



THE Hans India



Golden glory for India as women lead charge
Undaunted by a heavy downpour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhanda gave India its first ever women's trap gold in the Asian Games before the women's 4x400m relay team added another gold in the evening as the country breached the 50 mark. **P10**

Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states
With Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik himself leading the agitation against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, politics is expected to heat up not just in the eastern state but also. **P6**

Essar to build \$18-bn mine-to-steel chain in US
India's Essar Group, through its US subsidiary Mesabi Metalics, will invest about USD 18 billion to build a fully integrated steel business in the United States, including a USD 15 billion steel complex in Iowa and about USD 3 billion in an iron ore mine and pelletising. **P11**

Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown
Actress Ayesha Khan stunned with the latest photos of hers as she posed in a beautiful black off-shoulder gown, flaunting her red-carpet style. The black dress featured a sweetheart neckline, body-hugging silhouette along. **P12**

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WINDOWS

Drought-hit areas to be assessed by Central team from Oct 3: HDK

BENGALURU: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said an Inter-Ministerial Central Team would visit Karnataka from October 3 to 7 to assess drought-affected areas in the state. He was referring to a response received from Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday to his September 24 letter seeking urgent Central assistance for Karnataka, which is facing a severe drought situation. In a social media post on X, Kumaraswamy shared a copy of his letter to Chouhan and thanked the Agriculture Minister for his swift response. In his reply, Chouhan said the Karnataka government had submitted a drought memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Following receipt of the memorandum, an IMCT was constituted on September 17, he said. "The IMCT is undertaking the visit to the State from October 3 to October 7 to conduct an on-site assessment of the drought-affected areas and submit its report in accordance with prevailing norms and guidelines," Chouhan said in the letter. According to the letter, the report submitted by the IMCT will be considered by the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC), headed by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. "Based on the recommendations of SC-NEC, the quantum of assistance from NDRF is approved by the High-Level Committee headed by the Union Home Minister, of which I am also a member," Chouhan said, assuring the state government of all possible support.

"I sincerely appreciate and thank him for his swift response. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team, which will visit Karnataka from October 3 to 7 to assess the situation on the ground," Kumaraswamy said in his post on X. He expressed confidence that the Union Government would extend all possible support to Karnataka. "At a time when our farmers are facing severe hardship, I am confident that the Union Government will extend all possible support to Karnataka. Our collective priority must be to stand firmly with our farmers," Kumaraswamy added.

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LOOT: SC raps 10-time markup on cancer drugs

Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta questioned why huge price disparities exist across non-scheduled formulations and advocated for a standardized 16% margin under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) on all medicines.

The court condemned corporate hospitals for compelling patients to purchase drugs exclusively from their in-house pharmacies, noting that refusal often leads to hospitals denying guaranteed treatment to vulnerable families

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed strong concern over hospitals and pharmacies charging exorbitant markups on cancer medicines, questioning why a drug supplied to retailers for ₹2,700 carries an MRP of ₹27,000.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "This is carnage. Plain and simple," while hearing petitions concerning drug pricing, generic prescriptions and medical devices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

The bench questioned the

distinction between essential and non-essential medicines and suggested a uniform 16 per cent margin on MRP for all medicines. It asked the Centre to examine why such a huge gap exists between the price to retailers and the MRP. The court also asked the government to examine complaints that some corporate hospitals require patients to purchase medicines from their own chemists or specified pharmacies, with treatment assurances allegedly linked to such purchases. The bench noted that government schemes ultimately involve taxpayer-funded reimbursements.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the

Centre, said the issue required attention and sought two weeks to consult officials and find a balance between competing interests. The court posted the matter for further hearing on October 12. The bench also questioned the economics of commonly prescribed medicines, citing the example of a statin costing around ₹40 and a combination with aspirin costing ₹70.

The petitions before the court highlight concerns over medicine pricing, particularly non-scheduled formulations, which constitute a substantial market portion and have greater pricing flexibility subject to regulatory limits.



Rahul steps up CEC attack, Cong plans wider mobilisation

- The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls
- Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning irregularities in Har, Maha and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation of voter lists and EVM-related concern

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi



intensified his criticism of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Tuesday, with the party deciding to keep the Election Commission and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) at the centre of its campaign.

