CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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P7 India's renewable energy capacity crosses 300 GW

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CM steps in with aid to distressed growers

- Declares emergency fund for drought-hit farmers
- Approves **₹5,000** drought relief, begins **₹2,500** first instalment

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said to ensure urgent assistance to farmers in the state facing distress due to drought, the state government has decided to grant drought relief of ₹5,000 per farmer, capped at a maximum land area of 2 hectares.

The process of releasing ₹2,500 as the first installment of this interim relief has been started and started through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), while the remaining amount would be released in the coming days, he said, adding that the government aims to bring relief to farmers in distress during Diwali.

"Dasara is over, and Diwali has arrived. Farmers are in crisis, and the government is committed to bringing light into their lives. It has been decided to give drought relief of up to Rs 5,000 to each eligible farmer. In the first phase, Rs. 2,500 will be transferred directly to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The remaining R. 2,500 will be released in the coming days," he said.

Speaking at a committee room in Vidhana Soudha on Thursday, Shivakumar released Rs 17.43 crore as the first instalment of input subsidy for 1,06,462 farmers in Yadgir district, at Rs 2,500 per farmer.

He said payment files are being prepared for 15 districts, with the first instalment of input subsidy to be disbursed to eligible farmers at the earliest and the second instalment within 15-20 days.

He added that while the assistance may not fully compensate for farmers' losses, it would provide some relief, reiterating the government's commitment to improving their lives.

CM's announcement in a nutshell



Payout structure: The total interim relief is set at ₹5,000. The first phase distributes ₹2,500 via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The remaining ₹2,500 will follow within the next 15 to 20 days.

Immediate implementation: As part of the initial rollout, the CM released ₹17.43 cr directly to 1,06,462 eligible farmers in the Yadgir district.

Next districts covered: Payment pipeline procedures are underway for 15 additional districts, including Kolar, Koppal, Chamarajanagar, Dharwad, Ballari, Bidar, Bengaluru Urban, Haveri, Bengaluru South, Davanagere, Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburagi, Mandya, Vijayanagara, and Uttara Kannada.

Drought severity context: The state govt has officially identified 226 taluks as drought-hit, reporting an estimated crop damage spanning over 57.93 lakh hectares.

> The state is utilising its own immediate resources to back this initial subsidy, it has formally calculated total drought-related damages at ₹62,000 crore and requested ₹22,400 crore in aid from the National Disaster Response Fund.
>
> -DK Shivakumar, CM

Payments to other district

"Meanwhile, payment files are being prepared for 15 districts: Uttara Kannada, Kolar, Koppal, Chamarajanagar, Dharwad, Ballari, Bidar, Bengaluru Urban, Haveri, Bengaluru South, Davanagere, Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburagi, Mandya and Vijayanagara. The first instalment of input subsidy will be paid to eligible farmers in these districts at the earliest. The second instalment will be released within 15 to 20 days. The government remains committed to improving farmers' lives. The assistance may not fully make up for their losses, but it will certainly offer some relief," he said.

He said the remaining approved input subsidy would be released in a single instalment after receiving funds from the NDRF, subject to eligibility criteria. He also described the drought as unprecedented, noting that only the Krishna reservoir had filled up despite warnings from the Centre.

"Subject to eligibility criteria, the remaining approved input subsidy, calculated under the revised norms, will be released in a single instalment once the necessary funds are received from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). None of us has ever experienced, or even heard of, a drought as severe as this in our lifetime. Despite advance warnings from the Central Government, none of the dams except the Krishna reservoir has filled up," he said.



Deleted voters should get justice: DKS

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said all voters whose names had been deleted, except those who are deceased, should get justice, and asserted that the protest will continue until their demands are met.

Speaking at a massive protest organised by KPCC at Freedom Park here against the SIR of electoral rolls, he said, "We don't agree with the way SIR is ongoing. All the voters whose names have been deleted, except for the deceased, should get justice. Until justice is served, we will continue to fight."

Scrap SIR, oust CEC: Siddu

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah demanded that the SIR of electoral rolls, which is against the law and spirit of the Constitution, be scrapped immediately and CEC Gyanesh Kumar resign from his post.

He warned that any attempt to weaken the country's democratic system and infringe on the voting rights of eligible voters cannot be tolerated. "The fight is being waged across the country with two main demands - scrapping of SIR and resignation of the Kumar."

He questioned the appointment process of Kumar, alleging that the Centre changed the composition of the selection committee for appointment of Election Commissioners, which is a serious issue. "Earlier, the selection committee comprised the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Chief Justice of India. The Centre enacted a law replacing the CJI with a Union Minister as a member of the committee, thereby increasing the dominance of the central government in the selection process."

Min: Local body polls will be conducted using ballot papers

'There was no question of reconsidering the matter'

BENGALURU

Karnataka's upcoming local body elections will be conducted using ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre said after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

He added that the State Election Commission will decide whether the elections will be held using the new or the existing electoral rolls.

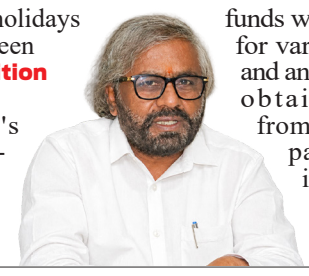
Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Khandre said the government had already taken a decision to conduct local body elections through ballot papers, and there was no question of reconsidering the matter.

He clarified that the state government had not taken any decision on whether the new or old electoral rolls would be used for the elections.

The Cabinet also approved road development projects worth Rs 20,000 crore across the state, including the development of state highways, major district roads and construction of bridges.

Winter session from December 2 to 11

Khandre said the winter session of the Karnataka Legislature will be held from December 2 to 11. The dates had been finalised keeping everyone's convenience in mind, despite holidays falling in between



Financial position strong

On the state's financial position, the minister said the government's finances were strong, and revenue collection was progressing satisfactorily.

He said the government had estimated its revenue receipts in the budget and collections through GST and other sources were taking place as expected. All departments were making efforts to improve revenue collection.

He also pointed out that funds were being released for various programmes and announcements after obtaining approval from the Finance Department, indicating that there were no financial constraints.

> The state government has not taken any decision on whether the new or old electoral rolls will be used for the elections.
>
> - Eshwar Khandre, RDPR Minister

Bibi loses religious party's support as rival tipped to form govt

JERUSALEM

Gadi Eisenkot emerged on Thursday as the favourite to be tasked with trying to form an Israeli government as an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party long aligned with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declined to recommend him.

President Isaac Herzog held a second day of consultations with political parties after the October 27 election, in which neither Netanyahu, a right-winger, nor Eisenkot, a former military chief, secured enough votes for a majority.

Herzog will choose by himself whom to ask to form a new government but traditionally the mandate is given to the person recommended by more parties, which would be Eisenkot.

United Torah Judaism, which backed Netanyahu after the previous five elections, in its meeting with Herzog declined to recommend Netanyahu again as prime minister, although it also did not side with Eisenkot.

The party informed Herzog "that it has decided not to recommend any member of Knesset to form a government," the president's office said in a statement, referring to the 120-member parliament in which United Torah Judaism has won seven seats.

Observers say United Torah Judaism's tactic is likely aimed mostly at punishing Netanyahu and showing that their votes cannot be taken for granted, while they would still serve in a government if he were to form one.



SEAT DISTRIBUTION IN KNESSET

Parliament strength	120
Magic number	61
Netanyahu's party	53
Eisenkot's party	48
Arab-led parties	19

Once Herzog gives his mandate to a lawmaker, the person -- presumably either Eisenkot or Netanyahu -- will have 28 days to form a government, with a potential 14-day extension. If the lawmaker fails, Herzog will then task someone else.

Netanyahu's bloc -- including United Torah Judaism -- has 53 seats in the new parliament, as opposed to 48 for Eisenkot's bloc.

Arab-majority lists jumped to 19 seats, on the back of anger over Netanyahu's hard-right government whose ministers have vowed to treat the Israeli citizens much like Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

People have right to know where you go: Shah to Rahul

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to disclose details of his foreign trips, particularly his recent visit to Vietnam, saying the public had a right to know about the activities of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

"You just returned from Vietnam, but you don't talk about that. There should be transparency... Rahul ji, please give the public an account of all your foreign trips. How many days did you stay in Vietnam, whom did you meet, why did you go there, what was the programme..." Shah said at a BJP rally in Haryana's Karnal.

"You hold a constitutional position. The public has a right to know since you are the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha," he added.

Shah also questioned Gandhi's criticism of EVMs, asking why Congress legislators had taken oath in Kerala after winning elections using the same machines. He cited Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress is in power, to challenge the party's position on EVMs.



PIL challenges MLA's appointment as KSPCB chief

Bengaluru: The High Court on Thursday issued a notice to the state government regarding a petition challenging the nomination of Anekal MLA B Shivanna as the chairman of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. A division bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice KS Bharath Kumar, which heard the PIL filed by advocate Sudha Katwa, issued notices to the state government and the KSPCB, directing them to file their objections.

Union Minister Puri elected unopposed to RS from MP

BHOPAL: Union Petroleum Minister and BJP candidate Hardeep Singh Puri was on Thursday declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Madhya Pradesh, an official said.

On the last day of the withdrawal of nominations, Puri, who was the sole candidate in the fray as the papers of other two nominees were rejected during scrutiny, was declared elected to the Upper House of Parliament by Returning Officer Umesh Sharma. MP BJP president Hemant Khandelwal collected Puri's certificate of election from the returning officer in the presence of party MLA Rameshwar Sharma.

On the last day for the scrutiny of papers, the nominations of the other two candidates, Kante Sayanna and Rajkumar Lohani, who was backed by the Opposition Congress, were rejected. The bypoll, if necessary, was to take place on November 12. The seat fell vacant after the resignation of former Union minister L Murugan.

2 killed in Delhi building collapse

New Delhi: Two people were killed and several feared trapped after a three-storey under-construction building collapsed in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar Thursday morning.

The incident took place at 9.50 am amid the Diwali rush, in the narrow bylanes of Chawri Bazar, which sees an increased footfall during the festive season.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has suspended a junior engineer and an assistant engineer.

QUICK READ

Cyclone Murasu: 4 TN fishermen found dead after boat capsizes off AP coast

BAPATLA

Four bodies of Tamil Nadu fishermen who went missing after their boat capsized off the Andhra Pradesh coast amid Cyclone Murasu have been recovered, while search operations are underway to trace five others, a senior official said on Thursday. Prakasam district Collector P Raja Babu said the fishermen had ventured into the sea from Chennai on October 29. With Cyclone Murasu approaching, they were advised to move their boats to safer locations along the Andhra Pradesh coast. Accordingly, four boats were anchored in the state, three at Ramayapatnam Port and one at Nizampatnam Port. Nine fishermen aboard the boat anchored at Nizampatnam went missing after it capsized while they were moving towards Ramayapatnam on November 3. "Four bodies of Tamil Nadu fishermen have been recovered. Efforts were underway to trace the remaining five," Babu added.

Flights across Europe get bomb threats, third time this week

PARIS

Bomb threats disrupted air travel across Europe on Thursday, forcing several aircraft to divert from their routes and make unplanned landings in France, Belgium and Bulgaria. As per reports, 12 European flights received bomb threats. An Aer Lingus flight (EI402), travelling from Dublin to Rome, was diverted to Evreux airport, around 100 km west of Paris, where it landed safely. The Irish airline said the diversion was a precautionary security measure. In Belgium, an aircraft that was forced to land at Brussels' Zaventem airport belonged to Polish carrier LOT. Meanwhile, a Finnair aircraft flying from Helsinki was escorted by the Italian air force before making a safe landing at its scheduled destination in Rome. Bulgaria also reported three aircraft making emergency landings following bomb threats. The latest incidents come two days after at least seven flights and a cruise ship received bomb threats on Tuesday, disrupting operations at airports across Europe. However, no explosive devices were found.

IMMIGRATION RULE REFRESHED

India exempts select foreign nationals from passport, visa rules

...revises travel norms for 3 neighbours.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 2026, introducing specific amendments to the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025.

Under the amended order, Indian nationals travelling to or returning from Nepal or Bhutan by land or air will be required to produce any one of the identity documents specified in the visa manual before an immigration officer. They will also have to furnish any information sought by the officer.

The exemption provided under this clause shall not apply to a citizen of India departing to or returning from countries other than Nepal or Bhutan through the Indo-Nepal or Indo-Bhutan border by land or by air. In all such cases, they shall be required to possess a valid passport and their exit from or entry into India shall be only through the designated immigration posts.



Citizens of Nepal or Bhutan entering or leaving India

Under the new order, citizens of Nepal and Bhutan entering or leaving India by land or air will also be required to produce any one of the identity documents specified in the visa manual before an immigration officer. They will also have to provide any information sought by the officer. However, this exemption will not apply to citizens of Nepal or Bhutan entering or leaving India from or to a country other than Nepal or Bhutan.

The exemption will also not apply to those who have boarded a flight or transited through China, Macau, Hong Kong or Pakistan. In such cases, they must possess both a valid passport and a valid visa. In both cases, citizens of Nepal and Bhutan must possess a valid passport and a valid visa.

Key exemptions and rule changes

Pakistani citizens: Long-term residents who arrived on or before December 31, 2009, are exempt from passport renewal norms if they lack a CNIC, have family in India, sign an undertaking not to return, and pass security checks, though a valid visa remains required.

Sri Lankan & Tibetan refugees: Registered Sri Lankan Tamil refugees (arrived by January 9, 2015) and eligible Tibetan refugees (arrived via designated permits or border posts between 1959 and 2003) receive passport and visa exemptions subject to local registration.

Minority refugees: Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan arriving by December 31, 2024, due to persecution are exempt from standard passport rules with a valid stay visa.

PIOs and defense personnel: People of Indian origin with expired Malaysian or Singaporean passports (arrived by December 31, 2009), on-duty Indian military/naval/air personnel, and foreign military ship crews with valid IDs are granted specific exemptions.

Nepal, Bhutan and India travel norms

- **Regional travel**: Citizens of India, Nepal, and Bhutan moving directly between the three nations can use alternative IDs listed in the Visa Manual instead of passports.
- **Third-country travel**: Nepalese and Bhutanese nationals traveling to or through China, Macau, Hong Kong, or Pakistan must still hold a valid passport and visa.

What is a 'visa manual'?

The order defined the document as a manual issued by the central government from time to time, containing instructions on visas, immigration and related matters.

Quick Read

Man held in Bengaluru tourist assault case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

City police have arrested a man for allegedly drugging and raping a 26-year-old tourist from Rajasthan after befriending her at a social club in Koramangala. The accused, identified as Sameer, was remanded in judicial custody and sent to the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison following an investigation led by the Madiwala police station. According to investigators, the complainant arrived in Bengaluru on October 4 for a leisure trip and was staying at a hotel. On October 24, she visited a club where Sameer introduced himself by offering a lighter. After conversing, sharing alcoholic drinks, and exchanging phone numbers, the accused persuaded her to accompany him to another hotel, where he reserved a room. The complainant alleged that the accused spiked her beverage with a suspected intoxicating substance before sexually assaulting her and fleeing the premises. The victim lodged an official police complaint four days after the assault. Investigators registered a First Information Report (FIR) under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and subsequently secured his arrest.

Kumaraswamy says Priyank's remark is an insult to farmers

Priyank Kharge called Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy a "village idiot" after Kumaraswamy criticised his handling of the Home Department.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday criticised Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge over his "village idiot" remark, saying it insulted farmers and people living in rural areas.

The controversy began after Priyank Kharge called Kumaraswamy a "village idiot" while responding to the Union Minister's criticism of his handling of the Home Department. Kharge had also accused Kumaraswamy of making allegations regularly.

Reacting to the statement, Kumaraswamy said the remark would not affect him personally but argued that using such language showed disrespect towards the farming community.

He said farmers who work hard to cultivate land and provide food to the country deserved respect. He alleged that the Congress leader's words portrayed villagers and farmers as uneducated or foolish.

Kumaraswamy also questioned the Congress leadership over the remark and demanded an explanation from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is Priyank Kharge's father.


Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

He asked what respect the Congress party had shown towards farmers and said its leadership should respond to the farming community.

JD(S) launched a campaign titled "Yes, I am a village idiot. What's the big deal?"

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal (Secular), or JD(S), launched a campaign titled "Yes, I am a village idiot. What's the big deal?" Party MLAs also joined the campaign in support of Kumaraswamy.

The exchange has added to the political dispute between the two leaders, which began with disagreements over the handling of the Home Department and allegations linked to an investigation into an alleged sting operation involving former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Kumaraswamy is the Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, while Priyank Kharge holds Karnataka's Home portfolio, along with Information Technology and Biotechnology and E-Governance.

Controversy insights

- **Core Trigger:** Home Minister Priyank Kharge's controversial "village idiot" remark.
- **Protest Campaign:** JD(S) launched "Yes, I am a village idiot" counter-movement.
- **Political Demand:** Explanation demanded directly from Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.
- **Underlying Dispute:** Ongoing clash regarding Home Department handling and investigations.

Narayanaswamy questions Priyank Kharge's academic credentials

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Council Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has criticised Minister Priyank Kharge over his "village idiot" remark against Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Narayanaswamy said the comment insulted people from rural areas and questioned Kharge's understanding of village life.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Narayanaswamy said he was also born in a village and had worked his way up to reach the Vidhana Soudha. Referring to Kumaraswamy's birthplace, Haradanahalli, he said people from villages should not be looked down upon.

He alleged that Kharge's remark showed disrespect towards farmers and rural communities. Narayanaswamy said villagers played an important role in feeding the country and deserved respect. He also questioned why politicians who made such remarks sought votes from rural voters during elections.


Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

Questions Kharge's understanding of Dalit issues

Narayanaswamy further criticised Kharge's comments on Dalit identity and the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He questioned whether Kharge had personally experienced the hardships faced by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities or participated in protests against injustices affecting them.

He also referred to Ambedkar's academic achievements and challenged Kharge to publicly disclose his educational qualifications. Narayanaswamy questioned whether Kharge possessed the academic record and knowledge required to challenge others to debates.

The BJP leader also said political power was temporary and urged Kharge to communicate respectfully with people from all backgrounds.

Ambedkar's education becomes part of political exchange

Narayanaswamy invoked Ambedkar's scholarship, language skills and contribution to social justice while criticising Kharge. He also questioned the claim of having 32 academic degrees, which he attributed to Ambedkar's achievements.

The remarks have added another chapter to the political exchange between Congress and BJP leaders following Kharge's comment against Kumaraswamy.

Political controversy insights

Primary Critic
BJP Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy.

Core Challenge
Public disclosure of academic qualifications demanded.

Social Defense
Emphasis on rural heritage and contributions of farmers.

Ideological Debate
Invocation of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's academic achievements.

Karnataka admits financial constraints over Gruha Lakshmi dues

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has acknowledged financial difficulties in releasing pending payments under its Gruha Lakshmi scheme.

In an affidavit submitted to the Karnataka High Court, the government stated that assistance for February and March 2025 had not been released due to financial constraints.

The matter came up during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by R. Ganga and G.D. Pavithra, seeking payment of the pending instalments. Sonal S. Igar, the Stree Shakti Project Officer, submitted the affidavit confirming the delay.


The Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru.

Government says payments are not a legal right

In its response, the government argued that Gruha Lakshmi is a welfare scheme and that beneficiaries cannot claim monthly payments as an enforceable legal right. It also stated that financial assistance cannot be demanded solely on the basis of legitimate expectation when the government faces financial difficulties.

The government requested the High Court to dismiss the PIL. The court reportedly granted the petitioners two weeks to file their objections and postponed the hearing.

