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SIR ROW: CONG CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF PM, CEC

Citing removal of 13.3 crore voters and constitutional concerns, CWC passed a resolution calling for an independent probe to restore faith in democratic process.

NEW DELHI

Calling for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged SIR irregularities, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday put forth five demands before the Centre.

Kharge, at his opening address at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Delhi on Tuesday, demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation on moral grounds for "pressuring" the poll panel chief.

His demands included making public the complete data regarding every major change made to the electoral rolls, providing political parties with the electoral rolls and relevant data in a simple format promptly, and an independent and time-bound inquiry wherever evidence of serious discrepancies emerges.

He also demanded the immediate resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar and suspension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and restoration of 13 crore 30 lakh names that the party claims have been removed from the rolls.

"Most importantly, the voters of India must have confidence that their vote is secure," Kharge said. "We do not view this issue merely as a battle to win or lose an election. Elections come and go, and governments change, but democracy and the Constitu-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation on moral grounds for "pressuring" the poll panel chief.

- Mallikarjun Kharge, Cong prez

tion are enduring. This is the foundation of Indian democracy. We must convey to every citizen that in a democracy, the most powerful person is the ordinary voter -- not the prime minister, the chief minister, or a leader in power," he said.

The CWC also passed a resolution which referred to reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections at least 14 times over 10 months regarding decisions and procedures linked to SIR.

The resolution said that the report validated Rahul Gandhi's claims of vote chori, adding that the credibility of the poll panel is under question due to the reported concentration of control over electoral rolls during the nationwide SIR.

The CWC also expressed concern over what it described as the constitutional validity of SIR, claiming that the exercise had "already wiped out 13 crore 30 lakh Indians from the electoral rolls".

The resolution said the process shifted the burden onto citizens to prove their eligibility, and the current process resulted in "arbitrary mass-disenfranchisement" that could not be reconciled with the guarantees under Article 14 and universal adult suffrage under Article 326.

"An exercise of doubtful constitutional validity cannot be allowed to decide who may vote in the world's largest democracy," the resolution said.

The CWC meeting, chaired by Kharge, is being attended by former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, party general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal, Sachin Pilot, Mukul Wasnik, and senior leaders P Chidam-

CONGRESS LISTS 5 DEMANDS

Kharge laid out five demands that he said the Congress would pursue:

- ➡ Full data on major changes to voter lists should be made public.
- ➡ Voters whose names have been removed should receive complete information and a full opportunity to appeal.
- ➡ Political parties should receive voter lists and essential related data in a simple format and in a timely manner.
- ➡ Serious discrepancies should be independently investigated within a fixed timeframe.
- ➡ Election-related data and decisions should be transparent so that no political party can claim information is being withheld.

baram, among others, attended the meeting.

Chief ministers of Congress-ruled states -- DK Shivakumar (Karnataka), VD Satheesan (Kerala), A Revanth Reddy (Telangana) and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh) -- also attended in the meeting.

Home, Law ministries brief JPC on FCRA Bill 2026

A 31-member panel, headed by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, was formed to examine the provisions of the legislation in detail before coming out with a report.

NEW DELHI

The ministries of Home Affairs and Law and Justice on Tuesday gave a clause-by-clause briefing to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, as the proposed law continues to face objections from Opposition parties and Christian groups.

The 31-member parliamentary panel, headed by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, was constituted to scrutinise the Bill before submitting its report. Officials from the two ministries gave detailed presentations explaining the reasons for amending the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and the proposed way forward, according to sources.

Foreign funding rules under scanner

Organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving foreign contributions are required to register under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal authority overseeing their activities.

The panel is also expected to hear the views of domain experts, including State Bank of India chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, senior government law officers and lawyers. Their inputs assume significance as the panel examines the financial, legal and compliance implications of the proposed changes.

JPC briefing in a nutshell

Committee: The 31-member panel (21 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha) is chaired by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal.

Briefing and consultations: MHA and Law Ministry officials gave a clause-by-clause presentation at Parliament Annex. The panel also lined up consultations with experts like SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty and ASG Chetan Sharma.

FCRA data shared: Officials reported active NGOs fell from 29,022 (2015) to 14,466, while foreign contributions rose from ₹17,832 cr to ₹22,974 cr in 2024-25, led by TN, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.



Context and controversies

The FCRA Amendment Bill faces push-back from opposition and civil groups over fears of tightening restrictions, though India maintains it is an internal matter. The JPC must report back by the first week of the Winter Session 2026.

Fewer NGOs, but more foreign funds

At the JPC's first meeting on September 18, a Ministry of Home Affairs team led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan told the panel that the number of active NGOs registered under the FCRA had nearly halved over the past decade even as foreign contributions increased. According to the data presented to the committee, 14,466 FCRA-registered NGOs are active across 15 states. Tamil Nadu has the highest number with 2,102 organisations, followed by Maharashtra with 1,578, Karnataka with 1,355, Delhi with 1,218, Andhra Pradesh with 1,022 and Kerala with 1,013. There were 29,022 active FCRA-registered NGOs in 2015. At the same time, foreign funds received by FCRA-registered NGOs increased from Rs 17,832 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 22,974 crore in 2024-25, even as the number of active organisations declined from 29,022 to 14,466.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25 and referred to the parliamentary committee on August 12 following demands from Opposition parties for greater scrutiny. Opposition parties have alleged that some provisions could restrict legitimate foreign funding received by Christian NGOs and minority-run social welfare and educational institutions.

Govt rejects minority charges

The Centre has rejected allegations that the proposed law discriminates against minorities and has maintained that the legislation is not religion-specific. It says the changes are intended to regulate foreign contributions and improve transparency in their use.

While introducing the Bill in

the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the legislation was intended to improve transparency and ensure the proper utilisation of money received from abroad. Responding to Opposition claims that the Bill was "dangerous", Rai said it was "indeed dangerous" for those using foreign contributions for "forced religious conversion" and for people who "abuse foreign funding" for personal gain.

The disagreement goes to the heart of the debate surrounding the legislation: while the government has presented tighter regulation as necessary for accountability, its critics fear that stronger controls could make it harder for NGOs and minority institutions dependent on overseas contributions to operate.

CISF jawan opens fire, kills 4 personnel in J&K's Kathua

As per reports, an argument broke out among the personnel before the firing.

SRINAGAR

Four Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, including an Assistant Commandant, were killed after a colleague opened fire at a security camp guarding a hydel power project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Tuesday evening, in what officials described as a fratricide incident.

The firing took place at around 7 pm during a change of duty at the CISF deployment at the Sewa hydel power project in Mashka village in the Basohli area, close to the Himachal Pradesh border, officials said.

According to preliminary inputs, an argument broke out among the personnel before the firing. The exact cause of the argument and the circumstances that led to the shooting are being investigated.

The deceased were identified as Assistant Commandant Ankit Kumar Pandey, Sub-Inspector Lakshman Singh, and constables Sanjeev Kumar and Mohd Rafiq, officials said.

Pandey was the company commander of the CISF unit deployed at the project.

The four personnel were initially critically injured in the firing and were taken for medical treatment to an NHPC hospital in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, where they later succumbed to their injuries, reports said.

The shooter, a CISF head constable, was apprehended



and handed over to the police.

A team from the Kathua district police reached the area and has been entrusted with the investigation. The CISF headquarters has also ordered a Court of Inquiry to establish the sequence of events and determine the circumstances leading to the firing.

The incident occurred at a particularly remote security deployment. The Sewa project is located in the mountainous Basohli area at the far end of Kathua district, close to Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district.

The CISF company was deployed on the Jammu and Kashmir side of the Chamera Dam over the Ravi river, and the site is reportedly more accessible through Himachal Pradesh than from the rest of Kathua.

For the CISF, whose mandate includes protecting critical infrastructure, such deployments involve guarding installations vital to power generation and transmission.

The Sewa project is located on the Sewa river, a tributary of the river Ravi, in a sparsely connected mountainous area.

The shooting was an instance of fratricide, referring to violence by personnel against members of their own force.

Officials have not yet established what triggered the confrontation or whether there were any other factors behind the shooting.

HDK raises BMIC project irregularities

BENGALURU

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday alleged changes were made to the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project without Cabinet approval, raising questions over land allocation.

He challenged Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to an open debate on the alleged irregularities. Releasing documents, he said the original Framework Agreement had been approved by the Cabinet and questioned how subsequent changes could be made without returning to it.

He pointed to differences between the original Framework Agreement and the revised Outline Development Plan (ODP), particularly in land allocation for the project.

According to Kumaraswamy, the total project area was 20,193 acres, while land earmarked for the toll road increased from 6,999 acres under the original framework to 9,468.86 acres in the revised plan. He also alleged that land allocations for townships were altered, with acreage increased in some locations and reduced in others.



BMIC land row

- Original project area: **20,193 acres**
- Original toll-road allocation: **6,999 acres**
- Revised toll-road allocation: **9,468.86 acres**
- **Key demand:** Open debate on BMIC changes

BMIC expansion questioned

Kumaraswamy questioned the State Government's decision to continue and expand the BMIC project despite the operational Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway through Mandya. He alleged that further expansion could lead to additional land acquisition and financial liabilities for Karnataka. He also questioned whether the changes to land allocation and the revised project plan were placed before the Cabinet for approval, and alleged links between the government and private interests.

Kumaraswamy seeks Rs 3,705 cr central aid for Karnataka drought

Kumaraswamy questioned the State Government's decision to continue and expand the BMIC project despite the operational Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway through Mandya. He alleged that further expansion could lead to additional land acquisition and financial liabilities for Karnataka. He also questioned whether the changes to land allocation and the revised project plan were placed before the Cabinet for approval, and alleged links between the government and private interests.

Russian military aircraft crashes in Amur, 6 killed

Moscow: A Russian military aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff in the far eastern Amur region on Tuesday, killing six people, Russian news agency Interfax reported, citing the defence ministry.

Preliminary reports identified the aircraft as a Tupolev Tu-154, a Soviet-era three-engine jet that was originally designed as a medium-range passenger aircraft but has also been used by Russia's military and government for special missions. It crashed shortly after takeoff, with seven people reportedly on board.

'CARNAGE, PLAIN AND SIMPLE'

SC on 10x markup on cancer drugs, bats for 16% margin

SC flags Rs 27,000 MRP on Rs 3,000 cancer drug; unchecked MRPs on 82% of non-scheduled drugs; hospital pharmacy practices and taxpayer burden.

NEW DELHI

Calling the vast gap between marked retail prices and actual procurement costs "carnage, plain and simple," the Supreme Court on Tuesday said opaque and soaring medicine prices were inflicting suffering on ordinary patients while private hospitals and others pocketed the difference.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, hearing petitions seeking stricter price controls, highlighted stark anomalies and

Supreme Court observations

Massive price discrepancy
Highlighted a cancer drug priced at an MRP of ₹27,000 despite being procured/supplied to retailers for just ₹2,700.

Forced in-house purchases
Criticized corporate hospitals for compelling patients to buy medicines exclusively from in-house pharmacies under threat of denying treatment.

Burden on taxpayers
Noted that inflated prices directly drain public funds when treatments are reimbursed via government welfare schemes.

Beneficiaries
Remarked that pharmaceutical manufacturing companies are often not the primary gainers, pointing instead toward hospital profiteering.

questioned why a 16% margin could not be fixed on MRP.

An injection listed at an MRP of Rs 22,437 reaches the retailer for only about Rs 3,520. A cancer drug marked at

Legal & policy questions raised

Uniform margins: Questioned why a standard 16% margin norm under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) isn't strictly enforced across all drugs instead of allowing massive, uncapped markups.

Essential vs. Non-essential distinction: Challenged the rationale behind differentiating pricing caps based on whether a medicine is classified as essential or non-essential.

Next steps: Directed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to consult with govt officials and submit a response, deferring the hearing to October 12, 2026.

Rs 27,000 has a price-to-retailer of around Rs 3,000.

"Where does this chunk of money go, 10 times (the MRP)," Justice Mehta asked, adding, "This is carnage."



Hospitals mandating in-house medicine purchases

Patients are routinely forced to buy medicines from hospital in-house chemists, the bench noted. Those who try to procure the same medicine at a lower price from outside risk doubts over its genuineness or may even face resistance from the hospital, the court observed.

"A corporate hospital... says that you have to buy from our chemist. If you bring it from outside, we are not assuring you of the treatment; what does the patient do," Justice Mehta observed, adding that hospitals "do not even allow a dead body to be taken out."

Unethical practices and taxpayer burden

The court questioned the distinction between essential and non-essential medicines and the exclusion of many drugs from the Drugs (Prices Control) Order. "Why not keep 16% margin on MRP which is prescribed in the DPCO on everything? Why not? Ultimately, the result is the taxpayer (is paying)," Justice Mehta said.

It stated that medical devices and medicines fall under the Essential Commodities Act and asked why they should be left outside price control.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who joined the hearing, said the government would examine a balanced solution and described the court's suggestion of a uniform 16% ceiling as appearing "logical." The bench said the real loser was the taxpayer, whether under government schemes or otherwise.

Quick Read

Project Veer Gatha 6.0

National-level competition for students

The Ministries of Defence and Education, Government of India, have jointly organised Project Veer Gatha 6.0, a national-level competition aimed at fostering patriotism, valour, courage and civic consciousness among students.

The competition is open to students from Classes 3 to 12 studying in government, aided, unaided and CBSE schools.

Under Category 1, for students of Classes 3 to 5, participants can submit a 150-word poem/paragraph and a painting. Category 2, for Classes 6 to 8, includes a 300-word poem/paragraph, painting and multimedia presentation. Category 3, for Classes 9 to 12, includes a 750-word poem/paragraph, painting and multimedia presentation.

Schools have to interact with recipients of gallantry awards by October 4 and select the best four entries. These entries must be uploaded on the designated portal between October 5 and 19.

A total of 100 students will be selected as the national-level ‘Super 100’ winners, with 25 winners from each category. Each winner will receive a cash prize of ₹10,000 and a certificate of appreciation, the Deputy Director of the District Institute of Education and Training said in a release.

Applications invited for NMMS examination

The District Institute of Education and Training has invited applications for the 2026-27 National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) selection examination.

Students currently studying in Class 8 in government, aided and local-body schools, whose parents’ annual income is below ₹3.5 lakh, are eligible to appear for the examination.

Selected meritorious students will receive a scholarship of ₹12,000 per year from Class 9 to Class 12.

Interested students should contact their respective school headmasters with their Aadhaar card, caste and income certificates, bank passbook and photograph.

Headmasters are required to submit the applications online through their login credentials. The online application process began on September 23, 2026, and the last date for submission is October 30, 2026.

The selection examination will be held at respective taluk centres on December 20, 2026, the Deputy Director of the District Institute of Education and Training said in a release.

Applications invited for monthly honorarium

The Department of Minorities Welfare has invited online applications through the Seva Sindhu portal for providing monthly honorarium during 2026-27 to Jain priests, Buddhist Dhammacharis and Sikh Granthis serving at registered Jain Basadis, Buddhist Viharas and Sikh Gurdwaras in the State. The last date for submitting applications is October 31. Applicants must belong to the respective Jain, Buddhist or Sikh community, be residents of Karnataka and have completed 18 years of age. Only service personnel selected by the management committees of the respective institutions are eligible. The applicant’s total annual family income from all sources should not exceed ₹5 lakh.

Aadhaar linkage with the bank account and an active NPCI status are mandatory. Interested applicants may also submit their physical applications by visiting the district office or the nearest information centre.

For further information, applicants may contact the District Officer’s office at Maulana Azad Bhavan, Mysuru, on 0821-2422088, the District Officer of the Department of Minorities Welfare said in a release.

Rahul follows Abhijit Deepke: Narayanaswamy



MYSURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council, Chhalavadi Narayanaswamy, has alleged that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party are followers of Abhijit Deepke of the “Cockroach Janata Party”.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, he said Rahul Gandhi was not following the ideals of Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi or Indira

Gandhi, but was instead following Abhijit Deepke, whom he described as a young man. He termed this an irony of Indian politics.

On the SIR Narayanaswamy alleged that the Congress was attempting to turn the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls into a major political issue. He said SIR was neither a BJP initiative nor an issue concerning any particular political party, but a process un-

dertaken by the Election Commission. Special revisions of electoral rolls were routinely conducted every 15 to 20 years.

On Kharge and the RSS He also criticised the Home Minister Priyank Kharge, alleging that the minister rarely came out of his department and frequently referred to the RSS in his statements.

He said there were no criminal or other cases against the RSS in Karnataka, while alleging that law and order had deteriorated significantly under the Congress government. He also spoke about alleged corruption during the Congress regime.

S. Mahadevayya, Anil Thomas, Shailendra, Rudramurthy Ashok, Vinay Kumar, Anil Kumar, Karthik, Mariyappa, Arjun, Partha, Parashuram, Srinivas, Vasanth Kumar and Paramananda were present.

SWR intensifies checks to ensure safe drinking water

MYSURU

South Western Railway (SWR) has stepped up monitoring and quality-control measures to ensure the availability of safe and potable drinking water at railway stations and colonies across its jurisdiction.

As part of its water quality monitoring programme,



Pic for representation purpose

health inspectors are checking residual chlorine levels daily at stations and railway colonies. The Engineering Department is also carrying out regular chlorination of water supply systems, while the effectiveness of the process is being monitored through continuous testing.

Water samples are being collected regularly and sent to

Water quality report, Sept 23–29			
DIVISION	RESIDUAL CHLORINE	BACTERIOLOGICAL	CHEMICAL
Hubballi	364/364	50/50	11/11
Bengaluru	403/403	12/12	1/2*
Mysuru	231/231	1/5*	3/3
TOTAL	998/998	63/67	15/16

Samples found satisfactory / samples tested. Results of the rest awaited

laboratories for bacteriological and chemical analysis. Bacteriological samples are tested every month, while chemical samples are tested at prescribed intervals. In case any sample fails to meet the prescribed standards, immediate corrective measures, including cleaning, re-chlorination and necessary rectification of the water supply system, are undertaken.

According to the consolidated water quality report for the period from September 23 to 29, covering the Hubballi, Bengaluru and Mysuru divisions, 998 residual chlorine samples were tested and all were found satisfactory.

Of the 67 bacteriological samples collected, 63 were

found satisfactory, while results for four samples are awaited. Of the 16 chemical samples tested, 15 were satisfactory and the result of one sample is pending.

In the Mysuru Division, all 231 residual chlorine samples tested were satisfactory. Of five bacteriological samples, one was found satisfactory, while results for the remaining four are awaited. All three chemical samples tested were satisfactory.

SWR said continuous monitoring, regular water quality testing and prompt corrective action wherever necessary would be continued to ensure safe and quality drinking water for passengers and railway staff.

Applications invited from SHGs for child care centre

MYSURU: The Department of Women and Child Development has proposed to start an additional district-level child care centre at the New Court Hall on the Mysuru court premises during 2026-27.

Applications have been invited from eligible voluntary organisations and self-help groups (SHGs) having women staff with the required qualifications in child care.

Applicant organisations must possess a government-recognised registration certificate. Preference will be given to local organisations that have been implementing women and child welfare programmes for at least five years. Such organisations must submit a service certificate issued by the competent authority.

The organisation must also be financially sound and submit income-tax certificates for the past three years. Interested organisations can obtain application forms from the office of the Deputy Director, located on the first floor of Shree Shakti Bhavan at Krishnadevaraya Circle, Vijayanagar II Stage, Mysuru, from September 28, 2026.

Completed applications, along with the required documents, must be submitted by 5 p.m. on October 16, 2026. For details, contact 0821-2495432, the Deputy Director of the Department of Women and Child Development said in a release.

Expired beer seized, destroyed at Kurgalli



MYSURU

Excise officials seized expired beer from liquor shops at Kurgalli in Mysuru city during an inspection conducted on the orders of Mysuru City District Deputy Commissioner of Excise Vikram L.B.

The operation was carried out under the leadership of the KSBCL Mysuru-1 and Mysuru-2 liquor depots, following directions issued to the Deputy Superintendents of Excise attached to the KSBCL Liquor Depot and Mysuru Sub-Division.

Expired beer of various brands, valued at ₹1,927.66, was seized during the opera-

The operation	
WHERE	Liquor shops at Kurgalli, Mysuru city
ORDERED BY	Excise Deputy Commissioner Vikram L.B.
LED BY	KSBCL Mysuru-1 and Mysuru-2 depots
SEIZED	Expired beer worth ₹1,927.66

tion. The seizure and subsequent destruction process was carried out by D.K. Venkatesh, Shop Manager, KSBCL Mysuru-1 Depot; Yogesh M.R., Shop Manager, KSBCL Mysuru-2 Depot; and Nandita Haldanakar, Excise Inspector, KSBCL Depot-1.

The expired liquor was destroyed in the presence of Radha S.P., Excise Inspector, KSBCL Depot-2; Chandrashekhara and Raghavendra Apura, Excise Deputy Inspectors, Mysuru Zone-2, along with other Excise Department and depot staff.

