a permanent solution.
Municipal officials have reportedly attributed the problem to recurring technical faults in the old pipeline network. They have stated that repair work would be completed and water supply improved. However, residents said temporary repairs would not resolve the issue and demanded long-term measures to ensure regular drinking water.

Civic workers honoured for keeping Srinivaspur clean



SRINIVASPUR

Civic Workers' Day was observed with respect and enthusiasm at the Srinivaspur Town Municipal Council (TMC) office, recognising the contribution of sanitation workers to maintaining cleanliness and protecting public health in the town.
The programme was inaugurated by TMC Chief Officer V. Nagaraj, along with municipal officials and civic workers, by lighting the traditional lamp. The event highlighted the daily efforts of civic workers who undertake sanitation and cleanliness activities across the town.
Nagaraj said civic workers play an important role in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. He said sanitation workers begin their duties early in the morning and continue working throughout the day to keep public spaces clean and orderly.
He stressed that their contribution often goes unnoticed despite being essential to public health. Nagaraj urged residents to respect civic workers and cooperate with them in maintaining cleanliness. He said providing necessary support and addressing the concerns of sanitation workers should be a collective responsibility.

Nagaraj highlighted that civic workers play a vital role in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Several cultural programmes were organised as part of the celebrations. A special performance by a participant dressed as Lord Venkateshwara of Tirupati was one of the highlights and received appreciation from the gathering.
A sports meet was also organised for civic workers as part of the celebrations. Workers participated in various sporting events, and those who performed well were presented prizes in recognition of their participation and achievements.
The programme provided an opportunity for municipal officials and workers to interact outside their routine duties and celebrate their contribution to the town's cleanliness.
TMC Manager Naveen Chandra, Environmental Engineer Lakshmisha, Health Inspector Vijay Kumar, Revenue Inspector N. Shankar and municipal staff members T.V. Suresh, Santhosh, Nagesh, Prakash, Praveen, Vedantha Shastry, Shivakumar, Prathap, Narayanaswamy, Manjunath, Venkateshaya and Gautham were present.

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ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025-26ನೇ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ -02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಮ್ 2.0 ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಭವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅನುದಾನ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) - 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಮ್ 2.0 ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಭವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅನುದಾನ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) -01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ 2.0 (ಕ್ಯಾಪ್‌ಟಿಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್) (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) -01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagercity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 5ರ ಅಲ್ಪಪದ್ಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ : (1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-09-2026 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 29-09-2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತ್ಯದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 29-09-2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 30-09-2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/351/ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಎಂಎ/2026-27 ಸಬ್/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI
Email :preckdee@gmail.com Office Phone No: 08338-272131,

No.PRE/CKD/Db/kppp/2026-27/3372 Date:16-09-2026

Kppp - SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department, & with kppp registration Bangalore, on "turn-key", basis only.

1]Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurement Date: Other works:16-09-2026 To 05-10-2026, 2]Bid Closing & submission Date: 05-10-2026 AT 04:00 PM, 3]Pre Bid Meeting Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:03-10-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 4]Financial Bid Opening Date:07-10-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 5] Technical Bid Opening Date:[KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:07-10-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 6]Financial Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:09-10-2026 AT 11:00 AM, General Works Indent No's: 29189, 29267, 29186,29183, 29170, 29169, 29188, 29182, 29180, 29191, 29162, 28249, 28253, 27741, 23615, 29372, 28217, 29256, 28308, 28636, 28651, 28649, 29426, SC Works Indent No's:29190, 29187, 29176, 29163, 29161, 26807, ST Works Indent No's: 29178, 28401,Category 1 Works Indent No's:-, Category 2A Works Indent No's:29171, 29174, 29164

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit web site: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>

Sd/-Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-870/KSMCA/2026-27

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
Email: ddwcddmysore@gmail.com Ph: 0821-2495432
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಉನಿಮೈ/ಆರ್‌ಆರ್‌ಆರ್‌/ಮೊ.ಆ.ಸೀ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.09.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ನಿಲಯ, ಅಪರಾಧಿಗಳ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಣಾ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ವಸತಿನಿಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ಆದರ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, 2000ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP) ಮೂಲಕ ಮುಕ್ತ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ (Tender Reference No.): DWCD/2026-27/SE0833/CALL-2 ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP) <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಕ್ಷಿಪಿ, ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ನಿಗದಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯದೊಳಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ: ರೂ.500/- ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. (EMD) ರೂ.1.86,850/- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 03.10.2026, 05:30 PM ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 05.10.2026, 05:00 PM ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 07.10.2026, 11:00 AM ಹಣಕಾಸು ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 12.10.2026, 11:00 AM

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು, ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು, ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರನ್ನು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821-2495432 ಮೂಲಕ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಬ್/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

DIPR/DDMSY/764/KSMCA/468/2026-27

Quick Read

Dr.P.S. Shankar receives GSI Lifetime Achievement Award

Kalaburagi
Renowned senior physician and medical educator Dr. P.S. Shankar has been honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Geriatric Society of India (GSI) for his contributions to geriatric medicine in India. The award was presented during the GSI's 39th annual three-day conference held in Kolkata from September 18. As Dr. Shankar was not present, the award was received on his behalf. He has worked to increase awareness about elderly healthcare and played a key role in launching a three-month online certificate course in Geriatrics and Gerontology during the COVID-19 pandemic. The course has completed six batches over six years.

Udupi man murdered in Sharjah, body found dismembered

Udupi
A man from Kundapura in Udupi district, Alvin Prakash Kunder, was allegedly murdered in Sharjah, with his body reportedly found dismembered and packed into two bags. According to his brother Anil Prashanth, Alvin had been working at Sharjah Airport for 14 years and went missing after July 20. His family later learned that a body found inside a car travelling towards Oman had been identified as Alvin's. His wife Tina and their son are also reportedly missing. The family has sought police intervention and assistance from Indian authorities. Udupi police said they have not yet received official confirmation from Sharjah Police or the Indian Embassy/Consulate.

Missing man found dead days after wife's death

Belthangady
A man who had been missing for two to three days was found dead inside his house in Shishila village of Belthangady taluk, Dakshina Kannada. The deceased was identified as Thaniyappa Gowda of Gundikkadu. Police said the Shaurya Disaster Management Team found his body during a search operation. Thaniyappa's wife, Chinnamma, had died a few days earlier, with her body found in a pond in a nearby field. Her brother had filed a complaint at Dharmasthala police station, expressing suspicion over her death. Police are now investigating the circumstances surrounding both deaths and whether they are connected.

Ensure eligible voters remain on electoral rolls

KARWAR

Electoral authorities must ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral roll and that names of ineligible persons are not included during the Special Comprehensive Revision, said electoral roll observer Dr. Rama Prasad Manohar. He was speaking at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Karwar on Wednesday with Electoral Registration Officers from all Assembly constituencies in the district and representatives of political parties. He stressed the need for maximum care while verifying voter details and preparing an accurate electoral roll. Dr. Manohar said that if the names of eligible voters have been removed from the draft electoral roll for various reasons without submission of Form 7, officials

should examine such cases and restore the names after collecting the required documents. He also urged political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at all polling stations. He pointed out that even after publication of the final electoral roll, voters can apply for new enrolment, corrections and raise objections as permitted under the election process. Officials should ensure that people receive proper information about these facilities. Representatives of political parties appreciated the district administration and Booth Level Officers for carrying out the revision process effectively. District BLO president Sanjay Salunke said BLOs had performed their duties well and deserved recognition. He also appreciated the decision to allow family members to respond to no-

ties on behalf of people who are unable to appear personally or are currently abroad. Yamuna Gaonkar urged authorities to extend the revision period and ensure that women, minorities, persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities are not excluded from the electoral roll. Dr. Manohar said that if a list of eligible people from these groups who have been left out is submitted, BLOs would be instructed to verify their details and take appropriate action. He also said a request to extend the revision period would be sent to the Election Commission. Deputy Commissioner K. LakshmiPriya, Zilla Panchayat officials, CEO Dr. Dilish Sasi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla, Electoral Registration Officers and election officials attended the meeting.

Every eligible citizen must enter electoral roll

A meeting with political party representatives was also conducted as part of the review.

GADAG

Every eligible citizen should be included in the electoral roll, and the revision process must be conducted accurately and transparently, said Vipul Bansal, Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Department and observer for the Gadag district electoral roll.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting on the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll-2026 at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday. A meeting with representatives of political parties was also held as part of the review. Bansal directed officials to give priority to enrolling eli-

gible citizens who are not yet registered, particularly young people who have recently turned 18. He stressed that all eligible voters should get an opportunity to exercise their franchise. He also called for an error-free electoral roll by verifying details such as names, addresses and photographs. Corrections should be made through Form 8, while

names of deceased or permanently relocated voters should be removed according to rules through Form 7. Bansal instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to conduct door-to-door verification and ensure that no eligible voter is left out. He stressed the importance of transparency and accuracy throughout the revision process.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said Gadag district has 122 Gram Panchayats, 353 villages and 203 wards. The district has four Assembly constituencies — Shirahatti, Gadag, Ron and Naragund. There are 983 polling stations, with one BLO assigned to each polling station and 97 BLO supervisors overseeing the work.

He said political parties have appointed Booth Level Agents, including 967 each from the Congress and BJP, 62 from JD(S) and 30 from CPI(M). Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K.R. said 4,135 young voters, including 2,232 men and 1,903 women, had registered during the special revision campaign.

Legal volunteers urged to spread awareness

HAVERI

Para-legal volunteers have an important responsibility to create awareness among people about the schemes and services offered by the National Legal Services Authority and the legal assistance available through the District Legal Services Authority, Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman N. Devendrappa Biradar said. He was speaking after inaugurating a two-day training workshop for para-legal volunteers being held on September 23 and 24 at the District Court Complex in Haveri. The programme was organised jointly by the District Judiciary, District Legal Services Authority, District Advocates' Association, Prosecution Department and Bengaluru-based Outlaw India Foundation. He said the District Legal Services Authority works for the welfare of people by providing access to legal aid and other services. Volunteers should therefore make effective use of the training programme to gain knowledge about legal provisions, government schemes and the functioning of legal services institutions. The participants were advised to collect relevant information and use the knowledge gained during the



Para-legal volunteers serve as a link between the legal services system and the public. They should work actively to ensure that people, particularly those who are unaware of legal procedures and available assistance, receive proper information and guidance.

-N. Devendrappa Biradar, District Legal Services Authority Chairman

workshop while working in their respective communities. The objective is to ensure that people are made aware of their rights and are able to approach the appropriate authorities when they require legal assistance. Principal Judge of the Family Court M.G. Shivalli presided over the programme. Judges Ashwini Vijay Shiriyannavar, N.M. Ramesh, Shobha B.G., Srisheila H.V. and Akash M. were present. District Advocates' Association president H.C. Siddanagowda, secretary P.S. Hebballi, representatives of the Outlaw India Foundation and other officials and members of the legal fraternity also attended the programme. The organisers said continued training of para-legal volunteers would help strengthen legal awareness and improve access to justice among people in Haveri district.

Udupi orders stricter measures for road safety

UDUPI

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K. directed officials to take all necessary measures to improve roads and ensure the safe movement of public vehicles across Udupi district. He also called for strict steps to prevent road accidents. He was speaking while presiding over the Road Safety Committee meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Rajatadri, Manipal. He said vehicle speed limits had been fixed in cities and surrounding areas and must be followed strictly. Better compliance with traffic rules could significantly reduce accidents, he said. The Deputy Commissioner said 3,785 heavy goods vehicles with six or more wheels operate in the district, but speed governors have been installed in only 1,952 vehicles. Despite earlier directions, more than 1,800 vehicles are still awaiting installation. Officials were instructed to ensure that speed governors are installed in all eligible vehicles within a month. He also raised concerns over overloaded vehicles carrying sand and ready-mix concrete. Concrete spills from overloaded mixers damage roads, while overloaded sand vehicles create inconvenience and increase accident risks. During the last

three months, officials inspected 1,569 vehicles, registered 15 cases and collected ₹3.33 lakh in fines. More intensive inspections were ordered. Within Udupi city, unauthorised roadside stalls and food outlets identified by the municipality must be shifted to six designated vending zones. Officials were also asked to construct shelters quickly at these zones. Traffic signals are already functioning at Kalsanka and Manipal Syndicate Circle. Signals were proposed at other major junctions and at important junctions in Padubidri, Kota, Brahmavar and Kundapura. Safety measures such as road signs, speed breakers, barricades and zebra crossings were ordered near schools and colleges. Streetlights and other precautions should also be provided at accident-prone locations. Officials were directed to ensure all buses have doors and install waste bins to prevent passengers from throwing bottles and other waste onto roads. Road dividers left open after highway works should also be closed wherever necessary. Superintendent of Police Hiram Shankar, Municipal Commissioner Mahantesh Hangargi, officials from the Public Works Department, National Highways Authority and other departments attended the meeting.