The government also said verification was underway to identify and remove ineligible beneficiaries, including income tax and GST payers, from the scheme.

₹7,408 crore released for three other instalments

Meanwhile, the government has released the 34th, 35th and 36th instalments together, amounting to approximately ₹7,408.6 crore. These payments cover August, September and October 2026. However, the February and March 2025 dues remain a separate issue.

₹2,000	₹7,408.6	₹5,000
a month for eligible women heads of households	crore released for Aug-Oct 2026	crore pending (approx.), petitioners say

Government rejects allegations of duplicate payments

The government denied allegations that money had been transferred twice to beneficiaries through separate bank accounts. It said payments are processed through the Aadhaar-Enabled Payment System, which prevents duplicate transfers.

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme provides ₹2,000 per month to eligible women heads of households. Opposition parties and the petitioners have questioned the status of approximately ₹5,000 crore in pending payments, affecting a large number of beneficiaries.

Somashekhar promises development across all rural villages


At the inauguration of development works under Somanahalli Gram Panchayat.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekhar has said that priority is being given to the overall development of villages in his constituency, irrespective of political affiliations.

Speaking after inaugurating several development works, the MLA said he would work towards improving basic infrastructure and educational facilities in all villages.

The projects include the construction of a concrete road connecting Rayara Doddi and Gadipalya under Somanahalli Gram Panchayat, a hall for government school students in Somanahalli village and roadside drains in Makkudlu village to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater.

Somashekhar said he would not involve politics in development activities and would work for the welfare of people across party lines.

He added that plans had been prepared to develop all villages under the gram panchayats in his constituency by securing government grants. His aim is to transform every village into a model village by improving roads, drainage facilities and educational infrastructure.

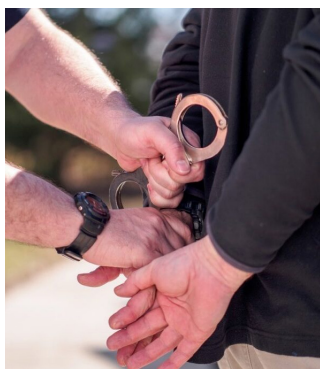
Former Somanahalli Gram Panchayat president Muniraju Gowda said several residential layouts had been developed and government welfare schemes implemented in the panchayat limits. He appreciated the MLA's efforts to provide rural areas with facilities similar to those available in urban areas, including roads, electricity, drainage and streetlights.

He also highlighted the steps taken to ensure that people in rural areas could easily access benefits under Central and State government schemes.

Former gram panchayat vice-president Keshav A., Block Congress president Narayana, Guarantee Schemes Committee member Chandrashekara Murthy and other local leaders attended the programme.

The works inaugurated

- Concrete road, Rayara Doddi to Gadipalya
- Hall for government school students, Somanahalli
- Roadside drains, Makkudlu



Two arrested for murder of elderly woman in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Byatarayanapura police have arrested two men, identified as Kantharaju and Manjappa, in connection with the murder of an elderly woman, Venkatalakshmamma, at Hosaguddadahalli. The woman, who lived alone, reportedly had property disputes with her relatives. Police said the accused allegedly murdered her on October 24 and stole her gold ornaments. The investigation led to the arrest of both suspects. Further investigation and legal proceedings are underway.

Karnataka raises dearness allowance for state employees

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has reportedly increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees by 2.25 percentage points, raising it from 15.75% to 18% of basic pay. The revised rate is stated to be effective from July 1, 2026.

According to the reported government order, the revised DA will apply to employees drawing salaries under the 2024 revised pay scales. For calculating the allowance, basic pay will include the salary drawn in the applicable pay scale, stagnation increments, personal pay, if applicable, and additional increments granted beyond the maximum pay scale.

The government has also reportedly increased Dearness Relief for state government pensioners and family pensioners from 15.75% to 18% of their basic pension or family pension. The revised rate will also apply to pensioners and family pensioners of aided educational institutions whose pensions are paid from the State Consolidated Fund.

THE ORDER

DA rises to 18% of basic pay

- Up from 15.75%, effective July 1, 2026
- Pensioners: Dearness Relief also 18%

The order covers full-time state government employees, Zilla Panchayat employees, full-time work-charged employees drawing salaries under regular pay scales, and employees of government-aided educational institutions and universities who receive salaries under regular pay scales.

Retired employees who served under University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) pay scales are also covered under the pension provisions.

However, separate orders will be issued for serving employees drawing salaries under UGC, AICTE and ICAR pay scales, as well as judicial officers covered under the National Judicial Pay Commission (NJPC) pay scales.

The government has reportedly directed that the revised DA be paid in cash until further orders. The increase is expected to provide additional financial support to eligible employees and pensioners amid rising living costs.

The increase is expected to provide additional financial support to employees and pensioners amid rising living costs

INCENTIVES FOR EXCELLENCE

Corporation honours six PU students with cash incentives

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South Municipal Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh honoured six students of Uttarahalli Pre-University College for securing distinction in the 2025-26 second-year PUC examinations.

Each student received an incentive cheque of ₹35,000 to support their higher education.

The awardees include Puneeth R. (94%), Sanjana S. (93.5%), Apoorva P. (90.6%), Maithri N. (89.8%) and Vinay Kumar H.M. (88.5%) from the Commerce stream. R. Shruti (86.6%) from the Science stream was also among the recipients.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner Ramesh said that many successful people had overcome poverty and hardship to achieve their goals. He noted that students from government institutions often come from financially weaker families and that their academic achievements reflected their dedication and the efforts of their teachers.


At the felicitation of Uttarahalli Pre-University College students.

He urged teachers to motivate students regularly and ensure that they never develop an inferiority complex. He also stressed the importance of providing quality education and proper guidance to help students become successful in life.

Additional Commissioner Dr. Naveen Kumar Raju said education achieves its true purpose when students become self-reliant and earn a respectable place in society. He appreciated the lecturers for identifying and encouraging talented students.

Parents thanked the college lecturers for their guidance and the Corporation for providing financial assistance to support their children's higher education.

Additional Commissioner M. Rachappa, GBA Education Department Director Bhuvaneshwari, College Principal Saraswathi, lecturers, parents and students attended the programme.

The six awardees, II PUC 2025-26

Puneeth R.	94%
Sanjana S.	93.5%
Apoorva P.	90.6%
Maithri N.	89.8%
Vinay Kumar H.M.	88.5%
R. Shruti (Science)	86.6%

Each received a ₹35,000 cheque

Quick Read

Applications invited for Maulana Azad Talent Award

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

The Department of Minorities Welfare has invited online applications for the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Talent Award for the academic year 2026-27. Students belonging to Muslim, Christian, Jain, Sikh, Parsi and Buddhist communities who secured above 90 per cent marks in the 2025-26 SSLC or PUC examinations in their first attempt are eligible. Applications must be submitted online by November 30. For details, contact the District Minorities Welfare Department at 08352-295523 or the District Information Centre at 8123710766. Taluk-level information centres in Muddebihal, Basavana Bagewadi, Sindagi and Indi can also be contacted.

Kalaburagi Corporation announces fines for lake littering

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The Kalaburagi City Corporation has warned people against dumping waste on the premises of Sharanbasaveshwar Lake, announcing penalties for violators. According to the Corporation Commissioner, the lake premises will remain open for morning and evening walks from 6 am to 10 pm daily. A special team has been deployed to monitor cleanliness and protect the lake. Those caught dumping waste will face a fine of ₹1,000 for the first offence and ₹10,000 for repeat violations. The Commissioner has urged visitors to use designated dustbins and cooperate with officials to maintain cleanliness and protect the environment.

Power shutdown in several Vijayapura areas today

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Several areas of Vijayapura city will face power disruption from 9 am to 5 pm on Nov 6 due to new link work on the 11 kV LBS and STP feeders undertaken by HESCOM. According to the HESCOM Executive Engineer, the shutdown will affect areas under City Sub-Division-1, Section-2. The affected localities include Indi Road, Uppina Colony, Rajaratna Colony, Dhanalakshmi Nagar, Rajput Galli, Vaddar Galli, Inamdar Colony, Kalika Nagar, Nalaband Chowk, Basaveshwar Circle, APMC, Shivanagar, Vegetable Market, Kaladagi Galli and the STP Plant. HESCOM has appealed to residents and business establishments to cooperate with the maintenance work.

Drinking water crisis hits 54 villages in Kalaburagi



Residents gather with pots to collect drinking water

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Across 8 taluks, 54 drought-affected villages rely on water tankers and hired borewells as the administration steps up relief efforts.

The impact of the Super El Nino phenomenon, coupled with a severe rainfall deficit, has triggered a drinking water crisis in Kalaburagi district, with 54 villages already facing shortages. The situation is expected to worsen, with 168 habitations likely to experience severe water scarcity by May 2027.

Despite the presence of major rivers, including the Bhima, Kagina, Krishna, Amarja and Karanja, the district is struggling to meet drinking water requirements. Kalaburagi recorded a 51 per cent rainfall deficit during the monsoon and 96 per cent during the post-monsoon season.

Of the 1,235 habitations spread across 261 Gram Panchayats in 11 taluks, 54 villages under 44 Gram Panchayats in eight taluks are currently affected. The administration is supplying water through three tankers, making nine trips daily, while 74 hired private borewells are catering to the needs of 51 villages.

The situation in Kalaburagi city is also becoming critical. Kerebhosga has dried up, while water levels in the Bennethora backwaters at Kurikota are declining. Of the 1,530 borewells maintained by the City Corporation, around 75 have already dried up. With groundwater levels falling, residents are increasingly depending on tanker supplies. Around 50 tanker trips are being made daily.

The crisis in figures

- **54** villages short of water now
- **168** habitations at risk by May 2027
- **74** private borewells hired
- **₹13 crore** sanctioned by the government

District Drinking Water Technical Nodal Officer Jagadeva Jivangi said 168 habitations could face severe shortages by May 2027. The government has sanctioned ₹13 crore to address the crisis. Action plans worth ₹8 crore have been prepared, with works worth ₹3.50 crore completed or expenditure incurred so far.

Meanwhile, KUWASDB Superintending Engineer R.P. Jadhav appealed to residents to use municipal water judiciously and avoid wastage.

With water sources drying up much earlier than usual, the administration faces a challenging task in ensuring adequate drinking water during the approaching summer.

INDIA bloc intensifies Save Vote campaign in Kalaburagi

The Congress-led INDIA bloc protested in Kalaburagi, demanding the withdrawal of the electoral roll revision to protect voting rights.

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The INDIA bloc, led by the Congress, staged a protest in Kalaburagi under the banner of 'Save Vote, Save Country', demanding the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and protection of citizens' voting rights.

The protest was led by District Congress Committee President Dr Kiran Deshmukh. Hundreds of Congress workers and supporters participated in the demonstration, taking out a rally from the District Congress office to Jagat Circle.

The protesters raised slogans against the Central Government and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

During the demonstration, some protesters set tyres on fire as part of their agitation. They demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, holding him responsible for alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise.



Congress workers at the 'Save Vote, Save Country' protest in Kalaburagi

Addressing the gathering, Congress leaders alleged that the electoral roll revision process could affect the voting rights of eligible citizens. They expressed concern over the possibility of genuine voters being excluded from electoral rolls and questioned the manner in which the revision exercise was being conducted.

The leaders demanded that the SIR process be scrapped and called for greater transparency in the functioning of election authorities. They maintained that every eligible citizen must be allowed to exercise their constitutional right to vote without facing unnecessary difficulties.

What they want

- **Scrap the SIR** — Withdraw the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls
- **CEC must go** — Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar should resign
- **Transparency** — Greater openness in the working of election authorities

The Congress leaders also warned that the agitation would continue across the country until Gyanesh Kumar resigned. They urged party workers and members of the public to participate in the campaign to safeguard democratic rights.

The protesters said protecting the integrity of electoral rolls was essential for ensuring public confidence in the democratic system. They called upon the Election Commission to address their concerns and take appropriate measures to prevent alleged irregularities.

The demonstration in Kalaburagi is part of the INDIA bloc's wider 'Save Vote, Save Country' campaign against the SIR exercise. The protest concluded with renewed calls for electoral transparency, accountability and protection of voting rights.

KKRTC bus fares go up, short trips hit hardest

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

Passengers travelling on buses operated by the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) will have to pay higher fares following a revision of ticket prices.

The increase is expected to hit short-distance commuters harder, while the additional burden on long-distance passengers will be comparatively lower.

Under the revised fare structure, the express bus fare for the first stage of 6.5 km has increased from ₹12 to ₹15. The second stage (13 km) fare has risen from ₹20 to ₹25, while the third stage (19.5 km) fare has gone up from ₹33 to ₹41.

For longer journeys, the increase is comparatively gradual. The fare for the maximum distance of 780 km has been revised from ₹890 to ₹1,095.

Fares on city and suburban services have also been increased. The first-stage fare for a two-kilometre journey has risen from ₹6 to ₹10. The second stage (4 km) now costs ₹15 instead of ₹12, while the third stage (6 km) fare has increased from ₹16 to ₹20. For a maximum journey of 40 km, passengers will now pay ₹30 instead of ₹24, according to sources.

The latest revision has triggered resentment among ordinary commuters, particularly



as it comes soon after the recent increase in milk prices. Passengers have expressed concern over the growing cost of essential services and daily travel.

Opposition parties have also criticised the State Government, accusing it of placing an additional financial burden on the public.

Criticising the Congress government, opposition leaders alleged that people were being made to bear the cost of the five guarantee schemes through successive price increases.

Old fare and new

EXPRESS, 6.5 KM	EXPRESS, 19.5 KM	EXPRESS, 780 KM
₹12 > ₹15	₹33 > ₹41	₹890 > ₹1,095
CITY, 2 KM	**CITY, 6 KM**	**CITY, 40 KM**
₹6 > ₹10	₹16 > ₹20	₹24 > ₹30

7,000 ration cards of dead beneficiaries cancelled in Bidar

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Around 7,000 ration cards have been cancelled in Bidar district after authorities identified beneficiaries who had died during the past six months, State Guarantees Implementation Authority Vice-Chairman P.T. Parameshwar Naik said.

Speaking at a review meeting on the implementation of the Karnataka Government's five guarantee schemes at the Zilla Panchayat office in Bidar, Naik said the district had a population of around 18 lakh, of whom nearly 13 lakh were beneficiaries of various guarantee schemes.

Gruha Lakshmi list revised

Reviewing the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, he said 3,64,287 beneficiaries had initially registered in the district. Following verification, the number was revised to 3,40,756. A total of ₹2,111.73 crore had been credited to beneficiaries' accounts up to July. Pending instalments would be released in phases after the required funds were arranged, he added.

Naik said ration cards had also been issued to around 100 people suffering from health-related ailments. He instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted ration distribution to beneficiaries who had completed biometric authentication and to prevent eligible families from being deprived of their entitlements.

He directed officials to intensify awareness campaigns about the guarantee schemes and identify implementation-related problems. Under Gruha Jyothi, ineligible beneficiaries, including taxpayers and people from outside the district, should be identified and excluded, he said.

Expressing concern over the poor response to the Yuva Nidhi scheme among college students, Naik asked officials to visit educational institutions, distribute information pamphlets and encourage eligible graduates to enrol.

He also stressed the need for better facilities at bus stands, including breastfeeding rooms, safe drinking water and clean toilets. Guarantee committee representatives were asked to inspect bus stands and submit reports on infrastructure and sanitation.

Naik called for an accurate survey to identify eligible beneficiaries left out of the schemes and directed officials to complete verification at the earliest.

District Guarantee Implementation Committee Chairman Amruthrao Chimkode, Zilla Panchayat CEO Gitte Madhav Vithalrao and other officials attended the meeting.

Gruha Lakshmi in Bidar

REGISTERED	VERIFIED
3,64,287	3,40,756
beneficiaries at first	₹2,111.73 crore paid up to July

Sindhankera villagers protest, demand waste unit be relocated

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Residents of Sindhankera village staged a protest in front of the Humnabad Town Municipal Council, demanding the immediate relocation of the solid waste disposal unit situated on the outskirts of their village.

The protesters submitted a memorandum, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, to Basavakalyan Assistant Commissioner Prakash Kudare, highlighting the problems caused by the waste disposal facility.

Speaking during the protest, villagers alleged that the foul smell emanating from the unit had made life miserable for residents and was causing health problems, including respiratory ailments. They accused the authorities of failing to follow prescribed rules and environmental regulations, worsening the situation.

The protesters demanded an immediate halt to the transportation of rotten garbage, solid waste and dead animals from Humnabad town to the



Sindhankera in Bidar district, where villagers want the waste unit moved

facility. They also sought the relocation of the unit to an alternative site.

The memorandum called for an inquiry into whether the facility had obtained the necessary clearance from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and was complying with environmental norms. The villagers also demanded scientific testing of soil, water and air quality in the surrounding areas.

Other demands included medical examination camps, a survey of communicable diseases and an investigation into alleged violations of regulations concerning the disposal of dead animals and unidentified bodies. They further sought a high-level inquiry into previous complaints and identification of alternative government land for shifting the facility within a fixed timeframe.

During the agitation, the protesters insisted that the Deputy Commissioner personally visit the village and listen to their grievances.

Later, Assistant Commissioner Prakash Kudare and Deputy Superintendent of Police Madolappa intervened and held discussions with the protesters. They assured them that necessary action would be initiated within two to three days.

Following the assurance, the villagers temporarily withdrew their protest.

Yuvraj Aiholli, Shaikh Firdous, Bhimareddy Sindhankera, Amar, Shankar Chilavant, Manjunath Kadavadi, Gurunath Patil and Vijayakumar Balagar were among those who participated in the protest.

POST-MONSOON DROUGHT BLOW

34,719 hectares remain unsown amid rainfall deficit

CH NEWS, YADGIR

A severe rainfall deficit has dealt a major blow to Rabi season sowing in Yadgir district, leaving 34,719 hectares of agricultural land uncultivated.

With the district receiving 96 per cent less rainfall than normal during the post-monsoon period, farmers are waiting for rain to begin agricultural operations.

Against the Rabi sowing target of 44,970 hectares, cultivation had been taken up on only 10,251 hectares as of Oct 23, achieving just 22.8 per cent of the target. Of the area covered, 8,749 hectares are under irrigation and 1,502 hectares under rain-fed conditions.

Farmers who have already purchased seeds and fertilisers are reluctant to begin sowing due to inadequate soil moisture. The situation has further increased agricultural distress, as Kharif crops have also suffered due to poor rainfall, leaving farmers with little hope of recovering their losses through a second crop.

Among the six taluks, Hunsagi has recorded the lowest sowing at just 575 hectares. Yadgir taluk has reported the highest coverage at 4,315 hectares, with only 15 hectares under rain-fed cultivation. The remaining area largely depends on Bhima river water and borewells.

Gurmitkal has recorded 2,450 hectares under irrigation, while rain-fed sowing stands at just 15 hectares. Shahapur, Wadagera and Surpur have also reported limited cultivation.



A field lies unsown for want of rain

Rabi sowing in Yadgir target 44,970 ha, as of Oct 23



Not sown 34,719 ha Sown 10,251 ha

The introduction of rotational water supply (warabandi) through Narayanpur reservoir canals and the Irrigation Consultative Committee's decision not to release water for a second crop have further affected farmers dependent on canal irrigation.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Yadgir district received only 3.9 mm of rainfall against the normal 109.4 mm between October 1 and November 2, registering a 96 per cent deficit.

