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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.

Finance Dept's advice not political issue: CM

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday dismissed the BJP's protest over a Finance Department warning about Karnataka's financial situation. Shivakumar said issuing such cautions was part of the department's routine responsibility and had been done under previous governments as well. He said the drought could create financial difficulties for both Karnataka and the country, and the issue should not be politicised. Responding to the BJP's demand for his resignation, Shivakumar said, “They want my resignation. Okay, let them have it.” He said he would seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appointment to press for drought relief as more than 200 taluks face drought conditions.

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.

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.

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

New delhi: The Cockerroach 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.



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.

'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.

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.

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).

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.

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

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.

Describing them as expensive "white elephants" sustained by public grants from both state and central coffers, he challenged the government to cite a single tangible benefit delivered to struggling cultivators. "If they offer no utility to farmers—and failed to provide advice even during a drought—then what is the purpose of having a research center? Just as you are attempting to shut down public service commissions, you might as well close down these agricultural research centers," he stated forcefully. Concluding his sharp critique, the legislator asserted that flying around in helicopters and broadcasting sentimental rhetoric cannot substitute for concrete financial commitment and administrative accountability, urging the cabinet to drop its celebratory posture and face the reality of a parched countryside.

CTRS-DIGP to head insurance fraud SIT

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major administrative crackdown on financial crimes and organized white-collar syndicates, the state government has officially constituted a specialized Special Investigation Team (SIT) to aggressively track, register, and prosecute complex insurance fraud networks operating across Karnataka.

The high-level enforcement initiative comes in direct compliance with binding Supreme Court directives. Following formal deliberations, the state Home Department issued a comprehensive administrative notification establishing the dedicated investigative framework. The primary mandate of the newly formed SIT is to scrutinize, register, and thoroughly investigate every complaint concerning fabricated accident reports, fraudulent health and vehicle claims, and systematic financial swindling targeted at insurance institutions.

To ensure swift and decisive action, the specialized unit will be led by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) for Crime and Technical Research Services (CTRS) based in Bengaluru. The multidisciplinary core team features seasoned law enforcement officers, including a Superintendent of Police from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a Deputy Superintendent of Police, and three experienced Police Inspectors. Overall operational oversight and strategic direction will be managed

directly by the Additional Director General of Police for Law and Order at the Bengaluru Police Headquarters.

In a significant legal empowerment, the state government has officially designated the SIT headquarters as a formal 'Police Station' with sweeping jurisdiction spanning the entire geographical territory of Karnataka, operating under Section 2(1)(u) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. This unique status grants investigating officers full statutory authority to independently file First Information Reports, conduct intensive field inquiries, and submit final judicial charge sheets and reports directly to competent courts under Section 193 of the BNSS.

Under the new operational protocol, all pending and incoming complaints regarding fraudulent insurance claims across the state will be systematically centralized and transferred by the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) directly to the SIT.

Furthermore, the administrative order mandates that comprehensive progress reports detailing investigative milestones and asset recoveries must be submitted periodically to the state government through the office of the DG & IGP, ensuring strict accountability and transparency as the special unit goes after organized insurance scamsters.

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.

ies attempt to balance competing demands amidst erratic meteorological cycles, the escalating friction highlights

the persistent vulnerability of peninsular river basins to climate anomalies and prolonged dry spells.

Quick Read

Horatti mourns psychiatrist Dr. Anand Pandurangi

Hubballi
Former Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti expressed grief over the passing of renowned psychiatrist Dr. Anand Pandurangi, who was widely known for his decades of service in North Karnataka. Horatti said Dr. Pandurangi made significant contributions to mental healthcare through medical treatment, public awareness programmes and community-based initiatives. His approach focused not only on treating patients but also on understanding their family circumstances and providing personal guidance. Dr. Pandurangi played an important role in creating awareness about mental health in society and guided thousands of patients and their families. He was honoured with the Avva Award by the Avva Seva Trust in 2011 for his selfless medical service. Paying tribute to the late psychiatrist, Horatti said his death was a loss to the medical and social sectors. He expressed condolences to Dr. Pandurangi's family, patients, colleagues and well-wishers and prayed for strength for everyone affected by the loss.