Guru Vandana: VVCE hosts silver jubilee reunion of its first-batch graduates

MYSURU

Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), Mysuru, hosted the Silver Jubilee Reunion of its First Batch Graduates (2001 Batch) under the theme “Guru Vandana – A Tribute to Beloved Teachers” at its college campus in Mysuru.

The memorable occasion brought together nearly 100 alumni and their esteemed teachers to celebrate 25 years of graduation and honour the mentors who shaped their academic and professional journeys.



Prof. N. S. Lingegowda, Coordinator, VVCE Alumni Association (VVCEAA), welcomed the dignitaries, faculty members, teachers and alumni, highlighting the emotional significance of the reunion and the enduring bond between teachers and students. Vice-Principal Prof. Shobhashankar presented an overview of VVCE’s remarkable growth, highlighting its achievements in NBA and NAAC accreditation, modern infrastructure, and student-centric facilities. He also expressed the institution’s as-

piration to attain private university status in the coming years.

Hon’ble Secretary P. Vishwanath appreciated the institution’s achievements in academic results, placements and admissions, and emphasised the excellent infrastructure developed at VVCE. He urged the alumni to support budding engineers through professional referrals and by facilitating recruitment opportunities from reputed companies.

Hon’ble President Gundappa Gowda encouraged the

alumni to extend support to economically disadvantaged students and establish endowment awards to recognise academic rank holders.

Journey back to 1997

Sharing his heartfelt reflections, one of the felicitated teachers described the reunion as a mesmerising and humbling journey back to 1997, recalling the first batch as his very first students, classrooms and institution. Distinguished alumnus Keshav, who travelled from Canada, expressed admiration for VVCE’s outstanding transformation and remarked that the pioneering batch had left its footprints beneath the institution’s magnificent growth.

The celebration concluded on a note of gratitude, nostalgia and renewed commitment to strengthening the enduring relationship between VVCE, its teachers and alumni.

Seva Sankalpa: Nationwide painting and elocution competition at JSS school

MYSURU

As part of the Seva Sankalpa initiative, the Narasimharaja constituency organised a nationwide painting and elocution competition at JSS Primary and High School in Gribhovipalya here on Monday.

Former mayors Sandesh Swamy and Shivakumar, BJP leaders Mavin Prasad, city secretary Velu, city secretary Srikanthamurthy, women’s city vice-president Kavitha Singh, secretary Shyamala and OBC city vice-president Vijay, along with other party leaders, the school headmaster, teachers and students,

were present.

Students of the school participated enthusiastically in the competitions and showcased their talent. The programme was organised with the objective of encouraging

Such competitions would help identify and nurture the talents of children

creativity, critical thinking and talent among students through painting and public speaking.

The dignitaries congratulated the students and said such



competitions would help identify and nurture the talents of children.

The programme was suc-

cessfully conducted with the active cooperation of the school teachers, students and party leaders.

SATHYAPATHA GURUVANDANA

Students honour guru, recall decades of knowledge and guidance

MYSURU

A teacher is not merely someone who imparts lessons but a mentor who shows the way in life. The ‘Sathyapatha’ Guruvandana programme became a memorable occasion as the disciples of veteran retired sociology professor Prof. Satyanarayana came together to honour and fondly remember their teacher, who illuminated the lives of hundreds of students through decades of teaching, research and academic pursuit.

The felicitation programme, organised in Mysuru by the disciples of Prof. S.N., brought together his former students, colleagues, family members, friends and well-wishers from different places. They recalled their association with the professor



and shared their special experiences with him.

Retired principal of Balehonnur Junior College Prof. Purushotham inaugurated the programme with a prayer. Prof. M. Raphael compered the event.

In his introductory remarks, Prof. Kalachanne Gowda said technology had become an important tool for bringing people together. It had enabled the disciples of Prof. S.N., who were spread across

different places, to reconnect and organise the Guruvandana programme.

The organisers also warmly welcomed Prof. S.N.’s family members, friends and well-wishers who had arrived from various places. Santosh Nayak and Vijay Gopal of Karnataka State Open University, students who had come from Shivamogga and disciples who had arrived from Chitradurga were also welcomed.

Those who came to share their experiences with their teacher had been requested to speak briefly. However, for many, it was difficult to confine decades of memories, experiences of learning and their close association with the professor to just a few words.

Former students also introduced themselves at the programme. Disciples who have made a mark in various fields briefly spoke about themselves and recalled the influ-

ence of their teacher’s guidance on their lives.

A research journey on screen

An interview highlighting Prof. Satyanarayana’s decades-long research journey and contribution to the field of sociology was also screened at the programme. The interview was conducted with the cooperation of Dr. Santosh Nayak, Director of the Publicity Department of Karnataka State Open University.

The disciples and former colleagues who attended the Guruvandana programme recalled their memorable experiences with Prof. Satyanarayana. The gathering turned emotional as they remembered his guidance in the classroom, his affectionate relationship with students and the encouragement he extended to them at various stages of

Also felicitated

N. Jayaram, Prof. Shivaram Krishnan, Prof. R. Indira, Prof. Umashankar, Prof. Thamanna Gowda, Prof. Ramanayya, Prof. Nagaraj, Prof. Vasanthamma, Prof. Y.S. Siddegowda, Prof. Masood Siraj, K.M. Chandraiah, Prof. Panchaksharaiah, Prof. Moulesha, Prof. K.T. Shivanna, C. Basavegowda and Radhakrishna

their lives.

The ‘Sathyapatha’ Guruvandana programme demonstrated that the bond between a teacher and a student is not confined to the four walls of a classroom; rather, its value grows stronger with the passage of time.

Quick Read

Free eye check-up camp held for Dasara personnel



Mysuru: An eye screening camp was organised at the Mysuru Palace premises on Tuesday for mahouts, elephant caretakers (kavadis), Palace staff, forest officials and personnel who have arrived in the city for the Dasara festivities.

The camp was organised in association with Ukriti N Jeeva and ASG Eye Hospital, where around 120 people underwent eye examinations. Free spectacles were provided on the spot to those who required them.

Founder-President Chandan Gowda Dhananjaya, Pasha of ASG Eye Hospital, Chamundi organisation president Lion Ravikumar, Reserve Police personnel Basavaraju, Akram, who looks after the Dasara elephants, and forest department personnel participated in the programme.

Interruption in power supply today

Mysuru: Power supply will be disrupted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 30 in areas served by the 11 KV Varuna-NJY and Pilihalli IP feeders from the 66/11 KV Varakodu power distribution station.

The interruption is due to emergency works being undertaken by the Major Works Division of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) on the 220 KV Kadakola-Vajamangala transmission line.

The affected areas include Varuna, Dandikere, Pilihalli, Mosambayanahalli and surrounding areas, said the Executive Engineer of the Narasimharaja Mohalla Division in a release.

On October 1

Power supply will be interrupted from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on October 1 in areas served by the 11 KV Yadavagiri feeder under the V.V. Mohalla Sub-Division.

The interruption is due to underground cable work. The affected areas include Yadavagiri, Paramahansa Road, Vivekananda Road, Ramanna Circle, Sankalpa Central Park, Railway Loka Colony, Manjunathapura, Aditya Fuel Station, KRS Road and surrounding areas, said the Executive Engineer of the V.V. Mohalla Division in a release.

Dasara 2026: KSRTC announces special package tours

MYSURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has organised special package tours from October 15 to 26 as part of Dasara 2026, offering tourists an opportunity to visit several popular tourist destinations in and around Mysuru.

All the package tour buses will depart from the Mysuru Central Bus Station at 6.30 a.m.

Advance seat reservation facility has been provided for all the package tours. Tourists can book their seats in advance at the KSRTC Mysuru Central Bus Station and the KSRTC private booking counter, as well as online through the KSRTC website.

The Mysuru Divisional Controller of KSRTC said in a release that tourists can make advance bookings to avail themselves of the package tours.

MYSURU DASARA 2026

Picture for representation

KSRTC Dasara package tours • October 15 to 26			
PACKAGE	THE TOUR COVERS	ADULTS	CHILDREN
Giri Darshini 325 km	Bandipur, Gopalaswamy Betta, Biligiriranga Hills, Nanjangud and Chamundi Hill	₹400	₹250
Jala Darshini 350 km	Golden Temple, Dubare Forest, Nisargadhama, Abbey Falls, Raja's Seat and Harangi Reservoir	₹450	₹300
Deva Darshini 250 km	Nanjangud, Talakadu, Bluff, Mudukuthore, Somana-thapura, Srirangapatna and KRS	₹300	₹200

Dasara CM Cup: Shooting selection trials on Oct 1

The shooting selection trials and competition for the 2026-27 Mysuru Division-level Dasara CM Cup sports meet will be held on October 1.

The selection trials for Air Rifle and Air Pistol will be conducted at the Mysuru Rifle Shooting Academy in Vijayanagar 1st Stage. For details, participants may contact Jayanth P. on 9880042912.

Participants must report at the respective venues by 7 a.m. on October 1. Bringing the online registration ID and Aadhaar card is mandatory.

Personnel from the defence and paramilitary forces will not be eligible to participate. For more information, participants may contact the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Mysuru, or call 0821-2564179, said the Assistant Director of the department in a release.

Contacts

- **Air rifle, air pistol:** Ravichandra T.M., 9108450296
- **Open sight air rifle:** Jayanth P., 9880042912
- **Department:** 0821-2564179

Youth must dream of building a better society: Yathindra



360 colleges to present programmes	50+ singers selected	30+ dance teams selected
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MYSURU

Youth are the greatest strength of the nation, and they should dream of building a better society and work towards turning those dreams into reality, said Urban Development and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

Speaking after inaugurating the programme organised at the Kuvempu Open-Air Theatre here on Monday along with playback singer Vijay Prakash and popular actor Saphthami Gowda, he urged students to develop leadership qualities while still in college and become leaders who contribute to nation-building. The government has introduced initiatives such as free bus passes for college students, Yuva Nidhi and Bharat Jodo to empower students and the youth.

MLA G.T. Devegowda won the hearts of young audiences by singing the song "Mysuru

Yuva Sambhrama dates

- **OCTOBER 4 TO 7**
Special camp for the artistes
- **OCTOBER 7**
Grand cultural performance on the same stage

Dasara Eshtondu Sundara." He recalled that the launch of Yuva Sambhrama had initially faced criticism, but the programme had continued by setting aside such criticism. Devegowda said Yuva Sambhrama provides a platform to showcase the talents of young people and urged college students to make the best use of the opportunity.

Chamaraja Assembly Constituency MLA K. Harish Gowda said students from different districts would participate in Yuva Sambhrama and showcase their talents. As many as 360 colleges have been given an opportunity to present diverse programmes.

Popular playback singer Vijay Prakash said every young man and woman should work consistently to realise their biggest dreams. More than 50 singers and over 30 dance teams had been selected for the programmes to be held in the coming days. A special camp would be organised for the artistes from October 4 to 7, followed by a grand cultural performance on the same

Youth are the greatest strength of the nation

stage on October 7. The camp is not limited to music or entertainment. Its main objective is to bring together young artists from different parts of Karnataka through art and work towards building a better Karnataka through the strength of youth.

Actor Saphthami Gowda recalled her college days and said that cash prizes awarded to winners of the Mysuru Dasara sports competitions had motivated youngsters to participate in sports. A poster for Chitrasanthe was released during the programme. A special attraction was the display of images of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister using drones.

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman Ramappa, MLAs Anil Chikamadu and Tanveer Sait, Mysuru Paints and Varnish Chairman Ganesh, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmi-kanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Yukesh Kumar, Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aishwarya R., Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Savitha M.K. and other dignitaries were present.

Complete UG cable works by Oct 5: CESC Chairman



MYSURU

CESC Chairman and MLA Ramesh Bandisiddegowda on Tuesday directed the agencies concerned to complete the on-going underground (UG) electricity cable installation works in the city by October 5.

Chairing a meeting with officials and representatives of the agencies concerned at the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) office here on Tuesday to review the progress of UG cable works, he directed that all ongoing works and the restoration of sites where the works had been carried out should be completed 100 per cent within the stipulated deadline. New works planned in the city should be temporarily suspended in view of the

Dasara festivities. There can be no compromise on completing the works. Action will be taken against those who fail to complete the works within the deadline.

Close pits

Expressing displeasure over pits dug on roads and footpaths for UG cable installation being left unattended, the chairman asked officials to identify all such locations and ensure that the pits were properly closed immediately. The agencies must completely remove and properly dispose of debris generated during the works. Barricades and warning signs should be installed mandatorily at work sites to ensure public safety.

Ramesh said white-topping, underground drainage (UGD) and UG cable installation

works are being carried out simultaneously in the city. Any lack of coordination among these works will cause inconvenience to the public. Therefore, the officials and agencies concerned should coordinate with each other while executing the works. The officials must ensure the immediate removal of UG cable materials and all other CESC-related materials placed on footpaths and other locations across the city during the Dasara period. Necessary measures should be taken to ensure that the materials do not affect the city's appearance or cause inconvenience to the smooth movement of the public.

Another round of meeting will be held on October 6 to review the progress of UG cable works. The heads of all agencies concerned must attend the meeting. Further action would be taken if the works were not completed by the time of the next review meeting.

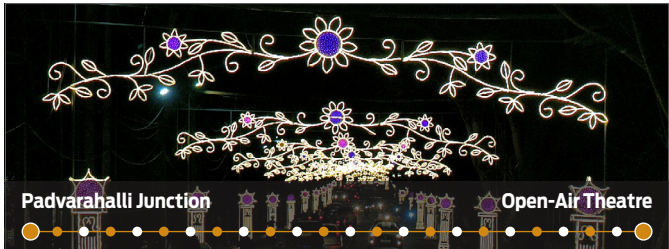
CESC Technical Director L. Lokesh, Mysuru Circle Superintending Engineer Sunil Kumar and officials of CESC and various agencies were present.

Manasagangotri Road lit up for Yuva Sambhrama

MYSURU

The Manasagangotri Open-Air Theatre Road was illuminated with attractive decorative lights on Monday in connection with the launch of the Yuva Sambhrama, one of the major events of the world-famous Mysuru Dasara festival.

As part of the Dasara celebrations, the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) is carrying out decorative lighting at several roads and prominent circles across Mysuru. As the first programme of the Dasara festivities, special illumination has been installed along the road leading to the



Manasagangotri Open-Air Theatre.

In view of the Yuva Sambhrama, the road from Padvarahalli Junction to the Open-Air Theatre has been decorated with attractive and special lighting. The illumination was inaugurated in the presence of MLA and CESC Chairman Ramesh Bandisiddegowda.

CESC Mysuru Circle Superintending Engineer Sunil Kumar, N.R. Mohalla Division Executive Engineer Madesh, V.V. Mohalla Division Executive Engineer Sandeep, KPTCL Employees' Association (659) Vice-President H.V. Sandeep and other officials and staff were present.

Heritage programmes to promote Mysuru's history

The Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage has organised three special programmes as part of Mysuru Dasara 2026 to introduce the city's historical and heritage buildings to the public, students and tourists.

A Heritage Walk will be held on October 15, with participation limited to the first 300 people to register. A Heritage Cycle Ride will be organised on October 16. The first 100 interested participants aged between 15 and 50 will be provided e-bicycles, while others may participate using their own bicycles.

A Heritage Tonga Ride for couples dressed in traditional attire will be held on October 17. The programme is open to the first 50 registered couples aged between 25 and 55.



All three programmes will begin at 7 a.m. from Rangacharlu Town Hall and proceed through important heritage roads and buildings in the city before concluding near Town Hall.

Those interested may register free of cost by October 10, excluding holidays, during office hours, by visiting the Deputy Director's Office located on the premises of the Karnataka Dasara Exhibition Authority. Registration can also be made through email at commrah@yahoo.in and ddheritagemysore@gmail.com.

For more details, contact 0821-2424671/2424673, Deputy Director Dr C.N. Manjula on 8310250733, or Shashidhar S. on 7349057976/9481069886, the department said in a release.

Nine-day Kalaripayattu awareness programme

A nine-day introductory programme on Kalaripayattu, titled 'Kalari Awareness', has been organised in association with the Department of Kannada and Culture during the Mysuru Dasara and Navaratri celebrations to familiarise the public with India's traditional martial art and cultural heritage.

The training and programme will be conducted free of cost by Kalari Sadhana Mysuru. The sessions will be held at the premises of Karnataka Kalamandira in Mysuru



from 6 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. every day.

Around 15 to 20 participants will be introduced to various aspects of Kalaripayattu during the nine-day programme.

For registration and further details, interested persons may contact G. Varun Yadav, founder and chief instructor of Kalari Sadhana, on 9886750857, said Dr Sudarshan, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, in a release.

Kalari Awareness

WHEN Every day for nine days, 6 a.m. to 7.30 a.m.

WHERE Karnataka Kalamandira

FEE Free of cost

CONTACT G. Varun Yadav, 9886750857

Painting competition for students on Oct 3

A painting competition for students from Classes 8 to 12 will be held at 9 a.m. on October 3 as part of Mysuru Dasara and Chitrasanthe 2026.

The competition will be conducted in front of the Mathematics Department on the theme 'Our Mysuru Dasara, Clean Mysuru Dasara-2026.' Spot registration will not be permitted. Interested students must register online using the QR code by September 30. Participation will be limited to the first 150 to 200 students who register.

Bicycles, trophies and certificates will be awarded to the first three winners. Participants must bring their school ID cards, drawing boards, painting materials and water bottles. Drawing paper measuring 11x15 inches will be provided at the venue.

For further information, contact 8861398811 or follow the visit [mysuru Facebook/Instagram](https://mysuru.facebook.com) pages, said the Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner and president of the Chitrasanthe committee in a release.

How to take part

1 Register online using the QR code by September 30; no spot registration

2 Bring school ID card, drawing board, painting materials and water bottle

Quick Read



Voters await BLO visits amid implementation gaps

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Voters in parts of Bengaluru say Election Commission directions on home visits by BLOs have yet to reach the ground. The ECI has directed Booth Level Officers to collect documents from voters who received notices over unmapped names or discrepancies, instead of requiring them to attend hearings. However, residents said hearings continued at several centres, with relatives submitting documents and video calls used for voters outside the city or abroad. A Kasavanahalli resident said BLOs may face difficulties making home visits amid existing workloads. Another resident said field-level instructions remained unclear. The ECI has also asked officials to set up help desks and special camps for vulnerable voters.



Despite ban, artificial colours continue to spice up K'taka food

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Despite a statewide ban, artificial colours continue to be used in popular food items across Karnataka, raising health concerns. Brightly coloured gobi, kebabs, egg rice, fish fry, jalebi, falooda and ice candy are commonly sold at eateries and roadside stalls. Officials have restricted colours such as Rhodamine-B, Sunset Yellow FCF and Carmoisine in certain foods, while testing has flagged others above permitted limits. Sources said the price gap drives use, with artificial colours costing Rs 200-300 per kg compared to around Rs 20,000 for natural colours. Health Minister U.T. Khader warned of strict action against sellers compromising public health.



Hampi's Stone Chariot

ON SALE OCT 10-11 Rs 600

Postal collectibles

DISTRICTS	Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Belagavi
DATES	October 10-11
COPIES	1,000+ in Bengaluru; about 500 each elsewhere
PRICE	Rs 600
STAMPS	100 pictorial cancellations
THEME	Karnataka heritage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Postal Circle will release more Philately Passports in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belagavi during National Postal Week. The passports will be available on October 10 and 11, with at least 1,000 copies expected at Bengaluru's General Post Office and around 500 each in Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belagavi on both days.

Kharge questions BJP leaders over children's RSS participation

The minister also sought clarity on the organisation's funding, donor disclosures, audited accounts and registration status.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge has questioned BJP leaders over their children's participation in RSS activities and sought financial disclosures.

In a post on X, Kharge referred to Karnataka's 224 Assembly constituencies and challenged the BJP to produce photographs showing children of its candidates wearing RSS uniforms, attending shakhas, serving in gaushalas or following the lifestyle advocated by the organisation.

He claimed that such participation would be found among fewer than 10% of the children of BJP candidates. Kharge also named several senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Anurag Thakur, S Jaishankar, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Piyush Goyal, and asked how many of their children active RSS swayamsevaks were or regularly attended shakhas.

"If the RSS is supposedly the great school of national-



Kharge BJP challenge		
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES	ISSUE RAISED	KHARGE'S CLAIM
224	RSS participation	Less than 10%
FINANCIAL ISSUES	FUNDS MENTIONED	RESPONSE
Registration, accounts, donors	'Guru Dakshina'	Karnataka BJP

ism, discipline and character-building, why does it so often seem that the syllabus is meant for other people's children?" Kharge said.

Kharge also sought information on the RSS's registration, audited accounts, donor disclosures and financial

transparency. He questioned the collection of funds described as 'Guru Dakshina' and sought greater clarity on the organisation's finances.

His remarks came in response to a post by the Karnataka BJP unit, which said people who viewed activities

“Why should there be any hesitation about registration, audited accounts, donor disclosures and complete financial transparency?”

— Priyank Kharge, Karnataka Home Minister

through “party percentages and High-Command approvals” would not understand voluntary service.