HDFC BANK LIMITED
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DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC**, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
01	Miss. Dande Sreekala Gempact India Private Limited, Designation: Lead Consultant, Department: IT Bangalore Service Road Green, Glen Layout Bellandur, -Bengaluru- 560103. Also at: 1013 Tower-1, Prestige Lakeside, Habitat, Gunjur, Indira Nagar, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560087. Also at: Unit-B-212, Floor-2, SSB Urban Lotus, S No 80/2, Doddanagamangala Village, Next to Rayasandra, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560068.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 680576744 : Rs.38,56,931/- 2) 681214307 : Rs. 3,032/- Total Amount: Rs.38,59,963/- [Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Three Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2025	SSB Urban Lotus, Unit-B-212, Floor-2, S No 80/2, Doddanagamangala Village, Next To Rayasandra, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560068
02	Mr.Amit Arora (Borrower) Swiss Re Global Business Solutions India Private Limited Designation: Sr Analyst / Assistant Vice Pres Department: Risk Management / Business Management Employee No: 995, Vaswani Centropolis, No 21, Langford Town, Langford Road, Bengaluru 560027. Also at: Swiss Re Global Business Solutions India Private Limited, Designation: Assistant Vice Pres, Department: Business Management, Employee No: 995, 1st Floor,Leela Galleria, The Leela Palace,23, Airport Road, Kochally, Bangalore 560000. Also at: No 201, 2nd Floor, Sai Sadan, 4th Main, K.R.Garden, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore Airport H A L, Bengaluru 560017. Also at: Flat No - 141/1, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, Opposite HLRc, White Field 560066 Also at: H. No - 23/17/8, Sector -7A, Faridabad 121001. Also at: DLF Woodland Heights, Flat-W1074, Floor-7th, S No 66,67,63/1,62/1, Rajaputa, Village, Jigani Hobli,Anekal, Tq, Rajapura, Bengaluru 560105. Also at: ERA Divine Court Block B, B-121, Ground Floor, Sector 76, Faridabad, Faridabad, Village Fazzupur 121002.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 607956360 : Rs.27,10,362/- 2) 588558596 : Rs. 2,98,013/- Total Amount: Rs.30,08,375/- [Rupees Thirty Lakhs Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Five Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.05.2025	Item -1: DLF Woodland Heights, Flat-W1074, Floor-7th, S No 66,67,63/1,62/1, Rajaputa, Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tq, Rajapura, Bengaluru 560105 Item -2: ERA Divine Court Block B, B-121, Ground Flr, Sector 76, Faridabad, Faridabad, Village Fazzupur, 121002, Haryana
03	1) Mr. Anil Kumar Y M (Borrower) Cloudtail India Private Limited, Designation: Team Lead, Department: E Commerce, Langford, Rdakkithimana, HalliBheemanna Gardenshanti, Bengaluru-560027. 2) Mrs. Parvathamma (Co-Borrower), 16/1 4th Floor, Parasurama Garden, 2nd Cross, Ubsoor, Ubsoor Bazar, Near Annayamma Temple, Indira Nagar, Hal 2nd Stage Bengaluru-560008. 1) Mr. Anil Kumar Y M (Borrower) 2) Mrs. Parvathamma (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: Bellotte, Arehalli Hobli, Belur, Hassan District, Hassan City, Karnataka -573115. Also at: Provident Sunworth Blk 5, Flat-5c-204, Floor-2, S No 1 To 26, Venkatapura Village Kengeri, Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, Kengeri, R Bengaluru - 560060.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 653557114 : Rs. 21,55,811,78/- [Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven and Seventy Eight Paise Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.05.2025	Provident Sunworth BLK 5, Flat-5c-204, Floor-2, S No 1 To 26, Venkatapura Village Kengeri, Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560060
04	Mr. Arindam Kanjilal (Borrower) Salarpuria Touch Stone, Designation: Lead Consultant Department: Application Development And Maintanance Headstrong Services India Private Limited, 5th Floor, Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road, Varthur Hobli, Bellandur S.O - Bengaluru - 560103 Also at: Srimitra Spring Valley, Flat No 212 2nd Floor, Sy No 11/2, Kaikondarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Varthur, Bengaluru - 560087	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 604176245 : Rs.15,44,447/- [Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Seven Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2024	Srimitra Spring Valley, Flat No 212,2nd Floor, S No 1 To 1/2, Kaikondarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli,VarthurBengaluru-560087
05	1) Mr. Babu Kutala Giriprasad (Borrower) Foodversity, Designation: Proprietor, Department: Food Products, A06/B, Foodversity, NgeI Industrial Area, Ganducharpalya Main Road, Bengaluru 560048 2) Mrs. Venkateshappa Shwetha Thokalgagatta (Co-Borrower) FnI India Private Limited, Designation: Cons, Department: Financial Services 5th Floor, Univa Business Bay Tower 2, Outer Ring Road, Kadubeesanahalli, Panathur Bengaluru - 560103. 1) Mr. Babu Kutala Giriprasad (Borrower) 2) Mrs. Venkateshappa Shwetha Thokalgagatta (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at: 10, 8th Cross, Madakiri Nayaka Road, Yerranapalya Ramamurthy nagar, Doornaninagar Bengaluru 560016 Also at: S No 256/4, Site No 33,Khatta No 02,Village Kalkere,Po, Kr Puram Hobli, House Na, Sankalpa Residential, Layout Phase Iv Kalyananagar Bengaluru 560043.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 679179747 Rs.41,64,660/- 2) 679922665 Rs. 1,22,387/- Total Amount : Rs.42,87,047/- [Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Forty Seven Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 02.01.2026	S No. 256/4, SITE NO 33, KHATTA NO 02, VILLAGE KALKERE PO KR PURAM HOBLI HOUSE NA SANKALPA RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, PHASE IV, KALKERE, KR PURA, BENGALURU 560043 KARNATAKA
06	Mr Babu Tanakala Ravi (Borrower) Biocon Limited, Designation: Senior Executive, Department: EHS 20th K M Electronics City, Phase-I Hosur Road Bengaluru - 560100. Also at: 50-64-25/21b, Y-Block, BTR Colony, Seethammappeta- Visakhapatnam, Akkayapalem Post, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530016 Also at: Unit-410 LB-Op-224, Floor-4, KHB Surya Elegance, Surya Nagar, Anekal Road, Chandapura, Bengaluru - 560099.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 678704135 : Rs. 24,34,971/- 2) 679147756 : Rs.77,431/- Total Amount : Rs.25,12,402/- [Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Twelve Thousand Four Hundred and Two Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 01.12.2025	KHB Surya Elegance, Unit-410 LB-Op-224, Floor-4, Surya Nagar, Anekal Road, Chandapura Bengaluru - 560099
07	Mr. C Mahadevaswamy B (Borrower) Hanuka Technology Solutions Private Limited, Designation: Assistant Manager, Department: Finance And Accounts, 311 NPR Complex Hoody Village, KR Puram Hobli Whitefield, Main Road Bengaluru - 560048 Also at: 851 1st Floor, House, 7th Main Road, Banashankari, Near Srinagar Bus Stop, Banashankari 1st Stage, Srinampam, Majestic, City, Bengaluru-560050 Also at: 253, House, Hospital Road, Ca Kere Hoballi- Maddur, Near Hospital, Maddur, Karnataka -571422. Also at: Plot 177, Khatta New No. 164/3, House Na, Village Kengeri, Bangalore South, Ward No 159, Opposite Ganesha Statue, Bengaluru - 560060.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 702218669 Rs.10,59,316/- 2) 692695703 Rs.38,355/- Total Amount : Rs.10,97,671/- [Rupees Ten Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy One Only] as on 31.07.2026	18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 07.03.2025	Plot 177, Khatta New No. 164/3, House Na, Village Kengeri, Bangalore South, Ward No 159, Opposite Ganesha Statue, Bengaluru - 560060
08	1) Mr. K Mohana (Borrower), Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, Designation: Legal Senior Executive, Department: Legal, 36 Third Floor, H M Astrid J C, Road Near Minerva Circle, Bengaluru - 560002. 2) Mr. K Srinath (Co-Borrower's), Sagar Hospitals, Designation: Senior Account Executive, Department: Accounts, 30th Cross, Tilak Nagar, Jayanagar Extension Bengaluru - 560041 1) Mr. K Mohana (Borrower), 2) Mr. K Srinath (Co-Borrower's) 3) Mr. Habib Sathyabhama Narayansa (Co-Borrower's) All are residing at: No 41,1st Main Road, 18th Cross, Mts Layout, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Kumbalagodu, Bengaluru - 560060. Also at: Plot 01, S No 1/1a/2, House Na Village K Gollahalli, PID No. 150200302600120102, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru - 560060.	Loan A/c Nos: 652759290 Rs.6,25,366/- [Rupees Six Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Six Only] as on 31.07.2026	19.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 30.11.2023	PLOT 01, S NO 1/1A2, House Na Village K Gollahalli, Pid No, 150200302600120102, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru - 560060
09	Mr. GS Anil (Borrower) University Of Horticultural Sciences Bagalkot, Designation: Senior Field Asst, Department: Horticultural, College Of Horticulture, Yelachanahalli- Mysore- 570018 Also at: No 04, Seebaina Mantli, Belachoga, Belagola - Mandya, Srinangapattna, Karnataka, - 571606. Also at: Primia Pristine, Unit-151, S No 51 & 53/1, Yellachalli Village, Yelawala Hobli Mysore - 570001.	Loan A/c Nos: 687690058 Rs. 12,38,436/- [Rupees Twelve Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Six Only] as on 31.07.2026	18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.06.2024	PRIMIA PRISTINE, UNIT-151, S No 51 & 53/1, Yellachalli Village, Yelawala Hobli, Mysore - 570001
10	Mr. Indresh (Borrower) Veer-O-Metals Private Limited, Designation: Senior Engineer, Department: Quality, A-02 Bel Industrial Estate, Bel Circle, Jalahalli, Bengaluru - 560013 Also at: 938, 1st Main, Nrupathunga Main Road, T Dasarahalli, Near Church, North, Peenya All Stages, Tmkur Road Bengaluru - 560057 Also at: Srinidhi Enclave, Plot-319, S No 127/12/3/11/12/13 And 128, Elwala Village, Elwala Hobli, Mysore - 571130.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 673499336 : Rs.10,84,733/- 2) 673499366 : Rs.5,36,544/- 3) 675825707 : Rs.41,261/- 4) 675825305 : Rs.19,453/- Total Amount: Rs.16,81,991/- [Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety One Only] as on 31.07.2026	19.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.10.2023	SRINIDHI ENCLAVE, Plot-319, S No 127/2/3/4/11/12/13 And 128, Elwala Village, Elwala Hobli, Mysore - 571130

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir (s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 24.09.2026
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002



Quick Read

ASI suspended over party with rowdy-sheeters

Chikkamagaluru
An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) has been suspended for allegedly hosting a drinking party with rowdy-sheeters at a bar in Kadur taluk. Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayma issued the suspension order against ASI Veerendra of Sakharayapatna police station. The incident occurred about a week ago at a bar in Emmedoddi Muslapura village, where loud music was reportedly played throughout the night. Hundreds of villagers, including women, gathered outside the bar and protested, demanding its closure. Following persistent complaints about the incident, senior police officials initiated action, leading to the suspension of the ASI.

West Graduates' Constituency Poll Notification on Sept 29

Gadag
The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the 2026 Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency election, with the notification set to be issued on September 29. Regional Commissioner of Belagavi Division and Returning Officer K.M. Janaki said nominations can be filed until October 6, while scrutiny will be held on October 7. Candidates can withdraw their nominations until October 9. Polling will take place on October 23 from 8 am to 4 pm. Counting of votes is scheduled for October 27, and the election process will conclude on October 31. Officials have been directed to follow election guidelines and ensure peaceful polling.

Chitradurga Lok Adalat settles 4,103 cases

Chitradurga
A National Lok Adalat held across courts in Chitradurga district settled 4,103 pending court cases and pre-litigation matters through conciliation. The event was organized in accordance with directives from the National Legal Services Authority and Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. Of 7,511 cases taken up for settlement from among disputes eligible for compromise, 4,103 were successfully resolved. The district courts had 54,379 pending civil and criminal cases. Five couples involved in family disputes in Chitradurga city and taluk courts also reconciled through the Lok Adalat. District Legal Services Authority Chairman G.D. Mahavarkar and Member Secretary Shameer P. appreciated departments for their cooperation.

Electricity Consumer Grievance meeting set for Sept 25

Madikeri
A public meeting will be held on September 25 to address electricity-related problems and grievances of consumers in the Madikeri sub-division. The meeting will take place from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the office premises of the Madikeri Sub-Division. The meeting will be chaired by the Executive Engineer of the Electricity Supply Company (CESC), Madikeri. Consumers and members of the public in the Madikeri area can raise complaints and discuss issues related to electricity supply and services during the meeting.

Heavy rain disrupts life across Karnataka

Although the Malnad region received lighter showers recently, the Meteorological Department forecasts more rain for the district

KARWAR

Several parts of Karnataka received heavy rainfall on Wednesday, bringing relief to farmers and residents but also causing disruptions in some areas. Koppal, Gadag and Karwar witnessed significant rainfall, while authorities and residents remained alert to waterlogging, overflowing streams and difficult travel conditions.
In Uttara Kannada district, heavy rain accompanied by thunder has been lashing several areas for the past 24 hours. The rainfall has brought relief to the coastal region, which had been experiencing hot and uncomfortable weather.
Karwar received intense showers, with dark clouds covering the area for long periods. Heavy rain was also reported in Ankola and Kumta. The Malnad region received comparatively lighter showers. The Meteorological



Department has forecast the possibility of more rain in the district.
In Koppal, intermittent rainfall has been reported for the past four to five days. Rain began early on Wednesday, bringing relief to farmers who had been worried about inadequate rainfall. The showers have improved the prospects for agricultural activities in several areas. However, the rain also caused inconvenience to people travelling to schools, colleges and offices during the morning hours. Commuters

faced difficulties as rainfall affected normal movement in some locations.
Gadag district also witnessed heavy rainfall on Tuesday. The downpour caused a stream between Neeralagi and Nagarala to overflow, creating a dangerous situation. Despite the strong water current and poor visibility at night, four youths attempted to drive their car across the stream. The vehicle suddenly stalled and became stranded in the middle of the flowing water.
The occupants were eventu-

Points

- Intense showers lashed coastal Karnataka areas.
- Koppal received relief via rainfall.
- Rain improved local agricultural activity prospects.
- Morning commuters faced travel difficulties.
- Gadag stream overflowed during downpour.
- Youths rescued from stranded car.

ally rescued after local people noticed the situation and rushed to their aid. The incident highlighted the risks of attempting to cross swollen streams during heavy rainfall. With more rain forecast in parts of Karnataka, residents have been advised to exercise caution near overflowing streams and waterlogged areas.

Gadag court orders seizure over unpaid farmer compensation

GADAG
The Gadag District Court has reportedly ordered the seizure of official equipment and the Deputy Commissioner's vehicle over the non-payment of additional compensation to farmers whose land was acquired for the Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project.
The case concerns farmers from Mevundi and Baradoor villages in Mundargi taluk who gave up their agricultural land for the irrigation project. The farmers had challenged the compensation initially fixed for their acquired land and pursued legal remedies seeking higher compensation.
According to the case details, the litigation involves the Karnataka government, the Special Land Acquisition Officer for the Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project and the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam.

