CITY HILIGHTS

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POVERTY ERADICATION NO MORE JUST A SLOGAN: PM

Modi says India is defeating poverty on the ground as govt has consistently focused on empowering the poor rather than merely providing assistance.

PUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said around 50 crore people had overcome extreme poverty in India in the last 10-12 years, stressing that India is defeating poverty on the ground.

"Earlier, the fight against poverty was limited to slogans. Today, India is defeating poverty on the ground," he said after inaugurating Pune Metro Line 3 (Pink Line) via video conferencing.



Modi said his government has consistently focused on empowering the poor, enabling them to overcome poverty through confidence and opportunities.

Citing a recent World Bank report, the Prime Minister said: "Around 50 crore people had overcome extreme poverty in India in the last 10-12 years". He said the country's economic growth and poverty reduction are interconnected, with increasing investments in infrastructure and welfare schemes improving people's lives and creating employment opportunities.

He recalled launching the Garib Kalyan Mela initiative during his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister, saying, "The programme focused on delivering welfare schemes directly to beneficiaries and encouraging them to overcome poverty".

Modi said the government's approach is based on empowering people rather than merely providing assistance.

"The Pune Metro Project is significant as it was developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, demonstrating how joint efforts between the government and private sector could accelerate development," he said.

Modi also appealed to people across the country to remember farmers during the ongoing festive season and ensure that drought-affected families also experience the happiness of Diwali.

Development agenda

Modi doubled down on the development agenda; underlined "transformation" in urban transport infrastructure over the past 12 years, and maintained that empowering the poor and delivering good governance were hallmarks of his government.

Modi said India's operational metro network, which covered 248 km before 2014, now covers 1,200 km, and stressed that better urban infrastructure would accelerate the country's economic growth.

"When the country gave the NDA the opportunity to serve in 2014, we set out with a resolve to ensure the ease of living and ease of transportation for the middle class living in cities," he said.

Modi's statement brief overview

PM's claim: Around 50 crore people escaped extreme poverty due to structural reforms and grassroots welfare delivery of govt.

Reference: Cites World Bank report, which stated India's extreme poverty rate dropped from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023, moving roughly 496 million people out of extreme poverty.

Critique of Opposition: Characterizes historic slogans (Garibi Hatao) of previous Congress-led govts as electoral gimmicks that lacked grassroots execution.

Current govt model: Asserts that his govt transitioned from empty rhetoric to a systematic, delivery-focused model rooted in structural empowerment.

Urban and economic links: Tied the poverty reduction to broader growth, pointing out that India's operational metro network expanded from 248 km prior to 2014 to over 1,200 km, positioning the country among the top global urban transport networks.

Urban Challenge Fund

The PM said the Centre approved an Urban Challenge Fund in February this year, with ₹1 lakh crore in Central assistance aimed at mobilising investments in urban development over the coming years.

He urged local bodies and private sector stakeholders to work together in mission mode to transform smaller cities into growth hubs.

State seeks ₹22,400 cr urgent drought relief from Centre

DyCM writes to PM Modi, seeks urgent appointments and fund release amid unprecedented drought crisis across the state.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara has sought Rs 22,400.58 crore in drought relief from the Centre, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and two union ministers to expedite the release of funds to farmers affected by crop losses across the state.

In separate letters dated November 2, he wrote to Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, seeking urgent appointments to present the state's revised memorandum and explain the extent of the drought-related losses.

As per the memorandum, 226 taluks have been affected by drought, with crops spread across 57.93 lakh hectares suffering damage. The estimated economic losses have been pegged at Rs 62,481.88 crore.

The state's cumulative drought-relief need has been revised upwards from Rs 20,585.73 crore to Rs 22,400.58 crore following the Centre's revision of assistance norms under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 2026-27 to 2030-31.

Reason for upward fund revision

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs revised the NDRF and SDRF assistance norms on October 26, 2026, paving way for the revision:

- Karnataka's required crop-loss input subsidy increased by ₹1,814.85 crore (shifting from ₹6,128.70 crore to ₹7,943.55 crore).
- All other components of the state's initial memorandum remain unchanged.



The revised norms, notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on October 26, have increased Karnataka's crop-loss input subsidy requirement from Rs 6,128.70 crore to Rs 7,943.55 crore, an increase of Rs 1,814.85 crore.

The other components of the state's earlier memorandum remain unchanged. While acknowledging the revision of the assistance norms, Parameshwara, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said the enhanced rates continued to fall short of farmers' actual cultivation expenses.

The revised assistance rates stand at Rs 11,000 per hectare for rainfed crops, Rs 22,000 for irrigated crops and Rs 30,000 for perennial crops.

"Our farmers cannot be expected to confront the economic realities of 2026 with a relief framework that does not adequately recognise the true cost of cultivation and the magnitude of their losses," he said in his letters, as per a press note. He said the assistance framework should take into account expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, agricultural labour, irrigation and other essential inputs.

He raised concerns over the continued reliance on the Agriculture Census 2015-16 to determine eligibility for disaster aid. "The decade-old landholding data might not reflect current agricultural realities and could result in eligible small and marginal farmers being excluded from relief."

Core data & impact metrics

Estimated loss
₹62,481.88 crore

Affected areas
226 taluks

Crop damage
57.93 lakh hectares

Previously sought relief
₹20,585.73 crore

Revised relief demand
₹22,400.58 crore

US to end $4 bn annual funding to Israel after 2026: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that Washington will stop providing $4 billion in annual funding to Israel after 2026, following an agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Speaking during the 'Fox and Friends' on Tuesday, Trump said Israel no longer needed the financial assistance and that the two countries had reached an agreement months ago to end the payments.

"We've already agreed that by the end of this year we won't be paying Israel. Now we'll help Israel if they need it," Trump said.

However, it remains unclear which specific funding arrangement Trump was referring to. The existing US-Israel memorandum of understanding provides $3.8 billion annually in military assistance and is due to expire in 2028. Discussions are already under way on the future of US military assistance to Israel beyond that period.

Trump said Israel and European countries could purchase American weapons instead of relying on US financial assistance.



Netanyahu had earlier expressed his intention to gradually reduce Israel's dependence on American military aid, saying in a May interview with CBS that he hoped to wean the country off US support within a decade.

In a letter to a US Congressman in June, Netanyahu said Israel should move from being an aid recipient to becoming a partner.

Trump faces crucial test amid low ratings

Washington: Americans began voting on Tuesday in one of the most consequential elections in recent times, widely viewed as a referendum on President Donald Trump's presidency. The polls are taking place against the backdrop of a prolonged war in Iran, rising inflation, trade wars and deep divisions within American society. The results will determine whether Trump's Republican Party retains control of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the two chambers of the US Congress, or whether Democrats regain control of at least the House, as predicted by opinion polls. Political analysts say Trump's approval ratings are at an all-time low and that he has become a liability for Republican candidates. The outcome is expected to have far-reaching implications for Trump's presidency, congressional oversight and the country's political direction during the final two years of his second term.

More on page 13

2 youths missing after going for swim in Tunga River

SHIVAMOGGA

Two youths, who went for a swim in the Tunga river in Thirthahalli have been missing since Monday evening.

The youths went into the river near the new bridge at Bale Bail in Thirthahalli town.

Shivu (24) from Ballur village in Davangere and Rudresh (22) from Metleri near Ranebennur in Haveri taluk had come to Thirthahalli for labour work. They went swimming in the Tunga river on Monday evening and have been missing.

A search operation was launched by the fire brigade and police. The incident occurred in Thirthahalli Town police station limits.

RaGa dares NaMo for debate on anti-national charge against Oppn

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to an open debate on his charge that the "opposition is anti-national" and asked why the PM has not filed a defamation case against him over his "foreign connections" allegation.

Gandhi's remarks came within a day of his earlier challenge for an open debate with Modi for accusing the opposition of taking foreign help to destabilise the country. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha had also accused Modi of occupying the prime minister's chair with "foreign help".

"It's been 24 hours since I challenged you, Modi ji. You say the Opposition is anti-national. Choose any stage, any



venue, and debate me on this - Who is anti-national? Who has connections with foreign forces? And what is the nature of those connections? Let's do this as soon as possible. Daro mat!," Gandhi said in a post on X.

"We'll both be there. The media will be there. The youth of this country will be there. There will be a table. You'll sit on one side, I'll sit on the other. You can appoint whoever you want as the judge. You can even make Mohan Bhagwat ji the judge," he added.

Pregnant elephant, calf found dead in Bandipur reserve

Chamarajanagar: The carcass of a pregnant female elephant was found in a decomposed state in Gopalaswamy Hills range of Bandipur tiger reserve forest in Gundlupet taluk, raising concerns over the safety of wildlife in the forest landscape.

The female elephant, believed to be around 35 years old, was found in a private property in the Gopalaswamy Betta range of Gundlupet taluk, about 150 metres from the forest boundary. Veterinarians have conducted post-mortem and found that the elephant was carrying a foetus. The viscera sample has been sent to a lab to establish the exact cause of death.

Meanwhile, a three-four-months-old wild elephant calf was found dead in Bailur range of Biligiri Ranganabetta tiger reserve forest.

QUICK READ

Shah assures Centre's support for Cyclone Murasu ravaged AP

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assured Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of all possible assistance from the Centre in the wake of Cyclone Murasu, stating that National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams were already carrying out relief operations in affected areas. In a post on X, Amit Shah said he had spoken to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and taken stock of the situation arising from the cyclone. "Spoke with the CM of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu, about the impact of Cyclone Murasu. Assured him of every possible assistance from the Centre. NDRF and SDRF teams are already on the ground, helping those affected. Govt of India stands with people with an unwavering resolve", he wrote. Shah spoke with Chief Minister Naidu on a call and said disaster response teams were undertaking relief measures in the cyclone-affected areas. "The Government of India stands with the people of Andhra Pradesh with a firm resolve to face any kind of situation," he added.

Indian sailor killed in drone attack off coast of Oman, 13 rescued

MUSCAT

An Indian sailor was killed after a cargo ship was attacked near the coast of Oman amid the ongoing Middle East war, authorities said on Tuesday. The sailor, identified as Gandhar Nahim Ajij, was onboard the Indian cargo ship when it came under attack. Thirteen other crew members survived the attack and were rescued by Omani coast guard. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal confirmed the news. The incident took place on November 2, he said in a post on X. He said the ship was attacked by an "unidentified aerial object while navigating near the coast of Oman". It was carrying 14 Indian seafarers. "While 13 crew members safely evacuated and were rescued by the Omani Coast Guard, I am deeply saddened to report that one of our seafarers, Gandhar Nahim Ajij from Gujarat, tragically succumbed to his injuries," he said, expressing condolences. The ship, MSV Al JusuFi, belongs to Salaya in the Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat. It was carrying cargo from the UAE's Hamriyah Port and was sailing toward Porbandar in Gujarat when an explosive drone or missile hit it. A total of 14 Indian sailors were on board.

RIGHT TO PROTEST Vs RIGHT TO TRADE

Right to Protest can't trample livelihoods: SC on SIR stir

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that the constitutional right to protest cannot be exercised in a way that paralyses the livelihood of others, as it examined claims that ongoing demonstrations against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar have severely disrupted business activity in the national capital during the festive season.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a batch of pleas, including one by the Kirana Committee Delhi and other traders' organisations alleging heavy losses due to the protest at Ramlila Maidan.

Emphasising the need to balance the right to protest with the right to trade, the CJI observed that protest sites must be chosen so that daily wage earners, hawkers and small traders are not deprived of their means of survival.

"We are talking about the source of livelihood for that daily wager, vegetable seller and hawker… the way out is to identify a public place where this protest does not hamper the day-to-day lives (of poor people)," the CJI said.

The bench also underlined that one group cannot occupy a site indefinitely. "Even among the protestors there is a competing claim. You cannot occupy a site for all time. There are other protestors. Where will the farmers go, journalists, where will the workers go, and where will the trade unions go? Everybody has a right to protest. A designated site must be given for an identified period," the CJI observed.

SC on Right to Protest

- Protest sites cannot be occupies indefinitely.
- Farmers, workers, trade unions and homeless also have the right to protest.
- Right to Protest must be balanced with Right to Trade and earn a livelihood.



Context of the ruling

The SC proceedings addressed demonstrations against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar by INDIA bloc, which traders argued had severely impacted commerce, daily wage earners, and transport during the festive season.

> The constitutional freedom of speech, expression, and peaceful assembly must be balanced against the Right to Livelihood of small traders, hawkers, push-cart vendors, and daily-wage workers.
>
> - Supreme Court

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the traders, told the court that lakhs of people live near the protest site, shops remain closed and Connaught Place is deserted.

Citing the festive season and Diwali, he urged the bench to restrain processions or dharnas for the next two months, saying traders are "bleeding".

The court directed the traders' bodies to implead the organisers of the anti-CEC protest so that they can respond to the plea.

Seeks Centre's response on traders' plea over losses

It sought responses from the Centre and others on the traders' demand to halt the protests during the festive period.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that a protest cannot be allowed without permission if it results in loss of livelihood of others.

He pointed out that permission had been granted for only one day on July 20 with an undertaking, yet the site was occupied for 17 days, followed by a march towards Parliament without permission.

Counsel for the protesters argued that Ramlila Ground is a designated protest site and that earlier protests at Jantar Mantar had been peaceful. The bench is also seized of related pleas concerning alleged mass detentions, police action, Metro station closures and internet shutdowns.

Quick Read

Potholes make airport alternative road dangerous

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

The alternative road connecting Bengaluru to Kempegowda International Airport through Kannur and Bagalur has deteriorated badly, with large potholes posing a serious risk to motorists. Commuters have demanded immediate repairs to prevent further accidents. Thousands of vehicles use this important route daily to reach the airport and the Defence and Aerospace Park. Motorists say the potholes have caused traffic congestion, vehicle damage and accidents. Several two-wheeler riders have reportedly suffered fractures after falling on the damaged road. The road passes through the constituency of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, prompting residents to question the authorities' failure to maintain it. Commuters have urged the government and concerned departments to repair the road immediately and ensure safe travel.

KSRP men accused of threatening motorist

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A video showing Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) personnel allegedly threatening a car driver after violating a one-way traffic rule has gone viral on social media, triggering public criticism. The incident reportedly occurred around 7 pm on Monday near Nanjappa Circle on Hosur Road. A KSRP bus allegedly entered a one-way street from Akkitimmanahalli towards Nanjappa Circle, causing traffic congestion. A Range Rover driver questioned the bus personnel about the violation. The personnel allegedly surrounded the car, verbally abused the driver and threatened him. The occupants recorded the incident on their mobile phones. Netizens have demanded action against those involved.

Vijayendra targets Congress over sting operation row

Vijayendra asked why the sting operation had not been probed, saying the row could intensify the Congress debate over changing the Chief Minister.

The BJP will launch a campaign against the Congress in Kolar, Vijayendra announced

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra has criticised the Congress over the controversy surrounding a reported sting operation, saying the issue has exposed internal differences within the ruling party.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Vijayendra said Siddaramaiah had expressed displeasure over the sting operation and reportedly complained to the party high command.

He also referred to statements by Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Vijayendra questioned why the government had not investigated who conducted the sting operation and what their motives were. He claimed



Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru.

that the controversy could intensify the ongoing debate within the Congress over a possible change in the Chief Minister's post.

Addressing criticism of his remarks against Congress leaders during a recent visit to Davanagere, Vijayendra apologised if his words had hurt anyone.

He said the comments were made out of frustration over the government's handling of the reservation issue and the concerns of unemployed youth.

Vijayendra also criticised the Congress over unemployment and the handling of reservation-related issues. He alleged that the government had failed to present its case effectively before the court and said unemployed youth were being forced to protest for jobs.

Targeting the Congress leadership, he accused the party of adopting an anti-democratic approach and claimed that Rahul Gandhi was creating confusion among the public. He announced that the BJP would launch a campaign against the Congress in Kolar.

Vijayendra's charges

Sting fallout
the row exposes rifts and displeasure within the ruling Congress, he claims

Prices
the Nandini milk price hike and the proposed bus fare increase burden consumers

Hiriyur
he predicts a Congress setback in the by-election

Criticises government over price hikes

On rising prices, Vijayendra criticised the increase in Nandini milk prices, saying it had placed an additional burden on consumers during the festive season.

He argued that the government should have provided direct financial assistance to dairy farmers instead of increasing milk prices.

He also opposed the proposed increase in bus fares and announced that the BJP would stage protests at district headquarters across Karnataka.

Commenting on the Hiriyur by-election, Vijayendra said the Congress would face a setback despite the Chief Minister's campaign efforts. He referred to the recent Legislative Council election results and alleged that the ruling party had lost public confidence.

ED searches five premises in fake drug case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches at five premises in Bengaluru and nearby areas as part of its money-laundering investigation into an alleged counterfeit medicine racket.

The agency has frozen bank accounts containing approximately ₹9 lakh belonging to one of the accused, Veeresh Kumar, and seized digital devices and documents.

According to the ED, the searches were conducted by its Bengaluru Zonal Office. Officials also collected financial records and other documents believed to be linked to the alleged illegal activities.

The investigation reportedly found that the prime accused, R. Prashanth, allegedly arranged a farmhouse near Bidadi to manufacture, repackage and relabel medicines without the required licences and permissions.

The agency alleged that low-cost medicines sourced from different states were transferred into new vials and falsely labelled as expensive Pfizer antibiotics, including Zavicefta and Emblaveo. The products were allegedly distributed through DM Pharmaceuticals and supplied to Krupa Healthcare, which further supplied them to pharmaceutical companies and hospitals



The Enforcement Directorate logo.

along with genuine medicines.

The case came to light on August 18, when the Karnataka Food Safety and Drugs Administration and police conducted a joint raid at a farmhouse in C.K. Tandya village near Bidadi. Officials reportedly seized suspected counterfeit medicines, packaging materials and equipment worth approximately ₹4.91 crore. The premises were allegedly being used to store medicines without valid licences and replace their original labels.

The investigation also raised concerns about the supply of suspected counterfeit medicines to hospitals, including drugs used for critical care. The ED has launched a separate money-laundering investigation based on the alleged financial transactions connected with the racket. Further investigation is underway to trace the money trail and identify others involved.

AAP stages protest over milk price hike, proposed transport fare increase

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday, opposing the Karnataka government's recent increase in Nandini milk prices and its proposed hike in public transport fares.

Addressing the protest, AAP State Working President Sitaram Gundappa criticised the ₹8 per litre increase in milk prices, which came into effect on November 1. He questioned the government's decision to pass the additional cost on to consumers instead of providing direct financial support to dairy farmers.

He said the price increase could make milk less affordable for low-income families, particularly those with children. He demanded a balance between protecting farmers' incomes and ensuring affordable prices for consumers.

> "Rising living costs, traffic congestion, and severe civic problems have deeply strained Bengaluru residents; the government must urgently ensure affordable education, healthcare, food, and public transport"
>
> - Dr Satish Kumar, AAP State Organising Secretary

Gundappa also criticised the proposed increase in fares across the state's four transport corporations, including Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

He argued that the Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel to eligible women, should not be used to justify additional financial burdens on passengers.

He sought an independent inquiry into the transport corporations' financial management, alleged irregularities and agreements with the Tata Group.

He further demanded a



The AAP protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

special committee to monitor essential commodity prices and prevent illegal hoarding and black marketing. He also called for pulses and cooking oil to be provided at subsidised rates through the public distribution system (PDS), along with rice. He sought compensation, drinking water and employment support for drought-affected farmers.

Speaking at the protest, AAP State Organising Secretary Dr Satish Kumar said rising living costs, traffic congestion and other civic problems had increased the financial pressure on Bengaluru's residents. He urged the government to ensure affordable education, healthcare, food and public transport.

The protest was attended by Bengaluru City President Shashidhar Aradhya, Vijay Sharma, Ravikumar, Dilip Kumar, Irtad Ahmed, Lali Suleman, Pushpa Keshav, Lakshmi and other party workers.

AAP'S DEMANDS

Probe: an independent inquiry into the transport corporations

Prices: a committee to monitor essential commodities

PDS: subsidised pulses and cooking oil

Farmers: relief for drought-affected farmers

Bengaluru Police arrest man in chain-snatching attempt

35 grams: the gold mangalya chain the accused allegedly stole after attacking the shop worker

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Indiranagar police have arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly attempting to snatch a woman's gold mangalya chain after threatening and assaulting her with a knife at a shop on 100 Feet Road.

The accused, identified as Prabhuraj, allegedly entered a shoe and bag repair shop wearing a helmet and gloves at around 11.45 am. He jumped over the counter and threatened Jayashree, who was working there, with a knife when she attempted to contact the shop owner.

According to the police, the accused used an adhesive to stick the woman's hands to the desk and placed a cloth in her mouth. He then allegedly attacked her neck and hands with a knife before stealing her 35-gram gold mangalya chain.

As he attempted to escape, Jayashree managed to free herself and raised an alarm. The accused allegedly grabbed her by the hair and dragged her onto the road while threatening her.

Hearing her screams, shop owner Ranjith Kumar and members of the public rushed to help. Local residents and traffic police personnel chased and caught the accused before handing him over to the Indiranagar police.

DCP Vikram Amate of Bengaluru East Division confirmed the arrest. Jayashree sustained minor injuries and is reported to be safe.

Bengaluru to host global IEEE Radar Conference 2027

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru will host the 2027 IEEE Radar Conference from May 1 to 6, marking the event's first edition in India and Asia.

The international conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel and Convention Centre.

Puneet Kumar Mishra, Vice President (Education) of the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society (AESS), announced the event at a press conference.

He said 231 experts would present research papers at the conference, with nearly half of the presenters expected to be from India. The event will provide students, researchers and young technology professionals an opportunity to interact with international experts and showcase Indian research.

Radar Conference 2027

May 1-6, 2027

Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield

231 experts to present papers

First edition in India and Asia

Mishra said the registration fee for Indian participants presenting papers had been fixed at $100, compared with the usual fee of $1,000.

The conference will cover several areas, including cognitive radar technology, artificial intelligence (AI), communication systems, space technology, weather monitoring, future satellites, global security and electronic warfare.

Dr B.K. Das, Director General of DRDO's Electronics and Communication Systems cluster, said the conference would provide an international platform to highlight India's achievements in radar technology and the work of young scientists. He noted that AI was creating new challenges for radar systems. He also stressed the growing importance of radar technology in detecting small drones used in modern warfare.

Sheik Althaf M, Director of DRDO's Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), said radar technology, once mainly used in defence and aerospace, had expanded into several other fields. He highlighted the importance of AI-enabled multimode radar systems.

