



Asian Games:
India men,
women win
kabaddi golds

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P11

Iran
pitches plan to
open
Hormuz



P12

Scarlett
Johansson attends
Paper Tiger
Festival premiere



KARNATAKA PARVA 2026

CM: STAY ALERT OVER SIR, PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

‘Congress had fought for Independence based on the principle of unity in diversity and described ‘Karnataka Parva’ as an opportunity for people across the state’.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday urged members of minority communities to remain vigilant during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and protect their voting rights.

Speaking after inaugurating the ‘Karnataka Parva 2026’ at Palace Grounds here, Shivakumar, “Unity in diversity and self-reliance through skills form the essence of ‘Karnataka Parva’. This event reflects our government’s vision; it has been organized to ensure that art survives, skills flourish, and the lives of artisans are brightened.”

The event’s more than 180 stalls would provide market opportunities for artisans and small businesses while promoting cultural diversity and self-reliance through skills.

He said Karnataka’s regional food traditions and cultural diversity were strengths that needed to be preserved. Describing minority communities’ economic self-reliance as part of the state’s overall development, he said members of different minority communities had come together at the event to demonstrate unity.

He said the Congress had fought for Independence based on the principle of unity in diversity and described ‘Karnataka Parva’ as an opportunity for people across the state.

Minority representation and SIR concerns

He said three members of minority communities had been appointed ministers, one held the Legislative Council chairperson’s position. More than 25 had been appointed as chairpersons of various boards and corporations, while a prominent leader from the Ka-



Snapshot from CM's speech

Allegations of conspiracy: DK Shivakumar alleged a political conspiracy to systematically remove minority voters from the electoral rolls, pointing to controversies surrounding Form 7 applications used for objections and deletions.

Political opposition: While maintaining that the state has no fundamental objection to routine verification, D.K. Shivakumar strongly opposed using the SIR process for partisan or “political purposes”

Welfare linkage concerns: DK Shivakumar previously cautioned that losing voting registration status or failing proper verification procedures could potentially create downstream complications for citizens in accessing govt welfare benefits.



Women should become self-reliant, become entrepreneurs and create employment. We are committed to strengthening your lives.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

laburagi Dargah had been given responsibility in the Waqf Board. The appointments had provided opportunities for minority community leaders from different parts of the state.

The CM said his government was continuing minority welfare programmes initiated under Siddaramaiah. He urged minority voters to remain alert during the SIR electoral-roll revision process and safeguard their voting rights.

Alleging a conspiracy to remove minority voters from the rolls, he said the government was opposing it. The allegation was part of his speech; the supplied statement did not include a response from the Election Commission.

Karnataka Parva 2026 details

Dates: September 26 to 30

Location: Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds, Bengaluru

Organiser: Department of Minority Welfare, Haj & Wakf, Government of Karnataka

Entry: Free for public

Stalls: Over 180 stalls showcasing handicrafts, traditional products, and creative works by regional artisans and small businesses.

Food & culture: A regional food festival featuring authentic local cuisines alongside cultural performances like folk dances and musical evenings.

Empowerment sessions: Interactive programs and seminars focused on digital marketing, e-commerce training, and business networking for local artisans.

Call for women to become entrepreneurs

Calling upon women to become self-reliant and create employment opportunities, the CM said the government was committed to providing economic support to women. “Women should become self-reliant, become entrepreneurs and create employment. We are committed to strengthening your lives.”

“The guarantee schemes are aimed at strengthening women’s economic position and claimed that the government was spending Rs 1.20 lakh

crore every year to provide economic support to people across different sections of society.”

Buddhists from Bylakuppe invited for Mysuru Dasara

The CM said he had invited members of the Buddhist community in Bylakuppe and representatives of all communities in Karnataka to this year’s Mysuru Dasara celebrations.

Legislative Council Chairperson Saleem Ahmed, ministers U T Khader and Rizwan Arshad, MPs Syed Naseer Hussain and Mansoor Ali Khan, and actor Ramya were present.

Cabinet to discuss milk price hike demand, decision to follow: CM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said the state Cabinet will discuss the demand for a milk price hike before taking a final decision.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the presidents of district milk unions met him and sought an increase of Rs 12 per litre, of which Rs 2 could



About 50,000 milk producers gathered here demanding a hike in milk prices. Our government is committed to protecting farmers, we will discuss it in the cabinet

-DK Shivakumar, CM

be passed on to milk producers’ cooperatives.

“We will examine it in the cabinet. I’m also getting reports on the situation in neighbouring states such as



The price of fodder has increased significantly. Petrol & diesel prices have increased, as has the cost of all raw materials. When such is the situation, demanding a price rise is inevitable.

-DK Suresh, BAMUL president

Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh,” he said.

The milk unions were incurring losses at the existing price and farmers were discontented over the price issue.

“About 50,000 milk producers gathered here demanding a hike in milk prices. Our government is committed to protecting farmers, we will discuss it in the cabinet,” he said.

Milk unions and farmers have sought a hike in milk prices, citing a significant rise in fodder, fuel and other input costs, stating that the increase made a price revision inevitable.

19 die after drinking spurious liquor in Nagaland

MOKOKCHUNG

At least 19 people have died allegedly after drinking spurious liquor in Nagaland, with police forming a team to trace the supply chain of suspected adulterated liquor in the state where a prohibition law has been in place since 1990.

Police said Mokokchung district reported eight deaths

and Tuensang district 11 over the past two days following consumption of suspected illicit liquor.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Additional Superintendent of Police I Bunglang Chang, has been constituted to investigate the deaths and trace the source and supply chain of the suspected adulterated liquor, Senior Superintendent

of Police, Vesupra Kezo, said on Saturday. Samples have been sent to Guwahati for forensic examination to ascertain the cause of deaths, he said. “We have obtained some leads, but it is too premature to disclose details.”

Following the deaths, police conducted multiple raids and arrested 19 people and seized close to 3,000 bottles of liquor.

QUICK READ

First phase of drought relief to begin soon: GP

Belagavi: DyCM G Parameshwara on Saturday said drought relief measures will begin immediately. The Agriculture, Revenue, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj departments are jointly preparing the framework for relief measures and have been instructed to start work without delay. Speaking after attending the 26th Convocation of Visvesvaraya Technological University here, he said assistance is currently being provided as the first instalment of drought relief. He clarified that this is not the final relief package. The first instalment is being provided with the objective of extending immediate assistance to the drought-hit farmers. The state government has already submitted a request to the Centre for the first instalment of relief and memoranda for the second and third phases will also be submitted shortly.

Suicide bombing at police checkpoint in Pak kills 11

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at a roadside police checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 11 people and wounding about 30 others, officials said, in a sign of increasing violence in the region bordering Afghanistan. The attack occurred in Dera Ismail Khan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for the provincial emergency service. Local police chief Safdar Baloch said most of those killed and wounded were security personnel and passersby. The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement. Pakistan has experienced a surge in militant attacks in recent years, many of them claimed by the TTP and the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, a separatist group mainly active in neighbouring Balochistan province.

...by aggressively scaling technology, innovation, and startup-led solutions across all sectors.

BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday expressed confidence that India could achieve economic growth of more than 10%, stressing the need for greater adoption of technology and innovation, while cautioning against excessive scepticism about the country’s prospects.

Speaking at a fireside chat organised by the IIT Madras Alumni Association here, she said higher economic growth would help accelerate India’s journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, but stressed that it would require “a lot more effort” from all sides.

KEY DRIVERS FOR HIGH GROWTH

Technology & innovation: Wider adoption across traditional and modern sectors is vital.

Startups: Scaling startup contributions since 2015 to drive deep-tech and hardware solutions.

Agriculture modernization: Using drones, precision mapping, and tech platforms to boost productivity and market linkage.

Next-gen infrastructure: Focusing investments on Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, and quantum technology.

National goals: Accelerating the path toward Atmanirbhar Bharat and a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

“It is possible to reach 10 plus growth, and I’m not just saying it to pep you all up. It is possible,” Sitharaman said. She cited the growth of startups since 2015, saying

EMBRACE TECH-INNOV



Strategic challenges & requirements

Stakeholder effort: Demands coordinated, intensive effort from industry, academia, and government.

Overcoming cynicism: Combating naysayers and fostering a positive, constructive economic outlook.

Early-stage capital: Structuring patient capital for hardware and deep-tech ventures with long revenue gestation.

they could make a significant contribution to the economy in the coming years. Sitharaman emphasised the need to overcome cynicism and “nudge” people to think positively and

recognise developments taking place on the ground.

“We have too many naysayers. We have too many people who have vicarious pleasure being derived if India fails. We really cannot afford that. We need to nudge these people to think positive,” she said.

Highlighting the role of technology in agriculture, Sitharaman said technological interventions had made a “spectacular difference” in connecting producers to markets and improving productivity. She cited the use of technology to speed up harvesting and prepare land for the next crop, as well as drones and aerial geospatial instruments for precision mapping of land parcels that were earlier mapped manually.

“So, with the rapid movement of technology, the innovations which happen in startups will have to get into every sector,” she said. Sitharaman cited the use of point-of-sale

(POS) machines in fertiliser distribution as an example of technology being used to prevent pilferage.

She said the POS system, which was still under pilot testing, recorded details of the farmer, land and crop being cultivated, and provided farmers with information on the quantity of fertiliser that may be sufficient based on soil, irrigation and crop conditions.

The minister said farmers would continue to have a choice in purchasing fertilisers, while the technology would inform them about the quantity that may be sufficient for their crop. Sitharaman said excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers was contaminating soil and water, and technology could help address the issue.

“So the sooner these technologies reach these sectors, the better it is for India. You will be optimally producing things and therefore adding to the growth,” she added.

Quick Read

Prison authorities monitor approver Pradosh closely

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Authorities at Parappana Aghahara Central Prison have stepped up security around the barracks of Pradosh Rao following his recent shift to an approver in the Renukaswamy murder case. Acting on senior department directives, officials implemented round-the-clock CCTV surveillance to monitor his cell closely. Prison staff are also strictly inspecting all food, water, and snacks brought in from outside. Additionally, authorities are maintaining detailed records of every visitor meeting him. Pradosh, formerly the 14th accused, will now testify for the prosecution after courts approved his new status.

Police constable physical tests begin Sept 28

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka State Police Recruitment Division has announced the zone-wise schedule for physical standard and endurance tests to fill nearly 4,000 civil constable vacancies. Over 19,000 shortlisted candidates are scheduled to participate across multiple designated centers statewide, starting September 28. Examinations for the residual parent cadre and Kalyana Karnataka regions will run through mid-October across cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Mangaluru, and Kalaburagi. Qualified applicants must download their official call letters from the recruitment portal and report to assigned venues on time.



Traffic camera mistakes guitar bag for pillion

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
An automated traffic camera in Bengaluru made a bizarre error by issuing a fine to a scooter rider because it mistook his guitar bag for an unhelmeted passenger. Souvik Datta was riding along the Hebbal-Tin Factory route carrying his instrument on his back when the AI system flagged the shape as a rule violation. His wife received an unexpected penalty notice of 500 rupees. Datta shared the funny mistake on social media, drawing widespread attention to technology glitches. Traffic authorities have advised the citizen to resolve the issue through official email channels.

State challenges SIT probe in Supreme Court

Karnataka has petitioned the Supreme Court against a High Court order establishing a special investigative team for the KPSC scam.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka state administration has officially moved the Supreme Court to contest a recent High Court directive that established a special investigative team to probe the multi-layered Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam. State authorities argue that substituting the existing police machinery at an advanced stage is completely unnecessary.

The legal confrontation stems from a High Court order that mandated a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Prisons Department Director General Alok Kumar, to take over the investigation into alleged question paper leaks and OMR sheet tampering. The court instructed the newly formed panel to conclude its inquiries and submit a comprehensive status report within a strict one-hundred-day window.

Government counsel contended before the apex court that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has already completed roughly 80 percent of the groundwork. Investigators have successfully mapped complex financial trails, frozen illicit cash reserves, and arrested prominent figures, including suspended IAS officer and former KPSC examination controller Gnanendra Kumar



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Supreme Court Challenge:** The state asks the apex court to set aside the High Court’s order appointing a 5-member SIT led by Prisons DGP Alok Kumar.
- Advanced CID Investigation:** The government says the CID has already covered 80% of the probe and arrested IAS officer Gnanendra Kumar.
- High Court Directive:** The SIT was to file a comprehensive report within 100 days.
- Political Fallout:** Opposition leaders accuse the ruling establishment of undermining independent oversight.

alongside middleman Basavaraj Kannale. The state’s petition emphasizes that the High Court ordered the transfer without citing tangible flaws or procedural delays in the ongoing CID operations.

Furthermore, state officials argued that the judicial order failed to account for crucial investigative updates and material evidence gathered by the CID after August 24.

Pointing out that original petitioners had requested a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe rather than a state-level SIT, the government urged the Supreme Court to quash the lower court’s ruling to maintain investigative momentum.

The legal challenge has triggered sharp political reactions across the state. Opposition leaders, led by former

“

The government is desperately opposing the SIT and rushing to the Supreme Court because it wants an investigation managed in its own self-interest.

– H.D. KUMARASWAMY
Union Minister

Judicial and investigative oversight

As the legal battle shifts to the Supreme Court, parallel proceedings continue, including separate investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

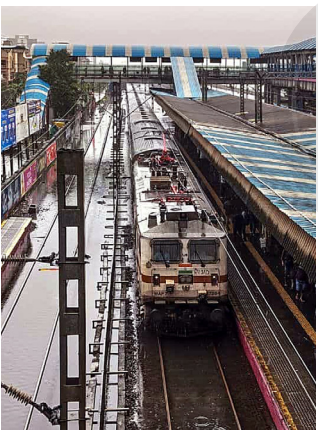
Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, launched aggressive verbal attacks against the ruling administration. Kumaraswamy alleged that opposing an independent SIT demonstrates an intent to shield corrupt actors and manipulate the inquiry to protect high-level political interests, intensifying political friction over the public recruitment scandal.

Railways announce special trains for Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Rail passengers planning trips during the upcoming Navaratri and Diwali festivals can breathe a sigh of relief. The railway department has officially announced special train services connecting Bengaluru with Mumbai and Visakhapatnam to manage heavy holiday crowds and clear long waiting lists.

With thousands of travelers expected to move across state borders during the festive break, regular trains often face massive ticket rushes. To ease this congestion, the South Western Railway and Central Railway have planned dedicated special runs through October and November, ensuring smoother journeys for families and working professionals heading home.

Along the western route, the train will stop at major transit hubs such as Dadar, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Belagavi, Dharwad, Hubballi, and Tumakuru, providing vital



connectivity to commuters across Maharashtra and northern Karnataka.

Railway authorities urge travelers to book their tickets early through official reservation counters or online portals to secure confirmed seats. These special operations aim to prevent last-minute holiday travel chaos and provide a comfortable, reliable transit option for festival-goers across the region.

SPECIAL TRAINS AT A GLANCE	
MUMBAI – SMVT BENGALURU	
01013	CSMT Mumbai to SMVT Bengaluru , departs 12:35 AM every Saturday, Oct 10 – Nov 21 (7 trips)
01014	SMVT Bengaluru to CSMT Mumbai , departs 4:30 AM every Sunday, Oct 11 – Nov 22 (7 trips)
Halts: Dadar, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Belagavi, Hubballi, Davanagere, Tumakuru. 22 coaches: 2 AC 2-Tier, 18 AC 3-Tier, 2 generator cars.	
VISAKHAPATNAM – SMVT BENGALURU	
08583	Visakhapatnam to SMVT Bengaluru , departs 7:00 PM every Tuesday, Oct 6 – Nov 24
08584	SMVT Bengaluru to Visakhapatnam , departs 3:50 PM every Wednesday, Oct 7 – Nov 25
Route: via Vijayawada, Gudur, Renigunta, Katpadi, Jolarpettai and KR Puram.	

Coalition demands protection of Western Ghats rivers



CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Environmental groups and regional committees have announced a massive sit-in protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on October 10. The demonstration aims to demand the complete conservation of the Western Ghats and protect the fragile ecosystems surrounding the Bedti, Aghanashini, and Gangavali rivers.

Organized by the Bedti-Aghanashini Valley Conservation Committee alongside multiple civic organizations, the protest is scheduled to begin at 10 AM. Organizers are calling on farmers, women’s self-help groups, cooperative sector representatives, social activists, and youth residing across Bengaluru, Uttara Kan-nada, Malenadu, and coastal districts to join the movement in large numbers.

Environmentalists and local leaders stress that the Bedti, Aghanashini, and Gangavali rivers are far more than water sources; they form the absolute backbone of rural economies in the region. Agriculture, horticulture, traditional fishing, and animal husbandry depend entirely on the uninterrupted natural flow of these waterways and the health of the surrounding Western Ghats rainforests.

Protesters are strongly objecting to industrial or diversion projects that threaten to alter the natural river courses and damage regional biodiversity. Experts warn that disrupting these sensitive mountain ecosystems could severely impact local rainfall patterns, water tables, and the sustainable livelihoods of communities that have inhabited the forest belt for generations.

To build a powerful statewide united front, organizers have reached out to diverse cultural and linguistic communities—including the Siddhi, Kunabi, Marathi, Namadhari Nayak, Ediga, and Ramakshatriya groups—urging members to stand up for their ancestral roots and environmental heritage. Farmer organizations have requested participants to wear traditional green shawls to symbolize their agrarian solidarity.

Furthermore, student bodies and young professionals working or studying in Bengaluru have been specifically urged to gather at Freedom Park. Organizers hope to harness the voice of urban youth to pressure authorities into shelving destructive projects and adopting a holistic, long-term environmental protection policy for the Western Ghats.

HC rules land cannot be acquired against owners’ wishes

The Karnataka High Court ruled the state cannot compel private land acquisition without landowner consent, dismissing a tech firm’s IT park project appeal.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a significant legal precedent concerning industrial development and property rights, the Karnataka High Court has ruled that the state government cannot be compelled to acquire private land against the explicit wishes and consent of landowners.

A division bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice H. Shanthi Bhushan delivered the verdict while dismissing an appeal filed by Brightsword Technologies Private Limited, which had sought the handover of land originally earmarked for a massive IT park project.

The legal battle stems from an ambitious proposal submitted by Brightsword Technologies to Karnataka Udyog Mitra to establish an Information Technology Park in Kadubeesanahalli, Bengaluru East Taluk, with an estimated investment outlay of ₹43,000 crore. Following clearance by the state’s Single Window Committee, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) initiated proceedings to acquire 8.5 acres of land, issuing preliminary and final notifications back in 2004 after the company deposited an initial advance of ₹38 lakh.

However, original landowners—including Balakrishna Naidu and others—strongly contested the acquisition. Subsequent legal challenges culminated in a Single Judge Bench quashing the acquisition process, prompting the

tech company to approach the division bench.