Chitradurga CMC holds waste management awareness drive

CHITRADURGA
The Chitradurga City Municipal Council (CMC), in association with the IIHS organisation, conducted a special awareness programme on solid waste management, sanitation and the ban on single-use plastic for civic workers and the public.
As part of the programme, IIHS representatives trained civic workers on the proper segregation of wet and dry waste. The training focused on improving waste handling practices and ensuring that different types of waste are managed separately at the source.
Following the training, awareness activities were conducted at several important locations in the city, including Azad Nagar, Horapete and Anjuman Circle. Civic officials and volunteers explained solid waste management rules to residents and urged them to follow proper disposal practices.
Residents were informed that waste should be separated into four categories — wet, dry, hazardous and sanitary waste. Officials stressed that segregation at the source would help improve waste collection, processing and disposal while keeping public spaces clean.
A special cleanliness and beautification activity was also carried out at the municipal vegetable market. Civic workers cleaned a black spot, an area where garbage was frequently being dumped, and improved its appearance by drawing Rangoli designs.
Vegetable and flower vendors at the market were instructed not to use single-use plastic. They were also advised against dumping waste

Aadhaar server issues disrupt ration card e-KYC

KOPPAL

Residents in Koppal are facing severe difficulties completing ration card e-KYC after being asked to correct details in their Aadhaar cards. People are reportedly leaving their daily work and standing in queues for several hours at Aadhaar centres, only to return without completing the process because of server problems.
At the Gram One centre located at the Koppal Deputy Commissioner's office, people have reportedly been waiting from as early as 4 am for Aadhaar corrections. At the Aadhaar centre at the Koppal Tahsildar's office, residents began queuing from around 6 am. People from Koppal city and nearby villages are arriving early in the hope of securing a token and completing the required corrections.
The situation has caused considerable inconvenience to residents, including those who arrive with small children. Many people say they have had to set aside their daily employment and other responsibilities to wait at the centres. Despite spending hours in queues, they are sometimes unable to complete the process because of technical problems.
Server failures have emerged as a major obstacle. When the Aadhaar system stops working, correction and updating services come to a halt. Residents who have waited for several hours are then forced to return home without completing the work.
There are around 11 Aadhaar centres in Koppal city, but people claim that server-related problems are being reported at several centres. Another major concern is the

Residents from Koppal city and nearby villages arrive early, hoping to secure tokens and complete necessary corrections

Koppal server failures disrupt services

Koppal residents face severe inconvenience due to server failures and token shortages at update centres. Long queues and technical glitches force citizens to return home empty-handed, delaying essential services and mandatory ration card e-KYC. Authorities are urged to increase centres and tokens.

limited number of tokens. Only around 50 tokens are being issued each day for Aadhaar corrections, forcing residents to reach the centres during the early hours.
According to Aadhaar centre staff member Pradeep, a correction can normally be completed within seven to eight minutes when the server is functioning properly. However, if the server is slow or fails, the process can take around 15 minutes.
Residents have urged the authorities to address the technical problems immediately and increase the number of Aadhaar centres and daily tokens. They said resolving these issues would help people complete Aadhaar corrections and proceed with mandatory ration card e-KYC without further hardship.

Low-pressure system intensifies rain in Uttara Kannada

UTTARA KANNADA

Heavy monsoon rain is continuing across several parts of Uttara Kannada district following the influence of a low-pressure area, disrupting normal life in coastal and Malnad regions. Kumta, Honnavar and Ankola taluks have recorded significant rainfall, with several areas witnessing intense showers.
The monsoon had already remained active across Uttara Kannada, particularly in the coastal and Malnad belts. However, the low-pressure system has increased the intensity of rainfall in several parts of the district. Continuous showers have affected daily activities and caused inconvenience to residents and commuters.
Kumta has witnessed heavy rainfall, with several areas receiving persistent showers. Honnavar and Ankola have also experienced significant rainfall since morning. The changing weather conditions have kept residents alert, particularly in areas vulnerable to waterlogging and flooding.
The India Meteorological



Department has forecast more rainfall in parts of the district in the coming hours. Rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is also likely in some areas. Residents have been advised to exercise caution during periods of intense rain and avoid unnecessary travel near streams, low-lying areas and other vulnerable locations.
The latest spell of rain comes amid an active monsoon over the coastal Karnataka region. While the rainfall is expected to benefit agriculture and provide relief from dry conditions in some areas, continued heavy showers could affect road connectivity and normal movement.
Authorities are closely monitoring the weather conditions as the low-pressure system continues to influence rainfall activity.

Retired employees convention scheduled

DHARWAD

A one-day convention of retired government employees from the Belagavi, also known as Kittur Karnataka, division will be held in Dharwad on September 28. The convention will bring together retired employees from seven revenue districts to discuss their concerns, service benefits and pending demands.
The event is being organised by the Dharwad district unit of the Karnataka State Government Retired Employees' Association. It will begin at 9 am at Dr. Papu Hall of the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Dharwad. Legislative Assembly Speaker G.S. Patil will inaugurate the programme.
District In-charge Minister Santosh Lad and AIPTF president Basavaraj Gurikar will honour achievers and senior members during the conven-

tion. Dr. L. Bhairappa, state president of the Retired Employees' Association, will preside over the event. Several MPs, MLAs, former legislators and office-bearers of employees' associations are also expected to participate.
A discussion session titled "A Fulfilling Life, A Peaceful Death" will be held as part of the programme. Siddharam Manahalli, a retired Director of the Education Department, will deliver a lecture. Writer Venkatesh Machakanur will preside over the session, while Shankar Halagatti, General Secretary of the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha, will inaugurate it.
Another major session will focus on the service benefits and demands of retired employees. Umesh Bammakannavar, in-charge DDPI, will inaugurate the brainstorming session. Representatives of re-

tired employees' associations from various districts will participate and discuss issues affecting pensioners and other retired government employees.
Association district president S.B. Patil Nalavadi and General Secretary Guru Tigadi said the convention was organised to strengthen the association and press for the fulfilment of the demands of retired employees.
They said more than 1,000 retired employees from Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Dharwad, Haveri and Gadag districts are expected to attend.
The organisers said the convention would provide a common platform for retired employees from across the division to exchange views, discuss their concerns and seek attention to pending issues related to their service benefits and welfare.

Ayurveda promotes healthy lifestyle and disease prevention

MADIKERI

Ayurveda should be viewed not merely as a system for treating illnesses after they occur, but as a way of life that promotes health and helps prevent diseases, said Dr. Shyam Prasad, an Ayurvedic physician at Yogakshema Hospital in Kushalnagar.
He was speaking at a programme organised to mark the 11th National Ayurveda Day at the District Government Ayurveda Hospital in Madikeri. The event was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and AYUSH Department on the theme "Ayurveda for a Healthy Tomorrow."
Dr. Shyam Prasad explained that the word Ayurveda combines "Ayu", meaning life or longevity, and "Veda", meaning knowledge.

FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION

Nandini paneer shelf-life confusion cleared after inspection

MANGALURU

Food safety officials conducted a surprise inspection at a Blinkit store in Bejai, Mangaluru, following social media claims that 200-gram packets of KMF's Nandini paneer were showing a shelf life of one year.
The inspection was carried out following directions from Health Minister U.T. Khader and State Food Safety Commissioner Srinivas. Officials checked the available stock of Nandini 200-gram paneer packets at the outlet to verify the claims circulating online.
During the inspection, offi-

cials confirmed that the actual shelf life of the paneer was 30 days, or one month. They also checked the manufacturing and expiry details printed on the packets and found no expired products among the stock inspected at the store.
According to officials, the confusion arose because of the format used to print the manufacturing date on the packets. The date is printed using a dot-matrix or laser-printing method, which produces a dotted appearance. Because of this printing style, some consumers reportedly misread the year "2026" as "2025".
The misunderstanding sub-



sequently led to social media posts claiming that the paneer had been given an unusually long shelf life of one year. The posts created confusion among consumers and prompted authorities to verify the products at the retail out-

let. Food safety officials clarified that the Nandini paneer packets inspected at the Bejai Blinkit store were within their valid shelf life. They also stated that no quality-related issue was found with the products during the inspection.

Authorities have urged consumers to carefully check the manufacturing and expiry dates printed on packaged food products before drawing conclusions. They also advised people not to believe or circulate unverified information on social media.
The inspection was conducted as part of efforts to address the public concern surrounding the viral claims and establish the actual shelf life of the Nandini paneer available at the outlet. Officials said the printing format had contributed to the misunderstanding and asked consumers to rely on the dates

Highlights

- Dotted printing format confused consumers.
- Year 2026 misread as 2025.
- Social media claimed fake shelf life.
- Officials inspected Bejai Blinkit store.
- Nandini paneer packets verified valid.
- Consumers advised ignoring unverified posts.

printed on the packaging rather than social media claims.

NEP 2020: FROM VISION TO REALITY

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a major shift in the way India approaches education. It envisions an education system that is more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary and focused on developing knowledge, skills, creativity and values rather than relying mainly on rote learning.

One of its important goals is to make learning more meaningful and connected to real life. The policy gives greater emphasis to foundational literacy and numeracy, experiential learning, critical thinking, vocational education, technology and the development of students' overall abilities. It also seeks to provide greater flexibility in choosing subjects and learning pathways.

However, the success of NEP 2020 ultimately depends on what happens inside classrooms. A policy document can provide a vision, but teachers, schools and educational institutions must translate that vision into everyday learning experiences. This requires well-trained teachers, appropriate teaching resources, supportive infrastructure and effective academic leadership.

Another important challenge is ensuring that reforms reach students in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Digital learning, modern laboratories and new teaching methods can be valuable, but access to technology and quality educa-



- DR. VIJAY GARG

"The true test of NEP 2020 will be visible not merely in policy documents, but in the everyday classroom".

tional resources remains uneven. Implementation must therefore focus on equity as well as innovation.

Teachers are at the heart of this transformation. They need continuous professional development, freedom to experiment with effective teaching methods and adequate support rather than simply additional administrative responsibilities. A motivated and empowered teacher can turn policy objectives into meaningful classroom practices.

NEP 2020 also encourages education to move beyond examination-oriented learning. Assessment should increasingly examine understanding, application, creativity and problem-solving. Such a change requires patience because examination systems, teaching practices and social expectations cannot be transformed overnight.

The journey from vision to reality will therefore depend on sustained implementation, adequate resources, regular evaluation and cooperation among governments, schools, teachers, parents and communities.

NEP 2020 offers a broad framework for transforming Indian education. Its real success, however, will not be measured only by policies, guidelines or new programmes, but by whether students experience better learning, greater opportunities and stronger preparation for life.

LINGUISTIC REORGANIZATION: INDIAN UNITY STRENGTHENED BY ACCEPTING DIVERSITY



- DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

At the time of independence, India faced the challenge not only of securing permanent political independence but also of building a nation that maintained national unity despite the extraordinary diversity of languages, cultures, traditions, and regional identities. The provincial boundaries inherited from British rule served administrative convenience and colonial interests. They did not adequately take into account the linguistic and cultural identities of many regions. Therefore, after independence, the demand for reorganizing states on a linguistic basis naturally arose. Although the national leadership was initially apprehensive about linguistic states, the tragedy of Partition was still fresh, and there was a fear that if states were formed on the basis of language, regional identities might overshadow national identity. However, the hallmark of Indian democracy has been that, rather than suppressing these aspirations, it chose to accommodate them constitutionally and democratically. Time has proven that respecting linguistic identity does not pose a threat to India's unity, but rather can become a foundation for its strength.

The political acceptance of linguistic identity began to emerge even before independence. The Indian National Congress reorganized its provincial organizations along linguistic lines. This was intended to better communicate with the public in their language and socio-cultural contexts. However, after independence and Partition, circumstances changed. The national leadership was not in favor of any immediate major regional reorganization.

The Dhar Commission, formed in 1948, did not immediately recommend the reorganization of states on a linguistic basis. Subsequently, the JVP Committee, consisting of Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayya, also recommended in 1949 that national unity, administrative stability, and the security of the newly formed nation be prioritized. This caution was understandable at the time, as the country was undergoing a period of political transition and social instability.

But public aspirations could not be postponed indefinitely. The demand for a separate state for the Telugu-speaking people of the Andhra region grew stronger. Potti Sriramulu's 1952 fast unto death and his death

gave a decisive turn to this movement. After widespread public pressure, Andhra State was formed in 1953. This event was not limited to the creation of just one state; it also fueled the demand for linguistically based states in other parts of the country.

The government then attempted to find a comprehensive and institutional solution to the problem. The States Reorganization Commission, formed in 1953 and chaired by Fazal Ali, considered linguistic and cultural aspirations as well as administrative, economic, and geographical feasibility. Based on the Commission's recommendations, the States Reorganization Act and the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution were enacted in 1956. This resulted in a major change in the administrative map of India, leading to the creation of 14 states and six union territories.

The greatest contribution of linguistic states was that they reduced the conflict between regional identity and national identity. When a community gained an administrative identity consistent with its language, culture, and local aspirations, feelings of alienation were weakened. People gained confidence that the Indian Union respected their distinct identity rather than eradicating it.

Another important benefit of linguistic reorganization was seen at the administrative level. The availability of governance and public services in the mother tongue or regional language reduced the distance between

the state and the citizen. Democracy is effective only when citizens understand the language and processes of governance. Administration in regional languages facilitated the participation of ordinary citizens.

This system also broadened democratic representation. Local language-speaking political leadership was given the opportunity to emerge at the state level. This brought politics closer to public concerns, and the problems of different regions became part of the national discourse. Linguistic states also demonstrated that diverse regional identities can coexist with national unity within a federal system.

The reorganization of India did not end in 1956. Further changes to state boundaries occurred in response to changing political and social circumstances. The creation of Maharashtra and Gujarat in 1960, and the creation of Haryana in 1966 with the reorganization of Punjab, are significant examples. This demonstrated that the Indian Union is not a static and unchanging administrative structure, but rather an adaptable system adapting to democratic aspirations.

However, the success of linguistic states does not mean that all challenges related to linguistic identity have been eliminated. Tendencies such as linguistic majoritarianism, neglect of minority languages, and a sense of regional superiority can pose challenges to federal harmony. Therefore, along with preserving linguistic identity, it is also essential to protect the rights of linguistic minorities.

Today, the need is to ensure that regional aspirations are heard through constitutional and democratic means. Considering any regional identity anti-national is as unfair as placing regional identity above national identity. The true strength of Indian federalism lies in the balance between cultural identity and national unity.

Linguistic reorganization is a unique achievement of India's nation-building. It taught the important lesson that unity cannot be achieved by suppressing diversity. By integrating linguistic diversity into the constitutional framework, India demonstrated that unity is strengthened not by imposing uniformity but by respectfully accommodating diversity. This flexible federalism remains a crucial foundation for India's democratic stability and national unity even today.



ONLY IF THE SOIL IS SAVED, FARMING WILL SURVIVE

Indian agriculture is now entering a new era where growth is no longer the only criterion for assessing progress. Declining soil fertility, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, climate variability, and rising cultivation costs are putting increasing pressure on farmers and the agricultural sector. In this context, regenerative agriculture offers a promising path. It is a holistic approach that will not only conserve existing natural resources but also actually sustain agricultural productivity by improving soil health, biodiversity, water systems, and ecosystem functions.

The key is to focus on regenerative agriculture and restore the ecological pillars of agriculture. Intensive farming, excessive reliance on chemical inputs, and monoculture cultivation have led to nutrient imbalances and degraded soil quality in some regions over the past several decades. Regenerative agriculture is an approach that places living soil at the heart of agricultural production. Soil management, including

composting, green manure use, crop residue management, and the use of organic matter, can help improve soil structure, reactivity, and nutrient cycling.