Gadag orders weapon deposit, invites applications

Gadag
Authorities have ordered all licensed weapon holders in Gadag district to deposit their firearms at local police stations or authorised dealers following the announcement of the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency election. The move aims to ensure peaceful and orderly polling. Persons seeking exemption for security reasons must apply within seven days with valid grounds. Police officials will forward applications with recommendations to the District Superintendent of Police. Meanwhile, the Minority Welfare Department has invited applications through Seva Sindhu for monthly honorariums during 2026-27 for Jain priests, Buddhist Dharmacharis and Sikh Granthis.

Yellapur sandalwood seizure leads to 4 arrests

KARWAR
Forest Department officials have arrested four people for allegedly transporting sandalwood illegally on two-wheelers near the crematorium on Bisagoda Road in Yellapur town. Another accused is reportedly absconding. The arrests were made on September 23 following a tip-off about the illegal transportation of sandalwood. Officials conducted a raid and seized a total of 58.80 kg of sandalwood from the ac-

₹550 cr sought before Anubhava Mantapa inauguration

BELAGAVI
Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha National General Secretary S.M. Jamdar has urged the Karnataka government not to rush the inauguration of the new Anubhava Mantapa in Basavakalyan until all major works are completed. Jamdar said around ₹550 crore was required to complete the pending works. He was responding to Minister Eshwar Khandre's statement that the Anubhava Mantapa could be inaugurated in April. Jamdar said the buildings taken up through tenders had an estimated cost of ₹640



VTU governing council declines ₹250 crore request

This request drew attention because VTU currently holds approximately 610 crore rupees in its treasury

BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government has sought ₹250 cr from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) treasury for the development of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) in Bengaluru. The request has drawn attention as VTU currently holds around ₹610 cr in its treasury. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh reportedly wrote to VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vidyashankar seeking the release of the funds for UVCE, which is owned by the state government. However, the VTU Governing Council has



politely declined the request. The development has triggered discussions within university circles, particularly over the financial relationship between the state government and VTU. The issue has also gained significance as the BJP has been demanding a white paper on the university's ₹610 crore corpus and its utilisation.

At a Glance
■ Controversy: BJP demands white paper on VTU's ₹610 crore corpus.
■ Origin: Funds trace back to a 2014 IT raid and tax recovery.
■ Assets: VTU placed nearly ₹500 crore in fixed deposits.
■ Plan: VC aims to fund salaries using deposit interest.
■ Goal: Strategy targets long-term financial self-reliance.
■ Conflict: Recent ₹250 crore govt request sparks debate.

The ₹610 crore corpus is linked to an Income Tax Department raid on VTU in 2014. The department had seized around ₹400 cr over tax-related issues, including the university's failure to obtain 12-A registration required for certain tax exemptions.

After VTU submitted the required documents and the matter was resolved, around ₹610 cr, including interest, was recovered by the university. VTU is reportedly still due around ₹90 cr from the Income Tax Department.

Honnavar schoolchildren forced to fetch water

HONNAVAR

Children at a government primary school in Hodike Shiruru village of Honnavar taluk, Uttara Kannada district, have been forced to carry water from a well about 100 feet away after the school's water supply was disrupted. Videos and photographs showing young students carrying buckets of water to the school have gone viral on social media, triggering criticism from parents and local residents. The water is reportedly being used for drinking and toilets. Parents have raised con-

They alleged that students are being made to do work instead of focusing on their studies.

cerns over poor sanitation, inadequate facilities and the safety of children at the school. They alleged that students are being made to perform work instead of concentrating on their studies. Concerns have also been raised about the conditions in which the midday meal is served. Locals claimed that the school building is in poor condition, with the roof reportedly getting damaged

during strong winds and rain. They also alleged that classrooms are not cleaned regularly and that there is a shortage of desks and benches. A live electric wire near the well used by the children has also raised safety concerns. Officials said the immediate problem was caused by damage to the school's water pipeline. Karwar Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) Latha Nayak said the Block Education Officer (BEO) had been sent to inspect the school and that instructions had been issued to repair the damaged pipeline and restore the water supply

immediately. The school has 36 students, two permanent teachers and two guest teachers. A School Development and Monitoring Committee member reportedly described the water problem as temporary and alleged that a recently appointed teacher had recorded and circulated the video. However, residents said concerns about the school's poor infrastructure had been raised earlier as well, with reports dating back to 2020. They have demanded immediate action to ensure safe drinking water, sanitation and basic facilities for the children.