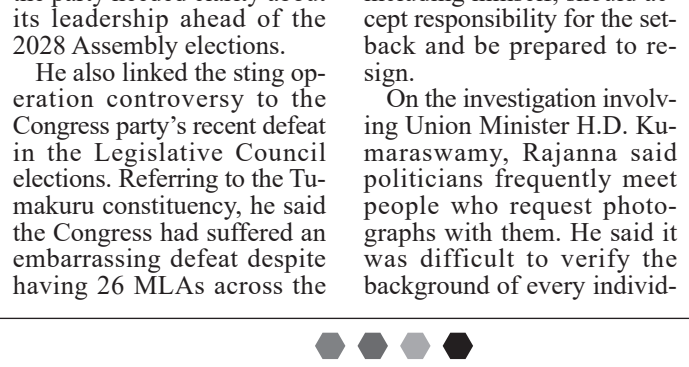
Lawyers protest attacks on advocates, demand stronger protection

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Hundreds of lawyers staged a protest at the City Civil Court premises in Bengaluru on Tuesday, condemning recent attacks and murders of advocates. They demanded stronger legal protection and strict action against those involved in violence against members of the legal profession.

The protest was organised by the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, following the murders of advocates Manjunath Sriram from Whitefield and Manjunath from Annapoorneshwari Nagar, along with an alleged attempt to murder advocate Venkataramana Sannakki from Gauribidanur.

The protesters described the incidents as serious threats to the safety of lawyers and demanded swift legal action against the accused. They also called for adequate security measures to ensure advocates can carry out their professional duties without fear, threats or intimidation.



Lawyers protest at the City Civil Court premises in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Speaking at the protest, Association President Vivek Subba Reddy said lawyers must be able to practise their profession without fear or pressure. He urged the authorities to strengthen and effectively implement the existing Karnataka Prohibition of Violence Against Advocates Act, 2023, to prevent attacks and ensure the safety of legal professionals.

The association has also called for stronger legal provisions to ensure the protection of advocates across Karnataka.

> *Lawyers must be able to practise their profession without fear or pressure, Association President Vivek Subba Reddy said*

The association had decided to abstain from court work on November 3 following a resolution passed at its general body meeting on October 29. It had also appealed to lawyers' associations across Karnataka to participate in the protest and support its demand for stronger safeguards.

The association maintained that protecting advocates was essential to ensuring the independent functioning of the legal profession and the justice system.

STING ROW

Rajanna warns sting row could damage Karnataka's image

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Minister K.N. Rajanna has expressed concern over the controversy surrounding sting operations in the state, saying the issue could damage Karnataka's reputation.

Comparing the controversy with the Gujarat development model, Rajanna remarked that Karnataka could become known for sting operations



instead of development. He said such incidents were bringing disrepute to the state and causing embarrassment among its people.

Commenting on reports about former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's meeting with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Rajanna said the impact of the sting operation controversy on the party and the reputations of individuals had reportedly been discussed.

He demanded a thorough investigation to establish who was behind the operation and whether it was conducted at a higher or lower level. He also said that anyone who had been falsely implicated should receive justice and those responsible for wrongdoing should face legal action.

Rajanna also expressed concern over uncertainty surrounding the Congress leadership. Referring to Siddaramaiah's reported statement that he would not contest future elections or participate in election campaigns, he said the party needed clarity about its leadership ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections.

He also linked the sting operation controversy to the Congress party's recent defeat in the Legislative Council elections. Referring to the Tumakuru constituency, he said the Congress had suffered an embarrassing defeat despite having 26 MLAs across the 35 Assembly segments. He argued that all 26 legislators, including himself, should accept responsibility for the setback and be prepared to resign.

On the investigation involving Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Rajanna said politicians frequently meet people who request photographs with them. He said it was difficult to verify the background of every individual they encountered.

Rajanna also spoke about efforts to unite AHINDA leaders, representing minorities, backward classes and Dalits. He denied any differences between Siddaramaiah and former minister H.C. Mahadevappa, suggesting that misunderstandings may have been created by intermediaries. He expressed confidence that the differences could be resolved through discussions.

CH Observer

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Across Manayaranapalya, residents of 9th, 11th, and 13th A Crosses demand urgent civic intervention regarding hazardous, week-long abandoned roadwork. Unbarricaded deep trenches, exposed utility lines, and heavy debris completely block shop entrances and severely endanger local pedestrians and motorists.

+91 80730 57594



Residents of 13th A Cross, Manayaranapalya, demand immediate intervention over an unbarricaded deep drain trench left unattended for a week. The excavation and rubble block shop entrances, expose electrical wiring, and create severe fall hazards for pedestrians.



Residents of 11th Cross, Manayaranapalya, demand urgent intervention over hazardous, uncompleted roadwork left unattended. Sunken paving blocks, dumped construction pipes, and exposed utility lines dangerously obstruct traffic and force pedestrians into oncoming vehicles.



Residents of 9th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Manayaranapalya, demand urgent intervention over an abandoned, unbarricaded excavation surrounding a vulnerable utility pole. Left unattended for a week, the deep pit and debris block shop access, creating severe safety hazards for pedestrians and motorists.

Rao orders faster Bengaluru development works

Inspecting Bengaluru West City Corporation projects, Rao urged officials to collaborate, avoid delays, and accelerate construction without compromising quality

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to complete all ongoing development works within the stipulated time while maintaining quality standards.

During an inspection of various projects under the Bengaluru West City Corporation, Rao instructed officials to work together, avoid delays and speed up construction without compromising on quality.



Jalahalli Underpass
Reviewing the proposed Jalahalli underpass, Rao directed officials to speed up land acquisition and begin construction on the acquired land. He also asked them to complete the remaining acquisition process at the earliest by exploring options such as Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and cash compensation wherever necessary.

HMT Pipeline Underpass
Around 50 per cent of the underpass work on HMT Pipeline Road has been completed. As nearly 20 guntas of land is required for the project, officials were instructed to expedite land acquisition and complete the remaining construction work.

Goraguntepalya ORR Junction
Rao reviewed the road-widening issues near the Godrej property at Goraguntepalya ORR Junction and directed officials to take necessary steps to speed up the work.

Pipeline Road Flyover
The 584-metre-long flyover project on Pipeline Road has 11 pillars. Work on seven pillars has been completed, while the overall project has reached 40 per cent completion. Rao instructed officials to coordinate with the concerned departments and accelerate the remaining work.

Annapoorneshwari Nagar Underpass
Rao reviewed the underpass construction near the BDA Complex and directed officials to speed up the project and complete it within the stipulated timeframe.

Ullal Junction Underpass
Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag said the service road and one section of the underpass had been completed and opened to traffic. She directed contractors to immediately begin work on the remaining section and complete it at the earliest.

Chief Engineer Swayam Prabha, executive engineers and other officials attended the inspection.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOCUS

- **Inspection Drive**: GBA Commissioner reviews major West Bengaluru infrastructure projects.
- **Land Bottlenecks**: Focus placed on quick acquisition via TDR and cash compensation.
- **Milestone Progress**: Several underpasses and flyover pillars record significant completion rates.
- **Traffic Relief**: Partial sections opened to ease commuting while construction continues.

Phone-in programme addresses public garbage concerns

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation received 10 public complaints during its fourth phone-in programme on solid waste management held on Tuesday. The programme was organised to hear citizens' concerns and address problems related to garbage collection and disposal.

Held under the guidance of Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the programme received complaints about irregular garbage collection, waste dumping in public places and garbage accumulation on vacant sites. Of the 10 complaints received, seven concerned the non-arrival of garbage collection vehicles, two involved garbage dumping in public places and one related to waste dumping on a vacant site.

Since the phone-in programme began on October 13, the Corporation has received 62 calls and registered 60 grievances. Of these, 49 have been resolved, while 11 remain pending. Officials have been instructed to address the pending complaints within the stipulated timeframe.

The Corporation is also implementing block-wise micro-planning across its seven divisions to improve waste management. The initiative focuses on door-to-door garbage collection, route planning for auto-tippers, assigning streets to pourakarmikas and monitoring Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs).

The dedicated phone-in programme for solid waste management is conducted every Tuesday from 7.30 am to 9.30 am. Citizens can report problems related to garbage collection schedules, vehicle services, pourakarmika services and waste disposal. The Commissioner's regular phone-in programme for other civic issues will continue every Friday.

Core Takeaways

- **Grievance Redressal**: Weekly phone-in programme records citizens' solid waste complaints.
- **Operational Bottlenecks**: Missed vehicle pickups form the vast majority of issues.
- **Micro-Planning**: Block-wise strategies deployed across all seven divisions.
- **Ongoing Monitoring**: Officials instructed to resolve remaining pending cases swiftly.

Ward One campaign clears 87 tonnes of waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation continued its 'Ward One' campaign on Monday, carrying out civic improvement works across 6.5 km of roads in Vidyaranyapura, Sarvagnanagar and Pulakeshinagar divisions.

The campaign, aimed at improving cleanliness, repairing footpaths, filling potholes and removing encroachments, was conducted under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the guidance of Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

During the day's operations, officials repaired 24 potholes, cleared 17 garbage blackspots and removed eight tonnes of garbage. A total of 87 tonnes of construction and demolition waste was cleared from 123 collection points.

Around 600 metres of footpaths were repaired and 42 obstructions were removed. Officials also improved two road junctions and cleared silt from 620 metres of roadside drains.

As part of other civic works, two new streetlights were installed and 46 were repaired. Three parks were cleaned, while 52 unauthorised flex boards, banners and posters were removed. Three illegally parked vehicles were also cleared. Officials pruned 26 tree branches and removed 3.8 tonnes of tree waste.



The campaign also helped resolve 24 public grievances on the spot.

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) addressed eight water leakage complaints, while one chamber repair was undertaken. BESCOM cleared three obstructions, and one issue related to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) was resolved.

Inspections and Penalties
Officials inspected 133 commercial establishments and found 59 violating regulations related to waste management, plastic usage, cleanliness and trade licences. Fines totalling ₹82,700 were imposed. Two establishments in Yelahanka were also closed for violating regulations.

The corporation said the campaign would continue to address local civic problems and improve public amenities through coordination with various departments.

Census 2027 training begins for Bengaluru South officials

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation has started a four-day training programme for officers and staff ahead of the second phase of Census 2027.

Additional Commissioner Rachappa inaugurated the workshop at the CIMS College auditorium in Jayanagar on Tuesday.

The training is aimed at ensuring accurate data collection and smooth completion of population enumeration. Addressing the participants, Rachappa said officials must clearly understand their duties before beginning fieldwork. He stressed that the work should be completed carefully, without errors or delays. He instructed enumerators to wear their identity cards and speak politely to residents during household visits. Information about family members must be collected directly from the head of the household or other family members. Officials were warned against making assumptions or recording details without proper enquiries.

Rachappa also stressed the need for sensitivity while collecting information about religion, caste and social background. He directed staff to maintain the confidentiality of all information collected during the census.

Joint Director of the Directorate of Census Operations Shakthi Kumar said Census 2027 would be India's first digital census. Enumerators will collect information using the dedicated Population Enumeration (PE) mobile application, which supports both online and offline data entry through their own mobile phones under the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) system.

As per the official Census schedule, citizens can use the self-enumeration facility from January 10 to 24, 2027. Door-to-door population counting will take place from January 25 to February 28, followed by a revision exercise from March 1 to 5, 2027.

Rachappa also instructed officials to resolve technical problems, uncovered areas and boundary overlaps identified during the first phase through the HLBC portal. He said the process would be monitored through the CMMS portal and stressed that officials must ensure there are no lapses.

Operational Takeaways

- **Digital Transformation**: Enumerators will use the dedicated Population Enumeration (PE) mobile app via a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) framework.
- **Timeline Schedule**: Self-enumeration runs from January 10 to 24, 2027, followed by door-to-door counting from January 25 to February 28.
- **Fieldwork Guidelines**: Staff must wear ID cards, speak politely, and collect sensitive demographic details directly without assumptions.
- **Portal Monitoring**: The entire enumeration process is tracked through the CMMS portal, resolving boundary overlaps via the HLBC portal.

Health camp screens 82 people in Kanakanapalya

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A health check-up camp was organised in Kanakanapalya under the Chickpet division of the Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation on Tuesday, following a directive from Commissioner Jagadish G.

The camp aimed to provide basic healthcare services, promote health awareness and help identify medical problems at an early stage. A total of 82 people underwent health screenings and received medical advice based on their health conditions.

Screenings for Various Health Conditions
The camp covered diabetes, high blood pressure, anaemia, age-related health problems, mental health concerns, fever, respiratory symptoms and gastrointestinal issues.

According to the details provided by the corporation, 31 people were screened for diabetes, 23 for hypertension and 12 for anaemia. Screening for age-related health issues covered 51 people, while 12 people were assessed for mental health concerns.

Another 12 people were screened for influenza-like illnesses, including fever and respiratory symptoms. Gastrointestinal health checks were conducted for 23 people.

The number of screenings across these categories is higher than the total number of participants because individuals may have undergone multiple tests.

The camp was organised to encourage people to undergo regular health check-ups, adopt healthy habits and seek medical attention when symptoms appear. Early detection was highlighted as an important step in preventing health problems from becoming serious.

Quick Read

CCB questions minister PRO over honey-trap case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Prajwal Prasad, Public Relations Officer (PRO) to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, appeared before the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Cyber Crime Police for questioning in connection with the alleged honey-trap and sting operation case. According to reports, allegations surfaced that Prajwal had handed over a mobile phone to Ritesh Pandey, the prime accused in the case, at Kumaraswamy's residence in Delhi. Following this, the CCB issued a notice directing Prajwal to appear for questioning. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh had reportedly earlier stated that Prajwal was missing. However, Prajwal subsequently obtained interim anticipatory bail from the court and appeared before the investigating officers in response to the notice.

Customs seize cannabis worth ₹5.23 crore at Bengaluru Airport

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport have arrested a passenger for allegedly smuggling 14.94 kg of hydroponic cannabis from Bangkok, Thailand. The seized narcotics are estimated to be worth ₹5.23 crore. The passenger arrived in Bengaluru from Bangkok on November 1 and was intercepted by Customs officials for inspection. During the search, officials discovered suspicious packets concealed inside his luggage. According to the Customs Department, the green-coloured cannabis buds had been vacuum-sealed in airtight packets to avoid detection. The seized substance weighed 14.94 kg and was valued at approximately ₹5.23 crore. The passenger was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

SUV crashes into kebab centre, three injured

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Three workers suffered serious burn injuries after a speeding SUV crashed into a kebab centre at Hommadevanahalli near Bannerghatta.

The impact caused hot cooking oil to spill on workers Basavaraj, Munikrishna and Manjesh. Several people standing outside the shop narrowly escaped injury. Motorcycles parked nearby were also damaged. A CCTV camera installed at a neighbouring shop captured the incident. The injured workers were rushed to hospital for treatment. Bannerghatta police have seized the SUV and launched an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

HDK says NDA to field consensus candidate in Hiriyur

Kumaraswamy criticized the state government for neglecting his 2006–07 approved ₹4,500 crore lake-filling project for Chitradurga, Tumakuru, & Kolar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has decided to field a consensus candidate for the Hiriyur Assembly by-election following discussions with leaders of the Kadugolla community and senior BJP leaders.

He said the decision was taken through discussions and coordination among the parties and community representatives concerned.

HDK Criticises Government Over Pending Projects

Kumaraswamy criticised the state government for allegedly neglecting a ₹4,500 crore lake-filling project covering Chitradurga, Tumakuru and Kolar districts. He said the project had been approved during his tenure as Chief Minister in 2006–07 but had not received adequate attention.

He also alleged that the government owed contractors ₹38,000 crore for completed works. Accusing the Congress government of announcing projects without adequate financial approvals, he said foundation-stone ceremonies were being held without ensuring funds for implementation.

Demands Additional Support for Sugarcane Farmers

Kumaraswamy demanded an additional support price of at least ₹750 per tonne for sugarcane farmers. He said the government should address their concerns instead of allowing them to continue protesting.

He pointed out that Tamil Nadu provides an additional payment of ₹700 per tonne through state funds. He also referred to farmers' demand for ₹1,000 per tonne in Karnataka and criticised the government for failing to reach an agreement after discussions with sugar factory owners and farmers.

He questioned the government's allocation of ₹10 lakh to each panchayat under the proposed Bharat Jodo Clubs initiative, asking whether public funds were being used for party-related activities instead of local development.

Raises Concerns Over Law and Order

Kumaraswamy also criticised the government over disputes concerning Waqf properties and allegations of a ₹40,000 crore collection racket in the Excise Department. He accused the Home and Intelligence departments of mishandling investigations into murder cases and expressed concern over the state's law and order situation.

He urged police officials to act responsibly and maintain public confidence in the department.

Executive Insights

- **Bypoll Strategy**: Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy confirmed that the NDA will field a consensus candidate for the Hiriyur Assembly by-election following alignment with local community and BJP leaders.
- **Infrastructure & Dues**: Criticized the state administration for neglecting a major 2006–07 lake-filling project across Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Kolar, while pointing out massive pending contractor arrears.
- **Agricultural Demands**: Insisted on at least ₹750 per tonne in additional support pricing for sugarcane farmers, citing neighboring Tamil Nadu's higher state-funded incentives.
- **Governance Critique**: Raised serious security questions regarding police investigations, law and order, and the rationale behind public fund allocations.





Astrobase, Bayer announce ₹700 crore investments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka is set to receive investments worth ₹700 crore from Bengaluru-based space technology company Astrobase and Netherlands-based Bayer, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil announced.

The investments are expected to generate more than 1,470 jobs across the state. Patil made the announcement after meeting senior representatives of both companies.

Astrobase plans to invest ₹500 crore to establish a rocket manufacturing facility on 10 acres in the Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area. The unit is expected to manufacture 40 rocket engines annually and create more than 1,250 jobs.

The company is developing medium-lift and reusable launch vehicles along with indigenous rocket propulsion systems.

Its Everest engine uses liquid oxygen and methane technology and is designed to produce 800 kilonewtons of thrust. The company has set an ambitious target of increasing India's annual space launch capacity to 1,000 tonnes.

Separately, Bayer has announced plans to invest ₹200 crore to establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru. The project is expected to create around 220 jobs.

Patil said the company plans to hold the foundation ceremony before the Global Investors Meet scheduled for April 2027 and begin work soon after. Bayer already has research, innovation and service operations in Bengaluru, along with a crop research centre in Chamarajanagar.

Bayer has been operating in India since 1896 and currently has more than 11,000 employees and associates and seven manufacturing sites across the country.

Astrobase co-founder Neeraj Khandelwal, CFO Nishant Jain, Head of Strategy Puneet Balasubramani and Bayer representative Dr Himanshu Patel attended the meeting. KIADB CEO Govinda Reddy, Minister's Technical Adviser Aravind Galagali and Udyog Mitra Managing Director Doddabasavaraju were also present.

Quick Overview

- **Aerospace Innovation**: Astrobase establishes a 10-acre manufacturing unit for indigenous rocket engines, targeting heavy payload launch capabilities.
- **Life Sciences Expansion**: Bayer broadens its century-long Indian footprint with a new Global Capability Centre ahead of the 2027 Investors Meet.
- **Job Creation Impact**: The dual corporate investments promise nearly 1,500 new technical and operational roles across Karnataka.
- **State Facilitation**: High-level ministerial meetings led by M.B. Patil ensure streamlined land allocation and infrastructure support.

BJP aims to return to power in 2028

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



BJP National General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Harish Dwivedi has called on party workers to work together with the aim of bringing the BJP back to power in Karnataka in the 2028 Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters during his first visit to Karnataka after taking charge, Dwivedi criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had failed to address people's problems and was involved in corruption.

He claimed that Congress leaders, MLAs, MPs and ministers were more concerned about their own interests than public welfare. He also criticised the recent increase in milk and curd prices, saying the rising cost of essential commodities had placed an additional burden on ordinary people.

Karnataka's milk prices were increased by ₹8 per litre from November 1, 2026. Curd prices were also revised, with a one-kilogram packet seeing an increase of ₹14.

Dwivedi said the BJP would highlight issues affecting the public in the coming days and reach out to people across the State. He alleged that the Congress leadership was focused on protecting the interests of the Gandhi family rather than addressing public concerns.

He said the party had appointed him as Karnataka in-charge and that he had begun understanding the organisation's structure and functioning. On Monday, he attended meetings with BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, state office-bearers and members of the party's Core Committee.

Describing the meetings as introductory, Dwivedi said discussions focused on reviewing the party's organisational activities, understanding its strengths and identifying ways to make the organisation more active.

He also met senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to seek his guidance on strengthening the party in Karnataka. Dwivedi expressed confidence that collective efforts would help the BJP prepare for the 2028 Assembly elections.

NHAI improves safety at two Bengaluru junctions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has completed road safety improvements at two accident-prone junctions on Ballari Road (NH-44) in north Bengaluru to reduce accidents and protect pedestrians.

The improvements have been carried out at Byatarayanapura and Kodigehalli junctions, which were identified as recurring accident blackspots.

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police Road Safety Report for 2019–2023, Byatarayanapura recorded 11 road accident deaths, while Kodigehalli reported six during the period. Pedestrians accounted for nearly 30% of the fatalities.

As part of the safety measures, around 133 metres of pedestrian crossings, 240 square metres of pedestrian refuge areas and 1,600 square metres of new footpaths have been developed.

The pedestrian refuge areas have been created along highway medians and between the main road and service roads to provide safer crossing facilities.

Speed-calming measures, road markings, road studs and safety signboards have also been installed to improve visibility, control vehicle speeds and encourage safer driving.

The work was carried out in coordination with the Bengaluru Traffic Police, Greater Bengaluru Authority and Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited. WRI India provided technical support under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety and Compartment S4.

The NHAI also highlighted the need for stronger road safety measures, stating that Karnataka recorded 4,278 deaths on National Highways in 2024.

South Corporation seals 63 illegal commercial establishments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has sealed 63 commercial establishments operating illegally in residential areas for violating trade licence rules and causing inconvenience to residents, according to a press release issued by the corporation.

The action was carried out under the directions of Commissioner K.N. Ramesh, with health officials conducting inspections and sealing establishments found violating the rules.

Action Across Six Constituencies

The enforcement drive covered six Assembly constituencies within the corporation limits. BTM Layout recorded the highest number of closures, with 30 establishments sealed. Officials also sealed eight shops in Padmanabhanagar, four in Jayanagar, nine in Bommanahalli, 10 in Bengaluru South and two in Singasandra ward, which falls under the Anekal Assembly constituency.

The inspections covered several residential areas, including Kumaraswamy Layout, J.P. Nagar, Madiwala, Koramangala, Ejipura, Konanakunte, Begur, Yelachenahalli, Uttarahalli, Gottigere, Puttenahalli, Bilekahalli and Arakere.

