CITY HILIGHTS

www.ibcworldnews.com **The Truth Speaks** MONDAY ▸ OCTOBER 26, 2026 ▸ VOL: 12 ▸ ISSUE: 101 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00 BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI



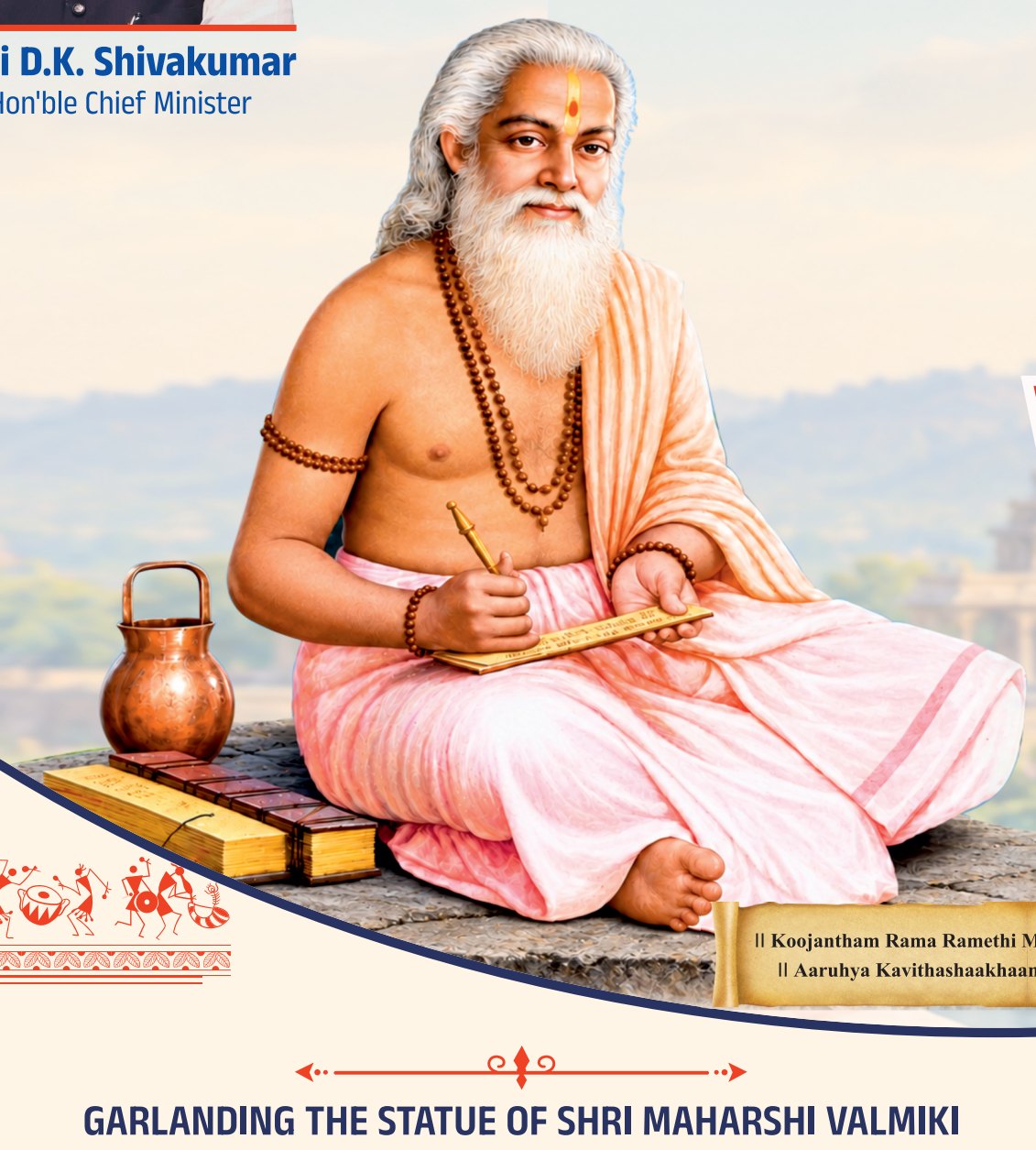
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Government of Karnataka
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Shri Maharshi Valmiki Jayanthi

and

Shri Maharshi Valmiki Awards Presentation Ceremony

Date: 26.10.2026, Monday

GARLANDING THE STATUE OF SHRI MAHARSHI VALMIKI

Time: 10.00 AM **Venue:** Shri Maharshi Valmiki Tapovana, Opposite to Legislators' House

STAGE PROGRAMME

Time: 10.30 AM **Venue:** Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Government Committed for the Development of TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.



Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulating **Sri T. Raghumurthy,** Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare.

From financial year 2023-24 till date

Rs. 46,306 crore grant allocated to Development Departments under TSP Scheme towards welfare of Scheduled Tribes Communities

Rs. 8,802 crore grant disbursed to Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department and Corporations.

Educational Development Programmes

- Total Scholarship of Rs. 849 crore to 15.85 lakh students.
- Total Prize Money of Rs. 252 crore to 1.44 lakh meritorious students.
- Quality education to 93,282 students through 590 Institutions.
- Under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Scholarship Scheme, 162 students have been provided financial assistance of Rs. 71.62 crore to Study in Foreign Universities
- Establishment of 84 New Hostels.

Prominent Achievements of the Department

- Establishment of separate Secretariat for Scheduled Tribes Welfare.
- Nutritious food Kit to 52,678 families belonging to 14 tribal communities at an Expenditure of Rs. 422.48 crore.
- Under Chief Minister Adivasi Gruha Bhagya Yojane, houses are being constructed at a total cost of Rs. 308.52 crore at a unit cost of Rs. 4.50 lakh for 6,856 families without residence belonging to 11 tribal communities living in forest, forest border areas in 9 Districts.
- Rs. 318.17 crore disbursed to provide infrastructure facilities in Colony/Haadis.
- Rs. 125 crore disbursed for construction of Valmiki Bhavan/ Community Hall.
- Implemented Tribal Health Navigator programme to provide health assistance for tribal Comminutes in Mysuru, Chamarajanagara, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts.
- Interest subsidy of Rs. 71 crore to 386 entrepreneurs of Scheduled Tribes.
- Removal of Section 7 (D) of SCSP/TSP Act 2013.

Implementation of economic development programmes through various Corporations

- Bore Well facility to 5,355 beneficiaries under Ganga Kalyana Scheme.
- Facilities provided to 6,734 beneficiaries under Self Employment Scheme.
- Micro loan facility to 6,510 members of Women Self Help Groups.

Prominent 'Budget Announcements' for the year 2026-27

- Maharshi Valmiki Administrative Building Complex constructed at a cost of Rs. 50.00 crore.
- Establishment of Karnataka Adivasi Development Corporation.
- Establishment of Scheduled Tribes Commission.
- 119 woman caretaker posts sanctioned for taking care of students at Maharshi Valmiki Adivasi Tribal Residential Schools.
- 50 New Hostels and 8 Residential Schools sanctioned.
- Financial Assistance of up to 70% for establishment of Fast Food Truck Trailer/Mobile Kitchen Food Kiosk.

Schemes of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation

From financial year 2023-24 till date Rs. 525.75 crore grant allocated, Rs. 364.18 crore utilised for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes Communities. Facilities provided for 16,248 beneficiaries

Schemes	Allocated	Financial Progress	Physical Progress
Ganga Kalyana	179.10	171.35	4980
Bhu Odetana	80.00	63.85	544
Svayam Udyoga	98.42	54.07	3164
Svavalambhi Sarathi	73.48	66.00	1650
Prerana Micro Credit	65.87	8.91	5910

In the year 2026-27, Rs. 211.12 crore is allocated and online applications are invited.






As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

All are Cordially Invited

karnataka information

Quick Read

Boy killed, 2 injured in Sullia collision

CH NEWS, SULLIA

A young boy was killed and two others suffered serious injuries in a horrific collision between a car and a lorry near Goonadka in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Sunday. The accident occurred near Sharada School on National Highway 275, which connects Mani and Mysuru. The impact of the collision was severe, resulting in the boy's death at the spot. Two other occupants of the car sustained critical injuries and were awaiting further medical updates. According to preliminary reports, the victims were from Punacha. The identities of the deceased boy and the injured persons were not immediately available. Further details regarding the circumstances of the accident are awaited.

7 arrested, 9 stolen two-wheelers seized in Mangaluru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Police have solved a two-wheeler theft case in Mangaluru by arresting seven accused and seizing nine stolen two-wheelers. The arrests were made as part of an investigation into vehicle thefts reported in the city. During the operation, police recovered nine two-wheelers allegedly stolen by the accused. The successful operation is expected to help investigators establish the accused persons' involvement in other theft cases, if any. Further investigation is underway to determine the full extent of the theft network and identify any additional suspects. Police have not disclosed further details about the identities of the arrested persons or the total value of the recovered vehicles. More information is expected as the investigation progresses.

28 injured in bus collision near Arate Bridge

CH NEWS, KUNDAPURA

At least 28 people were injured when two private buses collided head-on near Arate Bridge in Kundapura taluk of Udupi district on Sunday. Three of the injured were reported to be in serious condition. The accident occurred when the two buses collided on the road near the bridge. The impact left several passengers injured, prompting an emergency response. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment. Medical teams attended to the victims, while those in serious condition received further medical attention. The incident caused concern among local residents and road users. Further details about the cause of the collision, the identities of the injured and the condition of the seriously injured passengers are awaited. Police are expected to investigate the circumstances leading to the accident.

Salim Ahmed visits Muslim Federation's new office

CH NEWS, UDUPI



Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Salim Ahmed visited the new office of the Udupi District Muslim Federation.

The visit brought the Chairman in contact with representatives of the federation, which works on community-related matters in Udupi district.

The occasion marked an opportunity for the organisation's members to interact with the senior legislator and highlight the activities undertaken by the federation.

Salim Ahmed, who serves as the Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, is a senior public representative in Karnataka. His visit to the federation's new office drew attention to the organisation and its work among members of the Muslim community in the district.

The Udupi District Muslim Federation is associated with community affairs and activities involving members of the Muslim community. Organisations of this kind often provide a platform for discussing social issues, coordinating community initiatives and bringing local concerns to the attention of public representatives.

The visit

WHO	Salim Ahmed, Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council
WHERE	New office of the Udupi District Muslim Federation
WITH	The federation's office-bearers and members

The visit to the new office also highlighted the importance of interaction between community organisations and elected representatives. Such meetings can provide opportunities to discuss local needs, community welfare and issues requiring attention from the authorities.

The federation's office-bearers and members were associated with the occasion.

The occasion highlighted the federation's presence in Udupi district and provided an opportunity for interaction with the Legislative Council Chairman.

Mangaluru Airport taxi drivers seek resolution of issues

CH NEWS, MANGALURU



They urged officials to address their demands and provide relief to airport taxi operators.

Taxi drivers operating at Mangaluru International Airport have urged the authorities to resolve their long-pending issues and fulfil their demands. A memorandum outlining their concerns was submitted to the concerned officials on Sunday.

The drivers brought their grievances to the attention of the authorities and sought appropriate action to address the problems affecting their work. They appealed to the officials to consider their demands and take necessary steps to provide relief to taxi operators working at the airport.

The memorandum highlighted the need for intervention by the authorities to resolve the issues faced by the drivers. The drivers are seeking a suitable response to their demands and hope that the submission will lead to concrete measures.

Taxi drivers operating at the airport provide transportation services to passengers arriving in and departing from Mangaluru.

Their services connect the airport with different parts of the city, neighbouring towns and other destinations in the region. The availability of reliable taxi services is important for passengers, particularly those travelling with families, luggage or on tight schedules.

Airport-based taxi operations also provide a source of livelihood for drivers who depend on passenger trips for their daily income. The drivers have therefore sought the attention of the authorities to address their concerns and ensure that their grievances receive due consideration.

The submission of the memorandum is intended to bring the issues to the notice of the officials concerned and seek a resolution through appropriate administrative action.

The drivers have called for their demands to be considered and fulfilled. Further action will depend on the response of the concerned authorities.

Heggade's social service earns global recognition: Bhat

CH NEWS, DHARMASTHALA

CHATURVIDHA DANA

- **ANNADANA** — Food
- **VIDYADANA** — Education
- **ABHAYADANA** — Protection
- **AUSHADHADANA** — Medicine

Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade has earned global recognition for his selfless service and contributions to society, Karnataka Bank Managing Director and CEO Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat said.

He was speaking at the 59th anniversary of Dr. Heggade's Pattabhisheka (coronation), held at the Mahotsava Sabha Bhavana in Dharmasthala on Saturday.

Bhat said Dr. Heggade had preserved and strengthened Dharmasthala's tradition of Chaturvidha Dana, comprising Annadana (food), Vidyadana (education), Abhayadana (protection) and Aushadhadana (medicine). He praised the Dharmadhikari's commitment to public welfare without expecting anything in return.

Highlighting his social initiatives, Bhat appreciated Dr. Heggade's contributions to women's empowerment and support for disadvantaged people. He said the title 'Rajarshi' aptly reflected his combination of leadership and spiritual values. Bhat also acknowledged the support extended by Dr. Heggade and his brothers, D. Surendra Kumar and D. Harshendra Kumar, towards Karnataka Bank's growth.

Former Legislative Council member K. Pratap Simha Nayak said society must recognise and appreciate Dr. Heggade's service, which reflects the ideals of Rajayogi and Karmayogi.

During the programme, Dr. Heggade felicitated 26 senior employees, including Shrivarma, manager of the Hosanela Estate in Sanse. The book Muhurta Padavi, authored by Dr. Pavan, was also released.

New initiatives

Several new initiatives were announced, including a girls' hostel in Shravanabelagola, a sports hostel for female students in Ujire, nursing and physiotherapy colleges, renovation of educational buildings, a synthetic sports track and lake rejuvenation projects.

Plans also include ATM facilities for beneficiaries of the Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project and dialysis services at SDM Hospital, Ujire.

A state-of-the-art catheterisation laboratory (Cath Lab), estimated to cost ₹11 crore, will be established at SDM Hospital in collaboration with Narayana Health, Bengaluru. The facility will provide cardiac diagnostic and treatment services, including angiograms and angioplasties.

Dr. Heggade also said assistance would be provided to people seeking medical support at Dharmasthala. Traditional treatments are being promoted through Ayurveda and naturopathy hospitals associated with the institution.

Hemavathi V. Heggade, D. Harshendra Kumar, Supriya Harshendra Kumar, Shraddha Amit and D. Shreyas Kumar attended the programme.

SDM Dr. Satishchandra welcomed the gathering, while Lakshminarayana Rao proposed the vote of thanks. Padmashree R. Jain and Divya compered the event.

G.R. Hospital plans monthly free medical camps



720	190	250
beds	medical specialists	people at the camp

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Providing modern medical facilities and quality healthcare to economically disadvantaged people is the mission of G.R. Medical College and Hospital, said its president, Ganesh Rao.

He was speaking after inaugurating a free health checkup camp jointly organised by G.R. Medical College and Hospital and the Rotary Club of Mangaluru Central on the hospital premises. The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

Ganesh Rao announced that free ambulance transportation would be provided to poor and ailing people. He also said free medical camps would be organised every month in different parts of Mangaluru to help more people access healthcare services.

College Principal Dr. Devidas Shetty said the hospital uses advanced medical technology to provide treatment and aims to protect public health. He said the facility has 720 beds and 190 medical specialists, with emergency medical services available round the clock.

Ravindra, president of the Rotary Club of Mangaluru Central, assured the organisation's full support for the initiative and wished the camp success.

Several experienced doctors participated in the camp and provided consultations and health screenings. Dr. Eerappa attended to general medicine cases, Dr. Kishori provided obstetrics and gynaecology consultations, Dr. Vishal handled orthopaedic concerns, and Dr. Raviteja offered consultations for neurological problems.

Dr. Sucheta Shetty, head of the laboratory, and ENT specialist Dr. Jeshwin also participated in the programme. Medical teams screened participants for high blood pressure and blood sugar levels, conducted ENT and diabetes examinations, and offered advice on neurological problems and sleep disorders. Pregnant women received guidance on proper nutrition.

Dr. Sudhakar, head of the Orthopaedics Department, and Rajesh Shetty, zonal officer of the Rotary organisation, were also present.

Camp organiser Dr. Devadas Rai welcomed the gathering and compered the programme, while Dr. Julian Saldanha proposed the vote of thanks. Approximately 250 people attended the camp and benefited from the medical services and consultations offered by the participating specialists.

Renovated Little Flower Hall inaugurated at Kemmannu Church

CH NEWS, UDUPI



Community halls play an important role in promoting goodwill, unity and harmony in society, said Rev. Fr. Stephen D'Souza, Chancellor of the Diocese of Udupi.

He was speaking after blessing the renovated Little Flower Hall, managed by St. Theresa Church, Kemmannu, on Sunday. He also presided over the formal inauguration programme.

Fr. Stephen D'Souza said community halls provide people with opportunities to come together for social and cultural programmes, interact with one another and develop mutual understanding. Such gatherings help strengthen relationships and create a sense of belonging among people. He expressed hope that the renovated hall would contribute to promoting unity and harmony in the Kemmannu region.

During the programme, individuals who provided financial assistance and those who contributed their services towards the renovation were honoured in recognition of their support and efforts.

Social worker Veronica Cornelio, recipient of the All India Catholic Union's National Award of Honour, was also felicitated for her contributions.

Church NRI representative Alfred Crasta, local convent superior Sister Asha Prema and Parish Pastoral Council Vice-President Thomas D'Souza were present at the event.

Parish priest Rev. Fr. Philip Neri Aranha delivered the introductory address. Parish Pastoral Council Secretary Natalia Suzy Fernandes welcomed the gathering, while Commission Coordinator Rita D'Souza proposed the vote of thanks. Jenisha Jarnish compered the programme.



Kemmannu, Udupi taluk

Earlier, a Thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic Mass was celebrated at St. Theresa Church under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Stephen D'Souza ahead of the inauguration ceremony.