All six taluks have recorded rainfall deficits ranging from 93 to 99 per cent. Shahapur received just 1.6 mm against 127.7 mm, while Surpur recorded 2.9 mm against 123.8 mm.

The Agriculture Department has advised farmers against sowing until adequate soil moisture is available, warning that premature sowing could result in crop failure.

With thousands of hectares remaining uncultivated and irrigation sources under pressure, concerns are mounting over agricultural production and rural livelihoods in the district.

Quick Read

PUC student goes missing near canal on birthday

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A 17-year-old second-year PUC student went missing under mysterious circumstances near the Varuna Canal at Belagola in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district on his birthday. The missing student, Vaibhav, is a native of Mysuru and studies at a private college. According to reports, he left home on a motorcycle on Wednesday to celebrate his birthday but did not return. His motorcycle, clothes and mobile phone were later found on the canal bank, raising fears that he might have entered the water and been swept away. His family members are deeply worried about his whereabouts. The circumstances surrounding his disappearance remain unclear.

Man arrested for cheating Telangana resident of ₹10 lakh

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Nayakanahatti police have arrested D. Raju (39) for allegedly cheating a Telangana resident of ₹10 lakh using fake gold bars. The victim, Bodige Srinivas, was reportedly lured to a roadside near Koradihalli village in Challakere taluk on September 26. The accused allegedly handed him 250 grams of fake gold, claiming it was genuine, and collected ₹10 lakh and a mobile phone. Following a complaint, police arrested Raju and recovered ₹4.50 lakh and a mobile phone. SP Kushal Chouksey appreciated the police team and urged people to remain alert against fake gold scams.

Hasanamba Temple generates ₹13 cr in 7 days

To manage surging crowds and ensure smoother darshan, authorities are reducing ritual times, including naivedya offerings, to speed up devotee movement.

CH NEWS, HASSAN



1.6 million+ devotees in seven days

₹13 crore+ revenue so far

The annual darshan festival of Goddess Hasanamba in Hassan has witnessed a massive turnout, with more than 1.6 million devotees visiting the temple in just seven days.

The festival has generated revenue exceeding ₹13 crore so far, Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari said on Thursday.

The Deputy Commissioner said the district administration and temple management were taking several measures to manage the increasing crowds and ensure smooth darshan for devotees. The time allocated for religious rituals, including the naivedya offering, was being reduced to facilitate quicker movement of devotees.

The administration expected an even larger influx of visitors over the next five days and advised devotees to come prepared to wait patiently in queues, Latha Kumari said. Steps had also been taken to regulate the number of VIPs and other visitors seeking entry through official protocol, she said.

Meanwhile, an incident involving a group of Congress workers from Ramanagara and Kanakapura has triggered discussion after they reportedly argued with Revenue Department staff over special access to the temple.

According to reports, five to six people arrived at the temple from the Pravasi Mandira guest house in a vehicle designated for protocol visitors. Village Accountant Manu accompanied them up to the main entrance but informed them that, as per the Additional Deputy Commissioner's instructions, staff could not escort them inside.

The visitors reportedly objected to the restriction and later complained to Deputy Commissioner Latha Kumari against Manu and another official, Suprith. The Deputy Commissioner initially reprimanded the staff and asked them to treat visitors courteously. She also apologised to the complainants over the incident.

The episode has drawn attention to the challenges of managing VIP access amid the heavy rush of ordinary devotees.

KRS water level falls to 99 feet in November

CH NEWS, MANDYA

The Krishnarajasagara (KRS) Dam's water level dropped to 99 feet, raising water shortage concerns in the Cauvery basin ahead of summer.

The water level at the Krishnarajasagara (KRS) Dam in Mandya district has dropped to 99 feet, raising concerns over a possible water shortage in the Cauvery basin well before the onset of summer.

The reservoir, located in Srirangapatna taluk, has a maximum storage level of 124.80 feet. Its water level has fallen by five feet in just one week, from 104 feet to 99 feet, indicating a sharp decline in water availability.

The continuous release of water to Tamil Nadu, following directions from the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on five occasions, has added to the concern. Currently, around 7,884 cusecs of water is being released from the reservoir into the river and canals, of which 3,000 cusecs is being supplied towards Tamil Nadu.

According to the available figures, the reservoir currently holds around 22 TMC of water. However, six TMC is classified as dead storage, which cannot be utilised for regular requirements. This leaves only 16 TMC of usable water for drinking, irrigation and other purposes.

Key points

- Cauvery water released to Tamil Nadu
- Current reservoir storage at 22 TMC
- Usable water restricted to 16 TMC
- Farmers and residents voice concern
- Declining levels threaten water supplies

The rapid decline in storage has raised concerns among farmers and residents dependent on the Cauvery river. The drying riverbanks and falling reservoir level have further highlighted the seriousness of the situation.

Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya and several neighbouring districts depend heavily on the Cauvery for their drinking water requirements.

₹4.58 crore Maulana Azad School construction begins

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Construction of a new Maulana Azad School building, modelled on the Karnataka Public School (KPS) system, has commenced near the Mandya lakebed at an estimated cost of ₹4.58 crore.

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar Gowda Ganiga performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the project, describing it as an important step towards improving educational opportunities for children in the constituency.

The proposed school building will feature modern infrastructure and essential facilities to provide students with a better learning environment. The project aims to strengthen government school education and ensure access to quality education for children from Kere Angala and surrounding areas.Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said education was the foundation of social development and stressed the importance of providing quality learning opportunities to every child.

He said the government was making continuous efforts to improve infrastructure in government schools and provide facilities comparable to those available in private educational institutions.

Illegal sand mining flourishes across Mundargi taluk

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, MUNDARGI

Illegal sand mining is reportedly continuing unchecked along the Tungabhadra and Malaprabha rivers in Gadag district, particularly in Mundargi taluk, raising serious concerns among residents and environmental activists over the destruction of river ecosystems.

The riverbanks have become hotspots for unauthorised sand extraction, with sand allegedly being transported in tractors and tipper trucks in broad daylight. JCB machines are reportedly being used to excavate riverbeds, damaging the natural structure of riverbanks and disturbing the flow of water. Several streams and ponds across the district are also facing threats from illegal mining.

There are allegations that influential individuals and certain people operating under the guise of social workers are involved in the illegal trade. Questions have also been raised over the alleged involvement or negligence of officials responsible for preventing unauthorised sand extraction. However, these allegations require investigation by the concerned authorities.

Environmentalists warn that uncontrolled sand mining could lower groundwater levels, damage river ecosystems and create serious water shortages in the coming years. The Tungabhadra and Malaprabha rivers play an important role in maintaining the region's water resources, making their protection essential.

Residents and environmental activists have urged the Gadag district administration and the Department of Mines and Geology to take immediate action.

They have demanded the formation of special vigilance teams, regular inspections and strict enforcement measures across Mundargi and Ron taluks.They have also called for special checkposts to prevent illegal transportation of sand. People have stressed that occasional raids will not be sufficient and that sustained action is necessary to dismantle the alleged illegal network and protect the district's natural resources.

MLA urges students to utilise graduation years wisely

CH NEWS, Bengaluru



Graduation is one of the most important phases in a student's life, and students must utilise this valuable period effectively to build a bright future, said MLA Byrathi Basavaraj.

He was speaking after inaugurating the cultural and sports activities, NSS, NCC, Rovers and Rangers, Youth Red Cross, Women's Empowerment Cell and other programmes for the academic year 2026–27, along with Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, at Government First Grade College, K.R. Puram.

Addressing the students, Basavaraj urged them to remember the sacrifices and hardships their parents had undergone to provide them with higher education. Securing a respectable position in society and making their parents proud would be the greatest gift they could offer in return, he said.

International folk singer Dr. Ammara Chandra said that no academic degree or achievement could surpass the importance of parents. Expressing gratitude, he said he had included his parents' names alongside his own as a mark of respect. Although repaying their sacrifices was impossible, students should continuously strive for personal growth and progress.

Joint Director of Bengaluru Division Prof. Ramakrishna Reddy, Principal Prof. Nalini R., international athlete Poojitha M.R., department heads, faculty members and students attended the programme.

CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K M THAMSINA D/o K E MAHAMMAD, R/o Hodavada, Madikeri, Kodagu, Karnataka-571214, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as THASMEEYA K M.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VI VIJAYAKUMARA Y B alias YELURU VIJAYAKUMARA S/o Y B BASAVARAJAPPA, R/o Teligi, Harapanahalli, Vijayanagara, Karnataka-583137, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YELURU VIJAYAKUMARA.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDBALLAPURA
CRL. MISC. 702 / 2026
Petitioners: 1. Sri. Siddaih k.R S/o: late Ramaiah, Aged about: 57 years, R/at: Koligere village and post, Doddabelavangal Hobli, Doddaballpaura taluk, Bengaluru rural District-561204 V/S
Respondent: The Tahasiladar, Doddaballpra Taluk, Doddaballpura
PUBLIC NOTICE
Wherefore the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 Registration of birth and death Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of is mother of petitioners by name Smt. DODDANARASAMMA W/O LATE RAMAIAH Who died 08-09-1991 at Koligere village Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddballapura taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in this said matter may Appear in person or through advocate duly authorized before court 11/12/2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off EX-parte order.
Given under my hand seal the court on the 29th day of OCT 2026
By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, 1st Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Sri, Jagadeesh G**, Doddaballpura-561203

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHANDAN GARG S/o RAMASHRAY SHUKLA R/o 107, 1st Floor, SS Residency, 7th Cross Alfa Gardens, Bangalore, Karnataka-560049, have changed the name of my minor son TANMAY aged 5 years and he shall hereafter be known as TANMAY SHUKLA.

LOST OF DOCUMENT
I, Sruthika S, hereby notify the general public that I have lost my **3rd Semester Marksheet** of the **M.Sc. Clinical Psychology** course (Academic Year 2024–2026), issued by **Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru.**The marksheet was lost on 4th June 2026 at K. Narayanapura, Bengaluru. In this regard, I have lodged a complaint with Bengaluru City Police through the E-Lost portal on 31/10/2026, vide Lost Report No. 2511499/2026.
If anybody found, kindly contact: +91-9342417375.
Or hand it over to the nearest Police Station.

LOST OF DOCUMENT
Lost of original land Grant certificate
It is hereby notified to the public that I Gangappa S/o late Babanna lost The ORIGINAL land Grant certificate dated: 16/12/2004 vide No. RUC(H).68/2003-04, certified copy of mutation register extract vide No. MR.3/2005-06 in respect of landed property bearing Sy.No.87 measuring 03 acres 02 guntas out of total extent situated at Bhaktharahalli village, Hossur Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. the Tahasildar, Gowribidanur Taluk authorities have issued the original grant certificate in favour of Sri. Gangappa S/o late Babanna
This document lost while travelling from my residence at Hossur village to Gowribidanur and I lost it at bus stand at Gowribidanur on 19-10-2026 I have searched for but I have not traced it the same from the said date to till today, but I could not trace the same so far. I have not kept, deposited or pledged with any person or Financial institution the original grant certificate. And in this regard I have pledged a complaint before the Town Police station, Gowribidanur on 21-10-2026.
Hence any person who found this original Grant certificate handed over to Gangappa S/o late Babanna or his advocate N.S.Ashokkumar the undersigned, he/she will be suitably rewarded.
N.S.Ashokkumar, Advocate
Main Road, MTC Colony, Gauribidanur City.
Cell: 9448807895
Sri. Gangappa S/o late Babanna, 70 years, Hossur Village, Hossur Hobli Gowribidanur taluk. Cell : 9844939874
Dated: 21-10-2026, Place: Gowribidanur

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BHEEMSENRAO & BHEEMSENRAO DESHPANDE (old name), a resident of PLOT NO - 69, H NO - 1-891/30/18C, OLD JEWARGI ROAD, Kalaburagi City, 585102, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to BHEEMSENRAO DESHPANDE (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 04-11-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SONAL NICHILAS MATHIAS alias SONAL MICHELLE MATHIAS W/o NICHOLAS AGNELO MATHIAS, R/o 30, NTI Layout, 2nd Main, Bhoopasandra, R.M.V. Extension II Stage, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONAL MATHIAS.

DOCUMENT LOST
This is to inform to General public that my client Sri, B.V.Srinath s/o Venkataraju B.R. , Residing at Bagaluru Vilage, jala Hobali, Bengalore north Taluk., Bangalore District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while partition Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Bagaluru Vilage, jala Hobali, Bengalore north Taluk., Bangalore District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Partition Deed,in Last page Missing, Dated;-20-12-2013, Regd Partition deed, Executed by and Beetween Late, Ramakrishnappa 1st son Late, Venkataraju Wife Kasturiyamma,and that said Late, Ramakrishnappa 2nd son B.R.Balaraju, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.YAN-1-09061/2013-14,IN CDNO YAND 524, IN SRO Yalahanka, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2519615/2026, DATED;-04-11-2026, and complaint dated;-04-11-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.
Place-Chinthamani
Date-04-11-2026
K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
MOBILE NO:9980110692

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೂಚನೆ
ನಾನು, ಬಸವರಾಜ ನಿಂ ಸಂಠಿ ವಕೀಲರು ಸಾ॥ ಗೋಜನೂರಾ ತಾ॥ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೇಶ್ವರ ಜಿ॥ ಗದಗ. ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಏನೆಂದರೆ. ಶ್ರೀ ನೀಲವ್ವ ಕೋಂ ದೇವಪ್ಪ ದ್ಯಾವಣ್ಣವರ. ಅವಳ್ಳ ಕೋಂ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕನ್ನನ್ನವರ. ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಾಗರ ತಂದೆ ದೇವಪ್ಪ ದ್ಯಾವಣ್ಣವರ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ದೇವಪ್ಪ ದ್ಯಾವಣ್ಣವರ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣ ದೇವಪ್ಪ ದ್ಯಾವಣ್ಣವರ.
ಸಾ॥ ಕಡಕೋಳ ತಾ॥ ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ ಜಿ॥ ಗದಗ. ಇವರುಗಳ ಜಂಟಿ ಮಾಲಿಕತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಬ್ಜಾ ವಹಿವಾಟ ಉಪಭೋಗವುಳ್ಳ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಜಮೀನು ಅದರ ವಿವರ
ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಕಡಕೋಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರಿಸನಂ 231*/ ಅ. ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ 03ಎ–15ಗುಂ. ಖರಾಬು 01 ಗುಂ. ಉಳಿದ 03ಎ–14ಗುಂ. ನೇದ್ದರ ಪೈಕಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಭಾಗದ 00ಎ–20 ಗುಂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಚಿಕಬಂದಿ. ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ– ಇದೇ ಆಸ್ತಿಯ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಭಾಗ. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ– ಬಸವಣ್ಣೆಮ್ಮ ಆ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳಮಠ ಇವರ ಜಮೀನು. ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ– ಸರಕಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ– ಇದೇ ಆಸ್ತಿಯ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಭಾಗ.
ಈ ಆಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ನಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಷಗಾರರಾದ ಶರಣಪ್ಪ ತಂದೆ ಕಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ ಕುರಿ ಸಾ॥ ಡೋಣಿ ತಾ॥ ಮುಂಡರಗಿ ಜಿ॥ ಗದಗ ಇವರು ಏರೀದಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರಣ ಸದರಿ ಆಸ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಾದರೂ, ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಹಕ್ಕು–ವ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಂತವರು, ಅಥವಾ ಸದರಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಏರೀದಿ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಏನಾದರೂ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಉಳ್ಳವರು, ಇಂದಿನಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕಾಗದಪತ್ರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ. ತಮ್ಮ ತಕರಾರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಯಾರಿಂದಲೂ ಏನೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳು ಬಾರದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಷಗಾರರು ಏರೀದಿ ಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗುವರು. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಲುಕ್ಸಾನು ವ ಹಾನಿ ಆದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಏರೀದಿಸುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಷಗಾರರು ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಬಾಧ್ಯಸ್ಥರಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ತಿಳಿಯಿರಿ ಅಂತಾ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.
ಬಸವರಾಜ ನಿಂ ಸಂಠಿ., ವಕೀಲರು.
ಸಾ॥ ಗೋಜನೂರ ತಾ॥ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೇಶ್ವರ ಜಿ॥ ಗದಗ.
ಮೊ: 9901544176, 9742107591
ಗದಗ, 02–11–2026

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, Malleswaram Zone, BWCC building, #161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Near Old Navarang Bus Stop, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
No.:EE(RNR)IKPPP/TEND/12/2026-27 **Date: 04.11.2026**
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only) **(SIngle Cover System)**
The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, Malleswaram Zone invites tenders from the registered contractors of GBA or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the works
1.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting. shoulder cleaning, grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs, paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor gang) in Ward No.58 Dayanadanaga. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 59,500/-** ***(Reserved for Others).***
2.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting, shoulder cleaning, grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs, paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor gang) in ward No.62, Rama Mandira. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 30,000/-** ***(Reserved for CAT-II(A)).***
3.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting, shoulder cleaning. grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs, paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor gang) in ward No.63, Rajajinagar. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 59,500/-** ***(Reserved for Others).***
4.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting, shoulder cleaning, grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs. paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor gang) in ward No. 64, Shivanagar. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 30,000/-** ***(Reserved for SC).***
5.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting, shoulder cleaning, grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs, paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor gang) in ward No.67, Basaveshwara Nagara. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 59,500/-** ***(Reserved for Others).***
6.	Annual Maintenance of footpath, drain desilting. shoulder cleaning, grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs, paver block resetting etc of ward roads (silt and tractor Rana) in ward no.68 Kamakshinalya. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.65 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 30,000/-** ***(Reserved for SC).***
7.	Construction of new RCC drain & Culverts in ward no.65 Manjunathnagar. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 8.46 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 21,500/-** ***(Reserved for Others).***

1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.11.2026, 17.30 Hrs. onwards. 2)** Last Date and time for receipt of tenders: **18.11.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4**) Opening of Financial bids: **19.11.2026 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No: 08372-238782 **Fax No. 08372-237268** **E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com**
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,:Maint : 2026-27/2721 Dated:- 04/11/2026
Tender Notification
The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites item wise tenders from eligible tenderers of **48** work of total amount of **Rs 1115.73** Lakh (Min estimate amount: **Rs- 05.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **200.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1 2 3 & 4 through **http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/**
Work Indent No:- Part-1: 40653/ Call-2, 45152 Category-2A, 45156, 45115-SC,45114, 45183 Category-2A, 45132, 45127- Category-1, 45184, 44110-Category-1 /Call-2, 44113 /Call-2, 44154 /Call-2, 44149 /Call-2, 44139-ST /Call-2, 44040-SC /Call-2, 44320 /Call-2, 44319 /Call-2, 44300-SC /Call-2, 44079 /Call-2, ,44068 Category-2A /Call-2, 43670 /Call-2, 43960 /Call-2, 43613 /Call-2, 44328 /Call-2, 44792 /Call-2, 44737 /Call-2, 41407/Call-2, 39666/Call-2, 45198, 44806, 44864, 45341, 45098, 41722, 43839,
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to :**11-11-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **13-11-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid **Date:- 16-11-2026** Opening of Financial Bid **Date:- 17-11-2026.**
Work Indent No:- Part-2: 36819/ Call-2, 35919-SC/Call-2, 40925/ Call-2, 33451/Call-3, 44852 , 45030-ST, 44705-Category-1
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to :**21-11-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **23-11-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid **Date:-24-11-2026** Opening of Financial Bid **Date:- 25-11-2026.**
Work Indent No:- Part-3: 44886, 44865, 45037, 45038, 44885, 36789/ Category-1 Call-2.
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to :**13-11-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **16-11-2026 Noon 4.00 PM** (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid **Date:- 17-11-2026.**
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W.D .Division, Gadag.
DIPR/Gadag/283/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

Jarkiholi announces Rs 3,600 sugarcane price

Belagavi sugar factories agreed to pay Rs 3,600 per tonne of sugarcane, excluding harvesting and transportation costs, District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi said.