JAGALUR ADDED TO DROUGHT LIST, CELEBRATIONS

DAVANAGERE

Farmers and residents of Jagalur taluk celebrated the government's decision to include the taluk in the drought-hit list by carrying MLA B. Devendrappa on their shoulders during a procession in the town. The decision brought celebrations to Ambedkar Circle, where residents burst firecrackers, distributed sweets and played drums. Supporters later accompanied Devendrappa in a procession to his office. The celebrations followed the government's announcement that Jagalur had finally been included among drought-affected taluks. Devendrappa had repeatedly pressed the government to recognise the drought situation in his constituency. He had earlier spoken about resigning if Jagalur was not in-

cluded in the drought list. After the announcement, he said he was satisfied that he had fulfilled the responsibility given to him by the people. The MLA also criticised two former MLAs, saying they had created unnecessary pressure over the issue. He claimed that he had given up alcohol four years ago and challenged the former legislators to undergo alcohol tests. He said he was ready to undergo a test himself to prove his claim. Devendrappa said the drought declaration was a significant development for farmers and residents who have been facing difficulties because of poor rainfall. He also said the credit for the decision should not be limited to one individual, as several public representatives had worked on the issue. Referring to the minister in charge, the

local MP and Minister Basavantappa, he said they were all part of the same public system working for the constituency. He questioned those who had previously claimed credit for the issue and said the latest decision should be viewed as a positive development for Jagalur. The drought declaration is expected to help farmers access government relief and support measures available for drought-affected areas. Residents have been demanding such recognition amid concerns over rainfall shortages and their impact on agriculture. The celebrations reflected the importance of the drought status for the farming community, which depends heavily on rainfall. Local residents have now urged authorities to ensure that the benefits and relief measures reach affected farmers without delay.

Gadag KDP progress meeting postponed

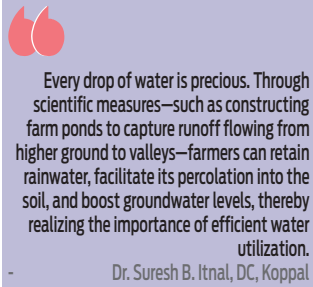
GADAG

The quarterly KDP progress review meeting scheduled for September 28 at 11 a.m. at the Zilla Panchayat Hall has been postponed due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct for the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency biennial election. The meeting was scheduled under the chairmanship of Basavaraj Rayareddy, Minister for Higher Education and Gadag district in-charge Minister. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mukul Jain announced the postponement. The meeting will be held on another date after the election process, and a fresh schedule will be communicated to officials concerned. Authorities have advised departments to take note of the revised arrangements.

Farm ponds offer drought relief to Koppal farmers

KOPPAL

Farm ponds constructed under the VB-G RAM-G scheme are providing support to farmers in Koppal district, where agriculture largely depends on rainfall and drought conditions have affected farming activities. The scheme encourages farmers to harvest and store rainwater through farm ponds, helping them make better use of limited water resources. The stored water can be used for agricultural activities during periods of inadequate rainfall. As part of the initiative, eight farm ponds have recently been constructed in Kulkarni taluk. Six ponds were built in Itagi, while one each was constructed in Mangaluru and Balagera villages. Work on additional farm ponds is currently under way across the district. According to the Zilla Panchayat action plan, a total of 876 farm ponds are proposed to be constructed across Koppal district under the scheme. Farmers in different parts of the district can take up the construction of farm ponds on their agricultural land through



the programme. The farm ponds are expected to help farmers conserve rainwater and reduce their dependence on rainfall during dry periods. By storing water when it is available, the structures can provide a supplementary source for crops during water shortages. The government provides a unit cost of ₹1.23 lakh for each farm pond. Of this amount, ₹1.14 lakh is allocated for pond construction, while ₹8,957 is provided for pipeline connectivity. Officials said the initiative could strengthen water conservation efforts in the district and support rain-fed farmers during drought conditions. The construction of more ponds is expected to help farmers use every available drop of rainwater for agriculture.