Rev. Fr. Vincent Crasta, Secretary of the Catholic Education Society, Udupi, and guest priests Rev. Fr. Dominic Lobo, Rev. Fr. Amar Lobo and Rev. Fr. Shawn Andrade were also present for the religious service.

The renovation of Little Flower Hall is expected to provide an improved venue for community gatherings, social activities and cultural programmes in the Kemmannu area. The occasion highlighted the collective efforts of donors and volunteers in improving facilities for the local community.

EDUCATION BUILDS PROGRESS

Education and unity must remain priorities: Madhu Bangarappa

Education could help individuals become self-reliant and contribute meaningfully to society

CH NEWS, TIRTHAHALLI



Education and organisation should remain the top priorities for the community to fulfil the vision of social reformer Narayana Guru, Karnataka Minister Madhu Bangarappa said at the Arya Ediga-Billava Samavesha held in Tirthahalli.

Addressing the gathering, Bangarappa highlighted the importance of education in improving the social and economic conditions of communities. He stressed that collective efforts, unity and access to education were essential for achieving progress and creating better opportunities for future generations.

Recalling the ideals of Narayana Guru, the minister emphasised the need to work towards social equality and educational advancement. Narayana Guru, a prominent social reformer, dedicated his life to challenging caste discrimination and promoting education, equality and human dignity.

The minister also stressed the importance of organisation and unity in addressing community concerns. Collective action, he said, could help strengthen social awareness and encourage people to work together towards common goals.

The Arya Ediga-Billava Samavesha brought members of the community together in Tirthahalli to discuss social development and the values associated with Narayana Guru's teachings. Such gatherings provide a platform for exchanging ideas, strengthening community bonds and encouraging initiatives focused on education and welfare.

Narayana Guru's message of equality, education and social reform continues to inspire various communities across Karnataka and other parts of the country. His emphasis on overcoming social barriers and promoting learning remains relevant to efforts aimed at inclusive development.

The gathering highlighted the need to carry forward these ideals through practical action, particularly by encouraging education, strengthening community organisation and creating opportunities for younger generations.

The event focused on the importance of preserving the reformer's legacy while working towards social progress and unity.

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P11 Netanyahu faces growing backlash in Likud stronghold



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'Don't sideline Kannadigas'

CM DK SHIVAKUMAR'S BIG WARNING TO IT FIRM OVER JOB BIAS

Says the rights, dignity and employment opportunities of Kannadigas will not be compromised.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday warned of strict action against private institutions found to be deliberately sidelining Kannadigas in recruitment, amid complaints of locals being denied job opportunities in Bengaluru's IT sector.

In a post on X, Shivakumar said the government had taken seriously complaints about Kannadigas being denied job opportunities, particularly in Bengaluru's IT sector. He asserted that the rights, dignity and employment opportunities of Kannadigas would not be compromised.

"It is disheartening to hear complaints that Kannadigas are being denied job opportunities in Bengaluru's IT companies. The government has taken seriously the issue of native Kannada speakers being sidelined," he said.

"In Karnataka, the Kannadiga is sovereign. The government will not allow the rights, dignity, and opportunities of Kannadigas to be disregarded for any reason," he said.

Pointing to Bengaluru's standing as India's technology capital, Shivakumar said the state took pride in the talent, skills and capabilities of Kannadigas. He added that appropriate action would be taken if any private institution was found to have deliberately sidelined them.

The CM's statement comes amid several videos circulating on social media in which people have complained of Kannadigas being denied job opportunities in Bengaluru.

This is not the first time CM Shivakumar or the Karnataka government have brought this topic up of jobs for locals. The remarks are in continuation of a longstanding debate in the southern state over providing employment opportunities to locals he private sector.

CM'S STATEMENT IN A NUTSHELL

- **The trigger**: The warning followed a viral social media video of a young woman alleging language-based discrimination in Bengaluru's IT sector, claiming firms prefer Telugu and Tamil speakers and reject resumes that mention Kannada.
- **Serious cognizance**: Shivakumar stated on X that the government has taken complaints of native Kannada speakers facing injustice in employment opportunities very seriously.
- **Pride in local talent**: While acknowledging Bengaluru's global status as India's technology capital, he stressed that this success is deeply rooted in the talent, skills, and capabilities of the local workforce.
- **Uncompromising commitment**: He reiterated that the government remains fully committed to protecting the interests of the local community and responding to their grievances.

> It is disheartening to hear complaints that Kannadigas are being denied job opportunities in Bengaluru's IT companies. In Karnataka, the Kannadiga is sovereign.
>
> - DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

In June as well, Karnataka CM had said the state government was committed to giving fresh momentum to Karnataka's development and had announced measures that included filling 56,000 vacant posts and giving preference to Kannadigas in private-sector employment.

In the latest video, a woman alleged that Bengaluru-based companies were rejecting candidates who mentioned Kannada on their resumes, hiring only a few Kannadigas and selecting candidates at lower salaries during campus interviews in other states.

"Due to this we are not getting job opportunities," she said in the video and had appealed Shivakumar to intervene.



DKS defies Chamarajanagar jinx

...visits dist for International Buddhist Meet

CHAMARAJANAGAR: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday dismissed the long-standing 'jinx' associated with Chamarajanagar, urging people and politicians alike not to "harbour the superstition" that visiting district causes a loss of power, as he arrived in the town to attend the International Buddhist Maha Sammelan. Following former CM Siddaramaiah's way, D K Shivakumar too shunned the 'jinxed' tag superstition followed by many political heads. Speaking to media persons at BR Ambedkar Stadium, he said, "Siddaramaiah had visited Chamarajanagar several times in his eight years tenure as the CM, and has given good governance. Hence, there is no meaning for the 'jinxed' tag and the belief that those visiting Chamarajanagar would lose power". "Do not harbour the superstition that visiting Chamarajanagar leads to the loss of power", he said.

CONTEXT, BROADER IMPACT AND THE CONTROVERSIAL JOB QUOTA BILL

This development revives intense discussions surrounding local job reservations in Karnataka's private sector. The state government had put the controversial bill (Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024) on hold in July 2024, which proposed reserving 50% of management positions and 75% of non-management jobs for locals, following intense backlash from tech bodies like National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and industry leaders. While the CM's latest warning signals a firm political stance, the government has not yet announced a formal investigation or named specific companies.

What the bill proposed?

Proposed quotas: The draft legislation mandated 50% reservation in management positions and 70% (initially reported as up to 75%) in non-management positions for locals in private industries, factories, and establishments.

Exemptions/clarifications: The govt stated that if suitable local skilled talent was not available, companies were permitted to outsource or hire candidates from outside the state.

Industry reactions & pushback

Nasscom warning: Warned that strict local mandates could hurt Karnataka's investment climate, stifle startups, and force global capability centers (GCCs) and tech companies to consider relocation.

Business leaders: Prominent figures such as Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and TV Mohandas Pai criticised the bill as unconstitutional and discriminatory.

Modi: 12-year journey of Mann Ki Baat a pilgrimage

> The programme was first aired on October 3, 2014, coinciding with the festival of Vijayadashami

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed the 12-year journey of his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' a "pilgrimage", describing it as an opportunity to closely understand the efforts of citizens and pay tribute to their contributions.

In the 139th edition of the programme, Modi also said that through the radio address, he, in a way, worships the collective power (Lokshakti) of the nation and it gives him the opportunity to connect with every family in the country.

"Welcome once again to Mann Ki Baat. Twelve years ago today, on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami, we began Mann Ki Baat. Since then, our journey has been continuing without interruption. You are both fellow travellers and guides on this journey," he said.

The PM said for him, Mann Ki Baat has been a "blessed occasion" to sing the praises of the hard work, valour, commitment, dedication, and spirit of service of the common people of the country.

"There has been an ancient tradition of pilgrimage in our country. For me, Mann Ki Baat is no less than a pilgrimage to closely learn about the efforts of the people of the country and to bow down to their contributions," he said.

Modi said those who live for society and the nation are like a pilgrimage site in themselves.

In these 12 years, he said, many such people have come forward from every corner of the country whose extraordinary work usually misses the attention of society.

"Mann Ki Baat has worked to bring countless such inspiring stories before all of you. Through this programme, I, in a way, worship the collective power of the nation. It gives me the opportunity to connect with every family in the country."

He said he receives hundreds of messages in which people share that after listening to Mann Ki Baat, they felt as if he was sitting among them as a member of their family, conversing with them. "For me, this intimacy and affection from all of you listeners is an invaluable asset."

Core analogy

PM Modi compared the uninterrupted 12-year journey to India's ancient tradition of pilgrimages, noting that people who live and work selflessly for society and the nation are like places of pilgrimage themselves.

Celebrating lokshakti

Modi described the broadcast as a way to worship the collective power (Lokshakti) of the nation and celebrate the hard work, courage, and service of ordinary citizens whose extraordinary stories often go unnoticed.

Listeners' role

The PM thanked the audience, acknowledging that listeners have acted as both fellow travelers and guides throughout the journey.

PM watches as fighter jets roar across Varanasi ghats



Varanasi: Putting tri-service jointness and home-grown platforms at the centre of its 94th anniversary display, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday flew nearly 100 aircraft from 12 bases over the Ganga at Namo Ghat here, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance.

Incidentally, the Central Air Command-organised display was the first aerial show over the Ganga in Varanasi, the Prime Minister's constituency. The IAF has traditionally held its Air Force Day flypast at Hindon airbase near Delhi but in recent years has taken the celebrations to other cities, including Prayagraj in 2023 and Guwahati last year. The finale of the three-day 'Wings Over Ganges' show was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, UP Governor Anandiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh. "Varanasi air show… Magnificent!" Modi posted on X.

Officials said the display involved 52 fighters, 32 helicopters and 15 transport aircraft. Six frontline types, the Su-30MKI, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Tejas and MiG-29, flew together in a single arrowhead, a first for a public IAF display. The formations drew on Varanasi's cultural and spiritual heritage, with names such as 'Kashi', 'Mahadev' and 'Vishwanath'. The display also featured aircraft and helicopters from the three services, along with platforms that support combat operations.

PM urges festive shoppers to prioritise local products

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to citizens to give preference to products made by local artisans while shopping for the festive season, saying such support would strengthen the 'Vocal for Local' campaign and accelerate the goal of a self-reliant India. In his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi noted that people buy gifts and household items for family and friends during festivals. "This time too, while shopping, please give priority to products made by local artisans. Your purchases will boost their enthusiasm," he said. He added that personal support for local crafts would advance the campaign, and the faster 'Vocal for Local' grows, the sooner the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat would be realised.

NO PEACE IN INDIA TILL RSS IDEOLOGY PERSISTS: KHARGE

PATNA

In a scathing attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday asserted that "there will be no peace in the country till the RSS ideology persists, as these people have disturbed communal harmony since 1950s."

The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Kharge was addressing a gathering in Patna while attending the 139th birth anniversary of first Chief Minister of Bihar late Sri Krishna Singh.

Kharge lamented that Socialist leaders like Nitish Kumar joined hands with the divisive forces like BJP and the RSS.

"It's really disappointing that people like Nitish joined those who believe in the RSS ideology," said the Congress chief.

2nd war of Independence

Urging the people of Bihar to join the struggle against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise as the 'second war of Independence', Kharge reiterated those who helped form the Government in Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra and West Bengal through 'vote chori' will face legal consequences.

"All those who have indulged in 'vote theft' will be identified and put behind bars when the regime at Centre changes," said Kharge, asking all the Congress MPs, MLAs and MLCs to attend the INDIA bloc rally in New Delhi on November 1. He also demanded that the elections held in the last two years across the country be annulled and fresh polls conducted through ballot papers.

Ayodhya row

Launching a tirade against the BJP, he said, "I pray to Lord Rama to open his eyes and punish those who have looted 'chanda' (donation) in his name at Ayodhya."



Citing his own case of caste discrimination, Kharge highlighted how BJP leaders indulged in 'shuddhikaran' (purification) of the place when he visited Uttarakhand.

Ruckus over Modi

There was a ruckus during Kharge's speech when the Congress president was slamming the BJP and asserting that "Narendra Modi will have to go once we expose the SIR exercise."

One of the members from the audience got up and said that "Modi is not going anywhere."

Peeved over such remarks, a miffed Kharge retorted, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega."

Later, Congress workers had a confrontation with the person who spoke in favour of Modi during Kharge's address.

Modi ka baap bhi jayega: Kharge loses cool at heckler in Patna rally

PATNA

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge lost his cool during an address at an event in Bihar's Patna on Sunday after a person in the audience remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not go anywhere. Responding to the remark, Kharge said, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega."

The exchange took place during the 139th birth anniversary celebration of Dr Shri Krishna Singh. Kharge subsequently launched an attack on Modi over his promise to bring back black money and criticised the ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), saying there would be no peace in the country as long as it persisted.

BJP hits back

His remarks drew sharp criticism from BJP leaders, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah accusing the Congress chief of crossing all limits of propriety by making an "indecent remark" about the Prime Minister's late father.

Indians in Saudi warned against filming missile interceptions

RIYADH: Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia has issued an advisory to its nationals in Saudi Arabia to follow local rules and to refrain from filming, publishing or sharing information, photos or videos related to ongoing events.

"The Indian community residing in Saudi Arabia is requested to abide by local rules and regulations," it said on social media while reposting a notification issued by the Directorate of Saudi Civil Defence.

"Filming, publishing, or sharing information related to countering missiles and drones and their impact sites exposes you to legal liability," read the advisory from the Directorate of Saudi Civil Defence.

The Indian mission in Saudi Arabia also shared updates about Air India and Air India Express flights to and from Riyadh and Dammam, which will remain suspended until November 7, 2026, while services to and from Jeddah will remain suspended until October 31.

It is the latest in a series of warnings amid continuous hostile aerial engagement between Saudi Arabia and Houthi rebels of yemen. The advisory comes as Major General Turki al-Maliki spokesperson of the Saudi led coalition said in a post that the Kingdom's air defence, intercepted and destroyed "10 ballistic missiles launched by the terrorist Houthi militia towards the southern region."

The Consulate General of India in Jeddah issued a parallel, detailed advisory specifically aimed at Indian nationals and Umrah pilgrims heavily affected by the ongoing flight disruptions in the Western Region.

LEADERSHIP ISN'T A SPECTATOR ROLE!

Don't be spectator, show leadership: EAM to UN

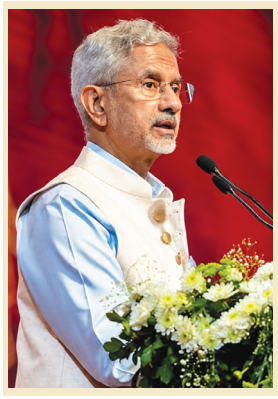
NEW DELHI

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday urged the United Nations to take a stronger leadership role in tackling global crises, saying it must not remain a spectator to conflicts and other challenges facing the world.

Speaking at the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan on the occasion of UN Day, Jaishankar called for reforms in multilateral institutions, arguing that large parts of the world could not be excluded from decision-making.

"The UN must show leadership, not be a spectator to global crises," he said, adding that the case for reformed multilateralism was growing stronger by the day.

He also described terrorism as a major threat to global peace, rejecting its use as an instrument of statecraft.



EAM's statement in short

When and where: Speaking on UN Day at the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan, Jaishankar urged the United Nations to move past passive observation of ongoing world conflicts.

Call for multilateral reforms: Stressed that large parts of the world cannot be left out of decision-making bodies & advocated for reformed multilateralism.

Stance on terrorism: Condemned terrorism as a severe threat to global peace, stating that using it as an instrument of statecraft is completely unacceptable and cannot be rationalised.

Criticism of inaction: Noted that political calculations continue to override international duties in fighting global crises.

> Terrorism's usage as an instrument of statecraft is simply unacceptable. It can never be justified, it can never be rationalized.
>
> S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

"Its usage as an instrument of statecraft is simply unacceptable. It can never be justified, it can never be rationalized," he said, calling for stronger international resolve to counter terrorism in all its forms.

He said some countries continued to allow political calculations to take precedence over the fight against terrorism, despite the lessons of history.

Global South faces '4F crisis'

He highlighted the challenges confronting developing countries, describing the Global South as facing a "4F crisis" involving finance, fuel, food and fertiliser.

He said developed countries also had a stake in finding solutions and called for urgent steps to reduce risks in the international economy and provide nations with more diversified options. "Market distortions through constriction and choke points only add to suffering. A genuine dialogue in this regard is overdue."

Jaishankar calls for inclusive AI development

On technological change, Jaishankar said artificial intelligence could transform the world but warned against leaving its development and impact in the hands of a few. "AI promises to be the mother of all change," he said, arguing that such a far-reaching technology required a responsible, inclusive and human-centric approach.

Quick Read

LPG blast shocks B'luru neighborhood

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A series of massive explosions rocked the residential neighborhood of Kammagondanahalli after a fire tore through an illegal gas-refilling shop. The incident triggered a chain reaction involving over 20 LPG cylinders and illegally stored petrol and kerosene. The disaster started during unauthorized gas-transfer operations when a heavy leak ignited, turning the cramped commercial building into a fiery inferno. The deafening blasts forced worshippers to evacuate a nearby mosque during late-evening prayers, while terrified residents fled into the streets. Miraculously, quick action by locals and a timely emergency response prevented any fatalities or critical injuries. However, the incident has sparked intense public outrage, with angry residents demanding strict legal action against authorities and operators who allowed the hazardous enterprise to run unchecked in a densely populated zone.

Lawyer demands probe into seven murders

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior Advocate S. Balan has urged a deep investigation into seven murders, including the tragic case of a young girl. Speaking in Bengaluru, he blamed local police for missing key clues, such as clothes and books, which stopped justice. Balan stated that the young girl faced a brutal gang rape, not a single crime. He openly demanded the immediate arrest of the retired officers who handled the early probe. He wants their pensions canceled. Activists and leaders gathered to support the ongoing fight for truth and fairness, demanding that true culprits face severe punishment for these horrible crimes.

