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AFTER MILK-CURD, BUS FARES GO UP

BMTC fares up 35%, KSRTC and others by 23%

- The revised fares will come into effect from November 5.
- Transport Minister Byarathi Suresh attributes hike to rising diesel prices.
- Fare adjustments follow similar hike in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

BENGALURU

A daily bus ride is set to burn a much bigger hole in the pockets of commuters, with the Karnataka government unleashing a steep fare hike across all four state-run transport corporations.

From short city rides to long-distance journeys, passengers will have to shell out more, with BMTC fares hiked by 32% to 35% and those of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) by 23%.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh announced the hike at a press meet in Bengaluru and the revised fares will come into effect from Thursday midnight. The steep revision is set to hit lakhs of daily commuters, especially office-goers and low-income groups, who depend on public transport.

Between 2009 and 2025, fare revisions by the four corporations ranged from a modest 3.56% to a maximum of 15%, making the latest hike more than double the highest revision in the last 16 years.

In Bengaluru, even the shortest bus ride will cost significantly more. The minimum fare for BMTC, covering journeys of up to 2 km, has jumped from Rs 6 to Rs 10, a 67% increase. Those travelling between 2 km and 4 km will have to pay Rs 6 more, while fares for longer distances have gone up by Rs 12. A trip Majestic to Shivajinagar trip, which earlier cost Rs 12, will now cost Rs 18. The Majestic-Yeshwanthpur and Majestic-Vijayanagar fares have climbed from Rs 18 to Rs 25, while those travelling to Attibele will have to spend Rs 42 instead of Rs 30.

The pinch will be equally severe for passengers using BMTC's Vajra AC services. The first 6 km will cost Rs 5 more, journeys between 6 km and 18 km will attract a Rs 10 hike, while longer trips will become costlier by up to Rs 15. A journey from Central Silk Board to Hebbal will now cost Rs 65 against Rs 55, while the Majestic-Attibele fare has increased from Rs 60 to Rs 70.

Passengers travelling beyond Bengaluru will also feel the heat. For KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC services, fares have been increased by Rs 9 for the first five stages and Rs 18 for journeys covering up to 10 stages. An ordinary bus journey from Bengaluru to Nelamangala or Hoskote will now cost Rs 44 against Rs 35 earlier. In express services, the Bengaluru-Nelamangala fare has risen from Rs 81 to Rs 100, while passengers travelling to Mandya will have to pay Rs 136 instead of Rs 110.

Overview of bus fare hike (in %)

- **Revision impacts**: BMTC, KSRTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC
- **BMTC** → **33% to 35%.**
- **KSRTC** → **23%** (capped at ₹9 for ordinary services)

SPECIFIC ROUTE & SERVICE DATA

Service provider/route	Old dare	New fare	Net hike
BMTC minimum fare (Bengaluru city)	₹6	₹10	+₹4
BMTC maximum fare (Bengaluru city)	₹35	₹45	+₹10
BMTC AC Vajra (Non-airport maximum)	₹75	₹90	+₹15
Vayu Vajra (Airport service maximum)	₹405	₹425	+₹20
Hebbal to KIA (Airport route)	₹175	₹200	+₹25
Nelamangala-Majestic (KSRTC ordinary)	₹35	₹44	+₹9
Doddaballapur-Majestic (KSRTC ordinary)	₹38	₹47	+₹9
KSRTC express fares (standard)	₹81	₹100	+₹19
Long-distance bus fares	₹75	₹90	+₹15



Core drivers behind revision

Massive deficits: The four public transport corporations operate at a combined annual loss of roughly ₹2,000 crore.
Operating costs: Rising diesel prices, swelling vehicle maintenance overheads, and pending employee wage hikes forced the revision.
Shakti scheme impact: While the government reiterates that it fully reimburses the corporations for the Shakti scheme (free travel for women), outstanding dues and reduced ratios of fare-paying male passengers heavily constrained operational cash flows.

Min Suresh defends hike

Defending the steep increase, Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh cited escalating operational costs, including diesel prices, employee salaries and bus maintenance expenses. He said KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC had revised fares only twice in the past 10 years, while BMTC had effected just one revision during the period.

"The diesel prices alone had surged by Rs 10.47 per litre this year, adding to the mounting financial burden on the corporations. The four transport undertakings have accumulated liabilities of Rs 9,912 crore, including loans amounting to Rs 2,192 crore, Suresh added.

CM defends bus fare hike

Bengaluru: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday defended the bus fare hike, citing rising diesel and petrol prices and mounting losses incurred by state-run transport corporations.

Speaking to reporters here, he challenged the opposition BJP to ask PM Modi to reduce fuel prices instead of protesting against the state government's decision. He said the transport corporations had incurred heavy losses and were even facing difficulties procuring diesel.

He said the fare revision appeared to translate into an increase of Rs 2 to Rs 3 at different stages. "Diesel prices have gone up. Why did they (opposition) not speak when diesel and petrol prices increased? Why did they not speak when gas prices went up?" he asked, taking a swipe at the BJP.

Emphasising the need to ensure the financial viability of the transport corporations, the CM said the government wanted to allow them to function sustainably.

> All of you should tell Modi to reduce the cess collected on petrol and diesel. Let those prices come down, and we can cut prices accordingly.
> - DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister



Democrats sweep US midterms, deal blow to Trump

- Texas and other Republican strongholds fall
- Voters angry at high prices, Iran war
- Democratic Cong puts Trump's agenda in jeopardy

WASHINGTON

Democrats swept back into power in Congress in the 2026 midterm elections, winning control of the Senate and moving toward flipping the House as voters overwhelmingly sought change in Washington amid frustrations over the cost of living and war with Iran.

Democrats took control of the Senate by flipping multiple seats currently held by Republicans, marking a decisive repudiation of President Donald Trump's second term.

Democrats are also favored to retake the majority in the House, overcoming mid-decade redistricting efforts and unseating Republicans in once-safe districts in states across the country. Gains for Democrats extended into deep Republican territory, overturning Senate seats in South Carolina, Ohio, Iowa, Texas and Kansas. Democrats also swept all the battlegrounds, winning Senate seats in North Carolina, Georgia, Minnesota and New Hampshire.

Republicans also lost governorships in Ohio, Georgia and Texas, while Democrats held onto seats in battlegrounds all over the country.

While midterm elections are historically unfavorable to the president's party, the wide-ranging losses by Republicans highlight the depth of discontent voters are feeling about the direction of the country. Trump came into Election Day with approval ratings below 40% and a wide majority of voters saying the country is on the wrong track and in need of significant change.



Major takeaways

Democrats seizes control of both House and Senate
House: Democrats crosses 218-seat majority threshold.
Senate: Democrats secure 54 seats, Republicans - 44, with 2 races uncalled.

Major political setback for Trump
- Democrats make historic gains in Republican strongholds like Texas, Kansas, South Carolina,
- Ohio, Iowa, North Carolina & Maine.

Republican fortresses collapse
- Kansas elects its first Democratic senator in nearly a century.
- Texas elects Democrat James Talarico in Senate race, first time since 1988.

Cost of living emerged decisive issue

US's first Muslim senator is Karnataka's son-in-law

WASHINGTON: As Democrat Abdul El-Sayed makes history by becoming the first Muslim elected to the US Senate, his wife, Dr Sarah Jukaku, has brought a little-known Karnataka connection into the spotlight, as per reports.

A practising psychiatrist, Sarah was born into an Indian-immigrant Muslim family in Michigan, with roots tracing back to the coastal town of Bhatkal in Karnataka, 140 km from Mangaluru.

Her family boasts a prominent history in the region. Her grandfather, Jukaku Shamshuddin, served as deputy minister for finance in Mysore State under then chief minister BD Jatti. Widely regarded as the first lawyer from the Bhatkal area, he is remembered for driving local development, including bringing electricity to the town.



Sarah's father, Dr Tayeb Jukaku, is a nephrologist who completed his MBBS in Bengaluru prior to immigrating to the US. He has also been active with the Islamic Society of North America, serving on its founders' committee.

Despite Sarah growing up in the United States, her father consciously ensured his children remained connected to their ancestral heritage by arranging visits to Bengaluru and Bhatkal. Although much of the extended family has since settled in Bengaluru, Sarah's immediate family remains primarily in the US.

BJP defamation case against Cong quashed

BENGALURU



The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday quashed the criminal defamation case filed by the BJP against the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former chief minister Siddaramaiah over the publication of advertisements accusing the previous BJP government of corruption.

Justice M Nagaprasanna allowed the petitions filed by the Congress leaders seeking quashing of the criminal proceedings. The case was registered against KPCC, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah over allegations that they were responsible for publishing newspaper advertisements containing derogatory allegations against the BJP-led state government, which was in power between 2019 and 2023 under former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The advertisements had described the then BJP government as a "40 per cent commission sarkar", alleging that commissions were being charged in public procurement, allotment of contract works and supply of COVID-19-related materials, among other activities. The advertisements also alleged that the BJP government had looted ₹1,500 crore from the people of Karnataka through corrupt practices.

The BJP had filed a private complaint in May 2023 against the Congress party, its Karnataka unit and the Congress leaders.

SC to examine lifelong immunity shield for CEC, ECs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine the constitutional validity of the absolute immunity from prosecution granted to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners under a 2023 law.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission of India.

The court directed the respondents to file their counter-affidavits within four weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on December 18.

The petitions, filed by RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha and activist Arun Agrawal, challenged Section 16 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

They contended that the provision constituted a direct assault on the basic structure of the Constitution by granting lifelong immunity to the poll panel chiefs.

QUICK READ

Delegation seeks release of TB water into canals until Nov 30

BENGALURU

A delegation led by ministers, MPs and MLAs from the Pampa Sagar region on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, urging him to take measures to ensure an adequate release of water into the canals until November 30, to help irrigate crops and meet drinking water requirements. The delegation included ministers Shivaraj Tangadagi and Zameer Ahmed; MLAs B Nagendra, HR Gaviyappa, Hampanagouda Badarli, BM Nagaraj, Basanagouda Turvihal, and Basavanagouda Badarli; Tungabhadra Farmers' Association president Daruru Purushothamgouda among others. Speaking to media later, Nagendra noted that it had previously been decided during a meeting of the Tungabhadra Reservoir Irrigation Advisory Committee to release water only until November 20. However, he said that if water supply is ensured for an additional 10 days to crops such as paddy, sorghum, and chili, which are currently at the harvesting stage, the crops will fully mature, leading to economic progress of the farmers.

Iran exempts Indian vessels from Strait of Hormuz curbs

TEHRAN

Iran has exempted Indian vessels from restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Iranian lawmaker said on Tuesday, as attacks on shipping in the region continue to claim the lives of Indian seafarers. The latest exemption comes amid heightened concern over the safety of Indian nationals working aboard vessels in the Gulf, with the death toll from attacks on merchant shipping having risen to 23. Ahmad Hayat-Moghaddam, vice-chairman of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, said India, China, Iraq and Qatar had been granted exemptions and their vessels could pass through the strategic waterway without restrictions. Speaking at a meeting on economic and security conditions, he said Tehran had facilitated the passage of Indian ships to enable imports of medicines from India, while the arrangement with China was intended to secure Beijing's political support. "We have already exempted four countries from restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz — India, China, Iraq and Qatar. They are free to pass through, and the Americans have no issues with them either," Hayat-Moghaddam said.

AGNIPATH SCHEME REVAMP

Agniveers get another shot at permanent military jobs

...grants 2-year extension, opens pathway to permanent recruitment.

NEW DELHI

In a major overhaul of the Agnipath scheme, the government on Wednesday announced that Agniveers set to exit the military at the end of their four-year tenure will be given an additional two-year extension period and subsequently offered permanent recruitment, subject to meeting specific eligibility criteria and individual consent.

The decision was announced by Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, shortly after the Union Cabinet approved the changes in the military recruitment scheme as recommended by the three services.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the move is part of "long-term structural reforms" of the defence forces aimed at creating "a younger, fitter, technologically equipped and future-ready military".

Under the revised arrangement, the remaining 75% of Agniveers who were to be let go after 25% absorption, will now be offered an additional two-year engagement period following feedback on the Agnipath scheme. Around 18,000 Agniveers from the first batch were expected to complete their initial tenure and exit in December 2026.

The CDS also said that even after completing the extended two-year period, these 75% Agniveers would also be offered an opportunity to enrol as regular soldiers in the armed forces. The selection will be based on merit. The announcement marks a change to the original four-year engagement framework.

Under the original Agnipath scheme, Agniveers serve for four years, after which 25% of each batch can be retained in the regular cadre based on merit and organisational requirements. The remaining 75% were expected to leave the armed forces after completing their tenure.

However, following feedback on the scheme, the government has decided to offer this remaining group an additional two-year engagement period, Subramani said.

Written exam before physical test

The CDS also announced a change in the Agniveer recruitment process. A written examination will now be conducted before the physical test, reversing the previous order of these selection stages.

Higher remuneration during extended service

Agniveers accepting the additional engagement period will receive higher emoluments than those paid during their initial four-year tenure. The enhanced pay structure is expected to apply during the extended period. However, the detailed financial provisions and implementation arrangements will be governed by the revised service framework. The CDS clarified that the additional engagement would not automatically guarantee permanent enrolment. Agniveers will have to meet the objective selection requirements before being considered for regular service.

Skill certificates

The CDS also said that Agniveers had been granted skill certificates recognising the training and experience they gained during their service. These certificates are intended to formally recognise the skills acquired during their engagement with the armed forces.

What the revised Agnipath scheme offers?

- Two-year service extension
- Pathway to permanent absorption
- Retained core seniority
- Increased remuneration
- Enhanced Seva Nidhi package
- Scheme continuity



What's Agnipath scheme?

The Agnipath Scheme is a military recruitment scheme introduced by the Government of India on June 14, 2022, to induct soldiers below the rank of commissioned officers into the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Quick Read

Yelahanka police arrest man for alleged worker murder

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Yelahanka police have arrested a 45-year-old corn-cart vendor for allegedly murdering his 24-year-old employee, Kiran, from Kerala, by assaulting him with a cricket bat and a metal pipe. According to police, Kiran had been working for the accused, a native of Tamil Nadu, for several years. The accused allegedly became angry after finding Kiran with his elder daughter at their house. Police said the accused sent his daughter to a relative's house in Chikkaballapura before confining Kiran and assaulting him. The victim suffered serious injuries to his arms, legs and abdomen and collapsed. The accused later arranged an auto-rickshaw to take Kiran to hospital. However, doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Gas cylinder explodes after leak catches lamp flame

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A gas cylinder exploded after leaking gas caught fire from an oil lamp outside a house in Malleswaram on Wednesday. The delivery worker escaped without serious injuries. The incident occurred when the delivery worker arrived to supply a cylinder and placed it near the house entrance. According to reports, a woman had washed the doorstep and lit an oil lamp as part of a ritual. The cylinder reportedly had a minor gas leak. When the leaking gas came into contact with the lamp's flame, it triggered a fire followed by an explosion. The delivery worker quickly moved away from the cylinder, avoiding serious injuries. No other injuries were reported. Malleswaram police and fire brigade personnel reached the spot after receiving information about the incident and began an investigation. Police have urged residents and delivery workers to exercise caution while handling gas cylinders and ensure that open flames are kept away during deliveries.

Ashoka blames Congress for transport fare hike

Ashoka claimed bus fares had risen by up to 40%, citing BMTC fares from Majestic, and said everyday commuters were bearing the burden.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka has criticised the Congress government over the increase in bus fares, alleging that the government had failed to clear its dues to the state transport corporations.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka said the fare hike could have been avoided if the government had released the pending funds. He accused the government of making passengers pay for its financial mismanagement and announced a statewide BJP protest on November 5.

Ashoka claimed that bus fares had increased by up to 40%, placing an additional burden on commuters. Citing examples, he said BMTC fares from Majestic to Shivajinagar had increased from ₹12 to ₹18, while fares to Yeshwanthpur had risen from ₹18 to ₹25. He also cited higher fares on several intercity routes.

Majestic to Shivajinagar

BEFORE	NOW
₹12 BMTC fare	▶ ₹18 BMTC fare



The BJP will hold statewide protests against the fare hike on November 5.

Government dues and transport losses

According to Ashoka, the government owes ₹2,943 crore to KSRTC, ₹1,306 crore to NWKRTC, ₹1,019 crore to BMTC and ₹999 crore to KKRTC. He argued that clearing these dues would have reduced the need for a fare revision.

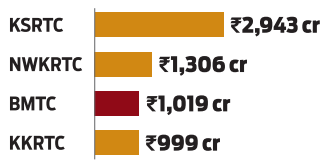
He also alleged that employee provident fund contributions and fuel bills remained unpaid. Referring to incidents involving poorly maintained buses, he questioned the government's handling of the transport corporations.

Ashoka recalled his tenure as Transport Minister, claiming that the corporations had performed well during that period and developed assets through their own resources.

He also criticised the government over milk price increases, alleging that consumers were facing additional expenses despite promises of better financial support to dairy farmers.

Demanding transparency, Ashoka sought a white paper on the state's financial position and utilisation of funds. He urged people to join the BJP's statewide demonstrations on November 5 against the fare hike.

Dues Ashoka cites



Figures as claimed by R. Ashoka

Martin-Baker to invest ₹380 crore in ejection seat plant



At the meeting on the Martin-Baker and Tonbo Imaging proposals.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

UK-based Martin-Baker will invest ₹380 crore in Karnataka to establish a manufacturing facility for aircraft ejection seats, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil has said.

The proposals

- **Martin-Baker:** ₹380 crore, 10 acres at Harohalli, 500+ jobs
- **Tonbo Imaging:** 5 acres in ITIR, Bengaluru; 130 acres at Mulwada

Patil made the announcement after meeting senior representatives of the company to discuss its proposed investment in the State.

Martin-Baker has sought 10 acres in the fifth phase of the Harohalli Industrial Area to establish its manufacturing unit. The project is expected to generate more than 500 skilled jobs. Patil said the government would facilitate the land allotment at the earliest.

More than 900 Martin-Baker ejection seats are currently used in aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force and Indian Naval Air Arm. The proposed investment is expected to strengthen domestic manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities and support the development of local suppliers.

Tonbo Imaging plans investment in Vijayapura

Tonbo Imaging India Limited, a company specialising in defence and advanced imaging technologies, is also planning to expand its operations in Karnataka.

According to Patil, the company has sought five acres in Bengaluru's ITIR area for a High-Power Microwave (HPM) manufacturing facility and 130 acres at Mulwada in Vijayapura district for a testing and evaluation centre.

The proposed Mulwada facility will support technology testing, evaluation and demonstrations. The Bengaluru unit will focus on developing and manufacturing High-Power Microwave systems and related technologies.

The Martin-Baker delegation included Chief Financial Officer Robert Morgan and Programme Manager Tom Dutton. Representatives of Tonbo Imaging included CFO T.S. Sivashankar, Co-founder Cecilia D'Souza and Vice-President D. Rajendra Kumar.



Harohalli and Vijayapura: the proposed sites

KIADB CEO Govind Reddy, Minister's Technical Adviser Aravind Galagali and Karnataka Udyog Mitra Managing Director Doddabasavaraju attended the meeting.

High Court allows honey-trap case against Mumbai accused

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against four Mumbai residents accused of allegedly trapping a Bengaluru man through a matrimonial website, extorting money and threatening to circulate his private photographs on social media.

Justice H.P. Sandesh dismissed the petition filed by Iram Pathan, Avaiz Pathan, Sumit Pathan and Rashida, allowing the case filed by Bengaluru's Whitefield police to continue before the 1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court.

The accused had challenged the jurisdiction of Bengaluru police, arguing that the alleged incidents took place in Mumbai. However, the High Court observed that the case could be investigated and tried in Bengaluru because the victim received threatening messages and suffered the consequences, including the loss of his job, in the city.

The court referred to Section 179 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which allows a case to be tried where an offence and its consequences occur in different places. It also said the accused could raise their jurisdictional objections before the trial court.



The Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru.

THE ORDER

The case can be tried in Bengaluru

- Petition by the four accused dismissed
- Section 179 CrPC: trial where the consequences occur
- Jurisdiction objections go to the trial court

According to the complaint, the incident dates back to 2020, when the man connected with a woman through the Jeevansathi matrimonial website. The accused allegedly used marriage discussions to blackmail him and circulated threats through WhatsApp, Instagram and Snapchat.

The complainant further alleged that he was illegally confined during a visit to Mumbai and forced to pay ₹50,000. False complaints were also allegedly sent to his employer, resulting in the loss of his job.

Following his complaint, Whitefield police registered a case, investigated the allegations and filed a charge sheet. The High Court has declined to stop the proceedings.

Nikhil questions government over ₹2,600 crore funds

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

JD(S) Youth Wing State President Nikhil Kumaraswamy has accused the Karnataka government of diverting around ₹2,600 crore meant for beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. He has demanded an explanation on how the money was transferred and how it was spent.

Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru, Nikhil alleged that the funds meant for the February and March 2025 instalments were not paid to beneficiaries but transferred to the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation.

Under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, eligible women heads of households receive ₹2,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Nikhil said around 1.27 crore women had benefited from the scheme and questioned why payments for the two months remained unpaid.

He also referred to proceedings before the Karnataka High Court, alleging that the government had cited a shortage of funds as the reason for withholding the payments. According to Nikhil, around ₹2,600 crore was transferred on March 31, 2025. He further alleged that the ₹1,111 crore was initially placed with Anekal Taluk Panchayat, while more than ₹900 crore was transferred to the Women's Development Corporation. He further alleged that the ₹1,111 crore held by the panchayat was subsequently transferred to the corporation.

Nikhil questioned why money meant for women beneficiaries was moved to another institution and demanded details of its present status and utilisation.

He also questioned the government's financial management, alleging a contradiction between claims of financial stability and the reported shortage of funds for the scheme. He sought a detailed clarification from the government.



The JD(S) has sought details of the Gruha Lakshmi funds.

Funds for the February and March 2025 instalments were not paid to beneficiaries, Nikhil alleged

JD(S) ST Wing office-bearers sworn in at Devanahalli

CH NEWS, DEVANAHALLI

Valmiki Jayanti celebrations, the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed office-bearers of the JD(S) ST Wing of Devanahalli Assembly Constituency, and a felicitation programme were held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Devanahalli.