“Those who measure everything through party percentages and High Command approvals will never understand voluntary, selfless service to the nation,” the BJP Karnataka unit said on X.

The exchange is part of a wider political dispute between Kharge and BJP-RSS leaders over the organisation's legal status, finances and activities. Kharge has previously sought greater transparency from the RSS, while the organisation has maintained that it does not require formal registration to function.

Rs 5.48 crore MDMA seized, six held



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Girinagar, Hebbal and Vidyanarayana police have busted separate drug operations, arresting six people and seizing 5.48 kg of MDMA.

The accused include a foreign national and three persons from other states. Police said the drugs were allegedly procured at cheaper rates from foreign countries, other states and various parts of Karnataka before being sold at higher prices to customers, including college students.

Girinagar police seized 4.320 kg of MDMA, while Hebbal police recovered 1.054 kg and Vidyanarayana police seized 106 grams. The combined value of the seized contraband was estimated at Rs 5.48 crore based on the quantity and prevailing market rates.

The raids followed information received by police about the sale of banned narcotic substances within the limits of the three police stations. Separate cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act before police teams conducted raids at locations identified through their sources.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the city police had seized 79.5 kg of MDMA and 1,000 ecstasy pills, collectively valued at Rs 161 crore, during operations over the past four months.

“Thirty-six teams involving around 140 officers and personnel worked on the crack-

Police operations across three areas uncovered alleged drug trafficking networks targeting customers, including college students, with six arrests.

Drug network busted	
5.48 kg	MDMA SEIZED
5.48 cr	ESTIMATED VALUE (RS)
6	ACCUSED ARRESTED
3	POLICE STATIONS
18.6 lakh	CASH SEIZED (RS)
43	MOBILE PHONES
4	VEHICLES

down,” Singh said.

Police also seized Rs 18.6 lakh in cash, 43 mobile phones, two cars and two two-wheelers during the operations. Investigators used technical analysis, undercover operations and financial-trail analysis to trace the alleged drug network.

According to police, the network had altered its transportation methods to evade detection. While flights and trains were used earlier, the accused had recently shifted to buses for transporting drugs.

The crackdown is part of the State government's ‘No Drugs’ policy and anti-drug campaign.

Rs 161 cr

Four-month crackdown: Bengaluru police seized 79.5 kg of MDMA and 1,000 ecstasy pills between April and September. The operation involved 36 teams and around 140 personnel.

IIT-B study backs Hebbal tunnel, flyover amid IISc objections



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An IIT Bombay assessment projects faster peak-hour traffic movement, while an IISc review questions assumptions behind the findings.

An IIT Bombay study on the Hebbal short tunnel and elevated corridor has recommended implementing both projects, projecting improved traffic speeds and reduced delays if a substantial share of traffic shifts to the proposed infrastructure.

The study, conducted by Professor Archak Mittal for Rithwik Projects Private Limited, the BDA contractor for the short tunnel, estimated that average peak-hour speed in 2027 could increase from 13.74 kmph on the existing road network to 20.64 kmph if 50% of traffic shifts to the tunnel and elevated corridor. At an 80% shift, the projected speed is 22 kmph.

The study tested 50%, 60%, 70% and 80% traffic-shift scenarios based on assumptions in the project DPRs. It examined the existing road network, elevated corridor, tunnel and combined project, and recommended the two facilities together.

However, the Sustainable Transportation Lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) reviewed the assessment and described it as “biased in favour of building the two projects”, citing insufficient evidence for its recommendations.

IISc IST Lab convener Ashish Verma questioned the traffic-diversion assumptions,

The proposed Hebbal infrastructure has drawn contrasting assessments over projected traffic gains, modelling assumptions and wider network impacts.

“The report does not provide enough details on how the model was built and tested.”

— Ashish Verma IISc IST Lab convener

calling the 50% and 80% levels “arbitrary”. He said the study did not establish the figures through a robust route-assignment methodology.

The review also noted that the tunnel has 3+3 lanes while the elevated corridor has 2+2 lanes, making identical diversion assumptions questionable. It said the detailed analysis primarily covered the existing network and combined project, rather than independently evaluating each facility.

The IIT-B study itself flagged a possible bottleneck where traffic from both facilities could converge downstream. It recommended traffic channelisation and at least a 250-metre gap between the structures.

Prof Verma also said the assessment did not compare public transport alternatives or environmental, ecological and road-safety costs.

Peak-hour speed, kmph	
Existing	13.74
At 50% shift	20.64
At 80% shift	22

IIT-B study projections for 2027

High Court quashes case against ‘Drone Prathap’ over sodium experiment



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has quashed the criminal case registered against YouTuber N.M. Prathap, popularly known as ‘Drone Prathap’, over a science experiment involving sodium in an agricultural pond.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, hearing Prathap's petition seeking quashing of the case, observed that the experiment was related to science prescribed in the Class 10 NCERT curriculum. The Bench said the experiment appeared to have been conducted for educational purposes and there was no apparent malicious intent.

Prathap is known for conducting educational experiments on YouTube and has reportedly built around 600 drones using electronic waste. The video in question was allegedly made to explain a chemical reaction to viewers.

However, the court made it clear that it neither endorsed nor appreciated the manner in which the experiment was conducted.

The Bench said the material before it did not establish the malicious intent required to justify continuing the investigation and criminal proceedings against Prathap. It consequently quashed the FIR and related criminal case.

At the same time, the court cautioned that any repetition of similar incidents in the future would be viewed more

THE CASE SO FAR

- THE EXPERIMENT**
100 grams of sodium in a pond on a friend's farm; the video went viral
- DECEMBER 2024**
Prathap arrested
- THE CHARGES**
Explosive Substances Act Sec 3; BNS Sec 288
- HIGH COURT**
Petition allowed, proceedings closed

THE VERDICT

FIR and criminal case quashed

- Experiment linked to Class 10 NCERT science
- No apparent malicious intent
- A repeat will be viewed more seriously

seriously.

Case background

Prathap had conducted the experiment using 100 grams of sodium in an agricultural pond on his friend's private property. The experiment was recorded and uploaded on YouTube, after which the video went viral on social media.

Prathap was arrested in December 2024 in connection with the incident. Police had registered a case under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act, alleging an explosion in a manner that could endanger life or property. He was also booked under Section 288 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for negligent handling of explosive substances.

Challenging the proceedings, Prathap approached the High Court seeking quashing of the FIR and criminal case. The court subsequently allowed his petition and closed the proceedings.

Man steals jewellery from relative's house, replaces it with fake ornaments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A man allegedly stole gold jewellery from his relative's house while the family was away and replaced the ornaments with fake ones.

Kengeri police have arrested Ashwath K.H., a native of Hosanagara in Shivamogga district, and recovered 84.3 grams of gold jewellery and cash, collectively valued at Rs 8.40 lakh, police said.

The theft occurred at the house of Ashwath S., who lives at Kailash BDA Apartments in Kengeri. The accused, a distant relative of the complainant's wife, frequently visited the house and was familiar with the family.

Police said the accused had recently visited the house after being invited for Lakshmi Puja. He allegedly noticed the jewellery placed before the deity and planned the theft.

A few days later, the family left the city to attend a family function. Taking advantage of their absence, Ashwath allegedly brought a person who made a duplicate key and convinced him that the house belonged to him and that he had lost his key. He then allegedly entered the house, replaced the original orna-



Rs 8.40 lakh

GOLD, CASH RECOVERED

ments with fake ones that he had brought along and fled with the jewellery.

After returning, the family noticed that Rs 8,000 kept in the puja plate was missing. A subsequent check revealed that several ornaments in the cupboard had been replaced with fake jewellery.

The stolen ornaments included a 17.3-gram gold rope chain, a 45-gram diamond-studded gold necklace and two gold bangles weighing 22 grams.

The homeowner lodged a complaint with Kengeri police. After registering a case, police examined CCTV footage and launched an investigation, which led to the accused's arrest. The stolen jewellery and cash were recovered, police said.

HERITAGE ON STAMPS

More Philately Passports to be rolled out in four districts

“At least 1,000 passports will be available at Bengaluru's GPO on October 10 and 11. The number might increase as well.”

SENIOR OFFICIAL Karnataka Postal Circle

Each passport will cost Rs 600.

A senior Karnataka Postal Circle official said the initiative had received an over-

whelming response, particularly from families, travel enthusiasts, bikers and philately enthusiasts. Hundreds of enquiries have reportedly reached post offices through social media messages and phone calls, while some people have visited the GPO directly to check availability.

“We don't want people to go through the hassle of queuing up on working days. Passports will be sold on October 10 and 11, including the Sunday, to

make them more accessible,” the official said.

The department is procuring additional passports and may increase the number available in Bengaluru depending on demand. Staff will work on the two days despite them being government holidays.

The Philately Passport features 100 pictorial cancellations showcasing Karnataka's natural, historical and cultural heritage. Landmarks include

Vidhana Soudha, Bannerghatta National Park, Nandi Hills, Hampi's Stone Chariot, Gol Gumbaz, Galaganatha Temple at Pattadakal, Nagarhole National Park and Kapu Light-house.

Visitors can obtain a postage stamp matching the theme of a listed landmark at a designated post office. The stamp is then fixed in the passport and accompanied by a unique permanent pictorial cancellation for that location.

For the first time, the Postal Circle has also collaborated with artisans producing hand-crafted Channapatna toys. Merchandise such as letter boxes, keychains and postman pen stands will be available, along with postcards featuring GI-tagged Channapatna toys.

Travel enthusiast Natarajan Venkatesan said he completed all 100 cancellations after buying a passport in April.



HERITAGE THROUGH STAMPS

The Philately Passport features 100 pictorial cancellations based on Karnataka's natural, historical and cultural landmarks. Collectors can visit listed destinations, obtain a themed postage stamp from a designated post office and get a unique permanent pictorial cancellation.

Quick Read

Debt-ridden farmer dies by suicide

CH NEWS, GADAG

A 50-year-old farmer died by suicide in Gadag district on Tuesday after suffering massive crop losses and mounting unpaid debt. The deceased has been identified as Jaganappa Lamani, a resident of Varavi Thanda in Shirahatti taluk. According to local sources, Jaganappa ended his life by hanging himself from a tree in an agricultural field located in Kundralli village, Lakshmeshwara taluk. Officials reported that severe drought conditions and a lack of rainfall had entirely destroyed the crops planted across his two-acre plot. Struggling to survive, Jaganappa had earlier borrowed approximately Rs 2 lakh to fund his farming needs and daily household expenses. Facing total harvest failure, he sank into deep depression over his inability to repay lenders. The Lakshmeshwar police have registered an official case regarding the incident, visited the spot for inspection, and initiated a detailed investigation into the tragedy.

Chitradurga Fort hosts cleanliness drive on Tourism Day

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The City Municipal Council organised a voluntary cleanliness drive and awareness programme at the historic Chitradurga Fort as part of World Tourism Day and the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign. Led by Jyothiraj, popularly known as 'Kothiraj', municipal staff and prominent citizens took part in the shramadan. They cleared accumulated waste from the area in front of the fort and its surroundings. Later, participants formed a human chain inside the fort premises and took a pledge to keep the country and environment clean. They also resolved to dedicate at least two hours every week to cleanliness activities. The campaign conveyed the message that protecting the cleanliness of historical monuments and tourist places is the responsibility of every citizen.

Chitradurga to mark Senior Citizens Day

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A programme to mark World Senior Citizens' Day will be held on October 1 at 10 am at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga. The programme is being jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Advocates' Association, district administration, Zilla Panchayat and departments working for women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, along with voluntary organisations. Principal District and Sessions Judge B.T. Mahavarkar will inaugurate the programme, while Deputy Commissioner Ramya S. will preside. Senior Advocate D.K. Sheela will deliver a special lecture on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. Based on the 2026 theme, "The Era of Longevity: Rethinking Lifestyles for a Long Life," the event will include senior citizen felicitation, prize distribution, cultural programmes and awareness activities. District Welfare Officer Vaishali J. appealed to senior citizens and the public to participate in large numbers.

BJP workers stage protest over Gadag water crisis

Protesters accused Minister H.K. Patil of inadequate drinking water supply, demanding a permanent solution instead of temporary measures

CH NEWS, GADAG

BJP workers and hundreds of women staged a protest in Gadag city over the drinking water shortage, demanding an immediate and regular supply even before the summer season. The protesters gathered at Tong Koota with empty buckets and pots. They performed a ritual there as part of their protest against the state government. They later took out a march from Tong Koota to Mahatma Gandhi Circle, with women carrying empty pots. At Gandhi Circle, protesters raised slogans against the government and demanded action to address the water shortage. The protest was led by former minister and MLA C.C. Patil and BJP leader Anil Menasinakai. The protesters expressed anger against local MLA and Minister H.K. Patil, alleging



that the city had not received adequate drinking water for several years. They demanded a permanent solution instead of temporary measures. Addressing the gathering, Anil Menasinakai challenged the government to provide regular water to Gadag city. He also demanded that H.K. Patil resign as MLA if adequate drinking water could not be provided. The protesters raised slo-

gans including, "Give me water, or else give me an answer," and warned that the agitation would be intensified if their demands were not met. Later, some protesters attempted to lay siege to the city hall. They pushed against police barricades and tried to climb the city hall gate. Police intervened and worked to disperse the protesters. The protesters demanded immediate and adequate

At a glance

- **Protest action:** BJP workers and women staged a demonstration in Gadag over severe drinking water shortages.
- **Public demands:** Citizens and leaders called for an immediate, regular and permanent water supply solution.
- **Political pressure:** Protesters marched with empty pots, shouted slogans and demanded the local minister's resignation.
- **Escalation:** Demonstrators attempted to breach city hall barricades, prompting police intervention to disperse the crowd.

drinking water, along with a permanent solution to the city's water shortage.

“Give me water, or else give me an answer”

— Protesters' slogan, Gadag

Chitradurga prepares for Maha Ganapathi procession

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

District Superintendent of Police Kushal Choukse directed officials to ensure strict security arrangements for the Hindu Maha Ganapathi immersion procession and Shobhayatra scheduled for October 3 in Chitradurga city. Speaking at a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office, he stressed coordination among all departments to ensure the event is conducted peacefully. Officials expect around four lakh people to participate in the procession and immersion. The police will soon conduct a route march along the main procession routes. CCTV cameras and watchtowers will be installed, while measures will be taken to regulate banners and flex boards. Officials were instructed to review preparations daily and complete assigned work within the deadline. Additional Superintendent of Police Shivakumar said the idol has been installed at the Government Science College grounds and will be taken to Chandravalli for immersion. He said around 3 to 3.20 lakh people had participated in the 2025 procession, which ended peacefully by 10 pm. Organisers and volunteers will be given T-shirts of a spe-



Procession crowd

2025	3-3.20 lakh
2026	about 4 lakh

2026: the turnout officials expect

cific colour, and volunteer lists must be submitted to the police in advance. Volunteers will also receive instructions before the procession. The use of buntings, paper blasters and firecrackers has been prohibited. Private drone use will require police permission, while the police will use five to six drones for surveillance. Prasada distribution on the main road will not be allowed. Counters must be arranged on side roads after prior permission and food quality checks. Officials were also asked to arrange drinking water and mobile toilets for devotees, including women, children and elderly people. Departments and organisers were urged to work together for a safe and peaceful event.

‘Safe abortion awareness needed to protect women’

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. M.C. Sunil Kumar said awareness about safe abortion services is important as lack of correct information can lead women to unsafe methods and health complications. He was speaking after inaugurating an awareness programme for field staff and ASHA workers at Holalkere Public Hospital. The programme was organised by the District Health and Family Welfare Department, District Reproductive and Child Health Office, District IEC Division and Holalkere Taluk Health Office. Dr. Sunil Kumar said social fear and stigma often prevent women from approaching hospitals. He said safe abortion is not a crime and urged field staff to spread correct information in communities. District RCH Officer Dr. Abhinava M.D. said women should receive equitable, respectful and confidential care. He highlighted confidentiality, proper information, informed consent, non-discriminatory services and post-procedure care with family planning counselling as important principles.



Officials warned people against using home remedies or self-medication advice shared on WhatsApp and YouTube, saying such practices can be life-threatening. ASHA workers were asked to inform women that safe services are available at government health facilities, including Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Taluk Hospitals and District Hospitals. People were advised to contact health workers or the 104 helpline for guidance. Administrative Medical Officer Rekha T.D. said the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was enacted in 1971. She noted that following the 2021 amendment, termination may be permitted up to 24 weeks in special circumstances, subject to applicable provisions and medical advice. An exhibition on temporary family planning methods was also held during the programme. Health officials, doctors, ASHA workers and other department staff participated in the event.

Koppal groups protest against SIR process



CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Progressive, pro-people and labour organisations staged a massive protest at Ashok Circle in Koppal on Tuesday, demanding the arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the dismissal of the Central Government. The protesters alleged that the Central Government had come to power through "vote theft". After the protest, they submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India through Mahavir Kumar, Shirastedar at the Tahsildar's office, on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner. The memorandum called for protecting the constitutional position of the Election Commission of India and safeguarding democratic values. The protesters alleged that the Election Commission is a three-member body and that major administrative decisions should be taken by majority. They claimed that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had taken unilateral decisions on technical changes and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. The protesters further claimed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had submitted written objections

Highlights

- Progressive organisations protest against ECI decisions.
- Protesters demand arrest of Gyanesh Kumar.
- Memorandum calls for Central Government dismissal.
- SIR process circulars demanded for suspension.
- Unilateral administrative actions face strong opposition.
- Inquiry into voter rights violations requested.

against such decisions on more than 14 occasions. They demanded that all SIR circulars issued without the consensus of the full commission be withdrawn and that the SIR process be suspended immediately. They also demanded the arrest of the Chief Election Commissioner and a detailed inquiry into alleged violations of voters' rights under the supervision of a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge. The groups also demanded the dismissal of the Central Government and appropriate constitutional action by the President. The protesters raised slogans against the SIR process and the Central Government during the demonstration.

Group appeals against renaming Dakshina Kannada district



CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A group of citizens, intellectuals, historians, writers and cultural activists has appealed to the Karnataka government to retain the historic name 'Dakshina Kannada' for the district instead of renaming it 'Mangaluru District'.

The group defended Dakshina Kannada's name, citing its 1977 adoption, century-old regional identity, and broader geography beyond headquarters Mangaluru

At a press meet held on Tuesday, the group said the appeal was not against Mangaluru, which they described as the historic, cultural and economic centre of the region. They said retaining Dakshina Kannada would help preserve the historical identity of a region that extends beyond a single city. The group said the government changed the district's name to Dakshina Kannada in January 1977, and the name has been in use for nearly five decades. They also pointed to the administrative identity as-

sociated with the region for more than a century. According to the group, a district does not necessarily have to carry the name of its headquarters. Mangaluru is the district headquarters, while Dakshina Kannada represents a wider geographical and cultural region that includes Puttur, Belthangady, Sullia, Bantwal, Moodbidri and Mulki. The group said the name Dakshina Kannada continued even after major administrative changes, including the creation of Udupi district in 1997. They also expressed concern that changing the name could require changes to historical, administrative, educational, legal and cultural records. The members welcomed the government's decision to seek public opinion on the proposed name change. They urged that the consultation be broad-based and transparent, covering all taluks, towns and villages, as well as historians, academics, writers, cultural organisations and other stakeholders. They requested the government to retain Dakshina Kannada as the official district name while allowing Mangaluru to continue developing its identity as the headquarters.

Former MLA Somalingappa dismisses land dispute accusations

CH NEWS, BALLARI: Former Member of Legislative Assembly M.S. Somalingappa has strongly refuted the latest police complaint filed against him and his family members, calling the land dispute allegations completely baseless and malicious. Addressing reporters at a press conference held at his residential office in Tekkalakote on Tuesday, the veteran leader clarified the legal facts surrounding the controversy. He explained that his son, Venkatappanayaka, lawfully bought 75 cents of land out of a total three-acre plot in Survey Number 8/3. The transaction was conducted directly with the complainant, Manjula, who executed the sale deed using a legally valid General Power of Attorney. The former legislator pointed out that the complainant had repeatedly filed similar false cases against him and his sons in the past. According to him, judicial proceedings conducted before both the Siruguppa court and the Ballari district court had already dismissed her previous claims as fabricated. Regarding the fresh First Information Report registered at Siruguppa police station on September 27, Somalingappa asserted that neither he nor his family members were anywhere near the site during the alleged incident. He urged investigators to examine relevant mobile tower locations and public CCTV recordings to confirm their absence. Somalingappa further detailed that Manjula personally completed all documentation formalities at the Siruguppa sub-registrar office. Following the formal handover, a protective wire fence was erected solely around the 75-cent boundary, and his family holds no claim or interest in the remaining area. Expressing deep displeasure over the continuous smear campaign, he stated that the motivated accusations were aimed at tarnishing his hard-earned public image. He warned that his legal team would contest the complaint firmly in court while actively preparing a civil defamation suit against the complainant.



