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P7 Defence Ministry signs major navy warship deal

P9 Iran negotiators leave Qatar talks



P10 Ronaldo misses Asian clash as security concerns persist



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'MIDEAST UNREST FAILS TO ARREST INDIA'S GROWTH'

PM Modi says the country's non-fossil fuel capacity is over 300 GW and expressed confidence that India will achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that India's economic growth remains strong despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia, and said the country is set to add around 500 GW of renewable energy capacity over the next 10-11 years.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, Modi said that the country's non-fossil fuel capacity is over 300 GW and expressed confidence that India will achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

He said that over the next 10 to 11 years, about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity will be added. He noted that it is a tough call, but "we have to do it".

"If India had not created renewable energy capacity in the last 10 years, then the energy crisis in India could have been worse than in other parts of the world... India's economic growth is high despite the



ongoing West Asia crisis."

The West Asia crisis disrupted energy supplies worldwide earlier this year and created difficulties for many countries.

Modi also asked investors to invest in India, saying the country offers huge investment opportunities in renewable energy as it provides political and policy stability.

The Prime Minister said that by the end of the decade, investment opportunities worth over Rs 20 lakh crore will emerge in the renewable energy sector. Modi also said that India is among the top three countries in the solar and renewable energy sector.

"We need to connect every government building, school, college, hospital, street-lighting system to solar energy ...We need an indigenous storage solution and must develop new battery storage capacity," he stated.

India is progressing rapidly to take a big leap in green hydrogen and has a target of annual production capacity of 50 lakh tonnes, Modi said while highlighting progress in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

He also highlighted the Green Energy Corridor (inter-state transmission lines), which will help evacuate power from the upcoming renewable energy capacity.

The govenrment has provided an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the second phase of Green Energy Corridor.

Modi said the future of energy security lies in clean power. He noted that more than 44,000 govt buildings have been connected to solar energy, resulting in annual savings of about Rs 700 crore.

PM's speech highlights

Growth resilient: PM Modi affirmed India's strong economic growth despite the West Asia crisis.

Renewable energy milestone: India's non-fossil fuel capacity has already crossed 300 GW and targets 500 GW capacity by 2030.

Paris Agreement & COP26 goals: India met its target of sourcing 50% of its installed power capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 schedule.

Green hydrogen push: The country is advancing in green hydrogen production and developing indigenous energy storage solutions.

Energy corridor: Govt initiatives like the Green Energy Corridor support renewable energy expansion and energy security.

Solar & infra push: Stressed the need to connect govt buildings, schools, colleges, hospitals, and street-lighting systems to solar power, saying over 44,000 govt buildings are already solarised, saving roughly ₹700 crore annually.

Green hydrogen & storage: India targets an annual green hydrogen production of 50 lakh tonnes under National Green Hydrogen Mission and is scaling up indigenous battery storage solutions.

Karnataka extends helping hand to cyclone-hit AP

Deploys 500 powermen for post-cyclone electricity restoration.

BENGALURU

Karnataka will deploy 500 skilled powermen, along with necessary equipment, to Andhra Pradesh to assist in restoring power infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Arnab, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday.

He said he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and assured him of Karnataka's full support in the wake of the cyclone.

"With over 15,000 electricity poles uprooted by Cyclone Arnab, the restoration of power infrastructure is critical, and Andhra Pradesh has sought Karnataka's assistance in this effort," Shivakumar said in a post on X.

He said the state's Energy Department was coordinating the assistance, with Energy Minister K J George closely monitoring the situation.

"As part of this support, Karnataka is deploying 500 skilled powermen, along with the necessary equipment, to expedite restoration works and facilitate the early restoration of electricity supply in the cyclone-affected areas," he said.

> **In times of adversity, solidarity must translate into action. Karnataka stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Andhra Pradesh, and we will extend all possible support.**
>
> DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

The teams would work in close coordination with Andhra Pradesh authorities to ensure the effective deployment of personnel and equipment at restoration sites, he added.

Referring to the approaching Cyclone Murasu, he said the state would continue to assess the situation and its impact over the next two days while extending all possible assistance. "In times of adversity, solidarity must translate into action. Karnataka stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Andhra Pradesh, and we will extend all possible support," he added.

ADMIRING STATE'S TEXTILE TRADITIONS



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar extols the beauty of a saree on display at an exhibition 'PAMPA – Textiles of Karnataka' being held at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bengaluru on Monday.

Cyclone Murasu: NDRF teams from Chennai rush to Andhra

Chennai: Three NDRF teams comprising 90 personnel have been deployed from the 4th Battalion located near Arakkonam to support disaster management efforts in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, which is bracing for the approaching Cyclone Murasu. The specialised National Disaster Response Force teams each comprise 30 personnel, an official said. The forces are headed to regions including Nellore, Prakasam, and Markapuram to assist with rescue and relief operations. Andhra Pradesh is bracing for the cyclone currently positioned in the Bay of Bengal that is expected to make landfall between tonight and tomorrow morning. Sources said the teams under a senior Commander will carry out emergency rescue, clear debris, and provide relief to affected citizens.

Govt can now intervene in airfares!

NEW DELHI

The Union Government has notified new rules allowing it to intervene in airline ticket prices in extraordinary situations and in the public interest, amid concerns over high airfares in the backdrop of elevated crude oil and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices.

CENTRE NOTIFIES NEW RULES

The new rules, Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, enables govt to intervene in airline ticket prices during extraordinary situations and in public interest.

Airlines must now determine fares based on operational costs and submit details to the DGCA, which will monitor tariffs.

New regulations mandate enhanced transparency, requiring airlines to display total payable amounts, base fare, taxes, fees, and cancellation charges separately.

India deregulated airline fare fixation in 1994, allowing carriers to set prices based on market conditions, a policy now subject to government oversight in specific scenarios.

Govt's new powers

Under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, notified by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Centre can issue directions to airlines on fares if it considers intervention necessary in an extraordinary situation. Such directions must be proportionate to the circumstances and remain in force only for the specified period.

According to Rule 192, airlines operating scheduled air services will have to determine their fares based on factors including the cost of operations and submit the tariff details to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The rule states that the government may issue written directions if it is of the opinion that an extraordinary situation has arisen and intervention is



necessary in the public interest.

Enhanced transparency in ticket pricing

The new rules also require airlines to publish their fares on websites and other digital platforms to ensure transparency and keep passengers informed. The DGCA will monitor the tariffs set by scheduled airlines.

The notification further strengthens transparency requirements in ticket pricing, making it mandatory for airlines to display the total amount payable by passengers during the booking process and on the ticket.

Airlines will also have to provide a separate breakdown of the base fare, taxes, fees, cancellation charges, refund conditions and other applicable charges.The rules distinguish between taxes payable to the government and fees collected by airlines for services or facilities provided to passengers.

Evolution of airline fare regulation

India deregulated airline fare fixation in 1994, allowing carriers to determine ticket prices based on market conditions. The Civil Aviation Ministry has maintained that airlines generally set fares according to demand, operating costs and the time of booking, with different pricing bands available for passengers.

K'taka HC reconstitutes SIT to probe KPSC scam

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Monday ordered reconstitution of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam.

Senior IPS officer and Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R Hitendra will now head the SIT, in place of Alok Kumar DGP (Prisons), who was named to head the agency by the high court on September 21.

Soumendhu Mukherjee, ADGP (Administration), will replace Divya Gopinath. Other IPS officers — Anup A Shetty, Kushal Chouksey and Kshama Mishra — will continue to be part of the SIT, the court said.

"The reconstitution of the SIT in the considered view of the court must mark the commencement of further investigation that inspires confidence, commands credibility and remains impervious to influences, whether institutional, extraneous or otherwise. The object of constituting the SIT is not merely to change the hands that hold the probe but to ensure that the investigation itself is undertaken with renewed independence," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

Siddu sting case: CCB raids Power TV office, MD's house

BENGALURU: The Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru police on Monday launched raids at the home and office of Kannada channel Power TV MD Rakesh Shetty, who is a key suspect in the Siddaramaiah sting video case.

As per sources, around 30 CCB officials raided both places at the same time. Shetty, along with the expelled Congress leader Kripa Alva, is accused of making the "fabricated" video. Both were previously questioned by police. The raids followed a shocking revelation by the CCB on Sunday that a mobile phone used to upload the 'sting' video had changed hands at Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's official residence in New Delhi.

KRIPA ALVA, 2 OTHERS GET ANTICIPATORY BAIL

Bengaluru: Three people accused of involvement in the sting operation against former CM Siddaramaiah, Kripa Alva, Vinod Kumar and Prashanth Kumar, were granted conditional anticipatory bail on Monday by the 66th CCH Court. The three accused had applied for anticipatory bail following the Cyber Crime Police registering an FIR against them based on a complaint by Siddaramaiah.

8 killed after roadwork machine touches power line in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: Eight labourers were electrocuted while working on a road-construction project in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district on Monday, police said.

The incident occurred in Chhapoli under the Udaipurwati police station area.

SHO Udaipurwati Rampal said that a machine being used to mix gravel came into contact with an overhead high-tension power line. The deceased are Hariram Gurjar (30), Mangalchand Gurjar (22), Kaluram Gurjar (20), Pavan Gurjar (23), Vishnu Saini (38), Suresh Saini (30), Mukesh Saini (27) and Fatehchand Saini (32).

Three women and two men, who sustained burns, are undergoing treatment.

QUICK READ

'Ready for spl session': Shah dares Rahul to debate SIR in Parl

HYDERABAD

In a blistering counterattack on the INDIA bloc over its 'vote chori' allegation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the Centre is ready to convene a special session of Parliament on the issue and dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to debate the matter in the House. Dismissing the INDIA bloc's Delhi rally as a "save infiltrator" rally, he wondered how the Congress formed governments in states, including Telangana, "if the EVMs are bad." Leading the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' padayatra here, Shah said: "Rahul holds the Constitution in hand, but doesn't respect the Constitution. Rahul ji, you don't allow Parliament to run. Be it EVMs, SIR, infiltrators, I challenge you from Hyderabad. We are ready to convene a special session of Parliament. Come for debate."

SIR stir: Imran Khan tenders apology to Bombay HC rescued

MUMBAI

Actor Imran Khan on Monday tendered an unconditional apology before the Bombay High Court for participating in a protest against the Election Commission over the SIR of electoral rolls, assuring the court that he would not take part in similar demonstrations in the future. The actor, who was detained on October 10 during the protest in Mumbai and received a 'Leave India Notice', said he had no links with the organisers and was unaware of the consequences of participating in the demonstration. The apology came after a bench of the HC strongly reprimanded Khan, reminding him that he was an American citizen holding an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card and had no right to participate in political demonstrations as an Indian citizen.

ELECTORAL ROLL CLEANUP

SIR cuts voter count by up to 13.24% in 5 poll-bound states

NEW DELHI

The number of voters across Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur was cut by up to 13.24% after the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list, data shows.

The five states will go for assembly polls early next year.

According to data made public by the Election Commission and state chief electoral officers, across these five states, the electorate shrank from about 18.71 crore to 16.43 crore after SIR, a net reduction of around 2.29 crore (about 12.2%).

Uttar Pradesh, which has the biggest electorate among states, alone accounted for nearly 90% of the total drop.

In UP, which went for SIR in phase II, the electors went from 15.44 crore pre-SIR to 12.56 crore in the draft roll, then 13.40 crore in the final rolls.



STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN OF ELECTORAL SHRINKAGE

State	Pre-SIR voters	Post-SIR voters	Net voter loss	Drop %
Uttar Pradesh	15.44 crore	13.40 crore	~2.04 crore	13.24%
Goa	0.1185 crore	0.1058 crore	~0.013 crore	10.76%
Uttarakhand	0.80 crore	0.72 crore	~0.08 crore	10.07%
Punjab	2.15 crore	2.01 crore	~0.14 crore	6.34%
Manipur	0.209 crore	0.196 crore	~0.013 crore	6.33%

The net loss stood at around 2.04 crore or 13.24%, the steepest among the five states. The draft removed about 2.89 crore names, and about 0.84 crore (roughly 29%) were restored.

In Punjab, where SIR was held in phase III, the electors went from 2.15 crore to 1.94 crore in the draft, then 2.01 crore in the final rolls. The net loss in the number of voters was about 0.14 crore or 6.34%.

It had the strongest recovery. About 0.07 crore of the roughly 0.21 crore draft deletions (about 34%) came back to the rolls.

In Uttarakhand, where poll roll revision was held in phase III, electors went from 0.80 crore to 0.71 crore, ending at 0.72 crore. The net loss of voter base was about 0.08 crore or 10.07%.

Only about 0.0025 crore returned, around three per cent of draft deletions.

SIR was held in phase III in Manipur, where electors went from 0.209 crore to 0.193 crore, and ended at 0.196 crore.

The net loss of voters was about 0.013 crore or 6.33%, similar to Punjab. About 17% of draft deletions were restored, the data shows.

In Goa, where SIR was held in phase II, the electors went from 0.1185 crore to 0.1085 crore, then fell further to 0.1058 crore. In Goa, the net loss was nearly 0.013 crore or 10.76%. Goa is the only one of the five where the final roll is smaller than the draft, so there was no net restoration.

While ordering special summary revision in 17 states recently, the EC had noted that assembly polls in the five states could be held "early next year".

The ongoing special summary revision ahead of polls will ensure that left-out voters get a fresh chance to get included in the electoral rolls.

The young voters who turn 18 on or before January 1 will get an opportunity to be included as voters and can cast their vote in these five states.

While the term of the 403-member UP assembly ends on May 22 next year, the terms of 60-member Manipur, 40-member Goa, 117-member Punjab and 70-member Uttarakhand assembly end on different dates in March 2027.

Provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, allow the EC to hold polls "earlier than six months before the term expires".

Quick Read

Attacked schoolgirl undergoes treatment at Bengaluru hospital

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 14-year-old girl who was brutally attacked inside a school in Andhra Pradesh after rejecting a boy's advances is undergoing treatment at Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru. According to hospital sources, her condition remains serious but stable. She suffered multiple deep wounds to her face and body and experienced severe blood loss. Doctors performed a surgery lasting nearly 20 hours, using 114 packs of surgical sutures to close her wounds. She has also received multiple blood transfusions. The girl is currently being treated in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) with ventilator support. Doctors have decided to monitor her condition closely for the next 48 hours. Meanwhile, reports stated that the accused was shot in the leg following the incident.



Sugarcane farmers plan protest at Freedom Park

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Sugarcane Growers Coordination Committee of Farmers' Organisations in Karnataka will organise a massive protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on November 5, demanding a fair price for sugarcane and a complete farm loan waiver. State Sugarcane Growers Association president Kuruburu Shanthakumar said the state government must announce the State Advised Price (SAP), citing higher prices in Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. He also demanded a 10–25 per cent increase in the Centre's Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), along with transparent measures to prevent irregularities in sugar recovery and cane weighing.

Vijayalakshmi files complaint against actor Dhanveer

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Vijayalakshmi Darshan, wife of actor Darshan, has filed a private complaint before a Bengaluru court seeking criminal action against actor Dhanveer over alleged defamatory statements made against her. The complaint was filed on October 31 before the 37th City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH). Vijayalakshmi alleged that Dhanveer had made defamatory remarks about her through audio recordings and messages. In her complaint, she expressed her willingness to submit evidence, including electronic records and audio recordings, to support her allegations. She has sought to pursue the matter as a private complaint by an aggrieved person under Section 222(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The court is to examine whether the allegations disclose a prima facie case. If sufficient grounds are found during the inquiry, summons may be issued to the accused under the relevant legal provisions. The court has adjourned the matter to November 30 for further hearing. No findings have been made against Dhanveer, and the allegations remain subject to judicial examination.

Kumaraswamy releases CDRs, alleges link to Shivakumar

Kumaraswamy alleged a Congress-directed political conspiracy against his family, demanding an investigation into links between Karthik and Shivakumar.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has alleged a connection between Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Karthik, the second accused in the Prajwal Revanna case, releasing Call Detail Record (CDR) documents to support his claims.

Addressing a press conference at the JD(S) office, J.P. Bhavan, on Monday, Kumaraswamy claimed that Karthik, a former driver of Prajwal Revanna, had visited Shivakumar's residence on August 5 and 6, 2023, before the videos in the case were circulated.

Kumaraswamy alleged that a political conspiracy had been orchestrated against his family at the direction of the Congress leadership. He demanded an investigation into the alleged connection between Karthik and Shivakumar.



At the press conference at the JD(S) office, J.P. Bhavan, on Monday.

The CDR disclosures

Call records
CDR papers allege that Karthik, Prajwal Revanna's former driver and accused No. 2, visited Shivakumar's residence before the videos circulated

Conspiracy
a plot against his family at the direction of the Congress leadership, he claims

The police
he questions the replacement of CCB Inspector Satish

The law
he welcomes a lawful probe and urges officers to act without political pressure

Questions police investigation

Questioning the investigation into the separate sting operation case, Kumaraswamy accused the police of failing to conduct an impartial probe. He questioned the replacement of CCB Inspector Satish and the Police Commissioner's public statements before the forensic examination of the video was completed.