Gandhi told the CWC that the Congress should continue pressing for Gyanesh

Kumar's resignation. The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls.

Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning electoral irregularities in Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation

of voter lists and EVM-related concerns. The Election Commission has rejected allegations of wrongdoing and maintained that differences in institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders have legal sanction.

The Congress is expected to discuss its next steps with INDIA bloc parties at their proposed meeting on September 30. Gandhi indicated that the party could propose a major rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, along with mobilisation programmes in states. Opposition parties are separately considering further parliamentary action seeking Kumar's removal.

The CWC meeting, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, was attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh.

Overnight rains waterlog roads, disrupt morning traffic

BENGALURU

OVERNIGHT rains left several roads waterlogged and caused traffic disruptions in various parts of Bengaluru on Tuesday, inconveniencing commuters during the morning rush hour. Students and office-goers faced difficulties in reaching their destinations as the rains continued into Tuesday morning. Several trees were also uprooted in

different parts of the city. According to weather data, the city recorded 19.8 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am on Monday and 5.30 am on Tuesday, while Bengaluru HAL Airport recorded 72 mm and GKVK Bengaluru received 46 mm during the same period.

Rainfall was recorded at several other locations in and around the city, with Bengaluru KIAL Airport receiving 37.4 mm and

Chikkaballapur recording 9.5 mm during the same period. The Bengaluru Traffic Police also kept commuters updated about slow-moving traffic due to waterlogging in several areas, including Magadi Road, Ayyappa Underpass and Karthik Nagar. "Due to waterlogging at Kottarapalya towards Vaddarapalya on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, there is slow-moving traffic," it said in a post on X.

Goldy Brar in FBI's 10 most wanted list

NEW DELHI

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation on Monday added gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar to its list of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives and announced a reward of \$1 million for information leading to his arrest. "Satinderjeet Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group which is allegedly engaged in a variety of violent acts in Southern California, and across the United States and Canada," the FBI said. The probe agency warned that Singh should be considered armed, dangerous and an escape risk. The FBI said Singh is allegedly involved in assassinations of political and religious figures, shootings, murders, kidnappings, extortions, assaults, and the trafficking of narcotics and weapons.

Centre to develop 50 cities for 'Swachhata'

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NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has identified 50 model cities under the PRAGATI-50 initiative for demonstrating a higher benchmark of 'Swachhata' through targeted action and leveraging intensive technology-enabled monitoring within the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Khattar said, "These 50 cities across 24 states will emerge as clean role model cities for the rest of the country, by going beyond their routine sanitation work to demonstrate sustained, high-performance parameters of visible cleanliness. We have ensured inclusion of major cities, cities of cultural importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres."

"The initiative aims to drive visible improvements in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe," he added.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

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Anthropic warns of AI's 'existential risks to humanity'

TEXAS

DARIO AMODEI's \$1 trillion AI startup Anthropic, known for Claude, in its long-awaited initial public offering prospectus, has formally warned that its technology may pose 'existential risks to humanity,' reports the Financial Times.

The prospectus, circulated with a select group of partners, used up almost

one-third of its S-1 filing to detail the 'risk factors,' including the potential of advanced AI models to 'manipulate, blackmail and exhibit other unpredictable behaviour,' the report stated.

Anthropic has formally warned investors that its technology may pose "existential risks to humanity" in a long-awaited initial public offering prospectus circulated with a small group of

Claude's maker also provided investors with a clearer picture of the challenging economics of building state of the art AI models ahead of the listing, expected on the Nasdaq this autumn

partners in recent days. The development comes ahead of the leading US group launching what the markets expect to be the most highly valued IPO

of all time, the FT report stated. However, these warnings in its prospectus add to the challenges public market investors face in valuing Anthropic.

Claude's maker also provided investors with a clearer picture of the challenging economics of building state of the art AI models ahead of the listing, expected on the Nasdaq this autumn.

Anthropic's backers are

hopeful it can list at a valuation of more than \$2tn, twice its May valuation. Claude's maker plans to spend \$518bn on cloud, computing and infra to support fast-paced growth in the coming years, the report stated.

The dark lining to the silver cloud comes from public warnings issued by ex-employees that unbridled AI could end humanity in a decade.