Unlicensed Shops Face Action

According to the corporation, establishments operating without valid trade licences and those violating restrictions on commercial activities along roads narrower than 40 feet were targeted.

The sealed establishments included bakeries, eateries, salons, beauty parlours, fruit and vegetable shops, hardware stores and condiment outlets.

The corporation said notices had been issued to several establishments before the enforcement drive. However, those that continued operating in violation of the rules were sealed during the inspections.

Commissioner Ramesh K.N. said strict action would continue against commercial establishments operating illegally in residential areas.

KSPCA seeks statewide crackdown on banned Chinese manja

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) has urged the State police to launch a statewide crackdown on the illegal sale, storage and use of banned Chinese manja, following the death of a woman in Hubballi.

The authority has written to the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG&IGP), seeking strict action against those involved in selling and using the prohibited synthetic kite strings.

The demand follows the death of Vidya Manjunath Gowdar, who suffered fatal injuries after a manja string became entangled around her neck while she was travelling on a scooter in Hubballi.

KSPCA member Mohan Kumar Danappa has urged the police chief to direct all police units across Karnataka to conduct special enforcement drives to prevent further accidents and fatalities.

He has called for raids on kite shops, toy stores and warehouses to identify and seize stocks of banned manja.

He has also sought action against traders selling the prohibited strings, stockists, individuals using them and online platforms facilitating their sale. Danappa has urged the police to register cases under relevant laws and initiate strict legal action against those violating the ban.

The letter also calls for a statewide public awareness campaign through newspapers, television, radio and social media to educate people about the dangers of synthetic kite strings and the legal consequences of their sale and use.

Karnataka had already prohibited the procurement, storage, sale and use of nylon and other harmful synthetic kite strings under a State Government order.

State acts to resolve Udupi land disputes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A high-level meeting was convened at Vidhana Soudha to tackle persistent forest and revenue land disputes in Udupi district, focusing on regularising houses built on government plots and clearing Bagair Hukum backlogs.

Legislator V. Sunil Kumar raised concerns over the frequent rejection of applications under Section 94C of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, emphasizing that poor families face severe distress as rejected claims cannot be refiled. He also flagged delays in surveying land cleared by taluk committees. Responding to these issues, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Rajender Kataria stated that 94C grievances will receive top priority. A technical committee from the Revenue Department will soon inspect Udupi district to assess bottlenecks. Additionally, a panel headed by the Regional Commissioner will review genuine Bagair Hukum claims.

On cashew plantation leases raised by MLA Kiran Kumar Kodgi, Kataria clarified that concessional renewals have ceased under court directives, leaving commercial lease rates as the only viable option. The meeting also approved swift allocation of 17 additional acres for the Varahi irrigation project, alongside orders to expedite deemed forest surveys across Karnataka.

KARNATAKA-JOB-ROW

Narayana Gowda criticises Mohandas Pai over jobs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KaRaVe) president T.A. Narayana Gowda has criticised businessman Mohandas Pai over the organisation's campaign to collect employment data from IT and biotechnology companies in Karnataka.

Reacting to Pai's criticism of the campaign and his appeal to the Chief Minister to take action against KaRaVe leaders, Gowda called Pai the "Shakuni of Karnataka". He alleged that Pai was opposing efforts to secure better employment opportunities for Kannadigas. Gowda also demanded that Pai leave the State if he continued to oppose the interests of local people.

The organisation said its members were collecting information from companies in a disciplined manner and had not intended to disrupt their operations. Gowda warned that the organisation would respond strongly to people who opposed its campaign.

One-Week Deadline for Employment Data

KaRaVe has launched a campaign to collect details about the number of Kannadigas employed in IT and biotechnology companies. The organisation has reportedly given companies one week to provide information about their workforce.

Gowda said the collected information would be compiled into a report and submitted to the State Government. The campaign aims to examine the representation of Kannadigas in private-sector jobs and address complaints of discrimination in recruitment.

According to the organisation, its teams have approached more than 100 companies to seek employment details. KaRaVe has also asked companies to share information about recruitment practices and the representation of local candidates in different job categories.

Sarojini Mahishi Report Revisited

Gowda also referred to the Sarojini Mahishi Committee, appointed by the Karnataka Government in 1983 under then Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde to examine employment opportunities for Kannadigas. The committee submitted an interim report in 1984 and its final report in 1986, containing 58 recommendations on employment for locals in government departments, public sector units and private industries.

KaRaVe said the present campaign was aimed at understanding the employment situation and bringing the concerns of Kannadiga jobseekers to the government's attention.

Quick Read

Online applications invited for various welfare schemes

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Nomadic Development Corporation has invited online applications for various welfare schemes for 2026-27. Eligible beneficiaries can submit applications, including those under the Corporation's Board of Directors' discretionary quota and the government's institutional quota, by November 30. Applications can be submitted through the Seva Sindhu portal (https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in) or at Karnataka One, Grama One and Bangalore One centres. For further details, applicants can contact the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department or the Assistant Directors at taluk-level offices, according to an official press release.

Udupi Postal Adalat scheduled for November 6

CH NEWS, UDUPI

A Postal Adalat (grievance redressal forum) will be held at the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Udupi Division, on November 6 at 10.30 am. Postal customers can submit their complaints and suggestions to the Superintendent's office or email them to joujuthi.ka@indiapost.gov.in before November 4. Customers can also attend the Adalat in person to explain their grievances and seek solutions. The information was provided in a press release issued by the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Udupi Division.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy issues violent warning to Congress

Narayanaswamy criticised Congress over the Special Intensive Revision exercise, accusing the party of trying to ignite nationwide unrest.



BJP leaders and workers in Kolar on Tuesday.

Key points

- Defended his controversial statement
- Accused the Congress of creating anarchy over SIR
- Criticised the scale of the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations
- Highlighted public anger over rising prices
- Alleged the sting operation is meant to keep Siddaramaiah under pressure

CH NEWS, KOLAR

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy triggered controversy on Tuesday by making a violent remark against Congress leaders, warning that BJP workers and leaders would chop them into pieces and throw them into the Arabian Sea if the Congress created anarchy in the country.

Narayanaswamy accused the Congress of attempting to create unrest across the country. He made the remark while criticising the Congress over its stand on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

He later defended his statement, claiming that he was merely repeating what people were saying. However, his remarks included a direct warning involving physical violence against Congress leaders.

Narayanaswamy alleged that the Congress was attempting to create anarchy in the name of SIR and said the BJP's opposition was directed against such activities.

He also criticised the state government's approach to the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, alleging that instead of organising celebrations on a grand scale, the Congress government was burdening people with frequent price increases.

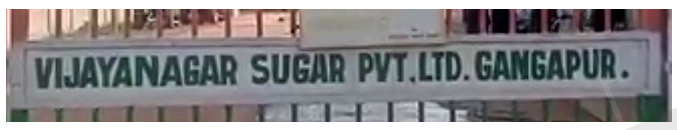
Claiming that citizens across the state were unhappy with rising prices, he said the government should focus on public issues rather than political controversies.

Referring to the ongoing sting operation controversy in Karnataka, Narayanaswamy alleged that it was a political strategy intended to keep former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah under pressure.

His remarks are likely to draw attention amid the continuing political confrontation between the BJP and Congress over SIR, price increases and the sting operation controversy.

Vijayanagar Sugars operates amid statewide factory bandh

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, GADAG



The decision of Vijayanagar Sugars in Gadag district to resume operations despite the statewide sugar factory bandh has triggered tension among sugarcane growers, with farmers in neighbouring Haveri district reportedly preparing to stage a protest outside the factory. Police have stepped up security to prevent any law-and-order problems.

The State Sugarcane Growers' Association has called for a bandh of sugar factories across Karnataka, demanding the fulfilment of farmers' demands, including a fair price for sugarcane. While operations have stopped at several factories, Vijayanagar Sugars has begun functioning, drawing attention amid the ongoing agitation.

Farmers in Gadag said they were worried that delays in crushing would lead to heavy financial losses. The water level in the Tungabhadra river has reportedly declined, while groundwater levels in borewells have also fallen. With temperatures rising and sugarcane nearing the harvesting stage, growers fear that delayed crushing could reduce the weight and value of their produce. They are also concerned about the risk of electrical short circuits in agricultural fields, which could destroy standing crops.

Following discussions between the factory management and farmers under the district administration's supervision, the management provided a written assurance. It stated that the factory would pay the final sugarcane price fixed by the Central and state governments and compensate farmers for any difference in payment once the final price was determined.

Based on this assurance, some farmers in Gadag district agreed to the factory resuming operations. However, the decision has reportedly angered sugarcane growers in Haveri, who view the move as weakening the statewide agitation. Some farmers are preparing to lay siege to the factory in protest.

As a precaution, police personnel have been deployed around the factory, with officers maintaining round-the-clock vigil. Senior police officials have also visited the premises to review security arrangements.

> **"Gadag district has already been hit by drought, and the sugar factory should not be closed for any reason to avoid losses to farmers."**
> — **Ashwini Gowdar,** Farmer leader, Bidnala

The situation reflects the challenge faced by farmers between protecting their standing crops from losses and continuing the collective struggle for a remunerative sugarcane price.

Declare Kaniyanapura forest an elephant corridor: NTCA



A herd of elephants.

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has recommended declaring the Kaniyanapura forest, located near Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR), an elephant corridor, triggering mixed reactions among wildlife conservationists, farmers and local residents.

In its recommendation to the Central Government, the NTCA has highlighted the need to protect elephant movement routes and prevent increasing human-elephant conflict. However, it has also stressed that declaring the area an elephant corridor should not adversely affect local farmers or their livelihoods.

> *Declaring the area an elephant corridor should not adversely affect local farmers or their livelihoods*

The authority has expressed concern over the growing number of luxury resorts, hotels and farmhouses around Bandipur Tiger Reserve. According to its report, electric fences and concrete compound walls constructed around private properties are obstructing the natural movement of elephants. The purchase of agricultural land by outsiders for commercial projects has also emerged as a major concern.

The NTCA has warned that such developments could increase human-elephant conflict and lead to greater damage to agricultural crops. It has urged the Central and State governments to identify and declare ecologically sensitive areas around Bandipur, including Kaniyanapura, as elephant corridors.

The authority has also recommended regulating the sale of agricultural land to outsiders and restricting commercial establishments such as luxury hotels, restaurants and farmhouses with bright lighting and high compound walls. It has further called for strict implementation of the 2012 government notification prohibiting the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural and commercial purposes in the Bandipur buffer zone.

The recommendation comes after the Central Government declared the Segur Elephant Corridor in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiri region, connecting Mudumalai National Park with the Bandipur-Wayanad forest landscape.

Wildlife conservationists have welcomed the proposal, stating that it would strengthen elephant habitat protection. However, farmers and local residents have expressed apprehension that the proposed restrictions could affect their freedom to sell land and limit opportunities for additional income through commercial development.

They argue that resorts and farmhouses also generate employment and provide supplementary livelihoods to local communities. The NTCA's recommendation has therefore brought wildlife conservation and protection of local economic interests into focus.

State-Level Cricket Tournament Winners Honoured

KODAGU



The Karnataka State Journalists' Association, in association with the Kodagu District Journalists' Association, organised a state-level cricket tournament in Kodagu today, bringing together journalists from across the state in a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

K.V. Prabhakar, media adviser to former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, presented trophies to the winning teams at the concluding ceremony. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation, showcasing the sporting talent, teamwork and competitive spirit of journalists.

Addressing the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the organisers for conducting the tournament successfully and providing a platform for journalists to come together beyond their professional responsibilities. Such sporting events play an important role in strengthening unity, friendship and mutual understanding among members of the journalist community.

MLAs Ponnanna and Manthar Gowda attended the programme. Shivanda Thagadooru, State President of the Karnataka State Journalists' Association, Anu Karyappa, President of the Kodagu District Journalists' Association, and KPCC spokesperson Lakshman were also present.

The event highlighted the importance of sports in fostering healthy relationships and promoting unity among journalists. The trophy distribution ceremony marked a memorable conclusion to the state-level cricket tournament, celebrating the achievements of the winning teams and the collective efforts of the organisers.

No extra passes to be printed: Min Shivalinge Gowda

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise Minister and Hassan district in-charge K.M. Shivalinge Gowda has clarified that no additional passes will be printed for the Sri Hasanamba Devi Darshan and Sri Siddeshwara Swamy Jatra Mahotsava, as excessive distribution could inconvenience devotees waiting in the general queue.

The minister said 500 Golden Tickets, priced at Rs. 1,000 each, had been purchased at the temple counter and handed over to Congress district president G.B. Shashidhar for distribution among party office-bearers who had worked towards the successful organisation of the festival.

Speaking to reporters after purchasing and handing over the tickets, Shivalinge Gowda denied allegations of political favouritism. He said the festival was not being organised on party lines and that the tickets were purchased to facilitate darshan for party workers who had contributed to the arrangements.

Hindu Hitarakshana Samiti to hold protest on Nov 6

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

The Hindu Hitarakshana Samiti has announced a protest rally on November 6 to condemn the vandalism of Navagraha idols at a temple in Ramanagara.

Committee convener Girigowda said the rally would demand strict action against those responsible and measures to prevent similar incidents.

On Tuesday, a delegation led by Girigowda, along with BJP leaders and representatives of various Hindu organisations, submitted a request to District Superintendent of Police Rohan Jagadish seeking permission to hold the rally.Speaking to reporters, Girigowda said the Navagraha idols at the Sri Venkataramana Swamy Temple near Kempegowda Circle had been vandalised.

NAME CHANGE

I, **BADRUNISA JAMADAR**, W/o Sohail Ahmed, resident of No.401, 3rd Floor, 'D' Block, Majestic Residency. Thavarekere Road, Bommanahalli Post, Bengaluru-560 068, have changed my name to **BADRUNISA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 03.11.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA
Crl. Misc No. 112/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Mrs. S. Indra W/o Late. K. Vasudev, Aged about 54 years **2. Mr. Prashanth. V,** S/o Late. K. Vasudev, Aged about 35 years **3. Mr. Thilak. V,** S/o Late. K. Vasudev, Aged about 33 years. All residing at: #381, Anjaneya Silk House, Kallupete, Doddaballapur - 561203. Bengaluru Rural District ..... Petitioners

AND: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 561203. ..... Respondent

PAPER PUBLICATION / PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition for seeking of death certificate of Sri. K. Vasudev, S/o Bada Krishnappa from the respondent authority and the said Sri. K. Vasudev was died on 10-01-2019 at Karenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Whereas, any person/s interested to prosecute the aforesaid petition and file their objection in this petition, may appear on 05-12-2026, at 11.00 AM by either person or through pleader/advocate to answer all the issues involved in the above petition, before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge at Doddaballapura.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 3rd day of September 2026.

Advocate for Petitioners: **Mrs. Vinutha. S,** #3083, Taluk Office Road, Doddaballapur - 561203

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Chief Ministerial Officer / Sheristedar
Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. Lakshman R S/O Late G.R. Raghavan,** residing at #02, 4th Block, Ayappa Temple, Rajajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore North, Jalahalli West, Karnataka - 560015. My clients have owned the property by through Registered Gift deed Document No.*LAG-1-02040-2013-14, dated: 13-09-2013, 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.1039, No.02, situated at Siddartha Nagar, 4th Block, Peenya Plantation, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North, Ward No.16, Measuring East to West: 36 Feet, North to South :15 Feet, in all Measuring 540 Sq Ft, and bounded on the **East By :** Property No. 1042, **West By :** Property No. 1038, **North By :** Property No. 1050, **South by :** 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 **Mrs. S Gowri, W/o.S Lokesh,** Residing at No.107, 5th Main, 7th Cross, Devanatha Char Street, Dasappa Garden, Near Kempegowda Lake, Chamarajapete, Bangalore-560018. She has lost the Partition Deed of Document No. 2574-2002-2003, dated on 29-08-2002, She has lost at Near Cahmarajapete bus stop, Accordingly she had lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated 03/11/2026 Report No.2517352/2026.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of the 3rd portion of the property bearing of No.107(Old No.66/2), Corporation Division 46, Situated at Dasappa Garden Off Devanathachar Street, Chamarajpete, Bangalore-18, measuring East to West : 37-0 Feet's, and North to south : 37 Feet's, Totally measuring 1369 sq. feet's bounded on **East by** : Property belongs to Kudlimutt, **West by :** Property belongs to Ramu S(Item No.1 & 2), **North by :** Property belongs to Kudlimutt, **South by :** Item No.1 & Common Passage, 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.

NAME CHANGE

I, **GOWHAR TAJ**, Resident of No 20/6, 1st Main,2nd Cross, Husna Masjid, SRK Garden, Tilak Nagar, Bangalore 560 041, have changed myt name to **GAUHAR TAJ**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 03.11.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt, Sakkamma K.L. w/o Sri, Purushothama K.N., Residing at Khadripura Main 1st Cross, Near Bhavani talkies, Karanjikatte ,kolar Town and Taluk., and District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Khadripura Main 1st Cross, Near Bhavani talkies, Karanjikatte ,kolar Town and Taluk., and District,, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale Deed, Dated;-13-12-1990, Sale Deed , Executed by P.Rajanna s/o Late, Puttanna, in favour of Sri, V.Venkataswamy s/o Late, Venkataramanappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.2014, in Pages 126-128, in Regd as Document no.1584, in regd before of the SRO kolar , in Respect of Property Bearing Kolar Town, santhe Maidana, Badavane, Municipal katha no.1148, Assessment no.1194, in Measuring 160x180 feets, in which 40x30 Feets, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2516977/2026, DATED;-03-11-2026, and complaint dated;-03-11-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place-Chinthamani
Date-03-11-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
MOBILE NO:9980110692

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri.Venkataswamy S/o Venkatayya , Residing at 640/6,#T,4th "H" Main Road,25,22,Devanahalli Town and Taluk ,Bangalore Rural District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at 640/6,#T,4th "H" Main Road,25,22,Devanahalli Town and Taluk ,Bangalore Rural District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale Deed, Dated;-16-02-2008, Regd Sale Deed Executed by Sri.K Narayanappa and K.Ananda and K.seethappa , In favour of Smt.Usharani W/o Manjunatha ,In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.DNH-1-06742-2007-08,CD No.DNHD148,In regd before of the SRO Devanahalli.,in Respect of Property Bearing Budigere Road, Municipal Katha no.1796/427/1/427/3427/4/8, in Measuring 40x30 feets, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2516921/2026, DATED;-03-11-2026, and complaint dated;-03-11-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place-Chinthamani
Date-03-11-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
MOBILE NO:9980110692

ADVOCATES BOYCOTT COURTS STATEWIDE

DEVANAHALLI ADVOCATES BOYCOTT COURTS, DEMAND PROTECTION ACT

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI



Demanding effective implementation of the Advocates' Protection Act and adequate security for legal practitioners, members of the Devanahalli Advocates' Association boycotted court proceedings and staged a protest on Tuesday.

The protest was held in response to the statewide boycott call given by the Bengaluru Advocates' Association, condemning recent incidents of assault, murder and attempted murder of advocates across Karnataka.

Addressing the protesters, Association president R. Maregowda expressed concern over the growing threats to advocates, who play a vital role in safeguarding justice.

He said lawyers should be able to discharge their professional responsibilities without fear or intimidation. He urged the government to take serious note of attacks on advocates and initiate stringent action against those responsible.

Association General Secretary M.M. Srinivas referred to the recent murders of advocates in Bengaluru's Whitefield and Annapoorneshwari Nagar areas, along with the alleged attempt to murder advocate Venkataramana of Gauribidanur. He said these incidents had created widespread concern among members of the legal fraternity.

Srinivas stressed that merely registering police cases was insufficient. Authorities must ensure speedy investigations, strict legal action against accused persons and an effective mechanism to respond immediately to threats faced by advocates while performing their professional duties.

The Bengaluru Advocates' Association had decided at its general body meeting on October 29 to call for a statewide boycott of court proceedings on November 3. Supporting the decision, Devanahalli advocates abstained from court work and demanded stronger legal safeguards, adequate security and strict action against perpetrators of violence.

Association vice-president Y.N. Manjunath, joint secretary M. Umesh, treasurer S. Meenakshi and several executive committee members, senior lawyers and young advocates participated in the protest.

Quick Read

Water supply scheduled in Gadag-Betageri today

CH NEWS, GADAG

Water supply will be provided to several areas of Gadag-Betageri twin cities on November 4, according to the City Municipal Council. The supply will cover parts of Wards 8 to 13, 20 to 23 and 30 to 35, including Sanjeevini Hospital area, Hombale Line, Garaga Line, Okkalageri, Shivabasava Nagar, HUDCO Vaddarageri, Health Camp, Majjigi Oni and Shirahatti Oni. Residents have been urged to avoid wasting water and cooperate with municipal authorities in case of technical disruptions. The Municipal Commissioner has issued a public appeal in this regard.

Transformer blast destroys 2 vehicles in Davanagere

CH NEWS, DAVANAGERE

Two vehicles parked at a scrap shop were completely gutted after a transformer exploded at 8th Cross in KTJ Nagar. The explosion triggered a major fire, damaging the adjacent scrap shop and nearby houses. The incident was captured on CCTV. People rushed to safety after noticing the blaze. Fire and emergency services personnel battled the flames for nearly two hours before bringing the situation under control. The scrap shop owner is estimated to have suffered losses worth several lakhs of rupees. No casualties were reported.

Karwar KDP review meeting scheduled for Nov 6

CH NEWS, KARWAR

The monthly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) progress review meeting of the Karwar Taluk Panchayat will be held on November 6 at 12.30 pm. The meeting will take place at the Taluk Panchayat conference hall under the chairmanship of the Taluk Panchayat Administrator. The meeting will review the progress of various development programmes and departmental activities in the taluk. The Executive Officer of the Taluk Panchayat announced the meeting and informed the concerned officials to participate.

AAP demands Rs. 5,500 per tonne for sugarcane

Citing rising costs and financial struggles, AAP district president Siddu Phulari urged the State Government to set sugarcane prices at Rs. 5,500 per tonne.

CH NEWS, BIDAR

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a one-day protest in Bidar on Tuesday, demanding a higher procurement price for sugarcane, increased drought compensation and the reopening of a long-closed sugar factory.

Addressing the protesters, AAP district president Siddu Phulari urged the State Government to fix the sugarcane procurement price at Rs. 5,500 per tonne, citing rising cultivation costs and the financial difficulties faced by farmers.

He also demanded that drought compensation be increased from the existing Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 25,000 per hectare, stating that the present assistance was insufficient to compensate farmers for their crop losses.


At the AAP's one-day protest in Bidar on Tuesday.

Another major demand was the immediate reopening of the sugar factory that has remained closed for several years. Phulari said restarting the unit would provide a reliable facility for sugarcane growers, strengthen the rural economy and create employment opportunities for local people.

