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KARNATAKA DROUGHT

It's Centre's duty to extend assistance: CM

With crop losses mounting and power pressures rising, K'taka will take an all-party delegation to Delhi and seek immediate central assistance for drought-hit regions.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said it was the Prime Minister's duty to provide assistance to the state as more than 200 taluks were reeling under drought, crops had been damaged, and the state was facing increasing shortages of power and water.

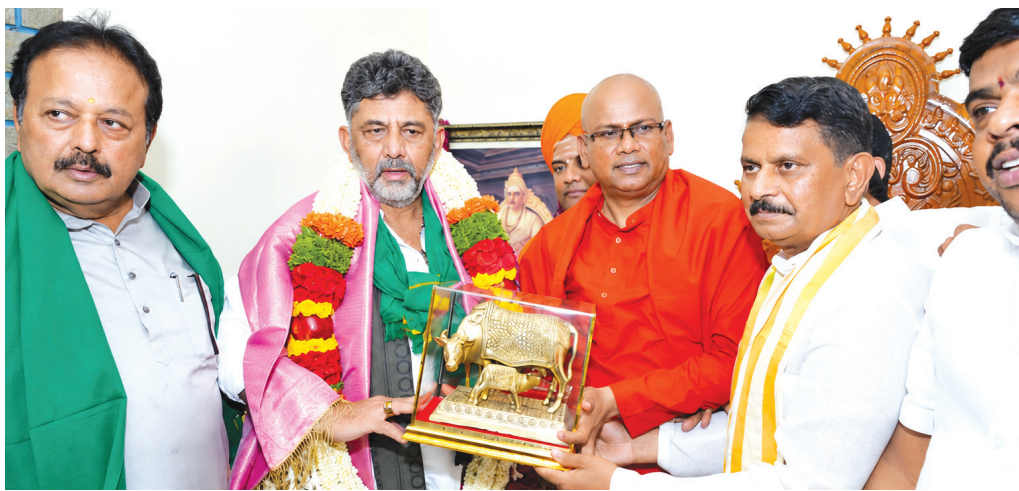
Speaking to reporters near his residence in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said the state government was seeking Central assistance to address the worsening drought situation.

"More than 200 taluks in Karnataka are reeling under drought, and farmers' crops have been destroyed. Power generation has declined, and the shortage of water has increased. Therefore, it is the Prime Minister's duty to provide assistance to Karnataka," he said.

All-party delegation to seek drought relief in Delhi

On the proposed visit of an all-party delegation to Delhi to seek drought relief, he said the delegation would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi after securing an appointment.

"The all-party delegation will go to Delhi. We have sought an appointment with the Prime Minister. The Deputy Chief Minister has conducted an in-depth study of the drought situation. Immediate interim relief should be provided now, followed by a detailed assess-



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar being honoured at a farmers' felicitation ceremony in Chitradurga on Thursday.

ment of the drought and additional assistance," he said.

He said the state would seek maximum interim assistance from the Centre as farmers faced crop losses and shortages of water and power.

He said the number of taluks declared drought-hit had crossed 200. He had earlier sought immediate financial assistance from the Centre, including Rs 1,852 crore as interim relief. The state had also submitted a memorandum seeking Rs 3,705.3 crore for immediate measures in 101 drought-declared taluks.

He expressed confidence that Opposition leaders and Members of Parliament from the state would support Karnataka's demand for relief.

The CM said the situation

was serious, with power demand reaching 20,000 MW. He claimed some states were purchasing electricity at Rs 20-Rs 23 per unit and said he had directed the Power Department to protect consumers from the impact of high electricity costs.

He said the government had also convened a meeting with sugar factory owners and would ask them to supply electricity generated by their units to the government by restricting its sale elsewhere.

He further said coal stocks at thermal power plants had fallen to about one day and urged caution in managing the power situation. "The government is exploring the possibility of setting up thermal power plants wherever feasible to address the power shortage," he added.

Drought relief push

Drought-hit taluks

200+

Earlier relief sought

₹3,705.3 crore

Interim assistance sought

₹1,852 crore

Power demand

20,000 MW

Electricity purchase cited

₹20 - ₹23/unit

Thermal coal stock

About one day

DKS seeks fresh SIR, CEC resignation

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday demanded Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and called for scrapping the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Shivakumar alleged the exercise could affect the voting rights of ordinary citizens, particularly illiterate and disadvantaged sections. Referring to Forms 6, 7 and 8, he sought a fresh revision of electoral data and a comprehensive review of the process. He also called for the issue to be discussed in Parliament, saying every eligible citizen should be allowed to exercise their right to vote.

Oppn to move Parliament motion to remove CEC

A notice submitted by Opposition MPs on April 24 seeking CEC's removal is pending in the Rajya Sabha. A fresh notice will be submitted amid latest revelations related to dissent within poll body.

NEW DELHI

The Opposition is likely to submit a fresh notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha amid allegations of irregularities in the functioning of the Election Commission and the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

This would be the third such notice against Gyanesh Kumar. A previous notice signed by 73 Opposition MPs submitted in the Rajya Sabha on April 24 is still pending, and the Opposition may withdraw it to make way for a fresh notice incorporating the latest allegations.

The new notice is currently being drafted and will be vetted by legal experts before being submitted in both Houses of Parliament, most likely next week, PTI reported.

L.N.D.I.A. bloc allies are working together on the fresh notice, and it is a collective effort, added the report.

DETAILS OF THE MOVE

Third attempt

As per reports, this marks the third parliamentary attempt by the opposition to initiate removal proceedings against CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Timeline

The joint opposition notice is currently being drafted and vetted by legal experts, with submission expected within the next couple of week.

Catalyst

The renewed push follows recent investigative media reports detailing internal dissent & objections among EC members regarding the SIR of electoral rolls & administrative handling.

Protests

Alongside the parliamentary notice, the Congress has directed its state units to organise protests outside regional Election Commission offices.

ECI row

• 14: Reported objections by two ECs

• 10 months: Period covered

• 2: Commissioners named

• 3: Members of the ECI

• Sept 29: Scheduled CWC meeting

ECI's response

The Election Commission has rejected reports suggesting that SIR decisions reflected internal disagreement. ECI officials said all decisions, including those concerning electoral-roll revision, were taken unanimously with the approval of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. The clarification came amid reports that the two Election Commissioners had raised objections to several decisions over the past 10 months.

the centralised control of the electoral roll database.

The Election Commission, which has faced scrutiny over the concerns raised by the two commissioners regarding the SIR process, on Wednesday said differences in views and observations were a normal part of deliberations in any institution. It maintained that all its orders have full legal sanction and are issued in accordance with established statutory procedures.

Resign in 48 hrs or face stir: CJP ultimatum to CEC

New delhi: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar should resign from his post within 48 hours for the alleged irregularities in the EC and the SIR, else they will launch a nationwide protest. CJP

founder Abhijeet Dipke, speaking to reporters in Delhi, said that Gyanesh Kumar is the "biggest anti-national in the country". Accusing Gyanesh Kumar of deleting voters from the electoral rolls "intentionally" at the behest of the BJP, the CJP said the EC has been working to bulldoze the Opposition in all states. "The real force behind the BJP's electoral victories is CEC Gyanesh Kumar. He is the real hero of the BJP's performance. BJP's votes in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana, Assam and other States have increased after Kumar's appointment," Dipke alleged.

The CJP had cancelled its programmes scheduled for Thursday and said its leadership would address a press conference in Delhi on the "hijacking of India's democracy". This came after a report on Wednesday that 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 addition, deletion and restoration of voters and changes to the voter registration process during the SIR of electoral rolls. The Opposition has demanded the scrapping of SIR and the impeachment of Gyanesh Kumar.

CJP's 3 demands

Resignation of Gyanesh Kumar and initiating criminal proceedings against him.

Rolling back of the pre-SIR voter list (January 2025).

Repealing the 2023 law on appointment of the Election Commissioners.

Who ensured legal protection for CEC, asks Priyank

New delhi:

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharage questioned the institutional framework governing the Election Commission amid a row over the SIR.

He said Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had reportedly raised objections at least 14 times over 10 months regarding decisions and orders related to electoral-roll procedures and SIR. He questioned whether focusing on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar alone would address wider concerns about the functioning and structure of the poll panel. "Who designed the system, who concentrated the power and who ensured that the Chief Election Commissioner received legal protection from civil or criminal proceedings for acts done in the discharge of their official duties?" Priyank asked in an X post.

Priyank alleged that institutional changes had concentrated authority and questioned the accountability mechanisms applicable to senior election officials. He also alleged that democratic institutions had been weakened and said accountability should extend beyond individual officials. The Election Commission, however, said all its decisions, including those concerning SIR, were taken unanimously with the approval of all three commissioners.

Former Election Commissioner OP Rawat said the three-member commission functions through consensus or majority decision-making. He also said completed elections cannot simply be cancelled retrospectively.



NA Haris elected as president of Karnataka Minority Legislators Forum



BENGALURU: Shantinagar MLA and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Chairman NA Haris has been officially elected as the President of the Karnataka Minority Legislators Forum.

NA Haris was elected as President during a meeting of the Karnataka Minority Legislators Forum held under the leadership of Minister U.T. Khader at a private hotel in Bengaluru.

MLA Yasir Pathan has been elected as the General Secretary of the Forum, and Balkis Banu as the Joint Secretary. The Forum will work towards uniting elected representatives of the minority community and effectively bringing key community issues, development, education, employment, and matters related to social and economic progress to the attention of the government.

Rajya Sabha Member Mansoor Ali Khan, Minister Rizwan Arshad, MLAs Rahim Khan, Iqbal Hussain, and several other legislators and key leaders were present at the meeting. N.A. Haris was congratulated at the meeting on his election as the Forum's President.

Haris said "being elected as the President of the Karnataka Minority Legislators Forum is both an honor and a significant responsibility for me. I will make a sincere effort to effectively bring issues related to the community's problems, rights, and development to the government's attention. Through this forum, I will be a voice for inclusive equality, social justice, and all-round development. Heartfelt thanks to all the MLAs and senior leaders who placed their trust in me and entrusted me with this responsibility."

Through this forum, I will be a voice for inclusive equality, social justice, and all-round development. Heartfelt thanks to all the MLAs and senior leaders who placed their trust in me.

-NA Haris, MLA and BDA chairman

9 killed as bus catches fire in Greater Noida

GREATER NOIDA

Nine people were killed and many injured after a sleeper bus caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, in the early hours of Thursday.

The incident took place near the 33-km milestone under the Jewar Police Station area.

According to PTI, the bus was headed to Bihar from Delhi. The report said the Gautam Buddha Nagar police PRO confirmed that nine people had perished in the blaze.

Passengers described the scene inside the bus after the fire was noticed and smoke filled the vehicle. A passenger told ANI that he was asleep when someone woke him up and alerted him to the fire. He said the fire was in the front portion of the bus and there was smoke all around. He said he somehow managed to get down.

CM extended condolences CM Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the incident and extended his condolences to the families of those who died in the fire. He directed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured and to provide all possible assistance to the families of the deceased after communicating with them, according to an official statement.

Jharkhand minister's daughter among 4 killed as car rams into truck

JAMSHEDPUR: Four people, including the daughter of Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Deepika Pandey Singh, Trisha, were killed in an accident after their car rammed into a stationary truck on Marine Drive Road, under the Sonari police station area in Jamshedpur city on Thursday. "At least four people, including Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Dipika Pandey Singh's daughter Trisha Singh, have been killed... The others have been identified as Sarthak Agarwal, Naman Gupta and Vanshika Khandelwal," said the Sonari police station officer-in-charge Sanjay Suman. Visuals from the location show that the impact left the car severely damaged, with its upper portion crushed and the vehicle wedged under the truck; all four were trapped inside the car. The stationary truck was parked near the divider after it broke down, allegedly without any visible reflector warning signs. Their bodies were taken out using a gas cutter to cut through the damaged car, they were sent to MGM Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed condolences over the incident. In a post on the social media platform X, Soren said the incident has left his heart profoundly grieved.

WHEN PEACE ELUDES

Russian strikes kill 8 in Ukraine

KYIV

Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine overnight killed at least eight civilians, officials said Thursday, as Moscow's 4½-year-long invasion of its neighbor grinds on despite renewed appeals for a settlement at this week's UN General Assembly.

A strike on Ukraine's north-eastern Kharkiv region killed six agricultural workers and wounded 12 others, Interior Minister Ihor Vyhivskiy said. An attack on the capital Kyiv killed a man and a woman, he said, while officials in the southern port of Odesa also re-



ported a major bombardment. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed in a speech at the United Nations late Wednesday for countries to starve Russia of revenue through sanctions and trade bans, denying Moscow the money it needs to prolong the war. He and other leaders at previous UN general assemblies have sought to pressure

Moscow into giving up its ambitions in Ukraine.

But despite years of diplomatic efforts there is no sign of a breakthrough in ending a war that has had repercussions for the global food and energy supply, as well as severely straining relations between Russia and Western countries. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov repeated Moscow's demand for a comprehensive peace deal, not a temporary break in hostilities, following Ukraine's call for a complete and unconditional ceasefire.

"We believe it's necessary to seek peace, not a temporary truce," he told reporters.

Quick Read



Driver associations challenge HC bike taxi verdict in SC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Five major auto and taxi driver associations in Karnataka have approached the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court's verdict permitting bike taxis in the state. The petition argues that the High Court's January 23 directive—which ordered the state to consider registering motorcycles as contract carriages— infringes upon state transport policy powers and favors corporate aggregators. Representing groups like the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Auto Drivers' Association and the Greater Bengaluru Drivers' Association, the petition highlights that bike taxis threaten the livelihoods of approximately 1.5 lakh regulated auto and taxi operators in Bengaluru. Furthermore, the appeal cites safety concerns, regulatory disparities, and a 2019 expert committee report opposing bike taxis due to traffic and pollution risks. A detailed hearing on a separate state government appeal against the verdict is still pending in the Supreme Court.

MLA Sunil slams state over drought, zero balance treasury

BJP MLA V. Sunil Kumar launched a blistering critique against the ruling Congress over the drought crisis.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a blistering critique delivered during the high-voltage Legislative Assembly debate on the severe statewide drought crisis, Bharatiya Janata Party MLA and former minister V. Sunil Kumar launched a scathing verbal assault on the ruling Congress administration, accusing it of financial bankruptcy, administrative apathy, and an absolute betrayal of the farming community. Opening his remarks with a sharp rhetorical challenge, Kumar asserted that the state's leadership has completely lost touch with ground realities. "Let the thirty ministers look at their faces in a large mirror; then they will realize what they have achieved in these hundred days," he declared, mocking the administration's commemorative milestones while rural districts burn under acute water scarcity and crop failures. Kumar categorized the current administration not as a pro-farmer government, but as a "real estate government" focused entirely on commercial syndicates and business maneuvers rather than the welfare of the Annadatas (food providers). He criticized the executive machinery for failing to deploy timely precautionary measures ahead of the monsoon deficit, noting that while farming families face mounting debts, migration, and tragic distress suicides, the government has resorted to hollow gimmicks and high-profile publicity campaigns. Drawing sharp comparisons with neighboring states, Kumar pointed out that Tamil Nadu acted decisively by establishing specialized drought committees, enacting robust legal frameworks for lake and water management, and proactively identifying twelve districts as drought-affected to secure legal protections regarding river water sharing. In contrast, he argued, Karnataka's leadership was preoccupied with internal political maneuvers and leadership transitions in New Delhi while impending weather warnings went unheeded three months prior. Casting doubt on the state's fiscal health, Kumar warned against the distribution of empty assurances and unbacked financial promises. "Do not hand out blank cheques. Your ac-

Key highlights

■ Drought Management Failures:

Kumar criticized the government for delaying drought declarations, contrasting Karnataka's response with neighboring Tamil Nadu's proactive formation of drought committees.

■ Criticism of Leadership:

He slammed the Chief Minister's aerial tours in helicopters and accused cabinet ministers of neglecting rural constituencies instead of engaging with distressed farmers and local MLAs.

■ Agricultural Research Audit:

Questioning the utility of state-funded agricultural universities and research centers, he demanded accountability regarding practical advisory support extended during dry spells.

■ Financial Standing:

Warning against issuing empty assurances or "blank cheques," he asserted that the administration lacks funds to effectively combat the drought crisis.

Opposition demands immediate relief

With mounting pressure from lawmakers threatening resignations over delayed drought relief notifications, the debate exposed deep political fault lines regarding rural management and fiscal priorities.

Merely playing songs and flying around in helicopters won't solve the problem. This government prioritizes real estate and business while farmers face severe distress.



- Sunil Kumar, BJP MLA

count has a zero balance. The people will drive you out of town," he cautioned the treasury benches. He maintained that the state treasury lacks the necessary liquidity to provide immediate relief or sustain drinking water initiatives across parched taluks, rendering the administration entirely hollow. Furthermore, Kumar trained his guns on state-funded agricultural universities and specialized research institutions, questioning their utility during times of acute agrarian crisis.

'Intent to murder' charges for counterfeit meds rackets: CDSCO

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a major escalation of its ongoing crackdown on organized white-collar crime, the Karnataka government is actively considering invoking stringent charges of "intent to murder" against individuals and syndicates manufacturing and distributing counterfeit medicines, treating the illegal trade as a direct assault on human life. The stern policy shift comes as a specialized Special Investigation Team intensifies its multi-agency probe into the criminal networks flooding local markets with fake pharmaceuticals. Investigators are aggressively mapping the entire operational footprint, targeting kingpins, distributors, and facilitators who enable the supply chains. To dismantle the finan-

cial foundations of these illicit operations, the state administration has established close coordination channels between the Karnataka State Police, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Commercial Taxes Department to track hidden assets, tax evasions, and money laundering trails linked to the counterfeit drug mafia. In tandem with the state's aggressive legal offensive, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has introduced sweeping new nationwide regulatory guidelines targeting medical practitioners, retail pharmacists, and healthcare institutions to eliminate counterfeit distribution channels and curb widespread medication misuse. Under the newly mandated protocols, medical doctors have been formally instructed to

exercise extreme caution when prescribing critical pharmaceuticals, restricting heavy painkillers and broad-spectrum antibiotics strictly to cases of absolute clinical necessity. Physicians must now prescribe these medications at lower doses and for shorter durations, carefully evaluating each patient's age, underlying medical history, and concurrent drug regimens while strictly avoiding unnecessary therapeutic combinations. Concurrently, retail pharmacists and medical stores face rigid enforcement measures regarding prescription compliance. Pharmacies are explicitly barred from dispensing prescription drugs, specialized tonics, and restricted formulations without valid, dated orders from registered medical practitioners.

CWRC directs K'taka to release 4k cusecs to TN

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The inter-state Cauvery water dispute flared up once more as the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), during its crucial deliberation in New Delhi chaired by Vineet Gupta, issued a contentious directive requiring the Karnataka government to sustain daily releases of 4,000 cusecs of water downstream to Tamil Nadu over a successive fifteen-day period. This ruling has intensified political and social outrage across Karnataka, arriving at a juncture when the state itself is reeling from an acute hydrological drought, severely depleted reservoir storage levels, and widespread crop failures. Reacting swiftly to the committee's recommendation, state leaders expressed profound dismay, emphasizing that the formula fails to reflect ground realities. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar asserted that reservoir inflows into the Cauvery basin have plummeted dramatically due to a deficient southwest monsoon. Highlighting that upper riparian districts are struggling to secure adequate drinking water for local populations, the state administration announced plans to formally contest the recommendation through legal channels. Meanwhile, parallel judicial

proceedings have been advancing before the Supreme Court. Tamil Nadu approached the apex court seeking mandatory enforcement of cumulative water deficits and higher proportional allocations to support its agricultural delta requirements. During recent hearings, the Supreme Court directed Karnataka to submit a formal affidavit responding to neighboring petitions within a week, while instructing that existing regulatory compliance mechanisms remain active pending further judicial review. Legal counsels representing Karnataka have consistently underscored before both the judicial benches and regulatory authorities that the state is operating under extreme distress constraints. Officials pointed out that scores of taluks across the Cauvery basin have been officially declared drought-hit, rendering the remaining storage in reservoirs such as Krishnarajasagara (KRS) and Kabini critical for essential municipal consumption. Conversely, Tamil Nadu maintains that its farming community faces immense economic peril regarding long-term crop sustenance, arguing that upper riparian states must adhere strictly to proportional distress-sharing formulas. As regulatory bod-

Key highlights

■ Regulatory Directive:

The CWRC panel mandated the continued quantum discharge, ignoring ground reports high lighting severe depletion levels in Karnataka's river basin reservoirs.

