# CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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# 'KANNADA FLAG TO FLUTTER ALONGSIDE TRICOLOR SOON'

CM says state govt is committed to granting official state flag status to Kannada flag.

**BENGALURU**

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said the state government was committed to granting official state flag status to the iconic yellow and red Kannada flag and would bring in a legal framework to ensure it is hoisted alongside the National Flag on government buildings across the state.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava (the state formation day), the CM said the government would discuss the matter during the forthcoming Belagavi legislature session and in the state Cabinet.

The government plans to introduce a legal framework and pass an official resolution to formalise the practice, he said, adding that the government had already held discussions on granting the flag official recognition.

"Just now, I hoisted the Kannada flag next to the National Flag. The government has already deliberated on granting official state flag status to the Kannada flag," he said.

He recalled that the state Cabinet had earlier taken a decision on the matter and submitted a request to the Central Government seeking recognition. However, the state did not receive approval from the Centre. "Earlier, a Cabinet decision was taken and a request was submitted to the Central Government seeking recognition, but we did not receive approval," he said.

The CM said the issue would now be brought up during the Belagavi Assembly session, where the government would discuss the next steps towards securing official status for the Kannada flag.

"During the Belagavi Assembly session, I will raise this issue for discussion and take it up in the Cabinet. My government is committed to bringing in the necessary legal framework and passing an official resolution to ensure that the Kannada flag is hoisted alongside the National Flag on all government buildings," the CM said.

He also said the proposed measure was a government initiative and called for public participation in the process.

"Everyone must remember that this is not just my government; it is your government too," he added.



> The government's aspiration is to have an official state flag representing the self-respect of Kannadigas, just as the state has its own anthem.
>
> - DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

## CM'S PROPOSAL IN BRIEF

**Legal framework**: The state plans to introduce a formal legal framework and a dedicated flag code. This law will legally protect the flag and ensure it is hoisted alongside the national flag on all government buildings.

**Upcoming legislative action**: The issue will be formally placed before the state Cabinet for a decision and brought up for discussion during the winter session of the Legislative Assembly at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi, scheduled from November 30 to December 11, 2026.

**Mandates and inclusions**: The govt plans to pass an official resolution to submit to the Central Government. Additionally, the state will issue orders allowing private institutions to fly the Kannada flag, while considering making it compulsory for government-supported institutions to hoist it.

**Flag design**: The CM clarified that the design will remain the widely accepted and historically revered bi-color red and yellow flag, which represents the culture, knowledge tradition, religious harmony, and self-respect of Kannadigas.

## Kannada flag recognition issue

This move follows previous, unsuccessful attempts to secure federal approval. The Karnataka government had previously requested the Centre to grant official status to the state flag, but the proposal did not receive a satisfactory response. The state government asserts that just as Karnataka has its own dedicated state anthem (Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate), it has a right within India's federal framework to have an official state flag to enhance its regional identity. Shivakumar's proposed move seeks to establish a formal framework for displaying the Kannada flag on government premises alongside the National Flag. His latest remarks indicate that the state govt intends to revisit the issue through legislative and Cabinet discussions. The proposed resolution and legal framework will be key steps in determining how the flag is to be displayed across government buildings.

## DKS hoists National, Kannada flags to mark Rajyotsava

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday hoisted the national flag on the occasion of the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava.

At a celebration organised by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Shivakumar CM also hoisted the yellow-and-red Kannada flag.

He reviewed a march past and took the salute from contingents of students from various schools.

Earlier, Shivakumar offered floral tributes to the statue of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari on the Vidhana Soudha premises, on the occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava.

Minister Madhu Bangarappa, Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh and other officials were present.

Kannada Rajyotsava is celebrated each year on November 1. It marks the state's formation, unifying Kannada-speaking regions under one banner in 1956 following the reorganisation of states on linguistic basis.




# 'Remove Modi to save democracy'

**NEW DELHI**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday alleged that several BJP governments in the country, including at the Centre, were formed on "stolen" mandate and said that it was essential to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power in order to save democracy.

Addressing I.N.D.I.A. bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' rally at Ramlila Maidan on the "vote chori" charge, Kharge also accused Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of shielding CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

"Modi and Shah have attempted to snatch the vote of Dalits, youth and women. Modi ji wants to take away their votes through his man -- Ganesh Kumar. We will keep fighting until he goes, and ensure his exit," he said. Alleging that Modi and Shah are trying to protect Kumar, Kharge said even "if the CEC hides underground, we will find him". "Be it the central government, governments in Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, they are 'chori' governments (formed on stolen mandate). We have to throw out these vote chor."

"Modi jayega to hi loktantra bachega, Modi ko hatayenge tabhi loktantra ko bachenyenge, Modi ko hatao loktantra ko bachao (Remove Modi to save democracy)," he said.

> Be it the central government, governments in Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, they are 'chori' governments (formed on stolen mandate). We have to throw out these 'vote chor'.
>
> - Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president



## PM Modi, Shah will face legal action for 'vote chori': RaGa

**New Delhi:** With I.N.D.I.A bloc displaying unity in purpose in the fight against BJP government, top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday described 'vote chori' as a "rarest of rare" case and insisted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will face legal action after CEC Gyanesh Kumar is sent to jail for "treason".

Rahul's offensive came at the 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' rally with tens of thousands of Opposition supporters marching to the iconic Ramlila Maidan waving 'vote chori' posters and shouting slogans against the Modi government, a day after I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders along with activists, student leaders and 'vote chori' victims held a symbolic 'public impeachment' of the CEC.

## 6 Indian tourists stranded in Nepal, rescue op on

**Kathmandu:** Six Indian tourists, including two women, have been stranded in the Shey-Phoksundo National Park area of Nepal since Saturday afternoon due to heavy snow, with security personnel mobilised and efforts under way to rescue them, officials said on Sunday.

"The area is covered in heavy snow. We have located the area where they are stranded and we hope to rescue them soon," said Dolpa Chief District Officer Junu Dhakal. he added.

**Rescue efforts halted**

However, rescue efforts were halted until Monday after unfavourable weather conditions prevented a Nepali Army helicopter from landing at the site on Sunday. Police Inspector Binaya Singh, spokesperson at the District Police Office Dolpa, said the Army helicopter had to return without landing due to bad weather.

# Karnataka to hike bus fares from Nov 5: Min

**The quantum to be decided on Nov 4.**

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

Karnataka Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on November 1 said fares of state-run buses would be increased from November 5, with the state government set to finalise the quantum of the hike on November 4.

Speaking to reporters in Chikkaballapur, he said the four state transport corporations were incurring annual losses of Rs 2,000 crore due to five diesel price hikes by the union government over the past year. The corporations were already reeling under cumulative losses of Rs 9,000 crore, he said.

Under these circumstances, a fare hike had become inevitable to revive the transport corporations, he added, according to a statement released by his office.

The issue was discussed at last week's cabinet meeting, following which Chief Minister D K Shivakumar entrusted the Transport Department with deciding on the hike, Suresh said.

The Transport Department will hold a meeting with officials of the four corporations on November 4 to decide the extent of the fare hike. The revised fares will come into effect from November 5, he said.



Earlier this month, the Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee (PTFRC) submitted its report to the state government. The three-member committee, headed by retired IAS officer Atul Kumar Tiwari, recommended a 25% hike for KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC and a steeper 40% hike for BMTC, DH reported on October 16.

The committee studied the RTCs' financial condition, evaluating fuel prices, spare parts, maintenance, bus procurement and employee salaries. It described the fare hike as "inevitable", warning that the corporations would otherwise fall into dire straits. The RTCs last raised their fares by 15% on January 5, 2025.

The corporations have liabilities of around Rs 6,600 crore, including provident fund, diesel and gratuity dues and arrears for retired employees.

According to the RTCs, a 12.5% salary hike from July 1, 2026, has added Rs 873.64 crore to their annual expenditure.

## Timelines & process

**November 4**: The Transport Department will hold a high-level meeting with officials from all four State Transport Undertakings (STUs) to finalize the exact percentage & quantum of the hike.

**November 5**: The newly-revised tariff rates will officially go into effect across the state.

## Proposed fare revisions

Earlier in October, the Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee (PTFRC)—headed by retired IAS officer Atul Kumar Tiwari—submitted a technical evaluation recommending steep hikes to prevent the corporations from falling into deeper financial ruin:

**25% hike recommended**: For the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Northwest Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

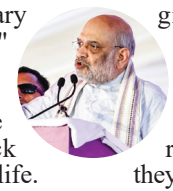
**40% hike recommended**: For the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) operating in the capital city.

## Who is exempted?

**Women and students**: Commuters travelling under the Shakti Scheme (which provides free travel to women) and students with state-issued passes will not be affected by the fare hike. The state government will continue to bear these costs.

## 'He should stay in 'mock Parliament'

**Chandigarh:** In a blistering attack on Rahul Gandhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the country will never forget that the Congress leader held a 'jalsa' on the anniversary of the "Sikh genocide" of 1984, and that if he wanted to become the prime minister, he should stay in a "mock parliament" his entire life.



Speaking after laying the foundation stone for various development projects worth Rs 258 crore here, he slammed opposition parties, saying telling lies, spreading anarchy and negativity, and not letting Parliament function was their true nature.

Referring to the INDIA bloc rally, Shah said the Congress has been losing elections for 15 years, and its leader Sonia Gandhi's dream of her son becoming the PM remains unfulfilled. "So, they have found a new way: conducting a mock parliament. I want to tell Rahul ji, if you want to become the prime minister, stay in the mock parliament your entire life."

**QUICK READ**

## 3 killed in gunfight between rival groups in Manipur

**IMPHAL**

Three people belonging to the Kuki community were killed in a gunfight between rival armed groups in Manipur's Noney district, police said. The gunfight broke out at Kekru Naga village on Saturday morning. The exchange of fire continued for several hours in the forested hill village, leaving three people dead, they said. According to Kuki civil organisations, they were "village volunteers", he said. "Necessary security measures have been taken in the area," police said. Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), the apex body of the Kuki community, strongly condemned the killing of the three youths. In a statement, KIM alleged that "Naga militant groups" were behind the killings and demanded "justice, accountability and immediate state action".

## Somali pirates seize Iranian fishing vessel with 23 on board

**MOGADISHU**

Somali pirates have seized an Iranian fishing vessel carrying 23 people, the Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean said, warning that the ship was approaching a commercial shipping lane and could become a floating base for further attacks. The Azini was hijacked between the coastal towns of Bandar Bayla and Hafun in north-eastern Somalia, a maritime security officer with the Puntland Maritime Police Force said Sunday. As per reports, 12 pirates seized the vessel, which was carrying 21 Iranian crew members and two Somali security guards and they could use the vessel as a "mother ship" to support attacks on commercial vessels. The seizure follows a resurgence of Somali piracy across the Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean.

**RAJYOTSAVA GIFT**

# *Bengaluru-Mumbai overnight travel gets an upgrade!*

...as Vaishnaw flags off Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat Sleeper

**BENGALURU**

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday flagged off the inaugural run of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Bengaluru and Mumbai, strengthening overnight rail connectivity between the two major metropolitan cities.

Addressing the event, Vaishnaw said, "Today, the Vande Bharat Sleeper will connect Bengaluru, the IT and startup capital, with Mumbai, the financial capital. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all the MPs, ministers, party workers, people of Karnataka and Railway officials and staff for this."

He said the train will depart from Bengaluru, travel through Anantapur and Guntakal in Andhra Pradesh, and then re-enter Karnataka, covering Raichur, Yadgir and Kalaburagi. It will subsequently travel through Solapur, Pune and Kalyan in Maharashtra before reaching Mumbai.

"The train will cover several parts of North Karnataka, which were erstwhile uncovered by good, world-class train connectivity. The route was finalised unanimously after consultations with Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Somanna and Kumaraswamy, among others," he added.

The train will operate six days a week, except Mondays, and halt at eight stations along the route.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy and Minister of State for Railways V Somanna, Union Education Minister Pralhad Josh among others were present.

## Route and timings

- **Route**: Bengaluru>Mumbai>B'luru.
- **Frequency**: 6 days a week (except Tuesdays from Mumbai and Mondays from Bengaluru).
- **Covered states**: Karnataka, Andhra and Maharashtra.
- **Halts**: 8 (Anantapur, Guntakal, Raichur, Yadgir, Kalaburagi, Solapur, Pune and Kalyan.
- **Departure from Bengaluru**: 7:45 PM
- **Departure from Mumbai**: 8:10 PM.

## MAJOR BENEFITS



> Direct connectivity between India's tech and financial capitals.
>
> Covers 1,118 km in about 16 hours ((instead of usual 22–24 hours).
>
> Makes it the fastest land transport link between Bengaluru and Mumbai.
>
> Modern and comfortable overnight travel.

## Bengaluru-Pune bullet train corridor gets fresh push from Centre

**Bengaluru:** Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Sunday that a new bullet train corridor connecting Bengaluru and Pune via Hubballi will be included in the ambitious project's next phase spanning 3,000 km. In the first large-scale phase of the high-speed rail project, the Centre had announced several corridors spanning about 4,000 km, including Bengaluru-Chennai and Bengaluru-Hyderabad. He said the corridor will reduce the Bengaluru-Chennai travel time to 73 minutes and the Bengaluru-Hyderabad journey to 2 hours and 10 minutes. However, neither project elicited much enthusiasm in Karnataka because they would cover only some parts of Karnataka. Demands had been growing, including from elected representatives, to announce a bullet train corridor connecting Bengaluru to Pune and Mumbai via Hubballi, covering Karnataka's hinterland. Responding to the demand, Vaishnaw stated that the Bengaluru-Hubballi-Pune corridor would certainly be included in the project's next phase spanning about 3,000 km.

Quick Read

## Man dies after alleged assault by microfinance agents

**CH NEWS,** NELAMANGALA

39-year-old Murali of T. Begur has died at Victoria Hospital after L&T Microfinance recovery agents allegedly kicked his moving motorcycle over unpaid loan installments. The incident occurred last Wednesday near Budihalu as Murali rode toward his hometown. Despite Murali's agreement to stop up ahead, the agents allegedly chased and kicked his bike, throwing him onto the road. Already battling bilateral kidney failure and undergoing dialysis, Murali sustained severe injuries and succumbed to them late Saturday night. Nelamangala Rural Police have registered a case and formed a special team to trace the agents.

## Bengaluru air quality drops to moderate level

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Bengaluru's air quality has slipped into the 'moderate' category, with the city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) ranging between 130 and 137 according to the Central Pollution Control Board. Heavy vehicular traffic and winter weather trapping pollutants have driven spikes in industrial and transit hubs like Silk Board and Peenya, where AQI reached 145. Conversely, greener pockets like Jnana Bharathi and Jayanagar recorded better indices between 80 and 100. Across the state, Mysuru and Madikeri maintained 'good' air quality, while Hubballi, Dharwad, Davanagere, and Ballari recorded moderate levels. Doctors advise vulnerable groups to exercise caution.

## IMD issues yellow alerts across Karnataka

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast scattered to heavy rainfall across Karnataka over the coming week, accompanied by potential weather shifts influenced by seasonal patterns. The capital will experience mostly cloudy skies with maximum and minimum temperatures hovering around 29°C and 21°C respectively, alongside light drizzle or intermittent showers.

# Karnataka introduces KPTCL-GTD digital platform

Energy Minister K.J. George launches the KPTCL-GTD digital platform to revolutionize Karnataka's power sector with transparency, automated settlements, and paperless governance.

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Energy Minister K.J. George has announced the formal implementation of the KPTCL-GTD (Generation, Transmission, and Distribution) comprehensive digital platform, marking a paradigm shift toward absolute transparency, financial accuracy, operational accountability, and accelerated transaction speeds across Karnataka's extensive power sector.

Spearheaded under the guidance of the Minister and driven by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) Managing Director Dr. V. Ram Prasath Manohar, the ambitious project bridges historical operational divides by unifying key transactions among power generation companies, transmission networks, and Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) onto a single, centralized digital ecosystem.

Historically, vital operational segments such as power procurement, short and long-term sales, fuel reconciliation, banking transactions, open access execution, and complex financial settlements were handled through isolated, fragmented manual procedures at various administrative tiers. The KPTCL-GTD platform seamlessly consolidates these core functions, bringing generators, buyers, state transmission utilities, and distribution entities onto one collaborative network.



The platform brings generators, KPTCL and ESCOMs onto one network.

> **"Technology must go beyond mere digitization; it must boost departmental efficiency, control commercial losses, and strengthen financial management."**
>
> **– K.J. George**
> Energy Minister

By embedding the Meter Reading Interface (MRI) which extracts direct metering metrics alongside granular 15-minute block-level data and interface point inputs, the system radically minimizes dependence on manual data entry and human intervention. Furthermore, deep technical integration with key national digital frameworks such as the PRAAPTI and NOAR portals ensures streamlined inter-state and intra-state data flow.

The platform is equipped with advanced administrative dashboards that offer real-time visualization and continuous tracking of power generation flows, transmission status, grid consumption, billing updates, and financial reconciliation cycles. This instant visibility acts as a permanent safeguard against chronic billing discrepancies, accounting bottlenecks, and data inconsistencies.

To reinforce clean, efficient governance, the state is mandating paperless protocols across the board, backed by integrated digital signatures and automated digital approval workflows for all financial bills, reports, and administrative documentation.

Emphasizing that technological modernization must extend far beyond basic digitization, Minister K.J. George noted that the overarching goal of the KPTCL-GTD project is to optimize departmental productivity, fortify financial management, and plug persistent commercial leaks.

Through precise energy accounting, rapid automated settlements, and real-time supervisory controls, the framework is engineered to drastically cut down operational and commercial losses while scaling up revenue collection efficiency across Karnataka's energy landscape.

**FEATURES OF KPTCL-GTD**

- **Centralized integration:** unifies power generators, KPTCL and ESCOMs on a single digital framework
- **Automated workflows:** procurement, sales, billing, fuel reconciliation and banking go digital
- **Real-time monitoring:** dashboards, MRI and 15-minute block-level data
- **National links:** PRAAPTI and NOAR portals, with digital signatures and approvals

# Phones traced to HDK's Delhi home: Commissioner

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU



The high-stakes political controversy surrounding the alleged sting operation targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has taken a dramatic turn. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has revealed crucial details uncovered during the ongoing investigation by the Central Crime Branch's (CCB) Cyber Crime wing, pointing to a direct nexus involving high-profile official premises in the national capital.

According to the police commissioner, key accused Ritesh Pandey, who was arrested by cybercrime investigators on October 24, has made significant disclosures during intensive custodial interrogation.

Pandey reportedly confessed that the mobile phones utilized in executing the controversial sting operation were procured from a local market in Karol Bagh, Delhi, by himself and an associate, Vinod Sharma, acting under the instructions of another absconding suspect, Prajwal Prasad. Crucially, investigations and interrogation logs indicate that these communication devices were subsequently handed over to Prajwal Prasad directly inside the official residence of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in New Delhi.

The latest revelations have added fuel to an already volatile political firestorm across Karnataka. The case, originally registered following complaints of identity theft, forgery, and extortion, has intensely polarized state politics, with opposition leaders and ruling party members exchanging heavy allegations regarding conspiracies and cyber surveillance.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had earlier staged protests and strongly contested the police action, accusing the state administration of maliciously targeting members of his party's social media and support teams.

In response to the fresh leads, law enforcement authorities have issued formal appearance notices to the remaining suspects, Vinod Sharma and Prajwal Prasad. However, both individuals have reportedly gone into hiding and have filed anticipatory bail petitions to evade arrest.