The principle of soil cover is another important aspect. Soil is easily lost to erosion and can also be damaged by excessive evaporation or sudden changes in temperature. Mulching, cover crops, and retaining residues in the soil help maintain the soil surface and retain moisture. This is especially useful in rain-fed and drought-prone areas because it improves soil health and moisture retention, reducing the impact of short-term droughts on crops.

Regenerative agriculture also recognizes that biodiversity is an asset, not a burden, to agricultural productivity. More resilient production landscapes can be developed by implementing crop diversification, agroforestry, mixed farming, and integrated farming systems. Agricultural land managed with crops and livestock, fisheries, or trees can help diversify farm income and improve nutrient cycling.

Such systems can also help support beneficial insects and other organisms, rather than making the system more vulnerable and, in some cases, dependent on external inputs.

This shift has become even more important in light of climate change. Rainfall patterns are becoming erratic, heat waves are increasing, and droughts and floods are becoming more common. Irregular rainfall, heat waves, droughts, floods, and changing pest populations are exacerbating the challenges faced by Indian farmers. Regenerative practices increase soil organic carbon, water holding capacity, and biological activity, which can help build resilience to climate change. Crop diversification can reduce the risk of loss of total agricultural income due to climate change shocks to any single crop. Similarly, integrated farming can mitigate economic risks arising from different production sources.

This shift must be integral to water management. Irrigation remains one of the largest freshwater consumers, and it is essential that irrigation is

done efficiently. Micro-irrigation (drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation) can be used in conjunction with regenerative soil management to increase water use efficiency. In addition to appropriate crop selection, soil moisture management, and good agricultural management, government initiatives such as "More Crop Per Drop" can also be important.

Another potential benefit is reduced dependence on expensive external inputs. When properly designed and scientifically proven, low-external-input agricultural practices can reduce the cost of some of the chemical inputs used in natural farming. But don't sell the concept of regenerative agriculture as a universal solution. India has highly diverse soil types, crop varieties, rainfall, and agricultural practices. Strategies that work in the semi-arid region of Haryana may not yield the same results in the humid agricultural regions of Kerala or Assam.

Regional diversity also poses a major challenge to the widespread implementation of



- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

"Through evidence-based policies, farmer-friendly incentives, strong extension systems, and locally appropriate models, India can make agriculture more resilient, sustainable, and ecologically secure".

regenerative agriculture. The transition period can be uncertain for farmers, especially if production takes time to adapt to the new model. The cost of transition can be challenging for small and marginal farmers with limited financial resources. Furthermore, regenerative agriculture requires extensive knowledge. Farmers need ongoing information about crop rotation, nutrient management, pest management, residue management, livestock integration, and water management.

Another significant gap is the market. Without market recognition and/or rewards for farmers' additional efforts and risky changes, widespread adoption of environmentally beneficial practices by farmers is difficult. These incentives can be boosted by strengthening certification, traceability, producer organizations, institutional procurement, and differentiated market opportunities. Furthermore, policymakers should avoid creating complex compliance systems that prove too costly for small farmers.

Therefore, scientific valida-

tion, farmer participation, and region-specific implementation should be the key focus of the path forward. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) can design and demonstrate experiments and practices on agricultural regeneration based on agro-climatic zones. Field trials and long-term demonstrations are essential to assess changes in soil organic carbon, yield, water use, input costs, farm income, and biodiversity. Integration of existing programs should also be improved. Soil, water, and climate programs can complement each other rather than being separate; for example, soil health cards can complement the National Mission for Natural Farming (NMNF) and micro-irrigation initiatives. Risks for farmers can be mitigated through transitional financing, available extension services, farmer producer organizations, and reliable market links.

Regenerative agriculture should not be seen as a return to past practices or a rejection of modern agricultural science.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Impact of Digital Payment Charges

The proposed transaction fees on unified digital payment systems raise serious concerns for everyday consumers and small merchants. Digital payments succeeded in India primarily because they offered a free, seamless, and efficient alternative to cash. Imposing additional charges risks discouraging micro-vendors, street hawkers, and budget-conscious individuals who rely on seamless transfers for daily transactions. A sudden shift back to cash would slow down financial inclusion and undermine years of digital adoption progress. Policymakers must balance banking infrastructure costs with the need to keep digital finance accessible. Protecting the common man from unnecessary financial friction should remain the highest priority.

- Deeksha Loya

Nurturing Talent at Grassroots Level

While our nation celebrates major international victories in sports, long-term athletic excellence depends on building strong grassroots infrastructure. Talented youth in rural areas and small towns often lack access to quality coaching, modern equipment, and proper training facilities. Relying solely on individual brilliance is insufficient for building a sustainable sporting culture. School curriculums must integrate physical education as a core discipline, while local sports complexes require better funding and maintenance. Investing in early talent identification and providing adequate financial support will empower young athletes from all backgrounds to reach their full potential on the global stage.

- Sussana Metti

Modernizing India's Classroom Vision

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a transformative vision, but its true power lies in ground-level implementation. Shifting from rote learning to practical, skill-based education requires well-trained teachers, modern classroom technology, and updated infrastructure. While top institutions adapt quickly, rural schools must receive equal resources to bridge the digital divide. Translating policy into reality demands sustained funding, regular assessments, and community participation so every child truly benefits.

- Anna B.

PROTECTING SOIL HEALTH

ENSURES SUSTAINABLE

FUTURE HARVESTS



Underneath our feet lies a complex, living ecosystem that makes all human agriculture possible: the soil. However, decades of intensive farming practices, heavy reliance on synthetic fertilizers, and soil erosion have degraded vast tracts of arable land worldwide. Recognizing the critical nature of this crisis, a growing movement of farmers, scientists, and environmental advocates is working to restore topsoil health, proving that sustainable agriculture is the only path to long-term food security.

In agricultural heartlands, the consequences of soil degradation have been stark. Compacted, nutrient-depleted soil holds less water, leaving crops vulnerable to droughts and extreme weather events. In response, forward-thinking agriculturalists are adopting regenerative farming techniques designed to rebuild organic matter. Practices such as cover cropping, crop rotation, and minimal tillage are replacing traditional, aggressive farming methods. These techniques protect the soil surface, prevent erosion, and allow beneficial subterranean organisms like earthworms and microbes to flourish.

The shift toward soil conservation also delivers immediate economic benefits to farming households. Healthy soil naturally retains moisture and nutrients, reducing the need for costly chemical inputs and supplemental irrigation. Farmers practicing regenerative agriculture report improved crop resilience, steadier yields during dry seasons, and healthier harvests over time. Moreover, healthy soil acts as a powerful carbon sink, absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and playing a crucial role in mitigating global climate impacts.

Educating the next generation of farmers remains central to sustaining this ecological transition. Agricultural universities and local cooperatives are organizing field demonstrations and soil-testing workshops to showcase the long-term benefits of soil stewardship. Simple tools enable farmers to analyze organic content, acidity, and moisture retention directly in their fields, allowing them to make informed decisions about crop management and soil nutrition.

The effort to save our soil is fundamentally an effort to secure humanity’s agricultural future. Without healthy ground, crops cannot thrive, and farming as an economic livelihood cannot survive. By treating soil as a precious, living resource rather than an infinite commodity, agricultural communities are safeguarding their yields, protecting local ecosystems, and ensuring that future generations inherit land capable of feeding the world.

- PUTTU KUMAR

SUSTAINABLE URBAN GARDENS

TRANSFORM MODERN CITY

NEIGHBORHOODS

As urban areas expand and concrete surfaces replace natural green cover, city dwellers are turning to urban gardening to reconnect with nature and produce fresh, organic food locally. Rooftops, vacant lots, balconies, and community parks are being transformed into lush green spaces filled with vegetables, herbs, and flowering plants. What began as an individual hobby for environmental enthusiasts has grown into a vibrant movement changing urban landscapes and community dynamics.

Urban gardening provides numerous ecological and psychological benefits to densely populated neighborhoods. Plants reduce the “urban heat island” effect by cooling ambient air temperatures and absorbing stormwater runoff that would otherwise overload city drainage systems. Moreover, tending to plants offers city residents a therapeutic escape from fast-paced urban environments, promoting mental well-being, reducing stress, and encouraging physical activity among participants of all ages.

Community gardens have also become powerful engines for social connection. Neighbors who previously rarely interacted now work side-by-side, sharing farming tools, seeds, and gardening knowledge. These shared green spaces foster a strong sense of community pride and collective responsibility. Fresh produce harvested from neighborhood plots is frequently shared among families or donated to local food banks, improving access to fresh, nutrient-dense food in urban areas. Municipalities are beginning to recognize the immense value of urban agriculture, offering incentives, unused public land, and composting support to community-led gardening initiatives.

- KANKA MANKA

BRIDGING THE EDUCATIONAL

DIVIDE IN RURAL CLASSROOMS

The morning sun casts long shadows across the dusty courtyard of a village school, where children gather with eagerness to start their day. For decades, the rhythm of education in rural areas remained unchanged, reliance on worn textbooks and rote memorization defined the learning experience. Today, a subtle transformation is unfolding across thousands of regional schools. Educators are shifting away from traditional passive learning models and integrating interactive, skill-focused approaches designed to foster critical thinking and practical understanding.

Inside a newly renovated classroom, students no longer sit in rigid rows facing a blank chalkboard. Instead, they cluster around collaborative tables, engaging with hands-on learning kits and digital tablets powered by solar energy. These tools allow children to explore complex scientific concepts through interactive visual simulations and conduct simple experiments that connect textbook theories directly to their daily lives. The emphasis has pivoted from merely passing annual examinations to cultivating curiosity and practical problem-solving capabilities.

Local teachers have played a pivotal role in driving this quiet revolution. Through specialized training workshops, educators are learning how to integrate local contexts and native languages into fundamental concepts like mathematics, science, and social studies.

A lesson on ecology, for example, now involves mapping the local village ecosystem, while basic economics is taught using real-world agricultural trading scenarios. This contextualized approach makes education immediately relevant, keeping students engaged and significantly



cantly reducing dropout rates. Despite this progress, systemic challenges remain. Infrastructure disparities continue to affect remote communities, where consistent electrical power and reliable internet connectivity are far from guaranteed. Bridging this gap requires sustained investment, robust public-private partnerships, and community-level initiative. Local village councils and parent-teacher associations have begun taking greater ownership of school maintenance, ensuring that digital devices are safeguarded and resources are utilized efficiently.

As these educational reforms mature, the

broader impact on rural communities is becoming increasingly evident. Young learners are developing confidence, technical literacy, and a deeper understanding of their surroundings.

By prioritizing holistic development over passive learning, schools are preparing a generation capable of participating fully in a rapidly evolving economy while remaining deeply connected to their roots. The journey from policy vision to daily classroom reality is long, but every interactive lesson brings these young minds closer to a brighter future.

- UMMI JAAN

PRESERVING TRADITIONAL

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN

GROWING CITIES



Rapid urban expansion often sweeps away the physical and cultural remnants of the past, leaving modern metropolises looking increasingly uniform. Yet, nestled between towering glass skyscrapers and bustling highways, dedicated communities are finding innovative ways to protect their historic identity. Across several rapidly expanding cities, neighborhood committees, local historians, and urban planners are joining forces to ensure that historical landmarks, traditional arts, and indigenous languages are not lost to the relentless pace of development.

In one ancient district currently surrounded by commercial high-rises, residents have turned public spaces into living cultural hubs. Artisans who have practiced traditional crafts for generations now demonstrate their skills in designated urban heritage zones, introducing younger generations to centuries-old techniques. These spaces double as venues for language workshops, folk music performances, and community storytelling sessions, creating vibrant pockets of cultural continuity amidst the concrete landscape.

Urban planners are also adopting fresh perspectives on historical preservation. Rather than treating heritage buildings as static museum pieces, contemporary adaptive-reuse initiatives transform historical structures into community centers, art galleries, and public libraries. By integrating historical architecture into daily civic life, cities maintain a tangible connection to their origins while serving the functional needs of modern residents. This balance prevents historical neighborhoods from decaying or being entirely demolished for high-density real estate.

The preservation effort extends beyond physical buildings to encompass intangible cultural heritage, particularly regional languages and traditional arts. Digital archives managed by local youth groups document oral histories, folk songs, and unique dialects, ensuring they remain accessible to future generations. Community-led heritage walks draw both locals and tourists, fostering a renewed sense of pride and interest in the unique historical narratives that shaped the city’s contemporary identity.

- YASH RAJ

CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES

EMPOWER REMOTE RURAL

COMMUNITIES

For decades, remote rural communities faced severe obstacles due to unreliable power grids and limited access to clean energy sources. Daily routines, school hours, and local business operations were dictated by the setting of the sun. Today, a clean energy transition is illuminating these regions, as decentralized solar grids and biomass micro-projects deliver reliable, sustainable electricity directly to off-grid villages, transforming local economies and daily living standards.

The installation of community-managed solar micro-grids has brought immediate improvements to public health, education, and domestic safety. Families no longer rely on smoky kerosene lamps that pose fire hazards and cause respiratory illnesses. Clean, reliable lighting allows children to study safely into the evening, while village health clinics can safely store vaccines and operate essential medical equipment throughout the night without fear of sudden power outages.

Beyond household illumination, clean energy access is driving local economic development. Small businesses, including grain mills, tailoring shops, and repair centers, can operate longer hours and utilize efficient electrical machinery. Women-led self-help groups have established small processing units powered by solar energy, generating local employment and increasing household incomes. Excess power generated by these micro-grids is often redistributed within the community, creating a self-sustaining local energy economy.

Community participation is key to the longevity of these renewable energy projects. Local youth undergo technical training to handle maintenance, routine repairs, and system monitoring, ensuring that technical glitches are resolved locally without long delays. This hands-on involvement instills a strong sense of ownership and equips young adults with valuable technical skills that open up employment opportunities in the expanding green technology sector.

The successful implementation of clean energy in rural villages serves as a compelling model for sustainable development globally.

- NADHAN



BRIDGING CULTURAL DIVIDES THROUGH REGIONAL LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

In a country marked by immense linguistic diversity, language is far more than a tool for basic communication; it is the cornerstone of cultural identity, heritage, and social cohesion. When distinct linguistic groups coexist, understanding and mutual respect become essential for maintaining unity. Across diverse regions, local community groups and educational organizers are pioneering collaborative language initiatives that encourage citizens to learn and celebrate regional languages spoken by their neighbors.

These grassroots programs bring together people from varied background through interactive lan-

guage exchanges, community theater, and multilingual literature clubs. Rather than viewing linguistic differences as barriers, these initiatives treat them as avenues for mutual enrichment. Participants learn conversational skills, regional idioms, and cultural nuances, developing a deeper empathy for the lived experiences of different communities residing within the same geographical borders.