> **"Sugarcane growers were struggling with increasing production expenses and inadequate returns, while drought-hit farmers were also facing financial hardships. The government should respond to their demands and announce concrete measures without further delay."**
>
> — **Siddu Phulari,** AAP district president

Criticising the Congress-led State Government, he alleged that it was giving greater attention to political controversies instead of addressing pressing public issues, including farmers' distress, unemployment and the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens.

Phulari warned that the AAP would intensify its agitation across Bidar in the coming days if the government failed to address the demands. The party reiterated that fair prices for agricultural produce, adequate compensation for crop losses and the revival of the sugar industry were essential for protecting farmers' interests.

Farmers intensify indefinite protest over power issues


Raitha Bharata Paksha members on their indefinite protest at the HESCOM office in Vijayapura.

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Protesters urged officials to promptly resolve Energy Department issues, demanding proper power supply and new household electricity connections.

The indefinite protest organised by the Raitha Bharata Paksha at the HESCOM divisional office in Vijayapura demanding solutions to electricity-related problems has intensified, with the Akhanda Karnataka Raitha Sangha extending its support on Tuesday.

The protesters are demanding new electricity connections to houses, proper power supply and resolution of various issues concerning the Energy Department. They urged officials to address the grievances of farmers and residents without further delay.

Mallikarjuna Kenganala, State President of the Raitha Bharata Paksha, warned that the organisation would lock the Accounts Office if officials failed to resolve the issues despite visiting the protest site. He announced that the office would be locked at 1 pm on November 5 if their demands remained unaddressed.

The Raitha Bharata Paksha has already submitted a memorandum to the department's Managing Director through the Accounts Superintendent Engineer, warning of the proposed office-locking agitation.

Kenganala said the organisation had staged several protests in front of the department in the past, but officials had failed to take appropriate action. The continued neglect of public grievances had forced the organisation to intensify its agitation, he alleged.

The protesters urged the Energy Department to take immediate steps to provide new electricity connections, improve power supply and resolve pending complaints. They also demanded that senior officials visit the protest venue and hold discussions with the agitators to find a permanent solution.

State general secretary Aravind Kulkarni, Madevappa Teli, Babu Ningappa Hatti, Mallu Asangi, Shivu Uppaladinni, Srisail Jogur, Laxman Hipparagi and Haroon Shaikh were among those present.

The ultimatum

The Raitha Bharata Paksha will lock the HESCOM Accounts Office at 1 pm on November 5 if its demands remain unaddressed

Madiga federation seeks Supreme Court appeal on quota ruling


Members of the federation submit their memorandum in Gadag.

CH NEWS, GADAG

The district unit of the Federation of Madiga Caste Subcaste Organisations staged a protest before the district administration, demanding that the State Government immediately challenge the Karnataka High Court's Oct 12 order striking down the enhanced Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe reservation quotas.

The protesters submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar through Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vijayamahantesh Danammanavar, urging the government to approach the Supreme Court against the verdict.

The High Court ruling annulled the increase in SC reservation from 15 to 17 per cent and ST reservation from 3 to 7 per cent, thereby setting aside the additional six per cent reservation.

The memorandum recalled that the demand for increased reservation had remained pending for nearly three decades. Following directions from the High Court in connection with a petition filed in 2015, the issue gained momentum during the 2018-19 Congress-JD(S) coalition government. The then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy constituted the Nagamohan Das Commission to examine the issue.

In 2022, the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai convened an all-party meeting and announced an increase in reservation, raising the SC quota to 17 per cent and the ST quota to 7 per cent. The government subsequently secured legislative approval and the Governor's assent to provide legal backing to the changes.

The federation urged the government to protect the interests of SC and ST communities, implement internal reservation and ensure proper utilisation of SCSP and TSP funds for their intended purposes.

It warned that failure to act on these demands would have political consequences for the ruling government in the forthcoming local body elections.

State convener Udachappa Malagi, district convener Malatesha Yallapura, Manjappa Maroli, Dr. Thippeswamy Hosamani and several other office-bearers and activists participated in the protest.

The quota so far

- **2015** Petition filed in the High Court
- **2018-19** Nagamohan Das Commission set up
- **2022** SC quota to 17%, ST to 7%
- **OCT 12** High Court strikes down the hike

Ramesh Surve enters Koppal Sahitya Parishat presidential race

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

With more than five decades of experience in journalism, literature, theatre, cinema, folklore and cultural organisation, Ramesh Surve has announced his candidature for the presidency of the Koppal District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, attracting attention in literary circles.

Hailing from the Koppal district of Kalyana Karnataka, Surve has dedicated his life to promoting Kannada language, literature and culture. He began his journey in theatre during his student days, working with several drama troupes in Kukanur, Gadag, Harapura and Bidar.

Later, he moved to Bengaluru and received training at Adarsha Film Institute, where he came under the influence of National Award-winning personalities B.V. Karanth and Girish Kasaravalli. He was also inspired by Lankesh and Girish Karnad.

Editor and organiser

As a media professional, he has been the editor of Surve Patrike, Surve News Services and Engineer's Diary.

Through the Visvesvaraya Foundation and Surve Cultural Academy, he has encouraged nearly 1.5 lakh talented individuals and presented Visvesvaraya Awards. More than 400 literary works have received awards carrying cash prizes totalling around Rs. 10 lakh.

His organisational achievements include 11 children's literary conferences, 12 poets' gatherings, 10 national-level drama festivals, over 75 cultural festivals and more than 150 seminars and award programmes. He has also authored over 16 books, composed 30 songs and directed the feature film Mandakini.

Surve has received 52 state-level and eight national-level awards and been honoured by more than 120 organisations.

His vision for the Parishat includes strengthening literary activities at the village and taluk levels, encouraging young writers, promoting children's literature, preserving folk traditions and creating continuous opportunities for literary interaction.

He believes the Parishat should become an active platform for writers, poets and folk artists rather than limiting its activities to annual literary conferences. His extensive experience and organisational record have made his candidature a significant talking point in the election.

Surve's record

16+ books	30 songs
75+ cultural festivals	150+ seminars, award events
52 state-level awards	8 national awards

'Kannada pride should become part of everyday life'

CH NEWS, GADAG

Kannada pride should become an integral part of everyday life, with programmes highlighting the language, land, culture, heritage and traditions organised throughout the year, said S.S. Shirahatti, Postal Superintendent of the Gadag Division.

He was speaking after inaugurating a Kannada Rajyotsava celebration and music competition organised by the Gadag Manoranjana Koota at the Independent Delivery Centre in Gadag.

Shirahatti said Kannada Rajyotsava should go beyond annual celebrations and become an occasion to remember the sacrifices and contributions of great personalities who worked for the unification and development of Karnataka.

He particularly highlighted the contributions of Aluru Venkata Rao, B.M. Srikantaiah and Kuvempu, urging people to introduce their ideals and achievements to the younger generation.

Before the unification of Karnataka, Kannada-speaking regions were spread across five different provinces. The formation of a unified state became possible because of the struggles, sacrifices and dedicated efforts of Kannada-speaking people, he said.

He added that Karnataka had made significant contributions to literature, culture, art, science, education and sports. Everyone should take responsibility for recognising and honouring the achievements of Kannadigas who have brought pride to the state. Remembering eminent personalities and organising programmes showcasing Kannada's rich heritage should become an essential part of Rajyotsava celebrations, he said.

Adding musical flavour to the programme, Shirahatti sang the popular Kannada song 'Karunadu Taayi Sadaa Chinmayi', drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Vinodkumar Medar, Manjunath, Venkateshareddy Kolli, Ekanath Menanasinakayi and D.G. Myageri also addressed the gathering. Several participants, including Sharanappa Naikara, Sowmya Huilagola and Vinutha Kappatanavara, took part in the music competition.

DakPay digital payment soundboxes were distributed to merchant customers of India Post Payments Bank. Venkatesh Akalavadi compered the programme, while Somu S. delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks.

? DID YOU KNOW?
Before Karnataka was unified, Kannada-speaking regions were spread across five different provinces.

LAWYERS PROTEST SECURITY LAPSES

Raichur advocates protest demanding stronger legal protection

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

Condemning the increasing incidents of attacks and threats against advocates across Karnataka, members of the Raichur Advocates' Association staged a protest on Tuesday, demanding stronger legal safeguards and adequate security for lawyers.

The advocates took out a protest march from the District Court complex to the District Administration office and submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar through the Deputy Commissioner.



Members of the Raichur Advocates' Association on their march to the district administration office.

The protest was organised following the recent murder of advocate Manjunath, who was shot dead in Bengaluru, and the assault on senior advocate Venkataramanappa inside the court premises in Gauribidanur. These incidents have triggered widespread concern and anger in the legal fraternity.

The protesters demanded amendments to the existing Advocates' Protection Act to make its provisions more stringent and effective. They sought a provision prescribing seven years of rigorous imprisonment for those assaulting advocates and making such offences non-bailable.

They also urged the government to ensure the immediate arrest of accused persons involved in attacks on lawyers, provide adequate police protection to advocates and initiate strict action against those responsible for the Bengaluru and Gauribidanur incidents.

The advocates said repeated attacks, threats and intimidation against legal practitioners posed a serious challenge to the justice delivery system. They stressed that ensuring the safety of advocates was essential for the independent and effective functioning of the judiciary.

The protesters appealed to the State Government to introduce permanent measures to prevent violence against members of the legal profession and ensure that advocates could discharge their duties without fear.

The demonstration was led by Raichur Advocates' Association president N. Shivashankar, along with several other advocates.

What the lawyers want

1. A tougher Advocates' Protection Act
2. Seven years' rigorous imprisonment for attackers
3. Such offences made non-bailable
4. Immediate arrest of the accused
5. Police protection for advocates

Quick Read

NWKRTC to operate 340 special buses

CH NEWS, Hubballi

The North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) will operate around 340 additional special buses to facilitate passenger travel during the Deepavali and Bali Padyami festivals. As November 9 and 10 fall on Amavasya and Bali Padyami respectively, additional services have been arranged to help people travel to their hometowns. The special buses will operate from November 6 to 8 from Bengaluru's Kempegowda Bus Station, Vijayanagar, Malleswaram, Sharada Colony, Yeshwantpur and Basaveshwara Nagar to various destinations across the corporation's jurisdiction. The corporation has appealed to passengers to make use of these additional services and plan their journeys conveniently.

Applications invited for various loan schemes

CH NEWS, Vijayapura

Applications have been invited online from interested candidates to operate Grama One centres at the village level under the Grama One scheme. The initiative aims to bring various government services closer to citizens and improve access to public services in rural areas. Eligible candidates can submit their applications online through the Seva One portal by November 15. Applicants must visit https://sevaone.karnataka.gov.in/services/loginWindow.do, register online and select the Grama One franchise option to complete the application process. The district administration has issued a notification in this regard.

Gavimatha Seer releases Halayya Hudejali's new play

Award-winning dramatist Hudejali, celebrated for poetry, film, and TV, has published his sixth play.

CH NEWS, Koppal

The latest social play titled Dharmada Maneyalli Hiritanada Hennu (The Senior Woman in the House of Righteousness), with the subtitle Hettavaru Kotta Udugore (A Gift Bestowed by Parents), written by senior poet and theatre personality Halayya Hudejali, was released by Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Matha in Koppal.

The play is the sixth literary work by Hudejali, who is known for his contributions to poetry, theatre, films and television. He is also a recipient of the Karnataka Nataka Academy Award in recognition of his contribution to the theatre field.



The newly released work is a family-oriented social drama that explores human relationships and family values. The release ceremony was marked by the blessings of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji, who wished the author success in his literary and artistic journey.

Hudejali, who has spent several years in the fields of literature and performing arts, has made contributions as a playwright, senior theatre artist and actor. His experience across different creative platforms has shaped his literary works and stage productions.

The programme was attended by the author, theatre enthusiasts, devotees, art lovers and well-wishers. A large number of people gathered at the event to witness the release of the new play and extend their support to the writer.

The occasion highlighted the continued contribution of local literary and theatre personalities to Kannada culture and the importance of encouraging socially relevant writings and stage productions.

Deveeramma Jatra preparations begin with safety drill

CH NEWS, Chikkamagaluru

The annual Bindiga Deveeramma Jatra, dedicated to the hill deity revered as Bettada Thayi (Mother of the Hills), will be held at Mallenahalli from November 7 to 11.

In view of the large number of devotees expected to attend the festival, the district administration has stepped up safety arrangements and conducted an emergency response mock drill.

Personnel from the district administration, police, Fire and Emergency Services, Revenue Department and Muzrai Department participated in the exercise along the route leading to Deveeramma Hill. The drill demonstrated the precautions and emergency response measures required to protect devotees during the festival.

Thousands of devotees are expected to climb the hill to seek the blessings of the deity, who is traditionally worshipped during the annual jatra. The administration has therefore focused on preventing accidents and ensuring the smooth movement of pilgrims along the hill route.

Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and officials from various departments recently visited Deveeramma Hill near Bindiga-Mallenahalli to inspect the arrangements. They reviewed the condition of the climbing route and issued instructions regarding security, traffic regulation, medical assistance and emergency response facilities.

Following the inspection, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel conducted a mock drill to demonstrate their preparedness. During the exercise, they showed how an injured person could be safely evacuated from the hill and brought to a location where further medical assistance could be provided.

The exercise was aimed at testing coordination among the departments and ensuring that emergency teams are prepared to respond quickly to any untoward incident during the festival.

Deveeramma Hill festival prep tested

District authorities and emergency services conducted a mock drill near Bindiga-Mallenahalli to test safety, crowd management, medical assistance, and evacuation procedures along the Deveeramma Hill route, ensuring thousands of pilgrims are fully protected during the annual jatra.

The district administration has appealed to devotees to cooperate with the police and other officials, follow safety instructions and maintain discipline while climbing the hill. It has also urged visitors to avoid actions that could put themselves or others at risk.

Officials said coordinated arrangements would be in place to ensure that the five-day festival is conducted safely and peacefully.

Mangaluru Commissioner inspects civic issues across city

CH NEWS, Mangaluru

Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner Rahul Ratnam Pandey visited several parts of the city on Tuesday to inspect civic issues, interact with residents and review public grievances.

During his visit to Ullal Hoyge, the Commissioner travelled by boat to inspect a damaged footbridge and understand drinking water-related problems. Residents highlighted the need for drinking water pipelines, improved road facilities, a bus shelter and better bus services.

After discussing the issues with officials, Pandey assured residents that appropriate action would be taken. He stressed that drinking water supply must receive top priority in view of the possibility of a prolonged summer and drought-like conditions in the district.

He asked residents to submit a formal application seeking drinking water pipelines, supported by signatures of at least 50 people, to the City Corporation by November 4. He said tender approval was expected within a week, following which the work would begin. Officials were instructed to address the matter on an urgent basis.

Later, Pandey visited the Material Recovery Plant at Bajal, operated by voluntary organisation Plastic Fischer in collaboration with the City Corporation. He inspected the waste recycling activities and discussed the organisation's requirements with its representatives. He assured them of the corporation's necessary support and cooperation.

The Commissioner also inspected a TrashBoom plastic waste collection system installed by Plastic Fischer in a major stormwater drain along the Jeppinamogaru-Kudpadi road. Representatives explained that the anchoring system collects floating plastic waste, which is removed every seven to 10 days under normal conditions and once every four days during the monsoon.

Deputy Commissioner (Development) Naresh P. Shenoy and officials from the Environmental Engineering and Engineering departments accompanied the Commissioner.

Rashtra Sevika Samiti revives shakha in Madikeri

CH NEWS, Madikeri

The Rashtra Sevika Samiti has decided to resume regular shakha activities in Madikeri as part of its efforts to strengthen the organisation ahead of its centenary celebrations.

A special organisational meeting (baithak) was held in the town to discuss future programmes and a 10-year action plan leading up to the milestone.

Girijakka, Karyavahika (Secretary) of the Mangaluru division, attended the meeting and held detailed discussions with local sevikas (volunteers). The interaction focused on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level, expanding its activities and encouraging greater participation among women and young girls.

During the meeting, the previously active Rashtra Sevika Samiti shakha in Madikeri was officially revived. Members stressed that the unit should function regularly and actively contribute to the organisation's growth.

They also emphasised that maintaining the continuity of activities and encouraging new members would be the collective responsibility of all volunteers.As part of the proposed action plan, the Samiti intends to organise various programmes aimed at developing leadership qualities, improving individual skills and promoting patriotism among women and young girls.

Hiremyageri village resolves to ban liquor sales

CH NEWS, Koppal

Residents of Hiremyageri village have unanimously resolved to prohibit the sale of alcohol in their village, aiming to protect families, safeguard children's education and restore social harmony. The village has also decided to impose a fine of ₹25,000 on anyone found selling liquor in violation of the ban.The decision was announced by village elder Sharanappa Gurikara at a Gandhi Chintana Sabha organised jointly by the Gandhi Balaga of Koppal and Hiremyageri villagers on Sunday evening.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ–24 / 2026–27/ 3158 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–11–2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ 3&4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 12–11–2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 13–11–2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 16–11–2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
(4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 18–11–2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: H/Ac 5054-MDR Improvements During 2025-2026
ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: (1) PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT37931
H/Ac 5054-KRDCL FOOT BRIDGE During 2025-2026
ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: (1) PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT44556

* (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–3&4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
* ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಡಿ.ಟಿ.ಎಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/497/26-27 dt. 03.11.2026

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/CCH/39/2026-27 Date:04-11-2026

Short Term Tender

A Short term tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for **providing 60 days Group–C Pre-Examination training for various posts in 06 distinct regions:** Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Central Karnataka, and Coastal Karnataka to Minority students for the year 2026-27. Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	04-11-2026
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	12-11-2026 12:30 PM
3.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	23-11-2026 by 5:30 p.m.
4.	Telephone No. to be contact	080-22535902 8277799990

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Joint Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3511/MAA/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru.
No:EE/SJN/E-PROC/32/2026-27 Date: 03-11-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1	Providing the service of Security and House keeping for Samudaya Bhavana in M. V. Garden 7th main in Ward No- 8 Halasuru. **Amount Put to Tender : ₹ 18.50 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 46250.00**
2	Providing the service of Security and House keeping of Bharathinagara Convention hall in Ward No-6 Bharathinagara **Amount Put to Tender : ₹ 19.46 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 48625.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **13-11-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **12-11-2026** at **3:00** pm (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **13-11-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid opening of Tenders is on **16-11-2026** by **11:30** am. (5) Opening of Financial bid is on after Technical bid approval.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC

TOWN PANCHAYAT, HAROHALLI
Harohalli Taluk, Bangalore South Dist-56112
Ph: 080-29760055, e-mail Id: tp.harohalli@gmail.com

No: TPH/EPROC/ES/CR/166/2026-27 Date: 02.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(through **kppp** portal only)

The Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Harohalli, invites tender for the works of amount **of Rs. 99.00 lakshs** as per KTPP Act, 1999 Rule 20000, Interested Contractors Apply through **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. Last date for Submission of tender on date and time before: **17.11.2026 upto 17:30 pm.** Opening of Technical Bids on after **20.11.2026, 11.30 am.** Opening of Financial Bids on **21.11.2026, 11.30 am onwards.** Interested can apply through **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for further Querries you can contact Technical Section of Town Panchayat Harohalli and For more information through authorised website: **www.harohallitown.mrc.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief officer
Town Panchayat, Harohalli

DIPR/BSD/361/SA/2026-27

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ (ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ) ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:15/ 2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.10.2026

ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ/ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು–1,2 ರಂತೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋ.ಇ ರವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.11.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಪಡೆದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಲೋ.ಇ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:232/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION RAMANAGARA

No: EE/RDWS&SD/RMG/TND-10&11/TS/JJM/1413&1414/2026-27 Date: 02.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State under Double cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 **STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-1,2,3 & KG-2** for water supply works under **JJM** through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

1) Max. Amount Put To Tender: **Rs.89.46 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1,79,000/-. 2)** Min. Amount Put To Tender: **Rs.5.38 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 13,450/- 3)** Period of Contract: **45 Days, 01 & 06 Months. 4)** Last Date for submission of Tender: **17.11.2026 Upto 5.30 P.M. 5)** Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: **19.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M. onwards. 6)** Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: **21.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M. onwards.**

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Divison, Ramanagara.

DIPR/BSD/356/SA/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064.

No: ACF(BNCC)/KPPP/TEND/63/2026-27 Date: 02-11-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BNCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Forest / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Maintenance of Seedlings in BNCC Nurseries work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Production and Maintenance of 14x20 Woven Sacks Bags 20000 Seedlings in Bengaluru North City Corporation Nursery During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 31.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 62,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 03-11-2026 after 4.00 PM. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal is **05-11-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting on **05-11-2026 at 4.30 PM in the Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of Tender in KPP Portal: **11-11-2026 upto 5.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Document: **13-11-2026 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064, E-mail: acfbncc@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru North City Corporation.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾವಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570020

ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ.ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್–12/715/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.10.2026

ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **KTPP** ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	Kw-1, Kw-3 & Kw-4,	06 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	562.83	31.10.2026	16.11.2026	17.11.2026

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಮೈಸೂರು/901/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

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

DON'T TEST THE PATIENCE OF THE AAM AADMI



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

People's mandate is not a licence to burden citizens; Congress government must rethink its price-hike policies

The Congress government in Karnataka enjoys a comfortable majority, thanks to the decisive mandate it received in the 2023 Assembly elections. However, such a mandate should not be construed as a licence to take the electorate for granted. The people's trust is a responsibility that the ruling party must honour through good governance, people-friendly policies and sensitivity to public sentiment.

Democracy has repeatedly demonstrated that governments, irrespective of their political affiliations, are compelled to reconsider and withdraw decisions when they face widespread public opposition. The BJP-led NDA government at the Centre faced stiff resistance over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), while the previous BJP government in Karnataka had to roll back amendments to the APMC Act that allowed farmers to sell their produce outside regulated markets. These instances underline a fundamental principle of democracy: public sentiment cannot be ignored indefinitely.

The aam aadmi is the true sovereign in a democracy, and the people's verdict is ultimately decisive. Unfortunately, the Congress government in Karnataka appears to have overlooked this principle while taking decisions that directly affect the common man's household budget.

The recent unilateral hike in milk prices has triggered widespread resentment among consumers. The government has sought to justify the increase on the grounds of extending financial support to dairy farmers. However, transferring the burden of such assistance to consumers, particularly when milk and curd are essential commodities consumed by households across economic strata, is hardly a prudent approach.