Investigators have also flagged suspicious financial trails and monetary transactions passing between Ritesh Pandey and the absconding Prajwal Prasad.

# HDK calls Chaluvarayaswamy's land claim false

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU



The row over land for ARAI's test centres in Mandya pits the Union Minister's office against the State.

A fresh political row has erupted between the Centre and the State following a sharp contradiction over land allotment for industrial testing facilities in Mandya.

The office of Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, has strongly refuted claims made by Karnataka's Water Resources and Mandya District In-charge Minister, N. Chaluvarayaswamy, calling his public statements regarding the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) completely false.

The controversy began during a high-profile government event in Mandya, where foundation stones and inaugurations for various local development projects took place in the presence of the Chief Minister.

Addressing both a press conference and a public gathering, Minister Chaluvarayaswamy announced that 100 acres of land had already been sanctioned and handed over to the ARAI, which operates under the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries, to set up a 'Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Test Centre' and an 'Electric Vehicle (EV) Test Centre'.

He further claimed that an additional 500 acres could be provided if required.

Reacting sharply to the assertions, K.R. Raghukumar, Private Secretary to Union Minister Kumaraswamy, formally wrote and emailed an official letter to State Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, demanding immediate clarification and documentation.

The communication points out that the state government's claims are entirely baseless, noting that neither the Mandya District Administration nor the State Government has communicated any such land transfer or official sanction to the ARAI organization, the Union Ministry, or the Minister's office.

# State launches 'Gramanubhava' to teach rural life

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU



Field work and animal husbandry are part of the two-day village stay.

The Karnataka Government has officially rolled out the ambitious 'Gramanubhava' (Rural Experience) Programme, designed to bridge the widening cultural, social, and psychological chasm between urban centers and rural hinterlands. Launched ceremoniously across the state on Kannada Rajyotsava, this unique experiential learning initiative is structured to transition young minds away from textbook-bound theoretical frameworks and immerse them directly into the rhythms of authentic village life.

Targeting students predominantly from urban institutional setups, specifically focusing on Grades 8, 9, and 11 across government, aided, and private unaided schools and pre-university colleges, the programme envisions a comprehensive structural overhaul of standard extracurricular learning. Rather than opting for a superficial daytime excursion, the framework mandates an immersive two-day and one-night rural stay.

Managed collaboratively by the Department of School Education and Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK) alongside technical backing from the Department of Agriculture and designed to bridge the growing cultural and experiential divide between urban and rural environments, the initiative aims to give students growing up in cities a hands-on, immersive understanding of authentic village life, traditional agriculture, and animal husbandry. The pilot phase initially encompasses thousands of urban students, with scaling protocols mapped across all district headquarters. Selected learning centers and host villages are typically situated within a manageable 50-kilometer radius of the participating urban institutions to ensure logistical safety and streamlined coordination.

Beyond economics and labour, Gramanubhava places immense emphasis on preserving and respecting indigenous traditions, folk arts, and community living structures. Students interact closely with local artisans, weavers, and village elders, gaining a holistic perspective on rural sociology. To ensure accountability and intellectual engagement, participating students maintain dedicated learning journals and structured worksheets, recording their observations and reflecting on their systemic connections to the rural economy.

Strict safety protocols, including mandatory parental consent, comprehensive teacher supervision (with designated faculty ratios accompanying each student cohort), and institutional liability, underpin the entire exercise. By fostering an early, profound respect for the sweat and toil of the farming community, the Karnataka government's Gramanubhava initiative serves as an instrumental pedagogical milestone in shaping socially conscious, grounded future citizens.

**Practical agricultural and economic immersion**

- **Farming and Crop Cultivation:** Students step directly into fields to observe and participate in seasonal agricultural techniques, ploughing methods, modern and traditional horticulture, floriculture, and soil management.
- **Animal Husbandry and Dairy Operations:** Direct interaction with rural livestock keepers offers insights into dairy farming, fodder management, and poultry care.
- **Post-Harvest Ecosystems:** The curriculum extends beyond cultivation, introducing students to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), women-led self-help groups (SHGs), rural micro-enterprises, and local grading, sorting, packaging, and marketing channels that dictate how food travels from farm to urban markets.

LUXURY HOTEL NEGLIGENCE CASE

# *LED pool lights suspected in fatal electrocution*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Luxury hospitality standards have faced severe public criticism and police scrutiny in Bengaluru following a tragic electrocution incident inside the swimming pool of the five-star Conrad Hotel. The accident claimed the lives of two foreign tourists and left two rescuers injured, sending shockwaves through the city's tourism and hospitality sectors.

The victims have been identified as Juraj Horvath, a citizen of Slovakia, and Alexander Maximilian Theiss from Germany. Both men were swimming in the hotel pool when they were suddenly struck by a powerful electric shock. Hearing their cries, an American tourist named Mathew DeSantis and a hotel pool attendant, Rahul Tiwari, rushed forward in a desperate attempt to pull the victims out to safety. Tragically, both rescuers were also hit by electric currents, sustaining painful injuries. Tiwari was rushed to a local hospital, where he remains under medical care and deep emotional distress over the fatal outcome.




Investigators are examining the pool's electrical infrastructure, focusing heavily on whether faulty wiring or an electrical leakage from underwater LED lights and metal railings caused the current to flow into the water. Authorities are questioning whether the luxury hotel failed to conduct mandatory routine safety checks and maintenance of its electrical fittings near the water.

Furthermore, serious allegations have surfaced indicating that hotel management delayed reporting the tragedy to emergency authorities and attempted to suppress information.

In response, local law enforcement has filed a criminal case against the hotel management under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for causing death by negligence. Police teams are continuing their inquiry to hold accountable anyone found responsible for the safety lapses.

**THE INQUIRY**

**LEGAL ACTION**
FIR against the management under BNS Section 106

**AUDITS**
SOCO, technical experts and BESCOM checked wiring and earthing; FSL and post-mortem reports awaited

# Protesters disrupt Gandhi play in Bengaluru

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A theatrical event in South Bengaluru turned chaotic when ink was smeared on the face of Addanda Cariappa, former director of Mysuru Rangayana, during a staging of his controversial play, Gandhi Hatyeya Satya (The Truth About Gandhi's Assassination). The incident, which unfolded at the Suchitra Film and Cultural Academy in Banashankari, has triggered widespread political and cultural fallout, resulting in cross-complaints filed at the local police station.

The disturbance erupted when activists and members of various organizations, alongside local political workers, stormed the venue, expressing outrage over dialogues in the play that they alleged disparaged Mahatma Gandhi and propagated misleading historical narratives regarding India's partition.



The aftermath of the ink attack at the academy in Banashankari.

Protesters contended that the production falsely framed freedom icons in a derogatory light. Following a heated verbal altercation, tensions boiled over, leading to a physical altercation and ink being thrown at Cariappa, who directed and wrote the production organized under the aegis of the Kodagu Rangabhumi Trust.

In the aftermath of the high-drama protest, two separate criminal complaints were lodged at the Banashankari police station. A complainant named Kushal registered an FIR accusing the organizers of spreading misinformation, generating malicious propaganda, and selling tickets on the black market after a Mysuru-scheduled show was shifted to Bengaluru. In response, Addanda Cariappa filed a counter-complaint alleging that a mob unlawfully disrupted a lawful theatrical performance, subjected him to physical assault, and issued criminal death threats.

Local law enforcement officials confirmed that both complaints have been formally registered and an active investigation is underway to review video evidence, identify the agitators, and examine the legality surrounding the play's content and ticketing disputes. The incident has intensified cultural debates across Karnataka regarding artistic freedom, historical interpretations, and political protests.

**Two separate criminal complaints were lodged at the Banashankari police station**

## Quick Read

### RSS organizes Vijayadashami route march in Bidar's Humnabad

**CH NEWS,** BIDAR

Hundreds of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) volunteers participated in a disciplined Vijayadashami route march through Humnabad town, dressed in traditional uniforms and carrying ceremonial staffs. The procession commenced from the Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple, featuring portraits of Bharat Mata, RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, and former chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar. Chanting slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Jai Shri Ram', the march traversed key landmarks including Basaveshwara, Ambedkar, and Shivaji circles. Local residents welcomed the participants with colorful rangolis and flower showers along the route, in the presence of MLA Dr. Siddalingappa Patil and other prominent figures.

### Yadgir celebrates 71st Kannada Rajyotsava with grandeur

**CH NEWS,** YADGIR

The historic district of Yadgir resonated with vibrant displays of linguistic pride, cultural heritage, and patriotic zeal as it celebrated the 71st Karnataka Rajyotsava with grand enthusiasm at the local District Stadium on Sunday. The state's formation day festivities served as a powerful symbol of unity, reflecting the deep historical roots and progressive aspirations of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The official celebrations commenced with District In-charge Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil hoisting the national tricolor amidst resonant cheers. Prior to the flag hoisting, the minister offered floral tributes and reverent prayers before a ceremonial portrait of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, the celestial embodiment of Kannada identity and culture. The solemn ritual underscored the region's unwavering reverence for Kannada language, literature, and the historic unification movement of 1956.

Following the flag unfurling, Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil inspected the ceremonial parade contingents, reviewing disciplined marches by units representing the District Armed Reserve (DAR) police, civil police, home guards, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Bharat Scouts and Guides, and local school marching bands. The synchronized precision and enthusiastic participation of the young cadets added a vibrant edge to the morning proceedings.

The ceremonial event was graced by the presence of prominent civic and administrative leaders, including local MLA Channareddy Patil Thunnur, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Pandve Tukaram, Superintendent of Police Prithvi Shankar, alongside a large gathering of elected representatives, senior district bureaucrats, educators, freedom fighters, and citizens. Cultural programs featuring traditional folk dance troupes such as Dollu Kunitha, Somana Kunitha, and traditional folk singing showcased the rich artistic tapestry of rural Karnataka, drawing immense appreciation from the audience and reinforcing communal harmony across the district.

# Farmers' protest disrupts Teachers' Day event in Afzalpur

A peaceful Teachers' Day celebration in Kalaburagi descended into chaos when protesting farmers stormed the venue.

**CH NEWS,** KALABURAGI

A celebratory Teachers' Day event honoring distinguished educators and retired teachers in Afzalpur, Kalaburagi district, took an ugly turn when a farmers' protest abruptly stormed the venue, triggering widespread chaos and condemnation across the state.

The official felicitation program jointly organized by the School Education and Literacy Department alongside the Taluk Primary and Secondary School Teachers' Associations at the Government High School's Gurubhavana was designed to recognize decades of dedicated service by veteran educators. However, the peaceful atmosphere was shattered when agitating farmers entered the hall to voice grievances against state administrative policies.



Chairs in disarray in the hall after the protest at the Teachers' Day event in Afzalpur

The demonstration quickly escalated into a violent commotion. According to eyewitnesses and local reports, chairs inside the auditorium were overturned and damaged, while food arrangements prepared for the teachers and visiting dignitaries were scattered across the floor. Caught completely off guard, serving and retired educators, women teachers, and special guests were forced to flee the premises in distress, leaving the award ceremonies uncompleted.

While civil society and political observers acknowledged the democratic right of farmers to protest against government inaction or agrarian crises, the targeting of an education-focused event drew sharp criticism. Critics particularly deplored the scattering of food meant for teachers, noting the painful irony of destroying meals given the societal reverence for farmers as providers of food.

The incident has sparked a major debate across Karnataka, highlighting the urgent twin imperatives for the administration: addressing mounting agrarian distress and grievances effectively, while strictly safeguarding the dignity, safety, and decorum of public programs dedicated to the teaching community.

**The event**

| | |
|---|---|
| WHAT | Teachers' Day felicitation |
| WHERE | Gurubhavana, Government High School, Afzalpur |
| BY | School Education and Literacy Department, teachers' associations |

# BJP MLC N. Ravikumar defends electoral roll revision

**CH NEWS,** KALABURAGI

A political war of words has broken out over electoral administration as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLC N. Ravikumar launched a scathing attack on the Congress party regarding its planned protest rally in New Delhi. The demonstration, organized to oppose the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, drew sharp criticism from Ravikumar, who accused the opposition of political hypocrisy.

Addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi, Ravikumar asserted that the Special Intensive Revision is a standard administrative practice rather than a novel policy. He pointed out that the electoral roll cleansing and updating exercise is deeply institutionalized, having been routinely carried out across successive administrations since the tenure of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.



N. Ravikumar speaks to reporters

*The revision ran under Indira Gandhi, Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, Ravikumar says*

Questioning the rationale behind the Congress party's decision to stage a high-profile national protest in the capital, Ravikumar remarked that the opposition should reconsider its stance. He emphasized that the revision protocols had continued uninterrupted under various political regimes, including governments led by Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Dr. Manmohan Singh. Asking why the party is now objecting to a procedural mechanism that it previously oversaw for decades, he argued that routine electoral governance should be evaluated through the lens of institutional continuity rather than opportunistic political friction.

The BJP leader maintained that ensuring accurate voter lists is fundamental to maintaining democratic integrity, urging the opposition to refrain from politicizing routine administrative updates conducted by election authorities to preserve the accuracy and transparency of voter registries.

# AIMIM Chief Owaisi appeals for special prayers for rain

**CH NEWS,** BIDAR

Amid mounting concerns over prolonged dry spells, erratic monsoon patterns, and severe agricultural distress across the Deccan plateau, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President and Hyderabad Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi has issued a fervent public appeal. He has urged citizens across the neighboring states of Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra to offer special prayers to Almighty Allah, seeking divine intervention and abundant rainfall to alleviate acute water scarcity.

Highlighting the gravity of the unfolding climate and agrarian crisis, Owaisi noted that persisting moisture deficits and dwindling reservoir storage levels are exerting unprecedented pressure on rural and urban populations alike. The severe shortage of water has triggered widespread hardships, deeply impacting human livelihoods, depleting groundwater tables, and threatening livestock as well as domestic animals. Farming communities whose sustenance depends entirely on timely monsoon showers and agricultural cycles face immense vulnerability due to interrupted crop routines and failing yields.



Asaduddin Owaisi

Emphasizing the spiritual and communal response to natural calamities, Owaisi called upon the public to dedicate moments during the night to seek forgiveness for shortcomings, offer sincere prayers (Salat al-Istisqa), and implore Divine mercy for widespread, life-giving precipitation across the three states. He stressed that collective supplication and community solidarity are vital to overcoming times of trial, urging citizens to pray earnestly for the well-being of farmers, the preservation of livestock, and the restoration of ecological balance across the region.

# Separate state demand resurfaces in Kalaburagi

**CH NEWS,** KALABURAGI

As Karnataka marked its milestone formation day celebrations, political tensions flared in the northern part of the state as the demand for a separate statehood for the historically backward Kalyana Karnataka region resurfaced. Activists belonging to the Karnataka Separate State Struggle Committee attempted to hoist a distinct regional flag in Kalaburagi on Sunday to protest what they termed systemic administrative neglect and prolonged developmental disparities.

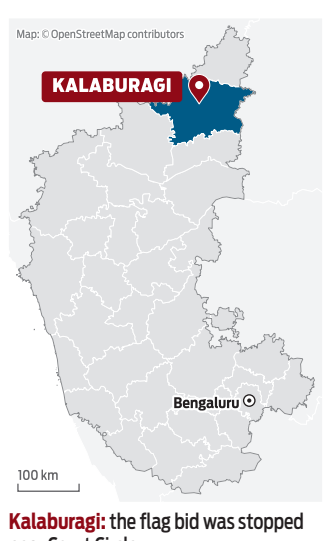
The demonstration was planned to take place at the prominent Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Circle, serving as a focal point for regional grievances. Organizers intended to draw public and governmental attention to unfulfilled economic promises, inadequate infrastructure investments, and gaps in regional resource distribution. Chief among their contentions was the demand for the rigorous and absolute implementation of Article 371(J) of the Constitution, which grants special reservation and development provisions to the districts of the erstwhile Hyderabad-Karnataka region. Protesters argued that despite constitutional protections, local youth continue to face employment deficits, educational lags, and slow socio-economic mobility.



Activists speak to the media in Kalaburagi

Anticipating potential flashpoints and disruptions during state-sanctioned Kannada Rajyotsava events, law enforcement agencies moved swiftly to preempt the unauthorized flag-hoisting program. A heavy contingent of police personnel intercepted the marching activists near the Court Circle as a preventive measure. More than 20 demonstrators, including the committee's president M.S. Patil, were taken into custody and shifted away from the venue.

In the wake of the detentions, police authorities stepped up security deployments across major intersections, government installations, and arterial circles in Kalaburagi city to maintain public order. While official Rajyotsava programs proceeded smoothly under tight vigilance, the sudden resurgence of separatist slogans on the state's formation day has underscored simmering regional frustrations regarding equitable growth and administrative focus in northern Karnataka.




**Kalaburagi:** the flag bid was stopped near Court Circle

# Two achievers from Bidar honored with Rajyotsava Awards 2026



C.B. Somashetty



Shantabai Kamble at work

**Bidar's C.B. Somashetty and Shantabai Kamble win the prestigious Karnataka Rajyotsava Awards 2026 for their lifelong contributions to painting and traditional Bidri handicraft.**

**CH NEWS,** BIDAR

The historic district of Bidar has brought home immense pride as two of its most dedicated cultural torchbearers, veteran artist C.B. Somashetty and traditional handicraft artisan Shantabai Kamble, have been officially selected for the prestigious Karnataka Rajyotsava Awards 2026. Announced by the State Government as part of the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations honoring 71 distinguished achievers statewide, these accolades celebrate lifelong commitments to preserving fine arts and indigenous heritage.

### C.B. Somashetty: A lifetime dedicated to painting and visual arts

Selected under the Painting category, 78-year-old C.B. Somashetty's journey spans decades of artistic evolution and cultural documentation. Born in 1948 in Zaheerabad, historically tied to Karnataka and presently located in Telangana, Somashetty completed his foundational education across Zaheerabad, Kalaburagi, and Bidar. Demonstrating exceptional artistic acumen early on, he secured the second rank at the State level in his Diploma in Drawing from Kalaburagi.

A versatile master across diverse mediums including oil painting, watercolors, and complex sketching, Somashetty's creations have graced numerous district, state, and inter-state exhibitions. Among his notable modern contributions is the curation of a dedicated photo gallery in Bidar celebrating the life and teachings of the Sharanas. His illustrious career is decorated with multiple prior accolades, including a State-level award for a tableau artwork during the Mysuru Dasara celebrations in 1983-84, a Taluk-level Best Teacher Award in 1995, the District-level Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 1998, and the esteemed Kalashree and Sharana Kala awards in 2025. Married to Chandrakala, he balanced his artistic pursuits with raising three children, Sumangala, Revana Kumar and Basavaraj, leaving an indelible mark on the region's fine arts landscape.

### Shantabai Kamble: Preserving the heritage of Bidri craft

Honored under the Handicrafts category, roughly 70-year-old Shantabai Kamble represents the resilient spirit of traditional artisans who keep Bidar's world-famous, centuries-old metalware craft alive. A resident of Bidri Colony in Bidar city, Shantabai has been immersed in the intricate art of Bidri work, characterized by striking silver inlay on blackened alloyed zinc and copper, since her early childhood.

Her expert hands have shaped an extensive array of exquisite decorative and utility items, including bangles, earrings, necklaces, stylized figurines of elephants, traditional mirrors, and miniature shehnais. Shantabai's path has been paved with severe financial hardships.