RAINS BRING RELIEF

Heavy rains fill Chamarajanagar reservoirs

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Heavy rains brought relief to residents of Chamarajanagar district, particularly in Hanur and Kollegala taluks, after the region had faced a rainfall shortage. The rain came as Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar arrived to inaugurate development projects and distribute benefits in the area. Heavy rain overnight filled the Hubbe-Hunase reservoir to capacity, causing it to overflow. The Udurote, Tattehalla and Swamihalla reservoirs also filled, with water flowing over bridges and entering several parts of Hanur town. Devangapete and nearby areas were badly affected as water submerged houses and roads. Traffic and pedestrian movement on the main road to Male Mahadeshwara Betta was temporarily disrupted af-



ter more than five feet of water flowed over a bridge. Heavy rain also caused problems in Martalli Gram Panchayat limits. Water entered houses and shops, leaving several residents in distress. The houses of Rangamma and Jyothi were flooded, damaging food grains, clothes and other daily essentials. The floodwaters also washed away two sheep and 20 chickens, which were important to

their livelihood. Officials reportedly responded to the situation. Meanwhile, boulders, rocks and soil rolled onto the road leading to Male Mahadeshwara Betta following the heavy rainfall. The road turned muddy, creating difficulties for movement. Hanur had faced drought conditions for several months, with shortages of drinking water for people and live-

stock. However, continuous rain over the past week has brought hope to residents. The filling of reservoirs has also brought relief to farmers in surrounding areas. The reservoirs envisioned by the late Rajugowda are now full, bringing smiles to farmers who had been waiting for better water conditions. The recent rainfall has provided much-needed relief to the drought-hit region, although waterlogging and road disruptions have affected several areas.

Hanur, then and now

BEFORE
Drought for several months; drinking water short for people and livestock

NOW
Reservoirs full after a week of continuous rain; hope for residents, relief for farmers

Quick Read

Keep surroundings clean, says Meenakshi

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Koppal Inner Wheel Club President Meenakshi Bannadabhavi said uncleanliness is the root cause of diseases and urged people to keep the surroundings in front of their homes clean. She was speaking while presiding over a cleanliness drive organised by the Koppal Inner Wheel Club, District 316, under the theme "Clean and Green Campus". She inaugurated the programme by personally taking part in the cleaning activities. Meenakshi said water is the essence of life and must be used carefully. She stressed that maintaining a clean environment is essential to prevent diseases and is a collective responsibility. She said hygiene reflects environmental conservation and community responsibility and appealed for cooperation to make the 'Swachh Bharat' initiative a success.

Basamma Kuri wins first place in 5 km marathon

CH NEWS, GADAG

Basamma Kuri, a first-year B.Com student of Mariyappa Balappa Kalkonnava Government First Grade College in Naregal, secured first place in the 5 km 'Red Ribbon Run' marathon held in Gadag on Tuesday. The event was organised for college students as part of the intensified IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign for HIV prevention (2026). The programme was conducted under the aegis of the Gadag District Health and Family Welfare Department, Zilla Panchayat, District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit, District Education Department and District Sports Department. Basamma received a cash prize of ₹5,000 and a medal.

10 law graduates selected for legal training

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar announced that 10 law graduates have been selected for legal training conducted by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare for the 2026-27 academic year. Chairing the district-level selection committee meeting at his office, Dr. Kumar said 22 candidates appeared for the direct interview. The selection was conducted transparently based on educational qualifications, prescribed eligibility criteria and interview performance.

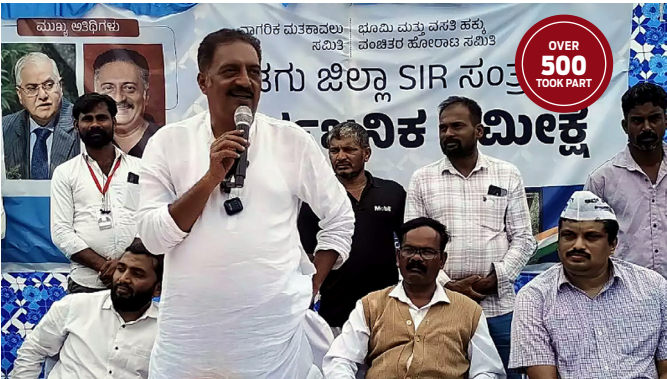
Upa-Lokayukta to hear public grievances	
WHO	Justice K.N. Phaneendra
WHEN	September 30, 10 am to 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
WHERE	Zilla Panchayat office, Karwar
CASES	Pending Uttara Kannada cases under his jurisdiction, heard with complainants and respondents present
NOTE	The SP urges complainants to attend at the scheduled time
READY	The DC and ZP CEO inspected the arrangements

Prakash Raj demands immediate scrapping of SIR process

Prakash Raj alleged voters faced difficulties over unmapping notices and discrepancies, questioning document requirements for those lacking birth or residence records

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Actor and activist Prakash Raj demanded the immediate scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the process could affect the voting rights of poor people, migrant workers, tribal communities and minorities. He was speaking at an SIR Review and Resistance Tour and public survey of people affected by the process at Palemadu village in Madikeri taluk. More than 500 people affected by the SIR process participated in the convention and shared their grievances. Prakash Raj alleged that voters were facing difficulties because of notices issued over unmapping, logical discrepancies and other issues. He questioned the requirement for documents from people who may not have proper birth or residence records. He also alleged that spelling mistakes, changes in names and other errors in electoral records were often made by



government systems and questioned why voters should face difficulties because of such mistakes. According to the figures cited at the meeting, 13 crore voters across the country had been removed through the SIR process, while 1.8 crore voters in Karnataka were placed on the ASDDO list. Notices were reportedly issued to 43 lakh voters over unmapping and logical discrepancies. These figures were presented by the organisers and were not independently verified at the meeting.

Prakash Raj said the SIR process was unnecessary and demanded that all related decisions and records be handed over to the Supreme Court for examination. He also questioned the treatment of migrant workers who may be away from their homes when enumeration forms are distributed. Participants from Kodagu said some plantation workers living in line houses had been included in the ASDDO category and that some eligible voters had not received enumeration forms. Prakash Raj said the strug-

Highlights

→ Prakash Raj demands immediate scrapping of the SIR process.

→ Over 500 affected individuals voice grievances at Palemadu convention.

→ Activist calls for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner.

→ Protesters highlight unmapped voters and arbitrary deletions.

→ State-level facts to be submitted to cabinet ministers.

→ Joint nationwide movement planned starting from Delhi.

gle would continue until every eligible voter could exercise their voting rights. He also expressed support for housing rights and said he would join efforts seeking housing for people without homes. SDPI, Aam Aadmi Party and Citizens' Voter Watch Committee representatives, along with activists working on land and housing rights, attended the programme.

Workers urged to avail government security schemes

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer T.Y. Dasanakoppa urged poor wage labourers to register for government security schemes such as PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY to ensure social and economic security. He was speaking while presiding over an information exchange and financial literacy programme jointly organised by the Taluk Panchayat, Gram Panchayat and Financial Literacy Centre, Mundgod. The programme was held at a trench construction site in the Attiveri forest area under Hungund Gram Panchayat in Mundgod taluk, where work is being implemented under the VB-G RAM G scheme. Dasanakoppa said the wage rate under the current VB-G RAM G scheme had been increased to ₹382, with 125 person-days of work provided. He said a family could earn an annual income of ₹47,750 through the scheme. However, he stressed that earning money alone was not



enough and said families should register for social security schemes to protect their financial stability. He described enrolment in government security schemes as an important service to dependent family members. Financial literacy advisor Gaurish Kulkarni explained various government schemes and financial practices. He spoke about the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, which provides accident insurance, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, which provides life insurance, and the Atal Pension Yojana, which provides a guaranteed monthly pension in old age. He also explained the safe use of UPI, Aadhaar-enabled payments and ATM cards. He warned people not to share OTPs or bank details with strangers.

₹382	125	₹47,750
wage rate under VB-G RAM G	person-days of work	a family's annual income

Farmers protest in Yadgir demanding loan waiver

CH NEWS, YADGIR

The district unit of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association and Hasiru Sene staged a protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office, demanding immediate action on farmers' problems amid severe drought conditions in the state. Addressing the protesters, association Vice President Mallikarjun Satyampete demanded a complete waiver of loans taken by farmers from nationalised and cooperative banks. He also demanded seven hours of uninterrupted power supply for agricultural activities, in line with promises to give priority to the farming sector. The association urged the government to announce Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for different crops and make



arrangements for direct procurement from farmers. Satyampete said the Almati and Basavasagara reservoirs were full and called for proper water management. He said the available water should be used effectively so that farmers can grow two crops instead of allowing the water to go waste. The farmers also urged the government to resolve issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and ration cards without delay. They sought steps to ensure that eligible beneficiaries do not face difficulties while receiving government services and benefits. The protesters submitted a memorandum containing their demands to the district administration. Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pande Veeresh received the memorandum.

Massive protest over removal of Siddaramaiah statue



CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Tension prevailed on Tuesday as thousands of supporters of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and members of the Karnataka Kuruba Sangha staged a massive protest against the removal of his statue by the City Corporation. The protesters took out a rally from Sangolli Rayanna Circle to the Deputy Commissioner's office, raising slogans against the municipal authorities and demanding action against the officials who removed the statue. The nine-foot statue had been installed at High Court Circle in the city without prior permission. City Corporation officials, with police assistance, removed it the following morning, citing the lack of necessary permission. The removal triggered strong resentment among Siddaramaiah's supporters and Kuruba organisations. Leaders demanded that the officials responsible for removing the statue be suspended and that the statue be reinstalled at the

Leaders demanded that the officials be suspended and the statue reinstalled at the same spot

same location immediately. The protest saw participation from Siddaramaiah supporters and Kuruba community members from Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar and other districts, besides Kalaburagi. As the rally reached the Collector's office, some protesters attempted to enter the premises, leading to a confrontation with the police. Police tried to prevent the protesters from entering the office, resulting in a tense situation and a clash between the two sides. The protesters accused the City Corporation of disrespecting the former Chief Minister and demanded immediate restoration of the statue. The Karnataka Pradesh Kuruba Sangha had earlier announced the September 29 rally from Sangolli Rayanna statue to the Deputy Commissioner's office.

ಮರಣಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅನೇಕಲ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಅನೇಕಲ್ - 562106, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-27859225, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080-27830092 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulp_anekal@yahoo.co.in ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪು.ಕಾ.ಆ/ಆ.ಕಾ/ಬೆಂಕರ್/11/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.09.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.- ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಅನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಡ್ತಿಧಾರರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಬಿಡ್ಡಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಅಪ್ಪಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಲು ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಅಪ್ಪಾನಿಸುವರು. ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ.	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	ಅನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ಕಡದ ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಯಲು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ರೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು 02 ಮಾಡಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	DMA/2026-27 SE8454	4.831	12077/-
2	ಅನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅಪ್ಪುಕವಿರುವ ಲೋಡರ್, ಹೆಲ್ಮೆಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಪರೇಟರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	DMA/2026-27 SE8455	65.30	130600/-

ಪೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1.ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.10.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ 2. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಸಹಿ/-ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಅನೇಕಲ್.

ವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2982/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.26/2026-27

TO place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Election ads need pre-certification during polls: Lakshmipriya

CH NEWS, KARWAR



level. Ration card holders urged to complete e-KYC Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmipriya has urged ration card holders in Uttara Kannada district to complete their e-KYC free of cost. Of the 5,69,044 ration card holders who need to update or renew their e-KYC, 2,44,930 beneficiaries have completed the process, while 3,24,114 are still pending. The deadline, earlier fixed for September 30, has been extended to October 20. Beneficiaries have been asked to visit their nearest fair price shop and complete the process without waiting until the last date. Failure to complete e-KYC could lead to discontinuation of government benefits received through the ration card. If any fee is charged, beneficiaries can complain through the Food Department consumer helpline at 1967 or contact the Food Shirastedar and Food Inspector at the concerned Tahsildar's office.

With the Model Code of Conduct in force for the Karnataka Legislative Council election from the Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency, Assistant Returning Officer and Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmipriya has ordered the formation of a Media Certification and Monitoring Committee in the district. The committee will monitor advertisements broadcast through media channels during the election process. As per Election Commission directives, candidates must obtain pre-certification for election advertisements intended for TV channels, cable networks, radio, private FM channels and cinema theatres. The rule also applies to audio-video displays in public places and content on social media. The committee will also monitor campaign activities of political leaders and candidates and instances of paid news during the election period.

Grievance monitoring cell established A Grievance Monitoring Cell has also been established for the West Graduates' Constituency election. The cell will receive, verify and dispose of complaints submitted by various teams, the public and political parties at the district

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನದರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು - 10. (Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:khsdrp.divmvs@gmail.com) ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ.ಕಾ.ಆ/ಮೈ/ಸಗ-1/ಬೆಂಕರ್-14-Call-2/AAM-PM-ABHIM./2026-27/1749 ದಿ: 25.09.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬಳವಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಂದಿರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೀಕರಣಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮರು ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಅಪ್ಪಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.65.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಬೆಂಕರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 07.10.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಬೆಂಕರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 08.10.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಬೆಂಕರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಧ್ಯುನ್ಯಾಸ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಕರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಬೆಂಕರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಬೆಂಕರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿಧ್ಯುನ್ಯಾಸ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

DIPR/DDMYS/790/KSMCA/484/2026-27

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of Health Officer, Public Health, BWCC, Palike Soudha, 14th A Cross, Chandra Layout 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560072.

PR No:BWCC/HO(PH)/(WEST)/PR/1004/2026-27 Date:29.09.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru West City Corporation, invites tender's from eligible bidders for the following:
Following is the Events of Bid Process:

1. Tender Name	Tender reference Number:
1) Request for proposal for providing CMC to laboratory equipments' of UPHC's Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency of BWCC for a period of 12 months.	1) BWCC/2026-27/ SE0264
2) Request for proposal, "Selection of Service provider for Smart Virtual Clinic Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) in Bengaluru West City Corporation."	2) BWCC/2026-27/ SE0265
Date of Commencement of Download of Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in From 29.09.2026 onwards	
Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement portal on 03.10.2026 upto 5:00 pm	
Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on 03.10.2026 at 12:30 pm, at the following Venue: Office of Health Officer Public Health BWCC, Palike Soudha, 14th A Cross, Chandra Layout 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560 072. Email: hobwcc2025@gmail.com	
Last date for uploading tenders in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on 13.10.2026 upto 5:00 pm.	
Date and Time of online opening of Technical Bids on 14.10.2026 at 5:10 pm	
1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2) Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Sd/- Health Officer (Public Health) Bengaluru West City Corporation	

Quick Read



The open drainage pit, Manjunatha Layout

Open drainage pit raises safety concerns in Hunsur

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

An open drainage pit near the 5th Cross of Manjunatha Layout is posing a serious danger to residents, while stagnant wastewater and foul smell have added to public dissatisfaction with the City Municipal Council's functioning.

The open drainage pit is located near Hunsur Road, opposite the Indane Gas Agency. Due to the absence of a proper drainage system, wastewater is not flowing freely and has been stagnating, creating a foul smell and affecting the surrounding atmosphere.

Residents said Manjunatha Layout, despite being located in the heart of the city, has been left with a hazardous and open drainage system. They reportedly informed the Municipal Council about the problem, but no action has been taken so far.

Residents have urged Municipal Council officials to immediately repair the damaged drainage system and close the open drainage pit. They warned that they would stage a protest in front of the Municipal Council office if the issue is not addressed.

The public also expressed dissatisfaction over the condition of roads in the city, particularly the failure to repair potholes. They alleged that officials and the Commissioner have failed to address basic development issues.

Sakrebyle Elephant Camp to remain closed on Wednesdays

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The Sakrebyle Elephant Camp in Shivamogga taluk will remain closed every Wednesday following new Forest Department guidelines aimed at wildlife conservation and tourist safety. The department has introduced a weekly holiday for captive elephant camps across Karnataka. The Sakrebyle camp reopened to tourists on September 26 after being temporarily closed following an incident at Dubare Elephant Camp on May 18. Following its reopening, stricter safety measures have been introduced at Sakrebyle. Safety signboards have been installed at several locations inside the camp to guide visitors and improve safety. Forest officials have appealed to tourists to plan their visits accordingly and avoid visiting the camp on Wednesdays. The weekly closure is part of measures introduced to improve safety for visitors while supporting wildlife conservation at captive elephant camps.

Abhishek Kamble named president of Dasara committee

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The Suryavamshi Khatik Samaj has announced that Abhishek Shekharbabu Kamble, proprietor of Balaji Automobiles, has been unanimously selected as the president of the community's 2026 Dasara Festival Committee. On the occasion, Congress leader Shivananda Honagunti felicitated Abhishek Shekharbabu Kamble and conveyed his best wishes.

BJP leaders question MLA Hitnal over Kavatar claims

Leaders questioned the MLA over alleged ₹3 crore and ₹1 crore fines linked to illegal quarrying and government land encroachment

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

BJP SC Morcha leader Ganesh Horattnala and leaders from various communities expressed strong opposition to allegations made by Koppal MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal and other Congress leaders against BJP leader Dr. Basavaraj Kavatar's private hospital and personal affairs.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Horattnala condemned the allegations and said targeting Dr. Kavatar's private hospital because of his political involvement was inappropriate. The leaders alleged that the accusations were politically motivated.

They said K.S. Hospital had supported poor patients from Koppal and other states, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and

other critical situations. They said bringing the hospital into political rivalry was inappropriate.

The leaders questioned the MLA on several issues, including alleged fines of ₹3 crore and ₹1 crore imposed on the MLA and MP during the Congress government's tenure for illegal stone quarrying and encroachment on government land.

They also questioned the ₹10,000 crore development grants allegedly brought to the constituency and asked what Smart City infrastructure had been developed in Koppal. They alleged that foundation-laying ceremonies for projects, including the Koppal-Mundaragi road, had been held more than once.

Questions were also raised about alleged irregularities in

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸಭೆ

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸಭೆ

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಭವನ



IN QUESTION | ₹3 cr + ₹1 cr ALLEGED FINES | ₹16 cr CMC GRAFT CLAIM | ₹72 cr KRIDL FAKE BILLS

BJP leaders at the press conference in Koppal on Tuesday

KUDA site allotments, alleged ₹16 crore corruption in the City Municipal Council and the ₹72 crore KRIDL fake bill scam. The leaders also criticised cases filed against people protesting for road repairs in Kavalur and alleged attempts to claim credit for the Alavandi substation project.

They further alleged attempts to sideline leaders

from Muslim, Valmiki, Barquera, Lingayat, Kuruba and Madiga communities, describing it as "divide-and-rule" politics.

Accepting the MLA's challenge to inspect development works in every village, they asked him to fix a date and time. They said voters and BJP workers would present their views on development over the last 13 years.

BJP leader Krishnappa Kalladka criticises Sangh Parivar

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

BJP leader Krishnappa Kalladka has criticised what he described as an attempt to silence those who speak openly, alleging that complaints are filed with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and police are sent to their homes when they express views that are considered inconvenient.

Speaking on the issue, Kalladka questioned the attitude of people who, according to him, believe that everything happens only because of their organisation. He referred to what he described as an "arrogance" among sections of the Sangh Parivar and said such an ap-

Arrogance among sections of the Sangh Parivar should be questioned

proach should be questioned.

Kalladka reportedly made the remarks while expressing his views on internal differences and the treatment of people who raise questions. He alleged that individuals who speak the truth or voice criticism face pressure through police complaints and investigations.

The BJP leader also questioned whether raising concerns or expressing a different opinion should lead to



Krishnappa Kalladka
BJP leader

police action. He said democratic organisations should have space for discussion, disagreement and criticism rather than attempting to suppress opposing views.

His comments have drawn attention because of his association with the BJP and his remarks about the Sangh Parivar. The statements come amid continuing political dis-

cussions in Karnataka over police complaints, investigations and differences within political and social organisations.

Kalladka's allegations concern the conduct of specific individuals and organisations, and the claims would require verification from the concerned authorities. No independent confirmation of the allegations was included in the available report.

The remarks have since been circulated on social media, prompting discussion among political workers and members of the public about freedom to express dissent within political and organisational circles.

Officers told to prepare for water shortage



The KDP meeting at Kundapur

CH NEWS, UDUPI

MLA Gururaj Gantihole said, since the rains have not come as expected this time, there is a water shortage in Kundapur and Byndoor taluks, and we must prepare to deal with the water problem immediately.

He was speaking while presiding over the Kundapur taluk-level quarterly KDP meeting held at the taluk panchayat hall at Kundapur.

According to the report, there is a 27 percent rainfall deficit in Byndoor and 16 percent in Kundapur. If the rainfall measurement had been properly maintained, there would have been an even greater deficit. Areas with salt water problems may experience a deficit from December itself. For this reason, priority should be given to drinking water this time and farmers should also be helped, he said.

Horticulture department officials said that 16 gardens

and an area of 4.5 acres have been damaged due to this rain. Varahi engineer informed that the total storage capacity of the Mani reservoir on the Varahi river is 31.5 TMC, and there is a 30 percent storage shortage due to low rainfall. KDP member Hariprasad Shetty said that after giving some time to agriculture, water has been stopped again. Some of the Kindi dams in Kundapur and Byndoor have been boarded up.