He demanded clarity on the questioning of the woman featured in the video, the circumstances in which it was recorded and the people behind it.

Denies knowing sting case accused

Kumaraswamy said he did not know Ritesh Pandey, an accused in the sting operation case, and had never met him. He said hundreds of people visited his Delhi residence and welcomed a lawful investigation, including a search conducted with proper legal authorisation.

He also questioned the circumstances surrounding the reported arrest of another person, Nitish Kumar, and sought clarity about the address used by the police.

Demands fair and independent probe

Referring to the alleged 2011 incident and a video recorded in 2023, Kumaraswamy questioned the delay in bringing the matter into public discussion. He also raised questions about an alleged email sent in 2015 and called for an investigation into the people involved.

He urged investigating officers to conduct the probe without political pressure, saying his fight was against alleged blackmail activities rather than personal attacks on individuals.

Karandlaje demands Congress govt quit over price hikes



The BJP State Mahila Morcha's protest against the milk price increase at Freedom Park on Monday.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje has demanded that the Congress government in Karnataka step down, warning that public anger could lead to a major protest if price hikes are not reversed.

The BJP State Mahila Morcha staged a protest at Freedom Park on Monday against the recent milk price increase. Addressing the gathering, Karandlaje criticised the state government over rising prices, drought relief and the implementation of welfare schemes.

She said repeated increases in milk and curd prices had placed an additional burden on low-income families, daily-wage workers, auto drivers, taxi operators and small business owners. She questioned Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over the price increases ahead of Kannada Rajyotsava and demanded relief for ordinary consumers.

Repeated increases in milk and curd prices have burdened low-income families, daily-wage workers and auto drivers, she said

Questions government's drought relief

Karandlaje alleged that farmers affected by drought were receiving inadequate financial assistance. She criticised the reported compensation of Rs 2,500 per acre, claiming that several conditions had made it difficult for farmers to receive the benefit. She also accused the Congress government of withdrawing the additional assistance provided by the previous BJP government under B.S. Yediyurappa.

She further alleged irregularities in the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, claiming that Rs 5,000 crore meant for beneficiaries had not been properly accounted for. She also criticised the condition of state-run buses, alleging that inadequate funds had affected maintenance and diesel purchases.

The charges

- Rs 8 per litre: the latest milk price hike
- Rs 2,500 per acre: the reported drought relief
- Rs 5,000 crore: Gruha Lakshmi funds she says are unaccounted for

Bharathi Shetty seeks rollback

Former MLC Bharathi Shetty demanded the withdrawal of the milk price increase. She said the BJP government had provided subsidies to support milk consumers and urged the Congress government to honour its election promises instead of burdening the public.

She added that BJP Mahila Morcha was organising protests across districts, taluks and wards against the price increase.

She criticised the latest Rs 8 per litre hike, saying repeated revisions had increased the financial burden on consumers.

The protest leaders demanded that the government reconsider its decisions and provide relief to farmers and ordinary families.

HIGH COURT REJECTS PAKISTANI NATIONAL'S RELEASE PLEA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a Pakistani national's plea seeking release and deportation to Pakistan, observing that his acquittal in criminal cases does not automatically give him the right to stay freely in India without valid immigration documents.

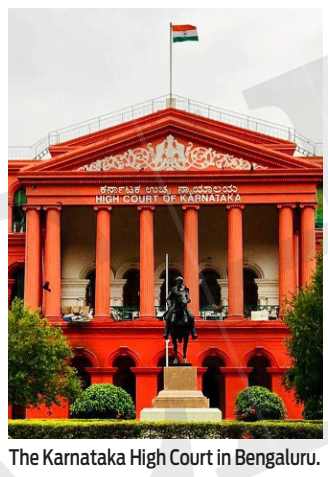
The case so far

- **2024** — High Court acquits him
- **APRIL 2026** — State's appeal against the acquittal dismissed
- **OCTOBER 29** — Plea for release rejected

The order was passed by a division bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice K.S. Bharath Kumar on October 29, 2026, while hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Mohammad Fahad Hi, also known as Mohammad Koya.

Fahad, a native of Karachi, Pakistan, is currently lodged at the Foreigners' Detention Centre in Sondekoppa, Nelamangala. He had sought his release and an exit permit to return to Pakistan.

His counsel argued that the petitioner had been acquitted by the High Court in 2024 and that the State Government's appeal against the acquittal was dismissed in April 2026. With no criminal cases pending against him, the counsel contended that his continued detention was unlawful.



The Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru.

Opposing the plea, the Central Government's counsel submitted that Fahad was a Pakistani national without a valid Indian visa. The government also pointed out that a movement restriction order had been issued against him under the Foreigners Act.

The bench observed that the movement restriction order had not been challenged by the petitioner. It therefore declined to order his unconditional release.

However, the court granted him liberty to challenge the movement restriction order through appropriate legal proceedings and disposed of the petition.

Rudresh calls for year-round Kannada language protection



The 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebration at Katanayakanapura village.

Rajyotsava celebrations should not be restricted to November 1, Rudresh said

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP State Farmers' Wing Vice-President M. Rudresh has urged people to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava throughout the year by protecting the Kannada language, land, culture and the rights of Kannadigas.

He was speaking at the 71st Kannada Rajyotsava celebration organised by the Appu Fans Association at Katanayakanapura village under H. Gollahalli Gram Panchayat.

After offering floral tributes to the portrait of Kannadambe, Rudresh said Rajyotsava celebrations should not be restricted to November 1. He called on people to work towards preserving and promoting Kannada language, culture and heritage. He also stressed that government benefits should reach eligible Kannada-speaking people in the state.

Former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) member R. Anjanappa, who addressed the gathering, said love for Kannada should be reflected in people's everyday actions rather than remain limited to words.

He highlighted the contribution of women to the state's development and called for equal opportunities, respect and a rightful place for women in society. He also urged Kannadigas to protect their unity, self-respect and cultural values.

R. Anjanappa, former H. Gollahalli Gram Panchayat vice-president C.R. Prakash, Appu Fans Association president Srinivas and office-bearers Deepu, Tanish, Sathya and Akheeb were among those present at the programme.

Karnataka High Court upholds divorce, says law cannot be misused to harass

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a Family Court's divorce order, observing that the legal system cannot be misused to harass a wife and her family simply because she sought to end her marriage.

A Division Bench comprising Justices D.K. Singh and H. Shanthi Bhushan dismissed the husband's challenge to the divorce decree, which was granted on the ground of cruelty under the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Bench observed that repeatedly filing cases against a wife and her family out of personal hatred could amount to mental cruelty. It said legal proceedings must not be used as weapons to settle personal scores or take revenge.

Over 40 cases filed against wife

According to the wife's counsel, the husband and his father had filed more than 40 cases against her, her father, brother and the hospital where she worked. The complaints included allegations relating to cheque bounce, theft, passport cancellation, caste certificate irregularities and complaints to the Medical Council.

40+ cases filed against the wife, her father, her brother and the hospital where she worked, her counsel told the court

The court was informed that several of these cases had been quashed by the High Court, while others had been dismissed by lower courts.

The Bench also noted that the husband had failed to produce evidence to counter the wife's allegations or cross-examine her during the proceedings. His allegation that she intended to marry a wealthy person in the United States was also unsupported by evidence.

The court observed that making baseless allegations and repeatedly initiating legal proceedings could cause serious mental distress and humiliation.

It upheld the Family Court's decision to dissolve the marriage and restrained the husband from filing further frivolous cases against the wife and her family or interfering in their lives.

Background of the case

The couple married on June 16, 2014. The wife, a doctor working in the United States, alleged that her husband's family had concealed his medical condition before the marriage. She also claimed that he failed to maintain a proper marital relationship.

After the marriage deteriorated, she approached the Family Court seeking divorce. The husband challenged the divorce decree, but the High Court upheld the decision.

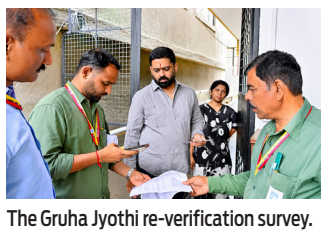
SKIPPING FREE POWER

BESCOM survey flags 1.42 lakh Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The re-verification survey of beneficiaries under the Karnataka Government's Gruha Jyothi free electricity scheme has reportedly identified 1.42 lakh consumers in the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) limits who declined to participate in the verification process.

The four-month exercise was aimed at checking the eligibility of beneficiaries and preventing the misuse of the scheme. According to the report, BESCOM completed 99.31 per cent of the survey, covering nearly 70 lakh households across its jurisdiction.



The Gruha Jyothi re-verification survey.

1.42 lakh	99.31%	1.70 lakh+
BESCOM consumers declined to take part	of BESCOM's survey completed	declined across the State's ESCOMs

Officials are preparing to submit a final report to the State Energy Department. Consumers who did not cooperate with the verification process may face removal from the beneficiary list, subject to the government's decision and applicable rules.

Commercial connections under scrutiny

The verification drive also aims to identify electricity connections registered for domestic use but being used for commercial activities, including shops and business establishments.

The survey has reportedly examined beneficiaries' eligibility, including cases involving income tax returns and GST registration.

BESCOM covers eight districts: Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Davanagere and Chitradurga.

The report also states that more than 1.70 lakh consumers across the state's electricity supply companies declined or were reluctant to participate in the verification exercise.

Once the final findings are reviewed by the Energy Department, further decisions will be taken on the continuation of benefits for consumers found ineligible. Those removed from the scheme will have to pay regular electricity charges.

MILK AND CURD BECOME WEDDING GIFTS!

UNIQUE PROTEST AGAINST PRICE HIKE BY CIVIC FORUM

CH NEWS, MYSURU

At a time when rising milk and curd prices are squeezing household budgets, particularly those of poor and middle-class families, the Prajnawanta Nagarika Vedike has come up with an unusual way of drawing public attention to the issue.

In a novel awareness initiative, the forum's president, Kadakola Jagadish, presented milk and curd as wedding gifts to a newly married couple, turning a joyous celebration into a platform to highlight the growing cost of essential food items.

The unique gesture was witnessed at the wedding of Manju and Ananya, residents of Kadakola, held at Sri Kalibeereshwara Kalyana Mantapa in Kadakola near Mysuru on Monday.

While wedding gifts usually comprise household articles, ornaments and other customary presents, Jagadish chose milk and curd to convey a message with a social purpose. His gesture underlined how these everyday essentials, which are part of almost every household's daily consumption, are increasingly becoming a financial burden due to rising prices.



"Milk and curd are not merely food products; they are an integral part of the daily lives of poor and middle-class families. The government must take the impact of price hikes seriously and initiate appropriate measures to ensure that essential commodities do not become unaffordable for ordinary people," Jagadish noted.

Extending his best wishes to the newlyweds, Manju and Ananya, he used the occasion to sensitise people to the economic consequences of rising milk and curd prices.

> **"Milk and curd are not merely food products; they are an integral part of the daily lives of poor and middle-class families"**
> — **Kadakola Jagadish,** President, Prajnawanta Nagarika Vedike

The unconventional wedding gift attracted public attention, as it combined a personal celebration with a larger social message, highlighting the difficulties faced by ordinary families in managing their household expenses.

KSOU offers 45-Day Coaching for Banking, SSC and RRB competitive exams

MYSURU

The Competitive Examination Training Centre of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has announced a 45-day coaching programme for candidates aspiring to secure jobs in the banking sector and those preparing for various banking examinations.

Several national and private sector banks, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) have invited applications for various posts.

The training programme will provide guidance from banking experts, candidates who have successfully cleared competitive examinations, subject specialists and officials. The coaching will also be beneficial for candidates preparing for Second Division Assistant (SDA) and First Division Assistant (FDA) competitive examinations.

Interested candidates can register for the programme by November 9, between 10 am and 4 pm.For further details, candidates may contact 0821-2515944 or 9964760090.

ABGP urges hotel owners to rationalise coffee, tea prices

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Mysuru unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Grahak Panchayat (ABGP) has urged the hotel owners' association to reconsider the sudden hike of ₹5 per cup of coffee and tea in hotels following an increase of ₹8 per litre in milk prices.

ABGP activists met C. Narayanagowda, the State Vice-President of the Hotel Owners' Association and President of the Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association, and submitted a memorandum seeking the association's intervention in reviewing the price hike.

The activists questioned the rationale behind increasing the price of each cup of coffee and tea by ₹5 when the price of milk had increased by only ₹8 per litre. They pointed out that several cups of coffee and tea could be prepared from a litre of milk and sought clarification on the calculations used to arrive at the revised prices.

The increase in milk prices may have caused some variation in the operational costs of hotels. However, the activists said that imposing a steep hike on every cup of coffee and tea was unjustified without a proper cost assessment.

Already reeling under rising prices of essential commodities, poor and middle-class families are finding even their daily coffee and tea increasingly expensive, the activists said. Passing on an unnecessary financial burden to consumers in the name of a milk price hike was not justified, they said.



ABGP activists submit the memorandum to C. Narayanagowda in Mysuru

Post ₹8 milk price hike

MILK	COFFEE, TEA
₹8 more per litre	₹5 more per cup

The ABGP urged the Hotel Owners' Association to intervene immediately and review the sudden price increase. It called for scientifically determining the prices by taking into account the quantity of milk used, sugar consumption and fuel costs, ensuring that the revised rates neither burden consumers nor cause losses to hotel owners.

The ABGP Mysuru unit's Vice-President Vikram Iyengar, K.M. Nishanth, Dayananda Nayak, Jatti Prasad, Deepak, Subrahmanyaraj Urs, retired teacher Mahadevaswamy, Shivalingaswamy, Jagadish and others were present.

Promised discussion

Receiving the memorandum submitted by the ABGP regarding the hike in coffee and tea prices after the increase in milk prices, Narayanagowda said that the prices of various food ingredients were rising almost every day, and hotels might have revised their rates after taking all these factors into consideration. However, he assured the delegation that the association would discuss the issue with hotel owners and appeal for scientifically determining the prices of coffee and tea in a manner that would not burden consumers or cause losses to hotel owners.

"The power of protecting hands is greater than that of harming hands"

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Spiritual leader Sadguru Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, affectionately known as 'Amma' by her devotees, expressed happiness at reuniting with her children after the COVID-19 pandemic, describing the reunion as a confluence of hearts bound together by love.

She was speaking at the Brahmasthanam Mahotsavam held at the Mata Amritanandamayi Math in Bogadi Second Stage, Mysuru.

Reflecting on the lessons humanity must learn from COVID-19 and other calamities, Amma outlined three principles essential for harmonious living: cooperation with fellow human beings, coexistence with nature, and spiritual communion with the Divine.

While conflicts between individuals and nations could be resolved through dialogue and compromise, Amma cautioned that humanity's relationship with nature required humility, love and respect. She called upon people to share the Earth and its resources responsibly with all living beings.

Emphasising universal compassion and an inclusive outlook, Amma urged humanity to restore harmony and work towards building a peaceful and equitable world.

Dr C.N. Manjunath, renowned cardiologist, Padma Shri awardee and Bengaluru Rural MP, was speaking after digitally inaugurating the newly constructed 100-bed block of Amritakripa Multispeciality Hospital. Lauding Amma's life and humanitarian initiatives, he highlighted the transformative power of compassion, selfless service and spiritual values.

Describing Amma as a divine ambassador guiding humanity, Dr Manjunath said her journey from a small village to becoming a global symbol of spirituality demonstrated the significance of service to humanity. Holistic societal development was possible only when literacy was complemented by values and a cultural and moral upbringing, he said.

He appreciated Amma's contributions to the education and healthcare sectors, particularly her efforts to make quality medical treatment affordable and accessible to the poor and middle-class sections of society.

Dr Manjunath called upon the youth to speak responsibly, nurture healthy relationships, practise yoga and exercise, and contribute to society through small but meaningful acts.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda lauded Amma's humanitarian and spiritual services, including providing housing to the poor and extending yoga and spiritual teachings to all sections of society, including prison inmates.



New 100-bed block of Amritakripa Multispeciality Hospital digitally inaugurated at the programme in Mysuru

Amma's three principles

- **Cooperation:** with fellow human beings
- **Coexistence:** with nature
- **Communion:** spiritual, with the Divine

He said the true meaning of coexistence lay in sharing the Earth and its natural resources with fellow human beings and other living creatures.

Expressing happiness over the inauguration of the new hospital block in his constituency, Devegowda thanked Amma for her continuous efforts towards affordable healthcare and social welfare.

As part of the rural women's empowerment programme, scholarships were distributed to 50 students. Since 2020, more than 150 students have been provided free professional paramedical training, including accommodation, under the initiative. The programme has helped improve their employment opportunities and social security.