Following the passing of her husband, Mohanrao Kamble, roughly 25 years ago, she single-handedly shouldered the monumental responsibility of raising her seven children, Ramesh, Maruti, Shyam, Raju, Sangeeta, Meera and Meena, under immense duress. Demonstrating profound sacrifice, she even sold her family home to support her dependents and successfully arrange the marriages of six of her children. She now lives with her family in a rented home.

Her selection for the state's second-highest civilian honor stands as a powerful testament to her unwavering dedication, ensuring that the legendary Bidri craft continues to thrive for future generations.

YATNAL'S BJP ULTIMATUM

# *Yatnal sets strict conditions for rejoining BJP*

**CH NEWS,** VIJAYAPURA

Internal factionalism within the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has flared up once again, triggered by outspoken Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. Addressing a packed press conference in Vijayapura, Yatnal publicly addressed speculation surrounding his political future and his potential return to the party fold, making it unequivocally clear that his reconciliation is contingent upon a sweeping overhaul of the state party leadership and the fulfillment of uncompromising administrative and political conditions.

The core of Yatnal's ultimatum is directed squarely at the current state party apparatus. He asserted that if the central and state leadership genuinely desire his reintegration, incumbent BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra must immediately step down from his position. Going a step further, Yatnal insisted that Vijayendra must provide a formal, binding assurance committing to a moratorium on projecting himself as a Chief Ministerial candidate for the next decade.

Yatnal argued that these measures are essential to restore internal democracy, transparency, and organizational discipline within the Karnataka BJP, which has battled persistent leadership friction and factional wrangling.



Basanagouda Patil Yatnal in Vijayapura

In addition to the leadership demands, Yatnal placed personal accountability at the forefront of his terms for reconciliation. He insisted that Vijayendra must officially retract all previous accusations leveled against him. Specifically, Yatnal pointed to contentious public claims made regarding the alleged fabrication of a duplicate signature belonging to veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa, an issue that had previously ignited a massive political storm and deepened trust deficits within party ranks.

"First, Vijayendra should resign from his post. Secondly, he should agree not to become a Chief Ministerial candidate for the next 10 years. He must also withdraw the allegations he has made, including the allegations relating to the duplicate signature of Yediyurappa. If these conditions are fulfilled, I am definitely ready to join the BJP," Yatnal declared during his interaction with journalists.

Yatnal's uncompromising stance has immediately reignited intense debate across political circles, exposing the deep-seated structural divides that continue to plague the opposition camp in Karnataka. Political analysts note that while the state leadership attempts to consolidate ranks ahead of upcoming political milestones, outspoken figures like Yatnal continue to wield considerable leverage, pressing for decentralization of power and generational accountability.

**Yatnal's terms**

1. **Resign:** Vijayendra quits as State President
2. **10 years:** no CM candidacy for him in that time
3. **Withdraw:** his allegations, including on the duplicate signature

*"If these conditions are fulfilled, I am definitely ready to join the BJP."*

**BASANAGOUDA PATIL YATNAL** Vijayapura City MLA

Quick Read

## Kannada must expand into technical education sectors

**CH NEWS,** KOLAR

Kannada will gain greater respect only when information on fields such as information technology, biotechnology and medicine becomes widely available in the language, said Ditta Kannadigara Rakshana Vedike State President S. Changalaraya Shetty. Speaking at a Kannada Rajyotsava programme in Kolar on Sunday, he stressed that wider availability of technical books and educational resources in Kannada would increase its usage. All India Advocates Association district president K.S. Narendrababu urged the administration to facilitate the Kannada Rajyotsava procession through Kolar's Tower area, stressing communal harmony and public participation. Several organisation members attended.

## Sardar Patel's birth anniversary celebrated in Hulakoti

**CH NEWS,** HULAKOTI

The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated at Sri K.H. Patil Government First Grade College in Hulakoti, with students and staff taking the Unity Pledge. Presiding over the programme, Principal Prof. Appanna Hanje recalled Patel's contributions to national unity and strengthening the country's administration. Assistant Professor Husenbasha of the Political Science Department highlighted Patel's pivotal role in integrating princely states into the Indian Union and unifying the country. Students, teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the programme.

# KUMARASWAMY URGES PRO-KANNADA GROUPS TO UNITE

Kumaraswamy noted that pro-Kannada organisations have played a crucial role in safeguarding the state's land, water, language, and cultural heritage.

**CH NEWS,** RAMANAGARA

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has urged fragmented pro-Kannada organisations and activists to unite under a common platform and raise their voices collectively for the welfare of Karnataka.

He was speaking at the 'Kannada Habba' organised by the Kasturi Karnataka Janapara Vedike near the District Stadium in Ramanagara on Sunday.

The Minister flagged off a procession featuring silver chariots carrying portraits of prominent Kannada personalities after offering flowers to Goddess Bhuvaneshwari.

He said pro-Kannada organisations had played an important role in protecting Karnataka's land, water, language and cultural heritage. He acknowledged the contributions of several activists and leaders who had worked tirelessly to safeguard Kannada, literature and the state's interests.

However, he observed that the organisations and activists were currently divided and working separately.

He appealed to them to overcome their differences, come together and speak with one voice to strengthen the movement for Kannada and Karnataka.

"If you unite, you will become a formidable force," he said, urging activists to work together in the larger interest of the state.

The Union Minister also expressed concern over the alleged misuse of Karnataka's resources and the way tax revenues generated by the state were being utilised. He called upon pro-Kannada organisations to take up issues concerning the state's resources and interests collectively.

The silver chariot procession passed through major streets of Ramanagara, attracting public attention.



Several chariots carried portraits of eminent personalities who contributed to Kannada language and culture.

Kasturi Karnataka Janapara Vedike State President Su. Chi. Nilesh Gowda, along with pro-Kannada activists Narasimhamurthy, Shyam Sundar, Girish Sharma, Varalakshmi, Nagalakshmi, Chakaluru Krishnappa and representatives of various organisations, participated in the event.

> **"If you unite, you will become a formidable force."**
> — H.D. Kumaraswamy

## KSRTC to operate 2,600 special buses for Diwali

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

**To accommodate the heavy passenger rush during the Diwali festival, weekends, and upcoming holidays, KSRTC has announced 2,600 special buses.**

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced the operation of 2,600 special buses to manage the expected passenger rush during the Diwali festive season, weekends and upcoming holidays.

According to a KSRTC release, the special services will operate from Bengaluru between November 6 and 8. Additional buses will run from various locations across Karnataka and neighbouring states on November 10 and 11, coinciding with the festive period, including Naraka Chaturdashi on November 8 and Balipadyami on November 10.

The buses will operate from Kempegowda Bus Station, Mysuru Road Bus Station and Shanthinagar Bus Station. Additional reserved services will also be available from BMTC bus stations at Vijayanagar, Yeshwanthpur, Jayanagar, Malleshwaram 18th Cross, Basaveshwaranagar, Electronic City, Attibele and Tin Factory, among other locations.

From Kempegowda Bus Station, services will connect passengers to major destinations including Mangaluru, Udupi, Kundapura, Puttur, Dharmasthala, Kukke Subrahmanya, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Vijayapura, Karwar, Gokarna and other parts of the state. Buses from Mysuru Road Bus Station will serve Mysuru, Hunsur, Madikeri, Kushalnagar and nearby destinations.

Premium services to Tamil Nadu and Kerala, including Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kozhikode, will operate from Shanthinagar.

Passengers can reserve tickets through the KSRTC website, www.ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in. A five per cent discount will be offered when four or more passengers book together in advance. Passengers booking onward and return tickets simultaneously will receive a 10 per cent discount on the return fare.

Advance reservation facilities are also available at KSRTC counters in major cities across Karnataka and neighbouring states.

## Huge crowds gather in Hassan for Hassanamba darshan

**CH NEWS,** HASSAN

Thousands of devotees from different parts of Karnataka flocked to Hassan on Sunday to seek the blessings of Goddess Hassanamba, taking advantage of the weekend holiday.

The large turnout led to heavy crowds at the temple, long queues and pressure on transport facilities.

Devotees were seen waiting in large numbers in the general entry queue, known as Dharma Darshan, as well as in the special entry queues for tickets priced at ₹300 and ₹1,000. With the number of visitors increasing through the day, police personnel were deployed to manage the crowds and prevent pushing and overcrowding.

Hundreds of women devotees were among those waiting in the general queue. As the waiting time increased, several women, particularly elderly visitors, were seen sitting on the ground while waiting for their turn to have darshan of the Goddess.



Devotees in the queues for darshan of Goddess Hassanamba in Hassan on Sunday.

The rush was also visible at the Hassan bus stand, where thousands of women and other devotees gathered after completing their temple visit. Many faced difficulties returning to their respective destinations due to a shortage of available buses amid the heavy passenger rush.

> **Large crowds of devotees gathered in the general Dharma Darshan queue and the ₹300 and ₹1,000 special entry lines.**

Transport department officials made repeated announcements over loudspeakers, asking passengers to maintain order and avoid pushing or shoving while boarding buses. The officials were also attempting to manage the crowd and ensure that passengers could board safely.

The Sunday holiday contributed to the heavy influx of devotees, with visitors arriving from several districts and other parts of the state. The large gathering put pressure on both temple arrangements and public transport services.

Police and transport personnel continued efforts to regulate the movement of devotees and passengers. The situation highlighted the challenges involved in managing the huge turnout during the annual Hassanamba temple festival, particularly on holidays when thousands of people arrive in the district for darshan.

## Kannada flag held as youths drink after rally

**CH NEWS,** CHIKKABALLAPUR

An incident involving youths allegedly consuming alcohol while holding the Kannada flag during Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations has triggered criticism in Chikkaballapur.

The incident reportedly occurred near N.N. Bar and Restaurant at Solalappana Dinne in the city on Sunday, November 1, when a large number of people gathered to purchase beer and Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL).

According to reports, some youths who had participated in a bike rally organised to mark the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava went to the bar after the procession. A crowd gathered outside the establishment, with several people reportedly drinking after finding no space inside or around the premises.

What drew particular attention was that some individuals were allegedly seen consuming alcohol while holding the yellow-and-red Kannada flag. Images and accounts of the incident sparked criticism among local residents and Kannada activists.

Members of pro-Kannada organisations expressed disappointment over the conduct, stating that the Kannada flag represents the state's identity, language and cultural pride. They questioned the behaviour of those who had participated in a rally celebrating Kannada heritage but later engaged in such activities while carrying the flag.

The incident has renewed discussion in the locality about maintaining the dignity of public celebrations and showing respect for symbols associated with Kannada language and culture.

## 'Kannada reflects our culture, pride and identity'

**CH NEWS,** CHIKKABALLAPUR

Kannada is a symbol of Karnataka's culture, pride and identity, said Transport Minister and Chikkaballapur district in-charge Byrathi Suresh while addressing the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations organised by the district administration on Sunday.

The minister hoisted the national flag at Sir M. Visvesvaraya District Stadium in Chikkaballapur and highlighted the richness of the Kannada language and the state's cultural heritage.

He said it was a matter of great pride that Kannada was their mother tongue and had received eight Jnanpith awards. Karnataka's geographical diversity, soil and climate had attracted people from across the world, he said.

Suresh recalled the contributions of several kings and rulers who enriched the state's cultural traditions. He also acknowledged the role played by saints, philosophers, Vachana writers, poets, scholars and literary personalities in strengthening Kannada literature and culture.



At the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Sir M. Visvesvaraya District Stadium in Chikkaballapur.

**6,500 new buses, in phases**

PM E-DRIVE scheme: 4,500

World Bank assistance: 2,000

Figures: Transport Minister

Highlighting the government's initiatives in the transport sector, he said 6,500 new buses were being added to the state-owned transport corporations in phases. Of these, 4,500 buses were being procured under the PM E-DRIVE scheme and another 2,000 with World Bank assistance.

He said that under the Shakti scheme, women had undertaken 845.33 crore free bus journeys, for which the government had spent ₹22,281.94 crore. Free bus passes had also been distributed to 10,07,755 students, he added. An integrated mobile application was being developed to facilitate travel by metro and buses.

The minister said ₹3,318.37 crore had been released to Chikkaballapur district through the five guarantee schemes. He also highlighted progress in the Yettinahole project, under which 5.093 TMC of water had been allocated to the district.

Speaking about farmer welfare, Suresh said 1.53 lakh farmers had been registered under the crop insurance scheme. Compensation of ₹140.44 crore was being arranged for 1.3 lakh farmers affected by failed sowing.

He said the government had increased the milk procurement price by ₹8 per litre, of which ₹7 would directly benefit farmers.

The minister also presented district-level Kannada Rajyotsava awards to achievers from various fields.

## Betageri celebrates Kannada Rajyotsava with enthusiasm

**CH NEWS,** BETAGERI

Kannada Rajyotsava was celebrated with enthusiasm in Betageri, marking the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava.

The programme was jointly organised by the Kannada Rajyotsava Committee, the Public Education Department, Mutharaya Pratapa Simha Education Institution and local organisations under the leadership of committee president Ganesh Singh.

MLA H.K. Patil inaugurated the celebrations by hoisting the Kannada flag. MLC S.V. Sankanur, along with other dignitaries, participated in the programme. The Mutharaya Pratapa Simha Education Institution was decorated for the occasion, with a portrait of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari forming the centre of attraction.

**THE PROCESSION ROUTE**

- Sharanabasaveshwara Temple
- Karatagi Oni
- Jain Street
- P.B. Road
- Ambabhavani Temple
- Main junction

A colourful procession featuring a beautifully decorated tableau of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari was taken out through the main streets of Betageri. The procession went through Sharanabasaveshwara Temple, Karatagi Oni, Jain Street, P.B. Road, Ambabhavani Temple and other important areas before reaching the town's main junction.

Students from several educational institutions took part in the procession. They presented cultural performances and attractive tableaux, adding colour to the celebrations. Hundreds of residents gathered along the route to watch the procession and cheer the participants.

Several public representatives, educationists, Kannada activists and local leaders attended the programme. Students, teachers and members of various organisations also participated in large numbers, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for Kannada language, literature and culture.

The celebrations highlighted the importance of preserving Kannada's rich heritage and passing its values on to the younger generation.

SUGAR PRICE DISPARITY

# *Belagavi sugar factories ready to pay ₹3,500: Jarkiholi*

**CH NEWS,** BELAGAVI

Sugar factories in Belagavi district are prepared to pay ₹3,500 per tonne of sugarcane, District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi said on Sunday.

He stressed that a solution to the ongoing dispute between sugarcane growers and factory owners must consider farmers' demands and the financial capacity of the factories.

Speaking to reporters after hoisting the national flag at the district stadium during the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, Jarkiholi said a meeting on sugarcane farmers' issues had recently been held under the leadership of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.



**Key points**

- **Price:** Belagavi sugar factories offer higher prices
- **MSP:** Central Government controls sugar MSP increases
- **Weighing:** authorities will investigate complaints
- **Milk:** price increased by ₹8 per litre
- **Session:** winter session scheduled in Belagavi

The issue was also discussed extensively in the Legislative Assembly, but differences over the purchase price continue.

He pointed out that sugar factories in other districts were offering lower prices compared to Belagavi. The state government alone could not resolve the issue, as the authority to increase the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar rests with the Central Government. An increase in the MSP would improve the financial position of factories and enable them to offer better prices to farmers, he said.

Responding to allegations of irregularities in sugarcane weighing, Jarkiholi said private weighing facilities were available at intervals of around 10 km. Farmers could independently weigh their produce before supplying it to factories. Although no official complaints had been received so far, authorities would investigate any complaints filed by farmers.

He said the government was committed to ensuring justice for growers and finding a balanced solution based on sugar prices, factory finances and farmers' expectations. He also defended the recent ₹8-per-litre milk price increase, saying it would improve the income of dairy farmers.

Jarkiholi further announced that the winter session of the legislature would be held in Belagavi as usual. Notifications for Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat elections are expected after December 15.

The Rajyotsava celebrations featured a march-past, presentation of district-level awards and a grand procession. Jarkiholi also flagged off the procession, while MLA Asif Sait and Zilla Panchayat CEO Rahul Shinde attracted attention by playing traditional Dollu drums.

## Quick Read

### Chitradurga Medical College invites super-specialist consultants

**CH NEWS,** CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute has invited applications for super-specialist medical consultants on a per-visit honorarium basis. The appointments will cover cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery, nephrology, neonatology, oncology, surgical oncology and psychiatry. Selected doctors will receive Rs 10,000 per visit, with a minimum of four visits monthly. Performance-based incentives will also be provided as per institutional rules. Interested candidates can email their applications, detailed biodata, educational qualifications and experience certificates to deancmcri@gmail.com or ms.cmcri@gmail.com. Director Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj said the initiative aims to improve local healthcare and reduce patients' dependence on hospitals in neighbouring districts.

### Absconding theft accused surrenders after 5 years

**CH NEWS,** KADABA

An accused in four theft cases registered at Kadaba police station in 2016 has surrendered before a court after remaining absconding for five years. The accused, identified as Vishal Ponke (30), a native of Maharashtra, appeared before the Second ACJ and JMFC Court (Mobile Court, Kadaba) in Puttur. His co-accused, Narasimha alias Raju, Vijay Suresh Ponke, Naveen Chandra Singh, Chandrakant Poojary and Prakash Bahadur, had earlier been sentenced to two years in prison. Following his prolonged absence, police launched a search and the court issued a proclamation against Vishal. He has now been remanded to judicial custody.

# Belagavi tension: Shivakumar urges peaceful conduct

Tension gripped Belagavi during Kannada Rajyotsava as KRV activists protested MES's 'Black Day', with over ten taken into custody near Gogte Circle.



Protesters carry a banner at the 'Black Day' rally in Belagavi.

**CH NEWS,** BELAGAVI

Tension prevailed in Belagavi on Kannada Rajyotsava following protests by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) activists against the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti's (MES) 'Black Day' observance.

More than 10 KRV activists were taken into police custody after they attempted to confront MES supporters near Gogte Circle.

The KRV activists, belonging to the Shivaramegowda faction, objected to the MES rally, which was allegedly organised without permission from the district administration. The situation became tense as activists gathered near the rally venue, prompting police to intervene and prevent a possible confrontation. KRV leader Wajid was among those taken into custody.

District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi expressed strong displeasure over the MES activities. Commenting on the declining participation in the annual Black Day observance, he said the number of participants had fallen considerably compared to previous years. He remarked that the organisation's influence was gradually weakening.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar appealed to people, particularly pro-Kannada activists, not to take the law into their own hands.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru after attending Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Kanteerava Stadium, Shivakumar said he had sought information about the developments in Belagavi from the Director General and Inspector General of Police and senior police officials.

He said everyone, including Marathi-speaking people and MES members, must respect Karnataka and its people. At the same time, he urged Kannada activists to maintain peace and cooperate with the government.

He said the government was preparing files to withdraw certain pending cases against pro-Kannada activists. However, any fresh incidents of violence could complicate the process. The government was committed to protecting Kannada speakers and maintaining peace in the border district, he said.

**Gogte Circle flashpoint**

- **KRV:** more than 10 activists taken into custody
- **MES:** rally allegedly held without permission
- **Jarkiholi:** fewer people at Black Day than in earlier years
- **CM:** do not take the law into your own hands

# Government committed to implementing Upper Bhadra Project




**CH NEWS,** CHITRADURGA

The State Government is committed to implementing the Upper Bhadra Project and ensuring water reaches drought-hit areas of Central Karnataka, District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy said on Sunday.