Upholding the Single Judge’s order, the division bench noted fundamental flaws in the initial administrative process, pointing out that the KIADB failed to issue mandatory notices or conduct proper hearings for interested parties holding property rights, as required under Section 28(2) of the KIADB Act.

The court emphasized that under governing KIADB regulations, securing the prior consent of landowners is vital before handing over property for commercial projects. Furthermore, the bench observed that the disputed site has already undergone extensive urban development over the past two decades, featuring established residential villas, layout structures, and commercial buildings. Consequently, the court noted it was practically impossible at this stage to demolish existing structures to accommodate the IT Park.

While dismissing the plea for compulsory acquisition, the High Court clarified that the company is at liberty to approach a civil court to seek financial compensation from the government for monetary losses incurred through advance payments. Additionally, the bench suggested that the state government may explore allocating alternative parcels of land if the firm wishes to pursue its investment project elsewhere.

Potential milk price hike shocks daily consumers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Millions of daily wage earners, office-going professionals, and households across Karnataka face an impending financial strain as the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) formally submits a major proposal to the state government, seeking a steep price hike of ₹8 to ₹10 per litre of milk. If approved, this revision will trigger a cascading inflationary effect across the hospitality sector, driving up the cost of everyday consumer essentials—most notably pushing the price of a standard cup of tea or coffee at local establishments from ₹15 up to ₹22.

The proposed upward revision comes at a time when ordinary citizens are already grappling with broader inflationary pressures, rising transport costs, and escalating household budgets. For millions of residents who rely on daily dairy products for household consumption, nutritional needs, and traditional beverages, an additional burden of nearly ten rupees per litre represents a significant monthly expenditure increase.

Furthermore, the hike will heavily impact the commercial hospitality sector, including neighborhood canteens, dashinis, roadside tea stalls, and prominent hotels. Because milk serves as an indispensable raw material for tea, coffee, curd, sweets, and various culinary preparations, hospitality owners maintain that absorbing a ₹8 to ₹10 per

litre hike is entirely unviable. Consequently, the cost of a cup of tea or coffee—long considered an affordable daily staple for the common man—is projected to jump sharply by ₹5 to ₹7, taking retail prices to between ₹20 and ₹22 per cup. Small-scale vendors warn that this retail adjustment could temporarily suppress customer footfall, squeezing profit margins for independent tea stall owners and local eateries.

As news of the KMF proposal circulates across administrative circles and public forums, a strong wave of consumer dissatisfaction has emerged. Civil society groups, consumer rights associations, and regular citizens are urging the state government to exercise extreme caution before granting approval.

Public sentiment strongly dictates that while dairy farmers require adequate financial support and fair procurement prices to sustain their livelihoods and manage high cattle feed costs, the administration must equally safeguard the interests of urban and rural consumers. Critics argue that a blanket, unmitigated price hike could fuel broader inflation across food commodities.

A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE

₹15 to ₹22

if KMF’s ₹8 to ₹10 per litre hike is approved

CONGRESS INTERNAL FRICTION

MLA B.R. Patil questions unfulfilled manifesto promises

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Internal friction within the ruling Congress party escalated sharply today as senior MLA B.R. Patil openly expressed deep frustration and public dissatisfaction with his own administration, accusing the state government of systematically sidelining core election manifesto commitments and ignoring prior legislative understandings.

Speaking to media representatives, Patil launched a scathing

critique of executive decision-making, focusing primarily on the administration’s failure to enact promised amendments to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act—specifically regarding the contentious provisions of Sections 79A, 79B, and 79C. The legislator alleged that the ruling dispensation has conveniently abandoned the progressive reforms and social pledges it championed while campaigning to capture power.

The crux of Patil’s public outburst centers on a breached pre-budget agreement concerning agricultural land ownership regulations. According to the disgruntled MLA, detailed deliberations were held prior to the state budget presentation with then-Minister Siddaramaiah, during which a firm consensus was reached to incorporate critical legal amendments to Sections 79A, 79B, and 79C into the official fiscal policy document.

These specific sections of the Land Reforms Act have historically restricted agricultural land acquisition strictly to agriculturists, protecting rural farming communities from corporate land grabs. However, when the final budget copy was formally presented on the floor of the House, Patil discovered that the agreed-upon amendments were conspicuously missing. He argued that the omission was not a mere administrative oversight but an

intentional betrayal of rural stakeholders and small-scale farmers who relied on the party’s pre-poll commitments.

Patil’s outspoken criticism highlights simmering discontent among backbenchers and senior legislators who feel marginalized by executive policy priorities. Political analysts note that such public rebukes from within the ruling coalition threaten to weaken the government’s authority, especially as opposi-

tion parties capitalize on alleged policy U-turns and governance failures.

The MLA’s remarks have put executive leadership under intense pressure to clarify its stance on agricultural land laws and address mounting backbench demands for greater transparency in fulfilling pre-election manifesto pledges before legislative opposition weaponizes the internal rift during upcoming Assembly sessions.

CONGRESS INTERNAL FRICTION

- Unfulfilled Manifesto Pledges:** promises to farming communities neglected.
- Controversy Over Land Reforms:** no move to reverse the 2020 amendments.
- Pre-Budget Agreement Breach:** agreed amendments missing from the final budget.
- Internal Party Friction:** open criticism by a senior ruling-party member.

CHObserver

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Bengaluru neighborhoods face escalating civic neglect. Persistent garbage black spots plague Seshadripuram's 1st A Cross Road and the Government Model Primary School near Shalimar Residency, while a massive, foul-smelling waste dump outside Chandrappa Hotel on Mathikere's 15th Main Road endangering students and residents. Compounding these sanitation failures, unlit, potholed intersections near Apoorva Bakery threaten commuter safety. Residents urgently demand comprehensive municipal intervention.

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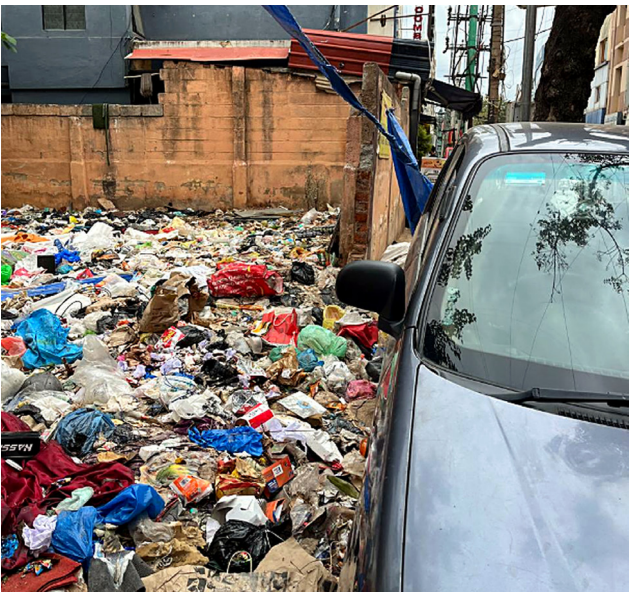
Residents on Seshadripuram 1st A Cross Road are frustrated by a persistent garbage black spot that repeatedly reappears despite cleanup efforts. Locals report that passersby dump waste there because uncooperative sanitation workers frequently fail to collect garbage from the site.



Garbage dumped beside the Government Model Primary and High School in Seshadripuram—which also serves as a voting center—has created a persistent blackspot right in front of Shalimar Residency Apartments. Residents are demanding a permanent fix to protect children and the neighborhood from this disgusting health hazard.



Commuters and residents near Apoorva Bakery on Seshadripuram 1st Main Road decry the hazardous link road intersection. Poor lighting and severe potholes create major crash risks, endangering pedestrians and motorists alike, especially during rain.



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

GREATER BENGALURU

Silk Board junction receives aesthetic makeover

JUST CLEAN BENGALURU
GBA CAMPAIGN

The Silk Board Flyover underpass received a vibrant cultural makeover featuring traditional silk-themed murals and public amenities.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The bustling gray concrete underpass of the iconic Silk Board Flyover has received a vibrant cultural makeover. Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh officially launched a comprehensive public space beautification project, transforming the high-traffic transit node with traditional silk-themed wall murals, pedestrian seating, and organized public utility zones.

Inspired by the successful Bellandur Flyover rejuvenation model and executed under the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) 'Just Clean Bengaluru' campaign, the initiative was brought to life through a collaborative Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Over sixty employee volunteers from CGI joined hands with the 'India Rising Trust' NGO to paint intricate traditional motifs—including classic temple borders, traditional mango patterns, and graceful peacock artwork—across the pillars and walls of the junction.



State Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment Ramalinga Reddy, alongside GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, joined the volunteers at the site to inspect the artwork. Praising the collaborative civic model, Minister Reddy announced that he will allocate financial resources from his MLA Local Area Development scheme to replicate the beautification model at Dairy Circle. He added that similar public space reclamations along the Outer Ring Road

corridor—spanning Bellandur, Agara, HSR Layout, and Mahadevapura—will be rolled out in phased steps. Addressing the media, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao emphasized that the initiative extends far beyond cosmetic painting. Officials have been directed to convert the cleared ground into a functional community zone featuring structured parking bays to prevent chaotic vehicle stacking, designated vending areas for local street vendors, children's play spaces,



and high-intensity lighting. Furthermore, South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh noted that since thousands of daily commuters utilize the junction for bus and metro interchanges, specialized seating arrangements and well-paved, silt-free footpaths are being installed to ensure maximum comfort and pedestrian safety. The project marks a major milestone in reclaiming neglected urban spaces for the citizens of Bengaluru.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Cultural Wall Art:** Temple Borders, Mango motifs and Peacock designs on pillars and walls.
- Ministerial Backing:** Minister Ramalinga Reddy promised MLA funds to replicate it at Dairy Circle.
- Expansion Plans:** Phased rejuvenation of ORR flyovers from Silk Board to K.R. Puram.

“We are transforming this major transit hub into an organized, clean public space complete with seating, lighting, and designated vending zones for commuters.”

K.N. Ramesh, Corporation Commissioner

Commissioner Rao inspects East Bengaluru projects

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Top municipal authorities have stepped up pressure to complete delayed infrastructure projects across the eastern corridors of the city. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao conducted a rigorous, ground-level inspection of key transit points, including Gunjur Road, Hope Farm Junction, and Varthur Main Road, to address rising public frustration over slow construction progress, chronic potholes, and severe traffic bottlenecks.

During the extensive tour, Rao interacted directly with local engineers and traffic police officials, emphasizing that public convenience and safety must remain top priorities. He specifically ordered municipal teams to accelerate ongoing construction on Gunjur Road, ensuring high quality standards and smooth traffic management without un-



necessary delays. Furthermore, he directed crews to clear all accumulated construction debris, repair broken pavement, fix dangerous potholes, and build accessible footpaths to protect daily pedestrians. At Hope Farm Junction, the Chief Commissioner inspected the long-awaited underpass project and instructed workers to speed up operations. He also addressed administrative hurdles, directing officials to lawfully relocate a roadside temple that has hindered traffic flow and structural progress. Moving toward Varthur Kodi, Rao demanded comprehensive status reports on



planned flyover permissions, urging teams to maintain seamless vehicle movement during upcoming construction phases. Waterlogging emerged as another critical concern during the visit. Rao inspected persistent water stagnation spots near Manipal Hospital and Jamia Masjid, ordering immediate overhauls of local stormwater drains to prevent monsoon flooding. He stressed that permanent engineering fixes are vital to keeping roads dry and safe for motorists. Additional directives included finishing pending underground pipeline installa-

“Take up pending works on priority and complete them within the stipulated time, ensuring that the public does not face inconvenience and that strict quality standards are maintained.”

Maheshwar Rao, GBA Chief Commissioner
tions near Viva Fit Gym and expediting necessary property demolitions near the Varthur Police Station bus stop. Joined by senior officials like Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar and Traffic Joint Commissioner Karthik Reddy, Rao warned that poor inter-departmental coordination and sluggish timelines will no longer be tolerated, demanding swift action on all fronts.

STREAMLINING EAST BENGALURU GROWTH

As eastern urban corridors experience rapid commercial and residential expansion, the administration's proactive inspections aim to eliminate infrastructure bottlenecks and upgrade commuter safety.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Hope Farm & Gunjur Progress:** speed up the underpass and road works, clear debris, install traffic safety signage.
- Tackling Waterlogging:** overhaul stormwater drains near Manipal Hospital and Jamia Masjid on Varthur Main Road.
- Flyover & Temple Relocation:** status report on Varthur Kodi flyover permissions; lawful relocation of a temple obstructing the Hope Farm underpass.

Corporation Chief fines negligent streetlight contractors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Stepping up efforts to guarantee public safety and root out civic negligence, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has penalized two major maintenance contractors a combined total of over 27 lakh rupees for severe lapses in streetlight upkeep across major urban roads.

The punitive financial action follows unannounced night-time inspections conducted across key arterial corridors by City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesh G. and Additional Commissioner Venkatachalapathi R. The top municipal officials acted under strict directives issued by Greater Bengaluru Authority Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who emphasized that dark zones pose unacceptable risks to nighttime commuters and pedestrians.

During their nocturnal audits, the administrators discovered numerous non-functional streetlights that had been left unrepaired despite explicit prior warnings and clear instructions given during previous site visits. Officials noted that failing to maintain proper illumination directly violates signed contract agreements and compromises public security. Consequently, authorities enforced strict financial penalties as outlined in their vendor contracts.

M/s Effilume Private Limited absorbed the heaviest fi-



nancial blow, facing a cumulative penalty of twenty-one lakh thirty-five thousand rupees levied across several dates in August and September. Meanwhile, M/s Esmart Energy Solutions was fined six lakh forty-four thousand rupees for its failure to maintain consistent lighting operations over the same review period.

Following the crackdown, Commissioner Jagadeesh G. issued an uncompromising warning to all municipal vendors, making it clear that further negligence, slow repair times, or unaddressed dark spots will attract even harsher contractual penalties, including potential blacklisting. He directed engineering teams to conduct regular night patrols, inspect interior ward roads proactively, and resolve citizen complaints regarding faulty lights without any bureaucratic delay.

The civic body stressed that reliable street lighting is an essential pillar of urban safety. By holding private contractors strictly accountable, the corporation aims to ensure that every neighborhood remains brightly illuminated, safe, and welcoming for all residents navigating the city after dark.

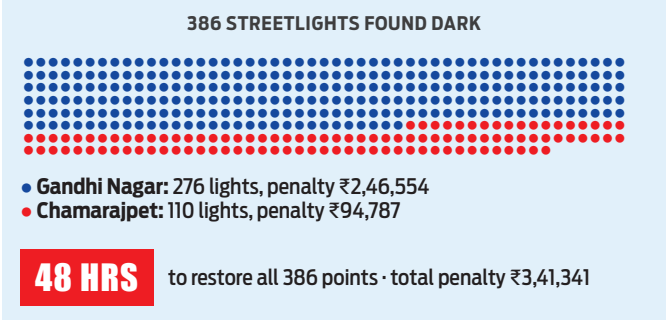
48-hour deadline: BCCC fines eSmart over streetlights

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Escalating municipal accountability regarding critical urban infrastructure, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) has levied a substantial financial penalty amounting to ₹3,41,341 against M/s eSmart Energy Solutions Limited, Mumbai. The punitive action follows widespread public safety concerns, intensive field inspections, and night patrolling operations that exposed a significant failure in maintaining functional illumination standards across key urban constituencies.

The municipal directive, issued under reference number B C C C E E / E L E / PR/14/2026-27 by the Executive Engineer (Electrical), targets pervasive operational lapses under an energy efficiency project contract originally executed on May 2, 2025. The project encompasses the replacement of conventional street lamps with advanced LED fixtures integrated with a Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) across designated city zones.

Subsequent to field audits and an official communication from infrastructure monitoring consultants iDECK on September 19, 2026, authorities identified a total of 386 non-functional and dark streetlights.

Gandhi Nagar Constituency: A total of 276 non-glowing lights, accumulating a constituency-specific penalty of ₹2,46,554.



Chamaraajpet Constituency: A total of 110 non-glowing lights, resulting in a penalty of ₹94,787.

The impacted zones cover vital commercial and residential hubs, including Chickpet, Gandhinagar, Cottonpet, Subhash Nagar, Okalipuram, Bin-nipete, Dattatreya Temple, Azad Nagar, Chalavadi-palya, Devaraj Urs Nagar, Rayapuram, KR Market, and Padarayanapura. Prominent arterial stretches affected by the outage include BVK Iyengar Road, KG Road, Cottonpet Main Road, Okalipuram Main Road, Magadi Road, Sultanpet, Pipeline Road, Mysore Road, and areas surrounding critical civic establishments such as KC General Hospital and Maharani College.

Expressing grave concern over the compromise of public safety and pedestrian security resulting from inadequate illumination, BCCC has issued an unyielding, time-bound directive. M/s eSmart Energy Solutions has been strictly ordered to completely rectify and restore all 386 identified light points within a stringent 48-hour window

from the official receipt of the communication.

To ensure absolute transparency and verify on-ground execution, the municipal corporation has instituted rigorous post-rectification submission criteria.

The municipal administration has warned that failure to meet the 48-hour deadline or non-submission of requisite geo-referenced verification documents will be treated as a major material breach of contract. Under the terms of the agreement, BCCC reserves the unconditional liberty to initiate aggressive secondary measures, including the imposition of escalated, compounding penalties, direct commercial recovery from pending corporate dues, and potential contract termination protocols without further notice. The matter has been marked as “Most Urgent” and distributed across top-tier civic channels, including the BCCC Commissioner, Development Commissioners, Chief Engineers of GBA Zones, and Infrastructure Development Corporation Karnataka Limited.

Quick Read

Organ donation saves 7 patients' lives

CH NEWS, ANEKAL
Turning profound personal grief into a beacon of hope, a grieving husband and two children consented to organ donation after 39-year-old Kusuma was declared brain-dead. Kusuma, a resident of Dyavasandra village near Jigani, suffered a sudden heart attack and was rushed to Narayana Health City Hospital in Bommasandra, where doctors pronounced her brain-dead. Her husband, Jayashankar, and their children made the noble choice to donate her eyes, heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. This compassionate act has successfully helped save or improve the lives of seven to eight individuals.

Bengaluru records excellent air quality levels

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Continuous rainfall and favorable weather conditions have kept air quality across major Karnataka cities at excellent and healthy levels. Bengaluru recorded an average Air Quality Index between 38 and 49, placing it firmly in the "Good" category. Key pollutants like particulate matter dropped significantly, even across high-traffic and industrial hubs like Peenya, Hebbal, and Silk Board. Neighboring coastal areas like Mangaluru and Udipi reported even lower AQI readings between 25 and 35. Health experts note that these clean conditions are ideal for outdoor activities, offering relief to residents with respiratory sensitivities.