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi has announced that sugar factories in Belagavi district have agreed to pay Rs 3,600 per tonne of sugarcane, excluding harvesting and transportation charges.

However, farmer leader Chunappa Pujeri had called for a 'Jail Bharo' agitation on Thursday, opposing the settlement and demanding better prices for growers.

Following discussions with sugar factory owners and various farmers' organisations on Wednesday night, Jarkiholi appealed to farmers to accept the announced price and allow factories to begin crushing operations immediately. Prohibitory orders were in force in Belagavi on Thursday in view of the proposed agitation.

The minister said factory owners had earlier agreed to pay Rs 3,500 per tonne, but the government had persuaded them to increase the rate to Rs 3,600. He said the amount would be paid in a single instalment, apart from harvesting and transportation costs. Farmers would effectively receive Rs 300 more than last year.

Farmers divided

Farmers from Kittur, Bailhongal and Khanapur have accepted the announced rate and expressed willingness to begin harvesting. However, another faction led by farmer leader Ravi Patil rejected the announcement, arguing that the same offer had been discussed



for nearly a month without any meaningful improvement.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Rahul Shinde explained that under the proposed profit-sharing arrangement, 75 per cent of additional earnings would go to farmers and 25 per cent to factories if sugar prices reached Rs 50 per unit.

Of the projected additional profit of Rs 250, farmers would receive Rs 190 and factories Rs 60.

Farmer leader Raghavendra Naik said his group had accepted the Rs 3,600 rate and wanted factories to begin operations immediately as sugarcane crops were drying up due to inadequate rainfall.

However, he said the struggle for an additional Rs 1,000 incentive and an increase in the minimum selling price of sugar would continue.

Quick Read

Training on scientific cow rearing in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services will organise a two-day training programme on scientific cow rearing for farmers on November 12 and 13. The training will be held at the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Training Centre near the Head Post Office in Chitradurga. A total of 25 farmers will be selected. No stipend will be provided. Applicants must bring Aadhaar card and bank passbook photocopies, two passport-size photographs and, for SC/ST candidates, a caste certificate copy. For details, contact 9886002248 or 9886803637.

Public grievance redressal camp at Marali on Nov 7

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A 'Praja Seva Andolana' (Public Service Campaign) will be held at Marali village in Gangavathi taluk on Nov 7 to address public grievances. The programme will begin at 10.30 am at the Government Upgraded Senior Primary School in Marali. Senior district officials, including the Deputy Commissioner, Zilla Panchayat CEO, Superintendent of Police and Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), will participate. Residents can directly submit complaints and grievances related to various government departments.

Digital census must ensure accuracy, integrity: DC

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

Deputy Commissioner Poovitha S. has urged officials and staff entrusted with Census 2027 duties to acquire complete knowledge of the process and discharge their responsibilities with sincerity, accuracy and integrity.

Poovitha highlighted the census's vital role in national development and planning, noting it will use digital technology for the first time in India.

She was speaking after inaugurating a two-day district-level training workshop for district officials, charge officers and staff at the Deputy Commissioner's office auditorium in Raichur.

Poovitha said the census played a crucial role in providing essential data for the country's development and planning. For the first time in India, the population census would be conducted using digital technology.Unlike the 2011 Census, when information was collected manually, the upcoming exercise would follow a digital system.As the process involved new technology and procedures, everyone, from field-level enumerators to senior officials, must understand their responsibilities and perform their duties carefully. Although the new system might appear challenging initially, proper training and experience would make the process easier, she said.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that there should be no confusion, negligence or errors during data collection. Officials must ensure that information is gathered accurately and transparently. She instructed participants to make full use of the two-day training programme and carefully record details of every member of each household.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Eshwar Kumar Kandoo said the decennial census provided officials with a valuable opportunity to gain experience in an important national exercise.

He urged them to carry out their responsibilities systematically and report any difficulties to the Deputy Commissioner or himself well in advance.Census nodal officers Sudarshan and Begum explained the census procedures and implementation methods during the workshop.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Somaling Gopal Gennur, Lingasugur Assistant Commissioner Nagendra Prasad, Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer Dr T. Roni, District Urban Development Cell Project Director Basavanneppa Kalashetty, District Census Training Officer Sadashivappa, taluk tahsildars and other officials attended the programme.

Census, then and now

2011	2027
Manual	**Digital**
information collected by hand	a first for the census in India

Lokayukta conducts surprise raid at Ballari RTO office

CH NEWS, BALLARI

A team of Bengaluru Lokayukta officials conducted a surprise raid on the Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Ballari on Thursday following complaints that bribes were allegedly being demanded from the public and middlemen were involved in getting official work completed.

A team of around 15 Lokayukta officials, led by Bengaluru Lokayukta Deputy Superintendent of Police Srinivas, arrived at the RTO office in three vehicles and began the inspection at around 11 am. The sudden operation created activity on the office premises as officials examined various sections and questioned employees.

During the raid, the Lokayukta team conducted a detailed verification of files, official documents and administrative records relating to the functioning of the transport department. The officials also collected information from several staff members and officers, including RTO Nizamuddin, ARTO Rafiq and Santhosh Kompi.

The inspection followed allegations from members of the public that obtaining services at the RTO had become difficult without approaching middlemen. People reportedly complained that they were being asked to pay additional amounts for processing applications and clearing files. There were also allegations that specific sums were demanded for different services, forcing applicants to depend on intermediaries to complete their work.

The complaints raised concerns over transparency and accountability in the functioning of the office. Taking note of the allegations, the Lokayukta officials carried out the surprise inspection to examine the records and gather information about the alleged irregularities.

During the operation, officials checked whether applications and other official procedures were being handled according to prescribed rules. They also sought explanations from employees regarding the functioning of different sections.

The inspection was continuing at the time of reporting. However, the Lokayukta authorities had not yet released an official statement regarding the findings of the raid or confirmed whether any irregularities had been established.

Inner Wheel Club installs a drinking water unit at school

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Emphasising the importance of clean drinking water and water conservation, former president and executive committee member of the Inner Wheel Club of Koppal, Pratima Pattanashetti, said that access to safe drinking water is essential for children's health and well-being.

She was speaking after inaugurating a drinking water purification unit installed at her personal expense for students of the Government Senior Model School at Chamalapura village in Irkalgada hobli of Koppal taluk.

Clean water, good habits

"Water is life and a precious resource that must be used carefully. Children need quality education, good health and access to clean drinking water," she said. She urged students to make proper use of the newly installed facility and develop healthy habits.

Pratima also stressed the importance of cleanliness, stating that unhygienic surroundings could lead to several diseases. She encouraged students to maintain cleanliness not only at school but also in and around their homes. Drinking clean water and maintaining personal hygiene are essential for a healthy life, she added.

Students showcase talents at Pratibha Karanji competition

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Students showcased their creativity and talents at the Pratibha Karanji competition organised at Chinmayi Senior Primary School in Vijayapura.

The event provided a platform for children to demonstrate their abilities in cultural, literary and artistic activities.

Addressing the gathering, education officials highlighted the importance of identifying and encouraging students' talents from an early age. They said such competitions help children develop confidence, creativity and communication skills while providing opportunities to excel at school, district and state levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajju Kuriyavar, a member of Ward 35, said organising Pratibha Karanji competitions at the school level was important for nurturing young talent.

He emphasised that children should be encouraged to participate in different activities according to their interests and abilities. Teachers also play a significant role in identifying students' talents and motivating them to perform better.

Chinmayi School Principal Pratibha Patil said students who participated in the competitions had put in considerable effort to prepare for the events. She encouraged them to participate enthusiastically and reminded them that winning was not the only objective. Learning from participation and improving their abilities were equally important.

Students from around 30 schools took part in various competitions conducted in three categories: Classes 1 to 4, Classes 5 to 7 and Classes 8 to 12.

The competitions included speech, Kannada, Hindi and English recitation, religious reading, light music, storytelling, fancy dress, acting, devotional songs, mimicry, quiz and other cultural activities.

Students also presented folk and classical dance performances, while some displayed their artistic abilities through colourful drawings and paintings.

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,ನಂ.7,
ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ,
(ನಿ), ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08234–200058
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08234–286019
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : eeno7nag@gmail.com

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:10/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.11.2026
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)
(ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ)

ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.11.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, Pre bid Meeting ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2026 ರಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಗೊರೂರು, ಹಾಸನ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.11.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ, 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗಳು ನಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.11.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.413.81 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 249.53 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 6,20,800.00 ಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 3,74,400.00 ಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಇತರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.7, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/526/2026–27

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax : : 08472 / 260776, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/ELE/76/2026-27 Date: 31.10.2026

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:76/2026-27

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 02 tenders as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for works in KW- 3 & KC-6 Tender bid documents Under KKRDB MICRO 2024-25 and Corporation fund 2026-27 Scheme for Tender (15 Days).

The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
2) Estimate Sanction cost:lowest amount Rs.16.12 lakhs & Highest amount Rs.75.00 lakhs., 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 40,300.00 & Highest Rs. 1,42,000.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: 18.11.2026 upto 11-00 am., 4) Last date of Bid Submission: 19.11.2026 upto 4-30 pm. 5) Technical Bid Opening date: 20.11.2026 upto 4-35 pm., 6) Financial Bid Opening date: 26.11.2026 after 11:30 am., 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/645/KSMC&A/2026-27

KKRTC CIVIL DIVISION, KALABURAGI
MSK Mill Road, Jewargi Cross, Kalaburagi.

No: KKT/EEG/KLB/DB/ 636 /2026-27 Date: 04/11/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 02,03&10/2026-27

Through GOK e-procurement platform WWW.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Eligible Class-I Civil Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka at KPWD/CPWD /MES are hereby invited for the below works in Two cover system through E-procurement portal mode.

Sl No	Name of work	Amount put to Tender (Rs in lakhs)	Last date for receipt of tenders
1	Construction of KKRTC Central Office Administration Buidling at Kalaburagi.(Call-4)	2000.00	16-11-2026
2	Extention of main building with Covered Accomidation and Trimix concrete to parking area bus station at Hallikhed (B) Dist Bidar (Call-4)	250.00	16-11-2026
3	Construction of new bus depot with its sub works at Hunasagi.(Call-2)	958.50	16-11-2026

The tender schedule will be available on the website mentioned as below.
www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, Telephone No. 08472-220663

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPR/Kalaburagi/649/KSMC&A/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer,
Greater Bengaluru Authority, N.R. Square, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: DCF/PR/657/2026-27 Date: 05-11-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the **Executive Engineer, Market Division, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru** has submitted an application to the undersigned for **removal of trees standing inside the Premises of the existing Indiranagar BDA Complex, Bengaluru for Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at Indiranagar on PPP Model.** The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at Indiranagar on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.			
Name of the Agency	The Executive Engineer, Market Division, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.			
Purpose for Removal of Trees	The trees are standing inside the premises of the existing Indiranagar BDA Complex, Bengaluru and coming within the proposed project area for the Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at Indiranagar on PPP Model			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings	**Boundary**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**	**Location**
	1	12° 98' 22.80"	77° 63' 52.03"	Tree are standing inside the premises of the existing Indiranagar BDA Complex, Indiranagar, Bengaluru.
	2	12° 98' 25.88"	77° 63' 73.67"	
	3	12° 98' 21.45"	77° 63' 74.88"	
	4	12° 98' 13.47"	77° 63' 72.52"	
	5	12° 98' 17.05"	77° 63' 52.31"	
Enumeration of Trees • Total number of trees standing in the project area	137 Nos. (Annexure-1)		Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information to all **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**	
Mode of Communication of Comments *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address: a)** The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. E-mail ID: **dcfgba26@gmail.com** **b)** The Executive Engineer, BDA, Bengaluru. E-mail ID: **bdaeemarkets@gmail.com** * * A copy of the comments communicated directly to the Executive Engineer, BDA, Bengaluru, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, GBA			
Deadline for filing Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notification in Newspapers * **Objections / Comments / Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.**			

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests,
GBA, Bengaluru.

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

AVOID CONFRONTATION, CHOOSE CONSENSUS



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

The ongoing war of words between the Congress government in Karnataka and the Mysore royal family is an unfortunate development that has hurt the sentiments of Mysureans. At a time when the government should be celebrating the rich heritage and traditions of Mysore, its leaders appear to be indulging in needless confrontation with the erstwhile rulers who played a pivotal role in shaping the city.

The recent outburst by Urban Development and Mysore District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah against the Mysore royal family has not gone down well with the people. Responding to a letter from Dr. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, who had highlighted the alleged mismanagement of this year's Dasara celebrations and the police obstruction of palace rituals, the minister reportedly stated that the palace and the Golden Howdah belonged to the government, while the royal family had been provided only a small space to reside.

Such a statement has understandably triggered widespread resentment among Mysureans. The Wadiyars are not merely a royal family; they are an integral part of Mysore's history, identity and cultural heritage. Their contributions to the development of the region are immeasurable. From promoting education, healthcare and infrastructure to supporting irrigation projects, the rulers of Mysore left behind a legacy that continues to benefit generations.

The generosity of the Wadiyars, particularly during periods of financial crisis, remains a matter of pride. The contribution of the royal family towards the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam, including the reported donation of the queen's jewellery, is a reminder of the sacrifices made for the welfare of the people. Such historical contributions cannot be brushed aside by political statements.

The Congress leaders appear to have lost sight of this legacy while responding to the royal family's criticism of Dasara arrangements. Instead of addressing the concerns raised by Dr. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, the government chose to engage in a war of words. The reaction from Mysureans has clearly demonstrated that the people value the contributions of the Wadiyars and expect the government to acknowledge them with dignity.

This is not the first occasion on which the Congress government has found itself at odds with the royal family. Following the sudden demise of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, the royal family had requested the government to cancel entertainment programmes inside the palace as a mark of respect. The then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah



"The message to the Congress government is clear: Avoid confrontation and go for consensus. Mysore's heritage deserves harmony, not hostility."
SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

initially refused to accept the request and favoured continuing the scheduled programmes. However, the then Revenue Minister and Mysore District In-charge Minister V. Srinivas Prasad strongly opposed holding entertainment events inside the palace during the period of mourning. Eventually, the Chief Minister agreed to the request.

Siddaramaiah also drew criticism when he reportedly remarked that the Mysore maharajas had constructed palaces and other buildings using public money rather than their personal wealth. The statement hurt the sentiments of Mysureans, who regard the Wadiyars' contributions as an important chapter in the city's history.

The legal dispute over the acquisition of the Mysore Palace by the State government, along with the ownership of the Golden Howdah and the golden throne, adds another dimension to the controversy. The royal family has challenged the State's claims in the High Court. The outcome of the litigation will have implications for the government's future conduct of the annual Dasara celebrations. If the court rules in favour of the royal family, the government may have to reconsider its arrangements. This possibility makes it all the more important for the government to adopt a conciliatory approach.

The government of the day cannot afford to undermine the contributions of the Mysore rulers merely because they belong to a different historical and political era. Nor should criticism of administrative arrangements during Dasara be viewed as an affront to the government. The royal family's concerns deserve to be examined objectively and addressed in a spirit of mutual respect.

Dasara is not merely a government-sponsored festival. It is a celebration of Mysore's cultural heritage, traditions and identity. The Wadiyars, the government, the administration and the people have all played a role in sustaining its grandeur. Any attempt to diminish the contribution of one stakeholder will only create unnecessary bitterness.

Instead of crossing swords with the royal family, the Congress government would do well to choose the path of consensus and dialogue. Political differences and administrative disputes can be resolved through mutual understanding. Respecting history does not diminish the authority of an elected government; rather, it strengthens its credibility.

GOA'S TOURISM GROWTH LOSES MOMENTUM: RISING COSTS, GLOBAL COMPETITION AND INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS RAISE CONCERNS



ADAM MANIYAR

Despite crossing the one crore tourist mark, Goa faces a changing tourism landscape as foreign arrivals struggle to recover, hotel occupancy comes under pressure and travellers increasingly compare the state with affordable international destinations.

Panaji, Goa, traditionally regarded as one of India's most attractive holiday destinations, is facing a significant shift in its tourism industry. Although the state continues to attract millions of domestic visitors, the pace of growth in tourist arrivals has slowed, raising concerns among hoteliers, travel operators, restaurant owners, taxi operators and other tourism-dependent businesses. The issue is not simply whether tourists are visiting Goa, but whether the state is continuing to offer the affordability, convenience, hospitality and overall experience that travellers expect. Recent tourism figures indicate that Goa's challenge is increasingly about maintaining its competitive position rather than merely attracting visitor numbers.

The future of Goa's tourism industry will depend not on how many visitors enter the state, but on how many leave with a positive experience and choose to return.

Tourist numbers tell a different story

According to the Goa Tourism Department, the state recorded 1,08,02,410 tourist arrivals in 2025, crossing the one crore mark for the second consecutive year. However, the latest figures suggest that the momentum is weakening. Between January and September 2026, Goa received 76,90,149 tourists, compared with 76,32,100 during the corresponding period in 2025. This represents growth of just 0.76 per cent. Domestic tourist arrivals increased by 1.72 per cent, reaching 74,21,709. The figures indicate that domestic tourism continues to support the industry, but overall growth remains almost stagnant. The more worrying trend is in international tourism. Goa received 8,90,459 foreign tourists in 2017, while the figure fell to 5,17,802 in 2025, a decline of approximately 42 per cent. This suggests that the state has not fully regained its traditional international tourism market, despite improvements in airport infrastructure and promotional campaigns.

Goa is becoming an expensive holiday destination

One of the major concerns raised by tourism stakeholders is the rising cost of holidays in Goa. Hotel tariffs, private villas, restaurants, beachside establishments and transportation can make a holiday significantly more expensive, particularly during the peak season. Travellers are increasingly comparing the cost of a holiday in Goa with destinations such as Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. These destinations compete through attractive holiday packages, organised transportation, international connectivity and comparatively affordable accommodation. A holidaymaker who once considered Goa an affordable international standard beach destination may now find better value elsewhere. The hotel tariffs and property rental rates in Goa had undergone a correction of approximately 15–20 per cent, with industry representatives pointing to oversupply and competition from international destinations.

Transportation remains a major concern

Transportation is another issue affecting Goa's tourism experience. Unlike many established international tourist destinations, Goa continues to face challenges in providing convenient, transparent and affordable local transport options. Tourists frequently raise concerns about taxi fares, limited transport choices and the difficulty of arranging last-mile connectivity from airports, railway stations and hotels to popular beaches. The debate surrounding app-based taxi services and traditional taxi operators has also affected perceptions of convenience. A tourist arriving in Goa should be able to travel from the airport to a hotel or beach without uncertainty over fares and availability. Tourism is not limited to hotels and beaches; convenient mobility is an equally important part of the visitor experience.