Court grants conditional bail to accused

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru police recently arrested a Delhi man named Ritesh Pandey for uploading a controversial sting video against former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The accused used a second-hand mobile phone with a broken SIM slot and public Wi-Fi to hide his location after getting a pen drive. Following his arrest, the local court rejected police custody and granted him conditional bail while directing him to cooperate fully with the ongoing probe. Meanwhile, authorities are searching for a missing political worker linked to the case and questioning other key witnesses to uncover the truth.

R. Ashoka defends RSS funding & ideology

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka fiercely defended the RSS, warning Priyank Kharge of severe electoral backlash.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Escalating the political war of words across Karnataka, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka launched a blistering attack on Minister Priyank Kharge, warning that public backlash will sweep ruling party members from power within a year. Speaking to reporters in Jayanagar following his participation in the annual Vijayadashami Pathasanchalana march, Ashoka fiercely defended the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) against recent social media criticism regarding its financial transparency and organizational operations.

The sharp political confrontation erupted after Priyank Kharge posted critical inquiries regarding the funding sources of the ideological organization. Visibly agitated by the remarks, Ashoka retaliated by questioning the financial streams of the ruling Congress party, asking whether foreign funds originate from international alliances rather than transparent domestic volunteer contributions. Emphasizing that the RSS is a patriotic institution dedicated to national service and emergency relief during border conflicts, Ashoka asserted that the organization operates across more than 175 countries with absolute integrity, instilling core values of nationalism and civic duty.

Directing his ire personally at the minister, Ashoka remarked that administrative tenure is fleeting, cautioning that voters will hold leaders accountable for inflammatory rhetoric against nationalist bodies. He further challenged state leadership to address ideological debates directly, questioning why junior ministers frequently spearhead attacks while the broader administration remains cautious. The opposition leader also criticized the state government for imposing bureaucratic hurdles and delaying permissions for the traditional march, a restriction he claimed surpassed even historical central government measures.

> **"You are a minister with just one year left; after that, the people will chase you through every street!"**
>
> — **R. Ashoka,** Leader of the Opposition

Earlier in the day, Ashoka, alongside BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and hundreds of uniformed Swayamsevaks, proudly participated in the disciplined march at the BBMP grounds in Jayanagar. Marking five decades of personal association with the movement, Ashoka reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the organization's social harmony and cultural principles, warning that the opposition will robustly counter any political attempts to defame nationalist institutions across the state.

POST-MONSOON RAINS BRING HOPE TO K'TAKA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Pedestrians caught in a downpour

Offering a much-needed glimmer of hope to agricultural communities across the state, recent post-monsoon precipitation over the past week has exceeded normal averages, providing partial relief following one of the worst southwest monsoon deficits in Karnataka's history. According to data released by the Revenue Department and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the state recorded more rainfall than the seasonal average over the last week, registering 28 millimeters of rain against the norm of 25 millimeters.

The recent wet spell follows a devastating southwest monsoon season from June to September that recorded a staggering 35 percent overall deficit. With seasonal rains plummeting to 551 millimeters against a normal expectation of 852 millimeters, the state government declared 226 taluks as severely drought-affected. Revenue Minister G. Parameshwara noted that the prolonged dry spell caused widespread agricultural losses spanning nearly 58 lakh hectares, with estimated damages crossing Rs 62,000 crore, marking the third most severe drought recorded in the state's history.

While the cumulative seasonal deficit for the ongoing northeast monsoon (Hingaru) season stood at 41 percent as of October 24, the sudden pickup in rainfall over the preceding seven days has provided vital moisture. Regional distribution varied significantly across the state: Malenadu and coastal districts witnessed surplus rainfall ranging between 50 and 55 percent above normal, while South Interior districts recorded a 27 percent weekly surge. However, North Interior and Kalyana Karnataka regions continue to experience a severe dry spell, battling an 86 percent cumulative deficit. Agricultural experts remain hopeful that continued showers through the remainder of October will help stabilize standing crops and recharge depleted groundwater reserves in vulnerable districts.

HDK alleges ₹600 crore deal against family

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Escalating the political turmoil surrounding a high-profile sting operation case in Karnataka, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has made an explosive allegation, claiming that a massive financial deal worth Rs 600 crore was orchestrated to "finish off" the political legacy and family of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. Addressing a viral audio and video clip circulating across social media platforms, the Janata Dal (Secular) leader asserted that clear instructions were issued from the highest levels of the state administration to target his family.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy did not mince words, pointing directly at the leadership of the ruling establishment. "There is absolutely no doubt that a deal was struck to finish off H.D. Deve Gowda's family, and that senior leader is none other than the current Chief Minister," Kumaraswamy charged. He emphasized that the unfolding controversy demands an extensive, large-scale judicial inquiry, stating that divine justice is slowly bringing hidden conspiracies to light despite alleged attempts by police authorities and the Home Department to shield the masterminds.

> *"There is no doubt that instructions were given to finish off Deve Gowda's family, and the truth must be uncovered."*
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY** Union Minister

The Union Minister also addressed the ongoing Crime Branch (CCB) investigations targeting individuals associated with his party's digital media wing. Granting a firm five-day window for associates summoned by investigators, Kumaraswamy assured party workers that there is no need to panic or fear intimidation. He criticized the state government for weaponizing investigative machinery against political opponents while ignoring core governance issues, farmers' distress, and unresolved historical mysteries. Pointing to wider implications within the ruling party, Kumaraswamy claimed that senior figures like former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are also privately uneasy with the manner in which the investigation and internal political maneuvering are being handled. As the political crossfire intensifies, the Opposition has vowed to keep pressure on the government to ensure a transparent, uncompromised probe into the explosive allegations.

Pulakeshinagar blast solved as personal vendetta

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

How the plot unfolded

1. **Grudge:** Jalaluddin targets guard Allauddin
2. **Bomb:** Burhan builds an IED disguised as a flashlight at Maski, Raichur
3. **Journey:** sent to Bengaluru by bus, without its fuse
4. **Blast:** painter Suraj switches it on and is badly hurt

Cracking a high-profile security scare that rattled the city on the eve of the Dasara festivities, the Bengaluru city police have arrested three individuals in connection with the mysterious explosion at an under-construction building on Jeremiah Road in Pulakeshinagar. Unveiling dramatic findings during a press briefing, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh revealed that the explosion initially feared to be a random terror act was actually a targeted assassination plot rooted in a bitter personal vendetta between migrant workers from Assam.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Jalaluddin, Saidula Islam, and Burhan. According to police findings, the conspiracy was masterminded by Jalaluddin out of a fierce grudge against Allauddin, a security guard working at the multi-storey construction site. Investigators established that Allauddin had previously warned a young woman's family regarding Jalaluddin's background and character, prompting the prime suspect to plot a deadly retaliation. Burhan allegedly manufactured the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) expertly disguised as an ordinary battery-operated flashlight at Maski in the Raichur district, utilizing circuit designs and assembly tactics sourced via internet and artificial intelligence tools. The lethal parcel was subsequently transported to Bengaluru via a regular passenger bus without its fuse mechanism installed.

Upon arrival, the device was delivered to the site through Saidula Islam and Jalaluddin. When the parcel reached the building, security guard Allauddin and a co-worker named Suraj, a painter from Uttar Pradesh, handled the object. While Allauddin had been the intended target, Suraj picked up the flashlight device on the upper floors and attempted to switch it on, triggering a violent blast that severely injured him, resulting in critical shrapnel wounds and the loss of multiple fingers.

The extensive multi-agency investigation deployed over ten dedicated police teams, scouring footage from upwards of 1,500 CCTV cameras and interrogating more than a hundred individuals across Bengaluru, Raichur, and Assam. Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh commended the meticulous field work and announced a cash reward of three lakh rupees for the cracking squad, while cautioning citizens against handing over mobile phones or running errands for strangers under suspicious pretexts. The successful resolution of the case underscores the swift responsiveness of urban law enforcement in neutralizing localized threats while maintaining public safety during peak festival seasons.

Kaggalipura residents go begging for a bypass

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Kaggalipura residents in gunny sacks seek alms in their protest against the NHAI

Frustrated by official apathy toward rising traffic fatalities and severe urban safety hazards, residents of Kaggalipura staged a striking and highly unconventional protest against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Draped in rough gunny sacks and carrying empty alms bowls, local citizens walked along the busy thoroughfares engaging in symbolic begging. They wore prominent placards around their necks bearing the message, "Please give alms," with the collective declaration that every single rupee collected during the demonstration would be formally handed over to NHAI officials to mock the supposed lack of infrastructural funds.

The core grievance fueling this desperate form of civil disobedience is the urgent, long-standing demand for a dedicated bypass stretching from Udaipur on Kanakapura Road all the way to the Somanahalli toll plaza. Residents pointed out that the absence of a proper bypass forces heavy inter-state and commercial transit vehicles directly through densely populated residential zones and narrow local intersections, creating a daily hazard for pedestrians, school children, and local commuters. The situation has reached a critical boiling point following a horrific surge in road accidents, with grieving families noting that four precious human lives have been tragically snuffed out along this treacherous stretch of the national highway over the preceding month alone.

Protesters expressed profound anger that repeated appeals, formal memorandums, and meetings with district authorities and highway engineers have yielded nothing more than empty promises and bureaucratic delays. By adopting the dramatic "begging" motif, the community sought to highlight how ordinary citizens are being forced to beg for basic safety infrastructure that should be a fundamental right. Local leaders warned that unless the NHAI and state transport ministries immediately sanction and expedite the construction of the demanded bypass, community-led agitations will escalate significantly, potentially involving highway blockades and indefinite hunger strikes until concrete engineering solutions are implemented.

STING OPERATION UNRAVELS

JD(S) is the root cause of controversy: M. Lakshman

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The high-profile political storm surrounding an explosive sting operation video took a dramatic turn as the Central Crime Branch (CCB) recorded the crucial statement of the woman featured in the controversial footage. Investigators revealed that her testimony could potentially exonerate former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, as she reportedly confessed during prolonged questioning that the veteran leader had never caused her any distress, and that she had merely repeated scripted lines on camera without ever having met him in person.

The latest development has significantly strengthened suspicions among law enforcement agencies that the entire video episode was a meticulously choreographed fabrication engineered by political opponents to inflict maximum damage. The ongoing investigation intensified further following a targeted CCB raid on the residence of a Janata Dal (Secular) worker named Mohan Gowda. During the search, sleuths recovered 17 electronic pen drives containing sensitive data, digital communications, and logistical records. State Home Department authorities indicated that the contents of these recovered storage devices will soon be officially disclosed to unearth the deep financial and operational networks behind the controversy.

17	₹50,000	₹5 lakh
pen drives seized in the CCB raid	sent to a JD(S) worker, Lakshman alleges	paid to the uploader, he alleges

Adding fuel to the intensifying political crossfire, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson M. Lakshman launched a blistering counter-attack, directly accusing the JD(S) leadership of orchestrating the entire sting controversy. Lakshman alleged that 50,000 rupees were specifically wired to Mohan Gowda for communication hardware, while the individual responsible for uploading the edited footage allegedly fled to Canada after receiving a five-lakh-rupee disbursement from opposition party circles. He further claimed that thorough interrogation of three key confidants, described as the core associates of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, would expose the masterminds.

Furthermore, Congress leaders alleged that the recovered pen drives shed light on coordinated efforts targeting Siddaramaiah over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) legal battles, including substantial financial transactions allegedly used to fund Supreme Court litigation. Prominent figures, including Krupa Alva, have also cooperated with investigative bodies by voluntarily appearing before law enforcement even prior to receiving formal notices. As Home Minister Priyank Kharge prepares to release comprehensive forensic findings within the coming week, political tensions across Karnataka have reached a boiling point, with both major political camps trading explosive accusations of conspiracy, fabricated media trials, and institutional sabotage.

Quick Read

Shop owner murdered over cigarette credit dispute

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

A 38-year-old tea stall owner, Narasimhaiah Shetty, was allegedly murdered by Tilak Singh in LBS Nagar on Saturday after refusing to provide cigarettes on credit. According to police, the accused frequently visited the shop to buy tea, cigarettes and gutkha. He allegedly attacked Shetty with a sharp knife while Shetty was cleaning outside the shop. The incident was captured on CCTV, and the footage went viral. Superintendent of Police Arunangshu Giri said special teams had been formed to trace the accused. Local traders condemned the murder and demanded immediate action and better security for shop owners. Police also plan a special drive against people who threaten traders.

Youth dies in bike accident on National Highway

CH NEWS, JEWARGI

A youth named Mallu from Malli village in Yadrami taluk died on the spot in a bike accident on the six-lane Chennai–Surat National Highway near Jewargi. Another youth, Vinod Talikote, sustained serious injuries. According to reports, Mallu and Vinod had visited their uncle's house in Jewargi when the accident occurred. Vinod, who was riding pillion, suffered severe injuries and was shifted to Kalaburagi District Hospital for further treatment.

The news of Mallu's death has left his family in grief. The exact cause of the accident is not yet known. The incident occurred within the limits of Jewargi Police Station, and further details are awaited.

Mahasabha seeks Karnataka Ratna for Bheemanna Khandre

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga unit of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha has appealed to the Karnataka government to confer the Karnataka Ratna award posthumously on Bheemanna Khandre. District president Rudramuni N. Sajjan moved a resolution during a programme held on Sunday, and the gathering supported the proposal. Khandre was a prominent public figure in the Kalyana Karnataka region. He participated in the freedom struggle and the movement for the unification of Karnataka. He served as a member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and also held a ministerial post. He contributed to institution-building and served as president of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha. He passed away on January 16, 2026.

Kamleshwar Patel alleges massive voter deletions across India

Citing Article 326 on equal voting rights, Patel criticised the 2023 changes to the CEC appointment committee for weakening the Election Commission's independence

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

All India Congress Committee observer and Congress Working Committee member Kamleshwar Patel has accused the BJP-led Central Government and the Election Commission of manipulating electoral rolls by removing eligible voters and adding fake names. He alleged that more than 13 crore voters had been affected across the country.



Congress leaders at the press conference at Congress Bhavan in Mangaluru on Sunday.

At a glance

- **Allegation:** over 13.03 crore eligible voters removed across the country through SIR and Form 6, Patel claims
- **Campaign:** 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' launched by the INDIA alliance on October 10
- **Protests:** Delhi rally on November 1; 'Delhi Chalo' on November 25-26
- **Venue:** Congress Bhavan, Mallikatta, Mangaluru

13 crore+
voters affected by deletions and fake additions across India, Patel alleged

Speaking at a press conference at Congress Bhavan in Mallikatta, Mangaluru, on Sunday, Patel said the alleged deletions threatened democracy and citizens' constitutional right to vote.

Referring to Article 326 of the Constitution, he stressed the principle of equal voting rights. He also criticised the 2023 changes to the committee responsible for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner, claiming they had weakened the independence of the Election Commission.

Patel alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and Form 6 had been misused to remove eligible voters from electoral rolls.

INDIA alliance launches nationwide campaign

Patel said the INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, had launched a nationwide campaign titled 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' (Save the Vote, Save the Nation) on October 10.

The campaign is scheduled to continue until November 26, Constitution Day. He announced that a major rally would be held in Delhi on November 1, followed by a 'Delhi Chalo' movement on November 25 and 26. Lakhs of party workers from across the country are expected to participate, he said.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about voter rights and demand protection of the electoral process.

Dakshina Kannada District Congress President Padmaraj R. Poojary, KPCC Working President Dr. Manjunath Bhandary, former minister B. Ramanath Rai, former Rajya Sabha member B. Ibrahim and Legislative Council member Ivan D'Souza attended the press conference.

Several Congress office-bearers and party leaders were also present at the event.



Outsourced workers in Wadi demand revised minimum wages

CH NEWS, WADI

The Karnataka State United Hostel Workers' Association has demanded the implementation of revised minimum wages for outsourced workers employed in various departments across Kalaburagi district.

Workers employed in hostels in Wadi launched a letter campaign, demanding the immediate implementation of the revised minimum wage order issued by the Labour Department on May 22. They also sought the release of pending wage arrears.

The Labour Department issued the revised wage order following the workers' struggle for minimum wages. However, the workers alleged that the government and Finance Department were delaying its implementation due to pressure from contractors.

They expressed disappointment that the benefits of the order had not reached them despite its issuance. The workers said the government must ensure fair wages for those who depend on daily labour for their livelihood.

Through the letter campaign, they urged the government to implement the revised wages without further delay and release all pending dues.

Several association members participated in the campaign, including Karnataka State United Hostel Workers' Association Kalaburagi District Secretary Sharanu Herooor and Taluk Joint Secretary Raju Odeyar.

Ishamma Nalwar, Chandru Dhannekar, Vidyavati Badiger, Siddamma Kashi, Yallamma Nalwar, Banamma Devadurga, Bhimashappa Dandoti and Rukkamma Ravur were also present.

The workers reiterated their demand for fair wages and the timely payment of arrears, urging the authorities to take immediate action to ensure that outsourced employees receive the benefits announced by the Labour Department.

Gadag residents demand stop for proposed Vande Bharat train

CH NEWS, BETAGERI

Ganeshsingh Byali, president of the Betageri Railway Struggle Committee, has welcomed the South Western Railway's proposal to introduce a Vande Bharat train service between Hubballi and Secunderabad.

However, he has expressed disappointment over the proposed route not including a stop at Gadag railway station.

According to the proposed schedule, the train will depart from Hubballi at 2:30 p.m.

Gadag is an important railway junction, and leaving it out is unfair to local passengers, says Byali

and reach Hosapete at 5:30 p.m. It will stop at Hosapete, Ballari, Guntakal, Kurnool and Mahabubnagar before arriving in Secunderabad at 10:30 p.m.

Byali said the absence of a stop at Gadag would inconvenience passengers from the region, as Gadag is an important railway junction. He described the omission as unfair to local passengers and stressed the need to provide better rail connectivity.

He urged the local Member of Parliament to intervene and request the railway authorities to include Gadag in the proposed route. He said a stop at the station would benefit passengers travelling between North Karnataka and Telangana.

Byali warned that the Betageri Railway Struggle Committee would launch a strong protest against railway officials if the authorities failed to respond to their demand.

He also appealed to the Railway Department to consider the concerns of local passengers and take appropriate action to avoid a public agitation.