Deepfake scam costs Bengaluru resident ₹7.66 lakh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A 39-year-old resident of Mahalakshmi Layout lost 7.66 lakh rupees in an online forex trading scam after falling victim to sophisticated deepfake videos. The victim encountered fraudulent Facebook advertisements featuring deepfake footage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nirmala Sitharaman, Sudha Murthy, and Anant Ambani promoting high-return investments. After clicking a link, he transferred an initial amount before receiving calls from UK-based numbers directing him to invest via a fake platform called 'One to Markets'. When he attempted to withdraw his supposed earnings, fraudsters demanded further payments. He lodged a police complaint, leading to an FIR.

7.66 lakh
lost in a forex trading scam

- KEY HIGHLIGHTS
- **Mass Deletions:** over one crore Karnataka entries (unverified).
 - **Commission Dissent:** Form 6 changes allegedly forced.
 - **Targeted Groups:** Dalits, minorities, weaker sections.
 - **Statewide Agitation:** protests at all district headquarters.

"The democratic system is being undermined for the benefit of one political party, and the mass deletion of millions of votes amounts to an unconstitutional assault on our democracy."

B.K. HARIPRASAD, KPCC PRESIDENT



BJP-JD(S) Alliance targets 180 seats for 2026 elections

Karnataka BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra urged party cadres to avoid projecting a leadership race with H.D. Kumaraswamy.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra has urged party cadres to avoid projecting a leadership race between JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and himself, asserting that the ultimate decision regarding the Chief Minister's post rests solely with the national high command of the NDA alliance.

The appeal came during a high-profile coordination committee meeting held at a private hotel in Bengaluru, where senior leaders from both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) convened to strategize for upcoming legislative polls. The primary immediate agenda centered on preparations for the crucial Legislative Council elections scheduled for October 23, while simultaneously laying a robust groundwork for the state assembly elections.

During the deliberations, Union Minister and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy emphasized the necessity of absolute unity within the alliance, advocating for the adoption of a collaborative election framework modeled after the successful coalition dynamics seen in Bihar. Kumaraswamy issued an ambitious electoral mandate to party workers, setting a collective target of securing



- KEY HIGHLIGHTS
- **Target 180 Strategy:** a "Bihar model" election blueprint aiming for 180 seats in the state assembly elections.
 - **Council Poll Preparations:** campaign tactics aligned for the four Legislative Council seats going to polls on October 23.
 - **Kumaraswamy's Appeal:** complete grassroots unity under the NDA banner, leaving past friction behind.
 - **Unified Alliance Front:** disciplined coordination, joint rallies and synchronized local campaigning to defeat the ruling party.

180 out of the 224 assembly seats in the next electoral cycle.

Senior BJP leaders warmly welcomed Kumaraswamy's strategic roadmap. Both parties resolved to bridge grassroots cadres, streamline joint campaign committees, and execute a synchronized electoral strategy designed to dismantle the ruling party's electoral footing across rural and urban constituencies alike.

Addressing speculation sur-

rounding executive leadership within a future coalition government, Vijayendra cautioned grassroots workers and local leaders against engaging in premature public debates or cultivating an artificial rivalry for the Chief Minister's office.

"Do not create a race between Kumaraswamy and me," Vijayendra stated firmly during his address, stressing that the primary focus must remain on strengthening the

“
Do not create a ‘Chief Minister race’ between Kumaraswamy and me; the NDA government is certain to come to power, and the High Command will decide who becomes Chief Minister.

– B.Y. VIJAYENDRA
BJP State President

alliance at the booth level. He reassured cadres that the National Democratic Alliance is poised to secure a decisive mandate in Karnataka, reiterating that the final prerogative on executive leadership parameters lies with the central party leadership. The meeting concluded with a unified call for district-level units to immediately activate joint mobilization efforts ahead of the October legislative council contests.

HDK demands EC clarification on internal rift

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has asserted that the Election Commission of India (ECI) must directly clarify the growing internal differences of opinion among its top leadership, emphasizing that preserving the constitutional dignity of independent democratic institutions is paramount.

Addressing media representatives in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy remarked that internal disagreements within the electoral body are an institutional affair that warrants transparent communication. He urged the commissioners involved to publicly address the circumstances surrounding recent controversies and uphold the sanctity of the watchdog body.

Shifting focus to ongoing political demonstrations, Kumaraswamy launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress party for staging protests over developments within the Election Commission. He argued that the ECI has historically served as the cornerstone of Indian democracy, and accused opposition figures of manufacturing outrage for political mileage.

"The Election Commission is a responsible institution; democracy has survived all these years largely due to the Commission's responsibility," Kumaraswamy stated. Challenging the moral standing of the ruling establishment, he remarked, "They are protesting

as if internal letters or differences constitute a major crime. We know what they did when they were in power, though I will not discuss that now."

The Union Minister sharply pivoted toward local administrative scandals, particularly the raging controversy surrounding the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment irregularities. Challenging youth groups and political critics, he asked why demonstrations are not directed toward systemic corruption within state recruitment boards.

"I tell Gen Z: come to Karnataka first. Fight against the corruption that has taken place in the KPSC," he challenged, noting that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar himself had previously admitted that underserving elements had infiltrated the commission. Kumaraswamy argued that the fault lies not within the institution itself, but with the political executive that appointed compromised individuals to key leadership

posts.

He further questioned the administration over unfulfilled promises, asking what happened to the government's pledge to recruit 76,000 personnel. Pointing fingers at Minister Priyank Kharge, Kumaraswamy demanded explanations regarding Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) recruitment irregularities, alleging direct political complicity in shielding corrupt actors.

Addressing the high-profile arrest of suspended IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar in connection with the KPSC scam, Kumaraswamy raised pointed questions about the integrity of the ongoing Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigation.

He reiterated that attempts to sweep administrative corruption under the rug through local police probes were precisely why the High Court intervened to establish an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT). Criticizing the state government's decision to



“
The Election Commission is a responsible constitutional institution, and the three individuals involved should explain why such a situation has developed.

– H.D. KUMARASWAMY
Union Minister

challenge the SIT formation in the Supreme Court, Kumaraswamy accused the administration of fearing transparency and seeking to control investigative outcomes to protect vested interests.

- KEY HIGHLIGHTS
- **Call for Institutional Transparency:** commission members should address the internal disagreements themselves.
 - **Criticism of Congress Protests:** dismissed as politically motivated; he questioned their moral ground.
 - **Attacking KPSC Corruption:** he questioned the appointments and sought answers from Minister Priyank Kharge.
 - **Challenging the SIT Opposition:** why fear an independent probe if the CID investigation was transparent?

Political fallout over institutional oversight
As sparring between the state administration and central alliance leaders intensifies over judicial probes and electoral roll revisions, political friction across Bengaluru's institutional landscape remains at a high pitch.

HARIPRASAD TARGETS ECI

KPCC Prez accuses BJP, ECI of stripping voter rights

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President B.K. Hariprasad launched a blistering attack on the ruling central dispensation and the Election Commission of India (ECI) during a massive state-level demonstration at Freedom Park. Addressing hundreds of party workers, civil society members, and regional leaders, Hariprasad accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of orchestrating a systemic, covert conspiracy to disenfranchise millions of legitimate voters—particularly targeting Gen-Z youth, minority communities, and Dalits.

The high-voltage protest, organized by the Congress party to denounce the contro-

versial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, brought explosive allegations to the forefront. Hariprasad claimed that administrative mechanisms within the ECI have been systematically compromised ever since the BJP assumed power at the national level. Citing recent investigative reports highlighting internal dissension among top election officials, he alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has repeatedly bypassed institutional protocol by unilaterally overriding formal objections raised by fellow commissioners on critical database and statutory registration matters.

Providing sweeping empir-

ical figures, the KPCC chief asserted that questionable electoral roll revisions and targeted deletions have stripped voting rights from millions across multiple states. According to party estimates, the ongoing revision processes have led to the exclusion or flagging of massive voter numbers nationwide, including over 60 lakh in Bihar, more than 90 lakh in West Bengal, and approximately 1.07 crore registered voters in Karnataka alone. Hariprasad argued that these coordinated deletions are not administrative oversights but calculated maneuvers designed to alter electoral outcomes and weaken democratic representation.

Drawing direct parallels to warnings previously sounded by senior national leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Hariprasad emphasized that the bedrock of Indian democracy rests upon universal adult suffrage. He reminded the gathering that the historic lowering of the voting age to 18 during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure was specifically intended to empower young citizens and integrate them into the democratic process. Today, however, he warned that Gen-Z voters and first-time aspirants are facing a deliberate institutional pushback that strips them of their constitutional franchise.

Furthermore, the Congress leader exposed local discrep-

FSSAI launches statewide milk quality checks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In the wake of intense public discussions surrounding the proposed retail price revision for the Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) flagship 'Nandini' dairy brand, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a comprehensive, statewide quality-assurance crackdown across Karnataka.

As dairy unions push for an upward price adjustment of up to 10 rupees per litre to offset rising operational and cattle-feed costs, food safety regulators have intensified surveillance to ensure that consumers paying higher rates receive unadulterated, high-grade dairy products.

To safeguard public health and enforce strict regulatory compliance, the Food Safety Department has formed 23 special enforcement teams deployed across Bengaluru and various district headquarters. These teams are systematically collecting random samples of core dairy items—including liquid milk, skimmed milk powder, ghee, and paneer—from local markets, milk collection centers, and major processing dairies.

Particular scrutiny is being directed toward commercial paneer and dairy powders supplied through public distribution channels, including institutional setups and Anganwadi centers. Laboratories have been directed to conduct thorough biochemical analyses to determine fat content, solids-not-fat (SNF) ratios, moisture levels, and overall nutritional composition. Crucially, food safety analysts are deploying advanced screening protocols to detect whether commercial paneer is genuinely derived from pure milk solids or artificially synthe-



sized using prohibited non-milk fats, chemical thickeners, and cheap vegetable oils.

In addition to monitoring local distribution networks, regulatory teams have established checkpoints to inspect milk tankers and chilling units entering Karnataka from neighboring states, notably Maharashtra. The stepped-up inspections come in response to recurring consumer grievances and intelligence reports regarding potential adulteration, synthetic milk preparation, and improper cold-chain storage during long-distance transit.

State authorities have made it clear that any dairy cooperative, private processor, or independent vendor found violating established safety standards or distributing sub-standard products will face immediate legal prosecution under the Food Safety and Standards Act. By coupling impending retail price adjustments with rigorous quality verification, the administration aims to balance farmer welfare with absolute consumer protection across the state's dairy sector.

Major Manivannan honored with Commendation Card



CH NEWS, BENGALURU
In a proud convergence of civil administration and military service, Major Manivannan, IAS, currently serving as the Commissioner of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), has been formally felicitated with a prestigious Commendation Card by the Chief of Defence Staff, General N. S. Raja Subramani. The honor was conferred during a special ceremony at the 106 Infantry Battalion (TA) PARA, recognizing his steadfast dedication, relentless hard work, and long-standing contributions to national defense through the Territorial Army.

Commissioned into the 106 Infantry Battalion (TA) PARA on February 8, 2014, Major Manivannan has consistently balanced the rigorous respon-

sibilities of a senior Indian Administrative Service officer with active military service. This latest national accolade follows another major commendation he received earlier in April from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Southern Command, which acknowledged his ongoing collaboration, leadership, and outstanding operational support within the reserve force.

As one of India's pioneering citizen-soldier bureaucrats, Major Manivannan's dual commitment highlights the profound ethos of public service—demonstrating that administrative excellence in urban governance and military readiness in the armed forces can go hand in hand to serve the nation.

ancies in Karnataka, spotlighting targeted complaints filed in constituencies like Belagavi. He accused ruling opposition legislators of submitting arbitrary petitions seeking the mass deletion of

minority and Dalit voters under false prettexts, noting that tens of thousands of removal applications lacked verified personal signatures or legitimate declarations from the affected citizens.

Demands for Accountability and Nationwide Agitation
Escalating the party's demands, Hariprasad declared that the actions of the top election authority amounted to a severe breach of constitutional trust, calling for the immediate resignation and legal accountability of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The KPCC president announced that if central authorities fail to address these grave irregularities transparently, the Congress party will expand its demonstrations to all district headquarters across Karnataka, mobilizing a relentless grassroots campaign to safeguard the Constitution and protect every citizen's fundamental right to vote.



Quick Read

State drought relief insufficient, claims BJP leader

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI
BJP District Rural Secretary Sundara D. Sagara strongly criticized the state government for announcing a meager ₹2,500 input subsidy for drought-hit farmers on Saturday. Calling the relief an insult to struggling cultivators, Sagara demanded interim aid of at least ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 per acre. He stated that cultivating one acre in North Karnataka costs nearly ₹30,000, while a fertilizer bag alone costs up to ₹3,000. He urged the administration to stop token gestures and immediately distribute free seeds, fertilizers, and sowing tools for the post-monsoon season to restore farmers' confidence.

Revered Koppal seer invited to inaugurate Dasara

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
District Women's Congress President Jyothi M. Gondabal expressed joy over Sri Gaviddeshwara Mahaswamiji being invited to open this year's Mysuru Dasara festival. She commended the state government and key leaders for recognizing the seer's social service, environmental work, and charitable deeds. Gondabal noted the historical link between the region and Mysuru's golden carriage through Kumara Rama. She also voiced hope that the seer's visit would help highlight local concerns, including halting operations of the Baldota firm, bringing pride to all of North Karnataka.

Engineers must control machines: Parameshwara

Highlighting Karnataka's tech prowess, Dr. Parameshwara urged transforming the state into a global innovation hub for semiconductors and clean energy

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI
Engineers must learn to control machines rather than be controlled by them, stated Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Saturday. Addressing the 26th Annual Convocation of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) as the chief guest, Dr. Parameshwara urged graduates to prepare for the era of Artificial Intelligence and Artificial General Intelligence. He stressed that India must shift from being merely a provider of tech talent to becoming a global creator of technology. While modern algorithms can write software, analyze scans, and design molecules, he noted that human creativity, critical thinking, and character remain indispensable. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that AI adoption should move beyond IT firms into healthcare, construction, manufacturing, and agriculture. Smart tools can assist



farmers with irrigation schedules and crop diseases, while robotics can handle hazardous industrial tasks to improve human productivity. Highlighting the state's industrial leadership, Dr. Parameshwara noted that Karnataka houses 550 Global Capability Centres, nearly 18,000 startups, and generated approximately ₹4.59 lakh crore in software exports during 2024-25. He urged Karnataka to grow from India's tech capital into one of the world's preeminent innovation hubs,

focusing on semiconductors, quantum computing, and clean energy. Cautioning against unchecked automation, he insisted that technological progress must remain ethical and inclusive. Invoking Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's principles, he reminded students to design solutions that aid marginalized workers, elderly citizens, and rural communities. He offered five core principles to the graduating engineers: pursue lifelong learning, innovate boldly, preserve

AT A GLANCE

- Core message:** Engineers must control machines, not vice versa.
- AI focus:** Graduates urged to prepare for AI and AGI.
- Technology shift:** India should become a global technology creator.
- Karnataka ecosystem:** 550 GCCs and nearly 18,000 startups.
- Software exports:** ₹4.59 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- Priority sectors:** Semiconductors, quantum computing and clean energy.

integrity, remain compassionate, and serve the nation. He challenged students to use their technical training responsibly to reduce inequalities and build an extraordinary future for India.

CPI protests against SIR, seeks voter rights restoration

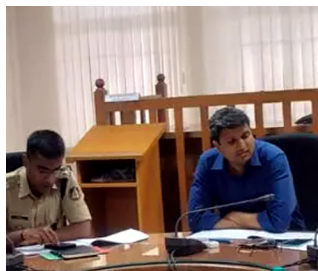
CH NEWS, KALABURAGI
The Kalaburagi district unit of the Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a protest on Saturday, demanding that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls be stopped and voting rights be restored to eligible voters allegedly left out of the voter list. The protesters also demanded the dismissal of Chief Election Commissioner



Gyanesh Kumar. CPI leaders submitted a memorandum to the President of India through the Deputy Commissioner, seeking steps to protect the independent and democratic functioning of the Election Commission.

Yadgir DC orders fast action on SC/ST issues

CH NEWS, YADAGIRI
Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandve directed officials to take quick action to resolve infrastructure issues faced by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the district. He was presiding over a meeting of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the Deputy Commissioner's office under Rule 17 of the Scheduled Castes and



the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for 2026-27.

Khandre orders inquiry into Panchayat fund transfers

CH NEWS, BIDAR
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered an inquiry into alleged financial irregularities involving Chandori Gram Panchayat in Kamalanagar taluk. The inquiry follows reports that more than ₹20 lakh was deposited into the account of a single individual from the Chandori Gram Panchayat in June. In a written directive to the Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer, Khandre also referred to similar allegations involving Korekal Gram Panchayat. Complaints have alleged that more than ₹6 lakh was transferred to a single individual's account there. The minister directed that an inquiry team headed by an officer of Deputy Secretary rank be formed to conduct a detailed examination of the financial transfers in both Gram Panchayats. Khandre instructed the inquiry team to complete the investigation and submit its report within seven days. The inquiry will examine whether any financial irregularities, including the transfer or deposit of public funds into a single individual's account, have taken place. The minister also directed that the inquiry cover other



Eshwar Khandre
Khandre ordered a seven-day inquiry into alleged financial irregularities, specifically examining whether public funds were improperly transferred to an individual's account

Gram Panchayats in the district, with particular attention to Chandori and Korekal. The report must include the facts of the matter and recommendations for disciplinary action against officials and staff found responsible for any wrongdoing. The inquiry is intended to establish the facts surrounding the alleged fund transfers and determine whether rules were violated. Officials have been asked to complete the process within the given deadline and submit their findings to the authorities.

THE INQUIRY

₹20 lakh+

deposited into one individual's account from Chandori Gram Panchayat in June

₹6 lakh+

transferred to a single individual's account at Korekal Gram Panchayat

7 days

for the inquiry team to complete its investigation and submit the report

Team headed by a Deputy Secretary-rank officer; the inquiry also covers other gram panchayats in the district.