Declining foreign tourist arrivals

Foreign tourists have traditionally played an important role in Goa's hospitality and local business ecosystem. Unlike many domestic visitors, international travellers often stay for longer periods, explore different parts of the state, hire two-wheelers, participate in local excursions and spend at beach shacks, restaurants and cultural establishments. However, international arrivals have not recovered to their earlier levels. According to reporting by the BBC in May 2026, foreign tourist arrivals declined from nearly nine lakh in 2017 to approximately five lakh in 2025. Among the reasons identified were expensive airfares, visa-related difficulties, geopolitical uncertainty, reduced direct flight connectivity and competition from destinations offering easier travel arrangements. The discontinuation of direct London to Goa connectivity was also identified as a setback for British visitors.

Social media perception and changing tourist expectations

Goa's image as a relaxed, welcoming and affordable destination has been one of its biggest strengths. However, concerns about cleanliness, traffic congestion, tourist safety, service quality, inflated prices and the treatment of visitors have increasingly become part of online discussions. Social media has transformed the way people choose holiday destinations. A negative travel experience can reach thousands of potential visitors within hours. In September 2026, the Goa government acknowledged that it monitors online feedback and public sentiment concerning complaints involving taxi fares, tourist harassment, touts, cleanliness, congestion, public conveniences, beach conditions and safety. The government also stated that negative online comments had reduced significantly, although the recurring concerns continue to require attention. The challenge is not simply to counter negative publicity but to ensure that the actual tourist experience matches the image being promoted.

Oversupply and pressure on the hospitality sector

The rapid expansion of hotels, private villas, serviced apartments and holiday homes has increased accommodation choices in Goa. While this expansion is beneficial in terms of investment and infrastructure, demand has not necessarily grown at the same pace as supply. As a result, several hospitality businesses are facing increased competition, pricing pressure and uncertainty over occupancy. This indicates that the challenge extends beyond attracting visitors: Goa must also ensure sustainable business conditions for its hospitality industry.

What needs to change to bring Goa's tourism back on track?

Goa does not necessarily need more hotels or more commercial establishments. It needs a stronger and more coordinated tourism strategy that focuses on visitor satisfaction, international marketing and sustainable development.

Some important measures that deserve immediate attention include:

- **Affordable transportation:** Establish transparent taxi fare mechanisms and improve last-mile connectivity.
- **International connectivity:** Restore and expand direct international flight connections, particularly with traditional markets such as the UK, Russia and Europe.
- **Visa facilitation:** Work with the Central Government to make travel to India easier for international visitors.
- **Clean beaches and public facilities:** Improve sanitation, waste management, public toilets, parking and beach infrastructure.
- **Responsible pricing:** Encourage transparent pricing across hotels, restaurants, taxis and tourist activities.
- **International marketing:** Promote Goa in emerging markets instead of depending heavily on domestic seasonal tourism.
- **Beyond beach tourism:** Develop heritage tourism, wellness retreats, village tourism, adventure activities, cultural festivals and destination weddings.
- **Tourist grievance redressal:** Establish an effective mechanism to address complaints and protect visitors against fraud, harassment and overcharging.

Goa needs to protect its tourism identity

Goa's greatest strength has never been limited to its beaches, nightlife or luxury hotels. Its identity is built around its culture, hospitality, heritage, natural beauty, food and relaxed way of life. The state has enormous potential to attract domestic as well as international visitors. However, tourism cannot survive on promotional campaigns alone. The experience delivered on the ground must justify the money tourists spend. The government, tourism department, hospitality industry, transport operators and local communities must work together to address the issues affecting the sector. The latest statistics do not establish that Goa is witnessing an absolute collapse in tourist arrivals. Instead, they reveal a more concerning structural challenge: growth has almost stopped, while the international tourism segment remains significantly below its pre-pandemic level. Goa does not need to compete merely by attracting more tourists. It needs to become a destination where tourists want to return.



TWO HARVESTS FROM ONE FIELD: COMBINING SOLAR POWER WITH AGRICULTURE



DR. VIJAY GARG

"The future of farming may not require choosing between food and electricity. With appropriate technology, suitable crops and farmer-centred policies, one field could produce two valuable harvests, strengthening rural livelihoods while helping India move towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future."
— Dr. Vijay Garg

Agriculture is the backbone of rural India, while solar energy is emerging as an important source of clean electricity. Traditionally, farming and solar power generation have competed for land. Solar installations occupy large areas that could otherwise be used for growing crops. However, an innovative approach called agrivoltaics offers an opportunity to combine both activities on the same land. It allows farmers to cultivate crops beneath or between elevated solar panels while generating electricity above them.

The concept raises an important question: can Indian farmers harvest food and solar energy from a single field without reducing agricultural productivity?

Agrivoltaics is the practice of integrating agricultural production with solar photovoltaic systems on the same land. Solar panels are installed at suitable heights and spacing to allow farming operations beneath or between them. Depending on the design, farmers can grow vegetables, fodder, medicinal plants and certain shade-tolerant crops while producing renewable electricity.

Unlike conventional solar parks, which may replace agricultural activity, agrivoltaic systems aim to preserve farming alongside energy generation. This approach could be particularly valuable in India, where agricultural land is essential for food security and rural livelihoods.

One of the most significant advantages of agrivoltaics is the possibility of earning income from two sources. Farmers may receive revenue from agricultural produce and electricity generated on their land. Depending on the ownership model, electricity can be sold to the grid, supplied to nearby consumers or used for irrigation pumps and other farm operations.



Solar panels also provide partial shade, which can reduce excessive exposure to sunlight and lower soil moisture loss under certain conditions. In hot and dry regions, this may help some crops withstand heat stress. However, the benefits depend on crop variety, local climate, panel height, spacing and the amount of sunlight reaching plants.

Agrivoltaics may also support more efficient water use. Reduced evaporation can help conserve moisture, although the effect varies with soil conditions and panel arrangement. Rainwater distribution must also be managed carefully because panels can concentrate rainfall in particular areas.

The greatest challenge is balancing electricity production with agricultural productivity. Plants require sufficient sunlight for photosynthesis, growth and grain formation. Excessive shading can reduce yields, particularly in crops that need abundant sunlight.

Therefore, agrivoltaics cannot be introduced uniformly across all farms. Crop selection is essential. Leafy vegetables, certain fodder crops and shade-tolerant plants may perform well under appropriately designed systems, while wheat, rice and other sun-demanding crops may require more careful evaluation.

For Punjab, where wheat and rice are major crops, large-scale adoption should follow local field trials rather than assumptions. Researchers must measure crop yields, grain quality, water consumption, electricity generation and farmers' profits over several growing seasons.

The initial investment in elevated solar structures can be substantial. Farmers may also face difficulties operating tractors, harvesters and irrigation equipment beneath panels. Installation must therefore accommodate farm machinery, drainage, crop height and routine agricultural activities.

Government support, affordable financing, cooperative ownership and partnerships with renewable-energy companies could make these systems more accessible. Agricultural universities and research institutions should develop region-specific models and demonstrate their performance through pilot projects.

Farmers must also receive clear agreements concerning electricity prices, maintenance costs, land ownership and responsibility for repairing damaged equipment. Small farmers should not be excluded because they lack the capital required for installation.

Agrivoltaics represents an opportunity to connect India's agricultural heritage with its clean-energy ambitions. It could diversify farm incomes, improve land-use efficiency and contribute to lower-carbon electricity generation. Nevertheless, its success depends on scientific planning rather than simply placing solar panels over cultivated land.

The way forward is to begin with carefully selected pilot projects, compare crop yields with conventional farming, and expand only where economic and environmental benefits are demonstrated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix Pothole Death Traps

Through your esteemed paper, I want to highlight the dangerous condition of roads in the city. After every rain, potholes appear on almost all major roads and residential streets. Two-wheeler riders are the worst affected and many have lost lives trying to avoid them. The civic body fills them with loose mud which washes away in one shower. This is negligence. Citizens pay high road tax and property tax and deserve safe roads. I urge the authorities to use scientific methods, fix accountability for contractors and publish daily repair status online for transparency.

– Hepsiba

Save Our Lakes Now

I write about the shocking state of garbage and lakes in the city. The lakes that once supplied drinking water now foam with toxic waste and even catch fire due to untreated sewage and industrial dumping. Surrounding residential areas stink throughout the day. Garbage collection is irregular and segregation is not enforced at all. Despite court orders, encroachments continue unchecked. This is not just an environmental issue but a public health emergency with rising breathing problems. I request the government to stop sewage inflow, penalize violators and restore lakes before it is too late.

– Faustina

Water Crisis Needs Action

The city's water crisis is worsening every year and needs urgent action. Borewells in many residential areas have dried up completely despite going down to great depths with no water. Private water tankers charge exorbitant rates, exploiting helpless residents in summer. The official water supply is highly irregular and many new apartments have no connection at all. Rainwater harvesting is mandatory on paper but never enforced in reality. The government must speed up new water supply projects, enforce harvesting, revive lakes to recharge groundwater and regulate private tankers before the city becomes unlivable.

– Velu

Quick Read

Pak's repeated devaluations fail to deliver economic performance

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's recurring currency devaluations have failed to produce lasting improvements in exports and economic performance because the country's deeper structural problems remain unresolved, according to a report. An analysis by The Friday Times argues exchange rate adjustments alone cannot fix underlying economic weaknesses. It describes Pakistan's economy as a vehicle whose performance depends on four key pillars: macroeconomic stability, foreign exchange flows, governance and economic freedom, and productivity and competitiveness. Persistent fiscal deficits, high inflation, excessive government borrowing and weak tax collection have undermined economic stability and placed continuing pressure on the rupee.

Starlink India delay due to approvals, not corporate pushback

NEW DELHI

The delay in the launch of Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet services in India stems primarily from pending regulatory and security approvals due to legitimate reasons rather than efforts by domestic telecom companies to block its entry, a new report has said. The report from Europinion said Starlink obtained its licence to operate in India in June 2025 but remains unable to begin commercial services because it is still awaiting security clearance, spectrum allocation and foreign investment-related approvals. Musk alleged in October that powerful business interests were obstructing Starlink's entry into India.



IMG recommends asset monetisation proposals worth over Rs 1,100 cr

NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday said the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has recommended asset monetisation proposals involving assets valued at over Rs 1,100 crore for consideration and approval by the Alternative Mechanism (AM).

The proposals primarily relate to surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) identified for monetisation. The recommendations mark an important milestone in the Government of India's efforts to unlock value from surplus and underutilised public assets and facilitate their productive utilisation, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

The IMG was chaired by the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), and co-chaired by the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) is a wholly owned Government of India company under the administrative control of the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance.

India's renewable energy capacity crosses 300 GW

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan highlights country's renewable energy achievements and their potential to inspire developing nations worldwide.

NEW DELHI

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan on Thursday said India's renewable energy achievements have emerged as a model for the Global South, highlighting the country's growing transition towards clean and sustainable power.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026, he said India's non-fossil fuel-based installed capacity had crossed 300 gigawatts (GW). The country also achieved 50 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in 2025, five years ahead of its target.

Highlighting the expansion of solar energy, Radhakrishnan said India's solar power capacity had grown from under 3 GW to over 170 GW in a decade.

Green energy milestones

- **Non-fossil capacity:** over 300 GW
- **Clean share:** 50% of installed capacity in 2025
- **Solar:** under 3 GW to over 170 GW
- **PM Surya Ghar:** 65 lakh+ households
- **PM-KUSUM:** nearly 30 lakh farmers

He attributed this transformation to sound policies, private enterprise and collective efforts by states and citizens.

The Vice-President said more than 65 lakh households had joined the solar movement through the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Additionally, nearly 30 lakh farmers had benefited from the PM-KUSUM scheme, with solar pumps helping reduce diesel expenses and generate additional income.

He also highlighted the PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which aim to extend electricity access to remote tribal communities.

Emphasising innovation, research and industry-academia collaboration, Radhakrishnan expressed confidence in India's hydrogen energy potential. He said the renewable energy transition could support economic growth, generate employment, reduce import dependence and strengthen energy security.

Centre urges states to accelerate watershed projects

NEW DELHI



The Centre has urged states to ensure effective and speedy utilisation of funds allocated for science-based watershed development programmes, stressing the need to strengthen agricultural resilience and improve the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.

Addressing a national-level consultation meeting on the draft National Technical Guidelines (NTG) for improved watershed management in Nagpur, Secretary of the Department of Land Resources Dilip Kumar emphasised the importance of establishing essential parameters to be followed uniformly across states. He added that flexibility should be maintained to accommodate additional parameters based on local requirements.

Kumar called for robust baseline data and comprehensive impact assessments to evaluate the outcomes of the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 2.0. Such assessments, he said, would help identify implementation gaps and provide lessons for designing and executing the next phase, WDC-PMKSY 3.0.

He stressed that watershed development initiatives must deliver tangible benefits to farmers through scientific interventions translated into practical, location-specific solutions. He also called for recognising well-performing states and field-level officers to encourage institutional commitment and improve implementation.

Participants also highlighted the need to accelerate implementation under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, with project timelines reduced from seven years under the first phase to five years in the second phase.

Four nations launch network to study Bay of Bengal fisheries

KOCHI

India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives have joined hands to establish a regional research network to study the impact of changing weather patterns and ocean conditions on fish stocks in the Bay of Bengal.

The initiative, named the Bay of Bengal Network of Ocean Researchers for Fisheries (BOB-NOR), was launched in Kochi during an international meeting at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Union Fisheries Joint Secretary Surabhi Rai said the initiative could emerge as a model for science-based fisheries management in other parts of the world.

The network will bring together ocean scientists, marine researchers and fisheries experts from the four participating countries to understand the reasons behind changing fish populations and assess the consequences for fishing communities.

Researchers will examine the influence of rising sea temperatures, changing monsoon patterns, variations in salinity, ocean currents and marine biodiversity on fish populations. The study will also focus on changes in fish migration, breeding patterns, growth and population levels across different parts of the Bay of Bengal.

The initiative aims to integrate information from satellite observations, ocean surveys, climate studies and fisheries research to develop a comprehensive understanding of marine ecosystem changes.

Officials and experts from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives participated in the meeting.



BOB-NOR at a glance

COUNTRIES
India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives

LAUNCHED AT
ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi

KEY FOCUS
Climate and ocean-driven changes in fish stocks

DATA SOURCES
Satellites, ocean surveys, climate studies, fisheries research

6G could add $1.24 trillion to global economy by 2040: GSMA

NEW DELHI

Sixth-generation mobile technology or 6G could generate an additional $1.24 trillion for the global economy by 2040, but inadequate spectrum allocation could put nearly half of that potential at risk, a report by an industry body showed on Thursday.

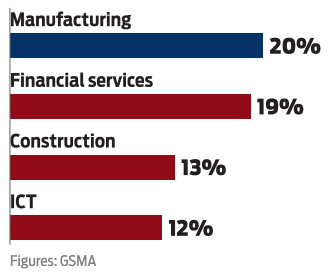
However, the mobile industry body warned that as much as $520 billion, or 42 per cent of the projected economic value, could be lost if governments do not make enough spectrum available to support large-scale 6G deployment.

"Decisions on spectrum policy taken over the next few years would play a critical role in determining how much of that value can ultimately be realised," said GSMA Chief Regulatory Officer John Giusti.

In addition, manufacturing and financial services are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries of 6G, accounting for 20 per cent and 19 per cent of its projected economic contribution, respectively, according to the industry body.



Who gains most from 6G
Share of its projected economic value



Figures: GSMA

The report comes ahead of key international spectrum discussions scheduled for the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027 where policymakers are expected to determine future spectrum allocations for emerging technologies.

"6G is expected to differ significantly from previous mobile generations by being designed around artificial intelligence capabilities, enabling networks to support intelligent decision-making, integrated sensing functions and seamless connectivity across terrestrial and satellite networks," according to the industry association.

The report also identified AI-driven connectivity, industrial robotics, advanced broadband services, integrated sensing technologies and non-terrestrial networks as key drivers of future economic gains.

Adani Ports to buy Europe's Evos in 2.56 billion euro deal

AHMEDABAD

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Thursday announced the acquisition of Evos BV of the Netherlands, Europe's second-largest independent liquid storage operator, in an all-cash transaction valued at an enterprise value (EV) of 2.56 billion euro.

Under the agreement, APSEZ will acquire a 100 per cent stake in Evos from Igneo Infrastructure Partners. The deal values Evos at an equity value of 1.18 billion euro and implies an acquisition multiple of 11.7 times CY25 EV/EBITDA.

The transaction will be funded through debt and remains subject to regulatory approvals and works council consultation.

"APSEZ, India's largest and one of the world's fastest growing Integrated Transport Operator, agrees to acquire 100 per cent stake in Netherlands-headquartered Evos B.V. (Evos) from Igneo Infrastructure Partners. The proposed transaction is an all-cash deal at an enterprise value of 2.56 bn euro," the official statement said.



For calendar year 2025, Evos reported revenue of 392 million euro and EBITDA of 219 million euro, a robust EBITDA margin of 56 per cent.

Following the acquisition, the combined entity's pro forma net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is expected to be 2.76 times, declining to around 2.5 times by FY27.

"Evos marks an important milestone in APSEZ's trajectory towards handling 1 billion tons of cargo and building a truly global, integrated transport platform. We are delighted to welcome Evos into our portfolio, giving us significant presence across key global liquid storage and energy hubs," Karan Adani noted.

2.56 bn	1.18 bn	56%
euro: enterprise value	euro: equity value	Evos EBITDA margin, 2025

Blinkit introduces Rs 2,500 fee for non-emergency ambulance rides

42,000 cases in two years

20,000 emergency runs, free

Rs 2,500 non-emergency fee

NEW DELHI

Quick commerce platform Blinkit on Thursday introduced a flat fee of Rs 2,500 for non-emergency ambulance bookings, while continuing to offer emergency transfers free of charge, as the company seeks to ensure greater availability of its fleet for critical medical situations.

Announcing the change, Deepinder Goyal, founder of Eternal, said the move was prompted by growing instances of ambulances being used for routine purposes such as doctor consultations, regular check-ups and hospital-to-home transfers that could otherwise be handled by conventional transport services.

"I started Zomato with a spirit of service. Blinkit Ambulance is what that spirit of service looks like today. In the last 2 years, we have served 20,000 emergency cases (42,000 cases in total). We haven't charged a single rupee for any of them. And we want to keep it that way," Goyal noted.

However, the company said a significant share of bookings were for non-emergency needs, putting pressure on the availability of ambulances for urgent cases.

"With everything free, a growing share of bookings are for routine checkups, hospital visits and hospital-to-home transfers, trips that an Uber or private transport could have handled just as easily. Every such booking keeps a fully equipped emergency ambulance with paramedics off the road when someone's life may depend on it," he stated.

"So we are making a change from now onwards: Emergency transfers – free, as always. Non-emergency transfers – Rs 2,500, charged after the trip. Broadly in line with what private ambulances charge. This money goes to Eternal Foundation, which runs these ambulances and will help us scale them even further," Goyal added.

He said the company expects the fee to substantially reduce non-emergency usage and help maintain the availability of its 10-minute ambulance service for life-threatening situations.

SEMICONDUCTOR PUSH

India approves 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects

NEW DELHI

India's semiconductor strategy has moved beyond policy formulation towards building a comprehensive manufacturing and technology ecosystem, with 12 approved projects and five already in commercial production, Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the final day of the ISIG Executive Summit India 2026, Sinha said the country's next phase of semiconductor development would focus on expanding the broader ecosystem, including design companies, materials, chemicals, gases and equipment, alongside manufacturing, research and development and talent development.

Sinha identified India's large domestic market, skilled talent pool and government incentives as key advantages in attracting semiconductor investments.