■ Legal Battles:

Concurrently, the Supreme Court directed Karnataka to comply with ongoing Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) directives, instructed the state to file affidavits addressing Tamil Nadu's shortfall claims within a week, and adjourned hearings to October 12.

■ State Counter-Stance:

Karnataka legal teams continue to emphasize the acute distress and deficit monsoon realities facing local farmers, arguing against unviable water-sharing obligations during drought years.

CWRC ordered Karnataka to release 4,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu, triggering outrage amid severe statewide drought.

Escalating legal and political tensions

With statutory bodies continuing to mandate water releases despite low storage levels in key Cauvery basin reservoirs, political leaders in Karnataka have criticized the oversight of ground realities by central regulatory panels.

Bengaluru moderate AQI, poor air in 4 cities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Driven by monsoon rains and cool winds across Karnataka, the state's air quality remains largely in the 'Good' to 'Moderate' range, though traffic congestion and construction dust have pushed a few urban centers into the 'Poor' category.

Bengaluru's average Air Quality Index (AQI) stands at 72 to 75 (Moderate). While green sanctuaries like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh maintain clean air, heavier traffic corridors like Peenya, BTM Layout, Mysore Road have seen AQI readings approach the mark of 100. Heavy rainfall in hilly and

coastal districts like Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu has kept pollution levels extremely low, recording 'Good' AQI levels below 50. Hubballi, Mangaluru, Vijayapura, and Bidar slipped into the 'Poor' category (AQI 112-116) due to vehicular emissions and roadwork dust.

REWRITING NANDINI PRICES

Karnatak milk unions push for Nandini milk price hike

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Amid severe agrarian distress brought on by prolonged dry spells, Karnataka's cooperative milk unions have formally petitioned the state government for a substantial ₹8 to ₹10 per litre increase in both the procurement and retail selling prices of popular "Nandini" milk. The push for a price revision has gained strong momentum, with milk federation leaders and legislators raising the issue directly inside the Legislative Assembly. Dairy representatives argue that soaring input expenses, mounting maintenance overheads, and the crippling impact of drought conditions have pushed rural farming families to the brink, necessitating urgent

The milk unions' financial report and demands

■ Daily Procurement and Sales:

Across 16 functioning milk unions, Karnataka handles an average daily milk procurement of 1.04 crore litres, with daily sales of milk and curd touching 62.48 lakh litres via more than 15,000 producer associations representing over 25 lakh farming families.

■ Profit and Loss Breakdown:

Financial audits across 16 unions between April and July revealed that 11 unions are in profit (including Bamul with ₹15.73 crore, Hassan with ₹11.72 crore, and Mandya Manmul with ₹10.69 crore), while 5 unions incurred losses (such as Chikkaballapur with ₹11.88 crore and Kolar with ₹5.48 crore).

■ Comparative Procurement Rates:

Karnataka currently procures milk from farmers at ₹35 per litre—significantly lower than neighboring states like Andhra Pradesh (₹41.5), Kerala (₹41.8), Maharashtra (₹41), and Tamil Nadu (₹42.24).

If the selling price is raised and the entire amount is passed exclusively to farmers without supporting union expenses, district milk unions will face massive monthly losses.

- Cooperative Dairy Representatives

administrative intervention to safeguard the state's cooperative dairy network. Presenting the rationale behind the price hike, delegations from various district milk unions pointed out that dairy farming has grown increasingly unviable due to continuous escalations in cattle maintenance costs. High-grade cattle feed like "Nandini Gold" now costs around ₹23,950 per tonne, while specialized "Nandini Bypass" feed stands at ₹26,350 per tonne. Furthermore, widespread drought conditions have severely depleted agricultural crop yields, causing green and dry fodder availability to plummet while market prices surge. Union representatives stressed that Karnataka's coop-

erative societies currently procure toned milk from farmers at ₹35 per litre—significantly lower than neighboring states where procurement prices hover between ₹41 and ₹42 per litre (such as Andhra Pradesh at ₹41.50, Kerala at ₹41.80, and Tamil Nadu at ₹42.24). Consequently, Karnataka's retail milk prices remain at least ₹12 per litre cheaper than those in surrounding regions, leaving local cooperatives vulnerable to aggressive procurement competition from private dairies. An analysis of the financial health of Karnataka's sixteen cooperative milk unions between April and July highlights a mixed economic landscape. While eleven unions managed to post net profits—

led by Bengaluru (BAMUL) with ₹15.73 crore, Hassan with ₹11.72 crore, Mandya (Manmul) with ₹10.69 crore, and Shimoga with ₹9.22 crore—five major unions incurred notable losses. These included Chikkaballapur (₹11.88 crore loss), Kolar (KOMUL) (₹5.48 crore loss), alongside smaller deficits in Vijayapura-Baga Ikote, Raichur-Belari-Koppal, Haveri, and Kalaburagi unions. A central point of contention among union heads, including Hassan Milk Union Chairman H.D. Revanna, is how revenue generated from any potential price hike should be distributed. Past revisions mandated passing the entire financial benefit directly to farmers.

CH Observer

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Combating mounting civic neglect, Mathikere, Central Street, and Palace Cross Road residents demand immediate municipal intervention to clear hazardous garbage dumps, fix dangerous road ditches, and remove abandoned construction equipment threatening public safety.

+91 80730 57594



An enormous garbage dump on 15th Main Road, Mathikere Extension (right in front of Chandrappa Hotel), emits a severe stench affecting the entire neighborhood. Surrounded by colleges, PGs, schools, and eateries, this unhygienic site poses a major health hazard to students and residents alike. Immediate civic intervention is required.



A dangerous ditch spanning both the footpath and the road near Tawazo Café on 6th Main Road, AK Colony, Mathikere Extension, poses a major hazard to students and residents. Citizens urge municipal authorities to fix this critical safety risk immediately.



Residents along Central Street, off Serpentine Road, grapple with severely deteriorated road conditions throughout the entire residential stretch. The deeply damaged surface poses a daily safety hazard for children and senior citizens navigating the neighborhood, as well as significant risks for all commuters on the route.



Abandoned roadwork equipment on Palace Cross Road has languished for months, turning into an open site for garbage dumping and public spitting. Residents demand to know when authorities will finally clear the abandoned machinery and relieve the neighborhood of the mounting stench and unhygienic conditions.

BSCC Commissioner inspects waste management in Kasavanahalli

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh inspected localized composting and waste management in Kaikondrahalli and Kasavanahalli.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a strong push toward decentralized urban sustainability and community-driven cleanliness, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh conducted an extensive, ground-level inspection of waste management operations, vehicle tracking mechanisms, and localized composting models across the Kaikondrahalli and Kasavanahalli ward layouts.

The high-level administrative visit focused heavily on evaluating the operational efficiency of door-to-door municipal collection fleets alongside grassroots recycling paradigms that have successfully transformed localized sanitation outcomes.

During his early inspection tour, Commissioner Ramesh closely scrutinized the digital attendance registers and barcode-based scanning logs deployed to monitor the 34 designated auto-tippers servicing Kasavanahalli Ward. Stressing the administration's zero-tolerance policy toward irregular municipal services, he directed field engineering and health officials to enforce strict punctuality, ensuring that waste collection vehicles service every household daily at scheduled hours without causing public inconvenience.

The Commissioner noted that continuous daily collec-



tion drives have successfully eradicated chronic garbage "black spots" that previously blighted neighborhoods near the historic Yellamma Temple. However, observing that occasional illegal dumping by transient individuals persists in public spaces, he instructed deployed municipal marshals to levy immediate spot fines on offenders to deter further littering. He also lauded the active grassroots mobilization carried out by the 'Saahas' NGO, whose sustained public awareness campaigns have significantly improved household waste segregation habits across the ward.

A major highlight of the Commissioner's tour was his visit to localized composting installations managed directly by resident welfare groups. At GR Layout in Kaikondrahalli, Commissioner Ramesh warmly appreciated a community-led initiative spearheaded by local residents Praveen, Prashanth, and Nagendra, who successfully process 15 to 18 kilograms of wet organic kitchen waste daily through dedicated on-site aerobic composting units.

Similarly, at the expansive Reliable Lifestyle Layout, the Commissioner reviewed a large-scale decentralized pro-

• **Collection Compliance:** The Commissioner reviewed barcode-based digital tracking systems verifying the daily operations of 34 auto-tippers, instructing marshals to heavily penalize illegal dumping near cleared black spots.

• **Community Composting Models:** In GR Layout, residents Praveen, Prashanth, and Nagendra were commended for processing 15 to 18 kg of wet waste daily via on-site composting.

• **Large-Scale Processing:** At Reliable Lifestyle Layout, residents Ramesh, Mahesh, and Divya successfully oversee source segregation and composting for 350 households on a designated layout plot.

• **Eco-Friendly Innovation:** High-quality compost generated from the facility is actively utilized for local landscaping and fruit trees, with upcoming plans to introduce a dry branch shredding machine for complete zero-waste management.

Citizen-centric initiatives and community composting efforts serve as an inspiring model for other layouts across Bengaluru to achieve zero-waste goals.

- K.N. Ramesh noted, BSCC Commissioner

Fostering citizen led sustainability

Highlighting public participation as a cornerstone of modern municipal governance, civic authorities plan to replicate these decentralized composting models across other metropolitan layouts to minimize landfill dependency.

cessing model managed collaboratively by residents Ramesh, Mahesh, and Divya alongside neighborhood associations and waste management NGOs. Here, wet and dry refuse generated across 350 households undergoes rigorous source segregation before organic fractions are processed into nutrient-rich compost on a designated layout plot.

Highlighting the circular economy benefits of these projects, the Commissioner observed that the high-grade organic manure generated from these decentralized facilities is being directly reused to nourish local landscaping trees, lawns, and gar-

dens within the residential complexes, serving as an inspiring benchmark for other urban layouts.

To address yard waste and seasonal foliage accumulation, layout authorities have already installed a specialized leaf composter to handle falling leaves.

Building upon this success, resident associations presented new proposals to introduce heavy-duty dry branch shredding machinery, aiming to upgrade the neighborhood into a fully realized zero-waste enclave.

Minister identifies traffic, garbage as city's top challenges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has candidly identified severe traffic congestion and chronic waste management challenges as the twin existential crises plaguing India's tech capital, stressing that sweeping administrative restructuring and proactive citizen participation are essential to restore urban livability.

Speaking to media persons following a high-level stakeholder consultation on municipal sanitation, Minister Byre Gowda admitted that solid waste management remains one of the most complex governance hurdles facing the metropolis. To combat deep-seated operational inefficiencies, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced plans to introduce community-driven "Garbage Wardens," modeled directly after the city's traffic warden system, to empower residents and enforce grassroots accountability.

The Minister launched a sharp critique against systemic laxity among municipal



Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced plans to introduce community garbage wardens to combat Bengaluru's waste crisis and penalize defaulting municipal contractors.

contractors and field officials, pointing out that a vast majority of existing garbage collection vehicles are in a dilapidated, scrap-like condition, lacking the structural capacity to haul standard volumes of municipal waste.

Consequently, doorstep collection services have remained erratic across several neighborhoods, forcing the administration to issue heavy penalty notices totaling lakhs of rupees—including ₹18 lakh in the Bengaluru North zone alone—to defaulting contractors.

Addressing political sparring over sanitation disparities across assembly constituen-

cies, Gowda dismissed attempts to politicize urban cleanliness, urging opposition leaders to focus on systemic solutions rather than partisan blame. He confirmed that the administration is preparing fresh re-tenders to cover seven vacant zones after failing to secure bidders for specific contract packages, aiming to overhaul the city's outdated logistical framework.

Reiterating that government intervention alone cannot resolve the crisis, Gowda urged residents to partner with civic bodies by adhering strictly to source segregation protocols. The newly proposed garbage warden initiative seeks to bridge the gap between local communities and municipal enforcement, fostering a shared commitment to keeping Bengaluru clean, transparent, and efficiently managed.

GBA unveils plans to increase waste transport capacity

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has unveiled a comprehensive blueprint to restructure the metropolis's solid waste management framework, driven by direct stakeholder consultations and high-level administrative oversight. Speaking at a dedicated urban sanitation seminar hosted at the Jawaharlar Nehru Planetarium, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda underscored that sustainable cleanliness requires a synchronized approach bridging municipal accountability, logistical upgrades, and rigorous citizen participation.

The core challenge facing Bengaluru's sanitation machinery lies in a widening deficit between daily waste generation and operational clearance throughput. The city currently produces approximately 6,500 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, whereas legacy collection systems—relying heavily on fragmented, aging auto-tippers averaging roughly one tonne of capacity each—historically peaked at a collective handling threshold of around 5,200 tonnes. To overcome these structural limitations, the GBA has reorga-



It is my responsibility to ensure that the garbage collection vehicle reaches every house, but giving segregated waste directly to the vehicle is yours.

- Krishna Byre Gowda, GBA Minister

nized the city's 27 legislative constituencies into 33 distinct waste-management service packages. Under the newly rolling contractual framework, smaller sub-optimal vehicles are being systematically replaced by higher-capacity two-tonne and three-tonne transport vehicles. This fleet modernization will scale the city's overall daily waste collection and transportation capacity to approximately 9,000 tonnes, utilizing a deployed strength of roughly 4,500 modern, GPS-tracked vehicles.

To eliminate systemic opacity, real-time Global Positioning System (GPS) integration is being made mandatory across all garbage-collection fleets.

Blue Line: B'luru's 58 km airport metro 72% complete

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Namma Metro's expansive 58-kilometer Blue Line—formally connecting the crucial southern tech hub of Central Silk Board to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in the north—represents the single largest transit infrastructure undertaking in Bengaluru's history. Currently hovering at an overall civil work completion rate of 72%, the massive multi-billion-rupee corridor is being constructed across two distinct components: Phase 2A along the heavily congested Outer Ring Road (ORR) tech corridor between Silk Board and KR Puram, and Phase 2B extending northward from KR Puram to the airport terminals. Because of intricate multi-agency engineering challenges, land acquisition setbacks, and historical setbacks, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(BMRC) and state development authorities have recalibrated the launch schedule into a phased rollout culminating fully by March 2028.

The January 2023 Safety Setback: Construction velocity suffered an extended, mandatory paralysis along several sectors following a tragic under-construction pier collapse in early 2023, prompting sweeping safety audits, rigorous third-party structural re-evaluations, and intensified oversight across contractor camps.

Complex Multi-Track Integration at Hebbal: Engineering execution near Hebbal has proved exceptionally intricate. To eliminate the need for disruptive future retrofits when the proposed Orange Line is eventually built, BMRC is constructing an un-



precedented four-track elevated viaduct system and specialized three-pier portal structures along a dense one-kilometer stretch between Hebbal and Kempapura.

Urban Logistical Bottlenecks: Maneuvering heavy civil construction equipment through heavily choked arterial stretches along the Outer Ring Road has faced persistent hurdles, compounded

by complex utility shifting, delayed tree clearance permissions, localized traffic police constraints, and periodic skilled labor shortages.

Once fully operational, the Blue Line will serve as the structural backbone of Bengaluru's mass rapid transit network, featuring major multi-modal interchange hubs at Silk Board (with the Yellow Line), Nagawara (with the Pink Line), and Hebbal, fundamentally altering commuter mobility across the tech capital.

BECC forms veterinary teams for canine distemper

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Following the detection of multiple suspected and confirmed cases of canine distemper among stray dogs in the KR Puram zone, the Bengaluru East City Corporation has swiftly mobilized dedicated veterinary response teams to contain the highly contagious viral outbreak.

BECC Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar confirmed that specialized animal welfare and medical squads have been deployed across vulnerable localities in KR Puram and Mahadevapura to track infections, provide emergency care, and prevent further transmission within the street dog population.

Local resident Jishnu of Prakash Layout noted that alarmed citizens alerted municipal authorities after spotting strays exhibiting distress symptoms.

Quick Read



Regional hiring ban sparks massive social outrage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A local sports firm boss has caused massive online anger by refusing to hire job seekers from specific northern regions. Karthik, heading AI Sports World, shared that his company will stop employing men from states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He claimed this strict rule protects children because workers from those areas allegedly lack proper life values. Although one staff member backed him, social media users fiercely criticized the policy as unfair and regional bias. Many people demanded strict action against the firm for spreading discrimination, while others defended the controversial choice, deepening the ongoing debate online.

Guarantee schemes drain state treasury: Vijayendra

BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra accused Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of concealing a severe fiscal emergency and empty treasury coffers.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Launching a scathing critique of the state’s economic management, Bharatiya Janata Party State President B.Y. Vijayendra has accused Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of actively hoodwinking the public and concealing a severe fiscal emergency that mirrors structural bankruptcy.
Addressing reporters at the Vidhana Soudha, Vijayendra asserted that an official internal communication recently issued by the State Finance Department serves as an undeniable red flag regarding the treasury’s empty coffers, directly contradicting the administration’s public claims of robust fiscal health.
Vijayendra declared that Karnataka is witnessing an unprecedented economic crisis, noting that the government is struggling to disburse timely monthly salaries to state public sector employees and finding it increasingly difficult to deliver essential pension payments to vulnerable demographics, including senior citizens, widows, and differently-abled individuals.



Furthermore, mounting arrears, unpaid contractor bills across multiple infrastructure departments, and frozen developmental grants have brought routine governance to a near standstill.
Comparing the administration’s priorities, Vijayendra argued that while the government displays immense enthusiasm and administrative speed for high-profile mega-projects like tunnel roads and proposed airport connectivity toward Kanakapura, it demonstrates complete apathy toward the agrarian community suffering under severe drought conditions. He also strongly demanded immediate legal and administrative action against ruling party MLA Pradeep Es-hwar over contentious local controversies.

The Finance Department’s letter is a serious warning about the state’s financial position; the government must stop misleading the public and place the complete truth before the people.
-B.Y. Vijayendra, BJP State President

The opposition leader attributed the catastrophic fiscal deficit directly to the unscientific and financially unsustainable implementation of the ruling party’s flagship “Guarantee Schemes.” He pointed out that the massive recurring expenditure required to sustain these welfare promises has systematically starved essential capital works, agriculture support systems, and local bodies of vital funds.
Highlighting national parallels, Vijayendra noted that leaders and chief ministers in other Congress-governed states have openly acknowledged the heavy budgetary strain triggered by similar populist promises, citing instances in states like Himachal Pradesh where severe liquidity shortages have forced administrative debates

Escalating opposition protests
With the political fallout over state borrowings and unmet agrarian relief intensifying inside and outside the legislature, the opposition has vowed to widen statewide agitation holding the administration accountable for its fiscal trajectory.

over utilizing alternative revenue streams. In Karnataka, the recent official correspondence written by the Managing Director of the state transport corporation pleading for the urgent release of mounting unpaid dues under the free-travel ‘Shakti’ scheme perfectly exposes the grim reality behind official claims. Vijayendra demanded that the Chief Minister stop masking the state’s insolvency with superficial rhetoric and immediately release emergency relief funds to rescue the rural economy.

JD(S) questions state over financial crisis and schemes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Intensifying the political fallout over the state’s escalating fiscal emergency, the Janata Dal (Secular) has launched a blistering attack on the ruling Congress administration via social media, accusing the government of sacrificing Karnataka’s long-term economic development on the altar of populist “Guarantee” schemes.
The opposition party’s sharp critique follows leaked internal communications from the State Finance Department warning of severe budgetary exhaustion, mounting public debt, and an unprecedented liquidity crunch that has brought capital infrastructure projects to a grinding halt.
According to data cited by the party, the state’s revenue deficit has ballooned to a staggering ₹22,957 crore, violating core fiscal responsibility norms that mandate a zero-deficit target. The Finance Department’s internal review highlights that the administration has already exhausted its permissible borrowing limits, leaving virtually no fiscal headroom to raise capital for fresh developmental initiatives. Consequently, the government has failed to allocate a single paisa for new projects in the budget despite an estimated requirement of ₹11,000 crore, prioritizing populist payouts over sustainable economic growth.
The financial paralysis has severely impacted critical public works across multiple departments. Administrative bottlenecks have forced the suspension of major infrastructural undertakings, including a massive ₹10,000-crore rural development project aimed at constructing 15,000 kilometers of secondary roads across the state. Furthermore, outstanding payments owed to contractors across core departments, including the Public Works Department, have skyrocketed to an alarming ₹36,136 crore, threatening commercial solvency and halting regional development.
Compounding the crisis, the agricultural sector faces acute neglect amidst severe drought conditions. The state has failed to disburse between ₹4,500 crore and ₹5,000 crore in pending power subsidies for agricultural pumpsets, leaving debt-ridden farmers vulnerable. JD(S) leaders slammed Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar’s dismissive response to departmental warnings—asserting that as Finance Minister he dictates which programs to halt—as the height of fiscal recklessness. The party called on citizens to hold the administration accountable for mismanaging the treasury.