HDFC BANK LIMITED					05				
Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013 Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001 Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com					Mr. Sethu Madhavan Sandur Kustigi (Borrower) BEML Limited, Designation: Manager Department: Research and Develop, Employee No: 26511, EDP Dept, Blore Complex, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru 560075. Mr. Sethu Madhavan Sandur Kustigi (Borrower) Mrs. Akshaya Sudha (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at: No 575, 1st Main 12th Cross RHCS Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagara, Bangalore North Viswaneedm Post, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560072. Also at: Unit-421, Jr Urbania South Blk-2, S No 69,74/2,75/1a,28,71/1, 17/1,71/3, Lingapura Village, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru 562106.				
DEMAND NOTICE					1) 635158157 - Rs.9,89,369/- 2) 635158205 - Rs.1,24,461/- 3) 636564045 - Rs.9,500/- Total Amount : Rs.11,23,330/- [Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Only] as on 31.07.2026				
Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.					Loan A/c Nos: 1) 642327913 - Rs.17,18,542/- 2) 645299218 - Rs.93,635/- Total Amount Rs.18,12,177/- [Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Twelve Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Seven Only] as on 31.07.2026				
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC) under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.					20.08.2026 MAKA RESIDENCY, FLAT-FF-6,FLOOR-1, Plot 119,120,140,141, S No 95/1,Brahmapura Extn, Gulbarga - 585101				
In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC , within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to HDFC by the said Borrower (s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.					20.08.2026 Item No.1 LAN No. 701839367 Unit-309, The Estate (Bldr), S No 38/1 To 7, Chokkarasanapalli And, Kodyialam Village, Krishnaginri 635109				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 701839367 Rs.20,98,019/- 2) 681977102 Rs.15,95,062/- 3) 683498305 Rs.31,390/- Total Amount Rs.37,24,471/- [Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy One Only] as on 31.07.2026				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)	Item No.2 LAN No. 681977102 & 683498305 Flat-A5-58004,Floor-Ground, Sobha Dream Acres Oasis Phas-27 Wing, S No 49/1,2,4,5,7,76/1to3,58/1, 2,60/1and3,59/1 to 5,81/1, Balagere Village, Varthur, Hobli, Bengalore East Taluk, Bengaluru 560087				
01	Mr. Ramamurthy Sudha (Borrower) Beansstalk and Achala Vidya Mandir School Designation: Proprietor, 1199, Achala Vidya Mandir School, 18A Main Road, 5th Block Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560010. Mr. Ramamurthy Arjun (Co-Borrower) Adwit (India) Private Limited, Designation: Cons, 89/1 Railway Parrelel Road,Kumara Park West Extn, Bengaluru 560020. Both re residing at: # 2, Poorna Prasad Road, Off Kumarakrupa Road, Bangalore G P O, High Grounds, Bengaluru, 560001. Also at: Unit-115, Rashi Gateway Phase-2, S No 6,9,10,12, 13/1,13/2, 15/1, Obanaya Kanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala tq, Bengaluru 562123.	Loan A/c Nos: 671830949 Rs.18,37,783/- [Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Three Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.07.2025	All that piece and parcel of converted residential Site bearing No.115, measuring East to West 15.24 mtrs., (50ft..), and North to South 9.14 mtrs., (30ft..) and totally measuring 139.29 Sq.mtrs., (1,500 Sq.ft.), carved out in converted Sy.No.9, situated at Obanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, in the layout known as "RASHI GATEWAY II" (approved vide order No. NPA: LAO:29:2014-15 dated 19-08-2015 and bounded on: East by : Site bearing No.159; West by : Road; North by : Site bearing No.114; South by : Site bearing No.116; And any construction thereon present and future.	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.04.2025				
02	Mrs. Anuradha Mysoremath Rajashekar (Borrower) Tata Power Solar Systems Limited Designation: Analyst- Customer Se Department: Customer Service & O Employee No: 00204794, No 78 Phase I, Hosur Road, Electronics City, Bengaluru 560100. Also at: No 35, C B Nilaya, Kuvempu Road, Vignana Nagar, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru 560075. Also at: Flat-II-5A-203, 2nd Floor, Provident Sunworth Block 5, S No 1 to 26, Venkatapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru 560060.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 629129400 - Rs. 6,61,911/- 2) 6229534265 Rs.86,873/- Total Amount:Rs.7,48,784/- [Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand and Seven Hundred and Eighty Four Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.08.2025	Flat-II-5A-203, 2nd Floor, Provident Sun worth Block 5, S No.1 To 26, Venkatapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru 560060	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.04.2025				
03	Mr. Alok Ranjan Dash (Borrower) Societe Generale, Designation: Technical Manager Department: Sgsc Gts/Hcs/Dir Pri, Employee No: 15248, Pritech Building 12th Block, 8th Flr Bellendur Rmz Eco, Space Bengaluru 560103. Mr. Alok Ranjan Dash (Borrower) Mrs. Srotaswinee Dash (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: No1103 E Blk, Phase 1, Concord Manhattan, Neeladri Road, Electornic City, Bengaluru 560100. Also at: No 208, Aditya Vintage, Basapura Main Road Nr Mahindra, Electronic City Bengaluru 560100. Also at: Unit-56, Pioneer Gardeniaa, S No 43, Gattahalli Village, Sarjapura Hb, Bengaluru 562125.	Loan A/c Nos: 650349134 Rs.27,66,969/- [Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine Only] as on 31.07.2026	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 20.06.2025	Pionier Gardeniaa Unit 56, S No 43, Gattahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Sarjapura, Bengaluru 562125 Karnataka.	14.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.04.2025				
04	Mr. Shafeeq Farheen Zarafshan (Borrower) BCD Travel India Pvt Ltd,Designation: Manager, Department: Product And Planning, EmployeeNo: 1793, BCDTravel08067155000,BannerghattaRoad,Bhavani,NagBangalore 560029. Also at: No 1339 1st Stage 3rd Block, BehindArabic College, HBRLayout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560045. Mr. Amreen Gulfishan (Co-Borrower) Amazon Development Centre (India) Private Limited Designation: SeniorAssociate, Department: ProductCompliance, EmployeeNo: 112808129, 08066055000 Amazon Bagmane, Orion Ferns City Road, Ferns City, Doddaneekkundi, Bangalore-560048. Also at: #49, 5th A Cross, TMCS Layout, Sarakk J, P Nagar, 1st Phase,VTC Bangalore South,JP Nagar, Bengaluru-560078 Mr. Shafeeq Farheen Zarafshan (Borrower) Mr. Amreen Gulfishan (Co-Borrower), Both are residing at: Flat-J-0167, Floor-1, Brigade Bricklane -Los, S No 95p,97, Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560063.	Loan A/c Nos: 1) 702746589 Rs.38,39,885/- 2) 693594002 Rs.27,876/- Total Amount Rs.38,67,761/- [Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred and Sixty One Only] as on 31.07.2026	17.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 07.05.2025	Flat-J-0167, Floor-1, "BRIGADE BRICKLANE -LOS", S No 95P,97, Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560063	18.08.2026 N.P.A. Date: (e) 06.04.2024				
*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Bank Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Bank Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Bank Limited . Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.					For HDFC Bank Ltd. Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002				
Date : 27.09.2026 Place: Bangalore									

Quick Read



Elusive tiger captured in Chamara-janagar

CH NEWS, CHAMARA-JANAGAR
The Karnataka Forest Department has successfully captured the male tiger responsible for killing and partially devouring a farmer named Basavanna in Badagalapura, Chamara-janagar taluk. The 6- to 7-year-old tiger was tranquilized on Saturday morning near Maragadake in Tavarekatte Mole village, bringing relief to terrified local communities. The capture concluded an intensive 12-day operation launched on September 15 by the Billigiriranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve team following the fatal attack. Led by Deputy Conservator of Forests B.S. Sripathi, the search mobilized over 65 personnel, including skilled tribal trackers, a specialized dog squad, and aerial tracking via regular and thermal drones. After initial search efforts yielded no traces, officials tracked the tiger toward Tavarekatte Mole using drone surveillance. The team, aided by trained captive elephants Kanjan and Eshwar, cornered and safely darted the animal, bringing the operation to a successful close.

Anganwadi staff to strike on Sept 28

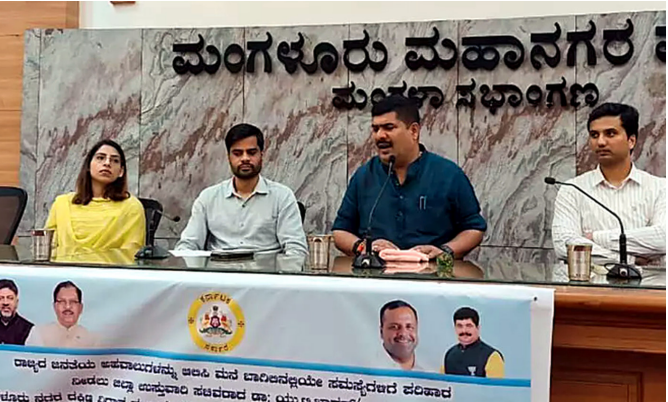
CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Anganwadi workers and helpers in Dakshina Kannada will stage a protest march and strike on September 28 from Jyothi Circle to Mini Vidhana Soudha, demanding minimum wages, healthcare coverage, and prompt disbursements. Announcing the agitation on Saturday, District Association President Tara Ballal criticized the meager monthly honorarium of ₹12,000 for workers and ₹6,000 for helpers, which is frequently delayed by months. The association demanded regular payments by the 5th of each month, implementation of statutory minimum wages, ESI or health insurance, and clearance of gratuity dues pending since 2011. Protesters also cited out-of-pocket expenses due to state egg procurement funds falling short of retail market prices, alongside inadequate contingency allowances. They further urged authorities to provide 5G smartphones for digital reporting, provide meeting allowances, and relieve single-staffed centers from burdensome survey assignments.

Train kills eight buffaloes in Hospet

CH NEWS, HOSPET
A train hit a herd of buffaloes crossing the railway tracks near Mariammanahalli in Hospet taluk, killing eight animals instantly. The impact tore the bodies of the buffaloes apart and caused the train to derail. The cattle belonged to Kalappa, a local resident of Mariammanahalli, who suffered massive financial losses due to the tragedy. Railway authorities and police officers quickly visited the accident site to inspect the damage. The case was registered under Mariammanahalli police station limits, and officials are looking into the rail incident.

Prajaseve Andolana in Mangaluru sees heavy citizen turnout

MLA Kamath addressed suspended pensions and infrastructure grievances, promising to formally present residents’ concerns to the state administration



CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Hundreds of citizens gathered at the City Corporation’s Mangala Auditorium on Saturday to participate in the Mangaluru ‘A’ Hobli-level ‘Praja Seve Andolana’ public grievance redressal campaign. Presided over by MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath, the interactive forum saw senior district administrators including Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V., City Corporation Commissioner Rahul Ratna Pandey, and Assistant Commissioner Meenakshi Arya directly receive petitions and hear public concerns. Grievances were dominated

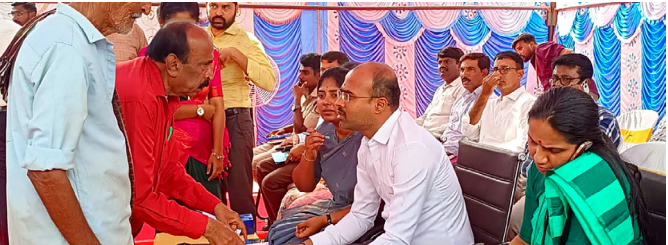
by issues surrounding civic infrastructure, social welfare pensions, and urban planning delays. A resident from Bajal highlighted that her monthly financial assistance under the ‘Sandhya Suraksha’ scheme had been suspended for the past six months. Addressing the matter, MLA Kamath explained that social security pensions for Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders were placed on hold following policy decisions by the current state government. While noting his limitations as an opposition legislator to unilaterally reverse the directive, he assured that the grievance

PUBLIC GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL OVERVIEW		
CATEGORY	KEY ISSUE/PETITION	ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE & STATUS
SOCIAL SECURITY	Suspended Sandhya Suraksha Pensions	APL cardholder pensions on hold; MLA to petition state
CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE	Drainage and Door Number Delays	Engineers ordered to fix sanitary works without delay
URBAN PLANNING	Land Conversion and Layout Bottlenecks	Citizens committee urged restoration of old property card system
COMMUNITY WELFARE	Kasaba Bengre Women’s Hall	Pledged funding through MLA Local Area Development Scheme

would be placed formally before the state administration. Citizens also flagged inadequate underground drainage networks, overflowing lines, and administrative delays in allocating residential door numbers, prompting Kamath to instruct municipal engineers to address basic sanitary works without procedural delays. Additionally, he pledged funding from the MLA Local Area Development Scheme to construct a community hall for a women’s association in Kasaba Bengre. Hanumantha Kamath of the Citizens’ Welfare Committee

raised serious concerns over severe bottlenecks in land conversion and single-site layout approvals. Submitting a detailed memorandum, he noted that the state government’s discontinuation of the ‘Property Card’ system had created bureaucratic paralysis, forcing applicants to wait for months across multiple offices. Kamath urged authorities to restore the earlier streamlined clearance mechanism, noting he has already petitioned the Revenue Minister. The MLA urged officials to resolve all citizen petitions with administrative urgency and empathy.

Public campaign resolves citizen grievances in Shidlaghatta



CH NEWS, SHIDLAGHATTA
The public service campaign aims to save citizens from making repeated visits to government offices, stated Assistant Commissioner Ashwin. Inaugurating the “Praja Seva Andolana” at the Jangamakote Hobli administrative office, he noted that the government has reached people’s doorsteps to address issues within a fixed timeframe. Citizens should not have to run between taluk and district headquarters for basic needs, he emphasized.

Thousands of residents from across the Hobli attended to air their problems, standing in lines for hours. Although separate submission counters had been prepared, server disruptions stalled digital receipts. As a result, applicants submitted their petitions directly to authorities seated on stage. Officials called departmental heads to the dais immediately, issuing clear directions to settle urgent matters on the spot. Pension sanction letters were also handed over to several eligible beneficiaries during the session. The massive turnout triggered a two-hour traffic jam along the busy route connecting Jangamakote and Sugatur. The gathering grew tense when farmer leaders questioned the Deputy Commissioner’s absence. Farmer representative Ramachandrappa asked why senior officials missed the camp while ex-

HIGHLIGHTS
■ Campaign aims to spare citizens office visits
■ Server outage: petitions handed in on stage
■ Two-hour traffic jam, Jangamakote to Sugatur
■ Farmer leaders questioned the DC’s absence
■ Pension sanction letters handed over
■ Petition progress trackable on mobile phones

Missing KRIDL engineer leaves note blaming harassment



MISSING SINCE SEPT 13
MALINGARAYA PUJAR
CH NEWS
Farveez Dharwad, an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) with Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL), has gone missing after penning a distress note citing severe mental harassment over unpaid government grants.

13 under the pretext of attending an official departmental review meeting in Bengaluru and has remained untraceable ever since. His abrupt disappearance has left his wife, young daughter, aging parents, and siblings devastated. The distraught family appealed tearfully to the state government, demanding immediate institutional intervention to clear the financial backlog and seeking swift police action to locate him. Following a complaint filed by relatives, the Betageri Barangay Police Station in Gadag registered an official missing person case on September 16. Law enforcement authorities have constituted specialized search teams to trace his whereabouts and analyze digital tracking leads. Dharwad’s brother Sahil and father-in-law Altaf have urged senior administrative figures to intervene promptly, demanding that authorities hold aggressive contractors accountable while safeguarding the lives of honest public servants caught under severe systemic distress.

HIGHLIGHTS
■ KRIDL engineer missing after a distress note
■ Sept 12 letter cited severe mental harassment
■ Crores in unpaid funds left subcontractors waiting
■ Family demands immediate clearance of funds
■ Missing person case registered on Sept 16
■ Relatives want aggressive contractors held accountable

The engineer departed from his residence on September

Prakash Raj barred from addressing DYFI convention in Bagepalli

Regulatory restrictions forced Raj to bypass his keynote address and depart, sparking outrage among attendees who condemned the curbs as authoritarian censorship



CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA
Multilingual actor and activist Prakash Raj was restrained by local administrative authorities from delivering a public address at a Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) convention organized in Bagepalli town on Saturday. Citing the Model Code of Conduct in force, Bagepalli Taluk Executive Officer and Nodal Officer Nagamani halted the proposed speech after securing a written undertaking from the event organizers. The administration further issued specific directives barring any public commentary concerning the Special Investment Region (SIR) or the Election Commission of India. In the wake of the regulatory restrictions, Raj refrained from delivering his keynote address, choosing instead to flag off the scheduled youth procession before departing for Chikkaballapur. The intervention triggered sharp indignation among convention attendees, who termed the ad-

ministrative curbs authoritarian and an infringement on freedom of speech. Addressing journalists in Chikkaballapur, Raj voiced strong criticism over the procedural restrictions, stating that demanding such written undertakings undermines basic democratic norms. Asserting that officials lacked the fortitude to serve any restrictive notice directly to him, the actor remarked that administrative authorities were apprehensive about his critique. Raj clarified that his visit was conducted as part of an independent awareness campaign concerning the Election Commission’s special summary revision of electoral rolls. He maintained that he had arrived at Bagepalli strictly to participate in the public awareness march and urged reporters to question the specific authorities responsible for enforcing the restrictions. The episode added to ongoing political friction across the district, where law enforcement had separately detained protesting opposition party workers.

Congress to march against Election Commission in Mangaluru

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Dakshina Kannada District Congress Committee President Padmaraj R. Pujari announced that a massive protest rally will be held on September 28 from Pumpwell Junction to Padil Prajasoudha, condemning alleged institutional bias by Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.



Addressing a press conference at the party’s district headquarters on Saturday, Pujari demanded Kumar’s immediate resignation and urged the Union Government to initiate formal legal proceedings against him. Pujari stated that the non-partisan credibility of the Election Commission has been compromised, alleging that unilateral decisions were taken while brushing aside fourteen substantive objections previously raised by fellow election commissioners. He claimed that concerns regarding electoral irregularities and voter-list discrepancies raised by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi were being vindicated, pointing to alleged procedural lapses in Maharashtra and the Mahadevapura constituency in Karnataka. The rally will see broad participation from the district in-charge minister, local legislators, heads of statutory boards, and civil society groups. Turning to regional affairs, Pujari praised the state gov-

ernment for according second-language status to Tulu, describing the move as a major milestone for the cultural identity of Tulunadu. He strongly condemned former MP Pratap Simha for publicly questioning the tangible utility of the official status, asserting that Simha’s remarks insulted the local populace and demanding an unconditional apology. Pujari also defended the state’s regional development record, recalling projects worth over ₹16,000 crore sanctioned during the cabinet session in Mangaluru, alongside plans for an upcoming coastal Investors’ Meet. He accused the BJP of political hypocrisy for deriding Karnataka’s social guarantee schemes as unsustainable while repackaging identical welfare programs in other states. MLC Ivan D’Souza, MESCOM Chairman Harish Kumar, and senior party leaders Shashidhar Hegde, Lancelot Pinto, and Mamata Gatti were present.

PAC SOCIETY GROWTH

Farmers urged to deposit funds in Cooperative Society



AT A GLANCE
■ Financial Mobilization: Farmers are urged to deposit funds and buy shares in local cooperative societies.
■ Institutional Governance: Legal procedures are underway to recover 80 lakh in misappropriated funds.
■ Credit Expansion: Nearly 10 crore in agricultural advances disbursed with NABARD refinancing planned.