Speaking after hoisting the national flag at the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Sri Murugharajendra Stadium, he said 3 TMC of water had already been released into the Chitradurga branch canal, while efforts were underway to release an additional 1 TMC soon.

The released water has reached several lakes in Hosadurga, Holalkere, Hiriyur and Challakere taluks. However, some tanks in remote areas of Hiriyur and Challakere are yet to receive water. Following a request to the Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister, approval has been given for the additional release, he said.With coconut and areca nut plantations drying up due to poor rainfall, the Minister urged elected representatives and farmer leaders from neighbouring Shivamogga and Davanagere districts to understand Chitradurga's severe water crisis.

He said more than 220 taluks across Karnataka had been declared drought-affected and a proposal seeking ₹7,148 crore in relief had been submitted to the Centre. The government had also sought ₹227 crore for drought relief in Chitradurga. Measures were being taken to ensure adequate drinking water and fodder for livestock.

Raghumurthy said infrastructure development, agriculture, education, healthcare, employment and skill development remained government priorities alongside the five guarantee schemes.

Calling upon people to protect Kannada, he said every Kannadiga had a responsibility to preserve the language and culture. He noted that Kannada had received eight Jnanpith Awards and urged students to take pride in their mother tongue, adding that Kannada-medium education was no barrier to professional success.

The celebrations featured a procession, cultural performances and felicitation of achievers from various fields.

# Belagavi begins Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at midnight

**CH NEWS,** BELAGAVI

The city of Belagavi, popularly known as Kundanagari, ushered in Kannada Rajyotsava with great enthusiasm as celebrations began at midnight on Sunday.

The city witnessed festive scenes as Kannada-speaking residents gathered to mark Karnataka's formation day with traditional fervour.

Despite concerns over drought conditions, the spirit of the festival remained high, with people participating in the celebrations. The festivities began at Channamma Circle, where Mayor Preethi formally inaugurated the event by cutting a cake shortly after midnight.


Crowds with Kannada flags at the midnight celebrations at Channamma Circle.

As the clock struck 12, members of the local Kannada-speaking community gathered at the circle and celebrated the occasion by bursting firecrackers. The area came alive with excitement as residents exchanged greetings and welcomed the state festival.

Belagavi has a special place in Karnataka's cultural landscape and is known for its enthusiastic Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations every year. The festival brings together people from different walks of life to express their respect for the Kannada language, culture and heritage.

The midnight celebrations set the tone for the day's programmes across the city. Kannada organisations, cultural groups and residents were expected to take part in various activities marking the occasion. The celebrations also provide an opportunity for people to remember the formation of Karnataka and the efforts made by Kannada activists and leaders in bringing Kannada-speaking regions together.

The enthusiasm displayed at Channamma Circle reflected the emotional connection that people in Belagavi share with the Kannada language and the state. Even amid challenging conditions, residents came together to celebrate the festival.

Kannada Rajyotsava is observed across Karnataka on November 1 every year to mark the formation of the state in 1956. In Belagavi, the celebrations began well before dawn, highlighting the city's longstanding tradition of welcoming the festival with public participation and cultural pride.

## GREEN TIGER OPENS EV RETROFITTING CENTRE

**UDUPI**



Green Tiger Mobility inaugurated a new electric vehicle retrofitting centre at IBC Technologies, Korangrapady, Udupi, on Kannada Rajyotsava. The launch was attended by Karnataka Minister Rizwan Arshad and Udupi MLA Yashpal Anand Suvarna. The company's patented, ARAI and RTO-approved technology converts petrol two-wheelers into electric and hybrid vehicles, offering an affordable, sustainable alternative to scrapping. Having served over 2,000 customers across Karnataka and Maharashtra, Green Tiger currently operates eight centres. The company plans to open 10 additional locations within two months, promoting local employment, entrepreneurship and mechanic skill development.

# 'Kannada pride must continue beyond November'

**CH NEWS,** DAVANAGERE


Officials and public representatives at the Rajyotsava celebrations at the district stadium, Davanagere.

Mines and Geology, Horticulture Minister and Davanagere district in-charge S.S. Mallikarjun has called upon people to make love and respect for Kannada a part of their everyday lives rather than limiting it to November celebrations.

Addressing the 71st Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations organised by the district administration at the district stadium on Sunday, the minister said Kannada represents the identity, culture and pride of the people of Karnataka.

He said Rajyotsava should not be viewed merely as an annual celebration but as an occasion to renew the commitment towards protecting and promoting the language. Every Kannadiga should take responsibility for ensuring that Kannada continues to flourish across generations, he said.

### A call to the younger generation

Mallikarjun stressed the need to encourage the use of Kannada in everyday communication, educational institutions, government offices and public life. He said the younger generation should develop a strong connection with the mother tongue and understand the state's rich literary and cultural heritage.

The minister also highlighted the importance of preserving Karnataka's traditions, art, literature and history. He called for collective efforts to strengthen the language while respecting other languages and cultures.

The district administration organised the celebrations with the participation of public representatives, government officials, students and members of various organisations. The programme included the hoisting of the national and Kannada flags, tributes to Goddess Bhuvaneshwari and cultural activities.

### Remembering the leaders

Mallikarjun also urged people to remember the contributions of leaders, writers, poets and activists who worked for the Kannada language and the unification of Kannada-speaking regions.

The celebrations were attended by senior district officials, elected representatives and members of the public.

He said the true spirit of Kannada Rajyotsava would be reflected when people use, respect and promote Kannada throughout the year, instead of expressing their attachment to the language only during the month of November.

# Organ donation tableau wins first prize

**CH NEWS,** CHITRADURGA

A tableau highlighting the importance of organ donation, presented by the Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute and its Teaching Hospital, won first prize in the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava procession organised by the district administration on Sunday.

The tableau carried the message, "Your organ donation is a supreme gift; it grants life to another." It attracted public attention along the procession route from Neelakanteshwara Temple to Murugharajendra Stadium and helped create awareness about the importance of donating organs to save lives.

The concept was developed by Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj, Director of the Medical College and Research Institute, and Dr. Megha G.H., Medical Superintendent. Their initiative received appreciation from the public and dignitaries.

> *"Your organ donation is a supreme gift; it grants life to another."*

Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and district incharge T. Raghumurthy, MLA K.C. Veerendra, popularly known as Puppy, and Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya presented the first prize to the team.

Earlier, during the Rajyotsava programme at the medical college's teaching hospital, Director Dr. Yuvaraj offered floral tributes to the portrait of Raja Rajeshwari. He urged doctors and medical staff to make greater use of Kannada in their professional activities and interactions with patients.

Academic Registrar Dr. Venu, District Surgeon Dr. S.P. Ravindra, Resident Medical Officer Dr. Mallikarjuna, Nodal Officer Dr. Paramananda Reddy, Dr. Ganesh and Dr. Prajwal attended the programme.

Nursing officers, medical and nursing students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and outsourced employees were also present.

**The winning tableau**

| | |
|---|---|
| CONCEPT | Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj and Dr. Megha G.H. |
| ROUTE | Neelakanteshwara Temple to Murugharajendra Stadium |
| PRIZE | presented by T. Raghumurthy, K.C. Veerendra and S. Ramya |

Nursing officers, medical and nursing students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and outsourced employees were also present.

**KARNATAKA HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED**

# *Tangadagi reaffirms government's commitment to Kannada*

**CH NEWS,** KOPPAL

The State Government has accorded top priority to Kannada and is taking steps to ensure its use at all levels, while remaining committed to Karnataka's overall development, Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Kannada and Culture and Koppal district in-charge Shivaraj S. Tangadagi said.

He was speaking after hoisting the national flag at the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations organised by the district administration at the District Stadium in Koppal on Sunday.

The Minister highlighted Karnataka's rich history and the contributions of several dynasties, including the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, Kadambas and Vijayanagara rulers. He also recalled the contributions of saint-poets and social reformers such as Kanakadasa, Purandaradasa, Sarvajna and Basavanna.

Tangadagi said Koppal had played an important role in the Karnataka unification movement. He remembered several local leaders who contributed to the cause and urged people to preserve the state's cultural diversity. He also congratulated Koppal's Davalasab Attar and Shivalingappa, son of Ramanna, who received the 2026 Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for their contributions to folk arts.



At the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at the District Stadium in Koppal.

Highlighting the five guarantee schemes, he said 3,12,592 women in the district benefited from Gruha Lakshmi, while 2,83,558 consumers received benefits under Gruha Jyothi. Under Anna Bhagya, 10,83,537 beneficiaries received 10 kg of foodgrains monthly.

Emphasising the need to strengthen Kannada, he said the language could flourish only when people used it regularly and taught its script to future generations. The government was also promoting technology in Kannada.

He said Koppal had received a KKRDB allocation of ₹330.37 crore for 2026-27. Under the employment programme, 2,026 projects had been initiated, generating 18.51 lakh person-days of work by October 23. He added that 90 residential hostels were accommodating 8,946 students in the district.

**3,12,592** women on Gruha Lakshmi

**2,83,558** consumers on Gruha Jyothi

**10,83,537** beneficiaries of Anna Bhagya

# 84-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WALKS AGAIN WITHIN 48 HOURS OF SPINE SURGERY AFTER SERIOUS SPINAL FRACTURE

**PRITI DOKE**

*Advanced spine treatment helps elderly patient regain mobility, highlighting the importance of timely diagnosis and specialised care.*



In an encouraging example of advanced spine care, an 84-year-old woman regained the ability to stand and walk with support within just 48 hours of undergoing spine surgery at Apex Multispeciality Hospital, Borivali East, part of Apex Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.

The patient was admitted with severe mid-back pain, accompanied by tingling and unusual sensations in both legs. Initial X-rays revealed a fracture in the T12 vertebra, a bone in the lower part of the chest region of the spine. An MRI scan confirmed the fracture and showed that the damaged bone was putting pressure on the space surrounding the spinal cord and nerves.

Considering her age, severe pain and symptoms affecting both legs, doctors recommended surgery to stabilise the damaged part of the spine and relieve pressure on the nerves. The procedure aimed to support the fractured bone, prevent further complications and help restore mobility.

Despite being 84 years old, the patient made encouraging progress following surgery. Within two days, she was able to stand and walk with support under medical supervision, marking an important step towards regaining her independence.

Dr. Kunal Singh (Synapse Spine), Consultant Spine Surgeon at Apex Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, said, "Age alone should not determine whether a patient can benefit from surgery. Every case needs to be assessed carefully, considering the patient's overall health, the severity of the injury and the potential benefits of treatment. In this case, our focus was to stabilise the fractured bone, relieve pressure on the nerves and help the patient regain mobility safely. Her ability to stand and walk with support within 48 hours is an encouraging outcome and reinforces the importance of timely medical intervention."

The case highlights the importance of seeking prompt medical attention for severe back pain, tingling or changes in sensation in the legs, particularly among elderly people. Early diagnosis can help doctors identify serious spinal problems and recommend appropriate treatment.

The patient's early recovery at Apex Multispeciality Hospital, Borivali East, highlights how careful assessment, advanced surgical techniques and guided rehabilitation can help elderly patients work towards better mobility and independence.

Dr. Kunal Singh emphasised that recovery varies from patient to patient, and treatment decisions must be based on individual medical needs, overall health and the potential benefits and risks of surgery. The successful early recovery reinforces the importance of specialised spine care and a personalised approach to treatment, helping elderly patients take meaningful steps towards improved mobility and quality of life.

# CINEMA: IN AN ERA OF CHANGE



**DR. VIJAY GARG**

Cinema has always been more than entertainment. It reflects society, shapes conversations and captures the dreams, fears and aspirations of different generations. Today, however, cinema is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Changing technology, new viewing habits, diverse storytelling and the rise of digital platforms are reshaping the way films are produced, distributed and experienced.

For decades, the cinema hall was the primary destination for watching a new film. Audiences planned their weekends around theatrical releases, bought tickets and experienced movies collectively on the big screen. Today, the situation is very different. Streaming platforms have brought thousands of films and series directly into homes and onto smartphones. A viewer can watch content from different countries, languages and cultures at almost any time.

**Technology can provide powerful tools, but storytelling ultimately depends on human imagination and emotional understanding.**

Technology has become one of the strongest forces behind this change. High-quality cameras, computer-generated imagery, artificial intelligence, digital editing and advanced sound technologies have expanded the possibilities of filmmaking. Stories that once seemed impossible to visualise can now be presented with remarkable realism. At the same time, affordable digital equipment has enabled independent filmmakers and young creators to experiment outside traditional studio systems.

The audience itself is also changing. Modern viewers have access to content from across the world and are becoming more selective about what they watch. They are increasingly interested in original stories, realistic characters and subjects that connect with contemporary life. Films dealing with social issues, personal struggles, regional identities, history, science and ordinary human experiences can find audiences far beyond their traditional markets.



Another important development is the growing recognition of regional cinema. Films made in languages such as Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi and Kannada are reaching national and international audiences through subtitles, dubbing and digital distribution. This has created greater visibility for local cultures, traditions and storytelling styles while demonstrating that good stories can cross linguistic boundaries.

The relationship between cinema and the box office is changing as well. A film's success is no longer measured only by theatrical collections. Streaming rights, digital viewership, international audiences, television rights and long-term cultural impact have become important parts of the modern film economy. Some films may have modest theatrical runs but later develop a large following through digital platforms.

Artificial intelligence is likely to bring another major transformation. AI can assist in areas such as visual effects, editing, dubbing, translation and production planning. It may also help filmmakers reach audiences across language barriers. At the same time, its growing use raises important questions about creativity, copyright, employment, consent and the role of human artists. Technology can provide powerful tools, but storytelling ultimately depends on human imagination and emotional understanding.

Cinema is also becoming more interactive and accessible. Mobile phones have turned millions of people into both viewers and content creators. Short films, web series and independently produced videos can reach large audiences without traditional distribution networks. This has lowered some barriers to entry and opened opportunities for new voices.

Yet the transformation has challenges. The enormous volume of digital content can make it difficult for quality work to stand out. Short attention spans may encourage superficial storytelling, while commercial pressure can sometimes favour formulas over originality. Concerns about piracy, misinformation, excessive screen consumption and the protection of creative rights also remain significant.

Despite these challenges, the changing cinema landscape offers enormous possibilities. The future may not belong exclusively to theatres or streaming platforms; both can coexist. The cinema hall can continue to provide the shared experience of a large screen, while digital platforms can offer convenience, diversity and accessibility.

Cinema is therefore not disappearing; it is evolving. Its language, technology, business models and audiences are changing, but its fundamental purpose remains the same: to tell stories that make people laugh, cry, think, question and dream.

**"The most memorable films will still depend on something technology cannot easily manufacture: a compelling story and a genuine human emotion."**
**— Dr. Vijay Garg**

The cinema of the future will likely be more digital, diverse, global and technologically sophisticated.

# BHAGWAT'S CALL FOR UNITY, HARMONY AND NATIONAL STRENGTH



**LALIT GARGG**

India is not merely a country defined by geographical boundaries; it is a civilizational consciousness shaped by diversity, a nation that has embraced different ideas, faiths, languages, traditions and ways of life for thousands of years. Our true strength lies not in erasing these differences, but in respecting them while strengthening our shared national identity. The annual Vijayadashami address delivered by Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), deserves to be viewed in this broader perspective. His message serves as a powerful call for national unity, social harmony, civic discipline and vigilance in the face of challenges confronting the country. Such a message should not remain confined to any particular organization, ideology or political camp; rather, it should become an occasion for collective introspection on the state and direction of our national life.

India is advancing in a global environment in which economic growth, technological capabilities, democratic institutions and expanding international influence are opening up immense possibilities. Yet a nation's true strength cannot be measured merely by its economic achievements, military might or international standing. Its greatest strength lies in the mutual trust among its citizens, their respect for institutions and their ability to stand united in times of crisis. When distrust deepens within society, dialogue gives way to bitterness, and political or ideological differences turn into hostility, a crisis begins to emerge from within, one that can prove more serious than external threats.

India's neighbourhood presents persistent security challenges, particularly from Pakistan, along with the threats of terrorism and the risks of regional instability. India's relations with the United States and other global powers involve both cooperation and competition.

Therefore, the policies of any country must be assessed on the basis of facts, national interests and diplomatic prudence rather than emotion. It would be unwise to assume that every foreign power is necessarily working to weaken India. At the same time, we must recognize that every nation places its own interests first in international politics.



In such circumstances, India's security rests not only in the hands of soldiers guarding its borders, but also in the trust that binds its citizens together within those borders. External forces can exploit our internal weaknesses only when we allow our differences to deepen to the point where we begin to regard one another not as fellow citizens with differing views, but as enemies. National unity, therefore, is not merely an emotional slogan; it is a strategic necessity. Protecting our borders is as essential as strengthening the bonds of trust among the people who live within them.

The social and political upheavals witnessed in Bangladesh and France, though arising from different circumstances, remind us that both ignoring public discontent and allowing it to escalate into violence can have damaging consequences. Listening to genuine public grievances is a democratic responsibility, while violence in the name of protest, damage to public property and the spread of hatred can never be justified.

In a vast and pluralistic democracy like India, differences of opinion are natural. Citizens have every right to raise questions about unemployment, inflation, corruption, education, social justice and administrative accountability, and to engage in peaceful protest. Governments have a duty to listen seriously to these voices and work towards meaningful solutions. At the same time, citizens and political parties must ensure that public sentiment is used to bring about positive change rather than divide society.

Dissent in a democracy is not anti-national, nor does questioning those in power amount to a lack of faith in the nation. The true test of national commitment lies in preserving constitutional propriety and social harmony even when we disagree.

An emerging challenge to national unity today arises from the unchecked and irresponsible use of digital platforms. Social media has given ordinary citizens a powerful medium to express themselves, but it has also made it possible for fake news, misleading videos, AI-generated deepfakes and half-truths to spread at alarming speed.

Such content can damage social relationships by creating fear, anger and distrust. The situation becomes particularly dangerous when one-sided or inflammatory material about a religion, caste, language or community is circulated to encourage suspicion towards an entire section of society. A single false message can inflict serious damage, within moments, on relationships of mutual trust built over many years.

Digital literacy must therefore be accompanied by ethical discernment. Verifying a message before forwarding it, refusing to be provoked by inflammatory content and standing against the spread of falsehood are all modern expressions of national service. Technology can become a true blessing only when it is guided by responsibility and human sensitivity.

National unity does not mean that every citizen must think alike, follow the same mode of worship or agree on every political question. The true meaning of unity is that, despite our differences, we recognize and respect one another's dignity, rights and existence.

The Constitution has given us the principles of equal citizenship, religious freedom, freedom of expression and justice. These principles form the very foundation of India's coexistence as a diverse nation. What we need today is the resolve not to place our narrower identities in opposition to our national identity.

Religion should inspire ethical conduct, politics should serve public welfare, education should cultivate discernment, and social organizations should promote service and social harmony. Any ideology can serve the nation meaningfully only when it contributes to improving society, supporting the vulnerable and nurturing a sense of responsibility among citizens.

The canopy of national unity must be broad enough for every Indian, regardless of religion, language, region, caste or ideological background, to stand beneath it with dignity and respect. No one's patriotism should be judged solely by religious identity, political preference or ideological disagreement. Commitment to the nation should be assessed through conduct, respect for constitutional values and contributions to society.

An important dimension of Mohan Bhagwat's address is the emphasis on civic responsibility. Nation-building is not the responsibility of governments, political leaders, armed forces or social organizations alone. Every citizen, through individual actions, influences the country's direction. Working honestly, obeying the law, protecting public property, respecting women, helping those in need and exercising restraint during periods of social tension are all practical expressions of national service.

