

‘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.

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.

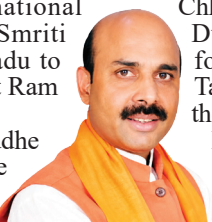
BJP appoints state in-charges, Harish Dwivedi gets Karnataka

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 Sahasrabudde 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 Dwivedi & Karnataka. Tarun Chugh was named the in-charge for Gujarat. Ram Madhav was named BJP in-charge for Tamil Nadu.



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.

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 interac-

tive 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-

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.

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?"

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.

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.



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 convener 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-

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-

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

Priyank Kharge hits back at BJP over funds

Kharge said Karnataka was being denied its rightful share of central assistance, worsening the state's financial pressures.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday accused the Centre of withholding Karnataka's statutory funds amid BJP protests over the state's financial situation.

Kharge was reacting to BJP demonstrations at the Kengal Hanumanthaiah statue in Bengaluru, where party leaders alleged financial mismanagement, bankruptcy and diversion of funds meant for Dalit communities.



"The Modi government has given us nothing, only an empty box."
- Priyank Kharge, Home Minister

NDRF fund dispute
■ NDRF: Centre-state dispute over disaster relief funds
■ Drought: Kharge questions Centre's norms
■ Farmers: Calls for loan waiver

He said Karnataka had been forced to approach the Supreme Court seeking funds under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), claiming the Centre released funds only after

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.

Lokayukta raids uncover Rs 29.62 crore assets

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Lokayukta searches across Karnataka uncovered assets worth Rs 29.62 crore linked to eight officials facing disproportionate assets cases.

Karnataka Lokayukta sleuths conducted searches at more than 33 locations, including residences, offices and premises of relatives of the officials. The searches covered Bengaluru, Chikballapur, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru South, Mandya, Kodagu, Dharwad and Bidar districts.

The officials named in the cases include Darshan Gowda, First Division Assistant in the Chikballapur Deputy Commissioner's office; retired Greater Bengaluru Authority Assistant Executive Engineer H M Ranganath; Bengaluru District Registrar Sridevi; and Madikeri Municipal Commissioner H R Ramesh.

Others include HESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer Kiran Baindur, GESCOM As-



Searches spanning eight districts brought to light extensive properties, cash, jewellery and investments allegedly linked to eight officials.

Assistant Executive Engineer Rajeshwari Babalad, retired Agriculture Officer Manik Rao and Mandya Backward Classes Welfare Department Hostel Superintendent Shivaraju M.

The searches reportedly resulted in the detection of movable and immovable assets, including houses, plots, agricultural land, gold and silver ornaments, vehicles, cash and bank fixed deposits.

Sridevi was found to have disproportionate assets valued at Rs 6.8 crore. Searches linked to her uncovered two plots, two houses, agricultural land and a garment factory worth Rs 2.3 crore, besides Rs 31 lakh cash and gold and silver ornaments worth Rs 35.5 lakh.

Ranganath, who retired on

LOKAYUKTA RAIDS

Lokayukta police registered eight disproportionate assets cases against government officials across Karnataka. Searches at more than 33 locations reportedly uncovered assets worth Rs 29.62 crore. The seizures and property findings included cash, gold and silver ornaments, houses, plots, agricultural land, vehicles and fixed deposits. Cases were registered at Lokayukta police stations in Bengaluru City, Chikballapur, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru South, Mandya, Kodagu, Dharwad and Bidar.

August 31, was found with Rs 1.03 crore cash, two plots, four houses and about 10 acres of agricultural land. Gold worth Rs 40 lakh and a fixed deposit of Rs 1.42 crore were also recovered. His disproportionate assets were estimated at Rs 3.85 crore.

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.

The event also witnessed the presentation of the Nataka Akademi's annual awards and various endowment awards to recipients for their contributions to theatre and related fields. Senior actor and former Legislative Council member Mukhyamantri Chandru, Nataka Akademi president Dr K V Nagarajamurthy, Kannada Development Authority chairman Dr Purushottama Bilimale and Sahitya Akademi president Mukundaraj attended the programme.