The price hike has added to the financial strain on ordinary families, including the middle class and economically weaker sections. The backlash on social media reflects the growing discontent among people who feel that the government has failed to consider their interests. The Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, has reportedly hinted at the possibility of reducing the price of curd. While this may be a welcome gesture, it falls short of addressing the larger issue.

The people are demanding a substantial reduction in the prices of milk and its products. The government must recognise that providing relief to farmers cannot come at the cost of making essential food products unaffordable to consumers. A balanced policy



that safeguards the interests of both producers and consumers is the need of the hour.

Adding to the public's woes, the state government is reportedly contemplating a hike in bus fares. Such a move would be deeply unpopular, particularly among daily commuters, students, workers and economically disadvantaged sections who depend heavily on public transport. At a time when household expenses are steadily rising, increasing the cost of essential services would only aggravate the hardship faced by the common man.

The Chief Minister must understand that the government will face the electorate again in the 2028 Assembly elections, while urban local body polls are also likely to be held before then. The people may not hesitate to express their displeasure through the ballot box if the government continues to pursue policies that burden them financially.

The Congress government's financial difficulties cannot be viewed in isolation from its flagship guarantee schemes. While the five guarantees were central to the party's electoral campaign and are intended to provide social welfare benefits, their implementation has placed a considerable burden on the state exchequer. The government must ensure that these commitments do not come at the expense of infrastructure development, civic amenities and other essential public services.

It is also worth recalling that anti-incumbency against the previous BJP government played a significant role in the Congress's electoral victory in 2023. The Congress could have capitalised on the prevailing public sentiment even without making such extensive guarantees. Today, however, the ruling party risks facing a similar wave of dissatisfaction if it fails to address the mounting concerns of the people.

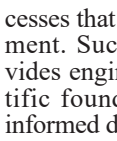
"The patience of the aam aadmi should never be taken for granted."
SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

The government must realise that electoral promises are not a substitute for sound financial management and effective administration. Welfare measures should be implemented in a manner that ensures fiscal sustainability while protecting the interests of the people.

The message to the Congress government is clear: stop burdening the aam aadmi with successive price hikes. Instead, focus on efficient governance, responsible financial management and policies that provide genuine relief to citizens.

The people of Karnataka have entrusted the Congress with power. It is now incumbent upon the government to honour that trust. If the party wishes to retain power, it must listen to the people, respect their sentiments and deliver good governance.

EARTH SCIENCES IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION: BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE



DR. VIJAY GARG

Engineering is not merely the application of mathematics, physics and technology; it is also the art of understanding and working with the natural world. Every road, bridge, dam, tunnel, building and power plant interacts with the Earth in some way. Therefore, knowledge of Earth sciences is essential for preparing engineers who can design safe infrastructure, manage natural resources and address environmental challenges. Integrating Earth sciences into engineering education can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical problem-solving.

Earth sciences encompass geology, geophysics, meteorology, hydrology, oceanography and related disciplines. These subjects explain the structure of the Earth, the movement of water, the formation of rocks, the behaviour of soils and the natural processes that shape our environment. Such knowledge provides engineers with a scientific foundation for making informed decisions about construction, resource management and sustainable development.

One of the most important applications of Earth sciences is civil engineering. Before constructing a building, bridge, highway or dam, engineers must understand the geological characteristics of the site. Soil strength, groundwater levels, rock formations and the possibility of landslides influence the stability of structures. A lack of geological investigation can lead to foundation failures, structural damage and expensive repairs. By studying geology and soil behaviour, engineering students learn to assess risks and develop safer designs.

The Earth is the foundation on which engineering stands. Understanding it is not an optional addition to engineering education; it is a prerequisite for building a safer, more sustainable and resilient world.

Earth sciences are equally important in disaster management. Earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and coastal erosion can cause enormous human and economic losses. Engineers equipped with knowledge of geological hazards can design earthquake-resistant buildings, improve drainage systems, construct protective barriers and develop resilient infrastructure. Understanding local geological conditions also helps planners identify vulnerable areas and avoid inappropriate construction. In a country like India, where diverse geographical conditions create different natural hazards, this interdisciplinary knowledge is particularly valuable.

Water resource management offers another important



connection between Earth sciences and engineering. Hydrology and hydrogeology help explain rainfall patterns, river systems, groundwater movement and aquifer characteristics. These concepts are essential for designing reservoirs, irrigation networks, drainage systems and sustainable water-supply projects. As many regions face groundwater depletion and irregular rainfall, future engineers must understand the relationship between water availability, geological formations and human activities.

Environmental engineering also benefits significantly from Earth science education. Mining, industrial development, urbanisation and infrastructure expansion can disturb ecosystems, contaminate groundwater and accelerate soil erosion. Knowledge of environmental geology helps engineers evaluate these impacts and develop practical solutions. Students can learn to assess contaminated sites, manage construction waste, protect watersheds and reduce the environmental footprint of engineering projects. Such understanding encourages responsible development rather than focusing exclusively on technical efficiency.

The relevance of Earth sciences is expanding with climate change. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, melting glaciers and rising sea levels are creating new challenges for infrastructure planning. Engineers must consider changing flood risks, coastal vulnerability, water scarcity and the long-term durability of structures. Collaboration between climate scientists, geologists and engineers can support climate-resilient cities, sustainable transportation networks and better disaster-preparedness strategies.

Despite their importance, Earth sciences may receive limited attention in some engineering programmes. Students sometimes learn scientific principles without sufficient opportunities to apply them to real-world conditions. This gap can be reduced through field visits, geological mapping, laboratory experiments, environmental surveys and case studies of engineering failures. Digital tools, geographic information systems, remote sensing and three-dimensional geological modelling can further strengthen practical learning.

Universities should encourage collaboration between departments of civil engineering, environmental engineering, geology and geophysics. Industry partnerships and interdisciplinary research projects can expose students to authentic engineering challenges. Assessment methods should also reward critical thinking, field observation and the ability to integrate scientific evidence into design decisions.

Ultimately, engineering education must prepare graduates not only to build structures but also to understand the landscapes, resources and natural processes within which those structures exist. Earth sciences provide this essential perspective. By bridging geological knowledge with engineering practice, educational institutions can nurture professionals who are technically competent, environmentally responsible and better prepared for future challenges.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GST Collection Shows Strong Economy

India's GST collection rising 23% to Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October is excellent news. It reflects strong domestic consumption and better compliance after GST reforms. Combined with additional tax devolution of Rs 1.09 lakh crore to states, this will boost capital expenditure. Such buoyant revenue should be used to support poor families affected by inflation and invest in health and education infrastructure. **– Anna**

Manisha Bhanwala Creates Wrestling History

Congratulations to Manisha Bhanwala for becoming India's first woman world champion in wrestling. Her gold in 59 kg at Astana at age 29 is historic. Hailing from Haryana, she ended a long wait for Indian women's wrestling. Her victory will inspire thousands of girls in our akharas to dream bigger. The government must now ensure better support, coaching, and security for women wrestlers. **– Janani**

RAKHIGARHI FINDINGS REVEAL ANCIENT WOMEN'S LEGACY



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Rakhigarhi's identity has steadily expanded with modern archaeological research. Excavations here reveal that the Harappans lived in planned settlements. Residential structures, streets, drainage systems, craft products, and standardized weights and measures point to their technical proficiency and organized social life. Clay toys, beads, seals, metal objects, and various types of jewelry also reveal the artistic tastes and production skills of the time.

The discovery of shell bangles and other objects along with the human remains of a woman from the Rakhigarhi cemetery is particularly noteworthy. Archaeological accounts mention shell bangles, gold jewelry, and semi-precious stones found with some female skeletons. These discoveries provide important material for studying the use of jewelry and the cultural practices associated with it in contemporary society.

Whether bangles were merely decorative objects or were also associated with marital status, social identity, religious beliefs, or community traditions: this question demands research. Bangles have many cultural meanings in modern Indian society, but those meanings cannot be applied to a society thousands of years old without additional evidence. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to draw direct conclusions about a woman's social status or rights from the presence of jewelry in a grave.

Yet these remains make one important point clear: ancient women were also part of the material culture of their time, and the objects associated with their lives are now forming the basis for the study of history. Their identities were not limited to those of a king's wife, a warrior's mother, or a character in a religious narrative. They were members of communities whose labor, family relationships, and cultural practices shaped civilization.

The aim of a woman-centered interpretation of history is not to interpret archaeological evidence as we see fit, but to seriously raise questions about it. The Rakhigarhi bangles inspire us to consider women's lives with greater sensitivity and scientific understanding in the interpretation of history.

The arts and crafts traditions of the Harappan civilization reveal its developed cultural consciousness. Bead-making, metalwork, pottery, seal design, and the variety of jewelry reveal the development of a wide range of skills in contemporary society. The extent of women's participation in these activities, the economic significance of their labor, and whether they were involved in craft production: these are questions that require archaeology, anthropology, and comparative studies to answer.

A historical fact needs to be clarified here. The famous bronze statuette from Mohenjo-daro, commonly known as the "Dancing Girl," is a celebrated example of the artistic achievements of the Indus



Valley Civilization. It would be inaccurate to attribute it to Rakhigarhi. Similarly, a female statuette cannot be labeled a dancer, a goddess, or a woman from a specific social class solely on the basis of its appearance. Such interpretations require a comprehensive study of the statue's composition, archaeological context, and other evidence.

In 2019, a study published in the prestigious scientific journal Cell brought Rakhigarhi to the center of international scientific discussion. A team of researchers, including Vasant Shinde and his colleagues, attempted to obtain ancient DNA from Harappan human remains. After examining several samples, they succeeded in obtaining genetic information from the remains of a woman. The study found genetic affinities of this woman with populations belonging to ancient Iranian farming communities and with ancestry related to ancient hunter-gatherer communities of South Asia. No genetic component related to steppe pastoralists was detected in her genome.

Similarly, this study does not, in itself, provide conclusive answers to all the historical debates concerning the Aryan invasion or Aryan migration. Genetic research, archaeology, linguistics, and literary sources address different questions. A combined study of all this evidence is essential to understand the process of arrival of various populations, their interactions, and cultural change in the Indian subcontinent.

Therefore, the Rakhigarhi DNA study should be viewed not as a confirmation of any single ideological conclusion but as important scientific evidence for understanding the ancient history of Indian populations. Its real achievement is that it has expanded our knowledge of the ancient human history of South Asia and opened new avenues for future research.

A significant question in Indian history is the relationship between the Harappan civilization and Vedic traditions. Ritual structures, fire pits, and other archaeological remains from various Harappan sites, including Rakhigarhi, have been interpreted in this context. Archaeological accounts from Rakhigarhi also mention structures such as fire altars or fire pits.

However, the mere size of a structure or its possible connection to fire is not sufficient to establish that the same Vedic sacrifices described in later Vedic literature were performed there. This requires an analysis of the structure's design, associated objects, the dating of the remains, and comparative archaeological evidence.

Interpretations linking Rakhigarhi's name to legends such as the widows of soldiers killed in the Mahabharata War settling here should also be viewed in this context. Such a story would require independent archaeological, epigraphic, or other reliable evidence to be historically substantiated. Until such evidence is available, it should be presented as local folklore rather than established historical fact.

The most important question raised by the study of Rakhigarhi is how women should be placed in history. For a long time, the mainstream narrative of history focused primarily on dynasties, wars, rulers, and political institutions. Women's roles in daily life, domestic labor, craft production, childrearing, social relationships, and the formation of cultural traditions received relatively little attention.

Gender-centered historiography attempts to address this imbalance. Its aim is not simply to establish women in stories of glory, but to conduct an evidence-based study of their real-life conditions, rights, labor, social status, and cultural contributions. In this regard, the collaboration of archaeology with anthropology, sociology, genetics, art history, and environmental studies can be crucial.

The human remains, jewelry, residential structures, and artifacts found at sites like Rakhigarhi provide a useful basis in this direction. Future research can help understand the division of labor between men and women in ancient communities, the differences in their access to resources, and the foundations on which social identities were formed. Answering these questions requires ongoing research, but incorporating them into the study of history is a necessary step in itself.

Rakhigarhi is not just a relic of the past, but an important source of knowledge for the present and the future. Its conservation, scientific excavation, and systematic documentation are essential. Archaeological sites should be integrated into research, education, and the participation of local communities, rather than simply being developed as tourist attractions.

To achieve this, scientific preservation of excavations, digital archiving, study facilities for researchers, and providing evidence-based information to the general public will be useful. Engaging local women, youth, teachers, and other community members in heritage conservation efforts can establish meaningful connections between archaeology and public life.

When teaching history in schools and universities, students should be taught to analyze evidence rather than simply memorizing ready-made conclusions. The example of Rakhigarhi can help explain how archaeological artifacts are interpreted, the limitations of scientific findings, and why historical assumptions need to be re-evaluated when new evidence is discovered. Including women's experiences, labor, and contributions in the curriculum should also be part of this process.

The true significance of Rakhigarhi lies not in proving any predetermined historical conclusion, but in raising new questions and seeking answers based on evidence.

"Rakhigarhi is an opportunity for this rereading: an opportunity to explore the lives, culture, and contributions of women from among the layers of the past."
— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Only when women are recognized in history writing not as mere symbols but as independent subjects of study will the picture of our civilization become more complete.

CONVENIENCE IS QUIETLY TAKING AWAY OUR CHOICES

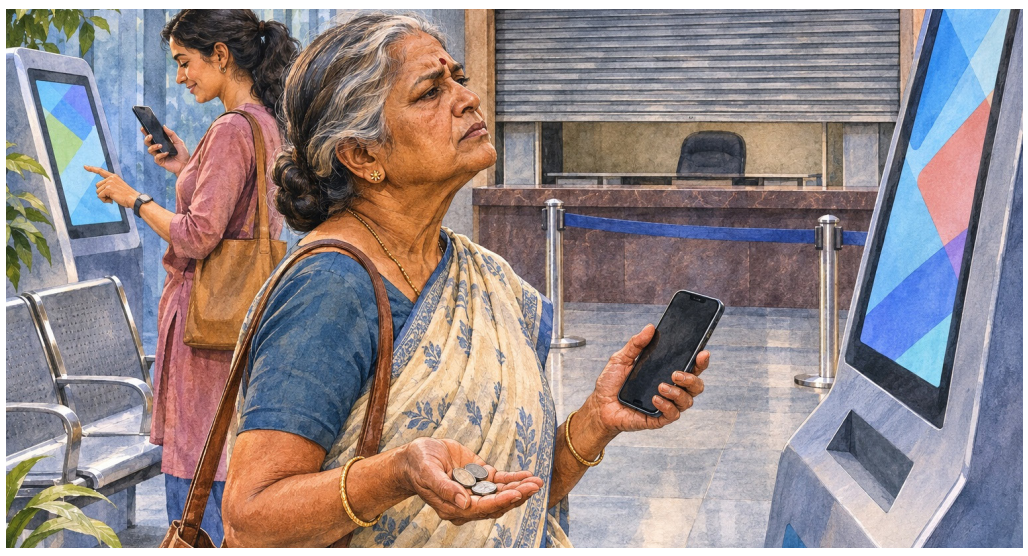
We rarely notice a choice disappearing when its replacement saves us time. A shop closes, but an app delivers groceries. A ticket counter shuts, but a screen offers bookings. A restaurant removes its printed menu, but a code waits on the table. Each change appears small. Together, they shape who can participate in everyday life.

Convenience deserves its good reputation. Nobody should spend an afternoon completing a task that could take minutes. Digital services can spare people journeys, paperwork and queues. For someone balancing employment, caregiving and household duties, a simple online payment can mean less worry.

The trouble begins when convenience becomes compulsory. A service designed to offer another route gradually becomes the only route. Customers are expected to own phones, maintain internet access, remember passwords and understand unfamiliar interfaces. Anyone who struggles is treated as an obstacle rather than a customer.

Consider an older person trying to arrange an appointment. The difficulty may have nothing to do with intelligence or willingness to learn. Small buttons, unclear instructions and repeated verification can make a straightforward request exhausting. Offering help afterwards does not excuse designing a system that excludes people from the beginning.

Younger users are hardly immune. Phones break. Batteries die. Accounts become inaccessible. Sometimes a person simply needs to explain a situation to someone capable of understanding it. A menu of automated options cannot anticipate every human problem, however confidently its designers present it.



Businesses often describe disappearing alternatives as progress. Yet progress should be judged partly by what remains possible for the person with the fewest resources. Keeping a cash counter, telephone number or printed form may appear inefficient on a spreadsheet. For a customer, that option can preserve independence.

There is also a quieter cost to effortless consumption. When every purchase requires little thought, spending can become detached from intention. Saved payment details and constant reminders encourage us to act before asking whether we want something. The easiest decision is not always our own best decision.

None of this requires rejecting technology. It requires setting a better standard for it. Public services should provide usable alternatives. Businesses should make human assistance easy to find. Designers should test systems with people who lack confidence, eyesight or devices, rather than assuming everyone resembles the development team.

We should also become more demanding customers. Before celebrating a faster service, ask who must work harder to use it. Before accepting another vanished counter, ask whether the savings justify leaving someone dependent on a neighbour or relative. These questions belong inside discussions about efficiency, not outside them.

A convenient society gives people room to choose how they manage ordinary tasks. It recognises that speed matters, but so do dignity, reliability and access.

The finest innovation may be the system that works beautifully on a phone while still welcoming the person who walks through the door with a question, a little cash and no battery left. That person deserves the same welcome as everyone else.

— MONU

OUR CHILDREN NEED TIME WITHOUT A PURPOSE

Ask a child about the weekend and the answer can resemble an office calendar. There may be coaching, music practice, sports instruction and a workshop intended to build another skill. Each activity can offer something valuable. The question is whether childhood still contains enough hours that nobody has already claimed.

Parents rarely arrange crowded schedules because they dislike freedom. More often, they are trying to protect a future that feels uncertain. When every skill seems connected to opportunity, leaving an afternoon empty can feel irresponsible. Rest becomes something to defend, while organised activity arrives with its justification.

But a child needs opportunities to decide what happens next. Unplanned time creates that opening. A blanket becomes a tent. A conversation becomes a game. An abandoned attempt becomes the beginning of another idea. These experiences matter even when nobody records an achievement or displays the result.

Boredom can be uncomfortable for adults as well as children. We may respond by offering entertainment immediately, partly because complaints interrupt our work. Yet occasional boredom is an ordinary experience, not necessarily a failure of parenting. A child can learn to move through it without every minute receiving outside direction.

This does not mean leaving children unsupported. Safety, companionship and access to welcoming spaces remain important. Freedom feels different in a neighbourhood with a playground than in a cramped room beside dangerous traffic. Any defence of play must therefore consider housing, public space and the time available to caregivers.

Schools can help by questioning assignments that consume weekends without adding much understanding. Homework should serve learning rather than demonstrate that learning happened. A task may be worthwhile. Repetitive work that leaves families exhausted deserves scrutiny, especially when its main achievement is keeping children visibly busy.

> *"A child needs opportunities to decide what happens next."*
> **ROHAN**

Parents can also resist the urge to turn every interest into a performance. A child who enjoys drawing need not immediately enter a competition. Someone who loves football need not be assessed after every match. Enjoyment has value before it becomes evidence of talent, discipline or a possible career.

There is a lesson here for adults, too. Many of us struggle to enjoy an activity unless it improves fitness, income or professional standing. We bring that habit into family life. Children notice when every pleasant experience must explain its usefulness before being allowed to remain on the calendar.

Creating breathing room may require practical compromise. Families could protect one unscheduled evening or leave part of a weekend open. Children should have a voice in deciding which activities to keep. Listening may reveal that a timetable contains commitments they continue mainly to avoid disappointing someone.

Education should prepare young people to think, choose and live with others. It cannot achieve that goal entirely through instruction. Sometimes the most generous thing an adult can offer is an afternoon, some materials and permission to begin without knowing where the activity will lead. Childhood needs enough room for experiences that never become certificates, photographs or stories about success.

— ROHAN

REPAIRING OUR BELONGINGS CAN RESTORE OUR INDEPENDENCE

A broken appliance often presents a difficult question: should we repair it or replace it? The fault may be minor, yet finding a technician, locating a part and understanding the bill can feel harder than ordering something new. The object becomes disposable partly because the path to saving it has become so inconvenient.



This is more than a complaint about household spending. Repair affects our relationship with ownership. If we cannot open, understand or maintain the things we buy, possession becomes a limited arrangement. We may hold the object while depending entirely on someone else to decide whether it can continue working.

Replacement certainly has its place. Some repairs are unsafe, impractical or more expensive than an alternative. Nobody should be expected to preserve a dangerous device out of principle. But a culture that treats every malfunction as a shopping opportunity has surrendered too quickly to a narrow idea of progress.

Manufacturers can make a different choice. Accessible parts, clear instructions and designs that allow worn components to be replaced would make ownership less frustrating. A product should not become useless because a piece fails while the rest remains sound. Durability includes the possibility of recovery after something goes wrong.

Retailers also influence expectations. They can explain repair options as clearly as they advertise upgrades. Warranties should be understandable, and customers should know where to seek help. A sales conversation means little if the same business becomes impossible to reach when the purchase develops a fault.

Local repair workers deserve greater respect within this conversation. Their skill combines observation, experience and patience. A technician who diagnoses a stubborn problem is doing intellectual work, even if it happens at a crowded bench rather than behind a laptop. Our language about skilled employment should reflect that reality.

Schools could introduce basic maintenance without turning classrooms into hazardous workshops. Learning to sew a button, recognise a loose connection or care for tools can build confidence. More importantly, students can learn when a task is safe to attempt and when professional help is necessary. Competence includes knowing those limits.

Communities could support repair through shared workspaces and demonstrations led by qualified people. Such spaces need not promise that everything can be fixed. Their value lies partly in making knowledge visible. A person who arrives with a chair may leave with useful advice and a new neighbour.

Consumers have responsibilities as well. Buying the cheapest item repeatedly can prove expensive, but higher prices alone do not guarantee quality. We should ask about parts, service and expected maintenance before purchasing. Reviews that celebrate appearance while ignoring long use tell only a small part of the ownership story.

Repair offers a form of independence. It asks us to look at a damaged object and consider possibilities before surrendering it.

A society that values this habit can support skilled work, reduce waste and help households keep useful belongings longer. Sometimes moving forward begins with making what we already have work again.

— DEEPAK

PUBLIC SPACES SHOULD WELCOME PEOPLE WITHOUT PURCHASES

A city reveals its priorities through a question: where can someone sit without buying anything? The answer matters to a retired person seeking company, a student waiting between classes and a worker resting before a journey. A welcoming city makes room for these needs without presenting a bill.

Shops and cafés contribute to public life, but commercial spaces cannot carry the whole responsibility. Their welcome naturally depends on business needs. Someone who wants only shade, a seat and a little time should not have to invent a purchase to justify being there. Belonging should not depend on spending power.