HC issues notices to Reddy in Ambident fraud case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a significant legal escalation concerning high-profile financial crimes, the Karnataka government has formally approached the High Court of Karnataka, challenging a lower court’s decision that previously discharged MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy and his associate Meh-fuz Ali Khan from the multi-crore Ambident company customer fraud case.
The high-stakes legal challenge came up for its initial hearing before a division bench presided over by Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde. Finding merit in the state’s petition, the High Court has officially issued formal judicial notices to both Gali Janardhana Reddy and Meh-fuz Ali Khan, compelling them to respond to the renewed prosecution efforts.
The state’s legal move arrives roughly eight months after the Special Court for People’s Representatives delivered its ruling on October 22, 2025, dropping the two high-profile figures from the charge sheet due to what it then deemed insufficient direct evidentiary material. The foundational allegations against Reddy and Khan center around accusations that they allegedly accepted a massive bribe of ₹20 crore from the prime accused operating the Ambident firm, with the explicit promise of leveraging political and administrative influence to shield the company from an aggressive probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Ambident financial scandal ranks among the most prominent multi-crore



Karnataka government challenged the lower court’s discharge of MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy in the Ambident fraud case.

investment scams to surface in Bengaluru, following a familiar playbook of fraudulent deposit schemes that duped unsuspecting retail investors. The underground financial network was orchestrated by the father-son duo, Syed Ahmed Fareed and Syed Afaq, who operated the firm outside regulatory bounds. The fraudulent operations first caught the attention of federal financial watchdogs when the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) flagged severe violations concerning international financial transactions and unauthorized deposit collections. Acting on these red flags, the Enforcement Directorate launched sweeping coordinated raids against the firm’s commercial offices and residential properties. During initial interrogations, the founders admitted to various financial irregularities and reportedly paid a penalty of ₹2 crore to bypass immediate federal scrutiny. However, while the firm’s promoters attempted to navigate the federal probe,

Key highlights

- **Case Background:** The high-profile financial scam involved allegations that Janardhana Reddy and Meh-fuz Ali Khan accepted ₹20 crore—including gold—to leverage influence and help Ambident directors evade an Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation.
- **Discharge Order:** On October 22, 2025, the Special Court for Elected Representatives discharged both individuals from the case, citing an initial lack of direct complainant-level evidence tying them to the primary cheating conspiracy.
- **Fresh Legal Push:** Eight months after the special court’s ruling, the state administration filed its appeal, seeking to reinstate proceedings and thoroughly re-examine the financial trails and conduit links.

their fraudulent activities had already devastated thousands of retail investors who lost their life savings, triggering criminal complaints at the K.G. Halli police station in Bengaluru.
As the Crime Branch (CCB) dug deeper into the financial trails, investigators uncovered alleged transactional links between the firm’s promoters and Gali Janardhana Reddy. Interrogation reports at the time suggested that the founders claimed portions of the diverted funds were funneled to Reddy and his associate to fix or manage the Enforcement Directorate investigation.

KSRTC Announces Extra Buses For Long Weekend

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Traveling this upcoming long weekend just got easier. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation will run eight hundred and fifty extra buses from Bengaluru to manage the heavy holiday rush for Gandhi Jayanthi and the weekend from October second to fourth.
Special services begin on October first and second. Buses heading to coastal and northern towns will leave from Majestic, while Mysuru-bound services depart from the Mysuru Road terminal. Premium interstate buses to Tamil Nadu and Kerala will operate from Shanthinagar. Return buses back to the city are scheduled for October fourth.
Passengers can book tickets online via the official KSRTC website or at computerized counters. Great discounts are available, including five percent off for groups of four or more, and ten percent off return tickets when booked together.
Extra buses will also run from district stands based on passenger demand. Travelers with reservations should double-check their boarding points to ensure a smooth, hassle-free holiday journey across the state.

City Police Commissioner highlights Bengaluru’s ‘Safe City’ rankings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Emphasizing that protecting female citizens goes far beyond routine law enforcement to represent a fundamental social responsibility, senior security officials, judicial members, and administrative leaders gathered in Karnataka’s capital for the 3rd National Women’s Conference to deliberate on modern urban safety frameworks.
Hosted at the Senior Police Officers’ Research and Training Institute (SPORTI) auditorium, the two-day high-level symposium was organized jointly by the Karnataka State Police, Bengaluru City Police, and the ‘Parihara’ organization. Centered around the theme ‘Revisiting Gandhiji: Women’s Safety and Security in Independent India – Deepening Sensitivities,’ the conference provided a vital platform for policymakers, civil rights advocates, and law enforcement chiefs to evaluate urban infrastructure, technological interventions, community policing, and the welfare of female police personnel.
Addressing the inaugural session, retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal member Raghavendra Auradkar delivered a candid assessment of ground realities, arguing that enacting penal statutes and constructing isolated infrastructure carry little value unless execution is monitored rigorously.
“Even today, a woman has to think twice before crossing an



Senior security and judicial officials gathered at the 3rd National Women’s Conference in Bengaluru to deliberate on urban safety frameworks and female police welfare.

underpass, even during daylight hours. That is the reality we face,” Auradkar noted. He stressed that a democracy cannot claim maturity unless women can exercise absolute freedom and independent mobility without fear. True progress, he observed, requires transforming societal mindsets starting from the domestic household and fostering profound empathy within administrative machinery.
Auradkar also drew sharp attention to the systemic hurdles faced by female police personnel operating on the frontline. He called upon the state government to urgently sanction well-equipped retiring rooms, dedicated hostel facilities, on-duty childcare centers, safe night-time transport, and

routine mental health counseling sessions for women officers ranging from constables to inspectors. Highlighting administrative oversights, he criticized gender disparities in tactical gear allocation—noting that equipping only male officers with body-worn cameras creates an environment of workplace discrimination—and urged the deployment of specially designed helmets, body

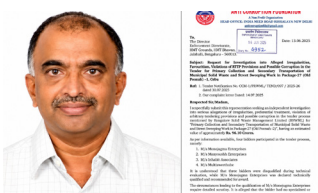
Redefining Public Safety
Eminent speakers, including retired IPS officer Raghavendra Auradkar and senior officers, stressed that true security extends beyond laws and surveillance equipment, requiring mindset shifts, sensitive policing models, and enhanced infrastructure for female law enforcement personnel.

protectors, and modern utility gear for female personnel. Furthermore, he recommended replicating Telangana’s successful ‘Bharosa’ model for integrated women’s safety centers alongside a centralized state-level safety dashboard.
Responding directly to these observations, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh outlined the comprehensive measures undertaken by the municipal department, declaring that the city accords paramount priority to female safety and security.

BSWML FINANCIAL PROBE

ED probes BSWML solid waste tender scam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Financial corruption in municipal governance has taken center stage as a formal complaint has been lodged with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against senior IAS officer Kari-gowda and top executives of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), alleging multi-crore irregularities and systematic manipulation within the city’s garbage transportation tender process.
The high-stakes regulatory scrutiny follows a direct administrative intervention by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who ordered a comprehensive departmental inquiry into the controversial tender allotments. The Chief Minister explicitly instructed the



The BSWML Commissioner has been instructed to submit a detailed report on tender norms, security deposit exemptions, and contract allotments within a week.
-Govt officials Points

BSWML Commissioner to submit a detailed factual report within a week, focusing heavily on procedural flaws, relaxed security deposits, compromised tender norms, and suspicious work orders associated with Packages 1, 2, and 5 of the city’s Secondary Transport System (STS) contracts.

Deepening municipal scrutiny
With multiple investigative bodies and enforcement agencies examining municipal contracting frameworks, the controversy highlights mounting pressure on transparency and accountability within Bengaluru’s civic infrastructure projects.
According to details emerging from the preliminary municipal review, contracts for Packages 2 and 5 were controversially awarded to Muniyappa Enterprises after the firm participated in competitive bid-dings for setting up STS units. While the estimated tender value for Package 2 was pegged at ₹53.4 crore, the contract was eventually awarded at a heavily discounted bid of ₹33.63 crore. Similarly, for Package 5, against an estimated value of ₹55.4 crore, the work order

was finalized at ₹38.42 crore. Despite the seemingly lower bids, whistleblowers and rival bidders alleged that the contractor received illicit exemptions regarding standard tender norms, mandatory performance guarantees, and security deposit requirements. Furthermore, the complaint submitted to federal financial investigators highlights allegations of a massive financial swindle involving the misappropriation of roughly ₹150 crore from the centrally sponsored Swachh

K’taka Govt hikes PUC exam & service fees by 50%

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Hot on the heels of a contentious SSLC fee revision that triggered widespread public criticism, the Karnataka state government has delivered another severe financial shock to students and parents by officially announcing a massive 50 percent hike across pre-university examination and administrative service fees.
According to a formal administrative notification issued by the Department of Pre-University Education, the sweeping upward revision applies to a total of 26 distinct student services, including annual board examination fees, registration processing, marks card verification, duplicate document issuance, and revaluation charges. The steep financial adjustments are set to take immediate

Quick Read

Ravi Shastri visitsUdupi Sri Krishna Matha

CH NEWS, Udupi
Former India cricketer, coach and commentator Ravi Shastri visited Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi on Thursday and offered prayers to Lord Sri Krishna. He was welcomed by Sri Vedavardhana Tirtha Sripada, pontiff of Paryaya Sri Sheeroor Matha, who blessed him and presented fruits and man-trakshate. Shastri later had darshan of Lord Krishna and enquired about the Matha's religious traditions and administrative practices. Matha administrator Srisha Bhat Kadekar, along with staff members and devotees, was present during the visit. Shastri's visit attracted attention among devotees at the historic temple complex.

Davangere driver's son wins 12 gold medals

Davangere
Vishwanath, a young achiever from Basapura on the outskirts of Davangere, has made his family proud by winning 12 gold medals despite facing financial difficulties. The son of a driver, Vishwanath said his success was possible because of the constant support and encouragement of his younger brother. His achievement highlights the determination and hard work he showed while pursuing his goals despite challenging circumstances. Coming from a modest family background, he continued working towards excellence and proved that financial limitations need not prevent talented youngsters from succeeding. His remarkable performance has brought recognition to Basapura and inspired many young people in the region.

District election officer urges prompt form submissions

CH NEWS, GADAG
The Election Commission of India has announced the official schedule for the 2026 biennial election to the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency. Following the notification, September 26 has been fixed as the final deadline to submit Form 18 applications for enrolling names in the electoral list or filing claims and objections. District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar stated that duplicate Form 18 applications are being accepted across designated taluk offices and urban local body centers. Eligible graduates must file their claims promptly before the fast-approaching deadline expires.

Karwar DC urges upgraded district industrial infrastructure

CH NEWS, KARWAR
Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya directed administrative officials on Thursday to provide essential civic infrastructure across industrial zones throughout the district by actively coordinating with local municipal bodies. Presiding over a joint session of the Industrial Response Committee and the Single Window Clearance Committee at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall, she instructed Industries Department officials to compile detailed requirement lists directly from entrepreneurs situated in Bhatkal, Dandeli, Haliyal, Kumta, Yellapur,

Bidar MLA demands special package for farmers

Inspecting withered fields, Dr. Beldale urged swift state intervention as dry conditions and crop failures plunge rural families into distress

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Highlighting the severe rainfall deficit plaguing the district, Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale urged the Karnataka Government in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday to declare an immediate, comprehensive drought relief package for struggling farmers. The lawmaker noted that dry conditions have caused extensive crop failure and acute water shortages across the region, severely hurting agricultural households. Having inspected fields alongside officials, Dr. Beldale stated that withered standing crops have pushed rural families into deep economic distress, necessitating swift intervention from the state administration. To offset widespread agricultural damages, the legisla-

tor demanded a drought compensation payout of ₹50,000 per acre. He pointed out that field surveys assessing crop loss have already reached government desks, urging officials to finalize beneficiary registries quickly and disburse funds directly into bank accounts. Dr. Beldale emphasized that maintaining an uninterrupted eight-hour daily electricity supply for irrigation pumpsets is critical to salvaging whatever standing crops remain. He warned that erratic power supply would aggravate farmers' hardships during an already grim season. Addressing rising debt levels, the MLA urged the state to consider waiving agricultural loans, citing similar relief frameworks implemented in neighboring Maharashtra to protect families from spiraling liabilities. Furthermore,



anticipating severe drinking water shortages across rural habitations, he called for allocating a dedicated grant of ₹5 crore per constituency to fund borewells, water tankers, and alternative emergency supplies. Concluding his appeal, Dr. Beldale insisted that drought mitigation demands a holistic strategy encompassing livestock fodder, drinking water, and rural livelihood support. He urged ministers to act without administrative delay to ensure farming communi-

AT A GLANCE

- Severe rainfall deficits cause widespread crop failure
- Immediate drought compensation of 50,000 rupees demanded
- Uninterrupted eight-hour daily irrigation power supply requested
- Agricultural loan waivers proposed following Maharashtra's framework
- Dedicated emergency drinking water fund of 5 crore requested
- Holistic strategy urged encompassing fodder and livelihood support

ties receive essential financial aid and resources during this acute environmental crisis.

Kolar prepares for mega Karnataka Parva

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Officials and community leaders gathered at the Maulana Azad School auditorium on Thursday to coordinate large-scale public participation from Kolar district for the upcoming Karnataka Parva 2026. The five-day cultural and commercial exposition will take place at the Tripura Vasini Palace Grounds in Bengaluru from September 26 to 30. The meeting was led by Minority Welfare District Officer Mylaraappa and Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Director Abdul Khayyum. Both officials discussed comprehensive logistical arrangements to mobilize residents from all six taluks across the district.

The exhibition aims to provide a prominent platform for artisans and local entrepreneurs from across Karnataka to display their craftsmanship, indigenous handlooms, and traditional goods. The grand venue will host over 180 stalls alongside an authentic regional food festival, educational seminars, and live cultural entertainment tailored for families and children. Organizers noted that public entry to the entire festival will remain completely free of charge. Addressing the gathering, Mylaraappa emphasized that the initiative focuses on supporting traditional rural crafts while offering broader market exposure to grassroots cre-

BJP Yuva Morcha cleans Marakunda Temple

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seventy-sixth birthday celebrations, members of the Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha conducted an extensive cleanliness drive at the Hanuman Temple in Marakunda village under the 'Seva Sankalpa' campaign. Spearheaded by Bidar South Mandal Youth Wing President Shivakumar Sultapur, dedicated party workers thoroughly washed and cleaned both the inner sanctum and surrounding open grounds of the sacred shrine. Following the sanitation initiative, volunteers gathered inside to offer special prayers for Prime Minister Modi's continued good health, long life, and successful national leadership. Simultaneously, the gathering performed religious rituals for local representative Dr. Shailendra Beldale, praying for his re-election to continue public service across the Bidar South constituency. Prominent party office-bearers attended the event.

Youth empowerment workshop scheduled in Gadag city



CH NEWS, GADAG

The Gadag District Youth Unit of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Sangha will organize a comprehensive two-day workshop titled "Building Youth Future" on October 2 and 3 at the Vijaya Lalitha Art Institute in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, announced District Youth Unit President Santosh Akki during a press conference at Patrika Bhavan. Addressing reporters, Akki explained that the specialized initiative aims to offer actionable career guidance, leadership skills, and personal confidence to young individuals navigating an increasingly competitive modern environment. He highlighted that the workshop is structured to support both intellectual growth and overall well-being. Rather than focusing solely on conventional academic training, the curriculum integrates dai-

ly sessions of yoga, music therapy, and cultural activities to help participants alleviate psychological stress and cultivate constructive habits. Akki urged youth belonging to the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali community as well as other backward and general communities across the state to actively register and benefit from the program. Several key office-bearers and community representatives attended the press conference, including F.V. Mari-gowdara, Iranna Karibishthi, Manjunatha Mudhola, Basavaraja Guddoora, Shivananda Pallada, Dharmaraja Konchigeri, Kotresha Khichadi, and Vasanth Hullathi. Organizing committee members noted that admissions are structured to maximize direct mentorship opportunities, ensuring participants gain practical clarity regarding career trajectories and holistic personal development.

Official suspended over illegal land transfer

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda announced on Thursday that a revenue land surveyor has been placed under immediate suspension for fraudulently transferring an impoverished farmer's land. The malpractice came to light during a 'Praja Seva Andolana' public grievance campaign held in Sakaleshpur taluk. A local farmer lodged an urgent complaint alleging that a prime coffee plantation—which his family had carefully cultivated for nearly 46 years had been illicitly transferred to another individual through the fabrication of fraudulent survey sketches and unauthorized

subdivision (podi) documentation. Intervening directly at the venue, Minister Gowda summoned the concerned surveyor and interrogated him regarding the procedural lapses. The official initially admitted his error and furnished a written bond promising to rectify the survey layout in the rightful farmer's name within one month. Unconvinced by verbal assurances, Gowda instructed Deputy Commissioner Latha Kumari to scrutinize the revenue files immediately on-site. Following formal confirmation of official misconduct, the surveyor was suspended, and administrative measures were initiated to restore the plantation deed to the aggrieved cultivator.

Graduates Constituency poll schedule announced in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Returning Officer S. Ramya announced that the official election notification for the Karnataka South-East Graduates' Constituency has been formally issued. Presiding over a consultative meeting with political party representatives on Thursday, she confirmed that specialized enforcement teams have been deployed to ensure strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct across the district. The Bengaluru Division Regional Commissioner will serve as the primary Returning Officer, overseeing nomination filing, scrutiny, and acceptance at the Shantinagar office in Bengaluru. The electoral constituency encompasses the districts of Kolar, Chikaballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, and three taluks of Davanagere district.

According to the official election timetable, candidates can file nomination papers between September 29 and October 6. Scrutiny will take place on October 7, while October 9 marks the last date for withdrawal of candidatures. Polling will occur on October 23 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, followed by vote counting in Bengaluru on October 27. The electoral roll confirms a total of 41,358 eligible graduate voters in Chitradurga district, including 24,031 men and 17,327 women. Chitradurga taluk leads with 13,417 voters, followed by Challakere with 7,814 and Hiriyr with 7,260. Hosadurga, Holalkere, and Molakalmuru record

5,218, 4,343, and 3,306 eligible voters respectively. To ensure smooth voting across all six taluks, the district administration has set up 55 polling stations, including 22 main and 33 auxiliary booths. The Model Code of Conduct took effect on September 22, making prior administrative clearance mandatory for political rallies, public meetings, and campaign banners.

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/ICST/06/2026-27 Date: 24.09.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Inviting for Expression of Interest from NGOs/CBOs for Implementation of 10 Care and Support Centres(CSCs) under Domestic Budget Support (DBS) in selected districts in the state of Karnataka. Details available at <https://ksaps.karnataka.gov.in>. The last date for submission of EOI on or before 15/10/2026 at 5.30 p.m.

Sd/-
Project Director
KSAPS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2925/MAA/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(NORTH-4)	BWSSB/EE/(N-4)/TO/PB/1284/2026-27	Rs.5,75,864/-	08.10.2026 upto 4:00 PM	09.10.2026 after 5:00 PM
	Date: 21.09.2026	Rs.14,397/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-4)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2930/SSC/2026-27

ಮಾಲೂರು ನಗರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಾಲೂರು

ಮಾಲೂರಿನ ಬಡಾವಣೆ 2ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಮಾಡ್ಲನ್ ಶಾಲೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ತಿರುಮಲ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಾಲೂರು-563 130, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08151-299920, Web Site:www.maluru.tpa.gov.in, Email:ms.maluru.planning.authority@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಾಯೋಪ್ರಾ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ/ಸಿಂ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿಆರ್/01/2026-27/1217 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(as per the conditions of the standard Tender Document E-procurement Tender Notification)

Malur Development Authority Fund and item rate is invited in KPPP portal. For more details visit KPPP PORTAL The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through e-procurement only. 1)TPA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT9 Rs.250.00 Lakhs.