The programme included felicitation of achievers and presentation of Pratibha Puraskar awards to meritorious students who excelled in SSLC and PUC examinations. Former MLA Nisarga L.N. Narayanaswamy, JD(S) District President K.V. Manjunath, Taluk President S. Mahesh and ST Wing President Venkatesh Murthy inaugurated the event by offering floral tributes to Maharshi Valmiki and lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Addressing the gathering, former MLA Nisarga Narayanaswamy criticised the Congress government, alleging that hundreds of crores allocated to the Valmiki Development Corporation had been diverted for the Telangana elections. Referring to the suicide of corporation official Chandrashekhar, he accused the government of attempting to suppress the issue. He also alleged that SCP and TSP funds were being diverted towards guarantee schemes, causing injustice to Dalit and tribal communities.

Highlighting the contributions of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy towards the ST community through schemes such as Ganga Kalyana and Panchayat Raj reservations, he recalled development works undertaken during his tenure, including the Valmiki Community Hall and a hostel at Yaliyuru. He pledged to strengthen the party ahead of the forthcoming Panchayat elections.

JD(S) District President K.V. Manjunath highlighted Maharshi Valmiki's teachings, particularly the importance of keeping one's word. He also expressed concern over the lack of basic facilities, including electricity and drinking water, at Ambedkar Bhavan.

Former Zilla Panchayat member Manjulamma praised Narayanaswamy's continued commitment to public welfare.

Several JD(S) leaders, office-bearers and hundreds of party workers participated in the programme.

CENSUS 2027

Census 2027: officials told to discharge duties responsibly

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G. has instructed officials and staff to discharge their responsibilities diligently and ensure the successful implementation of Census of India 2027, emphasising that census work plays a vital role in nation-building.

A training workshop for the second phase of the census, Population Enumeration, was organised at Canopy Hall on the second floor of the PU Building on M.G. Road. The exercise will cover 63 wards under six charge areas (Assembly constituencies) within the Bengaluru Central City Corporation limits. Charge Officers, technical assistants and census clerks participated in the workshop.

Census 2027, second phase

- Population Enumeration
- 63 wards of the Central City Corporation
- Six charge areas (Assembly constituencies)
- A Statistics Team for queries



At the census training workshop on M.G. Road.

Commissioner Jagadish G. inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the participants, he said accurate census data would play a crucial role in formulating government policies and development plans for the next decade.

He instructed Charge Officers to prepare a comprehensive action plan and ensure that all officials and staff report for duty from the first day of the exercise. He warned that unauthorised absence and negligence in discharging assigned responsibilities would not be tolerated.

The Commissioner also stressed the importance of thorough training, asking officials to clarify their doubts and seek guidance whenever necessary. He called for coordination among all personnel to ensure that the census exercise was completed without errors or shortcomings.

Joint Commissioner Hemanth Sharan, speaking on the occasion, reiterated that all arrangements must be made to ensure the availability of staff from the commencement of census operations. He said a dedicated Statistics Team had been established to address queries and provide guidance to officials. He added that the Corporation had also arranged the necessary logistical facilities and technical support to facilitate smooth implementation of the exercise.

Charge Officers, technical assistants, census clerks and other Corporation officials attended the workshop.

Integrated Medical Education Ecosystem Unveiled In Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Global MedEdTech platform StudyMEDIC unveiled its integrated undergraduate medical education ecosystem at the Global Medical Career Summit 2026 at Blue Atria. Dr. Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Karnataka Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, at-tended as the chief guest.

The rollout introduces four core initiatives: StudyMBBS, StudyNEET PG, StudyFMGE, and Global Medi-cal Career Pathways, designed to support doctors through every training phase. Established in Kerala in 2016 and now based in Doha, the organisation has mentored over 250,000 healthcare professionals worldwide across 23 distinct clinical streams.

The flagship program, StudyMBBS, covers all four professional MBBS years under a single subscription. Aligned with the National Medical Commission's Competency-Based Medical Education curriculum, it integrates 2,500 topics, 77,000 learning assets, and 50,000 multiple-choice questions. It utilises a peda-gogical framework—Read, Recall, Apply, and Master—to reinforce clinical competence.

While StudyNEET PG targets domestic postgraduate aspirants, StudyFMGE assists foreign medical graduates, and the Global Pathways initiative prepares doctors for overseas licencing exams like US-MLE, AMC, and UKMLA. Co-founder Dr. Sowmya N.S. and CEO Anil Kumar affirmed that the unified platform bridges university education, competitive exams, and international career trajectories.



Commissioner directs faster completion of civic projects

Officials prioritized cleaning major roads, like Airport Road, ensuring public spaces stay free from garbage and plastic waste

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has directed officials to speed up development works under the Ward One campaign, CMIDP, SIP and other projects, while maintaining quality and completing them within the given deadlines.

At a review meeting held on Wednesday, the Commissioner assessed the progress of ongoing works, completed activities and plans for the next phase.

He instructed engineers to identify pending civic issues in every ward that require the involvement of other departments and bring them to the attention of the concerned authorities. He also stressed the need for regular cleaning and maintenance to prevent civic problems from recurring.

Special attention was given to major roads, including Airport Road. Officials were asked to ensure that public spaces remain clean and free from plastic waste and garbage.

Reviewing CMIDP and SIP projects, the Commissioner directed engineers to speed up road development and asphalt works. He instructed officials to prepare as many road stretches as possible for asphalting by Monday. Where departmental hurdles exist, particularly due to BWSSB works, officials were asked to coordinate and continue work on stretches without obstacles.

The meeting also discussed cleaning public walls, underpasses and flyovers. Officials were asked to conduct a pilot project using detergents and jet sprays to remove dirt without damaging painted surfaces. Vegetation growing along flyover walls must also be cleared. The Commissioner assured that funds would be provided for maintenance activities.

He further directed officials to begin cleanliness drives on major roads from Thursday.

The Commissioner also ordered all corporation offices and departments to achieve 100% adoption of the E-Office system for file management and administrative work.

Additional Commissioner Mona Roat, Chief Engineers Dr. Raghavendra Prasad and Yamuna, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Conservators of Forests and other officials attended the meeting.

AT A GLANCE

- **High-Level Review**: Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar chaired development progress assessment.
- **Core Schemes Focus**: Evaluated Ward One campaign, CMIDP, and SIP projects.
- **Maintenance Mandate**: Ordered specialized jet-spray cleaning for city walls and flyovers.
- **Administrative Digitization**: Urged one hundred percent adoption of the E-Office system.

Officials inspect ward one works in Shettihalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Bengaluru North City Corporation Additional Commissioner (Development) Mona Roat inspected ongoing works under the 'Ward One' campaign in Shettihalli Ward of Dasarahalli Division on Wednesday.

The inspection was carried out following the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and under the guidance of Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

Beginning her visit at the Y-junction on Shettihalli Main Road, Mona Roat reviewed road development and cleanliness works. She directed officials to speed up pending projects and strengthen cleanliness activities. She also stressed the need to give priority to road and footpath development and take up additional civil works wherever necessary to improve public facilities.

She also inspected three important junctions identified for improvement: the Jalahalli-Shettihalli Y-junction, Saptagiri Engineering College Junction and 8th Mile Junction on National Highway 48.

During the inspection, she instructed officials from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and other departments to coordinate closely and complete pending works without delay.

The Ward One campaign aims to improve civic infrastructure and public facilities through better roads, footpaths, junction development and cleanliness activities across wards.

Executive Engineer R. Gangadhara, Assistant Executive Engineers Narasimha Murthy and Shivashankar, Solid Waste Management official Lohith, and officials from BESCOM, BWSSB and the corporation were present during the inspection.

CAMPAIGN INSPECTION

- **High-Level Inspection**: Additional Commissioner Mona Roat reviewed Shettihalli Ward works.
- **Ministerial Direction**: Inspection conducted under orders from Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.
- **Key Junction Focus**: Major review carried out at three vital traffic intersections.
- **Inter-Departmental Synergy**: BWSSB and BESCOM instructed to coordinate pending project completion.

Dance presentation to celebrate Lord Srinivasa's glory

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A special music and dance programme titled Sri Venkateshwara Vaibhavam will be presented by Natanam Institute of Dance in association with VRC Academy of Music and Dance on November 12, 2026.

The programme will be held at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, from 6 pm to 7.15 pm. Guru Dr. Raksha Karthik and her disciples will present the devotional dance performance.



The programme will showcase the spiritual significance and glory of Lord Srinivasa through the celebrated compositions of Saint Annamacharya. It will portray the divine presence of Lord Venkateshwara, who is believed to have descended from Vaikunta to the Tirumala Hills to protect humanity during Kaliyuga.

Curated by VRC Academy of Music and Dance, the presentation will combine traditional classical dance, devotional music and spirituality.

The musical ensemble will feature Vidwan Bharadwaj Dayanidhi on nattuvangam, Vidwan Balasubramanya Sharma on vocals, Vidwan Gopal Venkataraman on veena, Vidwan Bhavani Shankar on mridangam, Vidwan Prasanna Kumar on rhythm and Vidwan Jayaram Kikkeri on flute.

The programme aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Indian classical arts and the timeless devotional compositions of Annamacharya.

Entry is free, and all are welcome.



Ward One drive reports 80% issue resolution

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has resolved nearly 80% of the civic issues identified across nine wards under its 'Ward One' campaign in three days, according to the corporation's progress report.

Of the 2,148 issues identified along 56.8 km of roads across six divisions, 1,712 have been resolved. Commissioner K. N. Ramesh inspected pothole-filling work on Kodichikkanahalli Road, connecting Bannerghatta Road to Begur.

During the inspection, he directed officials to repair damaged road sections and complete asphalting. He also ordered the construction of footpaths on both sides of a 500-metre stretch and improvements to roadside areas. Officials were asked to clear debris and silt from stormwater drains, improve drainage connections and install gratings in low-lying areas to prevent waterlogging.

Pothole repairs have reached 89%, with 194 of 217 potholes filled. Footpath repairs stand at 61%, while 64% of identified kerbs have been realigned and painted. Roadside drain cleaning has reached 75%.

The corporation has removed 145 of 212 footpath obstructions and installed 203 of 268 drain slabs. It has also cleared 106 of 118 garbage dumping spots and removed 268 of 304 unauthorised banners.

Streetlight repairs have recorded 95% progress, with 499 of 525 faulty lights restored. However, only 19 of the 133 proposed new streetlights have been installed.

Construction waste disposal stands at 74%, while 108 of 132 trees have undergone branch pruning. The corporation has also removed 14 abandoned vehicles and cleaned eight of nine bus shelters.

The corporation has also realigned 13.23 km of kerbs, desilted 0.42 km of primary drains and repaired four of six traffic signboards. It has relocated 16 of 20 obstructing electricity poles.

Under inter-departmental coordination, BWSSB completed 26 of 40 chamber-leveling works and resolved 12 of 16 leakage complaints. BESCOM addressed 31 of 40 issues, while BMRCL resolved two of five identified issues.

Campaign Progress

- **Overall Resolution Rate**: Nearly eighty percent of total civic issues addressed.
- **Rapid Campaign Timeline**: Major progress achieved across nine wards in three days.
- **Pothole Repair Milestone**: Eighty-nine percent of identified road potholes successfully filled.
- **Streetlight Restoration**: Ninety-five percent of faulty streetlights fully restored.

East Corporation sets 18,000 dog sterilisation target

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Bengaluru East Municipal Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh has directed officials to complete the targets for Animal Birth Control (ABC) surgeries and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) within the stipulated timeframe.

The direction was issued during an ABC Monitoring Committee meeting attended by Animal Husbandry Department officials and representatives of animal welfare organisations. The meeting reviewed stray dog control, sterilisation, vaccination, ABC centre facilities and challenges in managing the dog population.

As of the end of July 2026, 3,880 stray dogs had undergone sterilisation and 1,385 had received anti-rabies vaccinations. Officials were instructed to sterilise 1,500 dogs every month, with an annual target of 18,000 surgeries for 2026-27.

Ramesh directed officials to speed up the establishment of new ABC centres and improve facilities at existing centres. He also instructed them to establish an ABC centre, a dog shelter and an animal crematorium at Mandur.

He stressed the need to address complaints about stray dog attacks promptly and resolve grievances received through the Sahaaya app. Officials were also told to maintain records of surgeries, vaccinations and post-operative care.

The Commissioner ordered an inquiry into unauthorised dog-catching activities by outside organisations and warned of legal action against animal cruelty and unlawful relocation of dogs.

The Corporation's mobile veterinary ambulance service, which provides free treatment and emergency care to injured and sick animals, has received a positive response from the public.

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner Prajna Ammembala, health officials and representatives of animal welfare organisations attended the meeting.

Call commissioner directly with your civic complaints

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation will hold its weekly Phone-In Programme on Friday, November 6, from 7 am to 9 am, allowing residents to raise civic complaints directly with Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

The programme aims to address public grievances and improve civic services. Residents can report road potholes, damaged streetlights, irregular garbage collection, dangerous trees, mosquito problems and stray dog issues.

Complaints about park maintenance, unauthorised banners and posters, footpath encroachments and e-Khata services can also be raised.

All complaints received during the programme will be registered on the Sahaaya 2.0 portal and forwarded to the concerned departmental officers for action. Residents will receive SMS updates containing their complaint registration details and information about the officers handling their complaints.

Citizens can contact the control room at 9480685705 (mobile/WhatsApp) or 080-22975936 / 080-23636671 (landline).

Residents can also submit their grievances through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application.

Ward One campaign covers major divisional roads

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has intensified civic improvement and cleanliness operations under its 'Ward One' campaign, covering 12.5 km of roads across Vidhyaranyapura, Byatarayanapura, Sarvagnanagar and Pulikeshinagar divisions.

The campaign, undertaken under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the guidance of Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, focuses on road repairs, footpath improvements, waste clearance, drain desilting and better public amenities.

During Tuesday's operations, 17 potholes were repaired, 37 garbage blackspots cleared and 32 tonnes of garbage removed. Construction debris was cleared from 158 collection points, accounting for 103 tonnes. Additionally, 1.5 km of footpaths were repaired, 32 footpath obstructions removed and two junctions improved.

Desilting operations covered 2.16 km of roadside drains and 0.25 km of stormwater drains. Five new streetlights were installed, while 36 existing lights were repaired. Four parks were cleaned, 108 unauthorised flexes and banners removed, and 52 tree branches pruned, resulting in the clearance of 6.5 tonnes of tree waste.

The campaign also addressed 37 public grievances on the spot, with participation from seven NGOs and Residents' Welfare Associations.

BWSSB resolved five water leakage complaints, rectified six chamber levels and addressed three water distribution issues. BESCOM cleared two obstructions.

Commercial Establishments Inspected

The Public Health Department inspected 143 commercial establishments, of which 58 were found violating regulations concerning solid waste management, plastic usage, sanitation and trade licences. A total penalty of ₹96,800 was imposed.

The Corporation stated that the Ward One campaign aims to identify and resolve local civic issues through coordinated efforts involving various departments. Priority is being given to maintaining cleanliness, ensuring smooth traffic movement, providing safe pedestrian pathways and improving public spaces.

The Corporation will continue the campaign to develop a cleaner, safer and more citizen-friendly Bengaluru North.





Five-day celebration of music, heritage, food and crafts in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The Academy of Music has announced Chowdiah Utsava 2026, a five-day cultural festival featuring classical music, dance, heritage, food and crafts from November 11 to 15 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Bengaluru.

The festival will feature performances by renowned artists across Carnatic, Hindustani and fusion music traditions. Highlights include concerts by Vijay Prakash, Dr. R.K. Padmanabha, Rahul Sharma, Rahul Vellal, Carnatica Brothers and several emerging musicians.

The grand finale on November 15 will include the Academy of Music Awards 2026 ceremony, with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as Chief Guest and Padma Vibhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam as Guest of Honour. Dr. R.K. Padmanabha will receive the Chowdiah Award, Dr. K.S. Vaishali the Prathiba Puraskar, Amith A. Nadig the Yuva Puraskar and Sree Guruvayurappan Bhajan Samaj Trust the Institution Award.

The festival will conclude with a Jugalbandi featuring flautist Shashank Subramanyam and Hindustani vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi.

New attractions include Cafe Chowdiah, the Roots N Crafts bazaar and Sangeeta Mela on November 14 and 15, featuring competitions, workshops, storytelling and musical showcases.

Lobby concerts, morning performances, Sangeeta Mela and the bazaar will offer free entry, while tickets for evening concerts will be available through BookMyShow.

For details, contact 080-2344 5810 or 98451 55397.

Karnataka bus fare hike draws sharp criticism from Joshi

Revised bus fares took effect at midnight on November 4, raising KSRTC fares by an average of 23% and BMTC fares by 33 to 35%

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Pralhad Joshi says the guarantee schemes have hurt the transport corporations.

At a glance

Fare hike
New fares in all four transport corporations from midnight on November 4

Milk and curd
Nandini milk up ₹8 a litre; curd ₹54 to ₹68 a litre from November 1

The blame
Joshi says the guarantee schemes drained the corporations

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has criticised the Congress-led Karnataka government over its decision to increase bus fares across the state's four transport corporations. He alleged that the government's guarantee schemes had affected the financial condition of transport corporations, placing an additional burden on ordinary people.

The revised bus fares came into effect at midnight on November 4. According to Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh, fares will increase by an average of 23 per cent for the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and other regional corporations, while Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) fares will rise by 33 to 35 per cent.

Joshi targets the government

Reacting to the decision, Joshi criticised the government's financial management in a post on X, formerly Twitter. He alleged that Karnataka's development had slowed since the Congress government assumed power and that its financial policies had pushed state transport corporations into losses.

He claimed that unpaid dues under the guarantee schemes had increased the financial pressure on the corporations, affecting their ability to meet expenses, including diesel purchases.

However, the state government has defended the fare revision, citing rising diesel prices, employee salaries, allowances and other operating expenses. Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said the increase was intended to reduce losses and protect the transport corporations. He also stated that the fare hike was not linked to the Shakti scheme.

Milk and curd prices too

Joshi also criticised the recent increase in Nandini milk and curd prices by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

From November 1, milk prices increased by ₹8 per litre for basic toned milk, while curd prices rose from ₹54 to ₹68 per litre. A 500-gram curd packet now costs ₹34, compared with ₹28 earlier.

Questioning the government's approach, Joshi said people were being offered free benefits while facing higher prices for essential goods and public transport. He argued that these increases were adding to household expenses, particularly for students, daily-wage workers and regular commuters.

Quick Read

Thieves steal Olympic gold from hockey legend

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Thieves broke into the Bengaluru residence of former Indian hockey captain and Olympic medal-winning player M.M. Somaya and stole several valuable items, including his 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medal, other sporting awards, gold jewellery and cash worth approximately ₹3.53 lakh. Somaya lives at B.M. Kaval in New Thippasandra. He had travelled to his hometown in Kodagu with his family on October 25. Taking advantage of the family's absence, two unidentified thieves allegedly broke into the house around 2.34 am on October 28. The stolen items include his Olympic gold medal, a silver medal from the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, bronze medals from the 1986 Seoul Asian Games and the 1982 Champions Trophy in Amsterdam, besides jewellery and cash. Neighbours noticed the open door around 7.15 am and alerted Somaya. CCTV footage from a neighbouring house reportedly captured two suspects entering the premises. Following Somaya's complaint, Indiranagar police registered a case under Sections 331(4) and 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Police have launched an investigation to identify the accused and recover the stolen medals and valuables.

Four arrested for dating app robbery

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Electronics City police have arrested four people for allegedly assaulting and robbing a man after luring him through a dating application. The accused allegedly forced him to transfer money through UPI transactions. The arrested persons have been identified as Rishiraj Singh (18), Vamshi (21), Venkatesh (25) and Darshan (24). Police seized two mobile phones and a two-wheeler worth approximately ₹30,000. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on October 13 when the victim was returning after collecting a food parcel on Podu Road. He initially claimed that he was rendered unconscious and later threatened with a knife, assaulted and robbed. However, police investigations revealed that the victim had contacted an unidentified person through a dating application, shared his location and agreed to meet. The person and four associates allegedly assaulted him, stole his mobile phone and forced him to reveal his banking and UPI passwords. Three accused were arrested near Mailasandra Circle on October 18. The fourth was arrested near Bettadasanapura on October 19.

Hariprasad tells Bommai to focus on Haveri

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


B.K. Hariprasad challenged Bommai to produce official documents.

KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad has criticised BJP MP and former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for his remarks about Rahul Gandhi, asking him to focus on his Haveri constituency instead.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, on Wednesday, Hariprasad questioned Bommai's allegations about the foreign connections of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Hariprasad challenged Bommai to produce official documents supporting his claims that Rahul Gandhi had received foreign funds. He said meeting foreign leaders was not a crime and accused Bommai of making serious allegations without providing evidence.

Foreign funding

Hariprasad also referred to reports about financial assistance from the United States to India between 2014 and 2025. Citing claims linked to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and USAID, he questioned the purpose of the reported $21 million allocation.

He asked the Central Government to clarify the matter and questioned why similar concerns about foreign funding were not being raised against the BJP and the RSS.

Hariprasad also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's overseas campaign events before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's reported remarks supporting a BJP victory in 2019.

He questioned the political significance of these incidents and raised allegations about meetings between RSS representatives and Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI.

Concluding his remarks, Hariprasad advised Bommai to concentrate on issues concerning the people of Haveri rather than making allegations against Rahul Gandhi.

Chalavadi denies he threatened anybody, targets Congress over price hikes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU


Chalavadi Narayanaswamy says his words were twisted.

Karnataka Legislative Council Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has denied allegations that he threatened to kill individuals during a speech in Kolar.

He clarified that his remarks were directed at the Congress party and not any particular person.

Speaking at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday, Narayanaswamy accused the Congress of creating unrest in the country. Referring to his controversial remarks at a BJP rally, he said Congress had twisted his words and presented them as personal threats.

He maintained that he had criticised the party and its political activities. He also challenged Congress leaders to watch the complete video of his speech before making allegations. Responding to the police complaint against him, he said he was ready to face legal action. Narayanaswamy also questioned Congress leaders over their remarks against the Prime Minister and the RSS. He challenged Minister Priyank Kharge to focus on his departmental responsibilities instead of repeatedly targeting the RSS.

A daily price-hike festival

In a separate statement, Narayanaswamy criticised the Karnataka government over rising prices of essential commodities and public transport fares.

Referring to the recent increase in bus fares and Nandini milk prices, he said the government had turned Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations into a daily price hike festival.

He accused the Congress government of promising financial relief through guarantee schemes while increasing the cost of essential services. He questioned the policy of collecting money from one section of society to provide benefits to another.

He also referred to the Finance Department's reported warnings about excessive spending and borrowing, accusing the government of placing an additional financial burden on the public.

Karnataka's bus fare revision was announced on November 4, with increases across all four state transport corporations taking effect at midnight. The government cited rising operating costs and financial losses as reasons for the decision.