Parks, libraries, public squares and sheltered benches offer something distinctive. They allow people with different routines and incomes to share space without an invitation. A conversation may happen, or it may not. The freedom to remain quietly among others can itself make an unfamiliar neighbourhood feel more human.

Design determines whether that welcome is real. A plaza without shade can become uncomfortable. A park without accessible paths may exclude people who would enjoy it most. A library with inconvenient opening hours may be closed to workers. Appearance matters, but usefulness must guide the decisions.

Women and girls should be involved in shaping these places, as should older residents, disabled people and caregivers. Consultation means more than displaying a plan and inviting approval. People must be able to explain how they travel, what makes them uneasy and which facilities would help them stay longer.

Maintenance deserves the same attention as construction. A neglected toilet, broken light or damaged bench can undermine a promising space. Cities often celebrate openings because they provide a moment of achievement. The less glamorous work of cleaning, repairing and staffing determines whether that achievement survives.

Rules are necessary, but they should protect shared use rather than remove inconvenient people. Noise, harassment and dangerous behaviour require responses. Simply being poor, young or present for a long time should not be treated as misconduct. Public space loses its purpose when welcome depends on looking like an ideal visitor.

Neighbourhood businesses can benefit from a lively public environment without controlling it. People who feel comfortable walking and lingering may also visit shops. Still, the case for public seating should not rest entirely on whether it increases sales. Rest and companionship are civic needs in their own right.

Residents also help create the atmosphere. Taking litter away, leaving paths clear and sharing benches are small acts with collective consequences. We cannot demand generosity from public design while behaving as though a shared place belongs only to our own group. Welcome requires consideration from everyone using it.

The best public spaces do not force every encounter into a transaction. They offer a place to recover, observe, meet and simply exist. When a city provides those opportunities widely, it sends a message about citizenship. You do not need to show a receipt to deserve a little comfort here. Your presence is already reason enough to be welcomed.

— IMMANUEL

BEING REACHABLE SHOULD NOT MEAN ALWAYS AVAILABLE

A message arrives during dinner. Another appears just before sleep. Neither begins with a demand, yet both carry an expectation that someone will respond. The modern working day can extend through these interruptions until its ending becomes unclear. Being reachable has quietly become confused with being available.

Flexible communication can be helpful. A parent may prefer finishing a task after putting a child to bed. Colleagues in different locations may need different schedules. The problem arises when one person's working time becomes everyone else's obligation. Flexibility stops being generous when it depends on attention from others.

Many workers hesitate to set boundaries because the consequences feel uncertain. A delayed reply might be interpreted as disinterest. A person seeking promotion may worry that silence will be noticed more than completed work. In such conditions, telling employees to manage their time better places responsibility in the wrong hands.

Managers establish the rules through their behaviour. If they praise late responses, routinely send evening requests or treat constant visibility as commitment, promises about balance lose meaning. Conversely, a manager who clarifies deadlines and respects agreed hours makes it easier for the whole team to concentrate.

Clear expectations can remove anxiety. Teams should distinguish emergencies from tasks that can wait. Messages sent outside normal hours should state when a response is actually needed. Where possible, scheduled delivery can prevent someone's drafting time from interrupting a colleague's evening or weekend.



Boundaries also protect the quality of work. Attention repeatedly pulled towards possible messages leaves less room for thought. A person may remain connected throughout the evening while doing little useful work and enjoying little rest. Neither the employer nor the household gains much from that arrangement.

Of course, some roles involve emergencies. Hospitals, utilities and essential operations cannot simply stop when office hours end. Those demands require organised staffing, clear responsibility and fair compensation. They should not become an excuse for treating every routine workplace as though it faces the same operational pressures.

Employees can support healthier habits by agreeing on shared practices rather than negotiating alone. A team understanding about response times carries more weight than one exhausted person apologising for missing a message. Colleagues should also avoid creating pressure through unnecessary copying, repeated reminders or messages that provide no clear request.

We need to reconsider what dedication looks like. It may involve meeting a difficult deadline, helping a colleague or improving a process. It should not require demonstrating that personal life can always be interrupted. A reliable worker is someone who delivers responsibly, not someone whose phone never leaves their hand.

> **"Technology can help us coordinate our responsibilities, but it cannot decide which responsibilities deserve our attention. That decision needs clear limits, supported by people with the authority to make those limits meaningful. Everyone benefits when availability has an ending."**
> **— NINO**

Time away from work is part of a sustainable working life. It allows room for care, friendship, sleep and the ordinary experiences that make employment worthwhile.

— NINO

Quick Read

FDA seizes 1,190 kg of laddus over excess colouring

PUNE

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has seized 1,190 kg of laddus and other goods worth approximately ₹1.73 lakh from a manufacturing unit in Pune over excessive food colouring and unhygienic conditions.

The raid was conducted at a laddu manufacturing unit in Kondhwa following a tip-off. FDA officials found that the products contained excessive colouring and did not meet required hygiene standards.

Food samples, including boondi and laddus, have been collected for testing.

The seizure comes ahead of Diwali, with authorities warning manufacturers to ensure food colours remain within prescribed safety limits.

UP schoolboy dies after touching high-tension power line

BALLIA

An 11-year-old Class 4 student died after coming into contact with a high-tension electricity wire on the rooftop of a government primary school in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district.

According to police, the boy's family alleged that a teacher had sent him to the rooftop to pluck a gourd, despite an overhead power line running across the area. The child reportedly came into contact with the wire and died.

The incident triggered protests by local residents, prompting police deployment. An FIR has been registered based on the family's complaint, and the body has been sent for post-mortem examination.

The education department suspended the acting headmaster and an assistant teacher, while the services of a Shiksha Mitra were terminated.

Missing Kerala teen found murdered inside abandoned sack

T'PURAM

A 16-year-old Class XI student who went missing from his home in Sreekaryam on Sunday was allegedly murdered, with his body found stuffed inside a sack at a vacant plot in Pangappara, police said.

The victim, Abhiram MD, was a student of NSS HSS Paruthippara. City Police Commissioner Arul RB Krishna said three people, including a minor girl, had been taken into custody in connection with the case.

Preliminary investigations suggest that a dispute allegedly linked to the victim's friendship with a girl may have led to the murder. Police suspect the accused used the girl's Instagram account to lure Abhiram to an isolated location, where he was allegedly strangled with a belt.

Two suspects, a 17-year-old boy and a Sreekaryam resident, have reportedly confessed to the crime.

Modi launches Pune metro projects worth ₹21,800 cr

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched major infrastructure initiatives in Pune, focusing on expanding urban mobility, easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity for commuters across the city.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Pune Metro projects worth approximately ₹21,800 crore, aiming to improve public transport and strengthen connectivity across the city. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis attended the programme in Pune.

The Prime Minister inaugurated Metro Line 3, popularly known as the Pink Line, constructed at a cost of over ₹8,300 crore. Stretching around 23 kilometres, the corridor connects Maan with District Court Metro station, linking the Hinjewadi IT hub with Shivajinagar. The new route is expected to make daily travel easier for thousands of employees and other commuters.

The Pink Line will connect with the existing Metro network, offering smoother travel between different parts of Pune. It is also expected to reduce dependence on private vehicles, ease traffic congestion and lower pollution caused by vehicle emissions. Better access to commercial and residential areas is another major benefit of the project.


Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the Pune Metro projects by video conference on Tuesday

Modi also laid the foundation stone for Phase II of the Metro network, estimated to cost ₹13,500 crore. The expansion includes four corridors: Lines 2A, 2B, 4 and 4A. These routes will connect major areas such as Vanaz, Chandani Chowk, Ramwadi, Vitthalwadi, Kharadi, Khadakwasla and Manik Baug, extending the city's transport network.

The new corridors will also improve access to important locations, including Magarpatta, Hadapsar, Swargate, Pune Cantonment, Warje and Wagholi. Interchange facilities at Swargate, Nal Stop and Kharadi Bypass will connect Metro services with existing routes and intercity bus facilities.

PM Modi's urban vision

- **₹1 lakh crore:** Urban Challenge Fund
- **Growth hubs:** develop hundreds of small cities
- **1,200 km:** India's Metro network
- **26 cities:** Metro services expanded nationwide
- **1 crore+:** daily Metro commuters
- **Pune Metro:** 23-km Pink Line inaugurated
- **PPP model:** government-private sector partnership

Defence Min reviews armed forces modernisation and preparedness


Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Rajnath Singh highlighted rising defence investments, technological advancement and domestic manufacturing to strengthen India's military capabilities against evolving security challenges.

JAISALMER

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting of the Ministry of Defence's Consultative Committee in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, on Tuesday to discuss the modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces. The meeting focused on emerging security threats, changing warfare methods and the need to build a technologically advanced and well-prepared military.

Singh highlighted the government's efforts in strengthening defence capabilities through increased funding, modern technology and self-reliance. The defence budget for 2026-27 has reached a record ₹7.85 lakh crore, including ₹2.19 lakh crore for capital purchases and modernisation. He also noted that domestic defence production had increased from ₹46,429 crore in 2014-15 to ₹1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26. Defence exports have also grown to nearly ₹40,000 crore.

"We aim to achieve defence production worth Rs 3 lakh crore and defence exports worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," Singh said, stressing the importance of reducing dependence on foreign defence suppliers. He encouraged greater participation from private companies, start-ups and research institutions in developing indigenous weapons and equipment.

The minister also underlined the growing importance of artificial intelligence, drones, cyber security, space technology and advanced communication systems in modern warfare.

He said military strength depended not only on weapons and funding but also on trained personnel. He pointed to new Indian Army formations, including Ashni, Bhairav and Shaktiban platoons, as examples of adapting to changing battlefield needs.

Members of Parliament from both Houses offered suggestions during the meeting. Singh stressed that modernisation must be a continuous process supported by research, innovation and cooperation among defence organisations.

Defence push

₹7.85	LAKH CRORE BUDGET, 2026-27
₹1.78	LAKH CRORE MADE IN INDIA, 2025-26
₹40,000	CRORE IN EXPORTS
₹3	LAKH CRORE OUTPUT GOAL, 2029
₹50,000	CRORE EXPORT GOAL, 2029

Pune metro expansion set to transform urban mobility

PUNE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday expressed confidence that Pune would become a model city for urban transport following the launch of major Metro projects by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The projects, worth around ₹21,800 crore, aim to improve connectivity and reduce traffic congestion across the city.

Speaking at the event, Fadnavis said nearly 120 kilometres of Metro lines in Pune had either been completed or were under construction. He highlighted the environmental benefits of the newly inaugurated Pune Metro Line 3, also known as the Pink Line, which will generate 30 per cent of its energy requirements independently. He said the expansion would strengthen Maharashtra's position in urban transport development.

The 23-kilometre Pink Line connects Maan with District Court Metro station, providing direct connectivity between the Hinjewadi IT hub and Shivajinagar. Fadnavis said thousands of IT employees travelling to Hinjewadi regularly spend one to two hours stuck in traffic. He added that the new service would make their daily journeys faster and more convenient. "I believe this will make Pune a model city in the field of urban mobility," he said.


Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the Pune Metro launch

> **"I believe this will make Pune a model city in the field of urban mobility."**
>
> — Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister

Fadnavis said the Centre supported Line 3 through funding, while the Maharashtra government handled land-related work.

SIR fraud costs Kochi man ₹7.7 lakh

KOCHI

A 72-year-old man in Kochi has allegedly lost ₹7.7 lakh after fraudsters posing as election officials used the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to deceive him. The Tripunithura Hill Palace police have registered a case. A message about correcting personal details led the victim to share his debit card information.

The victim received a text message on October 30 claiming that a mismatch between his name and his father's name needed correction as part of the SIR exercise. It instructed him to contact an alleged Election Commission official through a phone number provided by the fraudsters. He was then told to pay a processing fee of ₹10 through a link sent to his phone.

Believing the request was genuine, the man clicked the link and entered his debit card details. The fraudsters allegedly used the information to make unauthorised transactions from his bank account. The incident shows how scammers can exploit public awareness and confusion surrounding official electoral procedures to target individuals.

Two withdrawals

According to the complaint, the money was withdrawn in two transactions. An initial amount of ₹3.20 lakh was debited, followed by another withdrawal of ₹4.5 lakh. The amounts were transferred to two separate bank accounts. The total loss was ₹7.7 lakh.

The Tripunithura Hill Palace police have launched a probe to identify those behind the fraud and trace the transferred money. The case comes amid the ongoing debate over the SIR exercise, which involves revising electoral rolls. The incident is a warning to verify requests for banking information through official channels before making any payment or sharing debit card details.

How the scam worked

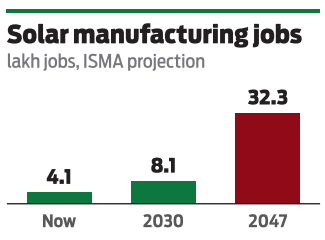
1. **A text message** on October 30 claimed his name and his father's name did not match in the SIR
2. **A phone number** led him to a supposed Election Commission official
3. **A ₹10 "processing fee"** through a link drew out his debit card details

Report sees 32.3 lakh solar jobs and $89 billion investment by 2047

NEW DELHI

India could generate 32.3 lakh direct and indirect jobs and attract $89 billion in investments by 2047 by developing a fully integrated solar manufacturing industry, according to a report released by the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA) on Tuesday. The roadmap aims to position the country as a global manufacturing hub while reducing dependence on imported solar equipment.

Titled Vision 2047: Solar Manufacturing from Polysilicon to Power Plant, the report proposes building domestic capabilities across the entire solar value chain, from polysilicon, ingots and wafers to cells and modules. This would help India retain more economic value from locally manufactured solar panels, meet domestic demand and expand exports.



Figures: ISMA Vision 2047 report

Under the proposed scenario, India's installed solar capacity could reach 2,275 gigawatts by 2047. Manufacturing capacity targets include 3,266 GW for modules, 2,796 GW for cells, 2,479 GW for ingots and wafers, and 2,156 GW equivalent for polysilicon. The report expects the manufacturing chain to meet domestic requirements within the next decade.

Jobs and investment

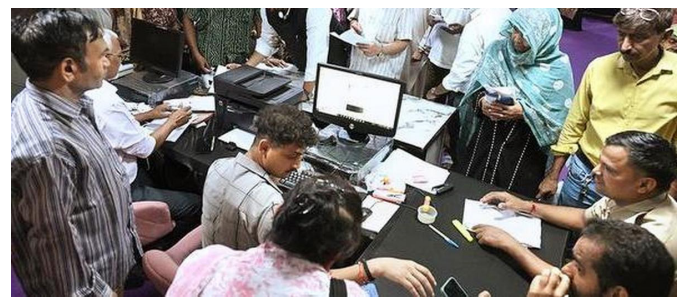
Employment in solar manufacturing could increase from approximately 4.1 lakh jobs currently to 8.1 lakh by 2030 and 32.3 lakh by 2047. Direct employment in solar photovoltaic plants is projected to rise from 1.4 lakh to 11.1 lakh, with nearly 68 per cent of these jobs concentrated in upstream segments such as cells, wafers and polysilicon.

The report estimates that the sector will require $89 billion in fresh investments by 2047, averaging $4.3 billion annually. Nearly 70 per cent is expected to flow into upstream manufacturing. The Production Linked Incentive scheme had attracted $8.4 billion by June 2026. ISMA Secretary General Amit Manohar said sustained policy support, predictable demand and stronger upstream investment would be essential. The report also calls for timely incentives, expanded solar programmes, skill development, recycling and stronger export markets. It projects India's annual solar import bill could fall from $4.4 billion to zero by 2041.

EC Allows Previously Enrolled Voters to Reapply Through Form 6

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday clarified that voters whose names are missing from draft electoral rolls published during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) can submit Form 6 to seek inclusion in the final voters' list, even if they were registered previously.



The clarification addresses concerns among voters who feared that submitting Form 6 could expose them to prosecution for making a false declaration. The form requires applicants to declare that their names are being included in the electoral roll for the first time, prompting apprehensions among those whose names appeared on earlier lists.

In a communication addressed to chief electoral officers of all states and Union Territories, the Commission stated that submitting Form 6 after deletion from a draft electoral roll would not, by itself, amount to a false declaration. It also clarified that an Electoral Registration Officer cannot initiate action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, merely because an applicant was previously registered as a voter.

However, the protection does not extend to cases involving enrolment in another Assembly or Parliamentary constituency or declarations that otherwise violate the law.

The Commission referred to a Delhi High Court judgment dated October 14, 2026, in the case of Nilotpal Datta and another versus the Election Commission of India and others. The court had observed that concerns about submitting Form 6 were misplaced and that applicants could seek inclusion in accordance with the law.

The poll panel has asked state and Union Territory election authorities to publicise the clarification widely through available media platforms and regional languages.

BOTTLE RETURN INITIATIVE

Tasmac outlets to get bottle-return machines soon

COIMBATORE

All 4,048 Tasmac outlets in Tamil Nadu will be equipped with reverse vending machines to enable consumers to return empty liquor bottles, Minister for Prohibition and Excise K. Vignesh said in Coimbatore on Monday. The initiative will allow bottles to be returned regardless of where they were purchased, making the facility accessible for customers throughout the entire State.


A reverse vending machine scans an empty liquor bottle

Under the proposed arrangement, consumers will be able to take an empty bottle to any Tasmac outlet. Customers will not have to visit the shop from which they bought the liquor. The system is intended to make returns more convenient by allowing bottles to be deposited at outlets across Tamil Nadu.

The machines, known as reverse vending machines, are to be installed at all 4,048 outlets operated by the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, commonly known as Tasmac. The statewide plan will provide a common facility for consumers and establish a uniform method of collecting empty bottles through the retail network.

Vignesh said the tendering process for procuring the machines is expected to be completed within 20 days. The minister announced the plan while speaking in Coimbatore on November 2.

The announcement covers the entire network of 4,048 Tasmac shops in Tamil Nadu, rather than a limited group of outlets. Once the machines are installed, consumers will be able to return bottles at any outlet in the State. The plan is intended to simplify collection and make the facility accessible across locations. Further details on procurement and implementation are expected after the tendering process is completed.

Quick Read

Speeding Fortuner kills mother, teenage son

AHMEDABAD

Two people, including a 15-year-old boy, were killed and two others seriously injured after a speeding Toyota Fortuner allegedly driven by an intoxicated man rammed into a family selling sofa covers on a footpath in Ahmedabad's Nikol area. The accident occurred near Devashya School ahead of Diwali.The victims were identified as Punamben Jitendrabhai Nagvadiya, 30, and her son Sagar, 15. Kartik Vasoya, 34, and his wife Snehalben, 34, who had arrived to purchase sofa covers, sustained serious injuries.The accused driver, Viral Savjibhai Chaudhary, 36, a resident of Nana Chiloda, was taken into police custody. During inspection of the vehicle, officers recovered six bottles of beer.Police registered two separate complaints, including one under the Motor Vehicles Act and another under the Prohibition Act.

8 arrested for assaulting four BSF personnel in Tripura

AGARTALA

Eight people were arrested in Tripura's Sepahijala district on Tuesday for allegedly assaulting four Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, including an assistant commandant, police said.The incident occurred on Monday at Ashabari in Boxanagar following an altercation between personnel of the BSF's 49th Battalion and a local resident over an alleged smuggling-related issue. The resident was reportedly assaulted, triggering protests by locals who blocked the Boxanagar-Rahimpur road.During the protest, a group allegedly attacked Assistant Commandant Rohit Kumar and his staff, besides vandalising their vehicle. The injured personnel were taken to a local primary health centre for preliminary treatment.Chief Minister Manik Saha condemned the attack and directed authorities to take strict action against those responsible. He said violence against security personnel would not be tolerated and assured that all those involved would face legal action.

19-year-old arrested for blinding elderly man, stealing gold chain

LUCKNOW

A 19-year-old man was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Wazirganj for allegedly throwing chilli powder into an elderly man's eyes and snatching his gold chain, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Khushhal Kashyap alias Tushar, also known as 'Shooter', was arrested near railway tracks close to a fruit market on November 2. Police recovered a portion of the stolen chain from his possession.

According to the victim's son, two unidentified men attacked his father on October 26, throwing chilli powder into his eyes before fleeing with the gold chain.

Police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and arrested Kashyap following local intelligence and a tip-off. Further investigation is underway to identify the second suspect and establish his role in the robbery.

Amit Shah transfers ₹632 cr to women beneficiaries

At the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav closing ceremony, Amit Shah released financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of women across the state.

RAIPUR

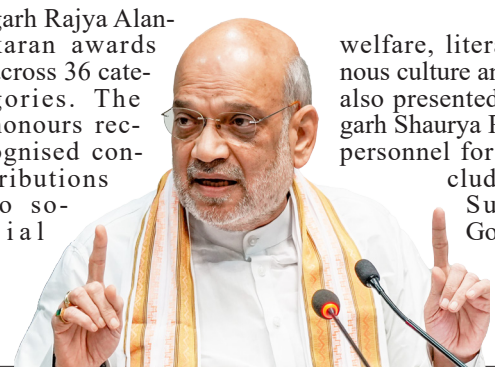
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday transferred ₹632.62 crore to more than 67.4 lakh women beneficiaries in Chhattisgarh under the state government's Mahtari Vandan Yojana. The amount was disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during the closing ceremony of the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav in Raipur, attended by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

Shah initiated the transfer by pressing a remote button at the event, providing financial assistance directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Addressing the gathering, Shah urged people to celebrate Chhattisgarh's progress towards peace and development. Referring to the decline of left-wing extremism, he questioned the audience's subdued response and called for a collective pledge towards a peaceful future. "Naxalism is nearing its end, so why is your voice low? Let us raise our hands together in a pledge of victory," he said.

Earlier, Shah was received in the state capital by Chief Minister Sai, senior ministers and party leaders. During his visit, he inaugurated Artemis Shanti Hospital in Raipur and the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Park, also known as Peepal Van, an initiative focused on expanding urban green cover and promoting environmental sustainability.

The Rajyotsav closing ceremony also featured the presentation of Chhattisgarh Rajya Alankaran awards across 36 categories. The honours recognised contributions to social welfare, literature, indigenous culture and sports. Shah also presented the Chhattisgarh Shaurya Padak to police personnel for gallantry, including Assistant Sub-Inspector Gopal Buddu and his team members from Bijapur.



"Naxalism is nearing its end, so why is your voice low? Let us raise our hands together in a pledge of victory."
— Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

MP cabinet approves ₹23,300 crore development proposals

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, on Tuesday approved development proposals worth more than ₹23,300 crore, covering forest conservation, irrigation, urban infrastructure, healthcare investment and administrative functioning. The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting held in Bhopal, with a significant portion of the approved funds earmarked for forest development and wildlife conservation.