PROPOSED ROUTE: NO GADAG STOP

- **Hubballi** departs 2:30 p.m.
- **Hosapete** arrives 5:30 p.m.
- **Ballari**
- **Guntakal**
- **Kurnool**
- **Mahabubnagar**
- **Secunderabad** arrives 10:30 p.m.

The committee hopes the authorities will reconsider the proposed schedule and provide a stop at Gadag before the service is introduced.

Experts demand preservation of historic Gandabherunda sculpture

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Historical researchers and local leaders have urged the district administration to preserve an ancient sculpture of the Gandabherunda discovered inside the old fort on Indi Road in Vijayapura city. They have demanded that the site be cleaned, protected and opened to tourists.

The sculpture depicts the Gandabherunda, a mythical two-headed bird that served as a royal emblem during the Rashtrakuta period. Researchers say the discovery provides historical evidence of the fort's connection with the Rashtrakutas, who ruled from Manyakheta.

In a press statement, Layappa Ingale, president of the National Research Forum, along with Jagadev Suryavanshi, Pradeep Chalavadi and Vishnu Salunke, called for immediate steps to protect the monument. They have urged the Central and State Departments of Archaeology and Museums, the Tourism Department and the district administration to install an information board and improve public access to the site.


The Gandabherunda sculpture inside the old fort on Indi Road, Vijayapura.

According to Ingale, the sculpture was identified by the National Research Forum in 2020 and dates back to the eighth to tenth centuries. He said it could be one of the oldest embossed Gandabherunda sculptures discovered in Karnataka.

The Gandabherunda symbolises strength and power. It has been associated with several dynasties, including the Rashtrakutas, Kalyana Chalukyas and Devagiri Yadavas. The emblem was also used by the Mysuru Wodeyars and continues to serve as Karnataka's state emblem.

Similar representations can be seen at the Chennakeshava Temple in Belur and the Rameshwara Temple in Keladi. The symbol also appears on Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation buses and tickets.

The researchers have stressed that preserving the Vijayapura sculpture would protect an important part of Karnataka's cultural heritage. They have urged authorities to create awareness among younger generations about the region's history and ensure that the monument receives proper conservation and public recognition.

Rotary groups organise polio awareness rally in Tumakuru

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU

Various Rotary and Inner Wheel organisations organised a rally in Tumakuru to mark World Polio Day and create awareness about the Pulse Polio campaign. Members formed a human chain at BGS Circle to highlight the importance of polio vaccination.

District Hospital Surgeon Dr. Asghar Baig flagged off the rally. Speaking on the occasion, he said World Polio Day is observed on October 24 every year to raise awareness about the disease and recognise global efforts to eradicate it.

He said India had successfully eliminated polio, but the disease continued to exist in neighbouring countries. He urged parents to ensure that all children below five years receive polio drops to prevent the disease from returning to India. He also appreciated the organisations for spreading awareness.

Rotary District Lieutenant Governor Biligiri Shivakumar said governments, healthcare institutions and social organisations were working together to eliminate polio worldwide. He appealed to mothers to ensure that children receive polio drops regularly until they reach five years of age.

East District Governor Asha Prasanna Kumar said India's Pulse Polio campaign had provided free vaccination to millions of children. She highlighted the importance of continuing vaccination efforts because polio remains a concern in neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Several Rotary and Inner Wheel office-bearers and members participated in the rally. They included Rotary Zonal Governor Prameela Shivakumar, Assistant Governor C. Nagaraj and representatives of various Rotary clubs in Tumakuru.

Members of nursing colleges also took part in the awareness programme.

The rally aimed to encourage parents to complete their children's polio vaccinations and support continued efforts to protect children from the disease.

Foetus found inside two-month-old baby in Raichur

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

In a rare medical case, doctors have detected a foetus inside the abdomen of a two-month-old baby boy at a hospital in Sindhanur.

The infant has been referred to a specialised hospital in Bengaluru for advanced treatment, with surgery expected to be considered.

The baby's parents, who are from Gadag district, brought him to Sahana Hospital in Sindhanur after he developed health complications. During the examination, Dr. Shivraj Patil detected the unusual condition, medically known as "fetus in fetu."

This rare developmental abnormality occurs when a twin embryo becomes abnormally incorporated into the body of the other during early development. The condition is extremely uncommon, with estimates suggesting it occurs in approximately one in 500,000 births, although reported figures vary.

Considering the infant's delicate condition and need for specialised care, Dr. Patil provided initial treatment before referring him to a hospital in Bengaluru. Specialist doctors are expected to assess the baby and determine the appropriate course of treatment, including possible surgical removal of the foetal tissue.

Speaking about the case, Dr. Shivraj Patil said the infant had several health complications and required advanced medical attention.

"Cases of this nature are extremely rare in a doctor's professional career. When the parents brought the two-month-old baby to our hospital, an examination revealed a foetus inside the abdomen. We provided initial treatment and referred the baby to an advanced hospital in Bengaluru," he said.

According to Dr. Patil, information available to him suggested that this was the third such case reported in Karnataka. He added that surgery was likely to be performed soon, after which the infant's health condition would become clearer.

"Cases of this nature are extremely rare in a doctor's professional career."
DR. SHIVRAJ PATIL Sahana Hospital, Sindhanur

The referral has left the parents anxious as they await further treatment. More details are expected after the specialist team completes its evaluation and decides on the next steps in the baby's care.

GI TAG TRIUMPH

PM Modi praises Kalaburagi tur dal export success

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Kalaburagi's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged tur dal has received national recognition after Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted its export to the Maldives during the 139th episode of his radio programme, Mann Ki Baat.

Speaking about the growing international demand for Indian products, Modi said the 'Vocal for Local' campaign was helping indigenous goods reach overseas markets. He cited Kalaburagi tur dal being exported to the Maldives and makhana from Bihar's Purnia reaching Greece as examples of Indian products gaining global attention.


PM Narendra Modi (file photo).

Ramesh Kadaganchi of Kalaburagi, through a Pune-based company, exported 10 quintals of GI-tagged tur dal to the Maldives around two months ago. Farmers reportedly received prices nearly 30 per cent higher than the prevailing market rate, raising hopes of better returns through international trade.

The GI tag links Kalaburagi tur dal to its geographical origin and distinctive qualities. The recent export is expected to create opportunities for local farmers and expand the product's reach in overseas markets.

Joint Director of Agriculture Samad Patel said efforts were under way to explore export opportunities in countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia. Samples have been sent to prospective buyers, and the department is awaiting orders.

Traditional products eye global markets

Kalaburagi is also working to promote traditional products such as khadak rotti and Kamalapur red bananas internationally. Modi had previously praised efforts to promote the region's khadak rotti during an earlier episode of Mann Ki Baat.

District in-charge Minister Priyank Kharge said the administration was working to establish a global identity for the district's agricultural produce and traditional food products.

"Our aim is to introduce Kalaburagi's agricultural and traditional food products to global markets. Through these initiatives, we want to make farmers and workers economically stronger," he said.

Samad Patel said the recognition given to Kalaburagi tur dal was a matter of pride and could encourage further trade in the coming days.

Farmers and officials hope that growing international demand will improve market access, increase earnings and strengthen livelihoods across the district's agricultural sector.

Quick Read

Revenue department invites applications for two contract posts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Revenue Department has invited applications for two contract-based posts in the Office of the Special Officer and Competent Authority, which handles IMA and other company fraud cases. The deadline is October 31, 2026. One vacancy is available for a PRO/Operations Manager. Candidates must hold an MBA degree and have at least five years of relevant experience. Knowledge of Kannada, Hindi and English is preferred. The monthly salary ranges from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1.10 lakh. The second post is Private Secretary (Junior). Applicants must hold a B.Com or LLB degree, have computer and typing skills, and possess at least two years of relevant experience. The monthly salary ranges from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 45,000. Candidates must submit resumes to the office on the third floor of Visvesvaraya Tower, Bengaluru. For details, email splocaima21@gmail.com or call 080-29565353. The posts are contractual, not permanent government jobs.

Woman seriously injured in alleged land dispute attack

CH NEWS, BAGALKOT

A woman was seriously injured after her brother-in-law allegedly ran a Bolero car over her following a dispute over six acres of land in Bagalkot district. The injured woman, Mangaladevi Nadagowda, had reportedly surveyed, fenced and cultivated the land. Her brother-in-law, Chennappagowda, allegedly opposed the survey and later ploughed the field where she had sown crops. The incident occurred while Mangaladevi was working in another field. She suffered serious leg and internal injuries and is receiving treatment at a private hospital in Bagalkot. A mobile phone video reportedly captured the incident, including her daughter pleading with her uncle to stop. Police have launched an investigation. Former minister S.R. Patil also visited the hospital to enquire about her condition.

Newborn girl rescued after being abandoned near lake

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A newborn baby girl was rescued by villagers after she was found abandoned inside a bag near a lake in Gonuru village of Chitradurga taluk. The incident came to light when villagers walking near the lake heard a baby crying from a bag. On opening it, they found the infant inside. The women in the village cleaned the baby and wrapped her in warm clothes before informing the authorities. Child Welfare Department officials reached the spot and took custody of the newborn. She was admitted to Chitradurga District Hospital for treatment. Hospital sources said her condition was stable. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify those responsible for abandoning the baby.

No shortage of funds to tackle drought, says Khandre

Officials must arrange water via tankers or borewells, ensuring alternative supplies within 24 hours if sources dry up

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA



At the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha felicitation programme in Shivamogga

Updates

- Government has sufficient drought relief funds.
- Released Rs. 306 crore for water.
- Alternative water arrangements within one day.
- Rural local body elections expected soon.
- Anubhava Mantapa project costs Rs. 750 crore.
- Minister receives Keladi Shivappa Nayaka Award.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre has said that the Karnataka government has sufficient funds to tackle the drought situation and ensure drinking water supply in rural areas.

He said the government had released Rs. 306 crore for drinking water supply and other drought-relief works.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Shivamogga on Sunday, Khandre said Deputy Commissioners also had sufficient funds to address drought-related problems. He assured people that the government was prepared to handle the situation.

Officials have been instructed to arrange drinking water through tankers or by hiring private borewells wherever necessary. If a borewell dries up, alternative arrangements must be made within 24 hours, he said.

On rural local body elections, Khandre said the draft notification on constituency delimitation and reservation had been issued. Elections are expected to be held in late December or January 2027. The final notification will be issued after objections to the draft are reviewed.

Khandre also attended a felicitation programme organised by the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha in Shivamogga. He received the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka Award for 2023-24 on behalf of his late father, Bheemanna Khandre.

Addressing the gathering, he said Veerashaiva and Lingayat communities were united and should not be divided. He also expressed hope that the Anubhava Mantapa project at Basava Kalyana, being built at a cost of Rs. 750 crore, would be completed before the next Basava Jayanti.

Responding to a demand to declare Malnad as "Keladi Karnataka," he said he would discuss the proposal with the Chief Minister.

Major Deeksha C. Mudadevannanavar of the Indian Army Medical Corps was also honoured with the Keladi Chennamma Award. MP B.Y. Raghavendra and seers from various mutts attended the programme.

Harish slams Suresh over gesture to minister

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE



BJP MLA B.P. Harish has expressed displeasure over an incident in which BJP Legislative Council candidate K.M. Suresh reportedly touched the feet of Minister Mallikarjun during voting for the South-East Graduates' constituency.

Harish said the incident had upset several BJP workers, who viewed the gesture as inappropriate. He added that he intended to raise the matter with the party's state-level leaders when they arrived.

The MLA also criticised Suresh for seeking the minister's cooperation in the presence of MP Prabha. Harish made strong allegations against Mallikarjun and questioned the relationship between the minister and BJP leaders.

Harish further referred to the minister's comments about the BJP's alleged 'A-team' and 'B-team' connections. He also indirectly targeted former minister Ravindranath, questioning his political role and alleging links between sections of the BJP and Congress.

According to Harish, the Shamanur family and another group had supported each other during elections, causing disappointment among loyal BJP workers. He claimed that such political arrangements had created dissatisfaction within the party.

The MLA also criticised Suresh's remarks about Congress members and made further allegations about political funding. He questioned the party leadership's decision to select candidates whom he considered unsuitable for the Legislative Council.

MLA plans formal complaint to state leaders.

Harish said the incident had hurt party workers who remained committed to the BJP. He maintained that the party leadership should consider the concerns of its members while making decisions about candidates.

The controversy has highlighted tensions within the local BJP unit over candidate selection, political relationships and expectations of party discipline. Harish's proposed complaint to the state leadership could bring the issue before senior party officials for further discussion.

RACHANA soft-launches its Trade Expo 2027 in Mangaluru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU



The RACHANA Trade Expo 2027 logo is unveiled at Hotel Ocean Pearl in Mangaluru

RACHANA, the Catholic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held its All Members Meet and soft launch of RACHANA Trade Expo 2027 at Hotel Ocean Pearl in Mangaluru.

The event brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals to promote networking and encourage community entrepreneurship.

In his welcome address, RACHANA President Roy Castelino stressed the importance of combining the experience of senior members with the fresh ideas of young entrepreneurs. He encouraged greater youth participation and highlighted connection, collaboration and commitment as key to the organisation's growth.

The highlight was the soft launch of RACHANA Trade Expo 2027, scheduled for February 26, 27 and 28. Expo Convenor Leslie Rego said the event would provide businesses with opportunities to showcase products and services, reach new customers, explore markets and build partnerships.

Michael D'Souza unveiled the Expo logo and welcomed the participation of businesspeople. He said better understanding of one another's businesses could create opportunities for mutual growth. He also expressed concern over the closure of traditional businesses and welcomed new ventures.

Walter Nandalike described the trade fair as a first in RACHANA's history. He encouraged entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in education and healthcare.

Dion Monteiro urged young people to consider entrepreneurship in India instead of focusing only on employment abroad. He encouraged students studying overseas to return and contribute to the country's economic development.

The programme also featured the release of the Expo brochure, distribution of car stickers and an update on preparations. Members and guests interacted and discussed opportunities for cooperation.

RACHANA Secretary Alron Rodrigues proposed the vote of thanks. The event concluded with dinner and networking.

The soft launch marks the beginning of preparations for the three-day Expo, with RACHANA inviting its members and the wider business community to participate in making the event successful.

Trade Expo 2027

WHEN	February 26, 27 and 28, 2027
BY	RACHANA, the Catholic Chamber of Commerce and Industry
WHAT	A three-day trade fair, the first in RACHANA's history

Prison-made textiles draw crowds at Kittur Utsav exhibition

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI



Visitors at the flower show's replica of the Kittur Fort entrance at Kittur Utsav

Products made by prisoners at Hindalga Central Jail and Dharwad Jail have attracted strong demand at the Kittur Utsav exhibition in Belagavi. The exhibition also features a flower display recreating the main entrance of Kittur Fort.

Around 100 exhibition stalls focusing on agriculture, health and horticulture, along with 37 food stalls, have been set up within the fort premises. Visitors have been turning up in large numbers, particularly during the evening and night.

Prison-made products, including Khadi towels, handkerchiefs, bedsheets, chair mats and floor mats, have become popular among visitors.

Vinay Malloli, a first-grade instructor at Hindalga Central Jail, said the stall had generated a turnover of Rs. 80,000 during the 2021 Kittur Utsav. This year, the prison authorities expect sales to reach Rs. 1.5 lakh. Products worth around Rs. 2 lakh were also supplied for this year's Mysuru Dasara.

Malloli said nearly 100 inmates at Hindalga Jail were involved in making household products and received wages based on their work. Each earns an average of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 per month, which is deposited directly into their bank accounts. Inmates also receive training in bakery work, carpentry and tailoring to help them earn a livelihood after release.

The flower and fruit show, organised by the Horticulture Department, features a floral replica of Kittur Fort's entrance, along with displays of Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna. Floral figures, a peacock made of chrysanthemums and portraits carved into watermelons have also attracted visitors.

Agricultural crops, tractors, rotavators, seed drills and other farming equipment are on display. Officials are providing farmers with information about cultivation methods, new crop varieties and government schemes.

Assistant Horticulture Officer Shweta said Sunday would be the final day of the exhibition and invited the public to visit.

Hindalga jail stall

turnover at the 2021 Kittur Utsav
Rs. 80,000
sales expected this year
Rs. 1.5 lakh
an inmate earns a month, on average
Rs. 5,000-6,000

Visitors and farmers praised the exhibition for promoting prison-made products, showcasing local talent and sharing useful agricultural knowledge.

Sugarcane farmers prepare fresh protest in Gurlapur

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI



Representational image

Sugarcane farmers are preparing for another round of protests in Gurlapur village of Mudalagi taluk, demanding fair prices for their produce.

The village, which witnessed a major farmers' agitation last year, is once again preparing for demonstrations over sugarcane prices.

Farmers are planning to take to the streets and are considering blocking the national highway to press the government to address their demands. Preparations for the protest are gaining momentum, with farmers organising arrangements for those expected to participate.

Women farmers have taken responsibility for preparing food for the protesters. While meals are being arranged, other farmers are making preparations for the demonstration.

Farmers are also seeking the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi before beginning their protest. They have been seen dressing the goddess in sarees and preparing ritual pots as part of the arrangements.

The preparations reflect the growing determination among farmers to demand fair returns for their hard work. Sugarcane growers have repeatedly called for better prices to cover cultivation expenses and support their families.

Last year's agitation in Gurlapur brought the farmers' concerns into focus. With similar preparations now underway, the village is once again emerging as a centre of the sugarcane price struggle.

Farmers hope their demands will receive attention from the government and sugar factories. They are seeking a fair price that reflects the cost of cultivation and the effort involved in producing sugarcane.

As preparations continue, questions remain over whether the upcoming protest will lead to a settlement. Farmers are waiting for a response to their demands, while the possibility of another major agitation looms over Gurlapur.

STRIDES OF PINK

Pinkathon Day brings women together for fitness in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Participants with their medals at Pinkathon Day 2026

More than 460 women participated in the fourth edition of Pinkathon Day in Bengaluru, promoting fitness and well-being through a 3-kilometre run held across eight locations from 6 a.m. on Sunday.