Khandre orders officials to clear e-Swathu delays and lake encroachments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to address e-Swathu delays, drinking water shortages and other rural development issues without delay.

While travelling to Mysuru for a departmental review meeting on Wednesday, Khandre held a discussion with Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat CEO Anmol Jain in his vehicle. He reviewed issues concerning Zilla, Taluk and Gram Panchayats.

e-Swathu first

Khandre directed officials to speed up the issuance of e-Swathu property records for documented and undocumented properties within Gramathana limits. Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) must conduct site inspections, invite objections and issue documents without unnecessary delays.

He also warned of strict action against staff demanding money from applicants and instructed officials to create public awareness through village announcements.

The Minister reviewed encroachments affecting lakes under Bengaluru South district's Gram Panchayats. Of the 1,292 lakes, 801 had encroachments covering 1,014 acres. Encroachments across 72 lakes, covering 205 acres, have been cleared, while 809 acres across 729 lakes remain to be recovered.

809 acres of encroached lake land still to be recovered, of 1,014 acres in 801 lakes

He directed officials to protect lakes, remove encroachments and restore stormwater drains. Where houses stand on encroached lake land, officials must identify and clear other encroachments without disturbing the houses.

Khandre instructed the Zilla Panchayat CEO to visit at least four villages twice a week and address public complaints concerning roads, drinking water, streetlights, sanitation and property records.

Considering possible summer shortages, he ordered water budgeting and advance arrangements for tanker supplies. Tanker operators must receive payments on time.

He also directed officials to organise Gram Sabhas to identify beneficiaries under the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G scheme for cattle sheds, livestock shelters, recharge pits and farm ponds.

Furthermore, wages for unskilled workers must be paid within 15 days. Taluk Panchayat officials were instructed to monitor timely payments.

AIDSO protests against merger of govt schools

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday, opposing the Karnataka government's Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) Magnet scheme.

The protesters demanded the withdrawal of the proposed merger of 14 government schools with Heggannoor KPS School in Kanakapura.

Protesters also displayed black cloth at Vidhana Soudha, opposing the expansion of the KPS scheme and the involvement of private institutions and corporate companies in government schools.

Addressing the gathering, AIDSO state secretary Ajay Kamath alleged that the Congress government was moving towards closing 45,000 government schools under the KPS Magnet scheme. He claimed that the move contradicted the party's earlier promise to protect government schools.

Kamath also referred to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan agreement and alleged that government documents supported the organisation's concerns. He accused the government of betraying public trust and affecting educational opportunities for children from economically weaker families.

He questioned how the government could claim to protect democracy while implementing policies that, according to AIDSO, threatened access to neighbourhood government schools.

The ADB approved a $182.89 million loan in July 2026 to support the development of 500 integrated Karnataka Public School clusters.



AIDSO members protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The protest was attended by AIDSO state president Ashwini K.S., vice-president Apoorva C.M., other office-bearers and activists, who demanded protection of government schools.

Ration card holders must finish e-KYC by November 10

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Ration card holders in Karnataka have been instructed to complete their mandatory e-KYC verification by November 10. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has urged beneficiaries who have not completed the process to finish it before the deadline.

Of the 2,67,64,276 beneficiaries, 2,26,30,747 had completed e-KYC by November 3. The remaining 41,33,529 beneficiaries are yet to complete the process.

The department has extended the deadline from October 20 to November 10. Beneficiaries can complete their verification through the Anna Seve mobile application or by visiting their nearest Fair Price Shop, where officials can use the AHARA software.

After successful verification, an 'e-KYC Successful' message will appear on the screen.

The department has clarified that every eligible family member listed on the ration card must complete the prescribed verification. Those unable to use the mobile application can visit their nearest Fair Price Shop for biometric or other approved authentication.

The department has warned that beneficiaries who fail to complete e-KYC by November 10 may face action under the applicable rules. Ration card holders are advised to complete the process early to avoid possible disruption to their benefits.

How to finish e-KYC on the Anna Seve app

1. **Download** and open the Anna Seve app
2. **Select** the 'Self/Citizen' option
3. **Choose** the district
4. **Enter** the ration card number and registered mobile number
5. **Tap** 'Get OTP' and enter the OTP sent to that number
6. **Select** the family members whose e-KYC is pending
7. **Complete** the Aadhaar-based face authentication



CITY DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

Second phase of Ward One campaign begins Nov 7

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The second phase of the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) 'Ward One' campaign will begin on November 7, covering more than 50 wards.



Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has directed officials to focus on quality work rather than rushing to complete the campaign.

Speaking at a virtual review meeting on Wednesday, the Minister said the first phase had received a positive response from residents. He announced that the campaign would continue until mid-December to ensure proper inspections and lasting solutions to civic problems.

What the first phase did

The first phase covered 43 wards, where officials filled 704 potholes across 357.41 km of roads. They also cleared 426.6 tonnes of garbage from 342 black spots and removed 1,141.2 tonnes of debris from 820 locations.

Additionally, 29.68 km of footpaths were repaired, while encroachments along 455.15 km of footpaths were cleared.

Residents and departments

Krishna Byre Gowda instructed officials to involve Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) and civic organisations in the second phase. He said their participation would help identify local problems and improve solutions.

He also stressed better coordination between government departments, particularly in matters concerning tree maintenance and removal. Officials were directed to ensure that vacant sites under the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) were cleaned promptly.

704 potholes filled | **426.6 t** garbage from 342 black spots | **1,141.2 t** debris from 820 locations | **29.68 km** footpaths repaired

Road safety and cleanliness

The Minister directed officials to intensify footpath encroachment removal and improve major road junctions. Lane markings and reflectors must be installed to improve road safety.

He also appreciated the work carried out by officials during the first phase and urged them to maintain the same commitment in the next phase.

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao and other senior officials, engineers and representatives of the five municipal corporations attended the meeting.

Quick Read

SSB constable arrested for girlfriend's murder

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) constable has been arrested for allegedly murdering his 23-year-old girlfriend, Rakshita Sarikar, by strangling her at a secluded location. The accused, Basappa Satannavannar, had reportedly been in a relationship with Rakshita, a resident of Harogeri village, for the past four years. On Oct 28, he allegedly took her to an isolated place on the pretext of going for a walk, where he strangled and assaulted her, resulting in her death. After the murder, Basappa returned to the village and pretended to join Rakshita's brother in searching for her. Following a missing person complaint filed by her brother, police questioned Basappa, during which he reportedly confessed to the crime. Police have arrested the accused, and a case has been registered at Gokak Town Police Station.

Onion-laden lorry plunges off bridge in Koppal

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The driver and cleaner of an onion-laden lorry sustained critical injuries after the vehicle fell off a bridge on the National Highway near Munirabad in Koppal taluk. The lorry was travelling from Hosapete towards Kushtagi when the driver reportedly lost control, causing the vehicle to plunge off the overpass. Both occupants suffered serious injuries in the accident. The injured were shifted to Koppal District Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. Munirabad police visited the spot and conducted an inspection. The accident occurred within the jurisdiction of Munirabad Police Station.

Youth Parliament programme to be held iwn Gadag

CH NEWS, GADAG

A district-level Youth Parliament programme will be held on November 6 at 10 am at the auditorium of the District Administration Building to mark the International Day of Democracy. Dr. Nanda Hanabaratti, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, has invited elected representatives, district and taluk-level officials, community leaders from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minority communities, prominent citizens and representatives of various organisations to participate in the programme.

62 organisations honour MLA Mantar Gowda in Madikeri



The lamp is lit at the civic felicitation at Redbricks Hall in Madikeri.

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Madikeri Dasara should grow into a grand people's festival with greater public participation and improved celebrations every year, said MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda. He announced that a public meeting would be convened to discuss amendments to the existing Dasara bylaws.

He was speaking after receiving a civic felicitation organised by the Madikeri Dasara Dashamantapa Committee and 62 various organisations at Redbricks Hall.

Dr. Gowda said preparations for Dasara should begin as early as April, considering the time and effort required by committees involved in constructing the mantapas. Along with the Karaga celebrations, the Shobhayatra remains a major attraction of Madikeri Dasara. He assured the Mantapa Committee that efforts would be made to provide maximum possible financial assistance.

Referring to infrastructure development, he said a high-tech stage was being constructed at Gandhi Maidan and road works were also underway. An underground electricity network would be installed in the town in the near future. He appealed to residents to cooperate with these projects and offer suggestions for improving the town.

Former Kannada Sahitya Parishat president T.P. Ramesh said Madikeri Dasara had a rich historical legacy and its bylaws needed revision after several decades. He urged the committee to prepare updated rules and ensure that a grant for Dasara was included in the preliminary government budget.

> **"Dasara should reflect the aspirations of the people and include distinctive programmes for women, children and youth, besides activities highlighting coffee, folk culture and sports. Development initiatives would be undertaken in consultation with senior citizens and with public cooperation."**
>
> **— Dr. Mantar Gowda,** MLA

Former Dasara Committee working president K.M.B. Ganesh recalled that successive governments had provided financial assistance, including Rs. 75 lakh in 2013-14 and Rs. 1 crore in 2014. He appreciated the MLA for supporting temples and said Rs. 2 crore had been provided this year. However, he expressed disappointment that the celebrations, despite a budget of Rs. 2 crore, had not met public expectations.

Former Dashamantapa Committee president B.M. Rajesh also called for changes to the committee's rules and regulations. Former Dasara Committee president Prakash Acharya appreciated the MLA's efforts to promote the celebrations.

Several representatives of organisations, temple officials and civic leaders attended the programme. Madikeri Urban Development Authority chairman and programme convenor Rajesh Yellappa welcomed the gathering, while Muneer Ahmed introduced the programme and proposed the vote of thanks.

Chitradurga Student Wing launches city beautification drive

INSPIRED BY BENGALURU'S GREENERY AND URBAN MODEL, THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO BEAUTIFY THE HISTORIC FORT CITY.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

With the objective of making Chitradurga a greener and more attractive city, the 'Puppi's Student Wing' has launched a plantation drive featuring Pink Trumpet Tree saplings at various locations across the city.

The initiative aims to beautify the historic Fort City by drawing inspiration from Bengaluru's greenery and urban beautification model. The saplings will be planted in phases along major roads, public spaces and other suitable locations to improve the city's appearance and promote environmental conservation.

Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra, popularly known as 'Puppi', inaugurated the campaign by planting a sapling. Speaking on the occasion, he said making Chitradurga a clean, beautiful and green city was the collective responsibility of every citizen.



The Pink Trumpet Tree plantation drive gets under way in Chitradurga.

He observed that initiatives of this kind would help transform the city's landscape and create a healthier environment. Once the Pink Trumpet Trees grow and bloom, they are expected to add colour and beauty to the city's roads and public spaces.

The MLA stressed that planting saplings alone was not enough and urged citizens to take responsibility for their continued care. Regular watering, protection and maintenance were essential to ensure their survival. He also called upon young people to participate actively in environmental protection activities.

Ravindra Chinnu, president of the Puppi's Student Wing, said the campaign was aimed not only at beautifying the city but also at maintaining ecological balance and creating a healthy environment for future generations.

The green drive

- Pink Trumpet Tree saplings across the city
- Planted in phases along major roads and public spaces
- Citizens asked to water, protect and maintain them

City Municipal Commissioner Lakshmi, Assistant Executive Engineer Raju, engineer Jaffer, former Urban Development Authority chairman Sardar, student wing vice-president Sandeep, secretary Salim and several other members participated in the programme.

The organisers said the plantation drive would continue in different parts of Chitradurga in the coming days, with an emphasis on nurturing and protecting the planted saplings.

Society must unite to protect children: Judge



Officials flag off an adoption awareness vehicle at the programme in Haveri.

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Preventing child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and sexual abuse of children is a collective responsibility of society, Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Chairman Biradar Devendrappa N. said.

He was speaking at a legal awareness programme organised at the district level to educate officials and the public about child protection laws, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the POCSO Act, 2012, and the legal procedures for adoption.

He pointed out that adoption must be carried out strictly through the procedures prescribed by law. Illegal adoption, child trafficking and the exploitation of children are punishable offences. People seeking to adopt a child should follow the authorised legal process rather than approaching unauthorised individuals or agencies.

> **"All government departments must work together to prevent offences against children. Public awareness is essential to identify vulnerable children, prevent exploitation and ensure that those responsible for such crimes are brought to justice."**
>
> **– Biradar Devendrappa N.**
> DLSA Chairman

District officials also stressed the importance of protecting children from begging, forced labour, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. They urged the public to report children found in unsafe circumstances and seek immediate assistance through the child helpline 1098.

The speakers said Anganwadi workers, teachers, police personnel, local representatives and officials of various departments have an important role in identifying children at risk and ensuring their protection. Coordinated action and timely intervention can help prevent offences and safeguard children's rights.

District Child Protection Officer Jayashree Patil spoke about child protection measures and the need to strengthen awareness at the grassroots level. Officials from the police, education, women and child development and other departments participated in the programme.

Yaskhi Meets Siddaramaiah to Strengthen AIPC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Madhu Goud Yaskhi, newly appointed Chairman of the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC), paid a courtesy visit to senior Congress leader, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.



The meeting took place following Yaskhi's formal assumption of charge as Chairman of the AIPC, a national wing of the Indian National Congress, following his appointment by senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

During the interaction, Siddaramaiah extended his warm wishes and congratulations to Shri Yaskhi on his new responsibility. He expressed confidence in Yaskhi's leadership and emphasised the importance of strengthening the AIPC as an effective platform for professionals across the country to connect with the Congress party's vision and policies.

Yaskhi was accompanied by a high-level delegation of prominent Karnataka Congress leaders, including B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Government of Karnataka; Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council; and S.E. Sudheendra, Vice President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and Chairman of the Karnataka State Bio-Energy Development Board.

The leaders held constructive discussions on key organisational priorities, strategies for expanding the AIPC's national presence and ways to strengthen engagement with professionals from diverse sectors.

They also underlined the need to create greater opportunities for professionals to contribute their expertise, ideas and perspectives to public policy and nation-building.

The meeting reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to building a stronger, inclusive and dynamic professionals' network under the leadership of Madhu Goud Yaskhi.

MY Bharat 'Youth Dialogue' in Mandya today

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), functioning under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, will organise a 'Youth Dialogue' programme at PES College of Engineering in Mandya on November 5 at 9.30 am.

The programme aims to promote democratic awareness among young people, encourage their participation in democratic processes and provide an opportunity for students to interact directly with public representatives and other prominent personalities.The event is being organised as part of the 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvada' campaign, conducted across 500 universities, colleges and educational institutions nationwide from October 26 to November 5.

During the programme, students will participate in discussions on democracy, civic responsibilities and nation-building. They will also get an opportunity to ask questions, express their views and interact with invited personalities on issues concerning the country's development.

RENUKACHARYA PRAISES MODI

BJP leaders urge workers to strengthen organisation

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The Vijayapura district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a district-level meeting to discuss party organisation, upcoming local body elections and preparations to counter the Congress campaign on electoral roll revision.



A speaker addresses the BJP district meeting in Vijayapura.

Addressing the meeting, former Minister M.P. Renukacharya said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attracted global attention through his leadership, first as Gujarat Chief Minister and now during his third term as Prime Minister.

He said the BJP had grown into the world's largest political party through strong organisational structures and membership drives.

Accusing the Congress and Left parties of targeting the BJP, Renukacharya said the Election Commission was an independent constitutional body and criticised what he described as baseless allegations against it. He urged workers to understand the party's history, ideology and growth from the Jana Sangh days under leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani.

He called on workers to take the party's 'Save Democracy' campaign to the public and highlight the alleged failures of the Congress government and unfulfilled promises.

District BJP president Gurulingappa Angadi asked workers to prepare for upcoming Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and urban and rural local body elections. He urged all mandal units to work together and strengthen the party at the grassroots level. He defended electoral roll revision, claiming that only duplicate, fake and invalid entries had been removed.

Former MLC Arun Shahapur urged workers to visit households and explain the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process to counter what he termed Congress misinformation.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AYESHA BI**, D/o. Nisar Ahmad Resident of No. 9, 1st Floor , East Street Neelasandra, Viveknagar Bengaluru -560047 have changed my name to **AYESHA BI Alias NIHAR BEGUM** vide affidavit dated: 29.07.2026 before notary L.GOPALAKRISHNA Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

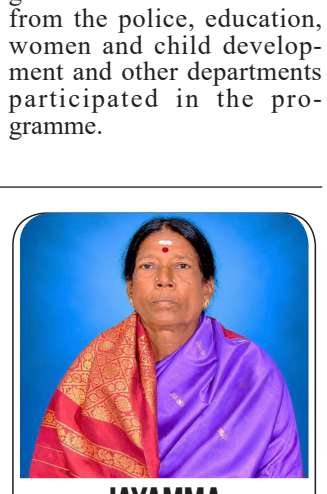
I, **YUNUSS SHARIEFF**, S/o Anwar Sharieff, resident of 42, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Near Shobha Apartment, New Gurappana Palya, Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name to **YUNUS SHARIEFF**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 03.11.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. Ranganatha S/o. Rangappa K,** residing at #99, 6th Cross, Sunkadakatte Pipeline, Srinivasa Nagara, Bangalore North, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore-560091. My client are willing to purchase the property by availing a loan with Piramal Finance limited by the present property owner Sri.Sathyavelu Kumaraswamy S/o. Kumaraswamy, Registered Original Sale Deed Document No.NGB-1-00471-2025-26 dated :23-04-2025 and Registered Rectification Deed Document No.NGB-1-01745-2025-26, dated: 16-06-2025, my client further states that any disputes his ownership or possession of the schedule property member of the public are hereby notified that if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the said property hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidence. please note that claims received without written evidence within 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice there after will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.9, Assessment No.105/1, 102/7, Property No.150/1/ 091/102/7, EPID No.9729156608, Situated Mallathalli Village, Bengaluru North Taluk, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, BBMP Ward No.129, Measuring East to West :40 Feet and North to South :30 Feet Totally measuring 1200 Sq. Feets and bounded on the :**East by:** Site No.10, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property No.08.

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



JAYAMMA
(Mother of Paper Prakash)

Our beloved mother passed away on **25 October 2026.** Her Vaikuntha Samaradhane (**memorial ceremony**) will be held on Thursday, **5 November 2026,** at 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of **Kadamba Samrat Hotel,** Vijayanagar Service Road, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **J.N. SOWMYALAKSHMI** W/o Madhusudhan M.J, Hindu aged about 36 years resident of No.71, 4th Cross, 2nd Main, Konankunte, Soudhamini Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore - 560062. I have changed my name from **Soumya Lakhsmi J.N to J.N. SOWMYALAKSHMI.** Sworn before **Sreedevi B R,** Advocate & Notary, Chickballapura vide affidavit Dated: 03/11/2026.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **KANTAPPA S/O SHARANAPPA ALANKAR** Age: Major, Occ: Pvt Work R/o Kapnoor, Kalaburagi-585104 do hereby state on oath as under:

1. That My name is mentioned **KANTAPPA S/O SHARANAPPA ALANKAR** in Aadhar Card. Adhar No.2427 3196 6274
2. That My name is mentioned as **CHANDRAKANTA** in my ESI Hospital Card.
3. That, above mentioned my names as **KANTAPPA S/O SHARANAPPA ALANKAR,** in Aadhar Card Name Therefore Kindly consider this affidavit and do the needful. And read as both name of one person there is no other person by this name.

Vide Affidavit Dtd : 06-10-2026 Sworn Before Advocate & Notary Public **RAJASHEKHAR S. PATIL** at Kalaburagi

CH CLASSIFED
To Place Classifed ad Contact : 080-41209042

Quick Read

Farmer killed in leopard attack near Challakere

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A 65-year-old farmer was killed in a leopard attack near Doddachalluru village in Challakere taluk of Chitradurga district in the early hours of Wednesday. The victim, identified as Ramachandrappa, was reportedly attacked by a leopard near his house on the outskirts of the village around 2 am. He died on the spot due to the injuries sustained in the attack. The incident has triggered panic among residents of Doddachalluru and surrounding areas. Villagers have urged the Forest Department to take immediate steps to capture the leopard and prevent further attacks. The incident falls under the jurisdiction of Parashurampura Police Station.

Kalashree award selection competition on Nov 7

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A district-level Kalashree award selection competition for children will be held on Nov 7 at 10 am at District Balabhavan (Ane Park), Ashok Nagar, Mandya. The event is jointly organised by the Karnataka State Balabhavan Society, Department of Women and Child Development and District Balabhavan Committee. All participating students will receive certificates. Following the competition, a speech contest will be held on the topic, "Positive Developments in the Lives of the Poor Through State Government Guarantee Schemes." Interested students can participate. For details, contact programme coordinator Vinutha G.M. at 8951828357.

Lokayukta to receive public complaints in Somwarpet

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Karnataka Lokayukta officials will receive public complaints on Nov 11 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Somwarpet Taluk Office meeting hall. Complaints under the Karnataka Lokayukta Act can be submitted against government officials and employees accused of delaying official work or causing other difficulties to the public. Applications must be submitted in the prescribed format, duly completed and accompanied by a notarised affidavit. The public has been urged to utilise this opportunity. For further information, contact the Madikeri Lokayukta Police Office at 08272-295297, the Lokayukta Police Deputy Superintendent said.

Kumaraswamy must cooperate with sting probe: Balakrishna

Balakrishna urged Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to cooperate with the police investigation instead of criticising officials.



H.D. Kumaraswamy (left) and H.C. Balakrishna.

At a glance

- Cooperation urged with the ongoing police investigation
- Fair probe required to find responsible parties
- Household involvement suggested as a possibility
- Legal channels recommended instead of threats
- Official duties must continue without intimidation
- Truth and clarity expected from impartial inquiries

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Municipal Administration Minister H.C. Balakrishna has urged Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to cooperate with the investigation into the alleged sting operation and clear his name by helping establish the truth.

Speaking to reporters in Bidadi on Wednesday, Balakrishna said that Kumaraswamy, who has served twice as Karnataka Chief Minister and is currently a Union Minister, should cooperate with the investigation rather than make statements against police officials.

Reacting to Kumaraswamy's name being mentioned in connection with the sting operation, Balakrishna remarked that such an incident was unlikely to have been carried out by a prominent political leader. He said a proper investigation was necessary to identify those responsible.

Balakrishna sarcastically remarked that Kumaraswamy might not even be aware of the incident, although it had reportedly taken place at his residence. He suggested that someone within the household might have been involved and said the investigation should establish the facts.

He also criticised Kumaraswamy for allegedly threatening police officers over their statements concerning the case. Referring to the Police Commissioner's remarks, Balakrishna said that if Kumaraswamy believed the officer's statement was incorrect, he should challenge it through legal channels instead of issuing threats.