Sd/- (Vijaya Narasimha H.M) President Malur Planning Authority Malur

Sd/- (Krishnappa) Member Secretary Malur Planning Authority Malur

DIPR/KOLAR/RO: 277/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/4702/TND/2026-27/2310 Date:22.09.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijayapur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 2 Works, Amount put to Tender Rs.508.27 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months to Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.

4702 SCP Works :- Total 1 Package Work, Amount put to Tender Rs.7.20 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Three(3) Months including monsoon.

4702 TSP Works :- Total 6 Works, Amount put to Tender Rs.21.60 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> under login for Contractors from 22.09.2026. Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to 17-30 hrs. on 29.09.2026. Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto 17-30 hrs. on 28.09.2026. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 25.09.2026 for work costing above 1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijayapur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

ಮಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/319/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎಂ/2026-27 Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

Prakash Raj exposes alleged voter roll conspiracy

During a statewide tour, Raj alleged authorities are conspiring to disenfranchise legitimate citizens through the Special Summary Revision process

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Renowned actor and activist Prakash Raj addressed a massive civil rights convention at the Muslim Shadi Mahal in Koppal on Thursday, sharply condemning the Central Government and the Election Commission of India.

Taking part in a statewide outreach tour alongside civil society organizations and secular leaders, Raj alleged that authorities are executing a deliberate conspiracy to disenfranchise legitimate citizens under the pretext of the Special Summary Revision process.

Addressing the gathering, Raj pointed out that historically, voter enrollment relied on systematic door-to-door physical verification by officials. In stark contrast, he alleged that eligible citizens are now being arbitrarily purged through centralized digital software and automated mobile plat-

forms. Highlighting a specific case from the Belagavi North constituency, he revealed how pre-printed Form-7 applications were allegedly misused to erase hundreds of minority voters from a single polling station before vigilant booth-level workers and residents intervened.

Raj further argued that the autonomy of the Election Commission stands fundamentally compromised. He severely criticized the Centre for excluding the Chief Justice of India from the panel responsible for appointing election commissioners, replacing it with a government-dominated committee after suspending over 140 opposition lawmakers.

To counter these irregularities, Raj announced a concrete roadmap for legal and public mobilization. Activists plan to collect documentation across Karnataka by September 30 to demand a statewide



social audit from the Chief Minister. Additionally, he declared plans for a massive demonstration at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar on October 15. Calling upon citizens to document discrepancies through video evidence, he stressed that voting remains a sacred constitutional entitlement that cannot be taken away. Several prominent grassroots activists and affected residents shared the dais, raising slogans demanding the immediate scrapping of the controversial revision drive.

BJP accuses ruling congress of financial bankruptcy

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Accusing the ruling Congress administration of driving Karnataka toward financial bankruptcy, the district Bharatiya Janata Party staged an aggressive demonstration at Gopi Circle on Thursday. Protesters held a symbolic mock funeral procession of the government, carrying empty water vessels to highlight the state's dry treasury.

Addressing the gathering, BJP District President N.K. Jagadish alleged that the state is teetering on insolvency, leaving no funds for essential rural development or farmer relief. He claimed the government accumulated over ₹4 lakh crore in new debt within two and a

half years, pushing total liabilities to ₹8 lakh crore. Jagadish asserted that even the Finance Department issued warnings regarding empty coffers, yet ministers continue making misleading promises of massive welfare investments.

He also criticized delays in distributing social security pensions, teacher recruitments, and the supply of poor-quality school uniforms.

District General Secretary Harikrishna demanded that the Chief Minister immediately issue a transparent white paper detailing the state's economic standing. He alleged that without state funding, vital rural housing initiatives and the Ganga Kalyana scheme have

completely stalled, while public transport services face severe disruption.

Adding to the charges, State Cell Coordinator S. Dattatri highlighted corruption allegations involving the Shivamogga Urban Development Authority. He noted that accusations of bribery and commission demands against minister aides were exposed by local leaders themselves, demonstrating internal administrative malpractice.

Several key leaders and party workers including S. Gnaneshwar, N.G. Nagaraj, Shivaraj, Malatesh, Mohan Reddy, and Dharma Prasad participated actively in the demonstration, raising slogans against the government's economic policies.

BJP protests against state government economic policies

CH NEWS, DHARWAD

Strongly condemning the state government's fiscal policies and overall financial management, members of the Bharatiya Janata Party staged a massive demonstration outside the Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday.

The protest was jointly organized by the Hubballi-Dharwad City and Dharwad Rural district units of the party, drawing hundreds of active party workers and local leaders.

Addressing the gathering, BJP leader Jayatirtha Katti demanded that the ruling dispensation provide clear, transparent details to the public regarding the actual financial condition of the state. He asserted that funds allocated for state progress must be used effectively, ensuring that citizens' basic necessities receive top priority. Expressing seri-

ous concern over stalling public projects, party leader Thippanna Majjagi noted that residents across various regions are alarmed by the acute shortage of capital for welfare programs. He urged the government to move beyond mere public declarations and focus on ground-level execution that genuinely benefits ordinary families.

Echoing similar concerns, Iresha Anchatageri emphasized that developmental projects can gain momentum only when the overall economic foundation remains stable. He stressed that administrative transparency and strict accountability in public spending are essential, insisting that electoral promises made to citizens must be fulfilled without delay. Furthermore, party spokesperson Ningappa Sutakatti cautioned the government against passing financial deficits onto ordinary citizens.

Discipline shapes bright future for students: Kaujageri

CH NEWS, HULAKOTI

Student life is precious, and young learners must shape their futures through strong self-discipline, persistent effort, and continuous learning, stated Dr. Sudha Kaujageri, Joint Director of Collegiate Education for the Dharwad Regional Office.

Speaking at Sri K.H. Patil Government First Grade College during the inaugural orientation for the new 2026-27 batch, Dr. Kaujageri expressed joy over returning to the campus. She commended the faculty for fostering both intellectual and overall institutional growth.

Delivering the keynote address, guest speaker Prof. Vithal Rajappa Waghmodi highlighted that participating actively in sports, cultural programs, and extracurricular initiatives ensures well-rounded personality development alongside classroom studies. Presiding over the function, Principal Dr. Appanna N. Hanje welcomed the freshers and urged strict adherence to institutional decorum.

The gathering began with the state anthem, followed by an invocation rendered by students Mahalakshmi Kammara and Chaitra Kurtakoti. Arts Department Head Mahananda Hiremath welcomed the guests, while Cultural Coordinator Ramesh Hulakund presented the opening remarks.

BEYOND PLASTIC FINES

Ramanagara replaces plastic fines with smart alternatives

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

In a pioneering move to eliminate single-use plastic waste, the Ramanagara City Council has launched an innovative green campaign by introducing automated cloth bag dispensing machines across the town.

This modern system makes Ramanagara, famously known as the Silk City, the very first municipality in the entire state of Karnataka to implement automated cloth bag dispensers.

Under the leadership of City Municipal Council President K. Sheshadri, the local civic body is shifting away from merely staging routine inspection raids or penalizing local shopkeepers with heavy fines. Instead, the administration

focuses on offering affordable, practical alternatives that foster sustainable everyday consumer habits.

Through these novel dispensing units, residents can quickly purchase a clean, durable cloth bag for just ten rupees.

Users simply insert a ₹10 coin into the slot, and the mechanism instantly dispenses an eco-friendly tote bag built for long-term household reuse.

The council has already installed these automated machines at eight bustling public locations, targeting busy markets and shopping transit points where non-biodegradable polythene bags are most commonly circulated. The civic response has been overwhelmingly positive, with shoppers praising the convenience and low cost. Due to rising public demand, the municipality plans to install additional dispensers in peripheral zones soon.

Furthermore, the authorities are working to upgrade the machines to support cashless digital payments, including dynamic QR code scanners and Unified Payments Interface systems. President Sheshadri remarked that the community-driven initiative aims to transform Ramanagara into a clean, zero-plastic urban center, while establishing an easily replicable blueprint for environmental sustainability that other municipal corporations statewide can adopt.

With citizens embracing reusable cloth sacks daily, Ramanagara stands at the frontline of Karnataka's war on toxic plastic pollution.

HDFC BANK

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001

Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

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 Section 13 (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, within 60 days from the date of the respective 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 assets.

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	Mr. Puligounivandla Kishore Babu (Borrower) CGI Information Systems and Management Consultants Private Limited Designation: Software Engineer, Department: IT 38/1 E City Tower 2, Naganathapura, Bengaluru - 560100 Also at: 22/2A, Krishna Gowda Compound, NR Veera Bhadra Swamy Temple, Hagadur Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066. Also at: Plot 26/6, Khatta 715/636/25/6, Hagaduru Village, House 26/6, KR Puram Hobli, Bengaluru - 560066.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 634757492 : Rs.36,37,998/- 2) 642041510 : Rs.8,07,793/- 3) 635383747 : Rs.87,299/- Total Amount: Rs.43,33,090/- [Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Ninety Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.11.2025	PLOT 26/6, KHATTA 715/636/25/6, HAGADURU VILLAGE, HOUSE 26/6, KR PURAM HOBLI, BANGALORE- 560066
02	Mr. Patil Veer Kumar (Borrower), Parimala Electricals, Designation: Partner, Department: Dealers, M/s. Sri Sai Electricals (Co-Borrower) Designation: Partner, Department: Dealers, Both are residing at: No.35,1st Floor, Vasanthappa Block, 4th Cross, 5th Main, Ganganagar, R T Nagar H O, Bengaluru 560024. Also at: No.35,1st Floor, Vasanthappa Block, 4th Cross, Ganganagar, R T Nagar H O, Bengaluru 560032. Mr. Patil Veer Kumar (Borrower) Mrs. Patil Sumangala (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: No.657, 11thmain, Hebbal, Kempapura, H.A. Farm, Bengaluru 560024 Mr. Patil Veer Kumar (Borrower) M/s. Sri Sai Electricals (Co-Borrower) Mrs. Patil Sumangala (Co-Borrower) All are residing at: Plot Site No 63, Site 63, S No. Khata No 61/63, Khatta 61/63, House NA, Village Aghahara, Yelahanka Hobli, Attur, Bengaluru 560064.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 654234841 Rs.38,94,939.45/- 2) 656470453 Rs.1,82,151/- Total Amount: Rs.40,77,090.45/- [Rupees Forty Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Ninety and Forty Five Paise Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 28.08.2024	Plot Site No 63, Site 63, S No. Khata No 61/63, Khatta 61/63, House NA, Village Aghahara, Yelahanka Hobli, Attur, Bengaluru 560064.
03	Mr. Pradeep R S (Borrower), Maruthi Enterprises, Designation: Proprietor B-8, 4th Cross, APMC Yard, Kuempunagar, Tumkur 572103. Also at: No.137, 6th Cross, Someswarapuram, T P K Road, Saphthagiri, Tumkur 572102 M/s Maruthi Enterprises (Co-Borrower) Represented by Mr. Pradeep R S, Designation: Proprietor B-8, 4th Cross, APMC Yard, Kuempunagar, Tumkur 572103 Both are residing at: Plot 8, House 8, Pid#71998, Sy #48/2, Ward #27, Kh #3418/3419/3883/1693, Sy #48/2, SIT Extension, Batawadi (V), Devaraya Patna, Tumkur 572103.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 641472087 : Rs.79,81,505/- 2) 641758430 : Rs. 5,39,532/- Total Amount: Rs.85,21,037/- [Rupees Eighty Five Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Thirty Seven Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 12.10.2022	Plot 8, House 8, Pid #71998, Sy #48/2, Ward #27, Kh #3418/3419/3883/1693, Sy #48/2, SIT Extension, Batawadi (V), Devaraya Patna, Tumkur 572103
04	Mr. Ravi K T (Borrower), Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Designation: Asst Art, Department: KSRTC, Mysore -1 Division, Bannimantap, Maddur -518554. Also at: 383, 8th Cross, 2nd Main, Hebbal 2nd Stage Metagalli Hebbal Layout, Mysore 570016. Also at: Plot-4816, Huda-Smk Nagara, SMK Nagara, Hassan-573202. 2. Ramesh D (Guarantor), No 3536, 2nd Cross, Thilak Nagra, Mysore Vani Vilas Mohalla, Mysore 570005. 3. Ramesh D, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Designation: Sec Hvlrd, Department: KSRTC, Depot I, City Bus Stand, K R Circle, Mysore 570001.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 627601384 : Rs.1,41,747/- 2) 629066043 : Rs.8,126/- Total Amount: Rs.1,49,873/- [Rupees One Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Three Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.01.2020	HUDA-SMK NAGARA, PLOT-4816, SMK NAGARA, HASSAN, HASSAN_DT_R, HASSAN, 573202, KARNATAKA
05	1) Mr. K Raghavendra (Borrower), Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, Designation: Associate Director, Department: Customer Success, 4th Floor, Lotus Building, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034. 2) Mrs. P L Mamatha (Co-Borrower's) 3) Mrs. K Saraladevi (Co-Borrower's), 4) Mr. R Krishna Murthy (Co-Borrower's). All are residing at: 7, 14th Cross, Tc Palya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Muneshwara Nagar, K R Puram, Devasandra, Bengaluru - 560107. Also at: Plot No 7, House 7, Khatta 316/3128/2/7, District Ramamurthy nagar, Village Kowdenahalli, K R Puram, Muneshwara Nagar, Bengaluru - 560002.	Loan A/c Nos: 680147096 Rs.31,63,349/- [Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Nine Only] as on 31.07.2026	19.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 01.06.2025	PLOT NO 7, HOUSE 7, KHATTA 316/3128/2/7, DISTRICT RAMAMURTHYNAGAR, VILLAGE KOWDENAHALLI, K R PURAM MUNESHWARA NAGAR BENGALURU - 560002
06	Mr. Mohammed Azeem Pasha (Borrower) Lupin Limited, Designation: Marketing Executive Department: Medical, #854/1 1st Floor, PP Industrial Area, Deepajali Nagar, Bengaluru - 560026. Also at: No 2331 3rd Stage, Devanur Extension, Rajivnagar, Udayagiri Extn, Rajivi Nagar, Siddiquie Mohalla Mysore -570019 Also at: No 5101st Floor, 2nd Stage, Rajiv Nagar, Jyothinagar, N R Mohalla And Surroundings Mysore - 570019. Also at: Plot No 2331, House No 2331, 8th Cross, Irwin Road, Mandya Mohalla, Devanur 3rd Stage, Rajivi Nagar Jyothinagar, Mysore- 570019.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 649199685 : Rs.18,24,878/- 2) 638140803 : Rs. 5,84,188/- 3) 638140786 : Rs. 3,33,154/- 4) 651318341 : Rs. 48, 507/- Total Amount : Rs.27,90,727/- [Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Seven Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.01.2025	PLOT NO 2331, HOUSE NO 2331, 8TH CROSS, IRWIN ROAD, MANDYA MOHALLA, DEVANUR 3RD STAGE, RAJIVI NAGAR JYOTHINAGAR MYSORE - 570019
07	Mr. Narayanan Nishath Edappattu (Borrower) Jones Lang Lasalle Property Consultants (India) Private Limited Designation: Director, Department: Cyber Risk Prestige Trade Tower, Palace Rd, High Grounds, Sampangi Rama Nagar, Bengaluru - 560001. Also at: Flat 104, Rustumjee Global City, Avenue G, Bldg 5, Virar West, Near Ganesh Temple, Vasai E le B.O, Vasai-Virar City, 401208 Also at: Flat-A1402, Floor-14, Godrej Aqua -Block 1, S No 130/6, 131, Hosahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural - 560022.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 677696112 : Rs.66,60,614/- 2) 677696129 : Rs.5,63,928/- Total Amount : Rs.75,24,542/- [Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Two Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 23.02.2025	FLAT-A1402, FLOOR-14, GODREJ AQUA - BLOCK 1, S NO 130/6,131, HOSAHALLI, VILLAGE, JALA HOBLI, BENGALURU, DEVANAHALLI, BENGALURU RURAL, 560022, KARNATAKA
08	Mr. P Bijuraj (Borrower) SB Freight & Transiog Transiog Pvt Ltd, Designation: Director, No 42nd Crosskammanahalli, Nehru Roadst Thomas Town, Kacharakanahalli Bengaluru -560084. Also at: No 312 3rd Floor, Hoysala Nagar Residencyhoysal, 9th Cross Main, Hoysala Nagar, J P Nagar -Bengaluru, Kanakapura Road -560078 Also at: Payyanat Kizhayur, Pattambi, Palakkad, Palakkad, Kizhayur, Palakkad, Alathur Road, Kerala -679303 Also at: Saranya Silver Stone, Flat-106, Floor-1st, S No 89, Sr No 150/ 2013-14, Horamavu Village, K R Puram Hobli, Banaswadi, Bengaluru - 560043.	Loan A/c Nos: 635468959 Rs.32,85,730/- [Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 15.06.2025	SARANYA SILVER STONE, FLAT-106, FLOOR-1ST, S NO 89, SR NO 150/2013-14, HORAMAVU VILLAGE, K R PURAM HOBLI, BANASWADI BENGALURU - 560043
09	1) Mr Pathikonda Venkatesulu (Borrower) Lumen IT India Private Limited, Designation: Senior Software Engineer, Department: Cliit, 5th Floor Salarpura Touch, Stone Kadubeesana Halli, Varthul Hobli - Bengaluru - 560103. Also at: Lumen IT India Private Limited, Designation: Sr Software Development Consultant 1, Department: It, Touchstone 4th Floor, Opp To New Horizon, Bellandur S.O - Bengaluru - 560103. Also at: No 16, Manjunatha Layout, Near Gandhinagar Marathalli, Indira Nagar, Hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560037. 2) Mrs. Manthrala Anitha (Co- Borrower), Phasezero India Llp, Designation: Office Manager, Department: Office, 9th Floor Umiya Business, Baccessna Busine Outer Ring Road, Kaverappa Lay Out, Bellandur S.O - Bengaluru - 560103 Also at: Maintec Technologies Pvt Ltd, Designation: Sr Sap Tester, Department: It, Flats A4 A5 2nd Floore Eureka, Court Complex Ameerpet, Ameerpet Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh - 500073. 1) Mr Pathikonda Venkatesulu (Borrower) 2) Mrs. Manthrala Anitha (Co- Borrower), Both are residing at: Kadarampalli, 12-196, Kundurpi, Allapuram - Anantapur, Tubarahalli, Anantapur - Andhra Pradesh - 515766 Also at: 1-3-742, Laxmi Nilayam, Thapovanam Road, Somanath Nagar - Anantapur, Opposit To Ramalayam, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh - 515001 Also at: No 403 4th Floor, Plotno 7 Sri Lakshmi Niwas, 14th Crossmunnekollala, Munnekollala, Bhuvanewary Layout, Marathahalli, Indira Nagar, Hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560037. Also at: Candeur Signature Block-2 T-C&D, Unit-2003-Tower-D, Floor-20, S No 219/1, 219/6a, 219/6b, 224/2 226/1p227/1P, Gunjur Village, Varthur HB, Maratahalli Bengaluru Rural - 560087 Also at: Shriram Bageshri, Unit-128, S No 32/1a, 33/1p, 33/2, 34/1-4 36p, 40/2a, 40/2b, Chikkagattiganabbe Village, Hoskote Taluk, Hoskote Bengaluru Rural - 562114.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 672629551 Rs.51,15,410/- 2) 648954850 Rs. 18,04,712/- Total Amount: Rs.69,20,122/- [Rupees Sixty Nine Lakhs Twenty Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Two Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.02.2026	ITEM NO.1 LAN NO: 672629551 Candeur Signature Block-2 T-C&D, Unit-2003-Tower-D, Floor-20, S No 219/1, 219/6a, 219/6b, 224/2 226/1p227/1p, Gunjur Village, Varthur Hb, Maratahalli Bengaluru Rural - 560087 ITEM NO.2 LAN NO: 648954850 SHRIRAM BAGESHRI, UNIT-128 S No 32/1a, 33/1p, 33/2, 34/1-4 36p, 40/2a, 40/2b Chikkagattiganabbe Village, Hoskote Taluk, Hoskote Bengaluru Rural - 562114
10	1) Mr. Mohsin Akib, (Borrower), Accenture Solutions Private Limited Designation: Analyst, Department: Operations C, 4/1, IBC Knowledge Park, Bannerghatta Road, Dharmaram College, Bengaluru - 560029. 1) Mr. Mohsin Akib, (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Shariff Sana (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: Also at: 101/A Ground Floor, Prism Manor Apt, 9th Main, Btm 1st Stage, Bengaluru, 560029. Also at: Flat-501, 5th Floor, Purple Rose, S No 10/2, Yelechenayakanapura, Village, Kasab Hobli, Hoskote Tq, Hoskote, Bengaluru - 562114.	Loan A/c Nos: 630773405 Rs.22,50,630/- [Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Only] as on 31.07.2026	20.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 24.06.2023	Flat-501, 5th Floor, Purple Rose, S No 10/2, Yelechenayakanapura Village, Kasab Hobli, Hoskote Tq, Hoskote, Bengaluru - 562114

*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 / Immoveable 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 / Immoveable 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 : 25.09.2026
Place: Bangalore

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

Quick Read

Shashi Tharoor Calls ECINet Software 'Disastrous'

HYDERABAD
Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has called for the cancellation of the Election Commission's ECINet software, describing a report about its functioning during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as "extremely serious". Tharoor's remarks came a day after Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar faced criticism over allegations that he kept the two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, "in the dark about adding new voters and deleting names". The latest controversy concerns ECINet, which was used by electors to submit forms and documents during the SIR process.