Under the Amrita Sree (Amrita Self-Reliance and Empowerment) scheme and the Amrita Sahay Nidhi programme, sarees and financial assistance were distributed to 250 women on November 2.

The two-day programme is extending assistance to a total of 500 beneficiaries from rural Karnataka. The remaining 250 women will receive assistance on November 3.

The programme was attended by K.R. MLA T.S. Srivatsa, former University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemanth Kumar and others.

Hike in milk price: Gandadagudi Foundation stages protest in the city



Members of Gandadagudi Foundation at the protest in front of the Old Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mysuru on Monday

The Foundation asks

- → Why ₹12 more on a litre of milk when the announced hike is ₹8?
- → Who benefits from the ₹5 left after ₹7 goes to farmers?
- → Where does curd's ₹14 increase go?

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Members of Gandadagudi Foundation staged a peaceful protest in front of the Old Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mysuru on Monday, opposing the hike in milk and curd prices and KSRTC bus fares.

The protesters said the price increases would impose an additional financial burden on poor and middle-class families, who were already struggling with the rising cost of essential commodities. They urged the government to reconsider and withdraw the hikes in the interest of the common people.

Addressing the protesters, Aryan Gandadagudi, State President of Gandadagudi Foundation, questioned the rationale behind the increase in milk prices by ₹12 per litre, despite the announced hike being ₹8. He asked why ₹7 of the additional amount was being paid to farmers and who was benefiting from the remaining ₹5.

He also questioned the ₹14 per litre increase in curd prices, asking where the additional amount was going if it was not being paid to milk producers. He demanded that the government and concerned departments provide a transparent explanation to the public.

Aryan stressed that farmers producing milk should receive a fair price for their produce, while consumers should not be burdened with excessive costs, adding that the government had a responsibility to protect the interests of both farmers and consumers.

The Foundation demanded the withdrawal of the hikes in milk, curd and KSRTC bus fares.

Yashodha R., Mahadev Shetty, Shivashankar, Vinod William, Mahesh Bovi, Soumya Manju, Yashwanth, Prithviraj, Vidya, Appu, Akshay and Jagadish, among others, participated in the protest.

MCC clears nearly 1,250 tonnes of debris along Sathagalli Ring Road

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has cleared nearly 1,250 metric tonnes of construction debris and solid waste dumped illegally along the Sathagalli Ring Road in Ward No. 35, as part of its 'Swachhata Hi Seva' initiative undertaken during Dasara.

Following directions from the MCC Commissioner to take up Ring Road cleaning during Dasara, a team led by Zone 9 Development Officer Arshiya and other officials and staff carried out the clearance operation for nearly a week.

Construction and demolition debris, including soil, stones, broken bricks and other solid waste, had been illegally dumped along the roadside, causing unhygienic conditions, inconvenience to the public and damage to the city's aesthetic appeal.

The MCC undertook a comprehensive cleaning drive to remove the accumulated construction waste and garbage. Nearly 1,250 metric tonnes of debris, soil, stones and other waste were transported and cleared using tipper vehicles.



The stretch in Ward No. 35 before and after the cleaning and barricading work

To prevent the recurrence of illegal dumping, green mesh barricading has been installed along the roadside after the clearance operation.

The initiative is expected to help curb illegal dumping of construction debris, maintain cleanliness along the roadside, provide a clean and safe environment for the public, preserve the city's beauty and protect the environment. It will also help reduce recurring expenditure on waste clearance in the future.

The installation of green mesh barricading is aimed at ensuring that the area remains free from illegal dumping.

The initiative is in line with the MCC's vision of 'Clean Mysuru – Beautiful Mysuru' and represents a significant step towards maintaining urban cleanliness, environmental protection and public welfare.

1,250 tonnes, nearly: debris and waste cleared



At the site. The work came thanks to the efforts of MCC Chief M.K. Savitha

MCC launches doorstep delivery of birth and death certificates



The poster release at the Oval Grounds on November 1

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has launched a new facility to deliver birth and death certificates to citizens at their doorsteps through postal services.

The poster announcing the new facility was released by Urban Development and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah in Mysuru.

The poster was unveiled on the stage during the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations held at the Oval Grounds on November 1, in the presence of MLAs and MLCs representing Mysuru city.

Citizens can scan the QR code printed on the poster to access complete information about the new facility.

Price rise: BJP plans a mega rally in Mysuru on Nov 6

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The BJP has launched a nationwide campaign titled 'Eradicate Anarchy, Save Democracy' to counter what it termed misinformation being spread by the Congress, the CPI and their alliance partners against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission of India.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Mysuru City District spokesperson Mohan alleged that the Congress and its allies were spreading false information about the SIR process with the intention of weakening autonomous institutions in the country and creating an atmosphere of anarchy. The BJP had initiated the nationwide campaign to expose what it described as attempts to undermine democratic institutions and protect the democratic framework.

BJP MLA T.S. Srivatsa announced that party workers and members of the public from Mysuru and four neighbouring districts would participate in a massive rally on November 6 to protest against the alleged misrule of the Congress government in Karnataka and the rising prices of essential commodities.

The rally is expected to bring together party workers from across the five districts, with the BJP seeking to mobilise public support against the State government's policies and the growing cost of living.

The campaign comes amid a political confrontation between the BJP and the Congress over the Election Commission's SIR exercise. The revision of electoral rolls has become a major political issue, with opposition parties raising concerns over the process, while the BJP has defended it as necessary for maintaining accurate and reliable voter lists.

> *Party workers and the public from five districts to join the November 6 rally*

The BJP leaders said the November 6 rally would highlight both national-level concerns over democratic institutions and state-level issues, including price rise and alleged administrative failures.

Mysuru City District BJP president Nagendra, divisional co-in-charge Ningarajegowda, general secretary Somasundar, media in-charge Mahesh Raje Urs and co-spokesperson Jayashekar were present.



BJP leaders at the press conference in Mysuru on Sunday

Quick Read

Missing Bengaluru youth's body found at Gokarna

CH NEWS, GOKARNA

The body of a 24-year-old Bengaluru youth, who went missing after drowning at Dubbanashashi Beach in Gokarna on Sunday, was recovered early Monday morning. The deceased, Vishesh A.K., son of Anand Kulal and a resident of Babusapalya in Bengaluru, went missing around 7.30 am on November 1 while playing in the sea. Several tourists were caught in strong waves during the incident. Two people died, while others were rescued. Gokarna police, along with the Coast Guard and local residents, launched a search operation to trace Vishesh. His body was found near the beach around 1.45 am on Monday. A case has been registered at Gokarna Police Station.

Applications invited to establish Grama One Centres

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Applications have been invited online for establishing Grama One centres in vacant locations across Grade-1 upgraded gram panchayats in Haveri district. The locations include Devaragudda and other gram panchayats in Haveri, Byadgi, Ranebennur and other taluks. Interested applicants must submit their applications through the Seva Sindhu portal at sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in, the District Administration stated. Grama One centres aim to provide multiple government services under one roof, making essential services more accessible to rural residents at their doorstep.

Applications invited for State Disability awards

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens has invited applications for state-level awards recognising individuals, organisations and special educators who have rendered outstanding services in the disability sector. Eligible applicants must submit the prescribed application form along with supporting documents in duplicate to the District Disabled Welfare Officer's office by November 7. For further information, applicants can contact the department office at Kanakadasa Layout, District Panchayat premises, Vijayapura, or call 08352-796060, according to a press release issued by the District Disabled Welfare Officer.

'Officials must respond promptly to public grievances'

Addressing rainfall deficits, Arshad urged officials to install stop-logs at check dams and take preventive steps against summer water shortages.



The quarterly KDP meeting at the Zilla Panchayat complex in Manipal.

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Government officials must respond promptly to public grievances and resolve issues within their authority, District In-charge Minister Rizwan Arshad said on Monday.

He warned that negligence in handling public complaints would invite appropriate action.

Chairing the quarterly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meeting at the Zilla Panchayat complex in Manipal, he instructed officials to coordinate between departments instead of shifting responsibility. He said he had visited the district seven times since taking charge and was monitoring the functioning of government offices.

Expressing concern over the rainfall deficit, Arshad directed officials to take preventive measures against possible summer drinking water shortages, including installing stop-logs at check dams. He also asked the Deputy Commissioner to review pending applications submitted under Forms 53, 54 and 94C for land and house sites, and ensure eligible cases were processed according to rules.

He acknowledged the shortage of staff for 108 ambulance services and asked health officials to prepare a plan to improve services using available personnel. Surveys relating to deemed forests and forest clearances for development and drinking water projects must also be expedited.

The Minister stressed timely textbook and footwear distribution, school repairs, quality education and effective implementation of the midday meal scheme. He expressed concern that farmers were yet to receive irrigation benefits under the Varahi project, despite an expenditure of ₹200 crore over eight years against the planned ₹326 crore. The Deputy Commissioner was asked to convene a meeting to resolve the reserved forest-related technical issue.

He also reviewed pending work at Hejamadi port, coastal erosion protection, fishing harbour desilting, sand availability and the use of District Mineral Foundation funds. Officials were told to ensure regular drinking water testing, continuous supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission, quality food and clean water filters in Anganwadis, and proper use of the ₹1 lakh Saksham Anganwadi grant.

Road repairs and clearance of roadside vegetation were also prioritised.

MLAs, MLCs, Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K., Zilla Panchayat CEO Prateek Bayal, SP Hariram Shankar and other officials attended.

KDP meeting in a nutshell

- → Preventive steps against summer water shortage
- → Varahi irrigation delays taken up
- → Forest clearances and surveys to be expedited
- → School and welfare schemes reviewed
- → Port and fishing harbour works reviewed

Vande Bharat Sleeper service brings joy to Kalyana Karnataka

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

The introduction of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Raichur, Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts has brought joy to people across the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The long-pending public demand for improved railway connectivity has finally been fulfilled, said Baburao at the service's inaugural ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Baburao said the new train was designed to operate at a maximum speed of 180 kmph and would offer modern facilities for a comfortable journey. He described the service as an important development for passengers travelling from the region to distant destinations.

He said the Udyan Express takes around 24 hours to complete the journey, while the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express is expected to cover the same route in approximately 16 hours. The new service would therefore help passengers save nearly eight hours of travel time while enjoying improved onboard facilities, he added.

Baburao thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna on behalf of the people of Kalyana Karnataka for making the service possible. He said the introduction of the train reflected the outcome of sustained public efforts and demands for better railway facilities.

Former MP Raja Amaresh Nayak said the new service would strengthen railway connectivity across Kalyana Karnataka. Improved connectivity would support the development of trade, employment, education and tourism in the region, he observed.

180 kmph	16 hours	8 hours
maximum speed	against 24 on the Udyan Express	of travel time saved

Devadurga MLA Karemma G. Nayak, Secunderabad Divisional Railway Manager Gopal Krishna, Station Master Ashok Kumar Meena, Om Prakash, Hemaraj, Basavaraj, Mareppa, Chandru, Chandrashekhar, Pampanagouda and Daroor Basavaraj attended the programme. Railway police personnel, railway employees and thousands of people were also present.

The launch was welcomed as an important step towards improving transport facilities and connectivity for people in the region.

Five-year-old male leopard caught in a cage in Magadi taluk

CH NEWS, MAGADI



Residents of Mattikere and surrounding villages in Magadi taluk breathed a temporary sigh of relief after a five-year-old male leopard was caught in a Forest Department cage on Monday morning.

The animal was trapped near a farmer's land close to Mahadeshwara Colony following relentless pressure from locals.

For the past three months, at least ten villages—including Mattikere, Gattipura, Heligehalli Colony, and surrounding settlements—have lived in constant fear. Leopards frequently prowled the area in broad daylight, preying on livestock such as goats, calves, and poultry. Farmers and agricultural labourers faced grave danger while tending to fields or fetching fodder, as big cats routinely followed them.

Tensions peaked recently when villagers witnessed a mother leopard nursing her two cubs on a local rock. Prompted by community leader Kempegowda, locals urgently petitioned the Forest Department to install traps.

While the successful capture of the five-year-old male marks a significant breakthrough, villagers remain deeply anxious.

With multiple leopards—including the mother and cubs—still believed to be at large, the public has strongly demanded that forest officials intensify operations and deploy additional cages.

'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MUST GUIDE GRASSROOTS PLANNING'

CH NEWS, GADAG

People-centric development schemes must be formulated from the grassroots level with active public participation, said D.R. Patil, Vice-Chairman of the State Decentralisation Planning and Development Committee.

He was speaking at a meeting on the formulation and implementation of people's plans held at the Gadag Zilla Panchayat Hall on Monday.

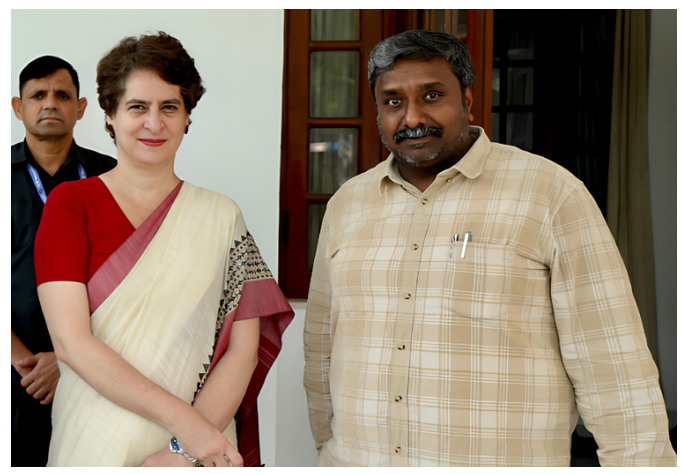
He said that development planning had traditionally followed a top-down approach, but the government was now focusing on decentralised planning beginning at village and ward levels.

Patil said local needs and public aspirations must guide the preparation of schemes. Officials were instructed to collect suggestions at village, ward, Gram Panchayat, taluk and district levels and identify priority works. He stressed that the planning process should not be treated merely as an administrative exercise and called for responsible participation from officials and the public.

He also said plans prepared and submitted according to established rules should not be changed arbitrarily. Officials must ensure proper implementation and provide opportunities for all sections of society to participate in local governance.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara said Gadag was the first district in Karnataka to prepare and submit such a plan to the government. A village-wise priority list had already been prepared. He asked officials to organise meetings at all levels and coordinate their efforts to identify and implement essential works.

KPCC Vice-President attends INDIA bloc rally in Delhi



S.E. Sudheendra calls on AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Vice-President and Chairman of the Karnataka State Bio-Energy Development Board S.E. Sudheendra attended the INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' mega rally organised at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi.

The rally witnessed the participation of leaders and representatives of various political parties belonging to the INDIA bloc.

Sudheendra's participation highlighted the presence of Karnataka Congress leadership at the national-level programme. The rally was organised to bring together opposition leaders and party workers on a common platform to discuss issues of national importance and demonstrate their collective political strength.

Following the conclusion of the rally, Sudheendra paid a courtesy visit to All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the national capital.

During the meeting, he exchanged greetings with the senior Congress leader and discussed the importance of strengthening the party organisation and continuing public welfare activities in Karnataka.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra appreciated the active participation of Karnataka's Congress leadership in the rally. She also extended her best wishes for the public welfare initiatives being undertaken in the state and the party's continued organisational development.

The meeting was described as a courtesy visit following the rally and reflected the interaction between the national leadership and representatives of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

Sudheendra's visit to New Delhi also provided an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the state party leadership towards organisational coordination and public engagement. As a KPCC vice-president and chairman of the Karnataka State Bio-Energy Development Board, he has been associated with both party activities and initiatives related to the state's bio-energy sector.