At the same time, the cause of national unity must never be invoked to justify injustice, discrimination or the neglect of genuine public grievances. A strong nation is one in which citizens can express themselves without fear, institutions function impartially and every individual can reasonably expect justice.

Today, India needs a national consciousness that teaches us to stand with one another, not against one another. Differences of opinion may remain, but divisions of the heart must not deepen. Our ideas may differ, but our responsibility towards the nation must remain shared. Political competition is inevitable, but it must not breed hostility in our social relationships. We must resolve that no external challenge or internal tension will be allowed to weaken India's unity, the dignity of its Constitution or respect for humanity. This is the broader message that Bhagwat's Vijayadashami address invites us to reflect upon, and this is the call of the hour.

*"India's greatest victory will come when a shared sense of trust continues to flourish amid a multitude of ideas and perspectives. We may be different in our beliefs, languages, customs and convictions, but our future is shared, our land is one, and our nation is India."*
**LALIT GARGG**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Regulating the AI boom**
The rapid development and integration of generative artificial intelligence into everyday life present both incredible promise and serious concerns. While AI improves productivity and automates complex tasks, its unchecked growth threatens data privacy, intellectual property, and job stability across critical sectors. Public trust is fast eroding amid risks of deepfakes and mass misinformation. Governments and tech leaders must act decisively by establishing strict, transparent regulatory frameworks. AI innovation should proceed in harmony with human values and ethical safeguards rather than outpacing the laws designed to protect public welfare. **– Allan**

**Prioritizing real clean energy**
As global climate pressures intensify, nations must refine their approaches to renewable energy and sustainable development. Recent discussions surrounding high-percentage biofuel blending and rapid policy shifts underscore the need for a realistic, long-term environmental roadmap. Transitioning away from fossil fuels cannot rely on quick fixes or commercial gimmicks that risk supply chain strains and higher consumer costs. Instead, policy must focus on expanding true green and blue spaces, scaling solar and wind infrastructure, and enforcing strict carbon accountability. Sustainable progress demands actionable, well-funded strategies over symbolic targets. **– Nathenial**

**Fixing disastrous urban planning**
The repeated urban disruptions caused by heavy seasonal rains and structural mishaps reveal deep vulnerabilities in local governance. From waterlogged arterial roads to unsafe construction practices, city dwellers consistently bear the brunt of administrative apathy. Municipal bodies routinely pass the blame while taxpayers endure crumbling civic infrastructure and severe traffic gridlocks every season. It is time for local administrations to mandate rigorous structural audits, modernize drainage systems, and hold non-compliant developers strictly accountable. Urban development must focus on public safety and structural resilience rather than cosmetic upgrades. **– Rovan**

**Relieving student exam pressure**
The growing pressure on students facing frequent examination syllabus shifts and high-stakes competitive tests highlights a system in need of structural reform. Policy instability and curriculum overloads create extreme mental stress for young minds while inflating the financial burden on middle-class families. Education should nurture critical thinking and creativity, not turn learning into an exhausting trial of endurance. Education boards and policymakers must streamline curricula, deliver clear timeline guidelines, and prioritize mental well-being alongside academic rigor. Our youth deserve an empowering education system rather than a chaotic marathon. **– Denny**

**Making lifesaving medicines affordable**
Recent government interventions aimed at reducing essential drug prices, particularly for critical treatments like cancer therapy, are commendable steps toward equitable healthcare. However, price caps on paper rarely lead to lower hospital bills without strict enforcement. Patients frequently face hidden medical markups, diagnostic expenses, and supply shortages that neutralize policy benefits. Regulatory authorities must monitor hospitals and pharmaceutical distributors to ensure that cost-reduction measures reach patients at the counter. Affordable healthcare must be treated as a fundamental right rather than an unpredictable market privilege. **– Monu**

## Quick Read

### Sarda Energy's Q2 profit slips over 2% to Rs 320 crore

**NEW DELHI**

Sarda Energy and Minerals Limited (SEML) has reported a 2.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 320 crore for the quarter ended September 2026 (Q2 FY27), primarily due to lower income during the period. The integrated energy and minerals company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 328 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q2 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing.

The company's total income during the July-September quarter fell 5.7 per cent to Rs 1,505 crore, compared with Rs 1,596 crore in the year-ago period.

### CII hails GST reforms as transition to trust-based governance

**NEW DELHI**

Apex business chamber CII said on Sunday that the GST Council's landmark decisions on decriminalisation and rationalisation of enforcement powers of tax officials were among the most significant institutional reforms in India's transition towards trust-based economic governance. CII said the GST reforms mark a fundamental shift towards more proportionate enforcement, greater predictability, and confidence in legitimate business activity, while retaining strong safeguards against deliberate fraud and evasion.



### BYD extends sales growth streak on strong exports

**BEIJING**

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD recorded its sixth consecutive month of year-on-year sales growth in October 2026, supported by strong overseas demand as the company continued to navigate sluggish domestic consumption and intense price competition in China.

The company sold 4,90,168 vehicles last month, marking an 11 per cent increase compared to the corresponding period last year. However, the growth rate moderated from the 17 per cent increase reported in September, indicating continued pressure in the domestic automobile market.

Overseas markets remained a major growth driver for the automaker. BYD's overseas shipments surged 102.8 per cent year-on-year to 1,70,194 units in October, highlighting the company's growing international presence and efforts to diversify sales beyond its home market.

BYD's financial performance has also reflected these challenges. The company's third-quarter profit growth slowed to 28 per cent year-on-year, falling short of market expectations. The slowdown came amid increasing competition and an industry-wide push by Chinese automakers to expand exports.

Despite the challenges, international markets are expected to remain important for BYD as it seeks to maintain its sales momentum.

# EPFO launches WhatsApp services, auto settlement

EPF subscribers will now be able to access their PF balance, latest five transactions and passbook info via WhatsApp, besides receiving personalised guidance and assistance in completing PMVBRY-related requirements.




Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at the EPFO's 74th Foundation Day celebration

**NEW DELHI**

Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday launched the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) WhatsApp service, enabling subscribers to access their provident fund balance, latest five transactions and passbook information through the messaging platform.

The service will also provide personalised guidance and assistance to members in completing requirements related to the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY). The initiative aims to make routine services more accessible and reduce the need for subscribers to visit EPFO offices.

Addressing the organisation's 74th Foundation Day celebration, Mandaviya highlighted EPFO's contribution to India's workforce over the past seven decades. He said the organisation had built significant public trust, reflected in its Rs 32 lakh crore corpus accumulated through contributions from more than eight crore members.

The minister also announced relief for subscribers holding Aadhaar-verified inoperative EPF accounts with balances of up to Rs 1,000. Such members will not need to file individual claims, as EPFO will initiate automatic settlement following prescribed identity and bank account verification. Approximately one lakh accounts involving Rs 5 crore are expected to benefit.

The organisation also reported improvements in claim settlement, with the average processing time falling to 2.57 days in October 2026.

**EPFO's new services**

- Balance, latest five transactions and passbook on WhatsApp
- Personalised help with PMVBRY requirements
- One lakh inoperative accounts worth Rs 5 crore to be settled automatically
- Claim settlement time down to 2.57 days in October 2026

# India-Belgium discuss global diamond trade




At the Embassy of India in Brussels

**India-Belgium diamond ties**

India is a major diamond cutting and polishing centre; Belgium an important global trading hub for precious stones.

**NEW DELHI**

India and Belgium share deep-rooted commercial linkages in the global diamond value chain, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said during an interaction with representatives of the diamond industry in Brussels on October 30.

The meeting focused on the current state of the international diamond market, evolving trade patterns and the opportunities and challenges facing industry stakeholders. Agrawal sought feedback from industry representatives on emerging market trends and the outlook for international diamond trade.

According to the Department of Commerce, the interaction was held at the Embassy of India in Brussels and provided an opportunity to strengthen engagement with industry stakeholders.

Highlighting the longstanding partnership between the two countries, Agrawal noted that India plays a significant role in diamond cutting and polishing, while Belgium continues to serve as an important global trading hub for precious stones.

The engagement comes amid broader efforts by India, Belgium and Luxembourg to strengthen economic cooperation. Earlier this week, the Commerce Ministry announced that the three countries had agreed to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration in aerospace, research, innovation and higher education.

The 19th session of the India-Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission was held in Luxembourg.

The latest interaction underlines India's efforts to maintain industry-level engagement and strengthen commercial partnerships in the global diamond trade.

# Coal imports decline 5.83% on domestic supply

**NEW DELHI**

India's coal imports declined 5.83% year-on-year to 104.57 million tonnes (MT) in the period up to August 2026, compared to 111.05 MT in the corresponding period last year, reflecting improved domestic availability and efforts to reduce dependence on overseas supplies, the Ministry of Coal said on Sunday.

The country's coal imports fell by 6.48 MT during the period as the government continued initiatives to strengthen domestic production, improve supply chains and ensure adequate availability for key sectors.

Imports by power plants declined 6.39% to 21.32 MT in the period, against 22.77 MT a year earlier. The reduction was in line with efforts to improve domestic coal availability and reduce dependence on imported coal for blending at domestic coal-based power plants.

However, imports by imported coal-based power plants increased marginally by 0.98% to 18.31 MT, compared to 18.13 MT a year earlier. These plants are primarily designed to operate using imported coal.

The share of imported coal in India's total consumption also declined to 19.30% from 21.20% a year earlier, registering a reduction of 1.90 percentage points.



The government is continuing efforts to increase domestic coal production and offtake, strengthen First Mile Connectivity, improve transportation and evacuation infrastructure, and monitor stocks at thermal power plants.

**Key coal import figures**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **104.57 MT** total imports, down 5.83% | **21.32 MT** power plants, down 6.39% | **3 MT** for blending, down 35.23% |
| **18.31 MT** imported coal-based plants, up 0.98% | **27.30 MT** coking coal, down 4.18% | **19.30%** share of consumption, 21.20% last year |

# Maruti Suzuki sets new monthly sales record

**NEW DELHI**

India's passenger vehicle makers on Sunday reported robust sales growth in October, buoyed by strong festive-season demand, with Maruti Suzuki posting its highest-ever monthly sales and other leading automakers including Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor India also registering record or double-digit growth.

Maruti Suzuki India logged its highest-ever monthly sales, with total dispatches rising 25% year-on-year to 2.76 lakh units in October. The company said domestic passenger vehicle dispatches increased more than 20% to 2.12 lakh units during the month.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited also posted strong growth, reporting a 23% rise in total sales across domestic and international markets to 75,426 units in October, compared with 61,295 units in the year-ago period.



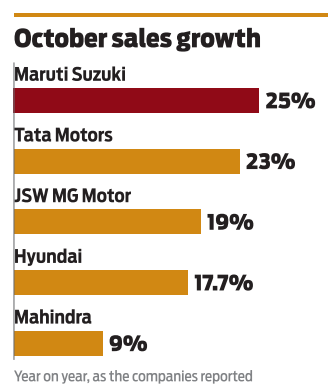
Domestic passenger vehicle sales rose 21% to 73,894 units, while international business sales jumped to 1,532 units from 161 units a year earlier.

Mahindra & Mahindra reported its highest-ever monthly vehicle sales, with total volumes increasing 9% year-on-year to 1,31,109 units in October.

Hyundai Motor India Limited reported its highest-ever monthly sales, including exports, with total volumes rising 17.7% year-on-year to 82,299 units in October.

The automaker's domestic sales increased 16.7% to a record 62,799 units, while exports grew 21.1% to 19,500 units. Meanwhile, JSW MG Motor India reported a 19% year-on-year increase in wholesale dispatches to dealers at 8,013 units in October.

**October sales growth**




Year on year, as the companies reported

# Mumbai home registrations surge 9% in October

**MUMBAI**

Mumbai's residential property market maintained its growth momentum in October, with registrations rising 9% year-on-year (YoY) to 12,690 units, despite festive and seasonal disruptions, a report said on Sunday.

Stamp duty collections during the month increased 12% to Rs 1,173 crore, according to data analysed by Knight Frank India.

The growth came despite the overlap of the Shraddh period and Navratri, which reduced the effective number of registration days compared with October last year. Traditionally considered a subdued period for property transactions, Shraddh coincided with October this year, while Navratri also offered fewer operational days for registrations.

According to Knight Frank India, Mumbai recorded 1,32,040 property registrations between January and October 2026, registering a 7% increase over the corresponding period last year.

> **"Mumbai's residential market continues to demonstrate exceptional resilience and depth."**
>
> — **Shishir Baijal,** CMD, Knight Frank India

Shishir Baijal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said Mumbai's residential market had demonstrated exceptional resilience and depth, with October's performance particularly encouraging given the seasonal factors.

The Shraddh period, which extended from September 26 to October 10 this year, saw 3,419 property registrations, marking a 2% increase over the corresponding period last year. Average daily registrations during the period also improved to 311 from 306 a year earlier.

# Marigolds lift Doda women, boost rural incomes

**DODA**

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology's Floriculture Mission is helping transform the lives of women in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district by creating new livelihood opportunities through commercial flower cultivation.

Women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) are earning additional income from marigold farming while emerging as community leaders in agriculture and rural entrepreneurship.

In the Sartingal village of Bhaderwah and the Athkhar Valley region, women have begun cultivating marigold flowers on previously barren land with support from the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM). The initiative is being spearheaded by Nadia Farooq, the NRLM Cluster Coordinator.



Farooq said the Floriculture Mission has provided women with quality planting material, training in modern cultivation techniques and continuous technical support, enabling them to diversify beyond traditional farming practices.

The pilot project proved successful, and over the past one-and-a-half months they have been supplying flowers to traders in Jammu, generating a steady stream of income.

The festive season provided a major boost to earnings. According to Farooq, marigold flowers generally fetch Rs 30-35 per kg, but strong demand during Navratri pushed prices up to Rs 60 per kg, significantly improving returns for the growers.

# Global cues, oil prices to drive stocks this week

**MUMBAI**

Indian equity markets staged a strong recovery last week, with benchmark indices gaining nearly 2 per cent amid buying in pharma, IT and select sectors.

The Sensex rose 1,335.70 points, or 1.83 per cent, during the week ended October 30 to close at 74,459.53, while the Nifty advanced 453.10 points, or 2 per cent, to settle at 23,053.10.

Analysts noted that the market began the week on a weak footing, with the Nifty slipping to an intraday low of 22,387.35.

From a technical perspective, the Nifty has found strong support near its 200-week exponential moving average (EMA) and a long-term uptrend line, a development that has improved market sentiment in the near term.

Sectorally, the Nifty Pharma index emerged as the top performer, rising about 7.1 per cent during the week. The media and real estate indices followed with gains of 4.3 per cent and 3.8 per cent, respectively.

Metal, auto, FMCG and PSU banking stocks also registered gains ranging between 2 and 3 per cent, while advances in banking and financial services shares remained relatively modest.

Looking ahead, market experts believe both domestic and global factors will determine the market's direction in the first trading week of November. Key developments being tracked include the US mid-term elections, tensions between the US and Iran, fluctuations in crude oil prices and the remaining corporate earnings announcements.

**WHAT NEXT**

- US mid-term elections
- Tensions between the US and Iran
- Fluctuations in crude oil prices
- Remaining corporate earnings

**PRICE SHOCK**

# *Commercial LPG, ATF prices rise from Sunday*

**NEW DELHI**

Prices of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) have been increased from Sunday, adding to operating costs for businesses and airlines.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has been raised by Rs 10 to Rs 2,820, according to the revised rates announced by state-owned oil marketing companies. This follows a rise of Rs 62.50 per cylinder on October 1 and of Rs 9.50 on September 1.

The latest revision follows two consecutive monthly reductions in July and August, when commercial LPG prices were cut by Rs 183.50 and Rs 192, respectively.

Between February and June, commercial LPG prices had surged by Rs 1,373 per cylinder, climbing from Rs 1,740.50 to a record Rs 3,113.50 before declining over the subsequent two months.

Meanwhile, a 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinder for a new connection is now priced at Rs 1,903, while a refill costs Rs 782.



However, domestic LPG prices have remained unchanged, with a 14.2-kg household cylinder continuing to cost Rs 942.

**PRICE WATCH**

**Commercial 19-kg cylinder now Rs 2,820**

- Household 14.2-kg cylinder stays at Rs 942
- ATF at Rs 138.50 a litre

ATF prices have been increased to Rs 138.50 per litre from Rs 137.12. This is the fourth consecutive monthly increase in aviation fuel prices, reflecting firming international benchmarks.

Jet fuel accounts for up to 40 per cent of airlines' operating costs, making the latest revision significant for the aviation sector.

Quick Read

## 2 killed as container truck plunges onto dhaba in Jalna

JALNA

Two people were killed after a speeding container truck broke through a flyover railing and crashed onto a roadside eatery in Maharashtra's Jalna district, police said.

The accident occurred on the flyover connecting Nutan Vasahat and Shani Mandir. The truck was travelling from Ambad Chaufuli towards Nutan Vasahat when it fell onto Ekta Dhaba below.

Police launched a rescue operation after receiving information about the crash. The two occupants were initially alive but later died at a hospital.

Officials suspect the deceased were the truck's driver and cleaner, though their identities remain unconfirmed. The dhaba was closed at the time, preventing further casualties. Police are continuing efforts to identify the victims and contact the vehicle's owner.

## 4 hotel workers die after inhaling toxic gas

UJJAIN

Four hotel workers died after inhaling suspected toxic gas while cleaning a waste chamber at a hotel on Dewas Road in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain on Saturday night.

According to officials, two workers entered the chamber to clean food waste. Two others reportedly went inside to rescue them but also collapsed.

Police Superintendent Pradeep Sharma said a suspected gas leak may have caused the incident, making the chamber floor slippery. Rescue personnel attempted to revive the victims before they were taken to hospital.

District Collector Raushan Kumar Singh said authorities were gathering further details to establish the exact sequence of events. The investigation is ongoing.

## 5 arrested in ₹10 cr fake traffic challan cyber fraud

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has busted an alleged cyber fraud network that used fake traffic challan messages and reward applications to cheat people of more than ₹10 crore. Five people have been arrested in connection with 544 complaints, an official said on Sunday.

Investigators said the accused allegedly used a foreign-based application to send phishing messages through mobile phones, offering incentives of ₹1 to ₹3 per redemption.

The probe began after a man lost ₹2.21 lakh from his credit card in November 2025 after clicking a fraudulent SMS link claiming to facilitate traffic challan payment.

Technical analysis traced the mobile number to a Jabalpur resident, leading investigators to his nephew. Police reportedly found an application called Wingo Cash on the nephew's phone, allegedly downloaded through a WhatsApp group. The investigation is ongoing.

# 'What we need is an absolutely clean election register': Tharoor

Shashi Tharoor called for an accurate electoral register, warning that mass deletions could disenfranchise millions of legitimate voters across India.

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday called for a clean electoral register, alleging that the Election Commission's actions had led to the removal of millions of names from voter lists. He stressed that eligible citizens must not be deprived of their constitutional voting rights.

Speaking at the INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Delhi' rally at Ramlila Maidan, Tharoor criticised the alleged large-scale deletion of voters' names and called for safeguards to ensure that every eligible citizen could exercise their franchise.

He alleged that the exercise had affected a significant section of the electorate and argued that electoral processes must protect citizens' constitutional rights.