The summit, organised under the theme 'Enabling the Intelligent Future: Advanced Semiconductors, AI, Data Centers and Power Electronics', marked the first ISIG Executive Summit held in India. It brought together global technology leaders, investors, researchers, senior executives and government representatives to discuss opportunities in the semiconductor industry.

Discussions covered advanced packaging, outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT), power electronics, silicon carbide and gallium nitride technologies, artificial intelligence and data-centre demand.



ISIG also signed an agreement with the Bihar government to support the development of the state's semiconductor and electronics ecosystem.

Dr Shalu Agarwal, General Manager of India and Head of Power Semiconductor at ISIG, said the summit demonstrated the opportunities emerging through collaboration between global industry, investors and government.

> **"Semicon 2.0 is about building the broader ecosystem, including design companies, materials, chemicals, gases and equipment, alongside manufacturing, R&D and talent."**
>
> — **Amitesh Kumar Sinha,** CEO, India Semiconductor Mission

Quick Read

Uttarakhand avalanche death toll rises to 6

UTTARKASHI

The death toll from the October 29 avalanche on Uttarakhand's Kedartal trekking route rose to six after rescue teams recovered two more bodies on Thursday. Two people remain missing.
Joint teams of the State Disaster Response Force and Nehru Institute of Mountaineering found the bodies at separate locations. The remains will be brought to Matli helipad on Friday.The avalanche struck near Kedar Kharak while a 12-member expedition was descending from Kedartal. A search operation for the missing will resume on Friday. A magisterial inquiry has also been ordered, with a report due within a week.

2 women arrested with 10 kg marijuana at Gaya airport

GAYA

Two women were arrested at Bihar's Gaya International Airport on Wednesday for allegedly smuggling 10 kilograms of marijuana from Thailand, officials said. The consignment, concealed in four separate bags, is estimated to be worth approximately ₹10 crore in the international market. The accused, identified as Simranjeet and Kulvinder, are reportedly residents of Punjab. They arrived from Chiang Mai International Airport aboard a Thai Airways flight. During security screening, an X-ray scan raised suspicion, prompting customs and CISF personnel to search their luggage. The drugs were subsequently recovered. Officials said six people had travelled to Thailand, while the whereabouts of the remaining four are being investigated.

Elderly couple die as fire engulfs house in Hathras

HATHRAS

An elderly couple died after a fire engulfed their house in Mohalla Kahran, within the limits of Sadabad police station in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district, at around 2 am on Thursday. The victims were identified as 65-year-old Sahjad and his 62-year-old wife, Salma.
The couple were asleep when the fire broke out and reportedly could not escape as the flames spread rapidly. The house also housed a clothes shop, where a large stock of garments stored ahead of Diwali is believed to have intensified the blaze.Neighbours noticed flames and thick smoke rising from the building and alerted the police and fire brigade. Firefighters, assisted by local residents and police personnel, worked for nearly two hours to bring the fire under control. Hathras Superintendent of Police Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said the couple were alone inside the house when the incident occurred. Police said a short circuit was suspected to have triggered the fire, although the cause was yet to be conclusively established.

Delhi notifies slum policy for 4-5 lakh families

Delhi's 2026 slum rehabilitation policy promises permanent housing for four to five lakh families, prioritising dignity, security and essential facilities for eligible residents.

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has notified its Slum and Jhuggi Jhopri Relocation and Rehabilitation Policy, 2026, paving the way for nearly four to five lakh families to receive permanent homes. The initiative is expected to benefit around 20 lakh people living in Delhi's slums.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the policy was designed not simply to clear slums but to ensure families could live safely and with dignity. "Our objective is not just to remove slums, but to give every eligible family a permanent home where they can live safely and with dignity with their children," she said. Settlements established before January 1, 2025, will be covered, including previously excluded families.

No eligible family will be evicted without alternative accommodation. The government aims to provide homes at the same location or within a three-kilometre radius, to limit disruption. Each eligible household will receive a one-bedroom, hall and kitchen flat. Colonies will also have schools, Anganwadi centres, healthcare facilities and playgrounds.

Separate families living independently on different floors of one jhuggi structure may qualify for separate flats if eligible. Persons with disabilities will receive priority for ground-floor homes, while married couples will receive joint allotments. Allotments will be made through a computerised lottery, with a grievance system and GIS-based platform to prevent duplicate claims.


Each eligible household will get a one-bedroom, hall and kitchen flat

For public-private partnership redevelopment, developers must arrange temporary accommodation or rental assistance during construction. Gupta said Delhi's working poor had helped build the city and deserved secure housing. She said the policy followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Antyodaya and Garib Kalyan vision, adding that no eligible poor family in Delhi should remain homeless.

4–5 lakh	20 lakh	3 km	5 years
families to benefit	people	relocation radius	upkeep of facilities

Bengal announces subsidies and insurance for farmers


West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari

West Bengal announces farmer welfare measures, including subsidised electricity, free crop insurance, transport aid and potato price support to strengthen agriculture.

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday announced a series of welfare measures for farmers, including a ₹2-per-unit electricity subsidy, free crop insurance and transport assistance. The initiatives also include price support for potato growers, new storage facilities and model agricultural markets, aimed at strengthening the state's farming sector.

Speaking at an event in Pursurah in Hooghly district, Adhikari said more than 46 lakh farmers in West Bengal would receive benefits under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. He added that the state government was already providing an electricity subsidy of ₹2 per unit to around four lakh farmers to reduce their agricultural expenses.

The Chief Minister said his government had removed restrictions imposed by the previous Mamata Banerjee-led administration on transporting potatoes to other states. The government also announced price support measures for potato farmers.

Additional proposals include solar-powered cold storage facilities and model markets to improve agricultural infrastructure and reduce post-harvest losses. Adhikari also promised a special package for farmers in Alipurduar, Jhargram and Purulia districts, along with measures to provide flood relief to affected cultivators.

The government also outlined plans to extend financial assistance to educated unemployed youth.

Hardeep Puri wins Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha bypoll unopposed

BHOPAL

Union Petroleum Minister and BJP candidate Hardeep Singh Puri was declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, after emerging as the only candidate remaining in the contest. Returning Officer Umesh Sharma issued the certificate of election on the final day for withdrawal of nominations, officially confirming Puri's entry into the Upper House of Parliament.

The nominations of the two other candidates, Kante Sayanna and Rajkumar Lohani, who was backed by the Opposition Congress, had been rejected during scrutiny. With no other valid candidate in the race, Puri's election was confirmed without a vote. The bypoll had been scheduled for November 12, if polling became necessary.


Hardeep Singh Puri

Madhya Pradesh BJP president Hemant Khandelwal collected Puri's certificate of election from the returning officer in the presence of party MLA Rameshwar Sharma.

How the seat fell to Puri

- **Vacancy:** L Murugan resigned; his term ran to April 2, 2030
- **Scrutiny:** both rival nominations rejected
- **Result:** declared elected on the last day for withdrawals

The seat became vacant following the resignation of former Union minister L Murugan from the Upper House last month. His term was originally scheduled to continue until April 2, 2030. The BJP subsequently nominated Puri, a former career diplomat who entered politics, to contest the by-election.

Tamil Nadu moves Supreme Court for early Cauvery hearing


Tamil Nadu says Karnataka has not released Cauvery water since October 23

NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday approached the Supreme Court over the release of Cauvery River water, alleging Karnataka had failed to release water since October 23 despite directions from the Cauvery Water Management Authority. The state sought an early hearing, and the court agreed to list the plea ahead of its regular schedule.

Tamil Nadu counsel B. Karunakaran made the oral mentioning before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. He told the court Karnataka had not complied with the authority's direction to release 3,000 cusecs of water every day. The submission brought the continuing dispute between the neighbouring states before the apex court.

The court agreed to list the plea early after hearing the request for urgent oral mentioning. The development gives Tamil Nadu an opportunity to press its concerns before the apex court without waiting for the usual listing process.

The Cauvery dispute has long involved disagreements between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing and release of river water. The latest complaint concerns compliance with the authority's direction for a daily release of 3,000 cusecs. Whether Karnataka failed to follow the direction remains an issue for the proceedings. The court is yet to hear the merits.

Supreme Court clarifies 24-hour arrest production deadline

NEW DELHI

The 24 hours run from actual detention, not from the formal recording of arrest

The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the constitutional 24-hour deadline for producing an arrested person before a magistrate must be calculated from the time of actual detention, rather than the formal recording of arrest by police. A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar said authorities cannot use the distinction between detention and formal arrest to extend the permissible period of custody.

The bench observed that excluding the period between actual detention and formal arrest would violate Article 22(2) of the Constitution and Section 56 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). It stated that the constitutional safeguard requires an arrested person to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding only the time reasonably needed to travel from the place of arrest to the court.

The court clarified that time spent on preliminary inquiries, investigations, searches or seizures before formal arrest cannot be excluded from the calculation. It also disapproved of contrary interpretations adopted by the Orissa, Madras and Kerala High Courts in the Aryaman Pattanaik, Kannan and Arun K Thomas cases, respectively.

The Supreme Court further held that detention beyond the permissible period without production before a magistrate would warrant the person's immediate release. It stressed that detention must remain reasonable even when it falls within the 24-hour constitutional limit, reinforcing that the safeguard is not merely a procedural requirement but a protection against arbitrary custody.

The bench directed magistrates to independently verify compliance by recording the actual date and time of detention and examining whether its duration was justified. Magistrates can refuse remand if they find that the person was detained for an excessive period before being brought before them.

Delhi Police chargesheets six in Satya Niketan building collapse

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has filed a 638-page chargesheet against six people in connection with the September 6 building collapse in Satya Niketan that killed seven people, including five students and two labourers. Investigators have examined 87 witnesses in the case, officials said on Thursday.

The chargesheet names building owner Hariram Gupta, his wife Urmila Gupta, their son Mahesh Gupta, labour contractor Sanoj Kumar and paying guest (PG) operators Sudhanshu Lavnish Kumar and Shubham Tyagi as accused.

Police have invoked charges including culpable homicide not amounting to murder, rash and negligent acts endangering human life, and negligence during building repairs and construction under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to investigators, Hariram Gupta was the caretaker and a direct beneficiary of the property, while his wife was its registered owner. Their son allegedly managed the building and collected cash payments. Contractor Sanoj Kumar was carrying out repair work and allegedly demolished a wall. The remaining accused operated PG accommodations on the premises.

THE ACCUSED

- **OWNERS:** Hariram Gupta, Urmila Gupta
- **SON:** Mahesh Gupta
- **CONTRACTOR:** Sanoj Kumar
- **PG OPERATORS:** Sudhanshu Lavnish Kumar, Shubham Tyagi

The building, located near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed while repair work and basement refilling were underway. Several people were also injured.

Police said the investigation examined the roles of the owners, contractor and PG operators in determining whether structural alterations and negligence contributed to the collapse. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi had earlier suspended a deputy commissioner and four engineers pending disciplinary proceedings.

Supreme Court declines to shift Tirupati ghee case trial


The ghee was allegedly supplied for the Tirumala laddu prasadam

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to transfer the trial in the Tirupati laddu ghee adulteration case outside Andhra Pradesh, rejecting a plea by one of the prime accused who raised concerns over the political atmosphere in the state. The case involves allegations of large-scale adulteration in ghee supplied to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the famous Tirumala temple.

Senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, appearing for Maharashtra-based dairy businessman Machindra Shantaram Lanke, told a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh was politically charged. Lanke, one of the prime accused in the case, had sought the transfer of the trial to a court outside the state.

Investigations by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate reportedly uncovered a scam worth approximately ₹250 crore. The probe revealed the alleged supply of nearly 68 lakh kilograms of fake and synthetic ghee to the temple administration between 2019 and 2024. The ghee was reportedly supplied for the preparation of the popular Tirumala laddu prasadam.

The alleged adulteration raised serious concerns because the ghee was intended for use in preparing offerings distributed to devotees visiting the temple. The investigation has focused on the supply chain and the alleged irregularities involving the procurement of ghee by the temple administration.

The Supreme Court's refusal means the request to move the proceedings outside Andhra Pradesh has not been accepted. The case remains a significant legal and public issue, given the scale of the alleged financial fraud and the religious importance of the Tirumala laddu prasadam for devotees across the country.

HIMACHAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Himachal plans ₹10 lakh health insurance scheme

SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh government is preparing to introduce a health insurance scheme offering coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per family, doubling the existing ₹5 lakh limit under the Himcare programme. Principal Media Advisor to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Naresh Chauhan, announced the development on Thursday, adding that the new scheme would also expand the number of eligible beneficiaries.

Chauhan said eight insurance companies had participated in the tendering process, with Birla Sun Life emerging as the lowest bidder. Chief Minister Sukhu has directed the Health Secretary to hold further negotiations with the company to finalise the arrangement and speed up implementation. The government is currently working to settle the tendering process and premium structure, with further details expected after negotiations.

The proposed insurance model follows complaints of alleged corruption and misuse of funds under the existing Himcare scheme. Preliminary inquiries reportedly indicated irregularities involving certain private hospitals and nursing homes, including facilities outside the state. The government aims to introduce stronger safeguards, improve transparency and ensure public funds are used effectively. Chauhan said people below the poverty line and beneficiaries of other eligible welfare programmes would particularly benefit from the expanded coverage.


Naresh Chauhan, the Chief Minister's Principal Media Advisor

Health cover per family

HIMCARE	NEW SCHEME
₹5 lakh	₹10 lakh
the existing limit	proposed cover

Alongside the insurance initiative, the state is working to strengthen healthcare infrastructure through advanced medical technology, including robotic surgery, PET-CT scans, MRI and X-ray facilities. Recruitment of doctors and other healthcare personnel is also part of its efforts to improve medical services.

Quick Read



Bihar officer holds begging bowl over eight-month salary delay

BUXAR

A rural development officer in Bihar's Buxar district staged a protest with a begging bowl outside her workplace, alleging that her salary had remained unpaid for eight months.Alpita Singh, posted at the Brahmpur block office, said she received her salary for only three months during her 11-month tenure, despite continuing her official duties. Photographs of her protest went viral on social media, prompting the district administration to seek an explanation from the Brahmpur Block Development Officer (BDO) and initiate action over the matter.

2 killed, 1 injured in firecracker warehouse blast

NAGAUR

Two people were killed and another injured after a massive explosion at a firecracker and gunpowder warehouse in Badli village, Rajasthan's Nagaur district, on Thursday.The deceased were identified as Mohammad Aamir and Mujeeb, who were brothers-in-law. The injured person was admitted to Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital in Nagaur for treatment. The blast was powerful enough to be heard several kilometres away, damaging nearby houses and scattering parts of the victims' bodies.Officials said the warehouse was licensed and its owners possessed the required documents. The exact cause of the explosion is being investigated.

4 killed, 2 missing as Gujarat pilgrims' cab plunges into river

UTTARKASHI

Four people, including a taxi driver, were killed and two others went missing after a vehicle carrying pilgrims from Gujarat plunged into the Bhagirathi River near Gangnani in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Thursday morning. One passenger was seriously injured.The accident occurred around 7 am along the Gangotri National Highway. The deceased were identified as Patel Ashokaben, 49, Rutika Ashokabhai Patel, 19, and Ghanshyambhai Sarvalia, all residents of Surat, and driver Surendra Singh, from Haridwar.The injured passenger, Patel Vedant Ashokbhai, 17, was airlifted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh for treatment. The two missing passengers were identified as Patel Sudaben Ashokbhai, 45, from Surat, and Patel Kiranben Vishalbhai, 34, from Surendranagar, Gujarat. Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya said specialised divers and Jal Police personnel were searching for the missing passengers amid strong river currents. The exact cause of the accident remains unknown.

'Jantar Mantar at Kochi': CJP announces anti-SIR protest

A political outfit has planned a public demonstration in Kerala, intensifying opposition to the Election Commission's voter verification exercise ahead of its implementation.



KOCHI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has announced a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kochi, Kerala, on November 7, demanding the cancellation of the exercise. Titled "Jantar Mantar at Kochi", the demonstration will take place at Rajendra Maidan from 4 pm, the party announced on Thursday.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke will lead the demonstration, joined by Vijay Mallangi, the party's south zone lead, and national secretary Aafreen Nawaz. Announcing the protest on social media, the party called on citizens to participate under the slogans, "Save Democracy!" and "Cancel SIR!", urging supporters to gather at the venue.

> The party's slogans, "Save Democracy!" and "Cancel SIR!", are quoted from its announcement.

The Kochi demonstration marks the party's first major protest initiative since several of its leaders were detained in Delhi last month while attempting to organise a demonstration against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the electoral roll revision exercise at Jantar Mantar. The protest had been attempted without official permission.

Following the incident, the government denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site. CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka later entered the restricted area and waved the national flag in opposition to the decision.

MSRTC announces Diwali bonus of ₹10,000 for 83,000 staff



MSRTC runs a fleet of nearly 15,000 buses.

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has announced a Diwali bonus of ₹10,000 for each of its employees and raised the dearness allowance (DA) from 58 per cent to 60 per cent. The decisions, announced by Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Thursday, are expected to benefit around 83,000 employees of the state-run transport undertaking.

Eligible employees will also receive an advance payment of ₹12,500 to help meet festival expenses, Sarnaik said. The announcements were made during a meeting with representatives of various MSRTC employee unions at the Transport Commissioner's office in Bandra. The bonus and DA revision will together impose an additional financial burden of approximately ₹160 crore on the corporation.

Sarnaik said the government remained committed to supporting employees despite the corporation's financial difficulties and wanted them to celebrate Diwali. He described the bonus as recognition of the workforce's contribution, noting that transport officers and employees worked continuously to provide safe journeys to passengers. He said the payment was not simply a gesture of generosity but an entitlement.

Diwali package	
₹10,000	BONUS FOR EACH EMPLOYEE
₹12,500	FESTIVAL ADVANCE
60%	DA, UP FROM 58%
₹160 cr	EXTRA COST TO MSRTC

Maharashtra's state transport undertaking extends festive financial benefits to thousands of workers through increased allowances, bonuses and advance payments ahead of Diwali celebrations.

The minister also appealed to employees not to resort to protests or strikes, warning that disruptions could inconvenience ordinary passengers who rely on state-run buses. He said the government and the corporation would address employee concerns through dialogue while working to improve passenger services and strengthen the organisation's financial position.

MSRTC is the country's largest state-run public transport undertaking. It operates a fleet of nearly 15,000 buses and carries approximately 55 lakh passengers every day. The latest measures are intended to provide festival-season financial support to its workforce while acknowledging the role employees play in maintaining daily public transport services across Maharashtra, including urban centres, towns and rural routes.

IYC suspends 31 Rajasthan leaders over absence

NEW DELHI

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has suspended 31 Rajasthan Youth Congress office bearers for failing to attend the INDIA bloc's 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' march at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan.

The order was authorised by Vikas Chikara, national general secretary and Rajasthan in-charge, and Gyanesh Shukla, secretary and co-incharge. It stated: "Taking your absence from the 'Ramlila March' held in Delhi, the leadership of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has decided to suspend the following office bearers of Rajasthan with immediate effect until further orders."

Those suspended include office bearers from the organisation's SC/ST, minority and OBC wings, along with members of its general and executive committees. Among them are Rajasthan Youth Congress vice-president Prakash Chand Meena and several general secretaries, including Saddam Hussain Meo, Faizan Hasan Qureshi, Jafar Hussain Meer and Salma Pinara. Twenty state secretaries from districts across Rajasthan were also suspended.



The INDIA bloc held the rally on November 1 to protest alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and the Special Intensive Revision exercise. Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav, attended the event.