Civic Workers Urged to Prioritize Health

HAVERI

District Vector-Borne and Allied Diseases Control Officer Dr. Sarita urged civic workers to give greater attention to their health while performing their daily duties. Speaking at a health check-up camp organized jointly by the City Municipal Council and Health Department to mark Civic Workers' Day, she advised workers to wear protective gear for their hands and feet and remain vigilant against infections. Municipal Commissioner H. Kantaraju said health is the greatest wealth and appreciated the workers' invaluable contribution to keeping the city clean and beautiful. The event was attended by health officials, municipal staff, health inspectors and civic workers.

Civic workers' health should be priority

HAVERI

The health and welfare of civic workers should be given priority as they play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness and public health, City Council Commissioner H. Kantaraj said. He was speaking after inaugurating a health check-up camp for civic workers at the City Council premises in Haveri. The camp was jointly organised by the municipal administration, City Council and Health Department to mark Civic Workers' Day. Kantaraj said civic

workers begin their sanitation duties early in the morning and work across different parts of the city to maintain a clean and healthy environment. Their services are essential for the well-being of residents, making it important to ensure that the workers themselves remain healthy. He said the health camp would help workers understand their health condition and seek medical advice or treatment whenever necessary. He urged all civic workers to make use of the facility and undergo regular health check-ups

without neglecting their health. Kantaraj assured the workers that the City Council would extend necessary support for their health and welfare. He advised them to take preventive measures and regularly monitor their health so that they can continue their duties safely and effectively. District Disease Surveillance and Epidemic Control Officer Dr. Sarita spoke to the workers about precautions related to sanitation work, rabies, rabies vaccination and measures to be taken in case of snake bites.

Muslim family donates Ganesha idol in Hubballi

HUBBALLI

A Muslim family in Old Hubballi has donated a Ganesha idol to the public Ganeshotsava celebrations at Akkipete, highlighting a long-standing tradition of communal participation in the locality. Dadahayat, also known as Buddesab Kittur, a resident of Katagara Oni, donated the idol costing around ₹15,000 this year. The donation has brought attention to the annual celebrations organised by the Venkateshwara Temple Trust, which has a history of around 75

years. For decades, local families have taken turns donating the Ganesha idol for the festival. Residents said this year's donation by a Muslim family has added a new dimension to the tradition and reflected the close relationship between members of different communities in the area. The idol is installed for a month, a practice followed in Akkipete for the past three years. The immersion is held after Mahanavami, as the Ganeshotsava celebrations coincide with the Dasara festivities at the Venkateshwara Temple.

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 LIMITED				
		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/s.				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
01	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, Hagaduru 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.45,33,090/- [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, Kuvenpunagar, 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, Kuvenpunagar, 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 -I 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 Hvlr, 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 Nager 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 Andra 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, 224/2 226/1p, 227/1P, 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, 224/2 226/1p, 227/1p, 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		

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 connec-



tion 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

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

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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.

Quick Read

BJP's Rs 529
Crore Poll Blitz
Across 5 States

NEW DELHI

The BJP reported Rs 529.39 crore in election expenditure across Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and West Bengal for the 2026 Assembly polls, an analysis of filings shows. West Bengal accounted for Rs 286.99 crore, over half the party's reported spending across the five states and Union Territory. The spending coincided with a decisive result, as the BJP won 207 of West Bengal's 294 Assembly seats, while the Trinamool Congress secured 80. In comparison, the Congress reported expenditure of Rs 27.65 crore in West Bengal.

2 Burnt To Death, 2
Critical As Vehicle Catches
Fire After Hitting Pole

GUWAHATI

Two people were killed and two others were seriously injured in a road accident in the Kenapatty area of Purani Gudam in Assam's Nagaon after the car in which they were travelling caught fire following a collision with a streetlight pole. According to reports, they were travelling in a Kia Carens from Arunachal Pradesh towards Guwahati when the driver reportedly lost control, and the car hit the divider, after which it overturned and hit a street pole and turned turtle. The impact was followed by a massive fire that engulfed the car.

US Envoy Visits
Yudh Abhyas Drills

JAIPUR

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Thursday arrived at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan to witness the ongoing India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026, as troops from both countries conducted coordinated training drills.