More people are coming to the taluk hospital. But they

At a glance

- **Rainfall Deficit:** Kundapur and Byndoor face notable rainfall shortfalls, triggering severe early water shortage concerns.
- **Reservoir Storage:** Mani reservoir reports a 30% storage deficit due to inadequate seasonal downpours.
- **Healthcare Issues:** Taluk hospital faces long receipt queues, doctor coordination gaps, and 20 vacant staff posts.
- **Infrastructure Concerns:** Members demand school building repairs, bridge traffic solutions, and dam board management.

Priority to drinking water this time, and help for farmers too

have to wait for hours for the receipt. Member Ramesh Shetty alleged that there is a lack of coordination among the doctors. Hold a meeting of the doctors at the hospital as soon as possible and resolve this. If not possible, the MLA instructed the Kodgi Hospital Administrator to convene a health protection committee meeting.

Member Jyoti V Putran demanded the appointment of a skin disease specialist. We have 56 posts sanctioned, 36 have been filled, and 20 posts are vacant. Field staff posts are vacant, said Taluk Health Officer Dr K Premanand.

Member Sarath Kumar Shetty demanded that the buildings of closed government schools be repaired before they collapse and the assets there be protected.

Expressing concern about the construction of the new bridge, MLA Kiran Kumar Kodgi said that the construction of the bridge may take 2-3 years. It is difficult to stop traffic for that long.

Davanagere seeks specialist wildlife vets



12 suitably trained wildlife anesthetologists in Karnataka, says the report

A leopard rescue by the highway

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

Davanagere district is facing a shortage of trained wildlife anesthetologists, raising concerns over delays in rescuing wild animals that enter human settlements. The issue has become more significant as sightings of leopards, bears and elephants have increased in several parts of the district.

The Forest Department has reportedly submitted proposals to the state government seeking specialist wildlife veterinarians for Davanagere. At present, experts often have to be brought from Shivamogga or Hosapete when an animal needs to be tranquilised during a rescue operation.

Human-wildlife conflict

in to tranquilise the animal and facilitate its rescue.

According to the report, Karnataka has only 12 suitably trained wildlife anesthetologists. Two are at Mysuru Zoo, while three are posted between Pilikula Biological Park in Mangaluru and Bannerghatta Biological Park. One each is available at the Shivamogga Lion Safari, Sakrebailu Elephant Camp, Bandipur Elephant Camp, Kodagu Wildlife PG Centre, Dubare Elephant Camp and Hosapete Zoo.

Davanagere ACF Anand said specialist wildlife veterinarians are required to administer anesthesia to wild animals and that general doctors cannot perform the task. He said experts currently have to be called from Shivamogga or Hosapete during emergencies.

Anand said the injured leopard rescued recently near Anagod is now healthy. He added that a proposal had been sent to the state government seeking specialist personnel for the district.

Residents have urged the government to address the shortage to ensure quicker and safer wildlife rescue operations.

QUALITY RURAL HEALTHCARE

Free health camps planned across Magadi Gram Panchayats

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Block Congress President Pujaripalya K. Krishnamurthy announced that free health check-up and surgery camps will be organised across every Gram Panchayat in Magadi taluk.

Speaking at a press conference at the Chakrabhavi VSSN Society hall, he said a large free health check-up camp would be held on Sunday, August 4, at the Chakrabhavi VSSN Society premises. The programme is being organised under the leadership of Minister H.C.



Leaders with the health camp posters at the Chakrabhavi press meet

Balakrishna, in association with Mahanadu Kattemane, D.K.S. Charitable Trust, M.S. Ramaiah Hospital and the Chakrabhavi VSSN Society.

Krishnamurthy said the programme aims to provide quality healthcare to people in

rural areas and encourage residents to seek medical attention instead of buying medicines from shops and ignoring health problems.

High-tech mobile buses from M.S. Ramaiah Hospital, equipped for the first time in

Highlights

- Free health check-up camps planned across Magadi.
- Large camp scheduled at Chakrabhavi VSSN Society.
- High-tech mobile buses offer cancer and dental care.
- Specialist doctors examine diverse health conditions.
- Free medicines, spectacles, transport, and meals provided.
- Major surgeries and expenses covered completely.

the state, will participate in the camp. The buses will pro-

Mangaluru old harbour struggles with severe congestion



THIRD JETTY 60% WORK DONE

Boats and fish crates at Mangaluru's Old Harbour, or Dhakke

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Fishermen at Mangaluru's Old Harbour, or Dhakke, are seeking urgent government action to address a severe shortage of boat berthing space and long-pending dredging work at the harbour mouth.

The fishing community says the problems are affecting operations and creating safety risks.

More than 1,400 boats, including around 900 licensed steel boats along with traditional and wooden craft, operate from the harbour. However, the existing berthing facilities can accommodate only about 250 to 300 boats, leaving hundreds of fishermen struggling to dock their vessels and unload their catch.

Work on three jetties under Phase-3 of the harbour development project has also been delayed. About 60 per cent of the work on the third jetty has reportedly been completed, while the remaining work is pending. The first jetty has been demolished, and work on the second jetty has stopped midway. Fishermen have urged the government to release pending funds and speed up construction.

The fishing community has also demanded a fourth jetty, either near Kotepura or in the form of a floating jetty, to increase berthing capacity. Fishermen's leaders said the shortage has become particu-

larly difficult with several months of the fishing season already over.

Another major concern is silt accumulation at the estuary where the Netravati and Phalguni (Gurupura) rivers meet the Arabian Sea. Sand and sediment carried by the rivers have reduced the water depth, increasing the risk of boats hitting sandbars while entering or leaving the harbour.

Fisherman leader Rajesh Puthran said inadequate dredging over the years has resulted in dangerous conditions. He pointed to an incident shortly before Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's visit when three boats reportedly met with accidents at the estuary on the same day.

Faisal Kudroli, general secretary of the Mangaluru Trawl Boat Union, said the government must complete the three jetties and allocate funds for a fourth. Fishermen's leaders also want the government to procure a modern cutter dredger, saying conventional machinery is inadequate for removing the accumulated sediment.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, during his recent visit to the harbour, inspected the facilities and interacted with fishermen. The community has urged the government to implement the assurances given during the visit and provide permanent solutions to their infrastructure and safety concerns.

COURTING CONTROVERSY: A COSTLY HABIT FOR KARNATAKA CONGRESS



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

“For a government in power, silence on a needless controversy can sometimes be more productive than winning an argument that it never needed to enter.”



Inviting controversy appears to have become a recurring feature of political discourse within the ruling Congress in Karnataka. While several ministers and senior leaders prefer to concentrate on governance, a few appear willing to enter contentious debates through statements that can quickly overshadow the government’s work.

The latest controversy involving KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad is a case in point. Amid the dispute over a proposed screening of a documentary on Umar Khalid at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Hariprasad described Khalid as a “nationalist” while attacking the ABVP and the RSS. Khalid has been in custody since 2020 in connection with the Delhi riots case under the UAPA, but he has not been convicted. Hariprasad has subsequently defended his remark, arguing that an accused person cannot be treated as guilty without a court conviction.

The legal argument is one issue; political messaging is another. In a politically polarised environment, a statement on a highly contentious national-security issue can easily become the headline, pushing the government’s development and administrative agenda into the background. The BJP and its affiliated organisations have already used the remark to question the Con-

The recent controversies

NLSIU documentary row

KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad described Umar Khalid as a “nationalist” while attacking the ABVP and the RSS. Khalid, in custody since 2020 in the Delhi riots case under the UAPA, has not been convicted.

T. Narasipura procession

A dispute over the route of a Ganesh immersion procession escalated into protests and demands for action against the police inspector concerned. Police have been asked to remain on high alert.

gress’s position on nationalism and minority politics.

This controversy has come at a particularly sensitive moment in Karnataka, with tensions surrounding Ganesh processions also generating political confrontation. The dispute in T. Narasipura over the route of a Ganesh immersion procession has escalated into protests and demands for action against the police inspector concerned. The government has had to ask police to remain on high alert amid the political confrontation.

Religious processions inevitably require a balance between the right to celebrate, public safety and the maintenance of communal peace. Police restrictions may sometimes be necessary for law and order, but the manner in which such restrictions are communicated can have consequences. When a local administrative or police statement is perceived as disrespectful to religious sentiments, a law-and-order issue can rapidly become a political issue.

The T. Narasipura episode demonstrates how quickly such disputes can acquire a life of their own. What began as a question concerning a procession route has resulted in political protests, competing claims and continuing public debate.

For the Congress government, the larger challenge is therefore not merely to counter the BJP politically but to ensure that its own leaders and functionaries do not unnecessarily create additional fronts of confrontation.

Statements on sensitive subjects such as nationalism, religion and communal relations demand particular restraint from those holding senior positions. Political leaders are entitled to defend their ideological positions, but they must also recognise that every provocative formulation carries consequences beyond the immediate political exchange.

The Congress government has a full plate of governance issues—from urban infrastructure and employment to welfare delivery, drought management and development. These are matters on which its performance will ultimately be judged.

The lesson from the recent controversies is straightforward: political leaders need not respond to every provocation, and not every argument requires a headline. Governance requires communication, but it also requires discretion.

For a government in power, silence on a needless controversy can sometimes be more productive than winning an argument that it never needed to enter.

FROM POWER TO PERIL: THE POLITICAL REALITY AND BATTLE OF MAMATA BANERJEE

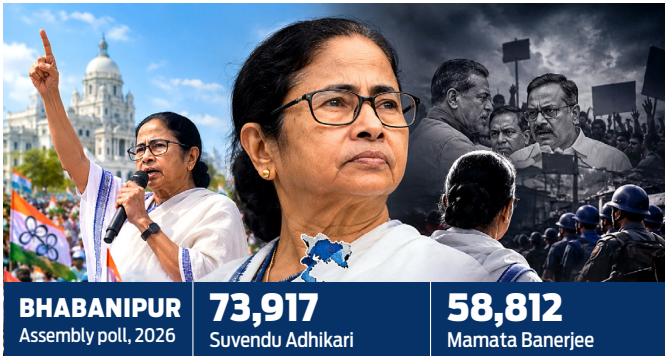
“It is a story of a leader confronting the hardest question in politics: when the familiar symbols, structures and certainties disappear, can the political movement itself be rebuilt?”



Lalit Gargg

bols are not merely electoral identifiers; for regional parties, they often embody years of organizational work, public recognition and political identity. The Election Commission has temporarily assigned Banerjee’s faction the name “Mamata All India Trinamool Congress” and the “Football Player” symbol, while the rival faction has been given the name “Democratic Trinamool Congress” and the “Envelope” symbol for the forthcoming by-elections. Banerjee has challenged the Election Commission’s decision in the Supreme Court and described the development as a “black day” for democracy. The third dimension of her predicament is legal. Following the change of government, several complaints and FIRs have been registered against Banerjee over statements made during the election campaign and other political programmes. In June 2026, an FIR was registered in Kolkata following allegations that remarks made during an election-related programme could promote enmity between communities. Another FIR was registered in Siliguri over allegations concerning remarks about religion and religious sentiments. These remain allegations and legal proceedings; an FIR itself does not establish guilt.

There was also a legal confrontation surrounding a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad rally in Kolkata in



BHABANIPUR
Assembly poll, 2026

73,917
Suvendu Adhikari

58,812
Mamata Banerjee

August. Police registered an FIR against Banerjee and organisers over alleged violation of a Calcutta High Court order governing the programme and the movement of supporters. At the same time, controversies surrounding the previous administration including allegations relating to recruitment irregularities and other financial or administrative decisions continue to remain part of the wider political debate. Such allegations need to be distinguished from proven wrongdoing and judged through the appropriate legal processes. Perhaps the most significant political challenge, however, is the erosion of the image that once constituted Banerjee’s greatest political capital. She built her identity as a leader who came from a modest background, fought powerful political establishments and presented herself as the voice of ordinary people, particularly the underprivileged and women. Her political persona was built around struggle, accessibility and resistance.

Over the years, however, controversies surrounding governance, allegations of corruption and disputes over issues concerning women’s safety and recruitment have generated political criticism. The teacher-recruitment controversy, in particular, became a major issue in Bengal politics. The cumulative effect of these controversies, combined with 15 years of

incumbency, contributed to an environment in which questions about governance and public trust became central to the political contest. Yet Mamata Banerjee’s political character has never been defined by an easy acceptance of defeat. Her early life and political career were shaped by struggle. From her formative years in politics to her long campaign against the Left Front, she repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to remain on the streets and fight prolonged political battles. Even now, she has rejected the idea of political retirement and has indicated that she intends to continue the struggle.

Her response to the changing political circumstances is also reflected in her evolving electoral strategy. Ahead of the forthcoming by-elections, Banerjee’s faction withdrew its candidate in Nandigram and extended support to the Congress candidate, indicating a willingness to work with another opposition party in the changed political circumstances. This represents a notable shift from the political positioning that characterized much of her earlier relationship with the Congress. Mamata Banerjee’s place in Indian political history has been shaped by her ability to build a powerful regional movement almost from scratch. She broke away from the Congress in 1998, established the Trinamool Congress and eventual-

ly succeeded in ending more than three decades of Left Front rule in West Bengal. For 15 years, she remained the dominant political force in the state. The same political journey that once symbolized an extraordinary rise is now confronting an equally extraordinary test.

The present crisis, therefore, is larger than an electoral defeat. It encompasses loss of power, organizational fragmentation, the battle over the party’s name and symbol, legal proceedings, questions about political credibility and the challenge of rebuilding a political base. The Election Commission’s interim decision has added a new dimension to the struggle, while the Supreme Court proceedings may determine an important part of the immediate institutional battle. The defining question for Banerjee now is not simply whether she can return to power. It is whether she can rebuild the political organization and public confidence that sustained her for so many years. Her greatest strength has historically been her capacity to convert adversity into political mobilization. But the present challenge is different: the struggle is no longer merely against an external political opponent. It is also about holding together a fractured organization and preserving a political legacy that she herself built over decades.

Mamata Banerjee has survived many political storms. Her present circumstances constitute perhaps the most demanding test of her political career. Whether she can once again transform adversity into an opportunity for political renewal will depend on how she responds to the organizational rupture, legal battles, changing alliances and questions of public trust. Her political story, therefore, is not simply a story of power gained and power lost.

THE FLAME OF THE LAMP AND OUR CULTURAL SENSIBILITY

Whether you light a lamp or not is a personal decision. To adhere to a religious tradition, to distance yourself from it, or to practice it in your own way in a democratic society, this is a matter of individual freedom. But when personal preference or the expression of political disagreement escalates to the public mockery of a religious symbol or cultural tradition, the question is no longer just about a lamp. The question is how much we respect the beliefs and cultural sensibilities of others while expressing our disagreement.

The lamp holds a profound significance in Indian culture. The entire spirit of Diwali is associated with light, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness. The tradition of lighting lamps in homes, temples, and on various auspicious occasions has been passed down through generations. The tradition of lighting lamps in the evening is also evident in many Indian families to this day. Therefore, for some, the lamp is not just an object made of oil, wick, and clay; it also symbolizes faith, auspiciousness, knowledge, and positive energy.

This sentiment is expressed in the famous Sanskrit prayer, “Deepo Jyotih Param Brahma, Deepo Jyotirjanardanah. Deepo Haratu Me Pampa, Sandhyadeep Namos-



tute.” Meaning, the light of the lamp is saluted as the ultimate light and it is prayed to dispel ignorance and negativity. This is why lighting a lamp in a Sanatani family is not just a simple household activity, but a ritual deeply rooted in religious and cultural beliefs.

Therefore, lighting a lamp should not be forced upon anyone, but it should also not be considered appropriate to mock the faith of the person lighting the lamp. Personal liberty means not only the freedom to choose oneself, but also the responsibility to respect the choices and beliefs of others. It is also important to note that when a religious symbol is associated with a political event, it is natural to question that event. One might ask what role a political event should play in public institutions, whether participation in it is voluntary, and to what extent the use of government resources is appropriate.

This is where it becomes important to distinguish between criticism of a political event and insulting a cultural

symbol. If there is an objection to lighting lamps at an event, the question should be about the political nature of the event, its administrative role, expenditure, or mode of participation. Targeting the lamps themselves, the puja, or the Sanatan tradition takes the debate in a different direction. Similarly, if someone opposes a political event, it would not be appropriate to label them anti-Indian culture or anti-religion solely on this basis.

Today, social media has given everyone a platform to express their views. This has also brought a problem: the line between satire and criticism can often become blurred. While certain words or images may seem like simple political satire to some, the same content may be perceived as an insult to someone else’s beliefs. Therefore, social sensitivity is essential alongside social media freedom.

The tradition of blowing out candles on birthdays also comes to mind in this context. Today, cutting a cake and blowing out candles is widely practiced on birthdays. On the other hand, those who consider the lamp a symbol of auspiciousness and light in the Indian religious tradition view it differently. The cultural contexts of both traditions differ. Therefore, adopting one or

avoiding the other should not be taken as an indication of a person’s patriotism or devotion to their culture.

Still, a question worth pondering is: are we as sensitive to the symbols associated with our own culture as we expect to be sensitive to other cultural symbols? If someone chooses not to light a lamp on Diwali, they are free to do so. But if someone else lights a lamp with complete devotion, why should their faith be ridiculed? Similarly, if someone participates in a political event by lighting a lamp, they should be criticized for the political aspect of the event, not their religious beliefs.

Political debates often cite birthday celebrations of former Prime Ministers or other leaders, and alleged government expenditures. To substantiate such allegations, the relevant year, expenditure, and official documents are essential. Accusing an individual or former government of misusing public funds without proof is unfair. Today’s political debate requires facts, not mere old allegations, to strengthen it.

The real question isn’t about a few rupees worth of oil and wick. The real question is what our priorities should be in public life and what our language should be. Should political differences become so sharp that even

“Before mocking faith and hurting the sensibilities of others while protesting, consider this: Disagreement is the strength of democracy, but respect is its dignity.”



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

cultural symbols become targets? Is it right to equate religious belief with political support? Is a person who lights a lamp necessarily a supporter of a political ideology? And is a person who doesn’t light a lamp automatically anti-cultural? The answer to these questions is that a person’s faith and political preferences must be understood separately.

For some, the lamp represents worship, for others tradition, for others culture, and for others simply light. Interpretations may vary, but it’s possible to disagree without offending. The strength of our culture lies not just in the fact that we light lamps; its strength also lies in the fact that we foster dialogue between diverse opinions. Just as the flame of a lamp dispels darkness in the same way, wisdom, restraint, and facts can dispel the darkness of public debate.

So, whether you light a lamp or not is your decision. Supporting or opposing a political event is also your right.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Action Needed on Fast Fashion

The rise of low-cost, disposable clothing is driving an environmental crisis we can no longer ignore. Massive amounts of synthetic textile waste end up in landfills daily, polluting local ecosystems and microplastics into our waterways. Meanwhile, overseas garment factory workers continue to endure dangerous conditions and unfair wages. As conscious consumers, we must shift toward sustainable choices and demand transparency from major brands. However, individual effort alone is insufficient. Governments must implement strict regulations on textile production, mandate recycling programs, and incentivize eco-friendly manufacturing to protect both our planet and human dignity before this crisis worsens. —Anna B.

Reclaim Our Digital Privacy

In our hyper-connected world, personal privacy is rapidly becoming a relic of the past. Corporations continuously harvest personal data, tracking online activities, location history, and behavioral patterns to monetize sensitive information. This surveillance culture undermines individual autonomy and exposes citizens to severe cybersecurity risks. While technology brings convenience, it should never cost us our fundamental right to privacy. We urgently need comprehensive data protection laws that hold tech conglomerates accountable. Stronger digital security regulations and transparent algorithmic policies are critical to restoring consumer control, protecting vulnerable users, and maintaining public trust in the modern digital age. —Diva Hustla

Invest in Youth Mental Health

Youth mental health challenges have escalated into a public health emergency requiring immediate intervention. Young people face rising rates of anxiety and depression driven by social media pressures, academic demands, and broader economic instability. Despite growing awareness, accessible support systems remain severely underfunded and out of reach for many families. Schools need dedicated funding for licensed counselors, mental health literacy programs, and early intervention services. Furthermore, community centers should offer safe, supportive spaces for youth engagement. Prioritizing youth mental well-being today is essential for building a healthier, more resilient society for future generations. —Ajith Kumar

Potholes Demand Urgent Repairs

Our city’s deteriorating road infrastructure has reached an unacceptable level, creating severe safety risks for commuters daily. Deep potholes and uneven pavement not only damage vehicles, resulting in costly repairs, but also cause frequent traffic delays and serious accidents, particularly for cyclists and motorcyclists. Patchwork fixes after heavy rains are no longer sufficient; they quickly erode and waste public funds. City authorities must prioritize comprehensive, high-quality road resurfacing projects with proper drainage systems. Safe and functional roads are basic public necessities. Investing in durable infrastructure will protect public safety and ensure efficient transportation across our entire community. —Daja

Protect Our Food Security

Rising food costs and supply disruptions are placing immense pressure on low-income families in our community. Food insecurity impairs child development, worsens chronic health conditions, and deepens social inequality. While emergency food banks provide vital relief, they cannot solve the underlying systemic causes. We need long-term policy solutions, including support for local agricultural networks, subsidies for nutritious whole foods, and sustainable urban farming initiatives. Guaranteeing reliable access to affordable, healthy food is a fundamental social responsibility. Strengthening local food systems will build community resilience and ensure no resident goes hungry during economic hardships. —Ummi Jaan

THE GUARDIANS OF OUR FRAGILE MODERN ECOSYSTEMS



Every morning, before the human world fully awakens, the air fills with a subtle, intricate symphony. Birds herald the break of day, filling urban streets, dense forests, and coastal shorelines with song. Because they are so ubiquitous, it is easy to take these avian creatures for granted – to view them simply as pleasant background elements of our natural environment. Yet, birds are far more than ornamental inhabitants of the sky; they are critical indicators of planetary health, vital contributors to global biodiversity, and indispensable ecological allies.