He also recalled an earlier incident involving the Hassan Deputy Commissioner, who had responded to Kumaraswamy's alleged threats. Balakrishna questioned the purpose of intimidating government officials and said they should be allowed to discharge their responsibilities.

He further asked whether the Police Commissioner should face consequences merely for expressing his position on the matter.

Balakrishna maintained that cooperation with the investigation was the appropriate way for Kumaraswamy to establish his position and remove doubts surrounding the controversy. He stressed that the truth should emerge through a fair and impartial investigation.

Manjunath challenges Balakrishna over Puttanna's defeat

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Former MLA A. Manjunath has launched a sharp attack on Minister H.C. Balakrishna over the defeat of Congress Legislative Council candidate Puttanna, challenging the Minister to take an oath that he had sincerely worked for the candidate's victory.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Bidadi on Wednesday, Manjunath questioned Balakrishna's role in the election campaign. He said that despite being a Minister and having the support of several other Ministers in Bengaluru, Balakrishna had failed to ensure the victory of his party's candidate.

"Come forward and take an oath that you worked sincerely for Puttanna. You failed to put in the required effort during the election. What moral right do you have to criticise others?" Manjunath asked.



Manjunath criticised Balakrishna for failing to secure his party's victory despite ministerial support during the election campaign.

> **"Come forward and take an oath that you worked sincerely for Puttanna."**
> — **A. Manjunath,** Former MLA

Referring to senior Congress leader Rajanna's statement that everyone in the region shared responsibility for Puttanna's defeat and should resign, Manjunath questioned Balakrishna's response. He asked whether the Minister's reported suggestion that Rajanna leave the Congress had been made at the direction of the Chief Minister.

Manjunath also made allegations against Balakrishna over his political conduct and questioned his authority to criticise leaders, including JD(S) state leader H.D. Kumaraswamy. He alleged that Balakrishna had not worked effectively for party candidates in previous elections, including the Lok Sabha election involving D.K. Suresh.

Claiming that he had secured an additional 35,000 votes in the Magadi constituency during an earlier election, Manjunath said Balakrishna lacked the political strength to ensure electoral victories.

Asked whether Rajanna would join the JD(S), Manjunath said the political developments would become clear when the next election season begins. He added that several leaders were interested in joining the JD(S).

Bidadi Township outrage

RAMANAGARA: Farmers and leaders have strongly condemned the state government's final notification for the Bidadi Township project, alleging unilateral action and pointing out that the review committee ignored farmers' grievances without conducting proper ground visits. Accusing the government of contempt of court, stakeholders announced plans to pursue legal action and strategise the next phase of protests in consultation with Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

Census 2027 requires accuracy and coordination: DC

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Census work is a responsibility of national importance, and officials must perform their duties with dedication, accuracy and coordination, said Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar.

He was speaking after inaugurating a training workshop for district-level Charge Officers and their assistants for the second phase of Census 2027, Population Enumeration, at Kaveri Hall of the Zilla Panchayat on Wednesday.

Appreciating the successful completion of the first phase, House Listing and Housing Census, he said 4,69,235 households and a population of 17,90,422 had been recorded in Mandya district. He directed officials to ensure that no household or individual identified during the first phase was left out of the population enumeration.

He said census data would help the government formulate welfare schemes, development programmes and future policies. It would also be important for electoral delimitation. As the exercise is being conducted digitally, officials must become familiar with the mobile application and encourage people to use the self-enumeration facility. He stressed the need for zero errors.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.R. Roopa urged officials to work with commitment and strive for recognition through outstanding performance. Recalling her experience as a Charge Officer during the 2011 Census in Kadur taluk, she said Chikkamagaluru district had received three medals, including two for achievements in which she had played a role.

Vijay Atmaram Aire, Technical Director of the Directorate of Census Operations, India, stressed the need to reverify census block boundaries before beginning the second phase. He said the PE mobile application and CMAS portal would be used for data collection and administrative coordination.

He also directed Charge Officers to ensure proper registration of enumerators and supervisors, work allocation and training. Technical assistants and Rapid Response Teams have been arranged to address operational difficulties.

Zilla Panchayat Planning Cell official Dhanush and resource persons Abhishek and others attended the workshop.



Officials at the inauguration of the Census 2027 training workshop in Mandya.

4,69,235	17,90,422
households recorded	population recorded

Citizens must unite to eradicate corruption: Judge



Officials take the anti-corruption pledge at the launch of Awareness Week-2026 in Chikkaballapura.

Emphasising transparency, Principal District and Sessions Judge T.P. Ramlinge Gowda urged citizens and officials to unite in eradicating corruption.

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Every citizen and government official must work together with honesty and commitment to eradicate corruption and build a transparent society, said Principal District and Sessions Judge T.P. Ramlinge Gowda.

He was speaking at the inauguration of 'Awareness Week-2026' held at the Zilla Panchayat hall in Chikkaballapura on Wednesday. The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Police Department and Karnataka Lokayukta.

He said government welfare schemes should reach eligible beneficiaries without delays, difficulties or corruption. Citizens should not be forced to make repeated visits to government offices to obtain basic services. Officials must understand their responsibilities and ensure people-friendly administration, he added.

He further stated that the objective of Awareness Week was to create public awareness against corruption and strengthen ethical values among government employees. Every official and staff member should take an oath to discharge their duties honestly and safeguard public interest.

Corruption not only obstructed social development but also weakened public confidence in government institutions, he said, stressing that all government departments must uphold honesty, transparency and accountability while delivering public services.

District Bar Association president K.V. Abhilash said preventing corruption was the responsibility of every citizen, not just the government. He urged people neither to offer nor accept bribes and encouraged them to report corruption to the concerned authorities.

Judge Siddanna B. Andrala administered the anti-corruption pledge and explained the importance of the awareness campaign.

District Superintendent of Police Padmini Sahoo, Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Dr. Shivakumar, District Legal Services Authority Secretary and Civil Judge B. Shilpa, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar and several district and taluk-level officials and staff members attended the programme.

KRS water level drops back to 100 feet

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The water level at the Krishnarajasagara (KRS) reservoir in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district has dropped to 100 feet following the continuous release of water to Tamil Nadu.

The reservoir, which had recorded a water level of 104 feet a week ago, has witnessed a steady decline over the past several days. The reduction in storage has drawn attention to the reservoir's current water position and the gap between incoming and outgoing water.

According to the latest figures, the inflow into the reservoir stands at just 548 cusecs, while the outflow is considerably higher at 7,871 cusecs. As a result, the water level has fallen to 100.12 feet, with the total storage estimated at 22.904 TMC.

The substantial difference between inflow and outflow is contributing to the continuing decline in the reservoir's storage. Within a week, the water level has dropped by nearly four feet from its earlier mark of 104 feet.

The KRS reservoir is one of Karnataka's important water sources and plays a significant role in meeting irrigation and drinking water requirements in Mandya and neighbouring districts. Water released from the reservoir also forms part of the Cauvery river system, which is shared by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The declining storage has brought renewed attention to the importance of monitoring reservoir levels, assessing available inflows and managing water distribution carefully.

With the inflow remaining relatively low compared to the outflow, the reservoir's water position continues to be closely watched.

The latest figures highlight the pressure on storage levels amid the ongoing release of water to the neighbouring state.

KRS water level

A WEEK AGO	NOW
104 ft level recorded	100.12 ft storage 22.904 TMC

VB-G RAM G SHELTERS

Khandre orders 50 bus shelters across Mandya

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre held a review discussion with Mandya Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini while travelling by car from Mandya towards Mysuru, issuing several directions to strengthen rural infrastructure and improve public services.

The Minister directed the construction of well-equipped bus shelters in 50 villages with high passenger movement under the VB-G RAM G scheme. He also suggested opening more Akka Cafes, which provide income opportunities for women, and assigning their management to women's self-help groups.



Emphasising the effective utilisation of government grants and tax revenue, Khandre called for creating permanent public assets in villages. He said 375 projects could be undertaken under the scheme.

On e-Swathu property records, he instructed Panchayat Development Officers to conduct immediate field inspections after receiving applications, verify documents, invite objections and issue certificates without unnecessary delays.

He also ordered the cancellation of property records issued using forged documents. Referring to allegations of 1,881 illegal e-Swathu records in Indavalu Gram Panchayat, he warned officials against corruption and irregularities.

Reviewing lake conservation, he said Mandya district had 417 lakes under Gram Panchayat limits. Of the 319 acres encroached upon across 155 lakes, 162 acres had been recovered from 133 lakes. The remaining 158 acres across 22 lakes must be cleared, excluding residential houses. He also directed officials to remove obstructions in stormwater channels, protect government land and improve groundwater recharge.

Khandre instructed officials to organise Gram Sabhas to identify beneficiaries for cattle sheds, sheep and goat shelters, borewell recharge pits and farm ponds under the scheme.

The Zilla Panchayat CEO was asked to visit at least four villages twice a week and resolve public grievances concerning roads, drinking water, streetlights, sanitation and property records.

Citing the possibility of summer water shortages due to El Niño-related rainfall deficits, he ordered village-level water budgeting and advance identification of alternative water sources. He also directed officials to ensure that wages for unskilled workers under the scheme were paid within 15 days.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chikkodi

No.:PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/5555 DATE: 03/11/2026

E-TENDER/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 5054-SH roads other Bandawal Vecch and 15 works under head of account 5054-MDR roads other Bandawal Vecch. Totally 16 No. of Works, Amount put to tender is minimum of **Rs.120.00 Lakhs** and maximum of **Rs. 400.00 Lakhs.**

Calendar of events: 1) Pre-bid meeting date: **18-11-2026 at 11.00 AM,** at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : **19-11-2026 up to 5.30 PM.** 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : **21-11-2026 up to 5.00 PM.** 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): **23-11-2026 at 4.30 PM.** 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): **"after approval of Technical bids".** 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & departmental web site **www.kpwd.gov.in.** Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept., Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1051/Adverto/2026-27

Quick Read

Applications invited for BIERT vacancies in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, Chitradurga
The Department of School Education has invited applications to fill vacant Block Inclusive Education Resource Teacher (BIERT) posts at six Block Resource Centre (BRC) centres in Chitradurga district for the 2026-27 academic year. The appointments will be made temporarily on a direct contractual basis. Applicants must possess a D.Ed. in Special Education and a valid Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR) number. Eligible candidates must submit their completed applications along with attested supporting documents in person at the concerned office by 5 pm on Nov 9. Further details can be obtained from the office of the Deputy Director of School Education during working hours.

Deadline extended for disability welfare scheme applications

CH NEWS, Koppal
The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens has extended the deadline for online applications under 14 beneficiary-oriented schemes for 2026-27 to Nov 15. The schemes include financial assistance, unemployment allowance, student incentives, talking laptops, Braille kits, motorised two-wheelers, sewing machines, assistive devices and battery-operated wheelchairs. Eligible persons with disabilities can apply through the Seva Sindhu portal, Gram One, Karnataka One or Bengaluru One centres.

H.K. Patil vows statewide Street Vendors' welfare law

Inaugurating Karnataka Sambhrama-53 and street vendor welfare programs in Gadag-Betageri, leaders emphasized community development and support.

CH NEWS, Gadag



Former minister and Gadag MLA H.K. Patil has called for the implementation of the 2014 Street Vendors Act across Karnataka, stating that the legislation has brought hope and economic security to thousands of street vendors in Gadag district.

Speaking after inaugurating the Karnataka Sambhrama-53 celebrations and various welfare initiatives for street vendors at D.K.H. Patil Circle in Gadag-Betageri, he said laws intended to protect the livelihoods and dignity of poor people must be implemented effectively.

The programme was organised jointly by the Gadag District Street Vendors' Multipurpose Association and the Karnataka State Street Vendors' Mahamandal, Bengaluru. The event also featured the inauguration of various projects undertaken by the Gadag-Betageri Town Vending Committee, the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a community hall and cultural programmes.

Patil said the street vendors' welfare legislation implemented in Gadag district should serve as a model for the entire state. He assured the association that he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and seek statewide implementation. He also promised to bring the issue to the Chief Minister's attention if a 20-member delegation of street vendors visited Bengaluru.Expressing concern that the district administration had neglected Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations, Patil appreciated the street vendors for organising the celebrations and demonstrating their commitment to Kannada language and culture. He promised to allocate Rs. 1 crore from his MLA Local Area Development Fund towards the construction of the street vendors' community hall.

Sri Fakir Dingaleshwar Swamiji of Fakireshwar Sansthan Math, Shirahatti, blessed the gathering, while Maulana Inayadilla Peerzade led the programme.

Several association office-bearers, representatives and community leaders attended the event. State vice-president Bashasabha Mallasamudra delivered the introductory address, Chandrakant Chavan welcomed the gathering and child artist Krishnapriya offered the prayer.

Monthly Task Force meetings mandatory to curb child labour



CH NEWS,Chitradurga

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has directed officials to conduct monthly taluk-level Task Force Committee meetings without fail to review measures for eradicating child labour and protecting children's rights.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting of the District-level Task Force and Executive Committee at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday.

He observed that some taluks had conducted only two or three meetings in the past eight months and warned that disciplinary action would be taken against Labour Inspectors who failed to hold meetings regularly.

He instructed officials to conduct frequent inspections at hotels, dhabas, garages, workshops, construction sites and bakeries. Children found working illegally must be rescued immediately, rehabilitated and provided access to education. Cases should also be registered against employers violating the law.

Kumaraswamy stressed that rehabilitation should extend beyond producing rescued children before the Child Welfare Committee. Officials must visit their homes, assess family conditions and ensure their return to education. Eligible children should be admitted to residential schools under the 10 per cent reservation provision, with parental consent.

He directed the District Labour Officer to review the performance of Labour Inspectors every 15 days and submit reports on inspections and cases registered. School authorities were also instructed to identify children absent for 15 consecutive days or those who had dropped out.

He called for coordinated action by the Revenue, Police, Education, Labour and Women and Child Development departments to prevent child labour, child marriage and minor pregnancies. Public awareness campaigns were also emphasised.

Information pamphlets on child protection, child helplines and adoption procedures were released. Zilla Panchayat Project Director Jayalakshmamma and other district officials attended the meeting.

BJP leader demands withdrawal of bus fare hike

CH NEWS, Koppal

BJP leader Dr. Basavaraja Kyavatar has strongly criticised the Congress-led state government's decision to increase bus fares, demanding its immediate withdrawal.

In a statement, he said the fare hike would impose an additional financial burden on ordinary people, who are already struggling with rising prices of essential commodities and increased electricity tariffs. He described the decision as unjustified and alleged that the government was indirectly recovering the cost of its guarantee schemes by increasing public expenses.

He said the fare increase would particularly affect students, employees, daily wage workers, women and residents of rural areas who depend on public transport for their daily needs. People travelling by bus for work, education and other essential purposes would have to spend more, adding to their regular household expenses.

Kyavatar pointed out that poor and middle-class families would face greater financial pressure due to the additional travel costs. He questioned the government's claim of providing a pro-people administration, saying that increasing transport fares while promoting its guarantee schemes contradicted that commitment.He also said public transport was an essential service for thousands of families, particularly those who cannot afford private vehicles. Any increase in fares would directly affect their monthly budgets and make daily commuting more expensive.

The BJP leader urged the state government to reconsider its decision and withdraw the fare hike without delay. He called upon the government to find alternative ways to address the financial difficulties of state transport corporations instead of transferring the burden to passengers.

HESCOM intensifies electrical safety measures across Gadag

CH NEWS, Gadag

The Hubli Electricity Supply Company Limited (HESCOM) has intensified repair and maintenance work on its power distribution network across Gadag district to prevent electrical accidents and ensure the safety of farmers and the general public.

In a statement, the Superintending Engineer of the Gadag Operations and Maintenance Circle said several preventive measures had been completed in different areas.

Jal Jeevan Mission Progress

DC directs officials to complete drinking water projects on time



CH NEWS, Vijayapura

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. has directed officials to complete ongoing drinking water supply projects in the Nikhundi and Basavanabagewadi areas within the stipulated time and maintain construction quality.

During a visit to the Nikhundi and Basavanabagewadi areas on Wednesday, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of various development works being implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission and its updated version 2.0. He inspected pipeline installation works and instructed officials to ensure that the projects were completed without delay.

Reviewing the construction of the Nikhundi market, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officials to complete the work within the next month. He stressed that construction quality should not be compromised and that technical inspections must be conducted regularly to ensure the durability of the structure.

He also inspected the quality of food grains supplied through the Indira Canteen. Officials were instructed to ensure that beneficiaries received food prepared according to prescribed standards, including chapatis and rotis, along with other food items. Cleanliness and hygiene at the canteen premises must also be maintained.

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the progress of drinking water pipeline works in Nikhundi and Basavanabagewadi, including projects requiring Forest Department permission. He directed officials to expedite pending administrative procedures and obtain necessary approvals without delay so that the drinking water schemes could be implemented on schedule.

Officials from various departments, including the Vijayapura sub-division, municipal administration, rural drinking water supply and other concerned agencies, accompanied him during the inspection.

KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MADIKERI
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institution
Ph-08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
No: DME/2026-27/IND2787 Date: 02-11-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal https:kppp.karanataka.gov.in GOK, for the SUPPLY OF Equipments to department of General Medicine KoIMS Madikeri. last date for upload is **23-11-2026** for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Director and Dean
KoIMS Madikeri

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chitradurga.
No.: RHA/SDRF/64/2026-1180349. Date: 02-11-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

For the year 2026-27, Holalkere Taluk of Chitradurga District has been declared a drought-affected taluk. In order to protect the livestock in Holalkere Taluk, an e-tender notification has been issued for the procurement and supply of good-quality fodder, vide Indent No. AHVS/2026-27/IBD0142/CALL-2. The last date for submission of tenders is 11-11-2026 up to 4:00 PM.For further information, interested parties may visit the Government of Karnataka's e-Procurement portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/371/2026-27
Sd/- Deputy Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chitradurga.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/DPR/2026-27/1797 Date:02.11.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document for 0 works (Indent No. 3916/call-4, for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.2.11 lakhs to Maximum 2.11 lakhs, Total Rs: 2.11 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-
Last Date for information any quarries Date:20.11.2026 Time 11.00
Last Date for Submitting the tender Date:21.11.2026 Time 16.00
Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date:23.11.2026 Time 16.01
Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date:24.11.2026 Time 16.02
Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.365:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Vijayapur. Tel.No:08352-277941,
E-mail: eerdwsd.bjp@gmail.com
No:EE/RDWSD/VJP/KPPP/Tender/2026-27/1294
Dated:03.11.2026

KPPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water and sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through KPPP Portal for Grey Water Management to Padekanur Village of Konnur Gram Panchayath in Talikoti Taluka of Vijayapur District Work as follows.
Two Cover : 01 Work.
Last date for submission of online tender through KPPP Portal is **18.11.2026 at 5.30 PM.** Date of Pre Bid Meeting **12.11.2026** Date of opening of Technical bid is **19.11.2026 at 6.00 PM.** Date of Opening of Financial bid is **23.11.2026** at 11.00 AM. (or after Technical bid evaluation)
More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/387/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, HONAVAR DIVISION, HONAVAR - 581 334
Phone No: 08387-295236 e-Mail: dcf.honavar@gmail.com
No. B3/DTS/November-2026/MSTC/CR-15/2026-27 Dt: 29-10-2026.

NOTIFICATION FOR E-TENDER OF TIMBER AND FIREWOOD IN KATGAL AND IDAGUNJI DEPOT OF HONAVAR DIVISION, HONAVAR

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, Timber, firewood, billets and poles will be sold through the public e-tender sale in the Govt. Timber Depots of Honavar Division at Idagunji Timber Depot on **23.11.2026 (All Four Sessions) & 24.11.2026 (I & II session)** and Katgal Timber Depot on **24.11.2026 (III & IV Sessions) from 10.00 A.M.** till the bidding for all lots is completed. Interested bidders can participate in the auction. Details regarding the e-auction can be obtained through the websites **www.mstcecommerce.com** and **www.etimber.in.** For more details please contact the following telephone numbers during office hours.
Range Forest Officer, Honavar – 08387-257362
Range Forest Officer, Katgal – 08386-264100 or
Deputy Conservator of Froests, Honavar Division, Honavar – 08387-295236

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/512/26-27 dt. 04.11.2026
Sd/- (Yogeesha C.K., IFS) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honavar Division, Honavar.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Chitradurga-577501.
(Telephone & Fax No. 08194- 22538 e-mail:-eln.chitradurga@gmail.com)
No:ELN/CR-42/2026-27 Date: 04.11.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

For upcoming No.100 Hiriyur assembly constituency bye-election-2026 invites tenders through the KPP Portal in Two Tender Document System as detailed below:-
Description of Goods and Services :- (1) The Supply Of Polling Station Stationery, Stationery Required For The Election Branch, And Other Purposes For Election Branch As Required For Upcoming No.100 Hiriyur Assembly Constituency Bye-Election-2026. Indent No. RD/2026-27/Ind0270 **Amount Put to Tender:-** 20.00 **Lakhs. EMD Amount:-**0.50 **Lakhs. (2)** Tender For The Temporary Establishment Of Check Post On A Rental Basis For The Upcoming No.100 Hiriyur Assembly Constituency Bye-Election-2026. Indent No. RD/2026-27/SE0590 **Amount Put to Tender:-** 42.00 **Lakhs. EMD Amount:-**0.84 **Lakhs. (3)** Tender For Supply Of Videographer And Video Camera For Upcoming No.100 Hiriyur Assembly Constituency Bye-Election-2026 Indent No. RD/2026-27/SE0591 **Amount Put to Tender:-** 90.00 **Lakhs. EMD Amount:-**1.80 **Lakhs. (4)** Tender For Supply Of Food/ Meals And Refreshments For Upcoming No.100 Hiriyur Assembly Constituency Bye-Election-2026. Indent No. RD/2026-27/SE0592 **Amount Put to Tender:-** 25.00 **Lakhs. EMD Amount:-**0.50 **Lakhs.** Interested contractors shall register on the KPP Portal platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the kppp platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
(1) Pre-Qualification meeting for Bidders 09.11.2026 11.00 AM **(2)** Last date for Submitting Queries 11.11.2026 4.00 PM **(3)** Last Date for uploading of filled tender documents 12.11.2026 10.30 AM **(4)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) 13.11.2026 11.00 AM **(5)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) After Technical Bid Approval
Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through kpp portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/379/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DAVANAGERE DIVI, DAVANAGERE.
No.EE:PWD:Dvg/JE:IFT-25:2026-27 Dated:- 02.11.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : This office tender notification No. IFT-25/2026-27 dated : 02.11.2026.
The works under Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL 2 Works minimum Rs.575.00 lakhs to maximum Rs. 760.00 lakhs, Head of Account : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP, 1 Work Rs. 100.00 lakhs, Head of Account : 4059-60-051-0-05-422-SCP (Belaku Yujane) 1 Work Rs. 260.00 lakhs, Head of Account : 4059-60-051-0-05-423 TSP (Belaku Yujane) 1 Work Rs. 260.00 lakhs, Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-29-386 Depertmental Building 1 work Rs. 300.00 lakhs and Head of Account 8443- Deposit Contribution 2 Works minimum Rs.28.00 lakhs to maximum Rs. 35.00 lakhs, pertaining to Davanagere, Harihara and Jagalur sub divisions under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division, has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules. Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Details of dates	W.I. 40317, 41555 (Call-2)	W.I. 36230 (Call-2) & 45083, 44241, 45082	W.I. 38943 & 44414
1. Last Date & time for tender queries	Date 02.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date 02.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date 02.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
2. Prebid meeting held : office of Executive enginner, PWD division, Davanagere.	Date : 04.11.2026 Timing 11.00 A.M.	Date : 04.11.2026 Timing 11.00 A.M.	-
3. Last Date & time for receipt of tenders	Date : 16.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date : 11.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date : 11.11.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
4. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid :	Date : 17.11.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.	Date : 12.11.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.	Date : 12.11.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.

Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/608/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Davanagere

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

LET EXAM SEASON TEST STUDENTS, NOT BREAK THEM

DR. THEJAS GIGY

November has arrived, and with it the annual tightening of households across the country. Timetables are pinned to walls, social plans are shelved, and a single question hangs over the dinner table: how will it go? For millions of students, a few hours at a desk now seem to carry a verdict on their entire future.

Some of that pressure is healthy. Exams remain a broadly accepted way to measure learning fairly at scale, and the discipline of preparing for them builds habits that last well beyond the results. No one serious argues for lowering standards or abolishing assessment.

But there is a line between pressure that motivates and pressure that corrodes, and exam season crosses it too often. Students trade sleep for extra study hours, skip meals, abandon exercise and put friendships on hold until "after the exams." Comparison spreads quickly through classrooms and group chats, where everyone appears to be working harder than you. The anxiety that results does not always end when the last paper is handed in.

The adults around students share the responsibility. Parents, with the best of intentions, can reduce every conversation to a progress report. Schools, judged on results, pass their own pressure down the line. A thriving coaching industry stacks extra classes onto an already full day until a teenager's week has no gaps left. We say we want young people to be curious, resilient and balanced, then design a season that rewards none of those qualities.

It is worth stating plainly what an examination is. It captures a narrow slice of ability on a particular morning, under particular conditions. A bad night's sleep, an illness or a nervous start can distort the outcome. Plenty of people who stumbled in the exam hall went on to do excellent work, and plenty who topped their classes discovered that life asks different questions. A student who believes a mark



defines their worth is carrying a burden no examination board ever intended.

The remedy does not require reforming the system overnight. Rest should be treated as part of revision, not a reward for finishing the syllabus, because memory and concentration depend on sleep, food and movement. A rested student will often outperform an exhausted one who studied longer. At home, the first question should be how a student is feeling, not how many chapters they have covered. Many need reassurance more than supervision.

Schools, for their part, should make counselling and calm communication standard in the weeks around exams, not optional extras reserved for those who ask loudly. Realistic study schedules and an honest message that effort

> *To the adults who surround them, the task is simple, if not always easy: help them do their best and make sure they know that their best is enough.*

matters more than ranking would ease a great deal of strain.

And all of us should learn the warning signs: persistent sleeplessness, withdrawal, constant dread, or talk of hopelessness. These deserve attention and, where necessary, professional help. Seeking support is a sensible step, not a sign of weakness.

Exams will not disappear, and the effort students put into them should be respected. But the purpose of education is to prepare young people for life, not to teach them that life is a series of ordeals to be endured. If November produces strong grades and a damaged sense of self, the system has traded something precious for something temporary.

To every student facing a paper this month: prepare well, rest properly, and remember that you are far more than a number on a result sheet.

KERALA'S VISION FOR ELDERLY DIGNITY AND SECURITY



LALIT GARGG

India's cultural ethos has always regarded parents as worthy of the highest reverence. The timeless Vedic injunction, "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava" (revere your mother and father as divine) reflects a civilisational belief deeply embedded in the Indian way of life. Yet, if parents in the twilight of their lives are forced to endure neglect, humiliation, loneliness and insecurity within their own homes, it is not merely a sign of family disintegration; it is a profound indictment of our collective conscience. When those who sacrificed their present to secure their children's future find that their children no longer have the time, tenderness or affection to care for them in old age, the moral darkness beneath the glitter of material progress becomes painfully evident.

Against this troubling backdrop, the Kerala Legislative Assembly's passage of a comprehensive bill for the protection of senior citizens in October 2026 represents a promising and potentially transformative initiative. It is more than a legislative addition to the statute book; it offers the prospect of a new dawn of dignity, security and reassurance for older people. India is estimated to have nearly 150 million citizens aged 60 and above. This number is projected to rise to approximately 230 million by 2036 and exceed 340 million by 2050. These demographic shifts present both a warning and an opportunity. Advances in medical science and improved healthcare have extended human longevity, but an essential question remains: have we prepared ourselves to make those additional years dignified and fulfilling? Longevity alone is not an achievement. The true measure of progress lies in ensuring that longer lives are accompanied by respect, independence, emotional security and a sense of belonging.

> **"A society whose roots remain firmly connected to the wisdom and experiences of its elders is far better equipped to withstand the storms of change and uncertainty. That, in the truest sense, will be the hallmark of a compassionate, culturally grounded, prosperous and developed India."**
>
> **— Lalit Gargg**

Kerala's initiative assumes particular significance because it refuses to treat the problems of older people merely as private family matters. Instead, it recognises their protection as a wider social and institutional responsibility. The proposed legislation provides for penalties for physical and psychological abuse, cruelty and the abandonment of senior citizens against their will. It also emphasises the establishment of protection units, the regulation of care facilities, the training of caregivers and accessible mechanisms for resolving complaints. Provisions addressing cyber fraud and recognizing the rights of older people in healthcare-related decision-making reflect an understanding of the challenges of a rapidly changing society. The message is unequivocal: caring for older people may begin as an expression of affection and goodwill, but safeguarding their dignity and security is an indispensable obligation of an organized and civilized society.

One of the most compassionate concepts underpinning this initiative is "Ageing in Place", the principle that older people should, wherever possible, be able to live with dignity in their own homes and familiar surroundings. The need for old-age homes cannot be denied, but even a single room in one's own home can be infinitely more precious when it is warmed by affection and a sense of belonging. Older people need more than food, medicines and a bed. They need a companion with whom they can converse, an attentive ear that listens to their concerns, a sensitive mind that values their experiences and a family that acknowledges their worth. At this stage of life, emotional deprivation can often cause deeper suffering than financial hardship. When the voices of older people go unheard within their own homes, the walls may remain intact, but the very soul of the family begins to weaken.

The disintegration of joint families, the relentless pace of metropolitan life, migration overseas and the growing dominance of individualistic attitudes have made old age increasingly difficult for millions. Once, grandparents were the living schools of family life. Their stories preserved history, their experiences imparted wisdom, and their blessings constituted an invaluable inheritance. Today, however, this reservoir of experience and insight is too often dismissed as irrelevant or outdated. Pressuring parents over property, wrongfully claiming control over their savings, abandoning them during illness or repeatedly wounding their emotions are all stains on the conscience of a civilized society. What a painful irony that the very hands which once taught children to walk should, in old age, be left yearning for a hand to hold!

Kerala's proposed legislation offers a comprehensive approach to addressing these concerns. It provides for imprisonment of up to three years and fines of up to ₹50,000 for abuse of senior citizens and abandoning them



in circumstances covered by the legislation. It also envisages provisions for registering care facilities, training caregivers, resolving complaints and protecting older people against cyber fraud. Recognition of advance healthcare decisions, access to legal assistance and the ability to navigate digital services are additional measures that respond to the realities of contemporary life. Notably, the Kerala Legislative Assembly passed the bill unanimously on October 26, 2026. It must, however, receive the Governor's assent before it can become law. Its ultimate significance will depend not merely on its legislative provisions, but on the sincerity and effectiveness with which those provisions are implemented.

Another far-sighted dimension of this initiative is the concept of the Silver Economy. Older people must not be viewed merely as recipients of assistance, but as active contributors to society. Their experience, knowledge, skills and mature perspectives can be meaningfully channeled into education, mentorship, social service, entrepreneurship and community development. Retirement need not signify the end of one's productive life; it can mark the beginning of a valuable second innings. What society needs is a fundamental shift in perspective: older people must be regarded not as a burden, but as an invaluable asset. An ageing tree does not lose the value of its shade. Similarly, the wisdom accumulated over a lifetime can provide direction and stability to a nation's development journey.

The time has come for the Union Government and other states to draw inspiration from Kerala's initiative. The effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, should be reviewed, and the law strengthened wherever necessary. States should establish dedicated protection units for senior citizens, accessible grievance-redressal mechanisms, free legal assistance, home-based healthcare services and safe community centers. Police stations, hospitals, banks and local authorities should have systems to address the concerns of older people promptly and sensitively. At the same time, schools and colleges should promote intergenerational dialogue, while sustained public campaigns should encourage greater empathy and responsibility within families. The law can punish an offence after it has occurred, but values and upbringing can prevent the circumstances that lead to such wrongdoing in the first place.

Ultimately, the protection of senior citizens is not merely a welfare issue concerning one age group; it is a question that will help determine the future direction of India itself. Those who are young today will be senior citizens tomorrow. Every compassionate system created to protect older people is, therefore, also an investment in our own future. The vision of a Viksit Bharat (a developed India) and India's aspiration to emerge as a Vishwaguru, or a global leader in wisdom and values, can become meaningful only when economic prosperity is accompanied by human compassion, technological advancement by ethical consciousness, and modern lifestyles by enduring family bonds.

Kerala's initiative signals the possibility of a brighter future, but extending that light to every household in the country is our collective responsibility. We must build an India where old age is not a period of helplessness, but one of dignity; where older people never feel like strangers in their own homes; and where their eyes do not remain fixed in anxious anticipation of their children's arrival, but shine with the warmth of their love and presence.

PLASTIC PARTICLES FOUND IN MILK SAMPLES: A SCIENTIFIC CONCERN



DR. VIJAY GARG

Milk is considered an important part of a healthy diet. From supporting the physical growth of children to meeting the nutritional needs of older adults, milk and dairy products play a significant role in human nutrition. However, scientific studies reporting the presence of microplastic particles in some milk samples have raised new concerns about food safety. This raises an important question: Is the milk we regard as a source of nutrition completely safe from plastic pollution?

What Are Microplastics?

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles generally smaller than five millimetres. They can enter the environment through the breakdown of larger plastic objects, fibres released from synthetic clothing, industrial processes and other sources. Even smaller particles are known as nanoplastics. These particles can be found in air, water, soil and food. Since many of them are invisible to the naked eye, specialised scientific techniques are required to identify and measure them.

How Do These Particles Enter Milk?

There are several possible pathways through which microplastics may enter milk. Plastic particles present in animal feed, drinking water or the surrounding environment may enter the bodies of dairy animals. In addition, contamination may occur during milk collection, storage and transportation through contact with plastic materials. Plastic pipes, containers, packaging materials and other equipment are also potential sources that require investigation. However, the source of contamination may vary from one sample to another, and no single cause can be held responsible in every case.

Why Is the Scientific Community Concerned?

Detecting microplastic particles in milk is itself a matter of scientific investigation. An even more important question is how these particles may affect human health. Some laboratory and animal studies have investigated possible effects of microplastic exposure, including inflammation, oxidative stress and changes in certain biological processes. However, these findings do not establish that the quantities of microplastics consumed through milk cause any particular disease in humans. Direct evidence regarding the effects of microplastics on human health remains limited. Therefore, it is important neither to ignore the potential risks nor to create unnecessary fear based on incomplete information.

The Need for Careful Testing

Comparisons between studies measuring microplastics in milk require considerable caution. The methods used to collect and store samples, the analytical techniques employed and possible contamination from airborne plastic particles in laboratories can influence the results. Reliable findings require standardised testing methods, appropriate control samples and confirmation of results by independent laboratories. It would be scientifically incorrect to conclude that all milk is contaminated on the basis of findings from only a limited number of samples.

What Can Consumers Do?

Consumers can take several practical steps to reduce avoidable exposure to plastic contamination:

- Purchase milk from clean and reliable sources.
- Ensure that containers used for collecting and storing milk are properly cleaned.
- Do not assume that heating or boiling milk provides complete protection against microplastics. Ordinary boiling cannot be relied upon to destroy plastic particles completely.
- Avoid storing hot milk for prolonged periods in unsuitable plastic containers. Use food-safe containers designed to withstand the relevant temperatures.
- Reduce unnecessary use of single-use plastics and ensure that plastic waste is disposed of responsibly.

These measures may help reduce certain opportunities for contamination, but they cannot guarantee complete protection from microplastics.

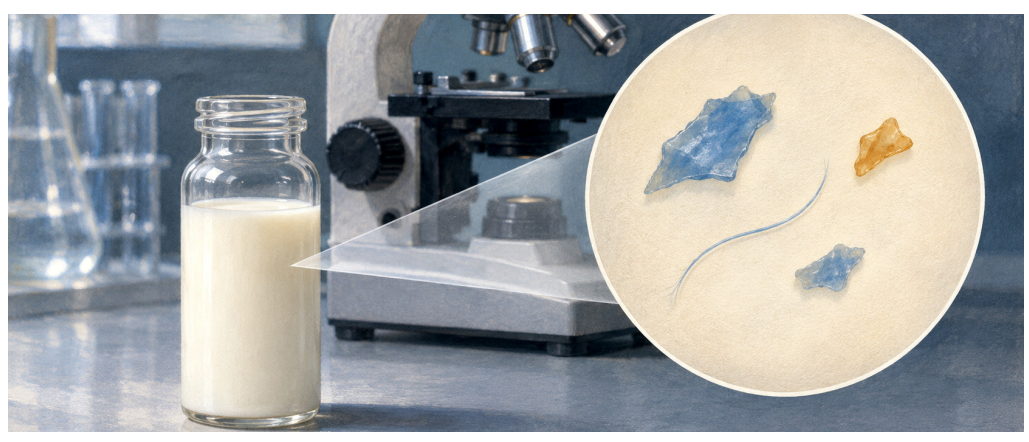
The Role of Government, Industry and Scientists

Authorities responsible for monitoring milk quality should promote standardised testing methods and assess milk samples where appropriate. The dairy industry should identify potential sources of contamination throughout production, packaging, storage and transportation. Scientists also need to determine the types, sizes and quantities of particles found in milk and investigate how they behave in the human body. Further research is required to understand their possible long-term effects, particularly on children and other potentially vulnerable groups. Public communication is equally important. Findings should be reported transparently, with clear explanations of the limitations of existing evidence. This would help consumers make informed decisions without unnecessary alarm.

Conclusion

The reported presence of microplastic particles in milk samples represents an important scientific and food-safety concern. The issue extends beyond milk and highlights the growing connection between plastic pollution and everyday human life. Instead of responding with fear or speculation, society should prioritise scientific evidence, transparent testing and responsible action. The nutritional value of milk should not be dismissed; rather, efforts should focus on ensuring its safety through research, monitoring and the reduction of plastic pollution.

> *"A cleaner environment is fundamental to safer food and a healthier future."*
>
> **DR. VIJAY GARG**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make Our Footpaths Safer

I urge our municipal authorities to repair broken footpaths near schools, markets and bus stops. Uneven paving forces pedestrians onto busy local roads, where children, older residents and people with disabilities face particular danger. The city should inspect the busiest routes, publish a repair schedule and keep a clear path around construction sites. Residents could also report damaged stretches through a dedicated phone number. A continuous, accessible footpath would make everyday journeys safer for everyone who walks around our neighbourhood. **– Evan**

More Shade for Parks

Our neighbourhood park needs more trees and better care for the ones already growing there. On hot afternoons, families crowd around the few shaded benches while much of the park sits empty. The municipality could plant suitable native trees along paths and near seating, with a watering plan for the first few summers. Local volunteers could help track which saplings survive. Even a modest planting programme would give residents more places to rest, play and meet outdoors during warmer months. **– Velu**

Make Bus Arrivals Predictable

Buses on our neighbourhood route often arrive in pairs after long gaps, leaving commuters unsure when to leave home. Students miss classes, workers arrive late and older passengers stand for extended periods. The transport authority should review actual arrival times and adjust schedules where delays regularly occur. Posting service updates at major stops would also help passengers without smartphones plan their journeys. A printed timetable that reflects road conditions would make the bus a more dependable choice for everyday trips. **– Naveen**

Keep Hospital Streets Quiet

Traffic noise near our hospital makes it harder for patients to rest. Drivers frequently honk at the main entrance, especially when taxis and private cars queue for space. Hospital management and traffic officers should mark a clear drop-off area, keep the ambulance entrance free and put up signs asking drivers to avoid unnecessary honking. An attendant during peak visiting hours could help vehicles move promptly. These simple measures would ease congestion and give patients a quieter place to recover indoors. **– Suman**

Keep Libraries Open Later

Extending library hours on one weekday evening would help residents who work or attend classes during the day. Many people need a quiet place to study, access the internet or read with their children. The library could try a three-month pilot and record how many visitors use the extra hours. It could then use those figures to decide whether to continue. A single late opening each week would give more residents a chance to use the library after regular hours. **– Gowri**

AI WILL NOT STEAL YOUR JOB

Artificial Intelligence has become the most talked about technology of our generation. Every day we read that AI can write poetry, create logos, diagnose diseases and even drive cars. For lakhs of young Indians sitting in engineering colleges, BPOs and design studios, this creates a genuine fear: Will AI take my job?

This anxiety is natural but history suggests it is misplaced. Every major technological shift destroyed some jobs but created many more. When computers entered Indian banks in the 1980s, unions protested for months fearing mass unemployment. What actually happened? Banking expanded to every town and created millions of new jobs. When ATMs arrived, people said bank tellers would vanish, but India today has more bank branches than ever before. Technology does not destroy work, it transforms it.

What AI will really steal is not your job but the boring, repetitive part of your job. The first draft of an email, the summarising of a 50-page report, the entry of data from one sheet to another, the making of a basic presentation. If a machine can do it, why should a human waste life doing it? This is actually liberation.

Consider a teacher in a government school in Karnataka. She earlier spent six hours making question papers in two languages. Now with AI she can do it in ten minutes and use the saved five hours to actually sit with weak students and mentor them. A small saree shop owner in Surat can use AI to write product descriptions for his website and spend time talking to customers. A young lawyer can use AI to find relevant case laws in seconds and spend time arguing better in court.



The real competition is not between human vs AI, but between human with AI vs human without AI. The employee who knows how to use AI tools effectively will replace the one who does not. This is the challenge for India. Our skilling system is still stuck in the past. Our ITIs and many colleges still teach MS Word and Excel as computer education. We need to urgently teach prompt engineering, data verification, critical thinking and AI ethics in every college. The National Education Policy 2020 talks about this, but ground level implementation in government schools and rural colleges is painfully slow.

There are also serious risks that we must address. AI can create deepfake videos of a politician, clone a singer's voice without permission, or steal an artist's design. We need strong laws for copyright, data privacy and labour protection. We must ensure that gig workers whose data trains AI models are compensated.

But banning or fearing AI is not the answer. The loom did not kill the weaver. The weaver who used the loom killed the one who refused to learn it. India missed the industrial revolution. We caught the IT revolution. We must lead the AI revolution.

The future does not belong to the most intelligent machine. It belongs to the most humane, creative and adaptable human who knows how to make the machine work for him. Let us learn, not fear. Let us build.

— ANGEL

BENGALURU TRAFFIC NEEDS A PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVOLUTION

If you live in Bengaluru, you have already lost two years of your life in traffic without realising it. A recent global mobility report found that an average Bengalurean spends over 260 hours every year stuck in traffic jams, the highest for any Indian city. We joke about Silk Board junction and post memes about Outer Ring Road, but this is no longer funny. It is a public health emergency, an economic disaster and a mental health crisis rolled into one.

The problem is simple but our solution is wrong. For 20 years we believed more roads, more flyovers and wider roads would solve traffic. We built the Hebbal flyover, the Electronic City flyover, and are now talking about tunnel roads. Yet traffic has only become worse. Why? Because of a well-proven principle called induced demand. When you build more roads for private cars, more people buy cars and fill those roads within two years. You cannot solve traffic by building for cars.

The only solution that has worked in every major city in the world, from Tokyo to London to Singapore, is world-class public transport. Bengaluru needs buses, thousands of them. One BMTC bus carries 60 people in the road space of just three cars. It is the most efficient use of road. Yet in the last five years, while private cars have doubled to over 22 lakh, BMTC's fleet has actually shrunk to less than 6,500 buses. This is policy failure.

> *"Bengaluru built India's IT future. Now it must build India's mobility future. Otherwise we will have the best companies in the world, but no way to reach them."*
>
> IVANIA

We need at least 10,000 electric buses with dedicated bus lanes that no car can enter. We need Metro feeder buses that come every five minutes and are tracked by an app that actually works. We need footpaths that are walkable, where a woman with a child or an old man with a stick can walk without fear of falling into an open drain or being hit by a bike.

We must make driving costly and public transport cheap and dignified. Impose a congestion tax in central areas like MG Road and Koramangala, charge high parking fees in commercial complexes, and offer a common monthly pass for BMTC and Metro at Rs 1,000. Let people have a real choice: pay Rs 300 to drive to office or Rs 30 to take an AC bus that is on time.

— IVANIA

DAUGHTERS OF INDIA ARE WINNING GOLD

When Manisha Bhanwala stood on top of the podium in Astana last week, the national anthem playing and the tricolour going up, she made history. At 29, in the 59 kg category, she became India's first-ever women's world champion in wrestling. For Indian sports, this is a watershed moment bigger than one medal.

For years, Indian women's wrestling lived with near misses. We won bronze at the Olympics, we won silver at the World Championships, we celebrated fighting spirit, but the gold always eluded us. Manisha broke that mental wall. Coming from a small akhara in Rohtak, Haryana, where she was often the only girl among 30 boys, training on mud floors, facing taunts from relatives for wearing shorts, her journey is the journey of every Indian girl who chooses a difficult dream.

This gold is not isolated. In recent years, Manu Bhaker won two Olympic medals in shooting, Nikhat Zareen became world champion in boxing, and our women's cricket team has become world-beaters. We are in the middle of a silent revolution led by our daughters. But behind the glory is a harsh reality.