The Cabinet sanctioned ₹17,240.55 crore for the continuation of nine existing schemes related to forest development and wildlife conservation for five years, from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031. Of this amount, ₹10,664.79 crore will support working plan organisations and forest circles, while ₹1,994.30 crore has been allocated for compensatory afforestation. Another ₹1,623.79 crore will go towards national parks, ₹1,107.06 crore for timber production and ₹604.23 crore for zoos and rescue centres. Additional allocations will support forest headquarters, training centres, preparation of working plans and wildlife management outside protected areas.

The Cabinet also approved ₹4,103.73 crore for the continued operation of irrigation projects across Panna, Vidisha, Mauganj, Sidhi, Singrauli and Ujjain districts. The funding will cover the financial years 2026-27 to 2030-31. In another infrastructure-related decision, the government sanctioned an additional ₹700 crore for the Chief Minister Urban Area Infrastructure Development Scheme for two years, from April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2029. The initiative covers drinking water, sanitation, street lighting, roads, drainage, disaster management, cremation grounds, community buildings, sports facilities and night shelters.

Tamil Nadu targets green energy leadership with storage policy

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has approved its Battery Energy Storage Systems Policy, 2026, aiming to strengthen electricity grid stability and accelerate the state's transition towards clean energy. The policy seeks to position Tamil Nadu as India's leading battery storage hub by attracting private investment and modernising its energy infrastructure.

The framework sets a target of deploying at least 2.5 gigawatts of battery storage capacity, equivalent to 10 gigawatt-hours, during its operative period. Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited will serve as the nodal agency for implementing the initiative. The policy aims to address fluctuations in renewable electricity generation, improve grid operations and reduce power curtailment.



Battery storage beside a solar plant (representational image).

Tamil Nadu has set an ambitious clean-energy target, seeking to expand battery storage capacity, attract private investment and strengthen electricity grid stability.

The storage systems will absorb surplus electricity during periods of low demand, particularly when solar power generation is high, and release it during peak consumption hours. The framework provides separate pathways for standalone battery storage installations and projects developed alongside existing renewable energy facilities, supporting more reliable electricity supply across the state.

Under the policy, new solar and hybrid energy projects exceeding one megawatt and commissioned from April 2027 must integrate battery storage equivalent to at least 10 per cent of their sanctioned capacity. These systems must also provide continuous power discharge for four hours.

To encourage investment, the government has announced a complete waiver of applicable transmission and wheeling charges for 10 years for eligible projects commissioned within the policy period. The benefit will apply provided the discharged electricity is used within Tamil Nadu. The policy also introduces safety, environmental and cybersecurity requirements, including the use of domestically developed Energy Management Systems.

Gujarat distributes 8,169 teacher letters, plans 10,000

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday distributed appointment recommendation letters to 8,169 Vidya Sahayaks, or assistant teachers, at Adalaj. He said the recruits would play an important role in shaping the future of Viksit Bharat. The event at Trimandir was attended by Education Minister Pradyuman Vaja and Minister of State for Education Rivaba Jadeja.

Addressing the teachers, Patel urged them to guide students and help them contribute to the country's development. He highlighted women's participation in the recruitment drive, noting that more than 6,000 of the selected candidates were women. He described their selection as a reflection of the presence of Nari Shakti in the education sector.



At the appointment-letter ceremony for the new teachers.

IN FOCUS

8,169	VIDYA SAHAYAKS GET LETTERS
6,000+	OF THEM WOMEN
12,000	RECRUITED IN ALL (APPROX.)
10,000	MORE TEACHERS PLANNED

The Chief Minister said the appointments had been made through a transparent, merit-based process. He also announced that the Education Department planned to recruit around 10,000 additional teachers in the coming period. Referring to the influence teachers have on society, Patel urged educators to act responsibly on digital platforms and social media, citing their impact on children's minds.

Education Minister Pradyuman Vaja said the state had completed a recruitment process for approximately 12,000 Vidya Sahayaks, based on merit, transparency and technology. The recruitment included around 11,000 vacancies for Gujarati-medium Classes 1 to 5 and approximately 987 posts for other mediums.

Minister of State Rivaba Jadeja congratulated the recruits and stressed that teachers shape children's knowledge, thinking, personality and character. She said education should combine values and skills with technology and basic literacy.

Satheesan challenges CAG audits, defends legislative accountability

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Tuesday said legislatures cannot exclude Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports from Public Accounts Committee (PAC) scrutiny, calling such action an "unhealthy parliamentary practice". He spoke at a national PAC chairpersons' conference in Thiruvananthapuram.

Satheesan cited a January 2021 resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly that kept the CAG's findings on the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board outside PAC scrutiny. A ruling majority, he argued, could pass a resolution but could not constitutionally dismiss a CAG report.

The chief minister questioned the CAG's audit methodology, arguing that its calculations could rely on projections rather than actual financial outcomes. On the 2G spectrum allocation case, he said the estimated loss of ₹1.76 lakh crore was hypothetical and based on later benchmarks, including 3G auction prices and the 2014 re-auction, rather than market conditions in 2008.

A ruling majority could pass a resolution but could not constitutionally dismiss a CAG report, Satheesan argued

On the Vizhinjam port project, Satheesan said the CAG assessed a public-private partnership using principles applied to public sector undertakings. He argued that this ignored the different financing and risk-sharing arrangements of PPP projects, along with viability gap funding required by infrastructure projects during their early years.

Satheesan called for discussions on how PACs should examine audit findings that, in his view, fall outside the constitutional audit mandate because of flawed approaches.

Delhi destroys 6,700 kg unsafe khoya ahead of Diwali

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has destroyed 6,700 kg of unsafe and foul-smelling khoya seized from a wholesale market in the national capital as part of an intensified food safety crackdown ahead of Diwali and other festivals. Of the 44 samples collected during the operation, 35 failed preliminary tests, raising concerns over possible food adulteration.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visited the khoya market at Mori Gate on Tuesday to inspect the destruction process carried out by the Food Safety Department. The operation forms part of the government's efforts to prevent unsafe food products from reaching consumers during the festive season, when demand for sweets and traditional preparations increases.

Khoya, a key ingredient in several Indian sweets, is widely used during festivals. The failure of most samples collected during the inspection has highlighted concerns over the quality of products entering the market. Authorities have stepped up checks to identify suspected adulteration and ensure that food sold to consumers meets safety standards.



Inspecting the seized khoya at the Mori Gate market.

35
of the 44 khoya samples collected failed preliminary tests

Gupta warned traders and those involved in food adulteration that the government would not compromise on public health. She said strict legal action would be taken against anyone found endangering consumers through unsafe food products. The administration has indicated that inspections, raids and testing will continue as part of the festive-season enforcement drive.

6,500 ration kits reach flood-hit Ganjam families

GANJAM

The Adani Foundation has provided around 6,500 dry ration kits to support families affected by floods in Odisha's Ganjam district following Cyclone Arnab. The relief initiative is being carried out in coordination with the district administration, which will oversee distribution.

Each kit contains essential food and household supplies, including rice, dal, refined oil, sugar, flattened rice, commonly known as chuda, biscuits, candles and matchboxes. The provisions are intended to meet a household's basic food needs for approximately three days, offering immediate assistance to families facing disruption after the floods.

The Ganjam district administration will lead and coordinate the distribution of the relief materials. The Adani Foundation will provide operational support to help deliver kits to households efficiently. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the administration's ongoing relief efforts in flood-hit communities.



Dry ration kits being packed for flood-hit families in Ganjam.

Gopalpur Port and the Adani Foundation said they had consistently undertaken community welfare and humanitarian initiatives in the port's peripheral areas and across Ganjam district. The foundation, the social welfare and development arm of the Adani Group, said the latest assistance reflected its commitment to supporting communities during emergencies and natural calamities.

The relief effort comes after Cyclone Arnab triggered floods in Ganjam, affecting households across the district. The ration kits are designed to provide short-term essentials while affected communities deal with the aftermath of the flooding.

FIR AGAINST 22 PROTESTERS

Delhi Police file FIR against 22 INDIA bloc protesters

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police registered an FIR against 22 protesters detained during a march from Ramlila Maidan towards Jantar Mantar at an INDIA bloc rally on Sunday. The case follows a demonstration against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and alleged irregularities in the Election Commission's functioning and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Ramlila Maidan rally had permission. However, officials said students moved towards Jantar Mantar, no longer a designated protest site. Police said members of the Disha Students' Organisation and the Revolutionary Workers' Party of India (RWPI) led the march around 5 pm. Personnel and paramilitary forces stopped them at Minto Road and took protesters in two buses to Dwarka Sector 23 and Jafarpur Kalan police stations. They were released by 2 am on Monday.

The FIR invokes Sections 223(a), 132, 221, 121(1), 3(5) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The provisions cover disobedience of orders, assault or criminal force against public servants, obstruction, voluntarily causing hurt, common intention and criminal conspiracy.



The INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday.

Protester Vishal was separately taken to Connaught Place police station and placed under preventive detention under Sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. Produced before a Special Executive Magistrate on Monday, he was asked to execute a peace bond. He refused and was released on sureties and a personal bond.

The march and after

- **SUNDAY, 5 PM** — Students march from Ramlila Maidan towards Jantar Mantar; stopped at Minto Road
- **BY 2 AM, MONDAY** — Detained protesters released from two police stations
- **MONDAY** — Vishal refuses a peace bond; released on sureties and a personal bond

RWPI members alleged police dragged protesters, including women, into buses and that a woman fainted. RWPI member Suraj Rait said Vishal was detained for 23 hours and denied medication. Rait said the march was peaceful and demanded Jantar Mantar's restoration as a protest site and the scrapping of SIR.

Quick Read

IndiGo to stay focused on short-haul operations: CEO

NEW DELHI

IndiGo will continue to prioritise its core short-haul business even as it accelerates overseas expansion, Chief Executive Officer Willie Walsh said on Tuesday. Speaking at the Aviation India and South Asia 2026 conference here, Walsh said that the airline currently operates four A321XLRs and expects to have 14 such aircraft in service by the end of 2027. He stressed that the airline's growth strategy would be built around preserving the efficiency of its narrow-body operations. The carrier's expanding international ambitions should not divert attention from its established domestic and regional network, which remains central to its low-cost model.

India's data centre capacity set for 5-fold surge by 2030

NEW DELHI

India's data centre installed capacity is projected to increase five-fold to about 7.5 gigawatts (GW) by March 2030, attracting investments of more than Rs 3 lakh crore over the four fiscals, a Crisil report showed on Tuesday. The surge is being driven by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)-led computing demand, enterprise digitalisation and rising data consumption. While long-tenor contracts with hyperscalers provide strong cash flow visibility, the pace of this expansion and credit quality of the data centre developers will hinge on timely power connectivity.



RBI eases export reporting compliance for freelancers

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified Export Declaration Form (EDF) compliance norms for resident individuals exporting services, saying that they will be deemed to have submitted the EDF once they provide the required payment-related information to their authorised dealer (AD) bank.

The RBI issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026, effective retrospectively from October 1, 2026.

Under the earlier framework notified in September, service exporters were required to furnish an EDF within 30 days from the end of the month in which an invoice was raised.

The clarification deems that individuals earning income from overseas clients, such as freelancers, YouTubers and independent professionals, need not submit an EDF separately if they provide the required payment-related information to their bank.

The latest amendment notified on November 2 also introduces a definition of a resident individual and clarifies when an EDF will be considered submitted.

The amendment provides the same deemed-submission facility to non-resident exporters, when the inward remittance for a service does not exceed Rs 10 lakh.

India, Denmark eye deeper clean energy ties

Both countries are exploring opportunities to deepen cooperation in offshore wind, green hydrogen, maritime infrastructure and renewable energy integration as they look to strengthen their energy partnership.

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday held a bilateral meeting with Denmark's Minister for Business and Competitiveness Martin Lidegaard on the sidelines of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026, focusing on expanding cooperation in clean energy and strengthening bilateral investment opportunities.

In a post on X, Joshi said both sides discussed enhancing collaboration in offshore wind, green hydrogen, battery storage and renewable energy integration. He highlighted the significant investment opportunities available in India's renewable energy sector and welcomed greater Danish participation through technology partnerships, joint ventures and local manufacturing.

On Monday, Lidegaard was in Mumbai to explore opportunities for collaboration in maritime affairs, green shipping, technology, trade and investment.



The India-Denmark bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026

"More than 60 Danish companies are already present in Maharashtra and we expect commercial opportunities to expand with the coming EU-India free trade agreement," Lidegaard said.

He also visited the Mumbai terminal operated by Danish shipping major Maersk and discussed port operations, infrastructure development and sustainable technologies.

During his visit, Lidegaard met Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to discuss Danish investments, the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement and opportunities in maritime infrastructure. L&T Chairman S.N. Subrahmanyan has also been appointed Denmark's Honorary Consul.

Strengthening renewable energy ties

- Discussions cover offshore wind, green hydrogen and battery storage
- Denmark expresses interest in expanding investments in Maharashtra
- L&T Chairman S.N. Subrahmanyan appointed Denmark's Honorary Consul
- Danish investments include $600 million Novonesis expansion and DKK 230 million for GreenCell Mobility

Recent investments include Novonesis' $600 million expansion in Patalganga and Impact Fund Denmark's DKK 230 million investment in electric bus company GreenCell Mobility, announced in October 2026.

Goyal: Viksit Bharat goal is non-negotiable



NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday urged young Indians to think ambitiously, embrace transformation and actively contribute to nation-building, asserting that achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 is non-negotiable.

Delivering the keynote address at the Young Leaders Discourse Forum at Kirori Mal College in Delhi, Goyal said today's youth would shape India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. He noted that the current generation of students would be in their 40s when India celebrates 100 years of Independence in 2047.

The minister emphasised that meaningful transformation requires a change in mindset, continuous reinvention, discipline and respect for traditions. He also highlighted the flexibility offered by the National Education Policy, saying digitalisation and India's 1.1 billion internet users have opened up wider opportunities for students.

> "Today's youth will be the architects of India's journey towards 2047."
>
> — **Piyush Goyal**, Union Commerce and Industry Minister

Speaking about India's economic performance, Goyal said the country recorded its highest-ever exports of $863 billion last year and has set an ambitious target of $1 trillion for the current financial year, representing 16 per cent growth.

He expressed confidence in achieving the target, pointing out that exports had grown 14 per cent during April-September to reach $480 billion.

Europe seeks deeper economic ties with India



NEW DELHI

Europe is increasingly looking to strengthen its economic engagement with India amid changing global trade dynamics, with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) agreement and the proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) emerging as key instruments for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

The EFTA agreement, involving Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, came into force on October 1, 2025. The four countries participated in the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit in New Delhi on October 7, where both sides announced new business projects and reviewed progress under the agreement.

Swiss President Guy Parmelin highlighted that 53 Swiss companies had investment plans across 20 economic sectors. Norway also pointed to around 160 Norwegian companies already operating in India. Opportunities were identified in advanced manufacturing, medical technologies, maritime transport and energy.

Europe's goods trade with India, 2025
in billion euros



Meanwhile, negotiations for a broader India-EU FTA have gained momentum, with the objective of concluding the agreement in December during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Brussels.

European direct investment stock in India reached 132.8 billion euros in 2024. More than 6,000 European companies operate in India, directly providing around three million jobs.

FDA seizes food products worth Rs 9 cr in Maha

NEW DELHI

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — led by Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe — has seized food products, including Patanjali Cow Ghee, valued at more than Rs 9 crore during a statewide enforcement drive ahead of Diwali to curb food adulteration, according to a report.

The operation, carried out across all seven administrative divisions of the state, covered 114 food establishments and resulted in the suspension of licences or registrations of 19 food business operators for serious hygiene and regulatory lapses.

Among the notable actions, the FDA seized 2,279 litres of Patanjali cow ghee valued at around Rs 20 lakh from a distributor in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, it added.

The authorities said the stock was detained under provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, on suspicion of misbranding and adulteration.

The largest seizure was reported from the Konkan division where more than 1.44 lakh kg of edible oil of various brands was confiscated from a facility in Bhiwandi, Thane district.

The FDA said inspections in Mumbai revealed multiple hygiene and compliance deficiencies at food establishments, including poor sanitation, insect infestation, inadequate documentation and lapses in food storage practices, according to the report.



In a parallel operation targeting banned food products conducted between October 28 and October 31, the department seized goods worth Rs 79.4 lakh from 17 establishments.

13 FIRs registered
16 people arrested
7 establishments sealed

India's white-collar hiring up 14% in Oct on manufacturing push

NEW DELHI

India's white-collar hiring rose 14 per cent year-on-year in October, led by strong demand for production and manufacturing roles, while hiring for artificial intelligence (AI) skills and senior professionals also remained robust, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The report from jobs site Naukri said that its JobSpeak index rose to 2,836 for the month, up from 2,480 in October 2025. It further noted that part of the increase reflected a favourable base effect as Diwali fell in October 2025, weighing on recruitment activity during the corresponding period last year.

The automobile sector recorded the strongest growth in hiring at 36 per cent, followed by BPO/ITES at 17 per cent and banking and financial services at 16 per cent. Across industries, hiring for production and manufacturing functions grew 39 per cent, making it one of the fastest-rising job functions.

"Manufacturing companies are building capacity, and demand for AI skills remains strong, indicative of the selective, fundamentals-led nature of hiring demand," said Hitesh Oberoi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Info Edge (India).



Auto companies are adding people to design, source and build vehicles faster than they are adding people to sell them

In the automobile sector, hiring for production and manufacturing roles rose 41 per cent, research and development 53 per cent, and procurement and supply chain 50 per cent.

The FMCG sector grew a modest 6 per cent overall, yet hiring for its production functions rose 40 per cent and procurement 20 per cent. Sales and business development hiring in FMCG fell 5 per cent.

Centre plans more import gateways for drugs

NEW DELHI

The government has proposed changes to the Drugs Rules, 1945, aimed at widening the network of authorised locations through which drugs, medical devices and cosmetics can enter the country, an official statement said on Tuesday.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the Centre has recommended the addition of several inland container depots (ICDs), a special economic zone (SEZ) and a newly developed international airport to the list of approved import gateways under a draft amendment to Rule 43A, a move intended to improve logistics and strengthen the distribution network for healthcare products.

Rule 43A currently governs the ports, airports, railway stations, road crossings and other designated points through which pharmaceutical and related products may be imported into India.

"The proposed additional locations are ICD Sonipat, Piyala and Harsaru in Haryana; ICD Dadri in Uttar Pradesh; ICD Gandhidham/Mundra in Gujarat; ICD Sanath Nagar and Thimmapur in Hyderabad, Telangana; ICD Whitefield in Bengaluru, Karnataka; SEZ Bommasandra in Karnataka; and Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh for the import of drugs by air," according to the ministry.

Moreover, the expansion would allow importers to process consignments closer to manufacturing units, storage facilities and distribution centres.

This is expected to lower transportation costs, reduce transit time and improve the overall movement of imported medicines, medical devices and cosmetic products across the country.

"This is likely to reduce inland transportation distances, optimise logistics costs and minimise delays in the movement of imported consignments," according to the government.

Crude oil prices rebound amid fresh Mideast tensions



NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices on Tuesday rebounded in early hours after US forces reportedly struck Iran's Qeshm Island, heightening concerns over a potential escalation in regional tensions and renewed threats to energy supplies from the Middle East.

Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, rose 61 cents or 0.58 per cent to $105.38 a barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 71 cents or 0.73 per cent to $97.17 a barrel in early trade.

The rebound followed a sharp decline in the previous session when Brent settled $8.66 or 7.6 per cent lower at $104.77 a barrel. Reports citing US officials claim that American forces targeted Qeshm Island in an operation described by some officials as defensive to limit Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest military developments come at a time when diplomatic channels remain active.

In addition, Tehran said discussions with Washington aimed at ending the conflict are continuing, although recent talks mediated by Qatar concluded without a breakthrough despite revised proposals from the Iranian side.

President Donald Trump also signalled uncertainty over the prospect of renewed military action, saying an agreement with Tehran remained possible and casting doubt on whether previously threatened strikes would proceed.

The conflict, which began in late February, has significantly curtailed shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical energy corridor that traditionally handles roughly one-fifth of global crude oil and natural gas flows.

Additionally, Brent crude closed October at its highest level in six months amid concerns that instability in the Middle East could intensify following the US midterm elections.

NETWORK MODERNISATION

TRAI announces major telecom interconnection reforms

NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday released the Telecommunication Interconnection (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing significant changes to India's telecom interconnection framework. The new regulations will come into effect from January 1, 2027.

The amendments aim to modernise the existing framework by shifting interconnection arrangements from the Long Distance Charging Area (LDCA) and Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) levels to the Licensed Service Area (LSA) level.

According to TRAI, shifting traffic to LSA-level Points of Interconnection (POIs) will simplify routing, improve the management of limited numbering resources, reduce latency and enhance service reliability.

Existing traffic measured in Minutes of Usage (MoUs) at LDCA and SDCA-level POIs will be migrated to LSA-level POIs over three years in a phased manner. Subsequently, all traffic will be handed over or received at the LSA or Service Area-level POIs.

The move is expected to improve bandwidth efficiency, call quality and overall call performance. TRAI has also specified that the maximum call-handling capacity at IP-based POIs will depend on concurrent session-handling capability and link bandwidth while maintaining prescribed Quality of Service standards.

WHAT CHANGES

- **From January 1, 2027:** the new regulations take effect, and every new connection is IP-based
- **Over three years:** traffic moves from LDCA and SDCA-level POIs to LSA-level POIs
- **Within three years:** E1/TDM-based POIs switch to IP



Americans vote as Trump faces crucial test

Voters across the United States cast ballots Tuesday to decide who controls Congress and shapes the president's remaining two years.

WASHINGTON

Americans voted in midterm elections on Tuesday, choosing lawmakers who will shape President Donald Trump's ability to carry out his plans during his final two years in office.

All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 Senate seats are being contested. Republicans control both chambers, but opinion polls suggest Democrats have a strong chance of winning the House. The Senate race remains closer.

Voting began in Vermont at 5 a.m., with other states opening polling stations later. More than 57 million people had already voted early across 47 states and Washington DC by Monday.

Rising prices and the war with Iran featured heavily in the campaign. Democrats sought support in Republican strongholds, blaming Trump's policies for higher food and fuel costs. Republicans defended his tax cuts and immigration measures, saying they would help American families.



Voting booths at a polling station

Trump acknowledged that presidents often struggle in midterm elections, while sharply attacking Democratic candidates. Vice President JD Vance also praised the administration's border policies and tax changes during campaigning.

The election also followed reports of American strikes on Iranian targets near the Strait of Hormuz. US Central Command had not officially confirmed the attack.