CH NEWS, KOLAR
Cooperative societies are essential financial lifelines for agrarian communities, and shareholders must actively support institutional growth by depositing funds and purchasing shares, urged DCC Bank Director and Narasapura Society President Khajikallahalli Muniraju. Addressing the annual general body meeting of the Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society in Narasapura on Friday, he appealed to farming families to conduct their primary financial transactions through cooperative channels rather than

commercial banks. Muniraju addressed past governance challenges, noting that legal procedures are underway to recover approximately ₹80 lakh allegedly misappropriated by an earlier secretary. He emphasized that the board is committed to financial integrity while focusing on institutional modernization, highlighting the construction of a new headquarters building valued at ₹1.40 crore. The society has disbursed nearly ₹10 crore in agricultural advances to date, with plans underway to secure refinancing from NABARD and the Apex Bank. He urged

farmers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts promptly to retain subsidized interest benefits despite erratic weather patterns, adding that disciplined Stree Shakti self-help groups will receive prioritized fresh lending. Touching upon district-level cooperative health, Muniraju noted that the newly constituted DCC Bank board requires five to six months to stabilize operations after previous administrative failures left nearly ₹400 crore in non-performing assets facing recovery proceedings. Addressing public distribution hurdles, he stated that

presidents of twelve taluk societies submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner seeking to lower the ration distribution threshold from 500 to 300 ration cards to serve rural sub-centers efficiently. Society Vice-President V. Ganesh, CEO Manjunel cooperative health, Muniraju noted that the newly constituted DCC Bank board requires five to six months to stabilize operations after previous administrative failures left nearly ₹400 crore in non-performing assets facing recovery proceedings. Addressing public distribution hurdles, he stated that

₹1.40 cr value of the new HQ building

Quick Read

Chandigarh cop shot dead by teen son

CH NEWS, CHANDIGARH
A head constable of Chandigarh Police who was allegedly shot dead inside his house by his teen son had told him to wait till he turns 21 to marry his girlfriend, the police have said. The deceased, identified as Nitin Singh (45), who was posted with the accounts branch at the Chandigarh Police headquarters, was found dead at his government residence in Sector 22 with a gunshot injury to his head on Friday, a day after he had an argument with his 18-year-old son, Armaan. A country-made pistol was recovered from the spot, that was brought from Haridwar, Uttarakhand. A senior police officer said Armaan, who has been arrested, also tried to harm his mother, Monika, an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), by grabbing her by the neck. She however escaped, rushed to the rooftop and alerted her neighbours.

Court adjourns hearing in women wrestlers' appeal

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Saturday postponed the hearing on an appeal filed by four women wrestlers challenging the acquittal of former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a sexual harassment case. The appeal, filed on Friday, also challenges the acquittal of former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar on charges of criminal intimidation. The matter was not taken up on Saturday as Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh was away attending judicial training. Court staff said the case would now be heard on Monday. On August 3, a magisterial court acquitted Singh in the sexual harassment case brought by six women wrestlers, citing insufficient evidence. Tomar was also acquitted in the case. In their appeal, the wrestlers argued that the trial court's decision was legally unsustainable and based on what they described as an erroneous and selective assessment of the evidence.

Delhi cops arrest 3 in Rani Bagh theft case

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police Crime Branch has solved a theft case registered at Rani Bagh Police Station and arrested three accused persons, including two former employees of the complainant and a mini-truck driver who operated near the complainant's shop. According to the Crime Branch, the entire stolen cash amount of Rs 2,10,340, an Apple laptop with charger, and a pitthu bag containing a bank passbook, pen drive and a copy of the Aadhaar Card were recovered from the accused.

Sukhu targets BJP over HP finances

The CM accused the previous BJP govt of financial mismanagement, while highlighting new welfare measures and Kishau Project savings.

CH NEWS, MANDI

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday accused the previous Bharatiya Janata Party government of worsening the state's financial position and alleged that resources received during its tenure were not utilised properly. Addressing a public meeting at Kansa Chowk in the Balh Assembly constituency of Mandi district, Sukhu said the BJP's "double-engine" model had pushed Himachal Pradesh into a debt trap. He claimed the state received around Rs 60,000 crore through Revenue Deficit Grant and GST compensation



during the previous government's tenure. Sukhu said his Congress government, which assumed office around 45 months ago, restored the Old Pension Scheme in its first Cabinet meeting. He said the decision was followed by the Centre stopping financial assistance of about Rs 1,600 crore to the

state. The Chief Minister also highlighted his government's response to natural disasters, saying around 23,000 damaged houses were rebuilt using state resources. On the Kishau Multipurpose Project, Sukhu said the state had protected its financial interests. He claimed the

HP CM slams previous BJP govt

- Sukhu alleged BJP tenure worsened Himachal's financial position.
- He cited around **Rs 60,000 crore** in RDG and GST compensation.
- Kishau project expected to save Himachal around **Rs 3,000 crore**, he said.
- Family-income ceiling under welfare scheme raised to **Rs 75,000**.
- **Mandatory one-day MGNREGA work condition** to be removed.

agreement would save Himachal around Rs 3,000 crore and could generate annual revenue of Rs 1,200 crore to Rs 1,500 crore once operational.

Sukhu also announced changes to the Mukhya Mantri Ka Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana, including removal of the mandatory one-day MGNREGA work condition and raising the family-income ceiling from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000.

Yogi holds key Delhi meetings ahead of UP polls



CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday, following an earlier meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Adityanath described his meeting with Nadda as a courtesy interaction in a post

on X. Earlier, he called on Prime Minister Modi in the national capital and presented him with an idol of Lord Ganesha.

The meetings come amid heightened political and organisational activity in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. The BJP has been conducting organisational reviews across the

state, including at booth, Shakti Kendra, mandal and district levels. BJP national president Nitin Nabin recently undertook a two-day visit to western Uttar Pradesh, where he reviewed organisational preparedness and interacted with party workers.

During his meeting with Modi, Adityanath said the Prime Minister's guidance gave him renewed energy for building what he described as a "New Uttar Pradesh".

The meetings also followed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Greater Noida on September 25 for the inauguration of the fourth Uttar Pradesh International

Recent BJP activities in UP

- **Nitin Nabin** visited western Uttar Pradesh for organisational reviews.
- **BJP leaders** assessed booth-level preparedness and grassroots coordination.
- **Yogi Adityanath** recently participated in party programmes in Meerut.
- **Amit Shah** inaugurated the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida.
- **BJP's organisational mobilisation** is continuing ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls.

Trade Show. Shah highlighted Uttar Pradesh's role in defence production and described the state as an emerging engine of national growth.

Shah pitches for women-led cooperatives in Kerala



CH NEWS, KUNDARA

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asked Kerala's Co-operation Minister M. Liju to visit New Delhi and work out a comprehensive plan with the Centre to strengthen the cooperative sector in the state, while pitching women-led co-operatives as a key driver of rural economic empowerment.

Addressing a large women's cooperative gathering at Kundara, HM Shah said Kerala had a strong foundation in the cooperative movement and urged the state to make greater use of the potential in sectors ranging from agriculture to fisheries.

"I don't know how to speak Malayalam, but I give all of you my respects," the Home Minister said at the outset, before welcoming those attending the programme.

HM Shah said the demand for a separate Ministry of Co-operation had existed since Independence and became a reality under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said more than 23,000 cooperative units were functioning in Kerala and urged the state to work with the Centre on expanding their activities.

HM Shah also highlighted the role of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and NAFED in promoting women entrepreneurs.

He said NCCF was expanding its retail network and that Vanitha She Marts would provide women with a direct route to markets for their products.

Referring to the Centre's programmes, HM Shah said Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were now available in Kerala and spoke of initiatives under the Atmanirbhar Bharat programme for providing pulse seeds to women.

He also distributed scholarships to children at the function. HM Shah said the cooperative movement could become an important instrument for women's economic empowerment, particularly in rural areas.

Acharya Pramod claims getting threats from Khalistani group

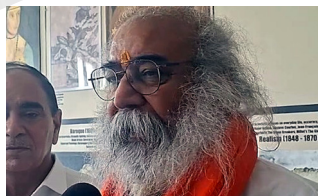
CH NEWS, SAMBHAL

Spiritual leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam on Saturday claimed getting threat calls and audio messages from a Khalistani terror group 'Babbar Khalsa', attributing it to his anti-Khalistan posts and statements.

Speaking to reporters in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Acharya Pramod Krishnam said: "I have made several statements and put up posts against Khalistan-related activities and against those supporting Khalistan...I received similar international calls a few days ago, but I did not answer them."

"I had not picked up even this call, but the person sent me an audio message. After listening to it, I searched for the concerned person and found out that he belongs to a very dangerous organisation," he added. The spiritual leader said that he had received the audio message on September 24.

Maintaining that he didn't understand much of what the person said, since it's in traditional Punjabi, Acharya Krishnam said: "In the audio, the person identified himself as Kulvir Singh Sidhu and said that he carried out the Jalandhar incident. He threat-



ened to kill me with bombs and guns and even use rocket launchers within four days. He also warned me to shut down 'all kinds of hypocrisy'."

"When I spoke to some police officials in order to get information about this person, they told me that he belongs to a dangerous terrorist organisation named 'Babbar Khalsa'," he stated.

When asked about his next step of action, the spiritual leader affirmed: "I am continuing my work. My entire life is dedicated to the construction of Kalki Dham and to Sanatan Dharma. However, it was my duty and responsibility to share this matter with the country because it is a very serious and sensitive issue."

"Accordingly, I am sharing it with the Uttar Pradesh Police, the Union Home Ministry and the people of the country." He called the Sikhs and Hindus as "children of the same mother".

Dhami targets AAP over Punjab drug menace



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the BJP wanted to build an 'Ubharda Punjab'.

CH NEWS, MUKERIAN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of failing to curb Punjab's drug problem and said the BJP wanted to build an "Ubharda Punjab", or Rising Punjab.

Addressing public gatherings during the BJP's Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra in Dasuha, Umar and Mukerian, Dhami alleged that the AAP government had pushed Punjab deeper into the drug crisis and failed to protect its youth.

Dhami alleged that drug peddlers had been given a free hand while people questioning the government faced harassment. He also referred to court observations while alleging failures by the state government and police in taking effective action against

drug trafficking.

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister said the BJP's campaign was aimed at restoring Punjab's pride and protecting young people rather than merely seeking votes.

Former Union Minister Som Prakash also targeted the AAP leadership, alleging that its earlier promises to eliminate drugs had not produced the promised results.

Mukerian BJP MLA Jangli Lal Mahajan said the party had prepared a roadmap to tackle the problem and urged people to support the campaign.

The AAP and BJP have traded accusations over responsibility for Punjab's drug problem. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has countered BJP criticism by pointing to the party's earlier alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal and arguing that the drug problem also worsened during that period.

Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra

The BJP's statewide anti-drug campaign

117 Assembly constituencies
~4,000 km across Punjab
4 separate routes
Sep 30 concludes in Jalandhar

Delhi govt forms 3 special panels to oversee Ramlila

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has constituted three special committees to oversee preparations for the upcoming Ramlila, Durga Puja and Chhath Puja celebrations in the national Capital, with the aim of ensuring better facilities, security and smooth arrangements for devotees.

The committees have been formed on the directions of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and will review and finalise venues for the respective festivals while coordinating arrangements related to civic amenities, security, traffic management, sanitation, electricity, medical facilities and other essential services.

For Ramlila celebrations, the committee will be headed by Social Welfare, SC and ST Welfare, Cooperation and Election Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh. MLAs Ashok Goyal, Anil Kumar Sharma, Shyam Sharma, Sanjay Goyal and Sandeep Sheharawat have been included as members, while the Secretary, Revenue-cum-Divisional Commissioner, will serve as member secretary.

The committee will coordinate the issuance of necessary NOCs through a single-window system and oversee drinking water, medical assistance, ambulances, fire services, security, mobile toilets,



traffic management, cleanliness, fogging and uninterrupted electricity at Ramlila venues.

For Durga Puja, Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra will head the committee. MLAs Shikha Roy and Neeraj Basoya, along with social workers Anjali Bhattacharya, Devdutt Bhardwaj and Arun Mukherjee, will be members.

The committee will oversee similar civic and safety arrangements and will additionally ensure arrangements for artificial or temporary ponds or tanks for idol immersion and the cleaning of remnants after immersion.

Mishra will also head the Chhath Puja committee, whose members include MLAs Abhay Kumar Verma, Chandan Kumar Chaudhary, Sandeep Sheharawat and Deepak Chaudhary, along with social worker Santosh Ojha.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said Ramlila, Durga Puja and Chhath Puja are important festivals of faith that also reflect Delhi's social and cultural diversity.

Truck hits students in Gwalior, 1 killed



CH NEWS, GWALIOR

Two students riding a motorcycle were hit by a speeding truck in Gwalior, leaving a 17-year-old student dead and his friend seriously injured, police said on Saturday.

The accident occurred near Khurairi Crossing under Murar police station limits when the students were returning home after meeting a friend in the Baragaon area.

Police identified the deceased as Lavkush Dhaval, a Class 12 student and resident of Santosh Nagar in Gohad, Bhind district. According to police, Lavkush and his friend Prashant Kumar were travelling on a motorcycle when a truck allegedly hit their vehicle from behind

near Khurairi Crossing. The impact threw both students onto the highway. Lavkush came under the truck's wheel, which ran over his head, killing him on the spot. Prashant suffered serious injuries to his head and right leg.

Police rushed the injured students to the District Hospital in Murar, where doctors declared Lavkush dead. Prashant is undergoing treatment at the hospital and is stated to be in critical condition, police said.

After the accident, the truck driver fled from the spot. Police and other motorists pursued the vehicle, after which the driver abandoned the truck and escaped.

The police seized the truck, bearing registration number RJ 11GB 2235, and launched a search for the driver. Murar police station in-charge Maina Patel said the investigation was underway and efforts were being made to trace the truck driver.

BJP, Sri Lankan JVP begin engagement



CH NEWS, NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party will host a five-member delegation from Sri Lanka's ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna from September 27 to Octo-

ber 1, with BJP National President Nitin Nabin scheduled to lead party workers during the delegation's engagements in New Delhi.

The visit is aimed at strengthening organisational engagement between the two political parties and facilitating an exchange of experiences, according to a BJP statement. The delegation will be led by JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva and is expected to interact with BJP morchas and departments at the party headquarters.

The Sri Lankan delegation will also visit Parliament and the Delhi BJP office. During

its stay, the group is scheduled to meet BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B. L. Santhosh and other senior BJP leaders.

The delegation includes Chandrika Adikari, a JVP Central Committee member; Aboobucker Athambawa, a Member of Parliament; Kabilan Suntharamoorthy, a District Committee member; and Kalpana Madhubhashini, a member of the party's International Department.

The programme also includes meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, according to

the BJP statement.

The engagement comes amid continued BJP efforts to expand interactions with political parties and diplomatic representatives abroad. In September, Nabin interacted with mission heads and senior diplomats from eight countries under the party's Know BJP initiative.

JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva has previously described India as an important partner for Sri Lanka and said his party's approach to relations with India has evolved toward contemporary economic and development issues.

Quick Read



First meeting of BJP's new state in-charges on Sep 29

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hold the first meeting of its newly appointed state in-charges and co-in-charges at the party's national headquarters in New Delhi on September 29, a party statement said on Saturday. The meeting, to be chaired by BJP National President Nitin Nabin, will bring together the party's newly appointed in-charges and co-in-charges for all 28 states and eight Union Territories. On September 23, the BJP announced the appointment of in-charges and co-in-charges for all states and Union Territories.

Punjab Counter-Intelligence Inspector Arrested With 3 kg Heroin

CH NEWS, CHANDIGARH Punjab Police have arrested Inspector Baldev Singh, the in-charge of the Counter-Intelligence unit in Ferozepur, allegedly with 3.35 kg of heroin, six pistols and six mobile phones. The arrest has raised serious questions as the officer, who was posted in a unit responsible for tackling drug trafficking, has himself been accused of possessing a large quantity of heroin and illegal weapons. According to Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bhupinder Singh Sidhu, Singh was arrested during the intervening night and Saturday following specific intelligence inputs.

CJP's Ashutosh Ranka To Meet Assam Families

CH NEWS, GUWAHATI Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka on Saturday said he will discuss issues faced by Assam families during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state. Speaking to reporters at the Guwahati airport, Ranka said he would meet families affected by the process and interact with the group's volunteers. He further said he would visit schools in Assam to take a look at their conditions. "We have lots of volunteers in Assam. Today, we will visit schools, discuss SIR issues and meet many families of SIR victims. Later, we will meet our volunteers," Ranka said.

Manjhi Flags SC, ST MPs' Speaking Time



“The issue raised was that MPs from Dalit and Mahadalit communities get fewer opportunities to speak.”
“This is not a personal matter; rather, it is an issue raised by Members of Parliament.”
— Jitan Ram Manjhi
Union Minister for MSME



ECI Extends Delhi SIR Deadline

The Election Commission has extended Delhi's SIR claims deadline to October 30, while allowing online hearings and home document collection for electors facing unmapped or logical discrepancies.

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday extended the deadline for Delhi electors to file claims and objections related to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by one month, allowing applications until October 30, 2026. The earlier deadline for electors whose names were missing from the draft electoral roll was September 30. The Commission also extended the deadline for disposal of notices, claims and objections in Delhi until November 30.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and attended by Election Commissioners S.S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. The ECI said the extension followed a request from the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi. The Commission also eased the requirement for physical appearance of electors who receive SIR notices over unmapped entries or logical discrepancies. Booth Level Officers will visit the homes of such electors to collect supporting documents and upload them on ECINet

for consideration by the Electoral Registration Officer. According to the ECI, such electors generally will not be required to appear personally before the ERO or AERO. Hearings, where considered necessary, will preferably be conducted online. An adult family member may also be authorised to attend a hearing on behalf of an elector. The ECI also extended Maharashtra's claims and objections deadline to October 12 and the disposal deadline to November 10. It said SIR has already been completed in 20 states and Union Territories.



ECI EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS
SEP 30
Earlier Delhi deadline

▶ OCT 30, 2026 ▶
Claims and objections deadline

▶ NOV 30, 2026 ▶
Disposal of notices and claims

OCT 12
Maharashtra claims; disposal till Nov 10

■ Online hearings: Allowed where required
An adult family member may attend hearings

■ Special camps: Help desks for vulnerable groups

■ Family representation:
■ Home visits: BLOs to collect documents from certain electors

Priyanka Demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar Resignation

CH NEWS, WAYANAD Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, intensifying the Opposition's criticism of the Election Commission amid the ongoing controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Speaking to the media during her visit to Wayanad, Priyanka said the INDIA bloc was united on the issue and alleged that the developments surrounding the revision exercise raised concerns about the constitutional and democratic process. "The immediate demand is that Kumar should resign.

We are all together. The INDIA bloc is united. Whatever is going on is anti-constitutional," she said. Priyanka also called for the legal safeguards available to the CEC to be removed in cases involving alleged illegal acts. She said that if it was established that the CEC knowingly allowed violations of the electoral process, he should face legal proceedings. Her remarks followed a report by The Indian Express that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had formally recorded objections on several occasions over decisions and procedures related to electoral rolls. The report said the objections covered issues in-



Priyanka Gandhi has demanded CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation amid escalating Opposition criticism over electoral-roll revision and reported internal objections.

cluding voter registration, deletion and restoration of names and access to electoral-roll software.