TN Minister Faces DMK's Sexist Dig Over Skipping Vijay's London Visit

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu industries minister S Keerthana's absence from chief minister C Joseph Vijay's recent London visit has triggered a political controversy after a DMK leader questioned whether the reference to her being away for "four days due to health reasons" was linked to menstruation. Vijay had travelled to London as part of a government visit aimed at attracting investments to Tamil Nadu and also to flag off actor Ajith Kumar's car race. Keerthana, whose portfolio includes industries and investment promotion, was not part of the delegation. The controversy began after Tamil Nadu minister Aadhar Arjuna said Keerthana could not accompany Vijay because she had been unwell for four days.

Minor Allegedly Raped At Wazirabad Hotel

WAZIRABAD
A minor girl was allegedly raped at a hotel in north Delhi's Wazirabad area by a man she had befriended through social media, police said.
According to officials, the girl and the accused are residents of the Wazirabad area and had become acquainted through social media. The accused allegedly took the minor to a hotel in the area on the pretext of their friendship, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.
The incident took place within the jurisdiction of Wazirabad police station. Police said a case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Of-



Investigation Underway

- Case registered under POCSO Act
- Accused allegedly absconding
- Police conducting raids
- Minor medically examined
- Statement recorded by police
- Hotel CCTV and register being examined

fences (POCSO) Act and other applicable sections of law.
Following the alleged in-

cident, the girl returned home and informed her family. Her family then approached the police, following which she underwent a medical examination and her statement was recorded, officials said.
Based on the girl's statement and the medical examination, police registered a case against the accused. He has allegedly been absconding since the incident.
Police teams have been conducting raids at possible locations to trace and apprehend him. Investigators are also examining the circumstances surrounding the minor's entry into the hotel.
As part of the investigation, police are checking the hotel's register, CCTV footage and other available re-

"Based on her statement and medical examination, a case has been registered against the accused."

—Delhi Police (officials)

"Police teams have been conducting raids at possible locations to trace and apprehend the accused."

—Delhi Police (officials)

cords to establish the sequence of events and determine whether any lapses occurred at the premises.
The case comes days after another incident involving a 17-year-old girl near Kalkaji Mandir. Police had alleged that three men posed as police personnel before sexually assaulting the girl at Aastha Kunj Park.

CYCLONE NAME CLARITY

No Cyclone Arnab, IMD Clarifies

KOLKATA
Social media posts and digital headlines warning of "Cyclone Arnab" approaching India's eastern coast have sparked confusion, but the India Meteorological Department has not classified any such cyclone over the Bay of Bengal.
The weather system currently affecting parts of the eastern coast is officially classified as a Deep Depression, not a cyclonic storm. The system is bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, but it has not reached the wind-speed threshold required for an official cyclone classification.
Under the IMD's classification system for weather systems over the North Indian Ocean, a depression has maximum sustained surface



winds of 31 to 50 kmph. A system becomes a deep depression when sustained winds reach between 52 and 61 kmph.
For a system to be classified as a cyclonic storm and receive an official name, its maximum sustained surface winds must reach at least 63 kmph, or 34 knots. The system must also meet the corresponding atmospheric

pressure criteria, including the required number of closed isobars.
The current system has remained within the deep depression category, with sustained winds below the threshold for cyclonic storm classification. As a result, meteorological authorities have not assigned it a cyclone name.
The confusion appears to

have been amplified by social media posts and online headlines referring to the system as "Cyclone Arnab". However, the name does not correspond to an officially classified cyclone in the IMD's current system.
The distinction is significant because cyclone names are assigned only after a weather system meets prescribed meteorological criteria. Until then, it continues to be identified according to its official category.
"Because sustained wind speeds have not crossed the mandatory 63 km/h limit, meteorologists cannot officially assign it a name." - India Meteorological Department (IMD)
"The weather system currently impacting the region is scientifically classified as a Deep Depression." - India Meteorological Department (IMD)

BJP Assigns New Organisational Responsibilities

BJP president Nitin Nabin announced fresh organisational appointments, assigning Shivprakash and Saudan Singh responsibilities across nine states while V Satish gets SC-ST and Parliament office duties.

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday announced a fresh set of organisational responsibilities for senior leaders, assigning national joint general secretaries (organisation) to oversee party affairs across several states.
The appointments were announced through a notification issued by the BJP under national president Nitin Nabin. The changes place national joint general secretary (organisation) Shivprakash in

charge of organisational affairs in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa. His organisational centre will be Mumbai.
Another national joint general secretary (organisation), Saudan Singh, has been assigned responsibility for Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, with Bhubaneswar designated as his centre. Singh was earlier responsible for organisational affairs in northern states, including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and



Chandigarh.
The latest appointments also assign a separate national-level organisational role to V Satish. He has been given responsibility for the party's Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe morchas and has also been appointed in-charge

NITIN NABIN APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARIES
■ Shivprakash gets charge of five states
■ Saudan Singh assigned four states
■ V Satish gets SC-ST morchas
■ Satish also gets Parliament office
■ Several state-level organisational appointments announced

of the BJP's Parliament office. The appointments are part of a wider organisational re-

structuring announced by the BJP this week. The party had announced state in-charges and co-in-charges across states and Union Territories, including several senior national leaders.
The latest notification also includes appointments at the state organisational level, with leaders assigned responsibilities in Maharashtra, Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and other regions.

Tripura TTADC Group A, B Employees' Salaries on Hold

TRIPURA
The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) stopped the salaries of its Group A and B officers following a Tripura High Court order in a case involving Rs 16.03 lakh in retirement dues owed to a former council employee. The council made the decision public on days after Chief Executive Member Chaitanya Murti issued an order directing that the salaries of all Group A and B officers "shall not be released until further order".
The High Court passed the order on September 9 after a TTAADC employee approached it claiming that he had not received retirement benefits amounting to Rs 16.03 lakh after superannuation on January 31, 2025.
The council had told the court that the state Finance Secretary needed to be made a party to the case and that it could not release the money unless the state government routed the funds through the Finance Secretary.
But the court, after taking assistance from the Advocate General, was told that the TTAADC is an autonomous body with its own funds and does not require the Finance Secretary's permission to release the money.
When the council's lawyer again argued that the Fi-



nance Secretary should intervene to facilitate the payment, the High Court directed the TTAADC Chief Executive Officer, Finance Secretary and district treasury officers to examine the issue and take necessary action.
The court also ordered that the TTAADC CEO's salary be withheld and directed that salaries of the council's employees and officers be stopped, with Group C and Group D employees exempted, until the matter was resolved. Acting on a September 11 communication from the High Court's Deputy Registrar, Murti issued the September 17 order stating that salaries of all Group A and B officers under the council would not be released until further orders.
The case will come up for hearing again on October 5. The development has drawn criticism from the opposition, with CPI(M) MLA and Leader of the Opposition in the Tripura Assembly accusing the Pradyot Debbarma-led Tipra Motha Party (TMP) government of failing to manage the council's finances.

Sahni's controversial remark sparks outrage

NEW DELHI
Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief and former Bihar minister Mukesh Sahni trained guns at Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, saying that he would have "shot him" if "pardoned for one murder." His remarks came a day after a report claimed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had formally objected at least 14 times over 10 months to decisions and orders issued in connection with electoral-roll procedures.
The objections, according to the report, included issues related to Form 6 for new voters, additions and deletions from electoral rolls and the gradual centralisation of voter database systems. Addressing Gyanesh Kumar, Sahni told reporters: "I want to tell Gyanesh Kumar... have some shame that you are playing with the Constitution of the country. If we were forgiven for committing one murder, I would have shot Gyanesh Kumar".
The VIP leader alleged a collusion between the Election Commission and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "Democracy is being stifled, elections symbolises the people's power to remove those who don't work; Election Commission has become the BJP Commission, CEC Gyanesh Kumar must realise that he is playing with the constitution", he said, reported PTI.

Student Sahil Wakode's Father Detained While Heading To IIT-Bombay

MUMBAI
Mumbai Police on Thursday detained Ravindra Wakode in Bhandup while he was on his way to the IIT-Bombay campus in Powai to begin a hunger strike following the death of his son, second-year student Sahil Wakode. Ravindra said he planned to go on a hunger strike over the death of his son, who died by suicide on September 18.
Advocate Nikhil Kamble said, "Today, Sahil's family was on their way to IIT Bombay to stage a hunger strike, as they had announced at the press conference. Unfortunately, my clients have again been detained by Mumbai Police. They are not being allowed to go to IIT Bombay to stage the hunger strike. I believe they need to be provided legal protection rather than being detained."
Meanwhile, Mumbai Youth Congress and NSUI workers held a protest outside the IIT-Bombay campus, seeking a fast-track inquiry and justice for Sahil. Several NSUI-Congress workers were also detained by police as security was tightened around the campus.
The Mumbai Police Crime Branch, in its preliminary findings, said CCTV cameras captured Sahil's movements inside the examination hall between 12.30



pm and 12.45 pm on September 18.
According to police, around 15 minutes before the examination was scheduled to end, Sahil was seen bending down and looking at something in his pocket. A professor then questioned him and took him aside, away from the other students, the Crime Branch said.
"After leaving the examination hall, Sahil moved across the campus. He reached his hostel room at approximately 1.25 pm. He did not step out of the room thereafter," a Crime Branch official said. Police have appealed to people against speculation or drawing premature conclusions.
IIT-Bombay has separately constituted a 10-member committee to examine the circumstances surrounding Sahil's death. Professor Doolla has been relieved of his administrative responsibilities and sent on leave until the inquiry is completed. Sahil, a second-year BTech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, died by suicide on September 18.

A COLORFUL STRUGGLE: THE FUTURE OF HIMALAYAN PHEASANTS

The Himalayas are home to some of the most spectacular birds on Earth. Among them, pheasants stand out for their brilliant colours, distinctive plumage and fascinating behaviour. From the dazzling Himalayan Monal to other rare pheasant species, these birds are an important part of the mountain ecosystem and a symbol of the natural beauty of the Himalayas. Yet behind their colourful appearance lies a growing struggle for survival. Human activities are changing mountain habitats at a rapid pace, creating increasing pressure on pheasant populations. Himalayan pheasants depend on forests, grasslands, shrubs and undisturbed mountain habitats for food, shelter and breeding. But expanding roads, tourism, settlements, agriculture, construction and

other development activities are fragmenting these natural habitats. When forests are divided into smaller patches, birds may find it more difficult to move, feed and reproduce safely. Climate change is adding another challenge. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall and snowfall patterns can alter the vegetation on which pheasants depend. As climate conditions change, suitable habitats may shift to higher elevations. Birds that are unable to adapt or move to new areas may face increasing difficulties. Human disturbance is also a concern. Growing tourism in Himalayan regions brings economic opportunities and connects people with nature, but uncontrolled tourism can disturb breeding birds and damage sensitive habitats. Noise,

traffic, litter and careless behaviour can have consequences for wildlife that are not always immediately visible. Hunting and illegal wildlife trade have historically posed serious threats to many pheasant species. Although conservation laws and protected areas provide important protection, effective enforcement and community participation remain essential. Pheasants are not merely beautiful birds to be admired. They play ecological roles in mountain forests, including participating in food webs and helping maintain the balance of their habitats. Their presence can also serve as an indicator of the health of mountain ecosystems. Protecting them requires more than protecting individual birds. Their habitats must be conserved. Forest corridors



DR. VIJAY GARG

“Saving these colourful birds means protecting the forests, mountains and ecological heritage they represent”.

should be maintained, development should be carefully planned, and sensitive breeding areas should receive greater protection. Tourism must become more responsible, with visitors encouraged to respect wildlife and leave natural habitats undisturbed. Local communities are equally important partners in conservation. People living in the Himalayas possess valuable knowledge about forests, wildlife and seasonal changes. Conservation programmes that provide education, sustainable livelihood opportunities and incentives for protecting wildlife are more likely to succeed in the long term. Schools can also play an important role. Children who learn about Himalayan wildlife today can become tomorrow’s conservationists, researchers, forest officers and

responsible citizens. Bird watching, nature clubs and local biodiversity projects can help create a deeper connection between young people and their natural surroundings. The future of Himalayan pheasants ultimately depends on the choices humans make. Their spectacular colours may attract our attention, but their survival requires something far more important healthy

forests, peaceful habitats and responsible human behaviour. The Himalayas are not simply a landscape of snow-covered peaks. They are a living ecosystem filled with plants, animals and birds that have evolved over thousands of years. If we want future generations to see the brilliant colours of Himalayan pheasants in the wild, conservation must begin today.



JAUHAR: NOT ASHES, BUT THE FIRE OF IDENTITY

Lives deeply in the soil, folklore, and heroic traditions of Rajasthan. To consider Jauhar merely an act of self-immolation in fire would be to limit its historical and social context. Behind it lay war, power struggles, women’s insecurities, fears of defeat, and the complexities of contemporary social conditions. Therefore, Jauhar should be discussed with not only emotions but also a sense of history and human sensitivity. In Rajput history, bravery wasn’t limited to simply raising the sword on the battlefield. Along with the valor of men, stories of women’s sacrifice, courage, and self-respect have also been passed down from generation to generation. Whether it’s the folk memory of the Jauhar of Queen Padmavati of Chittor or the tales of other brave women of Mewar and Rajasthan these stories have created an image of Rajput identity in which self-respect is considered the highest value. Powerful lines like “The flames of Jauhar have awakened, to dry up the entire

Sindhu” are expressions of this collective memory. They reflect the pain, anger, and self-respect of that period of history. However, while un-



derstanding these sentiments today, it is also important to remember that historical events should not be used as a means to incite hatred or animosity against any community in current society. The most important aspect of jauhar is linked to women’s identity. In medieval wars, women of defeated states faced threats of abduction, violence, enslavement,

and forced control. The social structure of that era lacked the legal protections, institutional safeguards, and modern options for indepen-

dent decision-making that women enjoy today. It was in this environment that incidents like jauhar emerged. To understand them, it is necessary to examine the circumstances of that time in contrast to current social and legal norms. But understanding the tragedy of history and blindly glorifying it are two different things. Jauhar cannot

be a path for us to emulate today. In a modern democratic society, a woman’s dignity should be protected not through death, but through law, education, social awareness, and just institutions. Our goal should be to create a system in which no woman is forced to end her life to protect her identity. Honoring the memory of Rajput women warriors would be more meaningful in this context. Associating their courage solely with death would be limiting their struggle and individuality. It is more important to understand their inherent self-respect, courage to make decisions in times of crisis, and mental fortitude in the face of adversity. The sacrifices recorded in history can inspire us to ask what we are doing today to ensure the safety and respect of women. Similarly, the tales of swordplay and sacrifice of Rajput heroes are not merely tales of war and adventure. They were part of the political circumstances of their time, the struggles to protect regional autonomy and hon-



DR.SATYAWAN SAURABH

“Salute to the courage of the brave women, tribute to the sacrifice of the heroes and by learning from that history, resolve to create such a present where the protection of honour is along with life, not against life”.

or. Lines like “The lions who watered the earth, shedding blood from their chests” commemorate the heroic tradition that profoundly influenced the history and folk culture of Rajasthan. Historical memory is healthy only when it combines pride with conscience. We should remember the sacrifices of our ancestors, but we must avoid turning history into present-day hatred. Blaming entire communities today based on the actions of individuals or groups involved in a historical conflict is neither historically accurate nor socially just. The role of literature and poetry, in particular, becomes crucial here. Heroic poetry can instill a sense of self-confidence, courage, and patriotism in society. However, if the same poetry begins to promote hatred towards a community, its creative purpose is weakened. Therefore, slogans like “Jai Bhavani” and “Jai Mata Padmavati” should be viewed as cultural memory and reverence, not as political slogans of hostility towards anyone.

The memory of Jauhar teaches us another important lesson self-respect is a crucial value in human life, but in modern society, self-respect and life should not be made contradictory. Today, it is our responsibility to ensure that every woman has access to education, economic independence, legal rights, a safe environment, and the freedom to choose her own life. This may be the most humane message that can emerge from that historical suffering. The fragrance of bravery that permeates the soil of Rajasthan must live on, not just in the ashes of the past, but also in the responsibilities of the present. The need is not to rekindle the flames of Jauhar today, but to understand its history. Saluting those brave women will only be meaningful when we create a society where a woman’s dignity is not compromised, where her wishes are paramount, and where she need not sacrifice her life to protect them. History gives us pride, but it also gives us responsibility.

CORRUPTION-FREE INDIA: THE BATTLE FOR INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST

The most dangerous moment in the fight against corruption is not when an individual steals public money, but when society begins to regard such conduct as normal. When a bribe is called a “facilitation fee,” commission is described as “the system,” political influence becomes a “recommendation,” and breaking rules is celebrated as an “art of getting things done,” corruption ceases to be merely a legal problem. It becomes a crisis of social values. A purported video from Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has brought this disturbing mindset into sharp focus. The video appears to show some people taking a pledge to divide municipal revenue among themselves. The administration has ordered an inquiry, and the circumstances and authenticity of the video are being examined. Therefore, any final conclusion

must await the outcome of the investigation. Yet the episode raises a much larger question: Has corruption become so emboldened that people can allegedly pledge not merely to indulge in it, but to share its proceeds? If individuals associated with a public institution begin viewing public money as their private entitlement, it is a serious warning for democratic governance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly articulated the resolve in 2014: “Na khaunga, na khane dunga” neither will I indulge in corruption nor will I allow it. Since then, various institutional and digital measures have been emphasised to combat corruption. The Union government has repeatedly spoken of a policy of zero tolerance. The Lokpal has a statutory role in dealing with corruption complaints, while the Central Vigilance Commission plays an important role

in vigilance and preventive oversight. Yet one fundamental question remains: Can laws and technology eliminate corruption if society continues to tolerate it? The cost of corruption is not borne only by the government treasury. Its biggest victim is the ordinary citizen who stands in queues, pays taxes, follows rules and expects justice from the very system he supports. If a road that should have been built properly is constructed with substandard material, citizens pay the price. If medicines meant for a government hospital are unavailable, it is the poor patient who suffers. If an official demands money for a service that should be delivered on time, the citizen’s dignity is violated. Transparency International’s 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index gave India a score of 39 out of 100 and ranked it 91st among 182 countries. Its

Global Corruption Barometer data also reported that 39 per cent of public-service users surveyed had paid a bribe during the preceding 12 months; however, these figures relate to its 2020 Asia survey and should not be treated as a direct measurement of the situation in 2025 or 2026. Such statistics are warnings, but an even deeper concern is the social psychology surrounding corruption. Many people oppose corruption only when they themselves become its victims. When paying money makes a government process faster, the very system we condemn can suddenly appear convenient. That is how corruption acquires social acceptance. Corruption has an economic face, but it also has a face shaped by power and privilege. The use of political or social influence for personal convenience weakens the principle of equality. A visible example is the culture of VIP

access at religious places. At many prominent temples, ordinary devotees may wait for hours in queues while influential visitors receive special arrangements. This is not merely a question of temple management; it touches upon the democratic principle of equality. In matters of faith, status should not determine spiritual access. Exceptions may understandably be necessary for security, persons with disabilities, senior citizens or specific official responsibilities, but clear and uniform standards are needed to prevent privilege from becoming an entitlement. Democracy cannot mean that a privileged few are permanently allowed to move ahead while ordinary citizens remain in queues. Digital India has brought many public services online, reducing direct interaction between citizens and officials and creating greater possibilities for trans-



LALIT GARGG

“The real remedy is not limited to raids and suspensions. It lies in reducing discretionary powers, increasing transparency, ensuring time-bound public services, creating digital tracking, strengthening independent grievance redressal and fixing responsibility for decisions.”

parency. But technology by itself is not a cure. Wherever procedures remain complicated, official discretion is excessive or grievance redressal is ineffective, new forms of corruption can emerge even within digital systems. In areas such as GST administration, transparency, clear rules, risk-based scrutiny and accountability remain essential. This does not mean that an entire department is corrupt. It means that every large administrative system must be designed so that honest officials are protected and corrupt conduct becomes difficult to conceal. The real remedy is not limited to raids and suspensions. It lies in reducing discretionary powers, increasing transparency, ensuring time-bound public services, creating digital tracking, strengthening independent grievance redressal and fixing responsibility for decisions.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Fix Bengaluru’s Storm Drains Now

The recent downpours in Bengaluru have once again exposed our city’s fragile civic infrastructure. Critical junctions like Shivaji Nagar and Trinity Circle were submerged within minutes, paralyzing traffic and trapping emergency vehicles. It is unacceptable that tech-corridor commuters face waterlogged roads after brief spells of rain year after year. The newly formed Greater Bengaluru Corporation must prioritize cleaning storm water drains and clearing illegal encroachments over grand infrastructure projects. Temporary fixes will no longer suffice; our city urgently needs sustainable, flood-resilient urban planning before the next monsoon arrives.