For tens of millions of years, birds have occupied complex ecological niches across every continent, from the frozen landscapes of Antarctica to the lush canopies of tropical rainforests. Through their daily activities, they perform functions that sustain terrestrial ecosystems. Birds act as nature’s seed dispersers, carrying botanical species across miles of fragmented habitats and allowing forests to regenerate naturally. Nectar-feeding species pollinate thousands of plant varieties, while predatory birds control rodent populations and keep agricultural pests in

check without the need for toxic chemical interventions. Scavengers like vultures clear carcasses, actively preventing the spread of deadly pathogens throughout ecosystems and human settlements.

Beyond their practical ecological contributions, birds serve as living barometers of environmental change. Because of their high mobility, sensitivity to temperature, and reliance on specific habitats, avian populations react rapidly to ecological disruptions. When a habitat becomes polluted, when climate patterns shift unpredictably, or when local insect populations crash, bird species are often the first to show visible signs of decline. In this sense, watching bird populations offers science an early warning system for the overall health of our shared biosphere.

Tragically, birds today face an unprecedented convergence of human-driven threats. Rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion, and widespread deforestation continue to destroy critical nesting grounds and migratory stopover sites. Industrial pollution, pesticide overreliance, invasive species, and climate-induced weather extremes have accelerated population drops across hundreds

of avian species worldwide. Millions of migratory birds perish annually along historic flight paths, disoriented by artificial city lights or striking glass structures that cut through their traditional routes.

Protecting avian life is not merely a sentimental endeavor for birdwatchers and naturalists; it is a fundamental requirement for ecological stability. Safeguarding birds demands intentional, systemic action: preserving wetland sanctuaries, restoring native forests, establishing light-pollution regulations, and curbing chemical runoff in agriculture. Urban areas can contribute by integrating bird-friendly glass and planting native flora in public parks and residential gardens.

As we confront widespread environmental challenges, listening to the natural world has never been more urgent. Birds connect continents through their extraordinary journeys and stitch together the delicate webs of life that sustain us all. By committing to protect these magnificent skyward guardians, we safeguard the ecological foundation that supports all life on Earth.

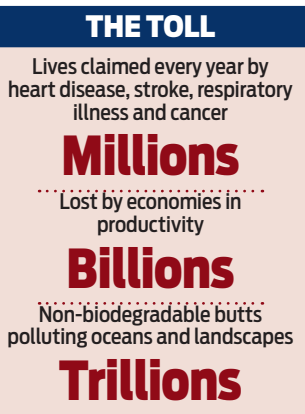
— YASH RAJ

THE PERSISTENT SHADOW OF THE MODERN CIGARETTE

For decades, public health campaigns, aggressive taxation, and strict regulatory frameworks have waged a relentless war against tobacco. Smoking rates in many parts of the world have dropped dramatically from their mid-twentieth-century peaks, leading many to believe that the battle against cigarettes is largely won. Yet, despite widespread knowledge of its lethal consequences, the cigarette remains one of the most resilient, destructive, and profitable consumer products in human history.

The modern cigarette is not merely a roll of dried tobacco leaf; it is an engineered delivery device designed to maximize nicotine addiction. Chemical additives, specialized filters, and optimized combustion temperatures ensure that nicotine reaches the brain within seconds, creating a powerful physiological grip that defies rational choice. Millions of smokers genuinely wish to quit, but they find themselves trapped by a product specifically tailored to make stopping as difficult as humanly possible.

The human toll of this engineered habit continues to be staggering. Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death globally, claiming millions of lives each year through heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory conditions, and various forms of cancer. Beyond the individual suffering, the societal costs are immense. Healthcare systems bear an extraordinary financial bur-



den treating smoking-related illnesses, while economies lose billions in lost productivity. Furthermore, the environmental impact – from deforestation driven by tobacco farming to the trillions of non-biodegradable cigarette butts polluting oceans and landscapes – adds another layer to this ongoing crisis.

In recent years, the landscape has grown even more complex with the rise of alternative nicotine products, such as electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco devices. While often marketed as safer alternatives or cessation tools, they have created a new paradigm of nicotine dependence, particularly among younger generations. The tobacco industry continues to adapt, employing sophisticated marketing strategies to protect its bottom line and ensure that new generations remain tethered to chemical addiction.

Eradicating the shadow of the cigarette requires more than passive awareness; it demands sustained, courageously bold policy decisions. Governments must continue to raise tobacco taxes, implement plain packaging laws, restrict marketing, and support robust cessation programs. At the same time, society must view smoking not as a personal moral failure, but as a public health challenge perpetuated by a predatory industry. Only through unwavering commitment and systemic action can we finally extinguish the far-reaching harm of the cigarette.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

THE ETERNAL LURE OF EARTH’S ULTIMATE SAFE HAVEN

For thousands of years, civilizations have risen and fallen, currencies have inflated and collapsed into obscurity, yet gold has stood remarkably immune to the passage of time. From ancient royal treasuries to high-tech digital vaults, this gleaming metal has consistently retained its position as humanity’s ultimate store of value. In an era dominated by volatile financial markets, shifting geopolitical balances, and intangible digital assets, gold continues to exercise an extraordinary hold on the global economy and human imagination.



What endures as gold’s primary strength is its fundamental tangibility and independence. Unlike paper fiat currencies, which central banks can print in unrestricted quantities, gold cannot be created by decree or diluted by monetary policy. Its physical scarcity is dictated by nature itself, rendering it a finite resource that carries no counterparty risk. When economic turmoil strikes, inflation erodes purchasing power, or political instability threatens national currencies, investors and ordinary citizens alike instinctively flee toward the permanent safety of the precious metal.

Beyond its historical role as a hedge against inflation and financial instability, gold plays a critical, systemic function in global economics. Sovereign nations maintain massive central bank gold reserves to bolster national creditworthiness and provide stability during systemic crises. In recent years, central banks across the globe have

actively increased their gold holdings, seeking to diversify away from reliance on foreign paper reserves and safeguard national wealth against trade frictions and currency fluctuations. This persistent institutional demand underscores a fundamental truth: even in a modernized monetary system, gold remains the ultimate collateral.

At the same time, gold occupies a unique dual role that sets it apart from other commodities. It is simultaneously a monetary asset and a tangible industrial material. Beyond its widespread cultural and artistic presence in global jewelry traditions, gold’s exceptional conductivity, durability, and resistance to corrosion make it indispensable in cutting-edge industries. Modern microelectronics, advanced aerospace technology, clean energy systems, and specialized medical applications all depend heavily on its physical properties, ensuring a steady, multi-layered foundation of global demand.

However, gold is not entirely without debate. Skeptics point out that physical gold produces no yield or dividend income, requiring market price appreciation alone to deliver returns while incurring storage and security costs. Yet, comparing gold purely to yield-bearing financial assets misses its core function. Gold is not meant to act as a speculative engine for rapid wealth creation; it is designed to serve as an anchor of financial security – an insurance policy against economic uncertainty.

As global economies navigate unprecedented levels of public debt, technological disruption, and shifting geopolitical power, the relevance of gold remains as vital as ever. In a world defined by rapid, often destabilizing change, gold provides a rare constant. It remains a timeless symbol of stability, a reliable sanctuary in times of crisis, and a powerful testament to humanity’s enduring pursuit of lasting value.

— CHIRU

THE QUIET ARCHITECTS OF EARTH’S SURVIVAL

Every breath we take is a silent, unacknowledged gift from the green world around us. In our fast-paced, concrete-dominated modern existence, it is easy to view plants as mere scenery – a backdrop to human ambition, a decorative element in our offices, or a pleasant view along a highway. Yet, far from being passive ornamentation, plants are the absolute foundation of terrestrial life and the quiet architects of planetary balance.

For millions of years, plants have engineered Earth’s biosphere through the quiet miracle of photosynthesis. By converting sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water into oxygen and essential nutrients, they created the atmospheric conditions that allowed complex life – including humanity – to evolve. Today, tropical rainforests, ancient woodlands, and marine phytoplankton act as the primary lungs of our planet, absorbing billions of tons of carbon emissions annually while continually replenishing the air we breathe. Without this baseline biological function, Earth would be a barren, toxic stone.

Beyond atmospheric regulation, plants dictate global food security and economic health. Every calorie consumed by land animals originates, directly or indirectly, from plant life. Modern agriculture feeds over eight billion people, while botanical species provide the raw material for medicine, shelter, textiles, and energy. Historically, Aspirin was derived from willow bark, and even today, a vast percentage of modern pharmaceuticals owe their existence to active botanical compounds.

Yet, despite their indispens-

able role, human expansion threatens plant diversity at an unprecedented rate. Deforestation, urban sprawl, industrial agriculture, and rising global temperatures have fragmented habitats worldwide. Millions of plant species now face the threat of extinction before science can fully document or understand them. When we lose a single plant species, we do not simply lose a flower or tree; we collapse micro-ecosystems, displace pollinators, and lose



potential breakthroughs in medicine and agriculture.

Realigning our relationship with the botanical world is not an act of sentimental conservation – it is a matter of self-preservation. Urban planning must shift toward integrating green infrastructure, while global policy must prioritize reforestation and wild ecosystem protection. Protecting plant life ensures the stability of our climate, our soil, and our food systems. As we face the mounting realities of ecological change, honoring and safeguarding Earth’s green architects is the single most vital step toward securing our shared future.

— ANNA B.

MINIATURE CANVASES SHAPING MODERN CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Once relegated to the margins of beauty culture as a mere grooming routine, nail art has evolved into one of the most vibrant forms of contemporary artistic expression. Where a simple coat of translucent pink or classic crimson once sufficed, today’s manicures feature intricate 3D chrome swirls, velvet textures, delicate hand-painted line work, and bedazzled motifs. This transformation reflects a significant cultural shift: the modern manicure is no longer just a finishing touch to an outfit, but a primary medium through which individuals communicate identity, mood, and creative autonomy.

The rise of nail art highlights a fascinating intersection between fashion, technology, and personal agency. Ten tiny keratin plates have become micro-canvases capable of housing miniature masterpieces. Advances in gel chemistry, magnetic pigments, and precision tools allow manicurists – now rightfully recognized as specialized artists – to build multidimensional designs that rival high-fashion garments in detail. From subtle, milky French tips that signal polished minimalism to bold, mismatched sets that subvert

traditional aesthetic rules, nail art offers an accessible entry point into creative experimentation. Unlike expensive wardrobe overhauls, custom nails allow anyone to carry personalized, wearable art everywhere they go.

Beyond aesthetics, the phenomenon speaks to a deeper psychological desire for self-expression in an increasingly standardized world. In every hand gesture – typing on a keyboard, holding a coffee cup, or gesturing during a conversation – nail art serves as a silent narrative. It provides a sense of bodily ownership and personal joy, often described by enthusiasts as an essential form of tactile self-care. Furthermore, the salon chair has reclaimed its place as a communal hub where artistic collaboration flourishes between client and technician, fostering connection through craftsmanship.

Ultimately, the booming popularity of nail art proves that art need not be confined to museum walls or runway shows to carry meaning. By turning fingertips into canvases, society has democratized haute couture, transforming everyday gestures into celebrations of individuality, innovation, and design.

— SUBU



THE HIDDEN PRICE OF MODERN FAST FASHION



Every morning millions of people stand before their wardrobes deciding what to wear, participating in a daily ritual that connects individuals to a global industry worth trillions of dollars. Clothing brands do not merely sell garments; they shape culture, project personal identity, and dictate global consumption patterns. Yet beneath the sleek advertising campaigns and vibrant runway shows lies an industry grappling with profound environmental and ethical crises.

In recent decades, the rise of “fast fashion” has fundamentally redefined our relationship with attire. Driven by ultra-efficient supply chains and aggressive digital marketing, popular clothing brands have conditioned consumers to treat garments as disposable commodities rather than durable goods. Micro-trends cycle through social media algorithms at unprecedented speed, encouraging continuous purchasing cycles. Clothing that once took months to design, manufacture, and distribute now arrives on store shelves or online storefronts

in a matter of days, encouraging a throwaway culture where items are worn only a handful of times before being discarded.

This relentless pace of production carries a devastating environmental footprint. The apparel industry accounts for roughly ten percent of global carbon emissions – more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined. Massive quantities of synthetic fibers, particularly polyester, derived from fossil fuels, release microplastics into marine ecosystems with every wash. Furthermore, the immense water usage required for cotton cultivation and the toxic runoff from chemical textile dyes continue to pollute freshwater sources in manufacturing hubs around the world.

Beyond the environmental strain, the human cost of cheap, rapid garment production remains severe. To keep prices artificially low, many major brands continue to rely on factories in developing nations where labor protections are weak, wages fail to meet living standards, and working

10%
Roughly this share of global carbon emissions comes from the apparel industry – more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined

conditions remain hazardous. Despite frequent public commitments to corporate social responsibility, the pressure for lower production costs often leads brands to prioritize profit margins over worker safety and fair pay.

However, a cultural shift is beginning to take root. A growing movement of conscious consumers is demanding transparency, fair labor practices, and sustainable materials from their favorite labels. Emerging independent brands are building business models around circular fashion, repair programs, and ethical sourcing, proving that style does not have to come at the expense of human dignity or ecological stability.

Reclaiming the integrity of what we wear requires accountability on both sides of the mirror. Clothing brands must abandon the race to the bottom and embrace genuine sustainability over greenwashing. At the same time, consumers must reconsider the true cost of convenience and choose quality over quantity. By supporting ethical labels and treating clothing as a long-term investment, we can reshape fashion from an engine of exploitation into a force for sustainable art and authentic self-expression.

— VARSHA

HYDERABAD

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AHMEDABAD**NEW DELHI****NEW DELHI****NEW DELHI**

WHAT NEXT

- ## BHUBANESWAR

Majhi distributed school



Manohar Lal
Union Minister

KC Venugopal Congress
general secretary

MUMBAI

30 licences suspended

BJP'S 10 CANDIDATES

NEW DELHI

GANDHINAGAR

GUNTUR

The case remains under investigation, and the allegations against the suspect are yet to be established in court.

NEW DELHI

Case in focus

14 premises searched	Rs 645 cr alleged public funds involved
3 cities: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula	Rs 211 cr assets attached, seized or frozen by ED
14 accused in ED prosecution complaint	6 Haryana-cadre IAS officers in CBI chargesheet

Quick Read

9% of students report suicidal thoughts: Survey

NEW DELHI

About 15% of students in higher educational institutions experienced periods of feeling overwhelmed or distressed in the past six months, while 9% reported suicidal thoughts, according to a nationwide survey by a Supreme Court-appointed panel.

The survey was conducted by the National Task Force (NTF), which is examining student mental health and measures to prevent suicides in higher education institutions. The findings are expected to be included in its final report, due by October 31, 2026.

The survey gains significance amid renewed concerns over student mental health following the deaths of students at IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay.

CBI deports UAE fugitive in PNB fraud case

NEW DELHI

The CBI has secured the deportation of Sandeep Mistry from the UAE to India in connection with the Nirav Modi Punjab National Bank fraud case. Mistry was allegedly involved in fictitious international trade transactions and helped prepare forged import-export documents. The agency said he also facilitated fund transfers from dummy companies and used covert communication platforms to conceal evidence. A Red Notice was issued through INTERPOL in July 2026, following which UAE authorities traced and arrested him. Mistry was brought to India, taken into CBI custody and produced before a competent court, which sent him to jail custody.

MCD carries out 29 demolitions across Delhi, seals 10 properties

NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Tuesday carried out 29 demolition actions across all 12 zones as part of its city-wide enforcement drive against dangerous buildings, unauthorised constructions and violations of building norms. The civic body also sealed 10 properties and issued seven demolition orders. Major actions were reported in areas including Hari Nagar, Vikas Puri, Dabri More, Shakarpur, Gandhi Nagar, Madhu Vihar and Old Seemapuri. The MCD said the drive aims to ensure compliance with the Master Plan of Delhi and Building Bye-Laws while safeguarding public safety. The enforcement campaign will continue across Delhi.

Kejriwal seeks safety measures for Delhi women students

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday called for stronger safety measures for women students in Delhi, questioning restrictions imposed on women following the alleged gangrape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park.

In a video message, Kejriw-

- What Kejriwal wants
- 1CCTV cameras across Delhi, a central command to monitor footage in real time
- 2Functional streetlights and action on dark spots
- 3Women police personnel deployed inside colleges

Revanth’s ‘rich God, poor God’ remark triggers BJP backlash

Revanth Reddy’s remarks on Lord Ram and Lord Shiva triggered a political row, with BJP leaders accusing him of dividing Hindus.

Lord Ram “God of the rich”, with a larger following in the north	Lord Shiva “God of the poor”, worshipped in the south
HYDERABAD	
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s remarks describing Lord Ram as the God	
WHO SAID WHAT	
N Ramchander Rao, BJP: “highly condemnable”, “absurd”	
Prakash Reddy, BJP: could affect unity and diversity	
Shahnawaz Hussain, BJP: political consequences for the Congress	
Mahesh Kumar Goud, Congress: about the deities’ traditional look	

of the rich and Lord Shiva as the God of the poor triggered a political controversy on Tuesday, with the BJP accusing him of attempting to divide Hindus and create differences between northern and southern India.

Speaking at a media event in Delhi on Monday, Reddy said the Congress had struggled in northern states because the BJP had “stolen Lord Ram”, who has a larger following there. He said the party performed better in the south, where Lord Shiva is worshipped, and alleged that the BJP represented the rich.

Telangana BJP chief N



Ramchander Rao called the remarks “highly condemnable” and “absurd”. He alleged that Reddy was trying to create divisions among Hindus and between the north and south. Rao also called on BJP workers to protest and burn effigies of the Chief Minister at the mandal level across Telangana.

BJP spokesperson Prakash Reddy criticised the remarks, questioning Reddy’s references to Ram and Shiva and say-

ing they could affect the country’s unity and diversity. The Congress defended Reddy’s comments. State president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the comparison referred to the traditional visual appearance of the two deities, while stressing that both were respected and worshipped by the party. Goud accused the BJP of using Lord Ram for political purposes and said both deities were regarded equally.

Odisha mining funds spent on stadium, roads, instead of affected areas: CAG



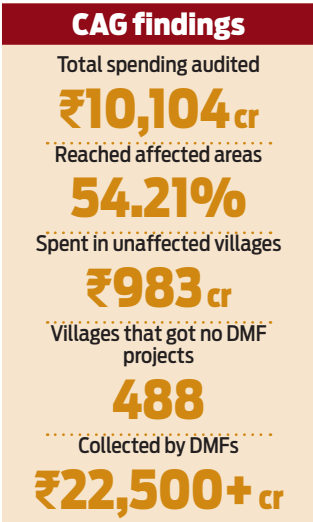
BHUBANESWAR

A Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit has found that a significant share of funds collected by Odisha’s District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) was spent outside mining-affected areas, including on stadiums, roads, government facilities and other projects.

The performance audit, covering 2015-16 to 2023-24, examined spending in six districts — Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Nabarangpur. Of the ₹10,104.28 crore spent, only ₹5,477.75 crore, or 54.21%, went to directly affected areas. Odisha’s rules require at least 60% of DMF funds to be spent in such areas.

The audit found that ₹983.32 crore was spent in 976 villages classified as unaffected by mining in Keonjhar and Sundargarh. Projects included mini-stadiums, road widening, office quarters and hospital digitisation. Meanwhile, 488 directly affected villages in the two districts received no DMF-funded project during the nine-year period.

Sundargarh DMF spent ₹136.77 crore on the Rourkela International Hockey Stadium, while Jajpur DMF spent ₹113.65 crore on a regional science academy. Other spending included ₹6.06 crore by Keonjhar to sponsor five students for mining engineering courses in Australia and ₹4.30 crore by Jajpur on medical en-



trance coaching. The audit also flagged spending on school furniture, rural parks, protective equipment and government vehicles.