Gor said in a social media post that he was looking forward to seeing Indian and US Army troops train side by side. He described the exercise as an important platform for the two forces to train together and exchange operational knowledge.

The 22nd edition of Yudh Abhyas is being conducted simultaneously at the Auli Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand and the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. Around 600 personnel from each country are participating in the exercise.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise is aimed at enhancing the joint military capability of the two armies for the employment of Integrated Battle Groups in mountainous and semi-mountainous terrain, with particular emphasis on infantry-dominated operations.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Power has moved the draft National Electricity Policy 2026 for Cabinet consideration after incorporating comments and observations received from stakeholders, Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal said on Thursday.

Speaking at the second Indian Power Sector Conference in New Delhi, organised around the theme Building a Reliable, Flexible and Market-Ready Power System, Agarwal said the ministry had circulated the draft policy for stakeholder consultation in January this year. The ministry has since consolidated the feedback and moved the Cabinet note for inter-ministerial consultation.

The proposed policy is in-



Modi Stresses Service
as Life's Purpose

PM Modi urged Seva Yatris to make service the guiding principle of public life, linking grassroots engagement, welfare delivery and youth participation with nation-building.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that service should be the primary purpose of life and remain inherent in every individual, including those holding public office. He made the remarks during a virtual interaction with Seva Yatris travelling from Vadnagar to Varanasi as part of the Seva Sankalp Yatra.

Modi said the principle of "Seva Parmo Dharma", or service is the highest duty, should continue to guide people regardless of the position or political power they attain. He urged the participants to demonstrate the message of service through their actions rather than merely speaking about it.

The Prime Minister linked the spirit of service with the implementation of welfare programmes, citing schemes such as PM-KISAN and PM Surya Ghar. He said policies guided by service can improve last-mile delivery and contribute to the country's development.

Modi also highlighted government figures on poverty reduction and housing. Government sources have previously stated that 25



PM MODI INTERACTS WITH SEVA YATRIS

■ PM Modi interacts virtually with Seva Yatris travelling from Vadnagar to Varanasi.

■ Emphasises "Seva Parmo Dharma" as the guiding principle.

■ Says service should remain central even with political power.

■ Highlights welfare schemes and last-mile delivery.

■ Stresses youth participation in building developed India by 2047.

■ Yatris report cleanliness drives, tree plantation and beneficiary interactions.

crore people have moved out of poverty and that more than four crore permanent houses have been provided to poor families.

He said politics, elections and governance have their respective roles, but nation-building should remain the broader objective. He also emphasised the role of young people in achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047.

The Seva Yatra participants shared their experiences with the Prime Minister, including tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, interactions with beneficiaries and engagement with communities along the route. The current journey involves multiple groups travelling between Vadnagar and Varanasi while undertaking community-focused activities.

NBEMS declares NEET
PG 2026 results
on official website

NEW DELHI

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has declared the NEET PG 2026 result, bringing an important stage of the postgraduate medical admission process to a close for thousands of medical aspirants across the country.

The result has been made available on the official NBEMS website following the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Postgraduate (NEET PG) examination on August 30. The examination was held nationwide for candidates seeking admission to postgraduate medical programmes for the 2026-27 academic session.

According to NBEMS, a total of 2,65,960 candidates appeared for the NEET PG 2026 examination. The examination serves as an entrance route for admission to several postgraduate medical programmes, including MD, MS, DNB, DrNB Direct 6-year Courses and PG Medical Diploma Courses.

Candidates who appeared for the examination will be able to access their individual scorecards from the NBEMS website on and after October 1. The scorecard will

provide candidates with their individual examination performance and will be an important document for the subsequent admission and counselling process.

NBEMS has also informed candidates that the NEET PG 2026 answer key is expected to be published on its website on October 1. The release of the answer key will provide candidates with an opportunity to review the responses considered for evaluation and understand their performance in the examination.

The declaration of the result marks the beginning of the next phase of the postgraduate medical admission process. Candidates will need to keep track of further announcements concerning counselling, seat allocation, eligibility requirements and other admission-related procedures issued by the relevant authorities.

NEET PG remains one of the country's major medical entrance examinations, with a large number of MBBS graduates competing for postgraduate seats across various medical specialities. The examination is conducted as part of the admission process for the upcoming academic session.