Senior theatre personality Srinivas G Kappanna, Kannada and Culture Department Director Dr Vasundhara, Registrar Neelamma and Sheikh Master were also present. The award ceremony brought to-



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.

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.

FISCAL CONCERNS

The Karnataka Finance Department has flagged limited fiscal space while examining a Rs 10,000-crore rural road connectivity scheme. It cautioned that launching major projects without budgetary provision could create cash-flow and fiscal-management challenges. Karnataka's fiscal deficit for 2026-27 is projected at 2.95 per cent, close to the permitted 3 per cent limit. Pending bills in four departments alone total Rs 36,136 crore.

Quick Read

Bhadravati court convicts man in assault case

CH NEWS,SHIVAMOGGA
The Additional District and Sessions Court (FTSC-1) has sentenced a 49-year-old man to 5 years in prison and a fine of Rs 15,000 for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old minor girl. In 2024, a case was registered at the Paper Town police station in Bhadravati against a 49-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl. The then PSI Kavita, who registered the case, investigated the case and filed a chargesheet against the accused in the court. After the case was heard and the charges against the accused were proven, Judge Ninganagouda Bha Patil sentenced the accused to 5 years in prison and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000. It ordered that the aggrieved girl be given a compensation of Rs 50,000. Sridhar had argued on behalf of the government

Liquor party with rowdy sheeters, ASI suspended

CH NEWS CHIKKAMAGALUR
An incident has taken place in Kadur, where an ASI who had an oil party with rowdy sheeters has been suspended and an order has been issued. Chikkamagaluru SP Jitendra Kumar Dayma has issued an order suspending ASI Veerendra of Sakharayapatna police station in Kadur taluk. ASI Veerendra had organised a party in a bar and played loud songs the whole night. Against this backdrop, villagers had protested in front of the bar overnight. Hundreds of villagers, including women, had protested demanding that the bar be closed. The incident took place a week ago in Emmedoddi Muslapura village of Kadur taluk. The suspension was ordered after continuous complaints were received.

Congress party needs a cleanup, HS Sundaresh

CH NEWS,SHIVAMOGGA
HS Sundaresh, Chairman of Shivamogga Urban Development Authority (SUDA), has opined that the Congress party needs a cleanup. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, he stated that the Congress party is on the decline in the district. Genuine Congress members are being undervalued, while positions in boards and corporations are being handed out to random individuals. He alleged that ministers are not paying attention to this matter and that certain individuals close to them are making financial demands. He also criticised the manner in which the District Congress President was appointed,

District judge inaugurates training for volunteers

CH NEWS,CHIKKAMAGALUR
Ignorance of the law is not forgivable. Legal knowledge should reach every citizen of the society. Legal aid volunteers should work as a bridge between the common people and the judicial system, said District and Sessions Judge Ravindra Hegde. He was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day rehabilitation training programme for Legal Aid Volunteers (PLVs) organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Bar Association



Charmadi Ghat road widening sparks controversy

NOT ONLY ENVIRONMENTALISTS BUT ALSO FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER ROAD WIDENING

CH NEWS,MANGALURU

The plan to cut down a large number of trees for the widening of National Highway-73 (NH-73), which passes through the 'Charmadi Ghat' in the Western Ghats, which is considered a landslide-prone area, has sparked a huge controversy. Environmentalists have expressed their anger over the forest department's approval of the project without conducting a proper geological and landslide study and without examining the impact on the tiger corridor. The National Highways Division of the Public Works Department (PWD) has proposed to acquire 38.70 acres of forest land for widening the existing road on the main 11.2-km stretch of Charmadi Ghat into a two-lane road with paved shoulders. Explaining this, the Executive Engineer of the National Highways Department said,



the road in the Charmadi Ghat section is very narrow and has sharp turns. The traffic here is increasing day by day. The current width and design of the road are not adequate for the movement of heavy goods vehicles. Due to this, the public is facing heavy traffic congestion, delays and accidents, defending the widening project. However, the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), who inspected the area of the project, clearly mentioned that the area is part of the 'Tiger Corridor'. Out of the road area, about 5.33 km of forest

land and 1.75 km of non-forest land directly fall within the tiger corridor, they said in their report. Forest Force Chief and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Meenakshi Negi recommended sending the project to the central government for further statutory approvals. While the letter addresses some of the concerns raised by the DCF, the absence of any reference to the submission or review of a 'wildlife mitigation plan' or 'landslide mitigation plan' has angered environmentalists.