Ivan

Protect Workers’ Original Certificates

The Karnataka government’s decision to amend the Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, specifically banning employers from holding onto workers’ original certificates is a welcome move. For far too long, job seekers in the state have suffered under companies that withhold their academic degrees as leverage to force long notice periods. This reform restores basic dignity and mobility to young professionals. However, simple legislation on paper is not enough. The Labour Department must establish strict, accessible reporting channels to ensure compliance and penalize violating firms swiftly.

Felix

Fix Bangalore’s Footpaths Now

Through your esteemed daily, I wish to highlight the pathetic condition of footpaths in Indiranagar and Koramangala. They are either non-existent, encroached by vendors and parked vehicles, or broken and dangerous to walk on. Pedestrians, especially senior citizens, schoolchildren and mothers with infants, are forced to walk on the busy road, risking their lives. Bangalore dreams of becoming a world-class city with Metro and smart roads, but a city where people cannot walk safely can never be world-class.

Sagar Lalith

RESTORING DIGNITY TO LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT



Public transportation forms the lifeblood of urban mobility, yet bus networks in rapidly expanding cities are consistently overshadowed by capital-intensive metro developments. While high-speed rail transit offers crucial connectivity across long-distance arterial corridors, local municipal buses carry the bulk of daily working-class commuters. Chronic issues like overcrowded vehicles, unpredictable schedules, and inadequate fleet maintenance continue to push citizens toward private two-wheelers, exacerbating traffic gridlock and air pollution.

Investing in the public bus system through dedicated transit corridors, modernized fleets, and real-time passenger tracking provides an immediate, cost-effective solution to city traffic. By prioritizing bus transit alongside heavy rail, municipal administrations can create an inclusive, efficient transportation ecosystem that serves all economic strata without leaving lower-income neighborhoods underserved.

A primary reason for the stagnation of urban bus networks is the disproportionate allocation of municipal budgets. Multi-billion-dollar underground metro systems often dominate urban transit budgets and political discourse, despite taking decades to complete and covering only limited spatial routes. In contrast, expanding a city's public bus fleet requires significantly less capital expenditure and can be deployed rapidly across every neighborhood. A robust bus network acts as both a primary transit option and the vital "last-mile" bridge that connects commuters from metro stations to their ultimate destinations. Without a functional bus system, heavy rail projects often struggle to reach their full ridership potential.

To make public buses an attractive alternative to private vehicles, city authorities must focus on service reliability and transit speed. Dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes, physical queue management at major stops, and transit-signal priority at intersections can drastically reduce commuter travel times.

When commuters realize that taking a bus allows them to bypass traffic congestion at a fraction of the cost of driving, private vehicle use will naturally decline. Modern commuter expectations also demand real-time information. Integrating GPS tracking into public bus apps allows riders to plan trips accurately, eliminating the frustration of waiting indefinitely at poorly maintained bus shelters.

Moreover, the electrification of urban bus fleets presents a twin opportunity: reducing localized vehicular emissions while modernizing municipal transit services. Electric buses not only lower running and maintenance costs for transit authorities over time, but they also significantly reduce noise pollution and toxic exhaust fumes in high-density urban areas. City authorities must establish robust fast-charging infrastructure, depot charging stations, and secure long-term procurement models to accelerate this green transition.

Inclusivity must remain at the heart of public transit planning. Public buses are the primary mode of motorized transport for domestic workers, street vendors, students, and low-wage laborers. Ensuring affordable fare structures, safe lighting at bus stops, accessible boarding ramps for elderly and disabled commuters, and dedicated safety measures for women elevates transit from a mere transportation service to an engine of socio-economic mobility. When public transit is safe, clean, and accessible, it levels the playing field for all urban residents.

Ultimately, a city's maturity is reflected in the quality of its public infrastructure. When municipal leaders treat public bus systems as essential public utilities rather than afterthought operations, urban mobility becomes equitable. Reliable, clean, and dignified public transit is not merely an alternative to traffic congestion; it is the cornerstone of sustainable, democratic urban development.

- VELU MUTHU

THE UNSEEN POTENTIAL OF LAB-GROWN INNOVATION



The sharp shift in global commodity markets, marked by falling prices for traditional natural resources like mined diamonds alongside the rapid rise of lab-grown alternatives, signals a fundamental change in manufacturing and consumer behavior. Lab-grown technology is disrupting legacy luxury industries by offering sustainable, ethically produced alternatives at a fraction of the cost. For India, a major global hub for gemstone processing, this shift represents both a challenge to traditional supply chains and a massive industrial opportunity.

By scaling up domestic manufacturing of lab-grown materials and investing in synthetic diamond applications for advanced electronics and industrial cutting tools, the nation can transition from a processing hub into a high-tech manufacturing leader. Adapting to technology-driven industrial shifts ensures long-term economic resilience while establishing dominance in emergent global trade markets.

Historically, India's gemstone and jewelry sector has relied heavily on importing raw, mined stones from international sources, processing and polishing them domestically, and exporting the finished products globally. While this industry employs millions of skilled artisans, it remains highly vulnerable to international supply chain disruptions, geopolitical volatility, and rising consumer scrutiny over ethical mining practices and environmental degradation. Lab-grown alternatives offer a way to bypass these traditional constraints entirely, allowing domestic

manufacturers to produce high-purity materials in controlled laboratory environments using chemical vapor deposition (CVD) and high-pressure high-temperature (HPHT) technologies.

Beyond consumer luxury, advanced lab-grown materials hold transformative potential for critical technology sectors, including semiconductor manufacturing, laser optics, quantum computing, and clean energy storage. Synthetic diamond wafers, for instance, possess unmatched thermal conductivity and optical clarity, making them crucial components for next-generation microprocessors, high-power electronic devices, and thermal management systems in aerospace engineering. Strategic government incentives aimed at research and development in synthetic crystal growth can position the country as an indispensable node in the global high-tech hardware supply chain.

Furthermore, transitioning toward laboratory manufacturing aligns directly with global sustainability and carbon-neutrality goals. Conventional deep-pit diamond mining requires moving thousands of tons of earth, consuming vast amounts of diesel fuel, and contaminating local water systems. In contrast, lab-grown crystal facilities can be powered entirely by renewable energy sources like solar and wind, resulting in a significantly lower environmental footprint. Promoting lab-grown tech enables green industrial growth while appealing to environmentally conscious global consumers.

- DEEPU

RETHINKING BENGALURU'S RAPID CONCRETE EXPANSION



The rapid transformation of Bengaluru from a tranquil "Garden City" into India's bustling technological nerve center has come at a steep environmental cost. As high-rise residential complexes and sprawling commercial parks continue to swallow up suburban peripheries, the city's natural defences its interconnected lake systems and green cover are systematically disappearing. Each heavy spell of rain turns major arterial corridors into waterlogged bottlenecks, laying bare the consequences of uncoordinated urban sprawl.

While economic growth remains vital for Karnataka, urban expansion without ecological foresight is inherently unsustainable. Municipal authorities must move beyond reactionary road repairs and focus on restoring natural drainage channels, reviving urban wetlands, and strictly enforcing zoning regulations. Integrating green infrastructure into long-term municipal planning is no longer an aesthetic preference; it is an urgent structural necessity to ensure Bengaluru remains livable for future generations.

Historically, Bengaluru's climate and geography were managed through a sophisticated network of man-made lakes and storm-water drains (known locally as rajakaluves). Built centuries ago, this interlinked hydrological system allowed monsoon overflow to cascade naturally from higher-altitude lakes to lower ones, preventing catastrophic flooding. However,

decades of uncontrolled real estate construction have severed these natural connections. Drains have been narrowed, paved over, or clogged with solid waste, transforming natural floodplains into high-density concrete zones. When intense downpours strike, rainwater has nowhere to flow except onto major roadways and into residential basements.

To reverse this downward spiral, the local government and urban planning bodies must adopt a watershed-based approach to city development. Rather than treating drainage as an afterthought in road construction, municipal engi-

neers must map and protect entire hydrological catchments. Modern technology, such as satellite mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), should be leveraged to identify historical water pathways and detect illegal encroachments in real time. Encroachments on lake beds and drainage corridors must be cleared without administrative bias, regardless of whether the builders are private developers or public utilities.

Furthermore, community-led conservation efforts must be empowered alongside top-down municipal policies. Citizens, environmental activists, and local resident welfare associations have

REBALANCING RURAL SUPPORT WITH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



State governments across India face the growing challenge of balancing agricultural water security, industrial energy demands, and rural livelihoods. In agrarian regions, persistent rainfall variations regularly trigger widespread crop stress, prompting states to lay the groundwork to declare drought-hit regions and explore emergency power-sharing measures with local industries, such as sugar processing plants. While short-term interventions such as redistributing captive power or releasing emergency relief funds provide immediate relief to distressed farming communities, they highlight deeper structural vulnerabilities in regional power grids and water management networks.

To build genuine long-term climate resilience, state administrations must pair emergency economic aid with comprehensive investments in micro-irrigation technology, grid-connected solar power generation for farms, and climate-resilient crop varieties. Drought management cannot remain a reactive administrative seasonal ritual; it must evolve into a proactive policy framework centered on sustainable rural resource allocation.

The interplay between agricultural water usage and state energy subsidies lies at the heart of rural financial distress. For decades, state governments have provided free or heavily subsidized electricity to farmers for groundwater extraction. While this policy was originally designed to boost agricultural output and safeguard food security, it has inadvertently encouraged over-extraction from subterranean aquifers and placed an immense financial strain on state power distribution companies (DISCOMs). Farmers, faced with erratic power supply schedules, often run electric pumps continuously whenever power is available, leading to depleted

groundwater tables and massive energy waste.

Modernizing agricultural energy access requires shifting reliance away from overworked, fossil-fuel-dependent thermal grids toward localized, renewable solutions. Government programs that incentivize farmers to install solar-powered irrigation pumps allow rural communities to generate their own clean electricity during daytime hours. By connecting these solar pumps to the regional grid, farmers can use the energy they need for irrigation and sell the excess electricity back to state distribution companies. This creates a stable, secondary revenue stream for agricultural households during low-yield seasons while drastically reducing the financial losses of state power utilities.

Simultaneously, water management strategies must shift from large-scale, capital-intensive dam storage to decentralized watershed development and soil conservation. Recharging depleted aquifers, restoring community farm ponds, and adopting micro-irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler systems can mitigate the worst impacts of monsoonal variability. Drip irrigation, in particular, delivers water directly to plant roots, reducing water consumption by up to fifty percent compared to traditional flood irrigation methods while simultaneously improving crop yields.

State agricultural departments must also actively encourage crop diversification. Regions facing chronic water shortages often remain locked into cultivating water-intensive crops due to legacy Minimum Support Price (MSP) structures. State policies must incentivize a transition toward climate-resilient, low-water crops such as millets, pulses, and oilseeds.

- NAVEEN KUMAR G

ADDRESSING THE URGENT GLOBAL OCEAN PROTECTION GAP

Despite ambitious international commitments like the "30 by 30" target aiming to protect 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030 global efforts to safeguard marine biodiversity remain severely off track. The vast high seas, which lie outside national jurisdictions and cover nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans, face rising threats from industrial overfishing, seafloor mining, plastic pollution, and warming waters. Without enforceable multilateral agreements and dedicated international funding, fragmented national marine reserves will fall short of preventing marine ecosystem collapse.

The global community must accelerate the ratification of treaty frameworks governing international waters, enforce strict conservation standards, and secure equitable financing for coastal developing nations. Protecting international waters is vital to stabilizing the planet's climate, preserving oceanic carbon sinks, and securing global food systems for future generations.

The high seas have long suffered from the "tragedy of the commons." Because no single nation exercises sovereignty over international waters, commercial operators have exploited marine resources with minimal regulatory oversight. Deep-sea bottom trawling demolishes ancient coral reefs, while industrial longline fishing devastates populations of sharks, sea turtles, and marine mammals. Furthermore, emergent industries like deep-sea mining pose severe risks to unexplored benthic ecosystems, threatening to disrupt deep-ocean carbon storage and destroy unique biological habitats before they are even fully understood by science.

Implementing real-time satellite tracking, automated identification systems (AIS), and mandatory transponder policies for all global commercial fishing vessels is essential to enforce compliance on international waters. Advanced satellite imagery and artificial intelligence can now identify illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in real time, allowing international enforcement bodies to intercept illegal vessels and ban their catch from entering global markets. Transparency in maritime operations must become the global standard.

Furthermore, ocean conservation cannot be separated from broader global climate action. Oceans act as the planet's primary thermal buffer, absorbing over 90% of the excess heat generated by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and capturing massive quantities of carbon dioxide. However, this absorption comes at a devastating cost: ocean warming, acidification, and widespread coral bleaching. Protecting marine ecosystems particularly coastal mangroves, seagrass meadows, and deep-ocean kelp forests is essential because these "blue carbon" habitats store carbon at rates significantly higher than terrestrial forests.

- LATHA SHAKAR



Quick Read

Green hydrogen prices boost competitiveness

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI India's green hydrogen sector is moving towards global cost competitiveness, with the lowest green ammonia bid at Rs 49.75 per kg and green hydrogen at Rs 279 per kg, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, incentives have been awarded for 8.62 lakh tonnes per annum of green hydrogen production and 3k MW of domestic electrolyser manufacturing capacity. The mission has an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore. India's non-fossil fuel power capacity has crossed 304 GW, while solar capacity has exceeded 160 GW.

CARICOM backs India's UNSC bid for 2028-29

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI CARICOM countries have decided to support India's candidature for a non-permanent United Nations Security Council seat for the 2028-29 term, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday. The decision was announced at the India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held during the 81st UN General Assembly in New York.

Myntra creates over 26,000 jobs ahead of festive season

NEW DELHI Fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra has created more than 26,000 seasonal employment opportunities ahead of the festive season and its Big Fashion Festival, marking more than a two-fold increase in hiring compared with last year. The seasonal workforce includes 8,000 delivery partners and 2,700 customer service roles. More than 350 positions have been reserved for persons with disabilities, while women will make up 30 per cent of the workforce at fulfilment centres. The jobs cover supply chain activities such as sorting, grading and packing. Workers have been recruited from Odisha, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand to support operations across

Nageswaran calls for manufacturing to drive growth

NEW DELHI India must strengthen manufacturing, attract foreign investment and create jobs suited to an artificial intelligence-driven economy as it seeks to become a developed nation by 2047, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said. Addressing the 13th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave 2026, Nageswaran said India's development was taking place amid geopolitical tensions, supply-chain risks, climate variability and competition from China's manufacturing capabilities. He called for greater resilience

India targets green energy exports from 2028

India plans to start exporting green energy by 2028-29, targeting 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen capacity by 2030.

NEW DELHI India expects to begin exporting green energy from 2028-29 as it expands production under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, Mission Director Abhay Bakre said. He said India is targeting 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen production capacity by 2030, supported by exports. Bakre said India's renewable energy potential could



help produce green hydrogen and derivatives. These include green ammonia and green methanol, which can be used in fertilisers and shipping.

Hydrogen is expected to support sectors such as refineries, steel and mobility. He said exports would form a part of meeting the 2030 target.

"From 2028, 2029 onwards, we will be actually having the export of green energy,"

- Abhay Bakre, Mission Director

Adani Group announces Rs 4,000 Cr healthcare investment

NEW TOWN (KOLKATA) Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Thursday announced an investment of more than Rs 4,000 crore in the proposed Adani Arogya Mandir in West Bengal, a healthcare project expected to create over 10,000 jobs. The 2,000-bed not-for-profit medical institution will include a medical college, advanced research facilities and healthcare services. Half of its beds, or 1,000, will be reserved for economically weaker sections eligible under state and central government

health insurance schemes. Adani made the announcement while laying the foundation stone for the project in New Town. "We will invest over 4,000 crore rupees in this hospital, college, and research facility," Adani said. He was accompanied by his wife Priti Adani and son Karan Adani during the bhumi puja ceremony. The healthcare project is part of the Adani Group's larger investment plans for West Bengal. The group intends to invest more than Rs 1 lakh crore in the state by 2035 across sectors including ports,

logistics, power generation, transmission and distribution, roads, bridges, ropeways, green cement and hyperscale data centres. Adani also announced the group's support for restoring Kolkata's historic Writers' Building. He said West Bengal's location gives it an opportunity to strengthen its role as a maritime and logistics link connecting India's industrial heartland, the Northeast and the Bay of Bengal. The group said its healthcare and related projects would support employment across the state's healthcare ecosystem.

UPI MDR consumer impact limited to 10 per cent

MUMBAI The risk of consumers bearing the cost of UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges is limited to around 10 per cent of the overall value on which MDR is collected, NPCI Managing Director and CEO Dilip Asbe said. Speaking at the 13th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave 2026, Asbe said about 75 per cent of overall UPI transaction value falls outside the charging framework and is therefore unaffected by the MDR policy. Of the nearly Rs 30 lakh crore in UPI transaction value, merchant payments account for around Rs 6-7 lakh crore. Asbe said around 80 per cent of the MDR collected comes from businesses with annual gross merchandise value and digital payment collections exceeding Rs 1,000 crore. These large businesses already accept

credit cards and pay higher charges, making them less likely to pass UPI-related costs to consumers. He added that businesses with annual turnover of Rs 1 crore and above could account for another 10 per cent of MDR collections. While these businesses also accept credit cards, Asbe acknowledged that consumers could potentially bear charges in the remaining 10 per cent of MDR collections. On UPI growth, Asbe said transaction value is expected to increase around 10 per cent this year, while transaction volumes could rise 15-17 per cent. He attributed the slower growth partly to reduced investment by ecosystem participants after the initial years of UPI infrastructure development. He said the long-term goal is to expand UPI usage among a billion users and support wider access to credit, investments and insurance.

Meta unveils AI-powered VR glasses with advanced features

NEW DELHI Meta has unveiled its new Meta VR Glasses, combining built-in Meta AI with virtual reality features in a lightweight device the company describes as its "most advanced device yet." The glasses can be controlled through voice commands, eye movements and hand gestures. Users can play movies, open applications, adjust their workspace and conduct searches without controllers. Meta said its AI agent is directly integrated into the device's operating system. The glasses are five times lighter than the Meta Quest 3 and use a two-part design.



Meta unveils lightweight VR glasses with built-in AI, hands-free controls, and a 5K display, offering an advanced virtual reality experience.