Our daughters still fight for basics that male athletes take for granted. Safe hostels with locks that work, women coaches who understand their bodies, hygienic toilets in stadiums, sanitary pads, and most importantly, safety from harassment. The courageous protest by our top women wrestlers in 2023 at Jantar Mantar showed how unsafe even our champions feel. Medals cannot hide that truth.

Manisha's victory must become policy. Every district in India must have a girls-only sports hostel with proper nutrition allowance of at least Rs 500 per day, not the current Rs 250. Every SAI centre must have a woman physiotherapist and psychologist. Panchayats should be rewarded not just for stopping child marriage but for supporting a girl who wants to become an athlete. Haryana's sports policy gives cash awards, but what we need is monthly stipends for 10,000 young girls between 12 and 18 years so their parents do not pull them out of training due to poverty.

When a boy wins, his family celebrates. When a girl wins, an entire village changes its view of its daughters. A girl who wrestles delays marriage, completes school, becomes financially independent, and inspires ten more. The return on investment on women's sports is not just medals. It is social transformation.

Let us not just post Manisha's photo on Instagram for one day and forget. Let us build 1,000 more Manishas. Give them mats, coaches, safety and respect. They will give us gold and a better India.

— GOWRI

NORTH INDIA IS CHOKING EVERY WINTER

Every November, North India disappears. Not because of fog, but because of smog so thick that you cannot see the building across the road. This week again, Delhi's AQI crossed 400, which is severe, schools were shut, construction banned and flights delayed. The Supreme Court had to intervene. We go through this drama every single year, yet nothing changes.

It is easy to blame farmers of Punjab and Haryana for burning stubble. It is partly true that stubble burning spikes pollution in November. But blaming only farmers is convenient dishonesty to hide our own contribution. Scientific studies by IIT Kanpur show that vehicles contribute 40 percent of PM2.5 in Delhi throughout the year, dust from construction and roads contributes 20 percent, and industries contribute 15 percent. Stubble is seasonal, but Delhi's air is toxic for 12 months. Even on days when there is zero stubble burning, Delhi's AQI is 180, which is three times the safe limit prescribed by WHO.

This slow poison is killing us. Doctors at AIIMS Delhi report a 40 percent jump in asthma, eye infections and heart complaints every winter. A study found that children growing up in Delhi have lungs 30 percent smaller and weaker than children in coastal cities like Mangaluru. And it is not just Delhi anymore. Kanpur, Patna, Lucknow, Jaipur and even Bengaluru now see AQI above 200 in winter months. Air pollution has become a national health emergency.

The solution is not gimmicks like odd-even or spraying water from helicopters. It needs political will and enforcement. First, dust control must be made mandatory at every construction site. Any builder violating dust norms must be fined Rs 5 lakh per day and his site sealed. Second, we must accelerate public transport. Delhi needs 10,000 electric buses, not 1,000. Diesel vehicles older than 10 years must be scrapped with no exception for anyone. Third, we must help farmers, not punish them. A Happy Seeder machine costs Rs 1.5 lakh. Give it free on rent to cooperatives and pay farmers Rs 2,500 per acre not to burn. This is far cheaper than the health cost of treating millions for respiratory diseases.

As citizens, we must also change. Stop burning garbage in your lane: it is illegal, but we all do it. Demand that your municipal councillor show monthly AQI data of your ward. Wear N95 masks when AQI is above 200, but do not accept it as normal.

During COVID we wore masks to protect from a virus. Now we wear masks to protect from our own cars, our own construction and our own apathy. Clean air is not a luxury for the rich. It is a fundamental right under Article 21 of our Constitution. We must fight for it every day, not just every winter.

— JOHN



PHONES ARE STEALING OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDHOOD

A 14-year-old boy in Kota recently told his school counselor that he feels his heart beating fast and gets anxious if his phone battery drops below 20 percent. A mother in Hyderabad complained that her 8-year-old daughter screams and throws things if she is not allowed to watch Instagram Reels during dinner. These are not stories of bad parenting. These are symptoms of an addiction that has been deliberately designed by some of the richest companies in the world.

India has over 700 million smartphone users, and according to a recent report, an average Indian teenager spends 7.5 hours daily on screen, mostly watching short videos. This endless scroll is silently destroying their attention span, sleep, mental health and relationships. NCERT's latest survey of 10,000 students found that 45 percent of Class 10 students sleep less than six hours because they stay up late on phones. Teachers across the country say the same thing: students cannot read one page of a book without getting distracted. They want everything in 30 seconds.

Why is this happening? Because these apps are not neutral tools. They are designed to be addictive. Teams of psychologists and engineers in California work day and night to make the algorithm stickier. They know that a 13-year-old girl who watches one makeup video is insecure about her looks, so the algorithm shows her 100 more videos telling her she is not fair enough, not thin enough. A boy watching one gaming video is pushed towards gambling and violent content. The young brain, which is still developing till age 25, cannot fight this manipulation.

Parents feel helpless because banning phones completely does not work. Schools that collect phones at the gate see children using them for five hours at home. What can work is conscious control and community action. No phones in bedrooms after 9 pm for anyone in the family, including parents. No social media accounts before age 16. At least one hour of compulsory outdoor play every evening. Schools must have phone-free periods and teach digital literacy as a subject: how algorithms manipulate you, how to spot fake news, how to protect privacy.

The government must also act strongly. Like tobacco companies, social media companies must be forced to carry warnings and must be fined heavily if they use addictive designs for children. Australia has recently banned social media for children under 16. We in India must at least have a national debate on it.

Childhood is very short. It should be spent climbing trees, fighting with friends, reading Amar Chitra Katha, getting scolded by grandparents, not scrolling endlessly in a dark room.

> **"Childhood is very short."**
>
> — LOUIS

Technology is a good servant but a bad master. Let us take control back before the screen steals our children completely.

— LOUIS

EATING ORGANIC IS NO LONGER A LUXURY

For a long time, when we heard the word organic food in India, we imagined expensive shops in South Delhi or Koregaon Park where rich people buy small packets of dal at triple the price. This perception was wrong and dangerous. Eating organic is no longer a luxury fad for the elite. It is a necessity for every Indian family who cares about health, farmers and the future of our soil.

The facts are alarming. India today uses over 60,000 tonnes of chemical pesticides every year, many of which are banned in Europe and America. Studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research have found pesticide residues in our daily vegetables like spinach and cauliflower, in pulses, in wheat flour and even in mothers' breast milk. These chemicals do not just wash away with water. Long-term exposure is directly linked to cancer, hormonal disorders, infertility, birth defects in children and chronic asthma.

Anyone who has visited Punjab's Malwa belt would have seen the tragedy. The area, which fed India during the Green Revolution, is now called the cancer belt. Farmers who sprayed pesticides with bare hands for 30 years are now travelling by the famous cancer train from Bathinda to Bikaner for treatment. This is the hidden cost of cheap food. We saved money on food but are now spending lakhs in hospitals.

Organic farming offers a clear alternative. It does not use synthetic pesticides, chemical fertilizers or GM seeds. It uses compost, cow dung, neem and traditional crop rotation. Research published in the British Journal of Nutrition found that organic crops have 20 to 60 percent higher antioxidants, which fight disease, and organic milk has 50 percent more omega-3 fatty acids, good for the heart.

More importantly, organic farming saves our soil, which is dying. In Punjab, soil organic carbon has fallen below 0.2 percent, making soil dead like dust. Chemical fertilizers killed earthworms and good bacteria that make soil fertile. Organic farming brings them back. It uses 40 percent less water, stores more carbon in soil and helps fight climate change. Sikkim became India's first fully organic state in 2016 and its farmers' incomes, soil health and tourism have all increased.

People say organic is costly and cannot feed 140 crore Indians. This is half-truth. Organic is 20 percent costlier now because chemical farming hides its real costs. The government gives Rs 2 lakh crore as fertilizer subsidy, taxpayers pay to clean polluted rivers, and families pay hospital bills. If we add all this, chemical food is actually more expensive. And yields? After 2–3 years of transition, organic yields become stable and more resilient in floods and droughts.

Start small. Grow tulsi, mint and coriander at home without chemicals. Buy organic for leafy greens and grapes where pesticide is highest. Visit your local organic santhe on Sundays and buy directly from farmers. And demand that mid-day meals in government schools use organic millets.

Our grandmothers never called it organic, they just called it food. It is time to return to that wisdom.

— MONU

Quick Read

Woman arrested for allegedly killing her father

SURAT

A 22-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly killing her father following an argument over her mobile phone use in Surat, Gujarat, police said on Wednesday.The incident occurred after her father reportedly scolded her for spending too much time on the phone instead of focusing on studies and household responsibilities. The argument allegedly escalated, prompting the woman to strike him repeatedly on the head with a pressure cooker lid.Police Inspector Jaideep Vanar of Amroli Police Station said the woman lived with her father in a small, single-room house. Police have registered a murder case, arrested the accused and begun further investigation.

Bus conductor dies after alleged passenger attack

HYDERABAD

A 24-year-old Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) conductor, Gundla Pravalika, died at a hospital on Tuesday night after allegedly being pushed from a moving bus during an argument over change on October 25.Police said passenger Mounika allegedly pushed Pravalika from the bus, causing her to fall under its rear wheels.According to police inspector Ch Yellaiah, Mounika had boarded the bus with her son and claimed they were eligible for free travel under a government scheme. Pravalika reportedly insisted that the boy needed a full ticket based on his age.

Mounika agreed to pay ₹10 for the ticket and handed the conductor a ₹100 note. She demanded the remaining ₹90 immediately. As Pravalika did not have change, she asked Mounika to collect the balance while getting off the bus.TGSRTC vice-chairman and managing director Y Nagireddy said the corporation had hoped Pravalika would recover and return to duty. He assured strict action against the passenger allegedly responsible and said attacks on employees performing official duties would not be tolerated.

ED attaches Reliance Group assets worth₹ 510 cr

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth Rs 510.17 crore belonging to the Reliance Anil Ambani Group in alleged bank fraud cases involving three group companies.

The attached assets include two chartered aircraft, land parcels, office premises, windmills, bank balances, fixed deposits and investments. The RCOM case accounts for Rs 247.12 crore, while RHFL and RCFL cases involve Rs 263.05 crore.

The agency said its investigations have resulted in assets worth approximately Rs 23,100 crore being attached or seized under PMLA and FEMA.

The agency has arrested 10 people and filed six prosecution complaints under PMLA and one under FEMA.

UP offers free LPG cylinders on Diwali, Holi

Uttar Pradesh's festival relief initiative aims to ease household expenses for Ujjwala beneficiaries while promoting shared celebrations and social unity.

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana families will receive one free LPG cylinder on Diwali and Holi. He made the announcement at a programme distributing refill subsidies to more than 1.89 crore beneficiaries in the state. The government has allocated Rs 1,500 crore for the subsidy distribution.

Adityanath said a domestic gas cylinder costs Rs 983.45, of which the Government of India pays a subsidy of Rs 335, and families pay the rest. He said the state would provide one cylinder to poor Ujjwala families on the two festivals. "With the money you save, you can buy Diwali sweets and lamps," he said.

The Chief Minister compared LPG access under the present government with the Congress government's tenure. He said people had faced difficulties obtaining gas connections earlier, while the current government had provided free connections to poor families. Adityanath described this as good governance.



In focus

- LPG subsidy allocated: ₹1,500 crore.
- Over 1.89 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries covered.
- Free LPG cylinders announced for Diwali and Holi.
- Deepotsav described as a symbol of social unity.

Earlier on Tuesday, Adityanath called Ayodhya's Deepotsav, scheduled for November 7, a symbol of social unity. He is scheduled to visit Ayodhya to review preparations. In a post on X, he said the festival brings people together through shared faith and culture. He said caste divisions had been used for politics, while Deepotsav, launched in 2017, had made Ayodhya's cultural heritage a celebration for all. "Lamps burn in different hands, but their light unites the entire society. This is the message of Deepotsav," he said. Adityanath added that shared faith and culture unite society, and the initiative had transformed Ram Nagari's heritage into a festival for all.

MP launches crackdown on liquor, drugs targeting 2029

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has ordered a statewide crackdown on illegal liquor, drug trafficking and organised crime following the death of a police inspector during an operation in Dewas. He directed senior police officials to dismantle illegal liquor networks across five districts and prepare a comprehensive plan to tackle drug mafias by 2029.

At a high-level meeting at his residence on Tuesday evening, Yadav called for simultaneous operations to prevent the transportation and storage of illegal liquor. He instructed officials to take strict action against those involved in criminal networks and align the state's strategy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of eliminating drug mafias by 2029. Yadav said Madhya Pradesh would act decisively against drugs and organised crime, as it had against Naxalism.

The state government announced financial assistance of Rs 1 crore and a compassionate appointment for the family of Inspector Dilip Puri, who died during an illegal liquor seizure operation in Dewas. Yadav directed that Puri's wife be appointed as a Sub-Inspector, praising the inspector's courage and dedication. The government assured the family of its support.



Mohan Yadav ordered a statewide crackdown on illegal liquor, drug trafficking and organised crime, setting a 2029 target to dismantle drug mafias.



Dewas: where Inspector Dilip Puri died during a liquor seizure operation

Police have taken accused Rahul Jaiswal into custody and seized the truck used to transport the liquor. Investigators identified driver Gajendra alias Appu Rawat and Kiran Singh Chandod, who allegedly provided the vehicle; another accused, Keral Singh, has also been arrested. Assistant District Officer Amar Singh Baghel, from the district where the liquor was dispatched, has been ordered removed immediately. Yadav directed the Director General of Police to review the case and prepare steps to prevent similar incidents. He urged people to avoid dangerous firecrackers during Diwali, warning they could cause injuries, including loss of eyesight, and asking parents to keep children safe.

Madras High Court orders closure of abandoned borewells



CHENNAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to close abandoned borewells and quarry pits across Thoothukudi district within six weeks.

Justices P Velmurugan and KK Ramakrishnan passed the order on Tuesday while disposing of a public interest litigation filed by SMA Pon Gandhimathinathan of Thoothukudi. The matter is listed after six weeks for a compliance report.

The petitioner sought directions to secure unused wells, borewells and stone quarry pits, saying many had been left uncovered, particularly along public roads. He said the openings posed serious public safety risks and could endanger cattle and other animals.

He also said representations seeking a district-wide field inspection and necessary safety measures had not led to effective action. The case focused on ensuring that dangerous openings are not left exposed, especially in places where residents, road users and animals may encounter them unnoticed.

The petitioner cited a Supreme Court order dated August 6, 2010, which laid down measures to prevent fatal accidents involving abandoned borewells. He also referred to 2023 guidelines issued by the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, directing District Collectors to identify and secure abandoned wells, borewells and stone quarry pits.

What the SC directions require

1. **Fill abandoned borewells** from the bottom to ground level with clay, sand, boulders, pebbles or drill cuttings
2. **Fill mud pits and channels** once the work ends
3. **A certificate** from the department that the borewell has been filled to ground level
4. **Random inspections** to check

The Supreme Court directions require abandoned borewells to be filled from the bottom to ground level with clay, sand, boulders, pebbles or drill cuttings. Mud pits and channels must also be filled after work ends.

For a borewell or tubewell abandoned at any stage, the concerned department must issue a certificate confirming it has been properly filled to ground level. The directions also provide for random inspections. The state must submit its compliance report when the matter returns to the bench after six weeks.

CISF signs pact with Digital India Corporation to modernise IT



CISF and Digital India Corporation officials exchange the signed agreement

40+	2.2 lakh	53,043
digital modules	personnel	of 55,046 grievances resolved

NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Digital India Corporation (DIC) to modernise, integrate and strengthen the cybersecurity of its in-house information technology systems.

The two-year programme aims to improve administrative efficiency and personnel welfare by bringing more than 40 digital modules into a unified, secure and cloud-ready platform for around 2.2 lakh personnel.

DIC, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will act as the strategic technology partner, adviser and programme management support agency. The agreement was signed by Sonia Narang, CISF Inspector General (Technical and Provisioning), and Debabrata Nayak, DIC Chief Technology Officer. CISF Director General Praveer Ranjan and DIC Managing Director and CEO Akhil Kumar were present.

The programme will begin with a three-month audit of IT infrastructure, followed by phased integration and modernisation.

The CISF expects the platform to reduce duplicated information, provide automated alerts and enable real-time tracking of requests. Existing digital services will remain available during the transition.

The force has developed more than 40 modules for salary, training, inventory, operations and personnel services. Its e-Grievance portal has resolved 53,043 of 55,046 complaints, while its leave management system has processed more than 95 lakh transactions. Other services include online service records, mobile requests for leave and duty changes, healthcare access, mess feedback, welfare loans and scholarships.

Sharad Pawar Hospitalised In Mumbai For Tests

MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday for further evaluation, mere hours after being discharged from Pune's Ruby Hall Clinic.

His daughter and Baramati Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule confirmed the admission on social media, stating that the veteran leader was hospitalised for diagnostic follow-ups and remains clinically stable.

The 85-year-old leader was originally admitted to Pune's Ruby Hall Clinic on November 2 after experiencing cough and pleuritic chest discomfort.

Following two days of continuous observation and baseline evaluations, doctors noted that his symptoms had eased and his vital parameters remained consistent, prompting his planned medical discharge earlier on Wednesday.

Following his release from Pune, Prime Minister Narendra Modi telephoned Pawar to inquire about his health.

ASSAM POLYGAMY BAN

Assam to dismiss staff for polygamy, raises ex-servicemen age limit

GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1964, providing for dismissal of government employees who engage in polygamy. Those dismissed will also be barred from future government employment in the state. The Cabinet approved raising the upper age limit for ex-servicemen entering state government service in Grade 3 and Grade 4 posts to 45 years.

The Cabinet approved a Ropeway Development Agreement between National Highways Logistics Management Limited and the Assam government, establishing a framework to develop ropeways on identified routes. The network includes a 1.43-kilometre route between Kamakhya Railway Station and Kamakhya Temple, and an 11-kilometre stretch from Khanapara to Guwahati Railway Station in Kamrup district.

Other proposed routes include an 11-kilometre cable network from Ganganagar Part VII to Bhuban Pahar Mahadev, a 3.5-kilometre line between Jatinga Bird Watching Tower and Hempeupet Peak in Dima Hasao district, and a 1.8-kilometre connection from Agnigarh to Bhairobi Mandir in Sonitpur district. The Cabinet also approved additional financial support of Rs 200 per quintal for farmers, taking the total minimum support price to Rs 2,640 per quintal.



> **"To establish a defence equipment manufacturing industry in the state, the Cabinet has approved the construction of a 'Defence Park' spanning 6,000 bighas of land near Nellie in Nagaon district."**
>
> — Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam Chief Minister

It approved a recommendation for a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into the factors behind devastating floods in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts in July 2026. The Cabinet cleared 154 land proposals across 13 districts for settlement involving indigenous people, government bodies and educational institutions.

It also approved de-reserving 987 bighas of Village Grazing Reserve land in Dhekiajuli for landless labourers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. An equal area of government land will be earmarked as grazing reserve instead.

The Cabinet further approved around 6,000 bighas of land in Nellie for Assam's first Defence Park.

Bengal Police Seize Cash In Land Probe

KOLKATA

The South 24 Parganas district police on Wednesday seized over ₹1.02 crore in cash from a party office in Sarisha during an ongoing land grab investigation involving Sumit Roy, personal assistant to Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Roy was arrested on September 10 by the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department after the Supreme Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea. Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Majumdar stated that the search was conducted based on disclosures made by Roy during custodial interrogation, adding that the tenancy and ownership of the premises remain under active investigation.

The All India Trinamool Congress denied any connection to the seized funds, alleging the cash was planted to malign the party. Party representatives noted that the rented premises were vacated and surrendered to the property owner following vandalism on May 21, citing a complaint filed at Diamond Harbour police station on May 23.

TMC counsel Arka Nag claimed Roy was coerced during late-night questioning and threatened with a staged encounter at Diamond Harbour Women's University before being taken to where officers were counting money. Police officials declined to comment on the allegations.

Police Seize Sarisha Cash

South 24 Parganas police seized over ₹1.02 crore from a party office in Sarisha during a land grab probe involving Sumit Roy, an aide to Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee. Police said Roy's disclosures led to the search. The Trinamool Congress denied any link to the cash, alleging police planted it.

Quick Read

Nine-year-old girl dies after collapsing inside classroom

NEW DELHI

A nine-year-old Class 3 student died after suddenly collapsing inside her classroom at a school in Mayur Vihar, Delhi, on Wednesday. Police are examining CCTV footage and other evidence to establish the circumstances surrounding her death.

According to police, a PCR call was received at around 9.52 am. The girl was taken to Malik Redix Health Care in Nirman Vihar, where doctors declared her dead.

Preliminary examination of classroom CCTV footage reportedly showed the child entering the room, placing a hand on her waist and suddenly falling to the ground. The teacher immediately lifted her and attempted to place her on a chair before rushing out and returning to take the girl away.

Preliminary information has suggested a possible heart attack, but the exact cause of death has not been established.

Police said statements from the girl's parents and school authorities are yet to be recorded.

Class 8 student found dead in lake after disappearing

JAIPUR

A Class 8 student was found dead in Talkatora Lake in Jaipur on Wednesday morning, hours after she went missing from her home. Local residents spotted her body around 7.30 am and alerted the police control room.

According to police, the girl had spoken to her mother on Tuesday night before going to sleep. When her mother woke up around 4 am, the child was missing from her room, prompting the family to search for her.

Police personnel from Manak Chowk and a Civil Defence team reached the lake and recovered the body. Her family later identified her.

Police said the family had initially reported that the student was upset over her low examination marks. However, the circumstances surrounding her death remain under investigation.

The body was taken to the mortuary at Sawai Man Singh Hospital. Police said there were no visible external injuries. It was later released to the family without a post-mortem examination at their request.

School manager arrested for killing woman teacher

DEORIA

Deoria police have arrested a 38-year-old private school manager for allegedly strangling a 27-year-old teacher, Rani Vishwakarma, following a dispute over marriage.

The accused, Vijay Nishad, was remanded to judicial custody after being produced before a court on Tuesday. Police said the two were in a relationship and frequently argued over his refusal to marry her.

Investigators alleged that Nishad killed her inside his car on October 31, concealed her body in the boot for hours and dumped it near Shrineth Global School. Police recovered the vehicle and other evidence.

Welfare payments to be based on voter IDs, not Aadhaar

The Centre plans to introduce voter identity cards and biometric verification for welfare payments, reducing Aadhaar's role in beneficiary identification.