If the road is widened, the movement of large animals will be obstructed, the speed of vehicles will increase, and the risk of animal deaths will increase, and the human-wildlife conflict in the neighboring Belthangady and Mudigere areas will become even more severe, warned Environmentalist M Vivek.

Environmentalist M Vivek, who had written to the Forest Department in June against the pace of the project, has again expressed deep concern over the department's approval of the project despite its legal and technical shortcomings. The area is home to not only tigers and elephants, but also a small population of extremely rare and endangered Lion-Tailed Macaques. As many as 7,540 trees belonging to 52 different species are being cut for the project.

Missing man found dead in Koteshwara pond

CH NEWS,UDUPI

A 37-year-old man reportedly committed suicide by jumping into the Kotiteertha temple pond in Koteshwara on Tuesday night. His body was recovered from the water on Wednesday morning. The deceased has been identified as Padmanabha Acharya, son of Mahabala Acharya and a resident of Hodrali Kolanakatte near Koteshwara. According to sources, Padmanabha was previously employed at a tile factory in Kundapur but had been unemployed for the past four months. He left home on Tuesday morning and failed to return by nightfall. His two-wheeler was later found parked near the temple. Despite a search by his family members, his whereabouts remained unknown. Suspicions that he might have jumped into the water arose when his slippers and cap were found on the eastern steps of the Kotiteertha pond, prompting a search operation on Wednesday morning.

Technical issues halt Shivamogga flight operations

CH NEWS,SHIVAMOGGA

Tourism in the district has taken off after the airport was built. But for some reason, the flight operations have been suspended, leaving people disappointed. The Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Airport, built at a cost of Rs 450 crore in Sogane, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 27, 2023. Flight services began in August of the same year. This has opened a new route of air connectivity not only to Shivamogga but also to the surrounding areas. Earlier, one had to travel from Bengaluru to Shivamogga by road or train and from there to the tourist destinations. Now, many tourists who come by road or by plane have the opportunity to travel to various places in a short time. This has helped in attracting tourists from the big cities.

The district is home to a host of attractions that attract tourists, including the grandeur of Jog Falls, the lush green forests of Agumbe, the nature of Thirthahalli, the historical beauty of Sagar, the Sakrebailu elephant camp, and the biodiversity of the Bhadra forest area. If tourists from distant cities can easily reach these destinations through the airport, it will further boost local tourism. Tourism cannot be fully developed just by building an airport. In addition to air connectivity, good roads, tourist guides, safe accommodation, cleanliness, local transport and tourist destination infrastructure are also necessary. As the number of tourists increases, the demand for hotels, homestays, resorts, tourist vehicles, local food stalls, and tourist guides has increased. This has created employment opportunities for local youth. IndiGo and SpiceJet temporarily suspended services in May due to technical and DGCA clearance issues, causing inconvenience to tourists. 38,647 passengers used the airport in 2023-24. 1.17 lakh in 2024-25 and 1.86 lakh in 2025-26. This shows how important the airport is for tourism in the Malnad region.