The glasses contain sensors and displays, while a separate computing puck connected through an optical tether houses the battery, storage and processing hardware. The device features a 5K Infinite Display using micro-OLED panels and ultra-compact pancake lenses. Meta said the glasses support Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos spatial audio. They are also the first IMAX Enhanced certified VR device, allowing users to access select films in expanded formats. The company is working with platforms including Prime Video, YouTube, ESPN, Tubi and Crunchyroll, while Peacock, HBO Max and Paramount+ are bringing 3D content to the device. Meta also announced hologram technology that creates a photorealistic digital representation of users for hands-free video calls. The system captures facial expressions and reactions in real time. The company said thousands of titles are expected to be available internationally, while partnerships with director James Cameron and Lightstorm Vision will bring new 3D films from 2027.

Consumer durables market may hit Rs 3.25 lakh crore by 2030

NEW DELHI India's consumer durables market is expected to grow 8-10 per cent annually and reach Rs 3-3.25 lakh crore by 2030, according to a joint report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The report said the growth could create an additional Rs 40,000-50,000 crore opportunity for domestic value addition. However, deeper localisation of components will be necessary to reduce import dependence. Domestic value addition currently accounts for about 50-55 per cent of the sector's potential and could rise to 65-70 per cent by 2030. The report identified technology access, manufacturing scale and cost competitive-



IN FOCUS
■ 8-10% annual growth
■ ₹3-3.25 lakh crore by 2030
■ ₹40,000-50,000 crore value-add opportunity
■ 65-70% localisation target
■ <1% global trade share

ness as key challenges for localising components such as TV display panels, air-conditioner compressors, refrigerator insulation and washing-machine motors. Localisation currently ranges from 25 per cent to 70 per cent across major consumer durable categories. Domestic demand is also expected to expand, with household ownership of large appliances still 20-90 percentage points below regional peers. Rising incomes, easier

financing, premium products, replacement demand and the growth of nuclear families are expected to support market expansion. Exports offer another opportunity, as India currently accounts for less than 1 per cent of global consumer durables trade. The report called for stronger component ecosystems, better testing and certification facilities, technology partnerships and improved logistics.

Türkiye, B'desh announce Boeing purchases

NEW DELHI Türkiye and Bangladesh have announced purchases of 111 Boeing aircraft, with options for another 50 planes, US President Donald Trump said on Thursday. He said the deals would boost US exports and support American manufacturing jobs. Bangladesh's national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines will buy 11 additional Boeing aircraft, taking its planned orders to 25 jets.

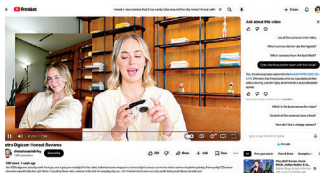
India aligns skill standards for overseas jobs

SHANGHAI Candidates progressed through state, regional and national competitions before the final team was selected. India is sending its largest-ever contingent to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, with 70 competitors taking part across 63 skill categories, according to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Pillai said international competitions should not be viewed only through medal results, but also as opportunities to learn from countries with established vocational training systems. He said India needs to strengthen institutions and infrastructure while using global exposure to improve its own skills ecosystem. Pillai said the longer-term goal was to take the skills agenda deeper across the country and build a stronger pipeline of workers capable of meeting global standards. The international partnerships are intended to connect India's vocational training system more closely with overseas employment opportunities while improving training quality at scale and expanding global career opportunities.

YOUTUBE EXPANDS SHOPPING

YouTube Shopping expands merchant network in India

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI YouTube Shopping is expanding its merchant network in India by adding Amazon, AJIO, Meesho, Snapdeal, and Tata CLiQ, as creator earnings and shopping activity continue to grow ahead of the festive season for Indian creators and consumers. The new partners join existing retailers including Flipkart, Myntra, Nykaa, Purple, Shopsy and Tira. YouTube said the expansion will provide consumers and creators with a wider range of products across major retailers, value marketplaces and spe-



EXPANSION AT A GLANCE
■ 5 new partners: Amazon, AJIO, Meesho, Snapdeal, Tata CLiQ
■ 160%+ rise in creator payouts
■ 200% growth in affiliate enrolment
■ 19 million+ tagged shopping videos
■ 450 million+ users search shopping content
■ 55% rise in shopping watch time
■ 50%+ eligible Indian creators enrolled

tagged more than 19 million videos. YouTube said over 450 million logged-in users in India search for shopping-related content, while shopping-related watch time increased 55 per cent year-on-year. The platform is also introducing AI-powered shopping tools. Ask YouTube for Shopping will let viewers ask product questions on a video's watch page, including through voice commands while watching on television. Product tags for creators with global audiences will adapt to regional deals and local currencies.

YouTube is also expanding tools that help brands promote creator affiliate content through paid campaigns. Ask Studio for Brand Partnerships, which is rolling out soon, will use generative AI to help creators pitch campaigns and respond to brand briefs. Exclusive Affiliate Campaigns, offering bonus incentives and higher commission rates, are scheduled to launch in India next year. Globally, shopping-related watch time crossed 40 billion hours in 2025, while gross merchandise value increased 13-fold over two years.

India win silver in mixed 4x400m relay at Asian Games

AICHI-NAGOYA

India won the silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay at the Asian Games on Thursday, adding another athletics medal to its campaign. The quartet of Poovamma Machettira, Vishal Thennarasu, Vithya Ramraj and Manu Thekkinalil finished second in the final.

The result continued India's strong record in the event. India won gold in the mixed 4x400m relay at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta before claiming silver at the 2023 Hangzhou Games.

Earlier in the day, India secured qualification for the relay final after finishing second in its heat. The team's performance added to a busy athletics schedule for the Indian contingent.



Seema Kumari also won bronze in the women's 10,000m final, clocking 32:50.05. Bahrain's Winfred Yavi took gold in 32:39.18,

while Japan's Nozomi Tanaka won silver in 32:41.54. Seema's medal ended India's 16-year wait for a women's 10,000m Asian Games medal.

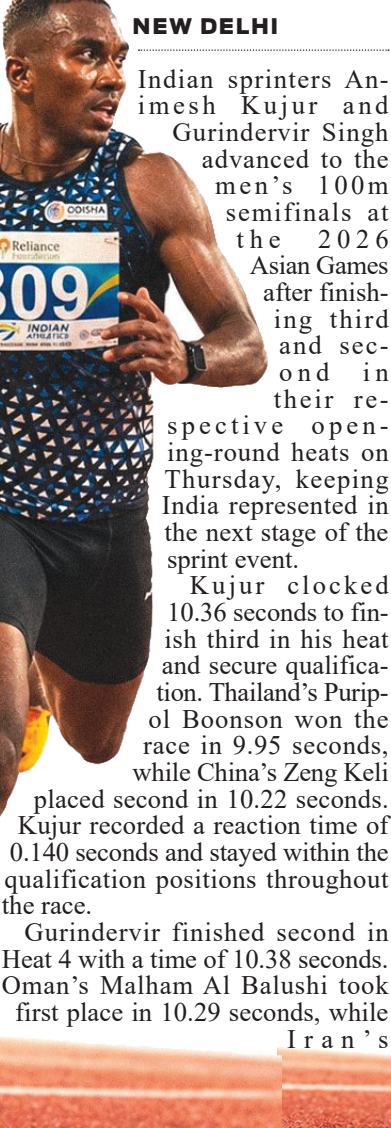
Earlier, Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh qualified for the men's 100m semifinals at the 2026 Asian Games after finishing third and second in their respective opening-round heats on Thursday, keeping India represented in the next stage of the sprint event.

Kujur clocked 10.36 seconds to finish third in his heat and secure qualification. Thailand's Puripol Boonson won the race in 9.95 seconds, while China's Zeng Keli placed second in 10.22 seconds.

Kujur recorded a reaction time of 0.140 seconds and stayed within the qualification positions throughout the race.

Gurindervir finished second in Heat 4 with a time of 10.38 seconds. Oman's Malham Al Balushi took first place in 10.29 seconds, while Iran's

Indian sprinters reach Asian Games 100m semifinals



Hassan Taftian was third in 10.46 seconds. Gurindervir's reaction time was 0.142 seconds, and he finished 0.09 seconds behind the heat winner. His second-place finish secured his progress to the semifinals.

The qualification of both sprinters gives India two representatives in the men's 100m semifinals as the athletics campaign continues at the continental event.

The duo will now aim to advance to the final. Earlier in boxing, Sakshi Chaudhary was eliminated after losing 3-2 to Kazakhstan's Balkibekova in the women's 51kg bout. Parveen, however, moved into the quarterfinals after Tajikistan's Malika Nozimova conceded a walkover. Parveen will next face Uzbekistan's Navbakhor Khamidova in the quarterfinal, while Kujur and Gurindervir continue India's sprint challenge. Their performances ensured India's presence in the next round of the blue-ribbed sprint event, with both athletes progressing through their heats on the same day. The results also added to India's participation in athletics at the ongoing Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan.

Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh advanced to the 100m semifinals, keeping India's sprint challenge alive at the Asian Games.



Indian rowers win bronze, finish fifth

India's quadruple sculls crew finished fifth, while Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won bronze in men's double sculls.

AICHI-NAGOYA

India's men's quadruple sculls crew finished fifth in the final at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday, while rowers Satnam Singh and Salman Khan secured a bronze medal in the men's double sculls. The quadruple sculls team of Kulwinder Singh, Navdeep Singh, Jakar Khan and Balraj Panwar clocked 5:52.17.

China won gold in 5:46.03, followed by Indonesia in 5:47.90 and Uzbekistan in 5:48.96. India finished outside the medal positions despite recording a competitive time in the final. The result came as rowing delivered another medal for India through the men's double sculls event.

Satnam Singh and Salman Khan finished third in the double sculls final with a timing of 6:13.25. They were 3.48 seconds behind the Chinese gold-medal pair of Yi Xudi and Nie Yide, while silver medallists Mekhrobek Mamatkulov and Pavel Sorin finished 2.76 seconds ahead of the Indian duo. Satnam and Salman held second place at the 500m, 1000m and 1500m marks before slipping back late in the race.

The bronze contributed to India's 13th medal at the ongoing Games, taking the tally to one gold, five silvers and seven bronzes. In the men's singles sculls, Balraj Panwar narrowly missed a medal after finishing fourth. He stayed second at 500m, 1000m and 1500m but was overtaken by Uzbekistan's Shakhboz Kholmurzaev and Japan's Tatsuya Sakurama in the final 500m.

Balraj clocked 6:54.80, finishing 15 seconds behind gold medallist Zhiwei Deng of China. He had held a five-second lead over Sakurama before the final stretch but eventually finished eight seconds behind the Japanese rower. India's rowing campaign therefore produced a bronze medal alongside two fourth and fifth-place finishes. The results added another medal while India remained across rowing events.

Indian fencers bow out in Asian Games sabre

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian fencers Bhavani Devi and Shreya Gupta bowed out in the round of 16 of the women's sabre individual event at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday, ending their campaigns after reaching the knockout stages. Bhavani, an Olympian, defeated Kazakhstan's Aigerim Sarybay 5-4 and Thailand's Arisara Somphao 5-2 before advancing.

Bhavani had suffered three pool-stage defeats, losing 5-1 to South Korea's Jeongmi Kim, 5-4 to Iran's Najmeh Sazanjan and 5-4 to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova. She then beat Mongolia's Oulen Tugsjargal 15-8 in the round of 32 to reach the pre-quarterfinals. Her run ended against China's Rao Xueyi, a 2026 Worlds silver medallist, who won 15-5.

Shreya, the other Indian to reach the round of 16, also faced a tough opponent and lost 15-6 to South Korea's Jeon Ha-young, the silver medallist at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The results ended India's challenge in the individual women's sabre competition, with both fencers unable

to progress to the quarterfinals.

Elsewhere, India added medals in other events on Thursday. Roshibina Devi won her second consecutive Asian Games silver after losing the women's sanda 60kg final to China's Zhang Xiaoyu. Roshibina, who also won silver at the 2022 Hangzhou Games, had beaten Vietnam's 2023 world champion Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy and Indonesia's Thania Kusumaningtyas on her way to the final. Rowers Satnam Singh and Salman Khan also secured bronze in the men's double sculls, taking India's medal tally to 14, comprising one gold, six silvers and seven bronzes. Balraj Panwar finished fourth in men's singles sculls after being overtaken during the final 500 metres. The fencing results came alongside India's medal-winning performances in sanda and rowing at the ongoing Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Anantjeet, Parinaaz wins mixed skeet bronze

AICHI-NAGOYA

Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Parinaaz Dhaliwal won the bronze medal for India in the mixed team skeet shooting final at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday. The Indian pair scored 44 points across six series, finishing behind China and South Korea. China won gold with 52 points, setting a new world record, while South Korea took silver with 51.

China's score surpassed the previous world record of 47, held by Qatar since January 2026. Qatar finished fourth with 18 points. Anantjeet and Parinaaz had entered the title contest after finishing fourth in the qualification.

Earlier, India finished fourth in the men's 10m air pistol team event. Kamaljeet, Kedarling Balakrishna and Aakash Bhardwaj combined for 1727-53x, behind China, Indonesia and Japan. Kamaljeet scored 580-16x, Aakash recorded 579-20x, and Kedarling finished with 568 points. Only the top eight shooters advanced to the individual final, leaving the Indian trio outside qualification.

India also added medals through wushu and rowing on Thursday. Roshibina Devi won silver in the women's sanda 60kg event, while Satnam Singh and Salman Khan secured bronze in men's double sculls.

qualification with a combined score of 138 out of 150. China topped qualification with 140, followed by South Korea with 143 and Qatar with 145.

The bronze was India's 15th medal of the ongoing Games, taking the tally to one gold, six silvers and eight bronzes. It was also India's eighth shooting medal at the event, with the medals equally divided between silver and bronze. Both shooters had also contributed to India's skeet team medals on Wednesday.

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Anahat, Tanvi set up all-India squash quarterfinal

AICHI-NAGOYA: Indian squash players Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna advanced to the women's singles quarterfinals at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday, setting up an all-India clash in the last eight. Third seed Anahat defeated Singapore's Au Yeong Wai Lynn 3-0, winning 11-4, 11-5 and 11-7 to secure her place in the quarterfinals.

Anahat, the World Cup winner, controlled the match from the opening game and completed a straight-games victory. Her result put her into the next stage of the singles competition, where she will meet fellow Indian Tanvi after the latter also won her round-of-16 contest against Singapore's Au Yeong Wai Yhann.

Tanvi recorded a 3-1 victory after losing the opening game 5-11. She responded by taking the next three games 11-4, 11-5 and 13-11, completing her comeback and booking a quarterfinal meeting with Anahat. The all-India contest will provide another domestic battle in the women's singles draw. India also progressed in mixed doubles, with Joshna Chinappa and Velavan Senthilkumar reaching the quarterfinals after defeating compatriots Suraj Chand and Shameena Riaz 2-0. Joshna and Velavan won the opening game 11-7 before taking a closely fought second game 11-10. Suraj and Shameena fought back from 7-9 to level the second game at 9-9, but the senior pair closed out the contest.



INDIA REACHES KABADDI SEMIFINALS AFTER PERFECT GROUP STAGE

AICHI-NAGOYA

The Indian men's kabaddi team advanced to the Asian Games semifinals after completing a perfect group-stage campaign with a 37-21 victory over Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

India dominated the opening half, taking a 17-7 lead before ending the first half 23-11. Arjun Deshwal was among the standout performers as the defending champions-maintained control of the contest.

The victory gave India four wins from four matches in Group A. They had earlier defeated Japan 49-24, South Korea 63-31 and Bangladesh 48-25. India are now one victory away from defending their Asian Games title.

Men's kabaddi has been dominated by India since its debut at the 1990 Asian Games. The team has won gold at eight of the nine editions, with the only exception being the 2018 Games, where

MATCH AT A GLANCE
• Group-stage wins: 4
• Latest win: 37-21 vs Chinese Taipei
• First-half lead: 23-11
• Earlier wins: Japan, South Korea and Bangladesh
• Asian Games golds: 8 of 9 editions
• India's medals: 1 gold, 6 silver, 7 bronze
• Current medal tally: 14

India finished with bronze. At the 2022 Hangzhou Games, India defeated Iran 33-29 to win gold.

India also added medals in other events on Thursday. Roshibina Devi secured silver in the women's sanda 60kg category, while rowers Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won bronze in the men's double sculls. India's medal tally reached 14, including one gold, six silver and seven bronze medals.

Injury ends Sumit Kundu's Asian Games campaign

AICHI-NAGOYA

Indian boxer Sumit Kundu's men's 70kg campaign at the 2026 Asian Games ended in the round of 16 on Thursday after a knee injury forced the referee to stop his contest against Iraq's Ali Al-Sarray. Kundu had won the opening two rounds before the injury brought his bout to an early end. Kundu started strongly, using his height and weight advantage to land several big punches and take the first round. He continued to hold the upper hand in the second, winning it 3-2 despite Al-Sarray's efforts to fight back. However, at the start of the third round, Kundu began to hobble after slipping. The referee then stopped the contest because of his knee injury. The result ended Kundu's run after he had entered the round of 16 with a unanimous-decision victory over Thailand's Bunjong Sinsiri in Monday's preliminary bout. Against Sinsiri, Kundu gradually found his rhythm after an aggressive start from the Thai boxer and won the opening round 4-1 on the judges' cards.

Kundu controlled the second round by patiently choosing his punches and increased his attacks during the final 30 seconds. He then adopted a more measured approach in the third round, avoiding unnecessary exchanges while continuing to land effective punches.



Quick Read

4 killed in fresh Pakistan airstrikes

Kabul
Pakistan's military carried out fresh airstrikes on Afghanistan's Kandahar, Paktia and Khost provinces on Thursday, killing four civilians, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said. He condemned the attacks as "indiscriminate and cowardly" and described them as a violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty. Mujahid said the Taliban government would respond decisively to what it called Pakistani aggression. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai also criticised Islamabad's actions and urged Pakistan to pursue good relations with Afghanistan. The latest strikes came days after Pakistan reportedly carried out airstrikes on Kunar and Paktika provinces, killing three people, according to Taliban officials.

US open to limited Russia-Ukraine ceasefire

New York
The United States is open to exploring a limited ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine covering energy and grain, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. He noted that both sides have expressed interest, but no agreement or formal proposal has been announced. Rubio said energy targets mean different things to Russia and Ukraine, with Kyiv seeking protection for its electricity infrastructure while Russian oil and gas facilities are also being targeted. He said Washington could help if it plays a constructive role. Rubio cautioned that such a limited arrangement would not end the war but could ease pressure and create a basis for wider talks.

Indian seafarer killed in Oman ship attack

Muscat
One Indian seafarer was killed after commercial vessel MV Cape Dao, travelling towards India, was attacked off Oman's eastern coast. The deceased was identified as Suraj Yadav from Deoria, Uttar Pradesh. India's Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that 19 Indian seafarers were rescued and expressed condolences to Yadav's family. The Indian Embassy in Oman is coordinating with Omani authorities to facilitate their return to India. The Forward Seamen's Union of India said the vessel was struck by two torpedoes, damaging the crew quarters and hull near the engine room. India urged an immediate halt to attacks on commercial vessels.

BUSINESS VISA FRAUD

Nepal begins deportation of 88 Chinese nationals

KATHMANDU
Nepal has begun the deportation of 88 Chinese nationals accused of violating visa conditions by working at a meat-processing project despite holding business visas issued for other purposes. The Department of Immigration said their visas have been cancelled and they will be barred from entering Nepal for three years. The 88 nationals were found working at Ziyan Foods Pvt. Ltd., which is developing the Nepal Heat-Processed Buffalo Meat Export to China Project in Sindhuli district's Marini Rural Municipality. The project has financial backing from Chengdu Tian Food Limited. Immigration officials said the individuals had obtained business visas in the names of other companies, including for proposed restaurants or software businesses, but were found engaged in activities at the meat-processing facility. Department of Immigration spokesperson Tikaram Dhakal said the nationals were involved in employment, labour and other activities that did not match the purposes for which their

Jaishankar holds talks with European partners

These talks happened during ongoing international diplomatic efforts to address the war in Ukraine.