Organised by Pinkathon, described as India's biggest women's running movement, the event encouraged women of different ages and fitness levels to include physical activity in their daily lives. Mutual Funds Sahi Hai partnered with the event as its title partner.

The Bengaluru event was part of a larger initiative that brought together more than 10,000 participants across 168 locations in 65 cities in India, Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

Family participation was another highlight, with women joining the event alongside their relatives. A 96-year-old woman who participated with her family demonstrated how fitness activities can bring different generations together.

460+ women ran in Bengaluru
10,000+ participants in all
65 cities in 3 countries

Venkat N. Chalasani, Chief Executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), said the partnership aimed to encourage women to take an active role in managing their finances and planning for their future.

He said physical fitness and disciplined financial planning both contribute to long-term well-being. He added that financial awareness can help women make informed decisions, improve financial security and work towards independence.

Milind Soman, founder of Pinkathon, said the event provided an opportunity for local communities to unite around fitness. He highlighted the contributions of ambassadors, volunteers and running groups in encouraging women to begin their fitness journeys.

Soman also urged participants to maintain their momentum beyond the event and make physical activity a regular part of their lives.

As title partner, Mutual Funds Sahi Hai supported the initiative to connect women's physical well-being with financial awareness and long-term planning.

Pinkathon continues to promote healthier lifestyles through community participation and encourage women to develop lasting fitness habits beyond organised events.

Quick Read

Fed policy, Q2 earnings, crude oil among key market triggers

MUMBAI

Stock market investors will closely track the US Federal Reserve's policy decision, a packed corporate earnings calendar, crude oil price movements, Jio Platforms' stock market debut and key domestic economic data releases in the coming week for cues on market direction. Corporate earnings will remain the primary focus for investors as several major companies are scheduled to announce their September-quarter results.

Domestic macroeconomic data will also be on investors' radar. Market participants are expected to assess September industrial production and manufacturing output figures to gauge the strength of economic activity and demand conditions in the country.

IndiGo, Adani Airports announce phased expansion of int'l flight ops

MUMBAI

Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) and IndiGo on Sunday announced plans to expand operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), with the airline set to commence international services from the greenfield airport from February 2027. As part of the phased transition, IndiGo will gradually shift 12 daily international departures from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to the NMIA. The transferred routes will include services to Bahrain, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Madinah, Kuwait, Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Muscat, Dhaka, and Jakarta.



Hyundai, Kia China sales dip below 10K units

SEOUL

Hyundai Motor and Kia's combined retail sales in China fell below 10,000 vehicles for the first time this year in September amid sluggish demand, industry data showed on Sunday. Hyundai Motor's sales plunged 47 per cent year-on-year to around 4,000 units last month, while Kia's dropped 31 per cent to 5,000, according to a Hana Securities report based on China Passenger Car Association (CPCA) data. Their combined sales fell 39 per cent to approximately 9,000 units, with their market share slipping to just 0.6 per cent from more than 10 per cent in the mid-2010s. Hyundai's China-specific electric SUV Elexio sold just 251 units in the first nine months of this year, compared with 1,216 in the final three months of last year. The Ioniq V, Hyundai's first China-specific model under its Ioniq brand, sold 558 units in September. Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor said in August it plans to expand its overall production capacity by 1.27 million units by 2030 while rolling out more than 100 new and updated models to strengthen its presence in the global market.

'Theatreisation must reflect India's security needs'

The IAF chief says future conflicts will be multi-domain by their very nature, and the three services will plan and operate together "far more closely than ever before."

NEW DELHI

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Sunday said India's theatreisation plan should be designed around the country's specific security requirements rather than permanently dividing fighter aircraft geographically or copying foreign military models.

In his first comprehensive articulation of the proposed military restructuring, Singh emphasised that the Indian Air Force favours a flexible arrangement that balances centralised control with decentralised execution.

Highlighting lessons from ongoing conflicts across different regions, the Air Chief Marshal said air power can decisively influence military outcomes.

Singh also underlined the need to implement the transformation in phases, cautioning that operational readiness must not be compromised during the transition. He warned against attempting to predict future battlefields with excessive certainty, arguing that military structures must remain adaptable as threats and technologies evolve.



Referring to Operation Sindoor, Singh said the operation was conducted under a joint architecture established by the Chief of Defence Staff and the three service chiefs.

Announced in 2019, theatreisation is among India's most ambitious military reforms since Independence. The initiative aims to integrate the Army, Navy and Air Force into joint theatre commands to improve coordination, operational efficiency and combat effectiveness.

> **"The guiding principle for theatreisation should be centralised control where necessary and decentralised execution where appropriate."**
>
> — Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of Air Staff

China's factory model faces global backlash

BEIJING

China's manufacturing-led economic model, which transformed the country into the world's factory, is facing growing international resistance as its industrial dominance puts pressure on businesses, employment and economic growth in other countries, according to an article by economist Keyu Jin.



The article argues that the model is becoming politically difficult to sustain as governments increasingly question its impact on their domestic industries. The United States has imposed substantial tariffs and export controls on Chinese goods, while multinational companies have adopted "China plus one" strategies to diversify supply chains and reduce dependence on a single manufacturing hub.

The article notes that developing countries continue to welcome Chinese investment and admire aspects of its economic development.

For years, Western companies complained that accessing China's vast domestic market often involved demands for technology transfers. Now, China is increasingly being asked to share its own industrial expertise with countries seeking to strengthen their manufacturing capabilities.

> *"China's manufacturing dominance is generating resistance. And not only in America."*
>
> **KEYU JIN** Economist

The article identifies a shift towards a different form of Chinese globalisation, centred not merely on exporting finished products but also on transferring technological knowledge and production capabilities.

Adani celebrates Vidya Mandir alumni achievements

AHMEDABAD

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Sunday highlighted the transformative power of education after meeting 14 former students of Adani Vidya Mandir, saying their professional achievements demonstrated what becomes possible when talent receives the right opportunities and support.

Alumni career fields

- Medicine and healthcare
- Law and legal services
- Engineering, including IIT graduates
- Chartered accountancy, science and research
- Police, public service and merchant navy

Sharing his thoughts on the social media platform X on the occasion of Sharad Purnima, Adani described the interaction as a heartwarming experience.



"On this auspicious Sharad Purnima, it was heartwarming to meet fourteen remarkable young people. Fourteen different journeys. Fourteen moving stories that all started at Adani Vidya Mandir," Adani wrote.

According to the Adani Group chairman, the former students have established careers across a wide range of professions, including medicine, law, engineering, accountancy, science, policing and the merchant navy.

Adani also acknowledged the role of teachers in shaping young minds, noting that their belief in students' potential can make a lasting difference in their lives. He said the meeting reinforced his conviction that education can open doors to opportunities across different professions.

"Meeting these inspiring alumni was a powerful reminder of what education can make possible when talent meets opportunity and when teachers believe in the dreams of every child. Proud of each one of you. Keep soaring!" he wrote.

China stocks enter bear market as AI enthusiasm fades

NEW DELHI

China's stock market has slipped into bear-market territory after months of optimism driven by artificial intelligence (AI), technology-led growth expectations and hopes of government support gave way to concerns over valuations, consumer demand and economic momentum, a report has said.

The CSI 300 Index, which tracks 300 large companies listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen, fell as much as 1.6 per cent on Thursday, extending its decline from the June peak to nearly 20 per cent, according to a report.

The drop pushed the benchmark into technical bear-market territory, a term commonly used when an index falls 20 per cent or more from a recent high.

Selling pressure was not confined to mainland markets. Hong Kong-listed Chinese stocks also came under strain, with a key equities gauge falling as much as 2.9 per cent as investors reassessed the outlook for China's economy and technology sector.



The recent decline marks a significant shift in investor sentiment. Chinese technology stocks had rallied strongly earlier this year amid expectations that advances in AI and Beijing's efforts to strengthen the country's technology capabilities would support long-term growth.

However, investors are now focusing more closely on corporate earnings, valuations and the actual returns companies can generate from AI-related investments.

Market participants have become increasingly cautious as expectations surrounding the AI boom have outpaced profitability in several segments of the technology sector.

The reassessment comes amid a broader global pullback in AI-linked stocks, adding further pressure on Chinese equities.

20%

Nearly: the CSI 300's fall from its June peak after a 1.6 per cent drop on Thursday

Analysts note that a prolonged downturn could create challenges for Chinese technology firms, many of which rely on capital markets to fund expansion plans and invest in new products and innovations.

Carlsberg India's revenue slips 2.2% in FY26

MUMBAI

IPO-bound brewer Carlsberg India has reported a 2.2 per cent fall in revenue from operations to Rs 8,708.8 crore in FY26. Its total income, including other income, was Rs 8,814.96 crore for the year ended March 2026, down 2.25 per cent from Rs 9,018.18 crore a year earlier, according to financial data accessed through business intelligence platform Tofler. Its profit, however, rose 22 per cent year-on-year to Rs 534.51 crore.

Profit, up 22 per cent

FY25	₹ 437.94 cr
FY26	₹ 534.51 cr

Figures: Tofler

Carlsberg India, which markets popular beer brands such as Tuborg, Carlsberg Elephant and Kronenbourg 1664 Blanc in the country, had posted revenue from operations of Rs 8,906.5 crore and a profit of Rs 437.94 crore in FY25.



The financial performance comes as the company advances its stock market debut plans. In July 2026, Carlsberg India confidentially filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an initial public offering and subsequently received regulatory approval on October 1. The proposed share sale is reportedly expected to raise as much as $700 million.

During FY26, the brewer's royalty payments to its parent entity increased 13.23 per cent to Rs 90.01 crore. At the same time, excise duty expenses, one of the company's largest cost components, fell nearly 12 per cent to Rs 4,816.83 crore from Rs 5,468.24 crore a year earlier.

Marketing and publicity expenditure declined marginally by 2.24 per cent to Rs 69.22 crore.

FPI selling at ₹53,337 cr in Oct amid high crude

NEW DELHI

As long as Brent crude remains above $100 a barrel, there will be pressures on the economy, and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are likely to sell the dip, analysts said on Sunday. So far in October, total FPI selling stands at Rs 53,337 crore, and net FPI investment through the IPO market at Rs 5,281 crore.

Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said: "The total FPI selling through the exchanges for this year stood at Rs 3,69,164 crore."

On the flows front, FIIs remained net sellers for the 10th straight week.

The moderation in US bond yields with the 10-year yield declining from 5.36 per cent to around 5 per cent, appreciation in the rupee to 94.94 to the dollar and the low valuations, particularly of the large-caps, contributed to the moderation in FII selling.

Going ahead, the steady moderation in FII selling offers some comfort, though elevated crude and sharp broader-market weakness keep the downside risk alive.

The Nifty Midcap 100 plunged 5.6 per cent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 crashed 7.3 per cent during the week while the Nifty 50 was relatively resilient with a cut of only 2.35 per cent.

Forced liquidation in the margin-funded long positions in the broader market is rumoured to have triggered the crash in the broader market, said analysts.

The resilience of the large-caps is mainly due to the accumulation of the fairly valued large-caps by the DIIs which are flush with funds.

High crude prices are acting as a strong headwind for the economy and market, said analysts.

Suzlon shares down 55% from Sept 2024 peak

MUMBAI

Shares of Suzlon Energy have declined nearly 55 per cent from their September 2024 peak following a sharp rally triggered by the company's declaration of becoming debt-free, with the stock continuing to face selling pressure ahead of its second-quarter results for the financial year 2026-27, scheduled for October 29.

The stock surged from below Rs 6 per share in July 2022 to around Rs 83 in September 2024 and has corrected significantly since its post-debt-free re-rating rally. Suzlon Energy shares closed at Rs 37.40 on the NSE last Friday, against a 52-week high of Rs 69.50.

The recent performance indicates continued weakness in the stock. Suzlon Energy shares declined Rs 3.60, or 8.78 per cent, over the past five trading sessions. Over the past month, the stock fell Rs 3.40, or 8.33 per cent, while it shed Rs 19.53, or 34.31 per cent, over the last six months.



Investors will now track the company's upcoming quarterly earnings for indications of its financial performance and business outlook. In an exchange filing, Suzlon Energy said its board of directors will meet on Thursday, October 29, 2026, to consider and approve the unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026.

Suzlon's ride

- **JULY 2022** Below Rs 6 a share
- **SEPTEMBER 2024** Around Rs 83
- **OCTOBER 23** Closed at Rs 37.40
- **OCTOBER 29** Board meets on Q2 results

X MONEY

Musk announces $1 tipping on X in US

NEW DELHI

Elon Musk on Sunday announced a proposed feature for X Money that would allow users to send $1 to another user by pressing and holding the Like button, advancing his vision of transforming X into an all-in-one digital platform.

Musk revealed the idea in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, suggesting that the feature could make small payments and tips easier for users. The proposed mechanism would allow people to financially support content creators or reward posts they appreciate without leaving the social media platform.

"We're adding long press on like to send someone $1 via X Money," Musk wrote on X.

The announcement is part of Musk's broader strategy to develop an "everything app" that combines social networking, messaging, financial transactions and other digital services in a single ecosystem. The approach aims to make X a platform where users can communicate, share content and conduct financial activities without switching between multiple applications.



However, the company has not provided a detailed rollout timeline for the proposed Like-button payment feature or clarified its eligibility requirements. Further details about transaction processing and the feature's availability are also awaited.

X Money has recently launched in the United States, offering peer-to-peer transfers and an X Visa debit card for physical and digital purchases. The card can also be linked to Apple Pay for contactless transactions where supported.

WALKING IS GOOD, BUT IS IT ENOUGH?



DR. VIJAY GARG

Walking is one of the simplest and most accessible forms of physical activity. It requires no expensive equipment, special training or complicated instructions. A pair of comfortable shoes and a little time can turn an ordinary journey into an opportunity for movement. Regular walking can support cardiovascular health, mobility, mood and general well-being.

But an important question remains: Is walking alone enough to provide complete physical fitness?

The answer depends on what we mean by "enough." Walking can be an excellent foundation for an active lifestyle, but complete fitness involves more than simply accumulating steps.

Walking has many benefits

Walking regularly can help people remain physically active and reduce the amount of time spent sitting. Brisk walking increases the heart rate and can contribute to cardiovascular fitness. It also engages the muscles of the legs and improves everyday mobility. For many people, walking is a practical way to begin exercising. Someone who has been inactive may find a daily walk much easier to maintain than an intense workout. Consistency matters, and an activity that people enjoy and can perform regularly is more likely to become a lasting habit. Walking outdoors can also provide psychological benefits. Exposure to natural surroundings, daylight and a change from routine may help people feel refreshed and mentally relaxed.

But fitness has several dimensions

Human fitness is not a single quality. It includes cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, balance, coordination and the ability to perform everyday activities efficiently. Walking primarily challenges the cardiovascular system and the muscles involved in locomotion. However, it may not provide sufficient training for every aspect of physical fitness. For example, a person may walk several kilometres every day but still have relatively weak upper-body muscles. Another person may have good walking endurance but limited flexibility or balance. This is why a broader exercise routine can be useful.

> **"A daily walk can open the door to better health. The next step is to keep moving through that door."**
>
> **— Dr. Vijay Garg**

The importance of strength

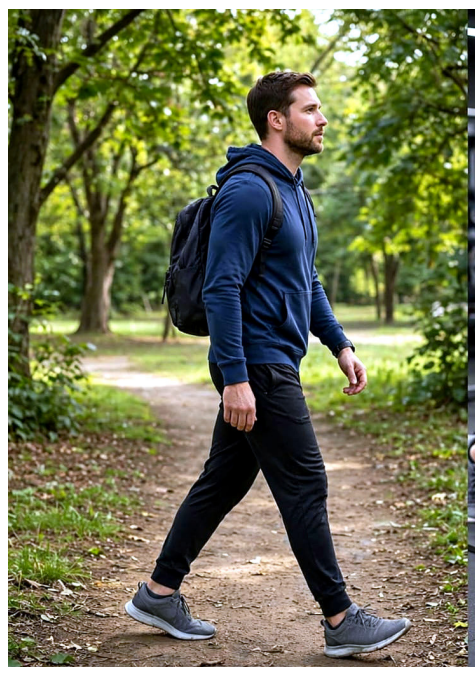
As people grow older, maintaining muscle strength becomes increasingly important. Muscle helps us climb stairs, rise from a chair, carry groceries, maintain posture and perform countless daily activities. Walking strengthens the legs to some extent, particularly when performed briskly or on inclines, but it does not fully replace resistance exercise. Simple strength exercises such as squats or chair stands, wall push-ups, resistance-band exercises and appropriately selected weight exercises can complement walking. Strength training does not necessarily mean lifting heavy weights. The objective is to challenge the muscles progressively and safely.

What about balance and flexibility?

Balance becomes particularly important with advancing age. Good balance can help people move confidently and may reduce the risk associated with falls. Walking involves balance, but ordinary walking on a flat surface does not challenge all aspects of balance. Appropriate balance exercises can therefore provide additional benefits. Flexibility is another component of physical fitness. Regular movement through a comfortable range of motion can help maintain mobility. Gentle stretching and mobility exercises may complement a walking routine.

Intensity matters too

Not every walk provides the same physiological stimulus. A slow stroll and a brisk walk are both forms of physical activity, but they place different demands on the body. Increasing pace, walking uphill or incorporating varied terrain can make walking more challenging. However, exercise intensity should be appropriate for an individual's age, fitness level and health circumstances. More intense exercise is not automatically better for everyone. The important principle is progressive and sustainable activity.





Sitting less also matters

A common mistake is to think that a daily walk completely compensates for spending the rest of the day sitting. Someone may walk for thirty minutes in the morning and then remain seated for many hours at work or at home. Regular movement throughout the day is therefore valuable. Standing up periodically, walking during breaks, using stairs when appropriate and performing routine household activities can all contribute to a more active lifestyle. Fitness is not created only during a formal exercise session. It is also influenced by what we do during the other hours of the day.

Walking can be the foundation, not the finish line

For someone who currently does little physical activity, walking may be an excellent starting point. The goal does not have to be an ambitious exercise programme from the first day. A person might begin with comfortable walks, gradually increase duration or pace and eventually add strength, mobility and balance exercises. This approach can make physical activity more manageable and sustainable. The idea is not to replace walking. Rather, it is to build upon it.