270 people undergo check-ups at free health camp

CH NEWS,UDUPI

Health camps will be organized in all the villages of the constituency in the coming days. The people of the village should give more importance to health,' said Udaya Shetty Muniyalu, President of the Muniyalu Udaya Krishnaiah Charitable Trust. He was speaking while presiding over a free eye check-up, cataract, dental and child health check-up camp organized at the Government Higher Primary School at Hebri, in collaboration with the Vinayak Friends Club Kuchur, Mallikarjuna Bhajana Mandali Belanje, Public Ganeshotsava Committee Shastrinagar, Brahmabaidarkal Rickshaw Station, Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Committee, Kodamanithaya Dhoomavati Garadi Trust Kuchur, Kuchur Kambala Sports Committee, Srikrishetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project, Shaurya Disaster Management Unit, led by Muniyalu Udaya Krishnaiah Shetty Charitable Trust.

YASHPAL SEEKS DISTRICT HOSPITAL INAUGURATION SOON

CH NEWS,UDUPI

MLA Yashpal Suvarna met Health Minister UT Khader and submitted a golden request for the early inauguration of the new district hospital for public service and the upgrading of the Brahmarav Community Health Center to a taluk hospital. The construction work of the district hospital, which has been a long-awaited dream of the people of the district, was started in December 2021 and the work is currently nearing completion. He appealed to the Minister to complete the pending work soon, fully equip the district hospital with

all the necessary facilities and treatments, deploy the necessary staff, and dedicate the 250-bed district hospital to the public for public health services. Brahmarav in district has been formed as a new taluk for about eight years and is developing rapidly as a taluk center. The Community Health Center operating in Brahmarav town is providing important health services to the people of more than 30 villages of the taluk. He appealed to the Minister to upgrade the Brahmarav Community Health Center to a taluk health center in order to provide comprehensive and quality health services to the people of the taluk locally.

The Minister requested the Minister to allocate the necessary funds for the proper management of the Kusamma Shambhu Shetty Memorial, Haji Abdullah Mother and Children's Hospital and to start the construction of the BR Shetty Hi-Tech Super Speciality Hospital on PPP model in front of the Kusamma Shambhu Shetty Mother and Children's Hospital. He requested the Minister to give special attention to the establishment of a Government Nursing and Para Medical College and the parking of vehicles in the area where more than 30 feet have been dug for the purpose of parking the building.

2 convicted, 1 acquitted in Puttur murder

CH NEWS,MANGALURU

The court has announced a significant verdict in the murder case of Puttur youth Karthik Merla, which created a huge stir across the state. The 5th Additional District and Sessions Court of Puttur has issued an order awarding life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3 lakh each to two main culprits after they were found guilty of murder, a District Police release said. On September 3, 2019, a young man named Karthik Merla was brutally murdered in Sampya under Puttur Rural Police Station limits. In this regard, a case was registered at Puttur Rural Police Station. The then

investigating officer, Police Inspector Nagesh Kadri, who investigated the case, had collected appropriate evidence and submitted a chargesheet to the court against the four accused, Preethu @ Preetesh Sulaya, Charan, Kiran @ Mani and Santu @ Steven Montero. After a lengthy hearing, Judge Sadanand Naik of the 5th Additional District and Sessions Court sentenced Preethu @ Preethesh Sulaya and Kiran @ Mani to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3 lakh under Section 302 IPC (murder). They were sentenced to 3 months simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 500 under Section 341 IPC (unlawful obstruction).

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

Email: ddwcdmysore@gmail.com Ph: 0821-2495432

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಉನಿಮೈ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಹೊ.ಆ.ಸೇ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.09.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ನಿಲಯ, ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಿಗಳ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಣಾ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಸ್ಥ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ವಸತಿನಿಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ 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 ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ, 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, ಪರತ್ತುಗಳು, ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು, ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರರು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರನ್ನು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821-2495432 ಮೂಲಕ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

DIPR/DMYS/764KSMCA/466/2026-27

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

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.