At Ramlila Maidan

Opposition leaders and party workers on a common platform to demonstrate collective political strength

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra appreciated the active participation of Karnataka's Congress leadership in the rally

CHANGE OF NAME

I,R KAILASH KUMAR MODI JAIN Residing at No. 1701/A, Nes No 33, 6th Cross, 2nd Block, Ashish Royal Apartment, BSK 1st stage, Banashankari Post, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560050, I HAVE changed my son Name From K.PRITHVI MODI to PRITHVI KAILASH MODI, vide affidavit date: 09/10/2026 sworn before notary Sumithra.N Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIK MOHSIN ABDULLAH (old name), a resident of Vrushabdri villas, Flat 313, hennur main Road, Bangalore - 560043, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SHAIK MOHSIN ABDULLA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 02-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DINOLA BHAT W/o RADHAKRISHNA BHAT, R/o 99-B, Ideal Homes Township, 13th Loop Road, Behind Bank of Maharashtra, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560098, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RITA SHERINA DINOLA BHAT.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AZAM PASHA SABJN**, S/o. Sabjan sahib Resident of No. 27, 3rd cross Near jain temple Road Sultan Nagar Bengaluru -560051have changed my name to **AZAM PASHA** vide affidavit dated: 02.11.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ZAIBA. S**, residing at No.24/2, 'C' No.2nd Street, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru -560051, have changed my name to **ZAIBA. M**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 02.11.2026 before notary N. NAGAPPA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAURAJ CHAKRABORTY S/o SUJIT CHAKRABORTY R/o Udichi Kunj, House No. 7, 3rd B Cross, Anandapura Circle, TC Palya Main Road, Opposite to Anandapura Bus Stop, Varanasi, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560036, have changed the name of my minor son SHLOK CHAKRABORTY aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as VYEDH CHAKRABORTY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sathish S/o Shreedhara Acharya R/o Munduru Main Raod, Belthangady, VTC; Munduru, PO: Melanthabellu, Sub District: Dakshina Kannada, State: Karnataka-574214 have changed my name to Sathisha K

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mrs. Rohini, W/O. Mr. Krishna Gowda,** residing at No.104/26, 2nd Cross, Kempapura Main Road, Near MEI School, Sri Nandi Nagara, Bangalore North, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560090. My clients have owned the property by through Registered Sale deed Document No.HSR-1-03257-2023-24, dated: 29-09-2023, now my Clint availing loan from Piramal Finance Ltd, if any person/persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any rights, title and interest over the schedule property may forward their objections or claims to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within **seven (07) days** from the date of this publication. if there were to be no response to this notice within the time stipulated, my client will proceed with the Loan Piramal Finance Ltd. Any response after the expiry of the stipulated time, the same will be ignored. **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.04, Assessment No.36, situated at Kumbharahalli Grama, Kasaghattapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Measuring East to West: 35 Feet, North to South : 30 Feet, in all Measuring 1050 Sq. Ft, and bounded on the **East By** : Property of G.Govindaraju, **West By :** Property No.03, **North By :** Property No.01, **South by :** 25 Feet Road.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Email : harishsgowda48@gmail.com
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mr.Rajendra, S/o. Sohan Lal,** Residing at No.211-4271, Ground Floor, Gear School Road, Near BM Lotus Apartment, Carmelaram Post, Doddakahalli, Bangalore-560035. He has lost the Hakku Patra of dated on 10-12-1972, He has lost at Near Doddakanahalli bus stop, Accordingly he had lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated 02/11/2026 Report No.2515105/2026.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel property bearing of Site No.317, Property No.8, Old V.P. Katha No.193/1/193/1/317, present BBMP Katha No.193/1/193/1/317, Situated at Doddakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West : 40-0 Feet's, and North to south : 16 Feet's, Totally measuring 640 sq. feet's bounded on **East by** : Site No.318 belongs to Muniyappa, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Remaining portion of same Site purchased-By Suresh Kumar Jangid, **South by :** Road,If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to hand over the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mr.A Umar Farooq and Mrs. Afsana,** both are Residing at Sulibele, Hosakote, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka -562129. he had lost the Registered Original Sale Deed Of Doc No.HSK-1-11682-2015-16 dated on 21-03-2016 he had lost at Near Thanisandra bus stop, bus stop Accordingly he had lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated 01/11/2026 Report No.2512462/2026.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel property bearing Site No.22, Katha No.15120040011210022, Old Property No.67/1, 67/2 and 26, Situated at Sulibele Village, Sulibele Hobli, Bangalore Rural Taluk, measuring East to West : 30 Feets, and North to south :40 Feets, Totally measuring 1200 sq feets bounded on **East by** : Site No.21B, **West by :** Site No.23, **North by:** Site No. 33A and 33B, **South by** : Road,If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to handover the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building,
T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057.
Mobile No. 90609 50265.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೂಚನೆ

ಶ್ರೀ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ .ಎ.ಪಿ. ಆಲದಳ್ಳಿ, ಶ್ರೀರಂಗಪಟ್ಟಣ ತಾಲೂಕು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 7259236622, ಆದ ನಾನು ಶ್ರೀ ದಯಾನಂದ, ಚಿಕ್ಕೇಗೌಡನ ಹುಂಡಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಬೋಗಾದಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಆಶಯ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಗಣಕೀಕೃತ ನಮೂನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 3ಎ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 24388307 ಹಾಗೂ 473937188 ಮನೆ ನಂಬರ್ C/3 ಶ್ರೀ ನಿಂಗೇಗೌಡ @ ನಿಂಗಣ್ಣ ಅವರ ತಾಯಿ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಹೊನ್ನಮ್ಮ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕ್ರಯ ಆಗಿರುವ ಮನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ತಕರಾರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ 7 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ನನಗಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ **ಎಂ. ಗುರುಪ್ರಸಾದ್,** ವಕೀಲರು, ಎಂ ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಏಏ ರೋಡ್ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9242221603 ಇವರಿಗಾಗಲಿ ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಇಲ್ಲವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಕರಾರು ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Crl Misc No. 572/2026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Mansur Khan S/o Mehabub Pasha Aged about 30 years, **2. Sri. Mehabub Pasha,** S/o Late Bashir Ahammed, Aged about 47 Years, Both are R/at. Palanajogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura. V/S

RESPONDENT: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of Grandfather of the petitioner by name Sri. Bashir Ahammad S/o Late Shiek Hydar @ Sabu Sab, who died on 18.04.1996, at Palanajogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of death of Smt. Hazira bee ay hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 08.12.2026 at 11 AM in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, it will be heard and determined ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 30.10.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, 1st Addl., Civil Judge and JMFC at Doddaballapura

Advocate for Petitioners: **Sri. Srureshkumar N.**
Advocate, Doddaballapur.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1076/2025

Petitioners: Sri.Ravisha S/o Late Bhadraiah Aged about 55 years, R/at Bhaktharahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and V/s

RespondentbR Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Mother of petitioner by name LATE GANGAMMA W/O LATE BHADRAIAH who died on 16.06.2001 at Bhaktharahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 30-11-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30 day of October 2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, II Addl., Civil Judge and JMFC at Doddaballapura

Advocate: **K.N.Sathish Kumar,** Krishna Building, Taluk Office Road, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Crl Misc No. 570/026

PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Mansur Khan S/o Mehabub Pasha Aged about 30 years, **2. Sri. Mehabub Pasha,** S/o Late Bashir Ahammed, Aged about 47 Years, Both are R/at. Palanajogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura. V/S

RESPONDENT: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PAPER PUBLICATION

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of Grandmother of the petitioner by name Smt. Hazira bee W/o Bashir Ahammad who died on 25.07.1991, at Palanajogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Whom so ever if any person who are related or interested or dispute date of death of Smt. Hazira bee ay hereby appear in the above said court in person or through pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question raising in the petition on the day of 08.12.2026 at 11 AM in said court. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, it will be heard and determined ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 30.10.2026.

By order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, 1st Addl., Civil Judge and JMFC at Doddaballapura

Advocate for Petitioners: **Sri. Srureshkumar N.**
Advocate, Doddaballapur.

Quick Read

Mandya invites youth for speech competition

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Applications have been invited for a district-level speech competition under the MY Bharat platform of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as part of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament initiative. The competition will focus on the theme 'One Nation, One Election'. Participants aged 18 to 25 years as of August 17 must deliver a three-minute speech in Kannada, English or Hindi. The top three district-level winners will advance to the state competition, while three state-level winners will qualify for the national event, offering an opportunity to speak in Parliament. Registration closes on Nov 9. For details, contact 7736811030 or 8970350815.

Banjara artists invited for 'Kala Malavo' programme

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Karnataka Tanda Development Corporation has invited applications from talented Banjara artists for its 2026-27 'Banjara Bahumukhi Kala Pratibhanveshane – Kala Malavo' programme to preserve and promote the community's traditional arts and culture. The programme will feature folk dances, traditional songs, group singing, Ghoomar, Lengi, Nangara Roli, devotional music, children's performances and other Banjara art forms. Interested artists must submit applications in the prescribed format between Nov 1 and 20 at the corporation's zonal offices in Koppal, Gadag, Vijayanagara and Ballari, officials said.

D.F. Eragara appointed State Teachers' Association Vice-President

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

D.F. Eragara, a teacher at Government Higher Primary School No. 16 in Hosur, Hubballi, has been nominated as the State Vice-President of the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association. The appointment letter was handed over by Association State President Chandrashekhara Nuggali and General Secretary Chetan H.S. during a meeting held at the Circuit House in Alamatti, Vijayapura district. Several office-bearers, including Dharwad District President V.F. Chulaki, District Vice-President M.M. Ghodake and Hubballi City Taluk President M.U. Shirahatti, along with other association members.

Centre must raise MSP before sugar factories begin operations

Jarkiholi noted that factory owners worry about suspending operations if MSP hikes fail to materialise, echoing last year's issues.



The press meet at Congress Bhavan in Belagavi on Monday

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi has said that the Central Government must first increase the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar to provide a permanent solution to the ongoing dispute over sugarcane prices.

He said sugar factory owners were reluctant to take the risk of commencing crushing operations without clarity on the Centre's decision.

Speaking to reporters at Congress Bhavan in Belagavi on Monday, Jarkiholi said factory owners were concerned that they might have to suspend operations midway if the expected increase in MSP did not materialise. A similar situation had occurred last year, he pointed out.

Responding to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's suggestion that the state government should first announce the State Advised Price (SAP), Jarkiholi said the Centre should increase the MSP before asking the state to bear the additional financial burden. He also demanded that the Centre formally recognise the prevailing market price of sugar.

Consent first

Sugar factories were ready to commence operations if farmers gave their consent, Jarkiholi said. A consensus between farmers' organisations and factory owners was essential to resolve the dispute.

The state government had already facilitated an agreement under which factories agreed to pay Rs 3,500 per tonne, based on the prevailing sugar market price. Factory owners had also agreed to increase the payment proportionately if the MSP was raised. However, they were yet to return for further discussions as promised, he said.

Jarkiholi said increasing the MSP was the only permanent solution, warning that the dispute would otherwise resurface every October.

On other issues, he said Congress was identifying capable candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat elections. He also said the winter session of the legislature would be held earlier in Belagavi in view of the anticipated local body election schedule.

Regarding recurring floods along Ballari Nala, he said widening the drain was necessary to prevent waterlogging and provide a permanent solution for affected residents and farmers.

Onake Obavva Jayanti to be observed on Nov 11



The preparatory meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall in Gadag

CH NEWS, GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara directed officials to arrange the programme, including a floral tribute to the heroic woman.

Key points

- → Onake Obavva remembered for Chitradurga bravery.
- → Appeal for community and administration coordination.
- → Obavva symbolised women's courage in history.

The district administration has decided to observe the birth anniversary of legendary warrior Onake Obavva on November 11 in a simple and symbolic manner at the auditorium of the District Administration Building in Gadag.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sreedhara has directed officials to make the necessary arrangements for the programme, including a floral tribute to the heroic woman.

He was speaking while presiding over a preparatory meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall on Monday. During the meeting, he instructed officials to coordinate with various departments and ensure that the Jayanti programme was conducted smoothly in accordance with government guidelines.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed happiness over the enthusiasm shown by members of the community in coming forward to organise the Jayanti celebrations on a grand scale.

He appreciated their interest in remembering the contribution and courage of Onake Obavva, who occupies an important place in Karnataka's history.

He also appealed to community leaders, elders and representatives to extend their cooperation to the district administration in organising the event. He stressed the need for coordination between the administration and community organisations to ensure that the programme was conducted with dignity and respect.

Onake Obavva is remembered for her extraordinary bravery in defending Chitradurga Fort against invading forces. Armed with an ordinary pestle (Onake), she reportedly fought the enemy soldiers and demonstrated remarkable courage and patriotism. Her sacrifice has made her an enduring symbol of women's courage and resistance in Karnataka's history.

Dr. Basavaraj V. Ballari, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, welcomed the participants and delivered the vote of thanks.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Durgesh K.R., Sub-Divisional Officer Gangappa M., the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, the Deputy Director of the Department of Pre-University Education, retired teacher S.N. Ballari and officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Several prominent personalities, community representatives and elders were also present and shared their views on the arrangements for the Jayanti celebrations.

Education key to community development: Min Lamani

CH NEWS, HAVERI



The government was implementing various schemes for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Lamani said

Education is the most important instrument for the development of a community, and parents must ensure that their children receive quality education and aspire to achieve high positions such as IAS and IPS officers, said Sugar and Textiles Minister and Haveri District In-charge Minister Rudrappa Manappa Lamani.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti celebrations organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department, Haveri City Municipal Council and district and taluk units of the Akhila Karnataka Valmiki Nayaka Mahasabha at the District Valmiki Bhavan in Haveri.

Lamani urged members of the Valmiki community to make effective use of government educational facilities, scholarships and training programmes.

He particularly advised parents to give priority to their children's education and create awareness about competitive examinations such as the civil services. Children should be encouraged to aim for responsible positions in administration and public service, he said.

The minister also said Valmiki Jayanti should not be restricted to processions and celebrations. People should read the Valmiki Ramayana, understand the ideals of Maharshi Valmiki and incorporate his teachings into their lives.

Dr. Honnappa Honnamma, lecturer at Government First Grade College, Ranebennur, delivered a special lecture on the life and contributions of Maharshi Valmiki.

Meritorious students who secured top marks in SSLC and PUC examinations were honoured with awards. Incentive grants were also distributed to inter-caste married couples.

Earlier, a procession carrying a portrait of Maharshi Valmiki was taken out from Valmiki Circle to the District Valmiki Bhavan. Various cultural troupes, Dollu performances and dance groups added colour to the procession.

Sri Prasannanandapuri Mahaswamiji of the Maharshi Valmiki Gurupeetha, state Valmiki community leaders, officials and public representatives attended the programme.

Chief Minister to launch projects in Hiriyur on Nov 3

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Rs 244 cr

project to fill 17 lakes, including the Gayatri Reservoir

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will visit Hiriyur taluk on Tuesday, Nov 3, to lay foundation stones and inaugurate several development projects, Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy announced.

Addressing a press conference at the Travellers' Bungalow in Hiriyur on Monday, Raghumurthy outlined the Chief Minister's itinerary. Shivakumar is scheduled to arrive in Hiriyur by helicopter at 10 am. At 11 am, he will lay the foundation stone for a new KSRTC bus stand at Dharmapura. He will also interact with local farmer leaders and hear their concerns over the proposed filling of eight lakes in the area.

Filling 17 lakes

At around 12.30 pm, the Chief Minister will visit Dindavara village in Javanagondanahalli hobli. There, he will lay the foundation stone for a Rs 244-crore project to fill 17 lakes, including the Gayatri Reservoir, under the Minor Irrigation Department. A public meeting will also be held.

At around 2 pm, at the Vokkaliga Students' Hostel premises in Hiriyur, Shivakumar will lay the foundation stone for a Vokkaliga Community Hall estimated to cost Rs 5 crore and inaugurate a sewage system project worth Rs 100 crore. Various other development works approved for the taluk through the Urban Development, Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare and Minority Welfare departments will also be launched.

Ganga Pooje at Aimangala

After 3 pm, the Chief Minister will perform Ganga Pooje at Aimangala Lake, one of the 12 lakes in Aimangala hobli recently filled under the Bhadra Upper Bank Project. He will address a public gathering before returning to Bengaluru.

Shiggaon police book VAO exam topper over malpractice

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Shiggaon police have registered an FIR against Shankar Bannur, who secured the top position in the Haveri district merit list in the Village Administrative Officer (VAO) recruitment examination, over allegations of malpractice during the test.

Case under IT Act

The case has been registered under the Information Technology Act and the Karnataka Public Examinations (Measures for Prevention of Corruption and Unfair Means in Recruitment) Act, 2023, following an investigation into suspected cheating at the examination centre.

Rajyotsava celebrated at Gadag Maternity Hospital

CH NEWS, GADAG

Karnataka Rajyotsava was celebrated with enthusiasm on the premises of Dandappa Manvi Maternity Hospital in Gadag. The programme was jointly organised by the hospital and the Taluk Health Officer's office.

Dr. Ajeya Basarigidad, Chief Administrative Medical Officer of the hospital, hoisted the national flag. Speaking on the occasion, he said Gadag district had made an incomparable contribution to the unification of Karnataka. He paid tribute to prominent figures such as Aluru Venkatarao, Doddameti Andanappa, Huilagola Narayanarao, philanthropist Basarigidad Veerappa and Shantappanna Yalamali for their role in the unification movement.

Garden of diverse communities

Dr. Preet Khona, Gadag Taluk Health Officer and chief guest, described Kannada Rajyotsava as an important festival for the people of Karnataka.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-1/2026-27/ DATED: 02.11.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 43/2026-27, Dated: 02.11.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD Short-term tender is invited through E-Procurement for 01 Work under PWD Hassan Division. The Estimated amount is Rs.400.00 Lakhs. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 17.11.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/656/ಕೆಎಸ್ಐಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for the below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Renovation works to KHB 3rd Floor Lobby & Reception area in Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. **Tender Reference Number:** KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 820 & IFT No. 87/2026-27 Date: 31.10.2026. **Amount Put to tender:** Rs.37,27,456/-
2	Renovation works to KHB 4th Floor, SLAO Cabin-1 & 2 in Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. **Tender Reference Number:** KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK INDENT 821 & IFT No. 88/2026-27 Date: 31.10.2026. **Amount Put to tender:** Rs.37,25,860/-.