A balanced approach to fitness

A well-rounded routine can include several forms of movement:

- Walking or other aerobic activity for cardiovascular fitness.
- Strength exercises to maintain muscles and functional capacity.
- Balance exercises to improve stability and coordination.
- Mobility and flexibility exercises to maintain comfortable movement.
- Regular movement throughout the day to reduce prolonged sitting.

The exact combination should be adapted to individual circumstances. People with medical conditions, significant pain, recent injuries or long periods of inactivity may benefit from professional advice before beginning vigorous exercise.

The real goal is lifelong movement

Exercise should not be viewed merely as a way to achieve a particular appearance or number on a weighing scale. Its broader purpose is to preserve the body's ability to move, work, play and participate in everyday life. Walking is powerful precisely because it is simple. It can be incorporated into ordinary routines and maintained throughout much of life. But the human body is designed for more than one kind of movement. Walking is good, but for complete fitness, it may be only one piece of the puzzle. Combining walking with appropriate strength, balance, mobility and other physical activities can create a more comprehensive approach to health and functional fitness. The best exercise programme is not necessarily the most complicated one. It is one that is appropriate, progressive, consistent and sustainable.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC LIGHT IN A WORLD PASSING THROUGH DARK TIMES



LALIT GARGG

The world today is passing through a period of extraordinary economic and strategic challenges. The repercussions of the Russia-Ukraine war, tensions in West Asia, growing rivalry between the United States and China, uncertainty in global trade, disruptions in supply chains, and fluctuations in crude oil prices have posed difficult questions for the world's major economies. At such a time, the resilience demonstrated by the Indian economy is not merely an economic statistic; it is a powerful testament to the strength of a changing India.

India's 7.8 per cent real Gross Domestic Product growth in the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27 has projected the country as a beacon of hope in the global economic landscape – one that the world is watching with both surprise and confidence. This growth rate has strengthened India's economic power and self-confidence and spread a new ray of optimism amid global uncertainties.

The achievement becomes even more significant because this growth has been recorded at a time when conditions have been far from normal. Despite inflationary pressures, energy challenges, geopolitical tensions and fluctuations in international trade, the Indian economy has maintained a strong growth trajectory. The growth rate stood at 6.9 per cent in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, indicating a significant improvement in the pace of economic expansion within a year. Strong domestic demand, government capital expenditure, manufacturing, construction and exports have all contributed substantially to this performance.

The true significance of economic growth can be understood only when it is viewed in its global context. Today, economies are being shaped not merely by economic policies but also by wars, diplomatic tensions, energy security and international trade relations. The economic and strategic rivalry between the United States and China is affecting the entire world. Tensions in West Asia continue to raise concerns over energy markets and global supply networks. Against this backdrop, India's relatively rapid economic growth signals that the country has built strong domestic foundations capable of absorbing external shocks. This



is the transformation that is taking India beyond being merely a large economy and moving it towards becoming a major global economic power.

India's greatest economic strength is its vast domestic market. The demand generated by hundreds of millions of consumers, the expanding middle class, the growth of the digital economy, investment in infrastructure and changing patterns of consumption have provided the economy with strong internal momentum. When global markets are uncertain, robust domestic demand acts as a protective shield for an economy. Therefore, the strength of domestic demand deserves special recognition in assessing India's current growth performance.

Another important feature of India's economic performance is that growth is no longer dependent on a single sector. A 9.2 per cent expansion in the manufacturing sector indicates that India is gradually moving towards a more production-oriented economy. For a long time, India was primarily viewed as a services-driven economy. However, sustained efforts to expand domestic production, encourage indigenous industries and strengthen infrastructure are creating new opportunities for the industrial sector.

The construction sector, too, is playing a vital role in generating employment and stimulating economic activity. Investments in roads, railways, ports, airports, housing, industrial corridors and digital infrastructure are not merely reflected in economic growth figures; they are also creating the foundations of India's future economic capacity.

India's present economic journey cannot be discussed without acknowledging the role of the policies pursued under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Over the past several years, the government has consistently focused on infrastructure development, digital payments, financial inclusion, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, self-reliance, energy security and the formalisation of the economy. From Jan Dhan bank accounts to digital payments, and from highways to railway modernisation, a broad economic ecosystem has been steadily developed.

The Goods and Services Tax has contributed towards creating a more integrated national market, while the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has sought to make the business environment more orderly and efficient. Production-linked incentive schemes have encouraged domestic manufacturing and investment across several sectors. The real value of these policies, however, must be assessed not merely through announcements but through their outcomes. The latest GDP figures certainly offer a positive indication in this direction.

> **True measure of a developed India in 2047 and the real pathway through which economic strength can ultimately be transformed into people's power.**

For the common citizen, economic growth becomes meaningful only when it translates into greater employment opportunities, rising incomes, controlled inflation, better education and healthcare, and an overall improvement in quality of life. GDP tells us about the pace of an economy, but it does not reveal how the benefits of growth are reaching different sections of society. Therefore, India's next challenge is to move beyond rapid growth and ensure that development is both high-quality and inclusive.

Employment remains one of the most important measures of economic development. The expansion of manufacturing and construction is encouraging because both sectors have the potential to generate employment on a large scale. India, however, will need industries capable of providing millions of young people with dignified, stable and sustainable livelihoods. India's youthful population is its greatest strength. If young Indians are equipped with quality education, skills, technology and meaningful employment opportunities, this demographic strength can become the most powerful source of energy for transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

India's ambition should not be limited to becoming self-reliant; it should aspire to play a leading role in the global economy. Self-reliance does not mean isolating oneself from the world. It means strengthening national capabilities to such an extent that India becomes an indispensable part of global supply chains. The world is increasingly looking for alternative production centres and seeking to diversify beyond dependence on China. India possesses distinctive advantages: a vast domestic market, a young workforce, technological capabilities and a democratic system.

If India continues to strengthen its capabilities in manufacturing, semiconductors, electronics, defence production, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, space technology and high-value services, it can assume a far more influential position in the emerging global economic order. The vision of a developed India by 2047 is not merely a government resolution; it is a collective aspiration of the people of India.

> *"The light rising on India's economic horizon will become a lasting illumination only when its radiance reaches the life of the last person in the country."*
>
> **LALIT GARGG**

The 7.8 per cent growth rate is certainly an encouraging milestone on this journey, but it is not the destination. India will have to sustain a high growth trajectory, strengthen its financial system and maintain a stable economic environment while giving equal attention to education, healthcare, agricultural productivity, skill development, employment and social security.

India's economic story is no longer merely a story of numbers. It is becoming a story of confidence, self-reliance and global leadership. While the world searches for direction under the shadow of war and economic instability, India's strong economic performance is establishing it as a reliable and promising global power. A growth rate of 7.8 per cent is undoubtedly a matter of pride for India. More important, however, is the message it conveys: even amid global crises, India's economic foundations remain strong. The economic policies and initiatives pursued under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership must now enter their next phase – one focused more intensely on employment, investment, production and equal opportunity. The light rising on India's economic horizon will become a lasting illumination only when its radiance reaches the life of the last person in the country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix Bengaluru's Footpaths Now
Walking in Indiranagar has become a hurdle race. Footpaths are broken, occupied by bikes and vendors, forcing pedestrians onto busy roads. Senior citizens and schoolchildren suffer the most. The BBMP must clear encroachments and repair slabs immediately. A walkable city is a livable city. We request urgent action.
– Shanthu Kutty

Parks Need Better Maintenance
Cubbon Park and local parks are losing charm due to litter, broken benches and dry lawns. Morning walkers notice garbage bins overflowing and stray dogs increasing. Parks are Bengaluru's lungs. The horticulture department should increase staff and ensure regular cleaning and watering. Citizens must also cooperate to keep them green.
– Manjamma

Hostels Need Inspection
I am a student living in a PG in Koramangala. For months we have suffered severe bed bug bites and sleepless nights. Despite complaints, owners ignore hygiene. We pay high rent but get unhygienic cots and mattresses. I request BBMP to make regular inspection of PGs and hostels mandatory and punish negligent owners. Our health and studies are affected.
– R. Sharma

A Silent Health Crisis
Through your columns, I want to highlight the rising bed bug menace in Bengaluru apartments. It is not just about itching. My 5-year-old daughter developed skin infections due to repeated bites. Pest control is expensive and temporary. Citizens need awareness on prevention and affordable treatment. The health department must treat this as a public health issue, not just a household problem.
– Anitha Kumar

Wake Up, BBMP
Bed bugs are spreading fast due to second-hand furniture markets and dense living. People throw infested mattresses on footpaths, spreading them further. BBMP focuses only on mosquitoes. Why not a campaign for bed bugs? We need helplines, subsidised pest control for low-income families, and strict rules for hotels and lodges. Please act before it becomes an epidemic.
– Mohammed Ali

Quick Read

Schoolgirl's death: Police question teachers, examine CCTV footage

NEW DELHI

Police are questioning teachers and examining CCTV footage as part of the investigation into the death of a schoolgirl in Delhi. According to preliminary reports, police are also examining whether a suspected breakup in the girl's personal life could be connected to the case. However, no conclusion has been reached, and investigators are exploring multiple possibilities. CCTV recordings are being reviewed to reconstruct the sequence of events. Further details about the girl's identity, the exact circumstances of her death and the investigation's progress are awaited.

32,000 trees face axe for Maharashtra power project

RAIGAD

A proposal to cut around 32,000 trees for a Rs 13,500-crore hydropower project in Maharashtra's Raigad district has triggered a political controversy. The project, proposed by Torrent Power near the Bhimashankar wildlife sanctuary, has drawn criticism from opposition parties over its potential environmental impact. Leaders have targeted the Devendra Fadnavis-led government, warning of biodiversity loss, forest destruction and damage to wildlife habitats. Opposition parties have questioned the ecological cost of the project and called for greater scrutiny.

24-year-old MBBS student found dead on hostel lawn

PRATAPGARH

A 24-year-old MBBS student was found dead on the hostel lawn of Dr Sonelal Patel Medical College in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday morning. According to Additional Superintendent of Police (East) Alok Kumar, the body was discovered around 8 am. The student belonged to the 2024 batch and shared a hostel room with two other students. Police and a forensic team reached the spot after receiving information and collected evidence. Police are questioning fellow students and investigating the circumstances surrounding the death.

Ahmedabad to host 2029 Weightlifting World Championships

NEW DELHI

Ahmedabad in Gujarat will host the senior Weightlifting World Championships in 2029, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has announced. The event will mark the first time India hosts the senior edition of the prestigious global competition. Union Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has been involved in discussions with the international weightlifting body. Hosting the championships will provide Indian athletes with an opportunity to compete on home soil against some of the world's leading weightlifters.

Rahul thanks BJP for promoting 'vote chori' rally

Gandhi alleged that voter names were removed from rolls and laws were violated.

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday sarcastically thanked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies for publicising the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally against alleged electoral irregularities, saying their efforts were helping the opposition reach a wider audience.

In a post on social media platform X, Gandhi urged the ruling party to maintain the same enthusiasm over the next seven days.

Gandhi alleged that voters' names had been removed from electoral rolls and laws had been violated. He said the opposition would not remain silent over what it describes as "vote chori", or theft of votes.



He appealed to students, farmers, labourers, women, young people and traders, as well as others concerned about democracy, to join the protest.

The BJP had criticised the Congress for scheduling the rally on November 1, which marks the anniversary of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused Gandhi of disregarding the sentiments of the Sikh community and said the date was inappropriate given the historical significance.

The BJP also raised concerns about the rally taking place during the festive season, with Diwali approaching on November 8. A traders' organisation had reportedly urged Gandhi to postpone the event, citing possible disruption to business in markets around Ramlila Maidan.

The INDIA bloc's planned rally is part of its campaign against alleged electoral irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Opposition leaders are also scheduled to hold a symbolic "public impeachment" proceeding against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on October 30.

The rally

WHEN	November 1
WHERE	Ramlila Maidan, Delhi
SLOGAN	'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' (Save the Vote, Save the Country)
BEFORE IT	'Public impeachment' of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, October 30



Congress denies role in posters demanding 200 seats

LUCKNOW

This development follows seat-sharing talks between INDIA allies Congress and the SP in Uttar Pradesh.

Posters demanding 200 seats for the Congress in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections have appeared in Lucknow, triggering a political exchange between the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The posters, spotted outside the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters, carried the slogan "200 seats are our right" and expressed confidence in Rahul Gandhi. They featured photographs of senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The development comes amid discussions over seat-sharing between the Congress and the SP, both members of the INDIA opposition bloc in Uttar Pradesh. The state Congress has denied having any role in putting up the posters.

Akhilesh blames BJP

SP president Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP of putting up what he described as fake posters to create confusion and strain relations between the alliance partners. He also questioned how the posters were installed without the required municipal fees being paid and called for an investigation into the matter.

Yadav alleged that the incident could involve either corruption or pressure from the government. He said his party was documenting such incidents and demanded accountability from the officials concerned.

The BJP, meanwhile, described the posters as evidence of differences between the Congress and the SP over seat-sharing. The party argued that the demand reflected competing ambitions within the opposition alliance.

Congress leaders have reportedly submitted a list of between 175 and 200 constituencies for consideration. Uttar Pradesh Congress leaders have said the final decision on seat-sharing will be taken by the party's senior leadership after discussions with alliance partners.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 seats, making seat allocation a key issue for the two parties ahead of the 2027 elections.

SP leaders have maintained that seat-sharing should be decided by the alliance leadership based on the strength of candidates and their chances of winning, rather than through public demands.

The episode has added to the political debate over how the Congress and SP will negotiate their respective roles as they prepare to challenge the ruling BJP in the state.

Operation Trident nets 18 in drug crackdown across Northeast

18	1,424	₹100 cr	₹17.82 cr
arrested	bank accounts frozen	hawala deals uncovered	properties attached

NEW DELHI

Security agencies have arrested 18 people and frozen 1,424 bank accounts in a major crackdown on an alleged international drug trafficking network operating across India's northeastern region.

The operation, code-named Operation Trident, was launched by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in coordination with the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Mizoram Police and other agencies. On October 23, 38 multi-agency teams conducted simultaneous searches at 38 locations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur.

According to the Union Home Ministry, the operation uncovered hawala transactions worth approximately ₹100 crore. Authorities also attached properties valued at ₹17.82 crore and seized 500 detonators and ₹12 lakh in cash.

Investigators are targeting the alleged financial and logistical networks supporting cross-border narcotics trafficking. The suspected syndicate is believed to have operated along routes connecting India, Myanmar and Bangladesh, using northeastern border areas to transport drugs and settle payments.

The searches covered locations including Aizawl, Champhai and Zokhawthar in Mizoram, Churachandpur in Manipur and the Cachar corridor in Assam. The investigation builds on earlier drug seizures and financial probes linked to the alleged trafficking network.

Amit Shah praises coordinated action

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the central agencies and police forces of the three states for their coordinated efforts. He said the operation reflected the government's focus on dismantling drug networks by targeting their financial channels as well as their trafficking operations.

Shah reiterated the Centre's stated goal of eliminating drug networks by December 31, 2029, under its narcotics control strategy for 2026–2029.

The northeastern region has faced persistent challenges from the trafficking of heroin and synthetic drugs, particularly through routes linked to Myanmar. Authorities believe coordinated investigations and financial action are essential to disrupting the networks behind the trade.

The investigation into Operation Trident is continuing, with agencies examining financial transactions, seized materials and links between suspected members of the alleged cartel.

Centre to fund half the cost of deepwater wells

NEW DELHI

The Union government will fund up to 50% of the cost of risky deepwater exploration wells under its ₹84,084-crore Samudra Manthan scheme, with the amount to be recovered from revenues if the wells prove commercially successful.

The recovery clause, included in the scheme's newly issued operational guidelines, forms a key part of the arrangement. It allows the government to share the initial financial risk of exploring deepwater areas while retaining a claim on the returns if commercially viable oil or gas discoveries are made.

Deepwater exploration involves substantial investment and geological uncertainty, as companies may spend heavily on drilling without finding commercially recoverable reserves. Government support is intended to help reduce the financial burden associated with such high-risk exploration. Under the scheme, the government's contribution would therefore not necessarily be a grant without conditions.



Air India Express to shift flights to Navi Mumbai

MUMBAI

Air India Express will gradually shift selected flights from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to Navi Mumbai International Airport, beginning with four daily domestic flights in December 2026, followed by the phased transfer of West Asia services from January 2027.

The move is part of a wider plan to redistribute flight operations between Mumbai's two airports and facilitate the redevelopment of Terminal 1 at the existing airport.

West Asia services

The airline plans to shift services to West Asian destinations, including Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Doha, Muscat and Sharjah. The transition is expected to be completed by the Northern Summer 2027 schedule. Planned services to Kuwait from Navi Mumbai will depend on the necessary regulatory approvals.

The phased shift is intended to expand operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport while allowing Mumbai's existing airport to undertake infrastructure improvements. Both airports are expected to continue serving passengers during the transition.

The Air India Group said the move followed consultations with the airport operator and formed part of a broader plan to accommodate growing passenger traffic in the Mumbai metropolitan region.

The shift

Dec 2026 — Four daily domestic flights move to Navi Mumbai

Jan 2027 — West Asia services begin to move in phases

Summer 2027 — Transition to be completed (Northern Summer schedule)

Passengers are advised to check their tickets and flight details carefully as services move between the two airports. The final dates and operational arrangements will be announced after coordination and necessary approvals are completed.

Ex-IAS officer Divya Mittal plans candidates across 403 UP seats

MIRZAPUR

Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Divya Mittal has announced that her Janneeti Bharat Party will contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections wherever it identifies strong candidates across the state's 403 constituencies.

Speaking to people in Chunar in Mirzapur district, Mittal said the party would field candidates based on their strength and suitability for the constituencies. Her announcement came 10 days after she declared her entry into politics and the formation of the new party on October 15.