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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 HLR, 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. 2) Mr. Arora Deepak, M/s M. M. Abrasnes, Designation: Partner, 65-A Industrial Area NIT, Faridabad 121001. Also at: H. No - 2799, Sector -7A, G T Faridabad Mathura Road, Faridabad 121001. 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, Halli bheemanna Gardenshanti, Bengaluru - 560027. 2) Mrs. Parvathamma (Co-Borrower), 16/1 4th Floor, Parasurama Garden, 2nd Cross, Ulsoor, Ulsoor 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. 21,55,81,78/- [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 Maintenance 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, Varthur Bengaluru-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, Doornanagar 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, BANGALURU 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, Seethammappa- Visakhapatnam, Akkayapalem Post, Visakhapatnam, 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, Srinagrapram, 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 1/1a2, 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: Horticulture, College Of Horticulture, Yelachannahalli - Mysore - 570018 Also at: No 04, Seebaina Mantli, Belachoga, Belagola - Mandya, Srinagapattna, 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.

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 ex-

plained 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

in public places. Officials asked vendors and residents to segregate waste and hand it over to the City Municipal Council's waste collection vehicles.

The campaign aimed to create greater public awareness about responsible waste disposal and strengthen sanitation practices across the city. Officials also emphasised that cooperation from residents, traders and civic workers was necessary to ensure effective implementation of waste management rules.

CMC Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment) Jaffer, Senior Health Inspector Rukmini, Junior Health Inspector Heena Kausar, and IIHS representatives Vidya, Ambarish and Yogesh participated in the programme. City Council community mobilisers were also present during the awareness activities.

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 Bammakkanavar, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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-

"If China will pressure, like they have to, between us like they had already, and India, it is enough to stop them."
Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukrainian President.

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 presidential 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.

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

Major Ports recorded 10 per cent growth, while Non-Major Ports rose 11 per cent during the month. Container volumes at Indian ports increased 10 per cent, contrasting with a 3 per cent decline in container volumes handled by Indian Railways. Among major cargo categories, iron ore volumes climbed 30 per cent year-on-year, while coal throughput increased 6 per cent. Adani

Ports reported a 19 per cent rise in volumes during August, with domestic operations estimated to have grown 10 per cent. India's export-import trade also strengthened, rising 18 per cent year-on-year in August. Containerisable trade, excluding petroleum, oil, lubricants, gems and jewellery, grew 21 per cent, with exports increasing 23 per cent and imports 20 per cent.

BOND MARKET PUSH

India needs deeper bond market for growth

"The financial system must now increasingly move from accommodating growth to enabling growth."
P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.



system must now increasingly move from accommodating growth to enabling growth," he said.

Mishra said different sectors require different forms of financing, with long-gestation assets needing long-tenure capital, innovation requiring risk capital, high-growth enterprises

needing equity and infrastructure requiring patient capital. He also stressed that corporate bonds and bank lending should develop together rather than being treated as separate areas.

India's financial system

has undergone significant changes over the past decade, supported by stronger bank balance sheets, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and expansion of the formal economy through the Goods and Services Tax. Mishra said stronger financial institutions had improved the country's ability to withstand external shocks.

He said the country would need to mobilise "very large volumes of capital" as investment requirements rise across infrastructure, enterprise and innovation. Mishra also said attracting overseas investment would depend on

creating predictable business conditions and strengthening the broader financial ecosystem to support sustained growth ahead too. He cautioned against complacency, citing rising trade barriers, volatile global capital flows, import dependence and rapid advances in artificial intelligence as challenges. "We cannot count on a friendly tailwind," he said. Mishra called for stronger manufacturing competitiveness and greater foreign direct investment, supported by stable tax policies, reliable contracts, improved logistics and faster clearances.



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 Vasisht 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.

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



"Enterprise transformation today is no longer about AI, cloud or modernisation in isolation. Organisations must navigate all three priorities simultaneously, often across complex application landscapes built over many years."
Debasish Chatterjee, Software Engineering leader, Deloitte India.

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.

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.

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.

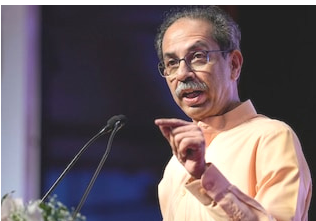
The Commission further said focusing on selected internal notes over a 10-month period did not present the complete picture of its functioning. It said major decisions and initiatives undertaken over the past year had received unanimous approval from the full Commission.