Local public schools and community libraries are actively supporting this movement by stocking literature in multiple regional languages and hosting bilingual storytelling hours for children. When young learners are exposed to di-

verse languages early in life, they develop heightened cognitive flexibility and a natural appreciation for multiculturalism. Furthermore, digital creators are harnessing social media and mobile applications to create accessible, engaging language-learning content that reaches thousands of young adults daily.

The broader societal impact of these linguistic efforts is profound. In urban areas where migration brings people from various provinces together, language integration projects reduce social friction and promote inclusive civic participation. Municipalities that provide public information and services in multiple local languages ensure

that minority communities feel acknowledged, valued, and empowered to engage in public discourse.

Embracing linguistic diversity strengthens national unity by demonstrating that solidarity does not require uniformity. When individuals make the effort to learn and respect one another’s native tongues, trust flourishes across cultural boundaries. By celebrating the rich tapestry of languages that define the nation, these community-led initiatives help build a more inclusive, harmonious, and resilient society where every voice finds a meaningful place.

- NINJA KATA



SC delivers split verdict on poll law

The bench differed on whether challenges to the 2023 law should be referred to a Constitution Bench; matter will now go before the CJI for administrative directions.

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday delivered a split verdict on the Centre's plea seeking reference to a larger bench of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

A Bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma differed on whether the challenge to the law should be considered by a larger bench. Justice Datta rejected the Centre's request for reference, while Justice Sharma held that the petitions raised a substantial question of law warranting consideration by a larger bench.

The two judges directed that the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of a Con-



stitution Bench of "appropriate strength". The Bench said such a course would help ensure that there was no further delay in deciding the issue.

The judges also observed that referring the matter first to a three-judge bench to determine the preliminary question of reference would be a time-consuming exercise.

Justice Datta, while rejecting the Centre's plea, also expressed a prima facie view on the constitutional challenge to the 2023 legislation. The law changed the composition of the selection panel for appointing Election Commissioners by replacing the Chief Justice of India with a Union Cabinet Minister.

SC verdict in a nutshell
Two-judge Bench delivered split verdict
Justice Datta rejected Centre's plea
Justice Sharma backed larger bench reference
Matter to be placed before CJI
2023 law changed Election Commissioner selection panel
CJI replaced by Union Cabinet Minister

The petitions challenging the legislation have raised questions over the composition of the appointment mechanism and its implications for the independence of the Election Commission.

The split verdict means the matter will now move before the CJI for consideration of an appropriate Constitution Bench.



LSR students march demanding stronger security measures

NEW DELHI

Dozens of students of Delhi University's Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College for Women held a solidarity march outside the institute over the gangrape of a minor girl at Aastha Kunj Park near Kalkaji Mandir, raising concerns over women's safety. More than 50 students gathered to join the solidarity march, demanding justice for the minor and drawing attention to the fear and safety concerns faced by women amid growing concerns over accountability.

However, students were not been granted permission to hold the march as negotiations continue over their demands. Carrying posters and raising slogans, they began marching from inside the park at the back gate of the college. The students raised concerns about inadequate CCTV surveillance and patrolling in the area, saying security concerns had persisted long before the recent incident.

The protesters also stressed the requirement for enhanced safety measures around the college and its surrounding areas. A poster circulated

ahead of the march said, "It's not my fault I crave the night air, it's your fault you crave taking it away from me. Students said several incidents of stalking and harassment have been reported near the college's back gate, with complaints repeatedly brought to the administration's attention.

Earlier in the day, the institute announced that offline classes will begin on Thursday, a day after they were suspended following the alleged gangrape of a 17-year-old girl near the temple and the subsequent police encounter with one of the accused.

"Classes shall continue in regular offline mode from tomorrow in the College premises, i.e., Thursday, 24 September 2026", the notification read.

Regular classes were suspended on Tuesday and Wednesday after the police encounter. The encounter took place around 50 metres from the college gate, creating fear among students and staff. Principal Kanika Ahuja told that faculty mentors and college counsellor were asked to remain available to extend support to students.

BJP slams Oppn on poll body row

NEW DELHI

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has hit back at the Congress's fresh allegations of vote theft in the wake of what reports suggest were repeated objections by the two election commissioners to decisions made by the Election Commission of India.

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had "objected on record" to multiple decisions taken by the poll body without their knowledge. Mounting an attack on the BJP, the Congress alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is acting like a "dictator" and engaging in "vote theft" to please the ruling party.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra chose to differ. He insisted that deliberations between the commissioners reflect democracy. "This is an official deliberation among the three election commissioners. What do we gather from this? The BJP did not go and plant a story in the media saying that there had been official deliberations among them. Such deliberations are actually a sign of a healthy democracy," he said.

He also pointed out that the ECI has made it clear that its commissioners had been on the same page over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and that there was no difference in their opinions.

Patra used a Bengal reference to trash the opposition's vote theft claim. Citing the Express report, he pointed out that among the 20 assembly seats in Bengal that saw the highest voter deletions during SIR, the Trinamool won 13 seats, the Congress one, and the BJP six. "If there was vote theft, how did anyone else win?" he wondered.

EC defends internal decision-making process

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Wednesday defended its internal decision-making process, saying written notes, observations, technical suggestions and differences of view are normal parts of institutional deliberation.

The statement came amid questions over internal observations and objections reportedly raised by Election Commissioners during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Commission said it functions as a multi-member constitutional body under Article 324 of the Constitution, statutory rules and established institutional conventions.

In a press note issued by Deputy Director P. Pawan, the poll body said internal checks



The EC says differing views are routine and final decisions follow established legal procedures.

and balances were standard practices intended to ensure transparency, legal compliance and operational rigour. It maintained that all actions taken by the Commission were in accordance with law and its instructions.

The ECI said official orders, decisions and administrative directions carry legal sanction and follow statutory

ECI's position
The Commission said internal notes and technical suggestions are institutional checks and balances. It maintained that final decisions follow statutory procedures and said the full Commission's decisions over the past year were unanimous.

procedures under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

The Commission also said operational queries or inputs raised during the drafting stage were part of routine ad-

ministrative practice and were aimed at safeguarding voter rights and improving electoral processes.

Responding to focus on differing views within the poll body, the ECI said such observations form part of the decision-making process before a final decision is taken. It added that the right to offer suggestions was not restricted to the three Election Commissioners and that officers across the Commission could provide inputs.

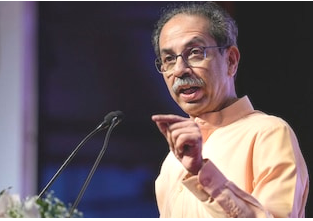
The Commission further said focusing on selected internal notes over a 10-month period did not present the complete picture of its functioning. It said major decisions and initiatives undertaken over the past year had received unanimous approval from the full Commission.

Uddhav demands fresh polls in 3 states

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday demanded that the recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu be cancelled and held afresh using ballot papers, citing concerns over the functioning of the Election Commission and electoral-roll revisions.

Thackeray's demand followed reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections to decisions taken by the poll panel on multiple occasions. An Indian Express investigation reported that the two commissioners had raised objections at least 14 times over 10 months, including on issues related to electoral-roll management and the Special Intensive Revision, or SIR.



Addressing a press conference, Thackeray demanded the removal and arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and urged the courts to take cognisance of the matter. He also called for the two Election Commissioners to cancel what he described as "wrong decisions" taken by the poll panel.

He linked his demand for fresh elections to allegations concerning electoral rolls. In Maharashtra, he has questioned additions to the electoral rolls between the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and raised concerns

KEY DEMANDS
■ Cancel recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu
■ Conduct fresh polls using ballot papers
■ Remove and arrest CEC Gyanesh Kumar
■ Examine reported differences among Election Commissioners
■ Review decisions questioned during electoral-roll revision
■ Thackeray's allegations have not been established as grounds for cancelling elections

over the subsequent SIR exercise. The Election Commission has said the increase in Maharashtra's electorate did not indicate an abnormal trend.

Thackeray also referred to the electoral-roll revision exercises in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu while questioning the credibility of elections

conducted under the present poll panel.

The Maharashtra Assembly election was held in November 2024, while West Bengal and Tamil Nadu voted in April 2026. Thackeray wants fresh polls in all three states, conducted through ballot papers rather than electronic voting machines.

Vietnam discusses deeper trade, investment ties with TN

NEW DELHI

Vietnam's Ambassador to India, Trinh Minh Manh, and an embassy delegation met Tamil Nadu state officials and trade bodies to promote investment, trade and industrial and technology cooperation, a report has said.

The delegation held talks with Dr. S. Vijayakumar, Additional Chief Secretary at Tamil Nadu's Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department from September 20 22 to expand investment, production and business connectivity, the report from Voice of Vietnam said.

Vietnam urged more Tamil Nadu firms to invest in Vietnam and encouraged Vietnamese companies to explore opportunities in the southern Indian state.

The publication highlighted Tamil Nadu's industrial strengths in automobiles and electric vehicles, electronics, IT, engineering manufacturing, renewable energy and high tech industries. VinFast's project in Thoothukudi serves as a notable example of growing ties in the electric vehicle sector that could spur cooperation on components, batteries, charging infrastructure, logistics, R&D and supply

chains.

The Vietnamese delegation also met Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to advance cooperation with Indian businesses in logistics and supply chains, technology, engineering, aviation, chemicals and metals, hospitality, AI, healthcare, automobiles, maritime transport and logistics, green energy, higher education, startups and business incubation.

These industry chamber could act as bridges between businesses in Tamil Nadu and Vietnamese partners, with the delegation urging shift from general business introductions to concrete projects and stronger B2B connections.

"Vietnamese Trade Counsellor and Head of the Vietnam Trade Office in India Bui Trung Thuong highlighted untapped potential in agriculture, fisheries, food processing, ports, logistics and industrial infrastructure," the report noted.

Thuong urged stronger direct maritime links between southern India and Vietnam, saying connections between Chennai and Thoothukudi and major Vietnamese ports could shorten transport times, reduce costs and boost bilateral trade.

Kashmiri woman slams Pak's bloody crackdown in PoK at UN

JAMMU

A young woman from Baramulla has taken the plight of people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to the international stage, speaking out against Islamabad's crackdown on protests in the region at the 63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Tasleema Akhtar later spoke to NDTV from Geneva about her intervention, saying she was not afraid to speak plainly and challenge what she called Pakistan's false narratives.

Tasleema Akhtar is a socio-political activist associated with the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir (ATVK). Addressing the UNHRC General Assembly in Geneva, she raised concerns over the human rights situation in PoK, accusing Pakistani security forces of firing on civilians who were peacefully demanding basic rights.

"There should be an independent probe into each killing with free and fair access to information related to all cases," she said at UNGA. Akhtar said Pakistan's big-

gest falsehood was referring to PoK as "Azad Kashmir". "The biggest lie of Pakistan is calling PoJK 'Azad Kashmir'. People of an independent nation are not sprayed with bullets for asking for their fundamental rights," she said.

She said Pakistan could never genuinely act in the interest of Kashmiris. "First they tried to convert J&K into a graveyard by pushing terrorists, and now they have turned PoJK into a graveyard by killing innocent unarmed protestors," she said.

Akhtar also said there was no one present at the UN to represent the people of PoK directly, alleging that Pakistan had instead brought in London-based individuals to speak on the region's behalf and present what she called a fabricated narrative.

At the UN General Assembly in New York, Akhtar said PoK had recently seen sustained peaceful protests, led by the Joint Awami Action Committee and civil society groups, over governance and economic issues, and that these had been met with a harsh response from authorities.

LEADERSHIP ROW

SP-Congress spar over UP leadership



er capable of taking on the BJP in Uttar Pradesh and questioned what Congress could achieve independently. Her comments prompted a response from Masood, who strongly backed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and described him as central to

the Opposition's national campaign.

Masood said Rahul Gandhi had worked to create a favourable political atmosphere and argued that the Congress remained essential to any Opposition challenge. He has also repeatedly called for an

early decision on seat-sharing between the two parties.

The Congress MP has said that if an alliance is to be formed, it should be finalised quickly, otherwise his party would begin making its own preparations. The demand has brought seat-sharing back into focus as both parties prepare for the 2027 polls.

The SP and Congress fought the 2024 Lok Sabha election together in Uttar Pradesh and won 43 of the state's 80 seats, with the SP winning 37 and Congress six.

While senior leaders have continued to speak about Opposition unity, the latest exchange has highlighted differ-

ences in messaging among leaders and renewed questions over leadership, seat-sharing and the future shape of the alliance.

"Only Akhilesh Yadav is capable of defeating the BJP. On its own, the Congress won't be able to achieve much." - Iqra Hasan (Samajwadi Party MP)

"Only Rahul Gandhi is the opposition voice across the country, which unnerves the BJP." - Imran Masood (Congress MP)

"If an alliance is to be formed, it should be finalised; otherwise, we must proceed with our own preparations." - Imran Masood (Congress MP)

Quick Read

Ayushman Bharat continues to move forward with vision

NEW DELHI

As India's government health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) completed eight years on Wednesday, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin said that the scheme continues to expand with the vision of a "healthier citizen" and a stronger nation. He also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making healthcare security accessible for the citizens. According to official data, India has more than 48.51 crore people holding Ayushman cards and has funded 13.25 crore hospital admissions worth Rs 2.03 lakh crore.

Bharat Taxi to operate with zero commission: UP CM

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched Bharat Taxi and the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samridhhi Yojana, announcing measures to provide greater social security to taxi drivers and reduce the cost of credit for farmers. Under Bharat Taxi, taxi, two-wheeler, and three-wheeler drivers can register with the platform and operate on a zero-commission model. The drivers will also receive social security cover of up to Rs 5 lakh, according to the state government. Launching the initiatives, CM Yogi said the success of the cooperative sector depends on the quality of its leadership.

SC rakes Suo Moto cognisance of Patna HC acquittal in attempted rape case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of a Patna High Court judgment that acquitted a man convicted of attempted rape, after observing that the allegations — including an attempt to remove the victim’s salwar, undressing himself and physically molesting her — constituted an offence of outraging a woman’s modesty under Section 354 of the IPC rather than an attempt to commit rape.

A Bench of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana issued notice in the suo motu case and indicated that it



would examine the controversial observations made in the Patna High Court judgment.

“There are some offending observations,” the CJI-headed Bench told Bihar Advocate General S.D. Sanjay during the hearing.

It said that the Supreme Court would be able to set aside the observations only after hearing the accused and directed the Bihar government to ensure that the

Mayawati appoints Ishan Anand as BSP national convener

LUCKNOW

Amid a series of recent organisational changes involving her family members, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Wednesday appointed her nephew Ishan Anand as the party’s national convener as she directed acceleration of its electoral preparations.