Mittal has outlined three key promises that will guide the party's approach. The first focuses on placing people at the centre of policymaking and ensuring that citizens have a say in decisions affecting them. The party's motto is "Jan se niti, Niti se Bharat", meaning policies shaped by people to build India.



The second promise is to ensure that decisions are based on people's needs rather than their identities. Its stated principle is "Zarurat se faisla, faisle mein barabari", which emphasises need-based decisions and equality.

The third promise focuses on public accountability. Mittal has said that people should be able to question the government's actions and demand answers. The party's motto for this principle is "Janata ko hisaab; Hisaab se sudhaar", highlighting accountability and reform.

Three promises

- **People first:** "Jan se niti, Niti se Bharat"
- **Need, not identity:** "Zarurat se faisla, faisle mein barabari"
- **Accountability:** "Janata ko hisaab; Hisaab se sudhaar"

Mittal first spoke about her political ambitions last month, saying she wanted to work directly with people instead of joining an existing political party.

She resigned from the IAS on August 30, and the Uttar Pradesh government accepted her resignation on September 15, ending her 13-year civil services career.

A 2013-batch IAS officer, Mittal studied at IIT Delhi and IIM Bangalore before working in London and preparing for the civil services examination.

During her administrative career, she served as district magistrate in Sant Kabir Nagar, Mirzapur and Deoria, and later held a senior position in the state Revenue Department.

VACB CORRUPTION PROBE

Minister alleges Devaswom officials' role in ghee scam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Devaswom Minister K. Muraleedharan has alleged that some officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board were involved in the alleged diversion of ghee meant for the Sabarimala temple. He said the investigation would continue to identify everyone responsible.

The case concerns the alleged diversion of 11,000 litres of Milma ghee intended for the hill shrine and its replacement with a cheaper product. The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) has estimated that the alleged irregularity caused a loss of around ₹2.5 crore to the board.

Muraleedharan said the alleged diversion could not have taken place without the involvement of certain officials.

The VACB recently arrested transport contractor S.S. Binu, who had been awarded the contract to transport ghee to Sabarimala during the 2025 pilgrimage season. The arrest was the first in the case, which is being investigated following a direction from the Kerala High Court to examine alleged irregularities in the procurement and quality of ghee supplied to the temple.



According to investigators, the original ghee was allegedly diverted to two agencies in Tamil Nadu and replaced with a cheaper product supplied to the shrine. The ghee was intended for preparing Aravana payasam, a sweet offering made with rice, jaggery and ghee at the Lord Ayyappa temple.

11,000 litres of Milma ghee meant for Sabarimala allegedly diverted; VACB puts the loss at around ₹2.5 crore

Congress seeks Manipur CM's resignation and fresh Assembly polls

THE CONGRESS DEMAND COMES AMID PERSISTENT ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND SECURITY CONCERNS IN MANIPUR.



NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday demanded the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh and fresh Assembly elections, accusing the BJP-led government of failing to contain renewed violence in the State.

The party alleged that the government had "completely failed to stop the violence" and expressed concern that armed groups possessed more sophisticated weapons than security forces. It said those responsible for attacks on civilians should not receive political protection.

The party also maintained that no armed group or individual involved in attacks on civilians should be shielded from legal action. It urged the authorities to take firm steps to protect residents and ensure that those responsible for violence were brought to justice.

CM visits Sinai Camp

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh visited Sinai Camp in Kangpokpi district on Sunday. The camp is designated for militants under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement. His visit came amid continuing concerns over the security situation in the State.

The Congress said the situation required a clear political response and demanded fresh elections, arguing that the current government had failed to fulfil its responsibility to maintain law and order.

MANIPUR ROW IN BRIEF

- **Fresh polls:** Congress demands new elections in Manipur
- **Peace:** it questions the government's ability to restore it
- **Action:** against those who attacked civilians
- **Sinai Camp:** the CM visits the SoO camp in Kangpokpi

Quick Read

55-year-old man killed in Kochi scooter crash

KOCHI

A 55-year-old man was killed after a Mercedes car allegedly driven by the minor son of a judicial officer rammed into his scooter in Kochi, Kerala. According to police sources, overspeeding was found to be the prima facie cause of the accident. The collision proved fatal for the scooter rider, while further details about the incident are awaited. The involvement of a judicial officer's minor son has drawn attention to the case. Police are investigating the circumstances leading to the crash and examining the evidence to establish the sequence of events. Further details regarding legal action and the identity of the deceased have not been fully disclosed.

ISRO plans four functional launch pads by 2029

NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to have four functional launch pads by 2029 as India prepares to expand its space operations and meet growing demand for satellite launches, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has said. Speaking at a graduation ceremony at a private university, Narayanan outlined the space agency's plans, including the development of a dedicated Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) complex at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district. On the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, the ISRO chief said the first uncrewed test flight was expected within the next two months, followed by two more uncrewed missions before the planned crewed flight.

Congress accuses EC of hiding details of ECINET software



The opposition reiterated its demand to remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar and immediately suspend the SIR process.

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of withholding information about its ECINET software, alleging that the lack of transparency could conceal large-scale manipulation of electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The opposition party reiterated its demand for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and called for the immediate suspension of the SIR process.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh raised the issue after sharing a media report that said the ECI had declined to disclose the name and version of the software used to identify errors and anomalies in voter lists.

According to the report, the Commission cited commercial confidence, trade secrets and intellectual property provisions under the Right to Information (RTI) Act to deny access to the information.

He also questioned why the role of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which reportedly developed ECINET, had not been transparently disclosed by the poll body.

The Congress leader claimed that the software and the ECI's information technology division had been the subject of objections raised by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. He said the concerns had also reached the Department of Personnel and Training.

The Election Commission, however, has maintained that electoral registration officers (EROs) are the statutory authorities responsible for decisions on the inclusion or exclusion of voters. It has also said that its orders follow established legal procedures and carry full statutory authority.

Chavan seeks CEC's removal, restoration of deleted voters

AHMEDABAD

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has demanded the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), criminal proceedings against him and the restoration of deleted voter names, alleging manipulation of electoral rolls to benefit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).



Addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad, Chavan raised concerns over the handling of voter lists and called for action over the alleged deletion of voters' names. He accused the authorities of manipulating electoral rolls to favour the BJP.

Chavan demanded that the Chief Election Commissioner be removed from office and face criminal proceedings over the allegations. He also called for the names of voters deleted from the electoral rolls to be reinstated.

Chavan's three demands

- **Removal** of the Chief Election Commissioner
- **Prosecution** criminal proceedings against the CEC
- **Restoration** of the deleted voters' names

The Congress leader's remarks come amid continuing political disputes over voter-list revisions and allegations of irregularities in the electoral process. The issue has prompted demands from opposition leaders for greater transparency and accountability in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

The Election Commission is responsible for supervising elections and maintaining electoral rolls in accordance with the law. Any changes to voter lists are subject to established procedures for inclusion, correction and deletion of names.

Congress cites Kaul memoir, raises judiciary concerns

NEW DELHI

The Congress has raised concerns over judicial independence under the Narendra Modi-led government, citing claims in the forthcoming memoir of retired Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul about alleged executive pressure on judicial appointments and the handling of sensitive cases.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh on Sunday referred to Kaul's upcoming book, Without Fear of Favour, saying its contents raised serious questions about the relationship between the government and the judiciary. According to reports quoting the memoir's pre-publication manuscript, Kaul described former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud as "too deferential to the Government" on judicial appointments. He reportedly raised concerns about attempts to seek the government's approval before meetings of the Supreme Court Collegium.

Ramesh also highlighted Kaul's account of questions allegedly raised by the government about the caste background of a judge belonging to a minority community.

Another issue cited by Ramesh concerned a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). According to Kaul's account, a matter was transferred to another bench after the bench headed by him considered whether certain aspects of an earlier judgment should be reconsidered. The reassignment allegedly took place without consulting him.

Chandrachud, responding to the reports, said he had not read the memoir and could not offer a detailed response without understanding the context of Kaul's observations. He also pointed to the Collegium's official records, saying its recommendations were unanimous and that Kaul had not recorded any dissent in the formal resolutions.

The memoir's claims

- **Appointments:** Chandrachud "too deferential to the Government"
- **Caste query:** on a judge from a minority community
- **PMLA case:** moved to another bench without consulting Kaul
- **Collegium:** lacks transparency, open to informal pressure



BJP launches Har Ghar Bhagwa campaign for Nashik Kumbh

NASHIK

Maharashtra BJP leader Girish Mahajan has launched the 'Har Ghar Bhagwa' campaign in Nashik ahead of the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela, with organisers aiming to hoist one lakh saffron flags across Nashik city and Trimbakeshwar.

Under the campaign, 75,000 saffron flags are planned for Nashik city, while another 25,000 will be installed in Trimbakeshwar. The initiative aims to give the region a distinct saffron appearance ahead of the major religious gathering. The campaign comes as preparations gather pace for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, which draws large numbers of pilgrims and devotees to Nashik and Trimbakeshwar. Both locations hold religious significance and are expected to be key centres of activity during the event.

Mahajan launched the initiative as part of efforts to mobilise participation ahead of the religious gathering. The proposed flag installation drive covers residential areas across the two locations, with the target set at one lakh flags.

Cyclone Arnab to hit Andhra coast on October 28

VISAKHAPATNAM

Cyclone Arnab is expected to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast on October 28, prompting weather alerts for coastal districts and neighbouring states. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the system is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by the forenoon.



Landfall zone: between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, says the IMD

Heavy rain likely in Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

The IMD's forecast also indicates possible heavy rainfall in Telangana and Chhattisgarh. Parts of eastern Madhya Pradesh could receive heavy rain later in the week as the weather system progresses inland. The intensity and distribution of rainfall will depend on the storm's movement and development. Residents in vulnerable areas have been advised to follow official weather bulletins and instructions from local authorities.

Strong winds

The weather system over the Bay of Bengal is forecast to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm before reaching the coast. It could bring sustained winds of 115–125 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 140 kmph.

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on alert

Coastal Andhra Pradesh is expected to experience heavy to extremely heavy rainfall on October 27 and 28. Districts across the northern and central coastal belt are likely to face intense rain as the storm approaches.

Neighbouring Odisha is also expected to be affected, with heavy to extremely heavy rainfall forecast in several areas. Southern Odisha districts are among the regions being monitored closely as the system moves towards the Andhra coast.

Precautions issued

Authorities are monitoring the situation and preparing for possible disruption from strong winds, heavy rainfall and rough sea conditions. Fishermen have been advised to follow official warnings and avoid venturing into affected sea areas during the advisory period.

The precise landfall location and local impact may change as the cyclone develops. Residents along the coast are advised to remain alert and rely on updates issued by the IMD and disaster management authorities.

Kenyans sweep Kashmir Marathon as traffic delays JKSET exam



SRINAGAR

Kenyan athletes won the men's and women's full marathon titles at the third edition of the Kashmir International Marathon on Sunday, while traffic restrictions linked to the event disrupted the movement of candidates appearing for the Jammu and Kashmir State Eligibility Test (JKSET).

Kanab Kalob Omolo claimed the men's full marathon title, while Lemensa Harpaa won the women's category.

The marathon was flagged off by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. A total of 1,807 runners had registered for the event, including 73 foreign athletes representing 12 countries. The full marathon covered 42.195 km, while the half marathon covered 21 km.

However, traffic arrangements for the sporting event caused difficulties for JKSET candidates travelling to examination centres. Several aspirants reportedly struggled to reach their destinations on time because of congestion and diversions along key roads in Srinagar.

The University of Kashmir rescheduled the examination from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm to provide candidates with additional time to reach their centres.

Meanwhile, the Srinagar Traffic Police said no JKSET candidate had been prevented from reaching their destination. According to the department, traffic was restored on several roads in phases, while the remaining diversion at Habak Crossing towards Nishat was lifted at 11.45 am. The police said the restrictions had been announced in advance to facilitate the marathon.

RARE DISEASE COSTS

SMA medicine row puts CPI(M) under political pressure

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The controversy over medicines for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) has put the CPI(M) on the defensive in Kerala, with the party facing questions over its position on generic medicines and access to costly treatments.

Amid the debate, CPI(M) leader and former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan clarified that the party was not opposed to generic medicines but had concerns about the specific issue surrounding their use in the treatment of SMA.

Vijayan's clarification sought to distinguish the party's position on generic medicines in general from its objections in the SMA medicine dispute.





? WHAT IS SMA?

SMA is a genetic disorder that affects motor neurons and can cause progressive muscle weakness. Treatment options can be costly, placing a significant financial burden on patients and their families.

Quick Read



Uganda imposes 21-day DRC quarantine as Ebola threat expands

KAMPALA

Uganda will quarantine for 21 days any of its citizens returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Health Minister Chris Baryomunsi said on Sunday, stepping up its Ebola precautions even as it said the country remained free of the disease. Uganda has been looking into an Ebola case in Nigeria involving a woman who had travelled from Uganda. Officials said they were examining genomic sequencing, travel records, contacts and movements together with Nigerian authorities and international partners. Baryomunsi said all 60 contacts linked to an Ebola case in Kenya had completed their 21-day monitoring period and been discharged.

Beirut's $13 chicken sandwich becomes symbol of Lebanon divide

BEIRUT

Seven years after Lebanon's devastating financial collapse, an argument over a chicken sandwich has laid bare a widening gap between those who can still spend freely and those struggling to get by. A fashionable health restaurant, The Glow Paradise, set out to give its calorie-conscious customers a lighter version of the much-loved Levantine wrap, the shish taouk. It called it the "Chic Taouk" and priced it at about $13, close to twice what an ordinary chicken sandwich usually costs in Beirut. The pun and the price went down badly: critics accused the restaurant of overcharging in a country where many households struggle to afford basic necessities.

3 killed, 14 hurt in Ukrainian drone attacks

MOSCOW

A Ukrainian drone attack on the Russian border city of Belgorod overnight killed two people and injured 13 others, local authorities said on Sunday, as cross-border hostilities continued amid the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. "The attack has damaged 30 blocks of flats, 35 cars, four houses, three administrative buildings, eight commercial premises and three social facilities," Belgorod regional governor Alexander Shuvayev said.Separately, another person was killed and one was injured in a village near the town of Shebekino, authorities said.

Netanyahu faces growing backlash in Likud stronghold

Disillusioned voters in the Likud stronghold of Dimona are campaigning for Gadi Eisenkot ahead of Israel's election, challenging Netanyahu's longstanding support amid political uncertainty nationwide.

DIMONA

In Dimona, a remote town in Israel's Negev Desert long considered a stronghold of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, disillusioned voters are campaigning for his leading rival ahead of Tuesday's election.

Dimona in a nutshell

- Dimona has traditionally been a stronghold of Netanyahu's Likud party.
- Former Likud supporters are campaigning for centrist challenger Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party.
- The October 7, 2023, Hamas attack damaged Likud's popularity.
- Polls suggest Netanyahu's coalition could lose its parliamentary majority.
- Longstanding political loyalties among Mizrahi voters remain a major obstacle to change.



The election is Israel's first since Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack, which exposed major security failures, shook the country and triggered a regional conflict involving Israel, Hamas and its allies in Lebanon and Iran.

The attack damaged Likud's popularity, with opinion polls for months suggesting Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing, far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties could lose its parliamentary majority. However, centrist challenger Gadi Eisenkot has also struggled to establish a clear path to power, and the contest has tightened as voting approaches.

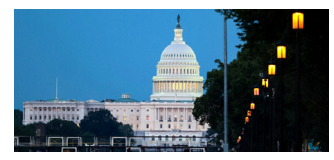
Dimona has emerged as an important battleground. An Iranian missile wounded dozens of people there in March, bringing security concerns into sharper focus for residents.

Yossi Assayag, 74, who supported Likud for most of his life, is now campaigning for Eisenkot's Yashar party, which is competing closely with Likud in opinion polls.

"We must have change. Bibi has to go," Assayag said. "Bibi has brought disaster to Israel."

But convincing other residents remains difficult. Around half of Dimona's voters backed Likud in the 2022 election, reflecting the party's longstanding support among Jews of Middle Eastern and North African descent, known as Mizrahis.

Democrats could reshape Trump's foreign policy



Democrats could use congressional control after November's midterms to challenge Trump's military decisions, restrict defence spending and revive support for Ukraine.

WASHINGTON

Democrats could use control of either chamber of the US Congress after the November 3 midterm elections to challenge President Donald Trump's foreign policy, particularly over the war with Iran, military spending and support for Ukraine.

Nonpartisan analysts say Democrats have a chance of winning the House of Representatives and potentially the Senate, which would give them greater influence in Washington after two years of Republican control.

Democrats argue that Trump's administration has exercised powers over military action and government spending that the US Constitution reserves for Congress.

Trump launched the war with Iran on February 28 without first obtaining congressional approval. Democrats have repeatedly supported resolutions seeking to end the fighting unless the administration secures authorisation. One such resolution passed with support from several Republicans, but the administration did not comply.

If Democrats gain control of either chamber, they could use budget negotiations to restrict defence spending and pressure the administration to seek congressional approval for continued military operations.

Ukraine policy could become another major area of confrontation. Trump has largely halted direct US financial and military assistance to Kyiv, despite support for aid among lawmakers from both parties.

Saudi Arabia intercepts missiles, drones amid Houthi threats

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia intercepted drones and missiles targeting its capital, Riyadh, and southern regions on Sunday, as renewed fighting with Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement intensified amid the wider conflict involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said two drones and a ballistic missile had been launched towards Riyadh, while a cruise missile targeted the southern city of Khamis Mushait. The coalition later reported intercepting 10 ballistic missiles fired towards southern Saudi Arabia.

Saudi civil defence authorities issued emergency alerts for Riyadh, Abha and Khamis Mushait on Sunday before announcing minutes later that the immediate danger had passed.



The latest attacks came as the Houthis renewed threats against King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The airport resumed operations at two terminals on Sunday after suspending services following a deadly attack earlier this month.

The Houthis claimed responsibility for attacks on the airport and Saudi oil facilities. Their military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, described the airport as a "military target" and warned airlines, airport employees and travellers against using it. Saudi authorities did not directly comment on those statements.