Last date for submission of bid: 11.11.2026 up to 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/3471/AKAR/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South District
No. EE/PWD/RMN Div./TND-13/2026-27 Date : 02.11.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short term tender invited from qualified Consultancy for the works through KPP portal as per standard bid document. The eligible Consultancy can participate in this tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Documents may be downloaded from: **02.11.2026** & Last date for submission of tenders **Dt: 11.11.2026 up to 16.00 hours.** Date of opening of Technical Bid **Dt: 12.11.2026 at 16.30 hours** (if possible). Tender processing fees & EMD as per KPP Portal. No of **works 01,** Estimate Cost **Rs. 95.25 lakhs.** For more information contact the above office during office hours.

Note: Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Ramanagar Division,
Bengaluru South District

DIPR/BSD/348/SA/2026-27

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, HOLALKERE-577526, CHITRADURGA (Dist)
Email:apmcholalkere@gmail.com Ph:08191-275113
NO:APMC (HOLA) : 393: 2026-27 DATE 31-10-2026.

E-Tender Auction Notification

The Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Holalkere, has issued an e-tender notification inviting competitive interest rates via an e-portal for placing surplus funds amounting to Rs. **2.00 crore** currently held in the committee's SBI savings account into a fixed deposit for a period of one year. This invitation is open to eligible Public Sector Banks (including Regional Rural Banks-RRBs) and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. The pre-tender meeting is scheduled for **November 12, 2026**, at **4:30 PM**. The deadline for uploading tender-related documents to the e-portal is **November 19, 2026,** by **4:30 PM**. E-bids may be submitted on **November 23, 2026**, between **11:00 AM To 5:00 PM.** Further information can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) or by visiting the office of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Holalkere (on working days).The committee reserves the right to accept or reject the tender submitted.

Indent No: APMC/2026-27/AUCTION129

Sd/- Secretary, APMC, Holalkere
Sd/- Administrator APMC, Holalkere
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/357/2026-27

IDBI BANK
CIN : L65190MH2004GOI148838
Mission Road Branch
Ground Floor, IDBI House, #58, Mission Road, Bangalore-560027. Ph: 080-45359626/35
Email: ibkl0000008@idbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORANAMENTS

Offers are invited for the public auction of the gold ornaments, pledged in favour of the Bank, for the purpose of recovering the dues owed by the Borrower(s) to the Bank, as detailed below. The auction will be conducted at **4:00 P.M** onwards in the Bank's premises at **03.12.2026.**

Sl No	Account No.	Name of the Borrower & Address	Description of Gold Ornaments Pledged	Gross weight in Grams.	EMD in Rs.	Reserve Price in Rs.
1	0008671 1000147 02	M/s Bagster Retail Private Limited	Gold Chain – 2 Numbers	25.40	2,37,371	23,73,708
2			4 Pairs Ear Stud (1 Pair wihout screw)	34.00		
3			Bangles – 4 Numbers	53.20		
4			Bracelet – 1 Number	12.30		
5			Necklace – 1 Number	33.40		
6			Finger Ring – 3 Numbers	7.00		

The auction shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the sale stipulated by the Bank, a copy of which shall be displayed in the notice Board of Mission Road Branch from **03.11.2026** to **02.12.2026** and interested parties may refer the same. A bidder participating in the auction shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the aforesaid terms and conditions of sale. Last date of submission of the Bid is **02.12.2026.**

Date: 02.11.2026
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Limited

POISON IN THE AIR, PERIL TO LIFE: THE POLLUTION CRISIS BEFORE WINTER SETS IN



LALIT GARGG

Winter has not yet fully set in, yet the air across several Indian cities is already becoming increasingly toxic. The rapidly deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR and several parts of northern India is a stark reminder that air pollution is no longer merely a seasonal problem. It has become a serious challenge confronting environmental governance, urban development and public health. Every year, October and November bring a familiar nightmare: suffocating smog, burning eyes, breathing difficulties and a surge in hospital admissions. The irony is that despite knowing the causes of this recurring crisis and having access to solutions, we appear condemned to relive the same ordeal year after year. The pressing question is this: Will breathing clean air soon become a rare privilege rather than a basic right of every citizen?



Air pollution cannot be attributed to a single cause or blamed on any one state. Vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, dust from construction sites, accumulated road dust, the burning of garbage and organic waste, emissions from thermal power plants, and the burning of agricultural residue are among its principal sources. During winter, falling temperatures, slower wind speeds and unfavourable atmospheric conditions can trap pollutants close to the ground, intensifying their concentration and harmful effects. Weather may aggravate the crisis, but its underlying causes are largely rooted in human activity and inadequate regulation. The problem, therefore, is not simply a consequence of changing seasons; it reflects deeper failures in environmental management, urban planning and the enforcement of pollution-control measures.

Delhi-NCR offers one of the clearest illustrations of this crisis. Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and numerous surrounding areas form an interconnected airshed. Consequently, measures confined to Delhi's administrative boundaries cannot deliver a lasting solution. Air does not recognise political or administrative borders; pollutants travel freely from one region to another, carrying their harmful effects with them. The response must, therefore, be equally comprehensive, based on regional cooperation, shared accountability and a coordinated action plan. Fragmented policies and the shifting of blame between neighbouring states will only prolong the crisis. What is required is a unified approach that addresses pollution at its source and ensures accountability across the entire region.

The most alarming dimension of air pollution is its devastating impact on human health. Fine particulate matter, particularly PM2.5, can penetrate deep into the lungs and, under certain conditions, enter the bloodstream. Prolonged exposure increases the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, strokes and premature death. Children, older people, pregnant women and individuals with pre-existing health conditions are especially vulnerable. The consequences, however, extend far beyond those already suffering from respiratory ailments. Even people who appear healthy may experience reduced productivity, impaired concentration and a diminished quality of life.

When children are prevented from playing outdoors, elderly people are forced to abandon their morning walks, and workers must earn their livelihoods while breathing polluted air, the issue ceases to be merely an environmental concern. It becomes a question of human dignity and the fundamental right to health. Clean air is essential to a life of safety, well-being and dignity. Air purifiers and face masks may offer a degree of protection under certain circumstances, but they cannot substitute for a public system that guarantees cleaner air. Citizens should not be forced to purchase individual protection against a hazard that demands collective action and effective public policy.

Whenever pollution levels rise to dangerous levels, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) becomes an essential instrument for controlling the crisis. Depending on the severity of pollution, it provides for restrictions on construction activities, controls on vehicles and industries, and other emergency measures. However, the effectiveness of such interventions depends not merely on issuing orders but on their rigorous implementation, continuous monitoring and strict enforcement. If construction sites continue to generate clouds of dust, waste continues to be burned in the open, and restrictions are routinely violated, government announcements cannot produce the desired results. A policy that exists only on paper cannot protect a single breath.

A policy that exists only on paper cannot protect a single breath.

The government must stop waiting for pollution to reach catastrophic levels before responding. Preparations should begin as early as September and October, well before the winter crisis peaks. Pollution sources must be identified in advance, industrial units inspected, roads cleaned regularly, dust-control measures enforced at construction sites, and vehicular emissions checked systematically. Strengthening public transport, expanding electric bus services, accelerating the transition to cleaner energy and taking impartial action against polluting industries must form part of a sustained, long-term strategy. Preventive action, rather than emergency firefighting, should become the guiding principle of pollution management.

The challenge of crop-residue burning also demands a practical, sensitive and farmer-centric approach. Merely imposing fines on farmers will not eliminate the problem. Farmers must be provided with affordable machinery, technical assistance, financial incentives and accessible local facilities for managing agricultural residue. Viable alternatives must be made economically and operationally feasible. Farmers should not be treated merely as contributors to the problem; they must be empowered as essential partners in its solution. Lasting change will come not through punitive measures alone, but through cooperation, technological support and policies that recognise the economic realities of agriculture.

Pollution control, however, is not the government's responsibility alone. Citizens, too, must acknowledge their role in protecting the environment. Unnecessary use of private vehicles should be reduced, public transport encouraged, garbage and fallen leaves should not be burned, and energy must be used more efficiently. Reporting violations of environmental regulations to the relevant authorities and participating in local cleanliness drives and initiatives to expand green spaces are equally important. The media, educational institutions and social organisations must intensify public awareness campaigns so that the importance of clean air is not remembered only when pollution reaches its annual peak. Environmental consciousness must become a year-round civic responsibility rather than a temporary reaction to an emergency.

> *"The right to breathe clean air must not remain a promise renewed every winter; it must become a reality protected every day of the year."*
> LALIT GARGG

At the same time, air-quality data must be made available to the public in a transparent and accessible manner. Citizens should receive timely, clear and scientifically sound health advisories corresponding to pollution levels. Schools, hospitals, workplaces and local administrations must be adequately prepared to respond when air quality deteriorates. Reliable information and early warnings can help people take precautions, but these measures must complement—not replace—decisive action to reduce emissions at their source.

Experiences from cities such as Beijing in China demonstrate that sustained policy interventions, cleaner transport systems, industrial emission controls and effective monitoring can bring about significant improvements in air quality. India must draw relevant lessons from such experiences and adapt them to its own geographical, economic and social conditions. The scale of the challenge demands continuity of policy, scientific planning, technological innovation and firm political will. Short-term restrictions may help contain an immediate emergency, but only structural reforms can prevent its annual recurrence.

It is deeply troubling that every winter, millions of people are forced to struggle against polluted air, only for the issue to recede from public attention when the weather changes. No sensitive society can accept such a cycle of suffering, neglect and renewed crisis as inevitable. Clean air is not a luxury reserved for the privileged; it is a fundamental necessity of life. When the air itself becomes a threat to health, the cost is measured not merely in economic losses or administrative failures, but in human suffering, diminished well-being and lives cut short. If decisive measures are not taken today, future generations will be compelled to pay a far heavier price.

The battle against pollution must begin before the crisis deepens, not after the skies have turned grey and the air has become unbreathable. Governments must demonstrate foresight, administrations must ensure accountability, industries must adopt responsible practices, farmers must receive meaningful support, and citizens must embrace environmental responsibility.

The way forward lies in a powerful convergence of proactive governance, accountable administration and informed public participation. Only through this collective resolve can we move beyond seasonal promises and emergency restrictions towards a lasting solution. The true measure of development is not merely the height of our buildings, the speed of our roads or the expansion of our cities, but the quality of life they offer their people.

CURRENT TO EMPLOYEES, SHOCK TO THE PUBLIC



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH



In a democracy, the government's foremost responsibility is to provide basic amenities to the public. Services like electricity, water, education, health, transportation, and communication are the foundation of any civilized society. The quality of these services reflects the efficiency and accountability of the administration. However, when the government system fails to meet public expectations, people begin to look for better alternatives. This provides an opportunity for the private sector to thrive. The question is: when demands for improved government services arise and private alternatives emerge, why does the debate often focus on opposition to privatization rather than the benefits provided to the public?

India's telecommunications sector is a prime example. BSNL was once the mainstay of the country's communications system, but amid changing technology, investment, competition, and quality of service, private companies like Jio and Airtel have established a strong market position. Private courier companies have expanded in the face of the postal department. Amidst questions about the facilities and quality of education in government schools, private schools have grown in popularity. Many people, frustrated by long queues and lack of resources at government hospitals, have turned to private hospitals.

> *Why is the common man suffering amidst the debate on privatisation, employee strikes and consumer rights?*

These examples do not mean that government institutions have become irrelevant or that the private sector always provides better services. Government institutions have played a vital role in providing services to remote areas and supporting economically weaker sections. On the other hand, the private sector also faces challenges such as expensive services, profitability, and differences in services based on consumer financial capacity. Therefore, the real question is not government versus private, but rather better, accessible, affordable, and accountable services.

The same criterion applies to the power system. For the average citizen, electricity is not a luxury, but an essential necessity of life. Children's education, farmers' irrigation, small shopkeepers' businesses, industrial production, and hospital patient care: everything depends on electricity in one way or another. A power outage doesn't just mean darkness in the home. It disrupts work, causes financial loss, and disrupts normal life.

The consumer pays his electricity bill every month. In return, he expects reliable supply at the prescribed rates. He cares less whether the power system is owned by the government or the private sector. What matters to him is that the fan in his home runs, the water motor works, the children can study, and the business continues without unnecessary interruption. While consumers can face action for non-payment, the relevant system should also be held accountable for service disruptions.

In many parts of the country, including Haryana, there has been debate regarding the privatization of the power sector and the demands of employee unions. Proponents of privatization hope for better management, investment, technological improvements, and efficiency.

> **"The government, employees, and private companies all must understand that the public is not a mere bystander, but the center of this entire system."**
> **— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh**

Meanwhile, employee unions fear that privatization could adversely impact job security, service conditions, employee rights, and consumer interests. These concerns cannot be ignored. Before any major change in an essential service like electricity, it is essential to assess its economic, social, and administrative impacts.

Privatization in itself is neither the solution to all problems, nor is its opposition the solution in every situation. If there are shortcomings in the government system, it is the government's responsibility to address them. If responsibility is entrusted to the private sector, effective monitoring of its services, rates, and functioning is also essential. No reform can be considered successful without protecting the interests of rural areas, farmers, and economically weaker consumers. Negligence in service or violations of established standards should be investigated, and where compensation is due under applicable laws, consumers should receive the benefit. Furthermore, the government should establish a permanent dialogue mechanism to address legitimate demands of employees, so that every dispute does not escalate to a strike.

CROWD CONTROL IS NOT ENOUGH: BETTER MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL



- DR. VIJAY GARG

Crowds are a natural part of human life. Religious gatherings, fairs, festivals, railway stations, bus terminals, sporting events and political rallies bring large numbers of people together. A crowd is not a problem in itself; rather, inadequate management often turns it into a serious safety hazard. Fatal stampedes and crowd-related injuries force us to ask an important question: Is controlling a crowd enough, or do we need a better approach to crowd management?

Whenever a crowd grows at a major event, the usual response is to deploy more police personnel, install barricades and restrict people's movement. However, if entry and exit routes are inadequate, attendance has not been properly estimated, and the movement of people is poorly organised, the use of force may worsen the situation. Pushing people backwards, suddenly closing routes or stopping movement without providing alternatives can create panic and confusion.

The first principle of crowd management is to anticipate problems before they occur. Before any major event, organisers must assess the expected number of visitors, the venue's capacity, the availability of entry and exit gates, emergency routes and medical facilities. Attendance must never exceed the safe capacity of the venue. Ticketing, registration, staggered entry and digital information systems can help reduce crowd pressure.

The second important aspect is the effective use of technology. CCTV cameras, drones, digital displays, sensors and real-time crowd-monitoring systems can alert authorities to potential dangers. If congestion begins to build up at a particular location, people can be redirected towards alternative routes. However, technology is useful only when trained personnel interpret the information correctly and take prompt, coordinated action.

The third essential element is clear communication. People should know where to go, where the exits are and what to do in an emergency. Public-address systems, visible signboards and instructions in different languages can reduce confusion. Authorities must also provide timely and reliable information to prevent rumours and misinformation from spreading.

Coordination among the police, civil administration, event organisers, healthcare workers, fire services and volunteers is equally important. Every team member should have clearly defined responsibilities.

Regular drills and well-prepared emergency response plans can save lives during a crisis. Special arrangements must also be made to meet the needs of women, children, older people and persons with disabilities.

Citizens also have an important role to play. Pushing, spreading rumours, blocking designated routes and ignoring emergency instructions increase the risk of accidents. People should be encouraged to remain patient, follow queues and respect the safety of others. However, the administration cannot shift its responsibility entirely onto the public. Providing a safe and well-organised environment remains its primary duty.

Investigations, compensation and disciplinary action may be necessary after an accident, but the real achievement lies in preventing such tragedies in the first place. Every major incident should be followed by an independent review to identify shortcomings and improve future arrangements. Accountability for negligence is equally essential.

In a vast and diverse country like India, where religious faith, cultural traditions and public events are closely connected with the lives of millions, crowd management must become an integral part of public safety. The objective should not be merely to restrict people, but to ensure that their movement remains safe, orderly and convenient.

Ultimately, understanding a crowd's needs is more effective than treating it simply as a threat. Better planning, modern technology, trained personnel, clear communication and public cooperation can transform large gatherings into occasions of celebration and joy rather than fear and tragedy.