Congress MP Amar Singh echoed the criticism, alleging that elections were no longer being conducted fairly and calling for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's removal. He said the opposition would continue its agitation until Kumar stepped down.



The rally brought together opposition leaders and supporters from across the country to raise concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and alleged discrepancies in electoral rolls.

The INDIA bloc has made electoral roll revisions and the protection of voting rights central issues in its campaign, demanding accountability from the Election Commission over the alleged deletions.

> **"What we need is an absolutely clean election register. It is better to have one or two dead people there than cut out 130 million real people."**
>
> **— Shashi Tharoor,** Congress MP

# NCRTC plans growth hubs along Namo Bharat corridors



A Namo Bharat train at a station

**The initiative aims to boost private investment and encourage integrated urban development around major rapid rail networks connecting Delhi with neighbouring cities.**

NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is exploring transit-oriented development (TOD) hubs along key Namo Bharat corridors to attract private investment and promote planned urban growth across the National Capital Region (NCR).

The proposed initiative covers the operational Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut corridor and the planned Delhi–Gurugram–SNB–Alwar and Delhi–Panipat–Karnal corridors. The aim is to integrate regional transport connectivity with residential, commercial and institutional development.

The proposal was discussed at a consultative workshop organised by NCRTC in collaboration with the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). Government officials, real estate developers, consultants and industry representatives examined the policy, regulatory and financial measures needed to make TOD projects viable.

Developers called for greater flexibility in land use, higher Floor Area Ratio (FAR), increased ground coverage, streamlined land assembly and single-window clearances.

The redevelopment of Sarai Kale Khan emerged as a key focus because the area connects Namo Bharat, Delhi Metro, Indian Railways and the Inter-State Bus Terminus. Its multimodal connectivity could support an employment-led commercial, retail and institutional hub.

The proposed framework envisages compact, high-density urban centres around transit stations, supported by walkable streets, safe pedestrian infrastructure, feeder services and accessible public spaces.

During the workshop, D. Thara, Secretary in the Department of Capital Development under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, unveiled an NCRTC publication highlighting commercial development opportunities along the Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut corridor.

# Cyclonic storm likely to strike Andhra coast on Nov 3

BHUBANESWAR

A depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapur on the morning of November 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. The system could bring winds of 100–110 kmph, with gusts reaching 120 kmph.

According to the IMD, the depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Andaman Sea moved west-northwestwards at around 30 kmph during the six hours preceding its latest bulletin.

At 5.30 pm on Saturday, the system was located approximately 960 km east-southeast of Chennai, 980 km southeast of Visakhapatnam, 1,030 km southeast of Machilipatnam and 1,080 km east-southeast of Ongole.




**Expected landfall:** between Nellore and Narsapur

The weather agency forecast that the depression would intensify into a deep depression by midnight on Saturday, develop into a cyclonic storm on November 1 and strengthen further into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal on November 2. It is expected to approach the south Andhra Pradesh coast in the early hours of November 3 before making landfall later that morning.

The development comes days after severe cyclonic storm Arnab struck Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on October 28, raising concerns over the potential impact of another major weather system in the region.

The IMD is closely monitoring the system, said Manorama Mohanty, director of the Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar. The department has also forecast light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers in a few districts of Odisha.

A depression is a weather system stronger than a low-pressure area but weaker than a cyclonic storm.

# Bengal targets CAA citizenship for 2.5 lakh applicants

THAKURNAGAR

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday announced plans to expedite hearings and grant citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to 2.5 lakh applicants in the state by December 31. He also promised Scheduled Caste certificates to eligible members of the community who receive citizenship under the law.

Addressing the International Matua Gosai Convention 2026 in Thakurnagar, North 24 Parganas district, Adhikari said only 25,000 people had received citizenship under the CAA in West Bengal so far. He pledged to speed up the process and clear applications within the announced deadline.

The chief minister also announced a grant of ₹50 crore for the development of the Matua community. He credited its support for the Bharatiya Janata Party's formation of the state government and promised further initiatives to improve conditions in Thakurnagar.



### Attack on predecessor

Adhikari criticised his predecessor, Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of dividing the Matua community and opposing the CAA.

The CAA provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for eligible members of persecuted minority communities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who meet the law's requirements.

The Matua community emerged from a social reform movement in the late 19th century under Harichand Thakur's leadership. The movement primarily mobilised members of the Namasudra community in undivided eastern Bengal.

**In focus**

- **Citizenship target:** 2.5 lakh applicants by December 31
- **Granted so far:** 25,000 people
- **Development grant:** ₹50 crore for the Matua community
- **Key promise:** SC certificates for eligible new citizens
- **Venue:** Thakurnagar, North 24 Parganas

## Digi Yatra trials for international flights begin at 7 airports

NEW DELHI

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Sunday announced that trials of Digi Yatra for international passengers have begun at seven airports, with a wider rollout planned for 2027. The facility will initially be available to eligible Indian nationals holding e-passports travelling on select international flights operated by Air India and IndiGo.

The trials are being conducted at airports in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Mumbai, Chennai and Amritsar. Feedback collected during the trial period from November to December will help the ministry plan the broader implementation of the technology next year.

Digi Yatra uses facial recognition technology to enable contactless passenger movement through designated airport checkpoints. During the trials, eligible travellers will be able to use the facility at terminal entry points, security hold areas and boarding gates wherever the necessary infrastructure is available.

To access the service for international travel, eligible Indian nationals must create an e-passport-based Verifiable Credential through the Digi Yatra mobile application. The process involves scanning the passport's machine-readable zone, reading its embedded chip using a compatible smartphone's near-field communication feature, capturing a selfie and verifying the details.

The ministry clarified that Digi Yatra is intended to complement existing travel procedures rather than replace them. Passengers must continue carrying their travel documents and complete all mandatory airline document checks, immigration procedures and other applicable formalities.

### Getting the credential

1. **Scan** the passport's machine-readable zone
2. **Read** its embedded chip with a phone's NFC
3. **Capture** a selfie
4. **Verify** the details

## Jaishankar outlines 3 priorities for Ukraine conflict talks

ATLANTA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has outlined three key areas India has discussed with Russia, Ukraine and European countries regarding the ongoing conflict: the safety of civilian shipping and seafarers, the restoration of grain exports, and protection of energy infrastructure and supplies.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta, the United States, Jaishankar said India had urged the parties to address these concerns through diplomatic engagement. He described negotiations over attacks on energy infrastructure as the most complicated issue, as countries differ over what should be protected.

"Non-attack on energy is probably the most complicated piece because it means different things to the different players," he said, referring to refineries, electricity grids and vessels transporting fuel.

Jaishankar said India had maintained contact with all sides, including Russia and Ukraine, while coordinating with the United States over its peace mediation efforts. He recalled travelling to Moscow and Kyiv and said he had also discussed the conflict with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the G20 meeting.




Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also discussed the conflict with Russian President Vladimir Putin during Putin's visit to India in September for the 18th BRICS Summit, Jaishankar said.

At the G20 meeting, Jaishankar stressed that military action alone could not resolve complex international conflicts and called for diplomacy to be given an opportunity.

Jaishankar also met Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski in Atlanta.

## YSRCP questions 681 'others' votes against just 14 voters



KADAPA

The YSR Congress Party has questioned alleged inconsistencies in Pulivendula's municipal polling figures, demanding an explanation and detailed scrutiny of election records.

The party claimed that 681 votes were recorded under the 'Others' category despite the corresponding voter list reportedly containing only 14 voters. The figures, shared in a post on X alongside a report from the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission, showed a total of 54,532 votes polled.

YSRCP president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also met the Returning Officer, alleging irregularities during the polling process. He claimed around 70 party polling agents were prevented from entering booths and accused Telugu Desam Party workers of removing agents and intimidating voters.

**The party's claim**

| | |
|---|---|
| 681 | 'OTHERS' VOTES RECORDED |
| 14 | 'OTHERS' ON THE VOTER LIST |

Jagan further alleged that the party's chairperson candidate, Pramilamma, was attacked, while polling agent Sunanda suffered a fractured hand. He also claimed voters were obstructed, voter slips were forcibly taken away and bogus voting occurred before genuine voters arrived.

Following the meeting, Jagan staged a sit-in outside the Returning Officer's office, seeking action over the alleged violations. The YSRCP demanded an explanation for the polling data discrepancy and called for a comprehensive investigation into the reported irregularities.

LADAKH AGRICULTURE EXPANSION

# *Ladakh expands organic farming with 11,000 greenhouses*

LEH

Ladakh is expanding sustainable agriculture through greenhouse infrastructure, water conservation projects and organic farming initiatives, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said, outlining a development strategy aimed at strengthening local livelihoods and preserving the region's cultural heritage.



Saxena said around 11,000 greenhouses had been established since Ladakh became a Union Territory. The administration is encouraging farmers to use local manure instead of chemical fertilisers, with the goal of increasing the supply of organic vegetables.

**11,000** greenhouses since Ladakh became a UT

**150+** ponds expected by March

The greenhouses are meeting local demand and supplying vegetables to Army and paramilitary personnel deployed in the high-altitude region, helping improve farmers' incomes. The administration is also restoring degraded land and strengthening water access through ponds and rock-check dams.

More than 150 ponds and additional rock-check dams are expected to support agricultural activities by March, improving water availability and promoting rural prosperity.

Beyond agriculture, Saxena highlighted Ladakh's cultural traditions and communal harmony.

Separately, Saxena praised electricity workers for maintaining and expanding power transmission infrastructure despite severe snowfall and challenging geographical conditions. He said the administration, with support from the Centre, was working to strengthen the network and improve electricity access across the Union Territory.

Quick Read



## Drugs worth ₹46.25 crore seized in Assam, Mizoram

SILCHAR/AIZAWL

The Assam Rifles seized narcotics worth approximately ₹46.25 crore in two separate operations in Assam and Mizoram, arresting five suspected drug traffickers, officials said on Sunday.

In Cachar district's Dholai Bazar, a joint operation with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) led to the seizure of 20 kg of crystal methamphetamine, valued at ₹40 crore. Three suspects were arrested, while two vehicles and three mobile phones were seized.

In a separate operation at Ramthar North in Aizawl district, authorities recovered 7.813 kg of methamphetamine tablets worth ₹6.25 crore and arrested two people.

## Betting app promoter extradited from Oman to India

NEW DELHI

Sourabh Chandrakar, the alleged mastermind behind the ₹6,000-crore Mahadev online betting syndicate, has been extradited from Oman to India, following coordinated efforts by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and other central agencies.

A specially deputed CBI team escorted Chandrakar back to India. He is expected to be produced before the CBI Special Court in Raipur, an official said.

Chandrakar allegedly established the betting network with co-founder Ravi Uppal.

Indian agencies had earlier sought Chandrakar's extradition after his detention in the United Arab Emirates in October 2024 under an Interpol Red Notice. The case involves allegations of illegal betting, money laundering and generating proceeds of crime.

## Azam Khan arrested by ED, remanded in judicial custody

GHAZIABAD

Senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan was remanded in 14 days of judicial custody by a Ghaziabad court after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him in a money-laundering case shortly after his release from Rampur jail.

Khan had spent nearly 11 months in prison before being arrested again on Saturday. The ED produced him before a special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on Sunday.

The case concerns alleged misuse of government funds in the construction of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. The ED has also provisionally attached land and buildings belonging to the university, valued at approximately ₹1,170 crore at current market prices.

The arrest has triggered political reactions ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Samajwadi Party leaders have accused the BJP-led government of using central agencies to target Khan, alleging that the fresh action is politically motivated.

# After Gyanesh Kumar, we will target Modi: Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah of political action after Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing them of electoral irregularities.

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that they would face legal action over alleged electoral irregularities, asserting that no one would be able to escape the law.

Addressing an INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan against alleged electoral malpractice and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Gandhi said the gathering had sent a strong message to the government and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Gandhi alleged that Kumar would eventually be removed from office and face imprisonment on charges of treason over what he described as "vote chori". He warned that the opposition would pursue accountability against the officials and political leaders it accused of undermining the electoral process.

"Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this — after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you," Gandhi said, reiterating that the law would take its course.The Congress leader's remarks came amid growing opposition protests over the SIR exercise, which opposition parties have questioned over concerns about voter deletions and the integrity of electoral rolls. The INDIA bloc has demanded accountability from the Election Commission and called for safeguards to protect voters' rights.



> **"Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this — after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you."**
>
> — Rahul Gandhi Congress

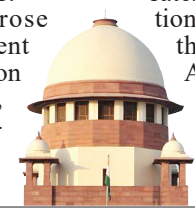
Gandhi said the opposition would continue its campaign against alleged electoral irregularities and press for accountability, making the protection of democratic rights a central demand of its political mobilisation.

## SC bars arbitrators from rewriting contract terms

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ruled that arbitral awards that disregard or rewrite clear contractual terms amount to patent illegality and can be set aside. The court also directed the refund of money paid under a disputed development agreement, with simple interest at 9 per cent per annum until repayment.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva delivered the ruling on October 29 while hearing an appeal filed by Shreeram Builders against a Bombay High Court order setting aside a majority arbitral award dated December 10, 2011.



The dispute arose from a development agreement signed on August 6, 2003, between the builder and members of the Thanawala family concerning their respective interests in certain properties. The family members terminated the agreement in April 2008, triggering arbitration proceedings.

The majority arbitral award had declared the termination illegal and ordered specific performance, requiring the builder to deposit a sum while directing the respondents to execute a conveyance deed for their two-ninths share. However, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's decision to set aside the award, observing that the tribunal had treated the agreement as one for sale rather than development and altered payment rates and contractual obligations.The bench emphasised that Section 28(3) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act require arbitrators to decide disputes in accordance with the contract.

## Centre Extends Nilekani-Led Exam Reform Panel's Tenure

NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the tenure of the six-member task force led by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani until January 2027 to recommend reforms aimed at making India's examination system more secure and preventing question paper leaks.

The panel was constituted in July following widespread student protests over examination irregularities and the resignation of former Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the task force to strengthen the examination process and improve transparency.

The committee has received more than 50,000 suggestions from students, parents, teachers, educational institutions, subject experts, industry organisations and examination-conducting bodies. It has also consulted former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan, who headed the committee formed after the 2024 NEET paper leak.

## Gujarat grants 15-day Diwali parole to 143 eligible prisoners

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government has approved 15 days of Diwali parole for 143 eligible prisoners across the state, allowing them to celebrate the festival with their families as part of its prisoner welfare and prison reform initiatives.

The parole will begin on November 6, coinciding with Dhanteras. The beneficiaries include 103 male prisoners aged 60 years or above and 40 female prisoners, according to an official release.

The state has followed the policy of granting 15 days of parole during Diwali every year since 2003. The initiative is intended to provide eligible inmates an opportunity to reunite with their families during the festival.

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi guided the initiative, while Director General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Administration) K. L. N. Rao said prisoners involved in serious offences would not be eligible under state rules.

The exclusions include prisoners with pending appeals before the High Court, non-resident Indian prisoners and inmates from other states.

> **The Gujarat government has approved 15 days of Diwali parole for 143 eligible prisoners, including 40 women, starting November 6.**

Those serving sentences under the NDPS Act, TADA and POTA, as well as individuals convicted of terrorist activities or offences considered detrimental to the state's economy, are also excluded.

Prisoners convicted in multiple cases and those involved in serious crimes such as rape, kidnapping, robbery, dacoity, theft and extortion are likewise ineligible. Individuals subject to preventive detention orders will also not receive the benefit.

The initiative forms part of the state government's annual Diwali parole policy, which provides temporary release to eligible prisoners while excluding those covered by specified disqualifying conditions.

# BJP targets Rahul Gandhi over KPSC recruitment row in Keralam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is seeking to strengthen its support among young people in Keralam by backing protests over alleged irregularities in recruitment by the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC), while targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his silence on the issue.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has extended support to job aspirants protesting against recruitment irregularities and delays in appointments. Both the ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the opposition Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) have faced criticism over their handling of the grievances.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar questioned why Gandhi, who has been leading the Congress's national-level 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign, had not addressed the protests in Keralam. Chandrasekhar alleged that the Congress was adopting double standards by raising students' concerns nationally while remaining silent on the state's recruitment controversy.



Protests over the KPSC recruitment row in Keralam.

The BJP has also approached Governor Om Prakash Mathur, seeking action against the KPSC. A recommendation by former Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to the President to remove KPSC chairman M.R. Baiju over alleged irregularities has further intensified the political debate.

The agitation has intensified after S. Valarmathi, leader of the Lower Primary School Teacher Rank Holders' Association, relaunched an indefinite protest by tonsuring her head last week. Police registered a case against the protesters, and Valarmathi was reportedly taken to hospital by force, prompting accusations that the government was attempting to suppress the agitation.

**THE KPSC ROW**

**BJP:** backs the protesters; has approached the Governor seeking action against the KPSC

**Chairman:** a former Governor recommended that M.R. Baiju be removed

## Tamil Nadu to open 30 special courts to expedite trials

**26** new POCSO courts

**4** new NDPS courts

**52** POCSO courts in all

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has ordered the establishment of 26 special courts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and four courts under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, to accelerate trials and ensure timely justice.

According to a state government press release issued on Sunday, the decision followed a review meeting on cases registered under the POCSO Act. During the meeting, the chief minister emphasised the need to speed up proceedings and ensure justice for victims. He also sought details on the requirement for additional courts before approving their establishment.

With the addition of 26 POCSO courts, Tamil Nadu will have 52 special courts across 47 police districts. The expansion is expected to strengthen the state's capacity to handle cases involving sexual offences against children and help reduce delays in the judicial process.

The POCSO Act, introduced in 2012, provides a legal framework for addressing sexual offences against children and aims to ensure child-friendly procedures during investigation and trial. Special courts are intended to facilitate the speedy disposal of such cases and improve access to justice for victims.

The four additional NDPS courts will focus on cases registered under the law governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The legislation provides for legal action against offences related to narcotics and other prohibited substances.

## Bihar CM urges youth to shape India's democratic future

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary on Sunday inaugurated Patliputra Rashtriya Yuva Sansad 2.0, organised by Gyan Niketan School in Patna, and emphasised the role of young people in strengthening democracy and shaping the country's future.

Addressing the event, Chaudhary said Bihar had played a significant role in the development of Indian democracy, acknowledging the contributions of freedom fighters who worked to establish democratic values. He said successive generations of young people had contributed to the nation's progress and urged Gen Z and Gen Alpha to take an active role in public life.

"The future of Indian democracy lies in the hands of the youth," Chaudhary said, adding that the government must respond to the aspirations, ideas and expectations of younger generations. He also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047 and recalled former chief minister Nitish Kumar's ambition to build a prosperous Bihar.



Samrat Chaudhary at the Yuva Sansad.

> *"The future of Indian democracy lies in the hands of the youth"*
>
> **SAMRAT CHAUDHARY** Bihar Chief Minister

On education, Chaudhary said the state government was spending approximately ₹18,000 crore on the sector and stressed the need to expand higher education opportunities within Bihar. He referred to the development of 700 model schools and technology-based initiatives, including the Vidyarthi Sathi application, intended to improve communication between students and teachers.

## Global criticism during COVID hardened China's stance: Misri

MUMBAI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said global criticism of China during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the country adopting a tougher attitude towards the international community, alongside imposing strict lockdown measures within its borders.

Speaking at the Iqwat Global Business Conclave on Saturday, October 31, Misri said China felt blamed and stigmatised by countries worldwide over the pandemic. According to him, this perception contributed to Beijing developing a harsher approach towards the outside world.