Early results were expected on Tuesday evening, although close races could take days to settle. Totals may change as postal ballots are counted.

A Democratic majority in either chamber could limit Trump's plans and allow investigations into his administration. Control of the Senate would also give Democrats power to block his federal court nominees. The final outcome will decide how much freedom Trump has to govern effectively.

435	35	57m+
House seats	Senate seats	early votes

Helicopter collision near Everest kills Indian tourist

KATHMANDU

An Indian tourist died and two people were injured when two helicopters collided while trying to land near Mount Everest Base Camp, officials said.

The crash happened around 8:15 a.m. local time in Pheriche, a mountain village about 12 kilometres south of the base camp. Verified video showed the aircraft's rotor blades striking each other as they approached the ground.

Fishtail Air identified the dead passenger as Vasanth Kumar Balaramudu. The company said its helicopter was involved in the accident and confirmed that another passenger and the captain were injured.

Rescuers took the injured to Kathmandu for treatment. Solukhumbu district official Bhupendra Thapa said the injured passenger was a tourist from New Zealand.

The second helicopter belonged to Air Dynasty and was carrying cargo. Its only crew member escaped without injury, the company said.

Gyanendra Bhul, a spokesman for Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority, said initial information suggested both helicopters had tried to land at the same spot.

> *An Indian tourist died and two others suffered injuries when helicopters collided while landing near a Himalayan village in Nepal.*

Footage showed apparently clear weather, with no obvious signs of strong winds. One helicopter appeared to descend faster than the other.

Witnesses rushed towards the aircraft after the crash. Images from the scene showed a damaged helicopter lying on its side in the snow, with its rotor broken.

Helicopters provide vital transport across Nepal's steep mountain terrain, where road access is often difficult.

Pheriche stands more than 4,000 metres above sea level on the Everest trekking route. Climbing trips to Everest and nearby Ama Dablam are currently taking place during the popular autumn season.

Court convicts man in President Cyril Ramaphosa farm theft

PRETORIA

A South African court has convicted a man of stealing more than $580,000 from President Cyril Ramaphosa's farm, a theft that sparked a political scandal.

Imanuwela David was found guilty on Monday of theft and plotting a break-in at the Phala Phala farm in Limpopo province. The robbery took place in February 2020.

Froliana Joseph, who worked as a cleaner at the property, was also convicted of helping plan the break-in. Her brother, Ndilinasho Joseph, was cleared of all charges.

The stolen money had been hidden inside a sofa. David was accused of later buying luxury cars, watches and a house.

He told the court that his wealth came from diamond and Bitcoin businesses. The court rejected his explanation. It found that, among the two people convicted, only David had received stolen money in his bank account.

The court will hold proceedings before sentencing on November 13.



The Phala Phala affair

- **FEB 2020** Break-in at the Limpopo farm; cash hidden in a sofa is stolen
- **2022** Arthur Fraser makes the theft public
- **MAY 2026** Constitutional Court: Parliament acted unlawfully in setting aside the panel report
- **JULY** Ramaphosa wins an order blocking the inquiry
- **NOV 13** Proceedings before sentencing

The theft became public in 2022 when former intelligence chief Arthur Fraser accused Ramaphosa of hiding the robbery from police and tax authorities.

Fraser's allegations suggested about $4 million had been stolen. Ramaphosa disputed that figure, saying the money was roughly $580,000 earned from selling buffalo. He acknowledged the robbery but denied wrongdoing.

The case, widely called FarmGate, led to demands for an investigation and possible impeachment. A parliamentary panel raised concerns about Ramaphosa's conduct, but lawmakers rejected an impeachment inquiry.

In May 2026, the Constitutional Court ruled that Parliament had acted unlawfully in setting aside the panel's report.

Ramaphosa later secured a provincial court order blocking the parliamentary inquiry in July. He argued that the allegations relied on rumours and that the report had serious flaws.

Voyager 1 nears another historic space milestone

WASHINGTON

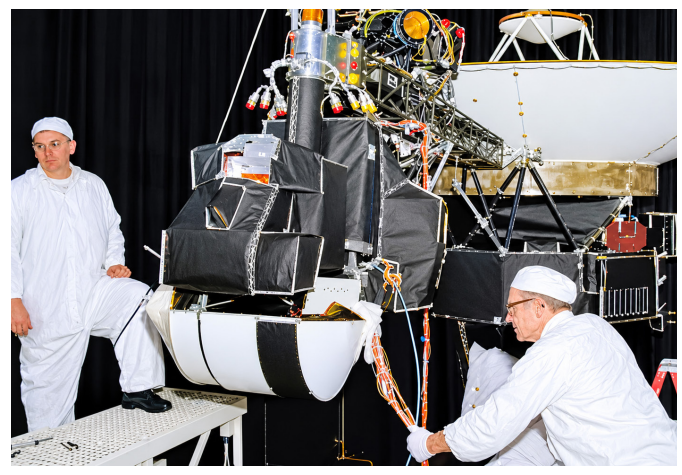
Voyager 1 is expected to reach a distance of one light-day from Earth on November 18, marking another milestone for the most distant spacecraft ever built.

At that point, the probe will be about 25.89 billion kilometres away. A radio signal travelling at the speed of light would need 24 hours to cover the distance between Earth and the spacecraft.

Launched in 1977, Voyager 1 has spent five decades exploring space. It became the first spacecraft to enter interstellar space in August 2012, passing beyond the region dominated by the Sun's wind.

The probe also captured the Pale Blue Dot photograph, which showed Earth as a tiny point against the darkness of space.

Its twin, Voyager 2, launched in the same year and later visited Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. It remains the only spacecraft to have studied all four giant planets at close range.



Voyager 1 briefly stopped communicating in October. Signals were missing on October 18 and 19, but contact returned on October 20 before engineers sent repair commands.

The approaching milestone highlights the distance covered since launch. Even an exchange of messages will require two days, showing how far this distant robotic explorer has travelled.

? GOLDEN RECORDS

Both probes carry Golden Records, discs containing greetings in 55 languages, music, pictures and sounds representing life on Earth. Each record has a protective cover with instructions for playing it and diagrams showing the Sun's location using pulsars as reference points.

ITALY HOLDS EMERGENCY TALKS AFTER FREEZER CYBERATTACKS

ROME

Italy held talks on Tuesday after cyberattacks disrupted supermarket cooling systems across at least nine European countries, forcing some shops to throw away food.

No group has claimed responsibility. European Union officials warned that the attacks appeared aimed at disrupting food supplies and weakening trust.

Stores in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden reported refrigeration problems in recent days. An attack in France three weeks earlier had forced hundreds of shops to discard spoiled goods.

Italian cabinet official Alfredo Mantovano called the meeting with intelligence chiefs and the National Cybersecurity Agency. The agency also gave retailers guidance on protecting their systems.

Retail representative Giovanni Arena said about 20 stores in Sicily had been affected.

Giuseppe Spadaro, who manages a group of Coop supermarkets in Sicily, said four of its 300 shops were hit. Losses reached several thousand euros, and staff emptied shelves while waiting for stock.

Belgian prosecutors opened an investigation after dozens of stores suffered cooling failures.

Stores hit

9+	EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HIT
20	STORES IN SICILY
15	CARREFOUR OUTLETS IN BELGIUM
7	COOP STORES IN SWEDEN

EU food commissioner Christophe Hansen said the incidents were being taken seriously.

Iran executes two men as rights groups allege torture

TEHRAN

Iran hanged two men on Tuesday over January protests, drawing criticism from rights groups that alleged torture, forced confessions and failures in their trial.

Amirhossein Maleki, 20, and Amirhossein Ebrahimi, 19, were convicted over events in Isfahan where authorities said four security officers died.

The judiciary said their actions caused the officers' deaths and that the Supreme Court had upheld their death sentences, according to its Mizan news agency.

The men received death sentences on charges described as waging war against God and corruption on earth.

Norway-based Iran Human Rights said neither man had been charged with murder. It accused authorities of using the officers' deaths to justify executions linked to events in Alikhani Square on January 8 and 9.

Seven men have been executed in the same case, while three more remain at risk, the group said.

It said Iran has executed 36 men over the January protests. Rights groups view the hangings as an attempt to frighten people following demonstrations they say were crushed in a crackdown that killed thousands.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency confirmed the executions and said defendants and lawyers had limited access to case documents.

Hengaw alleged that Ebrahimi suffered physical and psychological torture during questioning. Iran Human Rights alleged mock executions and said his brother was tortured into giving evidence against him.

Lawyer Amirsalar Davoudi, who defended protesters in the case, was arrested in October, adding to concerns about their protection.

US FUEL RELIEF

US fuel prices post biggest weekly fall as voters decide

WASHINGTON

American drivers are getting some relief at the pump as average gasoline prices fell by 17.1 cents over the past week, reaching $4.12 per gallon ahead of the midterm elections.

The decline was the largest weekly fall in several months, according to fuel tracking service GasBuddy. Prices are also 24.7 cents lower than a month ago.

However, motorists still pay $1.13 more per gallon than at the same time last year. The latest fall therefore eases some pressure on household budgets while fuel remains considerably more expensive than before.

Living costs have become a major election issue, putting gasoline prices firmly in voters' minds as they choose their representatives.

In focus

- → US gasoline prices fell 17.1 cents to $4.12 per gallon.
- → Prices remain $1.13 higher than a year ago.
- → Conflict involving Iran and attacks on Russian refineries could push prices higher.

Patrick De Haan, GasBuddy's head of petroleum analysis, said gasoline prices fell in nearly every state during the past week. Diesel prices also dropped across most states.

He linked the decline to refineries completing scheduled maintenance and returning to normal operations, which helps improve fuel supplies. Cooler weather has also reduced demand, adding further pressure on prices.

Still, De Haan warned that prices could swing again after the elections because of uncertainty in global energy markets.

Prices could swing again after the elections

The conflict involving Iran remains a concern. Fresh attacks or progress towards a truce around the Strait of Hormuz could influence supplies and prices. The waterway carries important global oil shipments.

Continued Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries could also disrupt operations and add uncertainty to fuel markets as the holiday season approaches.

GasBuddy based its figures on more than 12 million price reports from over 150,000 American fuel stations. For drivers, the immediate savings are welcome, but events abroad could determine whether that relief lasts.

Quick Read

Eisenkot rules out joining Netanyahu-led government

JERUSALEM

Israeli opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot has ruled out joining a government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, even if US President Donald Trump urges him, according to reports. Eisenkot reportedly said he would meet Trump but oppose interference in Israel's politics. The October 27 election left Netanyahu's bloc with 53 seats and opposition parties with 48, below the 61 needed for a majority. Arab parties won 19 seats. However, Avigdor Liberman rejects a government dependent on Arab parties, complicating coalition talks.

Tornado warning ends after twister near Adair

ADAIR

The National Weather Service cancelled a tornado warning at 1:29 a.m. Central Time on Tuesday after a twister near Adair, Oklahoma, lifted. The tornado was confirmed between Adair and Big Cabin, east of Highway 69, moving northeast. Officials had urged residents in parts of Craig, Mayes and Ottawa counties to take shelter. Emergency officials urged residents to keep checking local forecasts as storms moved east and further warnings remained possible during the night.

Children collect suspected mushroom gummies on Halloween

SAN DIEGO

Police are investigating after children collected suspected mushroom gummies from a porch while trick-or-treating in Ocean Beach on Halloween. Fathers Frank Cary and Cameron Hunter said the packages appeared to be candy. Cary removed one from his two-year-old's hand after noticing a dosage label and the words "psilocybin mushrooms." Homeowner Shawn Barger denied that the gummies belonged to his household. Police said laboratory testing was needed to establish their contents and determine whether any crime had been committed.

US plans Ukraine funding request to allies

WASHINGTON

The United States plans to ask NATO allies for more money to fund weapons deliveries to Ukraine, despite tensions between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Bloomberg reported. The sources said approved weapons packages face a funding gap of about $2 billion. Separately, the State Department approved a $2.1 billion Patriot missile sale to Ukraine on Friday, funded by donations from Canada, Germany, Norway and the European Union.

Petitions challenge Sri Lanka's organised crime bill

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's organised crime law faces 20 Supreme Court petitions questioning whether it complies with the Constitution, Deputy Speaker Rizvi Salih told Parliament on Tuesday. Amnesty International urged the government to withdraw the organised crime bill.

CITY HILIGHTS
SPORTS
WEDNESDAY ▸ NOVEMBER 4, 2026 IBCWORLDNEWS.COM



CSK Explore Liam Livingstone Trade With Sunrisers Hyderabad

Chennai Super Kings are exploring a trade for Liam Livingstone from Sunrisers Hyderabad, with multiple franchises involved in discussions ahead of the November 17 IPL retention deadline.



CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are exploring the possibility of acquiring England all-rounder Liam Livingstone from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) through a player trade ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) retention deadline on November 17. Discussions involving multiple franchises and players are reportedly underway, although no agreement has been finalised.

Livingstone, who was purchased by SRH for Rs 13 crore at the previous auction after being released by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), could be on his way out following an underwhelming campaign last season. The 33-year-old managed just 15 runs in two appearances before losing his place in the playing combination.

CSK have emerged as potential suitors for the English all-rounder, while another northern franchise is also believed to have expressed interest. However, SRH are yet to make a decision on whether they would be willing to part ways with Livingstone.

There has also been speculation about CSK offering left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed as part of the exchange.

However, the possibility remains uncertain, particularly because SRH recently acquired another experienced left-arm pacer, T Natarajan.

"The franchises are certainly discussing Livingstone and another player apart from Khaleel in CSK. Multiple players and multiple franchises are involved in the trade discussions, not just two, and nothing has been finalised. It may or may not go through." - Franchise sources (IPL trade discussions)

Meanwhile, discussions surrounding Hardik Pandya's potential trade are also progressing, with multiple franchises involved. Mumbai Indians are yet to finalise a deal, but the approaching retention deadline could accelerate developments.

LIAM LIVINGSTONE TRADE LOADING BUT SRH UNDECIDED:

- CSK exploring a possible trade for Liam Livingstone.
- SRH bought the English all-rounder for Rs 13 crore at the previous auction.
- Livingstone scored just 15 runs in two appearances last season.
- Another northern franchise has reportedly expressed interest.
- Khaleel Ahmed's name has emerged in possible exchange discussions.
- No agreement has been finalised between the franchises.
- Hardik Pandya's potential trade discussions are also progressing.

Gill Confirms India's Top Four for New Zealand ODIs

MUMBAI

India captain Shubman Gill on Tuesday confirmed the team's top-four batting combination for the upcoming five-match One-Day International (ODI) series against New Zealand, which begins in Auckland on November 4. Gill, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer will occupy the top four positions as India look to establish their batting combinations ahead of a busy international schedule.

Gill will captain India in the first three matches before being released from the squad to prepare for the two-Test series later this month. Vice-captain Iyer will take charge for the remaining two ODIs in Mount Maunganui.

While the top order has been settled, Gill indicated that India would adopt a flexible approach in the middle order. KL Rahul and Axar Patel are expected to share the No. 5 and No. 6 responsibilities depending on the match situation. Axar, the only left-handed batter among India's top six, could be promoted whenever the team requires a left-right combination.

"We will have floating approach for no.5 and no.6. Our top four is set, all right-handers. So if lefty is needed, Axar bhai goes and depending on match situation even KL bhai can go. So, a bit flexible," Gill said.

The India captain also provided a positive update regarding his neck discomfort, which had troubled him previously. He confirmed that he had completed batting and fielding sessions without experiencing any problems.

Gill will also be keen to improve his record in New Zealand, having scored only 124 runs in five previous ODIs in the country. He has reportedly arranged additional net bowlers at his own expense to ensure quality preparation ahead of the series.



India's Batting Combination:

- Openers: Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma
- No. 3: Virat Kohli
- No. 4: Shreyas Iyer
- Middle Order: KL Rahul and Axar Patel to switch positions depending on match situations.

Jeet Jhabakh scripts history

HYDERABAD

Indian racer Jeet Jhabakh scripted history by winning the 2026 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) title, becoming the first driver in the competition's 38-year history to claim the overall championship in a two-wheel-drive car. Partnering with co-driver Musa Sherif, Jhabakh also became part of the first all-Indian driver and co-driver combination to win the prestigious continental championship. Sherif further completed a memorable campaign by securing the 2026 APRC Co-drivers' Championship.

The triumph came in Jhabakh's debut international season, with the Hyderabad-based racer finishing the campaign with 73 championship points, 35 clear of his nearest competitor. His consistency proved crucial, as he scored points in every round without suffering a single retirement.

Jhabakh's campaign featured several impressive results, including a second-place finish in his category at the Otago Rally in New Zealand and a second-place overall finish at the South India Rally in Chennai. He also delivered a standout performance at the Rally of Indonesia (Danau Toba), where he secured the overall victory.

The Indian racer added another achievement to his campaign by winning the 2026 FIA APRC4 Championship, further strengthening his dominance in the two-wheel-drive category.

Speaking after his historic achievement, Jhabakh credited the consistency of the team and the contribution of his co-driver for the title-winning campaign. "We were quick at every rally and never threw one away, and that's what wins a championship. We had our share of problems across the season, but my co-driver Musa Sherif called every corner right, and the engineers kept the car going.

Punjab Kings Lead Race For Hardik Pandya Trade

MOHALI

Punjab Kings (PBKS) have emerged as frontrunners to secure the services of India all-rounder Hardik Pandya through a trade deal with Mumbai Indians (MI) ahead of the November 17 retention deadline for the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

Apart from PBKS, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have also expressed interest in acquiring the India all-rounder. However, discussions between PBKS and MI have reportedly progressed further, with both franchises holding verbal discussions over a potential exchange.

Under the proposed deal, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh and wicketkeeper-batter Vishnu Vinod could move from PBKS to MI in exchange for Pandya. Arshdeep



is currently part of India's bowling attack for the five-match ODI series against New Zealand, while Vinod previously represented Mumbai in IPL 2023, featuring in four matches.

KKR had also reached an advanced stage in discussions with MI but were unwilling to release players from their core group. RR reportedly explored a swap involving Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ravi Bishnoi, while LSG's attempts did not make significant progress. Chennai Super Kings had also shown initial interest.

"If all falls in place, as per the verbal discussions between the top management of the two teams, the formal paperwork to complete Pandya's trade can start soon and then the approval from the IPL officials will be sought," a source tracking the development said.

The proposed move would strengthen PBKS with an experienced all-rounder capable of contributing with both bat and ball. MI, meanwhile, would receive an established Indian left-arm fast bowler and another wicketkeeping option.

Mohali set to make international hockey debut



CHANDIGARH

With the successful completion of the league-stage matches in Punjab's Jalandhar city, the Asian Champions Trophy is now set to enter its decisive knockout phase, with Mohali preparing to make history by hosting its first-ever international hockey match on November 4.

The Olympian Balbir Singh Senior Hockey Stadium will step onto the international hockey map as it hosts two semi-finals and a classification match for the fifth position in the prestigious tournament. The development marks another milestone for Punjab, which is hosting an international hockey tournament on its soil for the first time.

The achievement has been made possible through the efforts of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, whose initiatives have helped bring international hockey to two prominent sporting cities of the state. The league stage, held at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, concluded with India finishing at the top of the standings, followed by Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, China and Bangladesh.

Three crucial encounters are scheduled for November 4. China and Bangladesh will open the day's proceedings in the fifth-place classification match at 2 pm. The first semi-final will see Japan take on Malaysia at 4.30 pm, while hosts and defending champions India will face South Korea in the second semi-final at 7 pm.

All four semi-finalists will be looking to secure a place in the title clash, scheduled at the same venue in Mohali on November 5. The two losing semi-finalists will compete for the bronze medal. The tournament's history gives India a significant edge in terms of experience and achievements.

Across the eight previous editions of the Asian Champions Trophy, India have reached the final six times, winning the title on five occasions, including one shared championship, and finishing runners-up once.

Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games set records with 1,538 medals, 27 world records



NEW DELHI

The Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games concluded with 1,538 medals awarded and 27 world records broken during six days of competition, highlighting the growing strength of Para sports across Asia. Athletes from 33 of the 45 participating nations won medals, while 22 countries secured gold. The Games witnessed 81 Asian records and 306 Asian Para Games records, surpassing previous achievements at Hangzhou 2022. Para athletics contributed 11 world records.

China topped the medal standings with 435 medals, including 207 gold, 117 silver and 111 bronze. Hosts Japan finished second with a record 64 gold medals, improving on their previous best of 45 in 2018. Uzbekistan secured third place, followed by India and South Korea.

Tajikistan and Cambodia celebrated their first Asian Para Games medals in Para judo and Para athletics, respectively.

Asian Paralympic Committee President Majid Rashed said the Games' legacy would depend on creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities and encouraging greater participation across the continent.

Spanish footballer Jesus de Miguel dies at age 30

TENERIFE

Tenerife striker Jesus de Miguel, 30, died on Tuesday after suffering serious injuries during an on-field collision in Monday's Spanish second-tier match against FC Andorra.

The incident occurred when Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono rushed forward to challenge De Miguel for the ball near the centre circle. The collision left the striker with head and chest injuries. He was rushed to hospital, while the match was suspended and Owono received a red card. Tenerife initially reported that De Miguel was stable despite his injuries. However, his neurological condition deteriorated overnight, and the club confirmed his death at 8 am local time on Tuesday.

Expressing deep sorrow, CD Tenerife said it was heartbroken and unable to believe the tragedy. The player's family thanked supporters for their condolences and requested privacy.

RECORD-BREAKING KNOCK

PREMA RAWAT SMASHES FASTEST WOMEN'S T20 FIFTY

MUMBAI

Indian all-rounder Prema Rawat created history by registering the fastest half-century in women's T20 cricket, reaching the milestone in just 14 deliveries during a Senior Women's T20 Trophy match.

Representing Uttarakhand, the 24-year-old produced a sensational batting display, scoring an unbeaten 50 off just 14 balls at an extraordinary strike-rate of 357. Her innings included six boundaries and four sixes, helping Uttarakhand register a comprehensive 89-run victory.

Rawat's explosive contribution proved instrumental in taking Uttarakhand to an imposing total of 187 for two in their allotted 20 overs. Her remarkable performance with the bat was complemented by an equally impressive effort with the ball, as she returned figures of two wickets for 12 runs in her four overs.

With this achievement, Rawat surpassed the previous 15-ball half-century mark recorded by England's Marie Kelly and Australia's Laura Harris in domestic women's T20 cricket.

The record also puts her ahead of Pakistan captain Fatima Sana's fastest fifty in women's T20 Internationals.



> Scoring a half-century in just 14 balls is an incredible achievement. It reflects my hard work, confidence and the freedom to express myself on the field.
>
> – Prema Rawat (Indian All-Rounder).

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