At the party’s national meeting here, the BSP chief also directed party workers to put in all their efforts to ensure electoral victory in forthcoming elections in various states, including Uttar Pradesh.

Mayawati stated that whether the upcoming elections turn into a direct contest, a three-way contest or a four-way contest, the BSP must remain focused on its goal of forming a government for the

fifth time in Uttar Pradesh and returning to power with an absolute majority.

She directed the party to prepare to contest the elections independently in Uttar Pradesh, select strong candidates, and activate the organisation down to the booth level. Mayawati said the BSP faces challenges from all opposition parties in its efforts to achieve the “master key” to political power through Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar’s policy of self-respect and self-esteem.

She urged party workers to rise above personal attachments, relationships and individual interests and focus solely on the objective of forming a government.

On the issue of nepotism, Mayawati stated that the BSP has always stood

apart from it. She cited party founder Kanshi Ram’s principle that the entire Bahujan Samaj was his family.

Mayawati said relatives could work in the organisation without any greed or personal ambition, but responsibilities in the party should not be assigned on the basis of family interests. Her remarks came against the backdrop of recent changes involving her nephews Akash Anand and Ishan Anand. Ishan Anand had earlier been given an organisational responsibility before being removed from it, after which Mayawati announced that he would again be given a “respectable” role. The BSP chief also targeted the BJP government, citing feedback received during the meeting.



Fadnavis promises blanket drought aid

He promised blanket drought aid for farmers, with a formal govt resolution expected within two days amid severe rainfall deficits in Latur.

LATUR

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday announced that the state government will issue a Government Resolution (GR) on the drought situation within two days and provide blanket financial assistance to farmers affected by crop losses.

Fadnavis made the announcement after inspecting drought-hit areas in Latur district, including Kharosa village, where farmers showed him dried soybean plants and raised concerns over crop failures, water shortages and mounting financial pressures.

The Chief Minister said crop damage assessments, or panchnamas, were being conducted because they were legally required, but would not be allowed to delay relief. He said financial assistance would be extended universally and would take into



account damage to both Kharif and Rabi crops.

Fadnavis described the situation in Latur as extremely critical, saying the district had received around 50 per cent of normal rainfall. He also said the current conditions were more severe than those witnessed during the 1972 drought.

The government, he said, would ensure drinking water and livestock fodder supplies in affected areas. Pending bills related to water-supply schemes would also be cleared to ensure villages continue receiving drinking water.

The administration is addi-

Maha govt to issue notification on drought

- Drought GR expected within two days.

- Blanket financial assistance promised to farmers.

- Latur rainfall at around 50% of normal.

- Relief to cover Kharif and Rabi losses.

- Drinking water and fodder supplies assured.

- District-level drought “war rooms” planned.

tionally preparing district-level “war rooms” to coordinate drought-management measures and speed up responses to water, fodder and agricultural concerns.

Fadnavis is also scheduled to interact with farmers in Dharashiv district as part of his tour of drought-affected areas.

Kejriwal demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar’s arrest

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday came down heavily on the Election Commission of India (ECI), demanding the arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and cancellation of elections held in the past few years and also that of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Kejriwal’s scathing attack at the poll panel came after report by a leading newspaper, in which it claimed that

the two Election Commissioners had “objected on record” to several decisions taken by the poll panel, allegedly taken without their knowledge.

The ECI has however rejected the media report outrightly. Addressing a press conference, Arvind Kejriwal said: “Special Intensive Revision (SIR), through which names of over 13 crore people across 30 states were deleted, that entire SIR process is illegal because the Election Commission had not officially passed it. All orders related

to it are also illegal.”

He demanded the cancellation of the entire SIR process. “Orders and circulars are being issued without the official approval of the Election Commission. All these orders and circulars are illegal, unconstitutional, and unlawful because they have not been issued through proper approval... For months together, meetings of the Election Commission are not taking place, and Gyanesh Kumar keeps giving orders on his own—issuing directives at his will,” he alleged.

Indian, Sri Lankan navies participate in air operations

VISAKHAPATNAM

Navies of India and Sri Lanka carried out seamanship evolutions, air operations, night replenishment at sea, and special forces drills during the sea phase of the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-26 off Visakhapatnam. The 13th edition of SLINEX-26, which kicked off on September 17, began with the harbour phase and was followed by the sea phase.

“SLINEX 26 transitioned to sea, with the Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy undertaking seamanship evolutions, air operations, night replenishment at sea and Special Forces drills, including VBSS and slithering operations”, the Indian Navy said in a post on X.

“The evolutions enhanced interoperability and operational coordination, culminating in the conclusion of SLINEX26 and furthering the enduring India–Sri Lanka maritime partnership,” it added.

During the harbour phase of the exercise, the two navies participated in professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, Underway Replenishment (UNREP) training, and yoga and sporting interactions.

“The harbour phase of SLINEX26 at Visakhapatnam featured professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, UNREP training, Yoga and sporting interactions between the Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy,” the Indian Navy posted on X on Monday.

“Capt PHSS Appuhamy, CO SLNS Sindurala, also called on Radm Vishal Bishnoi, FOCEF, EasternSword, furthering professional dialogue and mutual understanding. The engagements enhanced interoperability, camaraderie and exchange of best practices,” it added.

Karti questions TVK bypoll candidate choices

MADURAI

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram on Wednesday said he was not in favour of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam’s decision to field two former AIADMK legislators in the upcoming Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly bypolls in Tamil Nadu.

TVK has nominated K Maragatham Kumaravel from Madurantakam and P Sathyabama from Dharapuram. Both had won their respective constituencies as AIADMK candidates in the 2026 Assembly elections before resigning as legislators and joining the party led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay.

Speaking to reporters in Madurai, Chidambaram said he believed TVK had considerable support among voters, but questioned the decision to renominate candidates who had recently switched parties.

He said TVK could instead have given its own longstanding workers or cadres an opportunity to contest the by-



The Congress MP questioned TVK’s choice of two former AIADMK MLAs as candidates for upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly bypolls.

polls. Chidambaram added that, in his view, the eventual results would reflect the party’s broader popularity rather than necessarily the individual candidates.

The comments come as campaigning intensifies for the October 6 bypolls in Madurantakam and Dharapuram. The elections were necessitated after the resignation of the two AIADMK MLAs and their subsequent move to TVK.

Dharapuram has emerged as a multi-cornered contest involving TVK, DMK,

BYPOLL DETAILS

■ Madurantakam: TVK’s K Maragatham Kumaravel
■ Dharapuram: TVK’s P Sathyabama
■ Both previously won on AIADMK tickets
■ Bypolls scheduled for October 6
■ Counting scheduled for October 9
■ Dharapuram has TVK, DMK, AIADMK, CPI and NTK candidates in the contest.

AIADMK, CPI and Naam Tamilar Katchi. TVK has fielded Sathyabama, while the DMK, AIADMK, CPI and NTK have nominated S Suganya, K Bhanumathi, P Lakshmanan and M Karthika respectively. The bypolls will be held on October 6, with counting scheduled for October 9.

AI can provide solutions: Murmu to students

VADODARA

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday called for a multidisciplinary approach in higher education, saying complex contemporary challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, poverty alleviation and democracy could not be addressed through a single field of study.

Addressing the 75th convocation of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat, President Murmu said the university’s range of academic disciplines placed it in a position to bring together different streams of knowledge.

“From arts to science, technology to medicine, law to social work, fine arts to performing arts, management to journalism, this university is providing education in many fields of knowledge,” she said.

President Murmu said problems confronting society were increasingly interconnected and required knowledge from multiple disciplines.

“Climate change is not only a subject of environmental studies. Artificial intelligence is not only a subject of computer science. Health is not only a subject of medicine or medical science. Poverty alleviation is not only the subject of an economist. Democracy is not only the subject of political science,” she said.

“Today, solving all important problems requires a multidisciplinary approach,” she added.

Priyanka raises questions over SIR

NILAMBUR

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday described the ongoing controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as an “extremely serious” issue for democracy, saying concerns over the fairness of elections cannot be taken lightly.

Speaking to reporters in Nilambur, Priyanka said her brother and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, had repeatedly raised concerns about alleged bias and injustice in the functioning of the Election Commission of India.

Her remarks came after a report claimed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections on several occasions over decisions taken in the Commission’s name. The report said the objections covered issues including changes to Form 6, voter deletions and restoration, access to electoral data and pending appeals in West Bengal.

The Election Commission, however, has rejected suggestions of internal disagreement, saying all decisions, including those concerning the nationwide SIR exercise, were approved unanimously by all three Election Commissioners.

Priyanka said that if reports concerning alleged voter-list manipulation and deletion were established as factual, those responsible should face investigation and accountability.



SIR ROW

Opposition leaders have raised concerns over electoral-roll procedures.

A report claimed two Election Commissioners recorded multiple objections.

The Election Commission rejected claims of internal disagreement.

The EC said SIR decisions received unanimous approval.

The Supreme Court has also sought clarity over Delhi SIR notices.

She referred to allegations concerning electoral rolls in Maharashtra and Haryana and said the country could not afford to treat such matters lightly.

The controversy has also drawn judicial scrutiny. The Supreme Court recently questioned the manner in which some notices were issued during the Delhi SIR process and sought clarification from the Election Commission over notices based on “logical discrepancies”.

The Congress leader stressed that the integrity of electoral processes was central to democratic functioning, while the Election Commission maintains that its SIR decisions were taken collectively.

Modi governance focuses on bureaucratic experiments

NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a two-day Chintan Shivir with Union ministers, attention has turned to several administrative initiatives highlighted by the Modi Story social media account as examples of experiments in governance.

The Council of Ministers’ September 23-24 discussions are focused on reviewing government work, reforms, coordination and future priorities linked to the Viksit Bharat@2047 roadmap.

The Modi Story account described the approach as treating governance like an “innovation lab” and highlighted initiatives aimed at retaining institutional knowledge, encouraging voluntary public-service projects and strengthening officers’ connection with



grassroots administration.

Among them is Anubhav, under which senior officers document their professional experiences and insights so that institutional knowledge can be passed on to the next generation. Another initiative, Swatah Sukhay, allows officers to voluntarily undertake projects outside their regular departmental responsibilities.

The account also high-

lighted Back to the First Posting, which encourages officers to revisit the taluka or district where they began their administrative careers and assess how the area has changed over the years.

The Assistant Secretary Programme gives newly inducted IAS officers three months of experience in Union ministries before they move to their first field postings. The initiative is intended to familiarise young officers with the functioning of the Union government.

Another initiative, One Secretary, One Taluka, assigns senior IAS officers to backward talukas, with the stated aim of keeping senior administrators connected with grassroots realities.

The initiatives were highlighted as the Chintan Shivir brings ministers together for discussions on governance and future policy priorities.



Quick Read

Nifty, Sensex close higher on growth optimism

MUMBAI

Indian equity markets closed higher on Wednesday, with the Nifty 50 rising 117.80 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 23,446.80. The Sensex gained 299.17 points, or 0.40 per cent, to 74,828.25. Stronger domestic growth momentum and softer crude prices supported investor sentiment. Nifty Metal gained more than 2 per cent, while FMCG rose 1.27 per cent, Pharma 0.72 per cent, PSU Bank 0.97 per cent and Auto 0.25 per cent. Nifty IT fell more than 1 per cent, while Media declined 0.63 per cent. Brent crude traded below USD 100 a barrel despite geopolitical concerns.

Banks to open Sunday ahead of proposed strike

NEW DELHI

Public sector banks and regional rural banks will remain open on Sunday, September 27, ahead of a proposed three-day nationwide strike from September 28 to 30, the Ministry of Finance said.

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the opening of bank branches, offices, ATM-linked branches and currency chests to ensure uninterrupted services before the strike. The move comes after the United Forum of Bank Unions called the strike, with unions seeking a five-day banking week and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive scheme. The government has said the PLI scheme has been kept in abeyance, while the five-day work-week demand remains under examination. The proposed strike follows a one-day strike held on September 11. The government has appealed to unions to resolve outstanding issues through dialogue. It also noted that the strike coincides with the September 30 half-yearly closing, which could affect banking operations.

Auto sales may ease after festive inventory buildup

NEW DELHI

India's automobile sales are expected to receive near-term support from inventory build-up ahead of the festive season, but growth could moderate thereafter against a high base, JM Financial Institutional Securities said. Passenger vehicle volumes rose 37 per cent year-on-year in August 2026, while FY27 volumes through the first five months increased 30 per cent.

India's port volumes rise 7% as freight rates surge

NEW DELHI

India's port volumes increased 7 per cent year-on-year in August 2026, while global container freight rates surged 132 per cent from February levels, according to a Jefferies report. The rise in freight rates was attributed to Middle East tensions, early peak-season shipments and China's Golden Week. Government-owned

BOND MARKET PUSH

India needs deeper bond market for growth

MUMBAI

India will require large volumes of long-term capital over the next two decades to finance infrastructure, manufacturing, urbanisation and the energy transition, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra said on Wednesday, calling for a deeper corporate bond market.

Addressing the 13th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave, Mishra said the financial system must play a greater role in supporting the country's next phase of economic growth. "The financial

India needs diverse financing, complementary capital markets:

India's growing economy is driving demand for diverse financing options, stronger capital markets and broader investor participation

MUMBAI

He said different sectors require different forms of finance. While banks remain important for project assessment, credit disbursement and relationship monitoring, some businesses require risk capital, long-term infrastructure funding or equity before they become suitable for conventional debt.

Pandey said India's market capitalisation has grown at a compound annual rate of about 17 per cent since FY16, reaching nearly Rs 481 trillion. Domestic companies have raised an average of



roughly 150 million. Pandey also highlighted the growing importance of the corporate bond market. Outstanding corporate bonds stood at around Rs 61 trillion in August, equivalent to about 55 per cent of outstanding bank credit to industry and services.

SEBI, he said, has taken

"India's aspirations are large. We need capital for infrastructure and manufacturing."
— Tuhin Kanta Pandey, SEBI Chairman

roughly 150 million. Pandey also highlighted the growing importance of the corporate bond market. Outstanding corporate bonds stood at around Rs 61 trillion in August, equivalent to about 55 per cent of outstanding bank credit to industry and services.

SEBI, he said, has taken

Steel dealers stock up as tight supply

NEW DELHI

Domestic steel prices are expected to remain firm in the near term as tight supply, import duties and elevated raw material costs encourage dealers to build inventories in anticipation of further price increases, according to a Centrum Broking report based on dealer interactions.