The Foreign Secretary also recalled the challenges he faced while serving as India's Ambassador to China, particularly during the unprecedented confrontation between the two countries in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley. His remarks highlighted the difficulties of managing bilateral relations during a period of heightened tensions.

The Galwan Valley confrontation marked a significant deterioration in India-China relations. The border tensions became a major concern for both countries, placing additional pressure on diplomatic efforts to manage their differences and maintain stability along the frontier.

> **China felt blamed and stigmatised by countries worldwide over the pandemic, Misri said**

Misri's comments connected China's response to international criticism during the pandemic with the broader challenges facing its relations with the rest of the world. His recollection of the Galwan Valley episode also underscored the difficult circumstances surrounding India's diplomatic engagement with Beijing during his tenure as ambassador.

The Iqwat Global Business Conclave was organised by an association of Kashmiri Pandits. The event provided a platform for discussions on international developments and business-related issues.

**EPS SLAMS TVK GOVERNMENT**

# *TVK government failed to deliver, gave people price rise: EPS*

CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Saturday accused the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government of failing to deliver on its promises during its first six months in office, alleging that rising prices of essential commodities were its only major contribution.

Addressing a public meeting at Maraimalai Nagar in Chengalpattu district to mark the AIADMK's 55th foundation day, the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister criticised the government over rising commodity prices and deteriorating law and order. He alleged that the administration had failed to address public concerns.

Palaniswami claimed that rice prices had increased by ₹20 per kilogram and sugar prices by ₹25 per kilogram. He also alleged a sharp rise in pulse prices, a 40% increase in grocery costs and higher prices for Aavin products. He criticised the food minister for denying the reported increases.

During his nearly 50-minute speech, Palaniswami also addressed internal divisions within the AIADMK and the departure of some leaders following the 2026 Assembly election. He asserted that attempts to divide or weaken the party would not succeed, describing it as a political organisation rooted in public support.

Taking a swipe at defectors, he compared them to migratory birds that visit Vedanthangal sanctuary seasonally before moving elsewhere. He questioned their decision to join other political parties and said those who left the AIADMK should not concern the party leadership.

Palaniswami's remarks came as the AIADMK marked its foundation anniversary amid political challenges and efforts to maintain organisational unity.



Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

**EPS's five key issues**

**Price rise**
Rice up ₹20/kg, sugar ₹25/kg, he claimed

**Grocery costs**
Prices allegedly up 40%

**Aavin products**
Prices allegedly increased

**Law and order**
A deteriorating situation

**Six months of inaction**
TVK failed to deliver, he said

# World Markets Are Crashing

A falling stock market has a way of making distant events feel personal. A technology company disappoints investors in America. Shares fall across trading screens. By the next morning, someone in India is checking their mutual fund balance, reconsidering a house purchase, or wondering whether the money set aside for retirement is safe.

The phrase "world markets are crashing" captures that anxiety. It also compresses a complicated situation into a statement that can easily become misleading.

Markets do not all fall together, for the same reasons, or with the same consequences.

The latest selloff deserves attention. On 30 October, the Nasdaq Composite fell 2.86%, the S&P 500 dropped 1.82%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1.09%. Technology shares were under particular pressure as investors questioned the cost and returns of artificial intelligence investment.

Those figures describe a sharp American equity decline. They do not, by themselves, establish that every world market is experiencing a crash.

**30 OCTOBER: THE AMERICAN INDICES**

| −2.86% | −1.82% | −1.09% |
|---|---|---|
| Nasdaq Composite | S&P 500 | Dow Jones Industrial Average |



The central issue is how investors respond when the future looks less profitable, less predictable, or more expensive to finance than they previously assumed.

## The market is repricing a future it once trusted

A share price reflects expectations about a business, including the cash it might generate over many years. Investors also consider risk and the return available from other investments.

This means a company can report higher revenue and still see its shares fall. If investors expected revenue to grow much faster, the result can disappoint them. Similarly, a profitable business can become a poor investment when its purchase price assumes near-perfect execution.

Consider a simplified example. A company earns ₹10 per share, and investors value its shares at 40 times those earnings. Its share price is ₹400. If the earnings remain unchanged but investors decide that 30 times earnings is a more reasonable valuation, the price becomes ₹300.

The stock has fallen 25% without any decline in current earnings.

During optimistic periods, investors may accept ambitious growth projections and distant profits. During a selloff, they start asking harder questions about costs, competition, debt and the time required to earn a satisfactory return.

The business may still have a future. The price investors are prepared to pay for that future has changed.

**Same earnings, lower price**

| 40 TIMES EARNINGS | ▶ | 30 TIMES EARNINGS |
|---|---|---|
| ₹400 | | ₹300 |
| A company earning ₹10 per share | | The same earnings: the stock has fallen 25% |

## Why artificial intelligence is part of this selloff

Artificial intelligence offers substantial commercial possibilities. Businesses are investing in computing infrastructure, software and services because they expect the technology to improve productivity or create new sources of revenue.

The investment question is more demanding: how much spending will be required, who will capture the profits, and what return will shareholders receive?




It was a difficult end to October for companies associated with the AI investment boom. Capital Economics found that Microsoft, Meta, Amazon and Alphabet collectively accounted for more than a third of capital expenditure by current S&P 500 constituents over the preceding twelve months.

That concentration raises the importance of a few companies' spending decisions. It also invites a distinction between technological usefulness and investment value.

Imagine an infrastructure provider that builds capacity for expected demand. If customers arrive more slowly than anticipated, depreciation and financing costs may arrive before the revenue needed to support them. Alternatively, demand may be strong, but competition may push prices down.

Neither outcome requires AI to fail as a technology.

A useful invention does not automatically make every related business profitable.

Even a highly profitable business can disappoint investors who purchased its shares at an excessive valuation.

The current debate is therefore about the economics of the investment as much as the capabilities of the technology. Investors want clearer evidence that spending can produce durable cash flows.

## Why a global selloff can have important exceptions

Calling the decline "global" should not erase differences between markets. Reporting on China on 30 October illustrated this point. Chinese blue-chip shares were weaker during the session and headed towards a twelfth consecutive weekly decline, while Hong Kong-listed technology and internet shares rose. The same report described weakness in one market and strength in another.

The timing of the observations matters too. An Asian lunchtime reading is not a closing price, and it cannot be compared casually with a later American close as though both described the same moment.



Different indices also contain different businesses. A technology-heavy index can respond sharply to questions about computing investment. An index with larger weights in banks, energy producers or consumer companies may behave differently.

Currency changes add another layer. A foreign investor's return depends partly on the exchange rate used to translate the investment back into their home currency.

A serious account of market stress should therefore specify the index, period and currency under discussion. A frightening headline becomes more useful when it tells readers exactly what is falling and by how much.

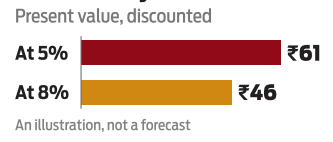
## Interest rates change what future profits are worth

Interest rates influence markets through several channels. They affect borrowing costs for businesses and households. They influence the return available from deposits and bonds. They also help determine how investors value cash flows expected in the future.

To see the arithmetic, suppose an investment promises a single ₹100 payment ten years from now. Discounted at 5% annually, that payment has a present value of roughly ₹61. Discounted at 8%, its present value is about ₹46.

**₹100 due in ten years: its value today**

Present value, discounted




An illustration, not a forecast

This is an illustration, not a forecast or a valuation of a particular security. It shows why a higher required return can reduce today's valuation of the same future payment.

Businesses whose expected profits lie far ahead can be particularly sensitive to changes in these assumptions.

A company generating substantial cash today presents a different proposition from one that needs years of additional investment before becoming self-financing.

The useful question is whether the price of an investment remains reasonable under less favourable assumptions about financing and growth.

## What this means for India

For Indian readers, a global selloff raises questions about investments, employment and the cost of major purchases. The effects depend on the channel involved.

Exporters may face changing overseas demand. Companies with imported inputs may be sensitive to currency movements. Businesses with substantial borrowing may face pressure if financing becomes more expensive or harder to obtain.

A weaker rupee can increase the rupee value of foreign revenue, but it can also increase certain costs. The eventual effect depends on a company's contracts, hedging, debt and operating structure.



**A single macroeconomic headline cannot substitute for examining the business.**

Similarly, a change in oil prices can affect an airline differently from an energy producer. A single macroeconomic headline cannot substitute for examining the business.

For an individual, the relevant question is how these developments connect to their own finances.Someone employed in a globally exposed industry, holding shares in that industry, and carrying a large loan may have several risks tied to the same economic conditions.

Looking only at the investment account can miss that wider exposure.

## A stock market decline is not a financial crisis

A painful equity selloff and a breakdown in financial functioning are different events. Share prices can fall because investors revise valuations. A broader financial crisis involves problems such as impaired funding, severe counterparty concerns, or institutions struggling to meet their obligations.

The distinction changes what observers should watch. Equity indices show how listed shares are being priced. Credit spreads, funding conditions and market liquidity can offer additional information about whether stress is spreading through the financial system. No single indicator settles the question.

**THE QUESTIONS TO ASK**

1. Are businesses earning less?
2. Are investors paying lower valuations?
3. Are borrowers having difficulty refinancing?
4. Are forced sales amplifying the move?

*A painful equity selloff and a breakdown in financial functioning are different events.*

A large one-day decline does not prove that a systemic crisis is underway. Equally, it would be careless to dismiss every fall as harmless simply because markets have recovered from previous setbacks.The sensible approach is to identify the mechanism.



## Why selling can become self-reinforcing

Some investors sell because their assessment changes. Others sell because they need cash or must comply with financing arrangements.

Borrowing to invest can make that distinction especially important. The US Securities and Exchange Commission explains that falling collateral values in margin accounts can lead to demands for additional funds and, in some circumstances, liquidation without advance consultation. Specific rules and agreements vary by jurisdiction and account.

**How borrowing doubled the fall**

1. **The start:** ₹5 lakh of personal money and ₹5 lakh of borrowing hold ₹10 lakh of assets
2. **A 20% fall:** the assets are worth ₹8 lakh; ignoring interest and costs, the debt remains ₹5 lakh
3. **The result:** equity of ₹3 lakh, a 40% decline in the investor's own capital

Consider an illustrative investment funded with ₹5 lakh of personal money and ₹5 lakh of borrowing. The position initially holds ₹10 lakh of assets.

If those assets fall 20%, they are worth ₹8 lakh. Ignoring interest and costs, the debt remains ₹5 lakh, leaving equity of ₹3 lakh. A 20% fall in the investment has produced a 40% decline in the investor's own capital.

The example shows why leverage changes the experience of volatility. A borrower may face a decision imposed by collateral requirements rather than one chosen according to a long-term plan.

## The human response can make the damage worse

Falling prices create an uncomfortable demand for action. Investors may refresh their accounts repeatedly, search for reassuring predictions or switch between commentators with incompatible views. The amount of information increases while the quality of the decision process deteriorates.

The danger comes from reacting without identifying the problem. Selling everything may be an attempt to escape uncertainty. Buying more may be an attempt to avoid admitting that the original purchase was poorly researched.

Neither action is automatically rational.

A better review separates the investment thesis from the purchase price. What has changed in the business? What assumptions were wrong? Does the holding still serve a clear purpose? Would its position size make sense if the portfolio were being designed today?



These questions will not eliminate emotion. They can prevent emotion from being the only input.

## A clear view is more useful than a dramatic forecast

The latest selloff shows how quickly expectations can change when investors become less comfortable with spending, valuations and future returns.

It also shows why the phrase "world markets are crashing" needs careful handling. A severe fall in a prominent index can coexist with resilience elsewhere. A sharp equity decline can be economically important without yet demonstrating a systemic financial crisis.

For readers, the task is to connect market developments to concrete exposures. That means examining borrowing, cash needs, concentration and the assumptions behind each investment.

Nobody can remove uncertainty from markets. A useful financial plan should allow for it. The most consequential question is whether a household, business or portfolio can withstand conditions that remain difficult for longer than expected. If the answer depends on an immediate rebound, the weakness is already visible.



## Quick Read

### Bolivia declares state of emergency over El Nino

**LIMA**

Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz has signed a decree declaring a national state of emergency to address the impacts of El Nino. Paz said he signed the decree to tackle drought affecting several regions of the country and prepare for potential flooding in the coming months. The President said the measure aims to mobilise financial and human resources, strengthen coordination among government agencies and seek international cooperation to assist affected families and mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on people's lives and economic activities.

### Pakistan's dengue burden surged over 3,000% in decade

**NEW DELHI**

Pakistan's actual dengue burden increased more than 3,000 per cent between 2012 and 2022, with infections estimated to have risen to 3.28 million cases, a report has said. The research, led by Aga Khan University and published in the journal PLOS ONE, estimated that dengue infections in Pakistan surged from about 100,000 cases in 2012 to nearly 3.28 million cases in 2022. The findings cited by Nepal Aaja suggest that routine disease reporting captures only a small portion of the actual number of infections.

### 15 killed in mob beatings in Bangladesh in Oct

**DHAKA**

At least 15 people have been killed in mob beatings in Bangladesh in October alone, highlighting the continuing failure of repeated government assurances to curb such violence, according to a recent report by a leading Bangladeshi newspaper. The newspaper also drew attention to a report released by the Bangladesh Home Ministry on October 20, which recorded 40 deaths in 63 incidents of mob beating between January and September this year. The corresponding period last year had seen 63 people killed in 107 such incidents, according to the official figures.

### Korean war-separated families meet for first time

**SEOUL**

Two relatives from a family separated by the 1950-53 Korean War met for the first time in a third country in September, marking a rare reunion amid frozen inter-Korean relations. The meeting came five months after South Korea's Unification Ministry received a request from a North Korean member of a separated family seeking help to find a maternal uncle in South Korea. It marked the first privately arranged family reunion reported to the South Korean government in about two years amid a prolonged halt in inter-Korean exchanges, according to the ministry.

# Russian strikes cut power to hundreds of thousands in Ukraine

Russian forces targeted substations, transformers, and power lines overnight, causing extensive blackouts in Ukraine, while Kyiv's drones damaged an industrial facility in Russia.

**KYIV**

Russian strikes across four Ukrainian regions left hundreds of thousands of households without electricity on Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, as both countries continued exchanging attacks despite a ceasefire near the Russian-controlled town of Oleshky.

Zelenskiy said the strikes had targeted energy facilities and accused Moscow of exploiting Ukraine's shortage of ballistic missile interceptors. "The intensity of the strikes is very high, and the Russians are seeking to maximally exploit the deficit of ballistic missile interceptors," he said on Telegram.

**Blackouts and strikes**

- Electricity disrupted across four regions
- 371 of 433 Russian drones shot down
- Ukrainian strike on Kamensky plant reported
- Nizhny Novgorod site significantly damaged
- Russia claims 235 Ukrainian drones downed

Ukraine's air force said it had shot down 371 of 433 long-range drones launched by Russia. Dozens were still in the air on Sunday morning, while six drone alerts had been issued in Kyiv.

Zelenskiy said Ukrainian forces had also struck the Kamensky plant in Russia's Rostov region, alleging that it was involved in manufacturing Russian missiles. Moscow did not comment on the reported attack.



People gathered in a tent (representative picture)

Nizhny Novgorod Governor Gleb Nikitin said a Ukrainian drone attack had caused "significant damage" to an industrial facility. He did not identify the site. The region is home to the NORSI oil refinery, one of Russia's largest, although Kyiv did not claim responsibility.

Regional authorities said measures were being taken to maintain fuel supplies and urged motorists to buy only what they needed to avoid panic buying. Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had downed 235 Ukrainian drones overnight.

The exchanges continued as a six-day ceasefire around Oleshky reached its final day, with fighting persisting elsewhere along the front line.

# White House prepares for possible Democratic takeover



**WASHINGTON**

The White House has spent months preparing for the possibility of Democrats taking control of Congress in Tuesday's midterm elections, developing plans to advance President Donald Trump's agenda through executive powers while preparing for potential congressional investigations into his administration.

Senior officials, including Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller and Budget Director Russell Vought, have been working with the White House Counsel's Office since April to identify policies Trump could implement without congressional approval, according to people familiar with the discussions.

The proposed measures cover immigration, tariffs, housing costs and federal spending. White House Counsel Will Scharf and his team are also examining the legal boundaries of presidential authority and preparing potential courtroom defences against challenges to executive decisions.

**Key executive measures**

- → New tariffs on critical minerals and wind turbines.
- → Tighter visa rules for international students and foreign workers.
- → Changes to federal grants and spending priorities.

A Democratic takeover would allow the party to launch investigations, block legislation and challenge the administration's spending priorities. Democrats need a net gain of four seats to secure control of both chambers, while opinion polls favour them in the House race. The Senate contest remains uncertain.

The White House rejected suggestions that Republicans were heading towards defeat. Spokeswoman Lauren Bis said the administration would continue implementing Trump's priorities and delivering on its promises to Americans.

"This administration and commonsense Republicans will continue to secure our borders, restore law and order, putting more money back into the pockets of hard-working Americans, and deliver wins for the American people," Bis said.

# Democrats eye fresh challenge to Trump's tariffs

**WASHINGTON**

US President Donald Trump's trade agenda could face increased scrutiny if Democrats gain control of Congress in Tuesday's midterm elections, with lawmakers expected to pursue oversight hearings and symbolic votes aimed at rolling back several of his tariffs.

*A Democratic congressional victory could intensify scrutiny of Trump's tariffs, triggering investigations and legislative challenges while limiting prospects for policy reversals.*

Democrats are seeking to introduce legislation to reverse many of Trump's import duties and repeal the trade laws used to impose them. However, their efforts could face significant obstacles as Trump retains presidential veto powers, making it difficult for opposition lawmakers to overturn his policies without a two-thirds majority in both chambers.



The US Capitol in Washington

Senator Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said repealing tariffs imposed on Canadian goods would be among the party's priorities.

"One of the most obvious priorities would be repealing Trump's tariffs on Canada, which are raising prices and harming communities on both sides of the border," Wyden said.

One proposed legislative measure is Senator Chuck Schumer's End Trump's Tariff Tax Act. The bill seeks to repeal Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which supports punitive tariffs on Canadian goods, and Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, used for Trump's temporary 10% global tariffs. It also proposes refunds of duties collected under these provisions.

**Potential Democratic actions**

- **Canada:** seek repeal of tariffs on its goods
- **Trade law:** challenge Sections 338 and 122
- **Refunds:** demand duties collected under them back
- **Exemptions:** investigate their impact on small businesses
- **Japan, South Korea:** examine their investment commitments

Trade expert William Reinsch said Democrats could struggle to get legislation passed without veto-proof majorities.

# China's Communist Party demands loyalty

**BEIJING**

China's ruling Communist Party put the demand for loyalty front and centre in an official resolution on toughening internal discipline, and vowed to keep waging its high-pressure anti-corruption campaign to cleanse the party of "impurities and viruses".

The resolution, adopted during a key party leadership gathering this week and previewed in a shorter communique on Thursday, stressed the need to intensify efforts to instil loyalty to the party within its ranks, vet and promote officials based on their "party spirit" assessed through their day-to-day work, personal conduct and remarks, social contacts and family values, and carry forward its "self-revolution".

"The party's ranks are sound overall, but problems of ideological impurity, organisational impurity, and impure work style have not yet been fundamentally resolved," according to the resolution released by the state-run.