Operations had been halted on October 10 after an attack claimed by the Houthis killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, making it the deadliest attack in Saudi Arabia in more than a decade.

Key developments

- **Riyadh targeted:** Two drones and a ballistic missile were launched towards the capital, according to the Saudi-led coalition.
- **Southern interceptions:** The coalition reported intercepting 10 ballistic missiles aimed at southern Saudi Arabia.
- **Deadly earlier attack:** An October 10 attack killed 13 people and wounded more than 300.

Serbia votes in historic election



BELGRADE

Serbians turned out in large numbers to vote on Sunday as a mass student protest movement tried to oust long-serving populist leader Aleksandar Vucic, in the biggest challenge to his rule in more than a decade.

Vucic called the snap parliamentary elections in September after almost two years of student-led protests against perceived corruption and creeping authoritarianism. The protests were set off by the deaths of 16 people when a railway station canopy collapsed in the city of Novi Sad in 2024, and the students have since won broad support.

Unusually long queues formed at polling stations in cities and towns across the country. Pollster CeSID put turnout at 12% by 9 a.m., more than twice the figure at the same time in the 2023 election. Vucic himself waited nearly two hours in line to vote.

A student victory would mark a profound political shift in the Balkan country of about 6 million people, recalling the defeat of Hungary's Viktor Orban in April.

"It is very important for all people to come and vote if they want to change something and I think it is a time for change," lawyer Marija Cvjeticanin said at a polling station in Belgrade.

12%
turnout by 9 a.m. (CeSID), more than double the same time in 2023

Vucic, who resigned from his second term as president to run again for prime minister, is a strong incumbent. Many voters credit him with lifting Serbia out of economic obscurity and overseeing a long stretch of modernisation, including new highways, railways, schools and hospitals.

Borr Drilling rig sinks off Gabon coast, 5 missing

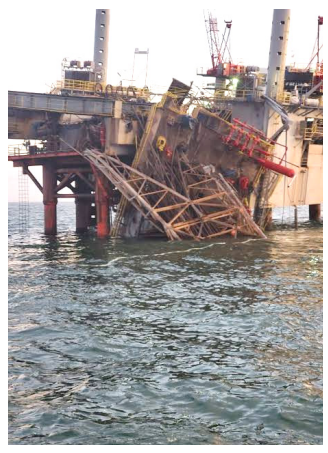
GABON

Borr Drilling's Prospector 5 offshore drilling rig sank during jacking operations off the coast of Gabon, leaving five of the 115 people on board unaccounted for, the company said on Sunday. Search and rescue operations were underway following the incident, which occurred as the rig was preparing for a drilling campaign.

The offshore drilling contractor said preliminary information indicated that the rig experienced a "punch-through" event during preload activities, causing it to lose stability before sinking. Such operations are carried out as part of the process of securing a jack-up rig in position before drilling begins.

"Preliminary information indicates that the rig experienced a punch-through event during preload activities, resulting in loss of stability and the subsequent sinking of the rig," the company said.

The Prospector 5 is owned and operated by Borr Drilling and had been contracted to support drilling operations for BW Energy off Gabon.



Borr Drilling Chief Executive Bruno Morand expressed concern for those who remained missing and the people affected by the incident.

"We are deeply concerned for those who remain unaccounted for and everyone affected by this incident," Morand said.

"Our immediate priority is supporting the ongoing search and rescue efforts and the welfare of all personnel involved," he added.

Panoro Energy, which holds a 17.5% stake in the field where the rig was due to operate, also reported the incident.

Obama unloads on Trump on the campaign trail

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has been urging voters to treat the midterm elections as if he were on the ballot, and one of his Democratic predecessors has done exactly that.

With ten days to go before the elections that will decide control of a closely divided Congress, Barack Obama hit the campaign trail, accusing the Republican president of corruption, mocking his Iran strategy and ridiculing the gilded look he has given White House renovations.

At rallies in Cleveland and Detroit, Obama campaigned for Democratic candidates and poked fun at the Trump administration. Speaking in Michigan for US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, he described the November 3 vote as a "circuit breaker" to "at least rein in some of the foolishness" of Trump's presidency.

"We got to flip that circuit breaker, bring some accountability to this government," Obama said.

"We have never seen a president excel in straight-up grifting, on your dime, like this," Obama said. "Never seen a president so intent on selling favors like this ... Now the party seems to stand for corrupt government, or inept government, or no government."



An August poll found that 63% of Americans believe the president and his family have profited inappropriately from cryptocurrency since his return to the White House last year,

> **"We have never seen a president excel in straight-up grifting, on your dime, like this."**
> **— Barack Obama,** ex-President

and that 69% think his policy decisions are influenced by his private business dealings.

Paris violence flares after largely peaceful protests

PARIS

Hundreds of thousands of people marched across France, and rallies that were largely peaceful gave way to clashes in Paris and Marseille after dark, despite a huge security operation meant to prevent a repeat of the previous week's unrest.

The Interior Ministry put the number of protesters nationwide at 410,000, though unions said the real figure was twice as high. The biggest march was held on the south-eastern edge of Paris, where at least 110,000 people turned out against rising living costs and growing inequality.

410,000	70,000	110,000
marchers (Interior Ministry)	police and gendarmes	at the main march in Paris

The mood soured sharply once the rally was over. On a cold, wet evening, riot police used tear gas and water cannon against a group of about 500 hooded youths before they finally dispersed.

In Marseille, France's second city, youths set rubbish bins on fire to block roads and threw rocks and bottles at security forces. Police said several shops, two of them jewellers, were looted.

There were also clashes in Lyon, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand, Lille, Rennes, Nantes and Toulouse. "In almost every march we saw the formation of these high-risk groups. They broke away from the main body and sought to commit acts of violence," said Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, who accused far-left activists and criminal gangs of trying to stir up trouble.

The authorities deployed 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, 10,000 more than a week earlier, after admitting that they had underestimated the scale of the unrest on October 17.

NORTH KOREA-CHINA TIES

Kim visits Korean War memorial in China, returns home over new bridge

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a historic Korean War memorial in the Chinese border city of Dandong before returning home by road across a newly opened bridge linking the two countries, North Korean state media reported on Sunday.

The visit highlighted efforts by Pyongyang and Beijing to strengthen their longstanding relationship and expand economic cooperation ahead of a planned regional trip by US President Donald Trump next month.



Kim toured Dandong's Memorial Hall of the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea, accompanied by a senior North Korean delegation that included his sister, Kim Yo Jong, and Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui. Wang Huning, the fourth-highest-ranking official in the Chinese Communist Party, guided the visit.

> *The new bridge would strengthen links between the two countries and their peoples, Kim said*

Footage broadcast by North Korean state television showed Kim viewing an archival photograph of his grandfather, North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, alongside Mao Zedong, the founder of modern China. Kim also presented the museum with a commemorative plaque featuring Kim Il Sung before holding a formal meeting with Wang and inspecting a bus factory in Dandong.

The visit took place ahead of the anniversary of China's entry into the Korean War on North Korea's side. The 1950–1953 conflict ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the two Koreas technically at war.

Kim said North Koreans would remember their country's wartime cooperation with China and pass down their gratitude to future generations, according to state media.

The newly inaugurated bridge connecting Dandong with North Korea was a prominent feature of the visit. Kim expressed confidence that it would strengthen links between the neighbouring countries and their peoples.

CITY HILIGHTS
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DRAMATIC TWIST IN MOTOGP TITLE RACE

Aprilia is optimistic about Jorge Martin returning for the Malaysian Grand Prix despite his wrist fracture, keeping his championship hopes alive against Marc Marquez.

MELBOURNE

Aprilia racing management has expressed cautious optimism regarding a potential surprise return for star rider Jorge Martin at the upcoming Malaysia Grand Prix this weekend, even as the Spaniard recovers from a right wrist fracture sustained during a high-speed crash in the Australian Grand Prix Sprint race at Phillip Island. Martin entered the Australian race weekend holding a razor-thin two-point lead over his fierce championship rival, Marc Marquez. However, his unfortunate Saturday mishap, combined with a dominant victory by Marquez, saw Martin slip ten points behind the Ducati contender in the intensely contested world championship standings.

Fortunately, torrential weather conditions and dangerously poor visibility forced the outright cancellation of the main Australian Grand Prix race, saving Martin from surrendering further crucial championship points. Subsequent medical evaluations and detailed computed tomography scans brought encouraging news, definitively ruling out initial fears of a secondary fracture and confirming that his distal radius injury is completely non-displaced. Addressing the media, Aprilia team manager Paolo Bonora noted that surgery has been deemed unnecessary, significantly boosting the likelihood of a rapid recovery and keeping championship hopes alive for the reigning 2024 world champion.



Bonora praised Martin's aggressive racing spirit and phenomenal race pace before the crash, highlighting that the rider's positive mental outlook has uplifted the entire garage. While the team remains entirely guided by medical evaluations and professional clinical analysis rather than championship pressures, engineers and support staff are fully committed to preparing his Aprilia machine for immediate deployment in Sepang. Martin will forgo a long-haul return flight to Spain, remaining under close medical supervision over the coming days to expedite his rehabilitation. The global racing community now waits anxiously for final medical clearance, hoping the sensational rider can make a miraculous return to the tarmac to defend his championship ambitions in Malaysia.



Shaheen Afridi claims 150 ODI wickets

LAHORE

Pakistan One Day International cricket captain Shaheen Shah Afridi etched his name into the history books by becoming the fastest fast bowler from his country to complete 150 wickets in the 50-over format. Playing during a crucial tri-series fixture against England at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, the 26-year-old pace spearhead reached this incredible landmark during a fiery opening spell, breaking a long-standing national record previously shared by legendary fast bowling icons Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar.

Entering the match needing only a single dismissal to reach the milestone, Shaheen wasted no time making an impact. In the very first over of the innings, he removed in-form English opening batsman Tom Banton, who chipped a full delivery straight to the cover fielder. Following that breakthrough, the Pakistani captain struck again by dismissing batting stalwart Joe Root, catching him cleanly at backward point. These early breakthroughs electrified the stadium and set a dominant tone for the home side as they sought another commanding victory in the triangular tournament.

Shaheen achieved the coveted milestone in his 80th match, comfortably surpassing Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar, who both required 91 games to reach the same tally. Across cricket history, the talented left-arm seamer now ranks as the joint fourth fastest bowler globally to hit the 150-wicket mark, sitting alongside Indian pace star Mohammed Shami and Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan. Nepal's Sandeep Lamichhane remains the fastest overall, having achieved the feat in 73 games, followed closely by Australian Mitchell Starc and Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq. Furthermore, the match held unique emotional significance as Pakistan players wore striking pink jerseys to champion breast cancer awareness. Winning the toss and bowling first, the hosts aims to secure their spot in the final.

Karan Singh secures 4th ITF season title



MUMBAI

Indian tennis star Karan Singh continued his amazing winning streak by lifting the singles trophy at the USD 30,000 ITF Men World Tennis Tour M25 tournament held at Cooperage in Mumbai. The third-seeded player secured his fourth championship title of the 2026 season after an exciting all-Indian final battle against his academy teammate, Digvijay Pratap Singh. The title clash ended when Digvijay had to retire from the match due to physical fatigue while Karan was comfortably leading 7-5, 3-1 in the second set after one hour and thirty-two minutes of intense play.

Karan showed incredible focus and skill throughout the entire tournament in Mumbai, successfully winning every single match without dropping a single set. His path to the championship included a solid win against Nitin Kumar Sinha in the opening round, followed by a strong serving performance to defeat qualifier Adil Kalyanpur in the round of sixteen. He advanced past seventh seed Sidharth Rawat via a brief retirement in the quarterfinals and then played a brilliant match against Chirag Duhan in the semifinals, keeping a flawless service record to win in straight sets.

Meanwhile, Digvijay also had a fantastic week on the courts, coming off a recent victory in Baku and defeating second seed Garrett Johns in the semifinals to guarantee a wonderful podium sweep for their training academy. At just twenty-three years of age, Karan has enjoyed a phenomenal run over the past two months, marking his second tournament victory and fourth final appearance in quick succession. This stellar achievement highlights his growing status as one of the brightest young talents in Indian professional tennis, bringing immense pride to sports fans across the nation as he climbs higher in the global rankings.



Naomi Osaka nears best form, hints at retirement

BENGALURU

Former world number one tennis star Naomi Osaka has revealed that she feels remarkably close to rediscovering the elite competitive form that previously secured her four Grand Slam singles titles, though she candidly admitted to pondering her long-term future in the sport and potential retirement. Speaking to international media ahead of her upcoming campaign as the seventh seed at the prestigious Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, the 29-year-old Japanese champion reflected on the delicate balance between professional athletic ambitions and her evolving responsibilities as a devoted mother.

Osaka, who returned to the professional circuit in 2024 following a 15-month maternity break after the birth of her daughter, acknowledged that family considerations heavily influence her career trajectory. She shared that she frequently contemplates how much longer she wishes to maintain a grueling global travel schedule, emphasizing that her daughter's future happiness and preferences will ultimately guide her decisions on when to step away from competitive tennis permanently. Currently holding the nineteenth spot in the global rankings, Osaka has steadily regained her competitive edge over the current season, delivering impressive Grand Slam performances that included reaching the prestigious quarter-finals at Wimbledon highlighted by a stunning victory over top seed Aryna Sabalenka alongside strong round-of-16 finishes at both the French Open and the US Open.

Reflecting on her recent on-court progress, which also featured a semi-final appearance in Washington and a quarter-final run in Toronto, Osaka expressed strong optimism regarding her capacity to contend for major titles once again. She noted that she has successfully constructed a solid foundational game and remains eager to learn, adapt, and advance deeper into upcoming tournament draws.

PADIKKAL, SUDHARSAN FIGHT BACK FOR INDIA A





LINCOLN

Left-handed batting stalwarts Devdutt Padikkal and B Sai Sudharsan staged a resolute and vital rescue act for India 'A', mounting a determined counter-attack against New Zealand 'A' on the second day of the opening unofficial Test match in Lincoln. Despite their heroic unbroken partnership, the visitors still faced a significant 98-run deficit at stumps, ending the day at 106 for two in their second innings after conceding a massive 204-run first-innings lead.

The day began under immense pressure for the touring side after their dismal first-innings collapse for just 113 runs. New Zealand 'A' capitalized fully on that early dominance, resuming their overnight score and stretching their total to 317 runs. Dean Foxcroft anchored the middle order with a patient 51, while lower-order batsman Kristian Clarke played an aggressive knock of 42 runs. Despite incisive bowling spells from Anshul Kamboj and Auqib Nabi who claimed three wickets apiece the hosts built a formidable advantage, aided significantly by 46 extras conceded by the Indian bowling attack.

Facing a daunting deficit, India 'A' suffered an immediate top-order disaster when senior batsmen KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal fell cheaply once again. Rahul managed only four runs before chopping an inside edge onto his stumps, while Jaiswal departed for five, continuing a miserable run of form that has sparked serious concern regarding their readiness for upcoming international Test assignments. With both seasoned openers dismissed for negligible scores with just ten runs on the board, the mounting pressure shifted entirely to the middle order to salvage pride and avoid an innings defeat.

Preparation brings clarity & results: Tejal



VADODARA

Indian women's cricket team batter Tejal Hasabnis has emphasized that meticulous preparation and rigorous match-situation simulations are the core driving forces behind her stellar run of form, helping her secure a triumphant return to the national squad for the ongoing One Day International series against Zimbabwe at Vadodara's BCA Stadium. The talented middle-order mainstay recently enjoyed a phenomenal domestic and developmental circuit, hitting twin half-centuries scores of 81 and 60 to guide the India 'A' side to a hard-fought two-to-one 50-over series victory against Australia 'A' in Mohali.

Speaking to broadcasters ahead of the second ODI fixture, the right-handed batter explained that walking out to bat in the middle order requires immense mental clarity, which can only be achieved through comprehensive practice. By simulating diverse match scenarios in the nets, targeting specific scoring zones, and mastering different pacing strategies, she ensures total tactical readiness before stepping onto the field. Hasabnis noted that staying anchored in the present moment, reading the scoreboard intelligently, and maintaining deep self-belief allow her to stay one step ahead of opposition bowling attacks.

Highlighting her versatile batting approach, Hasabnis expressed confidence in her ability to effortlessly shift gears depending on team requirements—whether rotating the strike steadily or launching an aggressive counterattack when early wickets fall. Fresh off a dominant nine-wicket victory in the opening match of the series, the Indian camp remains fully focused on maintaining winning momentum by strictly executing team processes. With her sharp tactical mindset and unwavering discipline, Hasabnis looks set to cement her permanent place in the national batting lineup as India continues its dominant international campaign.

Yuki-Bhambri wins Almaty Open Doubles Title

ALMATY

Indian tennis star Yuki Bhambri and his American partner Ryan Seggerman captured the prestigious doubles championship trophy at the ATP 250 Almaty Open. Playing at the Almaty Arena, the formidable Indo-American pairing triumphed over the tournament's top-seeded Austrian duo of Lucas Miedler and Neil Oberleitner in a thrilling, high-intensity three-set encounter that ended with a scoreline of 7-6, 6-7, 10-2.

The championship final was a fiercely contested battle from the very first game as both teams exchanged powerful serves and maintained a tight grip on their service games. Bhambri and Seggerman kept their nerve during the opening set tiebreak to claim it seven to three. Although the top-seeded Austrians fought back valiantly to break seven to one and force a super tiebreak, the Indo-American pair completely seized control in the deciding phase, storming to a commanding ten-to-two victory to seal the title in just 1 hour and 26 minutes.



Throughout the fast-paced match, the winning duo displayed incredible precision, firing six clean aces while committing only a single double fault. This hard-fought victory marks Yuki Bhambri's fifth career ATP Tour doubles title, adding another remarkable milestone to his stellar professional resume. The seasoned Indian player has enjoyed a phenomenal run of success over recent seasons, highlighted by his historic career-high doubles ranking of world number 20, a memorable semifinal run at the US Open, and a major ATP 500 title victory in Dubai. This latest triumph in Kazakhstan further cements Bhambri's reputation as one of Asia's finest doubles specialists, inspiring young tennis enthusiasts across India.

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