NEW YORK

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a series of bilateral meetings with European counterparts on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, discussing the Ukraine conflict, India-EU trade, technology, energy, defence, connectivity and bilateral relations. Jaishankar met Netherlands Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen and exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict. The two sides also reviewed the progress of commitments and outcomes linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands earlier this year. The discussions came amid continuing inter-



national diplomatic efforts concerning the war in Ukraine. In his meeting with Finnish Foreign Minister Eli-

na Valtonen, Jaishankar discussed current geopolitical and technology-related challenges, besides bilateral rela-

Key Highlights
■ Finland: Discussed geopolitical, technology, and EU cooperation with Elina Valtonen.
■ Slovenia: Explored India-EU Free Trade Agreement and economic ties with Tone Kajzer.
■ Sectors: Covered energy, manufacturing, digital cooperation, connectivity, and defense.
■ Global South: Met with Caribbean and Pacific partners on climate and technology.
■ Schedule: Set to address the UN General Assembly on September 26.

tions and cooperation within the European Union. He said India and Finland would continue to work together on areas of mutual interest. Trade and investment opportunities connected with the India-EU Free Trade Agreement were also

discussed during Jaishankar's meeting with Slovenia's Foreign Minister Tone Kajzer. The two ministers discussed prospects for expanding economic cooperation as India and the European Union work towards implementing the proposed

trade agreement. Their talks also covered energy, manufacturing, digital cooperation, connectivity, defence and multilateral issues. The discussions reflected the broadening of India's engagement with European countries across economic, strategic and technological sectors. Jaishankar's European engagements were part of a wider schedule of diplomatic meetings during the UN General Assembly in New York. He also participated in meetings with Caribbean and Pacific partners, focusing on development cooperation, climate resilience, renewable energy, technology and connectivity. He is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on September 26.

US, China extend trade truce two months

WASHINGTON

The United States and China have agreed to extend their existing trade truce by two months, giving both sides additional time to negotiate a potentially broader economic agreement, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. The extension will move the expiry date of the arrangement from November 10 to January 10, 2027. Bessent announced the development after meeting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Washington ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting with US President Donald Trump. The officials discussed whether the two countries could move beyond a series of limited agreements and work towards a larger economic package. Bessent said the additional time would allow both sides to continue discussions on trade and other economic is-

sues. The existing truce, known as the Busan Agreement, was reached after Trump and Xi agreed in South Korea last year to ease tensions following a period of tit-for-tat tariff increases. The arrangement reduced some trade restrictions and helped prevent a further escalation in tariffs between the world's two largest economies. The original agreement was scheduled to expire on November 10. Bessent said Washington and Beijing were still considering the scope of a possible larger deal. He also indicated that the United States wanted China to more fully meet commitments made under the existing arrangement during the coming months. However, Chinese officials had not immediately issued an independent confirmation of the extension. The extension comes as Xi visits Washington for talks with Trump.

Sindh conference highlights rights and environment

GENEVA

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) organised the Sindh Conference 2026 in Geneva, bringing together scholars, researchers, human-rights activists and civil-society representatives to discuss political, social, economic, environmental and human-rights issues concerning Sindh. The conference was held under the theme "Sindh at Crossroads: Defending Its Territorial Integrity, Human Rights, Environmental Justice and the Right to Self-Determination." Speakers discussed civil and political rights, democratic participation, alleged enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, minority rights, water insecurity, environmental degradation, resource distribution and cultural identity. Human rights expert Dr Joseph Chongsi spoke about the principle of self-determination and its relevance to communities facing politi-

cal marginalisation. WSC representative Rauf Leghari raised concerns over the distribution of Indus River waters and its reported effects on Sindh. He referred to water shortages, seawater intrusion into farmland and deterioration of the Indus Delta, citing claims that around 1.2 million acres of fertile land have been affected by seawater intrusion. Human-rights activist Arif Aaajkia opposed proposals for dividing Sindh and called for greater consideration of provincial resource generation in the distribution of National Finance Commission resources. Other speakers highlighted alleged enforced disappearances, missing persons and alleged extrajudicial killings. Sarang Sindhi of Voice of



Missing Persons Sindh raised these concerns, while WSC Executive Committee member Hafeezan Wadhio stressed the importance of Sindh's territorial and cultural integrity. Dr Hidayat Bhutto spoke about religious minorities, fundamental rights and the rule of law. Dr Shagufta Gul discussed issues affecting women and children, including gender-based violence and child abuse. In his keynote address, WSC Chairperson Dr Lakhu Luhana presented the organisation's historical perspective on Pakistan's creation and its reported conse-

quences for Sindh's culture, language, identity and territorial integrity. He also alleged exploitation of the province's natural resources. The conference concluded with calls for greater international attention to alleged rights violations, stronger protection of democratic and minority rights, transparent resource governance and urgent action on water and environmental concerns. The organisers said they would continue pursuing these issues through peaceful, democratic and international human-rights mechanisms.

Judge orders White House access restored for media

WASHINGTON

A US federal judge has ordered the Donald Trump administration to restore White House access for journalists from CNN, MS NOW and Politico, ruling that the restrictions on the three news organisations were likely unconstitutional. US District Judge Timothy Kelly issued the order after the media organisations challenged the administration's decision to revoke their access and press credentials. Kelly, who was appointed to the federal bench by Trump, issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by the three organisations. The case followed the administration's decision to bar their journalists from the White House grounds and revoke their hard press badges. The outlets argued that the move violated their First Amendment rights. During a hearing on Wednesday, Kelly questioned whether the administration had followed proper due process before



withdrawing the journalists' access. He expressed scepticism about the government's handling of the decision and said due process "wasn't followed here", according to reports cited by Reuters. Representing CNN, MS NOW and Politico, attorney Theodore Boutsous asked the court to immediately restore their credentials. He argued that the administration's decision amounted to viewpoint discrimination and said the restrictions had been imposed without adequate warning. The media organisations maintained that the action was connected to their reporting and criticism of the president. The Justice Department

defended the administration's position, arguing that access to the White House is a privilege rather than an unrestricted right. DOJ attorney Michael Velchik said the president has authority to control access to restricted areas, including the Oval Office. In court filings, the department cited the White House's role as both the president's workplace and residence and referred to national security and standards for journalists with access to the complex. The administration also accused the outlets of failing to meet expected standards, including by publishing sensitive or classified information. The media organisations disputed that justification, arguing that the administration's current national security rationale differed from Trump's initial criticism of their reporting. Kelly's order represents a temporary legal setback for the administration as the broader dispute over White House press access continues.

US lawmakers urge Trump to seek farm access

WASHINGTON

Two Republican lawmakers have urged US President Donald Trump to press Chinese President Xi Jinping for reliable access to China's soybean and beef markets when the two leaders meet this week. They said previous trade commitments have left American farmers facing uncertainty and called for enforceable arrangements rather than promises. Senator Pete Ricketts of Nebraska wrote to US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer ahead of the meeting, asking the administration to seek greater access for American agricultural products and ensure that China fulfils existing purchase commitments. Representative Zach Nunn of Iowa made a similar appeal, saying any new trade agreement should produce measurable and enforceable results for farmers and workers. Soybeans are a major focus of the lawmakers' concerns. Ricketts' office said China had agreed in October 2025 to purchase 25 million metric tonnes of US soybeans annually.

Milei calls UN useless in sharp attack

NEW YORK

Argentine President Javier Milei launched a strong criticism of the United Nations during his address to the 81st UN General Assembly, calling the organisation "use-

less" and accusing it of moving away from the principles on which it was founded. Milei said the UN had failed in its responsibilities while expanding its influence into areas beyond its original mandate.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ADDANKI ABHISHEK**, son of A. Shankar Rao and A. Nirmala Rao, aged about 30 years, born on 23/02/1996, presently residing at No.229, 4th Cross, Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068, Aadhar No. 5912 1834 7223, Have Changed My Name to **MOHAMMED AYAAN**, vide affidavit dated: 19.09.2026 before Notary MEER HASSAN, B.A., LL.B. Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **RICHA FATIMA**, D/o. late Asgar Ali aged about 19 years, born on 5/12/2007, residing at No.13, 5th Floor, Flat No.502, Murgesh Mudaliar Road, Fraser town post, Bangalore-560005, Have Changed My Name to **RAISA FATHIMA**, vide affidavit dated: 22.09.2026 before Notary MEER HASSAN, B.A., LL.B. Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client P. Channakeshava S/o. Prakash R/o. Pension line , Pandavapura town, My original sale deed dated 16-5-2015 in respect of the property assessment No.1546/1010, measuring 22 X 23 feet, the said property situated at N.M.Road, Pandavapura town, Mandya District, of the as document No.PDP-1-00504-2015-16, CD No.PDPD97. I was lost the said deed on 5-8-2026 at pension line Pandavapura town in this connection I filed the complaint before the Consent Police Station in this connection endorsement issued on 09-09-2026 if any one trace please intimates, object me or said Police within 7 days. By M.Guruprasad, Advocate, No.2, M.Lingaiiah Building, V.V.Road, Mandya-571401. Mob:9242221603.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAHAL FATHIMA**, D/o. late Asgar Ali, aged about 22 years, born on 14/06/2004, residing at No.13, 5th floor, Flat No.502, Murgesh Mudaliar Road, Fraser Town post, Bangalore-560005, Have Changed My Name to **NIHAL FATHIMA**, vide affidavit dated: 22.09.2026 before Notary MEER HASSAN, B.A., LL.B. Bengaluru.t

NAME CHANGE

I, **ZUBBER FARUK**, S/o Faruk Habib, resident of No 10, Berlie Street, Langford Town, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560025, Have Changed My Name to **ZUBAIR FARUK**, vide affidavit dated: 24.09.2026 before Notary G. DAYANANDA. Bengaluru.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Vijaylakshmi T.G W/o Late. Durgegowda.K.G, Residing at T.Gollahalli Village, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore South District, Pin Code-562 119. Do here inform to the general public that while I was changed my house from T.Gollahalli Village, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore South District. on 10.09.2026 to 22.09.2026, I have lost the documents of my property Original Sale deed dated:03.07.1967, Vide Document No.2200/1967-68, Book-I, Volume No.1834, Page:233-235 situated at T.Gollahalli Village, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore South District, in Sy No.301. Measuring 2-00 Acre. In spite of best efforts I could not trace the same and in this regard on 22.09.2026, I had lodged online police complaint at police unit, Bangalore City vide Report No.2438924/2026. If anybody finds the above said documents or is in possession please handover the same to the above said address or contact me on. 7760653093, 7892068525.

Allu Arjun movie Raaka breaks global records



Icon Star Allu Arjun is ready to set a new global benchmark for Indian cinema with his upcoming film, Raaka. Directed by Atlee and produced under the banner of Sun Pictures, the high-budget socio-fantasy project has already created history before its release. The film officially entered the Guinness World Records for capturing the highest number of real-time movements using advanced motion-capture technology. The production team used this cutting-edge system across multiple scenes simultaneously, matching Hollywood standards. Speaking at a special event or-

ganized to celebrate the achievement, Allu Arjun shared his excitement. He credited director Atlee's clear creative vision for making this technical milestone possible. He noted that the project does not just aim for domestic success, but aims to compete on the world stage. The actor expressed deep gratitude to the technical crew, including the cinematographer, action director, and music team, for their tireless hard work behind the scenes. He also thanked Sun Pictures for providing strong production support throughout the demanding schedule. Addressing his fans directly, the actor acknowledged that the ambitious production is taking time to complete. He kindly requested viewers to remain patient, promising that the wait will deliver a truly memorable cinematic spectacle. With groundbreaking visual effects and an energetic team behind it, the makers believe the film will surprise audiences worldwide upon its final theatrical release.



Nirupama Rajendra transfixes audience at 'Rasaraadhanam'

Renowned classical dancer and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Nirupama Rajendra delivered an evocative solo dance recital at Meenakshi Rangamancha in Doddakallasandra, lighting up 'Rasaraadhanam'—an evening dedicated to the musical and literary compositions of scholar Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh. The performance brought classical mythology alive through expressive abhinaya and crisp footwork. Key highlights included Parvati's unwavering penance to win Lord Shiva's grace, culminating in the divine form of Ardhanarishwara, as well as the philosophical unity of Hari and Hara. In the vibrant portrayal of Kaliya Mardana, the artist skillfully mirrored Krishna gliding over the serpent hoods alongside visual allegories of sacred rivers and gentle breezes, elevated by synchronized stage lighting and evocative music. In another moving depiction based on the composition Dautya Deekshite, Nirupama portrayed a



longing heroine who, unable to find an earthly messenger to reach her distant husband, sends her own mind across landscapes of moonlight, clouds, and flora. Lauding the performance, Dr. R. Ganesh commended Nirupama's dedication, noting that nuanced expressions of shringara rasa give true essence to the classical tradition and advocating for more solo presentations. Eminent musician Vidushi M.S. Sheela hailed her mastery, calling her the embodiment of expression. The recital was accompanied by vocalist Raghuram Rajagopalan, flautist Mahesh Swamy, veena player Prashanth Rudrapatna, violinist Srinidhi Mathur, and percussionists Prasannakumar and Vidyashankar, with narrative commentary curated by Kashyap Nayak and Arjun Bhadraraj.



Parineeti Chopra slams trolls over postpartum bodies

Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra has voiced strong criticism against the routine online scrutiny of women's physical appearances after childbirth, calling such trolling completely uneducated. Speaking in a recent interview while promoting her upcoming thriller web series, the actor questioned why society treats natural post-pregnancy changes with such harsh judgment. Chopra, who welcomed her baby boy last year, pointed out that people easily cele-



brate athletic muscles or vacation suntans as normal signs of life experiences. However, marks and physical shifts resulting from giving birth often attract unwarranted negativity from digital critics. Chopra shared that she views her own stretch marks with immense pride, seeing them as a beautiful reminder of bringing a child into the world. She questioned who gives critics the right to demand rapid weight loss timelines from new mothers, urging women everywhere to simply tune out cruel commentary from idle individuals online. Her strong remarks arrive amid a broader conversation in Hindi cinema, following recent incidents where several prominent stars rallied to defend fellow actors facing similar unsolicited body shaming on social media. On the professional front, the actor is making her digital platform debut in the investigative mystery drama Shaque: Trust No One. The narrative follows a determined mother's search for her missing child, diving deep into broken trust and long-buried family secrets. The show premieres today on Netflix, marking Chopra's eagerly awaited return to screen work following her joyful transition to motherhood.

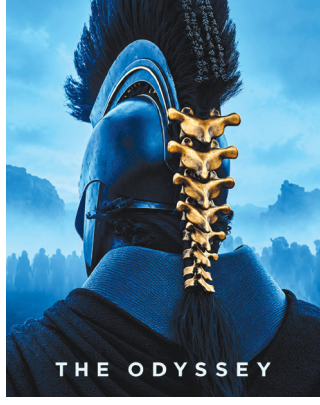
Audible announces epic Sci-Fi Homer Odyssey adaptation

Audible has officially announced Odyssey Rising, an ambitious science-fiction adaptation of Homer's ancient Greek epic, The Odyssey. The major audio drama is authored by acclaimed sci-fi novelist Adrian Tchaikovsky and voiced by celebrated actor Andy Serkis. The announcement comes quickly after director Christopher Nolan brought the classic legend back to global at-

tention with his blockbuster cinematic hit. Audible's bold new interpretation reimagines the three-thousand-year-old tale as a grand interstellar space adventure, recorded using state-of-the-art Dolby Atmos spatial audio technology. Set in the distant future following a destructive decade-long planetary war at Ilium, the plot centers on Captain Odyssey. As greedy oligarchs besiege his stranded flagship, the weary warrior

embarks on a perilous voyage back home. Facing cosmic wrath, he must navigate severe dangers across unknown space and deep anomalies within time itself. Author Adrian Tchaikovsky shared his excitement about blending ancient mythological gods with advanced sci-fi concepts, noting how thrilled he felt to collaborate with Serkis. Narrator Andy Serkis praised the script as an extraordinary act of creative ingenuity, stat-

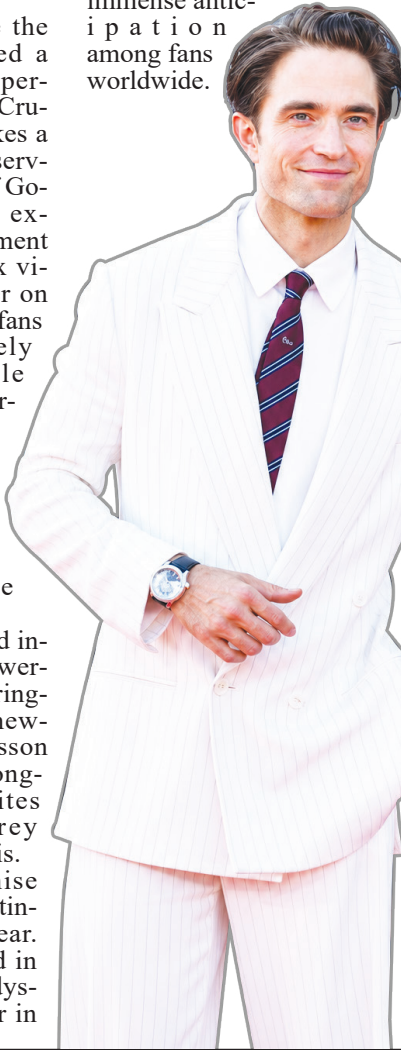
ing that voicing these futuristic characters was an immensely rewarding artistic experience. Production executives emphasized that the release bridges ancient literature with modern audio techniques. Audiences eager to experience this unique blend of Greek mythology and grand space opera will not have to wait long. The exclusive Audible Original drama officially debuts worldwide on February 25, 2027.



Robert Pattinson teases ambitious Batman sequel

Hollywood star Robert Pattinson has hinted at a significant shift in creative direction for The Batman: Part II, calling the upcoming DC sequel a bold departure from the 2022 hit. Speaking to Collider, Pattinson praised director Matt Reeves for writing an exceptionally daring screenplay. He noted that while the original film delivered a grounded, distinctive perspective on the Caped Crusader, the follow-up takes a real left turn while preserving the gritty essence of Gotham City. The actor expressed genuine excitement about how the complex vision is coming together on camera, promising that fans can expect an entirely fresh narrative angle when the blockbuster arrives. Production is currently underway under the direction of Reeves, with Pattinson once again donning the cape as billionaire Bruce Wayne. The highly anticipated installment features a powerhouse ensemble cast, bringing aboard franchise newcomers Scarlett Johansson and Sebastian Stan alongside returning favorites Colin Farrell, Jeffrey Wright, and Andy Serkis. The Batman franchise continues to expand Pattinson's busy slate this year. Having recently starred in The Drama and The Odyssey, he will also appear in

Primetime, portraying television host Chris Hansen. He will close out his jam-packed release schedule with the science-fiction epic Dune: Part Three this December. With such major projects ahead, the actor's confidence in Reeves' evolving superhero saga has ignited immense anticipation among fans worldwide.



Taylor Swift prepares to break VMA records

Pop sensation Taylor Swift is poised to rewrite music history at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards with eleven nominations and a prestigious special honor. MTV announced that Swift will receive the inaugural Artist Director trophy, celebrating her work behind the camera. This honor will lift her career total to thirty one trophies, officially making her the most celebrated artist in

history ahead of Beyoncé, who holds thirty wins. Swift could stretch this margin even further if she converts her multiple competitive nominations into victories on music's biggest night. Swift has an opportunity to break several specific category milestones. She could secure a historic sixth Video of the Year award with "The Fate Of Ophelia". A win in Best Direction for "Opalite" would also mark her fifth di-

recting triumph, cementing her status among visionary musicians. Furthermore, winning the Best Pop category would break her current tie with singer Ariana Grande. If Swift captures Artist of the Year again, she will become the very first musician to win that flagship prize three times. Industry analysts note she could even threaten Peter Dinklage's legendary record of ten wins during a single.

Acclaimed actor Radhika Apte has candidly revisited one of the most painful phases of her professional career, reflecting on the severe emotional trauma caused when an intimate video clip linked to her was leaked online. The incident took a devastating toll on her mental well-being and daily routine. Apte revealed that she felt profoundly shaken upon discovering that everyday acquaintances around her, including her personal driver and residential watchman, were a c-

Radhika Apte recalls facing harsh public humiliation

tively watching the viral footage on their phones. The sudden violation of her privacy made her feel intensely vulnerable, isolated, and exposed to harsh public judgment. Overwhelmed by anxiety and shame, the star confessed that she could not bring herself to step out of her home for four full days. She noted that managing the intense public gaze proved extraordinarily challenging, underscoring the serious psychological impact celebrities face when their private boundaries are callously breached online.