The detailed document provided an updated framework for the party's more than decade-long discipline and anti-graft drive, which has ensnared millions within the country's vast bureaucracy.

It came roughly a year ahead of a leadership reshuffle when its leader, President Xi Jinping, is expected to secure another five-year term.

The party leadership called for closer, career-long oversight of cadres, including tighter checks on officials' personal disclosures and investigations where family assets or spending appear out of line with legitimate income.

It also called for routine scrutiny of the business activities of officials' family members. The anti-corruption drive would take aim at hidden and tech-enabled graft, including proxy shareholdings, and the use of cryptocurrencies, blockchain and cross-border funds to facilitate corruption, the document showed.

The document called on party members to resolutely safeguard Xi's status as the party's "core" and to remain fully aligned with the top leadership "in thought, politics and action".

# Cops clear new Lisbon housing protest camp after thousands rally

**LISBON**

Police moved into Lisbon's Rossio Square on Sunday to clear a tent camp erected after thousands marched demanding Portugal's minority centre-right government withdraw a rental bill they say would worsen the country's housing crisis.

Portugal is grappling with one of Europe's worst housing crises, with young people among those hardest hit. House prices have more than doubled since 2017 and rents for new leases have nearly doubled. Protests over soaring housing costs have intensified in Portugal in recent weeks, mirroring similar unrest sweeping across Spain, France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Protesters had pitched more than 50 tents in Rossio Square after a march through central Lisbon that drew thousands.

Around 4:30 a.m.(0430 GMT), dozens of officers, some with police dogs, moved in on the tent camp after police commander Iuri Rodrigues warned protesters three times that the illegally erected tents would be dismantled if not removed and that those who resisted could face disobedience charges.

Hundreds of protesters shielding the tent camp were dispersed by police using shields and some baton charges.

Separately, police dismantled a similar, though smaller, tent camp in Porto's Dom Joao I square.

Earlier, Socialist lawmaker Pedro Delgado Alves said Rossio Square was peaceful and that nothing justified "a police intervention involving force, physical violence or baton charges, the kind of scenes we witnessed last week."

Police have been criticized for baton-charging demonstrators and arresting dozens while clearing tent camps in the same squares a week ago.

SCRAP THE BILL

The protesters are demanding the government scrap a bill making evictions easier and ending rent caps on new leases, which passed a first parliamentary reading with the abstention of the far-right Chega party.

# Salvadoran families demand fair trials on Day of the Dead

**SAN SALVADOR**

Relatives of people detained under El Salvador's controversial state of exception gathered at the San Salvador metropolitan cathedral to leave offerings for inmates who have died behind bars, demanding justice.

Participants arrived carrying yellow and red flowers, banners and photographs of jailed family members.

On the cathedral steps, the group held a rally honouring the dead and remembering relatives still in custody. Many of those present have had no contact with their detained relatives since their arrest, and – in some cases – do not know whether their relatives are still alive.

Natalia Funes, 61, a farmer from Puerto El Triunfo in the eastern province of Usulutan, attended in hopes of seeking answers about her jailed son. Her son, Oscar Orlando Rodriguez, was arrested in July 2022 and has been held incommunicado since.

"I am a distraught mother, a mother who has never seen my son. I am a mother who has never seen their face or heard from them," Funes said.

El Salvador's state of exception, imposed by President Nayib Bukele four years ago, has allowed security forces to detain more than 90,000 people.

Cristosal, a prominent human rights organisation, has documented 454 deaths in Salvadoran prisons among people detained under the state of exception.



Marchers with flowers and photographs

**454** deaths in prisons documented by Cristosal

Protesters used the Day of the Dead, observed on November 1 and 2 across several Latin American countries, to remember those who died behind bars, and also called for fair trials for detainees who remain jailed.

**CONTROL & CRACKDOWNS**

# *Germany vows tough action against Frankfurt rioters*

**FRANKFURT**

Germany's Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt on Sunday warned that rioters and looters involved in violent disturbances in Frankfurt would face tough penalties, while praising police for preventing escalation during protests across the country.

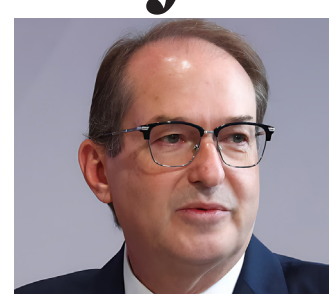
Hooded rioters reportedly looted shops in Frankfurt after tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in dozens of German cities to demand improvements in education and reductions in living costs. The demonstrations were organised by the campaign group "Gen Z regelt", which translates to "Gen Z takes charge".

Frankfurt police reported several violent incidents, including smashed windows and petrol bombs being thrown at emergency services. More than 30 individuals were placed under temporary arrest, local broadcaster HR reported, without providing further details about those detained.

The minister accused violent left-wing groups and troublemakers from the migrant community of hijacking otherwise peaceful demonstrations, although he did not provide further details to substantiate the allegations.

"Excesses of violence like those in Paris were prevented thanks to our highly committed police forces," he said.

The unrest comes amid wider demonstrations across Europe. In France, protests continued largely peacefully for a third consecutive weekend following extensive riots and looting on October 17, which caused damage to shops, public buildings and businesses.



**"The rioters and looters will be identified and held accountable. This breach of the peace must be followed by tough penalties."**

— **Alexander Dobrindt,** German Interior Minister

# NZ crush India in final T20I to end series on high

Tim Seifert's explosive innings powered NZ to a 7-wicket victory, ending India's 5-match series on consecutive defeats.



**HAMILTON**

New Zealand defeated India by seven wickets in the fifth and final T20 International at Seddon Park on Sunday, winning the match in 17.6 overs to finish the five-match series 2-3.

Chasing India's total of 191 for eight, New Zealand reached 195 for three, powered by outstanding performances from Tim Seifert and Glenn Phillips. India had already secured the series with a 3-1 lead but suffered consecutive defeats in the final two matches.

Seifert scored 90 off 49 balls, narrowly missing his maiden T20I century, while Phillips remained unbeaten on 65 off 38 deliveries. Their partnership helped New Zealand take control after the hosts lost Finn Allen early. The pair added 73 runs before Varun Chakravarthy dismissed Daryl Mitchell, leaving India with only one more wicket to claim.

Phillips continued the assault, striking boundaries regularly and completing another half-century. His consistent performances throughout the series earned him the Player of the Series award. He scored 341 runs in five matches, including three half-centuries and a century.

Earlier, India recovered from an early setback through a 93-run partnership between Ishan Kishan and captain Shreyas Iyer. Kishan scored 61 off 31 balls, while Iyer contributed 50 off 23 deliveries. However, India lost momentum towards the end, managing only 47 runs in the final five overs.

New Zealand pacer Adam Milne delivered a decisive spell, taking four wickets for 19 runs in four overs to earn the Player of the Match award.

India's bowling and fielding proved costly, with most bowlers conceding more than 10 runs per over. Captain Shreyas Iyer acknowledged the shortcomings, particularly in fielding, while describing the series as a learning experience.

New Zealand will carry the momentum into the five-match ODI series, which begins in Auckland on November 4.

## India clinch t20i series despite seven-wicket defeat

**HAMILTON**

India clinched the five-match T20I series 3-2 despite losing the final match to New Zealand by seven wickets at Seddon Park on Sunday. Batting first, India posted 191 for eight, powered by Ishan Kishan's 61 off 31 balls and captain Shreyas Iyer's 50 off 23 deliveries. Their 93-run partnership provided the foundation for India's competitive total. New Zealand chased down the target in 18 overs, with Tim Seifert scoring 93 off 50 balls and Glenn Phillips remaining unbeaten on 65 off 38 deliveries. Adam Milne claimed four wickets for 19 runs to earn Player of the Match, while Phillips was named Player of the Series after scoring 341 runs. India won the series 3-2, with New Zealand taking the final two matches.

# Mohun Bagan beat Punjab fc 2-1, end unbeaten run

**KOLKATA**

Mohun Bagan Super Giant defeated Punjab FC 2-1 in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Saturday, ending Punjab's unbeaten start to the campaign.

Punjab FC took an early lead in the third minute when Alfred Planas Moya struck from outside the penalty area after combining with Konsam Sanathoi Singh. The visitors maintained their attacking intensity before Mohun Bagan gradually gained control of the midfield. The hosts equalised in the 18th minute through Scottish striker Lee Erwin, who converted Anirudh Thapa's pass with a left-footed shot into the bottom corner. Mohun Bagan then moved ahead shortly before half-time when Dejan Drazic's long-range effort took a deflection and beat goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh.



Punjab made changes at the interval and pushed forward in search of an equaliser. However, Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith produced crucial saves, including one to deny Planas Moya, keeping his side ahead.

Mohun Bagan also threatened on the counter-attack, with Arshdeep making important stops to prevent the margin from widening. Despite late pressure from Punjab, the home side's defence held firm to secure all three points. The defeat leaves Punjab FC fourth in the standings with seven points from four matches, while Mohun Bagan temporarily moved to the top with nine points from four games.

Punjab head coach Pavlos Dermitzakis will look to address his side's missed opportunities after the loss. The result marked a strong response from Mohun Bagan, coached by former Punjab FC manager Panagiotis Dilmperis.

Punjab's early breakthrough could not prevent their first defeat of the season, while Mohun Bagan strengthened their position with a hard-fought comeback victory.

## Golden state Valkyries make history with maiden WNBA title

**NEW YORK**

The Golden State Valkyries created history by defeating the Atlanta Dream 68-63 in Game 7 of the WNBA Finals on Saturday, securing their maiden championship in just their second season.

The victory made the Valkyries the fastest expansion team among major North American professional sports leagues to win a championship, setting a new benchmark across the WNBA, NBA, NHL, MLB and NFL.

Gabby Williams led Golden State's comeback with an outstanding 30-point performance, scoring 28 points in the second half to earn the Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. Her second-half tally also set a record for the most points scored by a player in one half of a WNBA Finals game.

Golden State began strongly, opening with an 8-0 run as Atlanta struggled to find its rhythm.

However, the Dream recovered through Angel Reese and Allisha Gray, taking a two-point advantage into the second quarter.

## FIA-Level racing returns to Buddh circuit after 13 years

**GREATER NOIDA**

FIA-level racing returned to the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) on Saturday after a 13-year gap, with the Indian Racing League (IRL) and F4 Indian Championship hosting races as part of the Indian Racing Festival.

The Adani Group-owned circuit last hosted the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix in 2013.

The event was subsequently dropped from the calendar amid taxation and regulatory disputes.

Organisers now believe that 30–40 per cent of the track requires renovation before it can host Formula 1 again.



Akhilesh Reddy, chairman of Racing Promotions Private Limited, which organises the Indian Racing Festival, said the revamp would depend on confirmation from Formula 1 and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

"Hardly 30 to 40% of the track has to be revamped, so it's not a big deal and it can be done very easily," Reddy told PTI, adding that the work could begin once the necessary confirmations and dates were secured.

The government has also begun examining the feasibility of bringing Formula 1 back to India.

A proposed task force is expected to assess infrastructure, operational requirements and other challenges involved in hosting international motorsport events.

Reddy called for greater government support, saying motorsport received only a fraction of the assistance extended to other sports. He also highlighted the absence of a dedicated motorsport category under the Khelo India programme. Drivers competing at the circuit praised its layout, corners, tarmac and safety run-off areas. F4 driver Nitiyiso Mabunda described the facilities as ideal, while Indian Racing League competitor Raoul Hyman said the circuit appeared ready to accommodate faster cars.

However, a Formula 1 return would require clarity on tax concessions, substantial hosting fees and major infrastructure investment. Reported estimates place annual hosting fees at ₹300–500 crore and circuit upgrades at ₹150–200 crore.

## Usha Tops Group D As Nirupama Settles For Fourth

**NEW DELHI**

Indian weightlifter Usha topped Group D in the women's 61kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships on Sunday, while compatriot Nirupama Devi finished fourth in Group C after a disappointing performance.

The 23-year-old Usha recorded a combined lift of 212kg, comprising 93kg in the snatch and 119kg in the clean and jerk. Her total placed her ahead of all competitors in Group D and surpassed the performances of several lifters competing in the higher Group C.

Nirupama, who recently moved down from the 63kg weight category, managed a combined total of 211kg. She lifted 91kg in the snatch and followed it with 120kg in the clean and jerk to finish fourth in her group.

Despite recording a total just one kilogram below Usha's, Nirupama competed in Group C because her declared entry total was higher. The grouping system places lifters into different categories based on their declared totals, meaning athletes with stronger declared entries may compete in earlier or higher groups. Usha's performance provided a positive result for India, with her overall lift demonstrating competitive form in the 61kg division.

## Deepa Malik opens world Para Arm-wrestling championship in Delhi

**NEW DELHI**

India's first woman Paralympic medallist, Deepa Malik, inaugurated the 28th World Para Armwrestling Championship at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel in East Delhi on Sunday, bringing together para-athletes from across the world.

The championship is being held alongside the 47th World Armwrestling Championship from October 26 to November 7, 2026. More than 400 para-athletes from over 60 countries are participating in the international event.

Malik, a Padma Shri, Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award recipient, attended the inauguration alongside Satya Prakash Sangwan, vice-president of the Paralympic Committee of India and former chef de mission of India's contingent at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Welcoming the participants, Malik highlighted sport's ability to promote friendship, inclusivity and cultural exchange.

"That is the main aim of sport: to create friendships, break barriers, go beyond boundaries and become one heart," she said, emphasising the importance of embracing different cultures through sporting competition.

Malik also acknowledged the organisers for bringing the championship to India, describing the event as an important milestone for the country's para-sport movement. She expressed gratitude to the volunteers, administrators and media personnel supporting the competition.

Sangwan praised the arrangements and welcomed the participation of athletes from numerous countries. He thanked the organisers, particularly Preeti Jhangiani, president of the People's Armwrestling Federation of India, and wished the competitors success.

The championship's para-armwrestling events began on Sunday with the left-arm categories, followed by the right-arm events on Monday. Both championships will continue until November 7.

The international gathering highlights India's growing role in hosting major para-sport events and provides athletes with an opportunity to compete at the highest level of armwrestling.



## Renuka Singh considered quitting RCB amid WPL pressure

**NEW DELHI**

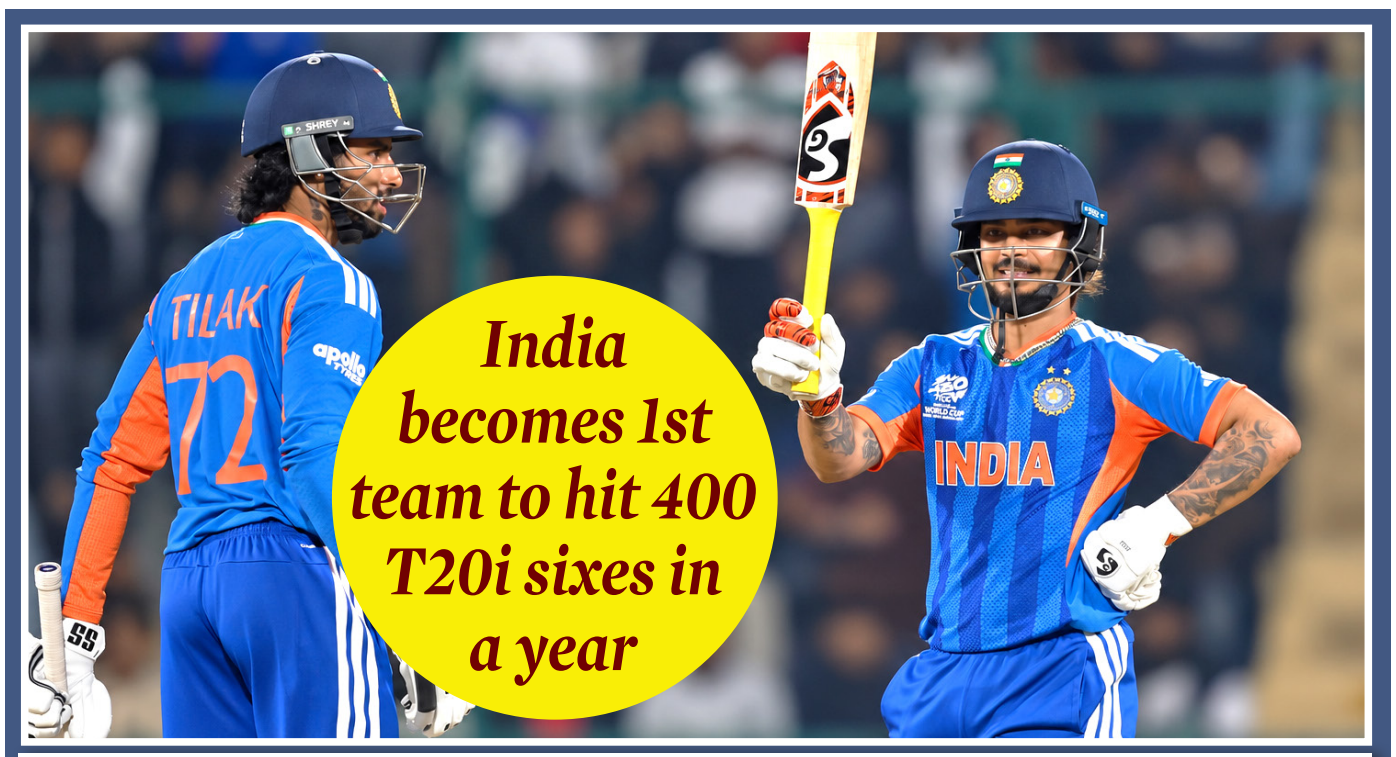
Indian fast bowler Renuka Singh revealed that she considered leaving Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) after struggling to deliver consistent performances in the Women's Premier League (WPL). The pacer said the pressure associated with her ₹1.50 crore price tag added to her difficulties during her initial seasons with the franchise.

Renuka, who represented RCB across three seasons, claimed 13 wickets in 23 matches at an economy rate of 8.34. Her first season proved particularly challenging, as she managed just one wicket in six matches while conceding runs at an economy rate of 9.54.

The difficult period affected her confidence, prompting her to approach captain Smriti Mandhana and express her desire to stop playing for the franchise. Renuka admitted that she felt unable to meet expectations and struggled to cope with the pressure of her expensive contract.

Her struggles came during a challenging season for Mandhana as well. The RCB captain averaged around 18 with the bat, while the team failed to progress beyond the first round of the competition.

Renuka's experience highlights the pressure players can face when substantial auction prices raise expectations of immediate success. Despite her early struggles, she continued representing the franchise, working through a difficult phase in her professional career.




**HAMILTON**

India became the first team in men's T20 International cricket to hit 400 sixes in a calendar year, achieving the landmark during the fifth and final T20I against New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Sunday.

India reached the milestone after striking 11 sixes in the match, taking its tally to 400 across 40 T20Is this year. Austria and the West Indies followed with 224 sixes each, achieved in 24 and 21 matches, respectively.

Of India's 400 sixes, 142 have come against New Zealand, the most the team has struck against a single opponent in a calendar year. Abhishek Sharma leads the Indian six-hitters with 86, followed by Ishan Kishan with 60 and Sanju Samson with 50.

Despite the record-breaking achievement, India struggled early in its innings, slipping to 19 for two. Kishan and captain Shreyas Iyer then steadied the innings with an attacking 93-run partnership for the third wicket.

The milestone underlined India's aggressive batting approach and remarkable six-hitting consistency in T20 cricket this year. However, the record came during a challenging outing against New Zealand in the series finale.

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