■ The Election Commission has maintained that decisions concerning SIR were unanimous, despite reports of objections recorded by two Election Commissioners over various electoral-roll procedures.

Maharashtra Declares Drought In 265 Talukas

CH NEWS, MUMBAI The Maharashtra government on Saturday declared drought in 265 talukas across the state following a review of water availability, crop conditions and the impact of the prevailing deficit on farming communities. The declaration was made under the Trigger-1 framework after state ministers conducted ground-level inspections across affected districts and reviewed the situation with the Agriculture and Revenue departments. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the government would stand firmly with affected farmers and ensure that rural families receive immediate support during the difficult period. He stressed that the drought

declaration would be accompanied by an operational relief plan. District Collectors have been directed to conduct transparent crop-loss assessments using GPS coordinates and high-resolution geo-tagged photographs. Compensation linked to direct crop damage will be announced through a separate government resolution after assessments are completed. Shinde said Rs 10,115 crore had already been distributed to more than 12.58 lakh verified farmers under the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme.

RELIEF MEASURES

- Land revenue payments waived
- Loan recovery stayed
- Crop loans to be restructured
- Agricultural power connections protected from disconnection
- Energy tariff concessions announced
- Exam fees waived for affected farm families
- MGNREGS norms relaxed
- Tankers and fodder supplies accelerated
- Crop losses to be assessed using GPS and geotagged photographs



Maharashtra has declared drought in 265 talukas, announcing financial, agricultural, employment and essential-service relief measures for affected rural communities.

Bhopal Development Plan 2047 draft published



CH NEWS, BHOPAL The Madhya Pradesh government has published the much-awaited draft of the Bhopal Development Plan 2047. The new "master plan" places special emphasis on the city's development while prioritising the environment, employment, traffic manage-

ment and civic amenities. The plan covers an investment area of 1,016.90 square kilometres, comprising 254 villages, and is designed for an estimated population of about 45 lakh.

27% green area proposed; about 16% in the 2005 plan

Pakistan's reaction on Indus water reflects pressure created by India's strategic shift



CH NEWS, NEW DELHI Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's direct threat at the United Nations General Assembly that any attempt to "stop, impede or divert" its share of the Indus waters would be treated as an "act of war" is significant. Beyond rhetoric, it reveals, perhaps for the first time in decades, that Pakistan is publicly acknowledging the impact of a pressure point that directly affects its national interests. Now, Sharif's statement is significant in the context of Pakistan's not-so-covert war on its neighbour through cross-border terrorism. Since the decisive 1971 loss, Pakistan increasingly relied on asymmetric warfare rather than conventional military confrontation. Terror groups operating from Pakistan, or supported by networks within, targeted India repeatedly. The list of major attacks is long and painful. Jammu and Kashmir witnessed decades of insurgency and terrorism beginning in the late 1980s. The 2001 attack on the In-

dian Parliament brought the two nuclear-armed states to the brink of war. The 2008 Mumbai attacks, carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, killed 166 people and shocked the world. Successive Indian governments largely limited themselves to diplomatic protests, international campaigns, and defensive counterterrorism measures. Subsequent attacks included the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, the 2016 Uri attack on an Army brigade headquarters, the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing that killed 40 CRPF personnel, and the 2025 Pahalgam attack that triggered a fresh deterioration in bilateral relations. Following the Uri attack, India conducted surgical strikes across the Line of Control, specifically targeting terrorist launch pads, ending the practice of strategic restraint. An even stronger signal emerged after the 2019 Pulwama attack when India carried out airstrikes on Balakot, targeting terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistani territory.

CBI opposes bail plea of ex-judge Giribala Singh in Twisha Sharma death case

CH NEWS, JABALPUR The CBI has opposed the bail plea of former district judge Giribala Singh in the Twisha Sharma death case, telling the Madhya Pradesh High Court that there is ample evidence indicating her alleged complicity and that she could influence witnesses and tamper with evidence if released. In its reply filed before the High Court at Jabalpur, the agency said further investigation was continuing into certain important aspects of the case and urged the court to reject Singh's petition under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. "There is ample evidence on record against the accused/petitioner showing the complicity of the accused in the crime," the CBI said, according to the document available with IANS. The case relates to the death of Twisha Sharma, who was found hanging at her matrimonial home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on the night of May 12, 2026. According to the CBI, Twisha married Samarth Singh on December 9, 2025. After the family allegedly discovered her pregnancy on April 17, a dispute arose be-



tween her and her matrimonial family, following which she left for Noida. The agency said allegations regarding Twisha's character were levelled by her husband and mother-in-law and that the issue was reflected in WhatsApp chats examined during the investigation. Twisha returned to Bhopal on April 30 and underwent an abortion, the CBI said. It alleged that she subsequently asked her mother to take her back to her maternal home, claiming she was facing continuous harassment and cruelty. On May 12, Twisha allegedly called her mother and informed her about abusive behaviour by her husband. Later that night, she was found hanging at the matrimonial house and was taken to AIIMS Bhopal, where doctors declared her dead.

al debates — one concerning parliamentary participation and another involving the functioning of the poll panel.

“It is not that we do not get time, but we should get more time. More issues concerning SC/ST communities should be raised.”
— Gajendra Singh Patel
BJP Lok Sabha MP



Quick Read

Starbucks to close 250 North American stores

CH NEWS, NEW YORK
Starbucks will close 250 locations in North America as part of its turnaround plan, according to a report citing the company. The closures represent about 1 per cent of its roughly 18,000 stores in the region. Starbucks said affected outlets either do not deliver the desired customer and employee experience or are financially unviable. The closures are expected to result in about USD 300 million in charges, including lease termination and severance costs. The company plans around 440 new locations globally this fiscal year, below its earlier target of 600 to 650 openings. US same-store sales rose 7.9 per cent.

Gold may reach USD 5,000 by H1 2027

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Gold prices could rise to USD 4,600-5,000 per ounce in the first half of 2027 as US yields and the dollar ease, ICICI Bank said. The bank expects gold to trade between USD 4,200 and 4,600 through the rest of 2026, supported by investment demand, central bank purchases and uncertainty. Gold fell nearly 8 per cent in September after gaining about 9 per cent in August. Gold ETFs recorded USD 17.8 billion inflows in August, while China's central bank bought 20 tonnes. In India, gold prices are forecast at Rs 1.40 lakh-1.60 lakh per 10 grams through 2026.

Passenger vehicle retail sales seen rising 15-16%

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Passenger vehicle retail sales are expected to grow 15-16 per cent in September as demand remains steady, Yes Securities said. The report said festive optimism is supporting automobile retail growth across segments, excluding tractors, despite concerns over uneven monsoon distribution. Passenger vehicle volumes are benefiting from refreshed product portfolios, while manufacturers are implementing price increases of 0.3-0.4 per cent to offset input costs. Recent CNG-AMT launches could boost CNG adoption in markets. Two-wheeler sales are stronger in cities, while commercial vehicle demand remains steady. Tractor retail growth may stay flat or in low single digits due to weak rural sentiment.

AI, chips, quantum drive India's infra push

India is set to expand infrastructure investment in AI, semiconductors and quantum technology, Sitharaman said, highlighting need for greater nationwide capacity.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Artificial intelligence, semiconductors and quantum technology are likely to become the next major focus of infrastructure investment in India, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday. Her remarks came as India seeks to build capacity for emerging technologies while widening access to digital tools across businesses and key sectors of the economy for national development. Speaking at an interactive session at IIT Madras Alumni Association's Sangam 2026 in Bengaluru, Sitharaman said



India must strengthen its existing digital infrastructure and create greater capacity to support AI adoption across sectors. "So the next large investment in infrastructure

would, I think, be AI, semiconductor chips, and building on them quantum," she said. Sitharaman said India still needs substantial investment in AI hardware, along with

“
So, the next large investment in infrastructure would, I think, be AI, semiconductor chips, and building on them quantum”
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Union Finance Minister

teachers and institutions capable of continuously upgrading

their skills and providing AI-based knowledge. She also highlighted the need for AI solutions for micro, small and medium enterprises across different industries. Business, she said, would need access to technology as well as trainers who can help them use AI to improve productivity and compete globally. She described AI investment as the next frontier and said academia and industry should help determine the stage and scale of investment. Sitharaman also said India could achieve economic growth of more than 10 per

cent, though faster growth would require greater efforts across sectors and could accelerate progress towards Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat. The finance minister said technology and startup-led innovation should reach more sectors, including agriculture, where drones, precision mapping and technology-enabled improvements in markets and productivity could be used. She also invited suggestions on developing early-stage and patient capital for deep-tech hardware startups, which can take several years to generate revenue.

Halan seeks deadline to curb insurance mis-selling

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Insurance companies should face a firm deadline to address mis-selling and poor sales practices, author and financial educator Monika Halan said, while welcoming reforms by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. Halan criticised the transition timelines, saying insurers have too much time to implement consumer protection measures. "It's a long road ahead. There is nothing going to happen. In any case, the glide path is 2 years and 5 years. I think it is too long," she said, arguing that the industry should be given six months rather than five years to act. She also pointed to resistance from market players and warned that the proposed

changes could face pressure during implementation. Halan welcomed the shift in regulatory focus under IRDAI Chairman Ajay Seth and said policyholders should receive greater attention. She stressed that premiums come from consumers and their interests must be protected. Halan also criticised high commissions and aggressive distribution models, saying they had affected genuine growth in insurance. She pointed to declining life insurance penetration and stagnant general insurance volumes. "Profits that are built on the tears of policy holders are just bad for the country," she stated, while stressing the need to protect consumers. IRDAI's consultation paper, "Recalibrating Economics of Insurance Distribution," pro-

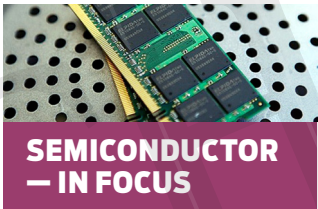


poses a three-tier structure covering Insurance Distribution Entities, Insurance Distribution Persons and Market Infrastructure Institutions. It proposes lower expense limits and commission changes. Feedback remains open until October 25. Life insurers would face Expense of Management limits of 15 per cent within two years and 12.5 per cent within five years. For general insurers, the limit would fall from 30 per cent to 20 per cent over five years.

India's chip ecosystem enters gradual value phase

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
India's semiconductor ecosystem is expected to see gradual value creation over the next three to five years as projects move through commissioning, customer qualification and yield stabilisation, according to a research report by 360 ONE Capital. The brokerage said near-term opportunities are likely to emerge across construction, utilities, electronics manufacturing, components, engineering, automation and equipment support before direct fab and OSAT economics become more visible. Semiconductor demand in India is projected to rise from about USD 56 billion in 2025 to more than USD 117 billion by 2030, implying a compound annual growth rate of around 16 per cent. Twelve projects approved under the India Semiconductor Mission represent more than USD 18 billion in investment, while the broader ISM 2.0 ecosystem could catalyse

over USD 35 billion in additional investment. The report said execution would matter more than announcements as companies work towards customer qualification, competitive yields and higher utilisation. The brokerage said the semiconductor opportunity should be assessed over a longer period rather than an immediate earnings cycle. Near-term value capture could be stronger among ecosystem enablers, including cleanrooms, utilities, equipment support, gases, chemicals, testing and engineering services. The next phase will test whether announced capacity can translate into commercially viable output. The report identified construction and equipment installation, process qualification, yield improvement, customer qualification, volume ramp-up, local supplier content and product mix as key milestones. It said India's semiconductor ambitions will



SEMICONDUCTOR — IN FOCUS
DEMAND \$56bn → \$117bn by 2030
CAGR 16%
PROJECTS 12 approved
INVESTMENT \$18bn+
ISM 2.0 \$35bn+ potential
FOCUS Yields, qualification, scale

increasingly depend on factories achieving competitive yields, securing global customer qualifications and operating at scale. Progress across these stages is expected to determine how quickly the country's semiconductor ecosystem develops and where value creation becomes visible. The transition is expected to unfold gradually.

Vedanta to invest ₹1 lakh crore in Odisha



CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal has announced a Rs 1 lakh crore investment drive in Odisha, covering aluminium, mining, refining and downstream manufacturing, with projects planned over the next two-and-a-half to three years. The announcement followed Agarwal's meeting with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday. Agarwal said the group was ready to expand industrial activity and employment, while seeking faster land allocation and government clearances. He said work could move ahead immediately if government cooperation continued. The proposed investments are expected to support new industrial capacity, strengthen existing operations and create opportunities across related sectors. Vedanta is considering an-

other refinery in Raigarh and a smelter, besides advancing bauxite and aluminium production and expanding its existing operations in Jharsuguda. Agarwal said the group was considering a 2 million-tonne plant in Jharsuguda, with around 500 acres of land being made available alongside its existing power plant. The expansion could generate at least 50,000 jobs directly and indirectly. Agarwal also called for greater development of aluminium-based industries in Odisha, saying the state could attract small and medium enterprises making components for automobiles, aviation, railways and transport. Vedanta would provide power and aluminium to such industries, while prioritising employment for local people. Alongside industrial expansion, Agarwal proposed social infrastructure projects, includ-

INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE
INVESTMENT **Rs 1 lakh crore** in Odisha
FOCUS Aluminium, mining, refining and manufacturing
JHARSUGUDA PLANT 2 million-tonne proposed capacity
LAND Around 500 acres
JOBS 50,000 direct and indirect jobs
OTHER PROJECTS Hospital, digital university and research facility

ing a large hospital for tribal communities, a digital university and a research-oriented hospital. He said the research facility could work towards developing medicines for major diseases such as cancer. Agarwal said the broader objective was to accelerate Odisha's industrialisation, expand opportunities for tribal communities, create employment across the state and build stronger industrial ecosystems over the coming years while supporting broader manufacturing and local economic activity in Odisha.

Traders' welfare board seeks centralised loan portal

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
The National Traders' Welfare Board (NTWB) has proposed a centralised loan portal with a 30-day timeline for processing loans, along with reforms to the CIBIL score mechanism, to improve access to finance for traders and micro, small and medium enterprises. The proposals were discussed at the Board's 11th meeting in New Delhi. Members also called for trader grievance helplines and greater representation of traders in MSME facilitation committees to improve access to institutional support. Tax-related concerns discussed at the meeting included GST rationalisation, refund delays, lengthy audits, input



tax credit anomalies, amnesty schemes and pending appeals. The Board also sought timely payments to government contractors, safeguards against technical penalties and flexibility in loan repayments during lean business periods. Digital initiatives were another focus, with the Board reviewing the expansion of the Open Network for Digital Commerce and DigiDukaan

to district levels. More than 19,000 retailers are currently live on DigiDukaan across Hyderabad and Jaipur. The Board also discussed women entrepreneurship facilitation desks, POSH cells and measures against cyber fraud. Efforts to increase trader and MSME participation in exports were reviewed, including greater awareness and institutional support. Chairman Sunil J. Singhi highlighted the Jan Vishwas Act and the establishment of State Traders' Welfare Boards in four States. The meeting concluded with a focus on finance access, Ease of Doing Business reforms, digital empowerment, social security and stronger Centre-State coordination.

Centre orders 112 plants to maximise output

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
The government has directed 112 captive coal-based power plants with installed capacity of 50 MW and above to operate at their maximum available capacity from October 1 to December 31, 2026, amid expectations of higher electricity demand. The Ministry of Power issued the order on September 25 under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003, seeking to maximise generation availability and ensure adequate electricity supply. The listed facilities cover sectors including steel, aluminium, cement, petroleum, fertilisers, paper and chemicals, with companies such as Tata Steel, Vedanta, Hindalco Industries, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, Indian Oil Corporation and NALCO included. The generators have been asked to produce power to the maximum extent of their available capacity after meet-

ing captive requirements. Any surplus electricity must be offered through power exchanges, subject to applicable market regulations and procedures. The Ministry said using the entire available generating capacity was important to optimise electricity availability. The plants must also maintain adequate coal stocks during the three-month period to support fuel availability. They will submit weekly reports to the Central Electricity Authority detailing generation, captive consumption, electricity sold through exchanges or other permitted avenues, available capacity and coal stocks. The government said the directions will remain in force until December 31, taking into account the prevailing power demand-supply position and the need to maintain adequate electricity availability in the grid. The measure is

“
Considering the prevailing demand-supply scenario and the expected rise in electricity demand in the coming months, the Ministry of Power (MoP) is undertaking various measures to ensure adequate supply of electricity to consumers”
MINISTRY OF POWER

intended to strengthen generation readiness as demand is expected to rise during the coming months. The directive applies to captive generating stations meeting the 50 MW threshold and is designed to improve electricity availability during the specified period. Weekly monitoring will allow authorities to track generation and coal stocks across covered facilities.

AI TRAVEL SHIFT

AI reshapes travel booking, making trust key



CH NEWS, NEW DELHI
Travel companies will need to focus on continuity, trust and customer journeys as artificial intelligence reshapes how trips are discovered and booked, according to a report by Skift Research and McKinsey & Company. Based on a survey of more than 1,000 US travellers and diaries documenting trip planning and bookings, the report said the traditional journey from inspiration to booking has evolved into a series of "orbits". Travel touchpoints have increased to 65 in 2026 from about 45 in 2018. Social media ranked among key sources for initial trip ideas for 60 per cent of travellers, while 71 per cent said they were comfortable using AI for inspiration and 86 per cent would consider AI bookings in the future. The report said travellers now move between social media, search engines, AI tools,

reviews, online travel agencies and supplier websites, switching platforms. It said travel companies should preserve information across sessions and devices because "The friction lives in the seams." AI is also changing competition for visibility, with tests showing that no single hotel appeared in all five responses when travel prompts were submitted to multiple AI portals and OTA tools. The report said AI-generated recommendations could present travellers with a handful of options, making visibility important. "AI is becoming kind of a new front door to travel planning and discovery," said Heather Balsley, chief commercial officer at IHG, according to the report. Booking confirmation is also no longer seen as the end of the customer relationship. Half of surveyed travellers had changed booked accom-

“
AI is becoming kind of a new front door to travel planning and discovery”
HEATHER BALSLEY
Chief Commercial Officer, IHG
86% would consider AI bookings in the future
71% comfortable using AI for inspiration

modation after finding a more attractive option, creating an opportunity for travel companies to maintain engagement with travellers, provide relevant, timely information and reassurance throughout the journey.

65
TRAVEL TOUCHPOINTS IN 2026, UP FROM ABOUT 45 IN 2018

Asian Games: India men, women win kabaddi golds

India completed a kabaddi double at the Asian Games as both men's and women's teams defeated Iran to retain gold.

AICHI-NAGOYA
India completed a golden double in kabaddi at the Asian Games 2026 as both the men's and women's teams defeated Iran in their respective finals on Saturday.