"We have aggregated all the stakeholders comments. We have already moved the Cabinet note for the inter-ministerial consultation and I think it shouldn't be taking very long."

—Pankaj Agarwal (Union Power Secretary)

"Today we are at a very different level...we are already at 300 gigawatt of non-fossil and now going forward, the challenges are entirely different like grid management and building transmission systems."

—Pankaj Agarwal (Union Power Secretary)

ty, making grid management and transmission expansion increasingly important areas of focus.

India, Pacific Nations
Deepen FIPIC Cooperation

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar chaired the second Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meeting brought together senior representatives from several Pacific Island countries and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation through the FIPIC framework.

The participating ministers reviewed progress since the FIPIC summits, particularly developments under the 12-point action plan announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023. Discussions focused on areas including renewable energy, climate action, disaster resilience, education, healthcare and capacity

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION
Renewable energy
Climate action
Disaster resilience
Healthcare
Education
Capacity building
Digital and IT cooperation
Regional and multilateral engagement



India and Pacific Island nations reviewed development cooperation while reaffirming their commitment to deeper partnership across regional and multilateral platforms.

building.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Samoa and Foreign Ministers from Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Representatives from Tonga, Micronesia, Vanuatu, Nauru and the Pacific Islands Forum also participated.

Jaishankar highlighted India's development partnership with the Pacific Island countries, including projects under the FIPIC framework and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. He pointed to progress in healthcare, digital capacity building, renewable energy and disaster resilience.

Among the initiatives dis-

"India was ready to design specialised training modules in areas identified by Pacific Island countries as priorities."

—Dr. S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister of India)

cussed were a 100-bed super-specialty hospital in Fiji, healthcare assistance, solarisation projects and IT capacity-building centres across Pacific nations. India has also been working on sea ambulances and dialysis facilities for countries in the region.

The ministers also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in regional and multilateral forums. Jaishankar said India remains committed to developing partnerships based on the priorities identified by Pacific Island countries.

The meeting comes as India continues to expand its engagement with the Pacific region through development assistance, capacity building and sector-specific cooperation.

West Bengal govt makes GeM
mandatory for procurement
of goods and services

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has made procurement through the Government e-Marketplace, or GeM, mandatory for departments and organisations under its administrative control.

The decision was announced by the state Finance Department, which directed all government departments, subordinate offices and organisations to procure goods and services through the GeM platform. The move is aimed at bringing greater transparency and efficiency to the state's public procurement system while helping government bodies achieve potential cost savings.

Under the new direction, departments and organisations covered by the order will be required to use GeM for the procurement of goods and services instead of relying on separate procurement mechanisms. The Finance Department has instructed the concerned offices to begin the process of onboarding onto the platform immediately.

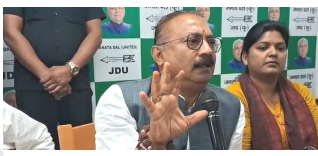
GeM is a government-backed online procurement platform designed to facilitate the purchase of goods and services by government departments and public sector organisations. The platform provides a digital marketplace through

which government buyers can identify suppliers, compare products and services and complete procurement-related transactions.

The West Bengal government's decision is expected to bring a more uniform procurement process across its administrative departments and subordinate organisations. By shifting procurement activities to a common digital platform, the government intends to improve oversight of purchases and make procurement processes more transparent.

The Finance Department has also emphasised the potential for greater efficiency and cost savings through the use of GeM. A centralised digital procurement system can allow government organisations to access a broader range of suppliers and compare available offerings before making purchases.

All departments and organisations under the administrative control of the state government have been asked to initiate the onboarding process without delay. This will involve ensuring that the concerned offices are registered on the platform and are equipped to undertake procurement through the digital system. The move forms part of a broader effort to increase the use of digital systems in government administration and public spending.



Minister's Shocker
on Bihar Sexual
Assault Cases

PATNA

Bihar Minister Ashok Choudhary, fielding questions on the alleged sexual assaults in Samastipur and Jamui, cautioned a journalist "do not set a narrative", reasoning that such incidents happen in America and Japan as well.

"It is a state (Bihar) with a population of 14 crore. There is no shortage of wicked, uneducated, ignorant, boorish, and uncouth people. People who play a role in undermining the rule of law and bringing disrepute to Bihar," the Minister, speaking in Hindi, said.