The message is clear: instead of suppressing crowds through force, authorities must guide them safely through intelligent planning and effective management.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brace For Cyclone Murasu
The IMD's warning about Cyclone Murasu making landfall on Nov 3 between Nellore and Narsapur is worrying. With orange alerts in Telangana and school holidays already declared in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, preparedness is key. The Odisha experience shows early evacuation saves lives. State governments must ensure fishermen are back, low-lying areas are cleared, and relief shelters are stocked. Climate change is making such storms frequent. **– Velan**

Salute To Wrestling Champion
Heartiest congratulations to Manisha Bhanwala for becoming India's first woman world champion in wrestling. Her victory in the 59kg final in Astana on Oct 30 ends a long wait for Indian women's wrestling. At 29, from Haryana, she has shown grit and determination that will inspire thousands of girls in our akharas. This gold is not just a medal; it is a statement that with support, Indian women can conquer the world stage. **– Hepi**

Quick Read

Father kills daughter's lover over relationship issue

PERAMBALUR

A 21-year-old college student was allegedly beaten and stabbed to death by the father of a 12-year-old girl in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur district on Sunday night. The deceased, identified as S Abhimanyu of Venbavur village, was pursuing his second-year MCA at a private college. Police said the accused became angry after learning that Abhimanyu was in contact with his daughter and had gifted her a mobile phone. The girl's father allegedly attacked him with an iron rod and knife at his residence. Kaikalathur police recovered the body, sent it for post-mortem examination and arrested the accused.

Six killed, two injured in up road accident

KUSHINAGAR

Six people were killed and two others critically injured after an Omni van collided with a trailer truck in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district late Sunday night. The accident occurred near Tharuadih under Hata police station limits when eight people were returning to Kaptanganj after attending a tilak ceremony. Police shifted the injured to BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur for treatment, while the bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences and directed officials to provide immediate assistance to affected families. A district-level committee will investigate the accident, police said.

Five-Year-old boy killed in accidental wedding firing

SULTANPUR

A five-year-old boy died after being accidentally shot during a wedding-related function in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred at Ghanshyam Patel's residence in Banke village under Kadipur police station limits. Police said a relative was handling a licensed firearm when it accidentally discharged while being loaded or unloaded. The child, identified as Kanha Patel, suffered critical bullet injuries and was rushed to Kadipur Community Health Centre. He was later shifted to Sultanpur District Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Circle Officer Vinay Gautam confirmed that legal proceedings had begun and further investigation was underway.

Man kills four family members before killing himself

BHOPAL

A man allegedly killed his mother, wife and two children before dying by suicide in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on Monday, police said. The four family members were found dead with their throats slit inside their house in Malikhedi, under Chhola Mandir police station limits. The man's body was recovered near the Sukhisewaniyan railway tracks. Additional DCP Sanjeev Pathak said preliminary evidence suggested the man committed the killings before taking his own life. Police said he was reportedly facing financial difficulties after his restaurant business failed. He had borrowed money and remained unemployed for some time. Further investigation is underway.

Defence Ministry signs major navy warship deal

Eight advanced corvettes equipped with modern missiles, weapons and sensors will strengthen India's maritime security and boost domestic shipbuilding capabilities.

NEW DELHI



The Defence Ministry on Monday signed agreements worth Rs 53,866.5 crore with two Indian shipbuilding companies to construct eight next-generation corvettes for the Indian Navy. The new warships are expected to strengthen coastal security, improve maritime surveillance and support rapid strike operations. The contracts mark a major step towards modernising India's naval fleet and improving its ability to respond to threats at sea.

Under the agreements, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) will construct five corvettes, while Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) will build the remaining three. The first vessel is expected to be delivered by 2030. The contracts were signed nearly four years after the Defence Acquisition Council, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, initially approved the project.

The original proposal estimated the construction cost at Rs 36,000 crore, but the amount has increased over the years. According to the ministry, the new corvettes will carry advanced missiles, modern weapons and sophisticated sensors. These systems will allow the ships to identify and engage threats from aircraft, enemy vessels and submarines.

The corvettes, which are smaller and more agile than frigates, will be designed for several naval operations. These include anti-submarine warfare, missile defence, coastal protection, maritime patrols and attacks against enemy surface vessels. Officials said their induction would improve the Navy's ability to protect important shipping routes and maintain security in coastal waters.

The ships will also incorporate environmentally friendly technologies and energy-efficient systems as part of their modern design.

The ministry said the project would strengthen India's domestic shipbuilding industry while expanding the Navy's operational capabilities. Once delivered, the eight corvettes are expected to play an important role in safeguarding maritime interests, supporting naval missions and improving India's readiness to face emerging security challenges across its surrounding seas.

Gujarat nears ten-lakh rooftop solar installation target

GANDHINAGAR

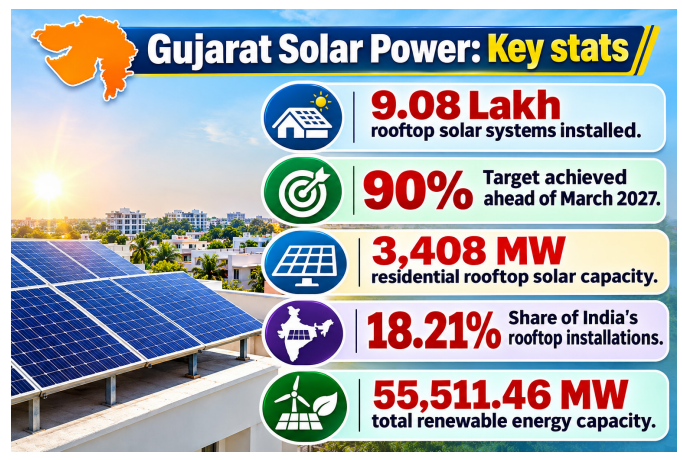
Gujarat has installed 9.08 lakh residential rooftop solar systems, completing more than 90 percent of its target of 10 lakh installations by March 2027. The state government said the systems together generate a capacity of 3,408 megawatts, helping households use cleaner electricity and reduce dependence on conventional energy sources. The progress places Gujarat among the country's leading adopters of household solar energy systems nationwide.

According to officials, Gujarat accounts for 18.21 percent of rooftop solar installations across India under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's government has introduced financial support and simpler rules to encourage more families to adopt solar power. Households installing systems of up to six kilowatts receive Rs 2,950 towards regulatory charges.

The state also offers additional assistance to smaller electricity consumers. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households need to contribute only five percent of the prescribed cost for eligible systems up to 2.18 kilowatt-peak. Other eligible consumers contribute 10 percent. The state pays the remaining benchmark cost after central assistance and household contributions are deducted.

Residents can also benefit from net metering, which records electricity drawn from the grid and surplus power supplied back to it. Officials said households may sell excess solar electricity, while domestic consumers do not face banking charges. Exemptions from certain network charges and simpler procedures are intended to make installations easier.

As of September 30, Gujarat's total renewable energy capacity stood at 55,511.46 megawatts, including 36,234.55 megawatts of solar power and 17,043.76 megawatts of wind power.



Digi Yatra trials begin at seven airports

NEW DELHI

The Civil Aviation Ministry has announced the launch of Digi Yatra trials for international passengers at seven major airports across India. The facility will initially be available to Indian citizens holding electronic passports on selected international flights operated by Air India and IndiGo. The government plans to introduce the service more widely in 2027.

The trials are being conducted at airports in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Chennai and Amritsar. Digi Yatra uses facial recognition technology to help passengers move through airport checkpoints without repeatedly presenting identity documents. The system is already operating at several domestic airports, making travel faster and more convenient for passengers.

During the trial period from November to December 2026, eligible travellers can use the facility at terminal entrances, security checkpoints and boarding gates where the necessary equipment is available. The ministry said feedback from passengers and airport operators would help improve the system before its wider introduction next year.

To use Digi Yatra for international travel, passengers must create an electronic passport-based digital credential through the Digi Yatra mobile application. They need to scan their passport's machine-readable section, read its electronic chip using a compatible smartphone, take a selfie and verify their information. The verified details will then be stored securely in the application's digital wallet.

However, the ministry clarified that Digi Yatra will not replace existing travel requirements. Passengers must still carry valid travel documents and complete airline checks and immigration procedures. Currently, the platform has more than 26.5 million users and has supported over 110 million journeys across 39 domestic airports. Another 25 domestic airports are expected to receive the facility by 2027, further expanding convenient digital travel services across the country.

IndiGo plans lie-flat seats for longer flights

NEW DELHI



IndiGo is preparing to introduce lie-flat business class seats on its upcoming Airbus A350 aircraft and selected future A321XLR jets, marking a major improvement in passenger comfort on international routes. Chief Executive Officer William Walsh announced the plans on Monday, saying the airline wants to offer better facilities for travellers undertaking long journeys.

The airline expects to receive its first Airbus A350 in the second quarter of 2028. The first ten aircraft will feature 16 lie-flat business class seats, along with separate premium economy and economy cabins. IndiGo has ordered 60 A350 aircraft and is considering increasing the number of flat beds in later deliveries, depending on passenger demand and business requirements.

Walsh said the airline would also introduce flat beds on some future Airbus A321XLR aircraft. He explained that passengers travelling on longer international routes increasingly expect comfortable sleeping arrangements. However, he maintained that IndiGo's existing Stretch business class product continues to perform well on domestic and selected international services.

Introduced in November 2024 under former CEO Pieter Elbers, Stretch offers wider seating with limited reclining facilities rather than fully flat beds. The product was designed for shorter journeys and selected premium routes. IndiGo's earlier long-distance European flights used leased Boeing 787 aircraft, which came with their own cabin arrangements. Those widebody operations were suspended from November 1, with A321XLR aircraft now serving Amsterdam.

IndiGo has received four A321XLR aircraft and expects three additional deliveries next year. The airline has placed orders for 40 aircraft of this type. These jets currently serve destinations including Amsterdam, Athens, Denpasar and Istanbul. With the planned cabin upgrades, IndiGo aims to strengthen its international network, attract premium passengers and offer a more comfortable travel experience while expanding its presence in long-distance aviation markets worldwide.

Stubble burning triggers sharp delhi pollution spike

NEW DELHI

Smoke from crop residue fires in Punjab and Haryana contributed to Delhi's sudden pollution spike over the weekend, according to an analysis of satellite images, weather conditions and air quality readings. The capital's Air Quality Index rose from 117 on Saturday to 261 on Sunday, before reaching 324 on Monday, entering the very poor category.

The analysis found that weather alone could not explain the sharp increase. Delhi experienced similarly calm winds and conditions that trapped pollution on October 18 and 28, yet air quality was considerably better. Fine particulate pollution, known as PM2.5, averaged 194 micrograms per cubic metre overnight on November 1, more than three times India's daily standard of 60.

Satellite observations showed a rise in evening stubble burning across Punjab and Haryana. India's INSAT-3DS satellite detected 17 major fires on October 29 and 90 on November 1. Many fires occurred after the afternoon passage of a NASA satellite commonly used to count farm fires, meaning its daily figures may miss significant burning.

Wind measurements also indicated that polluted air travelled towards Delhi from the northwest, passing over agricultural areas where fires were recorded. Unlike comparable October days, pollution levels failed to fall during the afternoon on November 1, suggesting that additional polluted air was arriving from outside the city.

However, the analysis could not establish exactly how much pollution came from farm smoke. High humidity may also have contributed to particle formation. The findings suggest that satellite counts taken at a single time cannot fully reflect evening burning. Researchers highlighted the importance of monitoring fires throughout the day rather than relying on afternoon observations alone. They also highlighted the need to examine wind patterns and hourly pollution readings when assessing the causes of Delhi's recurring smog.

India signs major deal for naval corvettes

NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Monday signed contracts worth Rs 53,867 crore to build eight next-generation corvettes for the Indian Navy, strengthening coastal security and maritime operations. The agreements were signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and will involve two public sector shipyards, giving a major boost to domestic warship manufacturing.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers will construct five vessels, while Goa Shipyard Limited will build three. The Navy has designed the ships in India, and the builders were selected through a competitive process. The ministry described the project as an important step towards reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and expanding India's shipbuilding capabilities.

The new corvettes will carry advanced missiles, weapons and sensor systems to respond to threats from the air, sea surface and underwater. They are expected to protect vital shipping routes, strengthen coastal defence, track hostile submarines and support surveillance missions. Their smaller size and manoeuvrability will also make them useful for operations near the coastline.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh welcomed the contracts, saying they would support public sector companies, private shipyards and smaller Indian suppliers. According to the ministry, construction is expected to create 72 lakh person-days of employment in shipyards and another 460 lakh person-days in supporting industries and micro, small and medium enterprises over ten years.

The agreement comes as the Navy works towards greater self-reliance by 2047. It follows recent approval for other military equipment, including new destroyers, artillery, helicopters and unmanned systems. Officials said using Indian materials, technology and skilled workers would help strengthen domestic defence production.

TN shuts prison-run pumps after escapes

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has temporarily closed fuel stations operated by prison inmates after several prisoners escaped from jails across the state. Officials said the decision was taken as a precaution while authorities review security arrangements. Prison-run bazaars have also been shut following criticism over the recent incidents.

Two inmates escaped from Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai, 17 from a jail near Andipatti in Theni district and one from Coimbatore. Police have recaptured those who fled from Chennai and Theni, while the search for the Coimbatore prisoner continues. The Theni inmates reportedly attacked guards before escaping on October 26 and were caught within 36 hours.

A fresh controversy emerged after recaptured prisoner Meenakshisundaram appeared in a video circulating online. He alleged that mistreatment and poor food inside the Theni jail drove inmates to flee. He also claimed that earlier complaints had gone unanswered and that he intended to surrender before a court. His allegations have not been independently established.

Meenakshisundaram further alleged that police intended to kill him in an encounter and said his brother Tirupathi was not involved in the escape.

FINAL S-400 DELIVERY

India Expects Fifth Russian S-400 System Soon

NEW DELHI



India is expected to receive its fifth and final S-400 air defence system from Russia in January or February 2027, completing a major defence agreement signed in 2018. Government officials said a team will visit Russia in December to inspect the equipment before its shipment. Deliveries of system components are likely to begin in January.

The Narendra Modi government signed a $5.43 billion agreement with Russia in 2018 to purchase five S-400 Triumf systems. India received its fourth system during May and June 2026. Of the four currently operational, three are deployed along the western front, while one is stationed in the eastern sector to strengthen national air defence capabilities.

The S-400 is designed to detect and intercept enemy aircraft, missiles, drones and airborne surveillance platforms over long distances. According to the report, the system played an important role during Operation Sindoor in May 2025. Officials claimed that an S-400 missile targeted a Pakistani airborne early warning aircraft at a distance of nearly 300 kilometres. The system also reportedly helped protect Indian airbases against aerial threats.

India is considering expanding its air defence network further. In March 2026, the Defence Acquisition Council granted preliminary approval for purchasing five additional S-400 systems. However, a final agreement with Russia has not yet been signed. The government is also evaluating Russia's Pantsir short-range air defence system.

Officials are reportedly examining a proposal to acquire 52 Pantsir systems, including 13 imported units and 39 manufactured in India. These weapons are designed to counter drones, helicopters, cruise missiles and low-flying aircraft. If approved, the acquisition could strengthen protection for military installations and long-range missile systems. Both proposals remain under consideration, with no final purchase contracts signed yet.

Quick Read

US tariff waiver on Russia oil purchases to boost India-US trade

NEW DELHI

The United States' decision to waive Russia-linked tariff and sanctions measures on major buyers of Russian-origin oil and gas could provide significant relief to Indian exporters, restore business confidence and help accelerate bilateral trade, a new report has said. The report from Times Kuwait said the Executive Order signed by President Donald Trump recently could boost bilateral trade momentum, support employment and advance the $500 billion India-US bilateral trade ambition by 2030. The order eased the immediate threat of additional tariffs of up to 100 per cent on Indian exports linked to Russian energy purchases, reducing uncertainty for businesses.

Sensex soars 1,233 points, Nifty tops 23,440 as oil prices ease

MUMBAI

Indian benchmark equity indices ended sharply higher on Monday, extending gains for a third consecutive session, as optimism surrounding US-Iran talks pushed oil prices lower and boosted investor sentiment. The Sensex surged 1,233.25 points, or 1.66 per cent, to close at 75,692.78, while the Nifty jumped 387.70 points to settle at 23,440.80. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index closed firmly above its 50-day SMA and approached the 23,500 resistance area. "The 23,250-23,350 band should now provide immediate support; holding it could open the way toward 23,600, while a break below 23,250 would weaken the breakout," analysts stated.

Govt notifies grievance redressal rules for VB-G RAM G

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Rural Development on Monday announced that it has notified the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026, establishing a structured, multi-tier and time-bound mechanism to address complaints related to the implementation of the rural employment scheme. Under the framework, state governments will set up a grievance redressal mechanism at the Gram Panchayat, Block and District levels. The rules allow citizens to submit complaints through multiple channels, including in person before the designated officer, via speed post, through the Digital Public Infrastructure designated by the Centre, and through telephone helplines or other modes notified by state governments. To strengthen accessibility, the ministry has specified that grievances received physically at the Gram Panchayat, Block or District level must be entered into the digital platform on the same day, or by the next working day where immediate registration is not feasible. Once a grievance is registered, complainants will receive an acknowledgement containing details such as the registration number, date of receipt and the designation of the receiving authority. Acknowledgements will be issued electronically for online submissions and in physical form for complaints lodged offline.