Despite the six audited DMFs collecting more than ₹22,500 crore, none had established an Endowment Fund, intended to provide sustainable financial support to mining-affected communities after mines

CAG audit finds Odisha’s mining funds were diverted to stadiums, roads and government projects, while several mining-affected villages received no funding.

close. The CAG also found that officials in three districts used a “common affected areas” classification that was not recognised under applicable laws and guidelines. Gram Sabha proposals for basic needs were not acted upon in several mining villages. The findings highlight gaps between the intended purpose of DMF funds and their actual utilisation across Odisha.

Rahul urges youth to raise voices, protest over women’s safety



NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday called for stronger action against crimes targeting women and urged young people to protest against harassment and sexual violence.

In a video message posted on X, Mr. Gandhi said women should not be subjected to restrictions because of crimes committed against them.

“Stop punishing women for the crimes committed against them,” he said, adding that women across the country

“Stop punishing women for the crimes committed against them”
— Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha

were afraid to walk the streets because of the risk of harassment and rape.

Mr. Gandhi said the solution was not to “lock women inside”, but to make streets safer and ensure that those responsible for attacks were punished.

He also urged the youth to raise their voices and protest, arguing that the government responds when people put pressure on it. His remarks came amid protests and heightened concerns over women’s safety, particularly among students in Delhi.

Thousands of Delhi University students have recently participated in demonstrations demanding safer campuses and public spaces.

UP Deputy CM tells jobless youth to drive autos, sparks backlash

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak’s remarks advising unemployed youth to consider driving au-



Brajesh Pathak
UP Deputy Chief Minister

“Naukari-wokri ke chakkar mein mat pado... auto-rickshaw ya taxi chalao aur khoob paisa banao... char ghante chalao aur bachhon ke sath samay bitao.”

BRAJESH PATHAK UP Deputy Chief Minister

to-rickshaws or taxis instead of pursuing jobs have triggered criticism from opposition leaders and social media users.

Speaking at an event in Lucknow on Monday, Pathak suggested that young people should not get caught up in the pursuit of conventional employment.

A Samajwadi Party leader criticised Pathak’s remarks, saying the government had failed to provide sufficient employment opportunities and that ministers should not offer such advice to unemployed youth.

LDF gains ground in Keralam civic by-polls



38 wards: the result

19 UDF: 15 kept, 4 gained	18 LDF: 11 kept, 7 wrested
1 Twenty20	0 BJP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front government in Keralam faced a setback in local body by-polls on Tuesday, with the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front gaining seven wards from the ruling front. The elections covered 38 wards.

The LDF won 18 seats, including 11 wards it retained

and seven it wrested from the UDF. The UDF won 19 seats, retaining 15 sitting wards and gaining four.

The result offered relief to the LDF after its defeat in the 140-member Kerala Assembly election, where the UDF won 102 seats. One of the LDF gains came from Bavode East in Peralassery panchayat, part of former chief minister and Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan’s constituency.

CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan said voters had accepted the LDF’s resolve to return by correcting its mistakes and called the results a strong message to the Sathesana government.

Home Minister and senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said fluctuations were natural in local elections and stressed that the UDF remained ahead overall with 19 of the 38 wards.

Veeramani case: DMK seeks SIT questioning of Vijay, ministers

CHENNAI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has approached the Madras High Court seeking a direction to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the R. Veeramani POCSO case to summon Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and Ministers Aadhav Arjuna and



Who’s who

■ T.R. Baalu: DMK treasurer; filed the petition
■ C. Joseph Vijay: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister
■ Aadhav Arjuna, C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar: Ministers
■ R. Veeramani: Gem Granites founder; POCSO case

C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar for questioning.

The petition, filed by DMK treasurer and Lok Sabha floor leader T.R. Baalu, seeks action on a representation submitted to the SIT on September 27.

Baalu said the allegations made by the Chief Minister and Ministers were directly connected to the ongoing investigation and should therefore be examined by the SIT.

DELHI WOMEN SAFETY

Aangan Ka Milan launched to strengthen Anganwadi services



PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary inaugurated the ‘Aangan Ka Milan’ programme at an Anganwadi Centre on the premises of Phulwarisharif High School, focusing on improving nutri-

At the launch

- Cheques under Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana and PM Matru Vandana Yojana
- God-bharai for mothers, Annaprashan for children
- Anganwadi and ASHA workers felicitated
- Booklet ‘Suposhit Bachpan Ki Rasoi’ released

tion, healthcare and early childhood education.

He said the government would take steps to construct buildings for Anganwadi centres that do not have their own premises.

Quick Read

AI boom needs \$6 trillion annual revenue by 2031

NEW DELHI

The rapid buildout of artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure will require the creation of an estimated \$6 trillion in annual revenue by 2031 to justify the capital being deployed with productivity gains alone unlikely to support the economics of the investment cycle, a report said on Tuesday. According to Bain & Company's analysis, existing AI applications across consumer and enterprise segments could generate between \$1.2 trillion and \$1.8 trillion in revenues, leaving a gap of about \$4.2 trillion that will need to come from new categories of innovation.

Seoul stocks fall for 2nd day on inflation woes

SEOUL

South Korean shares retreated on Tuesday as rising oil prices fuelled inflation concerns and pushed U.S. Treasury yields higher amid Middle East tensions. The Korean won strengthened against the U.S. dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) lost 18.93 points, or 0.27 percent, to end at 6,870.81, marking its second consecutive session of losses. The index opened 0.19 percent lower and extended its losses in afternoon trading as foreign and institutional investors sold local shares. Overnight, U.S. stocks retreated as renewed tensions between Washington and Tehran drove crude oil prices higher.



Workers listed under VB-G RAM G job scheme touch 10.88 cr

NEW DELHI

The Centre's new VB-G RAM G rural employment guarantee scheme has recorded significant progress since its implementation on July 1 this year, with the number of active workers under the scheme going up to 10.88 crore and more than 31.69 crore person-days of employment being generated (as of September 24), according to a government factsheet issued on Tuesday. Women's participation in the scheme stands at 61.65 per cent while employment is being provided to workers on demand. The number of works under execution have touched the 97.17 lakh mark and approved works are readily available to meet future employment demand of 73.24 lakh people, according to the factsheet. Close to 2.31 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country are presently executing works across the country. An average wage rate of Rs 283.24 per day per person is being paid under the scheme and as many as 3.76 crore direct benefit transfers (DBT) into the workers' accounts have already taken place in the first three months of the scheme. A total of Rs 93,841 crore has been allocated to states and UTs as interim allocation for FY 2026-27. Out of this, a Mother Sanction of Rs 25,880 crore has been issued as the first instalment to the states and UTs, the factsheet further states. The transition from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA to VB-G RAM G has been seamless and disruption-free. Digital systems supporting implementation were operational from the commencement of the new framework, the statement said.

Min calls for 'Team Agriculture' to make India global food basket

More than ₹1,200 crore PM-RKVY support sanctioned to 10 states; Centre and states must rise above politics to put farmers first, says Chouhan.

NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday handed over financial sanction letters worth more than Rs 1,200 crore to agriculture ministers of 10 states under the Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), stressing implementation of agriculture programmes across states.

The disbursement included Rs 290 crore for West Bengal, Rs 198 crore for Haryana, Rs 181 crore for Chhattisgarh, Rs 154 crore for Arunachal Pradesh, Rs 114 crore for Bihar, Rs 104 crore for Karnataka, Rs 75 crore for Mizoram, Rs 64 crore for Himachal Pradesh, Rs 58 crore for Jharkhand and Rs 43 crore for Punjab.

Chairing a meeting with



state Agriculture Ministers and senior officials, Chouhan said the Union Government was going beyond policy formulation by ensuring timely availability of resources so schemes could begin implementation without delay.

He said agricultural growth had risen from 3 per cent in 2015 to 4.5 per cent, while the average annual increase in foodgrain production had

more than doubled from around 40 lakh tonnes to 84 lakh tonnes. Rabi foodgrain production rose by 205 lakh tonnes between 2023-24 and 2025-26, he added.

Chouhan also announced monthly virtual reviews with states and proposed State Agriculture Teams involving ministers, officials, agricultural universities, ICAR insti-

CENTRE SANCTIONS RS 1,200 CR TO 10 STATES

₹1,200 crore sanctioned to 10 states

Monthly Centre-state agriculture reviews announced

Khet Bachao Abhiyan from October 22

Action against fake farm inputs

tutions, KVKs, ATMA and FPOs. District-level meetings will also be held monthly.

He called for a nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan from October 22 to November 30 to promote balanced fertiliser use based on Soil Health Cards. States were also asked to act against fake fertilisers, spurious seeds and sub-standard pesticides.



India has agreed to reduce or eliminate tariffs on around 70 per cent of its tariff lines covering imports from New Zealand. Some products will receive immediate duty-free access. These include wood, wool, sheep meat and raw hides.

India-NZ trade set to surge as FTA kicks in on Oct 20

NEW DELHI

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is set to come into force on October 20, aimed at doubling bilateral trade by 2030. Indian exporters are set to receive duty-free access to New Zealand across all tariff lines.

This is expected to improve the competitiveness of Indian products in sectors including textiles and garments, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and processed foods, according to an article in Khalsa Vox news website.

Removing customs duties makes Indian products cheaper relative to competing imports in the New Zealand market, potentially creating opportunities for exporters seeking to expand their presence there.

Another important aspect of the agreement is that New Zealand has committed to investments worth \$20 billion in India over the next 15 years. The two countries have also set themselves the goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

Once the FTA kicks in on October 20, the changes will

unfold in stages. Some tariffs will disappear immediately, while others will decline over several years and certain agricultural concessions will remain subject to quotas and safeguards, the article observes.

For Indian consumers, the most visible impact could eventually be felt in imported products such as kiwi fruit, apples and Manuka honey. However, the agreement does not throw open the Indian market across the board. Sensitive sectors, including dairy and several agricultural products, remain protected.

RBI now has less room to keep interest rates unchanged

NEW DELHI

Rising crude oil prices, inflation and higher bond yields globally has narrowed Reserve Bank of India's room to hold rates unchanged, a report said on Tuesday. The report from BNP Paribas India said India's macro-outlook has weakened in recent weeks as Brent crude rose above \$100 per barrel and US 10-year Treasury yields climbed toward 5 per cent.

Inflation continues to rise globally, and central banks are resorting to rate hikes. Though India's macro buffers have increased with foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) flows, capital-flight risks have also risen with rate hikes in developed markets.

"In our view, rising oil prices and commodity inflation remain a material challenge



for India in the near term. The INR has already depreciated by nearly 1 per cent and the RBI now has less room to keep interest rates unchanged," the report said.

The latest escalation in the Middle East has pushed Brent above \$100 per barrel, while the ECB and BoJ have raised rates by 25 basis points, tightening global financial conditions and increasing capital-flight risks for India.

"India's macro-outlook is sensitive to oil prices, and the latest escalation in the Middle East is a negative," said Kunal Vora, Head of India Equity Research.

The report noted that over the past two weeks the rupee has depreciated by around 1 per cent, India's 10-year bond yields have breached

7 per cent and foreign institutional investor selling has resumed, even as foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits have bolstered reserves to about \$800 billion, supported by roughly \$127 billion of FCNR flows.

This offers near-term relief, but these flows are likely to reverse in 3-5 years, the report said, adding that high inflation could slow high-frequency indicators in the coming months.

"India's macro indicators have remained resilient, but the outlook is weakening due to rising oil prices and inflation. Key positives are strong credit growth, strong auto sales, improving jobs data and large food-grain holdings, which provide a shield against El Niño," the report noted.

Consumption indicators showed some moderation last month, with urban wages falling, rising inflation, and deteriorating business confidence. Rural dynamics are also weakening because of a monsoon deficit, higher food inflation, and reduced crop sowing.

GOYAL-GREER MEET

India seeks tariff edge in US trade deal

NEW DELHI

India and the United States are working to advance negotiations on a balanced and mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's upcoming engagement with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer expected to focus on resolving key tariff issues.

Goyal will attend the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 30 and October 1, at the invitation of Greer. The two sides are expected to work towards finalising an interim trade deal in line with the joint statement issued by India and the US on February 7, 2026.

India is seeking an arrangement that gives domestic exporters a tariff advantage over competing economies rather than simply securing a lower headline tariff. The proposed



framework is expected to establish preferential market access for businesses from both countries.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal earlier said the trade agreement was more or less finalised, with discussions now focused on creating an architecture for preferential access before the deal is formally signed.

He explained that India largely operates under most-favoured-nation tariffs, while the US is using executive tariffs, making a mechanism for tariff differentials necessary.

During his US visit, Goyal

is also expected to advocate for a rules-based, open, inclusive, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory global trading system with the WTO at its core.

His bilateral engagements will also focus on strengthening trade and investment opportunities for farmers, fishermen, women entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs and other businesses.

Goyal is scheduled to meet senior executives of American companies across manufacturing, consumer goods, agribusiness, retail and technology sectors in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Private firms enter missile production

NEW DELHI

India is expanding missile production beyond state-run defence companies by bringing private firms into the manufacturing process, in a move aimed at strengthening the country's ability to produce sophisticated weapons at scale.

A report by India Narrative said the shift is intended to address the gap between developing advanced missile systems and manufacturing them in sufficient quantities. The new approach is also expected to create greater wartime redundancy, with the Defence



Ministry planning to have at least two production partners for each missile system.

The report said greater competition could improve price discovery, delivery timelines and production efficiency. It could also encourage new partnerships between public and private companies, allowing different firms to specialise in specific components of increasingly complex weapons systems.

The Defence Ministry in August approved the transfer of DRDO technologies for conventional missile systems to qualified Indian defence companies. Private firms can bid for technology transfer, obtain designation as Development-cum-Production Partners, or DePPs, and take on prime systems-integration responsibilities.

The move represents a departure from the earlier model

India is opening missile manufacturing to private companies, seeking greater production capacity, competition and wartime resilience across its defence industry.

under which DRDO-developed missiles were largely transferred to nominated public-sector production agencies, particularly Bharat Dynamics Limited.

The report stressed that sustained military capability depends not only on designing weapons but also on the ability to manufacture, replenish and maintain them during prolonged conflicts.

At the same time, it said the entry of private companies should not be viewed as a retreat by the public sector. BDL remains an experienced missile manufacturer with established infrastructure, technical expertise and supplier networks.

The new model means public-sector companies will no longer have an automatic entitlement to produce DRDO-developed missile systems, introducing greater contestability into defence manufacturing.

Missile manufacturing shift

1 Private firms can bid for DRDO technology transfers

2 Companies can become Development-cum-Production Partners

3 At least two production partners planned for each missile system

4 BDL remains a key public-sector missile manufacturer

5 Competition expected to improve efficiency and delivery timelines

India's aviation demand outpacing airline capacity growth: Naidu

NEW DELHI

India's aviation market is expanding faster than the pace at which airlines are adding capacity, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event here, Naidu said revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) in India have grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.3 per cent over the past decade, compared to a 7 per cent CAGR in available seat kilometres (ASKs) offered by airlines.

"This means the market is growing faster than the seats," the minister said, underlining the need for continued expansion in aviation capacity and connectivity.

India has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic

Capex rises as business confidence strengthens



MUMBAI

India is witnessing broad-based economic growth, with companies stepping up capital expenditure as rising capacity utilisation and improving demand encourage businesses to expand investments, FICCI President and RPG Group Vice Chairman Anant Goenka said on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the FICCI FRAMES event, Goenka said investment activity was gaining momentum across industries as utilisation levels increased. He said the trend reflected improving business confidence and stronger demand conditions.

"We do see overall broad-based growth. We see increased capex across the board now, as utilisation levels are going up," Goenka said.

He highlighted the automo-

Key takeaways

- Capex rising across industries
- Automotive growth supporting the wider value chain
- Commodity prices pressuring margins
- FICCI FRAMES marks 26 years

Rising capacity utilisation and stronger demand are prompting Indian companies to increase capital expenditure across several sectors, says FICCI chief Anant Goenka.

bile sector as one of the areas recording substantially higher growth, adding that its performance was generating positive spillover effects across the wider value chain.

"Of course, certain sectors like automotive have seen substantially higher growth, and therefore, the entire value chain gets positively affected," he said.

However, Goenka cautioned that companies continued to face pressure on profit margins because of higher commodity prices. While businesses were passing some increased costs on to consumers, he said there was generally a lag before the impact was fully reflected in prices.

"Margin pressure will continue until commodity prices stabilise," Goenka said, pointing to the rise in crude oil prices from around \$90 per barrel to about \$100 or higher.

On the media and entertainment industry, Goenka described FICCI FRAMES as an iconic platform that has completed 26 years. He said the sector was undergoing significant changes driven by multiple screens, shorter attention spans, artificial intelligence and synthetic data.

He said FRAMES provided a platform for creators and users to discuss these changes and understand how the future of the media industry could evolve.

Quick Read



US bases became source of insecurity: IRGC

Tehran
Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesperson Hossein Mohebbi has claimed that US military bases in the region failed to provide security and instead became a source of insecurity during the recent conflict.

According to the IRGC spokesperson, Iranian missile and drone attacks targeted several US bases during the conflict. He argued that the attacks demonstrated what he described as the failure of the US military presence to deliver the security objectives Washington had cited for maintaining its regional bases.

At the same time, Mohebbi has said that Iran's military preparedness does not rule out negotiations. He stated that decisions regarding war and diplomacy are made within Iran's political system and that negotiations could be pursued alongside military preparedness when considered in the country's interests.

US expands missile production with allies

Washington
The US Department of War has awarded Raytheon a contract worth up to \$20.7 billion to produce AMRAAM missiles for American and allied forces. The five-year agreement, with options for two additional years, aims to expand missile manufacturing capacity. The deal involves the US Air Force, Navy and foreign partners purchasing through the Foreign Military Sales programme. Raytheon said it is expanding its workforce, supply chain and production facilities to meet rising demand. AMRAAM production nearly doubled in 2025 compared with 2024. The missile is used by 44 countries across 14 platforms, including air combat and ground-based air defence systems.

AMRAAM deal

Contract value, up to

\$20.7bn

Countries use the missile

44

Platforms

14

Trump says Iran war will end very soon

Washington
US President Donald Trump said the United States would win its war with Iran "very soon," while US officials held discussions with mediators seeking to end the conflict. Trump said the war would conclude quickly, one way or another. He also said US gasoline prices would fall after the conflict ends. The remarks came as diplomatic efforts continued between Washington and Tehran. Iranian officials have said negotiations could help end the fighting, while demanding conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Trump, however, said he had offered Iran nothing to end the war. The conflict has disrupted regional energy supplies and pushed oil prices higher. Brent crude recently rose above \$105 per barrel amid continued concerns over Middle East supply disruptions.

Indian envoy Srivastava bids farewell to PM Shah

Shah stressed strengthening historic Nepal-India ties and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation.

KATHMANDU

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava made a farewell call on Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah as he prepares to conclude his diplomatic tenure in the country.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between India and Nepal and discuss areas of continued cooperation.

Srivastava's tenure has included engagements aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries. India and Nepal share close historical, cultural, economic and people-to-people ties, with cooperation extending



across several sectors, including energy, infrastructure, connectivity, trade, education and development.

During his earlier meeting with Prime Minister Shah in August, Srivastava and the Nepalese leader discussed

SRIVASTAVA'S FAREWELL ROUND



ways to further strengthen bilateral relations, promote cooperation and enhance the development partnership for mutual benefit. Shah had stressed the importance of deepening the historic relationship between Nepal and India and expanding cooperation in areas of common interest.

Srivastava had also conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Shah and described their discussions as an opportuni-

ty to further deepen the multifaceted India-Nepal partnership.

Earlier this month, Srivastava also paid a farewell call on Nepal's Foreign Affairs Minister Shisir Khanal. During that meeting, Khanal congratulated him on completing his tenure and appreciated his contribution to strengthening Nepal-India relations. Discussions covered energy cooperation, trade, infrastructure, road connectivity and peo-

ple-to-people ties. Khanal also expressed gratitude for India's support following the Bhotekoshi floods and its assistance in search, rescue and relief operations.

The latest farewell meeting with Prime Minister Shah comes as Srivastava concludes his assignment in Nepal. Both countries are expected to continue their engagement through established diplomatic channels and build on cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In-

Meeting highlights

- Ambassador Srivastava concluded his Nepal tenure.
- Met Prime Minister Shah and Khanal.
- Strengthened India-Nepal bilateral and development relations.
- Discussed energy, trade, and infrastructure.
- India aided post-Bhotekoshi flood operations.
- Diplomatic engagement will continue moving forward.

dia and Nepal have maintained diplomatic relations for decades, with development cooperation forming an important part of their bilateral partnership.

Human rights abuses in PoK, PoGB by Pak raised at UNHRC



GENEVA

Human rights concerns in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) were raised during the ongoing 63rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva.

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Chairman of the United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) and Representative of the African Development Association, highlighted what he described as increasing repression by Pakistani authorities in PoK since June 5, 2026.

Addressing the UNHRC, Kashmiri cited reports of

deaths, injuries, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, restrictions on peaceful gatherings and communication blackouts. He also expressed concern over what he

Calls for UN inquiry

Activists urge the UN to investigate alleged human rights abuses, excessive force, and communications blackouts in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, demanding accountability, the release of detainees, and protection for peaceful protesters.