Voter IDs and biometric checks would replace Aadhaar as the main basis for these payments (representational image).

NEW DELHI

Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, also known as Lallan Singh, said voter identity cards and biometric authentication will be used to identify beneficiaries and process payments under welfare schemes administered by his Ministry. The announcement marks a proposed shift from Aadhaar, which currently serves as the primary identification basis for these payments.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at the Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers' Union in Gangtok on Tuesday, Singh reiterated remarks he had made at a Ministry workshop in Delhi on Friday. The workshop focused on the People's Plan Campaign 2026-27. His statement comes amid Opposition allegations of "vote chori" and wrongful deletions from electoral rolls.

"Aadhaar is currently the basis for payments to beneficiaries, but it will no longer be considered the primary means of identification," Singh said. He argued that Aadhaar cards were easily available and could potentially allow fraudulent beneficiaries to enter welfare schemes. In Delhi, he had said a person could obtain an Aadhaar card in five minutes.

Under the proposed process, beneficiaries would provide their Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number along with biometric authentication to establish their identity. Singh said payments would be made using those credentials, rather than relying primarily on Aadhaar.

The Minister said the change was intended to ensure welfare benefits reach only eligible people and remove fraudulent entries. He said the revised verification process would improve transparency in the delivery of benefits. The proposed identification changes concern schemes falling within the Panchayati Raj Ministry's jurisdiction, Singh said.

How it would work

1. **EPIC number:** beneficiaries give their Electors Photo Identity Card number
2. **Biometrics:** their identity is confirmed by biometric authentication
3. **Payment:** made on those credentials, not mainly on Aadhaar

> **"Biometric authentication along with EPIC will serve as their identification credentials, and payments will be made based on that information."**
>
> — **Rajiv Ranjan Singh,** Union Panchayati Raj Minister

Cabinet expands fast track courts for rape, child abuse cases

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation and expansion of the central scheme supporting Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for the speedy trial of rape and child sexual abuse cases. The number of courts will increase from 779 to 850, with the programme extended for another five years until March 2031.

Launched on October 2, 2019, following a Supreme Court directive, the scheme currently operates across 29 states and Union territories. Since its introduction, the special courts have disposed of more than 4.02 lakh cases involving rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The scheme will receive a total financial allocation of ₹3,788.04 crore to strengthen judicial infrastructure and improve case disposal. Of this amount, the Centre will contribute ₹2,353.15 crore through the Nirbhaya Fund, while states and Union territories will provide ₹1,434.89 crore.

Each court will have a dedicated judicial officer, a special public prosecutor and six support staff members. The Department of Justice under the Union Law Ministry will oversee implementation in coordination with state governments and Union territory administrations. Additional districts will be considered based on the pending number of rape and POCSO cases.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the decision reflected the government's commitment to addressing crimes against women and children through effective implementation of existing laws and new legislative measures.

The scheme also aims to provide a victim-friendly environment through vulnerable witness deposition centres and child-friendly court facilities.

The scheme

courts, up from 779
850
outlay to March 2031
₹3,788.04 cr
cases disposed of since 2019
4.02 lakh

Construction ban, 50% office attendance ordered amid pollution

GURUGRAM

The district administration has prohibited dust-generating construction and demolition activities from November 5 to 20 and directed government and private offices to restrict physical attendance to 50%, as air pollution levels continue to rise. Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh issued the orders on Tuesday in compliance with directions from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

The construction ban applies across the district and covers work on roads, highways, flyovers, overbridges, pipelines and other linear public infrastructure projects. All dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction activities must remain suspended during the 16-day period.

The restrictions come after Gurugram's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category for the first time this season on Tuesday. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 319. The administration's measures seek to address pollution by stopping activities that generate dust and limiting the number of people physically present at offices.

Under the order, government and private offices have been asked to cap in-person attendance at half their workforce. The directive applies alongside the construction and demolition restrictions and follows the CAQM's instructions to the district administration.

The specified dates run from November 5 through November 20. The administration linked the curbs to the rise in pollution levels across Gurugram.


Traffic in the haze. Gurugram's AQI reached 319, "very poor", on Tuesday.

Nov 5-20 construction, demolition ban

50% cap on office attendance

319 AQI, "very poor"

Tamil Nadu CM seeks Supreme Court bench in Chennai

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai, reviving a long-standing demand aimed at improving access to justice for people across southern India.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Vijay described the proposal as an important and long-pending demand of the State. He pointed out that the issue was first raised by Tamil Nadu in 1980, highlighting the difficulties faced by litigants from southern States who must travel to New Delhi to approach the country's highest court.


Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay.

The Chief Minister's appeal focuses on reducing the geographical and financial burden on people seeking legal remedies. Establishing a Supreme Court Bench in Chennai could make access to the apex court more convenient for litigants from Tamil Nadu and neighbouring southern States.

The demand has remained under consideration for decades, with concerns over distance, travel expenses and accessibility forming key arguments in favour of regional benches. For many litigants, travelling to the national capital for hearings can involve considerable time and expenditure.

Vijay urged the Centre to take the necessary steps to examine and advance the proposal. The request places renewed attention on the broader question of decentralising access to the country's highest judicial institution.

The proposal, if approved, would mark a significant development in judicial accessibility for southern India. However, the establishment of a Bench would require further consideration and appropriate action at the national level. No decision on the request was announced in the statement.

SC questions relevance of two-child election rule

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has questioned the continued relevance of laws disqualifying people with more than two children from contesting local body elections, citing India's falling fertility rate and changing demographic conditions.

The observations came while the court set aside the disqualification of Mangala Bhimrao, former sarpanch of Kakoda Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra. She had been barred from contesting elections after the birth of her third child. The court allowed her appeal and decided to reconsider its earlier position on the issue.

The Bench referred the 2003 judgment in Javed versus State of Haryana to a larger Bench for reconsideration. In that ruling, a three-judge Bench upheld provisions of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, which disqualified people with more than two living children from contesting panchayat elections.


The Supreme Court in New Delhi.

The Supreme Court noted that India's total fertility rate (TFR) was around three children per woman when the Javed judgment was delivered. At the time, population control was a policy concern. The rate has since declined and now stands at 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1.

The court said the demographic shift raises concerns about an ageing population. A larger Bench will now examine whether electoral disqualification provisions remain constitutionally valid and relevant amid slower population growth and emerging ageing-related challenges.

ED raids 11 sites in BLM money laundering probe

KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches at 11 locations in Keralam and Tamil Nadu in connection with an investigation into alleged money laundering involving Bharath Lajhna Multi State Co-operative Society (BLM). The searches covered Kochi, Kozhikode and Chennai, according to agency sources.

ED sources said the locations were linked to R. Premkumar, BLM's founding member and de facto chairman and managing director, and others. The action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act comes amid an ongoing separate Crime Branch investigation in Keralam.

Crime Branch case

Premkumar is accused of diverting crores collected from public depositors into relatives' accounts for personal use. The Crime Branch arrested him at his Chennai residence on October 29 and produced him before a Judicial First-Class Magistrate Court in Kozhikode. He was later granted bail citing procedural lapses. Police have sought permission to arrest him again.

The case began with a complaint by BLM's former chief executive officer at Nadakkavu police station in Kozhikode, alleging physical assault by Premkumar and others. Although the complaint was withdrawn, the Crime Branch said it found evidence of alleged fund misappropriation and registered a first information report under Sections 316(5) and 318(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

After Premkumar's release, another cheating case was registered against him for allegedly defrauding a woman of ₹1.6 crore in Kothamangalam. The Crime Branch has reportedly examined 320 bank accounts linked to the alleged scam.

Jharkhand official suspended over alleged SIR bribery

RANCHI

A Jharkhand government employee in Hazaribag district has been suspended for allegedly accepting a bribe to verify voter identity documents and correct errors during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, an official said on Wednesday. The action followed a video purportedly showing the official accepting money that circulated on social media.

An order issued by the Hazaribag deputy commissioner-cum-election officer stated that the Barhi Sub-Divisional Officer had reported the video. It allegedly showed an assistant administrative officer accepting ₹100 for voter ID verification and rectifying errors in an affidavit submitted during the SIR exercise.

The order said the allegation was prima facie established and violated provisions of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1976. The administrative officer has been suspended, and the Chalkusha Block Office in Hazaribag has been designated as his headquarters during the suspension, the official said.

The SIR process is underway in Jharkhand, with claims and objections being received until November 23. The Election Commission is scheduled to publish the final electoral rolls on November 30. The draft rolls were published on August 5 after 43.61 lakh names were deleted.

Jharkhand had 2.64 crore electors before the revision. The draft electoral roll now contains 2.21 crore voters, including 1.08 crore women and 260 third-gender electors.

2.64 cr	2.21 cr	43.61 lakh
electors before the SIR	on the draft roll	names deleted

INDIGENOUS AI MODELS

IndiaAI releases 3 new indigenous foundation models

NEW DELHI

The IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has released three indigenous foundation models, EKA-1, Dhīr 2B and Dhīr 5B, marking a step in India's effort to build homegrown artificial intelligence capabilities for practical, locally relevant applications. EKA-1 was developed by Soket Labs Technology and Research, while ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations developed Dhīr 2B and Dhīr 5B.


At the launch of the three foundation models in New Delhi.

The models were unveiled at an event attended by IT Secretary S. Krishnan, ministry and IndiaAI officials, and leaders of both companies. The government said subsidised access to national AI computing infrastructure and support for research expenses helped enable their development.

THE THREE MODELS

EKA-1, SOKET
26.3 billion parameters, 7.5 trillion tokens; 22 Indian languages and English

TWO MODELS, ZENTEIQ
Open source, 2B and 5B; English and 10 Indian languages; run offline

EKA-1 has 26.3 billion parameters and was trained on about 7.5 trillion tokens. It supports all 22 scheduled Indian languages and English. Soket describes it as an open, sparse hybrid language model designed for mathematics, coding, reasoning and agentic applications. It can perform some inference locally on smartphones without mobile data or Wi-Fi.

Soket CEO Abhishek Upperwal said EKA-1 was tailored to India's banking, financial services and cybersecurity sectors. ZenteiQ's open-source Dhīr models support English and 10 Indian languages and can be deployed as secure, on-premise multilingual assistants. Their offline-capable tools support document-grounded automation and knowledge retrieval in government, defence, industry and education, especially in low-connectivity or sensitive settings.

ZenteiQ CEO Prof. Sashikumar said the models can run on GPUs and TPUs, while their lightweight design enables deployment on mobile devices without cloud connectivity. Local access keeps data on devices, supporting privacy and security. Krishnan said indigenous models strengthen India's technological and strategic autonomy and can improve productivity across sectors.

Quick Read



NSE begins new office project in Mumbai

MUMBAI

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has performed the bhoomi pujan ceremony for its new office building at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai. The building will come up on plots C-81 and C-82, covering 10,995 square metres. The land has been allotted by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority on an 80-year lease. Architect Hafeez Contractor designed the building. NSE said the new office would support its long-term growth and expansion.

Singapore Airlines reports possible data breach

SINGAPORE

Singapore Airlines said around 46,000 booking records may have been affected by a cyber breach involving Amadeus, its reservation technology provider. The exposed information may include names, booking references, travel details and booking classes. About 620 records may also contain email addresses, phone numbers, travel document details and membership numbers. The airline said its systems were not breached and bookings remained unchanged. It is contacting affected passengers and changing booking reference numbers to prevent unauthorised access.

Canva restructures, affecting 1,271 employees

MUMBAI

Australian design platform Canva has announced a major restructuring that will affect 1,271 employees, or 22 per cent of its workforce. CEO Melanie Perkins informed staff on November 4 that some employees would lose their jobs, while others would face role changes or relocation. Perkins said the company had experienced its first slowdown in growth in a decade. The decision comes amid rising competition and rapid advances in artificial intelligence, which are changing the design industry.



Rupee rises 17 paise against US dollar

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee strengthened for the second consecutive session on Wednesday, gaining 17 paise to close at 94.58 against the US dollar, supported by lower crude oil prices and foreign investment.

In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.61 and touched a high of 94.50 and a low of 94.87 during the trading session. It finally settled at 94.58 on a provisional basis. On Tuesday, the currency had gained nine paise to close at 94.75.

Market experts said the weaker US dollar, positive domestic stock markets and overseas investment supported the rupee.

95% of farmers to get relief soon: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said most eligible farmers would receive initial drought relief before Diwali, with pending payments expected soon.

MUMBAI

On Wednesday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said 73 lakh farmers had received initial drought relief of Rs 5,000 each ahead of Diwali.

He said the government expected nearly 95 per cent of eligible farmers to receive the amount within the next two days.

Speaking to reporters, Fadnavis said some payments had been delayed due to problems with farmers' bank accounts. The government was working to resolve these issues and ensure that eligible farmers received the money.

The relief amount is intended to provide immediate support to farmers affected by drought. The announcement comes ahead of Diwali, when many farming families face additional expenses.

Fadnavis also said ministers would visit farmers' homes and celebrate Diwali with them. The visits are aimed at showing support for farmers during the difficult period.

The Chief Minister's statement indicates that the government is prioritising the release of relief funds before the festival. However, some farmers may have to wait until their bank account details are corrected.

Relief payment update

- **Farmers paid:** 73 lakh
- **Relief per farmer:** Rs 5,000
- **Expected coverage:** 95%
- **Pending payments:** within 2 days



Officials are expected to complete the remaining payments within the stated two-day period.

The relief distribution is part of the state's efforts to support farmers facing drought-related difficulties. The Chief Minister said most eligible beneficiaries would receive the money soon, while the remaining cases would be addressed after resolving account-related issues.

Cabinet clears energy, minerals and statistics reforms



NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet approved a 92 gigawatt-hour (GWh) grid-scale energy storage scheme, alongside plans for critical minerals and an overhaul of the national statistical system.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the decisions at a Cabinet briefing. The storage plan includes 30 GWh of battery storage, 60 GWh of pumped storage and 2 GWh for emerging technologies.

Pumped storage uses electricity, including solar power, to move water uphill. Water is later released to generate electricity. The scheme is expected to support renewable power and improve use of transmission lines.

He said non-fossil sources account for nearly 52 per cent of India's power generation.

KEY CABINET DECISIONS

ENERGY STORAGE
92 GWh: 30 GWh battery, 60 GWh pumped storage, 2 GWh emerging technologies

CRITICAL MINERALS
Processing of 24 minerals, from mining and recycling

STATISTICS
Rs 4,371 crore for better surveys, data checks and collection

The Cabinet cleared a scheme to process 24 identified critical minerals. It covers materials from mining and recycling. The aim is to prepare minerals for manufacturing sectors such as semiconductors, batteries, electronics, defence equipment and heavy machinery.

The government approved Rs 4,371 crore to overhaul the national statistical system. The plan seeks to improve surveys, data checks and collection methods, while reducing bias.

It will support university certification courses and regular assessments. Vaishnaw said the changes would focus on checking data against ground realities, collecting data more often and strengthening official statistics.

Sugar prices rise despite govt measures

NEW DELHI

Sugar prices have increased by more than Rs 4 per kg in a month, despite government steps to improve supplies during the festive season.

Average retail sugar prices have reached Rs 59.50 per kg, while wholesale prices stand at Rs 55.40 per kg, according to Consumer Affairs Ministry data.

Compared with last year, retail prices have increased from Rs 46.50 to Rs 59.50 per kg. Wholesale prices have also risen from Rs 43.23 to Rs 55.40 per kg.

Among major cities, Kolkata recorded the highest retail price at Rs 65 per kg on November 3. Delhi followed at Rs 64, while Mumbai recorded Rs 61 per kg.



The rise is mainly linked to lower-than-expected sugar production during the 2025-26 season.

The government has introduced stock limits, arranged imports and increased market monitoring to control prices.

Meanwhile, India produced 8.45 lakh tonnes of sugar in the first month of the 2026-27 season, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.

The crushing season began on October 8. By October 30, a total of 152 sugar mills had started production, adding to domestic supplies during the festive period.

TSMC to list $450 million green bonds

TAIPEI

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) will list green bonds worth NT$14.8 billion, or about USD 450 million, on November 12, according to Taipei Exchange (TPEx).

The world's largest contract chipmaker said it had completed pricing for the bond issue in a filing with the Taiwan Stock Exchange. The sale is part of TSMC's planned NT$60 billion bond programme for 2026 and is its third green bond issue this year.

The bonds will be offered in two parts. The first tranche is worth NT$12.4 billion and will have a five-year term with an annual interest rate of 2.30 per cent. The second tranche is worth NT$2.4 billion, with a 10-year term and a coupon rate of 2.42 per cent.



TSMC said the money raised would support green building work and environmental protection projects. The company has also received board approval to issue up to NT$60 billion in unsecured bonds in Taiwan during 2026 to support production expansion and green projects.

The latest sale comes as technology companies seek funds for artificial intelligence growth and infrastructure. Meta has announced plans to raise up to USD 95 billion, while Google's parent company, Alphabet, plans to raise about USD 80 billion for AI computing investments.

DID YOU KNOW?

TSMC first issued green bonds in December 2020, raising NT$12 billion. Its outstanding green bonds have since reached NT$229.1 billion, making it Taiwan's largest issuer, according to TPEx.

'India needs long-term plan to boost shipbuilding'

NEW DELHI

India needs a long-term pipeline of vessel orders and better financing to strengthen its shipbuilding and ship-repair industries, according to a report by EY and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The report said India repaired 418 vessels in 2023-24. Private shipyards handled 227. It has 42 dry docks, but its share of the global market remains small.

India accounted for about 0.075 per cent of delivered shipbuilding gross tonnage worldwide in 2025. Its share of the ship-repair market was below one per cent in 2024. Shipbuilding output reached 72,137 gross tonnes in 2021, before falling to 57,637 tonnes in 2025.



To improve the sector, the report recommended a national system to collect vessel requirements from public sector companies, ports, coastal shipping operators and inland waterway agencies. It called for a rolling 10-year procurement plan to give shipyards information about future orders.

The report recommended standard vessel designs and regular orders. These steps could improve productivity, attract investment and make loans easier to secure. It said international partnerships could bring technology and skills in design, engineering, automation and marine systems.

Revolt bags Bihar Police order for 1,100 e-bikes

MUMBAI

Revolt Motors, an electric motorcycle maker and wholly-owned subsidiary of RattanIndia Enterprises, has received an order from Bihar Police to supply 1,100 units of its BlazeX commuter electric bike.

The company announced the order on Wednesday. The motorcycles are intended for police teams, including those involved in patrolling duties. Revolt Motors said the vehicles are scheduled to be delivered in Patna by January next year. However, the company is working to complete the supply as early as this month.The order marks a supply agreement between the electric vehicle maker and Bihar Police.

Revolt Motors said the needs of patrolling teams go beyond the road performance of a motorcycle. Charging options, the ability to carry essential equipment and the distance a bike can travel on a single charge are important for daily police work.



These factors can affect how officers plan patrols, manage equipment and keep vehicles ready for use.

The BlazeX is described by the company as a commuter electric motorcycle. The supply is expected to take place in Patna, with January as the stated deadline and an earlier delivery targeted by the company.

Punjab raises DA by 3% to 53%

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday announced a three per cent increase in dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees and pensioners. The decision is expected to benefit around eight lakh people across the state.

With the latest revision, the total dearness allowance rate has reached 53 per cent

Addressing the media in Chandigarh, Mann said the increase would provide financial support to government employees and retired staff. With the latest revision, the total dearness allowance rate has reached 53 per cent.

The increase will cover eligible serving employees and pensioners receiving benefits from the Punjab government. The announcement is expected to bring relief to families facing rising expenses on food, housing, healthcare and other daily needs.

Dearness allowance is paid to government employees to help them manage the impact of rising prices. It is calculated as a percentage of basic pay. Pensioners receive a similar benefit through dearness relief, which is linked to their pension.

The three per cent increase will raise the amount received by beneficiaries, depending on their basic salary or pension.

The announcement comes as state government employees and pensioners look for financial support amid changing living costs. The revised rate of 53 per cent will apply to eligible beneficiaries under the decision of the state government.

GREEN ENERGY

Indus Towers expands solar power across India



NEW DELHI

Telecom tower companies are turning to solar power to reduce energy costs, improve supply and lower their environmental impact. Indus Towers has installed solar systems at 50,000 sites across India, with a total capacity of about 300 megawatts.

The company said it is the first passive telecom infrastructure provider to reach this milestone. It aims to power 100,000 sites through solar energy.

Indus Towers estimates its solar network will cut carbon emissions by about 420,000 tonnes a year. It said this reduction is equal to the benefit of planting nearly two crore trees.

50,000 sites on solar power

300 MW solar capacity

420,000 tonnes of carbon cut a year

The company has introduced digital monitoring systems at solar-powered sites. These track power generation and performance in real time and help teams plan maintenance, improving efficiency and network reliability.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Prachur Sah said the company accelerated its solar programme in 2024 and built one of the largest distributed solar networks in the telecom infrastructure sector.

"This milestone reflects our commitment to responsible growth," Sah said. He added that the company would continue towards its target of 100,000 solar-powered sites while reducing energy costs.

Indus Towers is exploring the use of its renewable energy model abroad, particularly in Africa. Sah said its experience, technology and operating methods developed in India could support similar projects there.

The company said solar power and digital monitoring would reduce diesel use, strengthen energy security and support cleaner telecom services as demand for digital connectivity grows.

Sensex, Nifty extend rally for 5th session

MUMBAI

Indian stock markets closed higher for the fifth straight session on Wednesday, supported by strong buying in midcap, smallcap and several sectoral stocks, despite market volatility.

The BSE Sensex closed at 77,301.40, up 383.55 points or 0.50 per cent, while the Nifty 50 settled at 23,960.60, up 149.75 points or 0.63 per cent.

Broader markets performed better than the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 climbed 1.55 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained two per cent.

Nifty Media led sectoral gains with a rise of over five per cent. Realty and Metal gained 2.80 per cent and 2.40 per cent, respectively. Consumer Durables, Chemicals and FMCG also recorded gains. However, Nifty IT declined 1.94 per cent, making it the only sectoral index to close lower.

Brent crude fell 0.72 per cent to USD 102.84 per barrel. Gold rose 2.33 per cent to Rs 1,42,698 per 10 grams, while silver gained 3.84 per cent to Rs 1,86,600 per kg.

Asian markets closed mixed, with Japan's Nikkei falling 1.90 per cent.

77,301.40 Sensex, up 383.55 points

23,960.60 Nifty 50, up 149.75 points

Quick Read

Marine dies after Okinawa training incident

OKINAWA

A US Marine died after a training incident at Camp Schwab in northern Okinawa, the 3rd Marine Division said. Military authorities have opened an investigation into the death. Camp Schwab is a US military base in Okinawa, which hosts a large share of the roughly 50,000 American troops stationed in Japan. Officials have yet to say what training was taking place when the incident occurred.