During the rally, Rahul Gandhi accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of facilitating alleged vote theft. The BJP criticised the event, with MP Sambit Patra disputing the organisers' claim that 10 lakh people would attend and alleging that thousands of chairs remained vacant.

> **"Taking your absence from the 'Ramlila March' held in Delhi, the leadership of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has decided to suspend the following office bearers of Rajasthan with immediate effect until further orders."**
>
> — The IYC suspension order, signed by Vikas Chikara and Gyanesh Shukla

Centre exempts select foreign nationals from passport, visa rules

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 2026 also specifies categories of people exempted from the requirements to possess a valid passport or other travel document and visa for entering, staying in or exiting India.

(a) Members of the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force travelling to or from India on official duty.

(b) Registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who took shelter in India on or before January 9, 2015. They must be registered with an officer designated by the Central or state government.

(c) Foreign crew members of military vessels, including warships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes, visiting India for repairs. They must have a Military Ship Repair Permit issued by an immigration officer at a designated immigration post and carry valid military identity documents.

(d) Tibetans who entered India after 1959 but before May 30, 2003, with an Entry Permit issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu. The exemption also covers Tibetans who entered India after May 30, 2003 through a Special Entry Permit issued by the embassy and through a designated immigration post on the India-Nepal border.

? WHAT IS A 'VISA MANUAL'?

The order defined the document as a manual issued by the central government from time to time, containing instructions on visas, immigration and related matters.

(e) Members of minority communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians — from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who were forced to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution or fear of persecution, provided they entered India on or before December 31, 2024.

Police recover over ₹1 crore from alleged TMC office

DIAMOND HARBOUR

West Bengal Police have recovered more than ₹1.02 crore in cash from a property allegedly functioning as a Trinamool Congress (TMC) office in Sarisha, Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas district. Police are investigating the source and ownership of the money, along with transaction records, while the circumstances surrounding its presence at the premises remain unclear.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Zonal) Abhishek Majumdar disclosed the recovery at a press conference. Authorities have not yet established who owned the cash or why it was kept at the property.



Police with the cash recovered at Sarisha, Diamond Harbour.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari alleged that the recovered money belonged to Abhishek Banerjee, whom he referred to as the TMC's 'bhatija' (nephew). He described the amount as relatively small and said action would be taken under the law. Adhikari also expressed confidence in the state police's ability to investigate the matter.

Abhishek Banerjee rejected the allegations, accusing the BJP of deliberately planting "fake and fabricated evidence". He claimed the property had been vandalised by BJP workers six months earlier and subsequently became a crime scene under police investigation. Banerjee alleged that the recovery was an attempt to manipulate the investigation and misuse legal machinery. He warned that those responsible would face legal accountability, irrespective of their political position.

India targets first human deep-sea mission by 2028

NEW DELHI

India is preparing to launch its first human deep-sea exploration mission to a depth of up to 6,000 metres by 2028, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh announced on Wednesday. The proposed mission marks a major step in the country's efforts to strengthen indigenous capabilities in deep-ocean exploration and expand its scientific presence in the maritime domain.

Speaking at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026, Singh said India's ocean-related programmes were increasingly following a mission-based approach involving multiple departments and institutions. He highlighted the growing integration of ocean sciences, space technology, nuclear science, geology, electronics and robotics to advance the country's deep-sea research and maritime capabilities.



The minister pointed to the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai as a key institution supporting the programme. The institute has developed the capability to conduct trials at depths ranging from 5,000 to 6,000 metres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. Singh also highlighted the Ocean Mineral Explorer, which enables detailed surveys of hydrothermal sulphide deposits, several of which have already been identified.

Singh said India was pursuing global competitiveness through domestic technological development and international cooperation. He described deep-ocean resources as a potential source of economic value, supporting the country's ambition of achieving Viksit Bharat 2047.

Centre moves to revisit UGC equity rules

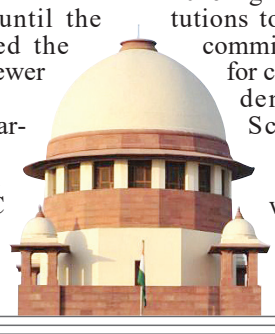
NEW DELHI

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it will constitute a committee to re-examine the University Grants Commission's 2026 equity regulations, which were stayed by the court in January. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the government considered students' concerns and wanted a framework in which no group felt excluded, threatened or apprehensive.

The Chief Justice said the review must protect the interests of all students, adding that the well-being of young people should remain central to the exercise. The court had earlier questioned the wording of provisions in the regulations, particularly the definition of caste-based discrimination, and warned that unclear language could invite misuse.

While staying the 2026 regulations, the bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi had said Regulation 3(C) was vague and required revision. It directed that the UGC's 2012 equity regulations would remain in force until the court considered the validity of the newer framework.

During the hearing, the bench had indicated that the UGC could be asked to form a committee comprising academicians and eminent jurists familiar with educational institutions, subject to the court's approval. The Chief Justice observed that schools and colleges were part of society and questioned the consequences of creating divisions within campuses.



Introduced to address caste-based discrimination in colleges and universities, the 2026 regulations require institutions to establish special committees and helplines for complaints from students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The rules triggered protests in the national capital.

TN LAUNCHES SUBSIDISED VEGETABLE PACK

TN launches ₹100 vegetable packs for Deepavali

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has launched the Vetri Special Vegetable Pack scheme, offering households a bundle of 10 essential vegetables for ₹100 ahead of Deepavali. The three-day initiative began on Thursday and will run until November 7, providing consumers with a subsidised option amid seasonal price pressures.

Cooperation Minister V Ganthiraj inaugurated the scheme at the Poonga Nagar Cooperative Wholesale Store in Chennai, distributing the first packs to members of the public. The packs will be sold through 218 selected cooperative outlets across the state. In Chennai, four mobile vegetable vending units have also been deployed to reach neighbourhoods beyond the designated stores.

Each eco-friendly pack weighs between 2.55 kg and 2.60 kg and contains onions, tomatoes, brinjal, potatoes, carrots, beans, green chillies, lemons, ginger and one coconut. The quantities include 500 grams each of onions and tomatoes, 250 grams each of brinjal and potatoes, 200 grams each of carrots and beans, 100 grams each of green chillies and lemons, and 50 grams of ginger. The vegetables are sorted and hygienically packed.

To prevent hoarding and ensure wider access, the government has limited purchases to one pack per person. Packs will be available during the regular working hours of participating cooperative outlets.

Ganthiraj said vegetables were being procured directly from farmers to reduce intermediaries, offer lower prices to consumers and provide better returns to growers.



Each pack holds 10 vegetables (representational image).

The ₹100 pack	
PRICE ₹100	VEGETABLES 10 kinds
WEIGHT 2.55-2.60 kg	OUTLETS 218 co-op stores
LIMIT One per person	ON SALE Until Nov 7

Quick Read

Briton faces charges over hidden camera

SINGAPORE

British man, 52, faces charges after allegedly hiding a camera in an aircraft toilet during an October 7 flight from Japan to Singapore. A crew member discovered and removed the device. The man allegedly deleted the application and related photographs after finding the camera missing. He faces voyeurism and obstruction charges. The reported maximum prison terms are two years for voyeurism and seven years for obstructing justice, respectively, if convicted.

Surrey reports no recent extortion-related shootings

TORONTO

Surrey recorded no extortion-related shootings between August and October, police said, although officers warned that the threat remains. Police figures updated through October 17 showed 147 reported extortions, 21 shooting incidents, four arsons and 78 victims this year. The last related shooting occurred in July. Canada's border agency said in September that 188 removal orders linked to extortion had been issued, with 111 people removed.

South Korean army admits catwalk mistake

SEOUL

South Korea's Army admitted that catwalk lessons for elite soldiers were inappropriate after footage sparked criticism online. The October 29 programme at the 1st Special Forces Brigade showed female models teaching soldiers runway walking and poses. An official later acknowledged that organisers had failed to review the content properly and that it did not meet soldiers' needs. The Army pledged to consult soldiers and review future programmes more carefully.

Saudi extends crucial financing for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has extended a USD 3 billion financing facility for Pakistan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said, offering support as the government seeks longer borrowing terms. Aurangzeb said another USD 5 billion in Saudi financing had been extended until 2028.

OpenAI promises full power payments after backlash

UNITED STATES

OpenAI has renewed its pledge to cover the full electricity costs of its data centres, following voter opposition to projects. The announcement followed Tuesday's elections, when voters largely opposed measures favouring data centre development.

Misri meets Shah before crucial India visit

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Nepal's prime minister in Kathmandu to discuss cooperation before Balendra Shah's forthcoming visit to India.

KATHMANDU

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah in Kathmandu on Thursday as both countries prepared for Shah's planned visit to India later this month.

Who Misri met

- Balendra Shah, Prime Minister
- Shishir Khanal, Foreign Minister
- Swarnim Wagle, Finance Minister
- Biraj Bhakta Shrestha, Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister
- Amrit Bahadur Rai, Foreign Secretary



The meeting in Kathmandu, ahead of the Prime Minister's planned visit to India

Misri conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the meeting, the Indian Embassy in Nepal said. Their talks focused on carrying out joint projects and exploring ways to strengthen cooperation ahead of the visit.

The meeting formed part of Misri's two-day official trip to Nepal, which began on Wednesday morning. His discussions with senior Nepali leaders were aimed at preparing the agenda for Shah's proposed visit to New Delhi.

Misri also met Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle and Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha. He held delegation talks with Nepal's Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai.

According to Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the discussions covered relations between the two neighbours, including senior leaders' visits, transport links, trade, development projects, energy cooperation and ties between their people.

The Indian Embassy said the foreign secretaries discussed issues of shared interest as preparations continued for the prime minister's trip. Officials from Nepal said both sides reviewed initiatives they hoped to take forward during the visit.

Kathmandu also wants talks on unresolved matters, including the border dispute, changes to the trade treaty and more entry routes through Indian airspace for international flights.

These issues are among Nepal's priorities as officials work to shape the agenda for the coming meetings. The visit is expected to give both governments an opportunity to review existing cooperation and discuss further steps.

Bangladesh orders probe into measles vaccine failures

DHAKA

Bangladesh has formed an inquiry commission to investigate failures in buying and distributing measles vaccines during the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.

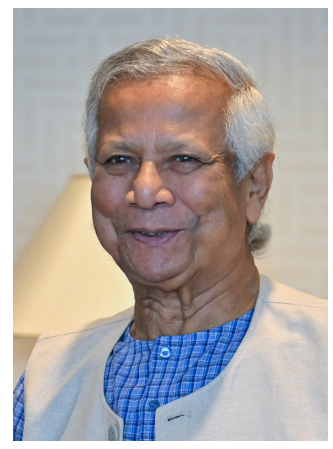
The three-member panel will examine decisions made between August 8, 2024, and February 17, 2026. It must submit its findings within 60 working days, according to The Daily Star.

Former High Court justice Mamun Rahman will lead the commission. Its other members are Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons president Mawdud Hossain Alamgir and Health Services Division Additional Secretary ABM Moinul Islam.

Investigators can visit any location in Bangladesh and question individuals. They will identify the reasons for delays, examine alleged irregularities and establish who was responsible for failures in vaccine procurement and distribution.

The panel will also recommend steps to prevent similar problems. The Health Services Division will provide administrative support.

The inquiry follows concerns about the country's 2026 measles outbreak. In an August report, the Canada-based Global Centre for Democratic Governance linked the crisis to vaccine shortages, missed childhood vaccinations and delays in purchasing supplies.



The inquiry covers decisions taken under the interim government

A new commission will examine vaccine shortages and administrative delays linked to Bangladesh's measles outbreak and recommend steps against recurrence.

The group said the interim administration replaced the UNICEF supply system with an open tender process.

The report also cited vaccination figures published by Bangladeshi newspaper Samakal, saying measles vaccine coverage dropped to 56.2 per cent in 2025.

The report also criticised the current Bangladesh Nationalist Party government for responding slowly to known risks.

Bomb threat forces Dublin flight into France

PARIS

A flight travelling from Dublin to Rome was diverted to France on Thursday after a suspected bomb threat, as European countries reported similar alerts involving aircraft.

The plane landed safely at Evreux, French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said. All 151 passengers and six crew members were brought to safety, while bomb disposal teams arrived to examine the aircraft.

Lecornu's office said authorities were monitoring the situation, Euronews reported. The French air force said it sent aircraft after receiving the alert. Flight tracking websites identified the diverted service as an Aer Lingus flight.

More threats were reported. Italian media said alerts involved flights bound for Rome and departing from Milan. A Helsinki to Rome service landed safely after being escorted by Italian fighter jets.

Thursday's alerts

151	PASSENGERS BROUGHT TO SAFETY AT EVREUX
4	PRAGUE-BOUND PLANES THREATENED
3	RYANAIR FLIGHTS TO SOFIA TARGETED

A Finnair spokesperson said a bomb threat targeted a Helsinki to Vienna flight operated by Jettime. That aircraft also landed without incident.

In the Czech Republic, police said four planes heading to Prague received threats claiming explosive devices were on board. Officers considered the threats unlikely to be credible but activated security measures and arranged inspections after landing.

Police later said the searches found no explosives and security measures at Prague Airport had ended. The National Centre against Terrorism, Extremism and Cybercrime took over the investigation.

Bulgarian authorities also reported threats against three Ryanair flights heading to Sofia. The transport ministry said services from Copenhagen and Madrid landed in Sofia, while a flight from London was diverted to Plovdiv.

The incidents followed bomb threats against around 10 European flights on Tuesday, when Warsaw airport briefly closed and Italy scrambled an air force aircraft.

Britain agrees to talks over slavery's legacy

LONDON

Britain has agreed to hold talks with countries affected by the transatlantic slave trade, following discussions at the Commonwealth summit in Antigua and Barbuda.

A joint statement released on Wednesday said the dialogue would follow a structure, include affected parties and take place within an agreed period. Leaders said the process should address the harm caused by the trafficking and enslavement of Africans.

The agreement appeared in the summit statement under reparatory justice. It also recognised efforts by the United Nations, African Union and Caribbean Community to address slavery's legacy and support the return of cultural heritage.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Britain was open to a formal apology for its role in the slave trade. However, he ruled out financial reparations, despite calls from African and Caribbean leaders for compensation.

Foreign Office officials said the timetable would be settled later. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband indicated that the talks could run for 12 months.

Burnham also proposed a debt reset to help poorer nations facing heavy repayment burdens. He said private businesses should be involved in efforts to support Commonwealth countries struggling with higher borrowing costs.

Britain has announced 40 million pounds over three years to support infrastructure investment in the Caribbean, including green energy projects.

King Charles III, who attended the summit as Commonwealth head, expressed sorrow over Britain's connection to slavery. He described the trade as a shameful period whose effects continue to burden Commonwealth societies.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Talks, an apology possible, no reparations

- Talks could run for 12 months
- 40 million pounds for Caribbean infrastructure

The agreement commits Britain to discussions, while its opposition to compensation remains unchanged. The next step will be to settle the timetable and terms for talks with those affected by slavery's harm.

Margherita discusses closer ties with Colombia, Bolivia in Madrid

MADRID

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita met the foreign ministers of Colombia and Bolivia on Thursday to discuss closer cooperation during the 30th Ibero-American Summit.

In his meeting with Colombia's Foreign Minister Omar Bula Escobar, Margherita discussed expanding ties in trade, education, health and culture. Their talks also covered cooperation at international forums, he said in a post on X.

Margherita met Bolivia's Foreign Minister Hector Francisco Huanca. The discussions focused on bilateral relations and regional and global matters of shared interest.

The Indian Embassy in Spain said meetings also explored opportunities for engagement through the Ibero-American Conference.

Margherita is visiting Madrid to attend the summit as India joins the conference as an Associate Observer. The grouping has 22 member countries, including 19 from Latin America and Spain, Portugal and Andorra from Europe. It also has 12 Associate Observers and 20 Consultative Observers.

Earlier, Margherita met members of the Indian community in Madrid alongside Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu.

On Wednesday, Margherita met Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs, Diego Martínez Belio. He thanked Spain for supporting India's entry into the conference as an Associate Observer. Both sides discussed ways to strengthen relations between India and Spain.

The Ibero-American Conference

MEMBERS: 22	LATIN AMERICA: 19
FROM EUROPE: Spain, Portugal, Andorra	SUMMIT: 30th, in Madrid
ASSOCIATE OBSERVERS: 12, now with India	CONSULTATIVE OBSERVERS: 20

Rights group alleges 4 killings after disappearances in Balochistan

QUETTA

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee alleged on Thursday that four civilians were killed after being forcibly taken from their homes in Balochistan.

The rights group accused Pakistani forces and groups it described as state-backed death squads of involvement.

According to the committee, the bodies of shopkeeper Elahi Baksh, 60, and driver Muneer Ahmad, 32, were found in Laghorzard, in the Naal region, on November 2.

It alleged that Frontier Corps personnel took Baksh from his home on October 30. Ahmad was allegedly taken by a Pakistan-backed armed group on October 2, leaving his family without information about his whereabouts.

In another case, the committee said Salahuddin was killed on October 31 in what it described as a staged encounter. His body was left near Zardain Koti in Kharan district.

The group alleged that security forces had taken Salahuddin and his brother Azar from their home on August 7.

The fourth victim was Reyan Ulfath, a 17-year-old student whose mutilated body was found in Kulanch, near Pasni, on October 22. The committee alleged that an armed group had taken him from his home on October 16.

The committee said these cases reflected a pattern of people disappearing and later being found dead. It urged the United Nations and international rights organisations to examine the allegations.

It demanded accountability for those responsible and stressed that every person must receive legal protection, due process and respect for their dignity.

In focus

- The Baloch Yakjehti Committee alleged that four civilians, including a 17-year-old student, were killed after enforced disappearances.
- The group accused Pakistani forces and alleged state-backed armed groups of involvement.
- It urged international scrutiny, independent investigations and accountability for those responsible.

RAWALAKOT PROTEST DEATHS

Kashmir group reports 7 deaths during protests

ISLAMABAD

The United Kashmir People's National Party said at least seven people were killed and 18 seriously injured after Pakistani forces allegedly attacked protesters in Rawalakot on Thursday.

The party, known as UKPNP, accused security forces of firing on peaceful gatherings and using drones against residential areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. However, it said reports that four children had died required independent verification.

According to information cited by the group, forces targeted protest sit-ins at Matialmera Bus Terminal, Umar Farooq Chowk and other locations. The party alleged that heavy machine guns, armoured vehicles and drones were used.

It named three of those reported killed as Atif Jardees, 35, Ehtisham Younis, 30, and Adil Rashid, 32.

The group also said a house belonging to Shakeel Khan near the bus terminal was destroyed by fire following an alleged drone attack. It added that reports of four children's deaths were linked to that incident.

UKPNP condemned the alleged violence and urged the United Nations and the European Union to press for civilian protection and prevent further bloodshed.

It said protesters were seeking rights, public services, protection of property and respect for the law. The group demanded an independent investigation into the reported deaths, injuries, attacks and damage to homes.

The allegations follow concerns raised by six UN human rights experts over Pakistan's decision to designate the Joint Awami Action Committee as a terrorist organisation.

7	18	6
killed, UKPNP says	seriously injured	UN experts raised concerns

In a letter to Pakistan's government, the experts questioned whether the listing met international standards. They expressed concern that the committee might have been targeted because of its political, labour and human rights work.

The experts also raised allegations of unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests, excessive force and communication restrictions during protests. Independent inquiries would be needed to establish the circumstances of the reported violence.



Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 set for Prime Video release

Superstar Rajinikanth's action film Jailer 2 is set to make its digital debut on Prime Video on November 12. The announcement comes as the film continues its theatrical run following an impressive box-office performance.

Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the sequel sees Rajinikanth return as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian. The film will be available in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada across India and more than 240 countries and territories.

The film has reportedly collected over ₹820 crore worldwide. According to Sacnilk, its gross collection in India stood at ₹545.30 crore, while its net collection reached ₹466.22 crore by the 22nd day.

Speaking about the film's digital release, director Nelson said the audience's response to the first Jailer inspired the team to take the sequel's story, action and emotional elements to a bigger level. He expressed happiness over bringing the film to Prime Video and making both instalments available to audiences worldwide.

Produced by Kalanithi Maran under the Sun Pictures banner, Jailer 2 features special appearances by Mohanlal, Hrithik Roshan and Vijay Sethupathi. The supporting cast includes S. J. Suryah, Shivarajkumar, Vidya Balan, Ramya Krishnan, Mithun Chakraborty and Yogi Babu, among others. Anirudh Ravichander has composed the music.

The story follows retired jailer Muthuvel Pandian, whose peaceful family life is disrupted by an international idol-smuggling racket. He goes undercover as a driver to expose the gang, stop its activities and protect his family.

Gandharvaraj Shankar stars in dance-based film



The trailer of Janarinda Naanu Mele Bande, starring Gandharvaraj Shankar, was released by senior director Sunil Kumar Singh, who wished the team success. Producer Suresh Gowdru, known for the film Gaja, was also present at the event.

B. Hemavathi, from Nettigere Bolara village, is producing the film under the Manjunath Cinemas banner. Navilugari Naveen P. B. has directed the film and also appears in a supporting role.

Gandharvaraj Shankar plays the lead role, while Mangaluru-based Apthi Patwardhan and Mysuru's Kruthika Diwakar play the female leads. Senior actors Vinodraj and Abhijit appear in special roles. The cast also includes Shailaja Dwarakish and Shivakumar Aradhya.

Pranav Satish has composed the music, while T. R. Gautam has handled cinematography and editing. Pruthviraj Sanki and Bhuvan M. S. have written the lyrics, and Chamaraja Master has choreographed the songs.

The director has developed the story, screenplay and dialogues based on an incident in Chennai four years ago and observations in Mangaluru. He has also written the lyrics for two songs, adding commercial elements to the film.

The story centres on two young men who share a passion for dance. One is a boy from a slum who dreams of becoming a dancer, while the other is an educated student who leaves formal education behind and considers dance his entire world. Their paths eventually cross as they work towards a common dream. The film explores their struggles, public support and journey towards success through humour and entertainment.

Shot in Bengaluru and Melukote, the film is scheduled for release in the second week of November.

Chiranjeevi to attend Kaaka Song launch in USA



Megastar Chiranjeevi is expected to visit the United States in December for the launch of a song from his upcoming film Kaaka. Music composer Thaman revealed the news through a social media post featuring a monochrome picture with Chiranjeevi from the film's sets.

The announcement has excited fans, who are eagerly waiting for details about the actor's US visit and the song's release date. Meanwhile, the film's team is working to complete production and begin promotional activities.

Directed by Bobby Kolli, Kaaka is scheduled to release in theatres on January 13, 2027. The film features Anaswara Rajan, Nivetha Pethuraj, Getup Srinu and Anurag Kashyap in important roles. KVN Productions is backing the project.

SHRADDHA KAPOOR

responds to criticism over Marathi accent

Actor Shraddha Kapoor has responded to criticism over her Marathi dialogue delivery and accent in the trailer of her upcoming film Eetha. The actor said she rarely checks her phone and prefers to concentrate on her work rather than pay attention to negative comments.

During a recent question-and-answer session on social media, a fan asked Shraddha how she deals with criticism. She replied that she does not really handle criticism and hardly finds time to check even her WhatsApp messages.

The actor added that her habit of staying away from her phone has sometimes annoyed directors, producers and friends. She said she was more interested in getting opportunities to work than dealing with online criticism.

In Eetha, Shraddha portrays Vithabai Narayangaonkar, a celebrated Maharashtra folk performer known for her contribution to Lavani and Tamasha. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the biographical drama is inspired by Vithabai's life and journey in traditional folk theatre.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan and Laxman Utekar, the film also features Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub and Siddharth Jadhav in important roles. Music has been composed by Ajay-Atul. The film is scheduled to release in theatres on December 4, 2026.

Vithabai Narayangaonkar began performing at a young age and became one of Maharashtra's most respected folk artistes. Popularly known as the 'Tamasha Samradini', she received national recognition for her contribution to the traditional art form. Her legacy continues through the Vithabai Narayangaonkar Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Maharashtra government.





Lara Dutta calls Kaikeyi history's most misunderstood woman

Actor Lara Dutta has expressed gratitude for being part of director Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, which released in theatres on Thursday.

The actor, who plays Queen Kaikeyi in the mythological epic, described her character as one of history's most misunderstood women.

Sharing pictures of her look from the film on Instagram, Lara penned an emotional note about her journey with the project. She said it was a privilege to portray a mother whose actions changed the course of history.

The actor said she wanted to bring out Kaikeyi's human side, including her emotions, struggles, vulnerabilities, guilt and regret. She also hoped audiences would look beyond the traditional perception of the character and understand her important role in the story.

Lara thanked producer Namit Malhotra, director Nitesh Tiwari and the entire cast and crew for giving her the opportunity. She also remembered her late father and expressed her wish that he could have been present to witness this special moment.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. Lara plays Kaikeyi, who asks King Dasharatha to make her son Bharata the king and send Rama into exile for 14 years.

Kartik Aaryan turns producer with Kabir Khan's Ladaku



Actor Kartik Aaryan is set to make his debut as a producer with filmmaker Kabir Khan's upcoming film Ladaku. The makers have announced June 18, 2027, as the worldwide theatrical release date.

Birla Studios made the announcement on Wednesday, revealing that the film will be produced by Birla Studios and Kabir Khan Entertainment. Kartik will star in the film and co-produce it under his banner, Dopamine Studios.

Described as an inspiring family entertainer, Ladaku is based on an extraordinary real-life story of ambition, determination and hope. Further details about the storyline, supporting cast and technical crew have not yet been revealed.

The film marks the reunion of Kartik and Kabir Khan after their 2024 sports drama Chandu Champion. Inspired by the life of India's first Paralympic gold medallist Murlikant Petkar, the film received critical appreciation and earned Kartik his first National Film Award for Best Actor, which he shared with Malayalam actor Mammootty.

Meanwhile, Kartik is also preparing for Captain India, directed by Shimit Amin. The film is expected to release in 2027, making it a busy year for the actor.

Keerthy Suresh opens up about interfaith marriage challenges



Actor Keerthy Suresh has opened up about the challenges she faced while convincing her family to accept her relationship with businessman Antony Thattil. The actor revealed that her mother, veteran actress Menaka, discovered their relationship by reading her diary during her college days.

In a recent conversation with Curly Tales, Keerthy recalled that she began dating Antony in January 2010, shortly after completing Class 12. She said her mother found details of their relationship in her diary and confronted her about it. The incident also made her stop writing diaries, despite having enjoyed the habit.

Speaking about their interfaith relationship, Keerthy said Antony's Christian background led to difficulties at home. She added that convincing her family took considerable time. The couple first met in December 2009 and dated for 15 years before getting married on December 12, 2024, in Goa.

Keerthy and Antony exchanged vows in traditional Tamil Hindu and Malayali Christian ceremonies in the presence of family members and close friends.

On the professional front, Keerthy was recently seen in Akka, a Netflix crime drama directed by Dharmaraj Shetty. The series, which premiered on October 30, 2026, also stars Radhika Apte and Tanvi Azmi in important roles.



Regina Cassandra says strong roles matter more

Actor Regina Cassandra says the importance of a character matters more to her than its screen time. Having recently played several negative roles in Telugu and Tamil films, she wants to explore varied characters instead of focusing only on leading parts.

Speaking ahead of her latest Tamil film release, Regina explained that her career choices reflect her interest in trying different roles. She said she enjoys playing positive and negative characters, as well as lead and special roles, provided they offer something meaningful to perform.

For Regina, the length of a role is less important than its substance and contribution to the story. She believes a character with depth can create an opportunity to display her abilities, regardless of how long she appears on screen. Challenging parts, she added, allow her to explore different aspects of acting and bring variety to her work.

The actor said she does not want a fixed image to restrict the opportunities she considers. Her focus remains on strengthening her career through interesting choices and continuing to work across different kinds of films. Regina also revealed that she is signing more projects, with her attention firmly on characters that offer scope for a strong, memorable performance.

CRISTIANO RONALDO retires from international football

Portuguese superstar brings a remarkable 23-year national team journey to a close, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of records, triumphs & unforgettable moments.

LISBON

Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo announced his retirement from international football on Thursday, bringing an end to an illustrious 23-year career with the national team. The 41-year-old forward confirmed his decision through an emotional video message shared on Instagram, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to represent Portugal and describing the journey as one that changed his life forever. He also announced that it was time to hand over the iconic number seven shirt to the next generation.

Ronaldo made his international debut in August 2003 as a substitute against Kazakhstan. Since then, he has become Portugal's all-time leading goal-scorer, recording 146 goals in 234 appearances. Reflecting on his journey, the Al-Nassr striker said representing his country had always been a privilege and responsibility. He acknowledged that his international career involved unforgettable victories, painful defeats and moments that strengthened his connection with supporters. He also stressed that football was about people rather than merely goals, records and trophies.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner also holds several individual honours, including three UEFA Men's Player of the Year awards and four European Golden Boots. In his farewell message, Ronaldo thanked his teammates, coaches, medical professionals, support staff and family members for their contributions throughout his career. He encouraged young Portuguese footballers to dream big, remain determined and continue creating new milestones for the country. He further assured supporters that he would continue cheering for Portugal despite ending his playing career at international level.

> "I spent my life working to become the best player in the world. Today, I realise that my greatest victory was earning the honour of representing the best country in the world."
>
> -Cristiano Ronaldo, Portuguese footballer

Concluding his message, Ronaldo said, "I spent my life working to become the best player in the world. Today, I realise that my greatest victory was earning the honour of representing the best country in the world." His announcement comes after the Portuguese Football Federation handed him a 30-day suspension and a €255 fine in October following his departure from the national team's training camp ahead of a match against Denmark. Despite retiring, Ronaldo said his pride in representing Portugal would remain forever.



Mbappe reaches 100 Champions League goal contributions

ATHENS

Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe became the second-fastest player to register 100 goal contributions in UEFA Champions League history after scoring against AEK Athens on Wednesday. The French international reached the milestone in 102 appearances, recording 74 goals and 26 assists in the competition. Argentina's Lionel Messi remains the fastest to achieve the feat, having reached the landmark in 101 matches. Mbappe achieved the record with an equalising goal in the 78th minute of Real Madrid's Champions League encounter against AEK Athens. His latest contribution further strengthened his position among Europe's most influential attacking players. Cristiano Ronaldo continues to hold the overall record for the most Champions League goal contributions, with 182, comprising 140 goals and 42 assists.

The match in Athens witnessed an eventful contest as the home side initially took the lead through Aboubakary Koita in the 12th minute, following an assist from Luka Jovic. Real Madrid thought they had equalised through a Vinicius Jr cross that found the net, but the goal was disallowed after Jude Bellingham was ruled offside. However, Bellingham made an impact shortly afterwards, producing a backheel finish in the 32nd minute to bring Madrid back into the contest.

AEK Athens regained the advantage in the 75th minute when Koita assisted Stavro Pilo, putting the hosts in a strong position. Madrid responded three minutes later as Mbappe converted a cross from Denzel Dumfries to restore parity. With the match approaching its conclusion, Federico Valverde delivered a powerful strike into the top corner to secure a dramatic 3-2 victory for Real Madrid.

The result highlighted Madrid's late attacking resilience, while Mbappe's achievement added another significant milestone to his European career. Reaching 100 goal contributions in just 102 appearances places him immediately behind Messi in the competition's fastest achievers, underlining his remarkable impact in European football.



Kylian Mbappe reaches 100 Champions League goal contributions in 102 appearances, becoming the second-fastest player behind Lionel Messi's historic record.



Tanvi Patri enters historic Youth Olympics badminton final

DAKAR

Indian shuttler Tanvi Patri created history by becoming the first Indian badminton player to reach the women's singles final at the Youth Olympic Games. The 15-year-old secured her place in the gold medal match after defeating Japan's second seed, Yuzuno Watanabe, 21-14, 11-21, 21-19 in a thrilling semi-final on Wednesday. Her achievement also guaranteed India its first-ever women's singles medal in badminton at the Youth Olympic Games.

The 54-minute contest witnessed an intense battle between the two players, with both displaying determination and impressive court coverage. Tanvi started strongly, taking the opening game 21-14. However, Watanabe responded in the second game, dominating the exchanges to claim it 21-11 and force a decider. With a place in the final at stake, the third game proved closely contested as neither player managed to establish a comfortable advantage.

Tanvi held her nerve during the crucial moments of the deciding game, eventually securing a 21-19 victory to complete the memorable win. The result marked a significant milestone for Indian badminton, as she became the first Indian woman to reach the final of the event.

Her achievement also ensured the country's first medal in the women's singles category at the Youth Olympic Games.

India has previously enjoyed success in the competition's badminton events. HS Prannoy won a silver medal at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010, while Lakshya Sen finished runner-up in Buenos Aires in 2018.

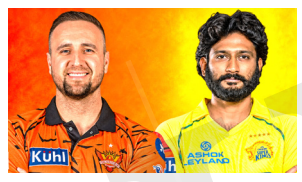
CSK secure Livingstone and Edwards in 4-player trade

NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings have strengthened their squad ahead of the Indian Premier League 2027 auction by acquiring all-rounders Liam Livingstone and Jack Edwards from Sunrisers Hyderabad in a four-player trade. In exchange, CSK have released pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis to the Hyderabad-based franchise.

Livingstone will join Chennai at a reduced salary of ₹6 crore, compared to the ₹13 crore that Sunrisers Hyderabad had invested in him at the auction. The move gives CSK an experienced all-rounder at a significantly lower cost as they prepare for the upcoming season.

Australian all-rounder Edwards will join Chennai at his existing salary of ₹3 crore. Meanwhile, Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis will move to Sunrisers Hyderabad at their current salaries of ₹4.8 crore and ₹2 crore, respectively. The exchange allows both franchises to reshape their squads according to their requirements.



The four-player deal marks an important development in the teams' preparations for the 2027 season. Chennai have added two all-rounders to strengthen their options, while Hyderabad have secured two pace bowlers to reinforce their bowling department.

With the IPL 2027 auction approaching, the trade is expected to influence both teams' squad-building strategies. Livingstone's reduced salary also gives Chennai greater financial flexibility, while the arrival of Khaleel and Ellis provides Sunrisers with additional pace-bowling options ahead of the new campaign.

MOHALI

Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh scored his 250th goal for the senior national team during India's emphatic 8-1 victory over South Korea in the Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 semi-final on Wednesday. The milestone came through a penalty corner in the ninth minute, adding another landmark to the defender's remarkable international career.

India dominated the contest at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium, with Shilanand Lakra and Dilpreet Singh scoring twice each. Harmanpreet, Sukhjeet Singh, Angad Bir Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad also found the net. Sangjun Han scored South Korea's only goal. India's five-goal first-half advantage reflected their attacking superiority and control of the match.

The hosts opened the scoring in the fourth minute through Shilanand, who deflected a pass into the net. South Korea equalised five minutes later, but Harmanpreet restored India's lead with a powerful drag-flick from a penalty corner. Shilanand struck again in the 13th minute before Sukhjeet, Dilpreet and Angad extended the advantage. Dilpreet's second goal in the 25th minute gave India a commanding 6-1 lead at half-time.

India continued their attacking display after the break, with Angad scoring in the 36th minute and Vivek completing the tally in the 54th. Dilpreet was named Player of the Match for his two goals. Japan secured the other final spot after defeating Malaysia 5-3 in a shootout following a goalless semi-final.

The five-time champions, who remained unbeaten throughout the league stage, will face Japan in the final in Mohali on Thursday. India will aim to defend their title and secure a record-extending sixth Asian Champions Trophy crown. Harmanpreet's 250-goal milestone adds further significance to an impressive campaign.



Corvuss and Shri Ram win national basketball titles

GURUGRAM

The International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) National Basketball Championship 2026 concluded in Gurugram, with Corvuss American Academy winning the Under-19 Boys title and host school The Shri Ram School, Moulsari claiming the Under-14 Girls championship. The tournament, held at The Shri Ram School, brought together 60 teams from international schools across the country, providing young players a platform to compete and showcase their skills.

In the Under-19 Boys category, Corvuss American Academy emerged as champions, while The Shri Ram School, Moulsari finished runners-up. PSG-Clifton International School secured third place. Adith Alex of Dhirubhai Ambani International School received the Most Valuable Player award, while Abeer Aggarwal of the host school was named Most Promising Player.



The host school enjoyed success in the Under-14 Girls category, securing the championship title on home courts. KC High International School finished second, followed by Don Bosco International School in third place. Nyra Khosla of The Shri Ram School, Moulsari was adjudged the Most Valuable Player, while Pragnya Kodan of KC High International School received the Most Promising Player award.

ISSO Director Gaurav Dixit praised the young athletes and highlighted the growing standard of school basketball, particularly among girls. "The energy and determination displayed by these young basketball players reflect the immense sporting potential within our schools," he said. He added that the organisation aimed to provide talented athletes with meaningful competition and pathways to higher levels of sport. Dixit also thanked the host school for supporting the championship.

> "The energy and determination displayed by these young basketball players reflect the immense sporting potential within our schools."
>
> -Gaurav Dixit, Director, ISSO

The event concluded with the felicitation of winning teams and individual award recipients.

ISSO said its national championships provide pathways to the School Games Federation of India and the International School Sport Federation, helping school athletes progress from grassroots competitions to national and international platforms.

The tournament also celebrated teamwork, discipline, perseverance and sportsmanship among participating students.

Sania Mirza, Mahesh Bhupathi join AITA general body

NEW DELHI

Indian tennis legends Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi have been elected to the All-India Tennis Association (AITA) General Body as representatives of sportspersons of outstanding merit (SOM). Their inclusion marks an important step towards greater athlete participation in the administration of Indian tennis, with both former players now entering the federation's governing structure.

The AITA's amended constitution provides for four SOM representatives in its General Body, including two men and two women. Of these, two representatives, one from each category, will also be included in the 15-member Executive Committee. Attention will now turn to the committee elections scheduled for Thursday, where Mirza and Bhupathi will seek positions in the decision-making body.

The selection process forms part of wider governance reforms introduced under the National Sports Governance Act and the National Sports Bodies Rules, 2026. The AITA received 26 applications for the SOM positions, including 18 from men and eight from women. Other applicants included former Indian players Rohan Bopanna, Anand Amritraj and Gaurav Natekar.

Bhupathi, a former world number one in doubles, won 12 Grand Slam titles, comprising four in men's doubles and eight in mixed doubles. He also enjoyed a successful partnership with Leander Paes, with whom he claimed several major titles. Mirza reached the world number one position in women's doubles in 2015 and secured six Grand Slam crowns, winning three each in women's and mixed doubles. She retired from professional tennis in February 2023.



The AITA is scheduled to conduct its elections on November 27. The inclusion of established former players is expected to strengthen athletes' representation in tennis administration and give them a greater role in shaping the sport's future in India.

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