Centrum said any correction in steel prices could be limited and may be deferred until late November or early December. Supply remains tight, with allocations from primary producers falling short of demand. Dealers are receiving only 50-75 per cent of the volumes they request, prompting stronger inventory accumulation across the dis-

tribution channel. "Steel dealers have shifted from need-based purchasing to actively building inventory in anticipation of further price increases," the report said. Centrum noted that while channel activity remains strong, part of the recent demand strength reflects advance buying and inventory accumulation rather than only underlying end-use consumption.

Domestic flat steel prices have remained on a sustained uptrend, supported by supply constraints, maintenance shutdowns, import duties and elevated raw material costs, particularly coking coal. Dealers have continued buying ahead of requirements as they expect prices to rise further.

The report said demand in Gujarat could soften during October-November because of festivals and holidays, but typically strengthens in January-February after the festive period. Potential disruptions to imported or Chinese material around the Chinese New Year could further tighten availability and support domestic mills. In the steel pipe segment, cumulative price increases have reached around Rs 6-7 per kg, with another Rs 1.5 per kg hike announced from October 1. Centrum also indicated that tighter availability could keep channel buying active in the coming months, even as actual consumption patterns vary across regions and end-use sectors differently.

Manba Finance approves ₹99.99 crore preferential fundraise

MUMBAI

Manba Finance Limited has approved a ₹99.99 crore fundraise through a preferential issue of securities, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals. The issue comprises equity shares worth ₹67.50 crore to non-promoter investors and convertible warrants worth ₹32.49 crore to the promoter group.

The fundraising has attracted participation from family offices, investment funds and high-net-worth individuals. The promoter group, through Manba Investments and Securities Private Limited and Managing Director Manish K. Shah, will subscribe to warrants worth ₹32.49 crore, representing the largest commitment in the issue.

ZELENSKYY URGES INDIA TO HALT RUSSIAN ENERGY TRADE

NEW DELHI

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged India, China and Turkey to halt energy trade with Russia, arguing that pressure on Moscow's economy could help end the war in Ukraine. His comments came in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

Zelenskyy said Russia relies on energy trade with countries and suggested that coordinated pressure from the United States, India and China could affect Moscow's ability to continue fighting. He called for an end to purchases of Russian energy, saying such a move could pressure Russia to stop the war.

India's Russian oil imports have already declined. Reu-

ters reported that imports fell 16.5 per cent month-on-month in August to about 2.1 million barrels per day. Despite the decline, Russia still remained India's largest oil supplier, followed by the UAE and Venezuela. Preliminary data from Kpler indicated that Russian oil imports could fall to about 1.9 million barrels per day in September.

Zelenskyy also said he had sought military equipment from US President Donald Trump for winter, including Patriot air defence systems.

He expressed confidence that Washington would pursue an agreement to halt attacks on energy infrastructure. Zelenskyy said negotiations remained difficult for now, with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Zelenskyy, not ready for an agreement. His remarks came days after Trump signed legislation giving the US president authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from countries meeting criteria linked to Russian energy purchases.

The measure does not automatically impose tariffs on any country.

Deloitte, CAST join hands for AI modernisation

NEW DELHI

Deloitte India and CAST have announced a strategic alliance to advance artificial intelligence-led application modernisation and technology portfolio optimisation across the Asia-Pacific and Japan region. The collaboration combines Deloitte's consulting, engineering and transformation capabilities with CAST's software mapping and intelligence technology.

The alliance is aimed at helping organisations make faster, better-informed decisions across complex application environments while addressing challenges linked to AI adoption, cloud migration, large-scale modernisation and mergers and acquisitions integration. Enterprises often accumulate hidden dependencies, technical debt and duplicated capabilities through years of business changes, decentralised investments and acquisitions. Debasish Chatterjee, Partner and Software Engineering leader at Deloitte India, said, "Enterprise transformation today is no longer



OMCs face rising fuel losses as crude prices surge

NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies are facing mounting losses as higher crude oil prices have pushed their marketing margins on petrol and diesel into negative territory, while domestic LPG losses have also widened. Rating agency ICRA said OMCs are currently facing losses of Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 9 per litre on diesel.

Losses on domestic LPG have reached around Rs 300 per cylinder in September, with the daily loss for OMCs estimated at about Rs 530 crore. ICRA attributed the pressure to a sharp rise in international crude prices while domestic retail prices of petrol, diesel and LPG remained unchanged.

The Indian crude basket rose to USD 117.4 per barrel on September 21, compared with an average of around USD 66 per barrel in 2025-26. ICRA said heightened geopolitical tensions and disruptions to key oil supply routes in West Asia have contributed to the surge and increased uncertainty in global oil markets.

"The escalation of the West Asian conflict and disruptions to key oil supply routes have led to a spike in crude prices in recent weeks, resulting in sizeable marketing losses and LPG under-recoveries for oil marketing companies," ICRA

Rising crude prices are squeezing oil companies, with petrol and diesel margins turning negative and LPG losses widening sharply.

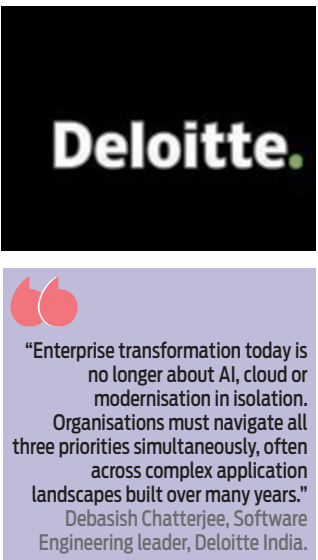
Fuel Losses at a Glance
■ Petrol margin: -₹8/litre
■ Diesel margin: -₹9/litre
■ LPG loss: ₹300/cylinder
■ Daily OMC loss: ₹530 crore
■ Indian crude basket: \$117.4/barrel
■ LPG buffer: ₹61,940 crore
■ Q1 LPG loss: ₹500/cylinder

Senior Vice-President and Co-Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings Prashant Vasishat said.

ICRA said the cumulative negative LPG buffer stood at Rs 61,940 crore as of June 30, 2026.

The estimated LPG loss was around Rs 500 per cylinder in the first quarter of 2026-27 and remained around Rs 300 in September. It warned that under-recoveries could rise further if international prices stay elevated without higher domestic prices or additional government compensation.

The pressure could weigh further on profitability and cash flows, ICRA said, ahead.



about AI, cloud or modernisation in isolation. Organisations must navigate all three priorities simultaneously, often across complex application landscapes built over many years." He said the alliance would help clients gain deeper visibility into their technology estate, reduce modernisation risks and accelerate value from digital and AI investments.

CAST will provide software intelligence covering software architecture, technical debt, dependencies, open-source risk and modernisation complexity across enterprise portfolios. The information is intended to help project teams plan transformations, assess application readiness for AI functionalities and shorten delivery timelines.

Marc Zablit, Executive Vice President of Business Development and Global Partnerships at CAST, said AI accuracy can be low in brownfield applications because systems lack context about dependencies and transaction flows. He said clients using CAST's deterministic context had reported twofold increases in accuracy and significant reductions in token usage. The alliance will target cloud and legacy migrations, M&A technical due diligence, managed services, cybersecurity, AI readiness and Green IT programmes across Asia-Pacific. Deloitte will deploy CAST platforms through use-case playbooks and solution accelerators regionwide.

BRICS seeks greater role in shaping global tax rules

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said BRICS economies must ensure their perspectives are reflected in emerging global tax rules, as ongoing multilateral negotiations are expected to shape cross-border taxation for years.

Addressing the BRICS Tax Heads Meeting in New Delhi, Sitharaman said international taxation rules were being renegotiated through multiple multilateral processes, including the

UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. She said decisions taken over the next few years would influence the global tax framework for a generation.

Sitharaman said BRICS countries, as large developing economies and source jurisdictions, had an important perspective on international taxation. She stressed that cooperation among tax administrations should create institutions and tools capable of continuing beyond India's current chairship.

Quick Read



Top Hamas moneyman killed in Gaza strike: Israel

CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike killed at least two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, local health officials said, and Israel said the strike targeted a Hamas finance chief. Medics said the two men, Osama Abu Khater and Mohammad Abu Elwan, were killed when an Israeli airstrike hit a vehicle in western Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave. Two other people were wounded, they added. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a joint statement the military had killed Mohammad Abu Elwan in Khan Younis, who they described as a senior Hamas finance official.

Ukraine seeks to give frontline commanders more authority

KYIV

Ukrainian staff sergeant Vitalii Tomchyshak believes he knows how to beat Russia on the battlefield: empower frontline leaders such as himself to make critical decisions. Too often, Tomchyshak says, combat commanders are overruled by senior officers who do not understand the specifics of a battlefield situation. Tomchyshak was among 103 battle-hardened squad commanders pulled from the front line by Ukraine's military and put through an intensive three-month course this summer aimed at increasing their effectiveness as leaders.

US-Iran talks revive hopes for diplomacy

TALKS AT THE UN REVIVED DIPLOMATIC HOPES, DISAGREEMENTS OVER WAR, SANCTIONS, MILITARY PRESSURE AND HORMUZ ACCESS REMAIN UNRESOLVED

DUBAI

The United States and Iran held their first indirect shuttle talks in months at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, raising hopes of renewed diplomacy despite continued differences over the Middle East war. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi communicated with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner through mediators, in the first such contact since an interim ceasefire agreement collapsed in July. The discussions were not face-to-face, with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mo-

ammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani among the mediators involved. US President Donald Trump said Witkoff and Kushner had a "very productive meeting" with Iranian mediators and suggested there was momentum towards a possible agreement. Iran, however, said it had conveyed conditions including an end to the war on all fronts and a halt to what Tehran described as US acts of aggression. The diplomatic contact came a day after Trump told the UN General Assembly that Washington faced a choice between reaching a deal with Iran and escalating



military action. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was due to address the gathering on Wednesday. The renewed contacts also affected energy markets. Oil prices remained near two-week lows, with Brent crude

trading below the \$100-a-barrel level after earlier surging amid regional supply disruptions. The conflict has lasted nearly seven months and has involved Iran, the United States, Israel and regional groups. A June interim agree-

US-Iran talks in progress

- First indirect US-Iran contact since July ceasefire collapsed
- Iran conveyed conditions through Qatari mediators
- Oil prices remained near two-week lows amid diplomatic hopes

ment collapsed over disputes including shipping rules and control of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a major global energy route for shipping.

German state poll losses risk snarling Merz's reform agenda

BERLIN

Chancellor Friedrich Merz may have survived the triumph of the far right in this month's state elections in eastern Germany and Berlin but the shock to his coalition could force him to water down his promised reform agenda. Merz took the unusual step of announcing immediately after exit polls showed his conservatives were on course for their worst-ever defeat that he would stay in office to get a raft of reforms to the tax, pensions and health systems through parliament. His partners in the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), who also lost heavily in elections in Saxony-Anhalt and Berlin while holding on in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, also pledged to continue their alliance with his Christian Democrats (CDU). But there has been increasing pressure from within the coalition for the government to do something to reflect the votes. "There can't be a simple carrying on as normal after the state elections," an SPD strategy document circulated this week said, calling for a "German 'New Deal' that doesn't leave people alone in a period of transition". It said a special party meeting would be called in December where the leadership would issue new policy proposals. Despite stronger-than-expected growth in the first half of the year, surveys showed Sunday's election results were heavily influenced by squeezed living standards and voter worries over economic issues, notably rising inflation. Aware of the mood of the electorate, two days before Sunday's votes in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Merz announced a €2.5 billion tax cut and plans for a price cap to help motorists deal with fuel prices sent soaring by the Iran war.

Brazil's Lula, Flavio Bolsonaro remain tied in runoff scenario

SAO PAULO

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Senator Flavio Bolsonaro are statistically tied in a simulated runoff ahead of Brazil's October presidential election, according to an AtlasIntel/Bloomberg poll released on Wednesday. The survey showed Lula, the leftist incumbent, narrowly ahead of Bolsonaro, the eldest son of former President Jair Bolsonaro. Lula received 47.7% support in the hypothetical runoff, compared with 47.4% for Flavio Bolsonaro. The difference falls well within the poll's margin of error of one percentage point. The latest numbers mark a slight shift from an earlier AtlasIntel poll released on September 17. That survey had Bolsonaro ahead of Lula by 47.2% to 46.8% in a simulated second round.

The poll also showed Lula maintaining an advantage in a first-round scenario. He was backed by 45.8% of respondents, while Bolsonaro received 43.4%. Renan Santos followed with 4.5%, Augusto Cury had 2.1%, and Ronaldo Caiado stood at 1.3%. Compared with the previous survey, Lula's first-round support increased from 44.1% to 45.8%, while Bolsonaro's rose from 41.7% to 43.4%. Brazil's presidential election is scheduled for October 4. If no candidate secures more than 50% of valid votes, the two leading candidates will advance to a runoff scheduled for October 25. The latest poll suggests a closely contested race between Lula and Bolsonaro, with neither candidate holding a lead outside the survey's margin of error. AtlasIntel surveyed 5,015 people between September 17 and 22.

AI leaders to brief UN amid warnings tech could slip beyond human control

UNITED NATIONS

Executives from OpenAI, Anthropic and Hugging Face will brief the UN Security Council on Wednesday amid warnings increasingly powerful AI technologies could soon improve themselves, slip beyond human control and threaten international security. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei and Hugging Face co-founder Clément Delangue are due to brief the 15-member council during the annual General Assembly gathering of world leaders at the United Nations. Altman plans to urge world leaders to adopt benchmarks for measuring AI capabilities and assessing the safeguards companies put in place as they develop the technology, an OpenAI executive told reporters on Tuesday. Council members, including leading AI rivals the



United States and China, are also set to speak. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot will chair the meeting. A European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the main objective of the meeting was to shine a light on the practical risks of AI losing control in ways that affect international security and the security of individual states. "These are issues that fall squarely within the Security Council's mandate," the diplomat said. "The key question is whether we could one day face a situation where

algorithms interacting with each other trigger a war. That is really at the heart of the issue." Ahead of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Washington on Thursday, the US and China have discussed setting up a notification system for common goals and common threats that would cover AI-related incidents that rise to a national security level. Trump told world leaders at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that he "rejects any attempt to construct a globalist scheme to control" AI, describing the technology as amazing, but noted that the US would be careful. "We're leading now over China by a lot, and everyone else, and we're going to keep it that way," Trump said. "I'm not going to stifle growth of something that will be bigger than the Industrial Revolution."