Sardar Shaukat Ali also raised concerns about what he called the growing militarisation of civilian life in the area.

described as the increasing militarisation of civilian life in the region.

He also urged authorities to restore unrestricted internet and mobile communication services in PoK. Regarding PoGB, Kashmiri raised concerns over political representation, land ownership and the rights of local communities over natural resources. He called for independent monitoring mechanisms to examine allegations of abuses and protect civic space.

Similar concerns were raised at the UNHRC last week by social activist Harleen Kour. She said people in PoK had been protesting for months over food, electricity, employment, infrastructure and political representation.

World Uyghur Congress announces October 1 protests

ISTANBUL

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has announced protest demonstrations in Istanbul and Berlin on October 1, highlighting what it describes as continuing human rights concerns affecting Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The organisation said the demonstrations are being planned to draw international attention to issues including restrictions on religious and cultural practices, alleged arbitrary detention, family sep-



aration and other rights-related concerns.

The protests are scheduled to coincide with October 1, which marks the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The October 1 protests are expected to bring together Uyghur community members, supporters and rights activists in both European cities.

The events in Istanbul and Berlin come amid continued international debate over China's policies in Xinjiang and the treatment of the Uyghur population. Rights organisations and Uyghur advocacy groups have called for greater transparency and accountability, while Beijing has maintained that its policies protect social stability and promote economic development in the region.

UAE confirms Netanyahu visit, discussion over bilateral ties



ABU DHABI

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Abu Dhabi and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, according to the

The road to Abu Dhabi

- **2020**
Diplomatic ties under the US-brokered Abraham Accords
- **MARCH 26**
The two leaders met in Al Ain, a source said
- **MAY**
UAE denied Netanyahu's office on a secret visit
- **AFTER UNGA**
Abu Dhabi talks; UAE confirms the visit

Emirati state news agency WAM. The UAE's confirmation marked the first public acknowledgment by Abu Dhabi of Netanyahu's visit.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said Netanyahu travelled to the UAE at the invitation of Sheikh Mohamed. It said the visit focused on strengthening relations between Israel and the UAE and addressing regional challenges. Israeli officials separately said the discussions also focused on Iran.

Netanyahu's visit followed his participation in the United Nations General Assembly in New York. His delegation reportedly included his wife Sara Netanyahu and senior Israeli security officials.

India-Bangladesh officials discuss bilateral ties

DHAKA

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi met Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Tuesday and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues, including the recently concluded 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANSAR AHMED RAZZAQUE, Resident of No. 18, 5th Cross, Kausar Nagar, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru -560032, Karnataka, have changed my name to **ANSAR AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 29.09.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

PETITIONER: Narayana S/o Late Sibanna, Aged about 50 years, R/lat Nagavalli Village, Hebburu Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Vs** **RESPONDENT:** Registrar of Birth and Death / The Tahsildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Father Late Sibanna S/o Late Ramaiah died on 15.06.1992 at Rampura village, Doddaballavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear before the above court on 27/10/2026 at 11:00 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.

The publication is dated: 26.09.2026 with the signature and seal of the court.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Pr. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapur

Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G, Advocate, Doddaballapur - 561 203.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

PETITIONER: Narayana S/o Late Sibanna, Aged about 50 years, R/lat Nagavalli Village, Hebburu Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Vs** **RESPONDENT:** Registrar of Birth and Death / The Tahsildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapur.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioners, in the Hon'ble Court, Petitioner's Uncle Late Ramachandralal S/o Late Ramaiah died on 01.05.2005 at Rampura village, Doddaballavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, petitioners has filed an application to register the date of death in the Register of Births and Deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear before the above court on 27/10/2026 at 11:00 AM. Failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.

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By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Pr. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapur

Advocate for petitioner: Srinivas G, Advocate, Doddaballapur - 561 203.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT K.G.F.

C.M.C. No: 368 / 2026
PETITIONERS: 1. SRI. S. KUPPUSWAMY, S/o. Late. Sampath. Aged about 49 years, Aadhaar No. 669904900286. 2. SRI. RAGHU. S, S/o. Late. Sampath, Aged about 47 years, Aadhaar No. 566203956421. 3. SRI. NAGARAJ. S, S/o. Late. Sampath, Aged about 39 years, Aadhaar No. 810579664632. 4. SRI. PALANI. S, S/o. Late. Sampath, Aged about 42 years, Aadhaar No. 879703104491. 5. SRI. MANJUNATH. S, S/o. Late. Sampath, Aged about 38 years, Aadhaar No. 535555556914 All are R/at: # 45, Pandar Line, Marikuppam Post, K.G.F. 563119

-VS-
RESPONDENT: THE COMMISSIONER, KGF City Municipal Council, Robertsonpet, KGF

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the petitioner are filed a Petition under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth & Death Act 1969, for obtaining the Death Certificate of Petitioner No.1 to 5's deceased FATHER SRI. SAMPATH, S/o. LATE THANGAVEL and SMT. LATE. ELAPACHI AND W/O. LATE. SUGUNA was died on 17-01-1994 due to ill-health at # 45, Pandar Line, Marikuppam Post, K.G.F. 563119, KGF Taluk, Kolar District.

The hearing date of the case is posted on 03/11/2026. If any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble Court, a person or by pleader in the above said hearing date at about 11:00 AM to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed off as ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 29-09-2026.

By Order of the Court
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER, PRL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC COURT, KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

Advocate for Petitioners: SRI. SUHAS RAI, R. B.A, U.L.B., Advocate, K.G.F.

PLACE: K.G.F., DATE: 29-09-2026

US adds methanol to Venezuela trade licences

WASHINGTON

The United States has revised three Venezuela-related sanctions licences to explicitly include methanol among the petrochemical products covered by certain authorised oil trade, supply and investment activities.

The US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued amended General Licences 46E, 48D and 49B, replacing earlier versions of the licences. The changes specifically add methanol to the chemical



annexes while leaving the main permissions and restrictions largely unchanged. General Licence 46E authorises certain transactions involving Venezuelan-origin oil and petrochemical products for im-

port into the United States. The licence covers activities including transportation, sale, storage and refining, subject to specified conditions.

General Licence 48D permits US persons and US entities to supply certain goods, technology, software and services for Venezuela's oil, gas and petrochemical sectors.

General Licence 49B allows negotiations and the signing of contingent contracts related to certain new oil, gas, petrochemical and electricity projects in Venezuela. Actual implementation of such contracts

requires separate authorisation under the terms of the licence.

OFAC's revised documents list methanol under five tariff classifications. Methanol has been added alongside products such as ammonia, urea, phosphates, sulphur and other fertiliser-related chemicals.

The revisions do not represent a broad lifting of US sanctions on Venezuela. They do not announce any specific methanol shipment or investment, nor do they establish the volume or value of potential trade under the amended licences.

India Face South Korea in Semifinal

India face a tougher South Korean challenge in the Asian Games semifinal, aiming to move closer to their first women's hockey gold since 1982.



KAKAMIGAHARA

Unbeaten India will face South Korea in the women's hockey semifinal of the Asian Games 2026 on Wednesday, with the defending silver medallists standing two victories away from ending a 44-year wait for a second continental gold.

India have been dominant in Pool B, winning all five matches and scoring 66 goals. However, their semifinal against South Korea at the Kawasaki Juko Stadium is expected to provide their toughest examination of the tournament so far.

India opened their campaign with a 19-0 win over Uzbekistan before recording victories against Indonesia and Thailand by 17-1 and 20-1 respectively. They then overcame hosts Japan 3-1 before completing the pool stage with a 7-0 victory over Singapore.

South Korea finished second in Pool A with four wins from five matches. Their only defeat came against group winners China, who secured a 3-0 victory. South Korea's biggest win was an 8-0 result against Bangladesh.

India's attacking strength has been central to their impressive campaign. Drag-flick

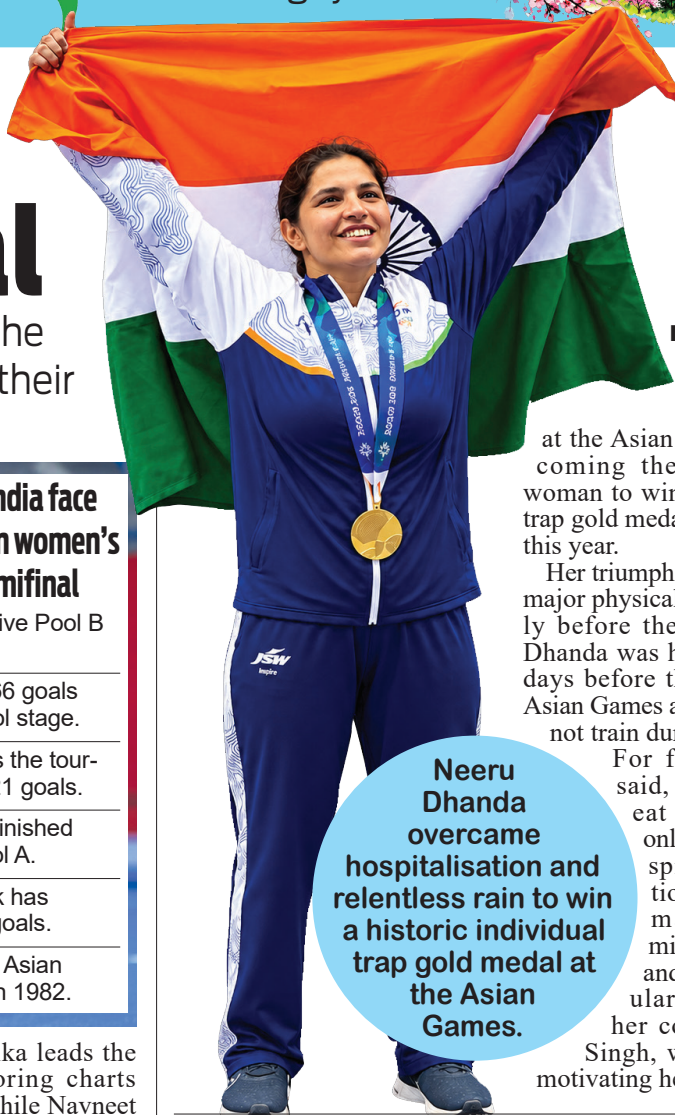
Unbeaten India face South Korea in women's hockey semifinal

- India won all five Pool B matches.
- India scored 66 goals during the pool stage.
- Deepika leads the tournament with 21 goals.
- South Korea finished second in Pool A.
- Seungae Park has scored eight goals.
- India last won Asian Games gold in 1982.

specialist Deepika leads the tournament scoring charts with 21 goals, while Navneet Kaur has scored 10. Rutuja Dadaso Pisal has seven, while Lalremsiami and Ishika have contributed six and five respectively.

India also possess considerable experience in goal through captain Savita and Bichu Devi. South Korea, meanwhile, will look to midfielder Seungae Park, who has scored eight goals.

India's last women's hockey gold at the Asian Games came in 1982, leaving the team chasing a historic return to the top.



NAGOYA

Neeru Dhanda made history at the Asian Games by becoming the first Indian woman to win an individual trap gold medal at the Games this year.

Her triumph came despite a major physical setback shortly before the competition. Dhanda was hospitalised 10 days before the start of the Asian Games and said she did not train during the camp.

For five days, she said, she could not eat and survived only on water. Despite her condition, Dhanda remained determined to compete and stayed in regular contact with her coach Mansher Singh, who continued motivating her.

Neeru Dhanda overcame hospitalisation and relentless rain to win a historic individual trap gold medal at the Asian Games.

Dhanda Overcomes Odds for Gold

That encouragement helped the shooter return to competition and produce a record-breaking performance. During the final at the Aichi Prefecture General Shooting Gallery, continuous rain created difficult conditions, but Dhanda remained composed.

She hit 28 of the 30 possible targets, setting a new Asian record and improving the previous mark of 24 by four hits. Earlier in the day, she had also won a team silver medal.

Dhanda said her motivation came from her family, the Indian Army, MP State Shooting Academy, her federation and the Sports Authority of India. She credited the academy with supporting her family, saying her father is a farmer and her mother is a homemaker.

The shooter was introduced to shooting after encouragement from the parents of her

NEERU DHANDA'S HISTORIC FEAT

- First Indian woman to win individual trap gold at the Asian Games,
- Set a new Asian record with 28/30 hits,
- Previous Asian record: 24 hits,
- Won team silver earlier on the same day,
- Won World Cup gold at Lonato del Garda in 2026,
- Now preparing for the Olympics.

cousin Lakshay Sheoran, a 2018 Asian Games trap silver medallist.

After winning World Cup gold in Lonato del Garda earlier in 2026, Dhanda now has her sights set on the Olympics.

Nagal, Dhakshinewar move into singles pre-quarters

NAGOYA

Sumit Nagal and Dhakshinewar Suresh registered strong wins in their men's singles round two matches at the ongoing Asian Games 2026 to move into the pre-quarters on Tuesday. Sumit defeated 2023 Asian Games bronze medallist Seongchan Hong of South Korea in the second round 6-4, 6-0, while Suresh registered a hard-fought 7-5, 7-6 (2) win over Indonesia's Gunawan Trismuwantara.

Sumit and Hong's match was stopped on Monday due to weather conditions, while Sumit was 3-2 up in the first set. The Korean staged a comeback and won the first eight points on resumption on Tuesday as Sumit was trailing 3-4 in the opener.

However, the former World No.68 Indian went on to win nine straight games to seal the set, and later the match. Sumit had lost to Hong in the ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells qualifying round 6-2, 2-6, 6-7 (4). Coming into the Asian Games, Nagal had lost two singles matches in India's 1-3 Davis Cup defeat to South Korea.

He went down to Hyeon Chung 6-2, 4-6, 5-7, while he also lost to Soonwoo Kwon in the singles event 1-6, 2-6. Nagal will next face Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin in the next round at the Asian Games.

Meanwhile, Suresh had a close-fought encounter against the Indonesian on his Asian Games debut. He took a closely fought first set 7-5 after breaking Gunawan.

Sree Charani Sets T20I Bowling Record

India spinner Sree Charani has created history by recording the highest-ever rating in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings.

DUBAI

India's left-arm spinner Sree Charani has created history by achieving the highest-ever rating in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings, reaching 817 points after her impressive performances in Japan.

Already ranked No. 1 among T20I bowlers, Charani surpassed the previous record of 806 points held by Australia's Megan Schutt, which was set in November 2018.

Charani played a key role in India's successful campaigns in the Asia Cup and Asian Games. During the Asia Cup, she claimed 12 wickets, including outstanding figures of 4/20 against Sri Lanka in the final. Her spell helped India secure a 72-run victory and win the tournament for the eighth time.

Her form continued at the Asian Games. Charani produced career-best figures of 4/10 against Japan as India progressed to the semifinals. She later took two wickets in the gold-medal match against Sri

Lanka, which India won by 147 runs, lifting her rating to a record 817 points.

India's Deepti Sharma also moved up the T20I Bowling Rankings after taking three wickets in the Asian Games final. She now occupies second place with 754 points, while England's Sophie Ecclestone is third with 723.

Smriti Mandhana returned to the top five of the T20I Batting Rankings after scoring 79 in the Asian Games final.

In the ODI rankings, West Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews rose three places to fourth after her record 182 against Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's Nyasha Gwanzura, Modest Mupachikwa and Francisca Chipare also made significant gains, while West Indies bowlers Ashmini Muniswar and Aaliyah Alleyne climbed in the rankings.

Sree Charani's Record:	
817 POINTS	Highest-ever T20I bowling rating
21 POINTS	Above Megan Schutt's previous record
12 WICKETS	Charani's Asia Cup tally
4/10	Career-best Asian Games figures against Japan
No. 1	Current T20I bowling ranking position

Parveen Hooda marches into boxing final after 5-0 SF win over Li Shu

NISHIO

India's boxer Parveen Hooda stormed into the women's 65kg final at the ongoing Asian Games after registering a thumping 5-0 win over China's Li Shu at the Nishio Gymnasium here on Tuesday. Parveen dominated the bout, especially in the last two rounds. She bagged the first round by a close 3-2 margin as she landed counter punches while being measured in her approach.

Parveen dominated the second round with her hits, while the Chinese boxer also landed some punches. Despite this, Parveen won the round 5-0. The Indian pugilist was superior once again in the third round as she landed accurate punches to win the third round 5-0. All five judges voted in her favour, with three giving her 29-28 ruling and two giving 30-27.

Parveen now moves into the final of the 65kg, where she will be facing what is expected

to be a pretty tough bout against Chinese Taipei's Chen Nien-chin for the gold medal.

Nien-chin is the reigning Olympic and world bronze medallist. She has also won a bronze in the 2023 Asian Games.

India's Ankush Panghal and Narender also have their respective semifinals on Tuesday as the Indian boxers look to make it to the final.

India have confirmed six boxing medals in the ongoing Aichi-Nagoya Games. All three boxers in action on Monday won their respective bouts. Kapil Pokhariya, Priya Ghanghas and Lovlina Borgohain won their respective bouts. Priya assured herself of a medal in the women's 60kg category after a unanimous 5-0 win over Tajikistan's Mijgona Samadova in the quarterfinals. Earlier in the day, Lovlina confirmed herself of a medal as well with a strong 5-0 win in the women's 75kg quarterfinal against Korea's Seong Suyeon.



'Beating multi-gold medallist boosted archery team's morale': AAI General Secy

OKAZAKI CITY

Archery Association of India (AAI) secretary general Virendra Sachdeva called recurve archer Neeraj Chauhan's stunning win over multiple-time Olympic gold medallist Kim Je-deok a "morale-boosting" one and heaped praise on the archers for putting up a good show at the ongoing Asian Games 2026. Sachdeva hailed Neeraj's 6-4 win over Je-deok, who won team and mixed team events in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and defended the team title in the Paris 2024 Games. "Neeraj delivered a fantastic performance. Our entire team is doing well, but beating Korea's multiple Olympic gold medallist to reach the quarterfinals has boosted the morale of the whole team," Sachdeva told in an exclusive interaction. "Undoubtedly, the Indian shooters are having a great campaign; both the men's, women's, and mixed teams in compound and recurve have reached the semifinals. In the individual events of compound and recurve, our archers have made it to the quarterfinals," he said.

Ankush marches into 80kg final, Narender settles for bronze in +90kg

NISHIO

Indian boxers continued their strong run at the ongoing Asian Games 2026 as Ankush Panghal registered a thumping win over 75kg reigning world champion Fazliddin Erkinboev in the men's 80kg semifinal at the continental showpiece to march into the final. Ankush a n d

Parveen Hooda made it to the finals of their respective category, while Narender Berwal settled for a bronze after losing his +90kg semifinal bout to current world champion Aibek Oralbay of Kazakhstan.

Ankush registered a brilliant come-from-behind win over Erkinboev in the semifinal by 4-1. Ankush was trailing 1-4 at the end of the first round but bagged a closely fought second round 3-2 with his punches landing well.

The Indian pugilist was superior of the two boxers in the third round as well, as he clinched the third one 5-0. Four of the five judges voted in favour of Ankush as he won 4-1. All four gave him a 29-28 ruling, while he received a 2 8 - 2 9 against him from one judge.

Later, Nar-

ender lost his semifinal to Oralbay by a 0-5 unanimous decision. Oralbay dominated the bout with his strong punches, while Narender fought his way well but could not bring the world champion down.

Oralbay won the first round 5-0 with his punches landing well. He continued his dominance in the second round as well as his fierce attacks put Narender in trouble. The Kazakh took a defensive approach in the third round as he kept the Indian pugilist at bay for a 5-0 win.

Meanwhile, Ankush has become the first Indian male boxer to move into the Asiad final since Amit Panghal (49kg) won a gold in the 2018 Jakarta Games. Narender won the bronze in the men's +92kg event in the last Games.

This was India's second confirmed silver medal in boxing at the ongoing Games. A little earlier, Parveen Hooda marched into the final of the women's 65kg event after a 5-0 win over China's Li Shu.



DREAM MEDAL FOR AASHIMA

Aashima Turns Dream into Asian Games Silver

NAGOYA

Aashima Ahlawat described her Asian Games team silver medal as a dream fulfilled after India finished second in the women's trap team event at the Aichi-Nagoya Games on Tuesday.

Aashima, Neeru Dhanda and Manisha Keer combined for a score of 328 at the Aichi Prefecture General Shooting Gallery to secure the silver medal. China won gold with 346, while Kuwait finished third with 325.

For Aashima, the medal marked a significant milestone in a rapid shooting career that began only in 2021. She joined the junior Indian shooting team in 2023 before

moving into the senior setup in 2025.

The Indian trio produced their performance in challenging rainy conditions. Aashima said the weather ultimately helped India because the shooters were accustomed to competing and training in similar conditions at home.

The Indian shooters remained composed as several competitors struggled with the rain, allowing the team to move from bronze position to silver.

Aashima said the medal means a lot to her. When I started shooting, I always wanted to join an Asian Games team and win a medal. - Aashima Ahlawat (Indian trap shooter)