Bo French concedes Texas commission race

AUSTIN

Republican Bo French conceded the Texas Railroad Commission race to Democrat Jon Rosenthal on Tuesday night, PTI reported. Rosenthal declared victory after the concession, while final results were still pending. French drew criticism, including from people in India, after sharing a photo of a Texas university event attended mostly by South Asians and describing the gathering as a problem. The commission oversees Texas oil and gas operations, including drilling and pipelines. Rosenthal's win would end decades of full Republican control there.

INS Sahyadri reaches Japan for Malabar

YOKOSUKA

Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Sahyadri arrived in Yokosuka on Wednesday for Exercise Malabar 2026, the Indian Embassy in Japan said. A senior Japanese naval commander and an Indian diplomat attended the welcome ceremony. The Indian-built warship reached Japan after drills with South Korea's navy in Busan. At sea, it joined the South Korean destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great for navigation drills, helicopter operations and manoeuvres. Malabar brings together the navies of India, Japan, Australia and the United States.

Khanna hails El-Sayed's Michigan Senate win

DETROIT

US Representative Ro Khanna said a progressive agenda could win anywhere after Democrat Abdul El-Sayed defeated Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan's US Senate race. Writing on X, Khanna said he had backed El-Sayed from the start. The result also marks a first for the Senate. El-Sayed is set to become the first Muslim American to serve in the chamber.

Riyadh airport attack toll rises to 14

RIYADH

A second Indian national has died from injuries suffered in the Oct. 10 attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, India's embassy in Saudi Arabia said in a statement on Wednesday. His death brings the toll from the strike to 14. The New Indian Express identified him as Sheikh Saeed, 36, from Telangana's Kamareddy district. The missile struck a passenger terminal, and Saudi Arabia blamed Yemen's Houthi rebels for the attack.

South Africans vote to elect local councils

More than 29 million registered voters can help decide who oversees water, electricity and road repairs in their local communities.

JOHANNESBURG



A voter at a polling station as South Africans elect their local councils

South Africans began voting on Wednesday to choose the local councils that will oversee services such as water, rubbish collection and road repairs for the next five years. Polls opened at 7 am and were due to close at 9 pm local time.

More than 29 million people are registered to vote, with nearly 23,700 polling stations open across the country. The Independent Electoral Commission will announce the final results after counting and checking the ballots. This is South Africa's sixth local election since its transition to democracy in 1994, the commission said.

The commission approved 2.65 million applications for special voting on Nov. 2 and 3. Election staff visited voters who could not leave home, while other eligible voters cast their ballots early at designated polling stations.

Nearly 137,000 candidates and 546 political parties are contesting 10,526 council seats, according to the commission. Voters choose a candidate to represent their ward and cast a separate ballot for a party.

Seats set aside for parties are allocated according to their share of the vote. Outside the eight major metropolitan municipalities, voters also receive a third ballot to choose representatives for district councils.

Municipal councils make decisions that residents feel in their daily lives. They help keep taps running, collect rubbish and maintain local roads.

They also have a role in distributing electricity to homes, although some services are shared with other levels of government or public utilities.

Where one party wins a majority, it can form the local administration on its own.

29m+	10,526	546
registered voters	council seats	parties contesting

Iran warns of wider war if US attacks

TEHRAN



A man at a stall decorated with Iranian flags

Iran's supreme leader warned on Wednesday that fresh US attacks could spread the war across the Middle East.

Mojtaba Khamenei said in a written statement that the defeat of President Donald Trump's Republicans in the US midterm elections gave Tehran little reason to expect a change in Washington's approach, AFP reported.

Republicans are set to lose control of both chambers of Congress, a setback that could make it harder for Trump to push through his plans. He can still order new strikes. Trump told media that the war may have contributed to the election losses.

The United States struck Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday. Iranian state media reported five explosions in quick succession. Trump said the strike targeted a newly built air defence site and described it as minor. He has also named a site in central Iran as a possible target. Tehran denies the site is a nuclear facility.

Trump told the Financial Times that a full return to fighting might be unnecessary. Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, said his government was still seeking a solution through talks. He said Khamenei had given officials permission to negotiate on issues that were previously off limits.

> *Qatar is pushing for a temporary deal as Washington weighs further strikes and Tehran says it remains open to talks.*

Qatar, which has been helping the two sides talk, said both governments were reviewing its proposals for a temporary deal.

The war began in February with US and Israeli strikes on Iran and has been at a standstill for months.

India and Nepal review ties as Misri holds talks in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU



India and Nepal review their ties in Kathmandu

India and Nepal reviewed their relationship on Wednesday as officials prepared for a possible official visit to New Delhi by Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah later this month.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met his Nepali counterpart, Amrit Bahadur Rai, in Kathmandu, as per reports. The talks covered a wide range of issues between the two neighbours. Misri also called on Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal, and they discussed ways to strengthen ties.

Misri travelled to Kathmandu at Rai's invitation for an official visit scheduled to run through Thursday. Nepal's foreign ministry announced the visit on Monday, saying the two foreign secretaries would hold talks. India described the trip as part of regular meetings between senior officials from both countries.

The Kathmandu Post reported that officials were expected to review projects backed by India in Nepal and consider new areas where the two countries could work together. Nepal's proposed economic package with India was also expected to come up. Those issues could help shape the agenda if Shah travels to New Delhi.

Wednesday's meetings gave both governments a chance to review work already under way and decide which issues need attention at a higher level. Shah's visit remains a proposal. If it goes ahead, it would give leaders in New Delhi and Kathmandu a chance to follow up directly on the issues their officials raised this week.

? HOW THE TWO KEEP TALKING

Their joint commission brings foreign ministers together to review work across the relationship, while officials also meet in smaller groups to deal with specific issues. In August, for example, a joint group met in Dehradun to review how the countries manage their shared border and work together on security.

Shin Bet's funding claims spark election dispute

JERUSALEM



Israel's Shin Bet security agency told election officials that its intelligence points to an effort to influence last week's vote with money from abroad. Leaders of the opposition Change bloc accused the agency's chief of helping Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cast doubt on the results.

Shin Bet told the Central Elections Committee that some of the money came from foreign countries and from people or groups whose interests were hidden or potentially hostile. The agency said it needed to investigate further before it could establish how widespread the activity was.

Yair Golan, who leads the Democrats party in the Change bloc, accused Shin Bet chief David Zini of turning the agency into a political tool for Netanyahu. Another opposition leader, Yair Lapid, said a unity government led by Netanyahu was no longer possible.

Gadi Eisenkot, who leads the Change bloc, said its parties would defend the results and coordinate their next steps when the new parliament meets. Neither Netanyahu's bloc nor the Change bloc won enough seats to govern alone, leaving Arab parties with a potentially decisive role.

The election committee's leadership voted to approve the results. Its chair, Noam Sohlberg, said the investigation would continue and would not change the outcome.

Bangladesh sends reinforcements as garment protests continue

DHAKA

Bangladesh deployed more paramilitary forces on Wednesday as garment workers demanding higher wages took to the streets for a fifth day, according to a PTI report. Workers say their pay has failed to keep up with rising living costs, with inflation at around 8 per cent.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association said 50 factories in Gazipur shut over fears of further unrest after a worker died from injuries suffered during the protests. In Savar, local media reported that protesters set a police van on fire during clashes that blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Protests spread to Dhaka's Uttara neighbourhood on Wednesday. Clashes were also reported in Mirpur and industrial areas outside the capital. State news agency BSS said 24 Border Guard Bangladesh platoons were deployed across industrial areas including Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur and Narayanganj.

In focus

- Fifty factories in Gazipur shut after an injured worker died. Clashes in Savar blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway.
- A wage board plans to recommend new pay rates within a month. The new rates are due to take effect on Dec. 1.

Activists from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party took to the streets carrying bamboo sticks. The party claimed that supporters of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's disbanded Awami League had joined the protests to stir unrest. A government adviser also accused Hasina of fuelling the protests.

A six-member wage board met for the first time on Wednesday and agreed to recommend new pay rates within a month. The government had initially said the new rates would take effect in January. BSS reported that the start date had been brought forward to Dec. 1. Workers are still waiting to learn how much their pay will rise.

ATTACKERS TARGET PAK MILITARY CONVOYS ACROSS BALOCHISTAN

QUETTA

Armed men attacked Pakistani military convoys in three districts of Balochistan this week, local media reported on Wednesday. The reports said several people were killed or wounded, but did not give a confirmed toll for the attacks in Kech, Mastung and Kharan.

In Kech district, unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy of two vehicles in the Noduz area on Wednesday. Initial reports said members of the security forces were among the casualties. On Monday, attackers ambushed an army convoy near Madina Hotel on the main road between Quetta and Karachi, in Mastung district. Another convoy came under attack that day at Nauroz Kalat, near Zomi in Kharan.

The Balochistan Post reported that armed men also blocked the Quetta–Taftan highway in the Pashuk area of Dalbandin on Monday. They stopped a vehicle and set it on fire.

Local media reported other attacks earlier in the week. Armed men targeted security personnel travelling on foot and in vehicles near Ahmad Wal in Nushki. In Kharan's Lijay area, eight military personnel were reportedly killed or wounded after a blast hit a military vehicle and fighting followed.

Separately, the Baloch-istan Liberation Front said it carried out 25 operations across the province in October.

The armed group claimed it killed more than 129 military and intelligence personnel and seriously injured more than 30. Those figures could not be independently verified. No group had claimed responsibility for the latest convoy attacks by Wednesday, according to reports.

Convoys attacked

- Kech: two vehicles hit in Noduz, Wednesday
- Mastung: ambush near Madina Hotel, Monday
- Kharan: attack at Nauroz Kalat, Monday

CRIME BILL CHALLENGE

Sri Lanka court hears crime bill challenges

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court began hearing 26 petitions on Wednesday challenging the Prevention of Organised Crime Bill aimed at tackling organised crime. The petitioners argue that parts of the bill, which the government has presented to Parliament, would violate rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena is hearing the case with Justices Achala Wengappuli and Sampath Abeykoon. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka is among those challenging the proposed law.

The petitions raise questions about how the bill would allow authorities to prevent and investigate organised crime. They also challenge some of the new powers it would give law enforcement officials. The court must consider whether the disputed sections are consistent with the Constitution.

The petitioners say that if the disputed sections stay in the bill, Parliament should have to pass it with a two-thirds majority. They also argue that voters should have to approve it in a national referendum. That would put the final decision before the public after a vote in Parliament.

The hearing

COURT	Supreme Court of Sri Lanka
BENCH	Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena, Justices Achala Wengappuli and Sampath Abeykoon
PETITIONS	26, the Bar Association among them
THE ASK	A two-thirds majority and a referendum

The case is drawing attention from lawyers and civil society groups because the bill could affect both criminal investigations and the rights of people subject to them. The judges' ruling will tell lawmakers whether they can pass the bill as written through the usual process or whether it needs a higher level of approval. For now, the court is hearing why the petitioners believe Parliament should have to seek the public's consent.

Three die in highway crash in Balkh

KABUL

At least three people died and four were injured when two cars collided on a highway in northern Afghanistan's Balkh province, police said on Wednesday. The road links Kabul with the country's northern provinces.

Provincial police said both cars were travelling at high speed and blamed reckless driving for the crash. Three people died at the scene. The four injured were taken to nearby health facilities, and most remained in critical condition, Xinhua reported.

The collision followed two other deadly crashes in Afghanistan in less than a week. On Nov. 1, a truck struck a rickshaw travelling in the opposite direction in eastern Laghman province. Police said at least two people died and three were injured. The injured were taken to the provincial hospital.

On Oct. 30, a passenger bus collided head-on with an oil tanker on the Salang Highway in northern Baghlan province. Five people died and 20 were injured, the state news agency Bakhtar reported. The agency said an investigation was underway.

Police also blamed reckless driving for the Laghman crash.

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Kohli surpasses Tendulkar in ODI run chase record



AUCKLAND

Virat Kohli added another remarkable achievement to his illustrious career on Wednesday, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar to become the highest run-scorer in One-Day International (ODI) run chases. The Indian batting star reached the milestone during the first ODI against New Zealand in Auckland, producing an impressive 74 off just 51 deliveries, including 13 fours and a six, at a strike rate of 145.10.

Kohli has now accumulated 8,741 runs in 169 innings across 180 matches while batting in ODI run chases, maintaining an average of 66.21 and a strike rate of 95.03. His tally includes 30 centuries and 46 half-centuries. Tendulkar previously held the record with 8,720 runs from 242 innings, including 17 centuries and 52 half-centuries, at an average of 42.33.

Kohli's record in successful run chases is equally impressive. He has scored 6,477 runs in 108 innings across 114 matches at an outstanding average of 89.95, registering 25 centuries and 30 half-centuries. He also equalled Australian batting legend Ricky Ponting's record for most ODI runs against New Zealand, reaching 1,971 runs in 37 innings at an average of 57.97.

The veteran batter further became the first player to cross 13,000 ODI runs while batting at number three. He has accumulated 13,062 runs in 251 innings at the position, including 48 centuries and 70 half-centuries. In 10 ODIs this year, Kohli has scored 626 runs at an average of 69.55, with two centuries and four half-centuries.

Meanwhile, India's bowling attack played a decisive role in securing a five-wicket victory in the rain-affected contest. Arshdeep Singh claimed four wickets, while Gurnoor Brar and Anshul Kamboj contributed three and two wickets respectively.

India Secure Five-Wicket Victory Over New Zealand

India defeated New Zealand by five wickets in the rain-affected first One-Day International, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

New Zealand was restricted to a modest total after India's bowlers delivered a disciplined performance. Arshdeep Singh led the attack with four wickets, while Harshit Rana and Harshit Kamboj provided crucial support. Kamboj claimed two wickets for 22 runs, helping India maintain control of the innings.

Chasing a revised target of 143 runs in 23 overs, India completed the task in 22.4 overs, losing five wickets. Virat Kohli anchored the chase with a valuable 74, guiding the team towards victory. His composed innings ensured India remained on course despite losing wickets at regular intervals.

India's bowlers laid the foundation for the win by restricting New Zealand's scoring opportunities, while the batters handled the revised target effectively. The victory gave India an early advantage in the series and strengthened the team's position ahead of the remaining matches. The second ODI is scheduled to be played in Wellington on November 7, with New Zealand looking to level the series and India aiming to extend its lead.



ODI Run-Chase Records

Batter	Total Runs in Chases	Innings / Matches	Average	Strike Rate
Virat Kohli	8,741	169 / 180	66.21	95.03
Sachin Tendulkar	8,720	242 / 242	42.33	—
Rohit Sharma	6,801	—	50.75	—

Tendulkar urges patience for New Zealand batting

NEW DELHI

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has advised batters touring New Zealand to rely on patience, technique and adaptation, explaining how conditions favour fast bowlers and why Test cricket requires a different mindset from One-Day Internationals. India begins a five-match ODI series in Auckland on Wednesday after winning the T20I series 3-2.

During a Reddit Ask Me Anything session, Tendulkar answered why New Zealand is considered one of the toughest SENA countries for Test batters. He said cooler temperatures keep the surface fresh, while grass and wind can assist fast bowlers, particularly those maintaining an upright seam. "The wind also favours fast bowlers," Tendulkar said.

He urged batters to stay close to the ball, play it late and trust their front-foot defence. Hitting on the rise can be challenging, so players should remain patient and wait for suitable scoring opportunities. "As a batter, you need to keep the ball close to your body, play it late and trust your front-foot defence. Hitting on the rise can be challenging, so patience and waiting for the right scoring opportunities are key," he said.

Tendulkar also highlighted the adjustment needed when switching between ODI and Test cricket. In Tests, he said, players should slow their thought process and pay attention to line and length. "In Test cricket the important thing is to slow down everything in your head and start respecting line and length more than you would in ODIs. In ODIs you have the liberty of playing a ball to third man and going to the non-striker's end, but in Test cricket, you can go back to the pavilion," he said. India's two-Test series against New Zealand begins November 19.



> "In Test cricket the important thing is to slow down everything in your head and start respecting line and length more than you would in ODIs. In ODIs you have the liberty of playing a ball to third man and going to the non-striker's end, but in Test cricket, you can go back to the pavilion,"
>
> Sachin Tendulkar, former cricketer

Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep Singh in potential IPL trade

MUMBAI

Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Mumbai Indians (MI) are in advanced discussions over a potential player trade involving all-rounder Hardik Pandya and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh ahead of the IPL mini-auction next month. The proposed deal could become one of the biggest moves of the trading window, although no agreement has been finalised.

The discussions could see Arshdeep move to Mumbai in exchange for Hardik, who has emerged as a major talking point during the trading season. If Punjab secure Hardik, the franchise may look to acquire another left-arm fast bowler from a different team or target one at the auction. A source tracking development said the negotiations were progressing, but the deal remained uncertain.

Hardik's future has also attracted interest from Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants. However, Mumbai is unlikely to release the star all-rounder without receiving established players in return. A source said the outcome of the discussions could influence several other trades, as franchises attempt to address gaps created by major player movements.

Punjab could also consider releasing Marcus Stoinis and Nehal Wadhera as part of their efforts to secure Hardik before the mini-auction scheduled for December 16. Hardik would join Punjab only as a player, while Shreyas Iyer is expected to continue as the team's captain. The potential trade could therefore reshape the squad without changing its leadership.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has extended the trade window deadline to November 17, giving the franchises additional time to reach an agreement. With several teams reportedly interested in Hardik, his destination could influence the wider trade market. The discussions remain ongoing, and the proposed exchange involving Arshdeep and Hardik has yet to be confirmed.



ROYAL ENFIELD EXPANDS HIMALAYAN ICE HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NEW DELHI

Royal Enfield has announced the fourth season of its Himalayan Ice Hockey Development Programme, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening grassroots winter sports through specialised training for players, coaches and match officials. The initiative aims to develop local expertise across Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand while preparing communities for upcoming regional competitions in 2027.



The programme will begin with its first dedicated Goaltender Training Programme from November 9 to 13 at Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Stadium in Leh. International goaltending coach Matt Darlow will lead the sessions, providing specialised training to goalkeepers from Ladakh and Spiti. Additional programmes for players, coaches and referees will be conducted in Leh, Dehradun and Gurugram. Peter Gebei, an International Ice Hockey Federation-certified professional with more than four decades of experience, will lead referee training for the second consecutive year.

The grassroots Learn to Play initiative will run from December 2026 to February 2027, followed by the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League (REIHL) in Leh and the Spiti Cup in Kaza. Both competitions are entering their fourth year of partnership with the organisation.

REIHL is conducted in collaboration with the Ladakh administration and the Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh, while the Spiti Cup is organised alongside the Ice Hockey Association of Lahaul-Spiti.

Executive Director of Eicher Group Foundation Bidisha Dey said the initiative aims to equip local communities with specialised skills and make the sport increasingly community-driven. She highlighted the importance of developing players, coaches and officials to strengthen India's future prospects in international winter sports.

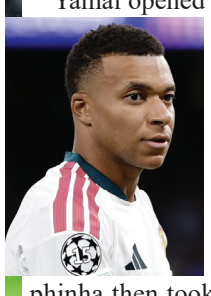
YAMAL OVERTAKES MBAPPÉ IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCORING RECORD



BARCELONA

Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal created history by surpassing Kylian Mbappe to become the highest-scoring teenager in UEFA Champions League history. The 19-year-old achieved the milestone during Barcelona's convincing 3-0 victory over Aston Villa at Spotify Camp Nou on Tuesday, taking his tally in the prestigious competition to 14 goals.

Yamal opened the scoring in the seventh minute after capitalising on a defensive mistake by Aston Villa. The Spanish winger curled a precise finish past goalkeeper Zion Suzuki to give Barcelona an early advantage. Brazilian forward Raphinha then took charge in the second half, scoring twice to complete a comfortable victory for the Spanish champions.



The defeat marked Aston Villa's first loss in the Champions League league phase, while Barcelona provisionally moved into second place in the standings.

With his latest goal, Yamal moved ahead of Mbappe, who had previously held the teenage scoring record with 13 Champions League goals. The French forward has since continued his impressive career, reaching 72 goals in the competition. Yamal, meanwhile, has achieved the new milestone in just 37 appearances, highlighting his remarkable progress at the highest level of European football.

The Barcelona youngster already holds several records in the tournament. He became the youngest player to start a main-stage Champions League match after making his full European debut against Porto at 16 years and 83 days. He is also the youngest player to score and provide an assist in a Champions League match, as well as the youngest to find the net in a semi-final.

Yamal's achievement further strengthens his growing reputation following his third-place finish in the latest Ballon d'Or rankings, behind Harry Kane and Mbappe. This season, he has scored 13 goals and provided 11 assists in 15 appearances across all competitions, becoming an increasingly influential figure under Barcelona manager Hansi Flick.

Starc reclaims top spot in latest ICC rankings

Mitchell Starc reclaimed the ICC Men's Test Bowling No. 1 ranking after a sensational nine-wicket performance against South Africa in Cape Town.

DUBAI

Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc has reclaimed the number one position in the latest ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings following an outstanding performance against South Africa in the third and final World Test Championship match in Cape Town. Starc climbed one place after taking nine wickets in the match, moving ahead of South African left-arm pacer Marco Jansen to regain the top position.



Starc had first reached the summit in August after ending Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah's reign. However, Jansen subsequently overtook him following an impressive six-wicket performance in the second Test at Gqeberha. Jansen managed only three wickets in the Cape Town encounter, allowing Starc to return to the top with a career-best rating. Meanwhile, South African spinner Simon Harmer made significant progress, climbing nine places to seventh after taking six wickets in Australia's second innings. He now sits ahead of teammate Kagiso Rabada.

Jansen, despite losing his position among Test bowlers, strengthened his lead in the Test all-rounders' rankings after achieving a career-high rating with a half-century in the final match. Teammates Wiaan Mulder and Harmer also climbed to third and fifth respectively. Several players, including Ryan Rickelton, made notable gains in the Test batting rankings.

The latest ODI rankings also witnessed changes following the tri-series in Pakistan. Pakistan captain Shaheen Afridi moved to fifth among ODI bowlers, while Haris Rauf climbed to 24th. Fakhar Zaman advanced to 37th among batters.

In the T20I rankings, India's Shreyas Iyer gained two places to reach seventh among batters following his team's series triumph in New Zealand. New Zealand's Glenn Phillips also climbed to 24th. Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai moved to third among T20I all-rounders after an impressive series against Zimbabwe, completing a significant round of changes across international cricket rankings.

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