India-UAE explore stronger economic ties

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's UAE visit focused on strengthening economic cooperation, boosting investment opportunities, expanding cultural exchanges and reviewing the comprehensive strategic ties between the two countries.



The India-UAE talks in Abu Dhabi on the Foreign Secretary's two-day visit

ABU DHABI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met senior officials in Abu Dhabi on Monday as India and the United Arab Emirates explored ways to expand economic cooperation, increase investment flows and develop long-term commercial partnerships.

Misri held talks with Jassem Mohamed Bu Ataba Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Finance and Managing Director and Group CEO of L'IMAD Holding Company. Discussions focused on scaling up economic engagement and strengthening investment ties.

Misri also met Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism. They discussed opportunities to expand cultural and creative exchanges, including through the 'House of India' initiative, alongside tourism cooperation.

During his two-day visit, Misri met UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Special Envoy for India, Reem Al Hashimy. They reviewed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discussed new areas of cooperation across sectors. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the situation in West Asia.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit was an opportunity to review the progress made in bilateral relations.

Ways to strengthen investment ties

- Misri meets Abu Dhabi Finance Department Chairman Jassem Al Zaabi
- Focus on investment flows and long-term commercial partnerships
- Cultural exchanges, tourism and the 'House of India' initiative
- UAE Minister Reem Al Hashimy reviews bilateral ties and regional developments

Sachs hails Adani's role in India's infra growth

VARANASI

Renowned economist Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs on Monday acknowledged the contribution of the Adani Group and the Adani Foundation towards sustainable development in India and across the world, highlighting their role in infrastructure expansion and social welfare initiatives.

Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and President of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, described the Adani Group as a significant contributor to India's infrastructure-led growth and economic progress.

Speaking during his opening remarks at the World Symposium on "Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges", Sachs identified the group as one of the major drivers of change and development in India, particularly through its role in expanding the country's infrastructure.

The economist also highlighted the responsibilities that come with carrying a family name in business. Referring to family-led enterprises such as the Adani Group, he observed that businesses represent more than commercial interests, as they also carry family values, heritage and responsibilities towards society.



Prof Jeffrey D. Sachs

> **"Businesses must look beyond financial returns and consider what they give back to the communities in which they operate."**
>
> **— Prof Jeffrey D. Sachs,** Columbia University

Sachs emphasised that companies must consider their contributions to the communities in which they operate. He discussed the challenges of integrating social responsibility into publicly listed businesses, citing the experience of former Unilever CEO Paul Polman.

CAIT seeks designated protest sites in Delhi

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has urged Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu to designate official locations for protests and demonstrations on the outskirts of the national capital, citing repeated disruptions to commercial activities and public life.

In a letter dated November 2, CAIT National President B.C. Bhartia highlighted the impact of recurring protests and political activities at different locations across Delhi over the past month. He requested the Lieutenant Governor to direct the concerned authorities to identify and notify suitable sites for peaceful protests, public meetings and political gatherings.

CAIT said Delhi, one of India's largest trading, wholesale and distribution centres, supports millions of livelihoods through its markets and commercial establishments. Recurring disruptions have affected traders, shopkeepers, street vendors, hawkers, daily wage workers, transport operators, delivery personnel and hospitality businesses.

> **"The right to protest cannot become a right to paralyse the city, just as the right to conduct business cannot be sacrificed in the exercise of democratic freedoms."**
>
> **B.C. Bhartia** CAIT national president



The organisation also highlighted that traffic diversions, road closures and restricted access to commercial areas have discouraged traders and business visitors from other parts of the country, resulting in business losses and supply chain disruptions.

Seeking a long-term solution, CAIT proposed five measures, including designated protest locations, protection of commercial areas, transparent arrangements for democratic demonstrations, safeguarding daily livelihoods and improved coordination among government agencies.

CAIT clarified that its demand was not aimed at restricting democratic freedoms but ensuring protests do not bring Delhi's economic activities to a standstill.

'Khet Bachao' drive targets 50 lakh farmers

NEW DELHI

The Central government has launched Khet Bachao Abhiyan (KBA)-Rabi 2026, a nationwide campaign running from October 22 to November 30 aimed at promoting soil health, balanced fertiliser use and sustainable agriculture, with a target outreach of around 50 lakh farmers across 700 districts and 50,000 villages, an official factsheet said on Monday. The campaign seeks to address concerns including imbalanced nutrient application, declining soil organic matter, rising cultivation costs and degradation of natural resources while encouraging natural farming, water conservation and efficient resource use.



Khet Bachao in numbers

50 lakh	700	50,000
farmers, the target outreach	districts	villages

The campaign envisages 4,150 teams involving KVKs and ATMA, supported by over 12,000 scientists and ATMA functionaries. The initiative seeks to conduct 50,000 field demonstrations and 11,750 structured training sessions.

With an intended participation of 20 farmers per demonstration, the initiative targets an estimated outreach of 10 lakh farmers.

The campaign also projects a social media outreach of 1.5 crore farmers, with an envisaged expansion of overall digital outreach to 2.5 crore.

States and Union Territories have been instructed to prioritise 100 high fertiliser-consuming districts to strengthen outreach and promote balanced nutrient management.

With over 46 per cent of India's workforce engaged in agriculture and allied activities, soil health influences food systems and economic stability.

Over a five-week period, the campaign plans awareness programmes with an estimated outreach of 28.25 lakh farmers.

Delhi traders flag losses after INDIA bloc rally

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) on Monday outlined the trading community's perspective on the INDIA bloc rally held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, saying that while the event may have served as a platform for political parties to present their views and demonstrate strength, it also raised several economic concerns for businesses in the national capital.

In a statement, the DVM said disruptions to customer footfall, movement of goods and overall commercial activity during the crucial Diwali business season were a matter of concern.

> **Customers could increasingly turn to online platforms or alternative trading hubs**

DVM said Delhi's wholesale markets are not only vital to the capital's economy but also serve as a lifeline for millions of small traders, retailers and supply-chain-linked businesses across the country. It further noted that any disruption during the festive season has implications beyond Delhi and affects commercial activity in other parts of the country as well.



The DVM further said that the normal functioning and commercial image of several major markets in Delhi suffered a setback. It also expressed concern that customers could increasingly turn to online platforms or alternative trading hubs, posing a long-term challenge for local businesses.

According to the federation, the concerns of Delhi's business community received wider public attention and the episode once again highlighted the critical role played by the city's wholesale markets in the country's economy and supply network.

India-NZ FTA unlocks trade, investment openings

NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand are entering a new phase of bilateral engagement, moving beyond traditional diplomatic friendship towards a comprehensive partnership anchored in trade, investment, technology, agriculture and strategic cooperation. The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) marks a significant milestone in this journey, creating fresh opportunities for businesses, farmers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), entrepreneurs and young professionals in the two countries, according to an article in Directus. The article highlights that the agreement's importance extends well beyond tariff reductions.

The broader Strategic Partnership, reinforced by the 'Roadmap to 2030,' gives this economic engagement a longer-term direction. Together, the FTA and the accompanying cooperation initiatives can help India and New Zealand build a more diversified, resilient and mutually beneficial relationship.

One of the FTA's most significant features is New Zealand's immediate zero-duty access for Indian exports across all 8,284 product lines. This offers Indian exporters an important opportunity to improve price competitiveness, diversify overseas markets and strengthen their presence in a developed economy.

Labour-intensive and manufacturing-oriented sectors are particularly well placed to benefit. Pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, machinery, gems and jewellery, sports goods, footwear and leather products are among the sectors identified as having substantial export potential.

MSMEs, artisans and women entrepreneurs stand to benefit from the agreement's expanded market opportunities.

'Chinese mining in Afghanistan hurting local interests'

NEW DELHI

China has increased its influence in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the US and is taking up mining projects in the Taliban-ruled country that are adversely impacting the local communities. As the Western nations evacuated their embassies, China kept its mission in Kabul open and built a close relationship with the Taliban government which needed money and support without conditions related to human rights issues, considered important by Western nations.

China has now emerged as one of Afghanistan's largest trading partners, and the Taliban government has actively courted Chinese investment.

In January 2023, the Taliban signed a 25-year contract with Chinese company Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Co. to extract oil from the Amu Darya basin. The company has promised to invest $540 million in the site.

However, even as the Taliban government sees these projects as a source of revenue, the local communities are getting hit. The Taliban has awarded the Samti gold concession in Afghanistan's northern Takhar province to the China-Afghanistan Company which started mining and processing in January 2026.

This project led to tensions between local residents and the mining company over the extraction of gold, with locals claiming they had been excluded from the economic benefits of the project while bearing the environmental and economic costs.

China's Afghan stakes

- **Amu Darya:** 25-year oil contract, $540 million promised
- **Mes Aynak:** copper mining contract in Logar
- **Samti:** gold in Takhar, mining since January 2026

FINANCIAL INCLUSION PUSH

Sitharaman highlights India's economic resilience



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the HSBC India event in Mumbai

MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said India's economic resilience is driven by the aspirations of its people, the strength of its domestic market and the government's focus on financial inclusion, social security, skill development and fiscal prudence.

Speaking during a fireside chat with HSBC India CEO Hitendra Dave at HSBC India's 'Furthering Financial Inclusion' event, Sitharaman highlighted the expansion of the country's middle class, saying rising purchasing power has strengthened domestic consumption and supported economic growth.

The Finance Minister emphasised the government's efforts to extend financial protection to citizens through schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

She also reiterated the government's ambition of achieving 'Insurance for All' by 2047, highlighting ongoing efforts to increase insurance penetration across the entire country.

Discussing healthcare access, Sitharaman pointed to Ayushman Bharat, which provides health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family. She said the scheme has helped people access medical treatment without having to sell their assets or property. The expansion of primary healthcare centres has further improved access to medical services.

Referring to the World Bank's estimate that approximately 50 crore people have moved out of poverty, she attributed the progress to consistent policy efforts and improved access to essential services. "Access to schools and skill training after schooling has supported poverty reduction," she said.

Rs 5 lakh	50 crore	2047
Ayushman Bharat cover per family	out of poverty, the World Bank estimates	the goal for 'Insurance for All'

IRAN NEGOTIATORS LEAVE QATAR TALKS

The talks are aimed at ending the war with the US; a draft proposal is being circulated and another meeting remains possible, an official said.



Portraits on hoardings beside a busy street

TEHRAN

Iranian negotiators departed from the talks in Doha on Sunday, but their exit was not due to difficulties in the discussions, an official briefed on the talks said.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said the negotiations are based on a seven-step plan prepared by Tehran in September.

The proposal aims to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end the US naval blockade on Iran. Tehran has now suggested that the plan could be implemented within a shorter timeframe under an agreement.

Baghaei said Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi had travelled to Doha to facilitate the exchange of messages with Washington through Qatari intermediaries.

He said Iran's demands had been communicated clearly and stressed that no final agreement could be reached unless the US naval blockade was lifted and Tehran's requirements were addressed.

As per reports, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Saturday said the Strait of Hormuz could be reopened within two days under a deal, instead of the seven days originally proposed.

US President Donald Trump had rejected Iran's initial proposal. The latest diplomatic effort comes amid concerns that fighting could escalate after Tuesday's US midterm elections. Trump has said the US would not launch fresh attacks before the vote, while describing the negotiations as productive.

Core issues and positions

- **Hormuz and blockade:** Iran's proposal to reopen the strait and end the US naval blockade frames the talks
- **7-step proposal:** Tehran's September plan, with faster implementation suggested under a possible agreement
- **2-day reopening:** Araqchi says the strait could reopen within two days under a deal, not the proposed seven
- **Qatar:** Gharibabadi visited Doha to pass messages between Tehran and Washington through Qatari intermediaries

Quick Read

French school protests resume on smaller scale

PARIS

French high school student protests resumed on Monday on a much smaller scale than in past weeks as pupils returned from a two-week break, with youngsters trying to blockade a few high schools in Paris, Marseille and Rennes, French media reported. By 0830 GMT some 41 high schools, about 1% of those nationwide, were blockaded, the Education Ministry said. Hundreds of France's more than 3,000 high schools were blockaded in the weeks prior to the break. The protests, which began in the Paris suburbs in September, have spread across France and broadened beyond education to focus on the cost of living, drawing in trade unionists and activists and sometimes turning violent.

Newborn among 15 killed as Myanmar military strikes

BANGKOK

A newborn baby was among at least 15 people killed in Myanmar military strikes at multiple locations over the weekend, including a maternity clinic and a school, an ethnic armed group, an aid worker and rights monitors said on Monday. The bombings come as the military-backed government, attempting to rebuild diplomatic ties after years of isolation, escalates its campaign to retake territory lost to resistance groups that now control large areas of the country. A spokesperson for the military-backed government did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It has previously said it is waging a legitimate campaign against "terrorists."

South Africa's splintering vote sets up multi-party battles

JOHANNESBURG

A broader fragmentation of South Africa's electorate has made outright majorities increasingly difficult to secure. Polls suggest the historically dominant African National Congress (ANC) will remain the biggest single party overall, but suffer a haemorrhaging of support in the November 4 votes. In the absence of clear victories, the party and its rivals will have to sit down to the fraught task of negotiating coalitions to govern South Africa's major municipalities. Louw Nel, senior political analyst at Oxford Economics Africa, said polling suggested support for the ANC could fall to as low as 31% to 34% — around half the more than 60% it secured in the 2011 local elections. But the Democratic Alliance, the second-biggest party, was not capturing all of its deserters. Instead, he said, voters were dispersing among a number of parties including the left-leaning Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe, led by former president Jacob Zuma. Hundreds of parties are taking part in the votes.

Michigan Democrat Stevens backs Republican Rogers



ANCHORAGE

A prominent Michigan Democrat has endorsed Republican Mike Rogers in a crucial US Senate race, giving President Donald Trump's Republicans an unexpected boost just two days before midterm elections that will decide control of Congress.

US Representative Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic Senate primary to Abdul El-Sayed in a bitterly fought contest, publicly backed Rogers. She appeared alongside him at a church in Detroit, raising concerns about further divisions within the Democratic Party in Michigan, a key state in the battle for Senate control.

"I don't belong in Abdul's campaign," Stevens said in a video posted on social media.

The endorsement drew a response from Trump, who invited Stevens to join the Republican Party during a political rally in Iowa hours later.

Stevens' endorsement of Rogers has intensified Democratic divisions in Michigan ahead of elections that could reshape congressional control.

Trump had earlier said he would contact her to thank her for the endorsement. He described the move as "a smart thing to do because El-Sayed would destroy our country."

A total of 35 Senate seats and all 435 House seats are being contested on Tuesday. Republicans currently hold narrow majorities in both chambers, while Democrats are seeking to regain control.

A Democratic victory in either chamber could obstruct Trump's legislative agenda during his final two years in office and allow lawmakers to launch investigations into his administration.

UK plans longer wait for migrant settlement

LONDON

British Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood was due to announce reforms to the country's immigration settlement rules on Monday, proposing longer waiting periods for migrants seeking permanent residency amid growing pressure to reduce immigration.

Under the proposed changes, the government plans to replace the existing five-year route to indefinite leave to remain with an "earned settlement" system. Most migrants would have to wait 10 years to qualify, while some lower-paid workers, including care workers, could face waiting periods of up to 15 years.

The reforms are aimed at addressing public concerns over immigration while responding to warnings from businesses that stricter rules could discourage overseas workers needed by the country.

The proposals follow a rise in migration after Britain's departure from the European Union, with post-Brexit policies attracting healthcare workers and international students. The government estimates that around 350,000 lower-skilled workers and their dependants who arrived after Brexit could become eligible for settlement in the coming years.



Proposed settlement waiting periods

10 yrs	MOST MIGRANTS, REPLACING FIVE YEARS
15 yrs	AT MOST, FOR SOME LOWER-PAID WORKERS, INCLUDING CARE WORKERS

"The plan around immigration is about controlling borders, but it's also about ensuring that we invest in the young people in our country, so that they can get these jobs, so we don't have to bring people in from overseas too."

— **Chris McDonald,** Junior Business Minister

Official figures show net migration nearly halved to 171,000 last year from 331,000 a year earlier, following a record 944,000 in 2023.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has supported the principle that settlement should be earned. However, care home owners, unions and some Labour lawmakers have warned that longer waiting periods could make it difficult to attract international workers and maintain care services.

As peacekeepers leave Western Sahara, refugees yearn to end a half-century wait

TINDOUF

At 51, Binina Mohamed is as old as the conflict that drove her from the Western Sahara region into a refugee camp in southern Algeria, where she has spent her life among tens of thousands of others facing a similar fate.

The confrontation over her native land, often described as Africa's longest-running territorial dispute, was brought back into focus this weekend by a UN Security Council spat that led to the end of a decades-old peacekeeping mission there.