The women's team opened the day's celebrations with a 37-34 victory over Iran, successfully defending the gold medal won at the 2023 Hangzhou Games. India held their nerve in a tense closing phase as Iran pushed for a comeback.

With only a minute remaining, Iran needed points to stay in contention, but India's defence produced a crucial tackle on Aynaz to effectively seal the contest. Sanju Devi, one of India's standout performers throughout the tournament, again played an important role in the final. Later, the men's team followed with a 40-34 win over Iran to retain their Asian



DOUBLE GOLD AT A GLANCE	WOMEN	INDIA	37-34	IRAN	● GOLD RETAINED	OPPOSITION IN BOTH FINALS IRAN
	MEN	INDIA	40-34	IRAN	● GOLD RETAINED	

Games crown and complete the double for India. India have dominated kabaddi at the continental event, with the men's and women's teams winning gold in all but one edition. The men had won seven successive gold medals before Iran ended their run at the 2018

Jakarta Games, where India finished fourth. They reclaimed the title at Hangzhou in 2023. The two victories further strengthened India's record in the sport and gave the country two more gold medals from the same opponent on the same day.

For the women, the victory was another successful title defence, while the men maintained their position as Asian champions after reclaiming the crown three years ago. India's women's victory had earlier taken the country's medal tally to 27, in-

cluding three gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals. The men's triumph added another gold to that tally. The double gold marked a major day for Indian kabaddi at the Asian Games, with both teams emerging victorious in high-pressure finals against Iran.

Joshna, Senthilkumar settle for Asian Games bronze



AICHI-NAGOYA
Joshna Chinappa and Vela van Senthilkumar settled for the bronze medal after suffering a narrow defeat to Hong Kong's Tang Ming Hong and Lee Ka Yi in the semifinals of the mixed doubles squash competition at the Asian Games on Saturday.

The Indian duo lost 10-11, 11-2, 10-11 in an intense three-game encounter at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena. After dropping a closely contested opening game, Joshna and Senthilkumar responded strongly to take the second game 11-2 and force a decider. However, Tang and Lee held their composure in another tight game to edge out

Joshna Chinappa and Vela van Senthilkumar secured squash bronze after a narrow semifinal defeat to Hong Kong's Tang and Lee pair.

the Indians and secure their place in the final. The bronze marks the sixth Asian Games medal for 40-year-old Joshna, who had previously won two silver and three bronze medals at the continental event. Joshna and Senthilkumar had entered the semifinals after defeating David Pelino and Jemyca Aribado of the Philippines on Friday. Their semifinal appearance had already assured India of a medal in the mixed doubles event.

Japan knocked out as rain washes out Nepal chase



AICHI-NAGOYA
Japan was knocked out of the Asian Games 2026 men's cricket competition after their rain-hit first-round match against Nepal was abandoned on Saturday without a ball being bowled in Japan's chase.

Nepal posted 149 for four in their allotted 15 overs after Sundeep Jora and Lokesh Bam struck unbeaten half-centuries. Persistent rain then prevented Japan from starting their chase, ending their campaign and sending Nepal into the quarter-finals as Group A toppers. Afghanistan also advanced to the last eight.

Japan faced a steep challenge even before the weather interruption, as they needed to score 150 in just 15 overs. Nepal's innings was also affected by rain, with interruptions before the start and again during the fifth over.

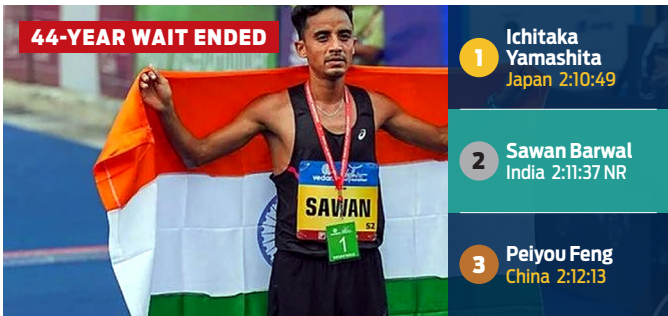
Nepal lost Kushal Bhurtel, Kushal Malla and Gulshan Jha for single-digit scores, while Aasif Sheikh gave the innings momentum with a 15-ball 21. Jora, who came in at No. 3, added 55 runs for the second wicket with Sheikh.

After Nepal reached 84 for four at the end of 10 overs, Jora and Bam launched an attacking finish. Bam remained unbeaten on 52 from 22 balls, hitting one four and six sixes, while Jora scored 57 not out from 32 deliveries, with five fours and three sixes.

The pair added 65 runs in the final five overs to give Nepal a strong total. Japan had shown encouraging moments during the tournament, particularly with the ball, but their batting remained a concern.

The quarter-final line-up includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Afghanistan. India will face Afghanistan on September 28, while Nepal meet Sri Lanka on September 29.

Sawan Barwal wins historic silver in men's marathon



NAGOYA
Sawan Barwal produced a remarkable run to win silver in the men's marathon at the Asian Games 2026, setting a new national record on Saturday. The 28-year-old Army athlete from Himachal Pradesh completed the 42.195km race in 2 hours, 11 minutes and 37 seconds, finishing behind Japan's Ichitaka Yamashita, who claimed gold in 2:10:49. China's Peiyu Feng took bronze with a time of 2:12:13. Barwal's performance also saw him improve his own na-

tional record while securing India an unexpected medal in the marathon. He maintained his pace through the demanding race and finished strongly to take second place. The silver ended India's 44-year wait for a medal in the Asian Games men's marathon, adding significance to Barwal's performance at the continental event. Barwal's silver was one of India's notable achievements on the opening day of athletics competition.

Virat Kohli: "Last World Cup" inspires title bid

"It's the last World Cup I'm going to play for India. And that is my motivation."

VIRAT KOHLI
1,795 World Cup runs in 37 matches
Average 59.83 · 5 hundreds · 12 fifties

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Virat Kohli has confirmed that the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be his final ODI World Cup for India, saying the prospect is motivating him to give everything in pursuit of the title. Speaking to JioStar, Kohli highlighted the physical and mental demands of a 50-over World Cup, particularly with the tournament being held in foreign conditions. He said the intensity required across the competition makes it a significant challenge. "It's the last World Cup I'm going to play for India. And that is my motivation. Like, you know, to leave everything out there," Kohli said. The 2027 World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 4 to November 21. Kohli has featured in two World Cup finals, winning the title with India in 2011 before the team lost to Australia in

the 2023 final.

Kohli has scored 1,795 runs in 37 World Cup matches at an average of 59.83, with five centuries and 12 fifties.

The 37-year-old said winning the tournament remains his primary objective. "Of course, the goal is absolutely to win the World Cup. And whatever it takes, I'm absolutely ready," he said. Kohli has also amassed 14,941 runs in 302 ODI innings at an average of 58.59, including 54 centuries and 79 fifties.

India's preparations for the 2027 World Cup begin with their ODI series against the West Indies, followed by series against New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Animesh storms into 200m final, Tajinder in shot put final



AICHI-NAGOYA
India enjoyed a busy day at the Asian Games 2026 on Saturday, with Animesh Kujur advancing to the men's 200m final and Tajinderpal Singh Toor reaching the men's shot put final. Animesh continued India's strong athletics campaign after earlier topping his 200m heat to qualify for the semifinals. His progress kept him in contention for a medal in the sprint event as Indian athletes looked to add to the country's medal tally. Tajinderpal, a leading figure in Indian athletics, also progressed to the men's shot put final. His qualification added another medal opportunity for India in the field events on a

day that saw several athletes competing across disciplines. In badminton, P.V. Sindhu, Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda progressed in their respective singles campaigns, while Lakshya Sen bowed out after losing to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew. Unnati later produced another strong performance to enter the women's singles quarterfinals. India also made progress in archery, canoe sprint and fencing. Dhiraaj Bommadevara topped the men's recurve qualification, while Chikitha Taniparthi led the women's compound qualification. Dhiraaj's performance also brought Asian and national records.

Mbappé scores as Zidane begins France reign with win



IZMIT
Kylian Mbappe scored the only goal before suffering a knee injury as France defeated Turkey 1-0 in Zinedine Zidane's first match as national team coach in the UEFA Nations League on Friday. Mbappe opened the scoring after controlling a pass from Michael Olise and firing a low shot into the near post. The goal was his 67th for France and came after Zidane moved him to the left wing. The Real Madrid forward, however, was forced off shortly after scoring. He received treatment for an injury to his left knee but was eventually replaced by Desire Doue. Zidane said Mbappe was

likely to return to his club for further treatment. "It's not great. Unfortunately, I think he's going to have to go home. We don't want to take any risks," Zidane told TF1. France created further opportunities, with Olise seeing a first-half effort tipped over by Turkey goalkeeper Ugurcan Cakir, while Jules Kounde later struck the post. Turkey was reduced to 10 men late in the game after Cakir was sent off following a VAR review for handling the ball outside his area. The victory marked Zidane's first match in charge since being appointed France coach in late July on a contract running until 2030. The former France great said he was encouraged by the team's performance despite having only three-and-a-half training sessions together. France will next travel to Brussels to face Belgium on Monday, while Turkey will host Italy on the same day. Belgium began their campaign with a 2-0 win over Italy.

Tilottama fourth, Vidarsa fifth in 50m rifle



AICHI-NAGOYA
Tilottama Sen finished fourth and Vidarsa Vinod fifth in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions individual final at the Asian Games 2026 on Saturday, narrowly missing out on medals. Tilottama entered the final after placing third in qualification with 590 points and remained among the leading shooters through much of the contest. After the first 10 shots in the kneeling position, she was fifth with 102.4 points, while Vidarsa was sixth with 102.1. Following the prone position, Tilottama stayed in medal contention with 205.9 points after 20 shots, while Vidarsa had 205.3 points and stood seventh. Tilottama made a strong start to the standing series, scoring 51.8 from her first five shots to move into first

FINAL STANDINGS		
1	Han Jiayu China	359.0
2	Zhang Liyuan South Korea	358.8
3	Kim Jieun South Korea	348.4
4	Tilottama Sen India	337.3
5	Vidarsa Vinod India	327.4

place with 257.6 points after 25 shots. Vidarsa also remained in contention, with 256 points. Both shooters remained strong contenders until the eliminations. The elimination phase, however, saw both Indians lose ground. Vidarsa was eliminated after the 32nd shot, finishing fifth with 327.4 points. Tilottama moved up to third after her teammate's exit but was eliminated after the 33rd shot following a 9.4 score, ending fourth with 337.3 points. China's Han Jiayu won gold with 359.0 points, followed by Zhang Liyuan with silver at 358.8. South Korea's Kim Jieun took bronze with 348.4 points. Earlier, Tilottama, Vidarsa and Ashi Chouksey had won silver in the women's 50m rifle 3P team event. The team medal added to India's shooting success at the Games.

Asian Games: Unnati beats Wong, reaches pre-quarterfinals



AICHI-NAGOYA
Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda advanced to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals at the Asian Games 2026 after defeating Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching 21-14, 20-22, 21-19 in a thrilling three-game contest on Saturday. World No. 25 Unnati made a confident start, taking the opening game 21-14 against the Malaysian, ranked 38th in

the world. Wong responded strongly in the second game, overcoming Unnati's lead at the interval and eventually winning 22-20 to force a decider. The third game remained tightly contested, with both players trading points under pressure. Unnati showed composure in the closing stages and earned two match points at 20-18. Wong saved one opportunity, but sent a cross-court shot wide on the follow-up point, allowing Unnati to seal the match 21-19. Unnati will next face Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani in the pre-quarterfinals as she looks to continue her campaign in the women's singles event. Unnati's victory kept India's badminton hopes alive in the women's singles competition. Her calm finish under pressure decided a highly competitive contest.

Quick Read

Blast in Pakistan's Dera Ismail Khan kills 11, injures 30

ISLAMABAD Eleven people were killed and 30 injured in a blast in Dera Ismail Khan in north-western Pakistan on Saturday, emergency service Rescue 1122 said. Dera Ismail Khan, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near Pakistan's border regions with Afghanistan, has repeatedly been hit by Islamist militant violence, frequently targeting police and security forces. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack. The blast occurred near Aman Mela in the Darazinda area of the district, Rescue 1122 said in a statement. Rescue teams from the Darazinda station reached the scene and began relief operations.

THE TOLL

11 killed30 injured

ShinyHunters hackers say they stole psychiatric, medical records

WASHINGTON FBI personnel data recently stolen by the ShinyHunters hackers includes sensitive psychiatric and medical evaluation records, according to the hackers and documents reviewed. ShinyHunters, one of the world's most notorious and attention-seeking hacking crews, first said it had breached the FBI on Tuesday. In the hack, the group obtained granular details about bureau employees and their assignments, including sensitive work against Chinese spies, Russian intelligence, drug cartels and others.

Takeaways from a turbulent week of UN diplomacy

UNITED NATIONS Talks on the Iran and Ukraine wars inched forward at the United Nations after a week of speeches, meetings and hallway diplomacy, though leaders reached no breakthroughs. The UN hosted the first shuttle talks between American and Iranian officials since the collapse of a ceasefire in July, with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner communicating through mediators. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Ukraine and Russia had both voiced interest in a limited ceasefire involving grain and energy-related targets, but Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov showed no indication at the Security Council that Russia was prepared to engage.

Arming Taiwan an important US interest

TAIPEI The United States providing weapons to Taiwan to protect its freedom and provide semiconductors to the world is in the US national interest, Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Wu said on Saturday after the Trump-Xi summit. Xi had told Trump he hoped the US would adhere to the "correct position" of opposing Taiwan independence. Trump has yet to comment on Taiwan or on a pending arms package. His administration approved an \$11 billion arms sale to Taiwan in December, the largest ever; the second is worth some \$14 billion.

Iran pitches plan to open Hormuz

Tehran awaits official response to plan, but US president is said to expect renewed strikes after midterms.

CAIRO Iran is awaiting a US response to a proposal that could reopen the Strait of Hormuz and halt fighting across the Middle East within seven days, after a Wall Street Journal report said President Donald Trump had rejected the initiative. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said the proposal had been conveyed to Washington through Qatari mediators and would trigger a seven-day countdown for reopening the waterway and pausing hostilities. "If there is seriousness on the US side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, everything is now pre-



pared," Araqchi told reporters at the United Nations. However, the Wall Street Journal reported that Trump had rejected the proposal and remained sceptical that Tehran would meet US demands. The report, citing unnamed US officials, also said Trump expected renewed US bombing after the November congressional elections. It was reported that Washington had earlier described mediated discussions with Iran as "positive and constructive." Under Iran's proposal, Tehran would halt hostilities and reopen the strait in return for measures including lifting a US blockade on Iranian ports, releasing frozen Iranian funds

TRUMP REJECTS PEACE PLAN

- Iran proposed reopening Hormuz within seven days.
- Proposal was conveyed through Qatari mediators.
- WSJ reported Trump rejected the initiative.
- Iran seeks sanctions and blockade relief.
- Nuclear programme remains a key dispute.

and waiving oil sanctions, Araqchi said. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global energy route. Disruptions have affected oil flows and raised concerns about the wider economic impact. The proposed arrangement could lead to broader talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran was ready for talks but would not accept "bullying or coercion." Iranian officials have separately said Tehran will not give up its stated rights, including uranium enrichment. The nuclear dispute remains central to potential negotiations.

Venezuela Prez returns from US visit with no deals

NEW YORK Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez left New York after promising elections but securing no major agreements on debt, energy or mining. Rodriguez travelled to New York for the UN General Assembly seeking to present Venezuela as open for international business following years of sanctions and economic isolation. Her delegation held discussions involving debt restructuring, energy and mining, while Rodriguez also met US President Donald Trump. The visit produced significant diplomatic visibility, including photographs of Rodriguez with Trump, but concrete agreements of the scale sought by Caracas did not materialise. Washington-based analyst Antonio De La Cruz said the absence of major disbursements, reconstruction funding or business agreements limited the immediate economic outcome of the trip. At the UN, Rodriguez pledged that Venezuela would hold elections as part of a



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Rodriguez pledged elections but gave no date.
- Trump and Rodriguez discussed Venezuela's debt restructuring.
- Caracas sought agreements covering debt, energy and mining.
- Analysts say electoral reforms could delay voting.

\$60 bn

defaulted bonds (Venezuela and its state oil company)

\$150-200 bn

estimated total liabilities

Venezuela's interim leader returned from New York with election promises and diplomatic visibility, but few concrete economic agreements emerged.

analysts expect institutional reforms, including changes involving courts and electoral authorities, could delay voting for a year or more. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Trump and Rodriguez discussed restructuring Venezuela's sovereign debt. Venezuela and its state oil company have around \$60 billion in defaulted bonds, while total liabilities have been estimated at \$150 billion to \$200 billion. Rodriguez's visit therefore combined economic outreach with a public commitment to elections, while leaving major questions over both the timing of the vote and the scale of future US-backed economic arrangements.

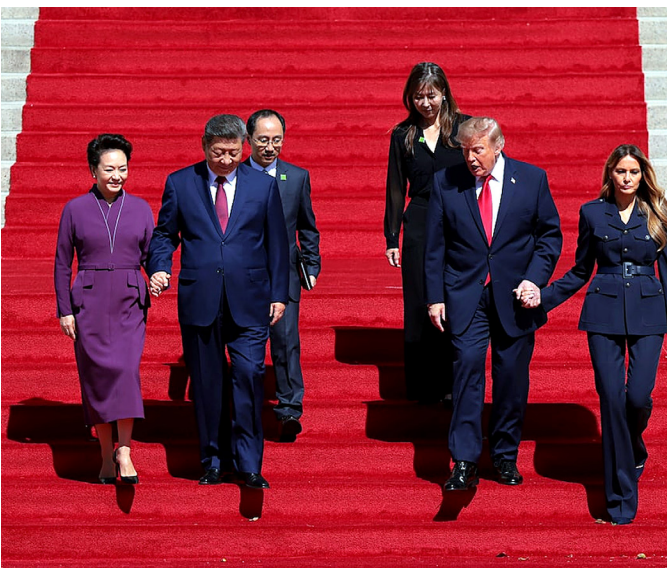
transition to what she called "full democracy." However, she did not announce a date for the vote. She said her government had begun talks with opposition groups and that all

political forces would be allowed to participate. The election pledge has placed greater attention on Venezuela's political transition. Political sources and an-

Trump, Xi end summit with tea, tour of US archives

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping drank tea at the White House and visited the National Archives, ending a three-day summit that showcased personal diplomacy rather than big public breakthroughs on a host of contentious issues. Trump said "our farmers are going to be happy" as a result of the talks but did not provide details. "America is very happy about this visit, and I'm sure China is very happy also," he said. Xi said the US-China relationship had developed into a constructive one of "strategic stability on the basis of respect, fairness and reciprocity." The summit between the world's two largest economies featured military flyovers, ceremonial tours and a state dinner, but left unresolved major differences over trade, artificial intelligence, Taiwan and China's ties to

Iran. Details of the limited trade agreements reached during the visit will be released on Monday, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said. One tangible outcome of the visit was that the US and China agreed to extend by two months a trade truce that was due to expire on November 10, allowing more time to work on a potentially bigger trade deal. Greer told CNBC that the US has agreed with China on exempting some key goods from disputes over trade, including exports to China of agricultural products and medical devices and imports of consumer and non-sensitive goods. Trump highlighted progress under a bilateral trade mechanism, citing what he described as increased market access for US farmers and ranchers, while both leaders identified AI as an area for



dialogue. "In some ways, the best thing that we accomplished in this visit is to continue the conversation," US Ambassador to China David Perdue told Fox News' "America's Newsroom" program.