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 Samridhdi 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

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 official-

ly 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 Sindurula, 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 Tamil-laga 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,

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.

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.



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.

BUREAUCRACY INNOVATION DRIVE

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



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.

Greenland welcomes US deal, but trust still shaky

NUUK

Greenland's government and residents have expressed relief after the United States, Denmark and Greenland signed a security agreement aimed at easing months of tension over the Arctic island, while distrust towards Washington remains.

The pact, signed on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, allows the United States to expand its military presence in Greenland. It provides for new defence areas at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland and Mestersvig on the east coast, while also allowing expansion of the existing Pituffik Space Base.

For many Greenlanders, the agreement has eased concerns created by President Donald Trump's repeated statements about taking control of the island. Greenlandic MP Naaja Nathanielsen said she was "incredibly relieved" and described the outcome as sensible.

However, the deal has not



removed scepticism about Washington. Nathanielsen said Greenland had previously experienced a significant American military presence but that recent tensions had increased public distrust, making reassurance of residents necessary.

The agreement builds on a 1951 US-Danish defence pact and strengthens military cooperation in the strategically important Arctic region. It also maintains Greenland's position within the Kingdom of Denmark while addressing broader security concerns involving the Arctic.

The United States maintained numerous military installations in Greenland during the Cold War, when

US military presence in Greenland

The agreement permits new US defence areas at Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig and expansion of Pituffik Space Base. During the Cold War, the United States operated 17 military installations in Greenland, with more than 10,000 personnel at its peak.

American forces monitored Soviet activity. Today, Pituffik Space Base is the only active US military installation on the island.

Greenlandic officials have welcomed the agreement as a framework for security cooperation, but public reactions indicate that concerns about sovereignty, American intentions and the island's future relationship with Washington have not disappeared.

ICC convicts former Seleka Militia leader

CAIRO

Judges at the International Criminal Court on Wednesday convicted former Seleka militia leader Mahamat Said Abdel Kani of four counts of crimes against humanity linked to violence in the Central African Republic in 2013.

Said was accused of overseeing a detention facility in Bangui where people suspected of supporting then-President Francois Bozize were subjected to beatings, torture and other abuses. He denied all charges brought against him.

Presiding Judge Miatta Maria Samba said Said and others were involved in a plan targeting perceived supporters of Bozize. The court found him guilty of crimes against humanity including persecution and torture.

Judges, however, dismissed several war-crimes charges. They concluded that the armed conflict had already ended when some of the alleged crimes took

place, meaning those charges could not be sustained as war crimes.

Said showed little visible reaction as the verdict was delivered in The Hague. A separate hearing will be held to determine his sentence.

The case stems from the Seleka takeover of the Central African Republic in 2013. The predominantly Muslim rebel coalition, whose name means "alliance" in the Sango language, seized power and ousted Bozize, contributing to the rise of opposing anti-Balaka militias.

The ICC opened its investigation into violence in the Central African Republic in 2014. Said was surrendered to the court in January 2021, and his trial opened in September 2022.

His conviction marks the first time an ICC trial has resulted in a guilty verdict against a member of the Seleka militia. The court had previously convicted two anti-Balaka leaders over crimes committed during the conflict.

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 Clement 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.

Vs Respondent: The Chief officer, Bhassetihalli 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
Shirestdar, 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-

operation on artificial intelligence.

Iran is also expected to feature in the talks as the Middle East war continues to affect relations between Washington and Beijing. Both governments have interests in managing the wider consequences of the conflict.

The meeting follows preparatory diplomacy between the two countries and comes amid intense competition over critical minerals and AI. While the summit is designed to project stability, major differences remain across economic, technological and security issues.

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.



Support for Indian shuttlers

Karnataka Olympic Association president, FIBA Asia president and MLC Dr K. Govindaraj meets Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu, Chirag Shetty, Satwik Reddy, Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty during the 20th Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, on Wednesday, and wishes the team success.

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.

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 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 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.

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.