Armed forces ordered into 'defensive combat': Tigray

NAIROBI

Ethiopia's Tigray regional government said on Wednesday that its forces had entered what it described as a defensive war against federal troops, raising fears of renewed

fighting in the northern region. The statement came hours after Tigrayan forces seized the main airport in Tigray, marking a significant escalation in tensions between the regional authorities and Ethiopia's federal government.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
Crimis. No. 5611/2026
Petitioner's: Smt. Anjanamma D/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 59 years, No #134, Vardhanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. Vis Respondent: The Chief officer, Bhassetthalali Pattana Panchayathi, Doddaballapura Taluk, DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION
Whereas, the above petitioners have filed above said petition against respondents for Birth and death on Bengaluru Rural District, Doddaballapura Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Vardhanahalli Village, Petitioner Mother namely kempakka W/o naranayappa death on Dated: 27/10/2006 on the file of this Hon'ble court. Therefore, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble court by yourself or through your as on before this Hon'ble court by at yourself or through your or through your advocate on 23-10-26 11 '0' clock failing which you are determined as expert.
Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 23rd September 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Pri Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
Rajani KR, Advocate, Near Court Opp Rojipura, Doddaballapura, DODDABALLAPURA, DATE: 23/9/26

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Crimis. No. 808/2026
Petitioner: 1. Sri. M. Bhagayamma W/o Late K.N. Krishnappa, Aged about 45 years, 2. Kum. Nandini D/o Late K.N. Krishnappa, Aged about 27 years, 3. Kum. Namratha D/o Late K.N. Krishnappa Aged about 25 years. All are residing at Chikahajjaj Village, Doddabalevangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District Respondent: The Tahasildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of Husband of petitioner No.1, and Father of petitioner No.2 & 3 and by name K.N. Krishnappa who died on 15.05.2021. In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 28-10-26 at 11:00 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 23rd day of September 2026.
By Order of the Court
Shirestedar, 1st Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Pri Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura Advocate For Petitioner: Sri C.Vijaykumar, Doddaballapura-561203.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, B K PADMARAJ YEKKAR S/O BUBHA MOOLYA, R/o 2-40/3 Krishna Nilaya, Tenka Yekkar Padavu, Tenkayekkar, Permude, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka-574509, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PADMARAJ YEKKAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, RUQSAAR KOUSAR J. W/o. Syed Irfan, resident of Old No 55, New No 7/8, L Cross, 3rd Main Road, Billmilla Nagar, Bengaluru -560029, have changed my name to RUKSAR KOUSER, vide affidavit dated: 23.09.2026, before Notary R Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIED
To Place Classified ad
Contact : 080-41209042

AFFIDAVIT
I, Achyutha R., S/o Rangadhamaiah, residing at Sumanagalli Badavane, Hirebidanur, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District-561208, hereby declare that my Class 10 CISCE Marksheet and Passing Certificate, issued by All Vidyandhi Public School, Gaubidanur, bearing Index No. 8259199, Year of Passing 2024, were lost/misplaced near Gaubidanur Bus Station between 05.09.2026 and 07.09.2026. Loss has been reported to Gaubidanur Police. I request the concerned authorities to issue duplicate copies of the said documents. Vide affidavit Dated 22.09.2026. Sworn before Advocate and Notary Muniswamy Reddy at Gowribidanur.

NAME CHANGE
I, MAQSOOD PASHA S/O LATE DAOOD SAB, residing at: 2nd Cross, Tippu Masjid Main Road, Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara-562159, I declare that my original name is MAQSOOD PASHA S/O LATE DAOOD SAB, the said name is entered in my Adhaar Card bearing No. 3972 6278 8430. I declare that I obtained passport from the passport office bearing document No. P8163020. But in my passport Document my name is entered as MAKSID PASHA S/O LATE BASHA SAB, Hence I am swearing that both the names entered in the above documents are one and the same and rectify my name in my passport as MAQSOOD PASHA S/O LATE DAOOD SAB. Sworn before Notary B.M. Srivastha, on 09-09-2026 Ramanagara.

US-CHINA SUMMIT

Trump, Xi meet amid deep tensions

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping to Washington on Wednesday for a three-day visit that will put trade, technology, Taiwan and Iran at the centre of discussions between the world's two largest economies. Xi's visit is his first to the United States in nearly three years, with Trump planning an elaborate reception at the Maryland military base where Air Force One is hosted. The programme includes a White House military ceremony, a state dinner attended by

prominent technology and business figures, and a visit to the National Archives. The summit comes as Washington and Beijing seek

The two sides would discuss major issues affecting their relationship, with the summit coming as Washington and Beijing seek greater stability.

- Donald Trump, US President

Expected to press China's position on Taiwan and oppose US arms sales, while Washington maintains its existing policy on Taiwan.

- Xi Jinping, China President

to maintain stability while facing disputes over tariffs, rare-earth minerals, technology controls and Taiwan. Their 11-month trade truce is due to expire in November, adding pressure to the discussions. Xi is expected to raise Beijing's position on Taiwan, including concerns over US arms sales to the island.

Washington, meanwhile, is expected to maintain restrictions on sensitive technology exports despite Chinese objections. The leaders could nevertheless pursue narrower agreements, including measures involving specific tariffs, drug trafficking, military-to-military communication and co-

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Jay Meena wins India's first-ever soft tennis medal

Jay Meena created history at the Asian Games, winning India's first-ever soft tennis medal after reaching the men's singles semifinals.

NAGOYA

Jay Meena created history at the Asian Games 2026 by securing India's first-ever medal in soft tennis after winning bronze in the men's singles event on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old Indian lost 2-4 to Japan's Takuya Kurosaka in the semifinal at Nagoya. Meena, competing in his third Asian Games after appearances in 2018 and 2022, fought back strongly after falling three games behind but could not maintain the momentum in the 45-minute contest.

Kurosaka won the opening three games 5-3, 4-1 and 4-1 to take control of the semifinal. Meena responded with a determined comeback, winning the fourth game 4-1 before taking the fifth 6-4.

However, the Japanese player regained control in the sixth game, winning 4-1 to close out the match and secure his place in the final.

Despite the semifinal defeat, Meena's run guarantees him a historic bronze medal and gives India its first-ever podium finish in soft tennis at the

Asian Games. Meena's achievement adds to India's growing medal tally at the Aichi-Nagoya Games and marks a significant milestone for the sport in the country. His performance also highlights India's progress in a discipline in which the country had not previously won an Asian Games medal.

Woman of Steel: Mirabai adds Asian Games silver to medal haul

Mirabai Chanu won her maiden Asian Games medal, lifting 198kg for silver in the women's 49kg category at Aichi-Nagoya.

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu secured silver in the women's 49kg category at the 2026 Asian Games on Wednesday, completing a medal collection that includes Olympic and Commonwealth Games honours.

Chanu lifted a combined 198kg, successfully completing all three snatch attempts at 83kg, 85kg and 87kg. She then lifted 107kg in her opening clean and jerk attempt before clearing 111kg in her second attempt.

North Korea's Ri Song Gum won gold with 215kg, while Wijayana claimed bronze.

The medal marked Chanu's maiden podium finish.

KEY MOMENTS AT A GLANCE	
Historic	2nd Indian weightlifter to complete major multi-event medal set
Medal	Asian Games silver
Total	198kg
Snatch	83kg, 85kg, 87kg
Clean & jerk	107kg, 111kg
Gold	Ri Song Gum — 215kg
Bronze	Wijayana
Milestone	First Asian Games medal for Chanu

Games. She had missed out on a medal at the 2023 Hangzhou Games after an injury forced her to withdraw from her final clean and jerk attempt, leaving her fourth.

The 32-year-old now becomes only the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleshwari to win medals at the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Asian Championships and Commonwealth Championships.

Chanu's career includes Olympic silver at Tokyo 2020, three Commonwealth Games gold medals and multiple World and Asian Championship medals. Her breakthrough came at the 2017 World Championships, where she won gold.

Born in Nongpok Kakching, Manipur, Chanu began formal weightlifting training in 2008. She later trained at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala under coach Vijay Sharma.

Away from competition, Chanu serves as Additional Superintendent of Police (Sports) in Manipur Police and is involved in promoting weightlifting among young girls through the Weightlifting Warriors Academy in Uttar Pradesh.

Roshibina enters wushu final, assures India silver

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian wushu star Roshibina Devi advanced to the women's 60kg Sanda final at the 2026 Asian Games on Wednesday, assuring India of at least a silver medal. She defeated Indonesia's Thania Kusumaningtyas 2-0 in the semifinal to book her place in Thursday's title clash against China's Zhang Xiaoyu.

Roshibina's latest achievement equals India's best-ever performance in wushu at the Asian Games. The Manipuri athlete had won silver at the 2023 Hangzhou Games and is now assured of another medal at Aichi-Nagoya. She had earlier secured a semifinal berth after defeating Macao, China's Chu Man Sin in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, which had guaranteed her at least a bronze.

Her journey at this edition has been particularly notable as she was not part of India's

original squad. Roshibina entered the team after Divyanshi, who was initially selected for the event, was ruled out because of an injury. She has since made the opportunity count by progressing to the gold-medal contest.

Roshibina will now face Zhang Xiaoyu of China in the final on Thursday, with a gold medal at stake. A victory would give her a second Asian Games gold, while a silver would add to her medal collection after her previous second-place finish in Hangzhou.

India added several medals on Wednesday and stood 13th in the overall standings with 12 medals. Mirabai Chanu won silver in women's 49kg weightlifting, while the men's badminton team secured bronze after losing 3-1 to China. India also won bronze in both men's and women's skeet team events, while Jay Meena claimed bronze in soft tennis.

Indian men's badminton team wins Asian Games bronze

AICHI-NAGOYA

India secured the bronze medal in the men's badminton team event at the 2026 Asian Games after losing 3-1 to China in the semi-final in Aichi, Japan, on Wednesday. The result ensured India remained on the podium for a second successive edition of the Games.

Lakshya Sen faced Shi Yuqi in the opening match but went down 21-16, 21-18. Sen started strongly and managed to level the second game at 16-16, but the Chinese player held his nerve to close out the contest and give China an early lead.

Reigning Asian Games men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then levelled the tie for India with a 21-11, 22-20 victory over reigning world champions Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang. The Indian pair dominated the opening game before surviving a strong fightback in the second. After China saved two match points to make it 20-20, Satwik and Chirag converted their third opportunity to win.

India, however, could not complete the comeback. Ayush Shetty lost 21-19, 21-13 to world No. 12 Li Shi Feng, putting China 2-1 ahead. In the fourth match, Hariharan Amsakarunan and



MR Arjun were beaten 21-16, 17-21, 21-9 by He Ji Ting and Liu Yi, sealing China's place in the final.

India had entered the semi-finals after defeating hosts Japan 3-0 in the quarter-finals. The team had assured itself of a medal with that victory. India had won silver at Hangzhou 2023 after losing 3-2 to China in the final.

MANU BHAKER FINISHES 5TH AS INDIA MISSES 10M AIR PISTOL MEDAL

NAGOYA

Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker finished fifth in the women's 10m air pistol final at the Asian Games 2026 on Wednesday, while India narrowly missed a medal in the team event.

Bhaker, who had qualified third for the individual final with a score of 579, finished fifth with 181.1 points in the eight-shooter final.

India also missed out on a medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event, finishing fourth behind Vietnam. The result meant the Indian contingent returned without a podium finish in the event.

Bhaker's appearance marked another major international outing for the Indian shooter, who has previously won two Olympic medals. She had entered the Asian Games for the final time.

Indian women's skeet team wins historic Asian Games bronze

AICHI-NAGOYA

India's Raiza Dhillon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Maheshwari Chauhan won a historic bronze medal in the women's skeet team event at the 2026 Asian Games on Wednesday, securing the country's first-ever medal in the category.

The Indian trio finished third with a combined score of 331 points. Dhillon and Dhaliwal scored 111 points each out of 125, while Chauhan contributed 109.

China claimed the gold medal with 346 points, while Kazakhstan took silver.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the three shooters, describing the achievement as a "proud moment for Indian sports". In a post on X, he praised their focus, precision and teamwork and wished them success in their future competitions.

India also won bronze in the men's skeet team event, with Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Ahmed Khan and Bhavtegh Singh Gill finishing third with 346 points. The Indian trio defeated Kazakhstan in a shoot-off to secure the medal.

Naruka also advanced to the men's skeet individual final.

Meanwhile, Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker qualified for the women's 10m air pistol individual final but finished fifth. Suruchi Inder Singh and Esha Singh failed to qualify for the final.

The women's skeet medal adds to India's growing medal tally at the Aichi-Nagoya Games and marks a significant milestone for the country in the discipline.

Indian table tennis pairs enter Asian Games quarter-finals

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian mixed doubles pairs Harmeet Desai-Yashaswini Ghorpade and Manush Shah-Diya Chitale advanced to the quarter-finals of the 2026 Asian Games after winning their respective Round 3 matches on Wednesday. Manush Shah and Diya Chitale produced a dominant performance against Maldives' Ahmed Moosa and Aishath Nazim, winning 3-0 in just 15 minutes. The Indian pair registered scores of 11-0, 11-7 and 11-6.

Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade also secured a place in the last eight after defeating Hong Kong, China's Yiu Kwan To and Ng Wing Lam 3-1. The Indians won the contest 11-6, 11-5, 10-12, 11-7.

The victories strengthened India's campaign in table tennis at the Aichi-Nagoya Games, with both mixed doubles combinations progressing to the quarter-finals.

India's medal tally stood at 10, including gold medals in cricket, soft tennis and mixed martial arts, along with seven medals in shooting. India was eighth in the standings, while China led with 60 medals. Elsewhere, India's shooting contingent added two bronze medals, with the women's and men's skeet teams finishing third. Jay Meena also secured India's first Asian Games medal in soft tennis, winning bronze in the men's singles.

Afghan cyclist Hashimi wins Asian Games silver

NAGOYA

Afghanistan's Fariba Hashimi won silver in the women's cycling road race at the Asian Games on Wednesday, overcoming major challenges to pursue the sport in her home country.

Hashimi said training in Afghanistan was difficult because of restrictions on women's participation in public life. To continue cycling, she disguised herself as a man while travelling to training sessions and sometimes covered her face to avoid being recognised.

Despite those obstacles, the cyclist progressed to the international stage and secured a silver medal in Nagoya. Her achievement marked a significant moment in her career and highlighted the challenges faced by female athletes seeking opportunities in countries where women's sporting participation is restricted.

Hashimi's journey into cycling was also supported by her determination to continue training despite the risks involved. She eventually competed internationally, where she was able to develop her skills and represent Afghanistan at major sporting events. At the Asian Games, she produced a strong performance in the women's road race to finish second and claim the silver medal. The result adds to Afghanistan's presence at the continental sporting event and brings attention to the difficult circumstances under which some athletes pursue their careers.

Speaking to the Associated Press in Shinshiro, Japan, Hashimi recalled how she had to conceal her identity during training in Afghanistan.