Trump announced in a social media post that he and Xi would meet twice more this year, in China in November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and in Miami in December at a G20 summit.

CALL FOR FAITH IN SECULAR FRANCE

Pope Leo draws massive Paris crowd



“A paradise of machines”
— Pope Leo, referring to concerns over the potential direction of artificial intelligence development

PARIS Hundreds of thousands of people gathered along Paris' Champs-Élysées on Saturday for an outdoor Mass with Pope Leo, the centrepiece of his four-day visit to France. More than 600,000 people had registered for the event, with crowds beginning to arrive before dawn along the tree-lined avenue. Police closed nearby streets ahead of the Mass, while Leo was expected to travel through the area in an open-top popemobile. The visit is part of the Pope's effort to strengthen the Catholic Church's standing in France, where affiliation has declined steadily and past clergy abuse scandals have damaged public trust.

During his visit, Leo has also focused on wider global issues. Speaking at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, he warned that multilateral institutions including the United Nations were facing a crisis. He also renewed his concerns about artificial intelligence, warning French leaders that unchecked development could produce a future in which "a paradise of machines" takes control of the Earth. France remains a largely secular country, with the separation of church and state established under a 1905 law. Official statistics indicate that 25% of French people aged 18 to 49 identified as Catholic, down from 43% a decade earlier.

At the Catholic University of Paris on Saturday, Leo met newly baptised Catholics and urged the French Church to remain cautious despite a rise in adult baptisms. He later travelled to Lourdes, the renowned Catholic shrine. On Sunday, he is scheduled to meet seven French victims of clergy abuse. **“We must recognise, welcome and protect the small flame that the Holy Spirit has kindled in the darkness of the night, the tiny seed that strives to grow even amid the thorns.”**
— Pope Leo

Michigan Senate race tests GOP messaging

LIVONIA Republican campaign groups are targeting Michigan voters with messages portraying Democrat Abdul El-Sayed as too far left, while Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers seeks support beyond Trump's core base ahead of the November midterm elections.

The open-seat race follows Democratic Senator Gary Peters' decision not to seek reelection and is drawing national attention for its implications for control of the Senate. Rogers recently called for the Iran war to end quickly and proposed measures aimed at reducing fuel costs.

“I'm not hardcore like I have to vote Republican. I'd be open. I'm not saying there's not a chance.”
— Nick Delise, Michigan voter.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAXMAN DAIVAMDINNI CHACKLAL (Old name) ADDRESS: Gauli Galli, Ramnagar, Hubballi. Has changed my name: LAXMAN DAIVAMDINNI CHAKALA (new name) for all purposes. Affidavit Dated: 24/07/2026 before notary public Hubli.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Subrata Sen S/o Subhash Chandra Sen R/o 106 NSR Greens Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, Bangalore, B.B.M.P (South), Karnataka - 560076, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Rikta Sen in my Birth Certificate with Registration No. 2478 and Bandana Sen in my Passport No. Z2347055 . The actual name of my mother is Chhaya Rani Sen respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

Old Surname: Belagali, Old Given Name: Amogha Mukund, Son of Mukund Mohanrao Belagali, date of birth 12-03-1998, residing at No.22, 17th Cross, 13th Main, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru - 560078, Shall hence forth be known as New Surname: BELAGALI, New Given Name: AMOGH MUKUND Old Surname: Belagali, Old Given Name: Amogha Mukund

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Subrata Sen S/o Subhash Chandra Sen R/o 106 NSR Greens Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, Bangalore, B.B.M.P (South), Karnataka - 560076, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Prantosh Sen in my Pan Card No. ATXPS2128M, Passport No. Z2347055, 10th and 12th Class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Subhash Chandra Sen respectively which may be amended accordingly

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, NAVEED L S/o LATHEEF SAB H, R/o No. 26/1, 1st Stage, E Main Road, Gokula 1st Stage, 4th Phase, Yeswanthpura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560022, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as LATHIP SAB H, in my Aadhar Card No. 368419103815. The actual name of my father is LATHEEF SAB H, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rikta Rani Sen alias Rikta Sen W/o Late Subhash Chandra Sen R/o F F 106, N S R Greens, Survey No 86, Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, Bilekahalli, VTC: Bangalore South, PO: Bannerghatta Road, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka-560076 have changed my name to Chhaya Rani Sen

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE J.M.F.C. AT DANDELI. O.S.131/2026

1) Sandeep Gangadhar Deshabhandari, 2) Gourish Yadu Naik R/o:Dandelli.Tq:Dandil. Dist: UttarkannadaPlaintiffs V/s

1) Deputy Commissioner Karwar 2) Deputy Director and member secretary Tourism Department 3) Chief Executive Office Zill Panchayat 4) Executive Engineer, Port and inland Water Transport Dept Karwar. 5) Deputy Conservator of Forest Haliyal 6) Executive Engineer Karnataka Power corporation Ganeshgu 7)Tahasildar Joida 8) Panchayat Development Officer, Gram Panchayat Aveda. Tq:Joida.Defendants

CITATION

The above plaintiffs have filed the instant suit. Order to publish the of public notice, unauthorized water adventure sports will be conducted in the Kali River from Aveda Gram Panchayat to Dandeli from 1-9-2026 towards with private participation therefore there is high possibility of further unscientific and unauthorized water adventure sports being conducted, and accident occurring consult that innocent people will be killed due this, the plaintiffs have filed a suit before the Hon'ble Court seeking a permanent injunction to prohibit the defendants from conducting River Rafting and water sports in the Kali River, unit the river Rafting and water sports are conducted in accordance with law and tourisms rules regulations and to declare that these rafting and water sports should be conducted in accordance with rules of Government order TD:226 TD2013 the next of suit will be 1-10-2026 as fixed by the Hon'ble Court, interested parties and against are hereby to appear before the Hon'ble court in person or through their Lawyers at 10:30.a.m. Given under my hand seal of the court this on.25-9-2026.

Dandeli. Date:25-9-2026 Advocate for plaintiffs R.V Gadeppanavar Advocate Dandeli By order of the court Shirestadar (ADMM) Court of the civil Judge &Jmfc, Dandeli

Agratha Kashid presents grand Bharatanatyam stage debut

Marking a vibrant milestone in classical performing arts, young dancer Kumari Agratha K. Kashid will present her formal Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha on Sunday, September 27.

The debut stage recital is organized under the auspices of the Bharatanjali Natya Shale at the Telugu Vignana Samithi auditorium, situated behind Chowdiah Memorial Hall, starting at 10:15 AM.

Agratha, the daughter of Poonam S. and Kiran M.K., has undergone years of rigorous aesthetic discipline under the expert guidance of Guru Seetha Guruprasad and Vidushi Bhuvana G. Prasad. Having mastered complex rhythmic footwork and classical abhinaya, the young prodigy is prepared to showcase a complete repertoire reflecting the rich spiritual and artistic traditions of the Tanjore style.

The auspicious cultural gathering will be presided over by Dr. Vasanth Kiran, President of Bharata Kala Grama Natya Gurukulam and member



RANGAPRAVESH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 • 10:15 AM
Telugu Vignana Samithi auditorium, behind Chowdiah Memorial Hall

of the Karnataka Sangeeta Nritya Academy, who will inaugurate the performance and felicitate the young exponent.

A distinguished ensemble of seasoned musicians will accompany the debutante on stage.

Vidwan D.S. Srivatsa will render classical vocal support, accompanied by Vidushi Bhuvana G. Prasad on nattu-

vangam, Vidwan Srihari Rangaswamy on mridangam, Vidwan Mahesh Swamy on flute, Vidwan Pradesh Achar on violin, and Vidwan Karthik Datar handling rhythm pads. Sugganahalli Shadakshari will anchor the morning recital, with stage production and traditional makeup directed by Kalayogi Satish Babu and vibrant at-

tire curated by Bharatanjali Costumes.

Extending an open invitation, the hosts and academy trustees welcomed rasikas, family members, and classical art lovers across Bengaluru to attend the cultural morning and bless the emerging talent as she begins her dedicated artistic journey.

Dhanush launches mass entertainer D56 in Madurai

Actor Dhanush officially commenced production on his fifty-sixth feature film, tentatively titled D56, with an auspicious traditional pooja ceremony at the Maranadu Karuppanasamy Temple near Madurai.

Marking the grand launch, production house Sithara Entertainments released an exclusive behind-the-scenes video confirming that the high-voltage commercial entertainer is eyeing a worldwide theatrical release in summer 2027.

The project unites Dhanush with acclaimed filmmaker Tamizharasan Pachamuthu, who previously directed the celebrated sports drama Lubber Pandhu. While the core narrative remains under wraps, the film is positioned as a mass-market rural drama designed to combine Dhanush's intense acting depth with Pachamuthu's grounded storytelling. Full-scale shooting begins following extensive pre-production location surveys across Madurai and surrounding regions.

The venture boasts an im-



D56 DIRECTOR Tamizharasan Pachamuthu
MUSIC Sai Abhyankkar RELEASE Summer 2027

pressive ensemble cast featuring veteran comedian Vadivelu, acclaimed actor-filmmaker S.J. Suryah, Uriyadi director-actor Vijay Kumar, and actress Preity Mukundan in pivotal roles. Notably, the film marks a historic maiden collaboration between Dhanush and Vadivelu, alongside a dynamic reunion with Suryah following their previous box-office success.

Rising music sensation Sai

Abhyankkar has joined the technical crew as composer. The film is bankrolled jointly by Naga Vamsi's Sithara Entertainments and Primark Productions, in association with Srikara Studios. With top-tier talent both in front of and behind the camera, early trade projections indicate that D56 will be one of the most anticipated releases in Tamil cinema for the 2027 summer box office.

AI actress Tilly Norwood eyeing digital co-stars



their authorized digital duplicates on dedicated artificial intelligence productions.

The generative creation has sparked intense debates about digital labor and Hollywood's future. Norwood brushed off severe public criticism, remarking that detractors simply directed their anxieties toward an inevitable future rather than her identity. Operating without traditional Hollywood agency representation, the studio revealed it rejects all conventional film casting offers because the character was conceived strictly for algorithmic media.

Van der Velden noted that while the project generated polarized reactions, it expanded the company eight-fold into original commissions, consulting services, and commercial advertising.

The studio created the persona as an interactive demonstration to alert creative cir-

cles to emerging technologies before tech firms dominate entertainment production. Reflecting on a high-profile television glitch where the digital star unexpectedly spoke Cantonese, the developer stressed that such experiments highlight the urgent need for international industry guardrails and regulatory frameworks.

Looking forward, Particle 6 is developing Storm Dogs, a hybrid family drama directed with executive producer Rob Minkoff of The Lion King fame. Slated for production in 2027, the movie blends live actors with algorithmic animals, demonstrating how emerging visual rendering tools can enhance traditional storytelling. Van der Velden confirmed that numerous mainstream filmmakers have quietly initiated collaborative projects under confidentiality agreements to master new digital workflows.

Actor Anjali Anand recalls tough career struggles

Actor Anjali Anand, who rose to prominence with Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, recently reflected on her severe financial hardships during the pandemic and the physical pressures she faced before landing her breakthrough role. Speaking during filmmaker Farah Khan's YouTube show, the actor revealed that she had nearly abandoned the Indian entertainment industry altogether after running out of funds.

Anjali disclosed that 2020 marked the lowest point of her personal and professional life. With the nationwide pandemic lockdown halting productions and no new acting assignments arriving, her accumulated personal savings completely dried up within six months. Contemplating leaving India entirely to pursue alternative careers, she took a trip to Goa with close



friends. While there, she received an unexpected text message from prominent casting director Shanoo Sharma, who in earlier meetings had routinely insisted that she lose weight before expecting worthwhile opportunities.

Her family initially expressed strong skepticism about meeting top Bollywood

directors, with her mother jokingly mocking her high hopes of meeting Karan Johar. However, the renowned filmmaker was genuinely impressed by her screen presence, photographs, and audition tapes, ultimately casting her alongside Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt.

The daughter of veteran character actor Dinesh Anand, she navigated a challenging path before securing cinematic recognition. Her television background featured prominent roles in serials like Dh-hai Kilo Prem and Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala, as well as intense reality competitions including Khatron Ke Khiladi and Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa. Following an uncredited cameo in Bell Bottom and a role in Dhamaal 4, Anand noted that finding consistent acting opportunities in Bollywood remains a continuous, challenging pursuit.

Vikram Singh Chauhan on his lead debut in 'Pooja Meri Jaan'

Television star Vikram Singh Chauhan has shared his thoughts on stepping into his first major silver-screen leading role with the upcoming psychological drama Pooja Meri Jaan. Speaking to IANS, the Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka actor reflected on how the project offered him a welcome creative departure from his previous work.

Chauhan explained that the psychological depth of his character drew him directly to the film. He noted that the role required portraying evolving emotional layers across volatile situations, gradually altering how the audience perceives his character as the narrative unfolds. He stated that taking on such a complex role allowed him to expand his acting range and explore fresh storytelling territory.

Directed by Navjot Gulati, Pooja Meri Jaan delves into fragile relationships, interpersonal tension, and the destabilizing fallout of rejection. The plot centers on Pooja and the conflicting viewpoints surrounding an unsettling series of incidents in her life. Co-star Mrunal Thakur remarked that the nuanced nature of her titular character immediately appealed to her artistic sensibilities, noting that the narrative avoids clear-cut conclusions and allows audiences to evaluate the drama independently.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik under the Maddock Films banner, the psychological thriller also features Huma Qureshi in a pivotal role. Exploring themes of obsession and modern relational friction, Pooja Meri Jaan is scheduled for its direct digital premiere on Zee5 on October 2.



Komal Rani Swarnkar hits back at Sunita Ahuja

Actress Komal Rani Swarnkar has sharply reacted to recent remarks made by Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, denying allegations that she is responsible for the couple's escalating domestic discord.

Writing on her Instagram Stories, Swarnkar dismissed the homebreaker label, asserting that nobody can break an already fractured household.

The statement followed Ahuja's visit to Kolkata's Dakshineswar Kali Temple, where she appealed publicly to women and Gen-Z youth for emotional support, claiming her home was disintegrating without cause. In her fiery response, Swarnkar questioned the rationale behind turning private marital strife into a media spectacle, arguing that genuine distress is addressed through private healing rather than coordinated public campaigns to elicit sympathy.

Swarnkar accused Ahuja of subjecting Govinda to sustained emotional pressure, alleging that she sought to isolate him, obstruct his film commitments, and confine him at home. She questioned how any devoted spouse could treat a partner so harshly, claiming that public accusations are designed to manipulate popular perception after



failing behind closed doors. Warning Ahuja to stop invoking her name to advance personal agendas, Swarnkar remarked that the public is not easily misled by false narratives.

The bitter war of words marks the latest escalation in months of public discussion surrounding Govinda's marriage. Speculation intensified after Govinda and Swarnkar who co-star in the upcoming feature Roopa were seen offering prayers together at Mumbai's Lalbaugcha Raja pandal. Govinda previously dismissed the relationship rumors as calculated attempts to malign his image and disrupt his professional comeback.

Arjun Das explores digital romance in new series '#Love'

Actor Arjun Das, recognized for his impactful roles in Tamil cinema, shared insights into portraying Matthew in the upcoming romantic comedy web series #Love.

The Netflix show pairs him opposite Aishwarya Lekshmi as rival dating-app entrepreneurs whose platforms connect thousands of couples, even as their own romantic lives remain messy, unresolved, and ironically empty.

Reflecting on his character, Das explained that he was drawn to Matthew's stubborn belief in visceral emotional chemistry over calculated digital compatibility. Describing the character as an earnest romantic masquerading behind an easygoing persona, he noted that Matthew views algorithm-driven metrics as an excuse people make when afraid of genuine emotional risks. He praised co-star Aishwarya Lekshmi for infusing their on-screen rivalry with wit and emotional depth, adding that the project provided a refreshing change from his previous gritty cinematic roles.

Lekshmi highlighted that her character, Tara, mirrors modern ambitious women balancing fierce career demands with personal vulnerability. She remarked that



#Love NETFLIX • GLOBALLY OCTOBER 2

while Tara attempts to solve romance like an analytical business formula, she encounters unpredictable real-world feelings she cannot regulate. Both actors credited director Balaji Mohan and show creator Soundarya Rajinikanth with maintaining an agile creative rhythm that balances thoughtful romance with lighthearted comedy.

Written by Nirmal Williams alongside co-writers Sharada Subramanian and Shweta Chakravarty, the series is produced by May6 Entertainment Factory. Offering a contemporary look at dating culture, ambition, and modern relationships, #Love premieres globally on Netflix on October 2.

Scarlett Johansson attends Paper Tiger Festival premiere

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson reunited with castmates Adam Driver and Miles Teller at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall to headline the opening night premiere of Paper Tiger at the 64th New York Film Festival.

Arriving directly after an exhausting overseas flight from another production set, a jet-lagged Johansson quipped to the audience that she was hallucinating due to time differences during the post-screening discussions. Although the crime thriller originally debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in May, Johansson had missed the French Riviera unveiling because of demanding shooting schedules for The Exorcist: Martyrs, making this festival presentation her first time watching the completed feature with public audiences.

Set in 1986, the narrative follows two ambitious brothers whose dubious scheme to clean Brooklyn's polluted Gowanus Canal inadvertently sparks violent confrontations with the Russian mafia. Johansson portrays Linda, the devoted wife of Teller's character.

Reflecting on their on-screen chemistry, Driver praised writer-director James Gray for creating an open,



collaborative set where the principal ensemble worked with instinctive mutual respect. Gray, addressing the audience before the screening, kept introductory speeches brief while honoring his cast and production team. He noted that bringing uncompromising, personal stories to modern theaters remains challenging, a sentiment echoed by festival artistic director Dennis Lim, who commended the veteran filmmaker's singular creative voice amid prevailing corporate pressures.

Running through October 12, the festival lineup features major global titles including Luca Guadagnino's tech drama Artificial and Takashi Yamazaki's anticipated sequel Godzilla Minus Zero, underscoring Lincoln Center's enduring reputation for spotlighting high-caliber cinematic artistry.