A girl was allegedly harassed in public by a group of people who behaved indecently with her in Bihar's Samastipur district, following which four accused were arrested, police said on Thursday. The incident bore a stark resemblance to cases of molestation reported in Jamui and Darbhanga over the last several days.

Does the government have no authority left? a journalist asked, questioning how are people supposed to walk on the streets. "Look, don't set a narrative," the Minister shot back. "We are not setting a narrative, sir," the reporter replied.

Telangana Orders Probe Into Land
Holdings Linked To KCR Family

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has intensified scrutiny of land records and alleged irregularities involving properties linked to former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and several other Bharat Rashtira Samithi leaders, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordering a series of inquiries into landholdings and alleged violations.

The developments follow a detailed Assembly discussion on Section 22-A of the Registration Act, after which the government constituted a

high-level committee to examine pending issues related to properties on the prohibited list.

The panel, headed by Chief Commissioner of Land Administration D.S. Lokesh Kumar, has been tasked with examining records and resolving cases within its terms of reference.

Separately, the government has ordered an inquiry into land surrounding KCR's farmhouse at Erravalli in Siddipet district. Revenue officials are surveying 388 acres in Survey No. 325, spread across Erravalli, Varadarajpur and Venkatapur villages. Notices have

been issued to landholders and officials are verifying possession and related records.

Earlier this month, speaking in the Assembly, Revanth Reddy alleged that KCR and his extended family were linked to about 439.3 acres of land spread across nine districts, 24 mandals and 31 villages.

He further alleged that 388 acres of government land near the farmhouse were under illegal occupation and said that, if the claim is established through due process, the land would be recovered and distributed among poor Dalit families.



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 Boutsos 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.Lingaiah 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.

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.

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 sup-

port 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
India is working with Germany, Japan, Israel and countries in the Middle East to align vocational training standards and help skilled Indian workers access overseas jobs, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) CEO Arun Kumar Pillai said on Thursday. The initiative is being driven through NSDC International, which works with overseas partners to bring global skill standards into India's training system. Pillai said workers trained to German or Japanese standards could seek jobs in those countries after meeting language requirements. The organisation is also working with partner countries on skill verification. Pillai said the wider objective was to improve the quality of vocational training in India and make Indian workers more competitive internationally. He said nearly 3.6 lakh people registered for the WorldSkills selection process across the country during the current cycle, indicating growing interest in vocational skills competitions. 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,

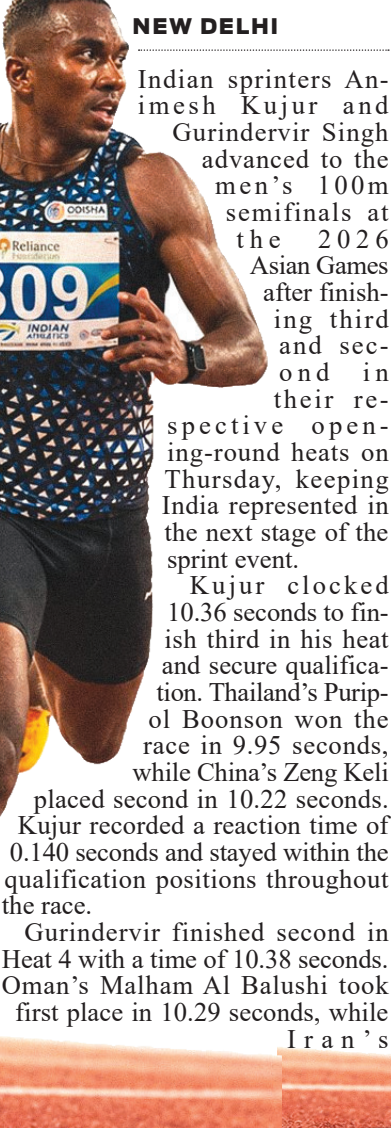
while Japan's Nozomi Tanaka won silver in 32:41.54. Seema's medal ended India's 16-year wait for a women's 10,000m Asian Games medal.

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 Mekhrojbek 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 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.

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

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.



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

Audio entertainment giant Audible has officially announced Odysseus 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 Odysseus. 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.