The Western Sahara conflict pits Morocco, which considers the territory its own, against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, a political and military organisation that has been seeking a separate state there since the departure of former colonial power Spain in 1976.

Peacekeepers have watched over the territory since 1991, when the UN brokered a ceasefire ending years of guerrilla warfare between the two sides.



A tent and a lone tree in the desert

Thousands of Sahrawis fled hostilities to the Tindouf area in southwestern Algeria, where the Polisario administers five refugee camps.

During a rare visit to the region for foreign media outlets, organised by the Polisario, Mohamed described how her daughters, now in their twenties and thirties, had never visited the region where she was from.

One of her daughters, Safia Al-Saleh, 33, said she hoped her own two children would have a different future.

"I want my children and my grandchildren to study and grow up in their own country, not to grow up like us here, as refugees, with nothing," she said.

The long dispute

- **1976** Colonial power Spain departs
- **1991** UN brokers a ceasefire; peacekeepers watch over the territory
- **LAST YEAR** Security Council backs Rabat's autonomy plan
- **THIS YEAR** Russia vetoes a US-drafted text; the mission loses its mandate

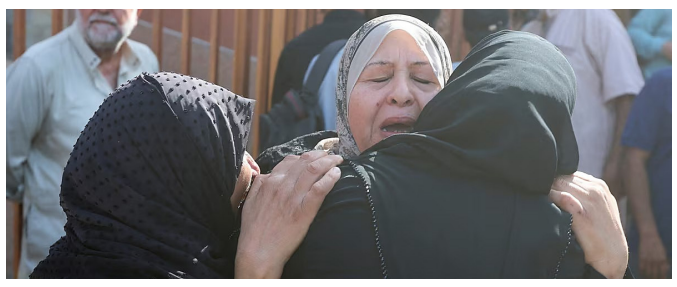
Israeli strikes kill at least 3 Palestinians in Gaza

CAIRO

Israeli strikes killed at least three Palestinians and wounded several others in the Gaza Strip on Monday, the territory's health officials said. Medics said two people were killed and six others wounded in two separate airstrikes in Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave, while a third person was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the town of Al-Mussadar.

The Israeli military said it carried out two strikes in the enclave, targeting Palestinian militants, without giving further information.

Israel, which says the Hamas militant group has been rearming and launching attacks in violation of a year-old ceasefire, has stepped up strikes on the group in recent weeks.



Women embrace each other in grief

Hamas has denied trying to carry out attacks or rebuild its arsenal and accuses Israel of undermining the Gaza peace deal.

Last year's US-brokered ceasefire calls for eventual reconstruction of the territory. But little progress has been made as negotiators have failed to agree on terms for Hamas to disarm or Israel to withdraw its troops, who control about two-thirds of the territory after ordering residents out.

Nearly all of Gaza's more than 2 million residents live in the remaining third of the enclave among war ruins, mostly in makeshift tents and damaged buildings, still under effective control of Hamas.

Austerity-hit Argentina reels towards recession



Knitting machines on a factory floor

BUENOS AIRES

At a family-owned factory in Buenos Aires, a machine used to wrap packets of coloured socks sits silent. Eseka still produces nearly 3 million items a month at the factory, including underwear and swimwear for its Cocot and Dufour brands. But like many local businesses, it is struggling to stay afloat. Since President Javier Milei took office nearly three years ago, sales have fallen around 40%, battered by weak consumer demand and competition from cheaper imports as the government has lifted trade restrictions.

Under strain

businesses closed, December 2023 to July, says Fundar
32,300

fall in consumption in nine months, says Scentia
2.7%

fall in Eseka's sales under Milei
40%

That matters in Argentina, where household consumption accounts for about two-thirds of gross domestic product, making any sustained pullback in spending a drag on the broader economy.

Economists say the economy likely slipped into a recession in the third quarter, a test of voter patience a year ahead of the October 2027 presidential election, when Milei is widely expected to run for a second term.

"The situation is critical," said Ricardo Kuchikian, who owns Eseka with his brother Gustavo. The firm posted losses last year and shed about 30% of its workforce, according to the brothers. Over half of the circular knitting machines in the sock factory stand idle.

"Consumption has fallen very sharply over the past three years," Kuchikian said.

CEASEFIRE VIOLATION

'Russia used Oleshky truce to strengthen positions'

KYIV

Russian forces used a six-day humanitarian ceasefire in the Russian-held town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine to strengthen their military positions, Ukraine's General Staff said on Monday, raising concerns about renewed fighting in the region.

The ceasefire, which began on October 27, was arranged through US First Lady Melania Trump with the involvement of Pope Leo. It was intended to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and civilian evacuations from the frontline town. Nearly 800 people were evacuated during the pause, Melania Trump said in a post on X.

However, Ukraine's General Staff accused Russian forces of using the break in fighting to improve their military capabilities. It reported rotations of Russian units, the strengthening of defensive positions, expansion of anti-drone measures along roads and increased logistical activity, including ammunition deliveries.

"Under the ceasefire introduced for the humanitarian operation in Oleshky, units of the Defence Forces of Ukraine ensured that the ceasefire was observed and acted exclusively within the framework of the agreements reached," the General Staff said in a statement on X.

The ceasefire expired at 2100 GMT, marking the longest local pause since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

On Monday, Kherson officials reported a drone strike in the city centre, while Russian forces attacked 16 settlements in the region using shelling, drones and aircraft. No casualties were reported in the city strike.



A soldier on a road lined with wrecks

Kyiv's charges

- Rotated its units
- Strengthened defences
- Expanded anti-drone measures on roads
- Delivered more ammunition

CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
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Mercedes rookie clinches maiden title in Mexico

MEXICO CITY

Kimi Antonelli made Formula One history by becoming the youngest-ever Drivers' World Champion after finishing third at the 2026 Mexico City Grand Prix. The 20-year-old Mercedes driver secured his maiden world title, earning praise from Formula One president and chief executive Stefano Domenicali.

Domenicali described Antonelli's achievement as extraordinary, highlighting his talent, courage and determination. He said the Italian had inspired young people worldwide by demonstrating that dedication, belief and hard work could help turn dreams into reality. Antonelli also became Italy's first Formula One world champion since Alberto Ascari won the title in 1953.

Starting fourth on the grid, Antonelli delivered a composed performance during a race interrupted by several incidents. The contest was halted following a heavy crash involving Valtteri Bottas, while a late safety car period followed an accident involving Arvid Lindblad. Despite the disruptions, Antonelli maintained his position and secured the third-place finish needed to claim the championship.



The Mercedes rookie clinched his maiden title in Mexico, earning Stefano Domenicali's praise for his talent, courage and determination.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won the race after resisting a late challenge from Lewis Hamilton. Starting fifth, Verstappen moved into contention early before taking the lead after Charles Leclerc received a time penalty for cutting the track while battling Hamilton.

Verstappen maintained his advantage after the standing restart and defended his position when the safety car withdrew with eight laps remaining. Hamilton finished second, while Leclerc secured fourth place after holding off a late challenge from Lando Norris. Mercedes driver George Russell finished fifth, and Liam Lawson took sixth for Racing Bulls after starting from the pit lane.

Domenicali congratulated Antonelli, Mercedes and the driver's family on the historic achievement. He said the young champion had captured the imagination of fans worldwide and proved that ambitious goals were achievable through perseverance. The Formula One chief added that sporting greatness was measured not only through records but also through the generations it inspired. Antonelli's breakthrough marks a significant milestone for Italian motorsport and opens a promising new chapter in his career.

Afghanistan Thrash Zimbabwe to Complete T20I Series Whitewash

SHARJAH

Afghanistan defeated Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the third and final T20 International on Sunday, completing a commanding 3-0 series whitewash in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

After opting to bowl, Afghanistan's bowlers dismantled Zimbabwe's batting lineup, dismissing the visitors for just 79 in under 15 overs. Spinner Noor Ahmad led the attack, triggering a collapse through the middle and lower order.

Fazalhaq Farooqi and Azmatullah Omarzai struck early, removing openers Innocent Kaia and Brian Bennett in successive overs. Abdullah Tarakhail then dismissed captain Sikandar Raza, leaving Zimbabwe struggling at 13 for three in the fourth over. Ryan Burl offered resistance with 30 runs before Abdollah Ahmadzai trapped him leg-before-wicket. Noor subsequently ran through the remaining batters to restrict Zimbabwe to a modest total.



Afghanistan's bowlers bundled Zimbabwe out for 79 before a clinical chase sealed their dominant series sweep in Sharjah.

Afghanistan began the chase aggressively, with Mohammad Akram scoring 14 runs off five deliveries before falling to Blessing Muzarabani. Sediqullah Atal contributed 20 off 14 balls but was dismissed by Ernest Masuku, who also removed Noor ul Rahman to give Zimbabwe a brief opening.

However, Ibrahim Zadran remained unbeaten on 25, while Omarzai scored an unbeaten 18 to guide Afghanistan home comfortably with seven wickets in hand.

Afghanistan had already secured an unassailable 2-0 lead after winning the opening two matches. In the second T20I, Omarzai smashed 116 off 50 balls, helping Afghanistan secure a 19-run victory despite Raza's impressive 106 off 56 deliveries. Rashid Khan had starred in the series opener with an all-round performance as Afghanistan won by 37 runs. The teams will now shift focus to Test cricket, with a two-match series scheduled to begin on November 5.

Ronaldo misses Asian clash as security concerns persist

TASHKENT

Cristiano Ronaldo has been left out of Al-Nassr's squad for their AFC Champions League match against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor on Monday, as coach Ange Postecoglou opted to rest key players amid a demanding schedule and growing concerns over security in Saudi Arabia.

Ronaldo, who scored a hat-trick in a Saudi Pro League match last week to take his career tally to 985 goals, was rested alongside Kingsley Coman and Mohamed Simakan. Postecoglou cited the pressure of matches and extensive travel as reasons for the decision. Al-Nassr are seeking their first continental title but have struggled early in the competition, sitting ninth in the western zone standings.

Security concerns have also affected the tournament schedule. Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates declined to travel to Riyadh for a scheduled match against Al-Nassr last week, prompting the Asian Football Confederation to postpone the fixture. The club's previous home match in the competition, on October 12, was delayed by an hour following reports of missile attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The situation has raised questions about the upcoming Asian Cup, scheduled to begin in Saudi Arabia on January 7. Japan Football Association president Tsuneyasu Miyamoto expressed doubts about whether the tournament could proceed safely, citing the regional security situation. AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said officials could assess developments until the end of November before deciding whether changes were necessary, including a possible postponement to 2028.

Meanwhile, Al-Ahli, the reigning two-times Asian champions, remain third in their group ahead of a trip to Qatar to face Al-Sadd. Al-Hilal have won five consecutive league matches and moved to the top of the Saudi Pro League. The club are scheduled to host the UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli.

Despite the uncertainty, Saudi organisers maintain that preparations for the Asian Cup are continuing as planned, with match venues and kick-off times already finalised.



India wins 12 medals, reach 32 at world championship

NEW DELHI

India won 12 medals in the junior right-arm finals at the 47th World Armwrestling and 28th World Para Armwrestling Championship 2026, taking its overall tally to 32 medals after three days of competition. The country has secured seven gold, nine silver and 16 bronze medals, ranking fourth behind Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Reuben Lalhmangaihzuala led an Indian one-two finish with Ajay Kumar in the Youth Men's 60kg category. Lalpekhlua B. won gold in the Sub-Junior Boys' 55kg event, while R Lalpekhlua claimed the top position in the Junior Boys' 60kg category. Harkomal Singh Gill secured silver in the Youth Men's 85kg division. Both Lalpekhlua and Gill improved their performances after finishing ninth and 10th respectively in the left-arm events.

Laithansanga and Ajay Kumar added silver medals after winning bronze in their respective left-arm categories.

Mohit Kumar won silver in the Sub-Junior Boys' 50kg event, while Veer Gurjar secured bronze. Utkarsh Parmar, Teja PJ and Shreen Bojja also claimed silver medals. Anna Theresa K Roy added another bronze in the Youth Women's under-50kg category.

India's performance extended beyond the medal winners, with its athletes reaching 48 of the 49 right-arm finals. A total of 82 Indian competitors participated, while 12 finished fourth. Nicolas Thounaojam in the Junior Boys' 65kg category and Muhammed Roshan MK in the Youth Men's 75kg event were among them.

The championship features athletes from 53 nations across five age divisions, from sub-juniors to grand masters.

ZVEREV REACHES WORLD NO. 1 AFTER TWO GRAND SLAM TRIUMPHS

BERLIN

German tennis star Alexander Zverev has reflected on reaching the world number one position in the ATP rankings after a breakthrough 2026 season, which saw him secure his first two Grand Slam titles.

The 29-year-old described the achievement as a special moment after years of setbacks and near-misses. "Sometimes you've got to wait for the best things in life," Zverev said, expressing gratitude to those who supported his journey. In an essay published on the ATP website, Zverev credited his mother, Irina, as the most influential person in his career. She introduced him to tennis, served as his first coach and continued guiding him until he was 16. He also acknowledged the contributions of his father, Alexander Sr., and brother, Mischa.

Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at four, Zverev learnt to manage his condition from an early age, including administering injections and monitoring his blood sugar levels. He admitted that he initially felt embarrassed about his illness and sometimes tried to hide it from fellow players.

His perspective changed following an ankle injury at the French Open in 2022. The recovery period inspired him to establish the Alexander Zverev Foundation, which provides essential medication to children living with diabetes. He said the initiative helps thousands of children annually.

Zverev also recalled his five-hour Australian Open semifinal defeat to Carlos Alcaraz earlier this year, saying he remained confident about his game despite the loss. Winning his first Grand Slam at the French Open strengthened his ambition to become world number one. Acknowledging Jannik Sinner's injury-related absence from competition, Zverev said he would have preferred reaching the summit with every player fit. He hopes his success will inspire families affected by diabetes, demonstrating that the condition need not prevent anyone from achieving their dreams.

Arsenal end Anfield drought with crucial premier league victory

LONDON

Arsenal defeated Liverpool 1-0 at Anfield to end a 16-match winless run at the stadium, while Brighton stunned Manchester City away from home as the ninth gameweek of the 2026-27 Premier League season produced several notable milestones.

Arsenal moved to 24 points from nine matches, their strongest start at this stage since their own 2022-23 campaign. Kai Havertz scored the winner, becoming the highest-scoring German player in Premier League history with 46 goals, surpassing Ilkay Gundogan's 45.

Brighton secured a historic 1-0 victory at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium, recording their first away win against City in 18 attempts. City registered 21 shots but failed to score in a home league match for the first time in 23 games. Brighton have won five of their last six league matches without conceding.

Tottenham Hotspur defeated Crystal Palace 2-0, recording three consecutive league victories for the first time since



February 2025. Spurs managed 34 shots compared with Palace's two. Palace's Jean-Philippe Mateta was sent off after 13 minutes, the earliest dismissal against Tottenham in Premier League history.

Chelsea beat Manchester United 2-0, with Cole Palmer scoring his 50th Premier League goal for the club in his 105th appearance. United extended their winless run across all competitions to nine matches, their longest such streak since September 1984. Elsewhere, Bournemouth beat Leeds United 2-0, while Brentford secured the same scoreline against Nottingham Forest in their 100th Premier League home match.

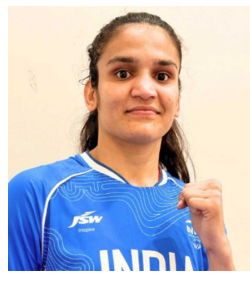
India top Tammer tournament with four gold medals

TAMPERE

Indian boxers topped the medal standings at the Tammer Tournament 2026 in Tampere, Finland, winning four gold, two silver and eight bronze medals. The strong performance highlighted India's growing boxing talent and provided valuable international experience to its 14-member contingent.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Arundhati Chaudhary led India's gold-medal tally by winning the women's 70kg title. Aarti Dhariyal claimed gold in the 54kg category, while Ankushita Boro secured the 65kg crown. Pawan Bartwal completed the gold-medal tally with victory in the men's 55kg division.

Aarti delivered an impressive performance in the final, defeating Scotland's Stephanie Kernachan 5-0. Arundhati faced a tougher challenge but overcame Ireland's Evelyn Ivie Igharo 3-2 in a closely contested bout. Ankushita also secured victory, beating England's Ella Thompstone 4-1 to claim the gold medal.



India added two silver medals through Olympian Jaismine Lamboria in the women's 57kg category and Mohammed Hussamuddin in the men's 60kg division. Lamboria, who also won gold at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, continued her strong international campaign despite missing the top position this time.

Eight Indian boxers won bronze medals across the men's and women's events. Vivek Meena in the 65kg category, Hitesh in the 70kg division, Akshay in the 80kg category, Bobin Chauhan in the 90kg event and Chetan Choudhary in the 90-plus kg division secured podium finishes among the men.

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